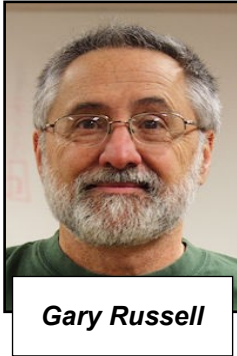


Presidential Mumblings December 2017



Gary Russell

Ho Ho Ho and happy holidays. It is December and we are moving right along in our turning season. Last month Tom Wirsing did a great demo and made some magnificent platters and a bowl. Tom is back home now after a 1600 mile plus journey and is enjoying David Gould's home roasted

coffee. If you haven't had David's coffee, you should try it.

The December 21st meeting will begin as usual at 6:00pm with a show and share of members work, followed by a short business meeting that will commence at 6:30pm. The monthly challenge is a platter or plate. This meeting will also be our informal holiday celebration. Members are encouraged to bring a light snack or appetizer to share. The club will supply cider, cups, plates, napkins, etc. Our featured demonstrator is Scott Grove whose topic is **Alternative Inlay and Embellishment Techniques**. Since we do not have a good microphone will be busy partaking of the goodies and socializing, I would hope we all will be considerate and keep the hub bub to a low roar.

Due to the Holidays, the December Board of Directors meeting is canceled. If anyone has anything that needs to be discussed, please let one of the officers know and we will handle it by email.

The Club has just purchased a new and larger tool chest. Hopefully, we won't have to struggle to get things put away and secure anymore. We will probably sell the old one. If anyone is interested, please let a Board

member know.

We have been quite successful with our community workshops and have filled both the Greece and Perinton classes. That being said, we need some bowl blanks around the 6" – 8" dia. size – green or dry. If you have some, please bring them to the meeting. Doing these community outreach programs certainly enhances the awareness of our Club and increases an understanding of the craft/art of woodturning. If anyone wants to do either a demo or classes in your community, please let us know and we will work with you to set them up.

Happy Holidays and be good for goodness sake so Santa will deliver lots of turning goodies to you.

FLWT meetings are held from 6:30 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, 50 Holleder Parkway, Rochester, NY 14615 . For more information, go to <http://fingerlakeswoodturners.com/>.

Contents	
1	• Presidential Mumblings
2	• When the tool influences the design
3	• Librarian
4	• Demonstration 5-18-17
5/6	• Show and Share
	•
7	• Schedule • Mentors
8	• Sponsors • Board of Directors

Tom Wirsing
Bruce Impey

In November FLWT hosted Tom Wirsing for demonstrations and a workshop on turning platters.

Tom comes from Longmont Colorado and you can find his turning bio at his website <http://www.thomaswirsing.com> He turns mostly platters and open bowls suitable for serving. Tom said that he never gets local green wood to turn. Reminds us how lucky we are to live in the midst of a great hardwood forest.

His bowls have a smooth curve on the outside which includes the foot and a simple rim with a crisp corner on the inside. Crisp, not so much sharp, because sharp doesn't feel good. The rim is slightly crowned and higher on the outside. Tom uses gouges, a 40 degree and a 55 just slightly swept back, but most interesting was his techniques with scrapers.

He is so serious about the edge on his scrapers that he brought his own grinders and had four CBN wheels with dedicated grind angles and grits behind the lathe. He went to the grinder every single time he picked up a turning tool. In his own shop he never shuts down the grinders off while he is turning. He is also using the super hard powder metal steel tools, which require CBN wheels.

The scraper is a finish cut tool to smooth the wood prior to sanding. A cleaner cut can be had with a gouge but the scraper is easier. If the tool chatters lighten the cut. No pushing! If scraper is dull it just tears the wood.

Tom talked about tool steels and he uses powder metal because it has more additives that allow for more small carbides. He uses Thompson gouges because he likes the flute shape. You must use CBN wheels for powder metal tools. This leads to a quality grinder like Baldor. The Baldor buffer is all the same for a lot less money except for shaft length. Tom uses "small" SB tool rests for his grinders. The radius on the platform allows you to swing the tool around more so than on the rectangular Oneway platform. Tom thought the Woodworkers Emporium in Las Vegas had a stock of these but when I checked they don't have them anymore. The Stuart Batty thing is out of business. I was interested as I have been meaning to get the angle grinder out and modify my Oneway. I don't have to now because I discovered that Oneway now makes a "small" platform with semicircular shape and it is reasonably priced. Tom grinds his gouges without a jig (other than the platform) because it's faster. He finds 180 grit best for scrapers.

Tom was grateful to Ralph for providing a challenging bowl blank for the demonstration. You learn a lot more from a challenging piece of wood.

