

### President's Letter

**April 2020**

by Phil Rose



The past month has been a new experience for all of us as we go through New York on Pause. It's too early to predict when it will end, but fortunately, we can get through it together virtually – something new for some. Even though we can't be face-to-face, we can still see a demonstration, hear each of us speak, and see many

of our club members on camera.

Last month Jim Echter stepped up at the last minute to deliver a great Interactive Remote Demo (IRD) on turning a thin-walled bowl with an ogee curve. Although it wasn't Jim's first IRD, it was the first time his audience was scattered across the region instead of all seated in one room – but with a little help from Alan Zenreich, he made something new to him look easy.

Previously, we had hoped to move my burls demo to this month using the equipment at Jim's shop. In light of New York on Pause, I will not be traveling to Jim's shop, and instead, Jim will be bringing us another demo this month. We will post sign-on information as soon as it becomes available. Please be aware that Zoom has added a feature requiring a password, and you may be required to type it in when entering the meeting. That password will be sent with the meeting information.

Meanwhile, I am putting together the rest of the pieces necessary to deliver the demo from my own shop, and if we are still in a stay at home mode come May, I will provide that demo remotely.

I hope you are all keeping safe and staying home unless you are one of the essential employees at an essential business. Time in the shop has become a bit more special for me, as it is an opportunity to escape from the crisis and enter a more relaxing mindset. I am reminded, however, that not everyone can just go to the shop – I was on a phone call with a colleague this past week who is weathering the storm by himself in a studio apartment. Please be sure to take the time to reach out to friends, family, neighbors, and club members by regularly calling, video chatting, or sending a text. We can get through this together.

Last month I thanked Craig Krunkle, Larry Lobel, and Leslie Schiff for starting up our Facebook page, and recently you saw a message from me that the page is now live! The site is members only, meaning that whomever is posting and reading would be a member of FLWT. That may change in the future, but not without discussion and notice. If you haven't yet, please join in at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/fingerlakeswoodturners>. We would all love to see what you are working on – a virtual show and share!

We will get through these times together. I hope everyone is staying as safe as possible. I am looking forward to seeing you all again on our next virtual adventure!

Try something new.

-Phil

### Turning an Ogee Bowl at Home

with Jim Echter  
by Bruce Impey

Last month while we were all encouraged to avoid groups of people, we got a new experience, peering into Jim's shop while he turned an Ogee Bowl on our first group stream. Thanks to co-host

Kathy and technical crew Alan Zenrich. Thanks to Alan for driving this streaming technology through the AAW. Thanks to Jeff Cheramie for pulling together our club investment too. Jim was very cool headed on camera and pulled this off very well.



The turning was a simple shallow Cherry bowl with an Ogee profile. Jim went over faceplate preparation with a countersink to accommodate the ridge of wood that the screws push up when they are driven in. Mounted on the faceplate, the “bottom” was turned with a mortise for the four jaw chuck. Jim uses compression tenon mounting for green bowls and expansion tenon for dry wood. To make the Ogee contour to the bowl, he splits the area outside the foot into 1/3 & 2/3. A cove is cut into the 2/3 outer area while the inner 1/3 is still flat. When these two areas are blended in the cove will appear to be about ½ the Ogee profile.



Jim finish turns the bottom of the mortise at this stage. He will go back later to clean up the edge of the mortise where the jaws have left a mark. After sheer scraping and sanding Jim will put on a coat of 3# cut Zinsser wax free (shellac).

While turning the inside of the bowl Jim explained how the tips of a machinist caliper can be rounded over for use by the wood turner. He eyeballs the air gap to gauge the wall thickness without scratching the outside of the bowl. Working his way down from the rim while leaving mass in the center, Jim admonishes us that we can't go back to the rim once the center mass is removed. Having said that, he demonstrated how unfortunate doing so is. No problem, it's a design opportunity! Being asked by the peanut gallery if he ever gets splinters from turning a bowl, Jim advised on the dramatic razor cut potential of a rim edge that is not softened.

