



Flint Hills

WOODTURNERS

December 2022/
January 2023

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Come watch as a few of our members give mini demos of their favorite woodturning techniques


December Club Event

Tips and Tricks

December 17, 2022

Tom Boley's Shop, 4025 Walnut Creek Drive, Wamego, KS 66547

8:30 AM Social Time, 9:00 AM Meeting Opens



Part 1: Chucking
methods, turning the
underside of the plate,
turning the rim,
preparing the bowl for
decorating and
finishing

January Club Event

Plate, Platter, or Bowl? Part 1 of 2

With David Delker

January 7, 2023

Tom Boley's Shop, 4025 Walnut Creek Drive, Wamego, KS 66547

8:30 AM Social Time, 9:00 AM Meeting Opens



President's Corner

by David Delker

December Meeting

Our next meeting will be on December 17 in Tom Boley's shop (see map later in this newsletter). Meetings in 2023 will move to the FIRST SATURDAY of the month, starting on January 7, 2023. The "first Saturday" meeting pattern is what we followed for years, until we moved to the Armory. The first-Saturday meetings will be easier for folks to remember, and those dates avoid major holidays in 2023.

Looking Forward to 2023

Since our December and January meetings will be only three weeks apart, we are doing a combined newsletter this month! Several exciting things will be happening in 2023. Among them are some great demonstrations, chances to share your work and the wonderful world of woodturning with others, and more opportunities to learn with good friends during our club activities.

November Election Results

We elected these club officers for the 2023 club year:

President: David Delker

Vice President: Joe Beck

Secretary: Barbara Drolet

Treasurer: Ross Hirst

Operations Director: Tom Shields

AAW Liaison: Heather Marusiak

We still lack a Program Director and are seeking someone to fill that position. Job duties of the Program Director include:

- Poll club members to determine appropriate demonstration topics for upcoming meetings.
- Recruit volunteer demonstrators from our own club membership.

President's Corner

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- Solicit professional demonstrators (and related workshops) for in-person demonstrations and/or interactive remote demonstrations (IRDs), based on the available budget and needs of the club.

Please contact me or one of the other Board members if you are interested in serving as the Program Director, or if you would like to suggest someone for that office. I held that position several years ago and would be happy to visit with you about the job duties.

In addition to the Program Director job, we still have a couple of “tech jobs” that need to be filled: Someone to upload and edit video files for use on website and someone to maintain our existing website. Don’t worry. There would be ample training and coaching to help you take on those tasks. Let me know if you have questions about those duties!

Thanks for Volunteering!

Several fantastic volunteers helped us move our equipment from the Armory to Tom Boley’s shop and to Ray Case’s house for storage after our November meeting. A big “thank you” to each person who volunteered!

A Permanent Home

Our smaller group size allows us to move temporarily back to Tom Boley’s shop, which we left when we outgrew that space. We will continue to seek a more permanent home, but for now Tom’s gracious offer to host our meetings will let us reconnect with our virtual members and focus on the future. Please give Tom a big “thank you” for letting us use his shop space.

2023 Program Schedule

January – February Demonstrations

We will launch 2023 with a two-part series of demonstrations by yours truly, David

President's Corner

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Delker. I will present “Plates, Platters, or Whatever Those Shallow Bowl Things Are Called.” I admit I had a difficult time selecting a name for my upcoming demonstration series. “Pretty and Practically Perfect Plates and Platters” seemed like too much awkward alliteration.

Anyway, I will demonstrate how to make plates/platters/bowls with decorative rims in January and February. Part 1 at the January meeting will include wood selection, several unique chucking techniques, turning the bottom, and preparing the top surface for decorating.

Part 2 in February will feature a variety of ways to embellish the rim of a wide-rimmed bowl, plate, or platter. Techniques covered will include iridescent paint, metal reactive paint, texturing, and turning the “bowl” of the plate, followed by finishing the piece. I may even show some pyrography or piercing, depending on the time available.

I’ve included on the following page a “photo album” of 45 of my previously produced plates (more amazing alliteration)! There were a few plates that I forgot to photograph or that I reworked into something else, but you can see some examples of the fun techniques you’ll learn about in January and February.

March Demonstration

Harvey Meyer, whom many know as the guru of the basketweave illusion technique, will be our guest Interactive Remote Demonstrator (IRD) at our March 4 meeting. We will meet in Tom’s Shop as usual and devote the full 3-hour time to Harvey’s demonstration. While details have not been worked out yet, we are hoping to have some sort of discussion/meal/social event following the demonstration! It should be a very fun day!

