



Finger Lakes Woodturners

A Chapter of The American Association of Woodturners



From The Chair – December 2011



Mark Mazzo
FLWT President

Last month we had Malcolm Zander, the first national speaker of the season visit us to do a lecture, demonstration and workshop. By all accounts it was a great success! We had an excellent turnout from FLWT members as well as other area clubs. Malcolm did a great

job lecturing about design and thin walled turning using dry material and eight FLWT members also tried their hands at the techniques developed and taught by Mr. Zander and the results were very good indeed. The board of directors and I are very happy to see that the membership came out in force to support this event. Hopefully, this is the shape of things to come for future events!

This month we will have a demonstration on hollowing tools and techniques with green wood. This is a topic that had scored highly in our previous surveys on what the membership would like to know more about. Hopefully this month's lecture and demonstration can shed some light on the process and whet your appetite to try it for yourselves.

As you know, when we planned this season's events, we chose to have a regular December meeting in lieu of a Holiday party with the idea of a less formal party

FLWT meetings are held from 6:45 to 9:00 PM (pre-meeting Show and Share starts at 6:00 PM) on the 3rd Thursday of each month. Our meetings are held at the Isaac Heating and Air Conditioning University classroom, 180 Charlotte St, Rochester, 14607. For more information, go to <http://fingerlakeswoodturners.org/>.

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on another off-meeting night later in the season. Our current plan is to have an end of the year party/picnic, probably sometime in May. We'll keep you all posted on the specifics but for now please keep your schedules open for some fun in early May.

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From the Chair

by Mark Mazzo

(Continued from page 1)

I hope that everyone is enjoying the start of the Holiday season and also getting in some shop time - either to make gifts or try some new techniques. Maybe some of you have even tried to put into practice what you learned at our meetings with Mr. Zander. I'm looking forward to see what everyone has to share at the up-

coming meeting.



Until then, keep turning and keep learning!
--Mark ♦

The December Challenge Project

By Ralph Mosher
Photos by Ralph Mosher

The "Challenge Project" for December is to design and turn a thin walled turning using dry material. Malcolm Zander described very eloquently the process and turning techniques to accomplish this end. Many of our group have made thin walled turnings from wet wood but turning a thin wall with dry material is another matter. So, put your inspiration, design creativity, "patience and perseverance" and delicate turning skills to the test with dry wood and see the result! You might be surprised with your abilities!

According to Mark Mazzo, Malcolm Zander's advice is for us, above all, "*to always continue to try new things in order to grow our capabilities.*"

Here are three examples of thin wall turnings: one by Mark Mazzo from wet wood and two by Ralph Mosher from dry wood.



Thin wall turnings by Mark Mazzo and Ralph Mosher

The middle photo having a cyma recta (ogee) design was turned



Edge view of thin turnings

during Malcolm Zander's workshop. The turnings have a

wall thickness of 1/16 inch as depicted by the end view photo and the measurement. Several other members have done thin wall vessels as well. So give thin wall turning a try and see where it leads!



Measurement showing walls are 1/16 inch thick

Malcolm Zander Lecture, Demonstration and Workshop

By Mark Mazzo

Photos by Ralph Mosher, Jeffery Cheramie and Ed DeMay

*Photo with permission from Malcolm Zander



Malcolm Zander in his workshop*

For our November meeting FLWT had the pleasure of hosting Malcolm Zander (www.malcolmzander.com) for a special Friday night lecture, and Saturday demonstration and hands-on workshop.



Several examples of Malcolm Zander's work



woodturning and how and where to find inspiration. Malcolm defined shape as a 2-dimensional concept extending to a form when we



move to 3-dimensions. Again, by his definition, Design is the process that we use to come up with a form and also how

we decide to decorate it.

Malcolm spoke of two ways that we humans learn about a form – with our eyes and with our hands. He noted a famous Richard Raffan quote: “when the pretty figure or color fades you are only left with the form”. The implication here is that a pure form is the basis for all good design. Malcolm indicated that he thought we were hard-wired to prefer some forms and many of those are found in nature.

