

Gary Russell

Presidential Mumblings JANUARY 2017

Mark Mazzo will be our featured demonstrator this month. Mark will be doing a **survey of various embellishment techniques** that he has used. The meeting will begin at 6:00pm with a show and share of members work, followed by a short business meeting

which will commence at 6:30pm. Last month our featured demonstrator was Mike Brawley who discussed "Fair Curves And Fine Details" which was a a good background on design. His challenge to us was to produce an item using his design principles complete with a design sketch. To win this months challenge you must bring in the sketch and item produced.

Now is the time to sign up for our next National turner John Beaver who is coming to FLWT and RWS for a shared visit from Thursday March 16 thru Sunday March 19, 2017. The FLWT meeting for March will be held on Thursday March 16, and John Beaver will discuss his background and evolution of his turning activities and show the process for making his wave bowls and bangles. Friday he will be doing a discussion at RWS while Saturday will be devoted to demonstrations and of course Sunday will be the hands on workshop. Thursday and Friday will be free to members so plan on attending both. Saturday will cost \$35 and Sunday \$65 (will be limited to 9 participants). You can sign up on our website using Paypal or pay Jim Byron at our meeting.

Speaking of demos, we had our first outreach program in Perinton. We had 9 participants who were totally into the demo. Our own Jim Echter did the presentation with backup from Dave Ververs and myself. Jim did an outstanding job. Thanks Jim. Hopefully we will be getting some new members and if not they will go away with a much fuller understanding of what can be done.

Although we did not reach our goal of 1000 tops, we did produce 622 tops at last count. We will be doing two drawings this month so don't forget to bring in your tickets. Next year we will be doing the tops program a little different. We will be starting in September with monthly drawings until January. We will be doing names instead of tickets so you don't have to remember to bring tickets in. You can place your name in the bucket for every ten tops produced. Names not picked will carry over to the next month as well, so you will have multiple chances to win. We will be doing a prize for the most tops produced at the end of the year. Hopefully this will give everyone some incentive to do tops over the summer. If you need help or instruction on making tops, ask a fellow member. That's what we are here for.

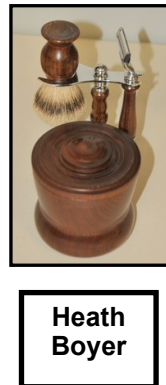
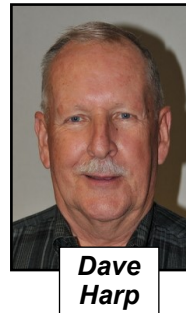
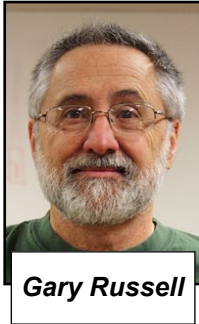
Hank Theuer has recently joined our Club so be sure to welcome him when you see him. If you happen to see a visitor or someone new, please take a couple of moments to introduce yourself.

We are now collecting turnings for the Isaac United Way auction. Our March meeting will be your last opportunity to bring something in. Let's thank Isaac with a good showing from us.

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, 50 Holleder Parkway, Rochester, NY 14615 . For more information, go to <http://fingertakeswoodturners.com/>.

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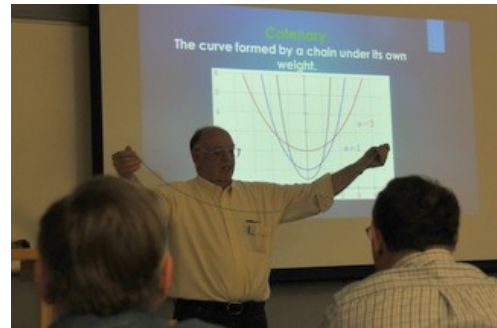
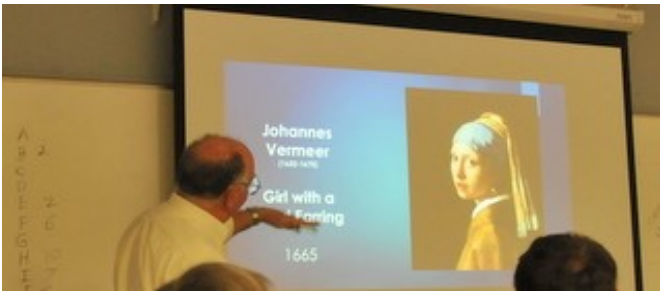
**Members Show and Share
Photographs by Dan Meyerhoefer**



Members Show and Share Pg 2



Fair Curves and Fine Detail



Fair Curves and Fine Detail

Mike Brawley gave a presentation on design consideration at the January FLWT meeting. It was a show and talk session without shavings. Mike started by warning us that we were about to take art lessons from an engineer. I think that's kind of funny because it is being reported by an engineer too.

