Flint Hills Woodturners

http://flinthillswoodturners.org January 2016

January 2nd meeting

Randy Zelenka— Turning a Stemmed Goblet

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The Call of the Lathe

Thanks to all of you for being a part of my life this year. It has been a real joy for me to be a part of the initial establishment and ongoing success of Flint Hills Woodturners. We have only been in operation for nine months and already have done so much together. And of course that is the point. We end the year with 33 members, up a dozen from our organizational meeting in March. Throughout this year, we have supported each other, learned from each other, helped each other, laughed with each other, and been all about woodturning. In a few days, it will be a new year for Flint Hills Woodturners as we turn the page on 2015. What will come? Will we have a library of books and DVDs we can check out? Will we be able to bring in someone from the outside to do a demo for us? Will our newsletter win the AAW annual best newsletter award? We can't predict the future but sure hope that all of that will come true.

In the meantime, we'll continue to come to meetings, enjoy a cup of coffee with our friends, and learn a lot about the craft. Many of our members will be up front doing a demo of some kind or giving some kind of presentation on a topic of interest to woodturners. Some of us will have some new tools to try out, maybe a new lathe. Whatever comes, we'll be basking in that joy of sharing our experiences as we continue to make round things out of wood. Isn't this just about the most enjoyable thing you have ever done!

At the December meeting, I announced that Bob Holcombe had requested that he be relieved of the job of Program Director. He has found that doing the two hardest jobs takes up too much time. He'll still be the Newsletter Editor, and David Delker, our Secretary, has asked to move to the Program Director position. Dan Zeller has stepped forward for the Secretary position for which I am most grateful. We need to have the membership concur on Dan as Secretary so at the January meeting, I will ask if anyone else would also like to be Secretary and then we will have a quick election to make it official.

I have a feeling 2016 will be a great year for Flint Hills Woodturners. See you at the lathe.

Meeting Minutes — December 5, 2015

The monthly meeting of the Flint Hills Woodturners began at 9:00 a.m., December 5, 2015 at Red Oak Hollow Lathe Works; 4025 Walnut Creek Drive, Wamego, Kansas. President Tom Boley called the meeting to order with 25 people in attendance, including five first-time guests. The club officers gave these updates:

- President Tom Boley asked the members to assist in the club officer duties. Specifically, Bob Holcombe serves as both the Newsletter Editor and the Program Director. Bob's load would be more appropriate and manageable if someone else were to take on the Program Director duties. David Delker has volunteered to do the Program Director job if someone were to assume his role as Secretary. Members should speak with Tom Boley if they are willing to assume one of these leadership roles.
- Ned Gatewood offered to coordinate bulk purchases from Oneway through CA Savoy, a club member living in Virginia. The website www.oneway.ca includes product descriptions of items they offer.
- Vice President Randy Zelenka is collecting recommendations for DVDs and books to include in the club library. Items will be purchased as funds become available. Donations of used, but relevant, educational materials are encouraged, as well.
- Secretary David Delker reported that the Manhattan Mercury published another Lifestyle article about our club.
- Treasurer Tom Shields reported that we have $813.09 in the treasury.
- Program Director Bob Holcombe announced future program topics: Randy Zelenka will demonstrate making a goblet in January. Finishing will be the topic for the February meeting, with demonstrators to be determined. Tom Shields will demonstrate making a turned box in March.

Tom Boley demonstrated how to make a hollow Christmas ornament using miniature hollowing tools. In addition, he showed how to turn finials and make and attach a custom wire hanger.

A bowl gouge, a block of purpleheart, and a can of finish were included in the club's first raffle. The hope is that proceeds from ticket sales will exceed the discounted cost of the items given away. A full financial report of the activity will be given at the next meeting.

During the Show and Tell activity several members displayed and discussed items they had created.

The next meeting will be at 9:00 a.m., January 2, 2016 in the Red Oak Hollow Lathe Works shop.