Mr. Zander's lecture went on to describe various elements of form and design including: textures, decoration and finish, balance and proportion, symmetry and asymmetry, function and color. He provided us with many inspirational photos

(Continued on page 4)

Malcolm Zander Lecture, Demonstration and Workshop

By Mark Mazzo

Photos by Ralph Mosher, Jeffery Cheramie and Ed DeMay

(Continued from page 3)



Malcolm's thin "Heart Series" vessel before embellishments

as potential influential sources for our forms and design some from nature, some from architecture and some from other artistic mediums. His basic message to us was to al-

ways be exploring and taking things into our mental databases. We should always be imprinting these things there for comparison. Soon, with a good mental database we will automatically start to trans-

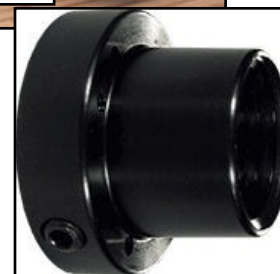
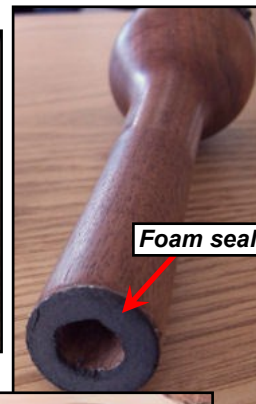
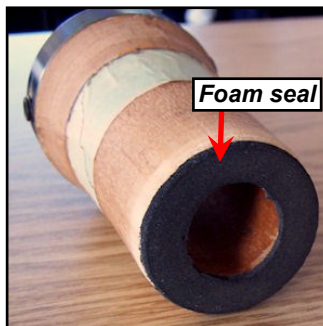


Malcolm's "Heart Series" illustrating his edge carving and piercing

late those ideas into our own work. Above all, his advice is for us to always contin-

ue to try new things in order to grow our capabilities.

On Saturday morning, Mr. Zander's lecture and demonstration continued and he concentrated on his techniques for thin-walled turning using dry material. Malcolm uses dry wood for this in order to



One Way taperlock adaptor

Malcolm designs his own unique vacuum chucks to finish the bottom of his work. A wood blank of appropriate length to reach the bottom of the vessel is attached to a One Way taperlock adaptor. The blank is turned to the size of the vessel opening and drilled through. A foam vacuum seal is added to the end of the chuck. This method of vacuum chucking gives two point holding for stability: vacuum at the bottom and opening/rim at the top.

keep the wood from moving during the turning and drying process so that he will end up with undistorted forms when finished.

He used various diagrams and video clips to show us the techniques and processes that he uses to turn thin and dry. The fact that he did not do live turning during this demonstration was ultimately beneficial because he was able to also impart a lot of additional knowledge on us that included his finish-

(Continued on page 5)

Malcolm Zander Lecture, Demonstration and Workshop

By Mark Mazzo

Photos by Ralph Mosher, Jeffery Cheramie and Ed DeMay

(Continued from page 4)

ing and embellishment techniques. His video clips were well done and they clearly illustrated his points and techniques. Everyone came away with a great understanding of how they could go back to



Malcolm demonstrating turning a thin vessel



Back light showing thin wall



Mark Mazzo giving thin wall turning a try

with Malcolm to do a thin-walled face-grain bowl in dry Poplar. During the workshop, Malcolm produced his own bowl showing the steps to the group in stages and he also worked with each person to help with the process on their individual work. Everyone in the workshop completed the bowl and learned some great new techniques in the process.



Measuring the wall thickness

their own shops and give it a try!

Later in the afternoon on Saturday, eight FLWT members participated in a hands-on workshop



Malcolm discussing design details with Ed DeMay

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Malcolm Zander Lecture, Demonstration and Workshop

By Mark Mazzo

Photos by Ralph Mosher, Jeffery Cheramie and Ed DeMay

(Continued from page 5)



The workshop class: Jim Echter, Ewrin Tschanz, Jerry Sheridan, Workshop leader Malcolm Zander, Ed Demay, David Gould, Mark Mazzo, Ralph Mosher and Bruce Trojan (Bruce...at least we got part of you!)

