



# Great Falls Woodturners Newsletter

[www.gfturners.org](http://www.gfturners.org)

Volume 7, Number 3

October 2015

## *The Last One.....*

Since October 2011 I have published the club newsletter. I have attended every club meeting and function, with a few exceptions, in order to publish a newsletter that covered all activities of the club.

I've now come to the time that I won't be attending every function so it is time to turn it over to someone that will take up the responsibility. I hope that someone will step up and carry on the newsletter.

So, since this is my last newsletter, I wish to acknowledge and thank a few club members that consistently provided articles to enhance your turning knowledge and abilities as well as entertainment:

Chuck Kuether  
David Stratton  
Tom Krajacich  
Paul Snyder  
Barry Rockwell  
Dave Manix

I thank all of you that supported me in trying to do good for the club.

My very best to the Great Falls Woodturners.....

Sam

## 2015 Symposium

**SYMPOSIUM**: a formal meeting at which several specialists deliver short addresses on a topic or on related topics

\*\*\*\*\*

## Rudolph Lopez



It's been two years since our last symposium and it was worth the wait.

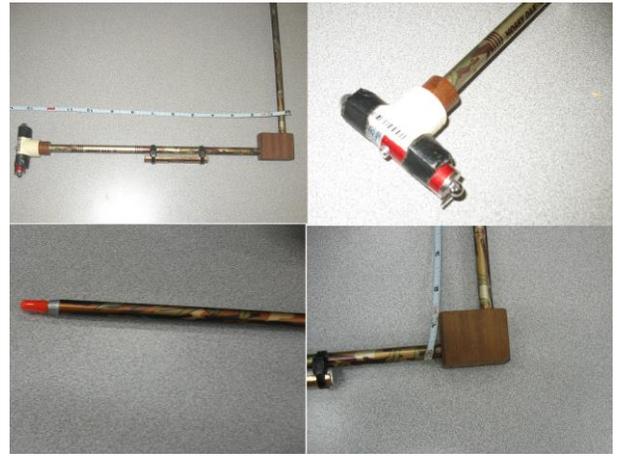
Rudolph 'Rudy' Lopez came to Big Sky Country to educate us on delicate turning and it proved to be an Excellent demonstration of turning skills and entertainment.

Rudy started the demonstration with the discussion of safety, use of tools, and his philosophy on turning. He covered the use of safety gear, use of the faceshield in particular, and how he ensures that the lathe is safe to use by ensuring that the speed is set to stop before turning on the lathe, making sure the tailstock is secured tightly, and staying out of the line of fire.

During the demonstration he showed us his slant on sharpening tools by using two different sharpening devices to sharpen his tools to either 40 degrees and 60 degrees.

As Rudy went along with the demo, he showed us and discussed the making of a number of sanding devices that would save us money over the long run. While turning a very delicate goblet he showed us his very sophisticated lathe steady featuring a hard to find clothes pin. I have to say it was great!

He also showed us a great bowl depth tool using old arrows and an inexpensive laser pointer.



Rudy then proceeded to demonstrate turning a natural edged bowl as then as possible. Using green wood he was able to make the shavings fly and ended up with an incredibly thin piece that you could see a light through.





Once he had the beads and coves done he shaped the bottom of the bowl and created a tenon to mount in the chuck.

With that done, he mounted the bowl in the chuck and began to hollow the piece and when finished it was a natural edged bowl with a scalloped edge. It looked great!



Rudy then placed a green piece of oak on the lathe and proceeded to turn a sliver with a base that was amazing. He kept giving it one more cut to the point we could see the chuck through it. How it is possible to get it to 3/32<sup>nd</sup> of an inch without blowing apart is incredible.



Taking a different approach, Rudy took a green limb mounted on end and turned off the bark and trued the piece. He then proceeded to turn beads and coves, Yes folks, **BEADS AND COVES**, around the length of the piece. Rudy relayed a story that he told a gent that to be proficient in turning you need to be able to turn good **BEADS and COVES**. That bit of advice was later confirmed by Jimmy Clewes to that same individual. Think he got the point?

