TURNING Threads

March 2024

Chippewa Valley Woodturners Guild

Dan Brandner demonstrated how to make shaker pegs for the March demonstration.

What's Inside

Dan Brandner demonstrated how to make Shaker Pegs at the regular Wednesday meeting on March 9.

Guest turner Phil Holtan presented a three hour demonstration on March 16. titled "Chasing the Ultimate Cut—Achieving a Better Surface with Less Sanding."

AAW | AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS

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We had a great turnout for our March meeting. There were some older members that we have not seen in a while in attendance. It was great to see them back.

We had a wonderful time at the Folk Art Festival in Carson Park. Dan Brandner, Mary Weider, Jayne Kulberg, and myself answered many questions about wood turning and the benefits of our club. There was a lot of interest!

Our Beginning classes were a great success and I believe everyone was able to get a good foundation on their woodturning journey.

Our open house spring cleaning was a huge success because of several great helpers. I would like to thank Tom Leonard, Dan Wold, Jayne Kulberg, and Dan Brandner for all their help. This club is a great club because of members like them! When you see them please let them know they did a great job cleaning things up!

Several members came to learn something new from our guest speaker Phil Holtan who came on March 16th and demonstrated from 9:00 to 12:00.

Empty Bowls is coming up in May this year and bowls are starting to come in. We are still in need of bowls for Empty Bowls so please do what you can. Our wooden bowls are always a favorite.

Bob

Monthly Meetings

First Wednesday of the month

Board Meeting at 6:00 pm

Social Hour at 6:00 pm

Meeting and Demonstration

7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Open House

Second Saturday of the month

8:00 am to 12:00 pm

Donation to Chippewa Valley Woodturners Guild

In May of 2016 the CVWG was asked by the UW-EC Foundation to make a Ceremonial Mace. Ten members were involved in the project and presented it to the UW-EC. Recently the Mace was broken through apparent vandalism and Bob Eberhardt was asked to repair it. It was a difficult repair but it was achieved by Bob. The UWEC foundation asked how much to repair the Mace. Bob did not want anything for himself and he requested the Foundation to send a check to our group for $500.00 as a donation.

Thanks Bob for your generosity.

Members and interested persons may contact the Chippewa Valley Woodturners Guild by email at: woodturnercvwg@gmail.com

New Format for the Newsletter

AAW Members

To view the newsletters and web sites that have made the AAW Hall of Fame:

Go to the AAW main page.

Click on **Chapters**

Click on **Opportunities: Grants, Schlarships, Awards and More**

Go to bottom of page to find: **Chapter Awards.**

Then go to **AAW Chapter Awards Hall of Fame**

Here you can view several years of winners but not all groups have their newsletters available to non members. Some will have a sample of newsletters.

As your newsletter editor I have tried to present interesting and engaging material. Well, not altogether engaging, but at least consistent. The format for the newsletter was getting old for me and I have been thinking about it for some time. It was only when Dan Brandner suggested I submit the newsletter for judging by the AAW that I seriously considered it. Now I am proud to be able to produce our newsletter consistently for over 9 years but I never considered it to be a newsletter but a monthly publication.

The AAW has a contest every year for the best newsletter and the best web site. I and with the help of Dan decided to redo the newsletter. Reviewing past newsletters that won 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place it appeared that the CVWG was – well – not very newsy. I have to say that the turning groups that won the awards were usually larger groups and had many more activities.

I guess the best way to describe these other newsletters was a lot of content in as little space as possible with not too much color. However, there were a few that went for lots of color. The CVWG newsletter is about the opposite – less content but in as much space as possible. It was hard to determine exactly what made these newsletters better than others.

The AAW has a set of criteria for the newsletters. Some of these are:

Judges will be looking for:

Content that demonstrates partnership with AAW to share, support, and deliver woodturning education

- Sound writing skills
- Visually appealing layout
- Content that is current, pertains to woodturning, and emphasizes safe woodturning practices
- Useful woodturning, technical, and news-related information

Above all, newsletters should be fun to read and provide useful information to members of the chapter they serve.

There are more criteria but these are fundamental. My question to the membership is: Does our newsletter fill these criteria? Are there any suggestions that would make it more informative to the membership? I am more concerned with our membership satisfaction than any award. Please let me know what you think about the new format and content. Email me: tl9597@charter.net.

Tom Leonard

AAW Safety Recommendations

PERSONAL PROTECTION EQUIPMENT

- Use a full-face shield for all woodturning operations, any time the lathe is turned on.
- • Wear safety glasses when doing operations other than on a running Lathe.
- • Use a dust mask, filtering respirator, or a powered air filtration respirator in conjunction with a dust collection system and proper ventilation. Fine particles from a grinder and wood dust are harmful to your respiratory system. Be especially mindful of dust from many exotic woods, spalted woods, or any wood that gives you a skin or respiratory reaction.
- • Wear hearing protection during noisy procedures. If a procedure is even moderately noisy and you are doing it for an extended period of time, wear hearing protection.
- • Wear shoes or boots to protect your feet from falling objects.

Source: 20200730Safety is Your Responsibility replacement Final.pdf (woodturner.org)

FUTURE DEMONSTRATIONS

Meetings are first Wednesday of the month at 7 pm. Open house is the second Saturday of the month from 8 am to 12 pm

Meeting Dates and Demonstrations

April 3—Tom Spielmann—Thread Chasing

May 1—John Layde—Turning Plywood

June 5—Not Yet Determined

July 3—Not Yet Determined

August 7—Not Yet Determined

September 4—Not Yet determined

April Open House Date

April 13 from 8:00 am to 12:00pm. If coming after 10:00 please inform us through the web site the night before at:(www.woodturnercvwg@gmail.com)

Meetings and Open House are held in the Eau Claire Insulation building at 1125 Starr Ave on the northeast side of Eau Claire, Wi. Look for the meeting sign. No sign—No meeting.

