



Finger Lakes Woodturners

A Chapter of The American Association of Woodturners



From The Chair – September 2015



Mark Mazzo

Summer in Western NY is in the books and now it's time to turn our attention to a new season of woodturning season for Finger Lakes Woodturners. I hope that everyone had a great summer and more importantly, I hope that everyone is ready to once again participate in FLWT! As you know we have a strong calendar of events planned for this season. We will be starting in September with a different kind of event. We will have sev-

eral FLWT members give some instruction on their tool sharpening methods. There will be a brief presentation and each will demonstrate their method. Members will be able to try their hand at the various sharpening methods to see what they might like. If you have a tool that you'd like to sharpen, this is the month to bring it along! This is a very practical demonstration because we all know that we can't do good work at the lathe without sharp tools!

We will once again be hosting two National turners this year. Our fall National turner will be Mike Kehs (www.michaelkehswoodworks.com). We will host Mike at our October meeting. Mike does a variety of woodturning projects and also does quite a bit of embellishment and carving. One of his specialties is incorporating images of Caves and Bats into his woodturning! We will be hosting Mike for a special Friday night meeting, a Saturday demonstration and also a Sunday hands-on workshop if we get the necessary numbers for participation. We will have more to come on the details for these events and we will also have the ability to sign up prior to the September meeting. As you now we need member participation for these events, so please make it a point to join in!

With the start of the new FLWT season, I want to remind everyone to please renew your memberships. You can do this easily via PayPal through our web site, or you can print an application and mail it and your check to our Treasurer or bring them to a meeting. We had great participation last year to get renewals in early. This year, let's contin-

ue that trend and make it a goal to get this taken care of prior to our October meeting! Speaking of October, don't forget that we will have elections for Board of Director positions coming up in November and in October we will start taking nominations. This year is my final year as President and we will be electing a new President and also a Secretary. If you have any questions, please talk to a Board member, but please give some thought to running for a Board position and participating in the running of the club. Remember, it does not run itself – we need your help and your skills!

I look forward to seeing everyone at our first meeting of the 2015-16 season – until then, keep turning and keep learning!

--Mark

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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2015-16 Demo Schedule

September 17	Sharpening demo, point person is Terry Lund
October 15-17	National Turner, Mike Kehs – Bowl Turning with Carving/Embellishment (Friday night meeting, Saturday demo, Sunday Workshop) see www.michaelkehswoodworks.com
November 19	Bruce Impey- Magic trick on the lathe
December 17	Round Robin, Holiday Themed
January 21	Jeff Cheramie
February 18	Mark Mazzo- Lidded Box
March 17	Jim Echter – Spindle Turning
April 21-23	National Turner, Jamie Donaldson – Winged Bowls (Friday night meeting, Saturday demo, Sunday Workshop) see www.jamiedonaldsonwoodturner.com
May 19	Albert Filo – Off-Center and Spiraled Vessels

Ed DeMay Lifetime Membership Award



Thank you Ed for your contributions and service to the Finger Lakes Woodturners. Enjoy you new home in the South and keep turning.



Jim Hotaling—Fluting

By Bruce Impey

In our May meeting Jim Hotaling gave a presentation on making fluted bowls. Jim says he got an introduction to this technique when attending a "Turning Southern Style" symposium at the Georgia Unicoi State Park. Jim met Al Caton who turned out to be a maybe reluctant mentor, as Jim called him repeatedly to tell him "I don't get it." In 2009 Jim saw a John Jordan bowl at AAW and decided that was what he wanted to turn.

