

From The Chair – February 2014



**Mark Mazzo**

Our year of demonstrations has been going great! Last month was no exception as Bill McColgin did a great job of showing us all what to expect from those crotched pieces of wood and also how to turn them into beautiful plates and platters. Thanks to Bill for a job well done! This month, we are going back to a project that, probably more than any other, gets people interested in turning – the bowl. Our own Gary Rus-

sell will be showing us his methods for selecting, mounting and turning a bowl from a log section. There are many ways to do this and that is why it is always fun to watch how every turner goes about the process. Because the bowl is a project that draws such interest from prospective turners, this demonstration will help to answer some of the many questions that are often asked by beginners on how to approach the project. I am sure that you will find many valuable tips along the way. Even if you've already turned a bowl before, there is always something new to learn from someone else based on their particular approach and tooling.

Your Board of Directors is actively working to plan next year's season of events. So, if you have an idea for what you'd like to see, we would be interested in hearing those suggestions. We are also interested in hearing about possible turners that you would be interested in having us bring in from outside the club (note: we try to stay somewhat regional to keep the travel costs to a minimum). Finally, if you are interested in demonstrating something to the club, please let us know! Even if you have a short topic that will not take an entire meeting, we can combine such topics with others who may have a similar situation. We do our best to try to cover as many topics of interest as we can, but the input from the membership is always the best determinant of a good season of events. So, speak up! Don't forget, that at our March meeting we will be hosting National Turner, Bob Rosand

([www.rrosand.com](http://www.rrosand.com)). This will be a special Friday night meeting on Friday, March 21<sup>st</sup> and a Saturday demonstration on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. We will be sending out more information on the event shortly and we will be accepting registrations for the Saturday demonstration at our February meeting.

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

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

February: Gary Russell – Turn a Bowl  
March: Bob Rosand – National Speaker (Friday night meeting, Saturday demo) see [www.rrosand.com](http://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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## Turning Crotch Wood for Figure with Bill McColgin

By Bruce Impey

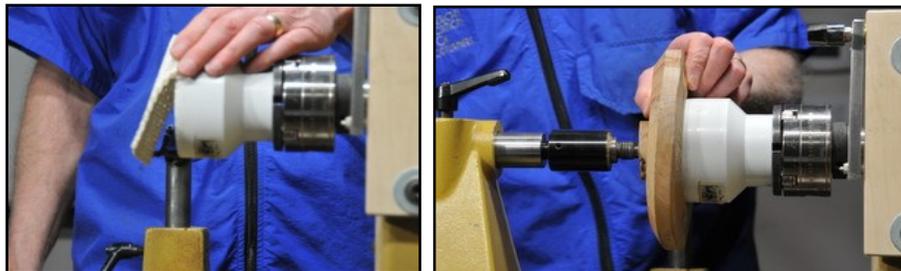


At the January FLWT meeting Bill McColgin demonstrated Turning Crotch Wood for Figure. Bill encouraged us to take advantage of the wonderful hardwoods such as Black Cherry, Walnut, Fruit Cherry and such that are available close to us and are essentially free, less our expense of chisels and time. The crotch pieces usually left behind by loggers or firewood gatherers are full of surprises for the turner. An excellent way to show off the feather grain pattern of crotchwood is through a plate or shallow bowl. Expect some warpage, cracking, bark inclusions and sapwood.

The standard technique is to cut the green wood along the “Y”, that is to try to take the fork of the pith out in the saw kerf. There is more figure on one side of the blank because the figure is in a conical tapering section of the crotch. Make the more highly figured side the top of the plate. Green turn the blank with tenon, wax and set aside to dry just as in bowl turning. Keep warpage in mind in the roughing, there needs to be enough material left in the dried blank to get the plate from. Don't be surprised if you experience more checking in the sapwood during drying.

When turning the plate from the dried blank, Bill suggests looking in the china cabinet for an idea on a pleasing shape. Mount the blank in a small jaw chuck and back up the blank with a PVC reducing fitting on the tailstock. The large diameter of the PVC fitting gives support over a broad area. Bring the bottom of the plate to final finish up to the foot while still in the jaw chuck. Shorten the tenon so that it won't bottom out in the jaw chuck and turn the work around. Pull cut to bring the front face to flat and then around the rim. Start cutting the flange (1" in this case), the transition (1/2") and then the flat to the center.

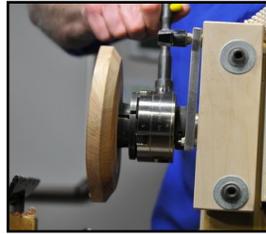
Bill uses a gouge that is ground fairly swept back. Shear scraping up the transition area works well for him. Take care not to get the center too thin.



You can sand out too thick (convex) but you can't sand out too thin (concave) very easily.

## Turning Crotch Wood for Figure with Bill McColgin (con't)

Bill uses a gouge that is ground fairly swept back. Shear scraping up the transition area works well for him. Take care not to get the center too thin.

