



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



The Monthly newsletter of the Chicago Woodturners

October 2010

Tale of Two Chucks — September Demo

Paul Rosen

Clint Stevens presided over the September demo by showing us how to make two different chucks for turning eccentric boxes on the lathe. These chucks are shop-made alternatives to commercial eccentric chucks, such as the \$120.00 Axminster (the one Dick Sing uses to make eccentric inlays on the back of his turned pocket watches), or the \$350.00 eccentric chuck from Robert Sorby. And for those with exceptionally eccentric ambitions, Clint noted in his slide presentation that the full-featured Escoulen chuck, with all the attachments, can be had for slightly more than a grand. "Too much coin!" you say? I agree. So Clint showed us that a rectangular block of hardwood, with the top sliced off at a 5-degree angle (use your table saw), can offer a more economical alternative.



Save the 5-degree wedge, so you can insert it beneath the wood block when you bore a 7/8" diameter hole, about 1-3/4" into the shimmed wooden block. Then use the 1" Beall tap (about \$18.00 from Craft Supplies), to make threads at 8 TPI, to accommodate a 1" diameter threaded steel rod. (I must confess, the 1" threaded steel rod proved to be a scarce commodity at my local HD, Lowe's, and Menards, all of whom "tapped out" with a 3/4" threaded rod. Fortunately, I found the elusive rod at a Tractor Supply store on Route 14 in Harvard, IL. (If that drive is too far, then Enco, MCLS, or McMaster-Carr would likely stock the item. But then you and the wife would miss out on the opportunity to buy Mirai sweet corn at the original Twin Gardens roadside stand, just 3 miles west of downtown Harvard on Route 173. But I digress.) You

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Fun With Woodturning

Darrell Rader

Are you a turner that finds yourself getting frustrated at the lathe all too often? Meet me at the CWT meeting on October 12 and I'll share a few things with you that may make your day.

1. Two things that cause most of the beginning turner's problems.
2. Dirty little secrets of professional turners.
3. The good, the bad, and the ugly of woodturning.

Along with pictures of some neat stuff, I'll bring along some tools that you haven't dreamed of, and for a ridiculous large fee let some of you try them. And for an even more exorbitant price, sell them! You can be the deranged owner of production # 1!! You may even be able to walk out and say, "Now why didn't I think of that?" and be glad you didn't!

The bottom line is, we will have a bunch of fun and at the same time, I'll share some insights that I have learned over 55 years of turning that may really make your turning hours a whole lot more fun.

Curls from the President's Platter

Phil Brooks



**President
Phil Brooks**

It's Easy!

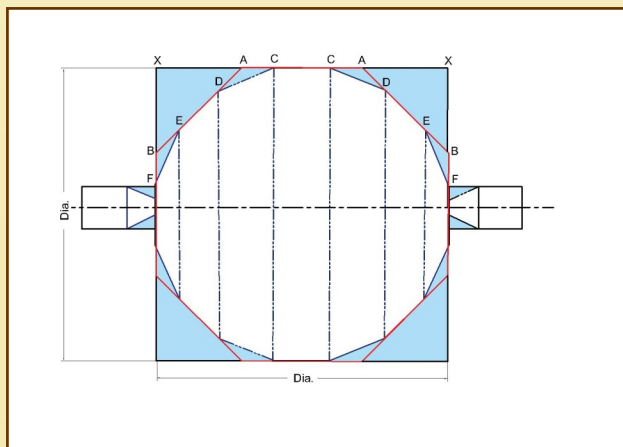
**Make a
perfect
sphere every
time**

In my demonstration at the club meeting a few months ago, I discussed a method for turning a sphere. Since we were pressed for time and it can be confusing, several of you have asked me for a further clarification. So I'm taking this opportunity to present it in more detail.

In geometry we learned that a square is a four sided polygon. This technique is based upon the fact that as you increase the number of sides on a polygon you approach a circle. As a practical matter, I'm proposing to go from 4 sides to 8 sides to 16; which for our purposes will be a good approximation of a circle. Here are the steps to follow.