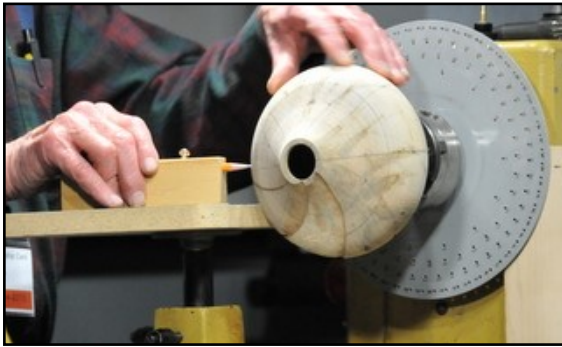
Jim had a circular plastic indexing card which he put on the lathe spindle behind the chuck, and could pin it in position with an arm attached to the lathe bed. It had various rings of holes with different numbers of divisions. He said he got it at Fire Mountain, but I could not find that resource online. I think though that it is not too difficult to lay one out for a shop made jig. The number of flutes depends on the width of the flute to be cut and the diameter of the bowl. $\pi D / \text{Flute Width} = \# \text{ Divisions}$. Jim came up with 46 flutes for a $\frac{3}{4}$ flute width on an 11 in diameter bowl, so chose the ring with 48 holes.

Jim had a table set up for guiding his tool sled, mounted on a standard pipe flange with a post for the tool rest. Posts can be had from Woodcraft, Packard and others. Jim used a Die Grinder to shape the flutes, mounted on a sled. His marking pencil was also mounted on a sled with a height matching the centerline of the tail stock. The first step was to scribe the edges of the flutes with the pencil. Wood gets removed from between the scribe marks and the marks are left to keep the bowl diameter intact. Keep in mind that the indexing wheel needs to be rotated half a division for carving so that the tool is centered between the scribe lines. A V chisel can be used to remove wood if the fluting is to be done off the lathe, which is a cheap solution but hard to sharpen. Jim uses a vibrating carving tool. Wood rasps can be used as well, or a Dremel with a burr tool. There is no need to spend lots. Jim uses a Die Grinder for on the lathe fluting, on a sled centered up to the tailstock height, with a carbide burr. A sanding disk is used to smooth off the burr tool marks. Jim also has a swivel mount for a tilted sled table, called a Junior Carving Vise.

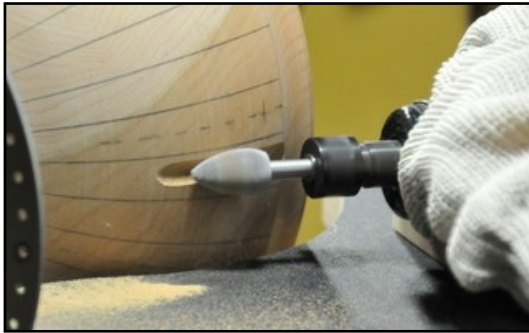
Jim's advice is to not flute after hollowing the bowl because if there is a mistake you are done. He did not follow this advice in the demo, but then again he didn't make a mistake either.



**Jim Hotaling—Fluting Demo
Photo Essay**



Jim Hotaling—Fluting Demo (con't)



Members Show and Share



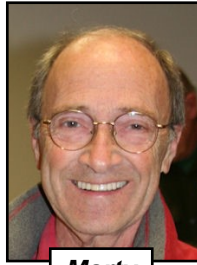
**Harry
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**Jim
Echter**



**Marty
Chatt**



**Dave
Gilbert**



**Gary
Russell**



**David
Seward**



**Clifford
Weatherell**



Building a Steam Box

By David Gould

It all started when I was thinking about the type of finial I would like to use on an urn. Even though I admire the delicate finials of Cindy Drozda, among many others, and the focused craftsmanship involved, my interests were peaked by other, more free form, creations. I wanted something more unique and went on a quest to find other examples of such finials.

I found:
Simple spirals



Flames:



Building a Steam Box (con't)

The question then became “how the heck did they do that”? - became “how the heck can I do that”?

To have the wood bend like the wood in the pictures I knew I would have to “plasticize” it – to break down the bonding structure of the wood itself which would otherwise keep the wood stiff and un-bendable. From my work with roughed-out bowls made from Madrone Burl, I knew that I could relax the structure of wood by boiling it but I had also seen bending of layers of wood through the use of large steam boxes and the gluing of the thin laminate pieces together. So I embarked on making a steam box to see if that would be effective in relaxing small thin pieces of wood to then bend and twist into the shapes I found so pleasing.

