



27 years of Art,
Craft, Technology,
and Tradition.



The Monthly newsletter of the Chicago Woodturners

March 2013

Headline News

2013 Demos and Hands-on Classes

All day Saturday demos are held at our normal Christian Liberty meeting room. Sunday one day classes and Monday/Tuesday 2 day class is held at Normac.

Mike Hosaluk: April 13-16
Alan Lacer : June 1-4
Bonnie Klein: November 9-12.

Signup is open and hands-on classes are filling up fast See page 9-11 for more details.

Rockwell Demo Opportunities

Rockler s also looking for 4 people for 1 hour or 2 people for 2 hrs to do some demos on Sat March 16th. As of right now the hours that are open are 10, 11, 1, 2, and 3pm. Please let me or the store know as soon as you can. They will also be doing this on May 18 and August 17th. Rockler also has some Sorby demos coming up on February 6, 1-4 pm and 5-8 pm The Sorby folks will be on site and all Sorby tools are 20% off. Please call the store to let them know

Mentoring

It was a joy to have help from a couple of new mentors last meeting. It allowed us to cover more subjects and certainly gave some turners a different take on their problem(s). Thank you very much guys! (Girls are welcome too.) We will use the same format this month as last. "Your Choice" You bring your tools, project, or problem and we will do our best to smooth out the rough edges, no matter what they are. We'll turn, sharpen, or talk as needed. We start at 6:00 and continue until the start of the meeting. - Darrell Radar.

2013 Meeting Agenda

Month	Gallery Review	Demonstration
March	Paul Pycik	Spiral Segmented Pen—Jason Swanson
April	Clint Stevens	Baxter Threading Jig—Andy Kuby
May	Alan Carter	Natural Edge Bowls—Ken staggs
June	Roger Basrak	Wood burning on Steroids - Al Miotke
July	TBD	Wands—Don Johnson
Aug	TBD	Offset Turning—Clint stevens
Sept	TBD	Desk Clock/ Rose Engine—Paul Pycik
Oct	TBD	Open Segment Turning—Bill Robb
Nov	TBD	DIY Tools—Francisco Bauer
Dec	None	Christmas Party

Presidents Curls



President
Scott Barrett

**A Big thanks
from our
President to
everyone that
donates their
time to make
this club a
success.**

Spring is on its way and soon winter will be behind us. That can only mean that Demo Season is “just around the corner”. 2013 is shaping up to be a banner year for Chicago Woodturners Club demos. Richard Nye, our demo chairperson has worked feverishly to schedule an outstanding program. Michael Hosaluk, Alan Lacer, and Bonnie Klein have committed and are on the calendar. The “Coup de gras” may be the scheduling of Hans Weissflog, the world renowned “Box Turner”. There’s not a one among us that can’t benefit from spending a Saturday with one or all of these fine demonstrators.

In addition to the Saturday demos, there are hands on classes available on Sunday and Monday-Tuesday. The class space is filling fast, so if you wish to participate sign up at the Tuesday meeting or contact Rosemary Pagura, (her contact information is on the website).

Thank you, Richard, for persevering and putting this outstanding program together.

The club website continues to evolve and mature under the direction of Mark Dreyer. The website is the source of a vast amount of information. Current events and club news can be found and referenced quickly and easily. The private member area is available to our members for posting their own gallery photos for other members to view. We should all take the time to thank Mark for all the effort he puts into the club website. Thanks Mark!

Our newsletter, under the editorship of Al Miotke can only be described as world class. You’ve heard me say it many times, but Al continues to amaze me. He never misses a dead line, politely but sternly encourages his writers, and puts it all together in a cohesive fun to read publication. Next time you see Al; give him an old fashioned “thank you”.

Roger and Julie Basrak sit in the back of the room and silently but efficiently keep our membership records in order. Chuck Svazas organizes our monthly raffle. Without each of these individual’s efforts, our club would suffer. Thank you Roger, Julie, and Chuck for all you do.

Lastly I would like to thank Andy Kuby for taking over as our club contact for community turning projects. His goal is to have each member let him know where their interest lies in participating in the many projects presented to our club. Recently there have been opportunities to turn spindles, pens, and bowls. Along with this he coordinates turners for both the Rockler and Woodcraft stores. Contact Andy if you wish to have specific project information sent to you.

The quality of our club is a composite of these and many other individuals that unselfishly give of their time and expertise. We all have something to give. If you get involved our club will grow stronger and we will all prosper from it.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Scott Barrett". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

February Meeting Minutes

Clint Stevens

The February 12th Chicago Woodturners meeting was launched on time under the direction of President Scott Barrett.

