



**Brasstown, North Carolina**

[www.brasstownwoodturners.org](http://www.brasstownwoodturners.org)

Tony R. Bradley  
BWG News Editor  
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678.471.3042

## **NEXT MEETING**

**May 3, 2014** – Hayesville High School **9:30 AM** to 12:30 PM

**◆◆Please note the meeting will start at 9:30 AM ◆◆**

Don Marks will be our program presenter. He will demonstrate a split bowl.

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### **President's Corner**

Mentoring high school students in the woodturning class has proven interesting. Five members are taking turns assisting Danny Jones, the instructor. It's been some time since I've been with young people in a turning environment. Their enthusiasm and concentration is refreshing. Using only three tools, a spindle-roughing gouge, a bowl gouge and a parting tool, they attack the wood with varying degrees of success.

A honey dipper. A small bowl. Rough cuts are followed by heavy sanding until an acceptable finish is achieved. Finally a finished item. A 'well done' brings a smile to the students face.

When the item gets home, I hope it gets a position of honor.

All in all, a very satisfying experience.

Our May 3 meeting will feature Don Marks turning a split bowl.  
Our Jun 7 demonstrator will be Chuck Waldroup showing us how to turn a hat.

George

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## Meeting

The meeting opened with 21 members and 2 new members in attendance.

George welcomed everyone to the meeting and was pleased to see a good turn out for the demonstration. Before introducing our featured demonstrator, it was also discussed that the current shop teacher is retiring soon and we need to communicate with the new principal our desire to continue meeting at the school.

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## Terrence Powell – Inside Out Heart Ornament

Terrence began his presentation by telling the group how by watching various videos reading articles how he got interested in turning an inside out heart. The example he used to learn the technique was a candle stick holder, but Terrence took that information and applied to an ornament. He showed the group some examples of his



heart ornaments that he had turned. The first step is to take two blocks of Maple wood 1 ¼" X ¾" and using CA glue only on the last inch or so, glue together. Once the two pieces have dried apply strapping tape around each end for added safety. Mount the glued pieces on the lathe with a chuck on the headstock and a live center on the tailstock. Using a pencil draw the shape of the heart on one side of the two pieces. Once you have the shape established, go over the lines to make it heavy and easier to see when the piece is rotating. Start with a parting

tool in the tight section to help avoid tear out and



chipping. Terrence then uses a bowl gouge to shape the piece to the pencil line. He advises to take it slow and easy because you are turning a lot of air and he had had a few chip outs. In order to get in



the curve of the heart, he uses a Sorby mini hollowing tool. Once he gets closer to the curve, he takes a carving tool to cut the grain. This will help avoid chips and tear out of the end grain. He finishes shaping the heart using the hollowing tool. Terrence then sands out the shape now before reversing the pieces. It is easier to complete at this stage. He takes the piece out of the chuck and using a chisel and hammer, to take them apart. The next step is to

reverse the two pieces and glue together. Some folks use CA glue, but Terrence recommends titebond wood glue. This glue will provide the best adhesion, but the glue must dry at least 24 hours. After finding the center, he mounts recently prepared pieces that have been glued for overnight. Using a roughing gouge, he begins to shape the piece following the outline of the inside heart. He then swaps over to a spindle gouge for



getting the final shape that he likes. He then begins to shape the top of the ornament to make holder for the eyelet. To get a more defined look of a real heart, he under cuts the top. He continues to finish shaping. Once he gets the desired shape, Terrence does some sanding while it is still on the lathe. The next step is to prepare the hanger for the eyelet.

He mounts a 1/16" drill bit in the tail stock and



carefully drills a small hole. To complete the ornament using all handmade material, Terrence shows the group how to make sturdy eyelets. He uses a thick beading wire that can be purchased at any craft store. Take a piece of wire about 6 – 8" long, wrap it around a small drill bit twice. Using a pair of needle nose pliers bed the ends up about a 1/4". Insert the end into a drill with the turned up ends between the holders. This will allow you to twist the two ends making a nice eyelet. Using a small drop of CA glue, insert the eyelet into the previously drilled hole. Terrence does some hand carving around the tight areas to finish get the final shape. He finishes many of his ornaments with red dye.

## **Celtic Knot**

After the great demonstration of an inside out heart, Terrence showed the group how he puts together the blank to make a Celtic Knot ornament. Like the heart, Terrence got interested in this process by looking up examples on the internet and watching videos. One example

showed one being put together in less than 10 minutes. This process used CA glue to put together the pieces. Like the heart, Terrence prefers wood glue for a more stable bond. The knot is put together by cutting slots in white wood such as maple or box elder with a miter saw set at 30°. When making the cut stop just to edge. This will allow the piece to stay together during



the glue up and clamping. When making the next cuts, place a stop block on the saw fence to make each the same. After rotating the piece and cutting all four sides, insert thin slices of a dark wood such as walnut. Make sure the slices are not too tight in the slots. If the fit is tight, then the glue may not be able to reach all surfaces and come apart when turning. After all pieces are glued in the slots, clamp together and let dry at least 24 hours. The final process is

the same as a standard ornament, turn the globe, drill 5/8" hole, and hollow out.

