

## **Finger Lakes Woodturners**

### A Chapter of The American Association of Woodturners



### From The Chair - May 2012



Mark Mazzo **FLWT President** 

How time flies when you are having fun woodturning! Our meeting in May marks the final meeting of the 2011-2012 season. Our final meeting will be a great event to top off an already great season and we will have a multi-axis turning demonstration by Ralph

Mosher and Jeffery Cheramie. This promises to be a great learning experience for us all and offers a tremendous amount of potential for new directions in woodturning and wood art. Don't miss it!

Last month, FLWT hosted the second of two National speakers for the 2011-2012 season. At a special Friday night meeting and Saturday demonstration, Andy DiPietro walked us through his journey from woodworking to wood turned art. Andy is known for his elegant hollow forms with unique surface treatments and dyed colors and during his Saturday demonstration attendees were treated to a great overview of all of his turning, embellishing and coloring processes. I know that all who attended felt it was a great learning experience. Andy's enthusiasm and energy were infectious and were certain to have a strong influence on FLWT members to try some new techniques.

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/.

Р	Contents				
g					
1	From the Chair by Mark Mazzo				
2	Challenge Project				
3	FLWT National Speaker – Andy DiPietro				
7	"Ask Woodie"				
8	Keeping Our Commitment     Hillside Children's Foundation				
9	Library Notes     Rockler Sale				
10	Adventures in Green Wood Collecting				
11	Grand Opening!!!Lakeshore Hardwoods				
12	Sandpaper Supply     From the Publisher				
'-	Rockler Season Sponsor				
13	<ul> <li>Isaac Heating and Air Conditioning</li> <li>FLWT 2011- 2012 Calendar of Events</li> <li>Local and National Woodturning Events</li> </ul>				
14	<ul><li>FLWT Board of Directors, 2011 - 2012</li><li>Mentor Contacts</li></ul>				
15	April Challenge Project Photos				
17	April Show and Share Photos				

We approved our new bylaws at last month's meeting and as part of our ongoing efforts to become a qualified 501(c)3 charitable organization we will have our

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

Annual meeting this month. This will be a quick affair reviewing our current year's budget and also projecting a budget for next year. Doing this will keep our annual finances in order for the IRS and also help us to plan the operations of the club in an ongoing basis. We will also be announcing our schedule of monthly meetings, workshops and National speakers for next season during our final meeting. To my knowledge, this is a first for FLWT

and it involved a lot of hard work by the Committee leads and Board of Directors. Please take a minute to thank them for their efforts when you can.

As I said earlier, it has been a great season and our final demonstration on Multiaxis Turning is one I am really looking forward to. As you will see with the announcement of next year's schedule, there are more great things to come!

Until our next meeting, keep turning and keep learning!

## The May Challenge Project

Finger Lakes Woodturners had the honor of hosting national turner, Andy DiPietro at our April meeting. Therefore, it seems appropriate the May "Challenge Project" be an inspiration from Andy's Friday evening presentation or his Saturday day long demonstration. Push your skill level. Turn a thin hollow form and bring it to show!

Here are some examples of Andy DiPietro's work for inspiration! ◆





By Ralph Mosher
Photos by Ralph Mosher



By Mark Mazzo Photos by Ralph Mosher



Andy DiPietro demonstrating his hollowing technique

On Friday and Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup> and 21st, Finger Lakes Woodturners had the honor of hosting national turner, Andy DiPietro (www.woodartforms.com). Andy is well known in the woodturning world for his well-proportioned hollow forms with distinct surface treatments and coloring.