Darrell Rader asked about the possible CWT Mentoring sessions for Saturday February 16th. Clint Stevens volunteered his studio for the four who expressed interest in attending.

Don McCloskey solicited woodturning demonstrations from the club members beginning in late summer. Please call or e-mail Don if you would have a skill you would care to share with others.

Richard Nye (Demonstration Coordinator) encouraged members to sign up with Rosemary Pagura for demonstration and hands on events with Michael Hosaluk on April 13-16, Alan Lacer June 1-4, Bonnie Klein November 9-12. Richard has heard from Hans Weisflog that there is a good chance that he will visit CWT in July.

Scott Barrett expressed gratitude to Al Miotke for his long term dedication to publishing excellent



issues of "As The Wood Turns," the CWT newsletter. Al did acknowledge he has now published 36 issues. He humbly acknowledged the contributions of article contributors.

Roger Basrak gave a membership count of 145 paid members and 30 who have yet to pay. We had 1 new member, David Betaud of Libertyville and a visitor, John Szmyd of Mundelein.



Richard Nye asked for a volunteer to accompany Michael Hosaluk to a Blackhawks game on April 15th.

Janice Shotola announced the Ohio Woodturners Seminar to be held October 11-13. Check with OVWG website (www.ovwg.org) for details. Demonstrators include our own Alan Carter and Jason Swanson.



Marie Anderson announced a CWT ornamental woodtuning seminar probably for the first weekend in early May. The cost of \$100 would include Breakfasts and Lunches. Registration is limited to the first 25 enrollees.

Chuck Svazas conducted a raffle for prizes of exceptional woodturning swag.

Alan Carter announced that he will be teaching at Arrowmont this summer. Arrowmont will have a very wide variety of classes this summer. Alan also recommended World of Woodturners online community. See him or any other WOW member for information.

Gallery review was conducted under the discerning eyes of Marie Anderson

Dan Anderson gave an informative demonstration on the wise and careful use of chainsaws.



Such are the minutes of the February CWT meeting as best recounted by my notes, friends and faulty memory.

CWT News

February Raffle

The February Raffle Winners:

A Kuby—Maple boards
M Olson—Owl books
F Bauer—Pen blanks
M Schmitz—Calipers and dividers
G Evanson -Jobillo turning square
M McCleary—Mahogany turning square

March Raffle Items

Ash Turning Squares
Walnut turning squares
Banksia pod
Small Berger sphere Caliper
3 small turning blanks
Carole Floate turning kit

Total income \$210

Membership report

Julie Basrak

We have 154 paid members for 2013. Hopefully the rest of our membership from 2012 will update their dues this by the March meeting. We will NOT be printing name badges for unpaid members AFTER the March meeting. It's not too late to either pay at the meeting or send a check with any updated or changed contact information to Julie and Roger (address available elsewhere in the newsletter). Annual dues are a bargain at \$25 for a single membership or \$35 for a family membership.

At our February meeting, we all had the opportunity to meet David Bertaud from Libertyville, who joined during the membership event at Wood Craft on Jan. 19. We also had a guest at our meeting - John Szmyd from Mundelein. Remember, guests are always welcome, and we'd appreciate it if a couple of members each month would let us know when they check in if they would be available to greet any guests and answer questions. Thanks for your help!

Chain Saw Safety

Paul Rosen

February 12th was “Anderson Night” at CWT, as Marie delivered an excellent gallery critique, followed by Dan’s talk on sharpening and maintaining your chain saw. Marie increased our turning vocabulary. We now know that a “catenary” curve is what an idealized hanging chain or cable assumes under its own weight when supported at both ends, aka a graph of the hyperbolic cosine function, for you mathematicians in the group. So now we can envision the ideal profile for the outside of a turned bowl.



Safety Considerations

But it was Dan who anchored the evening with his advice on chain saws. Dan started with four safety suggestions. Wear chaps. They cost about \$110.00. Wash them first, and then dry warm. This fluffs up the fibers, so if your chain ever does contact the chaps, they will efficiently jam the moving chain. Second, wear a helmet with ear and eye protection. Third, wear protective eyewear. And fourth, wear steel-toed shoes. Okay, you know the costume. But if you’ve never used a chain saw before, read the safety manual. Kickback and getting the blade stuck in the middle of



the cut are two of the most common problems encountered. To understand kickback, consider a side view of the chain saw, with the saw head on the left and the tip of the blade on the right. Contact with the upper right quadrant of the moving chain is what most commonly causes kickback. And kickback is more likely to occur with a shorter bar, say 12" to 14" in length. It will occur quickly and unexpectedly. So what can you do? One piece of advice is to keep your head slightly to one side of the plane in which the blade is cutting. This reduces the likelihood that the moving chain will swing back to hit you in the head. But probably the best advice, if you’ve never used a chain saw, is to read the safety manual from cover-to-cover, so you can understand some of the things that can go wrong to produce injuries.