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## Show and Tell



Several pieces were shared with the group:



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## Bring Back

The "bring back" was a very nice bowl named 'a hole in one'

Winner: Phil Balin



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## BWG News

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**Folk School** -- Woodturning course (and others) are available to people in the surrounding Counties (see below) at a discounted rate of 'half'. This is for the course only- does not include room/meals. If you are enrolled as a local resident, you will be bumped by paying, scholarship, etc. students. Participating Counties are; Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Macon, and Swain Counties, NC and Fannin, Towns, and Union Counties in GA.

**Folk School Local Scholarships Available** -- Some great local scholarships are available to full-time, local residents. [www.folkschool.org](http://www.folkschool.org) -- check under "For Locals" Tuition is FREE - but

each student will be required to pay a \$25 registration fee and any additional materials costs. If there is space available and you choose to stay on campus, regular housing and meals rates apply. "Local" is a **full-time, permanent resident** of the following counties: NC: Cherokee, Clay, Macon, Swain, Graham; GA: Union, towns, Fannin; TN: Polk

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**Items for Sale**

No items for sale at this

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**Up-coming Events**

**35th Annual Utah Woodturning Symposium** May 15, 2014 - May 15, 2014, Orem UT  
 At the Utah Valley University UCCU Events Center. "A Tribute to Dale Nish." Dale started the Utah Woodturning Symposium in 1979, and we are bringing back many demonstrators from some of those earlier symposiums to help us pay tribute to Dale. Dale Nish, who passed away one week after our 2013 Symposium.

Featured demonstrators: Rex Burningham, Nelson Cassinger, Kip Christensen, Kirk DeHeer, David Ellsworth, Steve Gray, Kurt Hertzog, Jerry Kermode, Ray Key, Bonnie Klein, Glenn Lucas, Mike Mahoney, Art Majerus, Stuart Mortimer, Bill Ooms, Richard Raffan, Don Russell, Tom Sorenson, Al Stirt, Keith Tompkins, Joe Wagner, Hans Weissflog, Jakob Weissflog

**AAW 28<sup>th</sup> International Symposium** June 13, 2014 - June 15, 2014, Phoenix AZ  
 The American Association of Woodturners has a long history of highly-acclaimed symposiums - dating back to 1987 - featuring turners and collectors from around the world, all gathering for 3 days of demonstrations and exhibits showcasing the art and craft of woodturning. As of July 2013 - Alan Carter, Jimmy Clewes, J. Paul Fennell, Douglas F. Fisher, Ron Fleming, Clay Foster, Todd Hoyer, Rudy Lopez, Michael Mocho, Christof Nancey, Joshua Salesin, Neil Scobie, Hayley Smith, Michael Werner, and more.

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**2014 Scheduled Meetings**

| <b><u>Date</u></b> | <b><u>Demonstrator</u></b> | <b><u>Subject</u></b>           |
|--------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 04-Jan             | Meeting Cancelled          |                                 |
| 01-Feb             | Club Members               | Home made jigs, tools, etc.     |
| 01-Mar             | Rudy Lopez                 | Winged bow and kitchen utensils |
| 05-April           | Terrence Powel             | Inside-out Heart                |
| 03-May             | Don Marks                  | Split bowl                      |
| 07-June            | Chuck Waldroup             | Hat                             |
| 05-July            | To be determined           |                                 |

|         |                  |                            |
|---------|------------------|----------------------------|
| 02-Aug  | To be determined |                            |
| 06-Sep  | To be determined |                            |
| 4-5-Oct | John C. Campbell | Fall Festival              |
| 11-Oct  | To be determined |                            |
| 01-Nov  | To be determined |                            |
| 06-Dec  | Christmas Party  | Brasstown Community Center |

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## **BWG 2014 OFFICERS**

President	George Dinsmore	828-837-8589	<a href="mailto:gelodins@mac.com">gelodins@mac.com</a>
Vice President	Marsha Barnes	828-837-6532	<a href="mailto:ml.barnes@brmemc.net">ml.barnes@brmemc.net</a>
News Editor	Tony R. Bradley	678-477-3042	<a href="mailto:tbradley@cwmatthews.com">tbradley@cwmatthews.com</a>
Treasurer	Joe Waldroup	828-389-3117	<a href="mailto:awaldroup@brmemc.net">awaldroup@brmemc.net</a>
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	Glen Love	828-389-6088	<a href="mailto:glenplove@frontier.com">glenplove@frontier.com</a>



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**June 7, 2014** – Hayesville High School **9:30 AM** to 12:30 PM

**♦♦Please note the meeting will start at 9:30 AM ♦♦**

Chuck Waldroup will be our program presenter. He will demonstrate a miniature hat.

