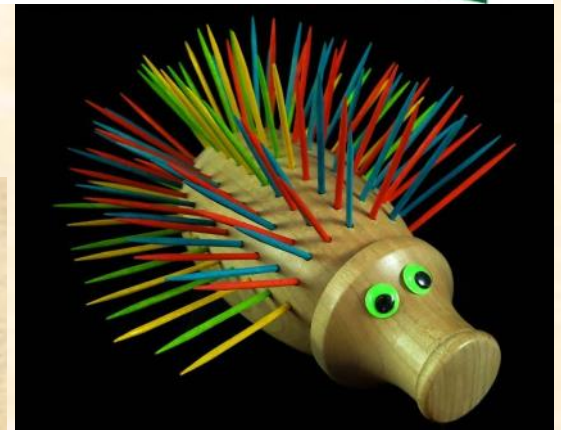


**June 2019**



**June's Program**

**Toothpick Holder/  
Dispenser**



Our very own Dennis Biggs will be demonstrating how to turn his version of a toothpick holder/dispenser. Who knows, he might even use some of his recently learned skew skills during the process.



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**Flinthillswoodturners.org**

**May 2019**

**The Call of the Lathe**



After all the months of waiting to have our first world renown wood turning demonstrator I think it was well worth the wait. Having Alan Lacer come and give an all day demonstration to the club members was such a pleasure and delight for me and I trust it was for you as well. It is easy to see why he is the Master of the Skew. The skew is one of those dreaded tools for most of us but I hope that each of us, that were present at the demo, came away with enough of an understanding of where to start on our journey to mastering the skew ourselves. Alan has such a gentle way of teaching that invites you to jump right in and try for yourself. It was also great to have two workshops with Alan and many of you all experienced, possibly for the first time, what can be learned in that kind of setting. It is one thing to watch a demonstration and then go home and try it. It's completely different when you actually receive instruction and then moments later you are practicing those same instructions. I hope many of you will bring your

skew turned items for show and tell over the next couple months.

This year has thrown its own set of weather challenges our way. One upside with all the storms is that we potentially have plenty of wood available to use on your lathe. For a lot of us cheap skates, the land fill is a great source of FREE wood. I think over the last couple years I have been able to get 10 to 12 different species of wood from this source. I have had numerous conversations with the gals at the weigh station as you enter the Manhattan land fill. They are happy to see folks like us recycling some of the wood that gets brought there. On occasions I have even been given a call to let me know of specific wood that has been brought in. As I get this information I will pass it along to our club members.

Raymond Case - President

**Club Minutes**

**May 4th , 2019**

The monthly meeting of the Flint Hills Wood turners began at 9:0 am, May 4, 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.

Ray announced this would be an abbreviated meeting so more time could be devoted to our visiting demonstrator. Visitors today were Brad Lance, Cameron Lance, and Greg Jones.

Show and Tell: Daniel Joseph, Brandon Lantz, Victor Schwartz, Don Baker, Ross Hirst, Robert Klop-penborg, Dennis Biggs, and Tom Boley shared their recent work.

Demonstration: Visiting demonstrator Alan Lacer treated club members to an all-day demonstration

covering a broad range of wood turning topics. Topics discussed were the versatility of the skew chisel and how to overcome the frustrations of mastering the tool, the nuisances of box making, and he talked about grain orientation in wood turning and how to deal with it. He demonstrated how to sharpen cutting and scraping tools, and how to hone and burnish the cutting edge of tools. Using a rod of tool steel and a MAPP torch, he made a hook tool and demonstrated its use. Alan also shared with the members his favorite wood finish of equal parts varnish, pure Tung oil, and boiled linseed oil.

Ned Gatewood, Secretary



## Community Involvement

On Saturday May 18, our club participated in the Flint Hills Festival at the Discovery Center. The following Flint Hills Woodturners members all volunteered their time to take part: Don Baker, Karl Dean, Peter Dorhout, Kevin Dix, Bob Holcombe, Robert Kloppenborg, Daniel Joseph, Brandon Lantz, Nyle Larson and Melissa McIntyre.



