

Tennessee Association of Woodturners
24th. Annual Symposium - January 27th and 28th, 2012

Description of Demonstrations

Jennifer Shirley

The Turned Canvas: Designs, Patterns, Texture and Rhythm

This rotation will introduce you to the simplicity of creating designs, patterns and texture on your turned objects. What may look complex and highly involved is truly easy enough for a young child to produce. We'll use a wood burner and a variety of burning pens to create texture, patterns and a rhythm in your work. Rotary burrs, a needle scaler, reciprocating carvers and electric engravers can add wonderful texture and shadows to the curved surfaces of your work and I'll show you the inexpensive ones that I use to help you get started.

Decorating Our Work: Instructed or Instinctive?

In this rotation we'll talk about what it is that drives us to decorate our turnings and things that we make. Is it instilled in us to do so? What is the importance or lack thereof of decorating our work? This rotation will introduce you to several different ways to decorate your turnings. We'll use milk paints, gesso, and leather dyes to add color and highlight beads and borders. I'll introduce you to a variety of acrylic mediums to add texture and relief to your turned surfaces. If you've never embellished one of your turned objects this will be a great introduction to get you started.

Turn Me a Story

This rotation will be an inspiration for you to begin making pieces that are narrative and tell stories. What comes first, the story or the turned object? Stories are the fabric of our lives. We are told stories from early on and we pass them on as we get older. Your turned objects are a wonderful canvas for this style of work. Narrative work can be abstract, representational and in the form of realism. Jennifer and Clay Foster will encourage discussion and opinions from attendees and will share a slide show of work from other artists along with some of their own pieces that were inspired from stories in their lives.

Reflections of a Woodturner

This rotation will show you the steps I use to make a decorative mirror. This is a great project for craft shows or to give as a unique gift. If you're looking for a neat project to add to your repertoire this one will give you opportunities for design and embellishment exploration. We'll use wood, a glass mirror and copper tape to get this project started, the rest is up to you!

Dale Larson

Turning and Drying Roughed Out Bowls

This class will cover the ways to rough out and successfully dry bowl blanks. We will discuss air drying, kilns, soaking in soap, microwave, soaking in alcohol and boiling the wet bowl blanks. We will discuss how to get the bowl blank dry without cracking. I will then finish turn a roughed out dry bowl showing how to use gouges and scrapers, sanding and finishing.

Cutting the Best Bowl Blanks Out of a Tree

I will start with a slide show of how to cut a tree down and cut up the crotch. I will draw and discuss how to cut a tree for the nicest grain pattern in the bowl. The goal here is to get the best bowls out of the tree, not the most bowls. I will then finish turn a bowl showing how to use gouges and scrapers, sanding and finishing.

Turning a Sphere by Eye

Attendees will see how to turn spheres on three axis all by eye. I will show how to make the cup chucks for the headstock and tailstock. I will turn three spheres during the class. Turners will learn how to use a jam chuck to hold the sphere so it can be hollowed or decorated.

Ashley Harwood

Fine Spindle Turning

I will demonstrate fine spindle turning in one of my sea urchin ornaments. This is done with three tools: the bowl gouge, detail gouge, and the vortex tool. I will talk about cutting techniques and tool control in detail and demonstrate how to combine the basic cuts of spindle turning to create a pleasing design. I will also show sanding techniques and free hand sharpening. I will sharpen a bowl gouge in a way that eliminates the need for a skew. All of my sharpening is done simply with a platform. I do not use jigs for tool grinding. Assembly of the ornament will be covered as well.

Push-Cut Bowl Turning

For this demonstration, I will turn a thin-walled tall shape bowl using the Push-Cut method. I will talk about the Seven Fundamentals of the Perfect Cut, which include stance, lathe speed, chucking, grain direction, and more. These fundamentals are crucial in any kind of turning and create a solid foundation for the woodturning practice. (They also help to prevent the most common mistakes and mishaps!) I will demonstrate how, using the Push-Cut, it is possible to make a complete pass from the bottom to the top of the outside of a bowl in one cut. I will show how the Push-Cut can eliminate torn grain and stress on the body.

Turned Rim and Foot Design

I will show the basics of turning a bowl using the Push-Cut method. Next, I will show examples of some simple ways to accent the bowl on the lathe, using gouges, the vortex tool, and negative rake scrapers. These simple design elements help to distinguish the work and make it more memorable. I will talk about how to determine which designs are appropriate for which bowls, how to determine proper proportions, and how to approach other design decisions. As always, I will demonstrate sharpening of the tools that I am using – gouges and scrapers.

Mark Gardner

Turn a Bowl with Handles

In making a handled bowl one can utilize a relatively small diameter log and yet create a piece of larger scale by taking advantage of the length of the log. It is also a great way to introduce you to a little bit of work off the lathe once the piece is turned. In this rotation I'll demonstrate the techniques I use to turn a bowl with an extra rim and then carve handles out of it. This technique also lends itself to making spoons and I'll discuss ways of dealing with the out-of-balance nature of a spoon handle flying around on the lathe.

Turn Hollow Forms without the Hollowing

Hollow forms turned through a small opening were always a challenge for me to turn. In this demo I'll show how I make hollow forms, using green wood, much like you make lidded boxes only I'll glue the lid back on. Not only is there less risk of turning through the side of your vessel it is also easier to gauge the wall thickness as well as remove the shavings from the inside. I'll focus on techniques for making a precise joint to help insure that the piece stays together as it dries. Time will be spent demonstrating various ways to then hide the seam in your vessel. This vessel will also have handles.

Surface Embellishment for your Turnings

I will demonstrate all the various techniques and methods I use for embellishing my work. I'll start by showing how I layout geometric patterns on my turned vessels. Some of the techniques I'll cover include, carving with hand and power tools, engraving, branding and even some textures done on the lathe. I'll show how I use milk paints and dyes to enhance the carved patterns and lastly how I sharpen my carving tools using a simple homemade MDF strop.

Turn a Square Bowl using Three Different Axis

In this demo I will illustrate my own take on the idea of a square bowl. Not only will I use three different axis to turn this bowl but I will also hold the bowl on the lathe using 2x4s, masking tape, hot glue and drywall screws. This demo will help to illustrate my approach to turning and the use of the lathe as a tool for shaping wood, not just for making it round.

Al Stirt

Open bowl turning / Balancing the Grain

I'll demonstrate how I rough out a green wood bowl and then finish-turn a dry bowl. Emphasis will be placed on getting the best grain pattern from straight grain wood by manipulating the block of wood on the lathe. Tool use and drying the green bowl will be discussed and demonstrated in detail.

Fluted and Textured Bowls

I'll demonstrate how I turn and carve two different types of fluted bowls and some variations of what I call texture carving. One fluted bowl is carved with a carving gouge mounted in a pneumatic reciprocating tool. The other type is carved using abrasive tools. For the textured bowl, I'll demonstrate the use of rotary tools for creating patterns. For all bowls, I'll demo the turning as well as the layout and carving techniques.

Turned, Painted and Carved Sgraffito Platter

I'll demonstrate how I turn a platter, then paint it and carve through the paint to create a pattern in a process similar to sgraffito pottery. The demonstration will include turning beads and coves on platters, developing a pattern and carving techniques.

Turned and Carved Square Platter

I'll demonstrate how I turn a square platter and then how I lay out and carve and color it with a pattern that is both controlled and random. I'll be using a rotary carver with carbide bits do to the carving.