First turn a cylinder to a diameter slightly larger than the diameter you want for your sphere (to allow for sanding). Then trim the length of the cylinder to the same dimension as the diameter. The side of the cylinder now looks like a square. Referring to the drawing shown below; measure the distance of 0.29 times the diameter of the cylinder, from the end of the cylinder (point X) to point A and draw a line on the side of the

cylinder. Make the same measurement from point X down the end of the cylinder to point B and draw a circle there. Do this measurement on both ends of the cylinder. Now turn a straight bevel from the line at point A to the line at point B on both ends. Points A and B are now the corners of an 8 sided profile. To go to a 16 sided profile, measure a distance of 0.11 times the diameter of the cylinder, from point A to points C and D and mark these two lines. Repeat on the other end. Measure a distance of 0.11 times the diameter of the cylinder, from point B on the end of the cylinder to points E and F and mark these two lines. Repeat on the other end. Now turn a straight bevel from the line at point C to the line at point D on both ends. Repeat this process by turning a straight bevel from the line at point E to the line at point F on both ends. The profile is now a 16 sided polygon and a very good approximation of a circle. The sphere can be completed by sanding off the corners. Finish sanding before parting off at the ends. Some minor trimming and sanding is required to **finish** the ends.



Summary information:
 $XA = XB = 0.29 \times \text{dia.}$
 $AC = AD = BE = BF = 0.1 \times \text{dia.}$

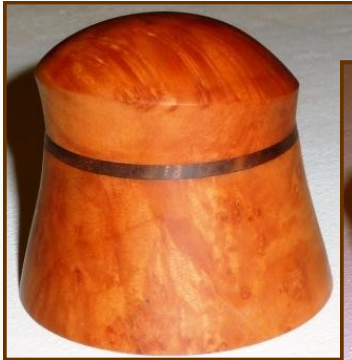
**CWT
Meetings
Friendship
Village is located
2.5 miles south
of I-90 and .4
miles west of
Roselle Road at
350 West
Schaumburg
Road,
Schaumburg, IL**

Phil

Tale of Two Chucks — September Demo Review

Paul Rosen

(Continued from page 1)



screw the threaded rod into the 1-3/4" threaded recess, and the protruding 1" or so of rod is used to mount a 3" (or smaller) aluminum faceplate. But before attaching that faceplate, you need to attach a scrap block (use ALL the faceplate screw holes to mount said scrap block). The scrap block will become a jam chuck for attaching the box lid.

The entire assembly (wood block, 1" threaded rod, aluminum faceplate, and scrap block) is now mounted between two opposing jaws of a four-jaw chuck. Clint uses the sturdy Nova PowerGrip Jaws that fit the Tekanotol SuperNova Chuck. Before switching on the power, consider that the mass of the steel rod and

The Final Results

attachments will be rotating eccentrically. Translation: don't use too high an RPM, or you'll follow the lathe across the room. (The British call it, "going walkies.") Clint found that 675 rpm was an agreeable maximum on his lathe. Your mileage may vary. So test out your lathe, starting at the lowest rpm, to see the maximum safe speed your lathe can tolerate without unacceptable vibration. Then write that number down on your wood block for future reference.

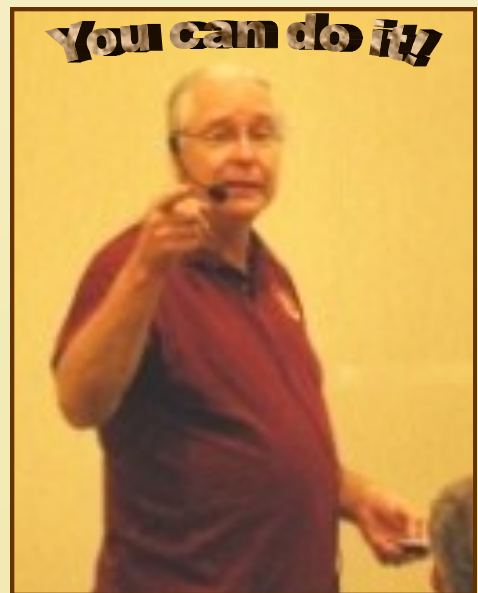
So for the cost of a 1" diameter threaded steel rod, a 3" aluminum faceplate, and a Beall 1" tap threaded at 8 TPI, along with some creative woodworking, you can make your own 5-degree eccentric chuck on the cheap. And--if you want the Cadillac model that is infinitely adjustable from zero to as much as 6-degrees of offset--see Eccentric Chuck No. 2 as described by Clint in his excellent 10-page pdf, with photos, currently available for download at www.chicagowoodturners.com. You see, Clint usually pens a witty summary of the monthly demo, but this month, because he did the demo, he had to write the summary in advance. The odds are good that Clint will be back next month to fill this space with a summary of the October demo, Woodturning 101 "For the fun of it," by Darrell Rader.



