



Contains October 2023 Minutes

November 2023

THE BUCKEYE BARK
October 21st, 2023

Anyone wishing to submit pictures for the newsletter please send them to the editor within two days of the meeting

*******Note*******

Buckeye Woodturners Meeting
NW Family Rec. Center
Akron, OH
October 21, 2023

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Stransky

The October 21, 2023 meeting of the Buckeye Woodworkers and Woodturners was held at the Northwest Family Recreation Center in Akron, Ohio. President Bob Hasenyager started by welcoming all to the meeting.



There were four guests and a total of 75 members and guests at today's meeting. Today's demonstration will feature Dirk Falther demonstrating how he makes his turned Christmas trees.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND WHAT'S COMING UP

Upcoming events include the Hartville Hardware Tool Sale on November 17 and 18. BWWT will again have a demonstration booth at the tool sale.

STILL LOOKING FOR SOMEONE!! PLEASE VOLUNTEER A FEW HOURS EACH MEETING TO SUPPORT BWWT!! Club photographer Bob Stone would like to step down from taking pictures at the club meetings. The main duty for the photographer is to take pictures of the club meetings, demonstrations and activities that occur during the meeting. **It's one**

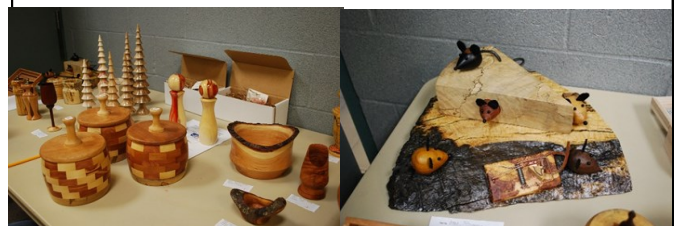
of those things that is a lot easier than it sounds. You also have an opportunity to see each demonstration up close and personal. Please see any board member if you would like to volunteer for this position.

The November 11 meeting will feature Tom Olechiw demonstrating how he makes dyed rim platters. This is a demonstration you don't want to miss.

The Pens for Troops have started to be returned. There were over 200 pens brought back. BWWT members are well on the way to making over 500 pens this year. I will have a complete count in next month's newsletter. Completed pens need to be returned to Mark Stransky no later than the November meeting.



This month's Raffle & Show & Tell tables



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Bob is getting an early start on next month's column. He will catch all of us then.

AND A WORD FROM OUR VICE-PRESIDENT

The summer is gone, and winter is just around the corner. I guess that means we will get a break from mowing the lawn and be able to spend more time in the shop.

A number of BWWT members just returned from the OVWG Symposium, Turning 2023. What a great event. This is the second time that I have been able to attend this event and it was quite inspirational as well as informative. The BWWT contingent was well represented with about a dozen of us attending. Tom Olechiv was one of the demonstrators and Tom did his usual bang up job with his Roman Canteen and his winged box demonstrations. Tom also had quite the display in the instant gallery with his turned and media blasted hats as a centerpiece of that display. Also included in that display was one of his decorated platters and 3 of his roman canteens of various sizes. I heard numerous comments about the hats, one on Facebook suggesting that they were in a class above everything else there. I could not agree more, they are very impressive. Tom is going to be demonstrating his colored rim platters at our November meeting so be sure to get it on your calendar as it guaranteed to be a good one. Tom is equally talented and entertaining. Come early and get a good seat.

The featured turners of Turning 2023 were Helen Bailey, Nick Cook, Roberto Ferrer, Ashley Harwood, and Matt Monaco. They are all phenomenal wood turners, and their demonstrations were outstanding. Look them up online and check them out. They provided a wide range of expertise, and I was only sorry that I could not make it to all of their demonstrations due to the overlapping times. What I made it too was definitely worth the price of admission.

Our club president Bob was there as well. I was keeping an eye on him because the last time we were there he came home with a new lathe. I was watching to see how he was going to top that this year. The trade show had lots of nice items for sale. I don't think that Bob topped his previous purchase, but I am sure he found some good items that no turner should be without. I managed to add to my wood collection, not that it needed adding too but I just cannot resist a nice looking piece of wood. I also picked up some software for the purpose of segmenting and basket weave illusions as well as a new oil less vacuum pump.

I cannot recommend the OVWG woodturning symposium enough. I think that this recommendation is supported by the large number of our members who make the trip for each event over and over. It is a low key event with very approachable professional wood turners who are there to share their knowledge and life stories. Just a very fun informative event.

