

ONE GOOD TURN

Meetings: Odd Months Second Tuesday 6:30 pm Dan Hershberger Shop

Even Months Second Saturday 12:30

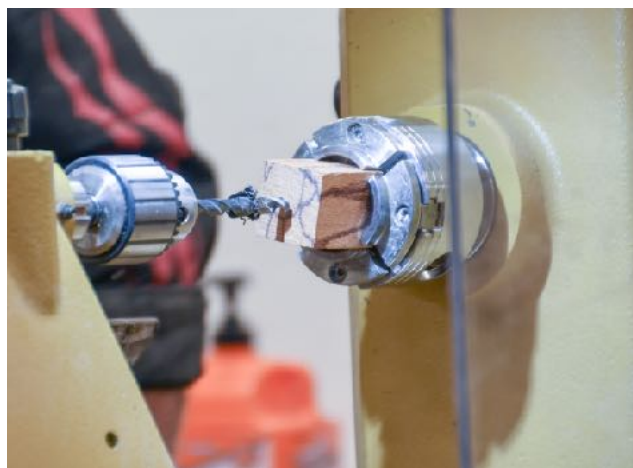
Beads of Courage

Thanks to all who made boxes for the Beads of Courage program. This will be an ongoing program because it is for such an important cause. Members are encouraged to make a box or boxes to donate

November Club Meeting

The Great Falls Woodturners Club was treated to a informative demonstration on turning bottle stoppers by Jay Eklund. Jay always does a great demo, and he didn't disappoint the 13 members in attendance for this Tuesday night demo. Jay first talked about supplies involved and some of the knowledge he has gained over time turning these stoppers. He noted that his original mandrel was from Penn State Industries, and it came with triple chrome stoppers and some wood blanks. He discovered that the wood blanks are too big and there is too much waste with them. His solution is to buy 1 ½ x 1 ½ x 12" wood blanks and then cut them into 5 stoppers for turning. Additionally, he found that the triple chrome stoppers from PSI tend to pit if

used in a wine bottle, so he avoids those stoppers. He talked about stoppers from Woodcraft, Craft Supplies and Rockler that are solid silicone or stainless steel to avoid these issues. His favorite bottle stoppers are from Ruth Niles that are "stand-up" stainless steel (item # SS9000) which are smaller and used for any spirit not just wine. He noted that Craft Supplies carries the Ruth Niles stoppers, but he said dealing with Ruth Niles directly is very fast and she has excellent customer service. She even does follow-up contact to see about customer satisfaction. Her stoppers are made in the USA. He also



noted that the Craft Supplies plastic display boxes are just not quite big enough for most completed stoppers. Buying some clear plastic tubing and cutting it to size can be used instead. He noted that there are many

styles of stoppers to be turned including a nob, top hat, gear shift, barrel, etc. We were fortunate enough to have him show us the turning of two stoppers during the demo including one out of marblewood and one out of wood he thought was red heart. Both turned out beautifully. He did remind people to not over-embellish the stoppers as sometimes that is distracting. He turned the blanks to start with his spindle roughing gouge followed by a detail spindle gouge. Squaring up the blanks was done with a parting tool. Overall, a very informative and entertaining demonstration. Thanks Jay!

Tom Krajacich, Pres. GFWT



Putting on the shoulder

Editors note on the process:

A 1 1/2" x 1 1/2" x 2 1/2" blank seems to work best for the stoppers I make. After finding the center, an 11/32" hole 5/8" deep is drilled in the end of the blank. If the blank is drilled on the lathe, I put a small shoulder, the diameter of the top of the stopper, around the drilled hole. This insures that the blank is not turned smaller than the top of the stopper. I then

run a 3/8" tap into the hole to cut threads in the wood and then secure this to the threaded mandrel.



Turn to the desired shape and sand. I either finish the wood with spray laquer or I have found I really like a CA finish on the stoppers (thanks Paul S. for the suggestion).

After the finish is dry, thread onto the stopper. If the fit is too loose, a drop of CA glue on the threads will keep the wood secure. Enjoy!





