

At our December 5th meeting we will finish our three-part series on making Christmas ornaments. Tom Boley will show how he makes an elegant hollow ornament with finial and icicle.

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The Call of the Lathe

Yikes! December already and I haven't even thought about Christmas gifts yet. Maybe I had better get started making some things for my family. Fortunately, with a lathe I can do that easily. Hmm. What to make, what to make....hmmm. Well, of course I can make a bowl or a tray. But this year I may make an ice cream scoop or maybe a pizza cutter. There are several companies out there which cater to we woodturners with all kinds of cool stuff to which we can add the wood component. But remember, this is the start of December so there isn't much time to get those things done.

We have done well, you and I, we Flint Hills Woodturners. We only started in March and now we have a custom logo with shirts and hats, regular meetings, a great Show and Tell each month, a web site, an absolutely outstanding newsletter, nearly thirty members, custom name tags with our logo, and a group of woodturners who have been so willing to share the "secrets" of the lathe. I sure do look forward to our monthly meetings and it is kind of a bummer when they end. Thanks for helping to make our lunch

between meetings work so well, too. It helps fill the gap and, as they say, "Ya Gotta Eat."

Woodturning is serious business. We are using heavy equipment and have to make a pretty hefty investment in gear if we are to pursue this hobby at home. Basic equipment – some kind of lathe, a couple of tools, a way to sharpen them, safety gear, and wood. But all that may run over a thousand bucks. That is not a throw-away investment. So when we all teach others about the craft, we may be getting them interested in something which they will pursue for years to come. Our mentoring program is really just now getting started well with Randy Zelenka, our VP, gathering information last month on what lathes members have and who would be interested in helping someone perfect their skills. So when you help someone learn to turn, be doubly sure that you are teaching safe techniques and viable skills which enhance learning and enjoyment of the craft.

Thanks to all of you for being a part of my life this year.

Tom Boley, President

Flint Hills Woodturners State of the Club – November 2015

The President gives his State of the Union address each year in January. I thought I should speak about FHW at our annual meeting of the corporation which is Flint Hills Woodturners. Here is essentially what I said at our November 2015 meeting:

Flint Hills Woodturners first met in March of 2015 when 21 local woodturners came together at Red Oak Hollow Lathe Works to see if there was sufficient interest in starting a woodturning club for the Manhattan Area. There was and we did, starting by selecting officers. Our first meeting was only two weeks later on the first Saturday of April. In May, we chose a name for ourselves. We have met every month since then with programs about turning a standard bowl, spindle turning, segmented turning, sharpening turning tools, hollowing, and a three-person demo on rolling pins, a tire thumper, mallet, and mushroom, followed by a challenge to the membership to make something like that for the next meeting. In the past two months, we have had demonstrations on Christmas ornaments, the first on inside-out turning, the second on eccentric turning, and the third of that series to be in Dec on turning a hollow ornament. We established a pattern of coming together for lunch about half way between regular meetings and we call that "Ya Gotta Eat." The

consensus at our annual meeting was to continue going to Pizza Ranch for now. Finally, and significantly, I spoke of the outstanding contribution Bob Holcombe has made to our success through our excellent newsletter.

But what of the future? Where do we go in 2016?

I would like to double the number of public demonstrations we have done this year and have a target of four for 2016. More would be fine. We should strive to increase our membership to 35 by the end of 2016. We will apply for an AAW grant, seeking up to \$1500 for a mini-lathe with stand and gear to be placed at Red Oak Hollow Lathe Works to support club turning events both there and at outside venues. We will initiate Skill Enhancement sessions to aid both new turners and experienced turners in learning new skills or honing current skills. We will actively seek out an opportunity to support a non-profit charity of some kind in the Manhattan area in some way. We will continue to emphasize our educational mission by continuing to have regular meetings as we have, by doing public woodturning events to showcase the craft to area residents, and through our efforts, seek to become THE woodturning center of the Midwest.