Off the lathe, the bowl will be finished with three coats of oil. Wet sanded to 6 – 800 grit and Behlen's Salad Bowl Finish.

A mini demo of top turning followed, including the use of a DIY texturing tool. I expect this will end up on the club website eventually.

Speaking of tops, I've been informed of 41 tops for our donation program being ready as of the demonstration date. Since then, Jim Hotaling passed on a rumor that some guy in Florida has sent in an additional 200. I think it might be my neighbor. Please do spend some of your moments doing a little for those kids in hospital. They're not going away even if our focus is elsewhere.





## What We've Been Up To

The following content has been offered by some of our members to give us all an idea of what they are doing. I encourage everyone to send in something to share here. -Bruce Impey

[newsletter@fingerlakeswoodturners.com](mailto:newsletter@fingerlakeswoodturners.com)



Cliff Weatherall tops above, challenge below

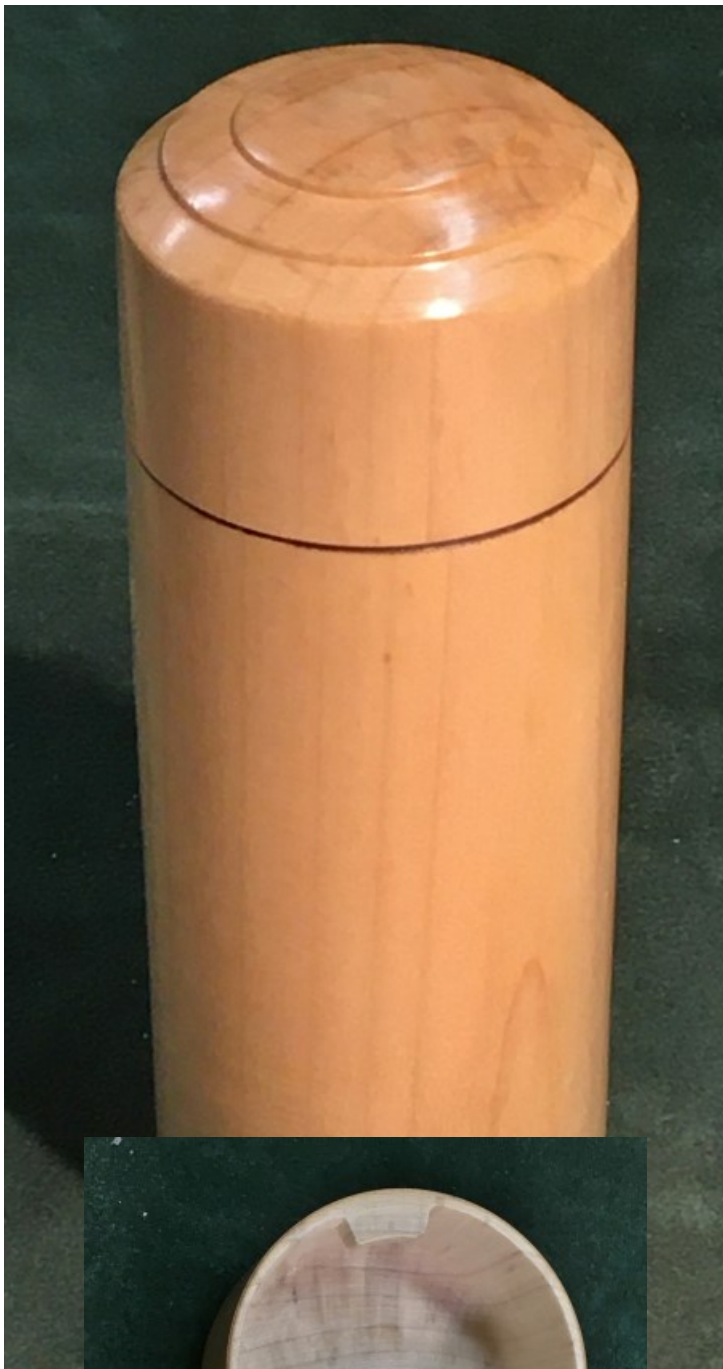


Here are three pictures along the lines of the box challenge. The cherry box is 2" inside diameter and has a pop-fit lid with a burl inset. The maple box has an experimental top that I thought up and tried. The cap aligns then twists to close. It was interesting to make.

