



# Finger Lakes Woodturners

## A Chapter of The American Association of Woodturners



### From The Chair – May 2013



**Mark Mazzo**  
**FLWT President**

Wow, has this season flown by! Our May meeting marks the final meeting of our 2012-2013 season. We have had a great season of events, including two national turners and many great demonstrations by our own club members.

This month we will host Barb and Charlie LaPrease from the Syracuse club, CNYWT. The topics will be finishing as it relates to woodturning. Charlie will be showing us his techniques for various easy finishing methods and Barb is slated to discuss more decorative finishes including the possibility of Marbling on turnings. This is a unique topic that many have questions on and often express difficulty executing to satisfaction. So, it should be a great evening of information that can be applied to our work immediately.

Last month we were fortunate to host Keith Tompkins who showed us everything from basic woodturning cuts to more advanced woodturning projects – he even sprinkled in a bit on the topic of design for woodturning! I think that everyone who came to the meeting and/or saw Keith’s demonstration agreed that he did a wonderful job. We had a great turnout on Saturday and I’d like to thank all those who attended and supported the club in

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.com/>.

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that way. This event went a long way toward proving the idea that turners of all levels can learn from these demonstrations and that there is no need to be advanced to learn from a professional turner. I hope that trend continues next year as we bring in other turners for the collective benefit of all FLWT members.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## From the Chair

(Continued from page 1)

Speaking of other demonstrations, your Board of Directors has been hard at work planning out events for next season and we will present the entire lineup for the 2013-2014 season at our May meeting. The season will include two national turners that I'm, sure you will want to see

by Mark Mazzo

demonstrate. We'll also have final details on the club picnic on Saturday, June 1. So, don't miss our final meeting of this year.

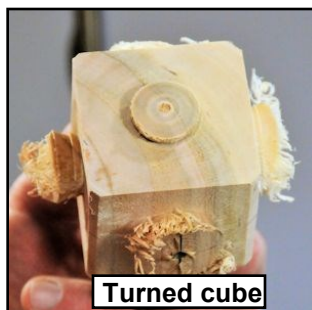
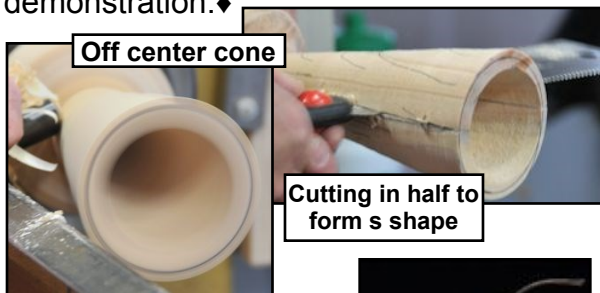
Until our next meeting, remember to keep turning and keep learning!

--Mark ♦

## The May Challenge Project

The May Challenge Project is to try your hand at turning an object demonstrated by Keith Tompkins. In Bruce Impey's words "I couldn't imagine how these fantastic turnings were done..." Take a look at Bruce's article covering Keith's time here and see what you come up with. Try your hand at a goblet, finial, bottle stopper or cube. For those of you more adventurous, look at the gallery of Keith's work at <http://www.keithptompkins.com/gallery.htm> and do some carving on your turnings as well. Here at a few photos by Dan Meyerhoefer and Ralph Mosher showing examples from Keith's Saturday demonstration. ♦

By Ralph Mosher



# Keith Tompkins...Fundamentals of Technique and Design

By Bruce Impey

Photos by Ralph Mosher and Dan Meyerhoefer

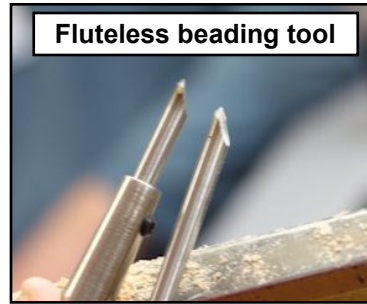


Keith Tompkins

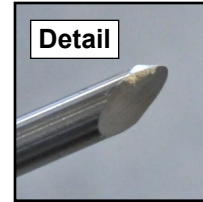
At our April meeting, Keith Tompkins presented Fundamentals of Technique and Design on Friday night and gave a Saturday demonstration. Keith is in the class of turners whose work wins im-

