



<http://flintheillswoodturners.org>

August 2017



The August program will feature two of our top turners (pun intended), Randy Zelenka and Bob Holcombe, who will demonstrate how to turn spin tops on the lathe. In addition to creating various styles of spin tops, Randy and Bob will demonstrate their expertise at spinning them, so don't miss this great program!

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# The Call of the Lathe – August 2017

We are well into our third year of operation as a woodturning club and I would say that things seem to be going very well. Many thanks to all of you who contribute all the time to our efforts to make this a success.

One of my goals for last year was to support one charity event through member donations of turned wood items to a raffle or auction which they may hold as a fund-raiser. We supported Hospice last year and then supported a couple other charities, too, as well as the AAW Beads of Courage project and I thought we definitely showed ourselves as community-minded. Well, the word has gotten out about us so we also have requests from time to time from other charities asking for support. Hospice has requested our support again this year. Others will likely follow but I would like to ask you if you think we should pick a primary charity to support annually and then support others as requested. Let's discuss it at our August meeting.

For those of you whose shops are in the garage, I feel your pain. My shop was in the garage for many years and it was too hot in the summer and too cold in the winter. If you are someone who has a garage shop where it is just too darn hot to stand at the lathe, you are sure welcome to come use my shop. I am out there a lot so if you want to come here to do some turning in climate-controlled conditions, just let me know. I have a couple extra lathes.

Not much news yet on the new place. I talked to them last week about it. They thought the A/C people were coming to put in the A/C but it turned out they were just coming to look over the place to see what they needed to make the installation. Apparently, getting their climate system at no cost has been approved but that puts them totally at the mercy of the company which will do the work. I'll stay in touch with them and keep you posted as we slowly creep toward our move to their shop. As Shakespeare once said, "We ain't movin' 'till the A/C is in." Maybe that wasn't Shakespeare...

Fall craft show season is cranking up and along with that, our plans for a booth at Pumpkin Patch in CiCo Park and at the Mini-Makers Faire in Aggieville. These public events are sure fun. Our purpose is two-fold, of course. We want to educate the public about the craft of woodturning and we hope to interest a few people in actually pursuing woodturning as a hobby. We will need volunteers from among our members to staff the booth at both events, some to do actual woodturning so people can see what it is and others to "work the crowd," explaining woodturning to everyone who comes by. Those of you who have done it know that it is a kick to be able to talk to people about the craft and the equipment. When Steve Bietau passes out the sign-up sheets, I hope you will flood him with volunteers.

And finally, be safe out there.

—Tom Boley, President



# Meeting Minutes — July 1, 2017

The monthly meeting of the Flint Hills Woodturners began at 9:00 a.m., July 1, 2017 at Red Oak Hollow Lathe Works, 4025 Walnut Creek Drive, Wamego, Kansas. President Tom Boley called the meeting to order.

The meeting began with Show and Tell. Members Ross Hirst, Randy Zelenka, Tom Shields, David Delker, Gary Hobbie, guest Gary Burgert, Ray Case, Peter Dorhout, Victor Schwarz, Barbara Drolet, Nyle Larson, Bob Holcombe, Tom Shields, Joe Beck, Dennis Biggs, Tom Boley, and Robert Kloppenborg shared their recent work.

## Officers' Reports:

**President:** Tom Boley welcomed our guests today: Karl Dean, Gary Burgert, and Stuart Schwarz. Tom encouraged these guests to join the Flint Hill Woodturners club and encouraged new and existing members to participate in Skill Enhancement sessions. The cost of each session is \$5 to cover the cost of equipment replacement. FHW was well represented at the American Association of Woodturners' Symposium in Kansas City, and Tom expressed appreciation for those donating boxes to the Beads of Courage program. We donated 18 boxes! Next year's Symposium will be held in Portland Oregon. A new meeting location seems to have been found at Gary Lagrange's business on East Highway 24. There is a large workshop in the back of his business where bee keeping supplies are made. Heating and air conditioning equipment will hopefully be soon installed and then we can hold monthly meetings there. Tom announced board member elections are

coming up. FHW hats are available for sale. Tom took subscriptions for Woodworking West magazine at \$10 per year.

**Vice President:** no report

**Secretary:** no report

**Treasurer:** Tom Shields announced we currently have \$3,362. in the treasury.

**Program Director:** David Delker reported the August program will be on top making by Bob Holcombe and Randy Zelenka. The September program will be Tom Boley turning banksia pods. And the October program will deal with specialty finishes.

