

ONE GOOD TURN

Meetings: Dan Hershberger Shop

WinterMonths Second Saturday 12:30

New Slate of Officers

Congratulations to the Officers elected to serve the Club for the next year.

President/Secretary : Camille Good

Vice President: Tom Bennett

Treasurer: Chuck Kuether

Directors at Large :

Roger Wayman

Gary Cambell

Jay Eklund

September Meeting

2023 September 12,
Hershberger shop

12 people were present

Jay Eklund was the presenter in September. His presentation was "6 Cuts with a Skew"

Skews are notorious for catching when used for turning, and also for leaving unwanted spiral cuts in the work when they do catch.

However, they are very versatile tools which can do amazing things. That is, when they are used correctly.

Jay's demonstration was about both aspects: their versatility, AND how to use them correctly. He demonstrated six different cuts with his skews: Peeling, Planing, Paring/shoulder, V, Beading, and Cove.

Skews are called "skews" because when the handle is held vertically, the blade edge is never horizontal, there is always one point that is higher than the other. The high point, farthest from the handle, is called the toe. The low point, closest to the handle, is called the heel.

Skews come in different widths, depending on how

large or small the features it will cut. Small skews can get into tighter curves and corners, large skews cut more material faster. The blade of a skew can be a flat straight line from corner to corner, or it can be rounded from corner to corner. The handle of the skew can have corners or be rounded, depending on whether the turner wants to roll the skew handle on the tool rest and change the cutting angle while turning. Skews can also have the cutting edge ground in different ways, with a flat grind or a hollow grind.



Out of all those possible variations, Jay started the demonstration with a rounded skew he purchased from D-way Tools, set into Trent Bosch

handle. Jay said Eric Lofstrom swears by the rounded skew and his D-way skew was designed by Eric Lofstrom. A CBN wheel does a nice job of sharpening it with a hollow grind. After that initial sharpening is done, it can easily and quickly be



resharpened by using a credit-card-sized diamond hone and then stropping it on a leather strop. It will only need to go back to the grinding wheel if the edge is actually nicked. The Trent Bosch handle is hollow and can be filled with sand, BBs, or other weights to change the balance and feel of the tool.

Jay chucked up a square billet and reminded us the first thing

to do with a square billet is to knock off the corners. This is typically done with a spindle roughing gouge . . . but a skew can do this too!

So, Jay adjusted the tool rest, started the lathe, and used a peeling cut to take off the corners of the billet.

He explained that the key to not catching the work with a skew is to never try to use the entire cutting edge. Mentally divide the skew blade into halves (or even thirds) and only ever use one of those portions of the skew for a cut. Sometimes it might be the toe end, sometimes it might be the heel end, but it will never be the entire skew. The toe end is the end that will most likely catch.

Like a gouge, the skew should be held with the handle against the hip, the blade firmly held against the tool rest, using slow deliberate motions. Letting the torso, feet, and tool rest guide the tool as much as the shoulders and hands.

Jay then used a planing cut to smooth out the billet some more. With just those two cuts, peeling and planing, he wound up with a very nice finish, equivalent to a 400 grit sandpaper finish. No other woodturning tool will produce



as fine a finish as a skew.

A Planing Cut

Tom Bennett mentioned that he knows pen turners who get such a nice surface with their skews they go right from the skew to applying finish, with no sanding.

Another skill to learn with a skew is how to identify a cut by the type of shavings. Some cuts produce angel hair shavings, others such as the

peeling cut produce broad thin



shavings with a slight curl.

Jay also demonstrated V cuts, cove cuts, and beading cuts. The rounded bead feature he created was so smooth it already had a shiny finish, just from the skew. A V cut can be used to cut a V shape, with straight sides and a definite point at the bottom. Or with enough repetitions, it can become a parting cut. Coves are probably the most difficult to cut and are where narrower skews really shine.

With a small enough skew and some care, an undercut on alternating sides with a skew can turn into a captured ring.



At the end of the demonstration, Jay took off the tailstock and used the skew and a shoulder cut to create teeny tiny little spindle tops from the end of the billet.

If anyone is interested in learning more about using a skew, Jay recommends videos from Steven Jones, Alan Lacer,



Allan Batty, and Eric Lofstrom. He says they are skew masters worth watching.

As a side note, at the start of the demonstration, Jay took a moment to talk about a new bandsaw tool he has been using, the Little Ripper from Stockroom Supply in Ontario. With that tool and a bandsaw equipped with a Timberwolf 1/2 inch 4 tooth bandsaw blade, he had cut some flat boards out of maple. It was quite impressive.



Website of the month

As mentioned in the write-up , I showed the Club some of the cutoffs from the logs I was preparing to make the billets for the demonstration. I used a tool called the Little Ripper sold by Stockroom Supply of Canada. It is an amazing piece of equipment. Here is a link to a video of the Little Ripper in action.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RNQHxQf74Xw>

Here is the link to the product website

<https://stockroomsupply.com/collections/little-ripper-mini-sawmill-1/products/little-ripper-basic-package>

For Those Interested in Free Russian Olive Wood

From Sam Sampedro

I received a call from my neighbor who had 6 Russian Olive trees cut down about a month ago. He has the stumps of the Russian Olive trees remaining in his yard. The stumps are about 5 feet tall and are available to any members of the club who come and cut them down and haul away.

When the trees were cut down I took a lot of the wood and made it available to the club. Only two members came and pick some up. This may be a good opportunity to the rest of the club to get some nice wood to turn.

Thanks

Sam

Please contact Sam 761-4145 for more Information.

And Yet Another chance at Wood

From Wayne Petrini

Scott Vogel just contacted me about wood from Ken Quaschnik's

stockpile. He will set up a 2 hour window of time, on Thursday October 5, 2023 for club members to meet at Kens to pick out any amount of wood they would like or need. Knowing Ken, he has some pretty nice, valuable wood. Scott will there from 1:00 to 3:00. The address is 336 Riverview 7 West.

Due to health issues Ken is no longer able to turn. He is a founding member of the Great Falls Woodturners and served as the first President of the club.

Scotts phone number is 406-868-0382. Call him for meeting time if you are interested.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Sat. Oct. 11 at the Hershberger shop. Greg Yeager will doing the demonstration.

Instant Gallery



Chuck Kuether



Paul Snyder



Jay Eklund



Upcoming Demos

The upcoming demos for the remainder of the year are:

Saturday, October 14 - Greg Yeager
Saturday, November 11 - Tom Krajacich
Saturday December 9 - Christmas gathering

Thanks

To Camille Good and Paul Snyder for contributing to this months newsletter.

Great Falls Woodturners Directors

President: Camille Good - 590-0714

Vice President: Tom Bennett - 836-0825

Treasurer: Chuck Kuether - 727-2442

Secretary: Camille Good - 590-0714

Past President: Wayne Petrini - 868-8420

Directors:

Jay Eklund - 737-4529

Roger Wayman - 460-0507

Gary Campbell - 454-3733

Club Photographer: Paul Snyder

Newsletter/ Web Site Manager: Jay Eklund

Website : <http://gfturners.org>