At our Friday night meeting, Andy spoke to FLWT about his journey from flat woodworking and initial aspirations of being a furniture-maker to his current day efforts as a wood artist. In the early days, Andy was influenced by the likes of Norm Abrams and The New Yankee Workshop and he made quite a few furniture items for his home. He started to have an interest in woodturning because of the speed at which he could do a project and also the ability it provided him to express himself in a more artistic way. After showing

us his furniture pieces and some finer points of his workshop/studio Andy showed pictures of a selection of his turned work from early pieces to more current. He elaborated on these pieces and noted how his style had changed and skills improved over the relatively short time he has been turning, about seven or eight years. Andy noted that he aimed directly at developing a unique personal style with his woodturning, taking elements that he had learned along the way and applying them to his own work in a unique way. He encouraged each of us to look everywhere for design and style influences and to learn from others but to then apply those skills and techniques to whatever it is that we like to make. The presentation on Friday finished with a brief look at the work of other noted woodturners to see how they have developed their own personal styles.

On Saturday, approximately 25 FLWT members and several more from other local clubs were treated to a day-long demonstration of Andy's woodturning and embellishment techniques. The morning



Andy discussing harvesting green wood

session started with a very good discussion of harvesting green wood from trees and how to make the best looking pieces from that wood. Andy em-

phasized that the design of a piece starts with the harvesting and cutting from the

(Continued on page 4)

By Mark Mazzo Photos by Ralph Mosher

(Continued from page 3)



Andy describing grain orientation for the best appearance in the final piece

tree to orient the grain for the best appearance. From there, the discussion turned to methods for achieving a pleasing shape. Andy showed the appeal of the catenary curve as it applies to a ves-



An example of Andy's work...a pleasing shape with unique grain structure



Work mounted with the grain parallel with the axis of rotation

sel or bowl and how we can easily reproduce examples of those curves using an ordinary dog chain. The discussion of design also included a discussion of Phi or the golden ratio and use of the rule of thirds for locating the largest diameter of a piece for best appearance.

After the lecture on harvesting wood and design, the morning session moved to a turning demonstration where Andy showed us how to mount a piece of

green wood (he used Pin Oak for this demonstration) on the lathe, how to shape the outside using a gouge to









Shaping the out side of the Pin Oak blank

achieve a nice flowing form, and finally how to hollow the piece to create one of his signature hollow forms. Andy empha-



sized that we should always turn a radius as we shape the top and bottom

of the piece and to simply widen the radius as we approach our desired shape. With the Oak mounted in an end-grain orientation, between centers, Andy shaped the outside of the vessel in short

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By Mark Mazzo Photos by Ralph Mosher

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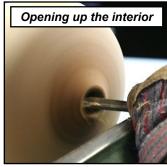
order, using just a swept back grind bowl gouge. In doing so he noted that we need to leave a bit of mass to-



ward the bottom to stabilize the piece while hollowing and that we should be visualizing how the bottom will look once that mass is turned away.



With the piece shaped, the afternoon session began with Andy reversing the piece into a chuck, noting the necessary shape of a tenon for secure holding. He drilled the center out with a 1 1/8" Forstner bit on a Jacobs chuck just shy of

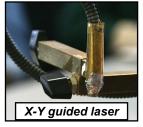






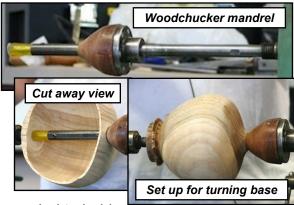


Laser is positioned the desired wall thickness away from the cutting tool



where the bottom of the piece was envisioned. The center of the upper portion of the piece was relieved with a back cut using a 3/8" gouge in a dicey cut that Andy said requires some practice. With some clearance now created, the hollowing commenced with the

use of the Don Derry, laser-guided hollowing rig. This rig allows captive hollowing to be accomplished while still achieving the feel of turning and not relying on a large mechanical apparatus. Andy hollowed down about a third of the piece and then took us through some of his sanding operations in preparation for his surface treatments. Andy uses a woodchucker



mandrel to hold his hollow forms between centers while finishing the base. This unit is a steel rod with a movable faceplate that provides

(Continued on page 6)

By Mark Mazzo Photos by Ralph Mosher

(Continued from page 5)



Finishing the hollow form bottom

two support points for holding the work: at the interior bottom and at the top opening. The rod holds the work against the tailstock while a wood cone mounted on the faceplate holds the work at the

top.