So, what is good design? It's a matter of opinion, but also consensus. Your own opinion is no indication. The opinion of supportive family is not much more. Shape may not be everything, but it is very, very close to everything. Two common approaches to turning are "see what you get" from a piece of wood and following measured drawings. Neither approach gets you there. Look at shapes. Add them to your mental inventory. Learn how to study turned objects. If you can't sketch an object you haven't studied it.

All turnings are divided into three parts; the foot, rim and curve. The curve is what goes between the beginning and the end! So, what is a fair curve? The curve struck by a suspended chain or a flexible strip held only at the ends is "fair". It has no sharp turns. This is what we tried to cheat into with a "French Curve" in drafting class I believe. Curves like the cyma and ogee have inflection points, the transition from convex to concave. If you are sketching a curve you will identify points of maximum amplitude and inflexion points. We practiced this with pencil and paper. Raffin's book is probably the best discussion of these design considerations. Mike says there is no rule that bowl thickness must be uniform. Lacking a smooth transition at the bottom is a common failure. He talked about rim shapes and visual lift.

There are many elements of Fine Detail; beads, coves, fillets and many more. These are applied in platters, bowls and spindles. Mike Darlow's Woodturning and Design is probably the 2nd best book to have. There isn't a simple definition of Fine Detail, only examples to see.

When moving your design to the lathe, remember that the best object is better than the biggest object from the blank. Any shape can be made from any size blank. Draw what you will make from the available blank. Small changes make a big difference. Mike summarized his good ideas as: Simple is often better than complex. Study everything and practice pencil and lather. Don't let design be constrained by skill level. Visual stops at inflexion points. The Golden Ratio. Odd number proportions. An irrefutable rule is Fair Curves and Fine Detail. Of course, the outside diameter must be larger than the inside diameter!

I heard Bruce Trojan say "There is a lot to be learned from this man." I think that is a Fair Statement and a Fine Compliment.

By Bruce Impey

Fixing Up a Wormy Bowl

by Bob Heltman

Good neighbor Keith Thomas, a most knowledgeable woodsman, brought me a trunk section from a longstanding and very dead maple tree. It was ambrosia maple; meaning rot had set in leaving interesting patterns in the wood. So many powder post beetles and larvae had dined on this tree that one could suspect they had eaten a significant percentage of the wood! (Fig.1) The 18" log section, about 10" in diameter, was quite light, also proving this would be quite a turning challenge.

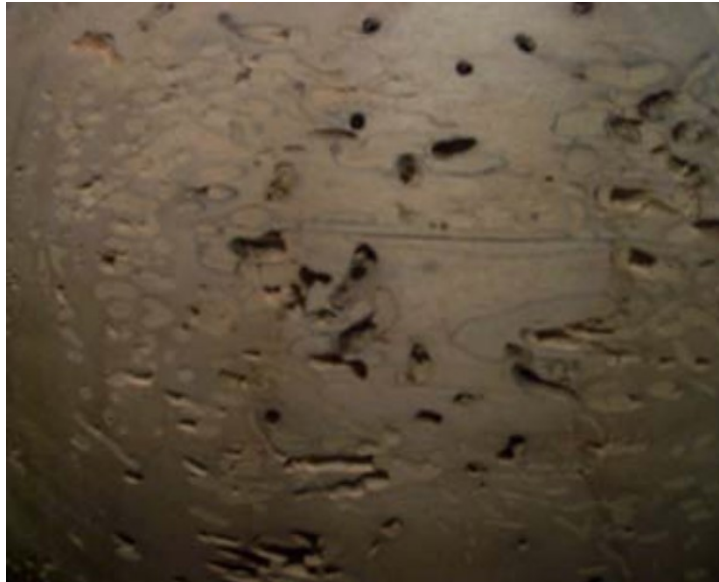


Figure 1. Surface of wormy wood.