pressive awards and is bought by collectors and museums. I was very anxious to attend his presentation to the FLWT after looking at images of some of his beautiful pieces on the internet ([www.keithptompkins.com](http://www.keithptompkins.com)). I couldn't imagine how these fantastic turnings were done, especially the spiraling scroll pieces. I was sure that an unobtainable level of sophistication in tools and techniques would be combined with fantasy martial arts moves to produce such shapes. What I found was an intentionally simple craftsman, with intentionally simple tools and techniques, basing his designs on what he sees in nature or upon his last project, just taking things a little further one step at a time. He was there to show us that the tools and techniques and ideas required to start this process are very obtainable for all of us.

Keith brought simple turning tools, like the old Craftsman carbon steel tools that can now be had very cheaply. Only ten basic cuts are needed to do anything and almost anything can be done with two or



Fluteless beading tool



Detail

three tools. He has some special



Carburetor jet drill

things, like the "fluteless" beading tool that he developed himself, and carburetor jet drills, but stressed not needing to be extravagant. Tool handling ability is more im-



Tool handling ability is important

portant and confidence in your grind is essential. Keith discussed using your whole body to make



Confidence in your grind is essential

cuts, both on the lathe and at the grinder. He discussed cutting techniques like air-to-wood straight in starts with a spindle gouge and using a skew to cut beads. Keith breaks a lot of conventional "rules" but he does it with confidence.



Air to wood cutting

Design inspiration is as readily available as the simple tools and techniques. Ide-

(Continued on page 4)

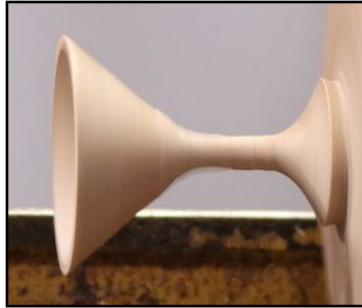
# Keith Tompkins...Fundamentals of Technique and Design

By Bruce Impey

Photos by Ralph Mosher and Dan Meyerhoefer

(Continued from page 3)

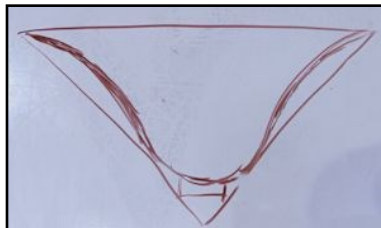
as are all around us, from things seen on a walk in the forest to an image on a store sign. As an example, Keith used the im-



Martini glass design

age of a tilted Martini glass he saw in a common Neon sign as the basis for some of his wine bottle stoppers. There is no magic, it is all basics.

There are things we already know and rhythm to draw upon. Put things about yourself into the design mix, like his fishing hobby went into the idea of a circle of fish almost catching each other. Use principles like the Rule of Thirds, the Golden Rectangle and the "Tompkins Triangle" to



"Tompkins Triangle"

frame drawn shapes. This is a starting point. Like your idea before you turn it. The idea that you

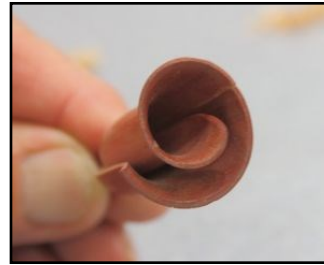


Carved fabric fold design

don't have to copy someone else's work is the key message. Develop things one step at a time. If you are doing a turning and an idea about how you might have done it differently comes, there is your next project.