Pinching the Bar

Another issue is getting the bar caught in the middle of the cut as the limb or trunk is cut. Let’s say you’ve got a 10" diameter tree trunk 6-feet long, sitting on the ground, and you want to cut it in half. Consider which way the severed pieces will fall before you start the cut. Consider also the fact that you don’t want the moving chain to touch the ground, as this will immediately dull the chain and require re-sharpening. Some sawyers might support the log at one or both ends with small diameter branches underneath. You can do this, but stop the cut slightly before the mid-point, and roll the log. Otherwise, if you keep cutting, you increase the likelihood that the kerf will narrow as the weight of the log pinches the saw kerf during the last half to third of the cut. How do I know this? Been there, done that. Time to break out the car jack to raise the middle of the log, so I can get my bar loose. Better you should plan ahead, and position the log so as it is cut, the kerf opens rather than closes. The easiest way to do this is to place a small diameter branch (maybe 4") immediately beneath the point where you want to start cutting.



Fuel Life

Dan gave us good advice on fuel for the chain saw. Gas-powered chain saws are typically two-cycle engines, which means you must add a special oil to each gallon of gasoline. Stihl, probably the premier manufacturer of chain saws (Husqvarna and Makita are also popular brands), recommends using 89-octane gasoline with its saws. (Using 87 octane usually makes the engine run hotter.) Stihl says not to use fuel that is more than 60 days old. (I try to prolong my fuel to 6 months by adding StaBil to the gasoline/oil mix.) The rule with chain saws (and any other carbureted engine, be it lawnmower, snow blower, or rototiller) is to run the engine dry after use. But few of us do this. We’re always going to use that lawnmower in two weeks, so why drain it of fuel? That logic is good through October, or maybe mid-November, and then we forget. Human nature, I guess. But as Dan pointed out, 75% of a mechanic’s income derives from having to clean out a gummed up carburetor that refuses to



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Chain Saw Safety**Paul Rosan***(Continued from page 5)*

let a gas engine run. And at the beginning of the next season, don't go to that half-full gas can of 89-octane left over from last year. It's tempting. But you're better off dumping it into your car's gas tank (assuming it has fuel injection), and purchasing a fresh gallon of 89-octane and adding the two-cycle oil. It's either that, or line the pockets of your local mechanic with silver.

Stihl also markets a gasoline replacement product called MotoMix[®]. Unlike gasoline, which contains about 10% ethanol, MotoMix is alcohol-free. It's not cheap. A liter costs about \$8.00. But Stihl guarantees it for 2 years. So you may want to consider MotoMix as a gasoline replacement, especially if you use your chain saw infrequently.

Stihl Bar and Chain Oil

Stihl makes great bar and chain oil. It comes in an orange plastic container that costs about \$15.00 per gallon. Bar and chain oil is sticky. The idea is that you want it to stay in the bar groove to lubricate the bottom part of the chain. You can buy cheaper brands, but they don't always stick in the bar groove as well as the Stihl brand. If blue smoke starts coming out of the kerf while you're cutting, stop. Consider the possibility that the bar groove is not being properly lubricated. The bar is usually a laminate of three pieces of steel. Sawdust can accumulate in the track. Clean out the sawdust. Also, consider loosening the chain and removing the bar, so you can clean out sawdust from the saw head. And with a bent paper clip, make sure the channel in the bar where the incoming oil travels is open. You can have a full chamber of bar oil, but if it isn't getting to the groove in the bar, your chain is going to heat up fast. That blue smoke is telling you something. Sometimes I cheat. I have a small oil can filled with about 8-ounces of bar and chain oil. Before I start the saw, I squirt some of the bar and chain oil into the groove on the bar and on the chain. It may be overkill, but I do it anyway.

