

January 2019



January's Demo

**Hollowing:
by Randy Zelenka**

Our very own Vice president Randy Zelenka has amassed a wide collection of hollowing tools. Randy will be showing these tools and spending time sharing about his experience with this challenging aspect of woodturning.



In this issue:	<u>Page</u>		<u>Page</u>		<u>Page</u>
December's Program	1	Programs	5	For Member by	
The Call of the Lathe	2	Show and Tell	6 & 7	Members	11, 12 & 13
December Club		November's Program	8,9 & 10	Club Information	14
Minutes	3 & 4				

January 2019

The Call of the Lathe



As I sit here and contemplate what to say as we start 2019, I'm reminded that we, the now members of **Flint Hills Woodturners**, came together in March of 2015 to form a 501(c)(3) non-profit club composed of individuals who are interested in learning and promoting the art of turning wood. The club is for hobbyists in the Flint Hills region of Northeast Kansas and we ended the year with around 50 members and continue to have new members visit and join.

Under the leadership of Tom Boley over the last 3 plus years we have continued to fulfill our mission of promoting, educating and advancing the art of woodturning. We have much to thank Tom for and I would encourage each of you to express your appreciation to him for his time and dedicated service to this club. We started out our first meeting in his personal shop which soon became the meeting place for our club. As we grew in numbers and began to outgrow his shop space we began to search for another facility that could provide the space and conditions to have a lathe and environment that allows and even encourages woodworking. Tom was a key part in finding the Golden Prairie Honey Farms facility that we now have the pleasure of meeting at. He also has graciously continued to allow the use of his shop for our skill enhancement sessions and his shop also is the home of several of our club lathes. Many of the club pursuits to educate and promote woodturning are greatly due to Tom's personal involvement. So, a big hearty thank you goes out to Tom for all that has done and meant to this club. Tom has continued to offer his shop for skill enhancement sessions and he will also continue to organize the "You Gotta Eat" time each month. I'm sure he will continue to be a valuable resource and asset as we move forward.

Any club must have one thing to be a club and that is members. Why do I say this? Well I want to express that our club is alive and doing well because of you the current members. Without members there is no point. You, yes you, are the reason this club is what it is today. Some lead, some teach and demonstrate. Some give of their time and talents, some serve behind the scene. Some help with educational and informational events. Some share their latest creations and inspire others. Some give monetarily and even donate items to the club. Some are great at organizing events.

My earlier statement "Without members there is no point" well, I want to reword that and say "Without members that are involved there is no point". So as we move forward into 2019 my challenge to us the members of our club is to continue with what we have been doing, but also to maybe take a moment and consider what part you can or should be involved with. There are many things that are needed to ensure our club and our meetings take place. I know that many of you are fully engaged in these efforts but there are equally as many that are not. We currently have some folks that setup for each meeting but we could use additional help. Others help clean up and put things away after the meeting but we could always use more help. We often need someone to present or do demonstrations. I remember being asked the first time to give a short demo and I had only been turning for a few months. So I encourage each of us to consider what part we can play and get involved.

Ray Case President

Club Minutes

December 1st, 2018

The monthly meeting of the Flint Hills Woodturners began at 9:00 a.m., December 1, 2018 at the Golden Prairie Honey Farms, located at the Green Valley Industrial Park, 8859 Green Valley Drive, Manhattan, Kansas.

President Tom Boley called the meeting to order.

The meeting began with Show and Tell. Robert Kloppenborg, Terry Schmidt, Randy Zelenka, Don Baker, Dennis Biggs, Victor Schwarz, Melissa McIntyre, Steve Hougham, Brad Hopper, David Delker, Ray Case, and Gary Hobbie shared their recent woodturning work with the club.

Attendance: There were 45 members and visitors in attendance at today's meeting. Visitors included Hunter Taphorn, Jim Taphorn, Michael McGee, and Collen McGee.

Officers' Reports:

President's report: Tom Boley reported that Robert Kloppenborg has been in contact with the Lee Dam Center for Fine Art in Marysville and we are invited to show and sell our work at their July 2019 event. More information to come.