Show&Tell

Emily Dabeck

John Lewis-Smith

David Delker

Tom Shields

Ray Case

Show&Tell

Dennis Biggs

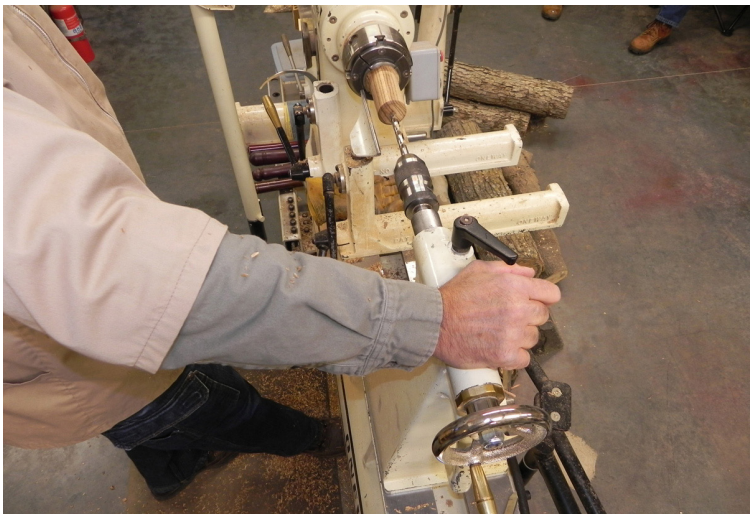
Ned Gatewood

Joe Beck

Carl Treece

Randy Zelenka

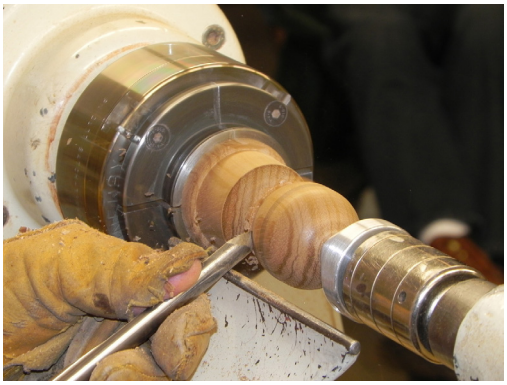
December Demonstration: Tom Boley



Tom started by creating the globe using a spindle roughing gouge to turn a square block round. He then drilled a hole through the globe. He uses the hole in both the top and bottom to center and fit the finial and icicle. The hole also helps as he hollows the globe.

Using a 1/2" parting tool to remove wood from the end of the globe.

With a spindle gouge, Tom starts to shape the globe.

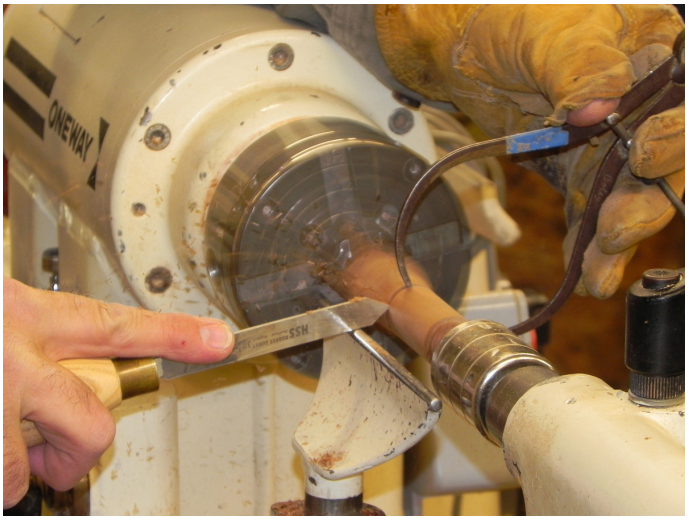


Refining the globe.

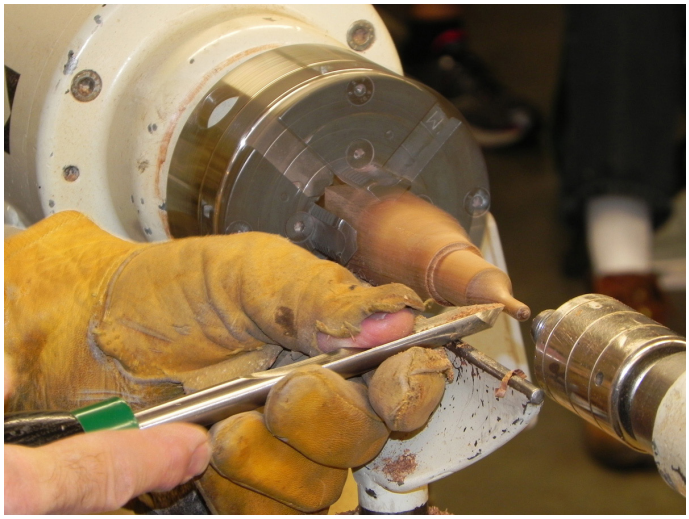
Using hollowing tools made by CA Savoy, Tom hollowed the globe. Shown here, he uses a homemade wire guide to measure the wall thickness.