April – December Demonstrations

YOUR name could appear in this paragraph as a future demonstrator! Contact one of the club officers if you have a topic you would like to demonstrate to the club! We have several very talented woodturners in the club, and each of them has a

President's Corner

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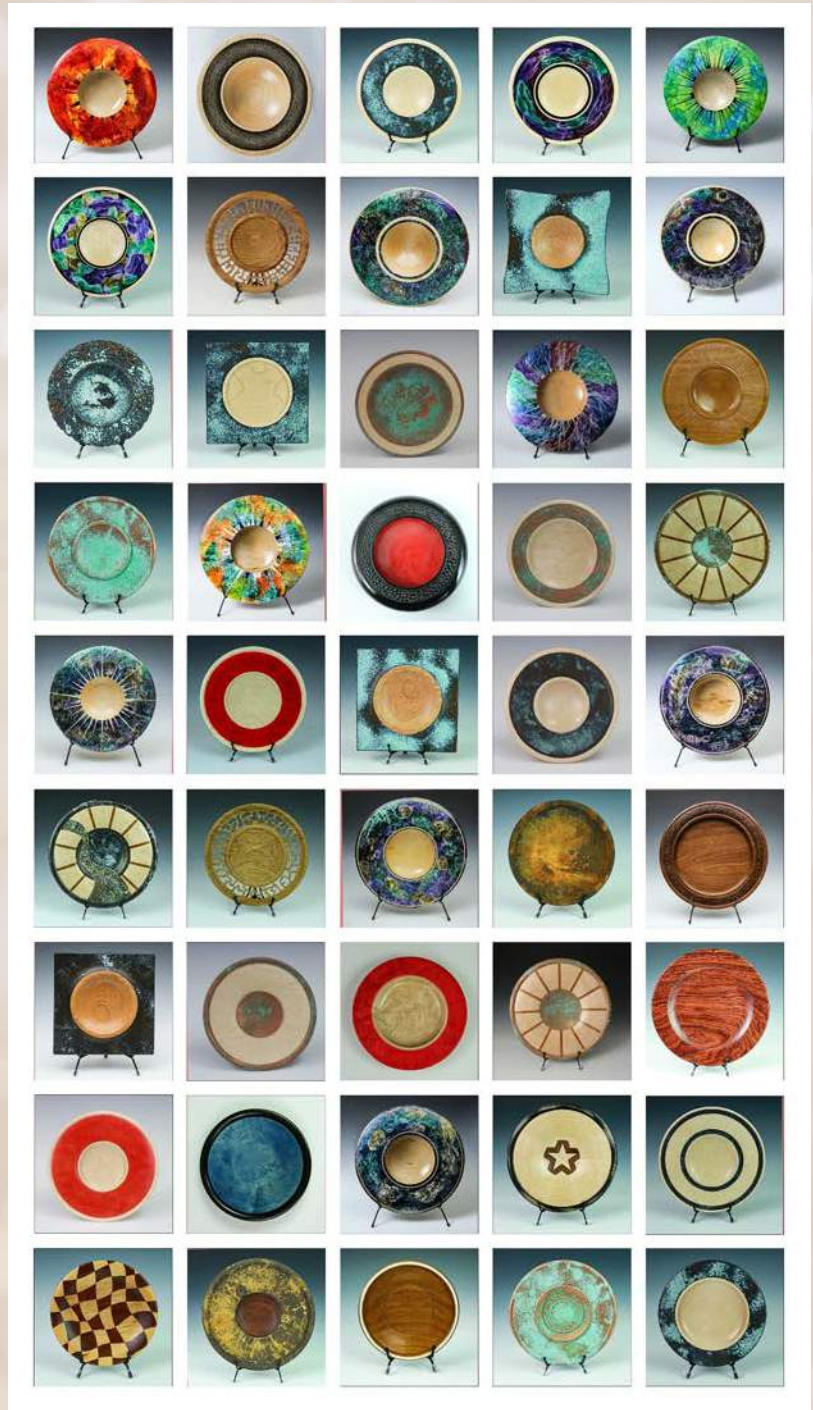
great story to share!