Chuck Waldroup has worked with wood most of his life and began woodturning in 2006. He is a graduate of Hayesville High school and still considers Clay County to be “home”. Chuck currently resides in High Point, Guilford County, NC and is a member of American Association of Woodturners; his local chapter is the Piedmont Triad Woodturners Association. Chuck learned to turn miniature (1/2 full-size) cowboy hats on the lathe through events sponsored by his club in 2011. Since then, he has found opportunities to observe and study the work of other professional turners who specialize in thin wall turning. His demonstration in June will show how to start with chunk of wood from a fresh fallen tree and craft it into a mini hat.

The demonstration will be half day and the \$5.00/person fee will be paid by guild.

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**President's Corner**

Don Marks gave a very informative demonstration on turning split bowls.

Tony Bradley's new photo layout of the demonstration is really beneficial to anyone who wants to make one of the split-turned bowls. I can't recall the number of demonstrations that I've taken notes on with the intent of making something when I got back into my shop only to find I forgot a critical piece of information.

Unfortunately there appears to be a 'great gulf fixed' between my notes and what I need to actually complete the project. The new layout helps fill the missing information.

The boys in the woodturning class at the High School were finishing their turned items for mother's day when I was in on the 9<sup>th</sup>. It is so wonderful to see how excited they were to have something they created to give mom. When was the last time we were so excited about something we turned?

Demonstrators often wonder if anyone was watching their demo or if anyone cared. One thing we can do as an audience is at least attempt to do a similar project for the next meeting. First of all, it improves your skills. Secondly it validates the effort the demonstrator puts into the demo.

Surprise, surprise. I generally find that it isn't as easy as the demonstrator made it appear. Makes me appreciate them even more.

Again, thanks Don. You've always responded when I've asked you to do something. You're part of what makes this club run. Thanks also for those who bring in wood for the auction.

Happy turning.  
George

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**Meeting**

The meeting opened with 22 members and 1 guest in attendance.

George welcomed everyone to the meeting and was pleased to see a good turn out for the demonstration. Before introducing our featured demonstrator, he asked those interested in buying the discounted spindle blanks get together and discuss making one order.

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## **Don Marks – Split Bowl**

Don began his presentation by showing the group several examples of the different designs of split bowls by students. The students had attended wood turning class at John C. Campbell with Alan Carter as the instructor. More information about Alan and examples of his work can be viewed on his website at [www.alancarterstudio.com](http://www.alancarterstudio.com). There were several interesting designs even one that looked like a Snail. He also showed examples of suspended vessels that will be discussed later.

Don passed around a finished split bowl that he had added crushed Rose Quartz as an embellishment. See photo below in the show and tell section. To start the split bowl, Don uses a 1 inch thick by 8 inch wide piece of maple that is cut in a circle on the band saw. To hold the blank, he inserts a small block in the chuck. He advises that the block needs to be straight and have a clean flat surface. To hold the blank to the block he uses a heavy duty double sided tape.

Don proceeds to shape the outside of the bowl by starting on the backside. After shaping the outside as much as he can, Don true's up the edge and begins to hollow out the inside of the bowl. He checks the outside edge to make sure it is flat and straight using a metal straight edge. It is important that the edges are true to ensure a good clean edge for gluing. He then uses 220 grit sand paper to get the edge smooth and thin. He moves the tailstock and finishes hollowing the inside.

The next step is to drill a hole in the center with 1/16" bit. He does this by using a drill chuck in the tailstock and cranks it into the piece while the lathe is turning. The hole will be used later to mark the center. He then reverses the piece and re-uses the double side tape to finish the bottom. Using light pull cuts he shapes the bottom. He checks for high spots by bending the metal straight edge over the surface. After he gets the shape true and smooth, finish sanding should be done at this stage. Also any embellishments or grooves should be completed at this step.

He removes the piece from the headstock, using the flexible straight edge; he marks the center with the grain utilizing the previously drilled hole. He then cuts the piece in half using a band saw. He puts the two halves together and checks for a tight fit. Using yellow wood glue like titebond, he applies the glue evenly on flat surfaces along the edge. Don then holds the two pieces together with blue painters tape. He puts the tape in the center and edges first, checking to make sure they line up evenly. To ensure the top is straight and level, once the glue dries, use a hand sander to take out any areas that are uneven. The top needs to be good and straight so no gaps will be between the top and bottom once assembled.

The next step is to make the top. Don used 1/8" thick cherry to make the top. He places the split bowl on top of the material and traces the shape on the board. Using a band saw, he cuts the top. He then uses his straight edge to find the center, and then drill a 3/8" hole. This hole will be used to receive a finial. To make the base he draws two arcs on a piece of 3/4" cherry board, and then cuts on the band saw. He also cuts a 15° taper wider at the bottom. To clean up the saw marks, he uses a drum sander. Using a seamstress tape, he measures and finds the center of the arc and drills a 1/8" hole.

