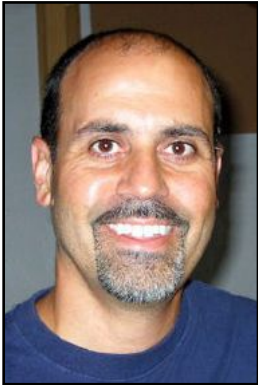


From The Chair – December 2013



Mark Mazzo

I hope that everyone was able to attend last month's fine demonstration on Birdhouse Ornaments by Brian Effinger. Thanks to Brian for a job well done! This is a great project for everyone to try regardless of skill level and it's just in time for the Holiday gift giving season. Let's see if we can have a record number of Bird-

house Ornaments to view at our next meeting! Also, please don't forget that we are always collecting spinning tops to donate to children in various organizations. At this time of year, the tops are always a hit and Jim Hotaling is counting on all FLWT members to contribute at least a few tops for the cause. Remember that turning tops is a great skill-builder for all kinds of turning tool control.

This month we will once again have our annual Holiday party at the pre-meeting. The club will be providing Cider and we are counting on you to bring some treats to share. Last year, this event was a big hit and it gave everyone a little extra time to share ideas, new work and Holiday cheer. Don't miss it!

Our own David Gould will be the feature demonstrator for this month's meeting. David will be sharing great information that he learned while spending time with Mike Mahoney at Craft Supplies in Utah. David's demonstration will be on thread chasing for boxes and hollow forms. This is a great subject that is often looked on as too difficult - David is ready to share with us all of the tricks that make this process something that everyone can try on their turnings.

Here's a look at the rest of our season:

December: Dave Gould – Thread Chasing for Boxes & Hollow Forms

January: Bill McColgin – Turning Crotch Wood for Figure

February: Gary Russell – Turn a Bowl

March: Bob Rosand – National Speaker (Friday night meeting, Saturday demo) see www.rrosand.com

April: Ralph Mosher – Turning a Goblet

May: Jeffery Cheramie – Spirals

As you can see, we have a great planned. I look forward to our future meetings and all of the great and interesting turning topics we will cover. Until our next meeting, keep turning and keep learning!

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 the month 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.com/>.

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From the Chair—Ask Woodie—Tops

From The Chair – December 2013 (con.t)

In December, we will also be holding a silent auction of items donated by a very generous anonymous FLWT member. These items were on display at the November meeting and are turned by the likes of Bob Rosand, Michael Hosaluk, and Richard Raffan! Please be ready to bid on these items and have your checkbook in hand at the December meeting! Remember all of the proceeds go to benefit your club.

One final note is that we still need volunteers to coordinate the Spring FLWT Picnic. This need not be one person but can be a shared effort of several. The main thing right now is to secure a date and location so that we can have the picnic a bit earlier than we have in the past two years. Please consider this and I'll hope to receive some volunteers at the December meeting.

Our season now in full swing, please remember to renew your memberships if you have not already done so – either via PayPal on the website or via application and check through our Treasurer. As of January 1 the club communications will only be going out to paid members.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting – until then, keep turning and keep learning!

--Mark

SPIN A YARN OR SPIN A TOP

Jim Hotaling

As we approach our Dec. Meeting, I would like to encourage all FLWT'S to make some tops.

To date (12/7/13) we have a total of 79 tops. Our goal is 250 tops so we have a ways to go! Rather than talk about how quick you can turn a top, just do it !

“ASK WOODIE”



Woodrow

Dear Holzdreher,
Last year I asked about “feather figure” from crotch wood. You said the standard technique was to split the crotch in half with a chainsaw, sawing in the plane of the “Y” formed by the pith where it splits into the two limbs

of the crotch. Well, I'm kind of a non-standard guy. What else have you got?

Dear Uncle Ventional,

Yeah, I did give you the easy answer, not that it's a bad one. Cutting the “Y” formed by the pith removes the pith and lets you immediately see the feather figure and its extent. So, it's easy to layout your bowl. Also, any bark inclusions are obvious. The bad news? Well, whatever limited region of crotch figure you had has just been cut in half.

The region of crotch figure is roughly conical, widest at the crotch itself and tapering off where the pith of the branch and the trunk meet. Anything that uses this region and avoids the pith is fine. I think your club library has O'Donnell's “Turning Green Wood*.” In it he shows different orientations for bowls in this crotch region, including natural-edge bowls. So, you'll find lots of room for invention. Telling you in words how to cut those blanks, though, is beyond me. Maybe I'll twist the arm of one of your club presenters this year to do it for me.