Next Month Tom Spielmann will demonstrate how to make threads calling this "Chasing Threads."

Lathe tools to make threads

TODAY AT 12 PM – 5 PM

Folk Arts Festival

Chippewa Valley Museum

The Chippewa Valley Woodturner Guild members participating in this event from left to right: Rich Thelen, Bob Eberhardt, Jayne Kulberg, Mary Weider and Dan Brandner.

Jim Jacobs gave his **Taming of the Skew** demonstration on Saturday March 7. There were 12 attendees for the introductory lecture period and all 12 went to the club's lathes to put the demonstration into practice.

Among the skills learned at the demonstration were: the plane cut; the cove cut; the v-groove; peeling out; slicing cut; rolling beads; and pommel cut. All of these were done by the learners in varying degrees of success. Jim was very patient and urged all to perfect it if possible one must practice, practice and practice some more.

Interesting Video of the Month

The best 26 woodturning videos of all time. There is a wide *variety of turning wood from a large* log to a root log.

Woodturning - The Best 26 Woodturning Video's Of All Time - YouTube

Rainbow Eucalyptus

Side effects of seeing the rainbow eucalyptus include oohs, ahhs, and squealing at first sight accompanied by whispers of, “Is this real life?” Yes, it is; the rainbow eucalyptus sheds its bark in stages, so various shades of red, orange, green, blue, and purple are revealed as it ages. You won’t need a psychedelic trip to see the naturally-occurring cartoonish colors; this tree is native to tropical places such as Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, and Indonesia.

Source: 10 Unusual Trees Found Around The World (natureworldwide.in)

May have a problem connecting. Microsoft is being persnickety.

Previous Demonstrations

February 2024 Wet/Dry Wood Tips
by Barry Grill

January 2024 Bottle Stoppers
by Joe Nycz

December 2023 Christmas Ornaments
by Bob Eberhardt

November 2023 Wands
by Paul Meske

October 2023 Basket Weave Illusion
by John Layde

September 2023 Tenon Pens and Buttons
by Tom Leonard

August 2023 Tool Handles
by Ron Bartz

July 2023 Coring
by Bob Eberhardt

June 2023 Turning Gnomes
by John Layde

May 2023 Bowl From Scrap
by Dan Brandner

April 2023 Resin Filled Bowl Turning
by Mary Weider

March 2023 Antique Peppermills
by Joe Nycz

Previous Pen Kits and Woods

February 2024 Honduran Rosewood
for Medical pen

January 2024 Sycamore
for PMK-3 pen

December 2023 Orange Agate
for Ultra Cigar pen

November 2023 Sindora Burl
for Saxa pen

October 2023 Cambodian Ormosia
for Button Click pen

September 2023 English Yew
for Yari Click pen

August 2023 Lauro Preto
for Diamond Knurl pen

July 2023 Limba
for Aero pen

June 2023 Pau Marfim
for Thank You pen

May 2023 Red Cabbage Bark
for Mini Portable pen

April 2023 Fava Armagosa
for Devin Click pen

March 2023 Acacia
for CJK1 pen

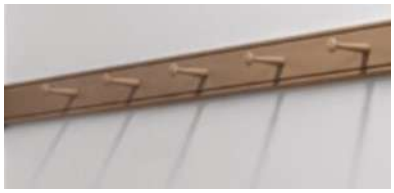
Turning Shaker Pegs

This month Dan Brandner presents turning shaker Pegs. This is something our beginning turners can do to practice their roughing gouge, beads, coves and parting tool, and end up with a place to hang up their face shield and turning smock.

The Shakers were a Christian sect founded in 1747 in England, and then organized in the US in the late 1770s. They were initially known as “Shaking Quakers” because of their ecstatic behavior during worship services.

The Shakers' dedication to hard work and perfection resulted in a unique range of architecture, furniture and handicraft styles. They designed their furniture with care, believing that making something well was in itself an act of prayer. Before the late 18th century, they rarely fashioned items with elaborate details or extra decoration, but only made things for their intended uses. This “Form Follows Function” perspective resulted in several inventions that have spare lines, yet are quite functional and have survived to this day. Shaker style kitchen cabinet doors or furniture pieces are still popular today. This perspective is the forerunner of today’s minimalist movement.

One invention, the Shaker peg and peg rail, is a simple yet functional design element that has been a staple in homes for centuries. Their origin lies in the Shaker community where peg rails were common in entryways, larger dining rooms and bedrooms. Today you can find these peg rails in garages, entryways, mudrooms and kitchens.



Besides these peg rails and their furniture styles you may recognize these inventions. Shakers invented the oval pantry box and the flat broom which was normally round up until then. They also invented the hand held whisk broom.

This project is a good one for new turners to practice with their tools and turn a small half cove and half bead, resulting in something useful. You can even try out the skew.

Steps

1. Find center and mount the spindle blank of 1” or slightly larger hardwood. I’m using hard maple I split from firewood. Fig 1

Fig. 1 Mounted hardwood blank.

2. Use Spindle Roughing Gouge to turn to a cylinder of 7/8” diameter, the width of the head. Measure with a caliper set to 7/8” when you get close.

Fig 2. Marking the spindle with key points, using a card or a measuring jig with nails.

3. Mark shaker peg points on spindle using a ruler, a card template or nail jig. Fig 2.
   If desired, highlight marks with V cuts using a skew for visibility. Fig 3.

Fig 3. Marking penciled lines with skew V cuts.