Clint's cool chucks



The Cadillac,
an Eschelon Chuck



September 2010 Meeting Minutes

Andy Kuby

Turn on Chicago was a success with a record 226 attendees.

Mark your Calendars for the Graeme Priddle demo on Nov. 14.



Don't Forget your Raffle Tickets in September.

\$1 Each
\$5 for 6
Value Pack \$10 for 13

CWT Dues for 2010
\$25.00 for an individual membership
\$35.00 for the whole family

The meeting at Friendship Village was opened shortly after seven PM by Phil Brooks.

Phil recognized Scott Barrett for his work on the Chicago Woodturners Website, which is excellent and timely. Scott noted that the newsletters for each month are posted on the website, toward the end of the month. All members should receive an email to alert them that the newsletter has been posted. Newsletters are no longer emailed or snail-mailed. Talk to Scott if you are having trouble with this.

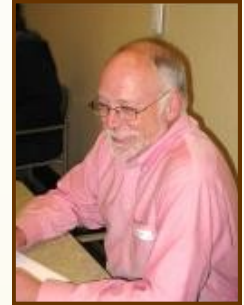
The Turn On Chicago Symposium was a success. We had good attendance, 226 persons from all over the United States (only 124 from Illinois), 83 CWT members attended. We made money and we had fun. A complete report will be given by the TOC committee at the next meeting. Phil thanked the Chairpersons of each committee for all of their hard work: Paul Shotola (Publicity), Jan Shotola (registration and housing), Andy Kuby (facilities, with Clint Stevens), Scott Barrett (website and audio/visual), Don McCloskey (trade show), Paul Pycik (auction), Carol Floate (demonstrators and instant gallery), Tom Waiscekasukas (photography), Phil Brooks (database) and Joyce Sullivan (finance).

Phil noted that he was able to give a demonstration to the residents of Friendship Village this afternoon and it was well received. He made tops etc. and gave them away. We expect to do this again in

Another Successful Month

the future.

The Collectors of Wood Art have decided to sponsor demonstrations at SOFA only every other year. No demos will be held this year so the assistance of CWT is not required. Those members who count on volunteering at the demos to get free parking are out of luck this year.



AAW Board of Directors election is closed October 21, 2010, so don't forget to vote. Refer to your current issue of the AAW magazine for details on the candidates. John Ellis has withdrawn his name so don't vote for him.

Craft Supplies has sent CWT \$160 in gift certificates and some new catalogs. The certificates will be used in the raffles and as prizes for the challenges. Patronize Craft Supplies as they support us.

Klingspor will give a 10% discount to CWT members but only if they are on a membership list we send them. Phil will send them a current membership list. If you do not want your name published in this fashion let Phil or Tom know and we'll take your name off the list that goes out.

Graeme Priddle (New Zealand) will demo at Friendship Village on November 13, 2010. He will also be giving a one day class on November 14, 2010, and a two

(Continued on page 5)



September 2010 Meeting Minutes

(Continued from page 4)

day class November 15-16, 2010. Please contact Jan Shotola to sign up for the classes. The classes will be held at Norton-McMurray, 2570 Kaneville Court, Geneva, Illinois. Eric Mah is doing the electrical work required for the classroom so thank him the next time you see him. A lease agreement is being prepared so CWT has the proper insurance coverage.

Paul Pycik will give a summary of the auction at the next meeting but Phil was able to run down a few of the most successful sales: Binh Pho \$825, Fred Gscheidle \$475, Alan Carter \$425, Josh Conan \$400 and Jason Swanson \$400 to name a few. The auction raised over \$13,000. Darrel Rader has agreed to chair the committee working on how to implement our education program and will be looking for suggestions and participation.

Thomas Steagall gave an abbreviated membership report because his computer (and Phil's) are under the weather and inoperable. Scott Barrett lent Thomas a laptop for the month. He will give us a good report (and have labels for us) next month. We had one new member, Mark Dryer from Aurora, IL.