*Michael O'Donnell, “Turning Green Wood,” (Guild of Master Craftsman Publications Ltd., p. 17, Lewes, East Sussex, England, 2000.)

-Woodie Turner

Rustic Birdhouse Ornament Demo

By Brian Effinger

Brian is a member of the Pembroke turning club as well as a architect. The photo essay narrative iis taken from his handout which is attracted to the end of the news-letter.

1. Determine which end of the blank will be the top and bottom of the body, then mount it in lathe, between centers, and adjust so that it is running as true as possible.
2. Determine where the bottom of the body will be (where the finial will start) and make a scoring line with the point of a skew chisel through the bark. This will keep the bark attached to the body when you start on the finial later.
3. Turn a tenon to fit your chuck at the bottom of the finial.



4. Mount the blank in the chuck. We are going to hollow the body through the top, so that end will need to face the tail stock.

5. Face off the top of the body.



6. Determine where the entry hole will be and drill it with a $\frac{1}{4}$ " bit. The entry hole should roughly be $\frac{3}{4}$ " from the top of the body. Then right below that drill an $\frac{1}{8}$ " hole for the perch (about $1\text{-}\frac{3}{8}$ " from the top). It helps to use an awl to make a starting point for the drill bit. If the holes are slightly off, it will look like a mistake. Having the entry and perch holes drilled, prior to hollowing, helps in keeping track of your hollowing progress.



7. Now hollow out the body. Either use a forstner bit in a tail stock mounted jacob's chuck, or use turning tools. Even if you use turning tools, it would be beneficial to drill a depth hole with a $\frac{3}{8}$ " drill bit.

8. Now decide if you want to reverse the blank to turn the finial, or if you want to turn the finial with the body hanging off of it, like turning a goblet. If you don't turn it around, then I recommend bringing up the live center to keep the body from whipping around and snapping the finial. If you are going to turn the project around, then you need to have chuck jaws small enough to fit into the opening at the top of the body, or you will need to make a well-fitting jamb chuck.

Rustic Birdhouse Ornament Demo (con't)

9. Proceed to turn the finial. Let your imagination run. And don't worry if you think



your finial looks chunky – this is a rustic bird house, so it will look OK.



10. Remember to sand and finish the finial as you go.

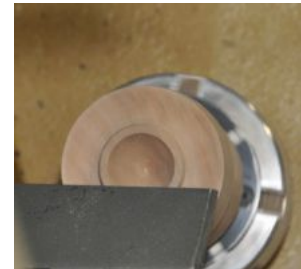
11. At the bottom of the finial, cut it off (don't part it off or snap it off) and hand sand that last part. You could also reverse mount it and sand the very tip of the finial.

That completes the body and finial. Now on to the roof. You will need a blank that is sufficiently larger in diameter to give the body a nice overhang (and keep the birds dry).



12. Mount the roof in a chuck. Turn a tenon if necessary or just grip the outside of the blank with the jaws.

13. Form a tenon that will fit into the body. If the shape of the branch that makes up the body allows it, I like to undercut the roof. If the diameter of the body is uneven, then an overhang perpendicular to the tenon (and the axis of the lathe) works better. Go easy fitting the tenon to the body. Too loose and you may have to cut it back (if there is enough material) and



start the tenon over. Too tight and you risk breaking the body, in which case you are back to square one.

14. Now turn a small hollow within the tenon going up into the roof. The goal here is to bring the weight of the roof down.

15. Begin to turn the top of the roof. Don't go too far, though. Just get the outer diameter established and maybe a little bit past that.

16. Sand (and finish if necessary) the underside of the roof. Then you can bring up the live center for some extra support while finishing the roof.

17. Continue the upward slope of the roof line. Before getting too thin at the top of the roof, go through the different grits of sand paper.

Rustic Birdhouse Ornament Demo (con't)

18. Now finish the top element of the roof, and cut it off using your tool.

19. If the tenon is long enough, reverse the roof into your chuck to finish off the tip of the roof. If it is not long enough, make a jamb chuck with some scrap wood.



20. Finish the top of the roof, and make a small dimple.

21. Drill a hole (using the dimple as a start) for the screw eye. Size the hole to match the root diameter of the screw. If you do make the hole too large, you can glue in the screw.

