



Brasstown Woodturners Guild

Newsletter — May 6, 2023 Meeting

What's up next?

June 3, 2023 — Member Terrence Powell will demonstrate how to make a gnome. Also, if there is time, he will demo how to make and install a handle on a gouge.

Important — Our schedule for this year (2023) has lots of slots to fill in. This is your chance to show us what you can do. There's a lot of talent and knowledge in our membership, and we would like you to volunteer to show us ... something! If you think you've got something to share, let Mark Taylor, our new VP and Program Chairman, know. It doesn't have to be a full program; we could put together several mini-programs to make up one full program.

May Meeting Notes

Visitors and new members: Visitor Fitch Hasbrouck, from Brasstown. Also, Denise Smith.

Looking for wood? Check out caglumber.com, located in Gainesville, GA. Lots of dimensional lumber, slabs, turning stock, etc. Domestic and Exotic. Complete price list can be viewed or downloaded: <http://caglumber.com/images/CAG%20price%20list.pdf>.

Wood for turning, also tools: Gary Gardner of Morganton, GA (near Blue Ridge) is selling wood and tools from his operation. He's a long-time professional woodturner. He says this is not a fire sale, but the prices are very reasonable, less than you'll find elsewhere for the same things. No checks, no credit card, cash only. Contact Gary Gardner, only via email: <turningleaf2@tds.net>

Got Wood? Jim Smith uses [this supplier](http://www.turningblanks.net) in Donalds, SC (not near anything!) But lots of turning blanks for sale. Website: <http://www.turningblanks.net/pages/about-us>

Bandsaw for sale: Jeff Segars is offering a 14” Ridgid bandsaw for sale, \$450. Good shape. 770-655-0652. Photos:



Compressor: Jerry Bassett is selling an 80 gallon compressor, with new pump and motor. \$800 828-557-3318.

Small band saw (6”) - like new 6” throat \$150 , with mobile cart \$185, Rod Burley, 954-562-7910.

Demonstration:



Joy Cowan demonstrated how to turn a two-piece table lamp, including base and column, and for something extra, a ball-type finial.

The base is turned face-grain orientation, and includes details for lamp-hardware attachment, cord run in from the side, and for securing the column to the top of the base. These are all fully detailed in the manual which Joy graciously provided us, and which is appended to this newsletter for your reference.

The column is turned spindle-style, and represents the major visual or decorative feature of the lamp. It too has details for the joiner of base and column, and for the attachment of lamp-hardware at the top.

Show-and-Tell:

Matt Cowart turned this bird-house Xmas decoration; bird is from Hobby Lobby.



Robert Marshall brought this maple burl with large voids, taped up for pouring of blue-dyed epoxy to fill them. Finished results next month! Sneak preview on next page.

Jim Smith's urn with locust thorn top, and burned-in stars.



Below, bay laurel bowl, by Don Marks.



Left, lidded bowl by Matt Cowart, with a jewelry bead in the finial



Spalted beech bowl was turned too thin on bottom to remove tenon, so Robert Marshall cast a black epoxy collar as the base, instead.



Above: Jim Smith's Norfolk Island pine urn, with threaded top.

Left: Christine Smith's raven, perched on a burl. *Nevermore!*



Different stages of carving and painting birds, perched on turned bases; Christine Smith

Sneak preview of Robert Marshall's burl vase, with voids filled with blue epoxy (after the meeting).



Above: Don Marks turned through the bottom of this bowl, plugged it with a piece of dogwood, then painted the dogwood blossom.

Right: Matt Cowart's double-decker salt (on top) and pepper mill (on bottom).



Officers, Brasstown Woodturners Guild, 2023

President: Dennis Perez — Vice President: Mark Taylor — Treasurer: Gerry Wright
Secretary: Robert Marshall — Advisers: Talmadge Murphey and Marsha Barnes

Membership application

**BRASSTOWN WOODTURNERS GUILD
2022 MEMBERSHIP**

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

SPOUSE _____ PHONE (__) _____

Are you an AAW Member (yes/no) _____

E-MAIL _____

(Please print clearly -- whether or not you receive an e-mail newsletter. This is for emergency notification of Club news)

DUES:

\$30 (SINGLE) - Add \$10 extra for mailed version of newsletter

\$35 (FAMILY) - Add \$10 extra for mailed version of newsletter

Amount Paid: \$ _____ CHECK/CASH

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Make checks payable to:

Brasstown Woodturners Guild (or BWG) and

Mail to:

Gerry Wright, 45 Barnett Road, Hiawassee, GA 30546



Turn a 2-piece Table Lamp

Introduction

Turning a two-piece table lamp can be a skill-building project for wood turners at any level of experience. The column of the lamp is turned “between centers” with the grain running parallel to the bed of the lathe. This is commonly known as spindle turning.

