

## Presidential Mumblings May 2019



**Gary Russell**

The flowers are up and the grass is green. Now is the time to sharpen that lawnmower blade. But before you get out of your shop to mow, make sure you turn an object or two. Use that time wisely to at least make your Challenge Project. The Challenge project for this month is to make a safety drive center and a 2" - 3" dia branch/log with at least six beads made with the

skew. We should all know how to do this since our featured demonstrator last month was our own Jim Echter who showed us how to use the skew. He did a great job of utilizing a combination of images, large scale models and demonstrations to enlighten us. If you are having trouble with the skew or you were unable to attend the meeting, come to one of the open sessions that we hold at St. Michael's and we will work with you on it. Session dates and times are listed on our website.

This month since we were unable to get Alan Lacer due to multiple issues, I will be demonstrating how to make a **Celtic Wedding Goblet**. This would be an end grain turning from a log/branch with captive rings. Wedding season is about to be upon us and these make great gifts. The meeting will be on our normal third Thursday slot (May 16) 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. During the business meeting we will be voting on next year's budget, so make sure you have reviewed it.

I'm sure most of you have seen by now the improvements in our video/audio presentations. By what I hear, it is widely applauded. We still have work to do to remove some bugs and are still learning the best way to do things. Jeffery Cheramie with the help of Phil Rose has taken the lead on this and has done a fantastic job. When you see them next, give them a big pat on the back. In addition, we were able to make a recording which was sent out to the Board for review. We had a few glitches but overall the video and sound were excellent. We were not able to do this effectively in the past. Soon we will be able to distribute the monthly demonstrations to the members

### Content Links

[Presidential Mumblings](#)

[Library Update](#)

[The Sensational Skew Demo—Jim Echter](#)

[Show n Share](#) and [Goofs](#)

[Perinton Workshop](#)

[Separating the Sticks from the Straw](#)

[Schedule / Mentors](#)

[Sponsors / Board of Directors](#)

either directly or via our website.

If you will be participating in a craft show this summer or you know of an interesting one coming up, let us know and we will post it in the newsletter and on the website. As per Jim Hotaling's suggestion last month about doing a show, the Board feels that this would be a great thing to do and it would provide us an opportunity for more exposure. However, we need you to become proactive and take a leadership role in this to make it happen. Please let us know if you can do this.

As of this time, no one has stepped up to organize a Club picnic. If we don't do this soon, we will have to cancel it for this year. If you can help, please let us know.

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. We also have another opportunity for you to become active in the Club in that Jeffery Cheramie will be training people on using the video/audio equipment this summer. The Board can't be expected to do everything so please, please volunteer.

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/>.

## Library Update

By Denis Caysinger

We recently added two new DVDs to the FLWT Library:

- Brilliant Finishes – Ted Sokolowsky
- The Beaded Bowl – Glenn Lucas

If you were at the April meeting you may have heard that the Library budget has been reduced for the 2019 – 2020 fiscal year from a goal of \$700 to \$200 due to some recent budget pressures. Therefore, we are reaching out to our members to see if anyone would be willing to donate the following tools to the FLWT Library. If so, please send us an email at the address below.

Sorby micro-texturing tool with handle  
Sorby full size texturing tool set  
“Decorating Elf” texturing tool  
Other texturing tools  
Hosaluck hook tool

Thanks to some improvements in our database we can now track how many times each Library item has been checked out. This month we'll list the top 20 book titles that have been checked out over the past 3 years:

|  |
|--|
| Darlow, Mike   Turned Chessmen                               |
| O'Donnell, Michael   Turning Green Wood                      |
| Dyas, Stuart E.   Classic Forms                              |
| Raffan, Richard   Turning Bowls                              |
| Petrow, A.B.   Marketing Your Woodcraft                      |
| Raffan, Richard   Turning Boxes                              |
| West, Chris   Turning Salt & Pepper Shakers & Mills          |
| Hayes, Derek   Woodturning Design                            |
| Jane & Arthur Mason Collect.   Turning Wood into Art         |
| O'Donnell, Liz & Michael   Decorating Turned Wood            |
| Hall, Walter   Turning Pens & Pencils                        |
| Raffan, Richard   Art of Turned Bowls                        |
| Green, Doc   Fixtures & Chucks for Woodturning               |
| Martin, Terry   The Creative Woodturner                      |
| Klein, Bonnie   Small Woodturning Projects with Bonnie Klein |
| Sing, Dick   Turning Ornaments & Eggs                        |
| Baker, Mark   Woodturning Projects                           |
| Flexner, Bob   Understanding Wood Finishing                  |
| Stott, Chris   Turned Boxes                                  |
| Glenn, Ed & Keats, Greg   Turning Custom Duck Calls          |

The Library has several tools available for loan. Please contact us at the email address below if you would like any of these tools brought to a meeting:

Beall 1" by 8 TPI spindle tap  
Beall 1 1/8 by 8 TPI spindle tap  
2 Powermatic S curved tool rests (inboard and outboard)  
#2 Morse Taper finishing reamer  
Thread chasing set  
Apprentice Collet Chuck set  
Vicmarc Cole Jaws

John Jordan hollowing tools.

These are the current policies surrounding anything loaned from the library:

If you return anything with missing components, lose something, or break something you will be required to pay for replacements.

Tools are limited to a one month checkout period.

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.

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](mailto:library@fingerlakeswoodturners.com)

## The Sensational Skew

with Jim Echter

by Bruce Impey



At the April meeting of FLWT gave another excellent presentation, this time completely focused on the Skew Chisel. Jim is on the national stage with this subject and is presenting at the AAW symposium this summer in Raleigh. He also has a 7-page long article in the April edition of the *American Woodturner*. The article is a preview of the presentation we saw. Jim's 40 years of turning experience are evident and his precise verbalization makes for a great learning experience. Naturally he demonstrated his humanity with a screwback.

Who is afraid of the skew? Jim aimed to take the mystery out of the tool. Everything we need to know we already heard about in Kindergarten. ABC&D. Back to the basics,

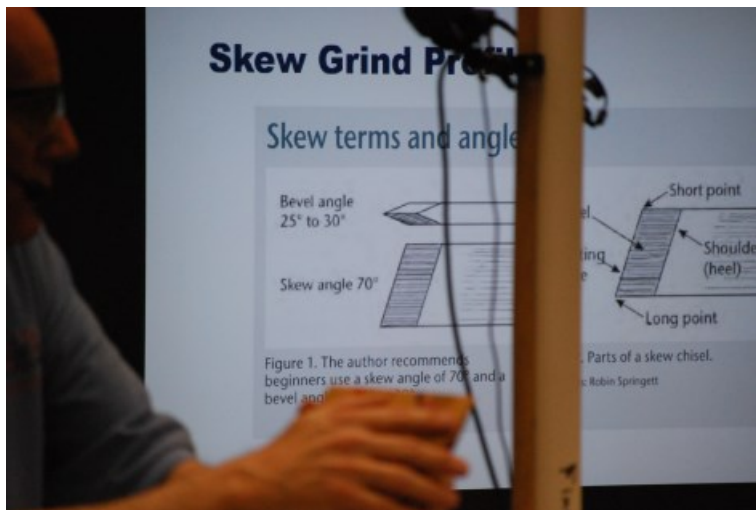


Anchor, Bevel, Cut and of course Dance. Spindle turners have got to move. The audience did a little dance practice holding their chisels, and for those who didn't get the memo, paint stir sticks.



1234. Only three shapes in woodturning, straight, convex and concave, plus the four surfaces of the skew to be honed. Play Nice. Glide the bevel. Apparently you are not supposed to press the bevel against the wood, let it glide. Press the tool down on the tool rest. Manners. Practice the handshake posture at the end of the bead cut. That's all it takes, aside from time and practice.