Once you decide where you want to attached the bowl (either centered or offset) drill a 1/8" hole. Use a 1/8" dowel to attach the bowl to base. After you glue the lid to the top of the bowl, turn a finial of your choice to fit in the previously drilled 3/8" hole. Don decided to make a twisted finial from comp-wood. This is a normal hardwood that has been mechanically compressed. This process makes the wood bendable without fracturing. Don places the comp-wood in the chuck and turns down very thin. To help with the flexibility, he soaks in water. After is soaks, he twists the wood around a large drill bit and allows it to dry before removing.

## **Suspended Vessel**

After the great demonstration of a split bowl, Don showed the group how he turns a suspended vessel. He uses a 3" X 3" block of wood about 10 inches long to turn round to start the vessel. He has decided to make one tear dropped shape. He first locates the where the peak will be and marks all around the blank. This will be the location where the vessel will be attached to the stand. Before turning the shape, he wants to locate the two holes opposite each other (180°) along the peak. After lining up with the tool rest and marking the first hole, he uses the index feature on the lathe to locate the second mark. He then drills a 1/8" diameter hole just deep enough to hold the metal pens.

Don takes a thin parting tool, parts off the top, and sets aside. He then shapes the vessel taking care not to remove any material along the peak of the tear drop shape. To establish the bottom and make the shaping process easier, he uses a parting tool to establish a clean line, leaving enough to support the hollowing. After shaping the outside, he uses a large forstner bit to remove a lot of the material from the inside. Don uses a hooked hollowing gouge by easy wood to finish hollowing out the inside. He then shapes the lid to fit the base and shapes the lid. The last process it to make the base to support the suspended vessel.



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## Show and Tell



A couple of pieces were shared with the group:



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## Bring Back

The “bring back” was a very nice Dogwood vase

Winner: Theresa Lovallo



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## BWG News

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rates apply. "Local" is a **full-time, permanent resident** of the following counties:  
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## **Items for Sale**

No items for sale at this

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## **Up-coming Events**

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At the Utah Valley University UCCU Events Center. "A Tribute to Dale Nish." Dale started the Utah Woodturning Symposium in 1979, and we are bringing back many demonstrators from some of those earlier symposiums to help us pay tribute to Dale. Dale Nish, who passed away one week after our 2013 Symposium.

Featured demonstrators: Rex Burningham, Nelson Cassinger, Kip Christensen, Kirk DeHeer, David Ellsworth, Steve Gray, Kurt Hertzog, Jerry Kermode, Ray Key, Bonnie Klein, Glenn Lucas, Mike Mahoney, Art Majerus, Stuart Mortimer, Bill Ooms, Richard Raffan, Don Russell, Tom Sorenson, Al Stirt, Keith Tompkins, Joe Wagner, Hans Weissflog, Jakob Weissflog

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**Chicago 2014 Symposium** August 15, 2014 - August 17, 2014, Chicago, IL  
At the Conference Center at the University of Saint Mary of the Lake in Mundelein. Featured demonstrators: Trent Bosch, Binh Pho, Nick Cook, Andi Wolfe, Dick Sing, Alan Carter, Lyle Jamieson, Barry Gross, Steve Sinner and more. Visit [turnonchicago.com](http://turnonchicago.com)

**Turning Southern Style XX** September 19, 2014 - September 21, 2014, Dalton GA  
Georgia Association of Woodturners, Northwest Georgia Trade and Convention Center.  
Featured demonstrators: Ray Key, Michael Hosaluk, Todd Hoyer, Nick Cook, James McClure, Frank Bowers, Vince Welch, John Jordan, Lyle Jamieson, Dough Thompson, and Tom Steyer. Vendors, instant Gallery, banquet, auction, and spouse lounge. Information and registration at [gawoodturner.org](http://gawoodturner.org).



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01-Mar	Rudy Lopez	Winged bow and kitchen utensils
05-April	Terrence Powel	Inside-out Heart
03-May	Don Marks	Split bowl
07-June	Chuck Waldroup	Hat
05-July	To be determined	
02-Aug	To be determined	
06-Sep	To be determined	
4-5-Oct	John C. Campbell	Fall Festival
11-Oct	To be determined	
01-Nov	To be determined	
06-Dec	Christmas Party	Brasstown Community Center



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## **NEXT MEETING**

**July 5, 2014** – Hayesville High School **9:30 AM** to 12:30 PM

**♦♦Please note the meeting will start at 9:30 AM ♦♦**

Your Club President, George Dinsmore will be our program presenter. He will demonstrate a goblet (Unless he decides to turn something else) Whatever, it will be interesting.