**Operations:** Steve reminded members of the upcoming Mini Makers Faire and Pumpkin Patch and asked for volunteers to help run our booth.

**Newsletter:** no report

At this month's raffle, Tom Shields, Terry Schmidt, Dan Zeller, Victor Schwarz, Robert Kloppenborg, Bob Holcombe, Joe Beck, Ross Hirst, Ray Case, and Sandra McIntyre won valuable prizes.

The next Flint Hills Woodturning meeting will be Saturday, August 5, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. in Red Oak Hollow Lathe Works.

— Ned Gatewood, Secretary



# From the Program Director:

## August Program: Spinning Tops.

Last month's Tips and Tricks program was a great success, thanks to the seven members who shared their ideas. Unfortunately, we ran out of time and had to postpone Tom Boley's Tips and Tricks presentation for a future meeting, so this month we will kick off our program with Tom sharing some of his favorite tips and tricks. I know he has some great ideas to share!

Our featured demonstrators this month will be Bob Holcombe and Randy Zelenka, who will show us how to make spin tops on the lathe. Their program will be just in time to show you how to make tops for "giveaways" at our public demonstration at the Pumpkin Patch Arts and Crafts Fair in October. And, of course, spin tops make great gifts to share with family and friends, and they can bring out the inner child in all of us!

## Future Programs:

We have more great programs in store for us in future months! The September program will feature Tom Boley demonstrating how to turn a banksia seed pod. Banksia seed pods are the fruit of a tree native to Australia and New Guinea. If you haven't seen one, do a Google search to discover how they can be turned into something special!

October's program will focus on unique finishing techniques. Included in the program will be Rusty Smith showing us how he uses an iridescent finish to enhance his woodturning projects.

Feel free to contact me if you have something you would like to demonstrate (or to see demonstrated) at a future meeting. I would be happy to visit with you and help you develop your idea into an excellent program! -- David Delker, Program Director.



## Some Spin Top Trivia:

No one knows when the spin top was invented, but history records that spin tops were used for recreation by children and adults thousands of years ago. I rounded up a few online resources to whet your appetite for making and spinning your own tops.

First, you've got to see this video showing some folks in Taiwan that take top spinning competition very seriously: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sLYazynm\\_1M](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sLYazynm_1M)

Here's a classic (1969) video showing a wide variety of historical tops: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UJ-VFMymEiE>

If you get serious about top spinning, you can check out

the International Top Spinners Association (ITSA): <http://www.spintops.org/>

Finally, there's still time to sign up for the 2017 World Spintop Contest to be held in Reyjavik, Iceland, August 10-12: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h0-0lfG5fwE>

## Good advice from a fellow turner



### **Wear Your Face Shield All the Time!**

When an 8" bowl turning at 1500 RPM's breaks up and comes flying off the lathe, it's traveling at a speed of 36 miles per hour. That's fast, and the sharp pieces of the bowl can do a lot of damage to your face. Blood, the emergency room, stitches, money, and a nasty scar can be involved. So do what you know you should do; wear your face shield ALL the time you're turning! It's worth the effort. And you don't want blood staining that pretty bowl.

# Show & Tell



David Delker



Ray Case



Ross Hirst



Randy Zelenka



Terry Schmidt



Tom Boley



Barbara Drolet



Robert Kloppenborg



Joe Beck



Tom Shields



Victor Schwarz



Peter Dorhout



Nyle Larson



Gary Burgert



Dennis Biggs

# July Program: Tips and Tricks

The July demonstration was our always popular Tips and Tricks presentation by the following club members.



Victor Schwarz demonstrated segmented turnings with wood plugs, explaining how he makes plugs. He suggests not using dowels as their size does not match accurately drill bit sizes and store bought dowels are limited in color and wood species. Victor showed various patterns in segmented turnings and how he designs and develops these patterns.



Nyle Larson spoke of the harm of dust in the shop and the importance of a dust collection system and the need for wood turners to use respirators with replaceable canisters to protect their lungs.



Barbara Drolet advised using paste wax on Forstner bits to avoid sticking. She also strongly advocated using N-95 masks in the shop whenever dust is present. N-95 masks filter 95% of any material down to .3 microns. Spalted wood is .4 to .5 microns, so these masks work well for spalted wood. Insect frass, which is often found in the wood we turn, is very allergenic and repeated exposure can result in increased sensitivity.

