



<http://flinthillswoodturners.org>

May 2016



# Pen Turning 101

Join us on May 7th as Steve Harbstreit demonstrates the basics of pen turning.

## In this issue:

Feb./Meeting/Program ..... 1  
 Presidents Message ..... 2

Woodturning Basics ..... 3  
 Happy Birthday FHW ..... 6

Events & Marketplace ..... 8  
 About FHW ..... 9

# The Call of the Lathe

Spring has sprung and it is such a joy to fling the door of the shop or the garage open and enjoy the fresh air of spring while turning. Sometimes that even draws neighbors to come see what we are doing. I sure do enjoy sharing the craft with others and suspect that you do, too.

They say that without change, a process cannot improve. That makes sense. If everything stays the same, then everything is done the same old way. It takes new ideas, new blood, new people, and new ideas to effect change sometimes. So, here are the changes. Don Eisele, our Ops Officer and Webmaster, has just not been able to manage both positions because of work and the new baby. So he will continue as Webmaster but will give up the Ops job. Randy Zelenka, our VP, has offered to take on Operations and I know he will do a great job there with all the training he has gotten as VP. So we have a vacancy on the Board. We need a new Vice President. What is the job of the VP, you ask? Well, besides running the meeting when the President is absent, the VP sort of gets all the little odd jobs which don't conveniently and easily fall within the realm of one of the other officers. Randy has been coordinating the Mentor program as well as keeping track of who has what lathe so when one of our members starts thinking about upgrading, Randy would know who has the lathe he or she is considering. Like any job, it can be whatever you make it. Please let me know if you are interested in being our new VP or who you may recommend for the position.

We have been invited back to the Discovery Center for another demo on 21 May. I will provide more details when I know more.

We have also been invited by the Independence Woodturners to participate in a pen turning event at Camp Tomah-Shinga on the south side of Junction City this summer. This will be at an adventure camp for high school youth and will be two Wed evenings, the

22<sup>nd</sup> of June and the 13<sup>th</sup> of July. The Independence Woodturners president has a connection with the camp so offered to introduce their campers to woodturning through making a pen. There will be about 15 campers each of those weeks and we would work alongside some of the Independence guys to help the campers each turn a pen. The Independence club will make up the blanks and bring mandrels. They have asked us to bring a couple lathes and tools as well as people to help with the process. Once again, here is a great opportunity to introduce woodturning to a group of young folks who may be from our area. More info to come as we get closer.

I have sure handed out a lot of our FHW brochures and cards and bet that you have, too. It's a great way to spread the word about who we are and what we do as well as to invite others to "take a turn."

— Tom Boley

## Friendship

I have recently lost two friends, one, a retired NCIS special agent and a real gem of a person in Ramona, CA, the other a delightful fellow woodturner from Capital Area Woodturners in Alexandria, VA. And I didn't even know they were sick. Many people are very private when it comes to their personal situations and I certainly respect that, but I would sure like to have known those fellows were ill as I would very much have wanted to send them a card with a note at a minimum or even given them a call to chat. Now they are gone and it is too late. We all make our own decisions about privacy and that is certainly important and respected, but please consider letting the rest of us know if you are ill as there may be some who'd like to make contact with you and wouldn't know to do so otherwise. We all hope this illness won't be our last but if it is, it will be too late to hear from your friends.

By Tom Boley

“Chucking” means gripping the wood on the lathe so it is held securely while the lathe spins the wood. Methods include spur drives, safe drives, collet chucks, screw chucks, 4-jaw chucks, vacuum chucks, faceplates, jam chucks, and glueblocks. Let’s go in order.

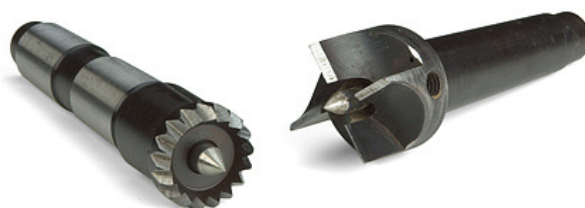
There are several methods of holding the wood on the lathe, the most basic of which is a spur drive. If you bought a lathe, you very likely got a spur drive with it. That is the piece with the Morse taper on the back end, a point in the middle of the fat end, and four relatively sharp vanes sticking out from the face of the fat end and surrounding the point.