Andy spoke of the sandblasting equipment in his shop but noted that it was costly, large and somewhat out of reach for most people. He indicated that similar results could be obtained – especially on open-grained woods - with brass brushes. He showed us how a rotating wire brush in the lathe could be used to trace the growth rings on a piece providing a similar surface where waxes used later would collect. A similar effect was achieved with a small handheld brass brush, as well.





For coloring, Andy showed techniques of multiple colors of dyes on turned pieces of Oak as well as on a figured Maple board. Different combinations and order of colors were done so that we could all see the possibilities. Andy noted that he uses colorfast Artisan dves from Craft

Supplies to avoid future fading of pieces. The colors on a couple pieces were topped off with Bush Oil to show what they would look like when finished and buffed. With the dye dry on the Oak pieces. Andy showed how he applies waxes to the surface which, after buffing remained in the pores of the wood to highlight the grain with different effects.











The final product after applying Bush Oil finish

Andy demonstrated coloring his work

The Friday and Saturday events with Andy were a great inspiration and learning experience for each of us.

The content was such that it appealed to turners of all levels and the techniques explored could be used on any type of

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By Mark Mazzo Photos by Ralph Mosher

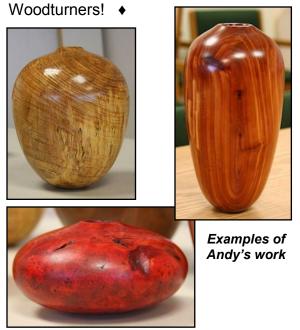
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Oak dyed with multiple colors

turned object, not just hollow forms. These kinds of events are a great resource to our membership and we should all take advantage of them when they are here.

Thanks to Andy DiPietro for spending a great couple of days with Finger Lakes



### "Ask Woodie"



Woodrow (Woodie) Turner

Dear Woodie,

As you get older, should you exercise before starting to turn?

-JH

Dear JH.

Your handwriting was decent, but I can't tell. Is that "exercise" or "exorcise?" Well, ei-

ther way, the answer is ves. You should definitely exorcise any demons found to be lurking in your wood. They can cause catches, runs, or even accidents. Fear of these demons causes "white knuckle syndrome," the result of taking a death grip on your tools. The word "skew" often arises in this context. The best way to

#### By Woodrow (Woodie) Turner

exorcise these demons is to work safely and knowledgeably - in other words, exercise good judgment. Now for exercise. This is a good idea. Most of us at one time or another after turning have had a back ache, or a stiff neck, or even sore jaws from clenched teeth (see above). Physical exercises/stretches to limber you up and relax you, both before and after turning, are a good idea. And don't forget the other exercises your club mentors have taught. Mount some green scrap wood and practice coves, beads, and planing cuts. Such exercises build skill, provide a great warm-up for your project, and help exorcise those demons as well.

-Woodie Turner ◆

### **Keeping Our Commitment**



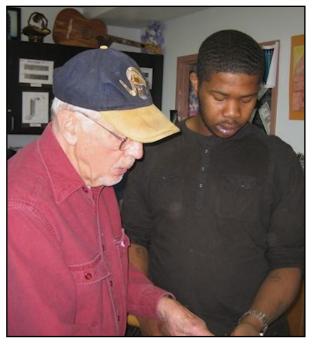
Jim Hotaling with Betty Perkins Betty is wearing a wooden cowboy hat Jim had turned

When I wrote for an AAW grant to purchase a couple of mini lathes to be used for community services and training of

#### by Jim Hotaling

club members. I never realized where the 'community services" part would take the club. Every demo to a group has been different! For example, on April 19th, I gave a turning demo to the Geriatric Pilots Association, people who flew planes in World War II. (Their ages? late eighties to early nineties!). To me, it was an honor to show them the various projects that can be turned on a small lathe. Most of the people present had never heard of FLWT but they have now. Betty Perkins of Olympic fame was there with her boyfriend. She is shown wearing a wooden cowboy hat I had turned earlier. •