22. Now sand and use a finish of your choice.

We are going to work on the underside of the roof first.



We are almost done now. We just have to turn a perch for the bird to sit on. You could also use a 1/8" dowel, or a 1/8" brass rod for the perch. I have done both, but prefer to turn one.

23. Mount a small scrap of wood into your chuck. Off cuts of pen blanks work good.

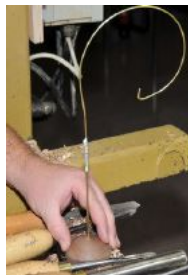
24. Start at the end of the perch and turn a slight cove back towards the head stock. I like to shape the end a little larger than the 1/8" hole and sweep it back to an eighth inch diameter. I also round the end a little.

25. Now sand and finish the perch, then cut it off.

You now have all of the parts for the ornament. Before gluing the pieces up, and after the finish has cured I like to buff all of the parts separately. I use the Beall, three buff system. Just hold on to the parts, because the wheels can grab the parts out of your hand in an instant. Once that is done, you can go ahead and glue everything together. In the past, I've used yellow wood glue, medium CA glue and epoxy. Use whatever you have and are comfortable with. If you want to use a bird, glue that to the perch. I buy micro mini mushroom birds from either a craft store (like Michaels or Hobby Lobby) or I buy them online.

Good luck! This is a rewarding project that is enjoyable to make, and everyone seems to love receiving.

Picture essay on bending wire for ornament stand



Members Show and Share



**Erwin
Tschanz**



Gary Russell



**Bruce
Trojan**



**Brian
Effinger**



**Ed
Lehman**



**Ralph
Mosher**



**Frank
Corrado**



Members Show and Share (con't)



**Denis
Caysinger**



**Don
DeBolt**



**Harry
Beaver**



**Jim
Hotaling**



**Roger
Coleman**



**Jeffery
Cheramie**



**Sam
Tischler**



**Jim
Duffy**



**Greg
Miller**

LIBRARY NEWS



I had quite a surprise in the mail the other day. One of the DVD's that has been missing from the Library since March of 2012 was there. I had completely given up on its return and actually purchased a replacement. Oh well, now we have two copies. The other missing DVD was also found between the front seats of a members car. No wonder he thought he returned it. So now we have two copies of this one too. I have a couple more duplicates of DVD's and books as well. I haven't decided if I will keep them or try to sell them and return the money to the Library fund. What do you think I should do? Let me know what you think.

The complete listing of Library materials is located on our web site and is currently up to date. New materials are available to members for lending for a month only to allow access to as many members as possible. Older materials may be renewed for an additional month just by letting me know. Since I don't keep track of the magazines, I am just asking that you return them, bring a replacement or pass it on to someone else.

Remember, it's Christmas time so think about donations; and if you do that before January first, it's a write off.

As a jolly good fellow once said "Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night".

-Gary Russel

A Special Silent Auction

A generous individual has donated turning from renown Turners from around the world. A silent auction will be held at Decembers Meeting. There will be a **minimum bid** for each item. The items are:



\$35 Ornament



Bob Rosand



\$20 Unsigned Oil Lamp



\$70 Michael Hosaluk Turned Box



\$70 Richard Raffan Threaded Box

Tip for the month- Easy face plate mounting

by Marty Chatt

I have had some real chainsaw massacred surfaces that I wanted to mount to with a faceplate or other type of chuck.

