

Gary Russell

Presidential Mumblings December 2016

We had a terrific meeting last month. Mark Sillay, our first National turner for this year, was very informative and demonstrated his turning skills and techniques. Everyone who attended, I'm sure, came away with something they could take back to their shop and use. I know I did. As such our

challenge for this month is to make something you learned from the demos – a toothpick ornament, an offset vase, an end grain bowl or a convex shaped spindle gouge.

Also at the November meeting we adopted our yearly budget and held our annual elections. In January David Gould will become our new Vice President and Jim Byron our new treasurer. Please wish them luck when you see them. It is always very heartening to have people step up to the plate. As such we thank both Sam Tischler and Dave Ververs for their efforts while holding these offices.

This month will be our annual December party. Everyone please bring in a treat to pass. As usual we will provide the cider. We will have several turning stations set up and you can go from station to station to watch the demos while you eat, drink and socialize. This has always been a fun time and I'm sure it will be again.

TOPS TOPS TOPS We have a long way to go to reach our goal of 1000 for this year. We have only 230 tops according to our top wizard Jim Hotaling. That isn't even near the number we reached last year of 600. Everyone needs to make at least 10 tops if you can. If you need help, my shop is open as well as the other mentors shops and we can do some turning together. Just contact us.

The Board did a drawing to pick the nominee for the AAW scholarship. David Gould was the winner and I submitted the application to AAW. We will know early next year if he was chosen. Since we have less than 50 AAW members we only got to choose one name. Good luck Dave. Also Dave has purchased two lamps for the Club lathe which he is donating to the Club. Thank you Dave-- this had absolutely no bearing on him being chosen for the nomination. Sometimes things just happen that way.

Since the first of our year we have gotten five new members – Jeffery Loucks, Eugene McCabe, Victor Parella, Glenn Roberts, and Greg Zaccardo. Welcome to the best Club in town. Please everyone wish them a hearty welcome when you see them.

In January we will be putting together a list of tools and jigs to purchase for both the Club lathes and the tool lending Library. If you feel that we should have something, please let us know. Right now we have on our list, a set of basic tools for each Club lathe, a vari-grind jig for our sharpening system and a thread chasing tool for the Library. We aren't going to have enough money in our budget for everything; so we'll have to try to choose wisely. Please give us your input.

Just a reminder that the Byron-Bergen turning season is fast approaching. If you can volunteer please let Jerry Sheridan or Rich Connelly know. I am not sure what they will be making this year, but I'm sure it will be interesting. They have always been a great group of kids who are very willing to learn. And it has been fun teaching young minds rather than old geezers like us.

See you at the meeting.

FLWT meetings are held from 6:45 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/>.

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Mark Sillay

Friday/Saturday Demo by Bruce Impey



At six years old, Mark's father set him up with a box for a workbench in his shop. Mark was remembering his dad's birthday that day and I am remembering my dad's birthday and similar experience as I write this. Mark started turning at retirement. His family pitched in to get him a lathe and he spent the next four years "in the basement" at it going through a self-teaching process, figuring out what works. Consequently he has some unique ideas and techniques to

share. He shapes and uses many tools a bit differently than most others. Share he does, maybe 100 days a year traveling and demonstrating, despite a backlog of projects in his own shop. He does not fail to mention the advice from Cindy Drozda that changed his approach to delicate finials completely. There were many takeaways that could take our own woodturning a step or more forward. In the hands on workshop I had one of these things come to life. Sometimes you can read or watch a thing and not until a teacher puts their hands with yours on the tool to take you through the motions does your mind connect to what your body ought to be doing. Mark is a particularly gracious guest and instructor.

Mark can do all spindle turning with his 3/8 spindle gouge; beads, coves, flats, discs and points. It has a parabolic profile and most remarkably a convex ground back. Just to point out, that is the opposite of the curve you get naturally off the grinding wheel, so freehand it. You want a knife edge. The grind angle might be 15 or 20 degrees. The entire edge of the profile gets used. Putting on a "new burr" with a slip many times between heading to the grinder saves a lot of expensive steel.

Mark produces a cut with this gouge that is pristine. "You can use any tool in your toolbox; it's a matter of what you want to sand."