David Delker spoke of his experience with a severe reaction to airborne dust in the shop - probably from spalted wood - and the months long treatments he underwent. He recommend storing and using N-95 masks per manufactures' recommendations.



# July Program: Tips and Tricks



Terry Schmidt demonstrated how he sharpens band saw blades using his bench grinder; it only takes 30 minutes.



Ross Hirst shared his shop-made depth gauge to measure the depth of bowls while still on the lathe.



Joe Beck shared the sanding disk pads he makes using material from garden kneeling pads and Velcro.



David Delker showed the shop made drawer organizer he made using 1/4" hardboard cut into strips. He cuts equally spaced notches in the board and then assembles them in a grid-like pattern.

—Ned Gatewood, Secretary

# Procedure For Turning a Small Wood Box Part 1 of 2 Parts

By Ned Gatewood

This is a description of the procedure for making a small wood box on the lathe. There are many strategies for turning boxes, and this is only one. Others can be found in books and on the internet; an excellent source is Richard Raffan's book *Turning Boxes* and his DVD by the same name. The Flint Hills Woodturners library has both of these publications. Regardless of the process you pursue, the most important thing to remember is this: develop a sensible sequence of steps as you make your box. That is, make sure you don't do something in one step that will make a subsequent step difficult or impossible, like parting off a tenon when you'll need it later, or not sanding the inside of the lid after you have eliminated any chance to put the lid back on the lathe. Such missteps are easy to do, and you'll likely do your fair share. But if you will establish and follow a sequence of steps, and with a little practice, you will be making beautiful boxes and exploring the many design opportunities boxes have to offer.

Turning boxes has many things to like. Making boxes doesn't begin with chainsaws and trips to the dump and lugging home big chunks of wood as does bowl making, but rather the wood for making a box can usually be found in your scrap wood pile. You can also buy small pieces of those exotic woods you've been wanting to play with but were too expensive for larger projects. And maybe best of all, at the end of the day, turning boxes results in only a small pile of chips on the floor of your shop, unlike the big mess left by bowl turning.

## But First, Wood Movement: Understand and Control It

Before turning a box, it is important to understand and control wood movement and the distortion it can cause in your boxes, especially around the rims (flanges) of the lid and base. If the lid or base moves and distorts, then the lid will not fit properly and you will not rise to that pinnacle of box making – a well fitted lid.

**Wood movement is the result of two things:** Shrinkage Due to Moisture Loss and Relieving of Stresses in the Wood.

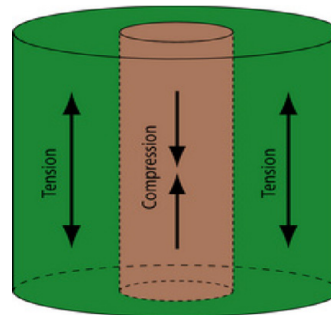
**Shrinkage Due to Moisture Loss:** There are two considerations here, i.e., wood choice and grain orientation.

**Wood Choice:** You can turn green wood or dry wood, but for making wood boxes, dry wood is a much better choice and requires less preparation. A box made of green wood will lose a good bit of moisture and distort significantly, and you'll never get a good fitting lid unless it's properly prepared. If you are going to turn a box made of green wood, you must turn it twice for the moisture level to reduce and equalize with the ambient moisture level. You must first rough turn it and months later, after proper drying, finish turning it. See Raffan's book and CD for more on this. As for boxes made of dry wood, they too will lose some moisture

and slightly distort (though far less), resulting in possibly an ever so slightly ill-fitting lid. Not acceptable! You should turn twice-dry wood also. When turning a box from either green or dry wood, you should be prepared to turn them twice, but the drying time between the two will be far less for dry wood. A few days is usually adequate for dry wood.

**Grain Orientation:** The second consideration of shrinkage due to moisture loss is grain orientation. Wood boxes turned on the lathe are referred to as end grain boxes, and for good reason. To minimize movement and distortion in boxes the grain orientation of the box should be parallel to the axis of the piece of wood being turned. That is, the top and bottom of the box should be end grain wood. With this orientation, as moisture is lost, the box will distort the least, the lid will fit the best, the rims will not cup, and a tight fitted lid is most possible to achieve. On the other hand, if a box is turned with its axis perpendicular to the axis of the wood (as a bowl often is turned), then the rims will definitely shrink and become oval and cupped, and a proper fitting box lid will be very difficult to obtain. If you must turn a non-end grain box, then intentionally make it with somewhat a loose fitting lid and be sure to incorporate beading or some other design element at the flange(s) to hide the cupping and gaps that will likely occur.