4. Use Parting tool to set depth of shoulder of the tenon to about
   19/32nds, which I approximated with a 15mm wrench. Fig 4. (15mm~18.89/32nds of an inch)

Fig 4a. Reducing the peg shoulder to 19/32" (15mm)

5. Use Parting tool to set depth of the center of the peg's tenon to 1/2",
   but allow for it being tapered. Fig 5. Here I'm using a 1/2" wrench.

Fig 5. Reduce the peg tenon to 1/2" with a taper (31/64" to 33/64")
at the shoulder using a 1/2" wrench at the tenon's midpoint.

6. Use spindle gouge or skew to peel down bulk of tenon. One I made longer to fit in a ½" collet chuck. Fig 6. One I transitioned to an MT2 Taper using a jig suggested by Alan Lacer. Fig 7. For the MT2 jig, See Note 1 at the end of article.

Fig 6. Longer 1/2" tenon for in collet chuck.

Fig. 7. MT2 Taper to jam in spindle.

7. Use skew or spindle roughing gouge to roughly shape the taper of the peg. Fig 8a & 8b.

Fig 8a. Remove bulk of peg taper with roughing gouge.

Fig 8b. Removing bulk of peg taper with skew peeling cuts.

Fig. 9

8. Remove some of the bulk around the two heads, but leave enough end on the MT2 tapered one to allow use of the tailstock live center initially after remounting. Fig 9.

9. Use Parting tool to set depth of center of neck (thinnest part) to 7/16". Fig 10.
   I saved this for last because it introduces some thin weak spots in the spindle. See Note 2.

Fig. 10 Reduce the peg neck to 7/16" (shooting for 3/8" final).
This image was done before reducing the bulk of the peg's taper.

10. Once the "remounting" tenons are completed, part off the two blanks. You may need to use a small saw to part the two pieces. Fig 11a,b.

Fig 11a. Partial part off before sawing.

Fig 11b. Separating with a saw.

11. Finishing with Collet chuck: Remount the one peg with the 1/2" tenon into a 1/2" collet chuck.
Now you are fully supported on one end. Fig 12 a,b You can also use the tailstock for additional support until finishing the head.

Fig 12a. Mounting the tenon into the collet chuck.

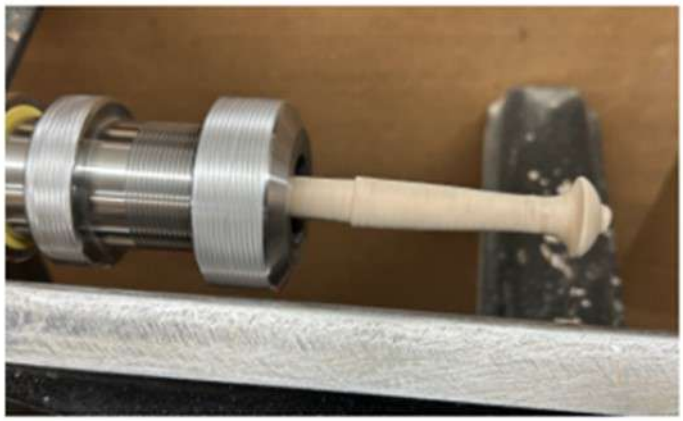


Fig 12b. Mounted in the ½" collet chuck.

12. Using a skew, finish the 1/2” tenon cleanly to be 9/16” long with a slight taper from 15/32” to 17/32” at the shoulder. Move the tool rest to be parallel to your peg taper and using a skew or spindle gouger, smoothly finish it. You can use a paring cut with the skew or tip of the spindle gouge to clean up the shoulder. Fig 13.

Fig 13. Putting a nice finish on the Peg’s taper with a skew. You can also use a spindle gouge.

13. Using a spindle gouge, turn a smooth half cove below the head, blending into the shaft’s neck. Fig 14.

Fig 14. Turn 1/2 cove with a spindle gouge, smoothly into the peg’s taper. If you’re brave try doing it with the skew.

14. Using a spindle gouge, start turning a half bead on the top of the head. This can also be done with the skew. Clean up the rim of the head if needed. Fig 15 a, b

Fig 15a. Turning the bead on the head with a spindle gouge after backing off the tailstock live center.

Fig 15b. Turning the bead on head with a skew.

15. Sand if desired, then part off your finished peg. Fig 16

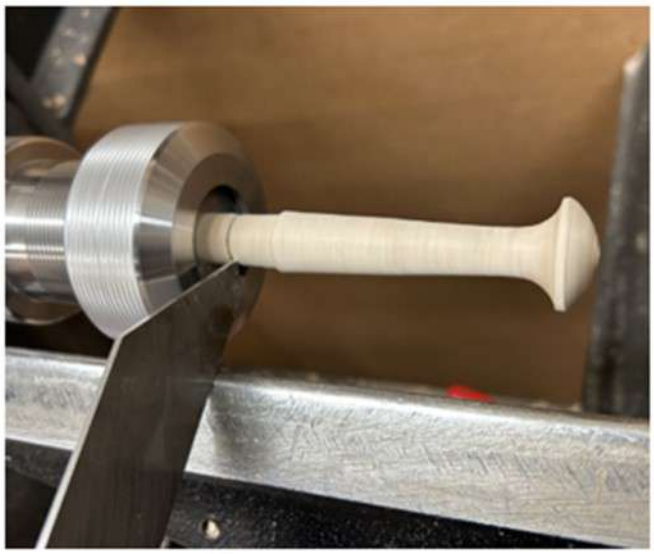


Fig 16. Parting off from the collet chuck.

16. **Finishing with spindle as a jam chuck**: Firmly tap the MT2 tapered blank into the head stock spindle. Be careful as the neck of the peg is already pretty thin. Pull up the Tail stock initially for additional support. Fig 17a, b.