A key element of Mark's technique is not to turn with your hands. The dominant hand holding the end of the handle is locked to the side of the body and with the feet planted this forms a stable "body triangle". Movement of the tool is guided by sideways motion of the hips. The other hand is heel planted on the rest as a pivot or laid upon the tool to hold it down on the rest. This "left hand" must not pull the tool. If you don't

follow this there will be tool marks, ridges. The spindle gouge is used as a horizontal slicing tool rather than a vertical tool riding at the top of the work. If you are cutting vertical you will tear the grain out. The tool should work like a farm plow, slicing. I brought one of my own projects to the workshop as Mark had invited us to do. At one point, he came over to check my progress and told me to stop and look. "What's that?" He was looking at a little tooling mark, a ridge. "How did that happen?" The light bulb went on.

Mark Sillay

Friday/Saturday Demo by Bruce Impey

(con't)

The East/West Rule was explained and the 11:00 or 1:00 that corresponds for cutting a cove. To start a cut enter the wood straight on with the flute at 12:00 and if you are going East tilt the flute to 11:00 after entering the wood. If you tilt the tool before entering, well you're screwed. Heel of the left hand on the tool rest and push the tool through this like a pool cue. At the end of the arc, the gouge heel is riding up on top of the spindle with the side edge doing a slicing cut. The point of the gouge is never cutting after the entry stab.



For bowl gouge work the cutting is similarly a slicing approach. The long handle goes on the hip and the heel of the other hand on the rest doesn't move. Swing the hips to make a sweeping bite. Grind the wings of the bowl gouge pretty straight, no high arch. If you get too much vibration, sharpen your tool. Keep that tool sharp. Have a bottom feeder bowl gouge ground at 80 degrees. Shear scraping; "what would be the purpose of it?" You can do it to smooth out bumps, but it will raise

When it does come to sanding, Mark's schedule is 220 -> 400 -> 800. Never over 800. The key is orbital sanding! If we had only one take-away that would be a good one.

The secret is that you can see linear scratches of even very fine grits, but the human eye cannot distinguish scratches of 800 grit if they are from an orbital motion.

This is hand work, not power sanding. Mark says that when he's judging exhibits he can spot a piece power

sanded instantly, because it always leaves divots. Hold it up to the light and they are obvious. Ironically, I just purchased the tools to do the power sanding after our last demonstrator. Mark uses extra thin CA glue as a finish. It is simply Acrylic Plastic once it cures. Beall buffing

has a buffing arbor. Skip pristine work. If your piece doesn't need a "finish".

Mark made a faux ring of + CA glue. Repeat 3X. signature on urn finials is



outside but also one on the inside. Mark showed how he uses Toothpick Technology to join finials on Sea Urchin ornaments without turning a tenon. With standardized 45° bevels on the finial and a 45° bevel cut into the Sea Urchin with a 90° counter sink, numerous pieces can be made in advance and assembled interchangeably later. The 45° joint guarantees no gaps on irregular surfaces. Not having any tenon ensures that all the parts are interchangeable. The finials are attached to each other with a toothpick. Drill 5/64 for the standard round toothpick.



system for finishing. Packard the Tripoli, it will scratch your is going to be indoors, it really Just use the buffing wheel.

ebony on plain wood. Sharpie Build up until opaque. Mark's to have one not only on the

Mark Sillay

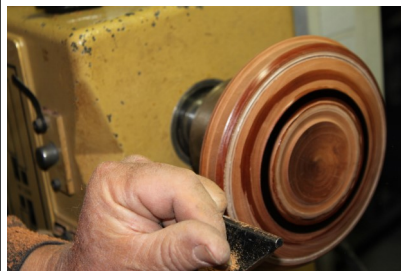
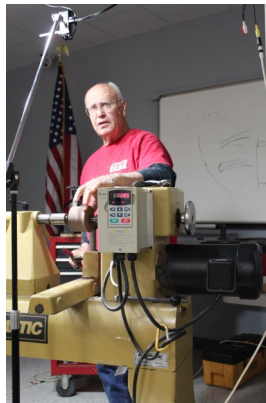
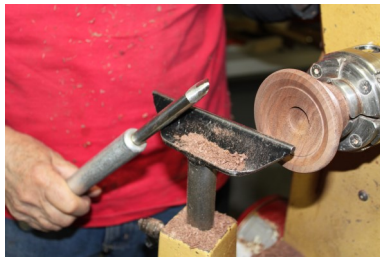
Friday/Saturday Demo by Bruce Impey

(con't)

Mark uses Krylon Clear Gloss Acrylic Spray on the Sea Urchin. It is a finish and also strengthens the shell. Sometimes he will add spray on glitter. Mark demonstrated an offset Weed Vase. He used a friction plate with medium Mirlon (Mirka USA) stuck to it to hold the already finished base offset while turning the neck of the vase on a wormwood screw. The neck was turned with a bowl gouge, held at 45/45. To finish the hole in the neck, he used an "expansion drill" which is a twist bit ground down at the end like a countersink bit. Did I mention orbital sanding? Mark showed how stalagmite and stalactite figures can be shown in an end grain Boxelder bowl with the pith at the center. He knocks the bark off a log section with the corner of a Bedan. It's safer as the chips are small.