Tom explained that the recess for the chuck jaws needs to be a snug fit to the closed dovetail jaws. When the jaws are closed they form a continuous circle and have the greatest gripping surface. The recess also only needs to be 2 or 3 mm deep. Tom shapes the inside of the platter taking nibbling cuts from the rim toward the center bevel rubbing. Always be cutting toward the chuck.

He starts the cut with the flute “over closed”. If it is going to skate at least it will go the right direction. The foot should be about 1/3 the diameter of the platter. The outer rim of the foot hits the table first. The rim is slightly undercut so that it feels good in your hand when you pick it up.

Mark where you want the rim with a pencil and stand back to evaluate the proportions. On the 10 in DIA demo platter, the rim Tom made was about 1 ½ in wide. The bottom (inside) should not be flat. It should be a smooth curve. Get the edge of the bowl part really smooth with a sharp scraper. You can't sand away tear out. Sanding takes away side grain 3 times faster than end grain. Tom has his own formula for finishing.

The recipe is equal parts Pure Tung Oil, Gloss Interior Polyurethane and Odorless Mineral Spirits. You don't have to use odorless but you might be happy that you did. “Hopes” Pure Tung Oil is good. You can find it at Woodcraft or Rockler. The dryer in the varnish is enough to dry the Tung oil too. Apply it with a 500 grit Aberlon pad. Keep the surface flooded for 30 minutes then wipe dry. Wipe again after 20 minutes. Again at 40 and once more at the end of the day. The point of all this wiping is to prevent any little beads of finish that weep back out of the wood from hardening. Let it sit for one week and then repeat every day until there is a uniform reflection. A water wetted Aberlon pad knocks down the finish to a nice sheen. 1000 or 2000 grit, sometimes 4000.

If a demonstration can be rated based on the number of things to shop for afterward, the amount of grinding to be done and the number of things to try at the lathe and finishing room, this was one of the best. I finally tried putting a negative rake grind on one of my scrapers and I am amazed. My scrapers are all very aggressive and it's not my first choice to use them for a finish cut. The negative rake though is a gentle tool that takes extremely fine shavings as long as the burr lasts. Then it slides harmlessly on the wood, if you don't push, and it's time to give it a light touch on the grinder.

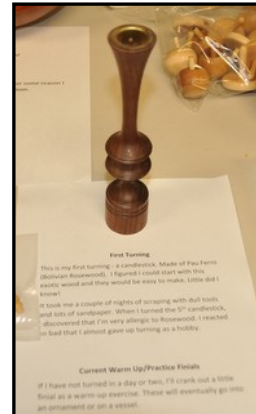
If you are interested in the grinding jigs they are available at Bow River Wood to Work bowriver@cwk.imag.net

Members Show and Share

Photographs by Dan Meyerhoefer



Members Show and Share (con't)



2017-18 SCHEDULE AND MENTOR CONTACTS

September 21	Mark Mazzo—Airbrush Embellishment
October 19	David Gilbert—Bowl Coring Systems Comparisons
November 16—19	Thomas Wirsing—National Speaker/Workshop
December 21	Scott Grove—Inlays and Surface Enhancements
January 18	Bruce Trojan—Dealing with “tear out” + Incorporating Plastics
February 15	David Barnett—(Rochester Folk Art Guild) Natural Edge Bowl
March 16—18	Dick Gerard—National Demonstrator
April 19	Denis Caysinger—Texturing Tools and Uses or Jeffery Cheramie—Bowls of Courage
May 18—20	Alan Lacer—National Turner

Mentor Contacts

Name	Phone	Email	Turning Skills / Specialty
Mike Brawley	755-2714	mbrawley@rochester.rr.com	Design Principles, Spindles; Bowls and Platters; Sharpening
Ward Donahue	334-3178	wddonah@frontiernet.net	Spindles; Hollowing; Coring; Sharpening
Jim Echter	377-9389	jechter@rochester.rr.com	Spindles; Sharpening; Faceplate turning
Jim Hotaling	223-4877	jhotal2198@aol.com	Christmas Ornaments
Ed Lehman	637-3525	eljw@rochester.rr.com	General Turning
Terry Lund	455-2517	terry.lund@gmail.com	General Turning; Dust Collection Design and Installation
Ralph Mosher	359-0986	2mosher@rochester.rr.com	Bowls; Faceplate Turning, Sharpening
Erwin A. Tschanz	271-5263	TschanzLandscape@aol.com	Historical; Bowls; Plates; Goblets; Boxes; Bone; Antler
David Gould	245-1212	d2sGould@aol.com	Bowls; Plates; Hollow-Forms
Gary Russell	353-3148	cngRussell@gmail.com	General turning, bowls, ornaments, finials

<p>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</p>	<p>might include regular 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. ♦</p>
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