Tom Boley, President

Meeting Minutes — November 7, 2015

The monthly meeting of the Flint Hills Woodturners began at 9:00 a.m., November 7, 2015 at Red Oak Hollow Lathe Works; 4025 Walnut Creek Drive, Wamego, Kansas. President Tom Boley called the meeting to order with 18 people in attendance. During the Show and Tell activity several people showed items, including Christmas ornaments inspired by the demonstrations at the previous meeting. Following the Show and Tell activity, the club officers gave these updates:

- Vice President Randy Zelenka circulated a sign-up sheet to determine members willing to mentor others, and those wanting assistance. In addition, he collected information about lathes people own; this will be useful to members considering purchases or needing assistance with their own machines.
- Secretary David Delker reported that the Manhattan Mercury published another Lifestyle article about our club. He reminded everyone that they should contact Program Director Bob Holcombe if they are willing to present a program during 2016 or if they would like to see someone demonstrate a particular technique.
- Treasurer Tom Shields reported that we have \$616.04 in the treasury, with 29 paid members. Our silent auction items continue to be a good source of revenue. Tom encouraged members to bid on the silent auction items at the back of the shop.
- President Tom Boley reminded the members that this is our formal Annual Meeting at which we elect officers for the coming year. The current officers have agreed to continue in their roles, but others are welcome to express their interest in a club officer position if they wish to do so. Steve Harbstreet moved that the current officers be reelected for 2016. Vic Vinson seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- Tom Boley gave a "State of the Union" address regarding our club's accomplishments and goals. Highlights included:
 - Our club was formed in March and continues to grow and thrive!

- We have had a variety of quality programs each month, covering basic skills as well as more advanced techniques.
 - Our monthly newsletter is excellent (thanks to Bob Holcombe's expertise and dedication).
 - Our formal educational outreach activities included demonstrations at the Maker Faire and the Pumpkin Patch craft show. Tom would like for the club to do four events next year.
 - We are in the process of applying for an AAW grant for the purchase of a mini-lathe to support our educational mission.
 - We should support a charity event in 2016 at which we could give back to the community by donating turned pieces or by providing demonstrations.
 - We are planning an event at the Flint Hills Discovery Center to be held sometime during the spring that will include educational programs for young people on "how things are made," as well as programming for adults.
 - A primary goal for 2016 is to increase membership from 29 to 35. This would strengthen our financial resources and provide opportunities for increased interaction among members.
 - A challenging (but appropriate) goal is to make Manhattan, Kansas the "woodturning capital" of the Midwest.
- Tom Boley announced that he will demonstrate how to make a Christmas ornament using hollowing techniques at the December meeting.

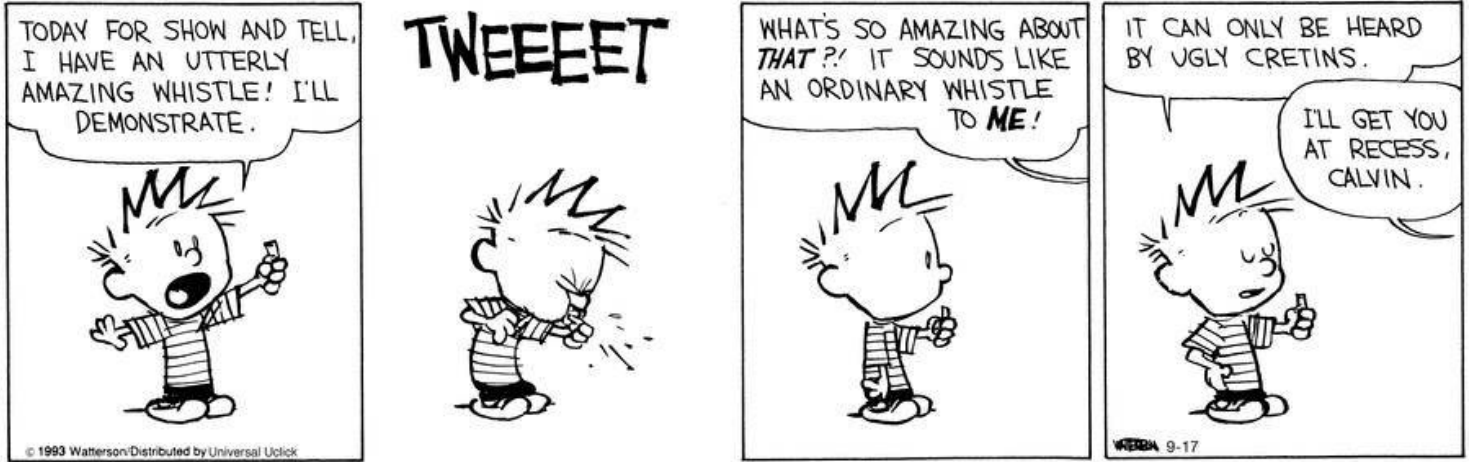
David Delker demonstrated how to make a Christmas ornament using 4-axis eccentric turning techniques applied to a piece of construction-grade lumber. He encouraged members to try this technique as a great exercise in using the skew chisel.