The Festival was once again successful with an official attendance of over 2300.

**Steve Bietau - Operations**



## Programs

In June we will have a demonstration about toothpick holders. In July we hope to have a special guest to teach us all about chainsaws.

Don't be shy. Please volunteer to share your woodturning talents with the club. Let Dennis know if you are interested or if you have ideas for demonstrations.

**Dennis Biggs - Program Director**

<u>June 1st</u>	<u>July 6th</u>	<u>Aug</u>	
Dennis Biggs Toothpick holders	Everything about Chainsaws	TBD	

# June 19th at Noon



**YA  
GOTTA  
EAT  
SHOW AND  
TELL ITEMS  
WELCOME**

# Skill Enhancement



**June 12th  
7:00pm—9:30pm**

Red Oak Hollow  
Lathe Works  
4025 Walnut Creek Drive  
Wamego, KS 66547



Have you wanted to display your wood turnings?  
Have you wondered whether someone might be interested in  
purchasing what you turn?  
Well here is your opportunity to test the waters.

One of our members, Robert Kloppenborg, has been in touch with the Marsh County Arts Organization in Marysville, KS and has set up an exhibition in July for any and all of the Flint Hills Wood turners that would like to exhibit your wood turning treasures. While this is not a club sponsored event, it is open to all members of the Flint Hills Wood turning organization. The facility has a gallery that is 40' by 42' and has numerous tables available to display your pieces on. The art center is open to the public Thursday's 4-6pm, Saturday's 10-4 and Sunday's 1-4pm. The exhibit is scheduled from July 4th through July 28th.

Robert will be the point person and will be the one coordinating the setup and teardown of the exhibit. Please see Robert at the June meeting or call him if you have questions or are interested in participating. Once it is established who is going to participate, that group will need to discuss amongst themselves a number of questions related to this exhibit. Some of the questions that will need to be answered are when do you setup and tear down? Do you want to have an artist reception and if so when?



**2019 Exhibition Season**

April - Jim Griggs

May - Closed

June - Rick Hildebrand

July - Members of the Flint Hills Turning Club

August - Allen Morris

If interested please call Robert directly at:

**Robert Kloppenborg**

**785-713-0658**

# May: Show and Tell



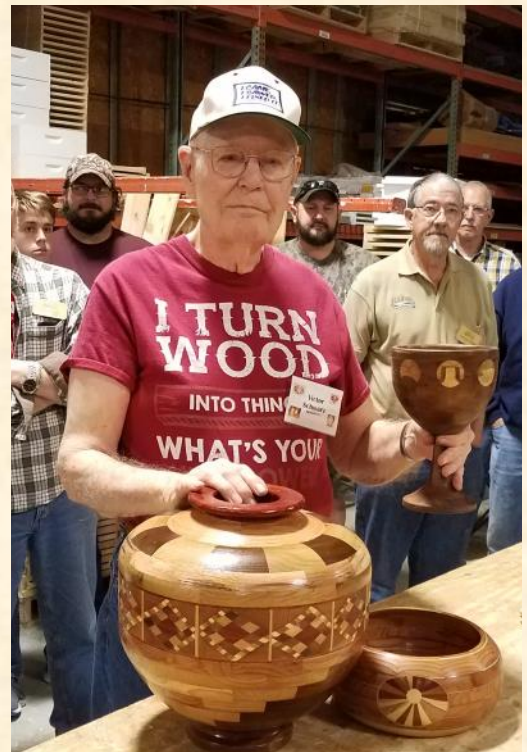
**Daniel Joseph**



**Brandon Lantz**



**Don Baker**



**Victor Schwarz**

# May: Show and Tell



**Ross Hirst**



**Dennis Biggs**



**Robert Kloppenborg**



**Tom Boley**

# May's Program

## Recap

**Demonstrator:**

**Alan Lacer**

Visiting demonstrator Alan Lacer gave a day-long demonstration covering a broad range of wood turning topics, including use of the skew chisel, tool sharpening, box making, making the hook tool, and his favorite finish.