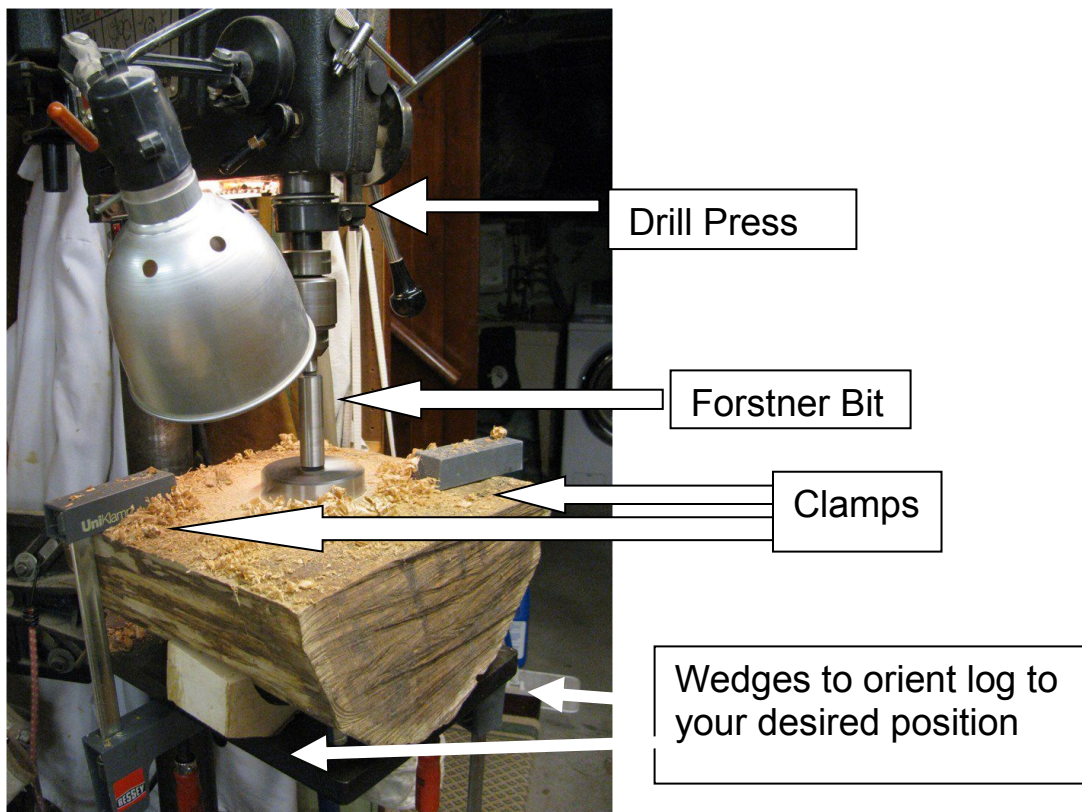
A related problem was attempting to flatten a surface on a log so it is oriented and centered for a natural edge bowl.

My usual process was to use one of my many hand or power planes, or even my jointer to flatten the logs mounting surface. This worked somewhat okay for a uniform log, but could be a pain for a irregular or highly figured log.

I now use my drill press and a forstner bit to do the job.

First mount the log on the drill press table and use wedges or scrap blocks to level and orient the log to the desired position. Note, the top surface of the log is not necessarily, in fact, probably not parallel to the drill press table or the orientation you want for turning.

You may want to clamp the log to the table to keep it from shifting during the drilling operation.



Tip for the month- Easy face plate mounting (con't)

Now, simply use a forstner bit to machine a flat surface in the log. I have 2 1/2" bit and a 3 1/2" bit that matches very precisely to my EasyWood 2 1/2" & 3 1/2" diameter face plates. The 2 1/2" bit was \$19.95 and the 3 1/2" bit was \$29.95, both at Woodcraft.