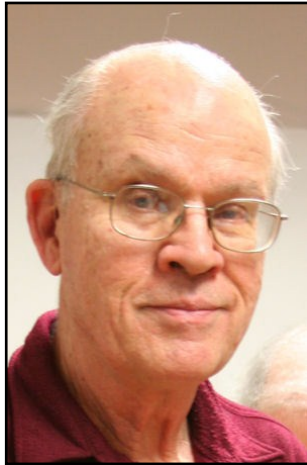
By all accounts, the lecture and demonstration with Mr. Zander was a great success. We are fortunate to have had him

with us. Thanks to all who supported the event by participating and/or working various aspects of it for the club. ♦



All were very busy "Learning and Turning"

Reproductions



Erwin Tschanz

The three items I brought are reproductions of 18th century pieces in museum or private collections. The designs are based on pictures of the items shown in reference books.

The compass box was made to fit a reproduction compass of the period. The shape of the case mirrors the original.



Compass box lid



Compass box

The razor case was made to fit a copy of an original razor. The decoration and lid design are copied from the original box.



Razor case closed and opened

A friend of mine, a knife maker, forged, filed and tempered the corkscrew part and I made the handles and fitted the corkscrew to the handle. The part that goes through the handle is square with a 1/8 inch round tenon that goes through a

*By Erwin Tschanz
Photos by Ralph Mosher*



Corkscrew with two different handles



portions were taken from a picture of two original corkscrews. I

made a full size drawing of each piece with dimensions and notes on what may be the best way to proceed. As I build the prototypes I will add notes that will make future production easier. ♦

small washer. The tenon is peened over the washer to lock the handle on. The pro-

Woodlot Memories

By Lou Stahlman



Lou Stahlman

I was working in the woodlot the other day. The chain-saw was running smoothly. The chain was newly sharpened and the fire-wood was practically jumping off

the end of the log. Even so, I would stop from time to time just to sit and enjoy the quiet and the solitude. At one such time, it happened...the woodlot was in Southern Illinois. It was the winter of 1943-1944. I

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Woodlot Memories

By Lou Stahlman

(Continued from page 7)

was fourteen years old.

The area coal mines had made an offer to buy mine props (mine props support the cross beams that shore up the ceiling of a mine tunnel as it follows a seam of coal through the earth). The specifications were simple...white oak, eight feet long and at least a 6-inch diameter on the smaller end. Roadside pick-up and cash payment at the time of pick-up.

Price???? Twenty-five cents for each accepted piece.

My Grandpa Stahlman had a farm woodlot that needed thinning and this looked like a golden opportunity. What could be better...thin the woodlot and harvest a cash crop at the same time. Could probably make enough to pay his taxes for a whole year. Grandpa recruited my Dad and me to help. So every Saturday from December through March, we cut mine props. Grandpa's job was to mark the trees to be cut, pile the brush, keep the fire going, sharpen the cross-cut saws and provide lunch. My Dad and I did everything else.

Lunch was gourmet. A can of sardines for

each of us, all the crackers and hard boiled eggs you could eat, some canned peaches and black coffee. It was the first time in my life I was allowed to drink coffee. My Dad said if I was to do a man's work, then surely I should have a man's lunch. I didn't like the stuff but I drank it anyway just so I could be a real man. Like them.