Keith really likes forms reminiscent of linen folds. Some of the linen folds on his

work are carvings and some of them are crafty turnings. He showed us how it's



Keith Tompkins rose

done. The rose is a simple but elegant example. Three thin walled bells are turned in graduated sizes, sawn in half and then glued up one

small half to a half of the next size to produce a progressive spiral. Sandpaper glued to strips of veneer helps to blend the pieces and hide the glue joints. His basic technique is really simple and his results are amazing.

In the demonstration on the lathe, Keith explored making a finial. Important points are to use straight grained wood, a heavy



Turning a finial

lathe helps turn tiny pieces, the hands control the tool rather than the whole body on delicate work, and above all avoid straight lines. Follow a curve even on long pieces. Keith hates straight lines. In discussing the design of a finial Keith compared a sense of the Dynamic to that of Static. Static is something that just sits there, like a block shape. Dynamic has flowing curves and varies in diameter from large to small. A Dynamic cove is one that has 2/3 of the drop in diameter on one end and 1/3 on the other. Watch

(Continued on page 5)

# Keith Tompkins...Fundamentals of Technique and Design

By Bruce Impey

Photos by Ralph Mosher and Dan Meyerhoefer

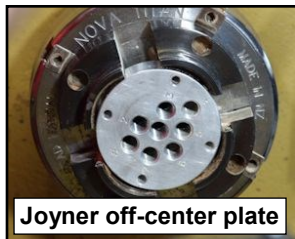
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the horizon of the piece as you turn to see the curve. You can't do this if you are worried about the tool catching. Again; confidence.

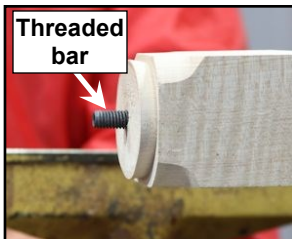


Martini glass bottle stopper

The demonstration continued with techniques for the whimsical Martini Glass bottle stopper, off center goblet, Dixie Bigg's spiral turning, turning a cube with only a skew chisel, bowl with wings and sharpening. Keith uses a jig system on the grinder and says that we should not be afraid to do so. The reliability of the grind is worth it. Keith advised us in general



Joyner off-center plate



Threaded bar

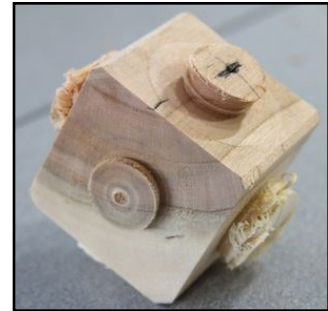
Keith Used a Joyner off-center plate to turn the martini glass bottle stopper.

<http://nilesbottlestoppers.com/>

A threaded bar is inserted in the end of the turning block to secure it to the off-center plate



Off center cup

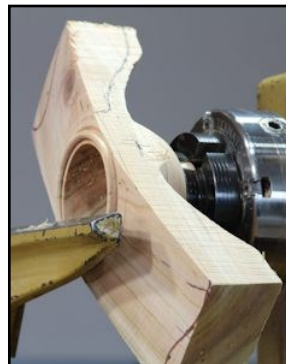


Cube with a skew



Dixie Bigg's spiral turning

to look at ordinary everyday things and incorporate them into our work, and to recognize those limita-



Bowl with wings

tions of ours that are self-imposed. His objective was to show us some things and get us to say we could do that but we would do it differently. He did indeed show us lots of those things. His gave us this many times over

and in a way as simple as his tools and 10 basic cuts. ♦

Spring time in West Henrietta New York



Prairie Fire Crabapple



Snow Drift Crabapple

# Wood Turning at Byron Bergen Central School

By Jerry Sheridan

Photos by Richard Connelly and Gayla Starowitz



Jerry Sheridan

For several years, I have visited the technology class at BBCS. I would spend one class period talking to the students about woodturning and demonstrating some of the basics. 45 minutes and that was it. But this year, several

of the members said they would be willing to help me by spending some time in the classroom as well. Great! This meant students could spend more than just 45 minutes learning about woodturning. And even better, they could work one on one with an experienced woodturner. The guys that came out to Bergen included Mike Brawley, Dave Ververs, Gary Russell, Rich Connelly, Harry Beaver and myself.