Conclusion

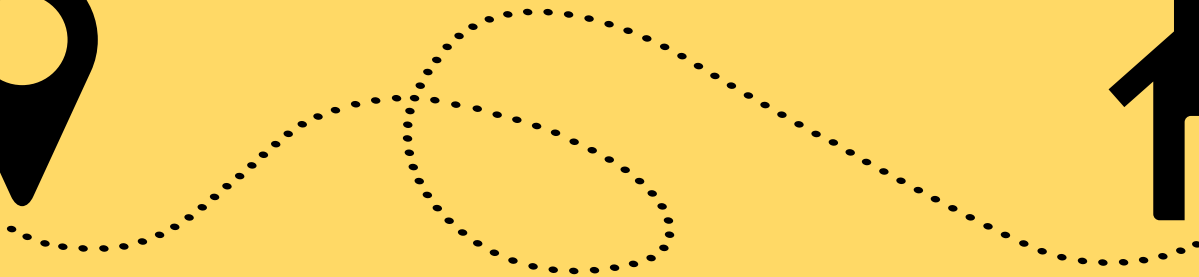
Thanks to each of you members who supported our club and encouraged me and the other officers during 2022! I'd be remiss if I didn't thank Board members Joe Beck, Barb Drolet, Ross Hirst, Heather Marusiak, Steve Bietau, and Tom Shields for their time, talent, and energy that has kept our club alive and well. A special thank you goes to Ray Case for his audio-visual technology skills and leadership!

I look forward to seeing you at our meetings on December 17, 2022 and January 7, 2023! As always, I invite your feedback, questions, and suggestions. I may be reached at fhwpresident@gmail.com. Have a happy holiday season, enjoy some time in your shop, and stay safe in all you do!

-David Delker

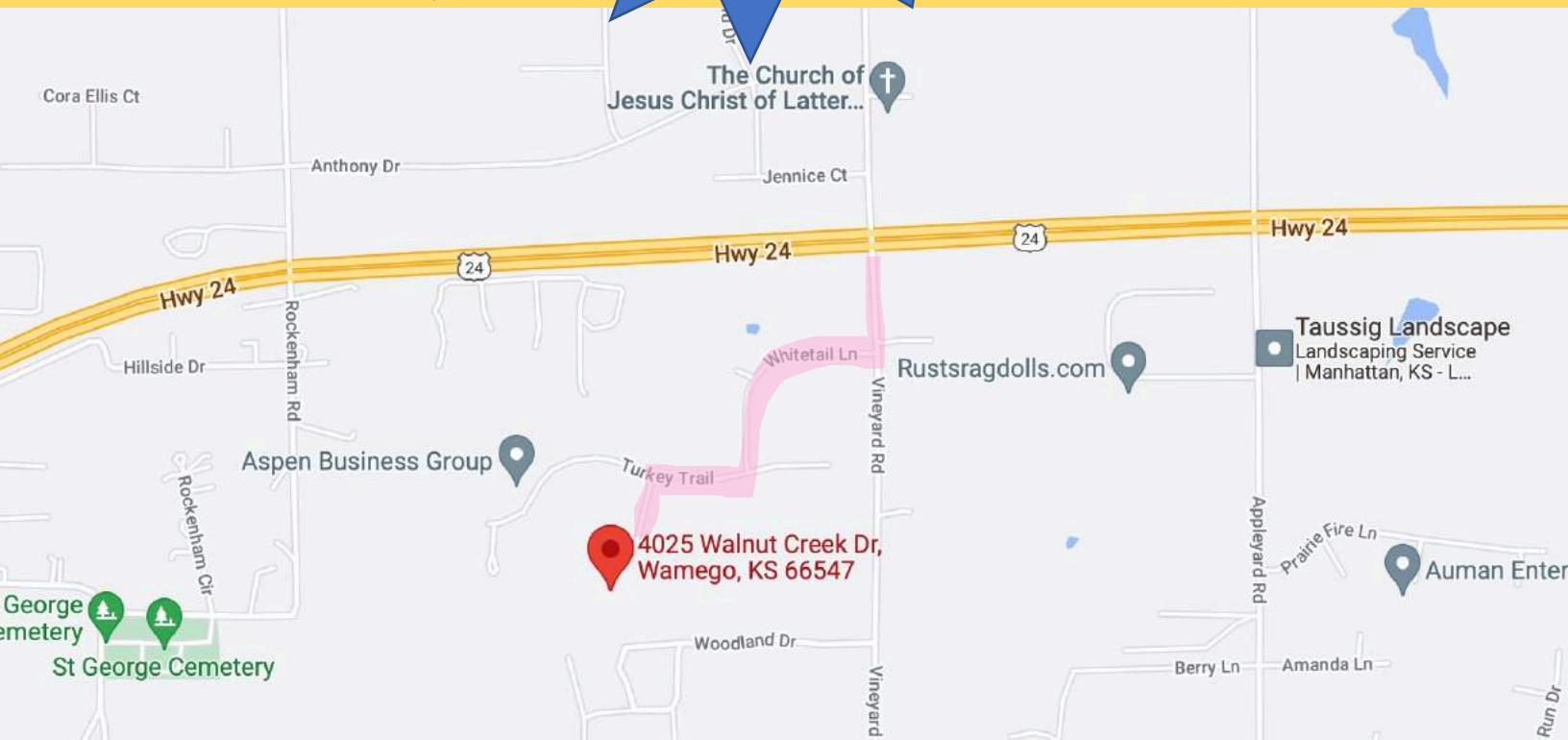


WE HAVE MOVED!



