Long Island Woodturner's Association Newsletter

November Issue

November 21, 2020

Les Hoffman

Turning a Natural Edge Bowl

LIWA is a chapter of the American Association of Woodturners. Our purpose is to foster a wider interest and appreciation of woodturning on Long Island and in the Metropolitan area. We generally meet on the third Saturday of each month from 8:30 AM until Noon at the Old Bethpage Village Restoration, Bethpage, L.I. However, during the COVID crisis, we meet virtually on Zoom. See listing below for 2020 scheduled meetings:

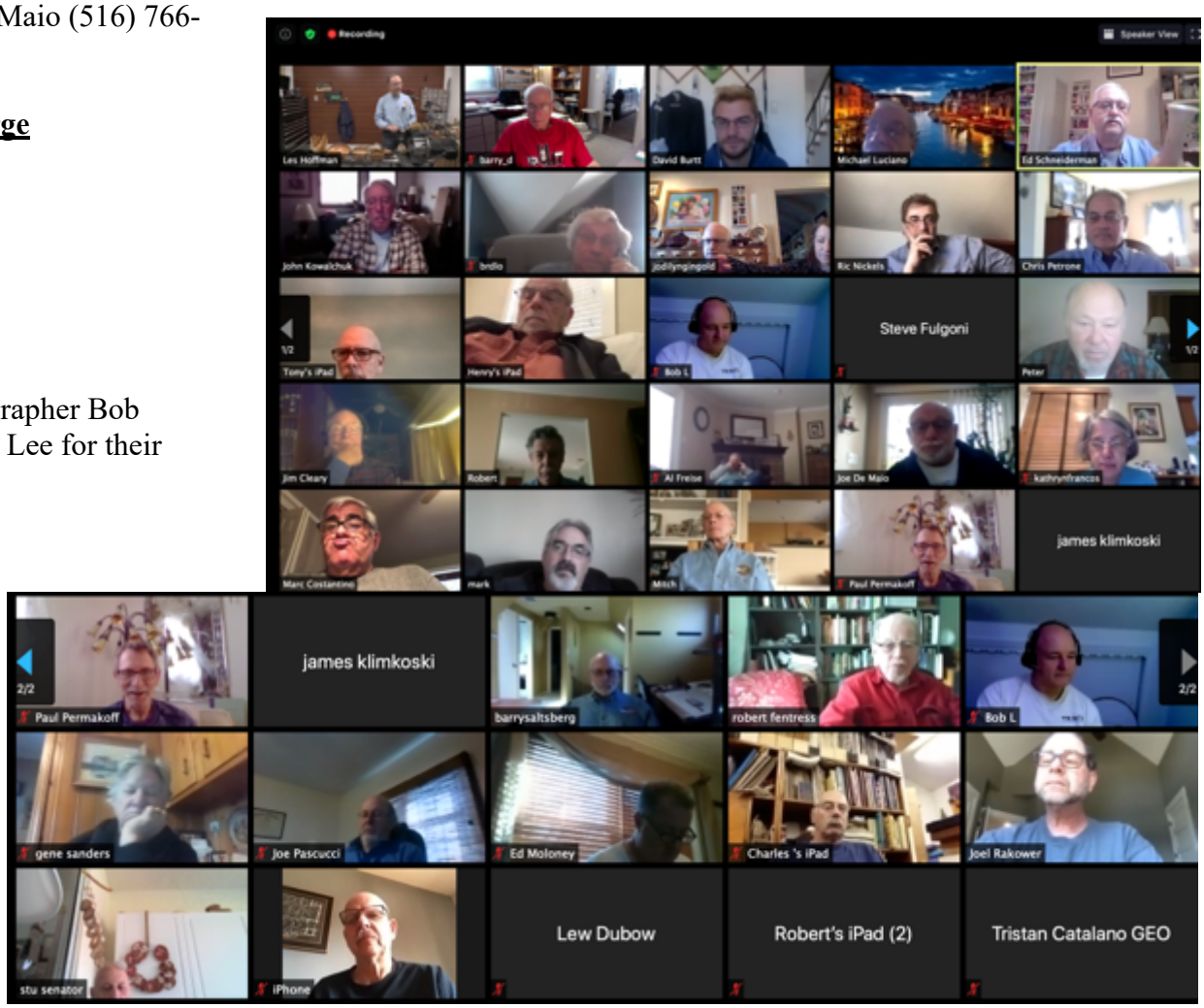
Upcoming Meeting Schedule for 2020. For now, all meetings run from 8:00 am to 12 noon on the 3rd Sat of the month.