The Material:

You may find as I did that you have most all of the material already in your shop.

½” plywood – about 2’ x 2’ for a small steam box

¼” dowel rod – 4’

1 hook & eye clasp

Heavy hose – 1” internal diameter – 1’

2 – 1” hose clamps

2 small hinges for door

1 – 1” copper straight copper fitting – 2”-3” long

Heat source:

1 hot plate (\$10.00 Wal Mart)

Or gas turkey fryer base & propane bottle

Boiler:

I used a new metal 5 gallon gas can that I had not yet contained any gas.

This picture shows the bottom of the box with the straight copper fitting where the hose will be attached and the simple hook and eye clo-



Building a Steam Box (con't)

This is a picture of the dowels inside the box which act to allow steam to surround the item in the box. It also shows a gasket made from non-pores material otherwise used for shelves. That was not absolutely necessary but provided a better seal given my odd instillation of the door hinges.



The next picture shows:

1. The five gallon metal gas can that acts as the boiler. The size of the can I thought would be important in that a larger capacity would translate into a longer time being available to steam.
2. The short heavy duty hose with hose clamps attached which acts as the link between the "boiler" and the copper fitting on the bottom of the box.
3. The finished box (upside down).
4. The hot plate and the turkey fryer base as different heat sources. So far I've used the hot plate and it works just fine.
5. The $\frac{1}{4}$ " dowel rod.
6. Some $\frac{1}{2}$ " scrap plywood like that from which I made the box.

Building a Steam Box (con't)



Cutting the wood to size:

The 24" x 24" piece of plywood was cut:

2 – 6" x 24" pieces

2 – 5" x 24" pieces

Then a 6" x 6" square was cut off each of the 6" wide pieces to provide for a door and an end piece. The 6" wide pieces were then just short of 18" in length.

The 5" wide pieces were then cut to match the 6" wide pieces so that all would be the same length.

I put one 5" wide top/bottom piece into a vise and held a 6" wide side piece to it with two Irwin clamps and marked the drill hole positions and pre-drilled them (to avoid splitting) a few inches apart followed by screwing them together with 1" screws. I marked the other side in the same manner and after switching-out the 5" piece in the vise for its mate – clamped, measured, marked and pre-drilled and screwed that piece to the other two. Then I could mark the last piece and hold it in place with the clamps while pre-drilling then screwing it in place.

After pre-drilling and screwing on the back 6" square, I could mount the two hinges for the front door as well as the hook and eye hardware to keep the door closed during steaming.

I marked each side about an inch and a half from the bottom and at intervals of 2" for the dowel rods that would keep any item being steamed up so that the steam could surround it. After drilling $\frac{1}{4}$ " holes through both sides at the measured marks I could put the dowel rod through and saw it off on the other side with a fine toothed saw.

After all dowels were in place I put a drop of wood glue on the dowel on one side on the outside of the box just to hold it in place even though the friction on each end of the dowel would likely have done that without the glue.

So far I have used the box once and have determined that the pieces I am steaming need to be thinner and be steamed longer – perhaps an hour. I am learning as I go.

David Gould

EVENTS AND MENTOR CONTACTS

Local and National Woodturning Events of Interest

Year/Date	Event	For More Information
June 9-12 2016	AAW Symposium—Atlanta, Ga	www.woodturner.org/
April 2-3 2016	Totally Turning- Saratoga Springs City Center	www.nwawoodworkingshow.org

Mentor Contacts¹

Name	Day Tel	Eve Tel	Email	Turning Skills / Specialty
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
Terry Lund	455-2517	455-2517	terry.lund@gmail.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. ♦

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- 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 2015/2016

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Secretary	Bruce Impey		607-382-	go2isles@linkny.com
Treasurer	Dave Ververs		721-8944	ververs@rochester.rr.com
Librarian	Gary Russell	227-8527		cngrussell@gmail.com
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