Since the last meeting I also found that I had a couple of spare Saturdays with nothing scheduled that allowed me some time in the shop. I made another dent in the wet wood pile but still have lots more to deal with. I also came across some very old mahogany (16" wide, 7 feet long and an inch thick) that I have had for many years and decided to cut a chunk and make a platter. It cut nicely but was a very dry and dusty piece of wood. The result however, polished up nicely. I also did some hollow forms just for good measure. There is a rumor in our club that one particular member likes to check the finish on the inside of hollow forms. I think that I have found a solution to this problem other than making the hole so small that fingers won't fit. I guess time will tell if my solution works out or not!

With the club Christmas event for the month of December fast approaching it will be time to start thinking about our gift exchange. This is where you can turn something and bring it to the meeting allowing you to receive a gift made by someone else. Last year I got a nice little Christmas tree box, inside the box was a small bag of coal. It now has a position of honor in our display case. Thanks Benny, and remember, what goes around comes around, especially on a lathe! See you at the next meeting.

MONTHLY WINNERS

The monthly nametag winner was Benny Fix. Each month the nametag winner will receive a \$20 gift certificate.

The BWWT Newsletter "Did You Read It" challenge was next on the agenda. The winner will be determined by a random draw of those dues paid members who read the newsletter and submitted an email to Mark Stransky where they found the hidden word and where in the newsletter it was. The winner will receive a \$20 gift certificate. You must be present at the meeting or attending on Zoom during the meeting to win. This month's winner by random draw was Doug Aichholz. The keyword for this month will be "adn". Please keep in mind that the keyword used in the previous sentence doesn't count as a winning entry.

Kevin Dalton took pictures of the members' work on the show and tell table. Thanks also go to Darrell Dube for getting the show and tell pictures on the website. The pictures can be viewed on the website with the link [October 2023 - Buckeye Woodworkers & Woodturners \(bwwt.us\)](https://www.bwwt.us).

BEADS OF COURAGE

The Beads of Courage program deal with seriously ill children and their treatment. As each child goes through various treatments and procedures, the child receives a special bead signifying that accomplishment. These procedures can be anything from getting a medicinal shot, an I.V. or any medical or surgical procedure along with significant milestones and achievements. The Beads of Courage organization provides boxes for each child to store their beads. These boxes are hand crafted and donated by various organizations and BWWT members can submit boxes. Information about the program can be found at the organization's website:

<https://beadsofcourage.org>. BWWT will have a supply of Beads of Courage medallions for each box. BWWT will be donating boxes to Akron Children's Hospital and all boxes should be brought to BWWT meetings for donation. Let's continue making this a regular donation to this great cause. Guidelines for making boxes are as follows:

- Turned or rectangular boxes are acceptable.
- Recommended interior dimensions for turned boxes are 5" to 6" diameter and 4" to 5" high. Recommended interior dimensions for flatwork boxes are 4" x 6" x 4" high. Please keep in mind that these dimensions are approximate and anything close will work.
- Box bases should be wide enough so the box is stable and does not tip over easily. Lids should be easy for small or ill children to remove or lift. Any finials should be easy for a small child to grasp and not too elaborate so they don't break. Avoid designs that could easily break or be damaged.
- The finish on the boxes is extremely important! Children who receive these boxes are highly susceptible to germs and infections. Each box should be sanded smooth inside and outside so that there are **NO ROUGH SURFACES OR TORN END GRAIN** that can trap dirt or germs and **MUST HAVE A NON-TOXIC FINISH** on both the inside and outside of the box. Please avoid finishes that require extended drying time or out gassing (some oil finishes and linseed oil) and finishes

es that have a strong odor (all forms of lacquer). The applied finish should be apparent; "natural wood look" type of finish should not be used. Unfinished or rough surfaced boxes will not be accepted for donation.

- All kinds of wood are beautiful! Please do not paint Beads of Courage boxes. Instead, highlight the beauty of the wood with a readily apparent clear finish.

One thing that I wish I would have done last year but overlooked was tracking how many boxes BWWT members donated to Beads of Courage. I estimate that in 2022 there were at least 35 boxes donated. This year I plan on keeping track of donations. In October there were 3 boxes brought in that will be taken to Akron Children's Hospital. This month's donation was from Doug Aichholz. That brings this year's total to 37 boxes donated.

