



Long Island Woodturner's Association Newsletter
January 2024

Jim Cleary

Jigs and Fixtures for Your Lathe



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.



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Crystal Ball: Upcoming Meeting Schedule for 2024.

All meetings run from 9:00 am to 12 noon on the 3rd Saturday of the month. Dates subject to change. Doors open at 8:00am for socializing and setup. Live meetings are held at Northport High School (154 Laurel Hill Road, Northport, NY 11768) and are also available via Zoom. Links will be sent to all members in good standing.

Questions? Suggestions? See Paul Permakoff

Feb 17: John Kowalchuk and Paul Permakoff – Making Multi-Axis Lidded Boxes

Mar 16: TBA

Apr 20: TBA

May 18: Bob Lindstadt

Jun 15: Bob Lee

Jul 20: Picnic at Bob Urso's house

Aug 17: Picnic at the Woodturning Store

Sept 21- Long Island Woodworkers Show

Oct 19: TBA

Nov 16: Richard Finley

Dec 21: TBA



Club Officers for 2024

Officers:

President:	Bob Lee	(516) 232-3910	rlee@liwoodturners.org
Vice President:	Paul Permakoff	(631) 261-7207	classakid@aol.com
Secretary:	Barry Dutchen	(516) 443 5342	bdutchen@gmail.com
Treasurer:	Mike Josiah	(631) 758-3309	mjosiah07@gmail.com
Chair of the Board:	Ken Deaner	(917) 318-2982	ggoosie@aol.com

Board Members at Large:

Mitch Friedman	Mgfassoc@gmail.com
Jodi Gingold	jgingold1@gmail.com
Les Hoffman	hoffmanclaims@verizon.net
John Kowalchuk	howzbyu@optonline.net
Jim Moloney	jpatmo@aol.com
Pete Richichi	turner1938@verizon.net
Barry Saltsberg	woodartist@optonline.net

Committees:

Audiovisual/Zoom:

Jim Moloney
Bob Lee

Events Scheduling:

Paul Permakoff

Finance/Membership:

Mike Josiah

Mentoring:

Jodi Gingold

Newsletter:

Barry Dutchen

Refreshments:

Ray Bohn amb1227@aol.com

Webmasters:

Bob Lee
Jim Moloney

To all members: If not you, who? Please consider joining a committee and helping your fellow woodturners and yourself.



Summary of Meeting

Bob opened the meeting by thanking Barry S. for his years of service to the club (and as former president).

Bob reminded everyone, new and current members (*old members?*), to participate in our mentoring program (wonderfully coordinated by Jodi).

We need members to serve in the capacity of backups for our technology teams. No previous experience necessary, as Bob, Jim, Jodi and others are happy to train you.



Old Bethpage Village Restoration (which re-opens in April) continues to provide us with a display cabinet to promote our club. Please reach out to any Board member if you would like to have your turning on display.

Please join us on the third weekend in March as members attend “Total Turning”.





Treasurer's Report:

We are currently at 73 active members, with 50 paid members

New Members

Joe Vanick, East Northport

Jay Mansdorf, Mineola

David Pickman, Mineola



A few words from the Chairman of The Board:

Role of the Board Ken Deaner Chairman of the Board LIWA

The LIWA is a not-for-profit corporation. We therefore follow the rules set out by the state of NY and the federal government governing organizations such as ours. We have elections, file tax returns, have club officers and a board that supervises the operation of the LIWA. The Board members are all members of the LIWA as well as the American Association of Woodturners. The Club carries liability insurance provided by the AAW as well as a supplementary policy that protects our members who participate in club activities. The Board meets several times a year to discuss the smooth running of the club. We review expenditures and determine how successful we are in meeting our mission statement, "Fostering the Art of Woodturning on Long Island." The minutes of each meeting are available to any interested member. Members of the Club are encouraged to voice any concern to any member of the Board. Our first meeting of 2024 included statements from each of the officers including a treasurers' report. We are in good shape financially but there are still some outstanding dues. Our VP has compiled a list of presenters for 2024. We also discussed live outside presenters. Our secretary discussed the possibility of merging our newsletter with our website (LIWoodturners.org). The club's new president outlined his plan of action for 2024 with an emphasis on technology, greater member involvement at meetings and new thoughts on charitable giving and community outreach.

