

# **Chips & Bits**

**Inside This Edition**

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**May 2023**



**Dave Watson  
Natural Edge**

**Providing an environment that fosters the art and craft of woodturning  
A Publication of the Peace River Woodturners**

## President's MAY '23 Notes...

Have you turned your **WINE GLASS or CHALICE** for the June Meeting Challenge?

Bob Summers, our May **Box Challenge** Member's Choice Winner, picked a Wine Glass for our June Challenge piece. Have you started on yours yet? Even if you're not here in town to compete, **WHY NOT GIVE IT A TRY!** **Remember, the Winner of this Challenge gets to choose the Challenge Topic for the July meeting!** If you're stumped for ideas, take a look at the **Resources page** on the website!

Thank you, **Doc Watson**, for demonstrating your clever **mortise bowl base technique** as our May meeting presentation! One less step in getting a bowl completed is always a WIN-WIN!

**June's Meeting on 6/1/23** will feature **Davis Smith** demoing a **wood scoop**, with information on how you accommodate turning the **one-piece spindle & bowl** unit. It's a fun project that will give you lots of ideas on other ways to use these skills in your own unique turnings!

**When you muster up the courage** to demonstrate in front of an audience, especially a group of Turners, someone will always ask **"Why did you do it that way?"** The simplest answer is **"It works for me!"** Woodturning relies heavily on the skills and experiences of the individual turner, unlike other forms of straight-line woodworking where joints need to be perfectly square and carefully measured. If you ask 5 woodturners the right way to do something, you'll probably get 10 different answers! **Do what works for you**, until it doesn't work anymore, then find other ways to try until it does. Everyone's shop is different – lathes, turning tool grinds, physical height, age & strength, right- vs left-handed, etc. There are generally accepted "Best Practices" in turning, but you should use the method that works for you as long as it is **SAFE**. Remember to keep an **OPEN MIND** for different approaches that you see other Turners use, because that "light bulb" may flash in your mind with a new way to try something!

(continued)

**Never be afraid to ask questions of anyone whose work you admire**, as their experience and explanations may save you a lot of grief, frustration, and trial/error. And that's not just when it comes to woodturning, folks!

**Price House PRW Woodturning Gallery** traffic is slowing just a bit now that Season has passed, and we're still having fun educating our admiring visitors on the "Wonders of Woodturning". **Please bring your work** to help us refill the displays at the Gallery. We have caught the attention of an enthusiastic public! **Sunday Volunteers** are always needed to meet & greet the History Park Visitors who are very interested in the incredible turnings we sell!

**Bring your "Fun \$\$\$"** to the June 1st meeting... We have wood bits & chunks, logs, and larger pieces available, and lots of other stuff for sale, too.

Hope to see you next month, Cheri Bauer, President [peaceriverwoodturners@comcast.net](mailto:peaceriverwoodturners@comcast.net)

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## **Lee Sky Demonstration**

**The July 6th regular meeting will feature professional demonstrator Lee Sky. Lee demonstrated at the WoodArt Show in Punta Gorda last July along with being the turning judge. Lee is a very talented full of great things turner and this will be a real educational treat for all.**

**Please watch for an emailing coming concerning all the information you will need.**

**There also will be a special "HANDS ON" class at our Price House meeting house on Friday and Saturday July 7th & 8th.**

**[Again....watch for the special email to come concerning this.](#)**

# PRICE HOUSE WOODSHOP AND GALLERY

We have sold **over \$14,000 in Members' "Turned Treasures"** since January 1st, in only 4 hours every Sunday, thanks to your talent, imagination, and skills in woodturning!

The **SWFL Potter's Guild** had their Soft Opening in the **Trabue House** (front white building) at History Park this month. They were inspired by the success that we have shown at Price House, and joined with us to expand the **ARTISAN'S VILLAGE** in the History Park on Sundays. Where else will you find a dedicated Woodturning Gallery?

