

President's Letter January 2020



Phil Rose

Happy New Year! For those that haven't spent time with me, here is some of my background. I started woodworking when I was a pre-teen, with a great interest in furniture. However, I didn't acquire my first lathe until 2007. I was mostly self-taught – books, online, DVD – until I stumbled across FLWT. What a treasure trove of knowledge exists here! Working with National turners, local turners, and local turners who could easily be national, has pushed my skills to the next level (or more). On a personal note, I live in Sodus, run a woodturning-based art business on the side (DragonsRose.Studio), work full time at Xerox, and have acquired 16 US patents to date.

I am thrilled to be starting 2020 as the Club President, although Gary will be a hard act to follow. Gary's involvement with many of us started while working at Woodcraft, the location for the RWS SIG meetings at the time. He became a full member of FLWT just after the club officially started. In July of 2009, he became a Club Advisor to the Board. He served in that role until December 2010. After soliciting the Board for \$300 of seed money to start the Book/DVD Library, Gary changed roles to become our first Book/DVD Librarian. He served in that role until January 2016, when he was elected President of FLWT. Somewhere along the line, he became a mentor. Gary initiated the outreach program, in addition to running the daily activities of the club, and is still active in both our Perinton and Greece programs, as well as at St. Michaels. Please join me in thanking Gary for his years of service to Finger Lakes Woodturners Association!

The December holiday meeting was a hit, with multiple demonstrators, lots of food, great company and good conversations! The January challenge is to make a ring holder or create something new using the "sensational skew."

Even though last month was the last one to turn in tops for this year, don't stop – get a head-start working on next year's batch. Tops are a great way to hone your skills, and your

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 Holleder Parkway, Rochester, NY 14615. For more information, go to <http://fingerlakeswoodturners.org>.

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work puts smiles on the faces of the kids.

On Thursday, January 16, our regular monthly meeting will feature Erv Tschanz as the demonstrator. Erv has been turning for over 35 years, focusing on techniques available in the 18th and 19th centuries. He has developed some simple ways to hold blanks for plates to turn the front and hold the back without a modern jaw chuck. During the demo, he will show some of the steps he uses to finish the bottoms before turning, and after the front is completed. 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 Erv starts his demonstration.

We are starting to collect your donations for the Isaac United Way Breakfast Auction, so please bring them in at any meeting. Isaac has been exceptionally good to us – letting us use their facilities for free for the monthly and national event meetings, allowing us to store our tools and accessories on-site, and utilize their sound and TV systems during the meetings. Let's show them our appreciation by donating. I do not have a date yet for the event but typically, it's been in the Spring. I will share more information as it comes in. What a great time to clean off your display shelves and make room for new turnings!

We have seen an influx of volunteers this past year, including many people that have visited with Jim Byron to learn how to set-up and run our video system – I encourage you to keep up the effort. 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. You could volunteer to clean up, run the video system, write an

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article for the newsletter, turn tops for the kids, help instruct at our outreach events, donate to the United Way Breakfast, or any of a hundred other things – some more time consuming, and others quick and easy. Choose to join in an existing activity, or reach out with any other ideas you have. Many hands make light work.

My theme for 2020 is “try something new.” It is easy to keep doing the same things the same way, but exploration might yield something even more fun. If you need help, we have many mentors in the club – they are listed on the web site, and later in this newsletter, who will be thrilled to help you learn something new. It could be a technique, or a new tool, or a new turned object, or -- well, anything. If you need tools, we have a library of tools from which you can borrow. If you prefer to self-study, we have books and DVDs on a host of topics – borrow one and try something new.

And, after you’ve tried something new, let us all know how it went. Send a picture with a short description – or even a full article – and we’ll put it in the newsletter (newsletter@fingerlakeswoodturners.com). Bring it to Show and Share and talk about how the experience was. Or simply let your fellow club members know about the experience. With so many people and so much experience in the club, there is little reason not to explore all that turning can offer.

Try something new!

-Phil

Year End Top Report

by Jim Hotaling

In my opinion, the December meeting was a great success. The food was outstanding and the demos were very successful. One aspect of the meeting was receiving 72 tops. Those 72 tops were turned by two members. Our goal was 1200 tops and the total that I collected was 992 tops.

The tops were given out before Christmas this year so the children could enjoy them over the holidays. Shown below is how they were distributed:

225 – Hillside Family Agency
175 – CP Rochester
250 – Golisano Childrens Hospital
115 – Bethany House
225 – Pieters Family Life Center

To all those members who turned tops, thank you very, very much!!

December Meeting

by Terry Lund



Photos by Greg Zaccardo

The December meeting was our “traditional” Round Robin format which we have used for the holiday party celebration for the past years. We had a great turnout of members, and we had two new members join during the meeting.



Many great food snacks were provided by the members and we had four turning stations set up with demonstrations and/or hands on sessions.