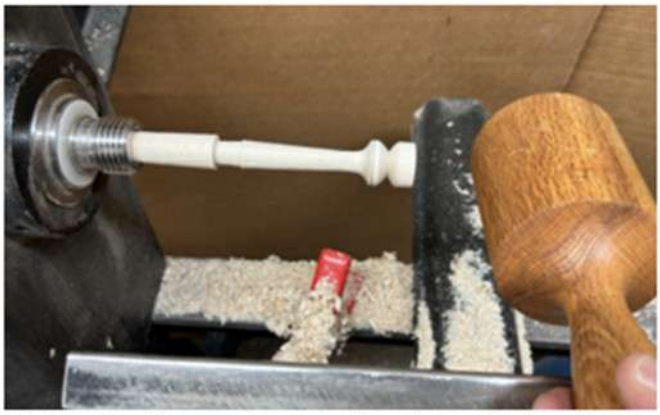


Fig 17a Firmly pound the peg blank into the headstock.

Fig 17b Bring up the tailstock for additional support initially.

17. Now repeat as in 12 and 13 above, also removing any of bulk of the head before backing off the tail stock.

18. Your piece should be tight in the spindle taper. Back off the tail stock, and repeat 14 and 15 as above.

19. After parting off, use the lathe's ram- rod to remove the jammed piece in the head stock.

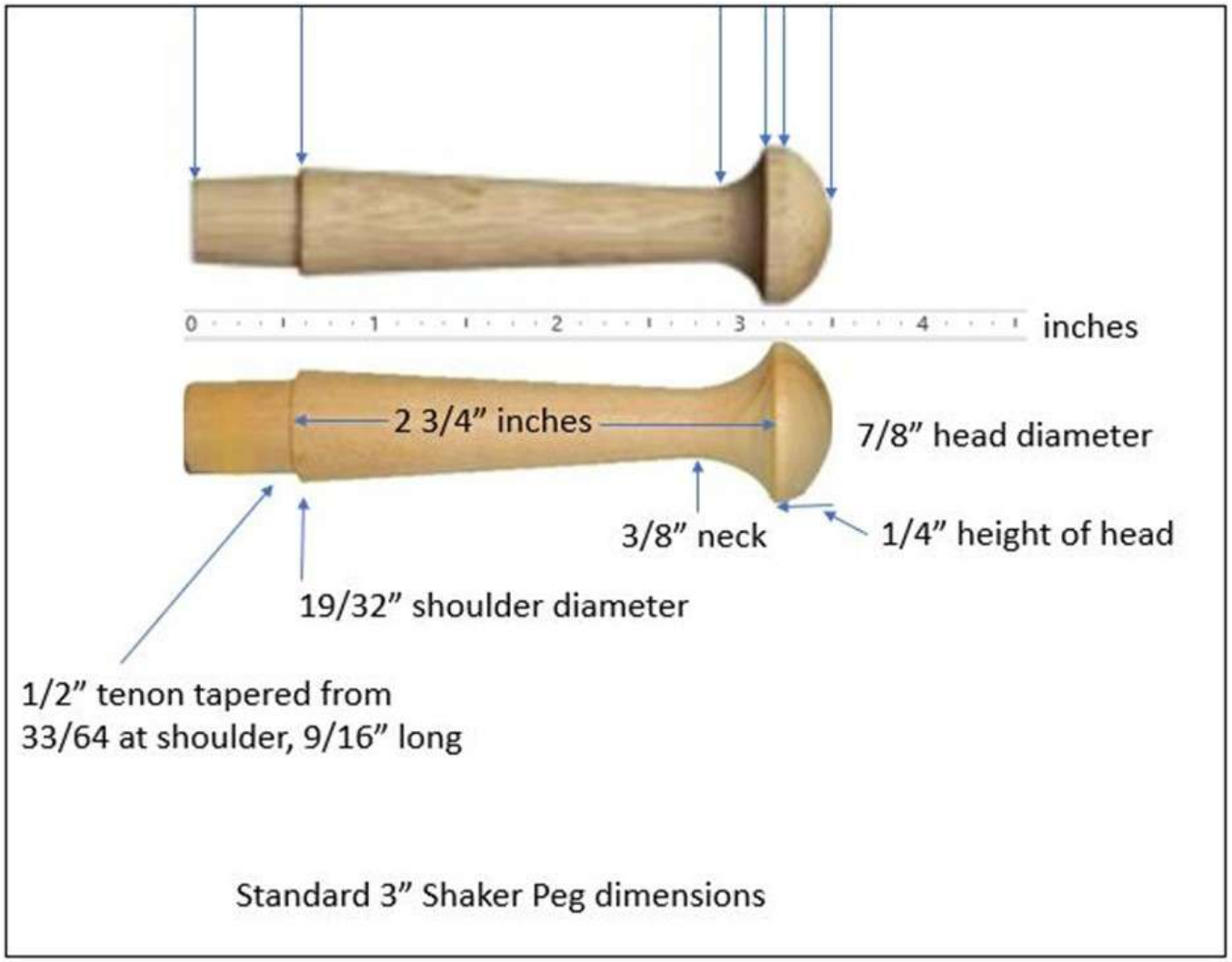
20. Mount the pegs by gluing and tapping them into 1/2" drilled holes in a board and you have a useful peg rail to hang up your turning smock and face mask.

Peg rail with mounted pegs.

Note 1: Alan Lacer's MT2 Taper jig. He uses it when he's turning an egg or a top. He made it by gluing up some small pieces of wood on an MT2 center as shown. It is a useful method on small pieces for turners who don't have a collet chuck.

Note 2: The problem with the longer spindle is that if you get too thin, you can bow it out when applying tools to it as it gets thinner. Also, when parting off, you have 3 places to part it off. Since I finish the piece in the collet chuck or using the spindle taper as a jam chuck where I have clean access to the end and can part off cleanly, it is probably best to prepare blanks singly and finish them one after the other, by one of the two methods.