Let me comment for a moment about the Morse taper. Inside the threaded drive on the headstock is a hole which goes through the entire headstock. That hole is tapered to smaller as it goes in. When you put a

corresponding tapered piece in the end, such as that spur drive, it mates with the taper in the drive and will not allow the spur drive to be pushed farther in no matter how much pressure you put on the piece with the tailstock wheel. But you must take care of it. All the Morse tapers at the drive end of the lathes with which I am familiar are #2 Morse tapers. Morse tapers come in sizes from a #0 to a #7, which is more than 3” across! The ones you will likely see are #2 and #3. Keep ‘em clean. Woodcraft and other sources sell a hard rubber reamer and you should have one so that you can clean the taper out occasionally to ensure a good mating. Don’t use grease, oil, WD-40, or any other lubricant on this. If you notice a burr on the taper of the tool you intend to insert, carefully file it off smoothly before you insert it or you could damage the interior of the tapered hole. Most lathes have the #2 Morse taper on the drive side and some have a #3 Morse taper on the tailstock side.

So, back to the spur drive. These are most often used for spindle turning but may also be used for other jobs as well. Center the spur drive on your piece, bring up the tailstock with a live center (also known as a bearing center) to the other end, and then tighten up the tailstock end so the spurs bite into the left side or end of your wood. Spur drives come in different sizes and styles for different applications.



There is also something called a “safe drive” and is a good tool to have in your kit. The safe drive is sort of like a spur drive and is used the same way but doesn’t have the spurs. Instead, around the point is a smooth ring of steel which will bite into the end of your spindle blank with enough force to drive it but if you get a bad catch, instead of tearing out a chunk of wood, the spindle will just stop in place while that safe drive continues to spin in the end of it. These are really only used for spindle work but can save you having to start over again if you get a bad catch while making that table leg for your neighbor.



Moving up the chucking hierarchy, next is the collet chuck. This is a device which goes into that Morse taper in the drive and holds a piece by tightening a collar around flexible arms inside the chuck.

When you are done, you remove the piece by loosening the collar.

Next is the screw chuck. Essentially, a screw chuck is just that, a screw of some kind which is screwed into a pre-drilled hole in the wood. As the wood is screwed onto the screw chuck, it indexes up against the face of the chuck which provides stability to the piece. When you buy a four-jaw chuck, which we'll discuss in a moment, you get a spur drive with it. Grip the base of the screw in the center of the standard size jaws and tighten it well. When you screw on the wood, it will index against the top edge of all four jaws and be



quite stable. There are also dedicated screw chucks such as the Jerry Glaser Screw Chuck, an expensive but absolutely outstanding piece of equipment. There is more information on the web site of the company which now makes the Glaser Screw Chuck -- <http://www.glaserhitec.com/shop/glaser-screw-chuck>. The basic unit has a small face but it comes with a screw-on collar which gives the option of two more face sizes. And there is a larger collar yet which is available for the next two sizes. The thing about a screw chuck is that the piece of wood must index down on the face of the chuck in order to be stable. There is also a very small screw chuck which is available into which you place your own wood screw for turning small stuff such as drawer knobs.

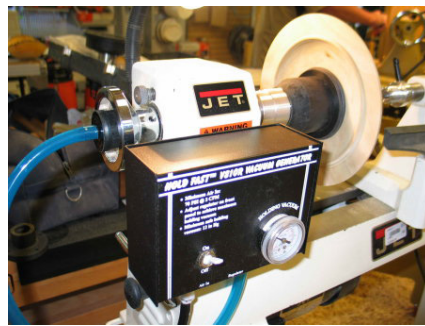
And now, the four-jaw chuck. Several companies make these, with different prices. All come with their standard #2 jaws and a screw for screw-chucking as I mentioned above. The great thing about four-jaw chucks is that you can get a wide range of jaw sizes and shapes for holding nearly anything which will fit into



the jaws. For example, when turning a bowl, shape the outside of the piece of wood and cut a tenon on the bottom to fit the jaws of the chuck. When you reverse the bowl, grip the tenon in the four jaws of the chuck to be able to access the inside of the bowl for hollowing.

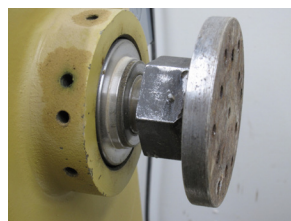
Note the shape of the jaws. Some have a straight up and down face with several sharp ridges to grip a tenon. Some are shaped to fit a dovetailed tenon. Pay attention to the shape of the inside face of your jaws so you can shape the tenon accordingly for the best grip. Many companies make these – Oneway, Nova, Vicmarc, and others. Besides gripping a tenon by tightening around it, four-jaw chucks can be used to expand into a mortise in a piece, too. For example, you could cut a mortise into the bottom of a platter, place that mortise over the jaws of the chuck, and then expand the jaws to grip the inside of the mortise. A four-jaw chuck is an expensive addition to your kit but will be one of the best buys you make in woodturning.