I wish all our members a happy new year. Jodi and I missed the January meeting. We were at Ghost Ranch studying silversmithing, seventy miles from Santa Fe, NM in the high desert. There was or virtually no phone service or internet for the month. I did hear that the meeting was a great success. We also attended the world's largest rock and mineral show in Tucson, AZ. We aren't any less enthusiastic woodturners but there is always room for learning new skills and thinking about how to merge those interests to create great art.

Ken



El Presidente - A Message from our President

Bob Lee

After our first successful meeting in January with a demonstration of fixturing by Jim Cleary, Thanks for sharing your many ideas! I am looking forward to what we as a group can do in 2024. We will have our first board meeting on February 12th, and we have picked a date for the 3rd Annual Storch Workshop of April 13th. Hopefully we can achieve the same or more support for this event. Videos of the first two Storch Workshop events can be found on the special events tab of the website towards the bottom.

<https://liwoodturners.org/special-events/>

There was also a request from a new member for some guidance on how to finish a piece. As there are as many ways as there are turners (if not more) perhaps, we can consider making a cookbook of finishing ideas i.e. from the shop of Bob, a one-page summary of a process and materials used along with a picture of the finished piece or a short video of it being applied which could be viewed. We can then present these at a meeting or add a tab to the website in the members only section with the various finishing approaches. I'd also like to hear other people's thoughts on how we can improve the usefulness of the group to the members, particularly the newer turners.

Bob

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Health – Safety – Wellness - A Message from our Safety Officer

**Jodi Gingold**

**Jodi**

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Shop of the Month:

Mitchell Friedman

I added curtains to try and contain green wood shavings. Sharpening station behind the lathe. Two dust collectors - one right behind the lathe another overhead air box. Rolling cart for turning tools with additional storage under sharpening station.

Workbench for prepping and detailing. Trent Bosh vise to hold chucks. Separate little corner for painting and detailing.









Spotlight on: Where Can I Find Wood to Turn?

Mitchell Friedman

One of the things to consider when looking for wood is, do I want greenwood or lumber.

If you want to start your project from scratch and experience the full process of making a bowl, you need to look for greenwood. You'll need a chainsaw and bandsaw to prepare the wood for turning on your lathe.

After strong windstorms or severe weather my best advice is LISTEN FOR CHAIN SAWS. After strong storms arborists and local gardeners cut up and haul trees away. If you politely ask the men or the foreman for a couple of pieces in most cases, they are very willing and helpful to give you as much as you can handle. In many cases they will slice up some for you. I always give them a tip for their help. In many cases you can foster a relationship with them and get more wood in the future.

I have a gardener who does tree trimming and have told him what species of wood I'm looking for and he brings it to me when it's available. I turn him a bowl or 2 from the harvested wood to ensure I get more when available.

Besides storms, trees are cleared from new construction sites and many times these are good healthy trees that make for nice turning blanks.

If you look on Facebook Marketplace (see Mike's note below) people advertise when they have trees taken down and are willing to have you haul it away.

Keep your eyes peeled for fallen trees cut up by the county. While driving around you will see wood on the side of the roads, however, be careful where you park to get the wood. Sometimes I see wood that I would pick up but, there is no safe place to stop.....be very careful! If you don't want to harvest your own greenwood, you can always buy lumber from lumberyards or Lowe's & Home Depot. There are specialty lumber yards that sell exotic woods if you don't mind spending a little more for ready to turn exotic species of wood.

A couple of lumberyards that have specialty woods are:

Singh Lumber

718-474-5600

50-01 Rockaway Beach Blvd

Far Rockaway, NY 11691

M. L. Condon Company (*Ed Note: They are willing to cut up boards into smaller pieces*).

914-946-4111

250 Ferris Ave.

White Plains, NY 10603

Robert's Plywood (*Ed. Note: Roberts has been bought by Manhattan Laminates and now is part of the TSG group. They still have a fantastic collection of slabs and planks. They DO NOT CUT wood. They now carry a huge assortment of other items such as laminates, finishing material (lacquers, solvents, adhesives) - check their website, or TSG.com*)

631-586-4944

45 North Industry Court

Deer Park, NY 11729



My suggestion when looking to buy lumber from these large commercial yards is to call ahead for a good time to visit and partner up with another turning friend. This way you can buy a quantity that the yard is willing to sell and share the cost of a full plank. Sometimes the yards have cutoffs but, in most cases, you must buy what they have.

Also, the Board will ask members of the club to bring in some wood for new members to pick up at our monthly meetings. I buy Cherry Burl from Chris Mallon (Club member) in Kings Park

So! Remember to Listen for Chainsaws!

