

Presidential Mumblings July 2019



Gary Russell

Well, it's officially summer and the mosquitoes are out. So spend some time in your shop away from those pests and make this month's challenge project – an off-center platter as demonstrated by Bruce Trojan at the last meeting. Bruce had a great slide presentation along with his turning demo, complete with a flying platter. He says he has never flown a plate off his chuck before. Well, if you're going to do it, the first time should be at a demo. Now I don't feel so bad breaking my captive ring at the previous demo.

This month's meeting will feature Marty Chatt and David Gould doing thread making. Let's see if they can keep their work on the lathe better than Bruce and I. The meeting will be held on our normal third Thursday slot (July 18) and will start at 6:00 pm with Show and Share followed by a brief business/info session at 6:30 after which will be the demonstration.

Lee Spencer is retiring from Isaac, in fact by the time you read this it will be a done deal. Lee has been our contact person with Isaac since we came here many years ago and was instrumental in getting us the free use of this facility. Wish him luck as a free man. As of this time we do not have a new contact person. Lee assures us that we can continue to use their facility even though he is retiring.

Jeffrey Cheramie who is also a member of the Central New York (CNY) Club in Syracuse has been sharing his ideas and work on the a/v equipment that he put together for us. They are quite pleased with our system and are looking to do the same for their Club. If this happens, there is a very good chance that we

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may be able to broadcast demos between the Clubs. This would be a great benefit to both our Clubs. Kinks and policies are still being worked out, but we are well on our way to a great system. Jeffery will be training people on using the video/audio equipment this summer. If you are interested, please let us know soon cause it's happening.

Now is the time to do a few tops to get ready for next years donations starting in September. A few minutes a day will make a lot of tops for the kids and improve your turning skills. If you haven't made one before or if you would like some friendly camaraderie, then join us at one of the open shop sessions.

We are still looking for other volunteers as well. Please let any Board member know if you are interested in helping out. We have a number of needs, so act early to get the best one. As always, we are looking for multiple people for each position so no one is overwhelmed. The Board can't do everything so please, please volunteer.

I'll see you at the meeting and 'til then keep turning.

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/>.

Library Update

by Denis Caysinger

As a reminder, the FLWT Library will continue to be available this summer, with some changes in how to get library materials. DVDs and books will not be due until the September meeting. Items can be returned to a Librarian before September if you are finished with them.

If you need an item from the library before September, please contact either Gary Tveit or Denis Caysinger at the email below and we will work out a way to get it to you. Regular operations will resume in September

When checking out items from the library please be sure that a Librarian marks the item down on our tracking sheet. And don't hesitate to offer suggestions to Gary or Denis regarding library operations, or new items you would like to see in the library. And we always accept donations.

Don't forget, there are many books in the library that we cannot bring to meetings. Please contact either us at the email below to have these books brought to the meeting. The listing is on the website under resources.

Gary Tveit & Denis Caysinger
library@fingerlakeswoodturners.com

Turning an Off Center Platter with Bruce Trojan

by Denis Caysinger

On Thursday evening June 20 Bruce Trojan presented his technique for making off center platters. This technique results in a platter where both the bowl and the foot are off center.

Start by using kiln dried wood. Bruce used poplar for the demo. Kiln dried wood is less likely to move while you are turning it. Bruce cuts off the corners and saves them for practicing any embellishment he plans to do on the platter.

The technique calls for mounting the blank four times. Use an awl to mark the center of the blank on both faces, and also mark $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{5}{8}$ inch where the off center point will be on both faces. Drill a hole about $\frac{5}{8}$ inches deep for a screw chuck in the center awl mark on the top. Bruce uses a piece of plywood as a spacer between the chuck and the wood to insure the screw chuck doesn't bottom out.

In the first mounting, the bottom of the bowl faces the tailstock. After mounting the blank in a screw chuck using the center hole, true up the edge of the platter using a bowl gouge. Also true up the exposed face. Draw a compass line where the off center bowl will be. Also draw a compass line from the center to where the inside of the rim will start relative to the base.

Turn away the waste and form the underside of the rim. Make sure the rim is flat and thickness is uniform. Sand rim bottom now. Turn a recess in the bottom for an expanding chuck. The recess will be cut off later.