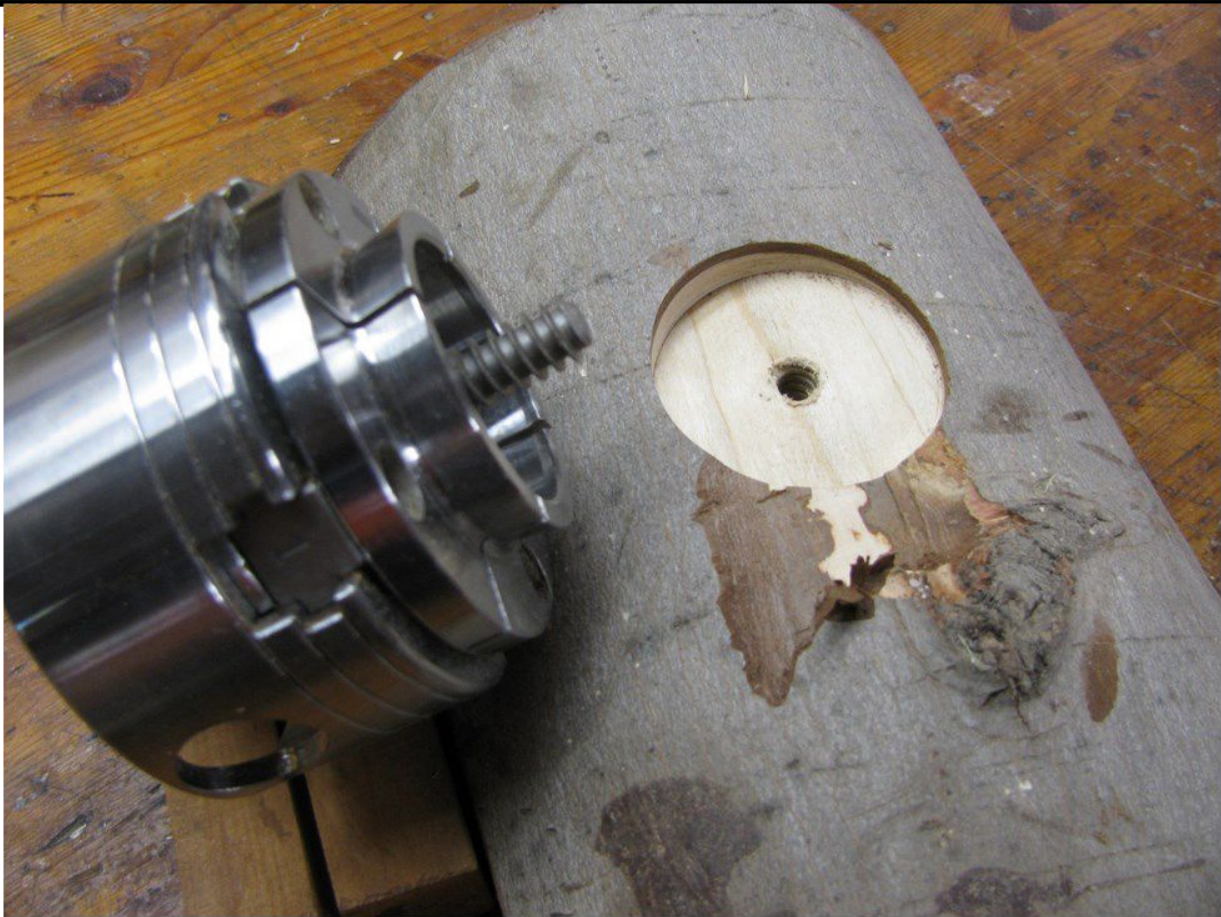


Of course you can also use this newly machined surface to mount a glue block if you wish.

If you like using a screw chuck to mount your work. After boring a shallow hole with the forstner bit, then simply remove the forstner bit and install the required drill bit to match your chuck screw and drill a hole, centered on the shallow hole from the forstner bit, the proper depth.

Make sure you do not disturb the position of the log before drilling the screw hole because you want the drilled hole to be perpendicular to the flat surface created by the forstner bit for your chuck jaws to mount against.

Tip for the month- Easy face plate mounting (con't)



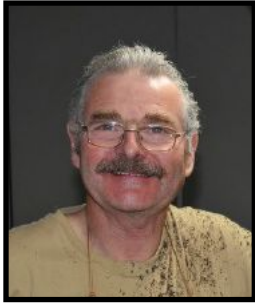
One good turn deserves another-
Marty

Publisher Note

Marty has suggested a tip column for the newsletter. If you send me your tips, I will publish them .

An Essay on Liam O'Neill

Bruce Impey



In September the FLWT hosted Liam O'Neill for a Friday evening presentation, a Saturday demonstration and a Sunday Workshop. Friday night Liam spoke of his career as a wood turner which was punctuated by what he called his Five Epiphanies. Epiphany 1 was on a farm in Northern Ireland observing that the tools of the carpenters working there "sang". The impression of the art in a centuries old craft led him to become an apprentice at the age of 19 to John Shiel, a master woodturner. Epiphany 2 came in 1980. Liam had been turning for 12 years. He attended classes at Parnham House and seminars by Americans such as Ellsworth and Stocksdale. He was shocked to see the "bowls with little holes". About this time an art gallery, which did not show crafts, accepted some of his work. From '84 to '92 Liam ran his own woodturning shop in Shannon with three apprentices.

Epiphany 3 came in 1984. Liam won an £1000 scholarship to visit the US in a cultural exchange from Eion McKiernan's IAC (Irish American Cultural Institute). Liam used this opportunity to meet a great many of the prominent participants in the revival of professional woodturning in the US. In 1985 Liam joined the teaching staff of Arrowmont Classes and continued to participate there for 10 years. In 1986, the founding of the AAW was inspired by the Irish Woodturners Guild (founded in 1983 by Liam) according to David Ellsworth.

