

## Presidential Mumblings February 2019



**Gary Russell**

Michael Hosaluk, from Saskatoon Canada was our featured demonstrator/speaker last month. His visit was cosponsored by the Rochester Woodworker's Society (RWS) and was a four day event even though we were severely hampered by the weather. The Sunday hands on class was postponed for several hours and

some participants couldn't get there due to the snow. Thursday and Saturday Michael demonstrated numerous turnings, spoke to design, and enlightened us with his history and wit. This was a great event.

This month we will feature Bruce Impey who will be talking about "Turning as an Element of Furniture". His demonstration will use the context of making a Queen Anne style Tea Table. Our Thursday meeting will start at 6:00 pm, with Show and Share followed by a brief business/info session at 6:30 followed by our demonstration. This month's Challenge project is to make something that Michael demonstrated last month i.e. an end grain bowl, a spatula, an end grain box or a large string top.

We are collecting your donations for the Isaac United Way Breakfast Auction, so please bring them in. Isaac has been really good to us letting us use their facilities for free. Let's show them our appreciation by donating. I do not have a date yet for the event, but typically it's been in the Spring. I will give you more information when I get it.

At the January meeting, members approved a new \$1000 budget item to begin upgrading our audio/video equipment. This includes the \$800 donation earmarked for this purpose. Jeffery Cheramie

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has volunteered to head up this project with help from Doug Crockett and Phil Rose. Improvements are expected to be purchased and implemented in stages. The first step, which the Board is currently working on, is to identify what can be done short term to upgrade the sound and video at Isaac's, to purchase and install said equipment. and to develop the long-range program. One long range goal is to be able to record our meetings and make it available to the members, consider making the equipment portable so we can use it at any special event or workshop, and possibly be able to broadcast our meetings on the web. Part of this program will include the purchase of a suitable computer and software, possible new cameras, possible speakers and/or microphones. We will provide regular feed back to the membership of our progress as we proceed. The lack of good audio and better video display has been an issue with us for a long time and detracted from the quality of our demonstrations.

The Board is in the process of updating our bylaws. If anyone would like to see some specific changes please relay them to Cliff Weatherell or any Board member. Cliff will be taking the lead on this. Thanks Cliff.

(Continued on page 2)

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 Hollender Parkway, Rochester, NY 14615 . For more information, go to <http://fingerlakeswoodturners.com/>.

I would like to develop a new member Greeter program. This would entail greeting any new member when they join and telling them what we have to offer, intro them to a few people and just generally welcome them to the Club. Also, I would like to have someone produce a couple of sentences for the newsletter recognizing them as a new member. Please let any Board member know if you are interested.

We are still looking for newsletter reporter(s) and a publicity person(s). Don't be that person who just sits in the background and lets other people do all the jobs. If you are a reluctant volunteer because you are a beginner, then these positions and the one mentioned above are for you. No turning involved. You will make new friends, and that in itself will help you on your way to becoming a good turner. Please let any Board member know if you are interested. As always, we are looking for multiple people for each position so no one person has to do all the work.

I'll see you at the meeting and till then keep on turning and stay warm.













# Show and Share

Photos by Bob Zingo



Harry Beaver



Pete Shea  
Comment





## More Show and Share

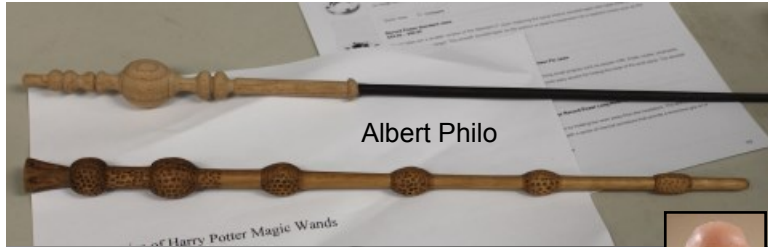
Harry Beaver



Jim Hotaling



Albert Philo



Dave Ververs



Phil Rose



## Member Spotlight

While temperatures in the Finger Lakes are skewing into the minus single digits and snow is drifting outside our workshops, David Gould seems to have found a work-around.