Note 3: Here are the dimensions of a standard 3" Shaker peg.



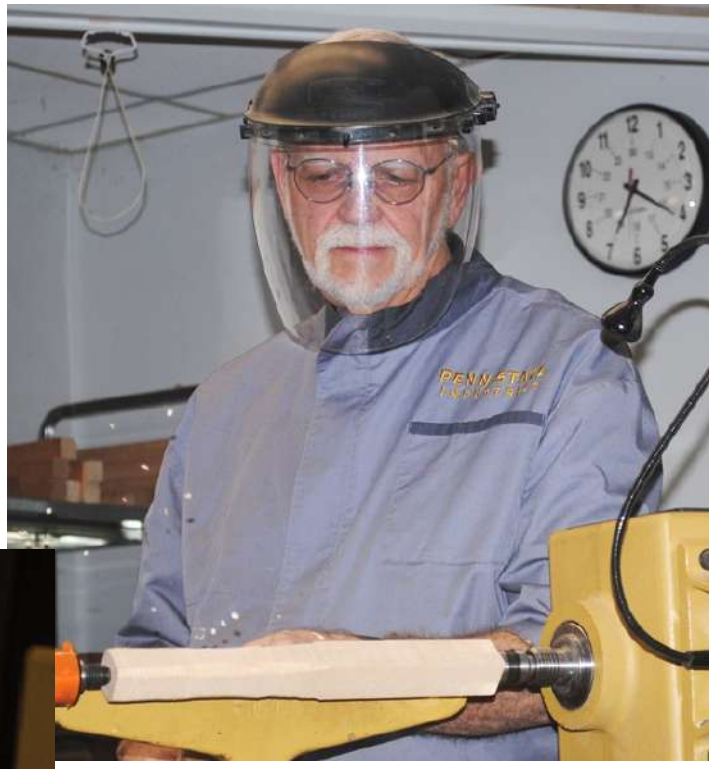
Left: Dan Brandner beginning his demonstration by explaining the Shaker Peg.

Right: The demo begins with a typical spindle turning.

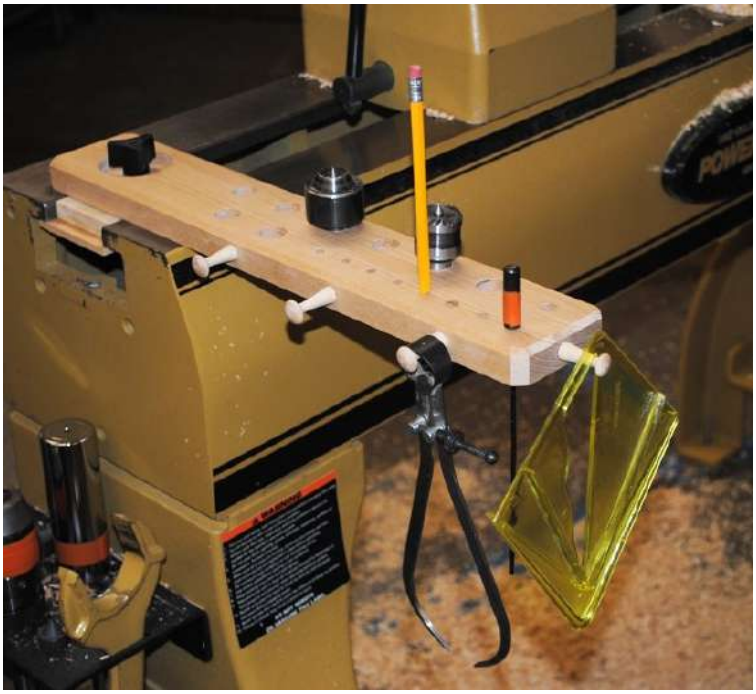
Right: Dan begins shaping the spindle.

Center: Dan measures for the taper.

Below right: Shaker Pen begins to form.



Shaker Peg finished product and Dan's uses for Shaker Pegs.



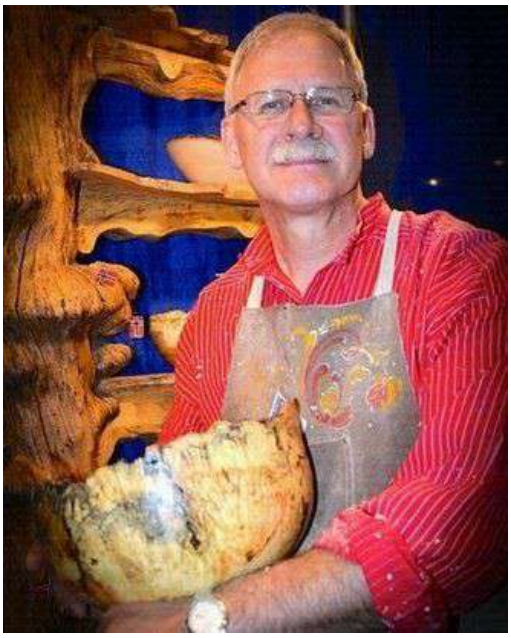
Upper Left: the finished Shaker Peg.

Lower Left: Dan's completed Shaker Peg on the left and the commercially available Shaker pen on the right.

Above: Dan's use for the Shaker Pegs including hanging lathe related items.

Dan brought a Shaker Box and said he intends to make one in the future.

Phil Holtan



Dan Brandner our Program Director contacted Phil Holtan a professional turner and turning teacher to come and be a guest turner. Dan had his first experience with woodturning when he took a class under Phil Holtan and shortly after found out about the Chippewa Valley Woodturners Guild in Eau Claire. Dan thought Phil would be an excellent guest turner for our group. He contacted Phil and a date was worked out which was Saturday March 16. The event was well attended by 19 members of our group.