And we had another impressive piece turned in the form of a long stemmed goblet from a piece of stock with an off set pith. Rudy taught us how to turn the piece by adjusting the stock so the pith is off center which will allow a stem to be thin yet not be weakened by the pith.

This is where we saw his creation of the adjustable clothespin steady rest which I would be confident in saying that you all

went home and asked the Mrs where the clothes pin were.....yeah, don't fib!

This was the third in a series of professional demonstrations which enhanced our turning skills. We appreciate Rudy coming to Great Falls when he could have easily cancelled due to weather conditions creating major flooding problems at home.

Rudolph, we appreciate your outstanding demonstration for our club.



## *A Very Special Thanks*

To **Mrs. Dirk Johnson** for her support to the symposium in getting all the goodies that we enjoyed before the start and during the demo.

Thanks to **David Stratton** and **Dirk Johnson** for doing the camera work during the symposium.

Thanks to **Marian Stratton** for the munchies. Madam Secretary (and unofficial Cookie Maker) did a great job again! **Thanks VERY MUCH Marian!**

Also, to the members who came in on Friday evening to set up the facility and during the take down at the end.

Thanks to **Barry Rockwell** for being the Chairman of the symposium and all his

hard work in organizing, managing and sponsoring Rudy at his home.

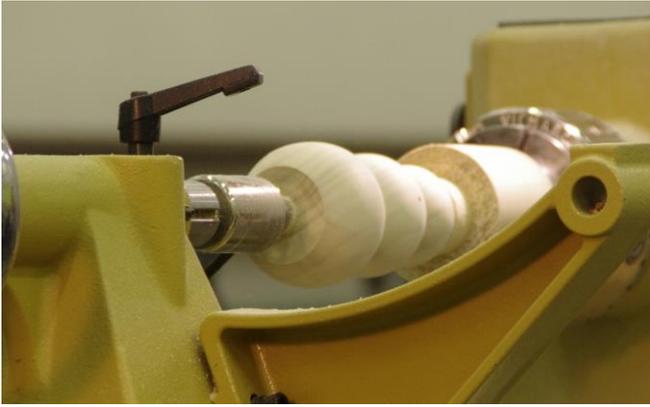
---

# Club Demonstrations

Barry Rockwell – Oct 6<sup>th</sup>

Sorry, there is no text to discuss Barry's demonstration.





---

# Thanks

A very special THANK YOU to:

*Those of you that come early and stay late to help with the set up and break down of the facility and equipment.*

---

## TIPS

### Information Tip – Dirk Johnson

By 2004 I was turning about 25 wood salad bowls a year, and looking for a wood finish that I did not mind applying, was food safe, and delivered waterproofing. I saw on the internet that wiping varnishes were popular for this type of application. However, after trying two I was quite disappointed. I noticed that the pieces had a high gloss shine and all of the tactile properties of the wood had been covered up by the resins. The pieces looked as if they had been dipped in plastic!

I thought the right path might lead to tung oil (from the Tung nut).

Pure tung oil often must be thinned with turpentine before application to raw wood, it would take longer than a week to fully cure, and I did not want these limitations.

I found Millie's All Purpose Penetrating Tung Oil on the internet, and now I use it exclusively. The



polymerized (cooked) tung oil is low viscosity and uses a citrus based thinner. I sand the bare wood to 320 grit. Then I simply flood coat my bowls three or four times until the wood will not absorb more oil; the orange smell is a nice plus. I buff with a fine woven pad, and wipe off the piece. In 72 hours I see a warm low sheen, with stunning visual depth into the wood, and yet my fingertips can still feel the fine wood fibers.

The finish is complete after applying a top coat of blended carnauba wax and walnut oil. I produce about 50 pieces a year now and they are placed in ten galleries; I have no doubt that Millie's is a great aid with the presentation and performance of my heirloom bowls. I am still amazed at how a maple burl bowl explodes with color and depth after Millie's goes on!

Millie's All Purpose Penetrating Tung Oil

Quart \$43.26 \$14.70

**Shipping  
Charge  
For up to two  
quarts.**

\$10.00 with S&H included.