Mitch Friedman

Ed. Note: Here's some additional information from Mike Josiah:

For Facebook Marketplace you setup a search for "Free Wood" that way you get notified anytime someone posts.

For people in the Yaphank area A millwork company puts a large bin of cut offs out every morning at 9:00am. HB Millwork, Old Dock Rd, Yaphank 11980.

They typically have sapele, poplar, oak and maple. You must go early as most days it's gone by 8:30AM

Mike



A Visit to John's Kowalchuk's First Tuesday of the Month Shop:

All members are welcome. See John at our regular meeting for details.

Jim Cleary roughing out a cherry bowl





Show and Tell:













The American Association of Woodturners

Each month we select an article we believe may be of interest to our club members. These articles were first published in American Woodturner magazine, the Journal of the American Association of Woodturners and are republished by permission of the Editor of American Woodturner. We greatly thank Joshua for allowing us to use reprints from the magazine.

We strongly urge you to consider joining the AAW. By supporting our national organization, you also help our club. Here is a link: <https://woodturner.org>

During Jim Cleary's January demonstration, Jim mentioned the turned pencil box from an issue of AAW's American Woodturner magazine. So, this month (from American Woodturner): Spindle-Turned Pencil Box.



Spindle-Turned PENCIL BOX

Beth Ireland

I often find that for students, learning to turn is the easy part, but coming up with project ideas is limited to step-by-step demonstrations, classes, and articles like this one. Where do ideas come from? Sometimes it is as simple as looking at the objects that surround you on your desk or workbench. A pencil is a great example.

Here, I will be showing you the steps to make a pencil box—a playful and useful project that uses basic spindle-turning methods. The project comprises two parts—the pencil body and an eraser cap—drilled with two different-sized Forstner bits and then friction-fitted together. There is

no hollowing by hand, just drilling, making it a good production box. This simple box technique is easy to adapt to mimic other cylindrical objects that are around you all the time: pens, turning tools, markers, etc. A bit of shaping and coloring after turning can easily approximate whatever object you've taken as inspiration.

Planning and layout

The dimensions for this project are flexible, depending on the size of pencil you'd like to turn. It can be as long as you want (how many times has this pencil been sharpened?), but consider the maximum drilling depth when drilling with your lathe tailstock. You'll want the overall pencil length to be suitably longer than the interior drilled depth, allowing for a tapered point on one end and the eraser on the cap end.

For the pencil's diameter, I suggest 1 3/4" (4cm). This will leave enough wall thickness after the drilling of the interior spaces. You will need two Forstner bits, the larger being minimally 3/4" smaller than the largest outside diameter. The smaller bit should be 1/4" (6mm) smaller than the larger bit. For instance, if my rough-turned cylinder is 1 3/4" diameter, the larger hole (drilled in the pencil body) would be 1" diameter, and the smaller hole (drilled in the cap end) would be 3/4".

With a cylinder rough-turned to approximately 1 3/4" diameter, lay out the pencil parts, as shown in *Photo 1*. Be sure to include space for a tenon at



least 3/4" long on the pencil cap, which will be friction-fitted into the hole drilled in the pencil body. Also leave an extra 1/4" to allow for the width of a parting tool.

Part the cap from the pencil body, cutting down only partway and then finishing the cut off the lathe with a handsaw (*Photos 2, 3*).

Use a center finder on both pieces to identify the center points, and then punch with an awl. The correct way to use a center finder is to make one line and then turn the center finder to the opposite side and make a second line. This makes up for the thickness of your pencil. Make two lines perpendicular to the first two in the same way, and you will find the exact center (*Photos 4, 5*).

Drill pencil body

Mount the pencil body section in a chuck. I always use the tailstock to push the piece in and center it, so I can use two hands on the chuck key to tighten the jaws.

With the larger drill bit mounted in a drill chuck in your tailstock, drill

Materials and Tools

For illustrating this article, I chose to use basswood because I knew it would be easy to drill and carve. It is also similar in color to the wood in the pencil I chose to emulate. Other woods I have used include medium-density hardwoods like poplar, cherry, walnut, and soft maple, as they are readily available and require less sanding after drilling. You will also need the following:

- Drill chuck that mounts in your lathe tailstock
- 1"- and 3/4"- (25mm- and 19mm-) diameter Forstner bits
- Four-jaw chuck with small jaws
- Calipers
- Rasp
- V-shaped carving gouge
- Paint and metal-colored markers



into the pencil body (Photo 6). Leave enough solid wood at the end, so you can turn the pencil point later without interfering with the drilled cavity. I hold the drill chuck with my hand to ensure it will not spin. Make sure you use sharp bits and withdraw the bit often to clear the chips. I often wax the bit with paraffin or beeswax when it gets warm. If you see smoke when drilling, slow your lathe speed and/or get a new drill bit.