In the second mounting, hold the bowl by the bottom in the expanding chuck. The bowl rim will be centered. Face off the top, paying attention to making the rim flat and uniform. If you want to round the rim, do it now. Embellish if desired. Sand top to final grit. Remove blank from expanding chuck.

In the third mounting, go back to the screw chuck. Using the awl hole on the top of the bowl that marks the "off center" area where the bowl / foot will be, drill a hole around $\frac{5}{8}$ inches deep for the screw chuck. Mount the blank onto the screw chuck. Use extreme care at this point – you are now turning off center. Turn the blank on the lathe by hand to insure it doesn't hit the tool rest. Turn the cylinder that will make up the bottom, blending it into the rim. Make sure you cut off the wood where the expanding chuck was used. Finish shaping base. The base of the platter should be slightly concave so it doesn't rock on a table. Now cut a new recess for the expanding chuck. Sand to final grit.

In the fourth mounting, reverse the work again on the expanding chuck. Mark a circle where the bowl will be hollowed out, approximately the same diameter as the base. Cut out the bowl, sand, embellish. The project is finished!

Thank you to Bruce for the great demo. It's folks like Bruce who really enhance the experience of belonging to FLWT.

Some images of Bruce's off center platters from his [website](#):



Gary Scialdone

Square and rectangular pieces hold a bit of a love/hate attraction for me. Sometimes these shapes can be a way to show off a piece of wood to its best advantage. Sometimes they can be just a welcome change from the roundish pieces that we often turn.

I recently searched YouTube for square pieces because a friend gave me a piece of beautifully grained and colored rectangle of Mninga wood that he had carried back from Tanzania.



The board was 15 x 5 x 1.5 inches. Using the technique shown in this first video, it yielded three, 5 inch, square sushi-type plates with little waste. I was very pleased with the result as I was able to give them as gifts to those who brought me the wood and have one left over for me. I may never again have the opportunity to turn this species.



The [video is from Lyle Jamieson](#); one of the most well know, YouTube turners. Many of his videos contain formal instruction as well as an opportunity to see an experienced turner's work. Visit his site for many instructional and project videos. Here he starts with a piece of wood with rather unique figure and color. By making a simple, shallow, square plate he keeps the maximum focus on the natural beauty of the wood and avoids competing with the form for attention



The second video is from another of the very well established, [wood turning instructors, Carl Jacobson](#). It's a bowl set into a similarly shallow square form. What made it interesting to me is that he has the tips of the square bending in opposite directions.



Search for "wood turning square" and you'll find many interesting designs and techniques.

As always, we encourage you to watch YouTube videos carefully and critically to find techniques both good and bad. We can learn from both. Please send any comments to us at newsletter@fingerlakeswoodturners.com

We would like to share your comments with the club.

newsletter@fingerlakeswoodturners.com

2018-19 SCHEDULE AND MENTOR CONTACTS

Jul 18	Marty Chatt and David Gould – Threaded Boxes with a Chefware EZ Threading Jig.
Aug 15	Cliff Weatherell – Inside Out Turning
Sept 19	Phil Rose – Texturing
Oct 11-13, 20	National Turner – Scott Grove – details coming soon (NOTE the dates, not 3rd Thursday)
Nov 21	Ralph Mosher – Turning a Burl
Dec 19	Round Robin – Food, Drink, and Fun

Mentor Contacts

Name	Phone (585)	Email	Turning Skills / Specialty
Mike Brawley	755-2714	mbrawley@rochester.rr.com	Design Principles, Spindles; Bowls and Platters; Sharpening
Jim Byron	478-9911	jimbyronhome@yahoo.com	General Turning; Bowls, Spindles; Hollowing; Sharpening
Ward Donahue	334-3178	wddonah@frontiernet.net	Spindles; Hollowing; Coring; Sharpening
Jim Echter	704-7610	jechter@rochester.rr.com	Spindles; Sharpening; Faceplate turning
David Gould	245-1212	d2sGould@aol.com	Bowls; Plates; Hollow-Forms
Jim Hotaling	223-4877	jhotal2198@aol.com	Christmas Ornaments
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 Tschanz	271-5263	TschanzLandscape@aol.com	Historical; Bowls; Plates; Goblets; Boxes; Bone; Antler
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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