

### President's Letter February 2020



Phil Rose

"Try something new" is my theme for 2020. Every month, we have a demonstrator showing techniques, show-and-share where members bring in work they've completed – or in process, and our library has a host of books and DVDs with techniques and ideas, as well as tools if needed.

Something I love to do is find a new-to-me technique, trick, or concept, play with it, and then develop a piece to test out my learning. They don't all work out, and I'm not ashamed to admit that many first attempts become great firewood. However, I am particularly delighted when I can complete the concept and hear people ask, "how did you do that." Mistakes are an important part of the learning process – but so is trying something new!

Last month, Erv Tschanz discussed and demonstrated holding blanks for plates to turn the front and hold the back without a modern jaw chuck. I'm sorry to have missed it (not too sorry as I write this from warm, sunny, Florida), but by all accounts, it was a great demo. This month's challenge is to follow Erv's lead and try something new to turn a plate or platter without resorting to a modern chuck. We have turners with a variety of skills, so new to you might be following Erv's teaching exactly, trying a slight twist, or bringing in a piece that demonstrates an entirely new way for someone else to think about the problem – turning a plate or platter without a modern chuck.

This month Dan Meyerhoefer will demonstrate turning and embellishing boxes, along with eccentric chucking. Dan regularly brings in show-and-share projects that provide a new and interesting way to look at turnings. I think it will be a great opportunity to see how he thinks through this work. We will begin the meeting as usual by gathering between 5:30 and 6:00 pm for setting up the room, followed at 6:00 pm by Show and Share, and general discussions and interactions, and a brief business/info session before Dan starts his demonstration.

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.org>.

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It's time to start collecting tops again – this small, easy-to-turn object brings such joy to the faces of the child receiving your donation. Please start making and bringing in tops – let's see if we can top last year's effort of 998. Three more would top 1,000, and two to three more by each member of the club would top last year's goal of 1,200. If you've never turned a top, this is the time to try something new!

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

Over the holiday break, Greg Zaccardo, John Alescio, Bruce Bruni, Gene McCabe, Denis Caysinger, and Doug Crockett all trained on setup up, tearing down, and running the A/V system. You may have noticed them unpacking and packing at the last meeting, and you may have noticed a new face running the system during the meeting. I hope everyone involved is enjoying the experience, and that warm feeling one gets from volunteering.

In keeping with my theme of "try something new," I'm looking for ideas from the membership – what else could we be doing as a club? Where do you want to see us in three years? Being a member is more than just showing up at monthly meetings for great conversations and a demo – everyone should try to give something back to the club. Teamwork makes the dream work – what's your dream for the club?

Try something new!

-Phil

## **.Note on AAW Symposium Registration**

This year, the AAW has a discount of \$25 per symposium registration available to chapters sending ten or more members to the national symposium in Louisville, June 4-7, 2020.

I know we have a few people planning attending and making individual arrangements. If you are planning to attend – whether or not you have registered – please send me (PhilRose@DragonsRose.Studio) an email so I can start compiling a list. If we can gather together the required number I will work with AAW to see if we can get the discount even for those that have already registered and paid.

All checks must be received by April 15. We can send individual checks, or a chapter check (we can work that out if we get the required number).

- Phil Rose

## **Alternative Chucking Techniques with Erv Tschanz**

by Bruce Impey / photos by Greg Zaccardo

At our January meeting, Erv Tschanz. Erv is Master in the Guild for Hornwork. There is a well illustrated article about him in Early American Life [here](#).



Erv started turning 40 years ago with bone and horn materials. He reminds those of us who did not turn back in those days that many of the tools we have now were not so available then.

Likewise, the ocean of instruction in technique we now have was not available. Erv got instruction from a book by Holtzapffel (a 19th Century lathe and tool maker) of which I think we have some in our club library. His entry into wood turning came as he got various odd requests for reproduction items, like a wooden strainer.

Erv discussed various ways to hold what we would consider faceplate work without the now common four jaw chuck. Options include the worm screw, scroll chuck, waste block gluing and jam chucking. For a waste block glue up, flat work is first prepared by hand planning and then hide glued to the block with a piece of paper between. Erv uses manilla folders for this. The secret is that the paper needs to be thick enough that it will split when you pry the work off the waste block.

Erv showed some turning techniques, sheer cuts with the Stuart Batty 40/40 bowl gouge, a pointy scraper with an angle less than 90°, and a 40 year old flat scraper with a gentle curve to give a fine shaving. He showed using the flat scraper tilted up at a 45° angle from the toolrest.







