

August 2019



August's Program

**One of our own members
Vaughn Graber will be giving
a fascinating demonstration.**

Definition of:

fascinating
adjective

: extremely interesting or charming
ing : CAPTIVATING

a *fascinating* documentary

All I'm being told is that we will have a fascinating demonstration. So, come and be dazzled by the extremely interesting and charming mystery demonstration. Maybe it will be a mystery BOX. HAHA You know how we all love to turn boxes. Anyway I'm sure it will be fun and unique.



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Flinthillswoodturners.org

August 2019

The Call of the Lathe



Just like the seasons in a year we all have seasons in life and even in our woodturning pursuits. Some seasons might relate to how new you are to woodturning. Maybe you don't even have any equipment yet. Or you might have limitations based on skill level or lack of equipment. Maybe your season relates to getting new tools and equipment. Life sometimes introduces other responsibilities that limit your current season. Maybe your wants and needs are over shadowed by your budget. Whatever the season you may find your self in, our club has something for you. Besides the monthly meetings where we can share our work and see demonstrations, we have skill enhancement sessions. We also have a library that has various resources to take advantage of. We have a wealth of knowledge in our club because we have many members with vast years of experience to draw from and that are willing to pass that along. Our club is actively involved in the community promoting and educating

people about woodturning. Our club has a website that is ever evolving and growing in what it can offer people.

On Facebook I have numerous woodturning friends who live in other parts of the world. I often see that they have sessions where they all come together to enjoy woodturning as larger groups. By nature, woodturning in America is typically seen and I believe viewed as an individual pursuit. Where are the group sessions where we can be mentored, taught or even teach?

I would like to suggest we start a season where we can take our club to the next level and teach, educate, introduce, mentor, share, challenge and turn wood like we have never done before. Maybe you have some ideas about how this could be done. Please share those ideas with the group or board members and we can see where this next season will take us.

Ray Case—FHWT President

Club Minutes

July 6th , 2019

The monthly meeting of the Flint Hills Woodturners began at 9:00 a.m., July 6, 2019 at the Golden Prairie Honey Farms, located at the Green Valley Industrial Park, 8859 Green Valley Drive, Manhattan, Kansas.

President Ray Case called the meeting to order.

Show and Tell: Victor Schwartz, Kenneth Stitt, Tom Shields, Robert Klop-penborg, David Delker, Tom Boley, and Jerry Connery shared their recent work.

Visitors today were Julia Jilek, Jacob Stroda, Lenore Peatrowsky and Dan Suade.

Officers' Reports:

President: Ray Case reminded members of our current exhibit at the Marysville Lee Dam Center for Fine Arts, July 3 - July 28. There will be an artist's reception July 7. Pictures of displayed items are on the club's web site. This is an opportunity for Flint Hills Woodturners to display and sell their work. Skill Enhancement is scheduled for July 22 and 23. Ya Gotta Eat will be July 16.

Newsletter: David Delker was recognized by the American Association of Woodturners for his turning of a balloon. If members have items they wish to sell, let Ray Case know and he can publish them in the newsletter.

Vice President: No report

Secretary: No report

Treasurer: The checking account balance is \$4,257. Last month, incidental credits were \$194 and debits were \$121. The net cost for the demonstration and workshops by Alan Lacer was \$740.00.

Operations: The next event will be the Pumpkin Patch in the fall.

Program: Dennis Biggs announced that Mike Beltz will be giving today's demonstration on the use of chainsaws. The August demonstration will be Vaughn Graber; topic to be announced. The September demonstration will be Ross Hirst making pens.

Raffle: Melissa McIntyre, Mike Beltz, Ross Hirst, Steve Bietau, Joe Beck, Kenneth Stitt, and David Delker won valuable prizes at today auction. The grand prize was won by Ross Hirst.

Demonstration: Mike Beltz of KanEquip in Wamego presented a demonstration covering numerous aspects of chainsaw usage, safety, and maintenance. He recommended having chains sharpened by a professional after they have been hand-sharpened three or four times by the user. He showed a video covering how to safely fell a tree and the proper safety apparel to wear.

Ned Gatewood, Secretary



Programs

Flint Hills Woodturners Calendar of Events

Vaughn Graber will give a demo in August.

Ross Hirst plans to do a pen making demonstration in September.

If anyone has specific desires to see a particular topic demonstrated, please contact me or your president. Remember that you all have something to offer and might be able to demonstrate to the club. Even if it's only for a short amount of time.

