

Against the Grain
From the Lathe of the President.

A warm greeting and welcome to the roaring 20's once again. I hope your New Year's Eve events were memorable and enjoyable as you welcomed the New Year.

For those who were not aware, I am James Bloomer (Jim), and I am the new president of Coulee Region Wood turners. I wanted to take a moment to give my background and some of the projects I am undertaking for my first year to keep the club moving forward. I also wanted to thank Adrian for his tireless work behind the scenes keeping the club running and achieving 503.c status for the club.

My woodturning background is still in a young stage. My first experience was back when they still taught turning in High School Shop class. I remember spindle turning a candle holder out of a 4x4 piece of wood...type of wood I didn't know (my mother still has it). I first encountered the club while helping my wife with her fused glass jewelry. While at a craft show, the club was there doing a demonstration. My daughter even turned a piece with a capture ring. A time later I ran across some YouTube videos on turning, and remembered the fun I had in school learning about it. A few club meetings, a beginner class, a lathe, and now here I am. I continue to learn and grow in the craft and enjoy all that has been shared, and look forward to what will be shared by all who attend.

My personal background, I have been a member of the military for 29 years, a mixture of active duty and reserves. On the civilian side I repair and maintain communication equipment for the State of Wisconsin. I am married and my wife has picked up the craft, mainly focusing on pen turning. My children are high school age or graduated, so more time to turn.

My goals for the first year;

Recruiting: I look around at the meetings and am blown away by the depth and breadth of knowledge I encounter. This is knowledge best shared with those new to the craft to hone their current skills and provoke experimentation. It is also a chance to bring new people to the craft. The younger generations aren't exposed to things like wood turning as much as previous generations. I know the shop classes my kids took focused on CNC and milling more than other crafts. So I ask this of everyone reading this newsletter, if you haven't been attending meetings, try to come more often, share the joy and fellowship of the craft, bring your ideas and energy. If you know someone interested, promote the club and its resources. You are the best recruitment tool this club has, your knowledge and passion of wood turning is the beginning for a new turner. Facebook, the club page, and other resources, are there to further their path. I would ask that everyone tries to bring one new face to a meeting this year. Let's spread our craft to the next generations of turners.

Updated audio/Video system: We have made excellent changes with the new televisions, allowing us to better see what our guest demonstrators are doing. Now it is time to update the audio and video connected. This will give us better quality camera control and video recording. As well as expand the audio capabilities. My intent is the ability to either live cast or perhaps a YouTube channel for the club to act as a new resource to share knowledge and recruit interest.

Resource Sharing: More of a specific knowledge sharing idea. We know as students of the craft, the costs of our avocation. Perhaps in our travels on the path we have found a website, store, fellow craftsman that can help us. Either with availability, cost, or level of service. I am looking to develop a local repository of this knowledge. Something we all can access and utilize. This is to help both current and new makers and help the businesses suggested. I am speaking of commercial and semi-commercial places. Any suggestions on the format would be appreciated. I was looking at an excel spreadsheet with name, site address if applicable, any other contact info and a brief description of what you found that is helpful.

I thank you for the chance to help promote the craft and will keep the club moving forward. Together we continue to develop and grow as makers and friends.

Jim Bloomer

Coulee Region Wood Turners Presents for the year 2019

Date	Program	Challenges
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Feb	Round Robin Demonstrators	Challenge: Something with a new technique
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Future plans: Basket Illusion, March Mark Palma returns

Members, for January (now February) we have set up a round robin series of demos. They will be in no particular order:

- 1, Kris Clough Using a cabinet scraper for finishing turnings. This is certainly something to see, cabinet scrapers are more often associated with fine woodworking, not lathe work.
- 2, Denis Falch Turning offset bowls. Denis will show us how these are set up and finished. His are works of art.
- 3, Dan Wilson Creating inlays for flattish wood pieces such as platters. These will employ the use of a scroll saw. Dan is a craftsman who comes up with beautiful pieces.
- 4, John Griffiths My latest method of sanding and applying friction polish to pens. Your average pen maker has tried 49,352 methods to obtain a perfect finish on pens, so this is how I am doing it these days.

And we still want a person to step up to take over the program director job. It is not a hard job, not terribly time consuming, but interesting. So track down our new president, Jim Bloomer and tell him you want to take it on. You will become a better woodturner for it and it will serve the club as well.

John Griffiths

*Bring your checkbook (or cash) to the January meeting and pay your dues for 2020!
It's going to be a great year!*

Good afternoon members, I come bearing good tidings. Larry McTaggart was at a grand-parents night At Luther High and after speaking with the industrial arts teacher, they seemed open to a demo for the industrial arts program. I just got off the phone with the instructor there and have the following for you to consider.

They would like to set up a Demo where members would be there to turn and talk about wood turning and the club.

tentative date is Mar 11, setup at 1200 with the demo being 1300-1500(1-3 pm) I was thinking minimum of 3 members turning/speaking. We would demo different types of turning/materials. The instructor thinks they would have about 50 there.

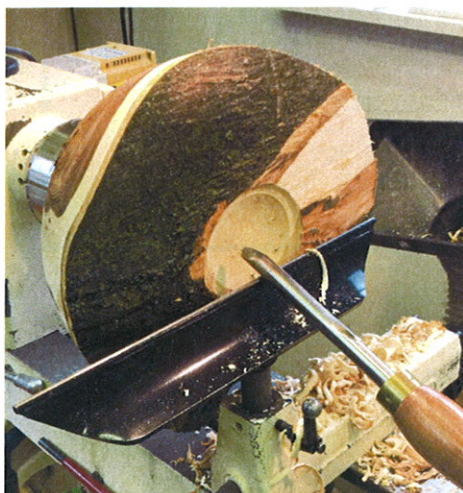
Depending on interest after the demo there would be a hands on demo setup for his woods 2 classes.

I would definitely like to have as many for the demo as possible. So that we can allow small groups to engage the demonstrators, as well as have members able to answer questions. Also being able to demonstrate different types of turning, Bowls, pens, end grain, platters, and spindle turning. While also ensuring safety is observed.

We will definitely discuss more at the Feb meeting. I have invited the instructor to come as well. Looking forward to seeing you all there.

In Service
James A. Bloomer

A Green Bowl Turning Photo Essay by Bob Patros



Here's a pictorial on a crotch piece of hickory. The bowl is a gift to my friends who supplied the wood from their family farm. I started with the log mounted to a faceplate, then reversed in a chuck to complete the interior. This was turned green to a final thickness of about one half inch. It was allowed to dry and then sanded and finished. I filled gaps with coffee and epoxy.