Mark Stransky would also like to request that anyone submitting Beads of Courage boxes please also bring your donation in a box (if you don't normally do that). He has finally exhausted his supply of boxes at home (one more thing his wife is VERY happy about) and it is a lot easier to deliver the boxes in a box.

Dirk Falther – Christmas Tree Demo October 21, 2023

*Respectfully submitted,
Mark Stransky*

Dirk started his demonstration with a short discussion on woodturning safety. His standard practice is to always wear a face shield and safety glasses. The face shield that he uses is a helmet that covers his face and head. While he is working at the lathe, especially if he is sanding a piece, he also uses a dust mask. He also uses the lathe speed control to start and stop the lathe, instead of turning the lathe on and off. By doing this he always knows that the lathe will be starting at its slowest speed and doesn't have to be concerned about having the lathe start at an unexpectedly high speed.

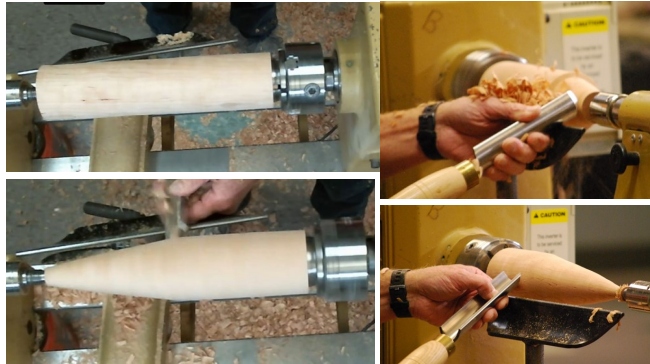


Dirk used a dry piece of cherry that was about 3" x 3" x 14" long to make his tree. To make this piece he would only need to use a spindle roughing gouge, spindle gouge and a parting tool. He mounted the blank between centers and then used the spindle roughing gouge to make the blank round. After he had it rounded off, he added a dovetail tenon on what would end up being the bottom of the tree.

With the blank round and a tenon on one end, the next step was to mount the piece in a chuck with tailstock support



and start shaping the piece. Dirk set the toolrest so that it was at an angle approximately like he wanted the tree to be and then started to shape the tree, starting at the top and moving toward the bottom, making sure that he was always cutting downhill so that he could reduce the amount of torn grain. After he had the outer shape of the tree, he started to mark where the branches of the tree would be. When marking the branches, start at the top and make the spacing between them greater as you move down the tree. Be sure to leave room at the bottom of the blank for the tree trunk and the base.



The next step is to start cutting in the branches. Use a spindle gouge

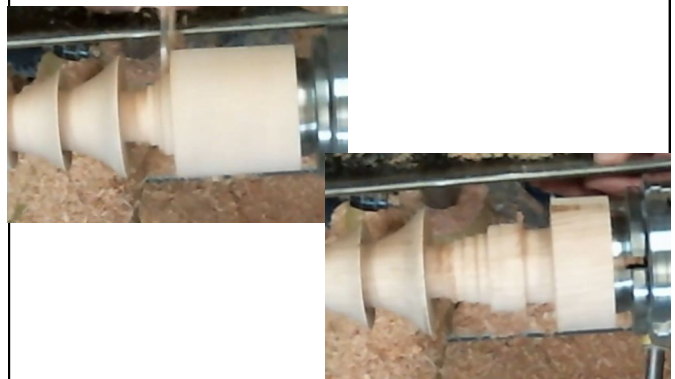
that has the heel removed so that it is easier to get into tight places. Start by making a small, shallow groove perpendicular to the surface of the wood, right at the pencil line, making sure to leave the line. This will give you a starting point to start shaping the branch. You can also use a thin parting tool to make this line if that is easier for you. Then make a series

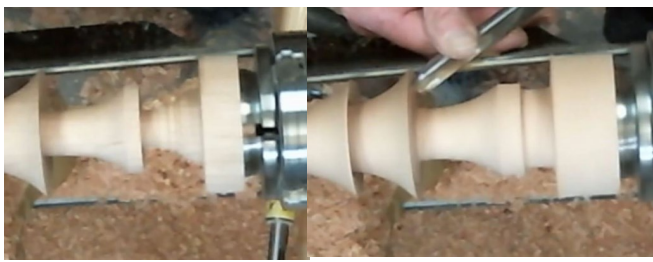
of short cove cuts with the spindle gouge moving towards the next branch up. As you are cutting the coves, periodically turn the gouge over and undercut the branch above with the spindle gouge to give a little depth to the branch above. When making the undercut the gouge should be presented in an almost closed position to the piece so as not to catch the wing of the gouge when cutting the undercut. Repeat cutting the branches in this manner to finish shaping the tree.