Dennis Biggs - Program Director

| | | |
|-----------------------|---|---|
| Aug 3rd | Monthly Meeting Vaughn Graber | Golden Prairie Honey Farms 8859 Green Valley Drive, Suite #4, Manhattan |
| Aug 12th and Aug 22nd | Skill Enhancement 7:00-9:30pm | Red Oak Hollow Lathe Works, Wamego |
| Aug 21st | YA GOTTA EAT NOON |  |
| Sep 7th | Monthly Meeting Ross Hirst Pen making | Golden Prairie Honey Farms 8859 Green Valley Drive, Suite #4, Manhattan |



Wednesday Aug 21st at Noon

**YA
GOTTA
EAT**



**SHOW AND
TELL ITEMS
WELCOME**



Skill Enhancement



**Monday Aug 12th
& Thursday 22nd
7:00pm—9:30pm**

Red Oak Hollow

Lathe Works

4025 Walnut Creek Drive

Wamego, KS 66547

July: Show and Tell



David Suhling



Kenneth Stitt



David Delker



Victor Schwarz

July: Show and Tell



Robert Kloppenborg



Jerry Connery



Tom Boley

July's Program

Recap

Demonstrator:

Mike Beltz

Mike Beltz of KanEquip in Wamego presented a demonstration covering numerous aspects of chainsaw usage, safety, and maintenance. Mike reminded club members that chainsaws are a tool to be respected, and serious injury can occur from misuse. He suggested wood turners may prefer using a ripping chain, as they are designed for the ripping (which turners often do), and that they do not clog-up as easily as standard chains. He recommended having chains sharpened by a professional after they have been hand-sharpened three or four times by the user. This will assure the filed angles and rakers are kept properly. Mike explained how hand-sharpening should be done, and he pointed out Stihl etches each tooth on its chains with a line to indicate maximum wear limits. He showed a video covering how to safely fell a tree and the proper safety apparel to wear. "Plan your work, and work your plan" the video stressed. Mike emphasized the importance of wearing a helmet, face shield, eye protection, hearing protection, and chaps. The fabric in Stihl's chaps is designed to stop the chainsaw when it begins to cut into the chaps, the chain shreds the fabric and stops the motor before the chain reaches the inner layer of the chaps, thus protecting the user's legs. It is a bad practice to operate a chainsaw while on a ladder or with the saw above your shoulder height. Don't drop or throw-start a saw. Start the saw on the ground with your toe in the handle or start it with the saw between your knees as described in manual. Turn the bar over after each sharpening to equalize bar wear. Avoid ethanol fuel; premium gas sold by some service stations does

not contain ethanol. Don't run the engine dry when not in use for a long time as a layer of varnish can build up in the carburetor. Instead, use Stihl's Motomix as it has a long shelf life.

Here is the link to the Safety videos if you want to watch them again or maybe you were not there and would like to watch them. Right click on the link and then choose open hyper link. If that doesn't work then type this address into your browser and open the page.

<https://www.stihlusa.com/information/videos/chainsaw-safety-operations-maintenance-videos/>



Peter's

Safety Corner

Following on last month's newsletter column on safety, I heard from several of you about suggestions for future columns. So, thank you Ned Gatewood, for your recommendation about food safe finishes...and for reading the newsletter (especially the safety column).

Ned was reading a book, "Understanding Wood Finishing," authored by Bob Flexner. I will paraphrase from his section on food safe oil finishes. It is important, however, to remember that whether oil- or water-based, a finish isn't necessarily food or human friendly. It is best to read the instructions and precautions on the container of the finish that you're using.

So, here's a brief chemistry primer for finishes. Most finishes will seal the wood surface through two processes: absorption and curing or by coating. Both involve a chemical reaction or, in the case of shellac, an evaporative coating. Shellac is derived from the natural secretions of bugs, which is dissolved in alcohol, filtered, and applied to a surface in light coatings. It can be readily re-dissolved in alcohol once applied, which mixes with the prior-deposited layer, creating a new, thicker and combined layer. Shellac is very food safe, and in fact is a main ingredient in the M&Ms coating ("melts in your mouth, not in your hand" fame). I don't encourage eating shellac, especially when mixed with alcohol.