Cliff Weatherell was set up with two mini lathes to help members learn to turn a top if anyone has not done that previously, and also the veteran top turners were encouraged to show us their technique.

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Jim Echter was showing tips and techniques with "The Sensational Skew".



Bruce Trojan was demonstrating how he turns a ring holder project, which might have given folks an idea for a possible last minute Christmas present project.



Terry Iund was set up on the club's CBN grinder to answer questions about sharpening and to sharpen tools which members brought in to the meeting. Two or three members brought tools for assistance with sharpening, and Terry was also asked general questions about sharpening techniques.

That Perfect Piece of Firewood

by Gary W. Russell

We all like to be frugal in our craft, use materials we have on hand, and to rescue what we've been working on when things have gone wrong. Because, after all, we have spent time, money and energy on that piece. Or it might just be pride in saying "I can do this". So we keep working away. But when should we have given up the ghost on that piece of wood.

Was it when we looked at that eight inch diameter log with all those splits and cracks in it? Ah but no, those cracks can be taken out with some judicious cutting and truing. So we mount it on the lathe and start cutting and cutting and cutting until we have a 4 inch cylinder. Well we did have to get all those cracks out didn't we? Now stepping back, you say "what can I make with this?" Because it's not what you started out thinking.

OK, so now we have a plan in mind; and we step back to the lathe ignoring the 6 inch deep pile of wood shavings on the floor. We start shaping away and get a really nice shaped vase or whatever and then we get that nasty spiral catch. Now, after a few choice words, we step back to the lathe again to bring that new design opportunity we just made into a piece of art.

Well we all know what will happen next don't we? Yes, we hear that all too familiar CRACK. So you say it's time to get out the CA glue. You fill the gap with glue and sawdust and say "nobody will notice". This may happen one or two more times before you finish shaping. But you continue on saying "I've spent all this time on this, and I'm going to make SOMETHING out of it".

It is now time for finishing. That first coat went on nice but after it dries you see all those bubbles or light scratches that didn't show up after all that close inspection you did. So now you say "****" (you can put in your own expletive). Sanding out those bubbles/scratches won't take too long will it? After using lots of sandpaper because it keeps clogging with finish, you now have that completed Art work.

That piece now sits in your favorite spot in the house for all to admire. It sits there for a few days and you pick it up to look at it and there it is - a nice long split.

Now you ask yourself again, when should I have thrown that piece of wood in the scrap bin, or you more likely will say "it was good practice anyway". And the next time this happens to you, do you continue on that same track? You bet! I don't think we will ever learn to identify that really, really nice piece of firewood.

Separating the Sticks from the Straw

by Gary Scialdone

This month I'd like to share two videos from a favorite YouTube turner of mine, Al Furtado. I find Al an inspiring turner who tackles unusual pieces of logs, with limited tools, including

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some shop made tools and a shop enhanced, old lathe, to produce beautiful, organic designs. He has named himself “The Rebel Turner”.



He will tackle unusual pieces and can be a bit aggressive in his approach, but I don't believe that he demonstrates any poor practices. Al usually keeps up a chatter during his turning that I find entertaining as well as instructive

The first piece that I'd like to share is a uniquely figured platter, beautiful platter turned from a pine burl. The video is [here](#).

The second turning is seen in two parts [here](#) and [here](#).

Al takes a very rough and irregularly shaped piece of a highly resinous log and creates what I believe is a dramatically beautiful form. I think that most of us would not have even started this turning because of the unusual shape. Once started, I for one would very possibly likely have given up because of the significant challenges that the turning presented. Al, however, is relentless in his efforts to get a good result from the most difficult pieces.

2020-21 SCHEDULE (part 1)

Jan 16	Erv Tschanz—Mounting and finishing platters and such without a jaw chuck
Feb 19	Dan Meyerhoefer – Turning and Embellishing Boxes
Mar 20	Phil Rose – Turning Burls
Apr 16	David Barnet – Bowl Design Considerations
May 20-25	Glenn Lucas – multiple workshops being considered. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible Wednesday workshop • Thursday FLWT meeting demo • Friday workshop during the day for experienced turners • Friday evening RWS general meeting • Saturday demonstration • Sunday hands on workshop for all turners • Possible Monday workshop
Jun 18	Terry Lund – Peppermills Revisited
July 16	Jim Echter – Boxes
Aug 20	Joe Wiesnet – Bottoms Up – Foot First

2019-20 SCHEDULE (part 2) AND MENTOR CONTACTS

Sept 19-22	<p>Trent Bosch – joint with Rochester Woodworkers Society (RWS).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday FLWT meeting demo • Friday workshop during the day for experienced turners • Friday evening RWS general meeting • Saturday demonstration • Sunday hands on workshop for all turners <p>Details for each of the activities will be posted as soon as available.</p>
Oct 15	Cindy Drozda – Remote Demo (to be confirmed after April 2020)
Nov 19	Donna Gould – Surface Embellishment
Dec 17	Round Robin – Food, Drink, and Fun

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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