Don McCloskey reported that the Pens for the Troops event was a success and we will be distributing over 800 pens. They are going to the local VA hospitals and

Afghanistan. Don also noted that CWT will be participating in Empty Bowls at Oakton Community College on the first Saturday in December. Don is already collecting bowls and other turnings, Please see Don for details.

The raffle by Chuck Svazas raised \$155 and was quite lively. We had items donated by Kettle Moraine Hardwoods and Vincennes Wooden Wonders as well as some mystery turning blanks.

Symposium at Ohio Valley September 30 to October 2, 2011, mark your calendars.

Segmented Turning Symposium November 14-16, 2010. See Al Miotke.

Pens for Troops turning event at Woodcraft, Milwaukee on Saturday September 25, 2010. See Jason Swanson for details.

Alan Carter did the gallery review, which included many colorful objects. See the photos.

Clint Stevens did the demo on Eccentric Boxes. We're not sure if the boxes were eccentric just because Clint made them but we all learned new skills from his presentation. The pachyderm finish will be hard to reproduce however.

Bill Robb and his volunteers cleaned up.



Do you have a technique you would like to share? How about doing a gallery review.

If interested contact Scott Barrett

Upcoming Meeting Agenda		
	Gallery Review	Demonstration
September	Alan Carter	Clint Stevens—Eccentric Box
October	Paul Pycik	Darrell Radar—Woodturning 101 "For the fun of it"
November	Graeme Priddle	
December	None	Annual Christmas Party

AAW "Photo's of the Week" in September



Week of Sept 6
Box Elder



Week of Sept 20
Maple, Blackwood



Week of Sept 13
Walnut

Week of Sept 27
Walnut



Chicago Woodturners Board of Directors and Committee Chairs 2010

President	Phil Brooks	847-548-6477	brookspphil@sbcglobal.net	1052 Cheswick Dr	Gurnee, IL 60031
Vice President, Web	Scott Barrett	847-562-9121	dr@bdental.net	46 Bridlewood Lane	Northbrook, IL 60062
Secretary	Andy Kuby	847-317-1841	kubywinslow@comcast.net	2945 Cherokee Ln.	Riverwoods, IL 60015
Treasurer	Jan Shotola	847-412-9781	jshotola@yahoo.com	1865 Western Ave.	Northbrook, IL 60062
Past President	Paul Shotola	847-412-9781	p.shotola@comcast.net	1865 Western Ave.	Northbrook, IL 60062
Newsletter Editor	Al Miotke	847-297-4877	alan.miotke@chamberlain.com	920 Sumac Lane	Mount Prospect, IL
Membership	Thomas Stegall	309-635-1623	thomas.stegall@moody.edu	3470 N. Keating Ave.	Chicago, IL 60041
Librarian	Clint Stevens	773-852-5023	clint.stevens@comcast.net	1635 S. Chesterfield	Arlington Hts., IL 60005
Raffle	Chuck Svazas	708-482-3866	csvazas@sbcglobal.net	707 Bransdale Rd	LaGrange Park, IL
Tools & Equipment	Don McCloskey	847-420-6978	mccloskey@ameritech.net	2028 Gilboa Ave.	Zion, IL 60099
Demonstrations	Binh Pho	630-365-5462	toriale@msn.com	48W175 Pine Tree Tr.	Maple Park, IL 60151
Set-up / Clean-up	Bill Robb	847-931-1876	akmtns1@comcast.net	46 Lone Dr. Unit C	South Elgin, IL 60177
Audio & Video	Lee Svec	847-331-0715	svec@att.net	661A Fieldcrest Dr.	South Elgin, IL 60177
Ornamental Turning	Bill Hochmuth	630-620-8566	wfhochmuth@comcast.net	2S725 Parkview Dr.	Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

Educational Fund Committee Formed

Darrell Radar

When President Phil announced at the September meeting that I have been appointed Chair of the Education Fund Committee, some of you may have thought, "I want to be part of deciding where that money goes." You now have that option. We don't know if 3 or 30 want to serve on the committee and we can't have a 30 member committee, but if it actually becomes a problem we should be able to deal with it with special projects. We'll need lots of help.