-Bill  
McColgin







Mike Sullivan Challenge Project

Lee Spenser below







Jon English



Walnut bowl turned under the mentorship



Gary FLWT march show & share



Below are various items I have turned in March. Many will be used for Charity Fundraising.

-Pete







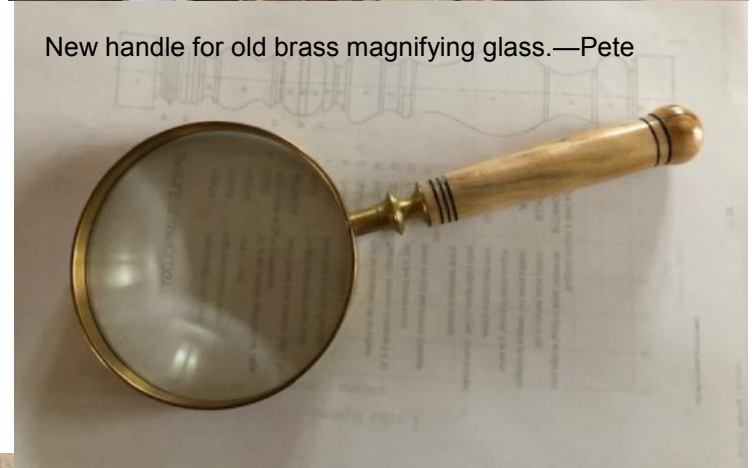
Tops all glued up, ready to turn. Pete



Ash square Bowl. Needs a few more coats of finish along with Turning the base—Pete



Pens for friends & Charity—Pete Shea



New handle for old brass magnifying glass.—Pete







From Denis Caysinger:

Many years ago I built a wooden shelf on my lathe to hold my tools, spare tool-rests, etc. so they would be in easy reach. Turns out the tools were now easily in reach, but they were always covered with either wood chips or acrylic ribbons from my turning! So I needed a better solution.



(Continued on page 8)



One day I was at Lowes and saw metal shelving material that is commonly used for closet shelving. The shelving comes in 2 variations. One with fairly dense metal slats, another with wider slats.

I chose the one with denser slats, picked up a 4 foot piece, as well as two 4 foot long by 1 inch aluminum L braces.

First I drilled 4 holes in the lathe legs to mount the L braces. After those were sized and drilled, I knew I'd have a firm support for the new shelf.

The trickiest part of this whole process was that I had to remove one of the lathe legs temporarily in order to fit the new metal shelf into the leg openings on the lathe. After removing the leg I positioned the metal shelf, then reattached the lathe leg and L braces. I did this by supporting one end of the lathe using a block and tackle arrangement from one of the I-beams in my basement.



The finished product works much better. Most of the chips / ribbons drop down on the floor now, and I can actually find my tools!

From David Barnett:



These are flat pieces of ambrosia maple from a board I got from Amy Grigg. The larger is 12", finished with Minwax tung oil. The little one is 6" dia. and has a thin super glue finish.

From Alan Freeman:

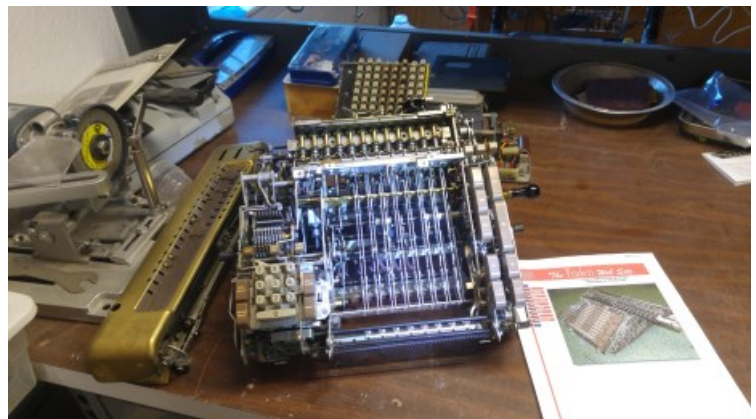
Revarnishing this vase I made in 2012



I am varnishing a shallow bowl on a machine that I put together to apply finishes or do sanding. It turns at 76 rpm and can be tilted to any angle.