We started out with the basics. The guys brought in many of their own turned projects,



Gary turning the inside of bowl; lots of interest and lots of chips.

discussed turning, tools, and safety. Mike spent a day focused on spindle turning and Gary demonstrated his bowl making process. Now it gets fun. On Mondays, Gary and Rich are in the classroom, followed by Mike and Dave on Wednesday and Rich and I on Fridays.

It seems the help and



Mike Brawley works with Kenny Dean and Rider Farnsworth as they start their wooden bowl.



Dave Ververs and Zach Redinger turning a shaker peg.

(Continued on page 7)

# Wood Turning at Byron Bergen Central School

By Jerry Sheridan

Photos by Richard Connelly and Gayla Starowitz

(Continued from page 6)



Mike Brawley looking over a bowl made by Byron-Bergen students Kyle Lewis and Corey Zimmerman.



Learning how to make shaker pegs for their wood wall shelves are Byron-Bergen students Nick Warriner and Seth Cunningham, along with professional woodworker Rich Connelly.

guidance from our members has been well received by both the students and their teacher, Jay Wolcott. We were able to help the students meet their requirement of turning 2 shaker pegs for a project they are building. Unfortunately, we don't have enough time to tackle all the different projects the kids want to make on the lathe.

When talking to the guys from our club, I get the impression they got a lot out of



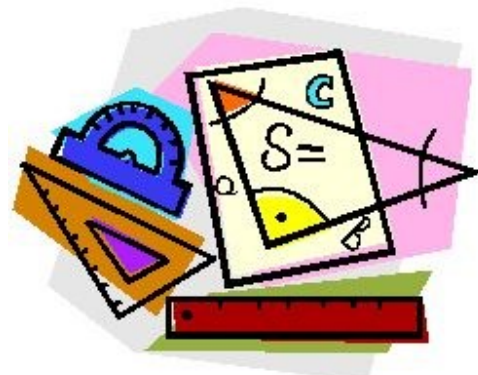
Zach Redinger, follows instructions from Technology Teacher Jay Wolcott. Looking on are (l-r) Nick Warriner, Mr. Wolcott, Zach, Nick Magin, and Seth Cunningham.

their involvement in this project. It is a great feeling when you see the satisfaction on a student's face when they have completed a good cut and even better when they can look at their finished project.

Looking ahead to next year, I would love to have 5 teams so we could cover the class each day of the week. We are making progress upgrading their tools. A special thanks to Albert Filo, Dennis Caysinger, and Jim Hotaling for their donation of tools. Now we badly need to upgrade their lathes. I will be applying for an AAW grant in September.

Thank you to all our helpers. I can't wait for next year.

-- Jerry Sheridan ♦



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## Woodturning Tool Sale

*By Lou Stahlman*

WOODTURNING TOOL SALE

Saturday May 18 10:00 => 3:00

Lou Stahlman's Shop (2 Highview Trail, Pittsford)

Bowl gouges, spindle gouges, skew chisels, scrapers, some Dave Smith shop

made, variety of sizes, all brand name. Generally, prices are 1/2 current catalog price.

Cash payment preferred. No returns. No early birds.

Call 248-2097 for more info.

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## Challenge on Two Fronts

*By Jim Hotaling*



*Jim Hotaling*

Why I joined Genesee Valley Woodcarvers a year ago I don't know, but I'm glad I did. They had a challenge project for this year's seminar held April 13th at the Eisenhart Museum. The challenge was to carve something that would fit into a champagne glass. I chose a mouse looking at a piece of cheese in the bottom of the glass. I later cut off the bottom of the glass and turned a walnut base. Received an honorable Mention ribbon for my efforts. ♦

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Jim Hotaling received an Honorable Mention from the Genesee Valley Woodcarvers for his carved mouse and cheese in a champagne glass





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## “Ask Woodie”



Woodrow (Woodie)  
Turner

Dear Spin Meister,

I wish to turn a natural edge bowl. When do I harvest the wood (fall, winter, spring or summer) so the bark remains intact?