Jim talked about the tools. He prefers  $\frac{3}{4}$  and  $\frac{1}{2}$  size skewers. The larger the work the smaller the cut. Round skewers from  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{5}{16}$  are good,  $\frac{3}{8}$  max. Make your own. The combined angle of  $25^\circ$  (hardwoods) and  $30^\circ$  (softwoods) with skew angle of  $70^\circ$  are tried and true. If the length of the bevel is  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to  $2 \times$  the thickness of the tool it is about right. Hollow ground and honed is also tried and true. Jim has a frugal belt sander set up for flat grinding that you can get the plans for on his website.



Jim showed the cuts; planning, peeling, paring, pommel, vee, bead and cove. For planning, the optimum cut angle is  $45^\circ$ . Stay on the bottom half of the cutting edge. Jim showed us how to make a safety drive with a Morse taper jig so that we can let the wood slip while we are learning.



The cutting edge is supported on both sides and you have full control as long as you have a "peel" coming off.





Practice on green wood. Branch cutoffs are easy to get this time of year where your town piles up what they collect from the curb.

The peeling cut is good for glue joints (rougher than a planning cut). The bead is a true semicircle and a curved pommel is just a straight cut with the skew. This is Magic, but it works. Use a steadyrest if the length of your piece is over 12 x the diameter. In addition to all that, did you know that the skew cuts if you drag it backwards in a peeling cut?

Jim finished his demo by turning a Nostapinne, a tool for winding up a center feeding ball of yarn. It is one of his production turning items. Enough time was left to turn a quick spinning top.

Jim's website is [www.tcturning.com](http://www.tcturning.com).