Push the tailstock cone center into the drilled hole with only gentle pressure, and true up the end with a skew, parting tool, or spindle gouge (Photo 7).

Turn and drill cap

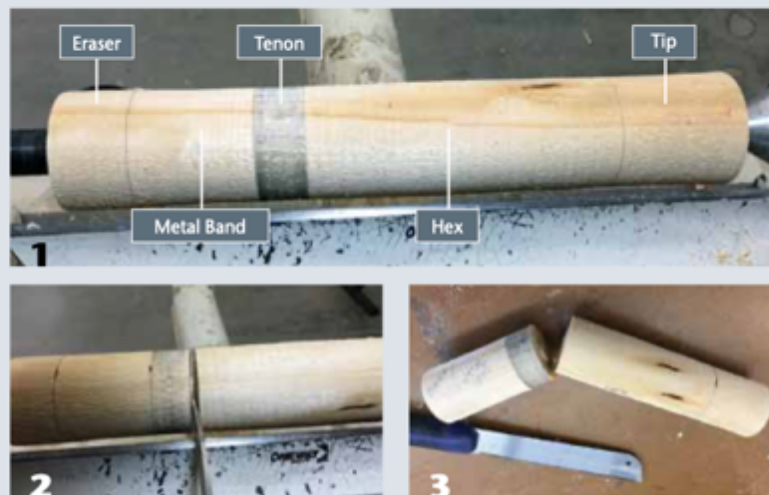
Remove the pencil body from the chuck and mount the cap blank. Set your caliper to the diameter of the larger drill bit, and part in to form a tenon of that diameter (Photos 8, 9). *Safety Note: If you apply the caliper to the wood during parting, first file and sand off any sharp corners to prevent the caliper from catching in the wood.*

When considering tenon length, keep in mind the longer the tenon, the more wood contact and friction you'll have holding the cap onto the body. About $\frac{3}{4}$ " would be good, but this doesn't have to be an exact dimension. I first turn a small section at the tailstock end and test the fit in the pencil body. Once the proper fit is established, you can work your way back to your desired tenon length. I also leave a little bulge in the middle so I can get a "click" fit (Photos 10, 11).

Press the two parts together (Photo 12). If you see a gap between them, you might need to clean and square, or undercut, the tenon shoulder before drilling the hole in the eraser-end cap (Photo 13).

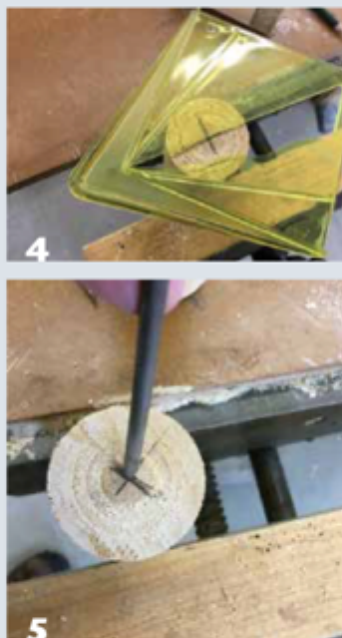
Using the smaller of the two drill bits, drill into the eraser cap, leaving enough solid material at the end for shaping the eraser (Photo 14). ▶

Rough-turn, label, part



Rough-turn a cylinder and mark out the pencil sections. Part the pieces just right of the tenon area on the cap.

Find and punch centers



Marking the centers now will make it easier to re-mount the work later between centers.

Drill pencil body, true end



Use a drill chuck mounted in the tailstock to drill into the pencil body, using the larger of the two bits.

Place a cone center within the drilled hole for support and true the end.



Form tenon on cap section



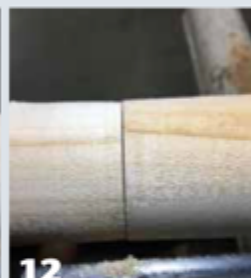
8
Take the diameter of the larger of the two drill bits using a caliper. This will also be the diameter of the tenon on the cap section.