Starting the Saw

The protocol for starting the chain saw requires that you set the choke to the starting position, aka position 4, and activate the safety brake. Press the primer button three or four times, place your foot into the handle (with the saw on the ground), and pull the rip cord. Pull the rip cord again, etc. As soon as you hear a sound like the saw "wants" to start, immediately set the choke to the ½ position. If you don't do this, you will likely flood the engine, which means the saw isn't

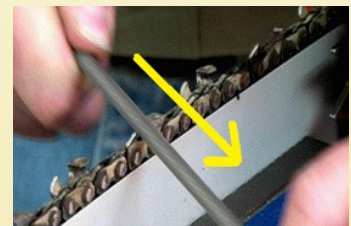
going to start for a while. Recognizing the sound of a saw that "wants" to start is an acquired skill. I know. I've flooded enough engines until I finally figured out what I was doing wrong. Once the saw starts, immediately (within 3 seconds) release the safety brake so the saw can warm up—usually about 35 seconds in my experience, depending upon ambient temperature.

An alternate recommended approach is to place the saw head between your legs, with one hand on the head grip and the other on the rip cord. Perhaps the worst approach is to hold the head grip in mid-air with one hand and display your biceps by pulling violently on the rip cord. Some experienced sawyers will do this, but the practice offers limited control of the saw head. For the newbie, starting on the ground is probably best.

Stihl offers an innovative feature on some of its saws called Easy2Start[®]. This mechanism allows you to tension a spring, usually with two pulls of the rip cord. Once the spring reaches the pre-defined tension, it automatically releases its energy to turn the engine shaft. The force with which you pull the rip cord is unrelated to the torque placed on the engine shaft, so there is no advantage to the "cave man" approach that may work on a non-Easy2Start engine. The spring mechanism assures that the starting torque applied to the engine shaft is the same each time. I've used one, and it works very well. Kudos to the Stihl engineers.

Chain Characteristics

Chain length, gauge, pitch, and number of links are the four parameters that define a chain. The length is easy. It has to match the length of your bar. The gauge refers to the width of the slot in the bar, and therefore, the width of the lower part of the chain that rides in the slot. Common gauge numbers are 0.063" or 0.050". Pitch is the distance between 3 rivets divided by 2. The number of links is self-evident. But the number of links is important because it is related to the number of spikes on the drive sprocket as well as the tip of the bar. See the latest Stihl catalog for comprehensive detail on chains and bars that will fit your Stihl chain saw model.

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Chain Saw Safety

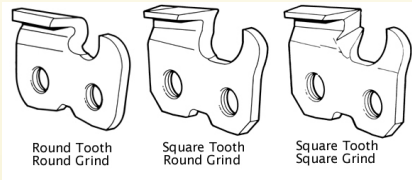
Paul Rosan

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What Size Saw to Buy?

Dan suggests buying the smallest size you can get away with. But you might ask, "How can I cut a 20" diameter log with a 14" chain saw?" The answer is, you roll the log. Alternately, you *could* buy a longer bar and chain, assuming your saw can accommodate them. (Again, see the Stihl master catalog.)

What about those cheap (\$129.00 on sale) saws you can buy at Menards or the big box home centers? (I have a friend who bought a "Wild Thing" with a psychedelic paint job, and he swears by it.) But Dan described an episode where an 18" Poulan chain saw was available for \$99.00. It made one cut, but then failed on the second. If you look closely, the saw was somewhat underpowered, as evidenced by the fact that the chain had teeth on every alternate link. Offering fewer teeth is one way to disguise an underpowered chain saw. YMMV.



Dan loves the Stihl Farm Boss 290; it's a little heavy, but quite powerful. You will find that Stihl now offers models designated 291, 251, or 281, whereas the earlier models ended in a zero. The newer model numbers ending in "1" contain modifications designed to meet new emissions standards.

What about an electric? Dan's children bought him an electric chain saw as a gift, and he loves it. It's much quieter than a gas engine. And you can use it in a confined space without fear of carbon monoxide poisoning. The only disadvantage is the electrical umbilical cord to which you must be attached.

Sharpening

Proper sharpening of a chain has an element of art to it. First, you need to buy a round file whose diameter matches the notch in your chain. Next, you set the chain saw on a flat surface, mark the starting point on the chain with a red dot or white paint, and start sharpening every other link. Three strokes of the file, held parallel to the ground, are usually adequate for each tooth. The sharpening angle is usually 30-degrees. Once the chain is sharpened on one side, move to the alternate side and start sharpening every other tooth. Dan recommends sharpening often, like every 15 minutes.

There are many different sharpening jigs on the market. The Oregon brand is widely available in home centers. Dremel makes an excellent jig that uses a motorized cylindrical stone with a 30-degree guide. Stones are available in different diameters to match the notch in your chain. You can also buy a chop-saw type sharpener to sharpen the chain off of the bar. These devices can cost up to \$350.00, but they offer the ability to adjust the sharpening angle and depth consistently for each link. Marty Knapp noted that Harbor Freight sells an inexpensive motorized sharpener which he likes.