Another chucking method to mention is the vacuum chuck. A hollow tube is mounted into a base of some kind with soft material around the top edge of the tube. The base into which the tube is mounted has either

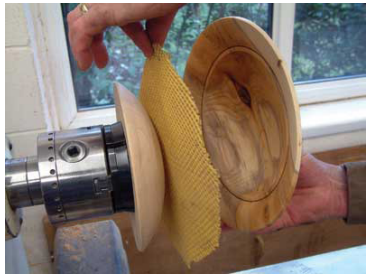


a small face plate or a threaded nut imbedded in the base which will screw onto the drive. A vacuum pump is attached to draw vacuum through the headstock. When turned on, the vacuum may draw as much as 25psi, firmly holding your piece against whatever style vacuum chuck you have mounted on the working side of the headstock. These may be used in many applications but are especially useful for finishing off the bottom of a bowl without the tailstock in the way. Vacuum chucks are available commercially but are pretty easy to make from a threaded nut which fits the drive of your lathe, a block of wood, and a piece of PVC pipe.

The faceplate is likely the most secure means of holding wood on the lathe. Faceplates are most often used when turning bowls. The faceplate is centered on the side of the block of wood which will become the inside



of the bowl. Several screws are driven through holes in the faceplate into the wood. That allows the wood to be mounted on the lathe with what will be the inside of the bowl facing to the left toward the headstock. You can easily shape the outside of the bowl and cut a tenon for later use with a four jaw chuck. When you remove the screws and faceplate, there will be holes in the top of the wood block but those will go away as you hollow out the inside of the bowl. If your piece of wood is thick enough for your purpose, you can mount the faceplate as noted, screw it onto the lathe drive, and then shape both the outside and inside of the bowl without removing the faceplate. Once that is done, you can then remove the faceplate, reverse the piece by jam-chucking, and finish off the bottom.



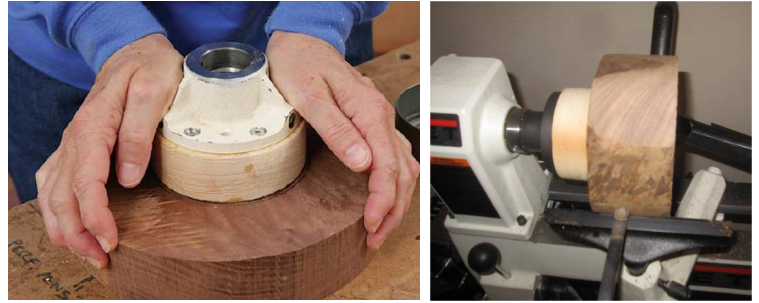
Jam-chucking? Mount a separate piece of wood on a faceplate or in a four jaw chuck and attach it to the lathe. Round out the face of that piece and roughly shape it to match the curve of the inside of

your bowl. Pad it well with paper towels, mouse pad, or some other flexible material, and place the inside of the bowl over it. Bring the tailstock up to the center of the tenon on the bottom and screw the tailstock tightly against the center of the tenon. That presses the bowl tightly against that block of wood which you just shaped to fit the inside of the bowl and by “jamming”



it tightly against it, creates the jam-chuck effect so you can finish off the bottom of the bowl. Because tailstock pressure has to be maintained, you may be able to shape most of the base of the bowl but have to leave a small pin between the live center and the base of the bowl. Sand what you can, remove the bowl from the lathe, cut off the pin, and sand the remainder by hand.

And then there is the glue block. The glue block is used when you don't want or can't use one of the above chucking methods directly into or onto the piece of wood you will be turning. Let's call that the target wood block. One face of the target block must



be very flat and dry. Cut another piece of dry wood at least an inch thick with nice flat sides into a round block. That becomes the glue block. Using wood glue on both the new glue block and the target block, press the two together so the glue block is centered on the target block and either clamp them together or place the target on the floor or a table and stack something heavy on top of the glue block for 24 hours until the glue sets completely. You can then use some of the chucking methods described above to attach to the glue block. When you shape the target piece, you will not have to waste any wood to get rid of chucking marks or holes. At the end of the process, turn the glue block away leaving your bowl behind and finish off the base. The main advantage of the glue block is that you have been able to use all the wood of the target block and not have had to cut any away just to get rid of chucking marks or holes.