Tom Boley has graciously allowed us to conduct our monthly meetings in his shop until we secure a permanent location.

4025 Walnut Creek Drive, Wamego, KS 66547



It's that time of year again. Time to pay annual dues.

**The board of FHW has
established dues for 2023
at \$50.00.**

This increase in dues will allow us to schedule programs using Interactive Remote Demonstrations. This will give us the opportunity to schedule professional demonstrators without having to pay travel expenses and other expenses related to bringing in person demonstrators. We also may bring in demonstrators in person.

You can pay your dues at club functions or mail a check to:
6742 SW Finsbury Ave.
Topeka, Kansas 66614.

Dues may also be paid using PayPal at Flint Hills Woodturners:
fhwtreasurer@gmail.com.



Why Am I a Member of Flint Hills Woodturners?

By Ross Hirst, FHW Treasurer

I recently asked myself this question because it is once again time to pay dues. Dues for 2023 will be \$50 and are due by the January meeting. That is \$4.17 per meeting. What do I get for \$4.17?

At its core, as a member of Flint Hills Woodturners you become part of a community who not only share your interests and passion, but who actively contribute to the growth of your skills and expertise. We take pride in our commitment to share knowledge, resources, and support each other's efforts.

- **Community Outreach** We annually demonstrate woodturning at community events and participate in charity activities.
- **Demonstrations** We arrange for prestige woodturners to demonstrate at our monthly meetings. Some of these demonstrations are Interactive Remote Demonstrations (IRD's) and some of them are in person. With the in-person demonstrations there is often a related workshop for a fee.
- **Library** We maintain a library of books and videos, which members can check-out monthly.
- **Mentor Program** We actively promote mentoring, where experienced club members volunteer to provide guidance and one-on-one training to novice woodturners seeking to improve their technique and knowledge. This is usually done at monthly Skill Enhancement sessions.
- **Monthly Meetings** We meet each month on the first Saturday from 9 to noon.
- **Newsletter** We publish a monthly newsletter with regular features, including the President's Message, Announcements, Schedule of Events, and other items of interest to woodturners, both locally and nationally.
- **Skill Enhancement Sessions** We schedule group sessions where interested members can practice new techniques using the club's equipment, while receiving instruction from experienced members.
- **Show and Tell** We provide time at monthly meetings for members to share their work with the club. It's an opportunity to both showcase your work and receive feedback from others. Around the Show and Tell table, we also share experience and knowledge of woods, tools, techniques, sharpening and finishing.
- **Fellowship** All of our activities are an opportunity to fellowship with individuals who share our interest in wood and woodturning.
- **Supporting Vendors** Several vendors, including Rockler and Woodcraft offer our members a 10% discount on tools and supplies.
- **Tools** We give members access to the club's lathes and equipment, while participating in Skill Enhancement Sessions and Hands-On demonstrations.

Flint Hills Woodturners is a 501(c)(3) organization qualified to accept charitable contributions. We encourage you to contribute to build the club. You will receive a receipt for tax purposes.



AAW Bulletin

News from the American Association of Woodturners

by Heather Marusiak

- **AAW Presents: Rebecca DeGroot**, Saturday, December 17, 2022, 2:00PM CT. [Click here to learn more.](#)
- **AAW 37th Woodturning Symposium, Louisville, KY, June 1-4, 2023.** Join woodturners from around the world for the valued symposium experience you look forward to. More than 100 compelling presentations and demonstrations over three-and-a-half days. Learn from world-class demonstrators. Evaluate and buy the latest equipment, tools, and supplies in the Trade Show. Make new woodturning friends! [More information and registration coming soon.](#)
- The AAW WIT (Women in Turning) Committee agrees that to further its mission to increase participation of women in the field of woodturning, it will work with chapters to help grow the number of women in AAW. Currently, women comprise less than 9% of AAW membership. To encourage women to join AAW, the WIT Committee offers a limited number of WIT-sponsored half- and full-price AAW memberships to women for a one-year, full "General" AAW membership. For more information, contact Heather Marusiak at heather.marusiak@gmail.com
- To become an AAW member, or to renew your AAW membership, please visit: [AAW Membership Home.](#)

Vista
DRIVE IN

Ya Gotta Eat!