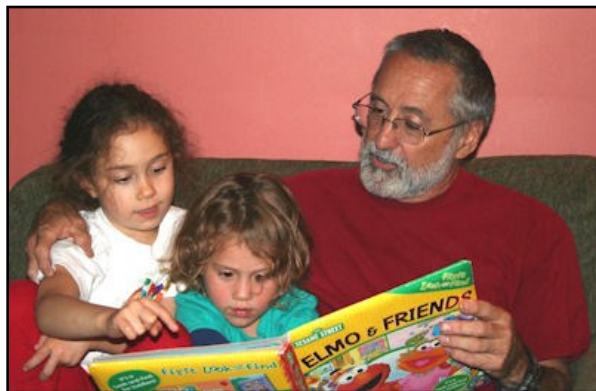
We made up a game so the day wasn't all work. Grandpa would drive a short stake in the ground about 10 feet from the base of the next tree to be felled. The object was to drop the tree squarely onto that stake. You got zero points if you missed it, one point if you bent it over and five points if you drove it in the ground. Dad beat me every Saturday, week after week. Grandpa is gone now. So is my Dad. And those two old cross cut saws are now mine... still oiled, still sharp and still ready to do what they were designed to do.

Next time I come to the woodlot, maybe I'll bring one of them with me and leave the chainsaw behind. Shhhh... listen...ZZZZT....ZZZZT....ZZZZt

Think I'll bring some sardines and coffee too. ♦

Library Notes

From the Librarian – Gary W. Russell



Grandpa with Cassie and Cecilia

Last month's meeting was very interesting. I was not expecting the nice gift from Malcolm Zander for our library. As some of you know, he gave us a new book entitled **Woodturning Design** by Derek Hayes. If you missed the Friday lecture, this book talks about much of what he said. It's a nice book about developing your design skills with some really nice examples. The pictures alone would be

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Library Notes

From the Librarian – Gary W. Russell

(Continued from page 8)

worth reviewing the book. Thank you very much, Malcolm, for this gift.

We also received the DVD of the October meeting demo on ***Sharpening and Decorating*** from Lee Spencer. Thanks again, Lee. Again I say, all donations are welcome.

Last month even though the general meeting was on Friday and the time available for library distribution was short, the library check-outs were probably the most since we started the library; and only two people forgot to bring things back. This is very nice to see and makes it gratifying for all the work it took to provide this resource for our members.

At the last meeting, some of you may have missed my wife Chris, who generally takes care of the distributions. She was and is recovering from open heart surgery. She is doing exceptionally well and should be back to work at our next meeting. Can't keep a good woman down.

Remember, items can be loaned out at any time and not just at meetings. Just contact me and we can arrange a time to get together. If there is anything you would like me to reserve for you and bring to a meeting, please contact me at cngRussell@gmail.com. The library list is on our web site and is up to date except for the two new items. Hopefully, they will be there soon. ♦

“Ask Woodie”

By Woodrow (Woodie) Turner



Woodrow (Woodie) Turner

Clearly, what we've long needed is an advice column for woodturners. Of course, FLWT has skilled mentors that you should consult for help, but they don't always respond well to questioners with paper bags over their heads. Besides, they might recognize your voice. So, FLWT has retained an expert, Dr. Woodrow Turner to address your difficult or embarrassing turning problems. You can submit questions anonymously, which Dr. Turner (Woodie) may or may not then deign to answer. So, here it is:

“Ask Woodie”

Dear Woodie,

I've made several bowls now, each time carefully looking at my notes. Although I've followed all the instructions, my bowls don't look like the nice ones people bring to our meetings. What am I doing wrong?
-Chip

Dear Chip,

In *Outliers: The Story of Success*, Malcolm Gladwell quotes the 10,000-Hour Rule for achieving expertise. I agree. However, I suggest you don't spend it all on one bowl. So, as the Byrds sang, “Turn, Turn, Turn!”

-Woodrow (Woodie) Turner ♦

Pen from Teak Decking of USS North Carolina

By *David Seward*



David Seward

Ralph,
If you recall from November's meeting, I turned a pen from reclaimed wood from the USS North Carolina.