Epiphany 4 came after Liam moved to Spiddal, a beautiful home and a town with history. In 1992 the President of Ireland, Mary Robinson, made a gift of one of Liam's bowls to Queen Elizabeth II. The next President of Ireland, Mary McAleese was also interested in Liam's work and collecting some of it. This led to an extraordinary gift that marked Epiphany 5 in Liam's career, the Peace Bowl. In 2006 parties met in St. Andrews to negotiate peace in Northern Ireland. Tony Blair – British PM, Bertie Ahern – Taoiseach of the Irish Republic, Dr. Ian Paisley – Ulster Protestant Loyalists, Gerry Adams – Sinn Fein. Most readers probably remember several of these names and parties and their issues. The negotiations were headed for a dismal outcome apparently, but the gift of a bowl made from a fallen walnut tree on the field of the Battle of Boyne (the Protestants won) so softened Paisley (Dr. No) that the tide was turned. Liam described this event and the players with enthusiasm for the outcome of the Peace Talks. His role in having made the bowl was unassuming, accidental even, but obviously a great honor for him to have had a part in this historic reunion of his people.

An Essay on Liam O'Neill (con't)

Liam is a Poet Woodturner. He is on the one hand a practical production turner, with numerous bits of advice, like how to get a little more service out of a bandsaw blade when cutting bowl blanks (cut to the left as often as you cut to the right), how he sells the small bowl blanks cut out from the larger stock for enough to pay for the whole log and the shavings for animal bedding. He makes production turnings, which you can find at Simon Pearce from Vermont. He makes art for monarchs and he writes poetry. Liam says he brought the "Irish Grind" to the US and brought back much more. He showed us what this Irish Grind was, in the demonstration and the workshop. It is a long side grind on the bowl gouge. Early in the lecture he said he was doing this grinding far back on the side as an apprentice but was corrected by the master. Later on his own he went back to it with great success and showed everybody else how to do it. Yet he calls it the "Irish" grind. He does not make a big deal about himself.

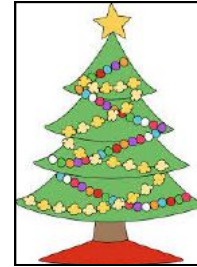
When Liam does production work he turns 60 to 100 bowls at a time, mostly Ash and Beech. He talked about the big logs from mature trees that are available over there, not like here where our grandfathers cut down all the old trees not so long ago. He roughs out the blanks and puts them in a "kiln" which is basically a room with a dehumidifier. An important thing is to get the room warm and humid before starting the dehumidifier. Drying the bowl blanks takes 15 days. Talking about his cutting technique, the "Irish" or Side Grind is a kinder cut, cutting the wood the way it prefers to be cut. He uses a double bevel and not too sharp of an angle at the center of the gouge. A more square angle in the center of the gouge allows cutting to the bottom of the bowl with the bevel rubbing. The double bevel gives a smoother cut on the inside of a bowl because there is less pressure on the heel dragging behind the cut so there is less marking and less sanding. On the inside of the bowl on final cut, a regular ground gouge is used from rim to about halfway in and an Irish grind is used from there to almost the center. The nub left at the center is cut off with a scraper. Liam explained that walnut tears out more when green than when dry. For that he uses the side grind gouge for the entire green roughing process and then a regular bowl gouge with a shearing cut from rim to base when finish turning the dry bowl. The side grind with a burr is useful for sheer scraping a very fine shaving at low rpm when pullout is a problem.

In the slide show Liam showed us some of his outdoor architectural turnings which included some big of was Giant Redwood chairs. He makes these on a massive concrete lathe he built, inspired by Jack Straka in Hawaii. In Hawaii they figured out how to overcome the cost of importing heavy cast iron lathes by pouring concrete. Liam used the idea to make a massive lathe for his larger than human turnings. There was also the 14 ft high outdoor sculpture "Lift up your hearts". You can see some of these things on Liam's website: <http://www.liamoneill.com/>

Bruce Impey

A HOLIDAY CELEBRATION INVITATION

By Bruce Trojan



As we enter the holiday season, it would be remiss to not share in some type of celebration together. Last year, Ward and Dori Donahue suggested that we Celebrate the holiday season by sharing cookies and cider at our December meeting. It was such a nice time and worked out so well that the Board of Directors thought we should do it again.

