



## *Turning Finials*

Dick Hines, Jim Bumpas, and Chuck Mosser described design details and considerations, turning techniques and strategies, using other materials in a finial, and other details necessary to create the perfect finial.



### *1. Why and how did you get interested in turning finials?*

My interest in turning finials actually began when I attempted to turn my first ornaments. I studied the Dick Sing book and made my first crude icicles. Several years later, Richmond Woodturners (then named Woodturners Anonymous of Richmond) had Cindy Drozda as a demonstrator. Watching Cindy opened up a whole new world and a whole new standard to strive toward. After watching Cindy and understanding more of the basics of turning finials, I decided to add finials to some of my hollow forms and found that turning them could be fun.

### *2. What do wish you had known then that you know now?*

My first finials/icicles were crude things for several reasons. I had never seen anyone turn a finial using the proper techniques; I was using the wrong tools; and I had not taken adequate time to practice! Using the right tools and benefitting from a good teacher made a big difference!

### *3. What is your favorite tool for turning finials and why?*

My favorite tool for finials is the detail spindle gouge because it can be used for the entire finial. Although this is my favorite single tool for finials, I also use a Drozda vortex tool to get into tight spots and of course I use a parting tool.

Jim Bumpas



*1. Why and how did you get interested in turning finials?*

Well, Cindy Drozda did a demo for the Richmond Wood Turners and I was hooked. I had tried turning finials but was having trouble. After watching her I spent a lot of time turning scrap wood into finials. I wanted to turn boxes and liked the finials she put on hers.

*2. What do wish you had known then that you know now?*

I found not all wood was good for finials. Burl wood makes BAD finials. The grain is all over the place. I turn my finials from blackwood, ebony and hard maple. Blackwood is my favorite.

*3. What is your favorite tool for turning finials and why?*

As far as finial turning tool I like best, it has to be the detail gouge. I have one that I have ground to a very fine point for getting in to tight places.

Turners have to practice, practice, practice to get good at turning finials. Dick Hines

Some photos to help show the process.



R I C H M O N D W O O D T U R N E R S

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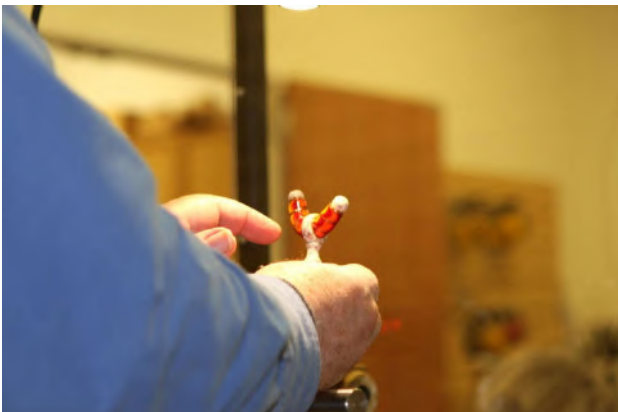
# R I C H M O N D W O O D T U R N E R S

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The occasional finial that I turn from wood is not the multiple beads & coves combination that other turners do so much better than I do, but usually is a small and functional handle for a lidded box.

I most often use the glass beads or freeform sculptures that my wife Lisa creates. I also use soft stone, tropical nuts, corian and rarely, semi-precious stones. My use of glass beads as functional handles for lidded boxes started when I noted that the "folded bead" neatly fitted three fingers of one hand. Lisa had been making this type bead for necklaces. The use of non-traditional materials for finials compliments some of the non-traditional shapes that I do.



## Turning Traditional Finials - Notes by Jim Bumpas

Notables: Cindy Drozda, Keith Tompkins, Jim Syvertsen, 'Scott Hackler, Joe Larese, Keith Burns, Jean-Francois Escoulen

Best wood: Blackwood, but many others will work

Use: Collet Jaws/Spigot Jaws

Primary Tool: Detail spindle gouge – shallow flute, 30-35 Degrees, long swept back fingernail grind or skew chisel

Cuts: Entry cut = neutral position, then cut down hill

Planing cut = turn tool to side, cuts like a skew – use for areas not requiring detail use a light touch, careful aim and

Tailstock: Only use the tailstock for beginning the shaping of the finial. Once you start to shape the point, remove the tailstock.

Work in segments starting at the tip, keep wood for support until you get to that section.

A finial is a spindle that basically consists of beads and coves

Beads and coves. Onion shape is basically a bead that transitions into a long graceful cove.

Practice, practice, practice: Scraps are good to practice on.