During a trip to Wilmington, NC, I visited the battleship North Carolina. Here is a link to the ship's website:

<http://www.battleshipnc.com/AbouttheShip/History.aspx>



*Plaque from USS North Carolina**

*Photos by Ralph Mosher and *David Seward*

She served our country with honor and distinction from 1941 to 1947. The ship was scheduled for scrapping in 1958. Following a successful campaign by the citizens of North Carolina, the ship was saved from the scrap yard, returned to her home state in 1961. In 1962, the USS



Pen made by David from reclaimed teak decking of the USS North Carolina

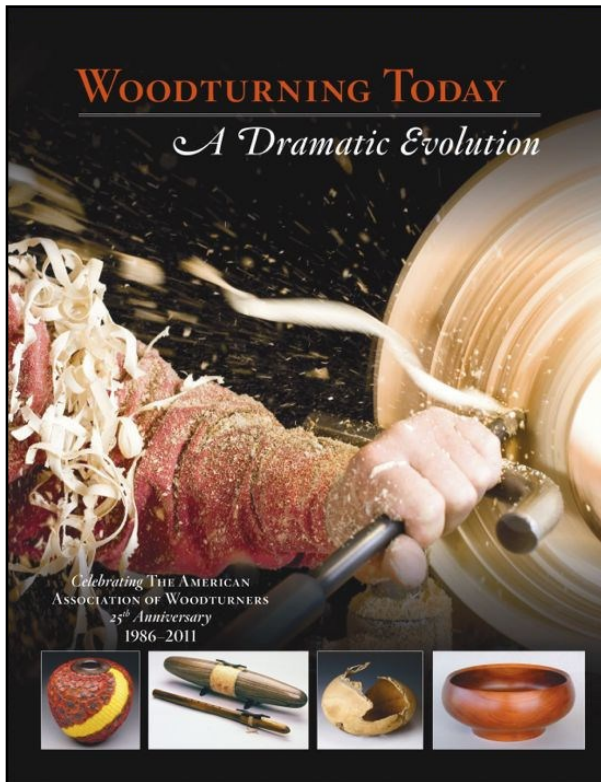
North Carolina was opened to the public as a floating museum and memorial.

The wood is a piece of the teak decking that was removed from the ship during a 1999 restoration project. I purchased the piece of wood from the gift shop. It sat in my workshop for several years before I worked up the courage to actually cut it and turn it into a pen.

Dave Seward ♦



Book Review



Wood Turning Today: A Dramatic Evolution – Book Review by Ed DeMay

When I attended the AAW Symposium in June, 2011, one of the items for sale was a book tracing the history of the AAW from 1986 to 2011. I quickly thumbed through it, then bought it. The book is not

By Ed DeMay

Cover Photo with permission from AAW

a “how to” type of book, but a history of wood turning followed by accounts of the formation of the AAW. The book is 256 pages with only a few pages that do not contain pictures of work done by the article authors. In some instances, the photos are of objects that are in galleries and collections across the country.

AAW started when a hand full of turners at Arrowmont Craft Center in Tennessee sat around and decided to form a collective group promoting wood turning. From that, the AAW slowly took off. The first symposium in 1987 had 243 attendees. Most recent attendance was 15,000. What a success story!

As I said, it is not a “how to book” but a book of inspiration, not only by photographs but by actual accounts by members past and present. Unfortunately, many of those turners who were at the forefront of turning have passed but in a book like this, their stories can still inspire us today. The book can be purchased from the AAW at www.woodturner.org in either hard or soft cover and there is a commemorative leather addition available. You will not be disappointed ! ♦

From the Publisher



Ralph Mosher

A note of thanks to the contributors of this issue of the Finger Lakes Woodturners Newsletter. Mark Mazzo for *From The Chair* and his article covering Malcolm Zander’s lecture, demonstration and workshop, Erwin


By Ralph Mosher

Tschanz for writing about his reproduction work, Lou Stahlman for *Woodlot Memories*, Gary Russell for his *Library Notes*, David Seward for his pen from teak story and Ed DeMay for the book review.