We are asking members to bring a dozen or so of cookies or other goodies, preferably home made, to share during our pre-meeting get together on December 19th. The club will provide the cider. There have to be some great cookie makers within our membership!

Make sure that you show up early, get into the holiday spirit, bring a turned piece or two for show and share, and some tops, be ready to chow down on lots of great confections and prepare yourself for a fun social hour before the meeting begins! The festivities will begin around 5:45 PM.



Member Comments

NOVEMBER'S DEMO by Brian Effinger RUSTIC BIRDHOUSE ORNAMENT

Jerry Sheridan

Our November demo was put on by club member, Brian Effinger. I thought Brian's demo was outstanding. This was certainly not the most difficult or complex project we have had presented to our club. However, I felt as though Brian's presentation was one of the most complete, down to the smallest detail. First Brian handed out a very complete outline of his demo. This outline, besides giving a step by step process, also gave some of Brian's insights as to decisions you may want to make as you go through the project, such as orientation of blanks. If you did not get a copy of this outline, I would strongly encourage you to find one.

Brian worked through his project. I very much appreciate demonstrators who make it a point to tell you "This is how I do it" as opposed to "This is THE way to do it". Brian was continually open to suggestions from the audience and quick to add that obviously there are many different ways to accomplish the same outcome.

I am continually impressed by the caliber and quality of projects demonstrated by our club members. I hope you agree that Brian's name should stay on that list.



*HAPPY HOLIDAYS
FROM THE
PUBLISHER*

Local and National Woodturning Events of Interest

Year/Date	Event	For More Information
April 10th- Sept. 22nd 2013	Fuller Craft Museum <i>Across the Grain: Turned and Carved Wood</i> Opening Reception: Sunday, May 19, 2013, 1:00 - 4:00 pm	http://fullercraft.org/event/across-the-grain-turned-and-carved-wood/

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
Gary Russell	227-8527		cngRussell@gmail.com	General turning, bowls, ornaments, finials
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. ♦



(585) 546-1400

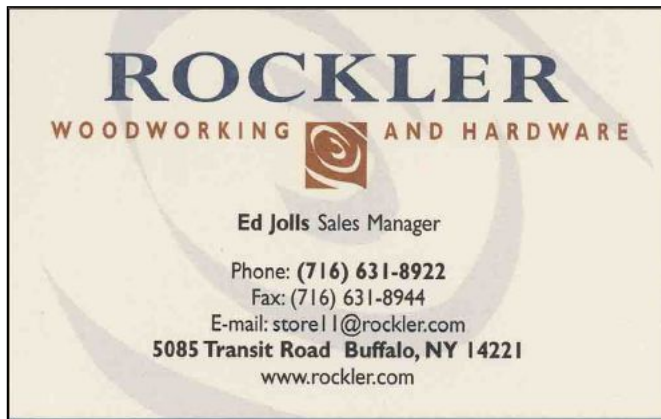
Rheem 95% Efficient Furnace for just \$75/mo

0.99% **interest** for 48 months

Save even more with rebates and tax credits

Certain conditions apply. Offer expires 10/31/13

FLWT Thanks Rockler Woodworking and Hardware a 2013 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 only.
- Not valid with any other coupon or offer. ♦

FLWT Board of Directors 2012/2013

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	Clifford Weatherell	737-7815	737-7815	canoeboy@rochester.rr.com
Librarian	Gary Russell	227-8527		cngrussell@gmail.com
Newsletter	Dan Meyerhoefer	671-5595		d.meyerhoefer@att.net
Advisor	Jeffery Cheramie			
Advisor	Roger Coleman	288-0344		rogeracoleman@rochester.rr.com

Rustic Birdhouse Ornament

By Brian Effinger

You will need appropriate sized blanks for the roof, and body of the ornament. I try to find branches in the 1 – 1/4" to 1 – 1/2" diameter range for the body. The roof diameter needs to be larger by at least half an inch. You will also need a scrap of wood for the perch.

You will need various spindle gouges at a minimum. A skew helps as does a scraper for hollowing. A four-jaw chuck is necessary, and a jacobs chuck too, if you are going to drill out the body. You will also need drill bits and a drill, as well as an awl. Get some sandpaper and finish of your choice.

We are going to start with the birdhouse body.