The timing was impeccable

At our Nov meeting, Wayne Patrini started the meeting by handing out a copy of an article from a magazine titled "Is Wood Dangerous" on the perils of toxic wood dust. As I had never had any problems with reactions to dust, I scanned the article and filed it away with so many other handouts I have. As I was turning 20+ bottle stoppers this month, I was using up some blanks that I had in my shop that I acquired long ago. One was a stopper blank of Thuya burl that

I've had for several years. As soon as I started to turn the burl, two things became apparent. One is that it is a very brittle wood and rounding off the corners, the wood came off in chunks. Even from a freshly sharpened tool. Once round it turned much nicer. It is a beautiful wood and finished product turned out great. The other thing that became apparent as I continued to turn this blank was that the shavings and dust on my arm was starting to tingle the skin on my hand and arm. I could also feel my lips starting to burn. In the middle of turning I stopped and cleaned myself off and vacuumed up all the shavings, then turned on my dust collection system. The reactions lasted for about 10 minutes after I cleaned up. Never before have I had any reactions to wood products. I now turn on the dust collection before I ever start any turning and IF I ever turn Thuya again, I will cover myself from head to toe.

Morale of the story - take precautions before you have a reaction. Turn on your dust collection system early and often.

Website of the Month

Here is a site suggested by Sam Sampedro that is very interesting. He has some homemade tools that would fit in any shop.

<https://wp.fredwilliamson.com>

Look under the heading "The Process" .

Improve Your Segmenting

There are a few tricks that you can do to improve the process of making segmented pieces for turning with a table saw. The first time you cut a small segment and it is thrown away from the saw by the spinning blade, you will know that the first improvement to be made is a zero clearance throat plate. They are usually made from phenolic plastic and made to fit your specific saw. They can be purchased from Woodcraft, Rockler, etc. Lower the blade, mount it on the saw and clamp a piece of scrap wood over the throat to keep it in place as you slowly raise the spinning blade as high as it will go through the plate. The result is a zero clearance throat plate that will fit your blade and never catch small pieces of wood again.

I was gifted an older Craftsman contractor type table saw and the process of setting the factory fence was measure the gap at the front of the blade, measure the gap at the back of the blade, tap fence to get almost the same number, lock fence and then start all over as the fence always shifted as it was locked in place. The fence was nearly impossible to get parallel with the blade and he cut always burned the wood one side or the other. The first time I got hit in the side with a strip that kicked back due to a pinch at the back of the fence, I learned to stand out of the way of the cut. The bruise lasted several days. The next time a strip I was ripping went flying behind me and put a hole in the wall, it was time to change something. I studied after market fences for table saws and settled on a Vega universal fence from Rockler. It cost way more than the saw was worth, but after installation and a half hour of adjustments, I never have to worry about

the fence not being parallel to the blade and it has virtually eliminated the burning on the cuts that are made.

The next improvement was that I broke down and purchased a Forrest Woodworker II 40 tooth combination saw blade. The cuts come off the saw, glass smooth and I no longer go to the planer to remove saw marks any more. Works on softwoods as well as hardwoods. Ripping or crosscuts come out perfect. It comes with a mailer to send it back to the factory for sharpening and the blade is stamped with a serial number so you the blade you send is the one you get back. I have had the blade for several years and sent it back to the factory twice for sharpening and it has come back like new. My table saw is now a dream to use and it speeds my projects up tenfold.

Instant Gallery



Sam Sampedro



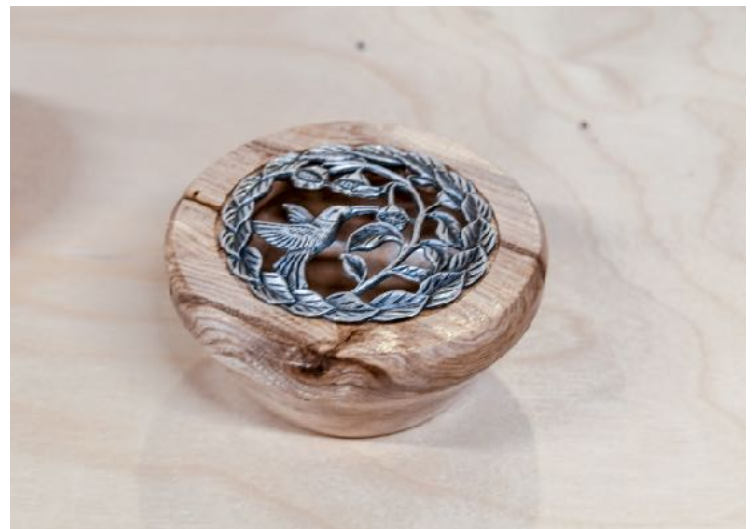
Sam Sampedro



Tom Krajacich



Sam Sampedro



Last month's demo piece finished
Tom Krajacich and Sam Sampedro



Gary Campbell



Thanks

Thanks to this months contributors,
Tom Krajacich, Sam Sampedro and Paul
Snyder,

The club website has been updated with
the latest newsletters and next years
demo schedule. Check it out.

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