Teresa Plenty

Dear Trees A. Plenty,

Wow! “*When do I harvest...?*” Like you have a choice? Even I, the famed Woodie, have to take wood mostly when I can get it. Friends may say they’ve had a walnut tree taken down, and “would I like some in the next hour before the town hauls it away?” A few have even given me several days notice. But none have ever offered to schedule such an event around my wood-turning convenience!

Ah, but to your question. The answer is simple: winter, when the tree is dormant, or perhaps fall. What you want to avoid is spring, when the sapwood, cambium lay-

*By Woodrow (Woodie) Turner*

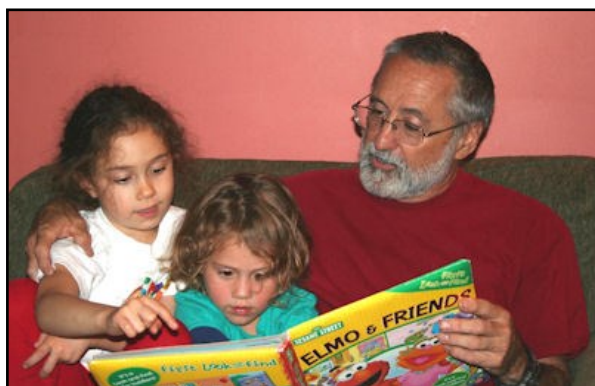
er, and inner bark are swollen. That said, you realize that keeping the bark “intact” involves a bit more than timely harvesting. Some well-known turners don’t even try. They remove the bark to start with, leaving just the sapwood edge. Others use copious amounts of super glue. I generally don’t; however, I *do* sweep the floor carefully before defining the inside bark edge. That way, if a small piece should fly off, I can find it and glue it back. Birch and cherry sometimes have curled or loose bark where this can be helpful. I’ve seen turners “joint” in a different piece of bark if they can’t find the original, but I think you can still tell. As for design, you may want to base your bowl thickness on the species and age of the tree. A mature walnut, for example, has very thick (but fascinating) bark that I think looks better on a thicker-wall bowl. Thinner, smoother bark lets you go thinner, but it’s still the edge you are trying to showcase.

So, will you have extra wood in your now months-away, winter harvest? If so, let me know. It will be a first.

-Woodie ♦

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## Library News and Views



Grandpa with Cassie and Cecilia

Since my wife and I will be in Texas for the May meeting, Barry Rosenberg and

*By Gary Russell*

his wife Peggy have offered to take over the Library duties. Even if you do not intend on using the Library, stop by and say hi. I will not be able to send out reminder notices, so please remember to bring back any materials you have on loan. This is especially important if you are not going to the picnic since the picnic is the last opportunity to return items for this year. Any returns at the picnic can be made to Mark Mazzo.

Have a great summer and let's see some fantastic show'n'shares in September. ♦

# FLWT Picnic Announcement

By Daniel Meyerhoefer

## PICINIC ANNOUNCEMENT – SAVE THIS DATE – JUNE 1<sup>ST</sup>

PLACE: King's Bend *Park* – *South Lodge*

*Time 2:00 to 6:00 PM*

*Cost \$6.00*

*Hot's and Hamburger*



*South Lodge*



## A Note of Thanks

By Ralph Mosher

During the past three seasons as editor of our newsletter, the membership of *The Finger Lakes Woodturners Association* has been very helpful and generous with their contributions to our award winning newsletter. Without question, this ongoing support was a significant factor toward *The Finger Lakes Woodturners Newsletter* being selected by the American Association of Woodturners as the best Chapter Newsletter for 2012...an award the membership as a whole should be very proud. Every issue was filled with exciting and informative content for which I thank you.

Of special interest to me has been the Challenge Project and Show and Share exhibits. These exhibits have shown the growth of the

membership's turning ability in both quality and creativity. Keep up the great work!