## References for the "Perfect Finial"

AMERICAN WOODTURNER Feb 2014 vol 29, no.1 "Finial Fundamentals"

[http://www.cindydrozda.com/handouts\\_Pdfs/handouts/FinialArticle.pdf](http://www.cindydrozda.com/handouts_Pdfs/handouts/FinialArticle.pdf)

<http://www.hypersurf.com/~charlie2/Turning/DrozdaOnionFinial/DrozdaOnionFinialProport1.html#anchor> for THE DIAGRAM

[http://www.woodcentral.com/chats/drozda\\_finials.pdf](http://www.woodcentral.com/chats/drozda_finials.pdf)

<http://www.australianburls.com/Tips7.htm>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u-kOhFCIC\\_g](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u-kOhFCIC_g)

<https://www.google.com/search?q=scott+hackler+woodturner+finials>

<http://www.keithptompkins.com/>

SHOW AND TELL



Ray Melton



Dan Luttrell



Ray Deyo



Ray Deyo

R I C H M O N D W O O D T U R N E R S

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Bob Marchese



Chuck Mosser



Robert Gundel



Rollie Sheneman



Steve Clement



Chuck Horton



Chuck Bajnai



Bill Jenkins





Chuck Horton



Silkensen and Schwartz



Bob Silkensen



Steve Schwartz



Steve Schwartz



Wally Ubik



Wally Ubik



Galen Rice

UPCOMING 2017 DEMONSTRATIONS

March Meeting:

March is finishing month (and March Madness). Ray Deyo will lead our panel and cover issues involving surface preparation as well as looking at some of the more common finishes and their pros and cons. Bruce Robbins will assist and demonstrate a new finishing technique from – of all places – your dentist's office. Guaranteed painless!!

April Meeting:

This will be the First Richmond WoodTurners Symposium of 2017. We will set up four stations around the shop and allow you 30 minutes to explore some of the interesting topics from our panel of demonstrators. We will have three of these 30-minute sessions so you can see and hear multiple demonstrations during the meeting.

May Meeting:

Join us for the magic of Bob Silkensen as he presents his famous basket illusion.

*F r o m O u r P r e s i d e n t*

A few weeks ago I had to make a trip cross country. With no good book, no magazines and no good movie, for some reason I started thinking about this month's newsletter. I knew some things I wanted to say, but somehow my idle mind turned to coming up with expressions that had a word from our hobby. So out came the back of an envelope and one of my pens. It started with do a good turn daily followed by turn over a new leaf. Then it was turn me on or off, turn over, turn around, and turn the channel even though there are no longer knobs on our TVs. I could make a right, left or U-turn or return a favor. This reminded me that I do indeed need to re-turn a few pieces I'm working on. If you're thinking of turning the page, wait, there's more as in body parts. Turn the other cheek, turn your ankle, turn your stomach, turn your head, turn a deaf ear, or even turn your nose up. We can turn up the heat, turn the tables, and turn down the sheets. To every season turn, turn, turn and we wish you many happy returns for joyous occasions.

Now that I've got that out of my system, what I really wanted to talk about is showing off. As a club we have many occasions to do so either as individuals in galleries and craft shows or as a group in our monthly show and tell activity. Next month, it's our turn (I couldn't resist) to collectively display our work during the Richmond Woodturners Exhibition and Competition. Personally I like the exhibition part as I've always felt it's not whether your piece is better than another but rather that you're proud of what you can do on the lathe. Sure it's nice to get a ribbon, but what if it was your piece that someone noticed and because of that wanted to join our club. They may turn out to be a good friend. I've been attending these for about 10 years and am always amazed at the quality of the turnings and talent within our club also but inspired by the novice class and seeing how many of us have improved through the years. The more we exhibit, the more we grow and the more opportunities will come to the club as a result. Check out the calendar section of the newsletter for more show-off venues such as Stratford Hall, Makerfest, and the Forest Project exhibit. Now let's have a good turn out!