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## **President's Corner**

### **BWG MEMBERS DEMONSTRATE IN HAYESVILLE**

Terrence Powell demonstrates how to turn an ornament at the Clay County Historical Society Festival in downtown Hayesville on Saturday, June 14 while Joe Waldroup and JC Berrong wait their turn.



If you missed the June demonstration by Chuck Waldroup on turning a Hat, you missed one of the best 'hat' demonstrations I've seen. Chuck started out by stating that he wasn't a 'professional' turner but you couldn't prove it by the professionalism in the demonstration. Accompanied by an excellent handout, the demo covered everything you needed to know in order to turn a hat.

Rather than get an outside turner for the next meeting, unless someone calls me and volunteers — your demonstrator will be ME.

George

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## **Meeting**

The meeting opened with 27 members and 2 guests in attendance.

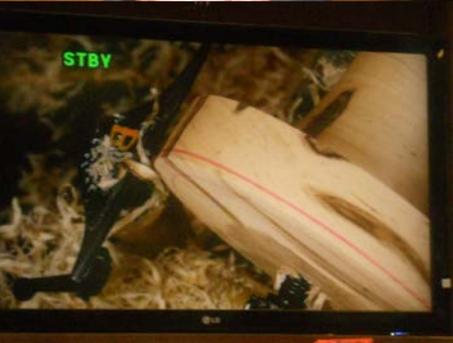
George welcomed everyone to the meeting and was pleased to see a good turn out for the demonstration. Before introducing our featured demonstrator, he discussed that one of the best things about joining AAW is the American Woodturners magazine. It contains great articles on various turners, projects, tips and photos. Joe Waldroup announced that the Clay County Historical Society is having a festival on Saturday June 14<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. Himself and a few others would take a lathe and demonstrate woodturning. If anyone is interested stop by and join in.

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## **Chuck Waldroup – Miniature Cowboy Hat**

Chuck began his presentation by discussing his history of woodturning. He exclusively uses green wood. The wood should be turned within three weeks, no more than four, after being cut. He gets the green wood from landfills, neighbors, and even Craig's List. Often getting the wood requires a lot of hard work and sweat equity. He passed out detailed instructions along with a diagram on how to make a cowboy hat. A copy is attached to the end of the news letter. He showed the group a jam chuck with an under the counter light and one he made that has a fixture for a light bulb. These are used to help determine and maintain a consistent thickness of the hat. He also showed a device that was constructed out of wood to help bend the hat when finished turned. Chuck had blank of box elder that was cut on a few days that he had roughed it out using a chain saw. Using bowl gouge he begins shaping the piece. Soon he discovers there is a dean limb that is a bad location for a hat. The blank can still be used as for a bowl or other projects.

Chuck had brought another blank of ambrosia maple. He mounts it on the lathe and begins roughing it to the shape of the hat. In order not to repeat information in the news letter please refer to the attached instruction sheet and the below pictures for steps completing the project.





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## Show and Tell



A several pieces were shared with the group:



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## Bring Back

The “bring back” was a very nice ornament with a package inside

Winner: Mike Regner



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**Items for Sale**

Larry Swanson from Blairsville (He runs the Blairsville Shoe Repair) has a Craftsman large lathe with variable speed for sell. He is asking \$300 (OBO). Phone number is 706-745-4592.

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Featured demonstrators: Rex Burningham, Nelson Cassinger, Kip Christensen, Kirk DeHeer, David Ellsworth, Steve Gray, Kurt Hertzog, Jerry Kermode, Ray Key, Bonnie Klein, Glenn Lucas, Mike Mahoney, Art Majerus, Stuart Mortimer, Bill Ooms, Richard Raffan, Don Russell, Tom Sorenson, Al Stirt, Keith Tompkins, Joe Wagner, Hans Weissflog, Jakob Weissflog

**AAW 28<sup>th</sup> International Symposium** June 13, 2014 - June 15, 2014, Phoenix AZ  
The American Association of Woodturners has a long history of highly-acclaimed symposiums - dating back to 1987 - featuring turners and collectors from around the world, all gathering for 3 days of demonstrations and exhibits showcasing the art and craft of woodturning. As of July 2013 - Alan Carter, Jimmy Clewes, J. Paul Fennell, Douglas F. Fisher, Ron Fleming, Clay Foster, Todd Hoyer, Rudy Lopez, Michael Mocho, Christof Nancey, Joshua Salesin, Neil Scobie, Hayley Smith, Michael Werner, and more.

**Chicago 2014 Symposium** August 15, 2014 - August 17, 2014, Chicago, IL  
At the Conference Center at the University of Saint Mary of the Lake in Mundelein. Featured demonstrators: Trent Bosch, Binh Pho, Nick Cook, Andi Wolfe, Dick Sing, Alan Carter, Lyle Jamieson, Barry Gross, Steve Sinner and more. Visit [turnonchicago.com](http://turnonchicago.com)

**Turning Southern Style XX** September 19, 2014 - September 21, 2014, Dalton GA  
Georgia Association of Woodturners, Northwest Georgia Trade and Convention Center.  
Featured demonstrators: Ray Key, Michael Hosaluk, Todd Hoyer, Nick Cook, James McClure, Frank Bowers, Vince Welch, John Jordan, Lyle Jamieson, Dough Thompson, and Tom Steyer. Vendors, instant Gallery, banquet, auction, and spouse lounge. Information and registration at [gawoodturner.org](http://gawoodturner.org).