Then there is the issue of filing down the tip of the hook tooth that precedes the cutter itself. The hook tooth tip is supposed to be 0.025" lower than the cutter, in order for the tooth itself to cut the wood. This measurement is critical. If the leading edge of the hook tooth is the same height as the cutter, the chain won't cut.

Given the intricacies of sharpening, one might consider asking Dan to sharpen your chain saw blades. He's an expert, and the charge is a reasonable \$8.00/chain.

Chain Saw Bars

The bars on a chain saw are reversible in the sense you can use them upside down or right side up. Usually, after a chain is sharpened, the bar is turned 180-degrees in order to assure consistent wearing on the grooves. When the base of a chain link hits the bottom of the bar, it means you need a new bar. The rule of thumb is, after you have worn out two chains, you usually need a new bar.

New Saw?

If you've purchased a new chain saw, consider running it for 5 to 10 minutes, and then check the tension on the chain. Chains get warmer during use, and they expand in length. Increase the tension on the chain so the base of the cutters tracks in the slot of the bar. And after you're finished sawing, remember to reduce the tension on the chain. As the chain cools to ambient temperature, it will get shorter and possibly bind too tightly to the bar.

Finally, consider visiting www.stihlusa.com. The website offers about ten 5-minute videos on the proper use of chain saws. (As a personal aside, I've been in CWT long enough to make this the third time I've heard Dan's presentation, but it never gets old. I still pick up things I've missed in earlier demonstrations. We're really lucky to have an in-house expert. Thanks, Dan.)

Late-Breaking News!

2013 Demonstrations and Hands-On Classes

Demonstrator	Demo (CLA)	One-Day Class (NORMAC)	Two-Day class (NORMAC)
Michael Hosaluk	Saturday, April 13	Sunday, April 14	Mon-Tue, April 15-16
Alan Lacer	Saturday, June 1	Sunday, June 2	Mon-Tue, June 3-4
Bonnie Klein	Saturday, November 9	Sunday, Nov 10	Mon-Tue, Nov 11-12

One or two more demos and classes may be added in 2013.

Contact Rich Nye or Rosemary Pagura for details

Richard Nye, Demonstrations Chairman
40W257 Seavey Road, Batavia, IL 60510
630-865-7938
nyewoodturning@earthlink.net

Rosemary Pagura, Treasurer
944 Wisconsin Lane, Elk Grove Village, IL 60007
630-816-1019
rosepagu@gmail.com

Sign-up and tuition payment can be made at any CWT Meeting *prior to the event.*

Checks for classes may also be mailed to Rosemary Pagura once you have confirmed your slot in the class with her.

Prepaid demo admission fees and class tuition are not refundable, but may be transferred to another turner. Demonstration admission is \$30 at the door, but a 50% discount (\$15) is available to all CWT members signing up and paying their admission fees at any CWT meeting prior to the demo. Join CWT for \$25 per year and take advantage of the discount.

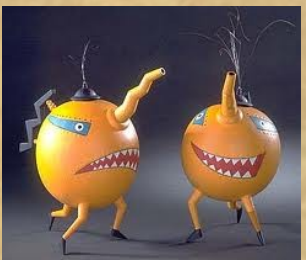
Tuition for Michael Hosaluk is \$120 for the one-day class and \$240 for the two-day class. Tuition for all other classes will be \$125 for one-day and \$250 for two-day. Tuition must be paid in advance to register for a class and guarantees the student's reservation.

All demonstrations will be held at
Christian Liberty Academy (CLA)
502 W. Euclid, Arlington Heights, IL 60005.
9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

All classes will be held at
NORMAC Manufacturing
2570 Kaneville Court, Geneva, IL 60134.
9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Mike Hosaluk

How does he do that? Find out starting April 13.



He's coming in April

Paul Shotola

On April 13, your CWT will host an all-day visit and demonstration from Canadian turner and artist, Michael Hosaluk. The demonstration on Saturday will be followed by Sunday and a Monday/ Tuesday hands-on classes (April 14 and 15-16). The demonstration and classes are geared for all turners from beginners through seasoned professionals. Plan on being there, you won't be disappointed.

Michael is an experienced and inspiring teacher, having taught at all of the major schools around, including Arrowmont, John C. Campbell and the Marc Adams School of Woodworking. Although he can and will demonstrate the "nuts and bolts" of turning, it is his imagination and creativity some folks find most interesting. What is a way to incorporate turning and fish shapes? Can box making techniques be incorporated into sculpture? What would fruit look like from another universe? Find out on April 13th.