Dec 19 2020 (Rudy Lopez)
Jan 16 Pete Richichi
Feb 20 Dennis Belcher (multi-axis turning)
Mar 20
Apr 17
May 15
Jun 19
July 17
Aug 21
Sept 18
Oct 16
Nov 20
Dec 18

Club Officers for 2019-2020
Chair of the Board: Ken Deaner
President Les Hoffman (516) 431-2280
Vice President Barry Saltsberg (516) 349-1914
Secretary/Newsletter Barry Dutchen (516) 443-5342
Treasurer Joe DeMaio (516) 766-5189

Members at Large
Steve Fulgoni
Jodi Gingold
John Kowalchuk
Jim Maloney
Paul Permakoff
Pete Richichi

Thanks to photographer Bob Fentress and Bob Lee for their screen shots.



Summary of Meeting

We streamed our meeting and demo via Zoom. Approximately 37 participants. This month we elect the members of the Board. Based upon the votes tabulated, the members of the Long Island Woodturners Association have selected the following to serve as the 2020-2021 Board of Trustees:

President:	Barry Saltsberg	(516) 349-1914	woodartist@optonline.net
Vice Pres:	Paul Permacoff	(631) 261-7207	classakid@aol.com
Secretary:	Barry Dutchen	(516) 443 5342	bdutchen@gmail.com
Treasurer:	Tony Fuoco	(631) 255-3956	sandman0830@aol.com
Chair of the Board:	Ken Deaner	(516) 239-7257	ggoosie@aol.com

Next Executive Board meeting is December 1 (via Zoom) at 7pm

Topics include:

Legacy/honorary/sustaining membership

Dues structure

Treasurer's Report

Joe reported a balance of (approximately) $3430

New Members

No new members noted

Show-and-Tell

Main Event

Les Hoffman

Presents:

Turning a Natural Edge Bowl

Les described three types of natural edge bowls:

1. End grain turnings, such as this piece of yew. Red cedar is often turned this way and yields some spectacular pieces, especially when the log is highly irregular.

2. Side grain bowl turned either from half a log or from a flitch of an oversized trunk. He showed examples of both. These can be aligned on the lathe to be symmetrical, with the "wings" even on each side or asymmetrical.

3. Small side grain bowl using a limb section and containing the pith. These usually are made symmetrical with even wings, and the foot and pith aligned in the center. However, these can be made somewhat asymmetrical. He showed a bowl made from live oak which is symmetrical and a practice piece of maple with the foot offset to show a feature in the bowl.

Blanks for turning natural edge bowls can be wet or dry and, while maintaining the bark adds somewhat to the appearance and value, Les says it is not necessary. If the bark comes off, the cambium layer will still have some nice feature, you can always, burn, color, texture or carve the rim for some unique effects.

If the bark stays on, as it often does with winter-cut wood, it should be reinforced with thin CA. To prevent staining of the sapwood, brush some thinned shellac on it first.

Les started with a small limb piece because, he says, anyone can get these, and any size lathe should have the capacity to turn one.

A good blank to start with should be 3 1/2 to 4" in diameter. Cut the length 1 1/2 to 2 times the diameter. Align the pith in the center and mark the two sides of the piece with an awl. Drill the top side of the blank to fit your screw-chuck, screw it in and bring up the tailstock to support the base.