My first priority is to be sure this doesn't drag on and on. I hope we can have agreement on at least one project by the end of the year. I also have no intention of using the government idea of throwing money at something or everything. We will probably have this much money only once, So we'll use it wisely.

OK, here is what I need you to do to get us started. If you want to be on the Education Fund Committee, send me an email (d.m.rader@wildblue.net). Please include any suggestions for what we can do with our money.

If you can't or don't want to be on the committee, but have thoughts of something that could be done with the Education Funds, please send those to me. I would like at least one idea from each CWT member, more if you wish. If you don't have email, write your suggestions down and give them to me on Oct. 12th. We should have a final tally or estimate of how many dollars we have in the fund by then also.

To get you started, here are a few ideas that have already been suggested. Remember, these are just ideas. We're not discussing their practicality; we're just brainstorming in the hope that one idea will generate another. Then we will start talking about them.



- 1) An amount held in reserve to rehab a low rent building of our own.
- 2) A fully outfitted mobile classroom – a trailer, mini-lathes, tools, etc. and the crew to teach in local schools, senior centers, etc.
- 3) Scholarships or educational grants for members.
- 4) Various programs for youth and young adult new or novice turners.
- 5) Purchase DVD's and books for the CWT library.
- 6) (Your turn)

Thanks to all of you for your interest and dedication to woodturning and CWT.

AAW now accepting EOG applications for 2011.

Grants are available to all AAW members and not for profit organizations to enhance woodturning education. If you are interested in applying, see the AAW website for details. All applications must be submitted by January 15.

CWT represented at Art in the Barn in Barrington

Clint Stevens

During the weekend of September 25, the work of two CWT members was on display at Barrington’s annual event, Art in the Barn.

Michael Kuehl and Marty Knapp were both first time exhibitors at the show but came with their “A” game on display. Michael’s piece shown on the right of the display was a recent Turning of the week by the AAW.

Marty left the show with the award for “Best in Wood”. Not bad for a first timer.



Michael Kuehl’s booth



Marty’s Award



Marty’s art on display

CONGRATULATIONS MARTY!

Setup and Clean up Activities

Bill Robb

**Thanks to the
September
Cleanup
Volunteers**
Paul DeHaan
Peter Burchmiller

October
Jack Islin
Fran Islin
Rob Leonard
Duane Painter
Wayne Rhein

November
Wayne Jurgens
Don McCloskey
2 more volunteers
still needed

**Nov 13 Graeme
Priddle Demo**
Ken LaSota
Mark McCleary
Mary Olson

December
4 Volunteers
needed

Thanks to everyone who has been volunteering to help with the setup and cleanup at our meetings. We have a nice clean facility to meet but we do need to spend a few minutes getting our new meeting room ready each month. The work is easy , is a good way to meet fellow members, and support your club. Below is a list of the activities to be done at each months meeting:

Set-up duties

- 1) In the lobby outside the meeting room, arrange 3 facility provided tables and cover with club owned table covers, to be used for displaying gallery turning.
- 2) Set up 3 club tables at the rear of the meeting room for the membership, treasurer and club secretary to use.
- 3) Set up two club tables in front of the room for the gallery items.
- 4) Pull the demo lathe and A/V equipment out of the storage and place on the right hand side up front.
- 5) Assist the club librarian in placing the portable library in the rear of the room.

Clean-up duties

Unfortunately it is congested in the front of the room, but immediately after the meeting:

- 1) Clean up any wood chips, etc. from the evening’s demo.
- 2) Reverse the set-up procedure
- 3) Police the seating area for trash, etc.

Thanks for supporting your club activities.

Bill Robb, set up/clean up chairman
akmtns1@comcast.net
847-931-1876

September Presidents Challenge WINNERS!

'Bring it in with Color'



1st Place
Fran Islan
Maple, Gold Leaf



3rd Place
Marty Knapp
Cherry, Glass



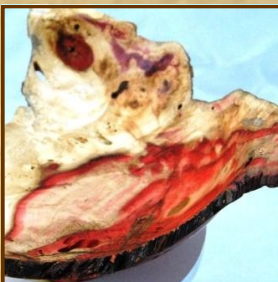
2nd Place
Phil Brooks
Maple, Blue Dye,
Lime Wax

There were many colorful pieces on display in the September gallery. Thanks to all the participants of this months challenge. You made the judges job more difficult.



