

# RICHMOND WOODTURNERS

## NEWSLETTER - MAY 2019



Meeting Notes of the Richmond Woodturners 4/18/19

Welcome New Members/visitors and guests:

New Member - Willie Strickland – Bumpass, VA

Free wood! Paulownia brought in by Alan Weber from Belle Island

Old Business: Announcement for AAW Symposium in NC – still time to sign up

Upcoming Demos:

April—Mike Mahoney via the Internet.

May – Phil Fuentes

June – Cody Walker

July – Max Brosi & Luke Deroux

Aug— will be A. Samuels. It was decided to make Aug 16th a hands on day and 6-8 folks said they would be interested. Aug 17th will be an all-day demo day with about 20 saying they would be interested.

The next Quarterly Challenges, June will be Surface Embellishment

Forestry Camp –June 18th, need volunteers. See Lee Scarbrough. (Perhaps Lee could explain what this is)

Due to time constraints and to allow for the Demo of Mike Mahoney which will be live remote from northern California there was no “Show and Tell”.



*View from the back of the room*



*View from the second row*

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## Mike Mahoney Demonstrates Turning Wood

Mike lives on a farm in Northern California and has been turning since 1989. He considers himself a full-time production woodturner and instructor, specializing in utility ware, nested bowls, and hollow forms. He is internationally and nationally recognized. He has produced several instructional videos and DVDs and developed a line of walnut oil-based finishes. He has entered his work into many juried craft shows. His pieces are a part of several artistic collections. He teaches via several workshops during the year. He prepares and sells basic forms at wholesale to other turners.

For the demo, Mr. Mahoney used a variety of videos to show how he works wood and for demonstrative purposes. As he was on a skype type of video feed, Mike could see the members of the Woodturners present and we could see him in real time. With this format, Mike was able to take questions from among the members and provide answers.

### Quarter Sawn Oak

The first topic was quarter sawn oak. He recommends not using hard rigid woods, particularly not honey locust. He prefers working with white oak (*Quercus Alba*) for platters or salad bowls. Unlike Red Oak (*Quercus Rubra*), the white oak has a tighter pore system, so it will not leak as much as will Red Oak. It also has a unique speckling pattern which is quite decorative and permanent.

There are only 2 actual varieties of oak – *Quercus Rubra* (Red Oak) and *Quercus Alba* (White Oak). One can distinguish between the two by their leaf patterns. White Oak has soft rounded lobes. The leaves of Red Oak have sharp, pointed lobes. Also, due to trapping water, Red Oak tends to reek. Mike told the story of a hotel in Saratoga that had to evacuate its lodgers due to the smell imparted by some Red Oak.

Whether using Red Oak or White Oak, either is hard to dry. Both contain a fair amount of water in their heartwood. Mike suggests turning the wood thinly and then double coating it with green wood sealer and letting it dry for a few months. The more popular method with Mike is to paint the roughly turned form with a PVA (Polyvinyl acrylate like Elmer's Glue) then setting it aside for a few months. The PVA is not as slimy as is the green wood sealer; therefore, it is easier to stack and store the rough blanks.

Most of the oak he uses comes from the East as the oaks in the West branch out from the base to the top. This branching pattern makes them less desirable for making blanks. He displayed a photo of a felled 480 year old oak which was 9 feet in diameter and which he sawed into sections.

Once he has a piece positioned, he looks at the end of the log and locates the medullary ray. The medullary ray is a line of cells running from the inside of a tree to its exterior. They are radial, planar, and lie perpendicular to growth rings. He uses the ray as a guide and diagrams out the slabs adjacent to and radiating from the ray. Then he cuts them out. Doing so will uncover the flecks naturally occurring in the wood. He recommends not cutting a plank that incorporates the heartwood in its center as such a plank would have a tendency to rot, cup, and warp.



Making a Quartersawn Oak  
Platter ONLINE VIDEO

The platters should be turned with a minimum base of 8 inches. One should use scraping cuts and the rim of the platters need to be bullnosed to speed drying. Make the tenon 1¼ inch thick to fit into a large chuck. Once this rough shape is reached, coat the piece entirely with PVA and set it aside until dry. Make sure the piece is totally dry before placing it in the chuck. Using a 5/8-inch bowl gouge, finish turning the platter.

To make an ogee, he turns an 8-inch base for a 16-inch platter. The platter design he developed is reminiscent of those from Northern England. He also places a bead on the outside of the platter for decoration. If you are turning a different size plate, the proportion is that the base should be 50% to 70% of the diameter of the platter and 80% to 90% for a dinner plate,

He sanded using a drill sander with the lathe, and by hand using pieces of sandpaper. He alternates going forwards and backwards. He went from 100 grit to 400 grit 3M sandpaper. After sanding and blowing the dust off the piece, he applied a finishing oil.