Fine-tune tenon



10
After you have established a good fit at the end of the tenon, extend that diameter to create a longer tenon. Test the fit to the pencil body often until a good friction fit is achieved.



Square tenon shoulder



13
Squaring, or slightly undercutting, the tenon shoulder will eliminate any gap between the two sections.

Drill eraser cap section



14
Use the smaller of the two drill bits to excavate the pencil cap. Leave enough solid material for shaping the eraser.

Turn and shape pencil

Remove the cap end from the chuck. Transfer the depth of the two drilled holes onto the outside of workpiece so you do not accidentally turn through to the interior cavities. Push the parts together and re-mount them on the lathe between centers—as you would a spindle. Shape the rounded eraser end and tapered pencil point, leaving the ferrule section a little high, just as it is on a real pencil (*Photos 15–17*).

To shape and carve the metal ferrule section, begin by turning beads on either side of a short center area, where horizontal details will be carved. You can use your lathe's indexing function to divide the horizontal lines into equal increments. Another trick is to use a length of paper with the increments marked on it. Extend a strip of paper around the circumference and cut it where the two ends meet. Measure the length of the paper strip and divide that length into equal divisions. Then wrap the paper around the workpiece and transfer the marks (*Photo 18*). Using the tool rest as a straightedge, draw the horizontal lines (*Photo 19*). I use a V-shaped carving gouge to cut the grooves. With your spindle lock engaged, run the V-gouge along the tool rest so you'll get a straight cut (*Photo 20*).

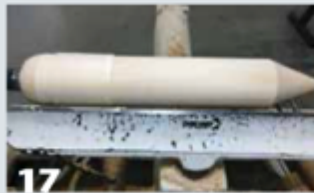
I like to use a rasp to shape the flats of the hexagonal main section of the pencil body. You can use the same paper-strip method to measure and denote the six sections of the pencil's hexagon shape. Using the tool rest as a straightedge, draw the six horizontal lines onto the pencil body (*Photo 21*).

Remove the workpiece from the lathe and separate the cap from the body. Hold the pencil body securely with clamps, on the lathe with a jam chuck, or with a vise on a workbench (my preference). File flat or rasp all areas between the pencil lines. I always try to stop short of the pencil lines, so they'll remain as a reference (*Photo 22*).



FEATURE

Turn pencil shape



With the two sections friction-fitted together, remount the work between centers. Shape the eraser and pencil point ends, and leave a high area for the ferrule.

Shape and carve ferrule



A strip of paper whose length matches the circumference of the workpiece can be divided into equal sections. Transfer these marks to the ferrule using the tool rest as a straightedge, then carve the lines with a V-shaped gouge.

Next, I use a belt sander to finish shaping the eraser. Adding several flats will mimic the way a real pencil eraser looks after it has been used a few times.

Adding color

Once the turning and shaping are completed, it is time to do any final sanding and apply paint. I use milk paint, but acrylic or oil could work fine, too. For the ferrule section, I use metal-colored markers (available from art- or office-supply stores). I use graphite to mimic the pencil lead (Photo 23).

Coloring the project is the fun part. Remember you are making the idea of a pencil—it does not need to be an exact replica. Have fun exploring all the possibilities this project has to offer. ■

Beth Ireland, a professional architectural woodturner and sculptor with more than thirty years of experience, lives and works in St. Petersburg, Florida. She teaches the two-month Turning Intensive at The Center for Furniture Craftsmanship in Maine, as well as workshop classes at major craft centers around the country. For more, visit bethireland.net.

Mark and shape pencil body flats



Mark the pencil's six equally spaced sections. Then use a rasp to create the flats, just as you'd find on a real pencil.

Add color



Color the pencil's sections using paint and markers. The "lead" is applied with the lathe spinning slowly.

JOURNAL ARCHIVE CONNECTION

EXPLORE!

For another take on this type of turned and drilled box, see Joshua Friend's August 2010 *AW* article, "Wooden Tubes, Cigars, and Treasure Maps" (vol 25, no 4, page 23). Log on at woodturner.org to search and access the *American Woodturner* archives.





Main Event

Featured Speaker:

Jim Cleary

Jigs and Fixtures for Your Lathe

To watch the entire presentation, use this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T6U5gL8ZcC8>

To download the support papers that Jim created use this link:

<https://liwoodturners.org/jim-cleary-fixture-presentation-support-files/>

Recordings of previous meetings can be viewed on our website at this link:

<https://liwoodturners.org/zoom-recordings-of-meetings/>

Check your email from Jim for the password.