**Want to donate your turnings to the Gallery?** Every Member's Woodworking Art is solicited and appreciated! This Gallery is a showcase for PRW Members, and 100% benefits the PRW – There is nothing else like our Gallery *anywhere* in the local area, and we are quite proud of it!

**We constantly need to replenish the Gallery shelves! Donate a turning** every meeting for the PRW Gallery. Large items are impressive, and generate lots of conversations about the art form. Small items are great, like tops & birdhouses & pens & ornaments & small bowls, or anything you'd like to create! Take a look at what's currently in the Gallery – the range of works from Novice to Advanced is incredible!

**If you have any "flawed gems"** around your shop, sand them, put a coat of finish on them & bring them to the Gallery. The public is **LOVING** our woodturned treasures, small and large!

**THANK YOU** to all of our generous Volunteers, those who place their work in the Gallery, those who enjoy talking with the public about the PRW! So how are the rest of you Members involved? **Pick a Sunday, any Sunday, and help the PRW!** We need your help! - Come & assist, or bring your turnings!

**Volunteer** to hang out in the Artisan's Village **ONE SUNDAY ONE EVERY MONTH** at the Price House Gallery from 9 AM to 1 PM. Stay for 2 hours, or for the whole time. Help us with setup, or tear-down, at closing, or with crowd control & answering woodturning questions from the Public. You can even **turn something** on one of our four lathes - People love to see the wood shavings fly, and the marvel at the work emerging while it happens!

# PRW CALENDAR - WHAT'S NEXT?

## May

Sunday, May 21st                      Price House Galley - Open 9 AM to 1 PM - **Volunteers**  
**needed**

Sunday, May 28th                      Price House Galley - Open 9 AM to 1 PM - **Volunteers**  
**needed**

## June

Thursday, June 1st                      **Monthly Meeting – David Smith Demo – 6:30PM** Price  
House

Sunday, June 4th                      Price House Galley - Open 9 AM to 1 PM - **Volunteers**  
**needed**

Sunday, June 11th                      Price House Galley - Open 9 AM to 1 PM - **Volunteers**  
**needed**

Wednesday, June 14<sup>th</sup>                      Third Wednesday **LUNCH & TURN – 11:30** at Elena's,  
then PRW

Sunday, June 18th                      Price House Galley - Open 9 AM to 1 PM - **Volunteers**  
**needed**

Sunday, June 25th                      Price House Galley - Open 9 AM to 1 PM - **Volunteers**  
**needed**

## July

Sunday, July 2nd                      Price House Galley - Open 9 AM to 1 PM - **Volunteers**  
**needed**

Thursday, July 6th                      **Monthly Meeting – PRO Demo – 6:30PM** Price House  
Hands-On Class with Lee Sky – Registration required

Friday, July 7th                      Hands-On Class with Lee Sky – Registration required

Saturday, July 8<sup>th</sup>                      Price House Galley - Open 9 AM to 1 PM - **Volunteers**  
Sunday, July 9th  
**needed**

Sunday, July 16th                      Price House Galley - Open 9 AM to 1 PM - **Volunteers**  
**needed**

Wednesday, July 19<sup>th</sup>                      Third Wednesday **LUNCH & TURN – 11:30** at Elena's,  
then PRW

Sunday, July 23rd                      Price House Galley - Open 9 AM to 1 PM - **Volunteers**  
**needed**

Sunday, July 30th                      Price House Galley - Open 9 AM to 1 PM - **Volunteers**  
**needed**



By Jim Rodgers

### Oval pens driving you nuts?

#### Can't align two halves of a segmented bowl for glue-up?

Join the crowd. If your lathe—or your turning work—suffers from poor alignment, call a time-out and review these five alignment checkpoints.

#### 1 Tailstock does not align with the headstock

To check the alignment of your headstock and tailstock, insert a live center into the tailstock and a spur drive into the headstock.

Make sure that the points are not dulled or bent in either the spur or the live center—this will mislead you in your measurement.