Thanks again to all of you for your input! ♦



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FLWT thanks Isaac Heating & Air Conditioning and Lee Spencer, VP of Finance, for their generosity in letting FLWT use

the "Isaac University" facilities for our meetings! ♦



Calendar of FLWT Woodturning-Events 2010/2011

Date	Event	Location / Time	Pre-Mtg. Show & Share	Challenge	Demo / Topic	
Dec. 2011	15 th	FLWT Turning Mtg.	Isaac Heating & Air Conditioning Classroom 6:00 - 9:00	6:00-6:45	Turn a thin bowl.	Mark Mazzo Hollowing
	20 th	FLWT BOD Mtg.	TBA 7:00 - 9:00 PM			
Jan. 2012	19 th	FLWT Turning Mtg.	Isaac Heating & Air Conditioning Classroom 6:00 - 9:00	6:00-6:45		Mike Hachey 5" Hand Held Mirror
	24 th	FLWT BOD Mtg.	TBA 7:00 - 9:00 PM			

FLWT Board of Directors 2011 - 2012

Position	Name	Home Tel	Cell Tel	Email
President / Chair	Mark Mazzo	265-4002	978-1926	mark@mazzofamily.com
Vice President	Bruce Trojan		261-7230	trojanbd@frontiernet.net
Secretary	Bill McColgin	586-1417	402-0967	mccolgin@rochester.rr.com
Treasurer	Harry Stanton	315-986-1548	455-6035	harry_c_stanton@yahoo.com
Librarian	Gary Russell	227-8527		cngrussell@rochester.rr.com
Newsletter Publisher	Ralph Mosher	359-0986		2rmosher@rochester.rr.com
Advisors	Jeffery Cheramie			
	Jerry Sheridan	494-1889		sheridanjerry@yahoo.com



Local and National Woodturning Events of Interest

2011		Event	For More Information
Jan. 2012	20th 21st	Bill Grumbine Lecture and Workshop	http://www.rochesterwoodworkers.org/
March 31 st April 1 st 2012		Totally Turning Symposium Saratoga Springs City Center, Saratoga Springs, NY	http://www.totallyturning.com/

Mentor Contacts¹

Name	Day Tel	Eve Tel	Email	Turning Skills / Specialty
Doug Crittenden	924-5903	924-5903	cleo99@frontiernet.net	General turning
Ed DeMay	406-6111	924-5265	edemay@rochester.rr.com	Bowl turning, dust collection
Ward Donahue	334-3178	334-3178	wddonah@frontiernet.net	Spindle & hollow turning, coring, sharpening
Jim Echter	377-9389	377-9389	jechter@rochester.rr.com	Spindle & faceplate turning, sharpening
David Gould	245-1212	245-1212	D2sGould@aol.com	Bowls, plates and hollow-forms
Jim Hotaling	223-4877	223-4877	jhotaling2198@aol.com	Christmas ornaments
Ed Lehman	637-3525		elijw@rochester.rr.com	General turning
Ralph Mosher	359-0986	359-0986	2rmosher@rochester.rr.com	Bowl turning, Boxes, Sharpening, Tool control
Dale Osborne	(315) 524-7212	(315) 524-7212	dborn3@rochester.rr.com	General turning
Erwin A. Tschanz	271-5263 (Dec – Mar)	271-5263 (Dec – Mar)		Historical, bowls, plates, goblets, boxes, bone, antler

1. *Here's a great way for you to improve your turning skills. FLWT has award winning and expert turners who, at no cost, are willing to share their expertise one-to-one with other club members. A mentoring relationship might be as simple as getting a mentor's advice in a one time conversation. Or, it might include regular*

hands-on sessions over a lathe. The exact nature is up to you and your mentor. If you feel you could benefit from mentoring, organize your thoughts about your needs and contact an appropriate volunteer mentor above to determine if he or she is a match and available. ♦

November Show and Share

Photos by Ralph Mosher



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November Show and Share

Photos by Ralph Mosher

(continued from page 22)



Note enhancement inside bowl



Roger Coleman



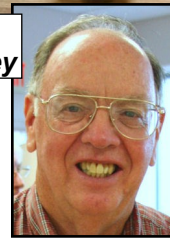
Mark Mazzo



Frank Young



Mike Brawley



Jerry Sheridan



Tops for children



Malcolm Zander's work