Erv has an arsenal of scrapers. It is important to hone the top edge before each sharpening. The bevel grind is 60°. In the assortment of pointed scrapers is the 60° for plunge cutting for tenon, vertical & horizontal work with the front edge of the point and parting off, the 85° for sheer scraping the outside of bowls or any convex or flat surface, and a matching set of less than 90° with the point over to one side. The last is good for boxes and fitting lids. Also there is a fingernail shaped roundnose for sheer scraping concave surfaces. All of these are 1/2 in scrapers. The big flat chisel mentioned earlier is slightly crowned and is pulled straight across the work.

Among Erv's anecdotes was the admonition that sharpening carbon steel on CBN wheels is quite the fire hazard. So, take care where you let flammables accumulate around your grinder!

Finally here is an epilog from Erv. Erv ran into a little trouble at the end of his demo, when he got a catch on the back of the plate, and could not recover the cut. Erv went home and sorted it out. He tells me there were two things going on. First, he had forgotten to do a pull cut to make the back of the plate parallel to the faceplate. It was out of round. Second, the tool rest was too low. The top edge of the gouge has to be slightly above center.

Erv also mentioned that the toolrest should almost touch the faceplate and bottom corner of the plate itself. The cut is similar to that used to hollow the front; work back from the middle to the edge with bevel rubbing near the right side of the tip. Once the outside edge is thinned down, move the toolrest in and take shallow cuts with a sharp tool. You may want to try this cut in a scrap piece of wood.



Photos of finished work by Erv Tschanz

## Review of Mike Darlow Books

by Terry Lund

I recently discovered a series of five books about all aspects of woodturning, written by Mike Darlow, who lives in Australia. They are older books but virtually all of the information is useful and most of it is still relevant. The FLWT library has three of his 6 books:

**The Practice of Woodturning** – This book, first published in 1985, and republished in 1995 is 342 pages (in the 1995 edition which I have), and it covers virtually all aspects of woodturning, including chapters about Wood, Design, Lathes (good general info but dated in terms of current/modern lathes), Turning Theory and Tools (the best detailed description of how/why a sharp edge produces the best finish from a cut. This is enhanced upon in a newer book discussed below), Spindle Turning, Bowl Turning, and other topics. This one book covers virtually everything you might want to know/learn, but the other books have more information on each of the topics covered in this book.

**Woodturning Design** – This is the 4th book in his Woodturning Series, first published in 2003, and it contains 271 pages so it's a comprehensive reference book for a discussion of virtually any aspect of woodturning design. Mike Brawley mentioned to me that he referenced much of the material in his Design Demonstration done for FLWT a few years ago from this book. There's a lot of material in this book for those who might think that "they can't do design", as well as quite an extensive discussion of how to actually approach the design process in different situations.

**Turned Chessmen** – This is the 5th book in the Woodturning Series, and from the title, it's obvious it's a specialized book on a single topic that offers an amazing array of different designs of chess pieces so if you ever thought about making a set of chess pieces, this would be a must read reference.

The Woodturning Series of books does not include the first

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book listed above, but rather it represents a set of 5 books in which each book is a more complete description of a subset of chapters from The Practice of Woodturning book. These books take advantage of color photography which was not cost effective when The Practice of Woodturning was published. The books in the Woodturning Series include three books that are not in the FLWT library at this time (but I have a copy so contact me to borrow them if you are interested). Except for the Woodturning Design book, the others are somewhat shorter, but still about 200 pages each:

**Fundamentals of Woodturning** – The chapters include:

- Is Woodturning for Me (I think we've all answered Yes to that)
- How to Start
- Lathes and Associated Equipment (the lathe info is "Australia-centric" but covers all the terminology about lathe parts etc),
- Cutting and Tools (For me, this section is what got me hooked on Darlow's books and writing. It is by far the clearest and most detailed discussion of how a sharp edge actually cuts wood, and I believe it's a worthwhile study for all woodturners)
- Design, Wood, and Workshop Practices (refer to the much larger book on design, and the chapter on Wood in The Practice of Woodturning)
- Spindle Turning
- Cup Chuck Turning (something that's not used much in my experience here in the US at least. The techniques have largely been replaced by modern chucks with tower jaws and other kinds of jaws.)
- Faceplate Turning
- Bowl Turning
- Hollow Turning
- Where Next?