Even so, this is definitely a time to wear the face shield. To control splits from the pith, he sprays Accelerator on the inside of the turned bowl and puts thin CA glue on the pith on the reverse side. Most of his bowls are ogee shaped. When drying a bowl no air movement is allowed. Do not set the bowl on the rim or the base. Set it on its side in a liquor box and prop it up with newspaper. As for how to feature a crack in the wood, burn it! For small cracks use ebony stain after completely finishing. Wipe off with mineral spirits and it will look like an inclusion.

"In woodturning, the slower you go the quicker your work will be done."



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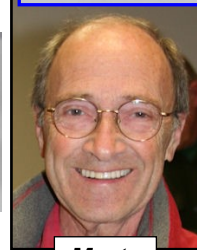
The club will be providing cider!



Members Show and Share



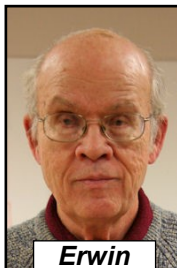
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Weatherell**



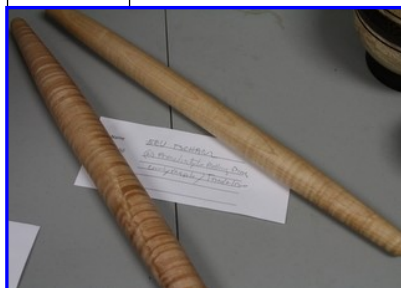
**Marty
Chatt**



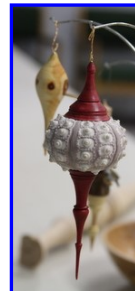
**Pete
Shea**



**Erwin
Tschanz**



Gary Russell



Members Show and Share (con't)



**Harry
Stanton**



**Don
DeBolt**



**Mike
Brawley**



**Jim
Hotaling**



**Dave
Harp**



**Dan
Meyerhoefer**



2016-17 SCHEDULE AND MENTOR CONTACTS

September 15	David Gilbert – Vacuum Hub Demo
October 20	Don Debolt/Jeff Cheramie – Windsor Chair Making on the Lathe
November 18, 19, 20	National Turner, Mark Sillay – specific topics TBD (Friday night meeting, Saturday demo, Sunday Workshop). See Mark's web site for more info on his work.
December 15	Round Robin, Holiday Themed – Jim Echter, Ed Lehman, Gary Russell, Sam Tischler
January 19	Mike Brawley – Designing Turned Forms
February 16	Mark Mazzo – Embellishment Technique
March 16-19	National Turner, John Beaver – specific topics TBD (Thurs meeting, Fri RWS presentation, Sat demo, Sunday workshop) See John's web site for more info on his work.
April 20	Denis Caysinger – Pen Making
May 18	Cliff Weatherell – Triangular Bowls

Mentor Contacts

Name	Phone	Email	Turning Skills / Specialty
Mike Brawley	755-2714	mbrawley@rochester.rr.com	Design Principles, Spindles; Bowls and Platters; Sharpening
Ward Donahue	334-3178	wddonah@frontiernet.net	Spindles; Hollowing; Coring; Sharpening
Jim Echter	377-9389	jechter@rochester.rr.com	Spindles; Sharpening; Faceplate turning
Jim Hotaling	223-4877	jhotal2198@aol.com	Christmas Ornaments
Ed Lehman	637-3525	eljw@rochester.rr.com	General Turning
Terry Lund	455-2517	terry.lund@gmail.com	General Turning; Dust Collection Design and Installation
Ralph Mosher	359-0986	2mosher@rochester.rr.com	Bowls; Faceplate Turning, Sharpening
Erwin A. Tschanz	271-5263	TschanzLandscape@aol.com	Historical; Bowls; Plates; Goblets; Boxes; Bone; Antler
David Gould	245-1212	d2sGould@aol.com	Bowls; Plates; Hollow-Forms
Terry Lund	455-2517	terry.lund@gmail.com	General turning
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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