

President's Letter from Phil Rose March 2020



Editor's note: As of March 14 our March meeting is cancelled. Following is the Phil's letter in that regard. Following that is his original monthly letter to the club.

The Finger Lakes Woodturners Association Board of Directors has been watching the Coronavirus (COVID-19) news closely. The

Monroe County Department of Health has recommended canceling gatherings with more than 50 people, and the CDC has suggested maintaining a personal space of around 6 feet to prevent transmission of the virus.

We believe it is in the best interest of our club to cancel both this upcoming monthly meeting, initially planned for Thursday, March 19, as well as the forthcoming Perinton workshop on Saturday, March 21.

We have been in contact with Glenn Lucas as well. We have agreed to wait on any decision-making around Glenn's events at this time. We will continue to monitor the situation as it continues to evolve, but at this time, we are not making any determination beyond these two events.

President's monthly letter, penned before things started changing fast:

March is said to come in like a lion and go out like a lamb. With all that turmoil in the weather, perhaps it's better to stay in the shop. Last month we saw some great examples of people trying something new, and I hope even more of you will try something new this month. When you bring in your pieces for show and share, please note on the card that this is something new for you.

Last month, Dan Meyerhoefer delivered an interesting presentation around embellishing the simple box. He showed a few ideas revolving around embedding veneer into the process that yielded some very interesting designs many of

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us may have not seen before. This month's Challenge Project, Sticking with my focus on "try something new," is to make a box in a new way to you. If you've never made a box, then make a box. If you are a pro at making boxes, try one of Dan's embellishment techniques with veneer, or combine another embellishment technique you've not tried before. Perhaps you've only made a few boxes and want to try a different shape or design. We had 50 people in attendance, let's shoot for fifty boxes on the show and share table next month!

This month I am the demonstrator, and will be discussing design and turning of burls – natural edge and other. I will show some examples of burls that I have turned as well as some from other turners. Then, I will take a specific piece of burl and lead an interactive design conversation around options to turn that piece, develop a general direction, and then turn the piece. Along the way I will demonstrate some beginner and advanced techniques around turning a natural edge burl, discuss different methods of holding the burl on the lathe, and complete the final design on the lathe.

Last month we discussed tops, and the consensus in the room was to shoot for 1,000 tops this year. With over 100 members in the club, only 10 each with easily top that goal.

Again, this month we will be collecting donations for the Isaac United Way breakfast auction in April. Isaac has been great to the club. Let's show our appreciation by donating something nice for this auction – 100% of the proceeds go directly to United Way!

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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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This past month three members – Craig Krunkle, Larry Lobel, and Leslie Schiff volunteered to become the Social Media Team for FLWT! As of this writing, we have a Facebook page, and will soon have an Instagram presence. I am hopeful we can roll out the pages publicly soon, and will be sending invitations to everyone in the club to join. We are still forming our social media plans, and any and all input is appreciated. Thank you, Craig, Larry, and Leslie for your help so far!

After the phenomenal response in people signing up to see Glenn Lucas, the events team is hard at work right now planning for our fall national turner – Trent Bosch. In 2001 Trent was featured in the Fall issue of American Woodturner, where they wrote “Trent is quiet, almost but not quite shy. Yet he is a risk-taker. He exudes a resilient confidence. He invents techniques, designs pieces he has no idea how to execute, is astonishingly good at gently, quietly saying “no.” Talent? I’m not quite sure what talent is, but he’s got it. More important by far, he uses it, works industriously at using it. Trent doesn’t work hard; he works smart. Everything about his studio, his processes, his pieces, has been thought out. There is the same effortless about him in his studio that one sees in Olympic track athletes.” I know I will be attending at least one workshop from this talented artist, when sign-ups become available, how about you?

Last, but not least, you may have noticed a new menu item on our Web Site: “Member Login.” Terry Lund has been working on the site to create a member’s only area where we can put club videos, contact information, and other information that is restricted to our club. This area will grow over time, and if you have thoughts on what content should be there, please be sure to let Terry or the Board know.

Try something new!