Phil Holtan's topic was "Chasing the Ultimate Cut – Achieving a Better Surface with Less Sanding." He was a very engaging and knowledgeable turner and speaker. After 40 years as a turner, he had found the best method to turn with little or no sanding. At the heart of the demonstration was several points: Do not wait too long to turn the wood after sealing – the fresher the wood the better the cut; Use several grinds on tools to achieve three levels of shavings – first cut to be large ribbons, second cut medium ribbons and the third cut small almost angel hair size cuttings; Let the last cut be from the tool with a fresh sharp grind and done just before using the tool.

There was of course a lot more information to be had at this demonstration. There was a handout that is reproduced in this newsletter. There are many copies that will be available for anyone who wants a copy. Even some of our most experienced turner members said that they had learned something.

At the end of the demonstration at least two of our members signed up for a turning class with Phil Holtan.

Phil Holtan brought around many new gouges and used gouges in good condition that were for sale at reasonable prices. Phil's wife Merri Sue oversaw sales and was a very engaging person to speak to. Phil also brought some of his older DVDs that he gave to the person who came from farthest away (Menomonie) and to the youngest person. The rest of the DVDs were donated to our group to sell. There were some woodturning books he also donated to our group.

Many thanks to Phil and Merri Sue Holtan for an interesting morning and to Dan Brandner who thought of bringing in Phil Holtan. Many thanks five members who brought the treats.

Tom Leonard

Phil Holtan's Ten Commandments of Turning

philholtan.com

The curve is "the Thing"

1. Above all, **be safe**, and **have fun!**
2. Tune up your lathe.
3. Keep your tools sharp and accurately ground.
4. Ride the bevel, but with little pressure.
5. For power cutting, push right up the handle of the tool.
6. Use your whole body.
7. Swing the tool and your body.
8. Use a shearing cut.
9. Move from larger chips to smaller for a fine finish.
10. Take your time to refine the shape.

- Keep the curve to stay "alive," always moving in one direction or another and not flattening out. An asymmetrical curve usually has more "life" and interest in it.
- Many turners end up with an awkward design because they begin turning the bowl with the tool rest parallel to the axis of the lathe. Better, start with the tool rest at a right angle to the axis and cut uphill with the grain. You naturally remove more mass from the bowl so you have a better chance of a fair curve, as if the curve started from the lip of the bowl and flowed through the foot and back up to the other lip.

Bigger to smaller chips, louder to softer cutting

- There are two patches on the outside (and inside) of the bowl where you will be cutting against the grain, "sharpening the pencil" backward. To get a better cut there, you need to cut smaller chips that have less "beam strength" to break off into the wood. Good bowl-turning shows in your chips beneath the lathe- big chips to quickly remove mass, medium chips to refine the finish and finally, very fine shavings don't tear out grain in those difficult patches.

For a finer cut, make smaller and smaller chips by:

1. increasing the spindle speed
2. moving the tool more slowly across the bowl as you cut.
3. making sure your gouge is very sharp (sharpen at this point or reserve a finishing gouge)
4. using a lighter touch on the tool, backing off the pressure on the bevel
5. paying attention to quieting your cut
6. using a smaller tool, perhaps the 3/8- or 1/4-inch gouge
7. presenting a more strongly skewed cutting angle (dropping the handle on the outside)
8. using a push or shearing (not a pull) cut (the near-vertical position, see below)
9. keeping your body rigid with elbows tucked in and the tool against your side. If you're turning over the bed, brace the tool against your forearm,
10. carefully use a "back cut," or a square cut gouge for a shearing cut.

Three Cuts with the Bowl Gouge

- There are three basic gouge cuts for bowls: push cut, pull cut and shearing cut.

- For beginning turners, because of safety and ease of sharpening with only the simplest of jigs, I recommend the traditional grind. That is a fingernail grind, with wings swept back about 5/8 inch from the end. From the side, it shows a symmetrical point, with the sharpened bevel and the swept back wings approximately equal lengths and angle, about 45 degrees. I like those lines to be quite straight. Sharpen that tool adjusting the Wolverine or home-made arm to match the tool's bevel angle. As you roll the tool out toward the edges, slide the tool forward and up the grinding stone. If you don't slide the tool forward, you will get a virtually unusable edge.

- As turners become more comfortable with the tools, I suggest they progressively grind back the wings. That makes for a more versatile tool that can also do a pull cut and a better shearing cut.

- **I start my students on the push cut, also called the "near-horizontal position."** Hold the tool rather horizontal and push the tool into the wood, with the front hand on the tool rest just holding the tool down and not pushing into the wood or pulling the tool up the slope. This is not easy, and it's very easy to lose

  the correct bevel angle, swing the tool out further and scrape and not cut the wood. You'll know you've done that because the surface immediately gets rough. Return the tool close in to the tailstock to begin each cut and be aware of your bevel.

- This push cut is a great cut to trace a fair curve from top to bottom because the "tiller" of the handle is very accurate in tracing that curve.

- The **shearing cut** is a variation of the push cut in which you drop the handle to present a more shearing angle to the cut. It works with the traditional grind but even better with the longer or Irish grinds. **This "near-vertical position"** is not so natural but the more strongly skewed cutting edge will allow you to cut more cleanly and help you avoid much sanding. I often return to the push cut for refining the curve near the top, "above the tree line."

- For this **shearing cut**, position yourself close to the tail stock of the lathe, drop the handle of the gouge till the bevel rubs (hence "near-vertical"). Now push or pull the gouge uphill, swinging your body to keep the bevel rubbing and the gouge following the shape of the bowl.

