

**September 2019**



**September's Program**

**Ross Hirst  
will be presenting a  
demonstration on pen turning**



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**Flinthillswoodturners.org**

# September 2019

## The Call of the Lathe



The other day I was thinking about what was one piece of advice I received about wood turning that actually made a difference for me. A few years ago about 5 of the Flint Hills Woodturners members took a Saturday trip to Kansas City and participated in a demonstration by Rudy Lopez. I was very new to wood turning and was so excited to see someone like him demonstrate. The day was filled with about 3-4 different types of demonstrations. One of the pieces of advice that Rudy gave at some point during the day was one that I still use and have even passed along to others. It was this: "Make each cut as if it was the finishing / final cut." In other words, practice in such a manner that makes you focus on each cut and have it be the quality of finish that could be your final pass. It sounds so simple but can prove to be often frustrating. Bottom line is that if you practice or make each cut, even if you have 30 more to go, with the precision and skill as if it is the last cut needed then your efforts start paying off. Rough and jagged

begin to make way to smooth and precise. The awkward movements slowly become muscle memory movements and with repetition it soon becomes second nature. I once heard that some professionals can tell you exactly how many passes it will take them to hollow out the inside of a bowl. Can you imagine that this person just haphazardly makes passes with no regard to what the surface looks like with each pass. On the contrary I image that each pass has the skill behind it that leaves the surface ready to use if necessary. At this point the only question is how thick will they leave the material which ultimately determines how many passes to take.

So give it a try. "Make each cut as if it was the finishing / final cut." You might be surprised how it can improve your woodturning endeavors.

Ray Case

FHWT President

## Club Minutes

## August 3rd , 2019

The monthly meeting of the Flint Hills Woodturners began at 9:00 a.m., August 3, 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, Robert Kloppenborg, Dennis Biggs, David Delker, Tom Boley, Marc Greene, Lowell Regehr, Sandra McIntyre, and Vaughn Graber shared their recent work.

Officers' Reports:

President: Ray Case thanked participants of the club's exhibit at the Marysville Lee Dam Center for Fine Arts. Skill Enhancement is scheduled for August 12 and 22, and Ya Gotta Eat will be August 21. The club has applied to the Manhattan Art Center to have an exhibit next year at the MAC. This will be an opportunity for members to display and sell their work at the MAC. Ray reminded members FHW wood name tags can be purchased for \$7, and that new members receive a free nametag when joining the club.

## Club Minutes

August 3rd , 2019

Vice President: No report

Secretary: No report

Treasurer: We started the year with \$4,439, and the bank balance is \$4,280.

Program Coordinator: Dennis Biggs said Vaughn Graber will be demonstrating today the making of an earring stand. September's demonstration will be Ross Hirst making pens, and the October demonstration is open to anyone interested in put on a demonstration. Dennis is working on having a professional turner give a demonstration early next year. He asked members to consider volunteering to put on a demonstration at a future meeting.

Operations: Steve Bietau said the club's next public event will at Pumpkin Patch, September 27 and 28. We will have two booths and will be operating two lathes. We will probably make small bowls to give to those stopping at our booth. These events are a good opportunity for club members new to turning, as they can learn turning skills from other more experienced turners that will also be there. Volunteers will be demonstrating turning, interacting with the crowd to introduce them to wood turning, and inviting them to attend a club meeting. Steve passed out a sign-up sheet for those wanting to participate.

Newsletter: Ray Case reminded members the newsletter is a good place to sell or trade wood turning equipment. Peter Dorhout is writing a monthly column on safety, and asked that members to provide him with ide-

as for future articles. The newsletter is available on the FHW website. The request by members to record the monthly demonstration for future viewing was discussed. The cost of storage on our website is an issue, but it was pointed out demonstrations could be stored on YouTube and a link to them could be on our website. Ray welcomed anyone with expertise in this to please volunteer get this started.

Demonstration: Vaughn Graber demonstrated the making an earring stand using an article in a recent American Woodturner magazine as a guide. He began with a 3x3x6 inch wood block, though a larger block can be used to produce a larger stand. This project is mostly spindle turning work, and was done with a spindle gouge. Vaughn turned the wood block round and reduced one end to a 2" diameter circle; this will be the base of the stand. On the remainder of the round blank, he laid out the other elements of the stand - the center post, the earring carrier, and the finial. A spindle gouge was used to complete the shape of the stand. The holes for holding the earrings were hand-drilled with a 3/32" drill bit, taking care to drill the holes a distance from the carrier's edge that will suit the earrings. Spacing of the holes was done with the lathe's indexing system. Vaughn finished the project by sanding and applying his favorite finish.