photos by Greg Zaccardo

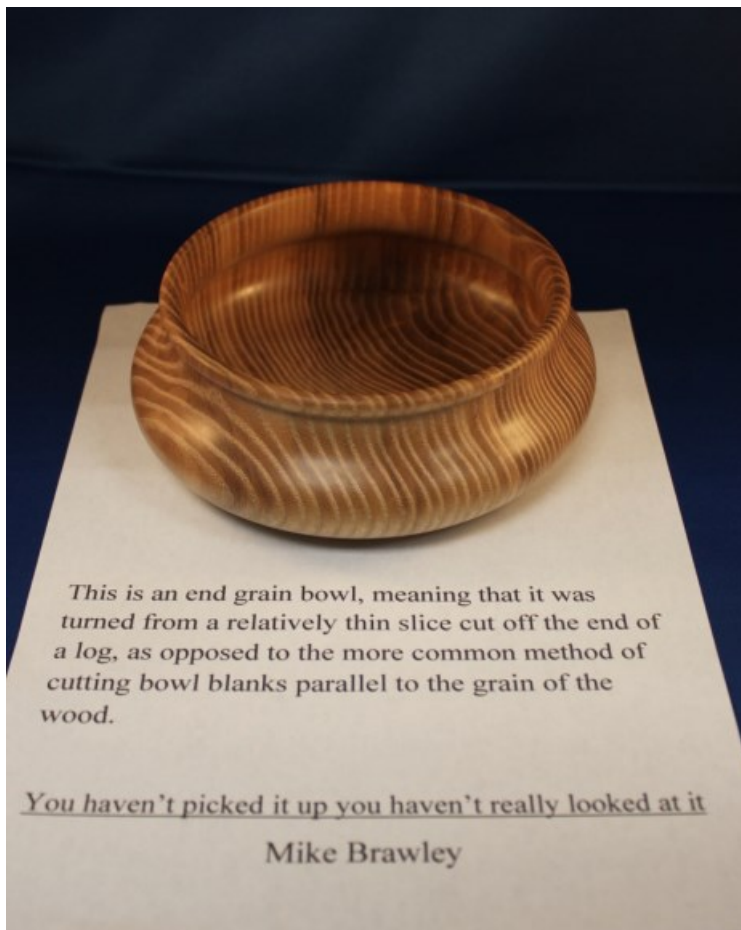
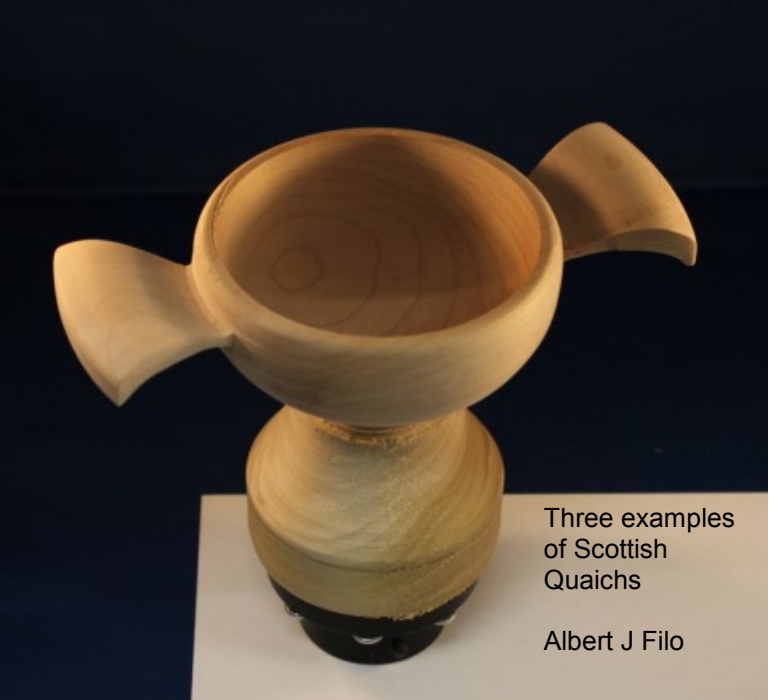
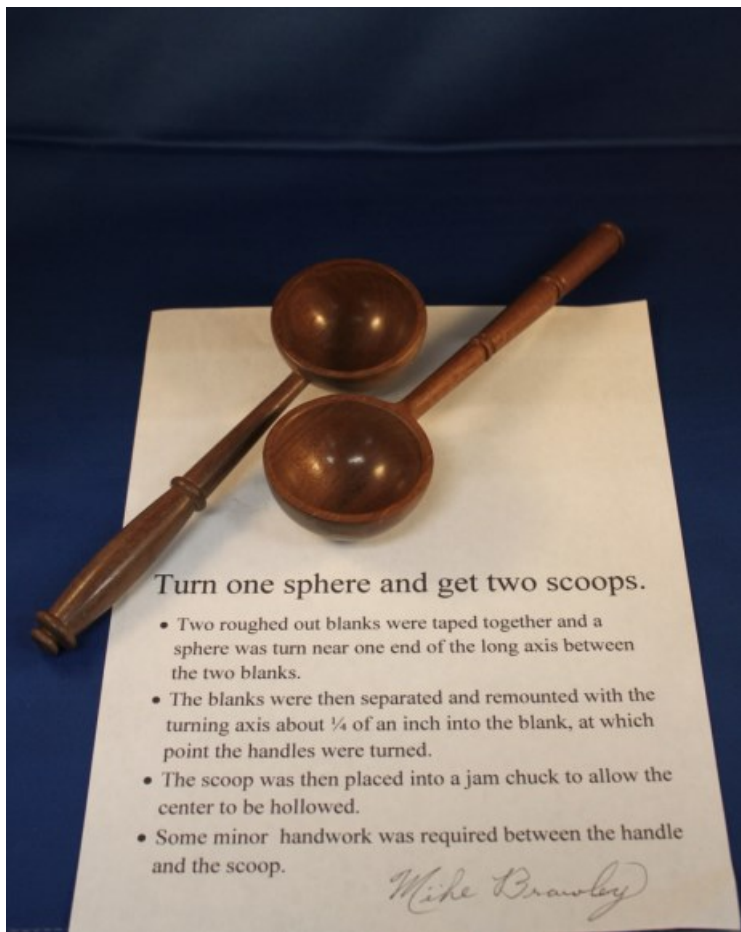
## Show & Share



