

# ONE GOOD TURN

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

Even Months Second Saturday 12:30

## It's Election Time

At this month's meeting, we will be electing new officers that will help direct the club for the next year. Please plan on attending and being a part of democracy in action. The Board is proposing a slate of candidates for election but any nominations will be accepted and voted on.

## August Meeting

**Turning Demo by Charles "Chuck" Kuether  
August 12, 2023—Project: Turning a  
"Bottomless Bowl"**

Chuck—Definitions:

Noun: 1) (personal)

Charles "Chuck" Kuether, a local wood turner

2) (woodturning) A chuck is a specialized type of clamp used to hold an object with radial symmetry, especially a cylinder. On a lathe, it holds the rotating workpiece.

*Editor's note: Throughout this article, you may chuck-le as the author tries to describe the turning project while maintaining the correct word use for the name of the turner and for the piece of equipment essential to the*



*project.*

Chuck started off by showing us the different screws that can be used with chucks. The Vicmarc screws are not as robust as the ones offered from Oneway. In addition, the Oneway chuck screws come in two lengths which can come in handy when working with projects that are shallower.

The piece of box elder wood Chuck was using for this project was about 7.5" in diameter and 4" deep. He had drilled a hole in what would become the top of the bowl to accommodate the screw mounted in his 3" Vicmarc chuck.

Shaping the piece: After mounting the box elder blank, Chuck trued up the blank, making it round and making a tenon on what will be the bottom of this "bottomless" bowl. Then he used a skew to flatten the top of the bowl while still on the screw so that he could mark the diameter of the opening of the bowl. The size of the opening on the top of the bowl is determined by the chuck jaws you choose to use when reverse chucking the piece. The jaws that Chuck had for his 3" Vicmarc chuck, with its jaws most of the way open, measured about 4". Then Chuck marked a line on the side of the blank about 1" down from the top. He used that line as a guide to taper the top of the bowl from that line to the diameter marked on the top of the bowl. He then tapered the wood blank, using a pull cut with a bowl gouge sharpened at 45%. From there he further tapered the piece from the line on the side toward the bottom, leaving a diameter about ½" larger than the previously established tendon.

The point of removing the excess wood now is that the screw provides a secure hold on the blank. When the piece is later held by the 4" expansion jaws, the hold is not as secure, so it is good to remove un-needed bulk of wood now. Before removing the piece from the

screw chuck after debulking, BE SURE to mark the center of the tenon; that mark will be used later when you reverse chuck the bowl to establish the final shape and remove the bottom.

One thing about this bowl that should be explained is that you are basically making this bowl "backwards" by finishing the inside first after the hollowing, and only later finishing the outside. If you think about it, in making



most bowls, you establish and finish the outside first, then later finish the inside. The advantage of the usual system is that it is easier to establish wall thickness and



to define the final size and shape of your piece. But because this bowl has “no bottom,” i.e., no established base or flat bottom, it is impossible to use the conventional method.

#### Hollowing the inside of the bowl:

Now the piece is remounted by removing it from the screw, removing the screw from the chuck, and securing the blank in the chuck using the tendon established on the bottom of the blank. You need to hollow the bowl and undercut the taper established earlier, using a hook tool. Chuck likes to use a drill to establish the depth he is going to hollow to so that he doesn't need to take repeated depth measurements. Chuck drilled to 3”; that gives him enough depth for the bowl and leaves enough wood to have weight from the remaining wood to properly weight the bowl *bottom*.

Well, as frequently occurs during demos, stuff happens. As Chuck started to hollow the piece, the tenon broke off. Since Chuck likes to report to the group all the ways he has already discovered for any project to go awry, he was quick to admit he had already experienced this stumble and has a solution. When this flub occurred on a previous piece, which Chuck brought along to show the group, the tenon had broken off cleanly. So his way to resolve that problem was to wet both the broken tenon and the bowl blank, put them together on the lathe, then apply pressure from the tailstock before applying activator. The remedy was not actually demonstrated today.

#### Sanding the inside of the bowl:

In keeping with the plan for making this bowl “backwards,” as described above, one of the things about this project is that you need to finish sand the inside before you reverse chuck the bowl. If you don't, you are left with tedious manual sanding of the interior. The demo plan did not include the mishap that prevented a demonstration of hollowing the inside of the bowl, but it did include a plan to skip the sanding in order to avoid putting everyone to sleep. For this purpose,



Chuck had brought along another piece of box elder he had already shaped,



hollowed, and internally sanded.

### Finishing the outside of the bowl:

Chuck substituted that piece for the one with the broken tenon and mounted it using the 4" expansion jaws and the centering mark previously made in the middle of the bottom of the. After checking to see that the piece was running true, Chuck started to establish the final shape with the tailstock in place, taking cuts from the center of the bowl toward the tailstock with the goal of coming to a point and removing the

bottom. After the shape was established, Chuck removed the tailstock and sanded the outside of the piece to 320 grit.

Then he applied a coat of Deft sanding sealer diluted 30% with lacquer thinner. The advantage of thinning the sanding sealer is that it dries almost immediately and can be handled within a minute or two. Chuck was then able to pass the finished BOTTOMLESS BOWL around for the group to examine.





### Website of the month

Here is a wonderful website that will introduce you to the skew and what it is capable of .

<https://www.woodworkersjournal.com/simplifying-the-skew/>

It is just one of many site available along with an number of [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) videos that explain and demonstrate the advantages of using a skew over other gouges in spindle work,

### Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Tues.  
Sept. 12 at the Hershberger shop.  
Jay Eklund will demonstrate the six cuts with a skew.

### Instant Gallery



Dean Yankovich



Dean Yankovich

## Upcoming Demos

The upcoming demos for the remainder of the year are:

Tuesday, September 12 - Jay Eklund  
Saturday, October 14 - Greg Yeager  
Saturday, November 11 - open  
Saturday December 9 - Christmas gathering

I would like to thank all those that have done past demos, and those that have volunteered to do future ones for stepping up and helping out. As I have said in the past, we

appreciate any demo, and especially ones from those whom have never done one. We all learn something from your demos, no matter how simple they may seem to you. And you may be the one that learns the most!

Wayne Petrini

## Thanks

To Chuck Kuether for his article and pictures

## Great Falls Woodturners Directors

President: Wayne Petrini - 868-8420

Vice President: Randy Setzer - 453-5226

Treasurer: Chuck Kuether - 727-2442

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Jay Eklund - 737-4529

Roger Wayman - 460-0507

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**Club Photographer:** Paul Snyder

**Newsletter/ Web Site Manager:** Jay  
Eklund

**Website :** <http://gfturners.org>