

Presidential Mumblings February 2018



Gary Russell

Our next meeting is on Thursday February 15, beginning at 6:00pm with a show and share of members work, followed by a short business meeting that will commence at 6:30pm. Last month David Gilbert demonstrated how to Turn a Yarn Bowl from Green Wood. Therefore, as with tradition, the challenge project for this month is a yarn bowl. Good luck everyone.

As to this month's demo, it will be David Barnet, from the Rochester Folk Art Guild. David will be demonstrating natural edge turning on fruitwood branches and larger green native species. Please welcome David when you see him.

The Isaac United Way/Community Chest breakfast auction will soon be upon us. We will be setting up a table at our meetings to collect your donations, **so please start bringing them in now.** If you haven't started making something for them yet, please do so. Remember they have been very generous to us by providing free space for our meetings and events. Let's show them what we can do. Also don't forget your tops donations. We still have a ways to go to meet our goal. I know we can do it; and if you need help, a number of us can work with you.

We have set up a workshop at St. Michael's downtown just north of the Genesee Brewery on St. Paul. So far we did a demo and a workshop there. About 20-30 students attend from all over the City. This will become a weekly activity for the Club. We have put together a list of items they would need to provide a complete turning school. And they have the budget and willingness to purchase them. In the meantime we will be using Club machines and tools. Once we get totally set up we will be soliciting additional members to help teach. Right now there are six to eight of us working to get this program going. A great challenge and opportunity for us as a Club.

We are still participating in the Perinton and Greece workshops as well since they have been such a great success. The next ones are in Perinton on February 10th and March 17th both on a Saturday from 9 til 1. If you are interested in helping, please let us know.

We are also looking for a back-up newsletter person who would be primarily a proof reader and back-up for David when ever he is unavailable. This is an area that is very important to the Club, so please help us and volunteer.

This year the Board has decided not to do the Club picnic in June. We are tired of competing with weddings and graduation parties, so we are going to shoot for either August or September either in lieu of a Club meeting or as an additional activity. More to come on this. As usual we are seeking a volunteer to organize this. If you like food and camaraderie, then please help us.

We have noticed a big increase in people volunteering. From pushing the broom to staffing workshops. This has been the most we have ever had. We get very tired of twisting arms and badgering people so this is a welcome relief. Keep up the good work.

Keep warm and keep turning. See you at the meeting.

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/>.

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On Thursday, January 18, Dave Gilbert showed us how he turns calabash-style yarn bowls, starting with a green log. A calabash bowl typically has a rounded bottom, and the top curves back into the shape – mimicking a gourd or pumpkin. This is a style popular in Hawaii, typically turned with green wood so it can warp a bit to maintain

the gourd-like appearance – although Dave argues he uses green wood because of impatience.

Dave typically turns bowls destined for a single ball of yarn around 7 to 8-inches in diameter, and up to 10 to 12-inches when there are two slots to harness two balls of yarn. Normally he allows the bowl to dry, having moved into its final warped shape, before cutting the slot. For the demo, however, he brought along a sample bowl where the slot was cut while the bowl was still wet to show how the two sides of the slot might move radically out of sync if one is not patient enough to wait for a fully dry bowl before cutting.

Hint: Dave recommends the book “Turning Green Wood,” by Michael O'Donnell, which is available in the club library.

Starting with the blank between centers, which Dave believes is safer than other options, allows him to reorient the blank for the best presentation.

A faceplate design and feel of revealed.

Oneway Big place of the

spur, to hold the headstock end of the blank. He pounds the Big Bite into the wood after drilling a starter hole, and then secures it in a Oneway scroll chuck – the Talon with #3 jaws, in Dave's case. He prefers the dovetailed jaws over the serrated jaws, believing the serrated jaws can push the wood back out, making it unsafe.

The red maple blank was spun up to 400 to 500 rpm on the club lathe – be sure to stay under 1,200 rpm for this part of the operation.



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would limit the before the true grain the wood is Dave likes to use the Bite chuck spur, in more traditional

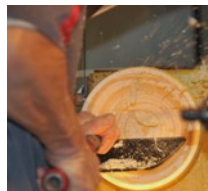
Using a 5/8-inch, parabolic shaped, bowl gouge with a Stuart Batty 40/40 grind, Dave used a push cut to get the blank round. This meant he needed to turn left handed to get the headstock end of the blank round. Learning to be ambidextrous also allows Dave to stay out of the line of fire.



Dave has a series of jigs to help get the tenon down to size, which help ensure that the final size is very close to the shape of the closed jaws as possible. He reminded us to be sure that the base of the chuck is perpendicular to get a good fit. Once the rough shape was completed, Dave moved to a 1/2-inch bowl gouge for the finer cuts.



On dry wood, Dave might employ a negative rake scraper to finish the outside; he finds that on green wood the negative rake causes the fibers to matt down onto the bowl rather than cut as expected. Instead, he employed a traditional scraper with a



65-degree grind, held at a 45-degree angle to the wood, to get to the final shape. He showed us a trick of bending a hot melt glue stick over the shape to see where the high and low spots were.