Tom used a short piece of clear tubing to blow out wood shavings from inside of the globe,

The globe is parted and the top hole is measured with calipers for a finial.



The finial tenon is turned first...



...and then the finial.

Fits perfectly.

Now it's time to turn the icicle.

Tom takes a moment to sharpen his spindle gouge using a Vari-Grind jig and a slow speed grinder.

With a fresh cutting edge, he starts from the bottom tip of the icicle and works his way to its tenon. Lightly sanding as needed.

A light touch is used to create this delicate piece.

The icicle is parted from the block.

Make a wire hanger, glue the finial and icicle to the globe, apply a finish and a classic ornament is ready to hang.

Woodturning Basics
Sharpening

By Tom Boley

You need four things in order to be a woodturner – a lathe, tools, a way to sharpen them, and wood. This month I want to address the issue of sharpening as it is a basic necessity in our craft. Without a way to sharpen our tools well and efficiently, we will gradually be more and more frustrated and likely drop out of the craft altogether. So let's nip that problem in the bud right now.

When I got my first lathe, it was a used Sears 4-speed from the classified ads section of the paper. The seller even gave me three Craftsmen turning tools with it, two of which I still use. But what I didn't know about sharpening would fill a book. I had always sharpened my tools with a sharpening stone. I watched my dad sharpen the kitchen knives on his stone so I figured that was how to sharpen everything. What I found was that trying to hand-sharpen a curved edge set at a 55 degree angle on a sharpening stone was pretty darn tough. Oh, I managed a bit but one day at a meeting of Capital Area Woodturners (CAW), the demonstrator turned to a grinder he had set up, and in a few seconds was back at the lathe with a sharp tool. WOW! What a revelation. So that was the second in a series of purchases I have made in my woodturning life, getting a grinder with a grinding jig to properly position the tools when sharpening.

It seems there are basically two kinds of grinders, high speed and low speed. Even the low speed grinders

Slow speed grinder

are spinning pretty fast, about 1750 rpm. The high speed grinders double that. Low speed is preferable to what we do. Grinders come with two grinding wheels, coarse and not so coarse. The coarse wheel is usually something like 60- or 80-grit, a good wheel for shaping tools as it cuts the steel away pretty fast.

The other wheel may be something like 120-grit, a much finer wheel which will sharpen just fine but not wear the steel away so quickly. The details of grinding wheel materials is beyond this article, but your fellow woodturners, the guys at Woodcraft, or other source will be able to advise which ones may be preferable. I find that the coarse wheel works well to properly shape a tool but for regular sharpening, the finer wheel is preferable. There is also a new product on the market called cubic boron nitride, or CBN.

CBN wheels

It is an abrasive substance which is bonded to steel wheels and is far superior to regular grinding wheels but is also far more expensive. I definitely don't recommend it for new turners. Once you are solidly into the craft, then give CBN wheels some consideration. Another make of grinder is Tormek and some woodturners use that equipment. It works well, is water-cooled as it sharpens, and there are jigs with which you can hold woodturning tools against the stone. I don't have one but encourage you to ask around among your fellow woodturners as some have them and can describe their use.

Tormek grinder

You also must have a way to hold the tool to the edge of the grinding wheel in a way which will result in a nice sharp edge without grinding off too much metal. There are several sharpening rigs available but the vast majority of turners use the slow speed grinder with the Wolverine jig, which is what I recommend. That

Wolverine jig

is what you will find when you use a grinder away from your own shop and you will be familiar with it. The Wolverine system is made by Oneway, a maker of outstanding lathes and other related equipment. Talk to someone about it if you aren't familiar with it for tips on how to set it up. Once set up, you will be able to leave the lathe, sharpen the tool, and be back at the lathe in fifteen seconds.