It's time to not only get a solid, basic grounding in tool technique and turning fundamentals, Hosaluk will expand your creativity. The lathe is more than just a tool for making

bowls and pens. Michael will demonstrate the enormous flexibility of this tool, using the lathe as a tool for creating a canvas for his fertile imagination.

I once witnessed a situation where, in a class, Michael taught a group of seventeen people, approximately half of whom were brand new to the lathe, how to not only make a container or box, but leave the class anxious to try out the new skills learned. Most impressive, and a testament to the skill, imagination and inspiration of Michael Hosaluk. Plan on being at our regular meeting space at Christian Liberty Academy on Saturday, April 13 for a day that promises to not only be informative ("How did he do that?"), but also inspiring ("I hadn't thought of that! "). It's time to get your skills honed and the creative juices flowing. Join us for a day with Michael Hosaluk. Register and pay for your admission at the March 12th CWT meeting and receive 50% off the \$30 admission at the door. See you there.

Do your Grinder Wheels Wobble?

Paul Rosan

It was about 4:00PM on Valentine's Day. I made a long distance call. The voice on the other end said, "Hi, this is Dave." It was Dave Schweitzer, head man at D-Way Tools. Dave is a former diesel mechanic, with experience in welding and fabrication. He is also dedicated to providing the best wood turning tools to make turning easier for the end-user. Dave himself is a world class turner/instructor and demonstrator who lives in the Pacific Northwest. His 3300 sq ft workshop, formerly used to build sailboats, is located on the southern shores of Puget Sound, near Shelton, Washington.

I said, "I'd like to order three things from your catalog. The first is the custom bushing kit your offer with your CBN (cubic boron nitride) grinding wheels. I want to use it on some 1-inch wide grinding wheels with a 1-inch bore, to match the 5/8" diameter shaft of my 8" grinder. I don't like those plastic wheel inserts. I want my Norton 3x wheels, 46 grit and 80 grit, to run true."

That simple request triggered a discussion. "This really isn't going to do it for you," said Dave. I was surprised. Certainly a solid metal bushing, machined with a 5/8" bore and a 1" outside diameter wouldn't flex like the plastic inserts that come with the grinding wheel. "Won't work? How so?" I asked. It turns out that Dave had already considered this question, and he had fitted his inserts (originally designed for use with the CBN all-metal wheels) on aluminum oxide grinding wheels. "Maybe one out of ten worked," he said, "and I don't want to market a product that would be only 10% effective." Apparently (per Dave), the most economical way to solve the problem is to loosen the wheel nut, rotate the grinding wheel slightly, and then re-tighten the nut. Turn on the grinder, and see if that improves things. Yes? You're done. No? Try again. And again. I've done this dance more times than I care to admit, but that's what Dave recommended.

I have fought this battle with more than one grinder. I've tried fitting those expensive aluminum wheel balancers that OneWay markets for around \$70.00 per pair. They improved things immensely. The kits also include a pair of washers that are machined flat, with a bore that tightly matches the outside diameter of the grinder shaft. In some cases, I reach nirvana. I hit the "on" switch, and the grinder revs up and just hums. That hum is a sweet sound. It's unique. Like the sound of a sharp bowl gouge peeling wood off a blank. Once

you learn that sound, you know that's what you're aiming for. But it's elusive.

Sometimes the wheel is out-of-round. So I take a diamond point dresser held on a Geiger-like jig that runs on my flat OneWay adjustable platform. That jig indexes the point of the dresser so that it can only move in a plane parallel to the rotating grinder shaft. After two or three passes, I can tell that the face of the wheel is concentric with the center of the rotating shaft. Sometimes the sound is intermittent. That's because the wheel isn't always a perfect circle. There can be high spots and low spots. So I make multiple passes to grind down the high spots until they are at the same level as the low spots. Sounds anal. I know. But I don't want to sharpen my tools as they bounce on a wheel that's out-of-round. Been there, done that.

In truth, I still don't have all my grinders (don't ask how many) working vibration-free. Sometimes I can get one wheel in balance, but the other one will still vibrate. I can watch the transparent plastic eye shield over the "bad" wheel vibrate when things aren't right. Take off the four screws on the wheel cover. Remove the grinding wheel. Go back to the balancer. Move the two screws on the OneWay black aluminum insert so the wheel is in balance. Kill 10 minutes, maybe 15, until you get it right. Re-mount the wheel and tighten the nut; then turn on the power and hope. Sometimes it's better. Sometimes not.