Dan Meyerhoefer

It is time for me to pass the newsletter torch on to another. Dan Meyerhoefer has graciously accepted the challenge. He is very capable and with your continued support this transition will be seamless!

Thanks again for your support and contributions during the last three seasons.

— Ralph ♦

## From the Publisher

By Ralph Mosher

A note of thanks to the contributors to this issue of the *Finger Lakes Woodturners Newsletter*. Mark Mazzo for *From The Chair*, Bruce Impey for his article covering Keith Tompkins Friday evening and Saturday demonstration, Jerry Sheridan for his article covering *Wood Turning at*

*Byron Bergen Central School*, Jim Hotaling for his *Challenge on Two Fronts*, Woodrow Turner for his column, "Ask Woodie", Gary Russel for his *Library News and Views*, and Dan Meyerhoefer for the FLWT Picnic Notice. Thanks again to all of you for your contributions! ♦

## Calendar of FLWT Woodturning-Events 2012/2013

Date	Event	Location / Time	Pre-Mtg. Show & Share	Challenge	Demo / Topic	
May 2013	16th	FLWT Turning Mtg.	Isaac Heating & Air Conditioning Classroom 6:00 - 9:00	6:00 -6:45	Create your own design	Charlie and Barb LaPrease (Syracuse) Finishing and Marbling
	21th	FLWT BOD Mtg.	TBA 7:00 - 9:00			
Sept 2013	Fri 20th	FLWT Turning Mtg.	Isaac Heating & Air Conditioning Classroom 6:00 - 9:00	6:00 -6:45	Finishing and Marbling	Liam O'Neil International Turner
	Sat 21st	FLWT Turning Mtg.	Isaac Heating & Air Conditioning Classroom	9:00 AM to 4:00 PM	None	Liam O'Neil International Turner Demonstration
	Sun 22nd	FLWT Turning Mtg.	Isaac Heating & Air Conditioning Classroom	9:00 AM to 4:00 PM	None	Tentative Liam O'Neil Hands on workshop 8 participants More to follow
	24th	FLWT BOD Mtg.	TBA 7:00 - 9:00			

## Local and National Woodturning Events of Interest

Year/Date		Event	For More Information
June 2013	28 <sup>th</sup> -30 <sup>th</sup>	2013 AAW Symposium Tampa Convention Center, Tampa FL, June 28-30.	<a href="http://www.woodturner.org/sym/sym2013/index.htm">http://www.woodturner.org/sym/sym2013/index.htm</a>
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	<a href="http://fullercraft.org/event/across-the-grain-turned-and-carved-wood/">http://fullercraft.org/event/across-the-grain-turned-and-carved-wood/</a>

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

Name	Day Tel	Eve Tel	Email	Turning Skills / Specialty
Doug Crittenden	924-5903	924-5903	<a href="mailto:cleo99@frontiernet.net">cleo99@frontiernet.net</a>	General turning
Ed DeMay	406-6111	924-5265	<a href="mailto:edemay@rochester.rr.com">edemay@rochester.rr.com</a>	Bowl turning, dust collection
Ward Donahue	334-3178	334-3178	<a href="mailto:wddonah@frontiernet.net">wddonah@frontiernet.net</a>	Spindle & hollow turning, coring, sharpening
Jim Echter	377-9389	377-9389	<a href="mailto:jechter@rochester.rr.com">jechter@rochester.rr.com</a>	Spindle & faceplate turning, sharpening
David Gould	245-1212	245-1212	<a href="mailto:D2sGould@aol.com">D2sGould@aol.com</a>	Bowls, plates and hollow-forms
Jim Hotaling	223-4877	223-4877	<a href="mailto:jhotaling2198@aol.com">jhotaling2198@aol.com</a>	Christmas ornaments
Ed Lehman	637-3525		<a href="mailto:elijw@rochester.rr.com">elijw@rochester.rr.com</a>	General turning
Ralph Mosher	359-0986	359-0986	<a href="mailto:2rmosher@rochester.rr.com">2rmosher@rochester.rr.com</a>	Bowl turning, Boxes, Sharpening, Tool control
Dale Osborne	(315) 524-7212	(315) 524-7212	<a href="mailto:dborn3@rochester.rr.com">dborn3@rochester.rr.com</a>	General turning
Gary Russell	227-8527		<a href="mailto:cngRussell@gmail.com">cngRussell@gmail.com</a>	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. ♦**