### Hillside Children's Foundation

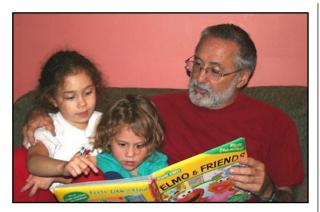


Jim Hotaling with a student at the Hillside Children's Foundation

#### by Jim Hotaling

As a result of FLWT donating over one hundred tops to Hillside Children's Foundation early this year, I was asked to do a turning demo at their facility in Webster on April 26th. The art teacher had arranged for me to do the demo from 10:00 am to 11:00 am to supplement her normal hour long-class. About fifteen students were present - their ages ranging from 13 to 17 years. We turned a top and a napkin ring holder. Several of the older students then wanted to try their hand at turning. I was impressed to say the least. Several adults wandered in and out during the demo and I would say that FLWT left a positive impression on a very different kind of audience.

### **Library Notes**



Grandpa with Cassie and Cecilia

At the last meeting we had a nice book donation from Don DeBolt - Ellsworth on Woodturning - How a Master Creates Bowls, Pots, and Vessels by, of course. David Ellsworth. And we received 2 more FLWT's Demo DVD's from Lee Spencer for January and March of this year. Thanks to both Don and Lee for their donations. You, too, can receive accolades if you make a donation.

One of our members took out the DVD **Sharpening Demystified** by Kirk DeHeer. She (now you may guess who it is since we have only a few female turn-

#### From the Librarian - Gary W. Russell

ers) told me that it was put together rather amateurishly with poor photography and incongruous breaks (like the way I use big words?) That's because I'm the LI-BRARIAN and I know these things! Anyway, she said she didn't learn too much from it that we at the Club hadn't already covered. So if you had a choice between this and another DVD, I suggest you choose the other one.

If you intend to take out any materials in May, you may want to consider how you plan to return them the following month since the club will be on hiatus (another big word) til September (although we may have a picnic in June). Remember, you can always drop it off at my house; and the benefit of this is that we could do some joint turning in my shop.

The complete list of Library materials is located on our website. If you want me to bring anything in particular to the next meeting, please let me know; otherwise, I will bring the usual assortment.

Till next time,

Your Librarian ♦

## **Rockler Sale**

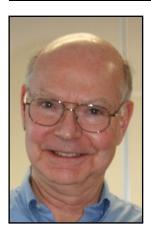
This month Rockler Woodworking has sent our club two gift certificates as a thank you for our club's business.

On Saturday May 19, 2012, Rockler Woodworking on Transit Rd in Buffalo will be having a day of great deals and giveaways and as a BIG THANK YOU to all wood working clubs they will be offering a discount of 20% to all club members. This is a one day only sale. All normal exclusions apply (such as: power tools, Festool, Leigh Dovetail Jigs, etc.).

#### By Mike Hachey

If you are in the area, stop in and bring your Finger Lakes Woodturners membership card with you. If purchasing anything, be sure to let them know at the cash register that you are from Finger Lakes Woodturner as this puts us in for future gift certificates. •

#### Adventures in Green Wood Collecting – Part II By Bill McColgin



**Bill McColgin** 

(In which we continue stories of the trials and tribulations of harvesting green wood.)

I was trying to get some work done at home one day, when I heard the distinctive growl of a chain saw. A tree guy was taking down a large birch in a neighbor's

yard. I helped him haul the sections to the street, and then I put a couple in my wheelbarrow and took them home. I went in the house to call some of my FLWT friends about this great wood. Yes, it was you, but you never got the call because just then I heard the squeal of brakes from the town truck and saw a front-end loader dumping the last of the birch into it. That wood hadn't been there more than 15 minutes. Normally, it takes the town a week or more for rubbish removal. Well, at least this time I got a few pieces. Sorry you didn't.