Set your tool rest at 30 degrees to the limb and adjust it so that your bowl gouge tip will be on -center with the handle held at a down angle tucked into your hip or side. Turn on your lathe with the speed at about 500-600 rpm and with the flute at a 45-degree angle, begin to nibble away at the outside with a roughing cut.

Continue roughing, adjusting the tool rest until you are JUST UNDER the upper rim area. Remember to keep your left hand on top of the gouge next to the tool rest and try to move your body rather than your arms or hands. Use a bevel rubbing finish cut to slice through to the rim and use a shear cut or shear scrape to perfect the surface. A negative rake scraper can also be used.

Les says to create a tenon appropriate for your chuck, reverse the piece to the chuck and remove the tailstock. If you can, move the head-stock close to the right side of the lathe. Begin hollowing with your bowl gouge, keeping the tip on center, the tool held horizontal and the flute at 45 degrees. Start with the handle far to the right and move it to the left.

After hollowing about 1/2 the depth, stop and check it and mark the depth on the outside. Also, determine the size and shape of the foot. Continue hollowing while aiming for consistent wall thickness right through the foot. (To prevent marring the inside of the bowl, soften the heel of your gouge on your grinder). Turn the flute more vertical to complete the inside.

Reverse the piece onto a padded wooden fixture, bring up the tailstock and reduce and shape the tenon into a foot. Blend the bottom of the bowl into the foot. Undercut it slightly with a spindle gouge with a softened heel.

For a "regular" natural edge bowl, Les takes half a log, cuts off its corners with a chain saw or rounds it off on a bandsaw and mounts it between centers with the bark side to the

headstock. Using a 2-prong chuck with the point extended slightly, turn the piece by hand to check the balance. With the spindle locked, drive in the prongs using pressure from the tailstock, rocking the piece 2-3 times until the prongs are solidly engaged.

Unlock the spindle, lock the tailstock and begin turning at 500-600 rpm or slower, if vibration is a problem. Begin with the tool rest at 30 degrees and start removing wood. After removing and shaping part of the outside, stop and check the alignment of the upper and lower wings. Adjust the 2-prong drive and live center as necessary. Continue to shape the outside with a roughing cut, adjusting the tool rest as necessary. Complete the shape with a finishing cut and then set the tool rest at 90 degrees to create a tenon. Raise the toolrest slightly above center and, using a small skew, create a dovetail shape and

perfect the flat area next to the tenon for your chuck jaws. Sand the outside.

Reverse the piece into your chuck and bring up the tailstock to press the jaws against the bottom before tightening. Remove the tailstock, move the headstock to the right side, as before, and begin hollowing from the center, as before. While keeping your left hand on the top of the bowl gouge, be aware of the upper wings and DO NOT extend your fingers past the tool rest. Complete hollowing, as before, maintaining consistent wall thickness. If necessary due to the depth of the bowl, switch to a 85 degree grind gouge or a round-nosed scraper to complete the bottom of the bowl.

Use your negative rake scraper, if necessary, to improve the inside surface. Sand. Reverse onto a cushioned wood fixture and complete the bowl.

Try to make the foot 35-40% of the diameter and do not include the pith. Next, using a cedar log, start nibbling away at the bottom of the bowl.

Use chalk to align the wings. Make adjustments to the bowl (tailstock) until they are in line. Continue shaping the piece using a roughing cut. In hardwoods you could use a scraper.
Keep an eye on the depth (Les uses a homemade depth gauge.)

Re-check the depth. Clean out the inside bottom of the bowl.

Finally, use a negative rake scraper to clean up any tool marks on the inside of the bowl.

Reverse the bowl onto a scrap block, bring up the tailstock for support, as earlier and turn away the tenon. Les recommends soaking the edge bark with shellac (to prevent glue stain), let dry for 10 min, then cover with CA glue.


Recording


The Woodturning Store.com

Thank you, Les