Congratulations!

It's in the Details



Member's Gallery



John Showalter
Honey Locust



Dick Sing
Segmented Clock



Al Miotke
Box Elder, Maple

September Meeting



Fred Gsheidle
Maple Tops



Roy Lindly
Blackwood

Member's Gallery



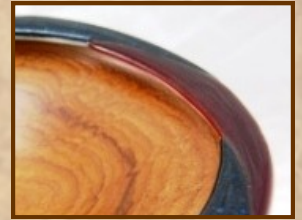
Don McCloskey
Maple, Bloodwood

September Meeting



Andy Kuby

It's in the Details



Kris Sutherland
T6 Aluminum



Don Johnson
Cherry



Thomas Stegall
Maple



Roy Lindley
Pink Ivory

**The October
Gallery will
be reviewed
by
Paul Pycik**

Member's Gallery

September Meeting



John Showalter
Mulberry



Bill Brown



Ken Sutherland
Cherry, Maple



John Showalter
Spalted Oak



Jason Swanson
Cherry



Ken Staggs
Maple
Bloodwood



Bill Brown
Maple

Member's Gallery



Ken Staggs
Maple Burl



Fred Gschiedle
Maple



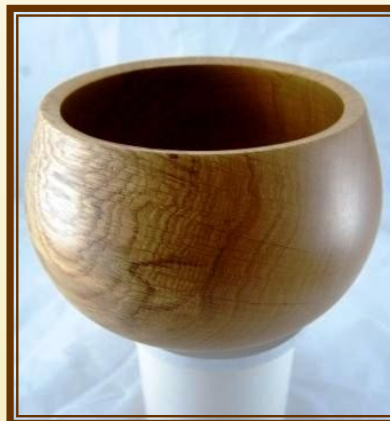
John Showalter
Honey Locust

September Meeting

Editor's Choice



Darrell Radar
Maple



Paul Dehaan
White Oak



Rich Nye
Spalted Maple

Editor's Choice

The hollow form by Darrell Radar deserves an honorable mention in this month's color competition. The piece has a pleasing form which is enhanced by the warm red dye that allows the spalting to show thru in a muted form. Then there is the splash of yellow dye that really pop's next to the red primary color and the black highlight around the perimeter of this area which draws your eye to the piece. The ebony rim at the opening is also a nice touch. Finally there is the unique finial design that gives the design a futuristic element, reminding me of the Jetson's. For all these reasons, Darrell's piece is this months Editor's choice.

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

Member's Gallery

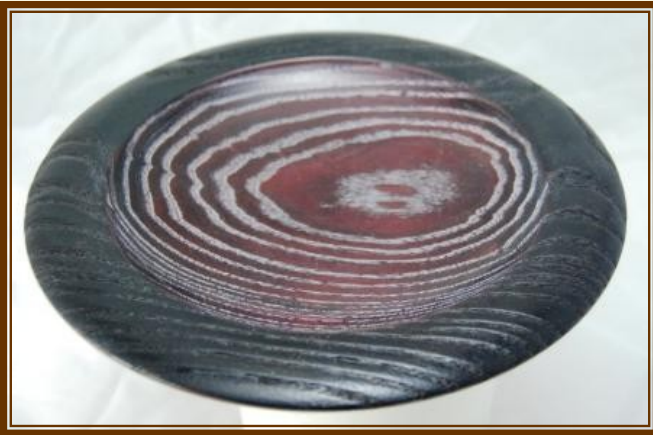
September Meeting



Ken Staggs
Maple, Bloodwood



Paul Dehaan
Peach



Phil Brooks
Ash



Martin Meyer
Maple



Martin Meyer
Maple Burl



Martin Meyer
Redwood

Closer Look

Alan Carter



I've chosen Roy Lindley's 2 painted vessels for A Closer Look this month for a couple of reasons. First, they are very well designed. Often simpler forms require a greater degree of care to get the shapes right because that's the

primary focal point for your eyes. The sizes and relationships between the base, shoulder, neck, and top all should be in proper relation to the height and the various curves should flow smoothly from one section to the next. Roy has succeeded with that and produced a textbook example of good design.