"Why not use a 6" grinder?" you ask. Did that. Granted, there's less vibration, maybe because the rotating mass on a 3/4" wide 6" wheel is less than on a 1-inch wide 8-inch wheel. But I don't like 3/4" wheels. It's too easy for the gouge to fall off the edge of that wheel. (Hint: Grizzly makes a 6"

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Do your Grinder Wheels Wobble:**Paul Rosan***(Continued from page 10)*

diameter wheel with a 1-1/2" thick face. They're great for sharpening gouges, but you can't fit the side wheel cover back in place because the 1-1/2" wheel is too wide.) But I can live with that. Note to self: Be sure to wear eye protection whenever you use that wheel.

"What about a slow-speed grinder that turns at 1800 rpm, instead of 3600 rpm? Would that be better?" Yes, to a certain extent. But it takes a little longer to grind a gouge at a slow-speed, and I'm impatient. True, you could buy one of those grinders with a speed knob that lets you adjust the rpm from 1800 up to 3600. I guess you could dial-in an rpm at which the wheel seemed most stable. (And some wheels seem to vibrate at a certain rpm, and not at other rpms. Don't ask me why. But they do.)

For what it's worth, I eventually splurged on one of Dave's all metal 8" CBN grinding wheels. The wheel cost more than my grinder. Obsessive? Yes. Guilty as charged. But with the CBN wheel and metal bushing on my 5/8" grinder shaft, this thing hums. No vibration. Period. And you don't have to dress the wheel. It never wears down, and it's always round. In my experience, the CBN wheel is the ultimate answer to the wobble wheel problem. Like the old saying goes, "You get what

you pay for." If there is a problem with the CBN wheels, it's the flywheel effect. The CBN wheels are heavier than the standard aluminum oxide wheels, and five minutes after you've turned off the grinder, the CBN wheel is finally coming to a stop. But I can live with that. It sure beats wheel wobble.

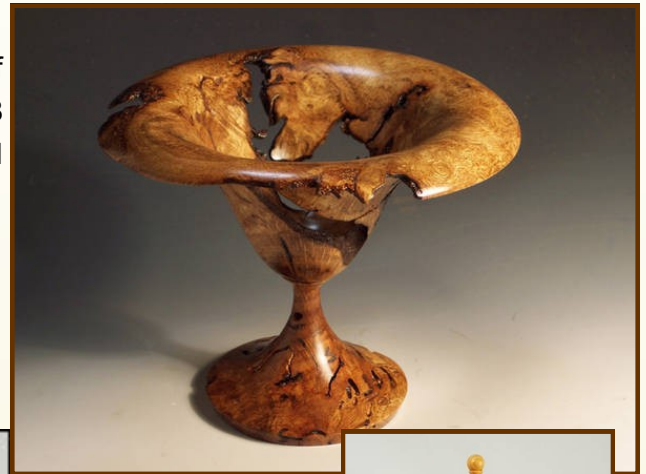
FWIW, Dave makes great lathe tools and accessories. And the tools come sharp, right out of the box. In my experience, they are up there with Robert Sorby. Visit www.d-waytools.com, or phone him at 360/432-9509. No relation. Just a very satisfied customer.



AAW "Photo's of the Week" in February



Week of
February 4
Holly, Walnut



Week of
February 18
Oak Burl



Week of
February 11
Elm



Week of February 25

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Its in the Details



Member's Gallery



John Showalter
Russian Olive



Wayne Zender
Oak



Clint Stevens
Cherry

Bob Schultz
Walnut

February Meeting



Francisco Bauer
Oak



John Showalter
Oak



Bill Robb
Walnut, Ebony



Member's Gallery

February Meeting



Alan Carter
Maple



Bob Schultz
Maple



Bill Brown
Oak



Lars Stole
Walnut, Holly



Jeff Kuffel
Walnut, Kingwood

Member's Gallery

February Meeting

Editor's Choice

Editor's Choice



Tom Stegall
Spalted Beech



Roberto Ferrer
Ambrosia Maple



Clint Stevens

This sculpted bowl form by Roberto is my choice for this month. This is a nice piece of Ambrosia Maple with a very interesting natural edge. Also notice that this is an end grain bowl with the pith included and well executed. You add the well done sculpting with natural looking flowing curves and a consistent wall thickness and the piece takes on a more organic look.



Marty Knapp
Russian Olive



Scott Barrett
Blackwood

I'll make my personal selection each month. You might agree or not, it's a democracy, but I'm the Editor.