The blank was then turned around and mounted in the chuck jaws to start working the inside of the bowl. Dave reminded us that green wood could move slightly in a chuck, so it is a good idea to stop and retighten once in a while to prevent the bowl from unexpectedly flying out. It is also important to be careful about the torque applied when roughing the inside, or one could inadvertently move the bowl in the chuck. Imagine if a demonstrator did that on purpose and had to rework the outside of the bowl.

Hint: Dave recommends Invisible Glass glass cleaner to clean the face shield.

Dave trued up the edge of the bowl, tilting it in slightly to help keep the yarn in. He likes to hollow around 1 to 1-1/2-inches deep at a time, starting at the center and working outwards to set the edge. The goal is to get the sides around 1/4-inch thick from top most of the way to the bottom

The bottom should be a little thicker to add weight, which will prevent the bowl from tipping as the yarn is pulled out. Dave continued with checking the side thickness with a caliper and then moving to hollow another 1-1/2-inch deep section, until near the bottom.

Hint: Cover the end of calipers with CA glue to prevent them from scratching the wood when measuring thickness.

As each section of the inside roughing was completed, Dave used a scraper to smooth it out. He reminded us that once a section is completed one cannot go back and refine the shape further – green wood continues to move as more wood is removed, and one risks breaking it out by attempting to go back to a previous section. One potential problem area, Dave explained, is the curved area where the inside transitions to the bottom. Turners tend to keep cutting the sides a bit too far and make that area too thin. At this point, Dave switched to a “J”-shaped tool rest and a Doug Thompson U shaped 1/2-inch bottom-feeder bowl gouge, with a 65-degree grind, to work from the side transition curve and across the bottom of the bowl.

When Dave measured the bottom of the bowl, he had about 1/2-inch to play with in thickness, which he explained is a good place to be. Normally Dave slides the headstock to the end of the lathe to work the inside of the bowl. For the demonstration, however, he left it in place. Finally, Dave cleaned up the inside bottom of the bowl with a scraper. He explained that normally he would sand the bowl at this point, typically at 120 or higher grit.

Next, Dave removed the bowl and chuck, and mounted a vacuum chuck to be able to remove the tenon at the foot of the bowl. He explained that this is another place starting between centers can use the indentation from the initial roughing to get the bottom properly centered at the tailstock end.



Despite some issues with getting enough vacuum – typically Dave sees dry wood pulled to a 25-in.-Hg vacuum, he was only able to pull this blank to 7-in.-Hg – Dave successfully removed the tenon, knocking off the final nub with a spindle gouge. He likes to have a flat area on the bottom so the bowl will sit nicely on a table. He also turns a small depression on the bottom to help it sit. The last details he adds are some small V-grooves on the bottom. As made, they are round but as the bowl dries they will distort into ovals that show how much the bowl has warped. Finally, he shear scraped the bowl with 5/8” Ellsworth bowl gouge to final smoothness.

Dave’s preferred shape for the yarn slot is a curving slot terminating in a hole. He cuts the slot first, and then drills the hole, because the cutting isn’t precise. If the hole is drilled first and one drifts off the line when cutting the slot, things will not turn out nicely. Dave reminded us that it is better to cut the slot on the flat grain side of the bowl to retain as much strength of the wood as possible. The end grain may break easily – as he showed with a sample bowl.

He marks the desired hole location just below center of the bowl, and draws a smooth arc in the shape of a “J” or reverse “J” to the rim. Dave then cuts the slot with two Japanese pull saws. The first is used to get the rough shape, and the second was created by gluing two blades together to make a thicker, consistent kerf for the slot. The goal, he explains, is for a slot between 1/8-inch to 3/16-inch wide. Dave uses a 7/16-inch brad-point drill bit to make the hole, holding a piece of scrap wood on the inside of the bowl to prevent blow-out. He then uses a chisel to chamfer the edges of the slot to prevent the yarn from catching. To sand the slot, Dave uses long thin strips of cloth-backed sandpaper, doubled over, to work opposite sides/faces of the slot at a time. He then reverses the paper to get to the other side and face of the slot.



Dave ran out of time so here are some comments about his finishing process. The bowls usually dry in a few weeks and are then power sanded up through 400-grit sandpaper. Sanding is more easily done before the yarn slot is cut since the sandpaper keeps getting caught in the slot. The bowl is soaked with Minwax Antique Oil (MAO) or another Danish type oil. When MAO stops soaking into the wood he wipes it dry and leaves it overnight to further dry. This soaking, wiping and drying process is repeated several times to completely fill the wood with MAO. If there are scratches or tear out, he will re-sand those areas and refinish. After the finish is complete he will then cut the yarn slot and then finish the slot to match the rest of the bowl.

At the end, Dave had a wonderful yarn bowl, which he reminds us both sell well, and are cherished by the eventual owner.

For Sale or Trade

Members Show and Share



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 | David Gilbert—Yarn Bowl |
| February 15 | David Barnett—(Rochester Folk Art Guild) Natural Edge Bowl |
| March 16 | Jeff Cheramie—Beads of Courage |
| April 19 | Bruce Trojan—Dealing with tearout and adding plastics |
| 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, Sharpening |
| 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 |
| | | | |

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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