Mike likes using Walnut oil or an oil he developed, because it keeps its true color. Other oils can turn orange or some other color. The problem with Danish oil is that it has a strong scent which may take months to dissipate. The oil Mike has developed is a mix of 1/3 polyurethane, 1/3 linseed oil, and 1/3 mineral spirits. Straight, unboiled linseed oil is difficult to dry. Once it is boiled, it dries faster. Salad bowls do not require a finish but, if desired, walnut oil can be used. Using Mineral oil to replenish oil on a piece is not a good idea because it evaporates quickly. If it is used, it's necessary to reoil the piece frequently. To clean, soapy water and a scrubbing pad followed by a thorough rinse is all that is necessary. Culinary grade cooking oil is not a substitute for walnut finishing oil. All oils contain oleic acid. Walnut oil used for finishing is heated to eliminate oleic acid which makes it desirable to use.

For the most part, people who have nut allergies should not be affected by the walnut oil used as a finish. Due to the high temperatures used in processing the oil as a finish, the protein which causes an allergic reaction is destroyed.

Use one heavy coat of oil then recoat a year or two down the road. Too much oil not properly removed will gel and later will become hard to remove. The oil should dry in the wood and not on it.

Use mineral oil instead of olive oil as olive oil is not as stable, it is lower in oleic acid, and it can go rancid easily.

### Nesting bowls

The last bowl of last winter was the 800<sup>th</sup> one he made.

Mike spoke a little about walnut trees and their history. In the past, walnut trees would be cut down and sent to the East Coast, so they could be turned into furniture. Walnuts will darken with age. Others have multiple colors that stay. Western Walnut has a pleasant smell. Luther Burbank hybridized English Walnut into Bastone. It sells for \$60 per board foot. There are 40 million walnut trees but only in a few areas. One of those areas, Sacramento, boasts 10 thousand acres of them. Many Walnut trees are a graft of American and English Walnut trees and actually come from Iran.

In his area, many trees grow as a bush due to deer feeding on it. The increase in deer foraging in those areas stem from 2 happenstances. The increase in the deer population is due to the no killing restriction. Also, the deer migrates and congregate in certain areas because of a loss of their habitat.

When he roughs out bowls, he cuts out multiple blanks all at one time. He does this during the winter because it is cooler and the moisture doesn't wick off the wood. Mike cores 3 bowls out of one blank. He has a McNaughton Center-Saver System with which he outlines 3 bowls; one at 13½", one at 11½", and one at 10". The lathe is revolving at a slow speed, 750 rpm. The speed is relatively slow due to the large size of the chunk of wood. Turning it faster would cause safety issues.

In 2 minutes, he can turn 2 bowls with the same thickness. He sells some of these bowls in their rough state to other wood turners. With nested bowls, the largest bowl should be taken first. Recheck each time going from large to small. A basketball-shape burl enables the formation of 12 bowls. One can lose bowls going from small to large.

He scoops out interior smallest bowl and crimps and puts the tailstock behind. He presses the recess. He fixes the piece in a chuck using friction. A turret enables placement of a gouge's tool tip on dead center.



McNaughton Center-Saver System  
from Lee-Valley Tools

When he works with a 16½" bowl blank, he creates a 7" or 8" tenon. He uses a larger chuck than normal. The curve made does not allow woodchips to come out, so he creates a funnel cut on the left-hand side. The centrifugal force will allow the chips to exit. What's the cutting tip? One can use a cutting edge or a simple scraper. The Mike Hunter carbide is the top one, but it is hard to sharpen.

The Powermatic is a 2-step pulley system. Make sure it is on slow pulley. Best to upgrade to 2 hp or 3 hp motor.

### Scandinavian Mug

For the last 10 minutes of meeting time, Mike Mahoney gave the members present an opportunity to select from one of two topics: forming a peppermill or turning a Kuksa Scandinavian cup. The Scandinavian cup won.

The Kuksa Scandinavian or Nordic cup is a wooden mug that has two holes in the handle. One for a finger and one for a leather strap. This mug was widely used as a personal drinking cup. While traveling, the cup was easily accessible to dip water from a stream or lake or have a sip at a pub.

The mug itself looks like a round cup that has a handle that runs the vertical length of the cup. The bottom half of the lower hole is removed.