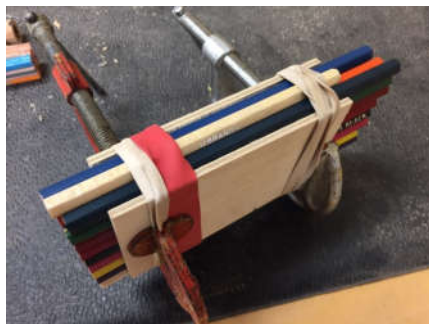
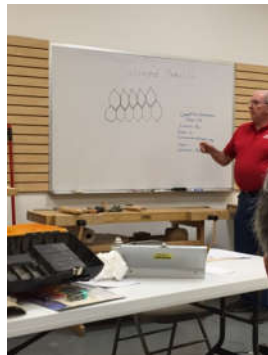
Happy and Safe Turning,

Bruce

## *Richmond Penturners – March 2017*

Jim Zorn led this month's meeting with a discussion and demonstration on how to make pen blanks with colored pencils. The first method involved gluing sections of hexagonal pencils side by side. These can be made by arranging the pencils as shown in one of the pictures below by clamping them between two pieces of wood and then drizzling thin CA glue in the spaces. Alternatively, smaller sections can be placed side by side and one at a time using small amounts of CA to hold them in place while building several layers.

The other type of blank he showed was made using round pencils. He first turned a cylinder larger than a final pen diameter and then drilled holes just slightly larger than the diameter of the pencil. For a single barrel pen, about 13 holes are drilled and filled with short sections of colored pencils. The blank is then redrilled prior to inserting the brass tube. In both cases, sharp tools are necessary to avoid tear-out and sanding is not recommended as the colors will tend to bleed. It's a good time to use a real sharp skew and just apply a finish.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Richmond Woodturners' 2017 Annual Turning Competition & Exhibition

The competition and exhibition is one month away. The categories, classes, and rules are all posted on the web site. Entries can be submitted now. Bring entries for both the competition and exhibition to our meeting and submit them before you leave. All entries for the Competition must be submitted by the end our meeting in April. Entries submitted after Thursday, April 20th, will be placed in the exhibition category. Entry forms are will be available at Woodcraft. We had 110 entries in 2016 (99 in 2015; 115 in 2014). Club membership participation was 40% in 2016, up from 31% in 2015. Our club goal should be at least 50% participation. If you brought a turning to the Show-and-Tell during the past year, it is at least a valid entry for the Exhibition, and most likely, the Competition. The last two years the woodcarvers have asked how many entries we Woodturners had. They proudly point out that they have had more entries each year! We can do better!

<http://richmondwoodturners.org/competition2017.shtml>



UPCOMING EVENTS

October 7 - Makerfest 2017 – Richmond Science Museum – Richmond Woodturners will have a booth with live demonstrations

October 27 - 29 Mid Atlantic Woodturners Association Symposium – see below

2017 Challenges

1st Qtr: Finial longer than 6" (one continuous piece) no thicker than 1" - longest finial gets the prize.

2nd Qtr: A turning where one piece fits into another (not permanently glued)

3rd Qtr: Turn something out of a tree branch less than 3" is diameter.

4th Qtr: Turn a mixed media piece (must be primarily wood but includes other media (i.e.: polymer clay, metal, glass, anything)

May 27 - Stratford Hall - "Traditional Trades: 18th Century Furniture Making" Richmond Woodturners Demonstrations



Location: Great House and immediate grounds

Event Overview: May 27, 2017 Traditional Trades: 18th Century Furniture Making

2017 trades fair will facilitate understanding of significant elements of 18th furniture making through the use of:

- Free tours of the Great House
- Kids Scavenger Hunt with prizes
- Grist Mill open to the public
- Handout explaining <10 chosen pieces within the Great House
- Most products people in the industrialized nations use today are turned out swiftly by the process of mass production, by people (and sometimes, robots) working on assembly lines using power-driven machines. People of ancient and medieval times had no such products. They had to spend long, tedious hours of hand labor even on simple objects. The energy, or power, they employed in work came almost wholly from their own and animals' muscles. Ray Deyo ([makeitround@comcast.net](mailto:makeitround@comcast.net)) is our point of contact for the Stratford Hall event.



UPCOMING EVENTS

## Mid Atlantic Symposium

Planning for the 2017 Mid Atlantic Woodturners Association Symposium is well underway with this year's event scheduled for October 27, 28 and 29th at the Lancaster, PA Marriott Hotel. We have a wonderful slate of professionals lined up for this event. Demonstrators include:

- Stuart Batty
- Cynthia Cardon Gibson
- Ashley Harwood
- Avelino Samuel
- Curt Theobald
- Hans Weissflog
- Jakob Weissflog

Registrations for the Symposium will open in early April. Please watch for future email updates, or like us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/MAwoodturners> or <http://www.mawts.com/>

Looking forward to seeing you there!