December 21 at 12:00 PM

in the back room of

VISTA DRIVE IN

1911 Tuttle Creek Blvd, Manhattan, KS 66502

***Show and Tell
is Welcome!***

*...Food!
...Friendship!
...Woodturning!*



Sorry!
Closed for
holidays!

**FHW Skill
Enhancement**
will take a short break
in December.

Don't worry, we will resume in the New Year.
Stay tuned for more information.



November Show and Tell



Vaughn Graber



November Show and Tell



Heather Marusiak



November Show and Tell



Dennis Biggs



November Show and Tell



Robert Kloppenborg



November Show and Tell



Tom Shields



November Show and Tell



Mike Ballard

November Show and Tell



Victor Schwarz



November Show and Tell



Tom Boley



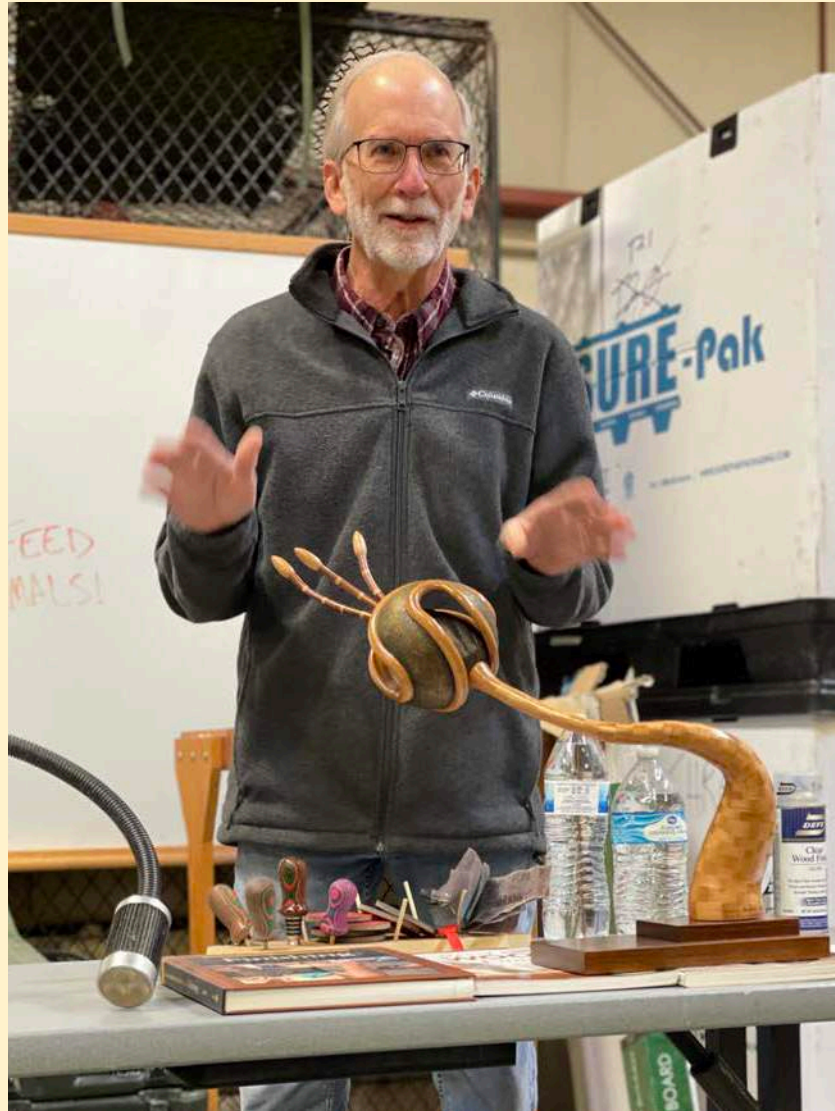
November Show and Tell



Ned Gatewood



November Show and Tell



David Delker



Don't forget to follow, comment, like, and share FHW content on Facebook

facebook

FIVE WAYS TO AVOID A CATCH

Demystifying the demon

LYLE JAMIESON

IN RECENT ISSUES OF *AMERICAN WOODTURNER*, I have noticed that people regularly mention catches, as if they are commonplace happenings that seem to have a life of their own, popping up at the most inopportune time. *Catch*...what a paralyzing thought to take to the lathe with you! It must stifle much creative spirit. Does it stand between you and a thin-walled vessel? Is it really so unpredictable and uncontrollable? I think not!

During a demonstration at my local club meeting several months ago, I was cleaning up the bottom of the piece and working very close to a glue block. The corner of my bowl gouge caught the waste block ever so lightly and the telltale sound of a catch echoed out into the audience. I heard from the corner of the room, "AH HA! Even the demonstrator gets a catch." This was not entirely true. The piece I was working on was not damaged, the gouge was not even in contact with it. I got the catch on the waste block. True it was an error on my part and it could have been disastrous. But I was watching the bottom of my bowl, not the waste block. This is a much different experience than the surprise and shock of a catch inside a bowl.