The base of the two-piece lamp is mounted with the grain running perpendicular to the bed of the lathe, known as face-grain or faceplate turning. The two parts of the lamp are joined together by fitting a tenon into a mortise, which is another skill that is good to know.

The first step in beginning this project is to decide whether to turn the base or the column first. Because one end of the lamp column will have a tenon that needs to fit into a recess in the top of the base, there is an advantage to turning the base first so that you will have established the size of the recess, or mortise.

On the other hand, if you have little or no experience with turning wood on a lathe, it would be better to begin with the column to practice fundamental skills of spindle turning before moving on to turning the base.

Turning the lamp base

1. The base blank should be square, at least 2” thick, and of uniform thickness with a relatively flat bottom and top. Determine which side of the wood blank will be used for the top of the base.
2. On the side that will be the top, draw diagonals between corners to the center and draw a circle that touches the sides of the blank.



Find the center of the blank and draw a circle

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3. Using a drill press to ensure a vertical hole, drill a hole sized for a woodworm screw in the center of the blank. This hole is usually about $7/16''$ to $13/32''$, depending on the hardness of the wood and the size of the screw. This hole can go all the way through the blank.
 4. Roughly round the blank on the band saw.
 5. Mount the blank on the chuck, with the top side of the base facing the headstock.
 6. Use the woodworm screw and a $1/4''$ shim (or spacer) made of wood or masonite. (See photo) When you install the woodworm screw, make sure its slot is engaged in the inside tabs of the jaws and that it is pulled away from the chuck as far as possible while you tighten the jaws. This will prevent the workpiece from loosening as you turn.



Woodworm screw and shim

7. Turn the blank round to true it up. The bottom of the base is facing the tailstock. Turn the bottom to be slightly concave so the lamp will rest on its rim, as opposed to being flat. This will make the lamp more stable.
8. Finish turning the bottom of the base. Sand.
9. Install a Jacobs chuck into the tailstock. Provide a recess for the lamp fittings. Using a $1-1/4''$ diameter Forstner bit, drill a hole about $3/4$ to $1''$ deep, depending on the thickness of the wood. (In Step 12, you will be turning a mortise in the top side of this disk, and you'll want there to be a wood buffer between the two recesses).
10. Use a $2 - 1/8''$ Forstner bit to drill a recess about $3/8''$ deep for mounting on a chuck.



The bottom of the lamp base

11. Create a hole in the base to allow the electrical cord to exit the side of the base by drilling $5/16''$ hole a from the outside of the base to the recess in the center. Make sure to drill through side grain rather than end grain.

12. The base is now ready to be taken off the lathe and re-mounted, by expanding the jaws of a chuck into the $2 - 1/8''$ recess. True up and flatten the top.



Top of the lamp base, ready to shape

13. Using a 1-1/4", or smaller, Forstner bit, drill a mortise hole about 3/8" deep on the top side of the base. This will accept the tenon on the column. (In some cases, your design may call for a smaller tenon, and, if so, use a smaller Forstner bit)

14. Mark the top with a pencil where the column will meet the base so that you will not remove any of the wood that will contact the column.

15. Shape the base, then sand and finish it.



Turning the lamp column

1. The blank for the column should be square, with square ends.
2. Mount the blank between centers and round it. Use a parting tool or a bedan to make tenons on both ends. These tenons should be sized to fit the jaws of the chuck.



Blank is rounded with a tenon on each end

3. Mount the blank in the chuck, using the tailstock to help align the blank in the jaws.
4. To bore a hole through the blank for the threaded lamp rod, mount a Jacob's chuck in the tailpiece. Drill either a 7/16" hole or a 1/2 hole with a 12" long spur bit, drilling at least halfway through the length of the column. While drilling, the lathe speed should be between 400 and 500 rpm. You will need to back the drill out every two inches or so, to clear the wood shavings.
5. Reverse the blank and drill from the other end to complete the hole for the rod.
6. Shape the blank in accordance with your design.



Create a tenon at both ends of the column

7. To fit the column into the base you will need to form a new tenon on the bottom of the column. Size the tenon to fit the 1-1/4" (or smaller, according to your design) mortise recess in the lamp base. When you form the tenon, make the shoulder slightly concave so that the outer diameter of the column will be touching the base. The shoulder, and not the bottom of the tenon, will support the column as it rests on the base..

8. Sand and finish the column.

9. Part off the column with a parting tool and a hand saw. Keep in mind that the center of the column's tenon is hollow.