Please also remind your members that we will need volunteers to help staff the event. Contact Ron Sheehan, Volunteer coordinator if you are able to help in any way. [Ronsheehan39@gmail.com](mailto:Ronsheehan39@gmail.com)

Ron Sheehan

**RICHMOND  
WOODTURNERS  
QUARTERLY  
CHALLENGE**

The Challenge will now be regularly scheduled for the third month of each quarter (March, June, September, and December) with the subject announced at the beginning of each quarter and included in the newsletter. Entries will be placed on a table separate from the Show-n-Tell.

**March Snacks & Drinks**

|                |              |
|----------------|--------------|
| Georgia Wood   | Ice/cooler   |
| David Jordan   | liter coke   |
| David Sterling | chips        |
| Deane Cox      | cookies      |
| Dick Hines     | sweet snack  |
| Don Hayes      | Salty snack  |
| Donald Hart    | crackers     |
| Doug Dill      | sweet snacks |
| Doug Murray    | cookies      |

You can switch with someone if you are unable to bring those items for the month assigned.

**Visitors:**

Izumi and Brad Miller, Hanover, VA  
  
Jeremy Parker, Sandy Hook, VA  
  
Jon Bachman, Westmoreland, VA

**New Members:**

George Patskan, Powhatan, VA

**Meeting Schedule**

|                  |           |                   |            |
|------------------|-----------|-------------------|------------|
| January meeting  | 1/19/2017 | July meeting      | 7/20/2017  |
| February meeting | 2/16/2016 | August meeting    | 8/17/2017  |
| March meeting    | 3/16/2017 | September meeting | 9/21/2017  |
| April meeting    | 4/20/2017 | October meeting   | 10/19/2017 |
| May meeting      | 5/18/2017 | November meeting  | 11/16/2017 |
| June meeting     | 6/15/2017 | December meeting  | 12/21/2017 |

2017 Elected Board



- President: \_\_\_\_\_ Bruce Robbins
  - 1st Vice President: \_\_\_\_\_ Bill King
  - 2nd Vice President: \_\_\_\_\_ Georgia Wood
  - Treasurer: \_\_\_\_\_ Cody Walker
  - Secretary \_\_\_\_\_ John Anderson
  - Newsletter \_\_\_\_\_ Bob Marchese
  - Resource Manager: \_\_\_\_\_ Chuck Bajnai
  - Membership Manager: \_\_\_\_\_ Dan Luttrell
  - Information Manager: \_\_\_\_\_ Stan VanDruff
- Past President Board Members:  
 Dick Hines  
 Lee Scarbrough  
 Jim Bumpas  
 Dan Luttrell

Left to right – Front Row: Stan VanDruff, Georgia Wood, Bob Marchese, Chuck Bajnai  
 Back Row - Bill King, Cody Walker, Dan Luttrell, Bruce Robbins, John Anderson

**Committee Chairpersons**

Barbara Dill                      Chairperson of the AV committee

Jim O’Hanlon                      Chairperson for the Turning Competition committee

**Financial Report**

Balance .....\$9012.55

**For sale or trade**

If you have any items to list in the For Sale or Trade Section,  
 Please email me at [forsale@richmondwoodturners.org](mailto:forsale@richmondwoodturners.org).

Please remember that each item needs a description, price, city, seller's name and contact info (phone/email).

You can include pictures if you like. They will run 1 month unless notified to “re-run”.

**AAW Membership:**

Experience the remarkable world of woodturning with the American Association of Woodturners (AAW). With the largest portfolio of woodturning-related material in the world, AAW is the go-to source for woodturners of all skill levels. A membership with the AAW can help you learn and thrive in your woodturning experience, as well as connect with others who share your passion.

General: \$60 annually worldwide

Family: \$65 annually worldwide  
Includes up to three family members who live in the same household.

<http://www.woodturner.org>

**OPERATION CHRISTMAS  
CHILD SPINNING TOPS**

Thanks to all who turned tops.  
For 2016 we turned in 1,330  
Let's get started for 2017.

Here is a link to a video to show just how easy they are to make if interested....

<http://youtu.be/UWpV9dBpbME>

## RICHMOND WOODTURNERS INFO

Dues: \$25 individual, \$35 family & \$15 student. Member applications are available upon request at meetings or via email.

Library: Contact the club librarian to borrow tapes and other publications related to woodturning. The list is on the website. Lose it and you bought it.

Website: [www.richmondwoodturners.org](http://www.richmondwoodturners.org) Updated regularly and contains links to other VA clubs.

We meet at the Woodcraft Store - 9862 West Broad Street, Glen Allen, VA 23060

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday every month.



Contact the store at [804-355-3945](tel:804-355-3945)

Fax: 804-355-2532

Email: [richmond-retail@woodcraft.com](mailto:richmond-retail@woodcraft.com)