Catches are not commonplace for me. They are rare and I know what I did when I've caused one. They do not sneak up on me like mysterious demons. In this article I hope to show how and why catches happen, what it is that sucks your tool into the wood when you get a catch, and how to avoid it.

Let's first define some terms. I am sure you have heard that we need to turn "with the grain," or "downhill." What does that mean? On a spindle, where the grain is parallel to the lathe axis, it is easy to see that "downhill" means cutting toward

that axis. As the arrows show in Figure 1, each fiber of wood being cut

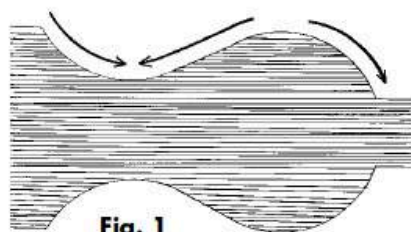


Fig. 1

(sheered or scraped) is supported by the fiber just below the one being cut.

In a bowl we have grain going perpendicular to the lathe axis, just the opposite of spindle turning. A cross section of the work (Figure 2) indicates that the direction of a downhill cut depends on whether it's on the inside or outside of the bowl. But we can cut "downhill" till the cows come home and still get a catch. I will show why.

In cutting, you move along a plane while the wood is moving around an axis. The force of the wood rotating against the tool on the tool rest is much more significant than the force you produce by pushing the tool along the plane. As the bowl rotates, twice in every rotation, it encounters both side grain and end grain, and in between you are cutting alternately with and against the grain. As you leave the side grain and approach the end grain, you are cutting "uphill" twice every rotation, and that creates the possibility of a catch (Figure 3). You can visualize now why your tool wants to get sucked into that end grain, and a catch happens.

I will discuss five methods to minimize the risk of catches: 1) use sharp tools, 2) ride or follow the bevel, 3)

use a 45-degree sheer whenever possible, 4) support your tools on the tool rest, and 5) position your tool properly in hollow forms.

First, a sharp tool can shear off those end-grain fibers cleanly and smoothly, while a dull tool will push, grab, and tear them out. You can do all the right techniques and still have trouble with catches if your tools are not sharpened properly. It is well worth the time and effort to make a grinder with an 8-inch aluminum oxide stone and a low-rpm set-up. I have an old 1/4-hp motor and a pillow block and shaft. The pulleys allow me to gear the grinding wheel down to about 900 rpm. The slow speed allows me to grind more accurately.

Secondly, I think most catches come from allowing the turning tool to cut while it's not being supported by the bevel. Consider where you're most likely to encounter a catch: on the inside of a bowl—because that's where you're most likely to lose bevel contact. How do you make sure you maintain bevel contact? Try to visualize the heel of the bevel as you turn, and the edge will take care of itself. Ride the bevel. If no cut happens, no harm is done. But if you cut and don't have the support of the bevel, you flirt with a catch, even using sharp tools. Notice in Fig-

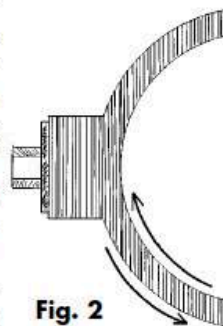


Fig. 2

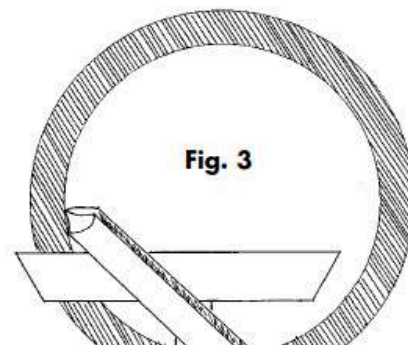


Fig. 3

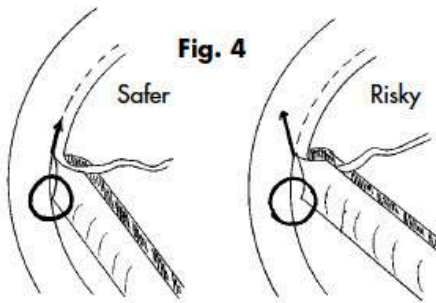


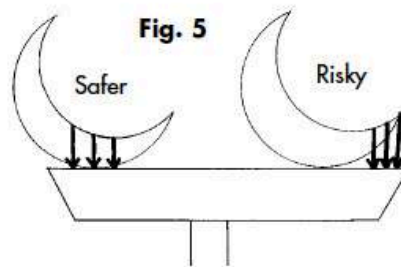
Figure 4 the natural path the cutting edge would take while riding the bevel. It is not necessary to use any pressure to ride the bevel. You don't want to burnish the wood with the heel; in fact, in a piece with voids or a natural-edge where there is no wood to ride, the bevel must follow the path where the wood would be.

