

# Sarasota Flying Wood Chips Newsletter

Volume 3 Issue 1

November/December 2019

**My biggest "Holiday Greetings" to all our woodturners, whether here or still somewhere north of here!** In a way, it's a funny thing to wish a woodturner, because don't we enjoy a sense of holiday every time we get to make something new on our lathe? I certainly do!

As we get to the end of another year, aren't you always amazed at how quickly it has passed? We have had another great year at the Sarasota Woodturners Club. We have seen our club membership grow to over 170 members, and enjoyed dozens of demonstrations, classes and workshops. We have been reaching out to both regional and national demonstrators for our monthly meetings at Advantage Lumber and look forward to even more going into 2020. As I mention at every meeting, we are so grateful to Rob and Betty, the owners of Advantage Lumber (<https://www.advantagelumber.com/>), Dave James, the general manager, and all their helpful staff, for making us so welcome. They have gone out of their way to accommodate Woodturners there, and we really appreciate that! Also, a big thanks to all our "in house" demonstrators who have added so much to our "Turning Tuesdays" at Franck's Workshop.

A new feature we have added from time to time to those Tuesday meetings is to have, instead of a demo, an open Show & Tell forum. Any member can bring and talk about a piece or project they are working on. Not only does this give helpful feedback to that member, but acts as a "mini" demo for everyone.

Everyone gains. We will be continuing this in the next year.

Also, please let your board know what you would like to see in future demo's and workshops. This is the only way we can offer you what YOU want.

On behalf of all the board, we wish you the best for a safe and enjoyable holiday season and a healthy New Year. Onward into 2020! Wow! Remember all the Y2K "panic"? That was 20 years ago!

Russ Fellows  
President, Sarasota Woodturners



*A two wheel gift to Russ from the Tuesday morning crew.*



Nationally known woodturner, **Nick Cook** lives in Marietta, Georgia, where he owns and operates his studio. He grew up around his father's woodworking equipment and became interested in the art of woodturning in the mid-70s after several years in furniture design and manufacture.

The primary materials that he now uses are maple, cocobolo, and tagua nuts. He employs a variety of woods, both domestic and exotic for his one-of-a-kind pieces.

## Upcoming 2019 Sarasota Woodturners Events and Demos

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**January 7:** Russ Fellows demonstration

**January 11:** Workshop on turning a bowl from a board.

**January 15:** Nick Cook will do a demonstration at Advantage Lumber.

**January 16:** Nick Cook will do a hands-on workshop at Franck's Studio.

**February 19:** A "Remote Demonstration" at Advantage Lumber.

**"We are dedicated to promoting the art of woodturning through educational demonstrations and hands-on training. We meet to share our techniques, methods and skills. We provide assistance with tool and equipment recommendations."**

### 2019 Sarasota Woodturner's Club Officers

**President - Russ Fellows**  
email: skunkmen@gmail.com

**Vice President - Jim Weeks**  
email: jburtonweeks@gmail.com

**Treasurer - Stephen Johns**  
email: steve2515@hotmail.com

**Secretary - Dave Hausmann**  
email: dhausmann@comcast.net

**Director at Large - Franck Johannesen**  
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**Director at Large - Alan Levin**  
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### 2020 Sarasota Woodturner's Club Officers

**President - Jim Weeks**  
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**Vice President - Alan Levin**  
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*This newsletter was designed and produced by club secretary **David Hausmann**. Articles, digital photos and information that you would like to share with Sarasota Woodturner members are welcome. Please contact me at [dhausmann@comcast.net](mailto:dhausmann@comcast.net).*

## Mark Sillay's Demonstration at Advantage, November 20, 2019

We had the pleasure of hosting Mark Sillay at our November meeting at Advantage Lumber. Mark, hails from the Atlanta, Georgia area and has demonstrated and taught all over the U.S. He is particularly famous for his "wood slicing" technique which results in surfaces so smooth that little or no sanding is required. The key is in knowing how the tool should approach the wood.