Alan, who is known for his skew skills, acknowledged the skew can be frustrating to use which he blames primarily on the tool being dull, but a sharp skew can be an extremely versatile and effective tool. The skew is primarily a spindle turning tool, and not for face grain work. He described how to prepare the skew: the cutting edge is skewed 70 degrees, the cutting edge is straight for a third of the width of the tool then curved to the tool's short point, and the bevel length is grounded to one and one half the tool's thickness.

In order to get a very sharp edge on all turning tools, Alan stressed the importance of honing the cutting edge after grinding it and also between grindings. This will put an extremely sharp edge on a tool and reduce the number of times a tool needs to be ground at the grinding wheel. He suggested honing because the grinder puts a burr on the edge of tools that is microscopically jagged and will not produce a good surface. So on all tools, he recommends honing off the grinding wheel's burr with a diamond hone. Honing stones such as Arkansas stones are not effective on modern high speed steels like M2 and M42 steel. On scraping tools he takes it one step further; after honing off the grinding wheel's burr, he puts a new burr on the top of the tool with a burnishing tool. Though not long lasting, this burr puts the sharpest possible edge on a scraper, and will produce the best quality surface for a final finish.

Addressing safety, Alan strongly recommended to always use safety glasses and only ones with a 287+ rating for impact. This designa-

tion is found on every pair of safety glasses rated for impact.

Wood grain and its orientation in turned objects needs to be considered. How wood grain is orientated in an object effects how the wood moves as it dries and later how it moves during seasonal changes. Wood grain has three exposures in a piece of wood: end grain, face grain, and edge grain. Wood is most stable in its end grain, so it is most suited for the base and lid of boxes. Bowls are generally made with face grain wood – the grain of the wood parallel to the lathe's axis - as a bigger bowl can be gotten from that orientation. In removing wood, a better quality finish can be had if the tool moves down a slopped surface and not uphill. That way, each wood fiber being removed is supported by its adjacent downhill fiber. So, on a bowl's interior, its best to remove wood in a bottom to rim direction, and on the bowl's outside it's best to cut downhill from the rim to the bowl's bottom. Shear scraping with a burnished burr on the scraper for the final shaping of an object results in smoothest possible surface ready for finishing.

Alan made a hook scrapper using a drill rod of 3/8" diameter, 01, high speed steel and a MAPP torch. He first tapered the end of the rod by grounding it with a Zirconia disk, then heated the ground end to a translucent red/yellow color. He bent the rod's end to a hook shape. He heat treated the end to a deep red and then dunked the rod in oil (never engine oil). Finally, he tempered the tool by heating the tool's shaft (not the hooked end). The cutting edge was ground, including making a relief angle, and then honed. The more open the hook is, the more aggressive the tool's cuts will be.



# May's Program

## Continued

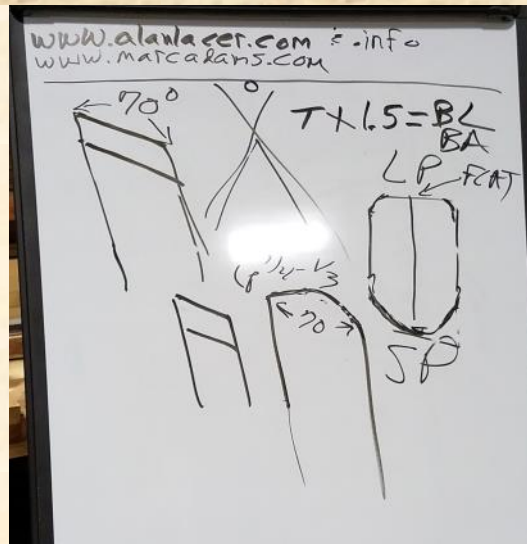


Alan went through the steps of box making, from selecting the wood, to final fitting of the lid to produce a suction fit. The wood must be dry, end grain wood. The inside of the lid is key to the diameters of the rest of the box. He talked about the tools used in shaping the box and creating its mortise and tenon. He showed how to form a micro bead, and its value at the base/lid juncture. He said the mortise and tenon should never be sanded, as it might distort

their circularity.