This is by no means all the information available on these common methods of gripping wood for turning but is meant to pique your interest in methods which may be helpful to you. Talk to your fellow woodturners about these methods to ensure that you understand each method and see what works for them. You will surely find many who would be quite willing to have you visit their shops for a first-hand look at chucks and their many uses.

— Tom Boley

# Happy Birthday FHW

On April 2nd, Flint Hills Woodturners celebrated their first anniversary with a potluck dinner at First United Methodist Church, Manhattan.



A wonderful spread of delicious food went fast. Thanks to Kevin Roberts for smoked pork.





Future woodturner Stark Dennis Eisele, and proud Mom Jen and Papa Don.



The Show & Tell table.



Barbara Drolet presented Tom Boley with a framed copy of the recent Manhattan Mercury cover story about Tom and Flint Hills Woodturners.



Thanks to everyone for making our first birthday a success.

*And a very special thank you to Judi Boley* 

# Events and Marketplace



## AAW's 30th Annual International Symposium

June 9-12, 2016

[www.woodturner.org](http://www.woodturner.org)

### **ONEWAY** MANUFACTURING Superior Design, Legendary Quality

### **ONEWAY** PRODUCT SALE

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

Go to ONEWAY website [www.oneway.ca](http://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](mailto:cadjsavoy@cox.net)



## Basic Bowl Class

It used to be called University for Man but over the years, has evolved to just UFM Manhattan and their array of classes is terrific. Among the class selections are iCan with iPad, Sushi Rolling, Genealogy Essentials, Beekeeping, Archery for Adults, and Woodturning for Beginners. It is that last one which is now taught by Tom Boley at his shop, Red Oak Hollow Lathe Works. The class project is a small bowl and is suitable for never-before turners or for those who would like to add bowl turning to their repertoire of woodturning skills. Contact UFM at [tryufm.org](http://tryufm.org) or e-mail them at [info@tryufm.org](mailto:info@tryufm.org). Their phone number is 785-539-8763. This is a great way to jump right into the craft of woodturning in a formal way with an excellent instructor in a comfortable woodshop setting. Come, learn to turn.



Community Learning Center  
[tryufm.org](http://tryufm.org)

# Ya Gotta Eat!



## Flint Hills Woodturners

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

**Wednesday, May 18**

at Sirloin Stockade, 325 E Poyntz Ave

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

Tom Boley <[tboley10@gmail.com](mailto:tboley10@gmail.com)>

Bring something for Show and Tell.



**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@flinthillswoodturners.org

**Vice President**

**Open**

vicepresident@flinthillswoodturners.org

**Secretary**

**Dan Zeller**

secretary@flinthillswoodturners.org

**Treasurer**

**Tom Shields**

treasurer@flinthillswoodturners.org

**Program Coordinator**

**David Delker**

program@flinthillswoodturners.org

**Operations**

**Randy Zelenka**

operations@flinthillswoodturners.org

**Webmaster**

**Don Eisele**

webmaster@flinthillswoodturners.org

**Newsletter**

**Bob Holcombe**

newsletter@flinthillswoodturners.org

<http://flinthillswoodturners.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 and Events

Date	Program/Event	Location
March 24	Skill Enhancement 7:00 – 9:30 PM	Red Oak Hollow Lathe Works, Wamego
April 2	Skill Enhancement 8:00 AM – Noon	Red Oak Hollow Lathe Works, Wamego
	Flint Hills Woodturners Potluck 5:00 to 8:00 PM	First United Methodist Church 612 Poyntz Ave, Manhattan
 May 7	Steve Harbseit: Pen Turning	Red Oak Hollow Lathe Works, Wamego
May 11	Skill Enhancement 7:00 – 9:30 PM	Red Oak Hollow Lathe Works, Wamego
May 31	Skill Enhancement 7:00 – 9:30 PM	Red Oak Hollow Lathe Works, Wamego
 June 4	Finishing, Part 2	Red Oak Hollow Lathe Works, Wamego
 July 2	Tips and Tricks Mini-Demos	Red Oak Hollow Lathe Works, Wamego
 August 6	Woodturning Design and Critiquing your Work	Red Oak Hollow Lathe Works, Wamego

Unless announced, meetings are held at  
Red Oak Hollow Lathe Works,  
4025 Walnut Creek Drive, Wamego, KS.

Meetings start at 9:00 a.m. but come any time after 8.