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## 2014 Scheduled Meetings

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Demonstrator</u> | <u>Subject</u>                  |
|-------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| 04-Jan      | Meeting Cancelled   |                                 |
| 01-Feb      | Club Members        | Home made jigs, tools, etc.     |
| 01-Mar      | Rudy Lopez          | Winged bow and kitchen utensils |
| 05-April    | Terrence Powel      | Inside-out Heart                |
| 03-May      | Don Marks           | Split bowl                      |
| 07-June     | Chuck Waldroup      | Hat                             |
| 05-July     | George Dinsmore     | Goblet                          |
| 02-Aug      | To be determined    |                                 |
| 06-Sep      | To be determined    |                                 |
| 4-5-Oct     | John C. Campbell    | Fall Festival                   |
| 11-Oct      | To be determined    |                                 |
| 01-Nov      | To be determined    |                                 |
| 06-Dec      | Christmas Party     | Brasstown Community Center      |

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## BWG 2014 OFFICERS

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## Tips for Turning a “Mini” Cowboy Hat (June 2014)

### 1) What Types of Wood can be used?

- Most hardwoods should work – presenter has experience with maple, cherry, dogwood, bradford pear, walnut, pecan, hickory, holly, chestnut, box elder, birch, red bud, magnolia, persimmon, white oak, etc.
- Lighter color woods are preferred due to transmittal of light – maple is ideal
- See reference section of this handout to research the materials professional turners are using
- Open grain woods may be more prone to cracking
- Recommend avoiding soft woods like pine

### 2) How do you select the tree for a hat?

- A fresh fallen, live tree is preferred – some pro turners suggest a 30 day ‘shelf life’ after a living tree has fallen – a key factor is that the wood still be quite wet
- Straight grain is best – try to avoid limbs and voids in your blank- wind shake or atypical grain patterns can be problematic to thin turning and/or the drying process
- Material which is punky or dry can be problematic
- Figure such as crotch, burl, etc., will wrinkle and distort more (this can be good or bad)
- Symmetry of the blank around pith is important for visual appearance and uniform bending
- Reference the sketch to determine the approximate size of tree you need
- A template is handy for quickly determining if the log is large enough and for the layout on the log

### 3) Getting ready to turn

- Hats need to be finished in a single session – the wood starts drying as soon as you begin the shaping process – you should allow plenty of time when you start your first one
- Remember that “it’s just wood” – you will not likely salvage every hat project when you first attempt them
- Use sharp tools – you can make the entire hat with a bowl gouge – it’s nice to have a couple gouges at the ready to minimize sharpening – I typically use 3/8” or smaller for shaping the hats – use the tools that work best for you for clean cuts; you may want to use a spindle gouge, round nose scraper, etc. inside the hats
- You will need:
  - Calipers for the diameters of the hat sides and the final hat thickness and a ruler/measuring tape – it’s easier if you have two pairs of calipers
  - Materials/Wood for burnishing the band (if you want a band on it)
  - Bright light which is adjustable to the work area (flexible neck is ideal)
  - Jam chuck (lighted is preferred) for removing tenon from top of hat
  - Materials for bending the hats – bend jig, rubber bands, clamps, etc.
  - Proper safety equipment (face shield, dust collection, mask/respirator, etc.)
  - Chuck or Faceplate
  - Short tool rest (not required, but helpful for mini hat with the demonstrated approach)

### 4) Preparing the Blank

- A hat is turned side grain orientation with top of hat oriented toward the bark – this takes advantage of wood’s natural movement during drying – this readily yields a slightly oval shape and should achieve the upward curve to the brim
- Remove some length (at least 1-2”) on the exposed ends of the log if it’s been cut for a while; this will reduce the chance of your project cracking
- Cutting out the blank
  - Determine the best side for the hat and outline it on the end grain
  - Split the log - Eliminate the pith (>90% of cracks originate here)
  - Further you can get your blank for the pith, the less likely to crack
  - Establish a balanced blank - even growth/material on each side of pith/center – this provides best appearance, bending of brim, etc.
    - Use a round template – cardboard, plastic, etc. attached to the blank & centered on growth rings
    - Form the rough cone shape - get the blank as round as possible before you go to the lathe
    - Use what you’ve got that works for pre-shaping... Chainsaw, Bandsaw, handsaws, etc.