Determine which end of the blank will be the top and bottom of the body, then mount it in lathe, between centers, and adjust so that it is running as true as possible.

Determine where the bottom of the body will be (where the finial will start) and make a scoring line with the point of a skew chisel through the bark. This will keep the bark attached to the body when you start on the finial later.

Turn a tenon to fit your chuck at the bottom of the finial.

Mount the blank in the chuck. We are going to hollow the body through the top, so that end will need to face the tail stock.

Face off the top of the body.

Determine where the entry hole will be and drill it with a 1/4" bit. The entry hole should roughly be 3/4" from the top of the body. Then right below that drill an 1/8" hole for the perch (about 1-3/8" from the top). It helps to use an awl to make a starting point for the drill bit. If the holes are slightly off, it will look like a mistake. Having the entry and perch holes drilled, prior to hollowing, helps in keeping track of your hollowing progress.

Now hollow out the body. Either use a forstner bit in a tail stock mounted jacobs chuck, or use turning tools. Even if you use turning tools, it would be beneficial to drill a depth hole with a 3/8" drill bit.

Now decide if you want to reverse the blank to turn the finial, or if you want to turn the finial with the body hanging off of it, like turning a goblet. If you don't turn it around, then I recommend bringing up the live center to keep the body from whipping around and snapping the finial. If you are going to turn the project around, then you need to have chuck jaws small enough to fit into the opening at the top of the body, or you will need to make a well-fitting jamb chuck.

Proceed to turn the finial. Let your imagination run. And don't worry if you think your finial looks chunky – this is a rustic bird house, so it will look OK.

Remember to sand and finish the finial as you go.

At the bottom of the finial, cut it off (don't part it off or snap it off) and hand sand that last part.

You could also reverse mount it and sand the very tip of the finial.

That completes the body and finial. Now on to the roof. You will need a blank that is sufficiently larger in diameter to give the body a nice overhang (and keep the birds dry).

Mount the roof in a chuck. Turn a tenon if necessary or just grip the outside of the blank with the jaws. We are going to work on the underside of the roof first.

Form a tenon that will fit into the body. If the shape of the branch that makes up the body allows it, I like to undercut the roof. If the diameter of the body is uneven, then an overhang perpendicular to the tenon (and the axis of the lathe) works better. Go easy fitting the tenon to the body. Too loose and you may have to cut it back (if there is enough material) and start the tenon over. Too tight and you risk breaking the body, in which case you are back to square one. Now turn a small hollow within the tenon going up into the roof. The goal here is to bring the weight of the roof down. Begin to turn the top of the roof. Don't go too far, though. Just get the outer diameter established and maybe a little bit past that. Sand (and finish if necessary) the underside of the roof. Then you can bring up the live center for some extra support while finishing the roof. Continue the upward slope of the roof line. Before getting too thin at the top of the roof, go through the different grits of sand paper. Now finish the top element of the roof, and cut it off using your tool. If the tenon is long enough, reverse the roof into your chuck to finish off the tip of the roof. If it is not long enough, make a jamb chuck with some scrap wood. Finish the top of the roof, and make a small dimple. Drill a hole (using the dimple as a start) for the screw eye. Size the hole to match the root diameter of the screw. If you do make the hole too large, you can glue in the screw. Now sand and use a finish of your choice.

We are almost done now. We just have to turn a perch for the bird to sit on. You could also use a 1/8" dowel, or a 1/8" brass rod for the perch. I have done both, but prefer to turn one.

Mount a small scrap of wood into your chuck. Off cuts of pen blanks work good. Start at the end of the perch and turn a slight cove back towards the head stock. I like to shape the end a little larger than the 1/8" hole and sweep it back to an eighth inch diameter. I also round the end a little. Now sand and finish the perch, then cut it off.

You now have all of the parts for the ornament. Before gluing the pieces up, and after the finish has cured I like to buff all of the parts separately. I use the Beall, three buff system. Just hold on to the parts, because the wheels can grab the parts out of your hand in an instant. Once that is done, you can go ahead and glue everything together. In the past, I've used yellow wood glue, medium CA glue and epoxy. Use whatever you have and are comfortable with. If you want to use a bird, glue that to the perch. I buy micro mini mushroom birds from either a craft store (like Michaels or Hobby Lobby) or I buy them online.

Good luck! This is a rewarding project that is enjoyable to make, and everyone seems to love receiving.