-Phil

Library Update

by Denis Caysinger

We’ve got a few months before the Glenn Lucas national turner events, but we want to make you aware in advance how the library will operate for the Thursday May 21, 2020 meeting.

We will only bring items to the meeting that are specifically requested no later than Monday May 18, 2020. You can request items by sending an email to library@fingerlakeswoodturners.com.

Any items checked out at the April meeting will not be due back until the June meeting. Any previously checked out items can be returned at the May meeting if you are finished with them.

The library has recently ordered a ¼ inch captive ring tool as part of the Craft Supplies group buy. Also, additional chuck jaws have been donated for the FLWT Vicmarc chuck.

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.

There are many items in the library, particularly books, that we cannot bring to meetings. Please email Gary and Denis at library@fingerlakeswoodturners.com to have books or tools brought to the meeting. The listing is on the website under resources.

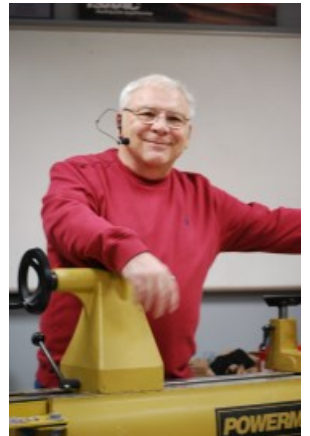
And lastly, as with anything that members borrow from the library, if you lose it or break it, you’re responsible for buying another one for the club.

Gary & Denis

Veneer Inlay Boxes with Dan Meyerhoefer

by Jim Pressey

Dan Meyerhoefer demonstrated turning a box, or as he says a round vessel, incorporating veneer inlay. Dan showed the group the different colors of veneer he uses to embellish and highlight the primary wood used in making a box. Dan explained that he first cut nine pieces of walnut in approximately 1” x 1” x 8” long. He then glued them into three separate 3 piece sections using white glue. Next he glued and



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clamped red veneer between the three sections. Once that was dry, he drilled two holes through all three pieces near one end. This would be used to line up the sections after the next cut. After drying, he rip cut the sections in the opposite direction and glued veneer between the sections again which now created a checkered appearance on the end of the block of wood.



Dan chucked up the block between centers and turned it round with a roughing gouge, followed by cleaning it up using a spindle gouge. Dan then made tendons on both ends of the block using a skew and squared up the tail stock end. He then switched over to a chuck and placed the block of wood into the dovetail jaws. Bringing up the tailstock for extra support, he made a relief cut using a bedan tool where he thought the top and bottom of the box should be separated. Taking care with a 1/16th inch parting tool, he cut through the center of the cut made by the bedan. This separated the top and bottom of the box.

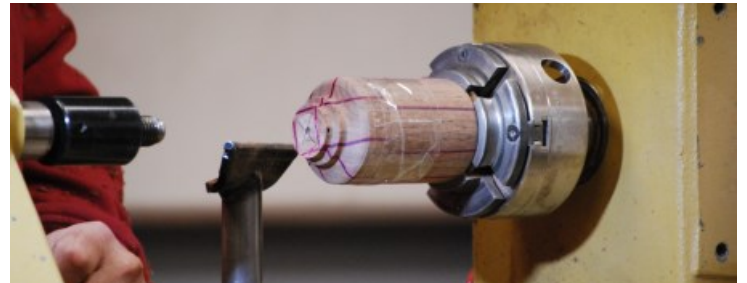


He left the now bottom of the box in the chuck and drilled a 1 inch hole into it stopping approximately 1/2 inch from the bottom of the box. He hollowed it out using a carbide tool and his preferred Master



Box Lid Tool. He then sanded the inside and outside top edges. At this point you may sand the entire inside and outside of the box. Take care not to sand too fast or hard as it can heat up the wood and crack it.