Mike turns the cup from an 8" diameter piece of 2½" thick green or dry box elder. He drills a hole and mounts the piece onto a screw center, turns the outside, and puts a 2½" tenon on it (sized to fit his scroll chuck). The piece is remounted onto his scroll chuck. He then flattens the top off, gouges out the interior to a 2¼" hole, and makes a hollowform. Then he "sounds" out the rest of cup on a bandsaw. The holes in the handle can be made with a drill or forstner bit. Several carving techniques are used to form the final shape.

Do not use a finishing oil. If one desires to use a finish, walnut oil may be used.



### In Addition

For those who were not at the meeting, videos of the topics Mike Mahoney discussed can be found on Youtube. Just google, "Mike Mahoney and Quarter Sawn", "Mike Mahoney and Kuksa cup", "Mike Mahoney and Nested bowls" or "Mike Mahoney and Cutting Wood to Make Bowls". On November 18-22, 2019, Mike is instructing a workshop at Craft Supplies USA in Provo, Utah, over the course of 5 days. For more info about the workshop, go to [www.woodturnerscatalog.com](http://www.woodturnerscatalog.com).

### Bibliography:

The Richmond Woodturner's Meeting demo with Mike Mahoney on Thursday, April 18, 2019, at 7:00 p.m.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Medullary\\_ray\\_\(botany\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Medullary_ray_(botany))/

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quercus\\_rubra](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quercus_rubra)/

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quercus\\_alba](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quercus_alba)/

<https://goodcraftsview.co/> -- This website no longer exists.

<http://bowlmakerinc.com/about-mike.html>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guksi>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Walnut-oil>

<https://www.leevalley.com/> enter "McNaughton Center-Saver System" in the search box

This article was written by Izumi Miller—Thank You

Letter from the President: May, 2019

Well, I think it's fair to say that summer is officially here at this latitude despite the fact that our meteorological gurus suggest that officially, not till June 21st. Does anyone really wait till that date to break out the sandals, lemonade and seersucker apparel? With the pleasant outdoor weather also come the requisite outdoor chores that can really eat into other things such as; well let's say...turning for example. I for one have always had the desire to have a lathe setup outside as we see other pros have done such as Alan Lacer and Mike Mahoney. Unfortunately my current set-up does not allow the luxury of giving the shop a break on sanding dust and shavings buildup. Perhaps someday.

With the pleasant outdoor months ahead of us, the club has been contacted once again to teach our annual hands-on excursion to the former 4-H Forestry Camp, now called "Camp Wood and Wildlife" in Holiday Lake State Park. Campers and the occasional leader love the opportunity to turn a bowl a see what they can do with their own two hands with proper instruction. It will be on Tuesday, June 18. If you have the time and want to participate in helping a group of young people do what we enjoy, feel free to join in by contacting Lee Scarbrough. Lee has put his order in for a fair weather fun day doing what we love to do. Some new blood in addition to the more experienced folks would be a great thing.

Without a great deal detail here as it as well covered elsewhere in the Newsletter, our pro demo last month was by Mike Mahoney. As I looked around during the demo, I couldn't help but notice everyone's attention meter was set to high. Thank you, Jim, for arranging an exceptional demo, and to a very talented Izumi Miller for a great post demo write-up.

We had yet another new member who joined our ranks last month. Please welcome Willie Strickland! If you have not already taken the opportunity, search out Willie, introduce yourself and share some common ground.

Only one month away, our June Challenge will be something turned and embellished. To that point, I encourage everyone to bring something to show the club. Too small? ..Not the shape you had in mind? .. Catches? It doesn't matter! Even our best turners started out with exactly the same challenges and have learned from it. Please bring in something you've been working on, and don't be afraid to ask for input. I have found over the years that woodturners, especially our own are more than willing to share knowledge to help all of us learn and improve. Take advantage of it. We've had a couple of very enlightening demos in recent months thanks to our own Bob Silkensen and Ste Schwartz. No excuses .

Happy Turning.

See you all at our next meeting, Thursday May 16th.