Now, let's talk about varnish, which has been around for thousands of years as a protective coating. Varnishes cure by depositing a urethane resin that has been dissolved in mineral spirits or turpentine and forms a residue on a surface. Modern urethanes are derived from petroleum products instead of natural tree resins (like the ancient Egyptians used). With an accelerator or drying agent, the urethanes will link together, covering the surface of wood with a network of spaghetti-like molecules that pile up and form a tough surface called polyurethane. Unlike shellac, it cannot be re-dissolved and incorporate a new coat – it simply gets "painted over", which is why it is so important to sand the surface in between coats. Once cured (usually 72 hours or so), the polyurethane surface is nearly impervious to water. However, the original solvent, mainly turpentine, can still be incorporated in the polyurethane surface for a long time, which renders these finishes not very good for use with food.

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Peter's

Safety Corner

Cont'd

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Natural oils, such as walnut or tung oil, are often themselves used as “drying agents” in paints, and will form a finish through absorption into the wood grains and will “cure” or harden over time - sometimes it takes several weeks to fully cure. Unless the oil is dissolved in a solvent like turpentine or mixed with a natural or urethane varnish, like you find in commercial “tung oil varnish”, natural oil finishes are very food safe and don't release volatile organic compounds, or VOCs, during curing. Mineral oil, a very clean light oil used in cosmetics and skin care, can also be used to seal wood against water and food residues, but it does not cure like nut oils and must be replenished after several uses and cleanings. However, vegetable oils like olive oil or corn oil should not be used on wood since they will spoil and go rancid over time. They do not cure to form a hardened, penetrating surface layer on wood, and they can impart bad taste or worse to your food.

A few tips to help you with safe finish handling:

1. Oxygen in the air is what helps natural oils and urethanes harden. Oxygen reacts slowly, at first, and then helps accelerate the hardening process in the finish, but this chemical reaction releases heat. There isn't much heat generated on the thin surface of a treated bowl, but in the bunched-up rag you used to wipe it, the heat generated can ignite the rag. Any rags you use to wipe off your treated objects should be allowed to hang up until the residue is cured and the rag is hard.
2. Some finishes need light to harden them, so applying a finish and leaving your piece in a dark, closed shop for several days will not help the curing process. Check the manufacturer's notes on what's needed to cure your finish before it's safe for food.

Since oxygen is needed to cure your finish, and some finishes release VOCs during curing, you should always properly ventilate your work area and never use finishes around appliances with a pilot light or electronic ignitor. The mix of VOCs and air can become explosive.

Next issue, I will tackle how to safely work with finishes that release VOCs. If you have a favorite safety topic or just want to learn more about one, please let me know, and I'll do some homework.

Keep your tools sharp!

Peter Dorhout

Tom's

Good To Know

spotlight

There are things you pick up as you go along which are good to know (GTK). Here are four more which I have learned.

The club website, flinthillswoodturners.org, has a lot of information. Here is how to find the really important stuff:

Each of the main headings is clickable but hovering over each one will show additional options

Program for next membership meeting — click on Programs

Meeting format — click on Regular Monthly Meeting

Old and Current Newsletters — located in sidebar after you click on Regular Monthly Meeting

Up-coming events — hover over Regular Monthly Meeting and click on Coming Up

General information re future special events — hover over Home and click on News

When buying sandpaper in the large sheets, fold each sheet in half with the backing on the inside, press the fold down well, then slice through it from the inside with a knife. Fold each half again and repeat. Two of the quarter pieces will likely have the grit marked but be sure to check and mark the ones which aren't so marked so you know what you have. When using those sheets, fold them in half again the long way and then keep them in order as you go from grit to grit to save yourself a lot of time opening each one up to check the grit.

But how about the sanding disks for the power sander? Buy a compartmented box with a handle, label each compartment by grit, and store your disks therein. Once you use a set, you can put them back in the box but leave them stacked together and place them in a different compartment. Stacked sets like that can be alternated, smooth and scalloped, for easy selection and the handle on the box makes it easy to move around your shop or to another location as needed.

One of those compartments can be used for the interface pads you should be using between that expensive mandrel and the sanding disk. Use those to protect the loops on the actual mandrel from melting from the heat of sanding. The interface pads are a lot less expensive than new mandrels. You may also be able to use that extra compartment for both the 2" and 3" mandrels and pads. Both 2" and 3" disks can be stored together in each grit compartment.

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

Secretary

Ned Gatewood

Treasurer

Tom Shields

Program Director

Dennis Biggs

Operations

Steve Bietau

Members at Large:

Bob Holcombe

Tom Boley

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



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.