**Woodturning Methods** – The chapter headings in this book include Chucking, Spindle Turning, Slender Spindles, Turning Spheres, Eccentric Turning, Multi-Axis Turning, Elliptical Turning, and Drilling. Even when chapter titles are duplicated between books, for the most part there is new/different information in each book.

**Woodturning Techniques** - This book has an extensive chapter on Sharpening, and while it does not refer to CBN wheels due to being published in 2001, I found it to be a second valuable discussion (along with how a sharp edge cuts) about how to achieve reproducible gouge angles and shapes with proper jigs. This discussion is aimed at issues associated with Aluminum Oxide wheels gradually getting smaller as they are used, but the concept and principles apply to grinders with CBN wheels because there are small/subtle differences between each wheel on a particular grinder, as well as differences between grinder systems such as in your own shop and at a workshop or Open Shop session at St Michael's. The book also has a good discussion about Glue. It also has chapter headings like those listed in the previous book but it's new information within the chapters, not a repeat of a previous

book for the most part.

**Woodturning Design** (discussed above)

**Turned Chessmen** (discussed above)

The bottom line for me is that this set of books is a valuable reference that I expect to go to fairly often for tips, suggestions, and ideas for improving any number of techniques and aspects of my woodturning skills. Let me know if you want to borrow any of the books that are not in the library. I checked the RWS library for folks who are a member of both groups and only found the Turned Chessmen book. If there's sufficient interest, I expect Denis and Gary would consider adding the other books to the library.

## **Tops Update**

by Bruce Impey

At the January meeting we received 10 tops for our 2020 donation to the children in hospital program. Thank you Harry Stanton! We'd all like to see Jim Hotaling's face light up like a kid's as he imagines how many happy faces there will be later in the year. If you've ever been a kid, or ever encountered one, take a few minutes over the next days to craft a top or two. See you Thursday.

Thanks, Bruce

## **Mentor Gary Russell Interview**

by Gary Scialdone

In this month's mentor interview, I'd like to introduce you to Gary Russell. Gary has been turning wood for about 16 years. Prior to that he was a wood worker, primarily with flat stock, as evidenced by some lovely shelves built into his home. Once he bought his first used Delta lathe though, turning became his preferred craft. Now he works between a Nova lathe and the Delta. He enjoys both the craft and the ability to get more instantaneous gratification by completing projects faster on a lathe.



When asked what he would like to tell readers in this article, Gary stressed how underutilized the mentor program is. That certainly is a theme of this series of interviews with our mentors. In just an hour looking at the beautiful pieces around

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his home and standing together in his shop, talking, I learned much. The ability to work side by side with an experienced turner is certainly the finest way to learn. Gary encourages members to feel free to contact him for consultation on any issues. He has listed his specialties as general turning, bowls, ornaments and finials. His home is dotted with many beautiful ornaments that really make the most of the figure of the wood with natural finishes. You'll see many examples of fine finial work as well. I was struck by how Gary has displayed his ornaments, in several instances, by mounting them of well figured scarps of wood.

As we discussed tools, Gary said that, like many I think, he has a few go-to tools that are his mainstays; primarily the bowl gauge, skew, some detail gauges and the parting tool. He also has a Sorby texturing tool that he enjoys. He showed me a shop-made texturing tool that he built as a club project. It uses Dremel bits that can be exchanged for different textures. For hollowing small pieces with small openings, such as ornaments, he showed me a couple of hollowing tools, also shop made as a club project.



As for finishes, Gary favors simple oils and a small variety of waxes. These add to the natural look of his pieces. I don't want to leave you with the impression that Gary limits himself to ornaments. Take a look at these pieces. Again, I love the natural quality of his work.



My sincere thanks to Gary and his wife for welcoming me into their home. Please consider contacting him to consult on any wood turning matters. The list of mentors and their contact information is in every issue of the newsletter.

## 2019-20 SCHEDULE AND MENTOR CONTACTS

Feb 20	Dan Meyerhoefer – Turning and Embellishing Boxes
March 19	Phil Rose – Turning Burls
April 16	David Barnet – Bowl Design Considerations
Wed May 20-Tues May 26	Glenn Lucas – multiple workshops plus FLWT and RWS meetings & Saturday demo
June 18	Terry Lund – Peppermills Revisited
July 16	Jim Echter – Boxes
August 20	Joe Wiesnet – Bottoms Up – Foot First
Sept 24-27	Trent Bosch – joint with Rochester Woodworkers Society (RWS).
October 15	Cindy Drozda – Remote Demo (to be confirmed after April 2020)
November 19	Donna Gould – Surface Embellishment

### **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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