Bill Buchanan, President

## SHOW AND TELL



Steve Kellner, E Red Cedar, BLO,  
14" X 6", My attempt at artistic turn-



Doug Murry, Maple & Walnut, Poly,  
6" X 7"



Gordon Kendrick, Red Oak, Salad  
Bowl, 6"



Lori, Plywood, Danish Oil, 5" X 5",  
6 Layers of  $\frac{3}{4}$  Oak Plywood



Brad Miller, Mimosa, Danish Oil, 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ " X 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ ", A  
Knitter's Bowl



David Sterling, Oak, Poly,



Cody Walker, Walnut, Unfinished, 3"



Jared Parker, Magnolia Crotch, Carnauba  
Wax, 8", Live edge



Jared Parker, Spalted Maple, Carnauba Wax, 6"



Chuck Horton, Maple Dipper/Various Eggs, Wax on Poly, 4" X 2" X 8"



Bill Buchanan, Pecan, Danish Oil, 9"



Bruce Robbins, Maple/Olivewood, Acrylic Paint, 3¾"



Jerry Fisher, Cherry/Oak, Oil, 8"



Ann Horton, Various wood - Mango, Maple, Lacquer Dye, Two views of the eight egg shapes



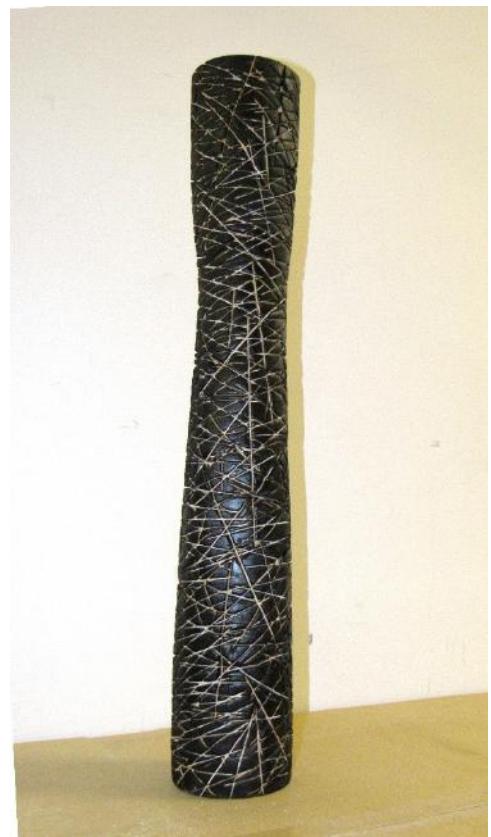
Bob Silkensen, Spalted Maple, Hampshire Silver, 12", Dyed



Dan Luttrell, Red Oak, Walnut Oil, 15½" X 4"



Bill Jenkins, Various, Milk Paint, Child Size Sack Back Chair, 20"



JIM Bumpas, Holly, Waterlox/  
Carved&Burned, Hollow Vessel with  $\frac{1}{2}$ "  
wall thickness,  $29\frac{1}{2}$ " tall X 5" dia.



Terry Moore, 14"

## Board Officers

Bill Buchanan - President  
Jim Bumpas – Vice President  
Bob Silkensen - Secretary  
Cody Walker - Treasurer

## Directors

Bob Marchese – Newsletter Editor  
Dan Luttrell – Membership Director  
Georgia Wood – Activities Director  
Stan VanDruff –Information Director/Webmaster  
Chuck Bajnai – Resource Director  
Ray Deyo – Past President  
Lee Scarbrough – Past President

## Committee Chairpersons

Jim O'Hanlon – Turning Competition  
Jared Parker – Audio/Video  
Charlie Hamilton – Social Media  
Meg Turner – AAW Women in Turning Liaison

## May Snacks & Drinks

### Providers

Georgia Wood ..... Ice/Cooler  
Don Hayes ..... 2liter of Coke  
Dan Rowe ..... 2liter of Pepsi  
Donald Hart ..... 2liter of Diet Coke  
Doug Dill ..... 2liter Caffeine Free Soda  
Doug Murray ..... Chips  
Doug Shackleford.....Cookies  
Ed Wood ..... Salty Snack  
Fran Brooks ..... Salty Snack  
Galen Rice ..... Sweet Snack

IF YOU CANNOT PROVIDE SNACK,  
PLEASE TEXT GEORGIA @ 804-525-8291

## 2019 Demonstrations

May 16: Phillip Fuentes is a woodturner, furniture maker, and bladesmith in Greensboro, NC. Embellishment

June 20: Cody Walker. Vessels with feet and handles.

July 18: Max Brosi + Luke Deroux AAW presenters. Multiaxis. Presentation of their works and discussion.

August 15: Avelino Samuel. In cooperation with Woodcraft and Tidewater Turners. Presentations at the Club meeting on Thursday night. There will be all day sessions on Friday and Saturday – format is being developed.

September 19: Instruction by several experienced turners with hands-on opportunities for members

October 17: Bruce Robbins. Tops, basic to advanced.

November 21: Dean Cox. Tops from the master. May include some hands-on instruction by other volunteers.