photos above by  
Greg Zaccardo









Phil Rose



Name: Harry Beaver  
Piece(s): bowl with handles  
Wood: Maple



Winged Bowl  
MAREK PAWIAK  
MARY CHAT



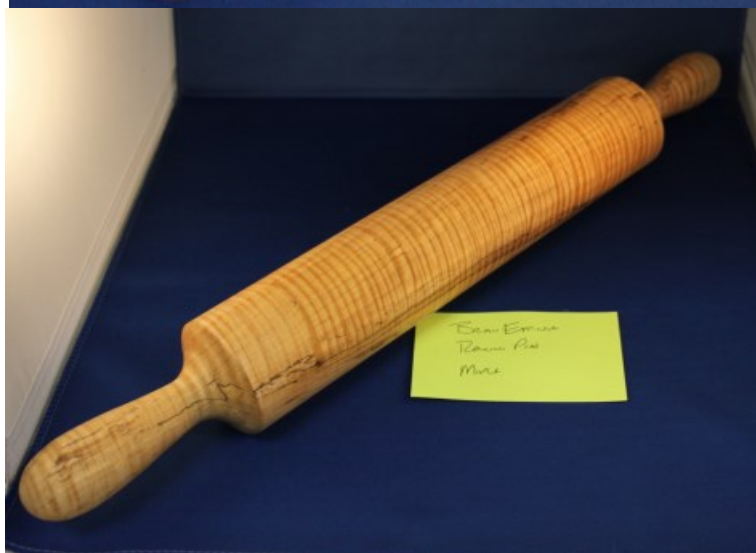