- The **pull cut** can only be done with the longer grinds. With the tool position at about 1:30 o'clock, pull the gouge toward you up the slope of the bowl. If you see the end of the gouge as a clock, you are cutting in the 10-11 o'clock position. Switch this to a shearing cut by just dropping the handle further and moving the cutting positon to 9 o'clock on the edge.

Shear Scraping

- Use a skew scraper sharpened to about a 45-degree bevel and perhaps with a slight hook from an upside-down swipe with a medium honing stone.

  1. Angle the cutting edge of the scraper down slightly to avoid catches
  2. Tilt the tool to about a 45-degree angle to the rest, with the leading, shorter edge of the scraper down on the rest and the trailing, longer edge up off the rest.
  3. Be very careful to swing the tool to avoid touching the toe to the bowl.

Phil's sequence for turning a natural edged bowl.

1. Mount the round blank centered on a driving center with bark to the left. Level the top edges.
2. Use aggressive pull cuts to roughly shape the outside of the bowl.
3. Switch to shear cutting to refine the surface with smaller chips. I often use a push cut up to the top. Take all the time you need to get the curve right and the surface immaculate.
4. Shear scrape the outside and use same tool to form the dovetail for the bowl chuck.
5. Remount the bowl on the chuck and optionally use tailstock, depending on chuck diameter.
6. Take a few cuts inside, starting from the center, cutting toward the center. Remove tailstock.
7. Plan A- hollow out cone towards the bottom, finishing each cut to avoid an "ambush," working at good bevel-rubbing cuts. Go no deeper than about an inch from bottom.
8. Switch to Plan B- Finish the top 1/3 of the bowl to final thickness, matching your bevel angle to the outside of the bowl. Improve finish with smaller chips and perhaps a back cut. Push yourself to turn a thinner bowl, depending on what the bark needs to hang on.
9. Move to next third of the bowl, carefully blending the transition by starting your final cuts with bevel rubbing but not cutting and then feathering into your final thickness.
10. As you move to the last third of the bowl, measure thickness carefully so you hold the curve in your mind. You may need to switch to a more steeply angled gouge (55-60 degrees) or a scraper for your last cuts. Measure thickness after nearly every cut.
11. Sand inside and outside with a 3" sanding pad on an electric drill. I usually start with 150 and go to 220, first sanding as the bowl spins, then stopping the lathe, touching up problem areas, and then restarting the lathe to blend in the touch-up sanding marks.
12. Chamfer the rough top edges with 150 grit paper, careful not to touch the already-sanded sides. Then oil, usually Watco Teak Oil, hand sand with 400 grit wet-or-dry paper and oil again.
13. When the bowl is dry, I mount the bowl on a cushioned faceplate and trim off and level the bottom, usually cutting grooves to prove I didn't sand the bottom.

Scenes from the Demonstration

Joe Nycz made 34 eggs—two each from 17 different woods for the President's Challenge.

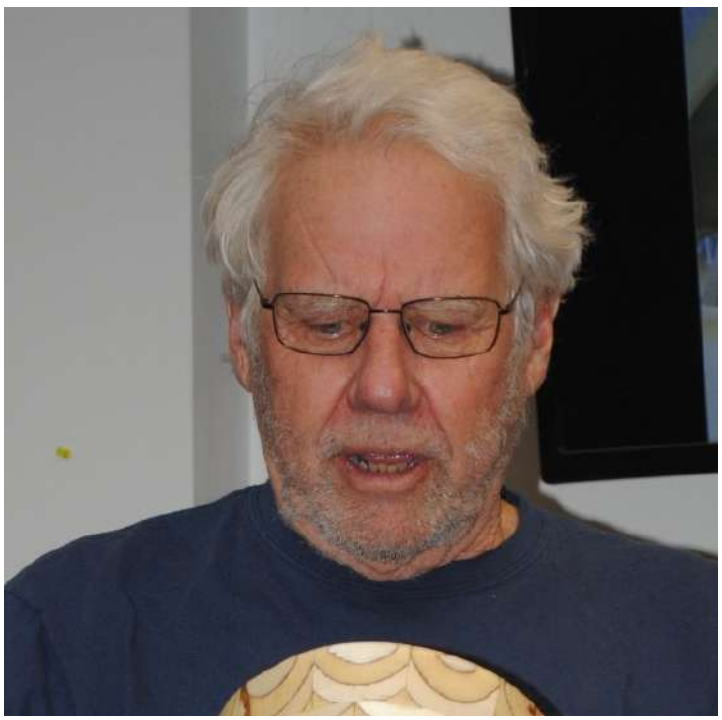
Grayson and Kevin Schwartz father and son team each made an egg for the President's Challenge.

Above Left: **Barry Grill** with an unusually vivid red Box Elder bowl and vase.

Below Right: **Dan Brandner** made several eggs and tops. And a Walnut bowl.

Upper Left: **Henry "Chip" Troost** made 2 eggs with cups for the President's Challenge. Chip also made a Poplar plate and added an Oak base.

Lower Left: **John Layde** made a segmented bowl of plywood. John will be demonstrating this in May.



Mary Weider made a couple of eggs from Red Cedar for the President's Challenge and a top. Mary also made an nice Cherry Burl bowl. Upper left is an additional Cherry Burl bowl from last month.

Randy Patzke (who had to leave early) made a collage of wood and acrylic pieces into a flat plate that could be used as a hot plate.

Tom Leonard with three pens made with “Medical” pen kits. Wood types from bottom to top are: Honduran Rosewood, Cherry Burl, and Olivewood.

PRESIDENT’S CHALLENGE

Egg challenge winner was **Joe Nycz** with an egg made of Texas Ebony. Joe was awarded a $25 gift card from Craft Supplies USA.