December 19: Holiday Party and Tops Competition

Please be informed that the wooden name tag guy is back from Florida and is taking names for production.

Contact me by phone or see me at Thursday's meeting. Lee Scarbrough, (804-712-6676)

lee.scarbroughrx@gmail.com

## Financial Report

Our current balance is \$7,964.20. Changes in the balance is associated with collection of membership dues.

## Quarterly Challenges

The Challenges are regularly scheduled for the third month of each quarter (March, June, September, and December). Entries will be placed on a table separate from the Show-n-Tell table.

1st Quarter 2019 – Jig

2nd Quarter 2019 – Turned and Embellished

3rd Quarter 2019 – Something with feet or handle

4th Quarter 2019 – Tops

## THIS ONE COULD NOT BE MUCH CLOSER



**AAW** AMERICAN ASSOCIATION  
OF WOODTURNERS



Join Us  
**RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA**  
**JULY 11-14, 2019**

**AAW's 33rd Annual Int'l  
WOODTURNING SYMPOSIUM**  
Demonstrations, Panel Discussions,  
Exhibitions, Auctions, Trade Show, More!

## *Richmond Woodturners Info*

Our club meets on the third Thursday of each month at the Richmond Woodcraft Store (see last page for directions). Dues are \$25. per year and due each January. Guests are welcome. Special rates for those who join late in the year. See Dan Luttrell (Membership Director, [danluttrell@verizon.net](mailto:dnluttrell@verizon.net)) or at the meeting for more information. Our events are now incorporated into the Richmond Cultural Arts Calendar which is a community-based organization that supports local arts organizations and individuals by highlighting events, performances, etc. Our current page can be accessed at the following link:

[http://calendar.richmondcultureworks.org/event/richmond\\_woodturners\\_monthly\\_meeting](http://calendar.richmondcultureworks.org/event/richmond_woodturners_monthly_meeting)

or at: <https://www.richmondwoodturners.org>

## Penturners News

The May meeting of the Richmond Penturners was about making pen blanks from leather. Three varieties were demonstrated and several members participated in making them to be finished in their shops.

The first was cutting small squares of different color leather, drilling holes in the center and stacking on a pen tube while gluing together with CA. Once assembled, the blank is continually saturated with CA and turned to the desired diameter. The finish can be left natural with some conditioner or brought to a high gloss with a CA finish.

The second style was using a strip approximately  $\frac{1}{4}$ " wide spirally wrapped around a pen tube. Prior to wrapping, decorative stamps commonly used with leather make for a nice pattern. For this pen, the edges, the entire strip or both can be colored with leather dye. The strip is glued to the tube with Barge cement. Once dry, the ends can be squared with a skew leaving some space for wood or plastic end pieces to accent the blank.

The final variation involved a rectangle longitudinally wrapped around a tube and glued once again with Barge. By cutting the leather about  $\frac{1}{4}$ " longer than the circumference of the tube and thinning the portions to be overlapped with a special knife, the seam can be made almost invisible. This version leaves a nice palette for decorating with stamps or pyrography. Both the second and third types leave a very nice soft feel to the pen.





**Contact the store at:**

Phone: 804-355-3945

Fax: 804-355-2532

Email: richmond-retail@woodcraft.com

9862 West Broad Street

Glen Allen, VA 23060

Organizations such as the Richmond Woodturners, Richmond Pen turners and James River Woodcarvers would not exist if it weren't for the kindness of their sponsors. We are blessed and grateful to have the Richmond Virginia Woodcraft store supporting us and our activities. Members get a 10% discount on meeting nights for most turning related items.

Please remember this and support them at every opportunity!

For the classes provided at this location see:

<https://www.woodcraft.com/stores/richmond/classes> Look for classes taught by Ray Deyo, Clark Brummett, David Sterling, Brian Noble-Marx and others

**Attention Richmond Woodturners**

Ed with Woodcraft is offering a discounted group-buy of 2' x 5' Anti-Fatigue floor mats to our membership for our shop floors. I have to suspect they could be used wherever we'd like to include laundry room or kitchen floors.

These beveled-edge, pebble textured mats normally sell for \$36.50, and sold @ \$26.50 last time they went on sale. Woodcraft is pleased to offer them to us and the Tidewater group for "about \$18.79 each" if enough are pre-ordered. A minimum count was not indicated but he believes he can make it work for our members in good standing. I expect to take orders at our meeting next week and the order will go to Ed sometime shortly thereafter. Let me know otherwise if you cannot make it to our next meeting. Bill Buchanan,