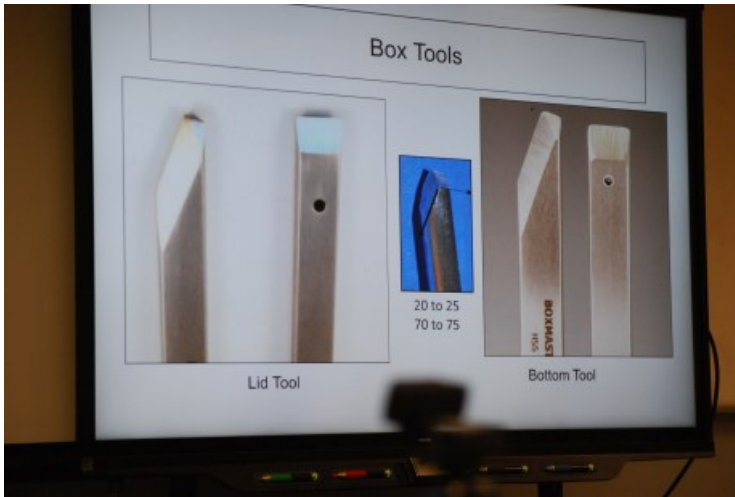
Now swap out the bottom of the box and chuck up the top of the box. Slightly hollow out the inside of the top. Take your time and carefully cut the top inside edge about a 1/16 of an inch until the bottom fits onto it nicely (not too tight and not too loose). Sand the top. Again, swap out the top for the bottom in the chuck and place the top and bottom together. Bring up the tail stock to hold the top on while you round the top down to the tail stock live center. Using packing tape, secure the top and



bottom together and back off the tail stock. Using light cuts finish cutting the top. Remove the bottom and install a jam chuck to fit into the opening of the box bottom and bring up tail stock. Using a parting tool or skew cut the tendon off the bottom and hand sand any nub.



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Dan had an excellent power point presentation which demonstrated these procedures. He also explained the use of a jig to make arched stripes in your work piece using the veneer, as well as a jig for your router to be used on the lathe with an indexing system to make cove cuts into your work piece. According to Dan you can purchase multiple colors of 1/16" veneer from Dome Hardware Veneer as well as other well known stores. He also demonstrated a jig to off set holes drilled into wood and fill them with contrasting colored plugs.



Great job Dan. Thank you.

Top Update

by Jim Hotaling

At the February meeting we had a discussion about if we should continue our top program. It was decided by the members present that we should continue asking members to turn tops for charity groups. It was also decided to set a goal of 1,000 tops for 2020. 55 tops were collected bringing our total to 65 tops for 2020 thus far. If 80% of our members turn 15 tops we should reach our goal!

Perinton Rec Center

by Mike Sullivan

A new club member was listening to a conversation among some other club members recently when the topic of instructors for the Perinton Rec Center came up. He stopped the conversation and asked, "what do we do there?" That made us think that perhaps we are not sharing enough with club members what we are doing in community education.

A part of our mission as a club is to initiate and provide education to the community about wood turning. We do that in a variety of ways. For several years we have been providing beginner wood turning training at the Perinton Rec Center. We have also done the same thing in the Greece Community Center. Once a month, we provide a morning long training (9am – 1pm) for new or beginning wood turners at the Perinton Rec Center. We can teach up to seven students each session. Fifteen of our club members volunteer to be instructors. That gives us the ability to work one on one with students often with having a float instructor in the room to support the overall needs of the class.

Our goal is to introduce these students to the basics of wood turning, the machinery, the tools, basic techniques, turning safety, woods, design and we hope have fun. By the end of session, our goal is for each student to walk out having finished a small bowl, having learned a lot and hopefully created an interest in learning more about wood turning.

This effort requires not only instructors, but we also have to move 7 mini lathes, a grinder, chucks, face shields and all other related equipment from St. Michaels where they are stored to the Perinton Rec Center and back each session. We have a committed group of instructors who enjoy this work and appreciate the value and the need to educate the community about wood turning as a part of our clubs mission. If you think you would like to join this effort, please let myself or Terry Lund know and we will get you started.