Figure 2. Roughed out bowl.

hole and several others I discovered while closely examining the work. Figure 3 shows the bowl, EZ Poly Wood Rebuilder, RayCrete, cardboard for mixing, and my wife's kitchen spatula used for brownies.



Figure 3. All the kit to fix the bowl.

Since the EZ Poly/RayCrete washes off with soap and water, and is non-toxic when cured anyway, this poses no health or marital problems, nor does it interfere with future brownie consumption, a matter of no small importance.

A little earlier experimenting with a dental tool, trying to dig out the beetle "leavings," showed that process would take 3 days beyond forever. If that had not been the case, another approach would have been to color the polymer with Tempura paint powder in black, red, or some other chosen color. All the holes and pathways would really stand out, perhaps to the point of startling overkill. But, that technique works well in moderation as a highlight on other woodturnings.

Eventually I got around to splitting the trunk, and roughed out an 8" diameter by 4" deep bowl (Fig. 2). The wood was so dry that I wore an airflow dust mask as well as using the big dust collector. Because of the wood's dryness I was able to almost finish turn to a wall thickness of 3/16". At that point I sanded to 220-grit, vacuumed the piece, and set it aside for study. End grain tear-out had been considerable, and I could hardly believe the density of the holes and channels made by the beetles.

This pause allowed me to phone chat with Michael McDunn (www.mcdunnstudio.com) who is a longtime teaching woodworker and fellow woodturner not far away in Greenville, SC. We are both members of the Carolina Mountain Woodturners (www.carolinamountainwoodturners.org).

Michael and I debated approaches to "fixing up" this piece 3/4 salvaging might be a better word. Mike mentioned he had used superglue to coat and embed beetle "leavings" when they had rather tightly filled the pathways.

But, I had many holes that had no beetle residue, and the wood itself was in a condition halfway between sound and pithy. I debated mixing fine maple sawdust and cramming it in each small hole, then dropping thin superglue on top. That would have taken hours, considering the many many beetle channels and holes. The fumes would be horrific too.

We both have used and experimented with a product called RayCrete. This same material is more recently named EZ-Poly Wood Rebuilder, which more accurately identifies its purpose and role.

(Editor's note: RayCrete/EZ Poly Wood Rebuilder is no longer available. Any multipurpose polyurethane filler adhesive sealant can be used instead.)

It is a two-part polymer material that can be described as a bonding structural filler. That is, it is a glue, strong filler, and sealant. Also, it has no VOCs or discernable odor. I had some on hand, which I always do for many purposes, so mixed up about 2 tablespoons full, and massaged it into the inner surface of the bowl with my fingertip inside a plastic Ziploc baggie to save later hand washing. This only took a few minutes, during which the polymer started to set up. I noticed a deep hole about 1/4" diameter was absorbing the polymer, so took the mixing spatula, lifted up a final polymer nugget which was now about the consistency of soft clay, and puttied this

2016-17 SCHEDULE AND MENTOR CONTACTS

September 15	David Gilbert – Vacuum Hub Demo
October 20	Don Debolt/Jeff Cheramie – Windsor Chair Making on the Lathe
November 18, 19, 20	National Turner, Mark Sillay – specific topics TBD (Friday night meeting, Saturday demo, Sunday Workshop). See Mark's web site for more info on his work.
December 15	Round Robin, Holiday Themed – Jim Echter, Ed Lehman, Gary Russell, Sam Tischler
January 19	Mike Brawley – Designing Turned Forms
February 16	Mark Mazzo – Embellishment Technique
March 16-19	National Turner, John Beaver – specific topics TBD (Thurs meeting, Fri RWS presentation, Sat demo, Sunday workshop) See John's web site for more info on his work.
April 20	Denis Caysinger – Pen Making
May 18	Cliff Weatherell – Triangular Bowls

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
Terry Lund	455-2517	terry.lund@gmail.com	General turning
Gary Russell	353-3148	cngrussell@gmail.com	General turning, bowls, ornaments, finials

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 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. ♦

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