The next meeting will be at 9:00 a.m., December 5 in the Red Oak Hollow Lathe Works shop.

David Delker, Secretary

Show&Tell

Members are invited to bring a piece that they have turned to display and to tell other members how they made it, what was difficult or easy, what is special about it, how they finished it and anything else that will be of interest to other members.



Photos from November's Show & Tell were mistakenly used by Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade organizers as balloon floats. Your humble newsletter cretin editor apologizes and will have photos starting next month after his recess.

November Demonstration: David Delker



At our November meeting David Delker demonstrated "eccentric" turning. He showed how to sculpt a tree using four axes of rotation - a great skew chisel exercise. He also showed how to make more conventional tree ornaments using a spindle gouge, skew and parting tool. All this from scraps of construction-grade 2x4

By Tom Boley

In my basic woodturning classes, students often ask about what they need to do woodturning. It is both an easy and a complex answer. You need four things -- a lathe, tools, sharpening system, and wood. But how do you know WHICH ones? The best single piece of advice I can offer is to join a woodturning club. You will find a wealth of knowledge and friendly members willing to offer advice and even hands-on help.

If your space is limited, a mini-lathe may be just the ticket. If your funds are limited, that mini-lathe may still be the right way to go. If you want to go a bit bigger, start talking to your fellow club members to see what they have and ask if you may test-drive something in which you may have interest. But whatever you do,



Mini-lathe

whenever you buy a new lathe, whether it is your first or your fifth, don't ever say to your spouse, "Honey, this is the last lathe I'll ever need," because it will be used against you when you want to upgrade!

As for sharpening, I have to advise you to get the slow speed (1725 rpm) grinder with the Wolverine and Vari-grind jigs. There are other sharpening systems around, but the vast majority of turners use these. You can get

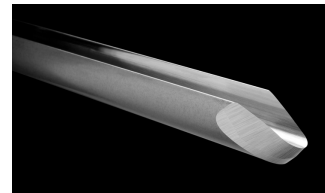


Slow speed grinder

whatever you like for your shop but when you go to someone else's shop, do a demo, or someone comes to your shop, it would be nice for everyone to use a system with which they are familiar. Once you have the grinder set up for the tool you are using, you can leave the

lathe, sharpen the tool, and be back at the lathe in 15 seconds. Don't turn with dull tools.

And that brings us to the tools you may need. You can do nearly everything with a 3/8" bowl gouge and a 1/8" parting tool. I recommend not buying the tool set with six or eight tools. You will get tools you will rarely use. Buy them one at a time and just get what you



3/8" bowl gouge

need as your skills improve. I also advise new turners to buy the Wood River brand tools from Woodcraft. That is the Woodcraft store brand and they are just fine. They are inexpensive but there is a downside. That problem is that the flute is short. Being short, a new turner will likely grind off steel pretty rapidly as you learn to sharpen and will soon have that tool ground down to the point at which you can no longer sharpen it. But by then you will have learned to sharpen. Buy a replacement with a much longer flute and it will likely last for many years.

The 1/8" parting tool is the best all-around tool for that purpose. Later on you may want to add a 1/4" diamond-shaped parting tool or other sizes.



1/8" parting tool

Sharpening is quick and easy and your parting tools will last for years because you will only use them occasionally and not for hours on end like the bowl gouges.