Steve Bietau and other FHW members attended Glenn Lucas' demonstration in Lincoln. Steve reported FHW can gain insights from Lucas' demonstration into setting up for demonstrations. Sound amplification is something we should further consider. A mic that will work under a face shield in

necessary. (Those in the back of our meeting today concurred better audio was needed for our monthly demonstrations.) Steve suggested having three monitors for demonstrations: one over the lathe to show work going on; one on the right side focused on presenter; and small monitor so the presenter can see what he's doing. Steve suggested for professional demonstrators we need to provide the equipment and setup they are accustomed to having. However, someone else noted presenters are in the business of making money and often accept situations that are not always ideal.

Vice President's and Newsletter Editor's report: Ray Case thanked the members for their trust in electing him as next year's club president. The new board will address the need for a sound system and other issues, and he asked members for their ideas to make the club better. Ray asked if any members are not receiving the newsletter, and if so, please let him know.

Treasurer's report: Tom Shields reported a balance of \$3,678 in the treasury, and he reminded members that dues are due in January. Expenditures were \$150 for use of the bee shop for six months and \$100 for insurance.

Secretary's report: no report

Club Minutes

continued

Program Director's report: Dennis Biggs reported today's demonstration will be Bob Holcombe turning a once turned green wood bowl. The January demonstration will be Randy Zelenka turning a hollow vessel, the February demonstration will be Ray Case on a topic to be determined, the March demonstration have several demonstrators talking about their favorite finishes, the April demonstration is still open, and the May demonstration will be by the nationally known wood turner Alan Lacer. Alan will also be doing a workshop the Friday before the May demonstration as well.

Operations Director's report: no report

Member at Large's report: no report

Librarian Joe Beck said FHW shirts will probably be available next month.

Tom Boley said at the club's first meeting in March 2015, twenty-one people met and expressed an interest in forming a woodturning club. Today, the Flint Hills Woodturning club has over fifty members. Tom thanked the board members for their efforts and all members for their help in cleaning up after each meeting.

Demonstrations: Today Bob Holcombe demonstrated turning a green, once turned wood bowl. He began by explaining the advantages of turning bowls only once versus the more common practice of twice turning bowls (rough turning and then finish turning). One advantage is, as a once turned bowl dries it

tends to distort more than twice turned bowls, and this provides a character in his bowls that buyers of his bowls much prefer. Bob explained how he removes bowl blanks from a log then dries them, resulting in almost no cracks. He went on to once turn a bowl from green wood, describing every step along the way, including mounting the bowl on the lathe, tools he uses, how to measure bowl thickness, drying the turned bowl, and sanding and finishing techniques.

Raffle: This month Melissa McIntyre, Kevin Dix, Tom Boley, Vic Vinson, Samuel Ullman, and Kevin Roberts won valuable prizes. The grand prize was won by Terry Schmidt.

The next Flint Hills Woodturning meeting will be on Saturday January 5, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. at the Golden Prairie Honey Farms, located at the Green Valley Industrial Park, 8859 Green Valley Drive, Manhattan.

Ned Gatewood - Secretary



Found

3/8 " Sorby bowl gouge at Red Hollow Lathe Works.

Let Tom Boley know if it is yours at tboley10@gmail.com

Programs

We have scheduled Alan Lacer to do a workshop and club demo in May 2019.

Thank you all, you make this an exciting organization.

<u>January 5th</u>	<u>February 2nd</u>	<u>March 2nd</u>	<u>April 10th</u>
Randy Zelenka Will be doing a hollowing demonstration.	Ray Case 3 Axis bowl	Members sharing Finishing Favorites	Tom Boley Coring



December: Show and Tell



Steve Hougham



Gary Hobbie



Don Baker



Brad Hopper



Terry Schmidt



Victor Schwarz

December: Show and Tell



Ray Case



Randy Zelenka



Mellisa McItyre



David Delker



Dennis Biggs



Robert Kloppenborg

December's Program

Recap

Demonstrator: Bob Holcombe

Today's demonstration was Bob Holcombe turning a once turned bowl from green wood. Bob has been turning and selling bowls for 8 to 9 years and prefers turning once turned bowls instead of the more common twice turned bowls. (Twice turned bowls are first rough turned to a thickness of about one tenth of the bowl's diameter then finish turned to a final form.) The shape of once turned bowls will usually distort as the bowl dries, but Bob says his customers prefer that as it adds character to the bowls.

Bob prefers to take bowl blanks from trees that have been felled in the winter instead of wood harvested in the summer, as cracking while drying the wood is less common in winter wood. Bob noted that when considering the orientation of the bowl to be taken from a log, the orientation of the sap wood and the pith is an important design consideration, as it determines the orientation of the figure of the grain in the bowl.