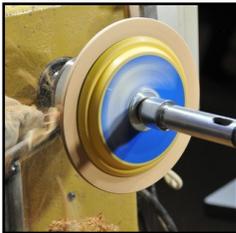


Bill sprayed water on the work when he started to get some harmonic vibration. It seemed quite effective. Sometimes he uses a mix of turpentine and sanding sealer. Bill's final cut to flatten the bottom

was with a skew chisel, which apparently might be an offense to the rules. He finds the 40 year old Craftsman carbon steel quite adequate. Sanding was done with sandpaper glued to a disc of wood about half the diameter of the plate flat. Moving around to the edge of the plate,



Bill covered the leading edges of the jaw chuck with masking tape for safety. He described the end grain as "coming out" due to the figure of the wood and used a pull cut from small diameter to large diameter. To cut down on vibration he jammed a "bowl reversing" tool against the flat of the plate. It looked like a thick rubber sanding disc for the power drill with a shortened shank. It was time to decide where the foot will go. If making one plate it isn't critical, but for a stacking set of plates the foot must fit inside the next plate. Flatten the foot with a pull cut. Here it helps to be able to work left handed and the headstock is in the way. You just need to be able to cut the bottom in

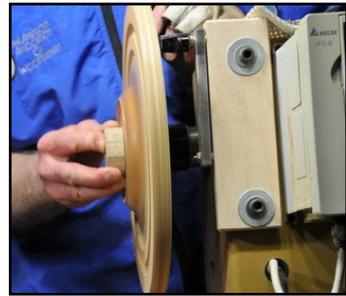


far enough to measure the thickness and then the shape of the foot can be formed.



## Turning Crotch Wood for Figure with Bill McColgin (con't)

Bill uses a caliper from Lee Valley that springs away for removal and then springs back to the setting for measurement. He left the bottom thickness at 1/4". To finish the foot Bill reversed the plate on a jamchuck of thin plywood. He had cut a groove in the plywood to center the rim of the plate and attached it with masking tape around the rim. Don't bring the tailstock in so hard that it deflects the plate bottom.



Cut away the tenon with pull cuts as on the front. The new cut on the bottom is transitioned with the old cut in the area before the rise to the foot. The transition is better hidden on the flat. Pull shear scraping with the sweptback gouge is again followed by the skew. The bottom doesn't have to be perfectly flat really. Just another tip; if making a plate from a board, where surplus material isn't available, glue a waste block on for the tenon.



# Members Show and Share



**Erwin  
Tschanz**



**Gary Russell**



**Harry  
Beaver**



**Jim  
Echter**



**Jerry  
Sheridan**



**Frank Corrado**



**Dave  
Gilbert**



## Members Show and Share (con't)



**Harry Stanton**



**Jim Hotaling**



**Roger Coleman**



**Dan Meyerhoefer**



**Bruce Impey**



**Mike Brawley**



## LIBRARY NEWS



We have had a number of donated VHS tapes in our Library for some time now. Nobody has ever requested one, so I have now gotten six of them converted to a DVD format and; they are now in the library. I have volumes 1-3 *Tips For Turners* by David Ellsworth along with his *Signature Gouge* video, *The Skew Chisel* by Alan Lacer, and *Turning Boxes* by Richard Raffan. In addition, David Gould, after his great demo on turning threads in December, has donated *the DVD Focus on Thread Cutting* by Robert Sorby, Thanks Dave. I will have these new additions along with the rest of the library DVDs for loaning out.

Videos and books loans are to paid Club members on a monthly basis. The listing is on the FLWT's web page. I bring all the DVD's to the meeting and a smattering of books and magazines. If there is a particular book you would like, just let me know. My wife, Chris, will be sitting at the Library table (which she usually does anyway) while I set up for my Bowl Demo this month. As such, I will bring bowl making videos and books for loaning for those of you who don't think I did a good job.

*By Garry Russel*

**Wanted:** Used lathe tools wanted. Especially **Bowl gouges** and **Scrapers**. If you have some used ones to sell contact **Jonathan Freed** at **1-607-869-5792** or **[flwoodcraft@emypeople.net](mailto:flwoodcraft@emypeople.net)**

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[www.totallyturning.com](http://www.totallyturning.com)

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## Local and National Woodturning Events of Interest

Year/Date	Event	For More Information
February 21-23, 2014	Woodworking Show Somerset, NJ	<a href="http://www.thewoodworkingshows.com/shows.htm">http:// www.thewoodworkingshows.com /shows.htm</a>
MARCH 29 and 30 , 2014	TOTALLY TURNING WOODTURNING SYMPOSIUM	<a href="http://www.totallyturning.com">www.totallyturning.com</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. ♦**

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<b>Advisor</b>	Ralph Mosher	359-0986	359-0986	<a href="mailto:2rmosher@rochester.rr.com">2rmosher@rochester.rr.com</a>