Two days later, I again heard a chain saw. This time, it was up the street. It seems the neighbor wanted to put in a swimming pool and needed to remove a huge maple tree. The large rounds they left at the street were ambrosia maple, but way too heavy to carry. So, I managed to roll two of them down the street and up my driveway. One of the pieces seemed ideal for turning a large cowboy hat, so I called an FLWT member whose initials are J. Hotaling. Together, we managed to get this round up into the back of his pickup truck, along with his chain saw, and he drove off. I didn't hear anything for a couple of weeks! Finally, I asked J.H. how the wood had worked out. He got a kind of funny look on his face

and explained that before going home, he'd gotten on the expressway to run an errand. When he arrived home, he discovered the tailgate of his truck had come open. And although his chain saw was still there, the large log wasn't. I think he had visions of that log in the middle of I-490 causing a twelve-car pileup with news copters flying overhead. So, he immediately went back to look for it. Ah, but that part of the story is his, not mine.

Finally, I live near a golf course with a row of osage-orange trees along the road. I really like that wood. It turns lemon yellow and ages to a darker, orange-brown color. It's also hard to find. So, as I drove by that golf course one day. I hit the brakes and backed up. Yes, there was a stump where one of the osage-orange trees had been. I immediately drove to the maintenance supervisor's office and asked about the tree. "You are too late," he said. "Someone from Penfield or somewhere came and got it. They might have left a piece, though." I found one scraggly, knotty piece that had been spurned by the wood collector, and I threw it in my trunk. A week later, I took an excellent bowl turning workshop from Ralph Mosher at his home in Henrietta. Afterwards, I showed Ralph the knotty piece of osage-orange in my car and asked if there was anything I could reasonably do with it. He shook his head no, but as I explained how I had been beaten to the good stuff, Ralph got a funny look on his face. It turns out that Ralph was the one at the golf course and the wood was in his wood shed! Well, at least it went to someone who appreciates it and not just someone who wanted firewood. It's been months now, but I still look forward to seeing some beautiful osage-orange bowls at our club meetings. That is, unless Ralph, like me, is sometimes just a greenwood collector. ♦

## **Grand Opening!!!Lakeshore Hardwoods Victor**

## GRAND OPENING!!!

## <u>Lakeshore Hardwoods - Victor</u>

(Formally GW Woods)

## May 23-26

## <u>Highlights:</u>

- -Free Coffee and Doughnuts
- -Free Gift w/ every \$100 purchase
- -Free Finishing Seminars:

w/ Bill Bush of Bush Oil Products Friday May 25 at 4pm Saturday May 26 at 10am and 1pm

-Hardwood Sale:

.20 cents/bf off all stocked hardwoods

- -Buy 2 get third ½ price: On all highly figured boards
- -Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies:

Noon on Friday May 25

-See our newly renovated and restocked shop

## For More Info Visit: WWW.LAKESHOREHARDWOODS.COM

Lakeshore Hardwoods

191 West Main Street (RT. 96) (585)869-5118

Victor, NY

## Sandpaper Supply

Hear Ye !!! Hear Ye!!!

At our May meeting, there will once again be a supply of sandpaper available to the membership, thanks to the generosity of Dave and Liz Smith. Assorted grits and

By Lou Stahlman

diameters, no rolls, no sheets, all cloth backed, ready for use and free of charge. If you wish, you can make a modest donation to the Library Fund of FLWT in honor of the Smiths.

See you May 17. ♦

### From the Publisher

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 Andy DiPietro's Friday evening presentation and Saturday's demonstration, Jim Hotaling for his articles about Keeping our Commit-

### By Ralph Mosher

ment and Hillside Children's Foundation, Gary Russell for the Library Notes, Bill McColgin for his story on Adventures in Green Wood Collecting - Part II and Lou Stahlman for the Sandpaper Supply notice. Thanks again to all of you for your input! ♦



## **FLWT Thanks Rockler Woodworking and Hardware** a 2011 / 2012 Season Sponsor!



- FLWT members (must show membership card) receive a 10% discount.
- Excludes sale items, power tools & Leigh jigs, CNC, Festool, and Rockler Gift Cards.
- Valid at Buffalo, N.Y store on-
- Not valid with any other coupon or offer. •

## FLWT Thanks Isaac Heating & Air Conditioning



Acheive greater home comfort while lowering your energy bills.