### 5) Mounting on the lathe and Rough Turning

- My preference is to mount the blank between centers; with drive spur on large side of cone (bottom of hat) side and live center tail stock on the bark side (top of hat); this allows you to adjust position the wood and

## Tips for Turning a “Mini” Cowboy Hat (June 2014)

achieve a centered grain pattern. Note: you can use any mounting method that works for you – could start with faceplate, screw chuck, etc. Faceplate w/appropriate screws strongly recommended for full size hats.

- Begin roughing the blank to round
  - Assure firm mount – tighten and secure tail stock – periodically check it for tightness while turning
  - Position tool rest near bottom of blank (live center end)
  - Start slow, adjust to comfortable speed – again, periodically check tail stock for tightness
  - Use pull cut for basic shaping
  - Finalize your shape and form a foot/tennon at the bottom to fit chuck to be used
  - Tip - If you find something unexpected in the blank as you rough it out, it may be best to use the 'design opportunity to make a bowl, hollow form or other item

### 6) Shaping the outside of the Hat

- Making a hat is really no different than turning a bowl – it's just turned thinner and has a specific, predetermined shape – and holds your attention after turning as it is bent to final shape
- Secure foot/tenon in chuck – true up the blank to assure roundness/balance after remounting
- Note: I use a 4 jaw chuck for the project; this may *not* be the convention – many turners use a faceplate in the top of the hat; you can find information on the faceplate approach using the reference section below. Mounting the hat in the chuck minimizes 'height loss' in the blank due to screws in the faceplate; i.e., you may be able to get a hat from a smaller log
- Reference the demo and the sketch for details on making the hat
- Some pointers
  - The Ogee shape on the sides of the hat is important for the final appearance – since the hat will be oval as it dries, the sides can end up sloping inward if this shape isn't formed properly
  - Band can be very slightly raised, though some turners do not leave any raised wood here
  - High lathe speed should provide cleaner cuts
  - Your flute may clog if you use a small gouge – a cup of water may help you dislodge build-up
  - Sand the top of the brim before starting on the underside - sanding the wet wood will clog paper quickly, but the brim starts moving when you turn it thin, so it can be a challenge to sand

### 7) Shaping the Brim and Interior of the Hat

- Reference the demo and the sketch for details on making the hat
- Some pointers
  - Check thickness with calipers frequently
  - Work to final thickness in phases – do not try to go back
  - Use light to judge thickness as you cut – brightness/intensity increases as you get thin
  - Keep tool rest close to working surface of the wood
  - Simple shape transitions and gentle curves are easier to turn - sharp transition points are more likely to crack during drying and bending
  - Use your 'favorite' gouge with a freshly sharpened edge
  - A scraper works well on the inside/top of hat
  - I sand as I go in this phase – finish sand before you remove the hat from the chuck
  - Discuss thoughts on spraying/misting water during turning

### 8) Turning off the Tennon on the Top of the Hat

- Use a lighted jam chuck - Mount between centers and center the hat on the jam chuck using the cone of live center – it's important that the hat is centered on the jam chuck – imbalance can cause a thin spot on one side of the top
- When friction holds the hat on the jam chuck, remove 4-jaw chuck. With the hat already centered on the jam chuck, return the point of cone into the original dimple formed in the blank during rough turning
- Slightly tighten the tail stock
- Take your time and let the transmittal of light guide your cuts

## Tips for Turning a "Mini" Cowboy Hat (June 2014)

- Sand the top before removing the hat from the lathe
- If the 'nub' is not removed by turning, remove it with a chisel, small saw, etc. – don't break it off!

### 9) Bending and Drying

- Reference the demo for options for shaping the hat
- Including "pro"-style jigs, Rubber Bands, Clamps, Light for drying, etc.
- Should I coat the hat in thinned lacquer on the lathe?
- How much pressure to apply?
- Can you stop a crack in the brim?
- Should I tape the end-grain edges?
- What can you do if you get un-even bending of the hat brim?
- What about using a light to aid drying during the bend process?
- How long do you apply pressure?

### 10) Finishing

- Needs to be fully dry before you apply finish
- A light final sanding by hand is a good idea before the finish is applied
- Finish is a very personal decision – demonstrator uses spray lacquer – most folks seem to use lacquer or polyurethane, but you can use any finish you prefer
- Film building finish on a hat takes a lot of coats!

### 11) Displaying your hat

- A finished hat has an elegant shape and the dimension and curves of the hat are enhanced if the hat is elevated for display.
- They are fragile – it is best to have reasonable weight in the base of your stand

### Miscellaneous Questions/Topics

- Can you prep blanks in advance?
- Do you need any special grind on your gouge to make a hat?
- Can you repair the hats if they break?