Member's Gallery

February Meeting



Bill Brown
Birch



Francisco Bauer
Maple



Ken Staggs
Red Oak , Maple



Marty Knapp
Maple



Al Miotke
Maple



Don Johnston
Curly Maple

Member's Gallery

February Meeting



Francisco Bauer
Mesquite



Roberto Rerrer
Magnolia



Wayne Zender
Norfolk Pine

Advertisement

Parsley, Sage, Rosemary, and Thyme

♪Are your turnings placid and plain?

Sing parsley, sage, rosemary, and thyme.

Liven them up and increase your gain,

For this is an aim of yours and mine.♪



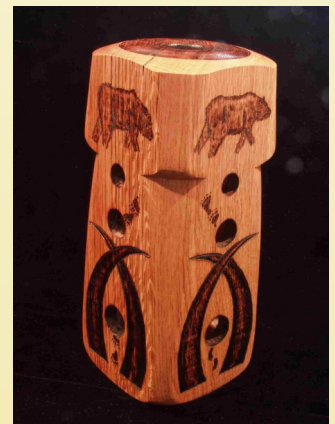
Ok, so this isn't exactly Simon and Garfunkel. But it does feature my latest turning tool—an herbal with line drawings of herbs. True, one also needs a pyrographic set or woodburner set. But the woodburner did me little good until I could see how to draw the herbs.

Woods that work best for pyrography have a fine grain and light color so that the burned-in design shows up without competing with grain patterns. In my experience, these include cottonwood, box elder, and other maples. Oak, with its pronounced grain wants to deflect the pyrography tip, plus some parts of it burn more readily than others. However, even I have produced some good pyrography in oak.

My woodburner set has a 30 watt element and several interchangeable tips. I have not tried the more expensive pyrography sets, but I suspect that they would prove more versatile than mine. There is even a scheme to combine a variac, a 12 volt battery charger, and a DIY handset. This project promises to produce a pyrography unit that rivals expensive, commercial models. But I can't say.

Once you have pyrographed an object, such as a pepper grinder, you have moved it to a new level in the world of competition for consumer dollars. Wal-Mart may sell pepper grinders, but none of theirs will have a drawing of parsley on it.

By Ellis Hein, author of *The Woodturner's Project Book*, Linden Publishing (2008) (see <http://woodturnedart.wordpress.com/the-woodturners-project-book/>) . You can follow my blog at (<http://woodturnedart.wordpress.com/>).



For Sale, Trade, or Wanted

Contact the Editor to post your items

I'm interested in purchasing a used mini lathe. I can be reached by phone at 847-695-4805 or email at moorhouse.dale@yahoo.com.

—Dale Moorhouse.

Oneway 1224 wood lathe (built by a small family-run company in Canada using American steel). Approximately 7 years old, with less than 60 hours of use. I've enjoyed using this lathe for small gift items and have always been impressed with how smooth and quiet it is.

Unfortunately, I need to sell it due to health reasons. Asking price is \$1,850.00. Please feel free to contact me (608-836-5511) or by email at colour@mailbag.com with questions or for further information.

- Richard Bentley

My lathe is a vintage babbet bearing headstock with 18 inch swing. The bed is 14.5 feet long, but could be cut down to any length. I have a 6 foot tool rest, a 30 inch, and a 12 inch. There is a nice heavy faceplate and two custom made steady rests. The motor is 3/4 horse with a 3 step pulley. The headstock also has a 3 step pulley. There are 3 banjos. The bearings are in good shape with shims still in place. I am asking \$1600 or BO.

Bob Neal 309-678-1277



Events

AAW 2013 National symposium June 28-30, Tampa FL
<http://www.woodturner.org/sym/sym2013/index.htm>

Ohio Valley Woodturners Guild Turning 2013 October 11-13,
<http://www.ovwg.org/2013-symposium-2/2013-symposium>

Items of interest to woodturners for sale,
wanted, trade or free are welcome.

Non-commercial ads only, please.

Events of interest to woodturners are also welcome

To place an ad, contact Al Miotke at 847-297-4877
or email at alan.miotke@chamberlain.com



**Monthly Meetings
are held on the 2nd
Tuesday of each
month at:**

**Christian Liberty
Academy
502 W Euclid Ave
Arlington Heights,
IL**

7:00-10:00 PM

**Please join us
All are welcome.**

Visit our website
chicagowoodturners.com

**Membership in the
Chicago Woodturners
is available to anyone
wishing to increase
their turning skills
through education,
discussion and
critique. Annual dues
are \$25.00 for a single
membership and
\$35.00 for a family.
Visit our website for
an application or
contact:**

Julie Basrak

**Membership
Chairman**

The Chicago Woodturners is a chapter of the American Association of Woodturners (AAW). Visit their website for more information.

www.woodturner.org