## Relieving of Stresses in the Wood



The second cause for wood distortion is the relieving of stresses found in the wood. In a living tree, the trunk is pre-stressed. That is, the center of a living tree trunk is in compression, and the outer layer is in tension. This stressing is achieved as the inner sapwood naturally dries and shrinks as it becomes heartwood. It is this pre-stressed condition that provides the mighty strength of a tall tree to withstand the forces of wind. When lumber is milled, or the volume of a mass of wood is reduced as in woodturning, the stress forces of the wood are relieved or broken, and this causes the wood to move in the form of warping, cupping, and twisting.

In wood turning, the way to deal with this movement is to reduce its mass – rough turn it – thereby giving the piece the opportunity to relax and move as it sees fit. Then, after several days, or sometimes a little more, the piece can be turned to a final form. This releasing of tension in the wood will happen concurrently while the piece is set aside to dry.

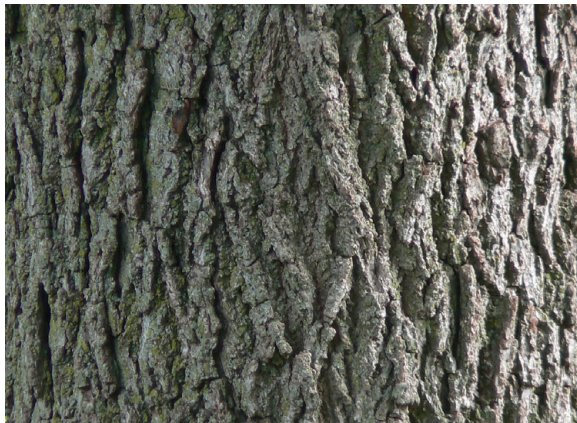
So, now with an understanding of wood movement and how to control it, on to Steps to Turning a Small Box as will be covered in upcoming Part 2.

# Trees of Northeast Kansas

## Black Walnut

Janka Hardness: 1,010

The heartwood of Black Walnut can range from a lighter pale brown to a dark chocolate brown, though the color can sometimes have a grey, purple, or reddish cast. Sapwood is white to pale yellow. The grain is usually straight and has a medium texture. It has good dimensional stability. It works well with hand tools and on the lathe. It stains well, though it usually is not stained as the natural color is dark with a natural luster, and it is generally thought to be attractive without a stain. In the United States, Black Walnut is extremely popular among woodworkers, and in Kansas it is very plentiful.



The **Janka hardness test** measures the resistance of a sample of wood to denting and wear. It measures the force required to embed an 11.28 millimetres (0.444 in) diameter steel ball halfway into a sample of wood. A common use of Janka hardness ratings is to determine whether a species is suitable for use as flooring.

This number is incredibly useful in directly determining how well a wood will withstand dents, dings, and wear—as well as indirectly predicting the difficulty in nailing, screwing, sanding, or sawing a given wood species.

Examples are: Balsa—70; Douglas Fir—660; Black Walnut—1,010; Osage Orange—2,040.



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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)

## Flint Hills Woodturners **Ya Gotta Eat!**

Thursday, August 17th

Join fellow FHW members for our next

“Ya Gotta Eat” lunch at noon at **Vista Drive In**

1911 Tuttle Creek Blvd, Manhattan

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](mailto: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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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

 August 5	<b>Monthly Meeting</b> Making toy tops	Red Oak Hollow Lathe Works, Wamego
August 7	<b>Skill Enhancement</b> 7:00 – 9:30 PM	Red Oak Hollow Lathe Works, Wamego
August 17	<b>Ya Gotta Eat!</b> Noon	Vista Drive in
August 23	<b>Skill Enhancement</b> 7:00 – 9:30 PM	Red Oak Hollow Lathe Works, Wamego
 September 2	<b>Monthly Meeting</b> Tom Boley: turning a banksia seed pod	TBA
September TBA	<b>Skill Enhancement</b> 7:00 – 9:30 PM	Red Oak Hollow Lathe Works, Wamego
 October 7	<b>Monthly Meeting</b> Rusty Smith: unique finishing techniques	TBA

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.