Bob suggested an excellent book on bowl design is Richard Raffin's *The Art of Turned Bowls*, which FHW has in its library. Bob uses a chain saw to shape a bowl blanks instead of a band saw; it avoids breaking expensive band saw blades. After removing a bowl blank from a tree log, he immediately puts it into a plastic bag to avoid any loss of moisture, which can cause cracking, and he likes to turn it no more than a day or two later.

To make the bowl, Bob mounts the bowl blank on the lathe with a face plate attached to what will be the top of the bowl. He wore a smock as a lot of water is thrown from the wet wood. Using a 5/8" bowl gouge, he first turned the outside of the bowl and its bottom, and he also made a tenon on the bottom.



Next, he produced a good finish on the bowl's outside using a scraper. The bowl was then remounted using the tenon and the material on the bowl's interior was removed with a 1/2" bowl gouge and a scraper. Double ended calipers are used to obtain a satisfactory wall thickness. The tool rest was placed as close to the work as possible to avoid tool vibration. He doesn't use a curved tool rest as it can get in the way of the tool's handle. He worked the bowl's rim before removing too much at the bowl's bottom to avoid vibration at the rim.

After forming the bowl by once turning it, he places the bowl with several others in a paper bag without any wood chips to begin drying it. He stores them in his basement, or a similar cool place, for a month or two to dry. Then he takes the bowls out of the bag and stores them on a shelf to further dry.

Next, the bowl, which is now likely to be warped, was remounted on the lathe. He typically sands his bowls with cloth backed sandpaper starting at 120 grit, then 180 grit, 220 grit, and finally with 320 grit sandpaper. He spritzes the bowl with water to raise the grain, and re-sands with 320 grit. He mounted the bowl on a shop-made jam chuck and holds it in place with the tailstock. A divot in the tenon placed there when he earlier made the tenon helps center the work.



The tenon was removed with a gouge and then, off the lathe, he removed the remaining small nib with a chisel. He then power sanded the bottom. Bob signs his work on light wood with a burner and on dark wood he engraves his signature. Mahoney's walnut oil is his finish. Bob obtains much of his wood from the Riley County Transfer Station, and he sells his bowls for about \$10 per inch of diameter.

Ned Gatewood - Secretary



For Members by Members

Setting up the grinder and jigs

This information will be about setting up the grinder. Sharpening woodturning tools is a separate handout. There are really two grinders which woodturners I know use in their shops to sharpen their woodturning tools. The first is a Tormek, an expensive but excellent knife sharpener. Jigs to hold woodturning tools are available but that is not the best for a woodturner for several reasons. I don't want to disparage the Tormek as it is a top quality machine but my reasons for not recommending it are these: mostly useful for knives; does not have a way to easily reshape a tool which has gotten off angle; rarely found in woodturning shops and never at public demos or classrooms. Therefore, the standard low speed grinder with a sharpening wheel at each end is the better style as it will have both a fine and coarse wheel. The coarse wheel is best used for reshaping a tool which has gotten out of whack. This is what nearly all woodturners have and what is taken to public demos. If that is what you also have at home, you will already know how to use it

These low speed grinders run at about 1725 rpm and have friable stone wheels or CBN wheels. The friable wheels are softer and better for use with woodturning tools. CBN wheels are expensive but excellent for high speed steel. Always use stone wheels for carbon steel tools as they will damage the CBN wheels.

Everyone I know who is a woodturner has a slow speed grinder with two wheels,



one coarse and one fine, with the Oneway Wolverine jig and the Vari-Grind jig. The three reasons to get that set-up are it is easiest to use, it is what you will likely encounter if you go to anyone else's shop to do some turning, and that is the type of grinder which would be taken to any public turning event such as a public club demo. I have always had the fine wheel on the right and the coarse wheel on the left, then put the platform in the receiver under that left-hand wheel and the pocket bar on the right, as shown in the first photo.

If you use someone else's rig, be sure you know which wheel is on which side. When you set up the Vari-Grind jig for either your bowl gouge or spindle gouge, cut a piece of wood or small PVC pipe to just fit between the end of the pocket bar and the receiver and mark it as such so you can quickly set it when sharpening. Do the same for the other gouge and sharpening will be much easier as the set-up will be quick. If using CBN wheels, those "spacers" should be good forever but if using stone wheels, you may need to check them from time to time for the right length as the wheels will slowly get smaller and smaller over time as you dress them.