Mentor Profile—Erwin Tschanz

by Gary Scialdone

This month's mentor profile is an accomplished wood turner and craftsman of varied interests. Erwin Tschanz has been a woodturner for 40 years. He has been a club member for 30. During those years he has studied the history of the craft and of other crafts as well. Among other things, a visit to his shop is an education in the history of the design and the execution of handmade things wrought from wood, metal, leather, horn and other materials. Oh, he turns bowls, platters, boxes and goblets all right, but you will see much, much more. Erwin has been written about in various craft publications and is very well connected to other craftsman around the country who make historical reproductions of 17th to 19th century functional and artistic items. You can see one of those articles in the publication Early American Life at www.EALonline.com/sources/1904/horner.pdf. Erwin is one of only a handful of Master Horn Workers in the US, and a founding member of the horn workers' guild. A visit to his shop is a very interesting experience.



Erwin works out a small shop attached to his home. The history lesson starts there. The space was originally a two story, Model T Ford garage. As the Model T was smaller than cars of later years, he has had to convert the quite modest space to contain his workshop and storage. He works in the cozy center of an impressive array of power and hand tools, accessories, raw materials and works in progress.



Let's look at a few pieces. The first is a faithful reproduction of an American Indian bowl and spoon. In this case, this the bowl needed to be scraped by hand on the inside to get the width of the edge of the spoon rest, greater than the width of the edge of the rest of the bowl.



Next is an example of his work with horn. One of the things that got Erwin started in turning wood was the need for a large number of wooden cones of various sizes, like the one seen in this picture. These are used as molds, to shape and size horns into rounds that can be turned efficiently on the lathe.

On the right you see a cup fashioned from horn in its original shape. You'll notice that it is curved and oval. Erwin still drinks coffee from this cup when he is at shows and demonstrations. This cup has a wooden, hand fitted bottom. In conversation with him you will learn how he conditions both his wood and horn pieces to contain liquids by soaking them in hot finishes. These practices apply to cups of course, but also to cooking utensils, like a reproduction of a wooden, extrusion, churro maker, and to medical implements like a reproduction of a wooden enema delivery system. I believe that I already mentioned that Erwin's extensive experience and knowledge is interesting.

In the center you see a cylinder of horn that has been hollowed by removing the bone that naturally fills it, soaking the hollowed horn in hot oil to make it pliable, cutting it to size, pressing it onto the mold to round the inside, drying, turning on the lathe to round the outside and smooth the inside, soaking again in hot oil, and refitting to the mold to dry to its final shape. It will dry very tightly. When dry, Erwin will use a bearing removal tool to get it off the mold and continue working to complete the final piece.

On the left is a finished cup turned on the Lathe, resting on its side. It has a fitted, bone bottom. Erwin tells me that he has been known to drink a bourbon from this cup on occasion.

The last piece is a small, one handheld bellows. This is a

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faithful reproduction of a bellows used to refresh the powder on a gentleman's wig. It is crafted from wood, cloth, leather, a metal spring, copper fittings and very small, hand-blued nails. Each tiny nail had to be glued into drilled holes as the heat bluing removed the temper that would have withstood hammering. A part of the bellows was turned on the lathe. The black, three-piece implement is turned from a single piece of water buffalo horn. It is the powder container. The top and bottom are threaded to the body. The thick end is for filling the container. The narrow end is for placing powder into the bellows.



I'd like to use these last items to highlight a theme that runs through Erwin's approach to turning. A large part of his enjoyment of the craft is figuring out ways to fabricate and assemble the parts of his reproductions and other pieces. How do you hold it to turn from raw material to finished project? How do you fabricate and fit components together to form an accurate reproduction? The skill set that can serve a turner over and over again, from conception, to design, to execution, to finish, is to think critically.

- Analyze - Identify the challenges, break the problems down into parts.
- Synthesize - Identify your techniques and materials from beginning to end to complete the piece.
- Execute with care

With many thousands of hours, Erwin has achieved master status through this process as he continues learning with every piece.

I hope that some of you will take advantage of Erwin's gracious offer to mentor our members. You will find time spent with him fascinating and enlightening.

2019-20 SCHEDULE AND MENTOR CONTACTS

March 19	Phil Rose – Turning Burls - Meeting Suspended - Jim Echter to Livestream
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	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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