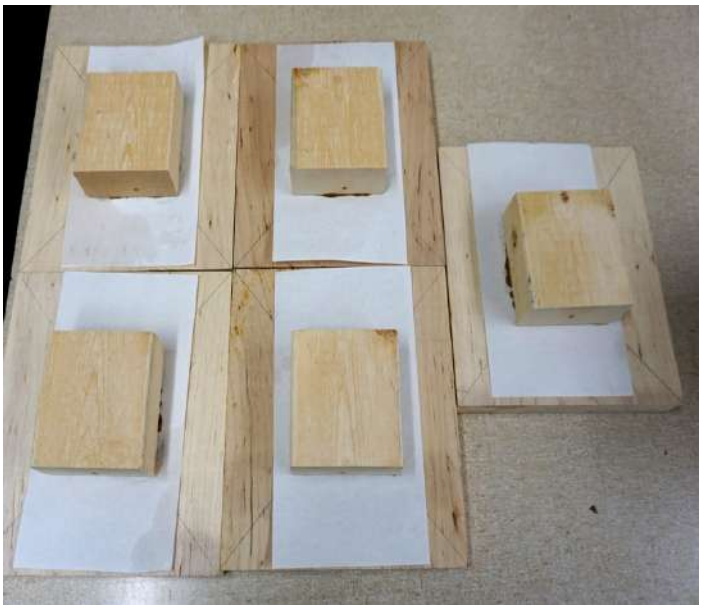
Judges for the Egg Challenge, **Rich Thelen** and **Barry Grill** seem to have found the winner!

Photos for Show and Tell and Gallery provided by Mary Weider and Tom Leonard

Left: Bowls for Feed My People made by **Barry Grill**

Right: Previously contributed bowls for Feed My People.

Blanks contributed by **Bob Eberhardt** for members to make plates.



Chip Troost brought tree cuttings of Cherry, Silver Poplar and Green or White Ash for members to turn.

Black Chacate

Black chacate wood, also known as **chacate preto** or **small false mopane**, is an attractive hardwood found in Mozambique. Here are some key characteristics and uses of this remarkable wood:

1. **Appearance and Properties**:
    - Black chacate has a **golden brown color** with darker streaks.
    - It is **hard and dense**, with a fine grain.
    - The average **dry weight** is approximately **71.8 lb/ft³** (imperial) or **1,150 kg/m³** (metric).
    - As it ages, the wood darkens to a distinctive greenish or brownish hue.
2. **Applications**:
    - **Turning and Carving**: Black chacate is a popular choice for **turning bowls** and other items due to its hardness and ability to polish to a high shine.
    - **Cabinetry**: It is used in fine joinery for creating cabinets and furniture.
    - **Musical Instruments**: The unusually large, straight logs of black chacate enable the production of **large bells, bass clarinets, and flutes**—instruments that are challenging to make with other hardwoods like African blackwood and mopane.
    - **Stringed Instruments**: It is also suitable for crafting parts of stringed instruments.
    - **Knife Handles**: The wood's hardness makes it suitable for knife handles.
3. **Availability**:
    - ProSono Hardwoods offers black chacate blocks and scales cut to required dimensions, including turning squares and bowl blanks.
4. **Seasoning and Workability**:
    - Black chacate wood **dries slowly** and requires protection against splits and cracks.
    - It works well on the lathe and with chisels.

In summary, black chacate wood is prized for its rich color, intricate grain patterns, and versatility. Craftsmen use it for high-end furniture, flooring, cabinetry, and specialty items.

Source: Copilot with GPT-4 (bing.com)

You will have to type in Black Chacate into the Copilot. Edge is being persnickety.

A rare picture of a Black Chacate tree.

Black Chacate pen blank

Card holder made from Chacate wood.

Comb made of Chacate

Hand gavel made of Chacate

The characteristic bark from the Chacate tree.

Turning blank of Chacte

PEN KIT OF THE MONTH

Cyclone pen kits were purchased from Exotic Blanks. Exotic Blanks says of this pen: *"Looking for a pen that commands attention and exudes effortless style? Look no further than the Cyclone pen kits! With their ergonomic nib and stunning center band featuring circular iconography, these pens are sure to make a statement. Uses a standard cross refill."*

Pen kits were $5.25 each and 7mm bushings were $3.50. Drill bit is 7mm not purchased. Four platings were gold, chrome, gun metal, and antique brass. Note: These are just Slimlines with fancier hardware.

Totally Turning

March 23-24, 2024

Saratoga Springs City Center

Saratoga Springs, NY

Turn-On! Chicago Woodturning Symposium

August 2-4, 2024

Crowne Plaza Northbrook Hotel

Northbrook, IL

Southwest Association of Turners Symposium

August 23-25, 2024

Waco, Texas

Mid Atlantic Woodturning Symposium

September 20-22, 2024

Lancaster, PA

Featured Chapter Event:

2024 Midwest Pen Turners Gathering

The Midwest Pen Turners Gathering is coming happening April 19 -20, 2024. Located about twenty miles west of Chicago in Hoffman Estates, Illinois, this is the premiere event for pen makers worldwide. World class teachers and topics, vendors that are the top of their class, and thousands of dollars in giveaways (including a new lathe). Come for the knowledge, leave with some prizes and new friends. Spend time with demonstrators Mark Dreyer, John Underhill, Dick Sing (The Father Of Pen Turning) and many, many more. Events include “You Be The Demonstrator”, pen contests, raffles and meeting with hundreds of fellow pen makers. Demonstration topics include general pen making, casting, specialty blanks, and a few small turning classes. Check out the website for more event details.

Here are AAW symposium links
https://www.aawsymposium.org/about
https://www.aawsymposium.org/demonstrators
https://www.aawsymposium.org/schedule