



MEETING DATE: 4-9-05
MEETING TIME: 10:00 AM
MEETING PLACE: GEORGE HANCOCK'S SHOP
DEMO: SQUARE EDGE TURNING

News from the Project Chairman

It seems impossible that three months of 2005 have already gone. The first three demonstrations this year were planned around skills requiring some spindle turning.

The theme will change this month. The demonstrations will now feature projects that will be done on making or enhancing wooden bowls. April's demo will be done by Vance Ford. He will show how to change the shape of a bowl by making a square top or outside. Vance has been doing this type of turning for quite some time now, so I know he will have something very interesting for us on the 9th of April. His demo will be the first of a series that will include working on bowls. His demonstrations in the past have always been very well done, and I'm sure this one will fall into the same category.

Plan to attend this meeting and enjoy Vance Ford as he brings us another great demonstration. This will be held in George Hancock's shop as once again he has unselfishly allowed us to use it.

SEE YOU THERE!!

Don Farris

Wood Dust from you President

Greetings members! The year is flying by and I hope you are all getting in some turning time. For those of us who are still working a job it is difficult to find time.

Something you need to think about before the April meeting is a hands on meeting later in the year. This would be at the college (ATC) facility which has 10 mini lathes set up, so we can have ten people working on a project at the same time. This could be a specific item, a number of items, or perhaps a contest with friendly timed competition producing a specific item. We need your input!

The initial college beginning turning class is wrapping up, and looks to be a success. Thanks to all members who have unselfishly given of their time and talents. I talked with Dean Curt Pervier, and he seems pleased with the progress. He is anxious for move on to another beginning class and an intermediate class. Some of you may be interested in the intermediate class.

I ordered two new cameras and a switcher to add to our video arsenal. I hope they arrive before our meeting. Stan Kretzler has volunteered to help me make a better stand. I hope to have this before the meeting also.

Last month I mentioned some turning history, and thought I would add some more comments this month.

In the 11th century a metalworker named Roger of Helmarshausen wrote about two lathes. He talked about a hand cranked lathe for turning heavy bell cores and a pewterer's lathe which he describes as one on which platter and other wooden vessels are turned. He further describes this lathe as one "pulled by a boy". This would probably have been pulling back and forth on a cord wrapped around the piece being worked in a reciprocal motion. This method is characteristic of early lathes, particularly those used in wood working.

In Medieval Europe, turners used a "spring pole" design. This lathe used a frame that allowed the turner to stand, and hold the piece to be turned between two upright posts called poppets on sharp metal points called centers. One end of a cord is attached overhead to a pole or "spring mechanism to provide recoil. The cord is then wrapped around the piece to be turned and attached to a foot treadle. The turner cuts on the down stroke and lets the spring pole power the return motion.

Can you imagine the physical requirements necessary to work a twelve hour day? Later variations improved and incorporated a lever arm so the spring pole is mounted into the base of the frame instead of overhead. Later the pole was replaced with a bow mounted on upright posts. This was a versatile operator and could be made light and portable. During Medieval times craftsmen were often of the traveling type moving from village to village providing their services, or simply moving to where materials were available. The spring pole was easy to build and the turner could fabricate most parts himself.

The drawback to the spring pole design was the turning speeds were slow. This placed limitations on the size and weight of the turning. Still, this design proved so popular that it was used well into the 19th century among chair makers and other crafts.

I look forward to seeing you at the meeting. Y'all come, bring a friend, and keep the chips flying.

George Hancock
President 2005

Midland College/ Comanche Trails Woodturners Feb. report:

The first Midland College / Comanche Trails Woodturners continuing education class for beginning wood turning will be held Monday Feb. 21, 2005. It will be held 7:00 to 9:00 PM each Monday for 6 weeks. The classes will be held in the Midland ATC building, originally the old Sears building. The fee per student will be \$50.00. This will cover all costs of the course. This will be an entry-level wood turning class but is open to anyone interested in learning about turning wood.

An invitation is offered to all our Chapter members to take the class or assist in conducting the class. The members of our Chapter which have presently offered to help include, Tom Chandler, Jim Davis, Don Farris, George Hancock, Keith Hughes, Jim Ketcham and Ernie Showalter. If you are interested in taking the class or want to help, please feel free to contact any one of the individuals listed above.