"Reinventing The Wheel"

Butter churn makes fancy butter pats  
use Snake fritters 17th C

"Wooden Cow" use to whip cream for  
Syllabub adrink w/ wine/cream etc  
we knew function from descriptions but  
NO DETAIL - Trial & error untill it works  
SEE PICTURES - THEY WORKED  
17th + 18th C ENGLAND

ERD TSCHANZ (Linseed oil  
wood is cherry - cooked in Bee's Wax + 2 Pine Resin

# OFF-CENTER PLATTER

by Bruce Trojan

In the fall of 2018, I applied and was accepted as a demonstrator at the 2019 AAW International Symposium in Raleigh, NC. At this conference I will demonstrate turning an off-center platter. I will present the same demonstration at Totally Turning in Saratoga Springs, NY, our regional North Eastern Symposium. I hope you can attend.



Bird of Passage  
Bubinga, Inlaid Ebony, 24k Gold Leaf

## Overview

An off-center platter turning results in a “bowl” and foot that are not in the center of the turning and a rim that is wider on one side than the other.

For an off-center platter, because we work on two different axes, we have to mount the work four times. It is important to grasp the concept of four mountings, what will be worked on for each one, and how the work is mounted to the lathe.

Below I outline my basic process for turning an off-center platter. These steps are meant for the first time you turn one. Once you get the idea of what, when, and how to make the cuts, you may decide to make changes from these instructions.

## Prepare The Blank

I prefer to use kiln dried wood for it's stability. For a first try at this process, a softer, straight grained species is a good idea. I recommend using a blank that isn't less than 1 3/4" thick. Use a compass and ruler to lay out the outer circumference of the platter (first axis) and the “bowl” (second axis) on both sides of the blank. Photo 1. Keep the compass set to the diameter of the “bowl” to use later. Mark the center of both axes fairly deeply with an awl.



1. Lay out the design before mounting it to the lathe.



The swing of the lathe determines the largest diameter that can be turned. To know the amount of lathe swing required, measure from the center of the second axis to the farthest outside edge of the first axis.

### Step 1: First Mounting - Screw Chuck - Turning on the First Axis

True up the blank. Turn a recess for the second mounting. Turn the outside of the underside of the rim.

Drill a hole in the center of the top side of the blank for mounting to a screw chuck. Use a spacer on the screw chuck to shorten the length of the screw to about 5/8".



Mount the blank to the lathe. The top of the blank will face the headstock. True up the side and bottom. Use the previously set compass to re-mark the size of the "bowl" on the second axis and mark. Draw a second circle that intersects the "bowl" circle at it's closest point to the outer edge of the blank. **Photo 2.** This circle will be a guide line for establishing the amount of wood that can be removed from the underside of the rim at this point.

2. True up the blank then re-draw the "bowl" circumference. Then starting at the point nearest the edge, draw a second circle to use as a guide for the next cut.

Remove the excess wood to this guideline to form a large tenon. Turn the outside edge of the underside of the rim. Doing this now ensures a consistent rim thickness on the outer edge of the platter. **Photo 3.**



3. Turn outside edge of the underside of the rim to the guideline.



4. Turn a 3/16" to 1/4" recess for an expanding scroll chuck.

Measure the expanding dovetail jaws on your scroll chuck. Mark this diameter on the center of the first axis then turn a recess to this diameter. This recess can be roughly 3/16" to 1/4" deep and will be cut off so it doesn't need to be neat or sanded. **Photo 4.**



## Step 2: Second Mounting - Scroll Chuck - Turning on the First Axis

Turn and flatten the top of the platter and finish the rim.

Turn the blank around and using an expanding scroll chuck mount it to the lathe. The top of the blank should face the tailstock. Flatten the top. **Photo 5.** It is important to turn a flat top if the piece will not have any ornamentation. Now is the last opportunity to do any more turning on this axis. If circular ornamentation is desired, add it at this time. Finish and sand the top and edge of the rim.