Call Sales Manager Brian Christianens at 406-453-8100, or on the internet ([cascademachine@gmail.com](mailto:cascademachine@gmail.com)) or ([www.cascademachineco.com](http://www.cascademachineco.com)) for a replacement belt.

Sales and Marketing Manager  
Serious Toolworks, Inc Scott Trumbo

Proprietor  
Heartwood Bowls

[www.heartwoodbowls.com](http://www.heartwoodbowls.com)

Prices above do not include shipping. Please use the above shipping button to add the shipping charge to cover up to two quarts of Millies Tung Oil. This shipping charge covers U.S. destinations only. (No additional shipping charge needs to be added when checking out.)

---

## Information Tip – Darrell Young

This message is for all Rikon Band Saw owners.

My multi-vee belt, Part # 1-JL20020002 (16 1/2in) broke (I have had it since I purchased my band saw in 2013).

When I tried to order a belt at Rikon, I was informed by Rikon personnel that the belt was out of stock at the manufacturer for 30 to 45 days, and the cost was \$16.95 plus S&H.

I contacted Cascade Machine & Supply at 401 4th Ave. South, here in Great Falls, and got a replacement belt (16in) which took two days to get, for

## Club's Appreciation

**Editor's Comment:** My thanks to the following individuals who helped with the content of this newsletter:

**Dirk Johnson  
Darrell Young**



<http://www.woodturnerscatalog.com/>

Thanks to Craft Supplies USA for their generosity in donating a class for the 2015 Symposium Grand Door Prize.

---

# Instant Gallery

## Instant Gallery Photos

(Great Photos by Paul Snyder)



Dirk Johnson



Dirk Johnson



Paul Snyder



Scott Johnson



Dan Michner



Dan Michner



Jay Eklund



Jay Eklund



Vern Miller



Jay Eklund



Vern Miller



Scott Johnson



Scott Johnson



Terry and Ben Hill



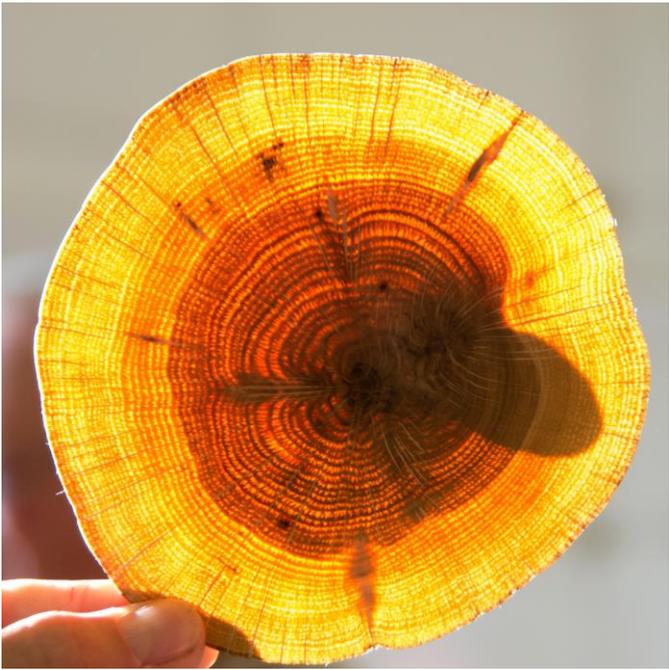
Terry and Ben Hill



Terry and Ben Hill

# Rudy Lopez Gallery





# 2015 Symposium

## 2015 Symposium





# Great Falls Woodturners Meetings/Demonstrations Schedule

- \*Oct 6** Meeting/Demo – Barry Rockwell
- \*\*Oct 17** Demo – Dirk Johnson
- \*Nov 3** Meeting/Demo – Bandsaw Demo
- \*\*Nov 21** Demo – Chuck Kuether
- \*Dec 1** Meeting/Demo –
- \*\*Dec 19** Due to the Christmas Holiday being so close, there will not be a demo.
- \*Jan 5** Meeting/Demo