Alan shared the finish he uses, which is Sam Maloof's equal parts varnish, pure Tung oil, and boiled linseed oil. After the finish has cured in a month or so, it can be buffed to obtain a shiny finish, or dulled with 0000 steel wool.

Ned Gatewood - Secretary



**Peter's**

## **Safety Corner**



I thought that respirators and particle masks would be an important topic to revisit since it's been a while since we discussed dust at one of our regular meetings. If you are interested in the definitive source for personal protection information, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, or NIOSH, is the place to go: <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/nppt/ptprogram.html>. In fact, unless you are an Occupational Health and Safety professional, this web page may be overwhelming.

So, let me highlight a few points for us woodturners to remember. Sawdust, as generally defined, varies in particle sizes from 5-600 micrometers (or microns). To put that into some context, the period at the end of this sentence is roughly 600 microns. Wood dust, by itself is "irritating" by definition – particles of this general size range will get caught up in your nasal passages and throat. The tricky part is that sawdust is not just wood particles.

Many of us cut our own wood or "find" it at the local transfer station. What lives in the wood we find is as varied as the voyagers on Noah's Ark. Naturally-occurring fungus spores vary from 1 to 30 microns, bacteria range from 0.5 to 2 microns, and pollen (oh boy!) ranges from 0.05 to 50 microns. Depending on the time of year, the humidity, and what you bring home, be prepared to protect yourself from what you find.

Compounding the dust problem are volatile organic compounds, or VOCs. Many of these are naturally occurring in wood (you can find out more about wood that contains natural VOCs and allergens at <https://www.wood-database.com>). To protect yourself against VOCs while cutting wood, especially exotic tropical hardwoods, your best bet will be an activated carbon filter. This works well for solvents used in your finishes (more about that next month).

So, how can you protect yourself? Particles less than 0.1-1 micron will find their way deep into your lungs and begin to irritate the lung tissue. Particles from 2-5 microns will get into your bronchioles (the tubes leading deep into your lungs) and cause acute coughing. Neither situation is good for you long term. A good filtration system that collects the dust while you are sanding is critical as is a shop with good ventilation in general.

A dust mask with typical "N95" notation will remove 95% of particles above 0.3 microns – not too bad, unless you remember your statistics. That means 5% of those nasty "deep in your lungs" particles can make it through. N100 means 99.97% - much better. By the way, "N" stands for "not resistant to oil". These are generally paper-type face masks that are for single use only. The ones I like have a one-way valve that lets air (and water) out through a small hole in front, which helps keep your glasses or face shield free of fog if it's properly fitted.

A better, albeit a bit more clumsy alternative, is the half-face respirator that is fitted not only with replaceable particle filters but also activated charcoal filters. This dramatically cuts down on your particle intake and on any VOCs that are generated by cutting or sanding wood. Any half-face respirator will require you limit your facial hair and that you clean it regularly (sweat does a number on the butyl rubber mask).

Keep your tools sharp and your area clean.

Peter Dorhout

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**AAW** | AMERICAN ASSOCIATION  
OF WOODTURNERS

**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](mailto: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**

## Flint Hills Woodturners Calendar of Events

<b>June 1st</b>	<b>Monthly Meeting</b> Dennis Biggs Toothpick holder	Golden Prairie Honey Farms 8859 Green Valley Drive, Suite #4, Manhattan
<b>June 12th</b>	<b>Skill Enhancement</b> 7:00-9:30pm	Red Oak Hollow Lathe Works, Wamego
<b>June 19th</b>	<b>YA GOTTA EAT SOON</b>	
<b>July 6th</b>	<b>Monthly Meeting</b> Everything Chainsaws	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 9:00am 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.