My main topic, though, is the finish. I'm not really talking about the painting technique, which completely obliterates the wood grain and gives the pieces an almost ceramic quality. One can make strong arguments both for and against using pigments and, as in this case, hiding the natural texture and color of the wood. Rather, it is the quality of the surface itself that got my attention.

We've all seen pieces nicely turned with interesting shapes but have been diminished by flaws in the wood surface; sanding marks, little bits of tear out and so on. That's the issue I want to address.

Unless you're deliberately going for a rough, unfinished texture, it's vital that the final surface be as clean and flawless as possible. Removing sanding lines and tear out is a straightforward, if often frustrating process. It takes practice and a critical eye, but it can be accomplished with a little patience and experience. Applying a finish over a surface defect exacerbates and magnifies the problem. When that happens, all you can do is work on it some more to get rid of it. Wiping a little mineral spirits or alcohol on the raw wood will often point out such flaws before the finish is applied.

Roy's pieces are prime examples of proper wood preparation. Painting the wood won't make the flaws go away. Believe me, I've tried and it doesn't work.

In order for Roy to get the smooth unblemished surface he needed, he had to meticulously sand away all the defects before he put on the first coat of paint. Once he got the look and colors he was after he could then apply the finish coats. It's beyond the scope of this article to discuss those techniques. My intent is to highlight the importance of getting the surface right to begin with.

The 2 finishes he produced, one matte, one gloss, also showed how much a finish can affect the final appearance of a piece. A gloss finish especially is unforgiving. It keeps no secrets. But even the matte finish has to have a good smooth surface for it to succeed.

I noted during my gallery review that that there were a lot of different finishing techniques represented. Each has its pros and cons, and the type of finish for each piece has to be considered on its own merits. Roy's represents one way of doing it. Someone else might take a different approach. The one thing they all have in common is that no matter what finish is used, the wood surface has to be as smooth and defect free as possible.



Roy Lindley

Calendar of Events

Classes at Woodcraft, Woodridge

Turning 102 (Bowl Turning) with Carole Floate, October 16-17

Pen turning with Don McCloskey Oct 30

Turning 101 with Carole Floate, November 6-7

Pen Turning with Don McCloskey Nov 27

Classes at Woodcraft, Libertyville

Pen Turning with Don McCloskey Oct 23

Turning 101 with Carole Floate, November 13-14

Pen Turning with Don McCloskey Nov 28

Classes at Woodcraft, Milwaukee (New location in New Berlin)

Turning between Centers –making a French Rolling Pin with Jason Swanson
November 29

Symposiums

2nd Segmenting Symposium, November 11-14, Arrowmont, Gatlinburg TN

www.segmentedwoodturners.org

Ohio Valley Turning 2011 Symposium Sept 30– Oct 2, Cincinnati, OH

Attention artists, teachers and demonstrators

If you are participating in a craft show, have a gallery exhibition, will be teaching or demonstrating your craft, or know of an event of interest to woodturners, please contact the Editor to add the event to the calendar.

A little self-promotion is a good thing. Your fellow woodturners want to know about your events.

To add events to the calendar, contact Al Miotke at
847-297-4877 or alan.miotke@chamberlain.com

For Sale or Trade

Contact the Editor to post your items

Large pieces of Ambrosia Maple, Flaming Box Alder, Apple and Walnut for sale. These are with natural edges cut from the tree except the walnut which was cut into blocks. Will cut to smaller sizes to meet needs. If interested can call Martin Meyer: cell 773-879-4184 or home 773-631-7668.



Enco dust collector; 2 bag configuration, 1 hp motor. Price \$50. Contact Clint Stevens 773-852-5023.

Broadhead Garrett, J Line, 220 volt Lathe-\$400 which includes \$600 purchase price of tools and accessories. At the face plate, a 16" diameter x 4" depth can be turned and a 40" long spindle can be turned. Contact Fred at 815-393-4293



Items of interest to woodturners for sale, wanted, trade or free are welcome.
Non-commercial ads only, please. To place an ad, contact Al Miotke.
847-297-4877 or alan.miotke@chamberlain.com



Monthly Meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at Friendship Village 350 W. Schaumburg Road Schaumburg, IL 7:00-10:00 PM 847-884-5000 Join us in the Woodridge Room in the Bridgewater Place building. 7:00pm -10:00pm 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 Thomas Stegall Membership Chairman

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