“Dress them?” That term means using a diamond device to square up, clean up, and re-flatten the face of the stone wheels. As you use the wheels, they will develop grooves and will tend to clog up with metal so cleaning them up by essentially grinding the face of each wheel just a bit with a diamond dresser will make sharpening much more effective. CBN wheels do not need to be dressed like that as they will hold their shape and size just fine.

Now that you have your grinder rig mounted on a board, it is easy to fasten to your workbench or wherever you want it to be as well as easy to unfasten to take to a demo if needed. Just put a couple screws down through the board into your wood workbench or stand and you are set. If that is impractical, then perhaps a couple clamps will be sufficient. When taking it to a temporary location, just setting it on a table or bench will work as long as you don't push against it too hard when sharpening which you really shouldn't do anyway.

The Vari-Grind jig is to be used as noted in the instructions. The general practice is to have the end of the gouge sticking out 2" from the jig but some use 1 ¾" instead. Both are fine but pick one and stick with it. You can mount a small piece of hard wood on the base board between the grinder and one receiver so you can quickly extend the gouge from the jig by that distance (2" or 1 ¾") and tighten the hand screw to hold it in place. You can be really helpful to your fellow woodturners by mounting a similar piece on the other side and making one set back 2" and the other 1 ¾".

I highly recommend facing that piece of wood with something hard like a piece of

Formica because otherwise over time, you will slowly cut a groove in the face of the wood and the gouge will stick out too far. Use it gently and it should last a long time but ultimately, replacing it is fairly simple. That formica-faced block is shown in this picture between the riser panel under the grinder base and the right hand receiver. In mine, it is 2" from the front of the board to the block.



There is one more accessory which will make your grinder particularly usable. Add a block to the back of the base board on which the grinder is mounted which has a couple of ¾" holes drilled in it and one or two ¼" holes as shown in this picture. As you can see, looking over the top of the grinder to the glued-on block behind it, that block provides a place for your Vari-Grind jig and a diamond stick which can be used to file off the rolled-over steel when you have to reshape a tool which has gotten out of shape.



I'd like to comment on CBN wheels for a moment. They are terrific but they are also expensive. When you buy a grinder, it will come with coarse and fine stone wheels. Those will work just fine on all the tools. The advantages of the CBN wheels is

they are a half inch wider than the stone wheels and will not slowly be worn away as they are cleaned and re-flattened (dressed) over time since you don't have to either clean them or re-flatten them. The price of CBN wheels has come down considerably over the last few years so if they are within your budget, perhaps you should consider them but please do not think they are essential. They aren't. They are nice to have but it is better to spend your extra cash on a good chuck, an extra set of jaws for your chuck, or that new gouge you saw someone demonstrate.

Happy turning!

Tom Boley

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 Hills 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 (AAW).



President
Ray Case
 president@flinthillswoodturners.org

Vice president
Randy Zelenka
 vicepresident@flinthillswoodturners.org

Secretary
Ned Gatewood
 secretary@flinthillswoodturners.org

Treasurer
Tom Shields
 treasurer@flinthillswoodturners.org

Program Director
Dennis Biggs
 program@flinthillswoodturners.org

Operations
Steve Bietau
 operations@flinthillswoodturners.org

Members at Large
Bob Holcomb
TomBoley

<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.

Flint Hills Woodturners Calendar of Events

Jan 5th	Monthly Meeting Randy Zelenka Hollowing	Golden Prairie Honey Farms 8859 Green Valley Drive, Suite #4, Manhattan
Jan 21st	Noon 	
Jan 15th	Skill Enhancement 7:00-9:30 PM	Red Oak Hollow Lathe Works, Wamego
Feb 2nd	Monthly Meeting Ray Case 3 Axis Bowl	Golden Prairie Honey Farms 8859 Green Valley Drive, Suite #4, Manhattan
March	Monthly Meeting Finishing Favorites	Golden Prairie Honey Farms 8859 Green Valley Drive, Suite #4, Manhattan

Unless otherwise announced, meetings are held at 8859 Green Valley Drive, Suite #4, Manhattan KS
 Meetings start at 9:00 am but come any time after 8:00 am.