Bill McColgin



Name: JIM HOTAUNG



















## Goofs

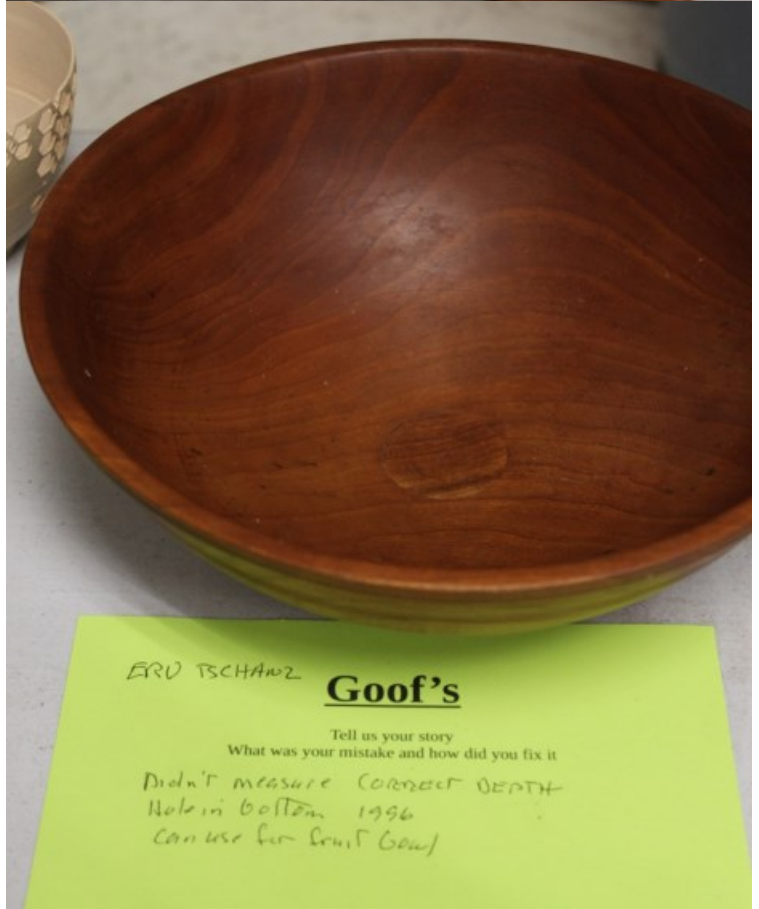
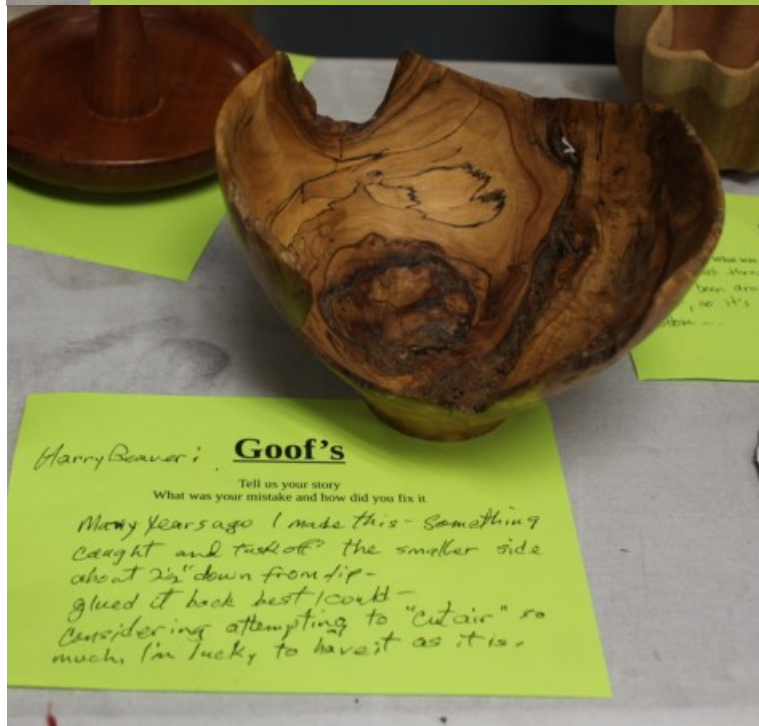
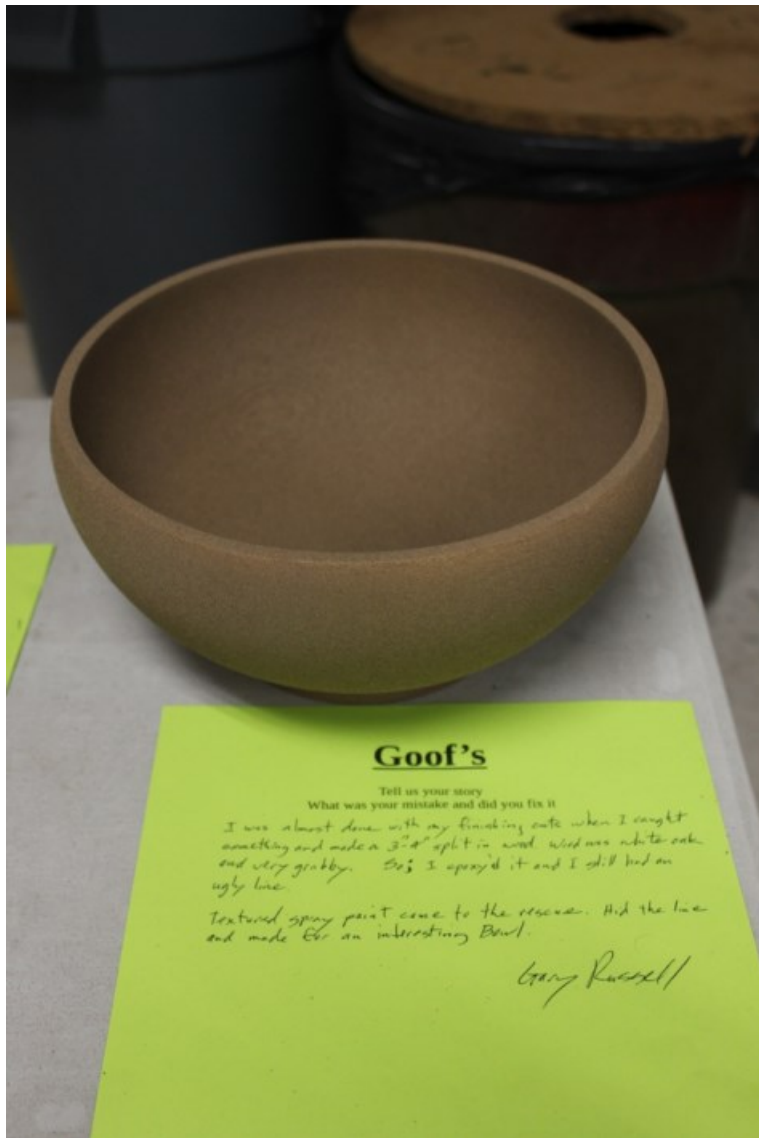