The third aid to prevent catches is to maintain a 45-degree sheering cut with your tool. How do you sheer end grain? Take a trip back memory lane to junior high shop class and your first bird house. You probably took a hand plane and tried to clean up the end grain of a block of wood. The plane chattered, gouging and chipping the board until your instructor showed you how get a clean cut by angling the plane blade 45 degrees to the direction of travel on the board. If you present the cutting edge of your bowl gouge at a 45-degree angle to the radial movement of your work, you will get the same clean slice while turning that intermittently present end grain.

Try this first on the outside of your bowl, or watch the process on a spindle turning. On the inside of a bowl you point the flute in the direction of the cut. Stay in the middle third of your gouge's cutting edge. This tilt will yield a 45-degree sheering cut. The approach works well while following the bevel of a bowl gouge. It also works with a scraper to produce a sheer-scraping cut.

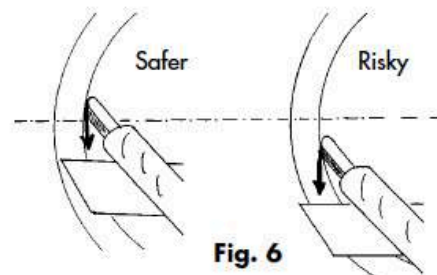
Another force at work in a catch is the force of the cut down on the tool rest. The edge of a 12-inch bowl rotating at 1,000 rpm is traveling 52 feet per second, or 36 miles per hour. That's a great deal of force on the tool. (This might be a good time to mention sharp tools again. With all

the dynamic forces involved the sharper the tool, the easier the tool passes through the wood fibers.) The fourth aid to prevent catches is to make sure the cutting edge of your gouge is directly supported by the tool rest. If your cutting edge gets way out on the wing or corner of the gouge there is no support by the tool rest. In Figure 5 the arrows represent the force of the wood as it spins by the tool. When the end grain of the bowl comes around to grab your



gouge, the space below the cutting edge could allow the gouge to twist in your hand—the genesis of a catch.

Finally, the fifth aid concerns catches that happen while using scraping tools inside hollow forms. The position of the cutting edge on the radial axis is very important. As Figure 6 indicates, if your cutting edge is slightly above the centerline when you start to get a catch, the force of a catch will pull your tool away from the wood. When your



tool is below center and a catch starts, the cutting force downward on the tool rest will dig the cutting edge deeper into the wood.

Another hazard in deep hollow turning occurs when the cutting edge of your tool is higher than the han-

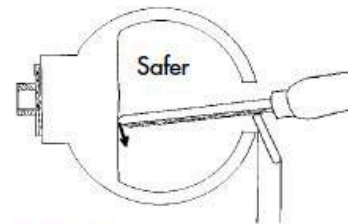
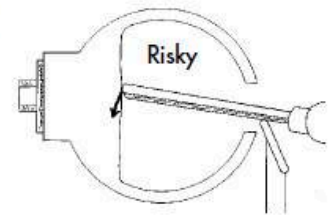


Fig. 7



dle. Handle down is the standard position when using a bowl gouge, but not while cutting across the bottom on the inside of a hollow form. With the cutting edge tipped up into the grain, if a catch starts, the force is directed deeper into the wood. (Ouch!) With the handle up, as in Figure 7, the chatter from grain irregularities that might start a catch will force the tool away from the wood.

Another tool positioning aid to prevent catches is to rotate your cutting edge a little counter-clockwise from horizontal. This twisted position will prevent the edge of the tool