After all the branches have been cut, go back to the very top of the tree and shape it to what you like. Leave the waste at the top of the tree and the tailstock in place to support the tree. The waste block will be parted off later.

It's now time to move on to making the trunk and base of the tree. Dirk likes to make the length of the trunk and base about 1.5 times the distance between the two bottom branches, but you can make them as close as you would want. He starts by using a parting tool to make a series of stepped cuts that resemble the shape of the trunk and base. You can also use a bedan to make these cuts. Follow up with using a spindle gouge to clean up the shape of the trunk and make a base for the tree to set on. With the base and trunk cut, use the spindle gouge to undercut the bottom branch just like what was done on all the other branches. Use the parting tool or bedan to then cut down the blank beneath the base.





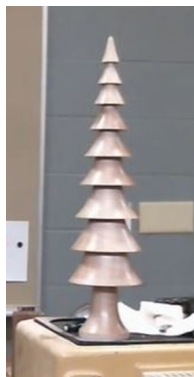
It is now time to sand and finish the piece. Dirk usually sands the piece up through the grits to about 320 or 400. The finish that he used on this piece was Johnson's Paste Wax. He likes to use this on his trees as it is a quick and easy to apply finish. Apply it with a paper towel and work it into the wood with the lathe turning at a slow speed. With the wax applied, turn up the speed of the lathe a little bit and buff the piece with a paper towel.



With the tree turned, sanded, waxed, and buffed it is time to part it off the lathe. Start at the very top with the lathe running slowly and use the spindle gouge to carefully part off the waste at the tip. Then carefully sand the tip through the grits and round it off and apply some wax and buff it out.



With the top of the tree complete it is time to part off the bottom of the tree. Dirk likes to cut a slight relief on the bottom of the base so the tree doesn't rock and then put in a couple lines on the bottom of the base so that he has an area to put his signature. With the lines in place he then supports the tree with one hand and uses his spindle gouge to carefully cut the remaining waste down until the piece is parted off.



Many thanks go out to Dirk for this demonstration. Be sure to check out the video on the website for a complete recap of Dirk's presentation. He has many tips for turning, finishing and tool sharpening that you will find useful.



ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS

If any member has an article they would like to include in the newsletter, don't hesitate to send it to either : [Mark Stransky](#) or [Keith Bellamy](#) and it will appear in the next newsletter.

SAFETY NOTE

Be sure to use proper safety equipment including eye, hearing and breathing protection whenever you are working on projects in your workshop. Make sure that you fully understand and follow the safe operating procedures for every piece of equipment that you use.

EMBROIDERED LOGOS

If anyone would like to have their name and the BWWT logo embroidered on any new (preferably) or gently worn shirt or other item, see Ray Marr.

FREE RAFFLE TICKETS – GET THEM HERE!

If you are a Menard's Shopper and don't always apply for the rebate, bring your Menard's receipts to the monthly meeting. BWWT frequently purchases from Menard's and we receive a tax free purchase benefit as a non-profit. We'll handle the receipt rebate refund and use the funds for future items for the raffle tablett doesn't matter how small the rebate is since we'll pool all the receipts. Each Menard's receipt you donate for the rebate earns one free raffle ticket. Several of the monthly raffle items come from Menard's as we are always shopping there. Please remember to submit all receipts before they expire.

MEMBER DISCOUNT PROGRAMS

Members in good standing are eligible for 10% discounts at Hartville Hardware and Penn State Industries. See Dirk Falther for more information on our discount programs.

UPCOMING MEETING ACTIVITIES AND DEMONSTRATIONS

November 11 meeting: Tom Olichew will be demonstrating how to make a platter with a dyed rim.

December 9 meeting: Holiday Party

SOME FINAL THOUGHTS – JUST FOR THE HECK OF IT

I love making wood spin while I poke it with sharp metal objects.

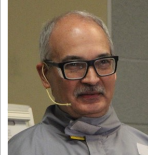
Behind every angry woman stands a man who has absolutely no idea what he did wrong.

When you don't know what you are doing, it's best to do it quickly.

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