## Goof's

Tell us your story

What was your mistake and how did you fix it

I went through the bottom, a rookie mistake!  
 so it's been around for a while. I have an idea  
 for it, so it's fixable, but I won't just fill the  
 bottom...



Photos by Bob Zingo



## Perinton Workshop Saturday, May 4



Photo by Phil Rose

### Separating the Sticks from the Straw

by Gary Scialdone

I am sharing two videos this month from Kostas Annikas Deftereos, a Greek woodturner who posts; about every other Sunday. Often these are recorded in English but sometimes in Greek. I think that he has a good eye for design. It doesn't hurt that he works largely in gorgeous olive wood.

The [video](#) at shows a natural edge goblet that I think is unique and beautiful. I noticed that in this video he uses a variety of tools where I would have used a bowl gouge. I tend to avoid scrapers because I am not proficient with them. I really need to call upon some of our members for some instruction. He uses a scraper and a bedan for end grain hollowing which would not be my inclination. To stabilize the piece after he finishes the hollowing, he uses a "pillow between the live center and the hollowed end while he completes the stem and base. I have not seen this technique before.

The [second video](#) is a beautiful winged bowl. I'm going to be

looking for the right log to try this design.

Also I have said, I watch videos with a critical mind in hopes that I can learn what techniques I might try make me a better turner and what practices that are inefficient or dangerous that I might avoid. This video has a BIG "issue". I think that his technique of using the chainsaw on a piece resting on the ground is VERY DANGEROUS. He uses his foot and his hand to steady the piece while he cuts. \*YIKES!\* He is also cutting in a very unbalanced position, and without recommended safety gear. I strongly urge you to watch some of the many instructional videos on YouTube from reputable sources.\* I have built a saw buck for my shop that I use to get the wood at elbow length. I use it whenever possible to avoid, unstable positions while cutting. There are many videos online showing how to build a sawbuck for your shop.

We would very much like to hear your comments regarding these videos so that we can share them in the newsletter. Please write to us at [newsletter@fingerlakeswoodturners.com](mailto:newsletter@fingerlakeswoodturners.com).

## 2018-19 SCHEDULE AND MENTOR CONTACTS

|      |  |
|------|--|
| May  | Gary Russell "Celtic Wedding Goblet"         |
| 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  |
| Terry Lund    | 455-2517    | <a href="mailto:terry.lund@gmail.com">terry.lund@gmail.com</a>           | General Turning; Dust Collection Design and Installation, Sharpening |
| 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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| Advisor           | Clifford Weatherell | (585) 737-7815 | <a href="mailto:canoeboy@rochester.rr.com">canoeboy@rochester.rr.com</a>     |
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