Bring up the tailstock to within 1/4" to 1/2" from the spur center, then tighten down the tailstock and quill. Now, observe the alignment of the two points. If the points are misaligned, you can

compensate by placing a shim under the appropriate corner(s) of the tailstock to adjust the alignment. Often a sheet or two of paper will be adequate to shim the tailstock.

For more exaggerated errors, contact the lathe manufacturer for repair or replacement of the tailstock or tailstock quill. An extreme case may require reboring of the Morse taper on the tailstock quill.

If the lathe headstock is bolted to the frame or ways as with the Jet mini-lathe and Delta Midi, you can realign it with the addition of

a permanent shim under the appropriate corner. On other lathes such as the Oneway, for example, you can align the headstock by adjusting the jack screws provided for that purpose.

If you own a Nova 3000/DVR, you can reposition the lathe ways themselves, as they are screwed to the headstock unit. Be sure to follow the instructions in your owner's manual for all adjustments noted above.

On lathes with a rotating headstock, the click stop positioning may not be accurate enough to return to perfect alignment. A double-ended Morse taper will aid in regularly realigning the headstock each time it is moved.

Continued:

## 2 Live center does not run true

Inexpensive live centers, centers with worn out bearings, or poorly designed live centers like the examples at *right* cause problems. If the live center was inexpensive, just discard it and upgrade.

One of the causes of a live center becoming out of true is excessive wear of the bearings due to operating the lathe with a headstock/tailstock misalignment. Angular pressure on the live center will rapidly increase the radial runout to an unacceptable point. (Oneway advertises that the radial runout of its live center system is less than .001 inches.)

If you have a reliable live center that's repairable, consider replacing the bearings. For a minimal fee, you can return many live centers for bearing replacement.



## 3 Too much pressure applied to the mandrel in penturning

If your pen barrels are oval and you've checked the first two solutions, applying too much pressure to the tailstock when tightening on the mandrel may be the culprit. The amount of pressure applied should be just enough to stabilize the mandrel shaft and minimize vibration from the turning activity. Too much pressure bends the shaft (*middle right*).

A crooked live center point will also cause the mandrel to operate eccentrically and will enlarge and distort the alignment dimple in the tailstock end of the mandrel shaft (*bottom right*). The better designed mandrels allow the user to replace the shaft when it becomes bent or the dimple has excessive wear.



### Tips to improve your accuracy

- Always clean the female Morse tapers before inserting any accessory.
- Remove all defects or burrs from the surface of male Morse tapers.
- Store and protect spur drives and live centers from scratches and dings. Find a place near your lathe where these valuable attachments won't get beat about by lathe tools, hammers, and accessories.

#### **4** Poor centering with vacuum chucks

If you align a bowl or vessel in your vacuum chuck and it slips or won't hold the desired alignment, the cause may be related to the material used to seal the vessel to the chuck. Foam rubber and other soft, flexible

seals may vary in density throughout the material, thus not compressing equally everywhere, causing the vessel to be forced out of alignment.

Vacuum chuck design and the shape of the vessel also tend to exaggerate this problem. A round vessel held against a rounded

chuck surface may exhibit this problem more readily.

To improve centering, try each of these solutions: Replace the material, readjust the material, or buy thicker (or thinner) stock.

Silicon rubber works well but is difficult to attach to the chuck because there's no known effective adhesive for this material.

On a finished edge bowl, consider using a flat plate as a vacuum chuck, thus spreading out the hold over a large area and minimizing the problem as shown at left.



#### **5** Hole-drilling errors

Improperly mounting a Jacobs chuck on a Morse taper may cause centering problems when drilling holes in the end of a project. To avoid this problem, be sure that you properly seat the Morse taper in your tailstock, then run the quill out far enough that the drill chuck completely seats—no further. Bring the tailstock up into close proximity of the work and lock down the tailstock before drilling.

Other drilling issues may not be related to the alignment but be caused by the drill wandering from hard, winter-growth grain and into softer summer growth. Solve this issue by creating a small pilot hole for the drill point. Brad-point or Forstner bits also reduce this drifting problem. Always be sure that the bit you select is sharp.



