



Space Coast Woodturners

Newsletter of Space Coast Woodturners – April 12, 2023

Submitted by Paul Jackson – Secretary .

Russ Bremmer opened the April meeting of the Space Coast Woodturners at 7 PM at Melbourne Makerspace. There were ~21 people at the meeting in person. 3 members joined on-line via Zoom.

Old Business

Makerspace will be holding a Grand Open House on April 15 from 12:30 until 5:00. A table has been reserved to sell club member items. Several members have signed up to demonstrate and help with setup and clean up.

The new wheels for the Oneway lathe have been purchased but not yet installed. Russ's test installation on his home lathe revealed some possible mounting issues.

Vice President

John Conway announced that tonight Russ will present bowl turning basics. The May meeting will feature Ron Browning presenting the basics of tool handling, geared toward newer turners. John suggested that the June meeting feature tips and techniques from club members. July and August will feature interactive remote demos.

There is no workshop this month, but a bowl making class is scheduled for May 20.

Treasurer

Sally Deabenderfer reported that the club had \$4,514 in the treasury. Dues continue to trickle in.

Secretary

Paul Jackson has set up a trial membership with Club Express to continue the investigation approved at the March meeting. Accounts have been set up for the evaluation team consisting of club officers, Randy Hardy, Terry Justice, and Dewey Treanor. The main advantage is a consistent, secure database of members, rather than the ad hoc lists currently maintained by officers. Things look positive so far, but there are more features to look at.



Show and Tell

Russ Bremer	Cherry bowl with mineral oil and beeswax finish
Paul McDaniel	Free stuff added to an order from Carter Toolworks
Bill Lutian	Small bowl from Osage Orange. Lacquer finish
John Conway	Large bowl from Pecan. Butcher block finish
	Large bowl from Cherry.
	Medium bowl from Mango salvaged from stormfall.
Ric DeTorre	Small bowl from Lemon Eucalyptus. Lacquer finish
Terry Justice	Two nuts and bolts, one Hickory, one unknown
Bob Cusumano	(Bring Back) Small bowl from Norfolk Island Pine
Chris Urban	Ashtray from Padauk.
Earl Jones	Two Rough-turned bowls from Camphor.
	Carved and colored duck decoy.
Richard Smith	30 (thirty!) pens for Honor Flight.
Paul Jackson	Small bowl from Walnut crotch. Butcher block finish
	Large (17.5") Longworth chuck from Baltic Birch plywood.

Auction

Two pieces of Chinaberry were donated for auction. Scott Lucas won the small piece, and Earl Jones took the larger piece. In addition, Rob Lanier won the bidding on a several unique cedar offcuts. The club raised \$55 in total.

Demonstration – Russell Bremmer – Bowl Turning Basics

Russ began by showing several bowls he has made, including a salad bowl and a stir-fry bowl that see regular use, showing that functionality is an important part of design. Russ pointed out that one of his examples was not technically a “bowl” since it was turned into end-grain (i.e. grain parallel to the lathe axis.) The project for this demo is a natural edge (i.e. bark still on) bowl.

There are several options for mounting the blank on the lathe. One is with a large screw mounted in the jaws of a chuck. This requires a flat surface for the chuck jaws to register against, so is unsuitable for a natural edge blank without extensive prep work. A faceplate can be used, but has similar constraints. A spur drive is most common for starting natural edge turnings, but it is essential to make sure the drive is through any bark and bedded into solid wood. The blank should be oriented so that the high points and low points are balanced. A marking device or even a laser pointer can help with visualizing this. The goal is balance, not perfection.

Once mounted, shaping the exterior can begin. Russ emphasized that you should NEVER use a spindle roughing gouge on a bowl. The combination of torque from a rotating bowl blank and the possibility of a catch will exceed the capabilities of the tool and/or operator and can cause serious injury.

Russ used a bowl gouge with a scraping cut on the face of the outer edge (tailstock end) to create a flat, then rode the bevel and rounded the corner, working from the bottom toward the edge. He continued with this technique until he had the desired outer shape. If the bark is loose, a little thin CA glue can be used to reinforce it. The shape can be refined with a scraper. The edge presented to the wood should be at or slightly below the centerline of the piece, so that if the tool “grabs” it will pivot away from the wood instead of biting deeper. Take very light cuts.

Russ created a properly-sized tenon on the base of the blank using a spindle gouge. He then reduced the speed and lightly sanded, again working from the base toward the rim. The blank was then removed and remounted in a chuck using the tenon just created. The tailstock was removed to get better access for hollowing.

Russ began hollowing by keeping the bowl gouge closed (flute vertical) until there is enough wood to ride the bevel and open up the gouge as he moved toward the center. He continued this technique with shallow cuts until the edge thickness was established. Remember to move more slowly as you approach the center since the wood is moving slower here. Once the edge is established below the lowest points on the natural edge, it is advisable to sand the interior while there is still plenty of center mass to keep the bowl stable. Once completely hollowed, vibration may make this more difficult.

Russ continued hollowing the bowl with the same bowl gouge technique until a consistent thickness was achieved. He used a curved scraper to refine the shape. In the case of the interior, the scraper edge should be presented at or slightly above the centerline of the piece. The interior can now be sanded and sealed.

Russ flipped the bowl around and mounted it between a jam chuck and a center in the tailstock. He then carefully turned away most of the tenon, leaving just enough to support the tail center. The base was hollowed slightly and decorated with a texturing tool. The bowl was removed from the lathe and the remaining center nub cleaned up with a chisel.

Raffle

Earl Jones generously donated 4 \$25 Gift Cards for Woodcraft to the club. 2 raffled off tonight, and 2 reserved for next month's meeting.

Ric DeTorre	Bowl Turning Book
Bob Cusumano	Gift Card
Paul McDaniel	Bowl Blank
Chuck Ortt	Bowl Blank
Ric DeTorre	Gift Card
Bill Lutian	Bowl from tonight's demo
Sally Deabenderfer	(Share the Wealth) Cherry Bowl
Paul Jackson	(Bring Back) NIP Bowl



The Chapter's Purposes, in addition to supporting the general purposes of the AMERICAN ASSOCIATION of WOODTURNERS, Inc., are to:

1. Provide a meeting place for local woodturners
2. Share ideas and techniques regarding this craft
3. Trade woods
4. Exchange ideas about tools
5. Exhibit finished projects

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