Now, how about the tools themselves. The basic tools are the bowl gouge, spindle gouge, parting tool, spindle roughing gouge, and scraper. An additional jig which you will need with the Wolverine system is the Vari-Grind jig which you will use to hold both the bowl gouge and spindle gouge. The Vari-Grind jig sits in the pocket bar, part of the Wolverine system, and holds the tool against the wheel at whatever angle you set. Generally, having the tool extend 2" beyond the face of the Vari-Grind holder is best. I have a little stop-block on my lathe which is 2" from the front of the wood base so I can easily set the tool 2" through the Vari-Grind jig and tighten it down. Set the Vari-Grind in the pocket bar and slide the bar in or out so the bevel on the end of the tool rests flush against the wheel. Once set up, you can step to the grinder to quickly sharpen the tool and return to the lathe.

Vari-Grind jig

I will give you the bevel angles which seem to work best for me. I recommend them but will also tell you that a little more or less than noted here is just fine. But what is a bevel? That is what we woodturners call the part of the tool which is held against the grinding wheel to sharpen it. The angles which I use are these, all in degrees:

Parting tools	**25**
Spindle gouges	**35**
Spindle roughing gouges	**45**
Bowl gouges	**55 - 60**
Scrapers	**80**

To sharpen a parting tool, place the handle end of the tool in the pocket of the pocket bar and slide the bar in or out to bring the bevel of the tool against the wheel. This is most easily and accurately done with the grinder off and the wheel stopped. As you sharpen the parting tool, be cautious that you are grinding it so the cutting tip is 90 degrees to the shaft of the tool and the bevel on one side matches the length of the bevel on the other side.

To sharpen spindle and bowl gouges, extend the tool from the Vari-grind holder 2" and then establish the proper angle to the wheel as noted above. Once the tool is placed in the Vari-Grind jig, place the bottom end of the Vari-grind in the pocket and adjust the pocket bar so the bevel matches the angle of the wheel. Grind one side of the gouge, then the other side, then connect them across the point. You are looking for a slightly convex curve across the top profile of the edge. If you try to sharpen the tool by swinging the tool from one side to the other at a steady speed, you will end up spending too much time on the point and not enough time on the sides of the bevel and will grind too much off the tip.

For the spindle roughing gouge, place the handle end of the tool in the pocket bar pocket and move the pocket bar so the bevel of the tool matches the curve of the wheel. Be cautious with this one as it is easy to rotate the tool too far left and right as you sharpen and end up grinding back the right and left corners of the gouge. Note that the shape of this tool is not a half circle but a parabola. Don't over rotate the tool on the wheel as the end of the tool should be straight across from tip around the curve to the other tip. You should be able to put the end of the tool against a flat surface and have the entire cutting edge touch that surface.

The angle on a scraper is about 80 degrees and is most easily achieved by using the platform rather than the pocket bar. Set the platform with the scraper flat on the top so the bevel of the scraper is aligned with the grinding wheel. For a round nose scraper, in one smooth motion, start at one side of the scraper and grind around the end to the other side, moving the handle from one side to the other with one hand and keeping the blade of the scraper flat down on the platform with the other hand. Other scrapers will be sharpened pretty much the same, following the shape of the tool.

Sharpening is critical to woodturning. We in woodturning seem to always be willing to help our fellow turners with technique and sharpening is no different. Don't hesitate to ask around about sharpening, especially if you have a particular tool which presents problems in sharpening.

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

ONEWAY MANUFACTURING
Superior Design, Legendary Quality

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, January 19th
at Sirloin Stockade, 325 E Poyntz Ave
Between Faith Furniture and the old Kmart.

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*>

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.

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AAW | AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS

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
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 2, 2016	Randy Zelenka: Stemmed Goblet	Red Oak Hollow Lathe Works, Wamego
February 6	Finishing	Red Oak Hollow Lathe Works, Wamego
March 5	Tom Shields: Turning a box	Red Oak Hollow Lathe Works, Wamego
April	TBA	
May 7	Steve Harbstreit: Pen Turning	Red Oak Hollow Lathe Works, Wamego
June 4	TBA	

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