5. Flatten the top and finish the rim. Sand to finished grit.

## Step 3: Third Mounting - Screw Chuck - Turning on the Second Axis

Form the foot and outside of the bowl. Finish the underside of the rim. Remove the blank and drill a second hole on the top at the second axis awl mark. **Photo 6.** Mount the work to the lathe using the screw chuck. The top of the blank should face the headstock.

6. Drill a hole in the top for the 2nd axis mounting. Mount on a screw chuck.



Make sure the work clears the tool rest. Set the tool rest location and rotate the work a full 360° before turning the lathe on. From this point forward, I highly recommend doing this every time you move the tool rest. **Photos 7—9.** Remove the excess wood to the “bowl” line to form a tenon. Don’t cut all the way to the rim. Leave a little material for blending into the underside of the rim as you form the outside of the “bowl”.



7. The distance from the tool rest to the blank will change as the blank rotates. Check your work before turning on the lathe.



8. As the work rotates 90° (from photo 7) the distance to the tool rest increases. I recommend using a 5/8" or greater bowl gouge for this cut.



9. At 180° (from photo 7) the distance to the tool rest increases even more. This photo also shows the greatest amount of “air” you will be turning for this design.

Determine the size of the foot and outside shape of the “bowl”. Cut the first recess off the bottom and true it up. Turn a new recess into the bottom on this axis to hold your work for step 4. **Photo 10.** Form the foot and the shape of the bottom of the “bowl”. **Photo 11.** Make clean cuts as this will be the finished bottom. As your cut approaches the finished part of the rim underside, go slowly and be careful as you blend into the previous work. Check your progress frequently. Sand the bottom to its finished grit. The bottom is now finished.



10. Turn a recess for the next scroll chuck mounting.



11. Form the foot and outside of the “bowl”. Sand to finished grit.

#### Step 4: Fourth Mounting - Scroll Chuck - On-Center Turning (On the Second Axis) Hollow the “bowl”.



12. Turning of the platter is complete. Add other embellishments if desired and finish.

Mount the blank on the expanding scroll chuck. The top of the blank should face the tailstock. Hollow the “bowl” out, checking frequently for shape, wall thickness, and depth. Even though the work is mounted on an off-center axis, this turning will actually feel like on center turning. Now is the time to add any circular embellishments (if desired) on this axis. Sand to the final grit. Except for adding other embellishments or finish, the off center platter is complete.



“Galaxy”

This is the piece in the above photos ornamented with pyrography and air brushing.



# Separating the Hay from the Sticks

by Gary Sciadone

I'd like to start a discussion among members about some wood turning videos that can be found on YouTube. My intention is to feature some in our newsletters and then ask members, you, to write back to the editor with critiques, observations, comments, etc. that we can publish as well.

These videos might be categorized as follows:

- Vanity pieces in which the turner is just showing what he can do.
- Pieces that show bad, unsafe or inefficient techniques,
- Earnest efforts by interesting, talented, thoughtful turners in which they try to illustrate their own techniques and designs; not as the best ways to do things necessarily, but as viable ways in which they pursue the craft,
- Pieces that are made expressly to instruct on what the turners believe are best practices in specific topics related to woodturning.

I have found that I can learn from all of these but I am particularly informed and entertained by the last two types. These are the types that I intend to feature in our newsletters. I have learned what I know primarily by thoughtfully and critically watching many, many of these videos, by practice of course and by some tips and instruction that I have gotten from some of you now and again.