## FLWT Thanks Isaac Heating & Air Conditioning



Get new Rheem air conditioning and a furnace for \$125 a month for 60 months!\*

or

Get air conditioning alone for only \$75 a month for 48 months!\*

**(585) 546-1400**

\* Certain Terms and conditions apply. Offer expires 05/31/13.

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

## FLWT Thanks Rockler Woodworking and Hardware a 2012 / 2013 Season Sponsor!



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WOODWORKING AND HARDWARE

Ed Jolls Sales Manager

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www.rockler.com

- 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	<a href="mailto:mark@mazzofamily.com">mark@mazzofamily.com</a>
Vice President	Bruce Trojan		261-7230	<a href="mailto:trojanbd@frontiernet.net">trojanbd@frontiernet.net</a>
Secretary	Bill McColgin	586-1417	402-0967	<a href="mailto:mccolgin@rochester.rr.com">mccolgin@rochester.rr.com</a>
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Librarian	Gary Russell	227-8527		<a href="mailto:cngrussell@gmail.com">cngrussell@gmail.com</a>
Newsletter	Ralph Mosher	359-0986		<a href="mailto:2rmosher@rochester.rr.com">2rmosher@rochester.rr.com</a>
Advisor	Jeffery Cheramie			
Advisor	Roger Coleman	288-0344		<a href="mailto:rogeracoleman@rochester.rr.com">rogeracoleman@rochester.rr.com</a>

# April Show and Share

Photos by Ralph Mosher



**Dan Meyerhoefer**



**Sam Tischler**



**Jerry Sheridan**



**Frank Corrado**



**Goblet detail**



**Ward Donahue**



**Don DeBolt**

(Continued on page 15)

# April Show and Share

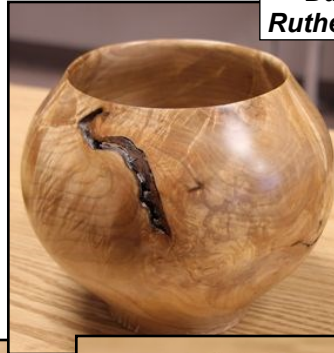
Photos by Ralph Mosher

(Continued from page 14)

**Roger Coleman**



**Dave Rutherford**



**Carvings by Jim**



**Jim Hotaling**



**Singing top**



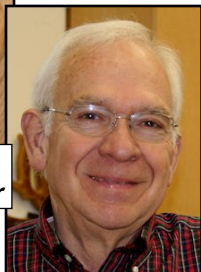
**Cherry crotchwood bowls**



**Greg Maslak Pembroke**



**Ralph Mosher**



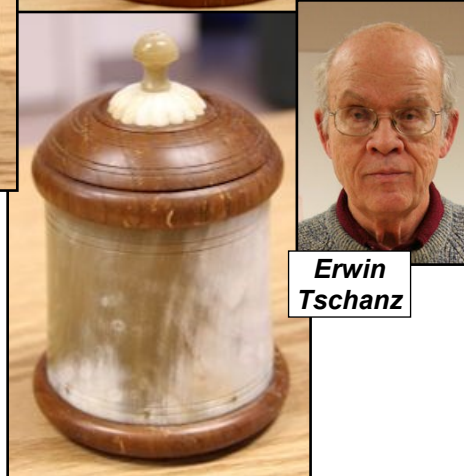
**Bowl profile**

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# April Show and Share

Photos by Ralph Mosher

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Erwin Tschanz



Gary Russell