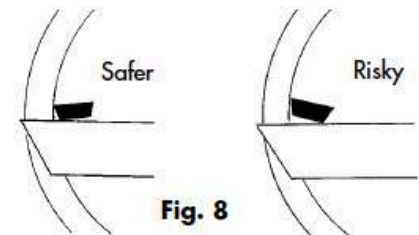
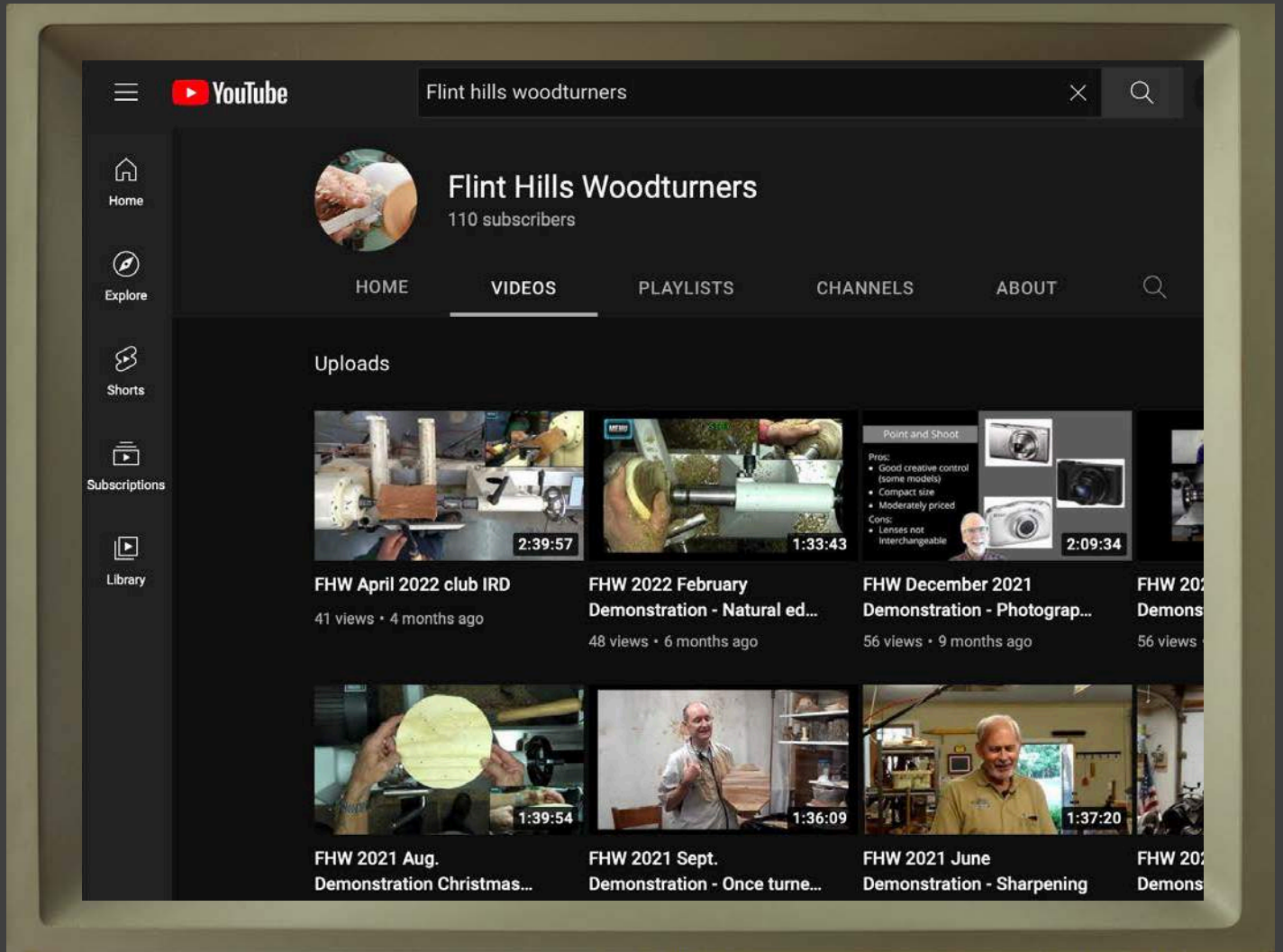


Fig. 8

from digging into the grain and starting a catch. Figure 8 is a view looking down the shaft of the tool into a deep hollow turning.

So now we have five ways to stay away from catches: 1) use sharp tools, 2) ride or follow the bevel, 3) sheer at a 45-degree angle, 4) have tool-rest support, and 5) maintain a safer tool position. It is not always possible or necessary to do all five. Losing the support of the bevel is the problem that causes most catches. If you are in a tight spot and you can't ride the bevel, observing the other four rules will help prevent catches.

Lyle Jamieson, of Traverse City, MI, has been turning since he was sixteen.



We're on  YouTube

[Click here to view demonstrations hosted by the Flint Hills Woodturners](#)





Board Members



President
David Delker



Vice President
Joe Beck



Secretary
Barbara Drolet



Treasurer
Ross Hirst



Operations
Tom Shields



Past President
Ray Case



**AAW & WIT Liaison
Newsletter Editor**
Heather Marusiak

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.

If you would like more information about our club, please visit our website:
<https://flintheillswoodturners.org>
or email:
fhwpresident@gmail.com



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.