Ernie Showalter

NEED A LITTLE HUMOR

Bob goes to see his supervisor at the millwork shop.

"Boss," he says, "we're doing some heavy house-cleaning at home tomorrow, and my wife needs me to help with the attic and the garage, moving and hauling stuff."

"We're short-handed, Bob," the boss replies. "I can't give you the day off."

"Thanks boss," says Bob, "I knew I could count on you!"

FINISHING YOUR TURNINGS PART I

Sanding Principles

The purpose of sanding is really quite simple, to remove the minor imperfections left by the gouge when turning, thus enhancing the finish and appearance of the turned piece. It is not a process for shaping or removing large amounts of wood, although if we were all honest, we have been guilty of that in the past, and no doubt will be again in the future.

Sandpaper by its very nature and design, removes wood in a cutting/scraping action, thus leaving scratches in the surface of the sanded article. The degree of these scratches is directly proportional to the coarseness of the sandpaper aggregate. (Coarse paper, etc.: 80 grit will leave great scratches in the surface, where 1200 grit would not leave a visible mark) It doesn't matter what type of paper you use, the principle of operation is the same. Therefore, you need a process that is time effective, yet removes the scratches, and this is achieved by gradually going from coarse to fine sandpaper. Each time you change to a finer grit, you should only be looking at removing the scratches left by the previous paper, not the scratches left by 2 or 3 papers ago.

I use the following paper grits:

- 150 grit is first if needed to get catch marks out or if the gouge finish is "rough".
- 220 grit is first if the gouge finish is acceptable.
- 320 grit to remove the scratches from the 220.
- 440 grit to remove the scratches from the 320.
- For soft woods, I do not go any finer but rather apply a finish here.
- 600 grit to remove the scratches from the 440 on harder woods.
- 1000 grit to remove the scratches from the 600 on harder woods.
- 1200 to finish. You can also follow with steel wool if you want.

Dry Hand Sanding Process and Tips

Turners tend to shy away from hand sanding as it is "hard work", "frustrating", "hard on your fingers with all that heat" and so on. All of these "problems" are of the turners own making. If the gouge finish is acceptable and you work your way through the grits as mentioned previously, only removing the scratches from the previous paper, then the problems will disappear. Here is what I do.

1. Finish the surfaces as clean as possible with the gouge.
2. Reduce the lathe speed to about half of the speed I was turning at, or about 700 rpm (common sense here please. I don't expect 24 inch platters to be doing 700 rpm).
3. Start with the lowest grit paper I see fit.
4. Stop and check that the surface is without marks from the gouge.
5. Work up the grits, just removing the marks left by the previous paper. If you see scratches that are from previous papers, don't waste your time and risk heating etc. by trying to remove them with the finer grades of paper, go back and do it properly. I stop between each grit to check that the marks are gone and that I am clear to proceed to the next finer paper.

And that is that. Following this simple principle of only removing the marks left in from the previous grit, you will not only avoid overheating and the risk of heat cracks, but you will find that the sanding is not actually hard work. Be aware though of the dust hazard. Protect yourself by wearing a proper dust mask, and be sure that you're working in a well ventilated area.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What would you use a cup chuck for?

Cup chucks are usually used for turning items such as egg cups, knobs and finials and many other relatively small parts that require access to the right hand end of the item such as hollowing the egg cup.

The fixing method is rather like the action of a Morse taper that is used in the lathe tailstock, the piece of wood has to be spindle turned beforehand to enable a tight fit into the cup.

It is possible to do this work with other types of chuck such as a 4 jaw self centering chuck and this is often the case. However the advantage of a cup chuck is that it is small, compact and round with no protrusions and therefore safer and if you have a number of knobs for example to make it may be a bit quicker.

Why is it advisable to remove the square corners from your timber before setting it on the lathe?

This is done for safety reasons as a revolving piece of wood in the lathe with corners can be very painful if you get your fingers in the way (I've done it!!) or get them stuck between the tool rest and item whilst it is rotating and in the rough state the item can be very unbalanced. However most turners carry out this operation on the lathe by making sure that the piece is firmly held and the speed of the lathe is reduced. Initially small cuts are made usually with a Roughing Gouge working from the ends outwards and gradually working towards the centre until a cylinder is produced. The speed can then be increased to normal. I say this because I know two people that have had accidents whilst trying to remove corners with a bandsaw and a planer.