### Online Reference Info:

#### Websites:

<http://chriswramsey.com>

<http://www.woodhat.com/>

<http://www.turnedtreaasures.com/project.html/hat.html>

<http://www.woodcowboyhats.com/>

[http://www.woodturningonline.com/Turning/Turning\\_content/cowboy-hat/cbh1.html](http://www.woodturningonline.com/Turning/Turning_content/cowboy-hat/cbh1.html)

#### Video links:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZIMQprpzEM8> – video of Johannes Michelson

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u68R5mEE8h0> – video slideshow of Chris Ramsey

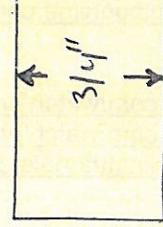
<http://www.woodturningtutorials.com/2012/06/jerry-measimers-cowboy-hat.html> - video of Jerry Measimer

**MINI-HAT**

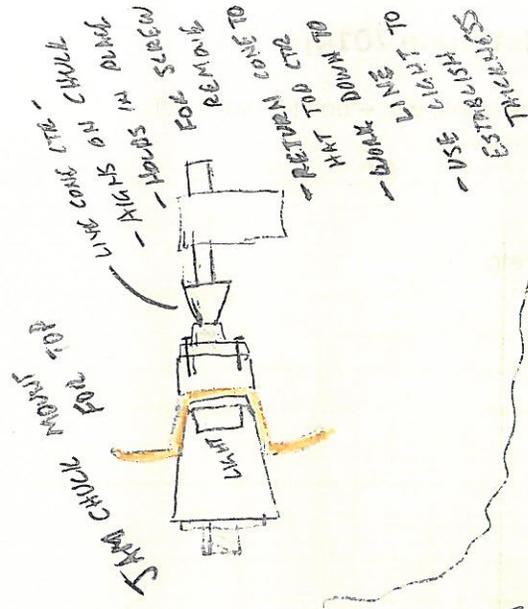
BASIC SHAPING

- 7/16" DIAMETER BRIM
- 2 1/2" HIGH TO TOP OF HAT
- BRIM AT 3/4" THICK

- TURN TO ~ 3 7/8"
- WORK DOWN TO 3 5/8"
- FORM OCE SHARD AND BAND FROM 3 5/8" AT BRIM TO 3" AT TOP

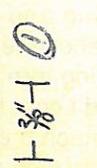
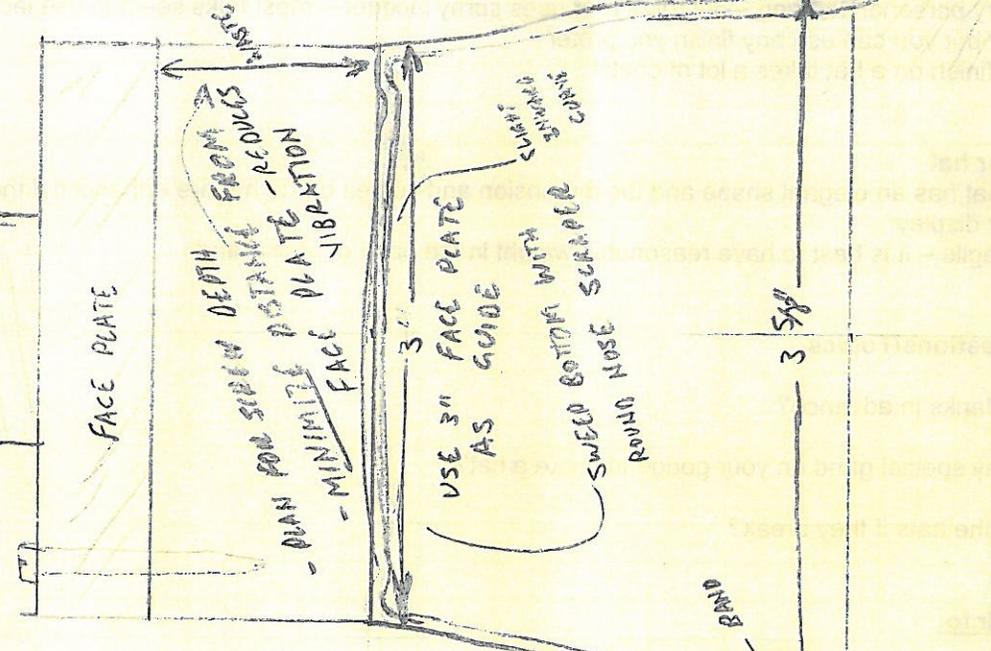


- DEMONSTRATOR USED HIGH SPEED IN ALL PHASES



FORMING BRIM

- 1 CREATE ROLL UP ON EDGE
- 2 REMOVE TOP SIDE OF BRIM - SMOOTH FROM EDGE TO BASE OF BAND - SAND SIDE & TOP OF BRIM - COLOR BAND
- 3 BEGIN REMOVING INTERNAL TO 1/8"



- REMOVE IN ~1" INCREMENTS
- BACKLIGHT TO JUDGE THICKNESS
- CHECK WITH CALIPERS FREQUENTLY

Ⓛ DO NOT GO BAND - HAT AREA WORKS