## Call for your FREE Home 585-546-1400 **Energy Audit today!**

180 Charlotte Street, Rochester, NY 14607

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 2011/2012

Date		Event	Location / Time	Pre-Mtg. Show & Share	Challenge	Demo / Topic
May 2012	17th	FLWT Turning Mtg.	Isaac Heating & Air Conditioning Classroom 6:00 - 9:00	6:00 - 6:45	Thin Hol- low Form	Ralph Mosher Jeffery Cheramie Multi-Axis Turning
	<b>22</b> nd	FLWT BOD Mtg.	Ralph Mosher 715 Telephone Rd. West Henrietta, NY 14586 7:00 - 9:00 PM			
Sept. 2012	20th	FLWT Turning Mtg.	Isaac Heating & Air Conditioning Classroom 6:00 - 9:00	6:00 - 6:45	Multi-Axis Turning	ТВА
	25th	FLWT BOD Mtg.	TBA 7:00 - 9:00 PM			

## **Local and National Woodturning Events of Interest**

2011		Event	For More Information	
May 2012	19 <sup>th</sup> 20 <sup>st</sup>	Nick Cook Demo and Workshop	http://www.cnywoodturners.org	
June 2012	8 <sup>th</sup> - 10 <sup>th</sup>	2012 AAW Symposium San Jose Convention & Cultural Facilities San Jose, California	http://www.woodturner.org/sym/ sym2012/	

## 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			
Auvisors	Jerry Sheridan	494-1889		sheridanjerry@yahoo.com

## **Mentor Contacts**<sup>1</sup>

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		eljw@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 regu-

lar 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. •

# April Challenge Project...Segmented Bud Vase Photos by Ralph Mosher



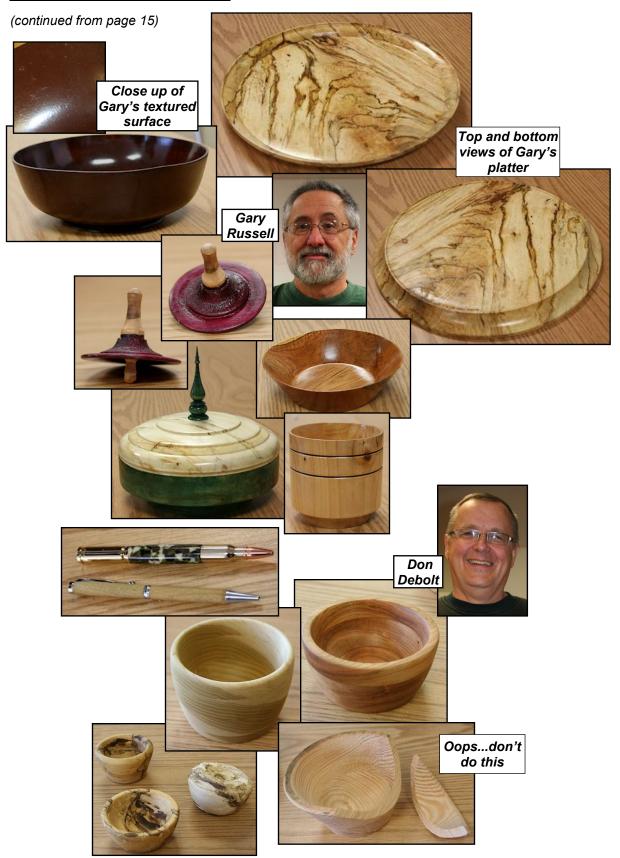
Finger Lakes Woodturners <a href="http://fingerlakeswoodturners.org/">http://fingerlakeswoodturners.org/</a> 15



(continued on page 17

## **April Show and Share**

### Photos by Ralph Mosher



Finger Lakes Woodturners <a href="http://fingerlakeswoodturners.org/">http://fingerlakeswoodturners.org/</a>