But what would be the next tool to buy? Three come to mind. If you want to turn spindles, anything from pens to table legs or porch posts, the bowl gouge will work

Woodturning Basics — Starting Out

BUT having a spindle roughing gouge will be handy. A 1" spindle roughing gouge is the best overall size for that tool and is to be used ONLY for spindle work, not



1" spindle roughing gouge

faceplate work such as bowls as it can be dangerous when used in that manner. Why dangerous? Two reasons, both relating to the grind on the tool. The cutting edge on this tool is wide so when presented to a piece of wood with the end grain spinning past the tool rest twice each rotation, there is a good chance of getting a bad catch in that end grain. That will be a surprise and could jerk the tool out of your hands and slam the handle into your face or up into your armpit. You will be very out of control. The other "danger" is to the tool itself because of the thin tang which sticks down into the tool handle. If you get a really bad catch, the tang may snap off right at the top end of the tool handle, rendering a very nice and reasonably expensive tool totally worthless. Stick to spindle work with this one.

If you find you are spending more and more time turning bowls, you may want to add a 1/2" bowl gouge. It is fatter so there will be less vibration and you will be able to hang it a bit farther off the tool rest. You can also rough out green wood faster because it takes a bigger bite. The third tool in this second wave of tools



3/8" spindle gouge

to buy is the spindle gouge. Turning spindles is great with a spindle roughing gouge but only if you want to keep them smooth and straight or with a light curve. If you want to turn beads, coves, and other details, get a

3/8" spindle gouge. I would add that you can also use a bowl gouge to turn spindles but a spindle gouge will be easier to use in the long run.

So, to recap, you need a lathe, tools, and a sharpening system. Yeah, you need wood, too, but that is a topic for another article. Buy tools in two waves. Get a 3/8" bowl gouge and an 1/8" parting tool first, and then add a 1" spindle roughing gouge, a 3/8" spindle gouge, and, if needed, a 1/2" bowl gouge.

But how about scrapers? You bet! They are great tools in spite of being denigrated by many. Lots of people started out with scrapers and there are many skilled turners who are well known for their products and they primarily use scrapers. Remember, never rub the bevel with a scraper. That is inviting a catch. Always angle a scraper down so the only thing touching the wood will be the edge of the tool. I particularly use scrapers



Scrapers

in two cases -- smoothing out any irregularities in the bottom of a bowl which I am having trouble smoothing with the bowl gouge and spindle turning, mainly beads and coves. I think a slicing tool will give a better finish under the cut but scraping with a nicely rolled burr will give a very good finish. A scraper can be a very aggressive tool but I don't use it that way. I like to use it with finesse rather than aggressively, taking off very fine shavings.

That's enough for now. My intention is to produce several articles about woodturning with the hope that newer turners will find this information helpful. Topics will be sharpening, mounting wood on the lathe, peripheral equipment, and so forth. If you have a particular question which you would like to see addressed, please let me know.

Flint Hills Woodturners Raffle!

Always a fun event, a raffle seems to get everyone involved in eager anticipation of having that very number held in hand drawn out of the bowl. Depending on how well it is received by the members, we hope to have a raffle at each meeting for two or three items which Woodcraft allows us to purchase at sufficient savings to use in our raffle.

This month we will have our first raffle for the following three items.



1. A 3/8" bowl gouge

The most basic bowl-turning tool you can have.

2. A pint of General Salad Bowl Finish

Considered to be a very good finish for most turned wood items.

3. A block of purpleheart.

This is Manhattan, Kansas, right? The home of Kansas State University and the Wildcats? You know, purple and white? So purpleheart is just the right wood to use for a bowl.

This block is 6x6x4.

The person whose ticket is drawn first may choose which of these he wants. The person whose ticket is drawn second gets the choice of the two remaining, and the third ticket winner gets leftovers. Tickets will be a dollar each or six tickets for five dollars. We'll draw at the end of the demo. Good luck!

