

ONE GOOD TURN

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

Winter Meetings Second Saturday 12:30

The May 9 Meeting

The Great Falls Woodturners met on May 09 at the Hershberger shop.

There were nine people present at the May meeting.

Chuck's demonstration was about French rolling pins. When Chuck searched for information on French rolling pins, he saw three general profiles. One was straight and, from a woodturners' perspective, was basically a dowel. One was mostly straight with a slight taper at the ends. The third type was smoothly tapered over the entire length, with the widest part being in the middle of the rolling pin.



Chuck's demonstration was on making the type which is smoothly tapered over the entire length. He chose 1-1/4 inch at the ends and 1-1/2 inch wide in the middle for the diameters.

He passed around one French rolling pin he had already made. It was maple, finished with Mahoney's Walnut Oil, and 18 inches long. Chuck's research had found most French rolling pins were 15 inches, 18 inches, or 20 inches long. After he made the 18 inch

French rolling pin, he used it in the kitchen and thought a longer rolling pin would work better for him.

So this demonstration was about making a 20 inch French rolling pin.

Chuck found it works best to choose the middle diameter and end diameters before starting the project. Once the blank is chucked, has the corners turned away, and is marked for length, he then turns grooves of the finished diameter at the ends, middle,



and 1/4 and 3/4 positions. For this French rolling pin, the grooves were 1-1/4 inch, 1-1/2 inch, and 1-3/8 inch. He uses the grooves as guides for

turning the rest of the rolling pin.



Once the piece is turned, there is a long length which needs to be smoothly sanded. Chuck uses a piece of good quality plywood, about 10 inches long on each side, and carefully checked for flatness. He uses spray adhesive to glue a piece of 60 grit sandpaper to one side of the plywood and 80 grit



to the other side. This works well for sanding long flat areas.

Even with all that care, there are times when his French rolling pins will have slight dips in the long tapered sections. To get rid of these dips, he uses a pencil to mark the wood in the middle of the dips. Using his sandpaper board, he can watch for the pencil marks and be confident the taper is smooth once the pencil marks have been sanded off.

As there may be times when the piece will be removed from the chuck and then later re-chucked, he marks on the ends of the wood with a pencil to index its location in the chuck.

After the initial shaping is done, the dips have been sanded out, and the taper is smooth and even, Chuck will use a drill with 3 inch pieces of sandpaper. He starts with 120 grit and works up to 320 grit. He has found it works best to run the lathe in one direction for almost all grits, and then reverse the direction of the lathe for the last grit or two.

Although the effects of the final reversal are not visible to the naked eye, the French rolling pin feels smoother to the touch.

That leaves the necessity of finishing the ends, which usually have ends with rounded-off edges. This is all end grain and a bit trick to turn. Chuck uses a tool to round off the edges of the first end, gradually cutting down wood until there is only a nub which can be scraped off with a fingernail.

That leaves the problem of how to hold the French rolling pin while finishing the second end? For that, Chuck uses a normal live center with threads.



He takes a piece of rubber which can be screwed onto the threads (crutch tips work well for this) and uses that press against the finished end while the unfinished end is held by the chuck.

Currently, Chuck is using a piece of rubber with a flat face to provide pressure with the threaded live center. It takes a bit of fiddling to align the rubber and finished end of the French rolling pin so it is all centered and runs true. It was suggested that a piece of rubber with an inverted cone might help with centering the piece to be turned.

Every demonstration always has something go wrong unexpectedly. During Chuck's demonstration there were unexpected harmonics in the piece being turned. This resulted in shallow spirals and cross hatching being cut into the French rolling pin in some places, which took extra sanding to remove. There was a lot of discussion about possible causes of harmonics and different ways to mitigate them.

The last things to do were sanding the ends of the finished French rolling pin, and putting on a finish. Chuck takes the sanding attachment off of his drill, attaches it to lathe, and with the lathe turning at approximately 600 rpm, he sand the ends of the rolling pin from 60 grit to 320 grit.

Mahoney's Walnut Oil finish is applied, and Chuck's 20 inch French rolling pin is done!



Chuck then showed us a segmented French rolling pin he had made, with a Celtic knot in the wood. He recommends a saddle square

from The Toolbox to help make one of those.



A Fond Farewell

It is with some sadness that we bid farewell to Randy and Tracy Setzer who have put their house up for sale and are moving to the Townsend area to be closer to family and grandkids.

We thank Randy for his years of service to the club including his time as vice-president. We will miss his enthusiasm and the great treats he and Tracy brought to many meetings.

We wish them both well as they start the next chapter of their lives.

Instant Gallery

There have not been many photos of club members recent work that has been submitted, so the install gallery will be pretty short.



Roger Wayman shows us the segmented wooden steering wheel that he made for a friend's classic car

The wheel is al marked for carving out the 'scallops' for the finger holds.

Next Club Meeting

The next meeting will be June 10 at the shop of Dan Hershberger.

Demos Needed

Many meeting dates are in need of demonstrators. Please consider signing up to share your knowledge and technique. Please contact Wayne Petrini if you are willing to do a demo.

Thanks

Thanks to this months contributors Camille Good for the story and Paul Snyder for the excellent pictures.



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