



Brasstown Woodturners Guild

Newsletter — October 2020 - Online Show-and-Tell

Shop Safety Confessional:

Bandsaws can be useful for cutting the corners off a turning blank, and also for lifting a large flap of skin off your finger:



This one took 11 stitches to sew back into place. They've all been pulled out now, and it's healing slowly. No damage beyond the skin, thank goodness.

Lesson re-learned: always use a push block to guide a piece of wood through the bandsaw, or pretty much any power saw. It can be inconvenient, but it's far less likely to end you up in Emergency room!

Robert Marshall

Show and Tell for October, (delayed by Tropical Storm Zeta)



Robert Marshall:

Left: Hollow-form of spalted beech, finished with epoxy (inside and out). From the Trees Atlanta Champion beech tree in the Lullwater Conservation Garden, which was about 120' tall and 300-400 years old when taken down because of disease. This piece of wood was left outside for a year or two, becoming deeply spalted. Punky wood near the surface had to be stabilized by applying heavily-thinned epoxy, to soak in and stiffen fibers for the final cut. Sold at our HOA annual Fall gathering, \$250.

Right: Same hollow-form as above, prior to applying the epoxy finish. Cracks developed from the rim, which I filled with coffee-grounds epoxy mix, then sanded away the excess. This piece of wood included the pith, seen here just below the dark, filled crack running from the rim, but the pith itself remained fairly stable. Detail of pith, below.



This hollow-form is about 12" diameter, 8" high

(Robert Marshall, cont.)

Right: I built a '[pentakis dodecahedron](#)' of $\frac{3}{4}$ " plywood, then rounded it to a sphere on the lathe. There are 60 isosceles triangles in this shape, assembled first into twelve pentagonal pyramids, which are then assembled into the 12-sided dodecahedron variant.

You can see one of the 12 pentagonal pyramids at the top of the sphere, with 5 round veneer spots. What appear to be hexagons within the sphere are actually the intersection of 2 triangles each from 3 abutting pentagonal pyramids; no hexagons were created as such. Twelve sets of 5 triangles were assembled into 5-sided pyramids.

This project was a challenge for consistency in size and bevel angle for the 60 triangles. It wasn't perfect, but close enough to allow assembly and then turning. About 8" diameter.



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pentakis_dodecahedron

Christine Smith:



Cherry wood keepsake box with dried wildflower in epoxy glued to top of lid and a potpourri box. A "thank you-gift" to my neighbors for sharing their Hosta-and fragrant Lavender plants this fall. Used my own dyed wood-shavings, dried lavender and found objects like pinecones, dried moss and rose petals to make the potpourri. 6"wide x5"tall, each has 3 carved legs.

(Christine Smith, cont.)

Right: "Have been turning this Norfolk Island Pine hollow form and accomplished to get 5 red branches to show. Carved 3 feet. Turned, carved and painted the lid out of Holly. The bird was carved out of basswood.

(Rushed through the bird carving so very likely I will try to carve a new and improved bird soon.)

All in all 14" tall x 6" wide."





Christine and I have updated our website, at: <https://www.valleyriverartists.com/>

Jim Smith:



20 Beer Tap Handles: A friend brews and sells his beers to different restaurants and pubs in both Clay and Cherokee counties and asked me to make 20 unique beer tap handles to accompany his beers. The challenge was to create a way for the beer names to be changed as the style of beer changes but keeping the same handle. After several prototypes, we settled on a handle design made from 2" square Curly Maple with a 1.75" disc recessed in the handle for the beer name. The label has a 1/2" washer glued on the back and held in place with a cup magnet from Lee Valley Tools. Simply press on the edge of the label and it releases from the magnet so a new label can be attached.

Joe Waldroup:

Last winter Terrence Powell and I went to a local farm and harvested some scrappy cherry burls. It was hard work and some of the wood was very challenging to turn. But I did end up with some "artsy" looking natural edge pieces. In the meantime I finished sanding a large maple burl vortex (pictured immediately below) that I started several years ago.



(Joe Waldroup, cont.)



Mark March:

Right: "The larger box with lid is made from a piece of spalted maple. It was quite difficult for me to get that deep into the box. 5" tall and 6" diameter." [Note what I think is chatoyance, visible in the top, the vertical stripes in the photo.]





(Mark March, cont.) Above: "The small bowl with a lid 3 1/3X2" cherry is a one I made for my granddaughters 8th birthday coming up next week."

Below: "A small cherry bowl I made for my son. It is by far the thinnest bowl I have turned. I don't think it weighed more than an ounce or two. Should have turned out that little bit of pith, but thought it added character."



Jack Lipkin:



"Both are black walnut out of the same chunk of wood. One is finished in multiple coats of pure tung oil the other with 4 coats of wipe on poly and 2 coats of Tru-oil."