Events and Marketplace

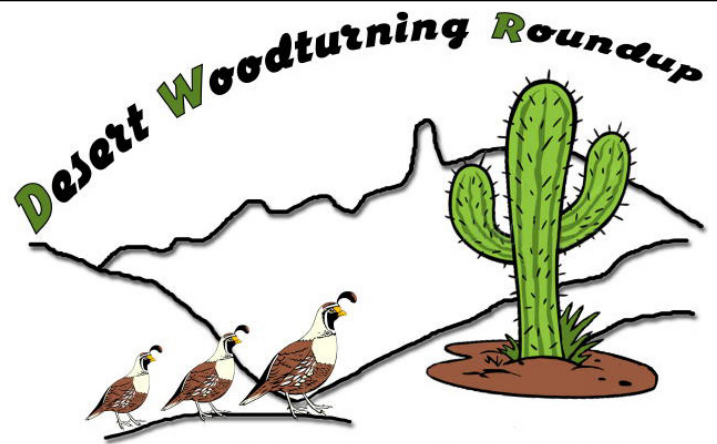


Tennessee Association of Woodturners

2016 Woodturning Symposium

January 29-30, 2016

www.tnwoodturners.org/symposium



February 26, 27, & 28, 2016

Mesa Convention Center

Mesa, AZ

<http://www.azwoodturners.org/>



ONEWAY PRODUCT SALE

20% discount on most ONEWAY products, except lathes, plus shipping.

Go to ONEWAY website www.oneway.ca to see products available.

Will provide quote upon request.

Happy and Safe Turning and Keep Those Turning Tools Sharp!

Contact CA SAVOY cadjsavoy@cox.net



Flint Hills Woodturners

Ya Gotta Eat!

Join fellow FHW members for our next
"Ya Gotta Eat" lunch at noon

Tuesday, December 15th
at Pizza Ranch on McCall Road

Please let me know if you will be able to come
so I can get a table to accommodate all of us.

And bring something for Show and Tell.

Tom Boley <tboley10@gmail.com>



Located on McCall Road, Manhattan, in front of Menards. Lunch is \$7.49 plus \$1.79 for a drink, which is \$9.28 for a pretty good pizza and chicken buffet lunch plus they have menu service.

Flint Hills Woodturners is a 501(c)(3) non-profit composed of individuals who are interested in learning and promoting the art of turning wood. Formed in March 2015 for hobbyists in the Flint Hill region of Northeast Kansas, the club welcomes all interested people to visit our meetings to get a sample of this inspiring hobby. You will find warm people from novice to expert willing to share with you. Flint Hills Woodturners is a chapter of the American Association of Woodturners.



**President
Tom Boley**

president@flintheillswoodturners.org

**Vice President
Randy Zelenka**

vicepresident@flintheillswoodturners.org

**Secretary
David Delker**

secretary@flintheillswoodturners.org

**Treasurer
Tom Shields**

treasurer@flintheillswoodturners.org

**Webmaster and Operations
Don Eisele**

webmaster@flintheillswoodturners.org

**Program Coordinator and Newsletter
Bob Holcombe**

newsletter@flintheillswoodturners.org

<http://flintheillswoodturners.org>



The American Association of Woodturners (AAW) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, dedicated to advancing the art and craft of woodturning worldwide by providing opportunities for education, information, and organization to those interested in turning wood. Established in 1986, AAW currently has more than 15,000 members and a network of more than 350 local chapters globally representing professionals, amateurs, gallery owners, collectors and wood/tool suppliers.

The mission of the American Association of Woodturners is to provide education, information and organization to those interested in turning wood.

Flint Hills Woodturners Program Schedule

Date	Member	Location
June 6	David Delker - an overview of segmented turning	Red Oak Hollow Lathe Works, Wamego
July 18 (Date change due to July 4th holiday)	Tom Boley and Tom Shields: lathe tool sharpening	Red Oak Hollow Lathe Works, Wamego
Aug 1	Randy Zelenka: hollowing	Red Oak Hollow Lathe Works, Wamego
September 5	Ready for a Challenge?	Red Oak Hollow Lathe Works, Wamego
October 3	Holiday turning Part 1 Gifts and ornaments	Red Oak Hollow Lathe Works, Wamego
November 7	Holiday turning Part 2 David Delker eccentric tree ornament	Red Oak Hollow Lathe Works, Wamego
December 5	Holiday turning Part 3 Tom Boley hollow ornament with finial and icicle	Red Oak Hollow Lathe Works, Wamego
January	Randy Zelenka: Stemmed Goblet	Red Oak Hollow Lathe Works, Wamego
February	TBA	Red Oak Hollow Lathe Works, Wamego
March	TBA	Red Oak Hollow Lathe Works, Wamego

Unless announced, all meetings start at 9:00 a.m at Red Oak Hollow Lathe Works, 4025 Walnut Creek Drive, Wamego, KS