This month I am going to start with a video by one of my favorite YouTube turners, Al Furtado. I have learned a lot from him in technique and design. He has given himself the title of The Rebel Turner. The title refers to his tendency to work with misshapen, unbalanced, interesting pieces of wood to produce pieces with a minimum of fancy tools. He makes minimal use of the band saw to prepare his pieces for the lathe. He has an older lathe that he has modified himself to take larger pieces by adding risers to the head and tail stocks. With the exception of a Carter and Sons bowl gauge that the company gave him, he has a collection of older and a few home made tools. He has added a variable speed motor to his lathe himself, and he has made his own steady rest and articulated hollowing tool. How to videos of these projects are on YouTube as well.

In this video Al tackles an ugly looking, spalted, very punky crotch of Ficus, and produces what I think is a strikingly beautiful and unusual piece. You can view the video [here](#).

A few things of note that I have observed from watching many of his videos. He starts the great majority of his pieces between a spur drive and a live center. This allows him to mount odd shaped and unbalanced pieces and also gives him flexibility to change the orientation of the piece on the lathe as the piece begins to emerge; where a glue block, face plate or worm screw would allow less flexibility.

Although not evident in the video, Al tends to be a relatively aggressive turner, however not to the point of being unsafe. In my opinion Al has a very good eye for design, often finding beautiful and interesting pieces in interesting, misshapened logs.

My favorite videos of his are those in which he keeps up a constant chatter about what he is doing and thinking as he works. I find this instructive and entertaining. I look forward to his videos like a conversation with a friend. Indeed I have corresponded with him. That is something that most of these guys are happy to do and in that way I now have turning acquaintances around the world.

I hope that you watch this video thoughtfully and that you share any comments that you have with the editor at [newsletter@fingerlakeswoodturners.com](mailto:newsletter@fingerlakeswoodturners.com) so that we can share them in our next newsletter and get a conversation going.

## Want Ad

Wanted: some quality, gently used turning tools. Bowl (1/4, 3/8) and spindle (1/4, 3/8) gouges, skinny (1/8) parting tool, diamond x-section parting tool, skew chisel (3/4), grinder w CBN wheels, and whatever else may be collecting dust in your shop. Newbie needs to get set up. Bill Lindenfelser 585.713.9745 [barnclbill@gmail.com](mailto:barnclbill@gmail.com)

## 2018-19 SCHEDULE AND MENTOR CONTACTS

February	Bruce Impey "Tea Table"
March	David Barnet "Green Bowls"
April	Jim Echter
May	National Turner—Alan Lacer
June	Bruce Trojan "Turning an Off-Center Platter"

### **Mentor Contacts**

Name	Phone (585)	Email	Turning Skills / Specialty
Mike Brawley	755-2714	<a href="mailto:mbrawley@rochester.rr.com">mbrawley@rochester.rr.com</a>	Design Principles, Spindles; Bowls and Platters; Sharpening
Jim Byron	478-9911	<a href="mailto:jimbyronhome@yahoo.com">jimbyronhome@yahoo.com</a>	General Turning; Bowls, Spindles; Hollowing; Sharpening
Ward Donahue	334-3178	<a href="mailto:wddonah@frontiernet.net">wddonah@frontiernet.net</a>	Spindles; Hollowing; Coring; Sharpening
Jim Echter	704-7610	<a href="mailto:jechter@rochester.rr.com">jechter@rochester.rr.com</a>	Spindles; Sharpening; Faceplate turning
David Gould	245-1212	<a href="mailto:d2sGould@aol.com">d2sGould@aol.com</a>	Bowls; Plates; Hollow-Forms
Jim Hotaling	223-4877	<a href="mailto:jhotal2198@aol.com">jhotal2198@aol.com</a>	Christmas Ornaments
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Ralph Mosher	359-0986	<a href="mailto:2mosher@rochester.rr.com">2mosher@rochester.rr.com</a>	Bowls; Faceplate Turning, Sharpening
Erwin Tschanz	271-5263	<a href="mailto:TschanzLandscape@aol.com">TschanzLandscape@aol.com</a>	Historical; Bowls; Plates; Goblets; Boxes; Bone; Antler
Gary Russell	353-3148	<a href="mailto:cngRussell@gmail.com">cngRussell@gmail.com</a>	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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