# SHOW & TELL



**David Smith**



**Ted Beebee**



**Lou Currier**



**Bob Schaffer**

# SHOW & TELL



**Paul Bartlett**



**Gary Sutton**



**Doug Brown**



**Cheri Bauer**

# SHOW & TELL



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**Chapter Information**

Peace River Woodturners Inc. (PRW) is an organization formed for individuals interested in woodturning and was formed on Oct 1, 2007. The primary purposes of the PRW are consistent with the fundamental purposes of the American Association of Woodturners: To provide information, education and an organization for those interested in turning wood.



The PRW web site can be found at:  
[www.peaceriverwoodturners.org](http://www.peaceriverwoodturners.org)



AAW site can be found at:  
[www.woodturner.org](http://www.woodturner.org)

**Photo's**

Photographs for this months "Chips & Bits" were provided by Bob Roehrig. If you have digital photo's that you would like to have considered for use in the newsletter, please send them along with any articles to the editor at:

[rjroehrig@gmail.com](mailto:rjroehrig@gmail.com)

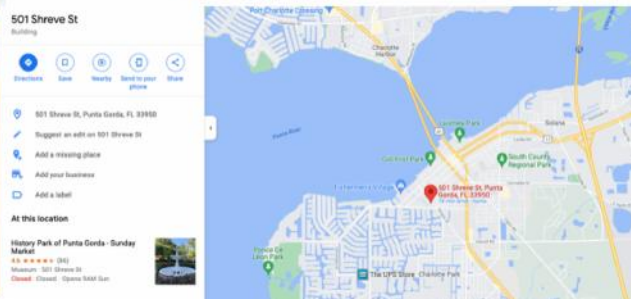
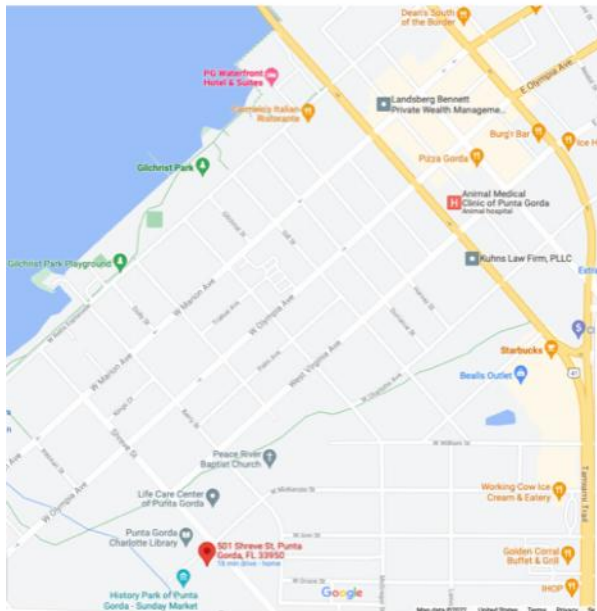
**Membership**

Yearly chapter dues are \$50 per individual or \$60 a family. Membership is for the calendar year. These dues help the club provide tools for our monthly demonstrations, bring in outside demonstrators, pay room rent, have a yearly picnic and other club related activities.

# Meeting Location

Our Meetings are on the first Thursday of the month starting at 10:30 AM and ending by 12:30 pm. We meet at the Punta Gorda History Park at **501 Shreve St.** in Punta Gorda, Florida.

**Our next meeting is: Thursday June 1st, 6:30 PM**



## Upcoming Events

**PRW meeting: June 1, 2023**

**Demonstration: David Smith  
Turned Scoop**

## Library

The Library is available for all current club members. The club library contains Books, magazines, and DVD's available to check out.. A list of materials is available on the PRW website:

[www.peaceriverwoodturners.org](http://www.peaceriverwoodturners.org)

Please help us maintain the library by returning checked out items promptly. The library is maintained by Mark Yates. New material can be ordered by request.