The other one is definitely not a turning project. I am refurbishing a 1962 Friden calculator. I used to teach this at a Friden School on University Avenue for several years.





From Jeff Wood:

The bowl was my first attempt. The Easter eggs are for my grandkids. I hope all of the club members are staying safe in these times.





From Cliff Weatherell:

Here is a lathe attachment board I made. It's 2'x4' 3/4 plywood mounded using a French cleat. The "pegs" are 1/4 or 3/8 bolts. The 1/4 inch, heads cut off. I have T-nuts on the back and jam nuts on the front. The 3/8 are Allen heads, they hold the chucks and tool rests. Oh, the jumbo jaws are on some 10-32 threaded rod. All the MT-2 drive and live centers are on a piece of 3/8 aluminum.



## Bad Wood Turning

by Gary W. Russell

Our editor recently asked what are we doing in our shop in this time of isolation due to the Coronavirus. Actually, I am usually in my shop anyway. Retirement and a great hobby is the best.

However, I am doing something a little different. I'm looking for the worst pieces of wood in my inventory to see what I can do with them. I am currently working with black willow burls and yew roots. These pieces of wood are very aged and dry. Some have branches all over them and most have voids and bark inclusions. The shapes are very irregular; and with the willow, the wood is very soft. Finding the best way to mount the pieces has been a challenge. At times, to get it balanced; I had to take the chain saw to it while it's mounted on the lathe – fun.

Once I get the piece mounted between centers and clear of the ways, I just start cutting being careful of the bark as it often flies off the piece. This is one time the wood and the cutting process dictates what the piece will look like. There is no real preplanning. When I start, I'm not sure if it will be a vase, bowl, candle holder or a chunk of wood for the fireplace.

When cutting into the piece, you need to be cognizant of the voids so that you don't make them too big and out of proportion. Generally I need to turn at slower speeds than I like since the lathe bounces a lot, and I need to keep my tools very sharp. This whole process keeps you thinking a lot. Usually there is a fair amount of hand sanding because of the voids. You really don't want to have a finger get caught in these voids while the machine is running and the same is true of power

sanding. I have been using tung oil as a finish because it gives the finished piece a nice rich brown color.

In the picture, I have a couple of the better chunks of black willow that are next in line to work with. Next to them I have a finished piece of black willow and a finished yew root. If you want really interesting grain patterns and shapes, these woods can't be beat.



From Marty Kane:

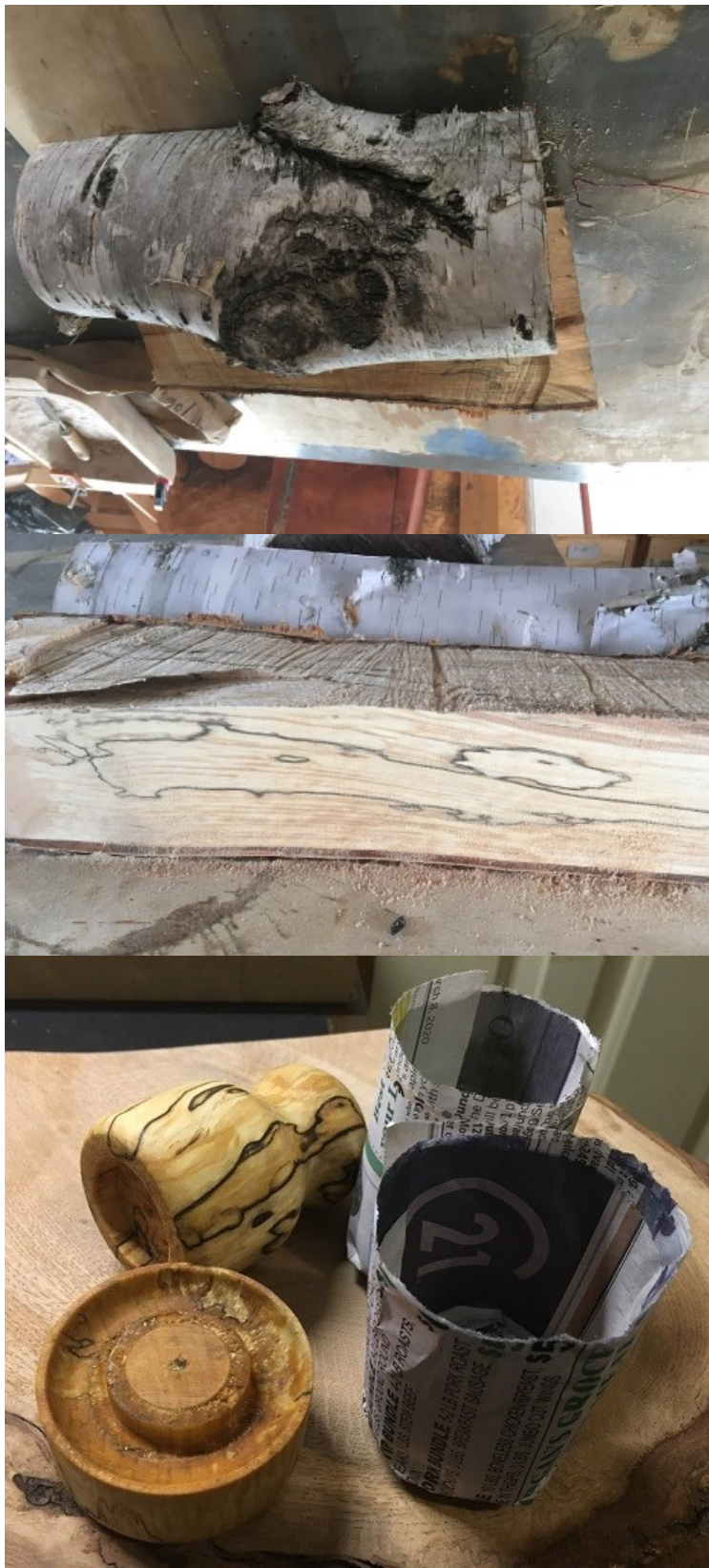
my garage. At least for the next week or so, I am still working. However, my wife is not. She is home alone all day and although she speaks to people over the phone, she is still alone. Therefore, I spend a lot of time with her. When I do get out to the shop, I have some cherry I've been working on...just a basic bowl. This one was pretty rotted on the outside. Deep inside was solid. Hopefully, I'll complete it soon and move on to something else. Stay safe, stay well....





From Andrew Matulewicz:

I wasn't planning on a garden this year until recent events tell me I should. So, I picked a birch log from the firewood pile and found it was spalted nicely. Turned this newspaper pot maker. Finish is Mahoney's walnut oil.



Van Bicknell box made from apple:





From Bob Zingo:

I have been documenting a project on FB to keep me working on it and to entertain people.

Lately I have been playing Dr. Frankenstein using an old laboratory cabinet for parts. The midi size Delta wood lathe that I have has been clamped onto a workmate saw horse. That was useful but the workmate had no storage, took up a lot of space and was very hard to keep clean with all the open metal work.

So, a large old HS laboratory cabinet that I bought cheap, got cut down to a smaller size. Rotten parts were replaced or eliminated and joints were reglued. It was reinforced with blocking to withstand vibrations from the lathe. And a new base and wood top was made for it. The hinged cabinet door has been resized and will be remounted. It went from 3 units wide x 4 drawers tall, to 2 units wide and 3 drawers tall.

Now the lathe is bolted down and useable again.





## 2020 SCHEDULE AND MENTOR CONTACTS


### **Mentor Contacts**

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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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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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