Ned Gatewood, Secretary



## Programs

## Flint Hills Woodturners Calendar of Events

**Upcoming demos may include:**  
 Tom B. miniature flower pots and mirror.  
 David Delker- fundamentals of segmented turning.  
 Steady rest use by Tom B.  
 A sanding demo by Steve, Tom and myself.  
 Joe- indexing.  
 I have also had requests for demos on goblets, a tips and tricks, making a stool by Steve.  
**Dennis Biggs - Program Director**

Sep 7th	Monthly Meeting Vaughn Graber	Golden Prairie Honey Farms 8859 Green Valley Drive, Suite #4, Manhattan
Sep 19th	Skill Enhancement 7:00-9:30pm	Red Oak Hollow Lathe Works, Wamego
Sep 18th	<b>YA GOTTA EAT NOON</b>	
Oct 5th	Monthly Meeting	Golden Prairie Honey Farms 8859 Green Valley Drive, Suite #4, Manhattan



**Wednesday Sep 18th at Noon**

**YA  
GOTTA  
EAT**



**SHOW AND  
TELL ITEMS  
WELCOME**



## **Skill Enhancement**



**September 19th  
7:00pm—9:30pm**

Red Oak Hollow

Lathe Works

4025 Walnut Creek Drive

Wamego, KS 66547

# August: Show and Tell



**Marc Greene**



**Melissa McIntyre**



**David Delker**



**Vaughn Graber**



**Victor Schwarz**

# August: Show and Tell



**Dennis Biggs**



**Lowell Regehr**



**Robert Kloppenborg**



**Tom Boley**

# August's Program

## Recap

**Demonstrator:**  
**Vaughn Graber**

Demonstration: Vaughn Graber demonstrated the making an earring stand using an article in a recent American Woodturner magazine as a guide. He began with a 3x3x6 inch wood block, though a larger block can be used to produce a larger stand. This project is mostly spindle turning work, and was done with a spindle gouge. Vaughn turned the wood block round and reduced one end to a 2" diameter circle; this will be the base of the stand. On the remainder of the round blank, he laid out the other elements of the stand - the center post, the earring carrier, and the finial. A spindle gouge was used to complete the shape of the stand. The holes for holding the earrings were hand-drilled with a 3/32" drill bit, taking care to drill the holes a distance from the carrier's edge that will suit the earrings. Spacing of the holes was done with the lathe's indexing system. Vaughn finished the project by sanding and applying his favorite finish.





**Peter's**

## **Safety Corner**

In last month's issue, I wrote about food-safe finish options and discussed the basic chemistry of several different finishes, touching briefly on the subject of "volatile organic compounds" (aka VOCs), the solvents used for finishes and what their roles are in the chemistry of those finishes. I promised you readers a column on how to work safely with VOCs, and here I deliver.

Let me start with what VOCs are: Volatile Organic Compounds are defined as such because they are built primarily of carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, and/or nitrogen (organic) and they have a relatively low boiling point (below that of water), so that they will readily evaporate in high concentrations at room temperature in your shop. Typically, low-weight aliphatic hydrocarbons (butane, hexane, octane) or molecules that are primarily chains of carbon and hydrogen, are what you think of when you think of VOCs. Gasoline is composed of a mixture of aliphatic hydrocarbons.

VOCs, however, are not only found in our finishes; nature, including us humans, is a source of VOCs: terpenes (natural insect protection for conifers), isoprene (plant protection), and the ubiquitous methane. If you can smell it, it's generally a VOC (methane being an exception). In our shops, we may also find a lot of VOCs: ethyl acetate, glycols, and acetone, to name some of the most common that we find in solvents. You will also find methyl-ethyl-ketone (MEK), isopropanol, toluene, among many others. Most of the pre-mixed finishes we use such as Danish Oil, Tung Oil Finish, friction polishes, lacquer, and oil-based urethanes have solvents that are mixtures of VOCs that are not typically revealed by composition, but they're there.

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**Peter's**

**Safety Corner**

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VOCs present two significant safety hazards that should be mitigated, especially in confined spaces like a wood shop. The first is that VOCs like the ones we encounter are very flammable (they will readily react with oxygen in the air in the presence of a spark or flame), and, because they are generally heavier than air, they will evaporate on the work bench, drop down off the bench and flow over the floor toward any source of flame like a pilot light. The resulting mixture can be explosive. When working with VOCs, use them in a well-ventilated area to remove any VOC build-up and do not work in an area near any open ignition source or pilot lights.

The other hazard of concern is inhalation. Prolonged exposure to VOCs is known to be a health hazard, and long-term effects may be respiratory problems, allergic reactions, or immune deficiencies. You can reduce inhalation exposure by using an activated charcoal filter mask. You can find an affordable respirator partial-face mask with replaceable cartridges at any hardware store that sells paints (3M makes a fairly universal type with easily accessible replacement cartridges, including cartridges with N95 particle filters). Be advised that if you have prolific facial hair like a beard, respirator masks like these do not work effectively. Respirator masks that prevent inhalation of VOCs must fit snugly against your face.

Thank you for your suggestions. 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

**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



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.

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.

