



The Wood Spinner

Central Virginia Woodturners <http://www.centralvawoodturners.org>

APRIL-MAY 2013



Unique Natural Edge Bowls by Phil Evans.

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CVW Newsletter—April-May 2013

President's Corner

"Saturday's turning demonstration was a record breaker! Set in the beautiful and peaceful mountains, Fred Williamson's flowers were beginning to bloom and the weather was gorgeous- not too hot and a nice breeze all day. Our Saturday demonstration at Fred's shop drew wood turners from all over Virginia. There were members from the Woodturners of The Virginias, Richmond, Blue Ridge, Capital Area, Apple Valley, Catoctin and probably other clubs I failed to recognize. There were 61 attendees crowded into Fred's shop- record breaker #1. It was the most ever to attend one of our Saturday demonstrations- record breaker #2 and we actually collected more money than the cost of the demo and food- record breaker #3.

As usual, Fred educated, entertained and amazed us with his expanse of turning knowledge and experience. Fred's wife Mary was so gracious in opening up her house (and bathrooms) to the motley mass for lunch and then helped set it up and did most, if not all, of the clean up. **Thank you Mary!**

Hey, how about that Jason Levinson! Richard Landreth had a schedule conflict and couldn't join us. Jason agreed to fill in as "Treasurer for a Day". The money was flying as the attendees poured in. Jason handled the crush with calm and precision. **Thank you Jason.**

These events only succeed when the team all pulls together. Others to be recognized include: Secretary Jim Oates, Vice President Dennis Hippen, Vice President Nate Hawkes, photographer David Rhodes, food coordinator Dick Miksad and video coordinator John O'Neil and Dave Potter and Bob Davis who donated coffee service and snacks in the morning. We also appreciate the efforts of other members and non members (whom I failed to name) who helped throughout and to clean up after a long day- our own little village coming together.

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Another of Murphy's laws

The 50-50-90 Rule: Any time you have a 50-50 chance of getting something right, there's a 90% probability you'll get it wrong.



A Day With Fred Williamson at His Studio

Saturday, April 13 was a beautiful day. The weather was great. The crowd of 61 paid was the largest our club has ever had for any of our Saturday demonstrations. Many of the attendees were from other wood-turning clubs in Virginia, Maryland and DC. The lunch was well done, and our featured demonstrator, Fred Williamson, gave a masterful demonstration of how he creates those Fred Williamson natural edge masterpieces.

He showed us how he prepares the blank for mounting on the lathe. He cuts the log into wedge shaped quarters with the chain saw and then uses the chain saw to flatten the bottom of the wedge to facilitate attaching the face plate, using chalk to mark the wood to help in locating the center, and the chain saw to knock off the corners prior to mounting on the lathe. He uses a face plate with 2 rings of holes which are bored at a 15° angle which provides a more secure purchase. He credits our Skewmeister, Elbert Dale, for this idea.

His first roughing cuts are always from the bark in with his bowl gouge held level to the floor. He carefully demonstrated his turner's dance – a necessity in shaping a bowl with a smooth curve. As the cut proceeds he gradually shifts his weight from his right foot to his left. When the weight has shifted to the left foot he can actually lift his right foot off the floor while the cut continues.

After shaping the outside of the bowl, Fred demonstrated the use of the McNaughton coring system. He showed the group the original McNaughton post system with its one inch shaft and then showed us the beefed up 1 1/2' post Denny Martin made for him.

In hollowing the now cored bowl, Fred removed about 1-1/2 inches depth at a time; first hogging out, then going back and doing a fine cut until he reached the desired thickness. He demonstrated the calipers he made for measuring the thickness of the wall and the depth of the bowl (and made templates for the calipers available for attendees to copy).

After finishing turning the bowl, Fred gave us a tutorial on making a sander mandrel with a soft (feathering) foam and a plywood or mdf base. He uses 3M 90 spray on both sides of the foam and tops the foam with a piece of leather. He primes the leather with 3M Feathering Disc adhesive, spraying it on and spreading it around with a piece of sandpaper and attaches the sandpaper. He starts sanding with Klingspor 120 grit. Using a power sander with the bowl mounted on the lathe but the lathe NOT turning.

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After finishing sanding, he signs the piece before he applies the first coat of finish (usually Behlen's Salad Bowl Finish). Some tips in pyrography for signing: always use a pull stroke, the piece must be sanded smooth, avoid over heating the tip, smaller letters look better, "float" the tip over punky areas – slide/glide over the surface.

To finish the piece Fred applies the finish with a paper towel (Scott Blue) wiping back and forth around the entire surface making sure that the entire surface has been completely covered, then wiping the excess finish off with a dry towel using the same technique. He lets the piece dry 3 to 5 days, then sands it with 600 grit and applies a second coat using the same technique as with the first coat.

In the afternoon Fred demonstrated his technique for deep hollowing vessels using an extra heavy boring bar made by Denny Martin. He seats the handle of the boring tool on a pole whose height is adjustable so he can keep the tool horizontal and at the center of the piece.

Of particular interest to your editor was Fred's technique for parting the piece. He uses a 1 1/2" tool rest to get close in to the base of the piece and removes the outer ring of screws from the faceplate before starting the parting cut. (He can remove the screws without removing the work from the lathe because his lathe does not have a bulky headstock to block access to the faceplate. See photo at right). His parting tool has a unique pointed design. As he does the parting cuts he is able to finish the bottom of the piece except for the last inch or less that he leaves until he finishes sanding the piece. When the parting is done, he has only the nub to sand down to finish sanding the piece. As he sands the nub down he rotates the piece about a quarter turn, sands a bit, does another turn and repeats until the bottom is smooth. This technique insures a smooth, even, flat bottom.





Below: Views of the audience at Fred's demonstration. *Photos by David Rhodes.*





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Shots of Fred's Demonstration. *Photos by David Rhodes*





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Some of Fred's pieces for sale. *Photos by David Rhodes.*



Miscellaneous Tidbits

Interested in how to build a foot-powered lathe? Check out this video:

<http://www.wimp.com/footpowered/>

Packard Woodworks still has the 2060 3/8" (1/2" O.D.) side grind bowl gouge for sale . It is item #100381 on their website and is a "close out" for \$107.05

Here is a link to a demo Barbara Dill just did in the DC area on how to turn and finish her famous three sided cup. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JK1EvP_NCI0

Due to the generosity of his father-in-law, Richard Landreth has three 1/2" bowl gouges for sale - a Henry Taylor, a Crown, and a David Ellsworth. There are going for \$60 each.

CALENDAR

May 21 – Three Sided Bowls Created by Don Voas