However, as this was Mark's third visit to the club in recent years, he gave us only an abbreviated demonstration of this technique. As this skill requires constant practice to maintain, Mark stated that he begins every workday in his shop by spending five or ten minutes making two or three ornaments out of short 2" x 2" lengths of construction lumber. He always makes sure that he goes through the five basic spindle turning cuts (beads, coves, etc). Given that construction 2 x 4 lumber is very soft and easily tears, Marks believes that is ideal for mastering the wood slicing technique. You can be assured that if you can obtain a glass smooth surface on this type of wood, you can obtain it on any type wood normally used by turners. After refreshing our memory of the technique by turning a lovely ornament, Mark went on to discuss a number of other subjects that he would be covering in more detail at the hands-on sessions that he would be putting on the next day.

Mark first chose a piece of wood that had sharply contrasting heart and sap wood. He discussed the need to shape the side grain piece in such a manner as to obtain a pleasing balance between the two types of wood with the lighter sapwood serving to highlight the darker heartwood. He then turned an end grain piece to show this highlighting of the two types of wood from another perspective.

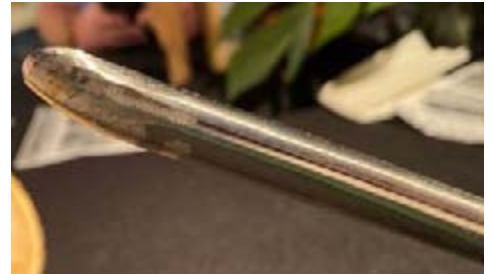
Mark then chose a piece of flaming box elder and shaped it in a manner so as to extend the fingers of red coloration that extended from the ends of the piece so that they met in the center.

The next exercise was turning a natural edge, end grain bowl. Once again, the emphasis was on choosing the right tool, bevel angle and approach to the wood so as to obtain a smooth, glass like surface.

Mark finished his demo by turning a weed pot using the multi-axis method. He decided to finish the turning in order to show us his finishing technique using Parfax 3408 CA glue and Vonax buffing compound.

Once again, we left the room in awe of Mark's skill and envious of those who had signed up for Mark's personal instruction the next day. We have since heard that everyone in those sessions was thrilled with the attention Mark gave them and felt that they had learnt a lot. *David Senecal*





**Show & Tell at Advantage Meeting November 20, 2019**



**Russ Fellows' bowl.**



**Bill Clark's Cherry bowl with bark edge.**



**Russ Fellows' Bradford Pear and Osage Orange embellished edge bowl.**



**Gary Frier's Natural Edge Wing bowl.**



**Rosewood multi-axis bud vase.**



## Mark Sillay's Workshop at Franck's Studio, November 21, 2019

It was great to have such a good response to the call for participants for the workshop with **Mark Sillay**. He has a great reputation for engaging demonstrations and instructive workshops, and he did not disappoint. We had eight sign-ups, and since we only had five lathes, we decided it was a better use of time and space to divide it into two sessions. I had talked to Mark about this possibility, and he was fine with doing it this way. He is very flexible with his workshops and accommodates to whatever a club may want. We were billing it as a workshop to learn how to make a multi-axis bud vase, but ended up doing much more. Mark has earned a reputation as a real precision turner, executing super fine cuts, and has coined the term "wood slicing" to describe them. He makes these cuts primarily with a spindle gouge and has developed a special grind. After a short review of his five cuts he had demonstrated the night before at Advantage Lumber, he took the group to the grinder to "tune up" their gouges. Following this, everyone grabbed some practice turning stock, cut up 2x2s, and went to a lathe to start practicing. Mark then did the rounds to make sure each student was doing the "assignment" properly. The other four cuts were done in similar fashion, and only then did the class get to making the the bud vase that had been advertised. No one minded that it came toward the end of the class. Everyone felt that it was time well spent with a true master technician on the lathe. The afternoon group was told to come in a little early so everyone could share a delicious lunch provided by the Dunn Drive Deli. Then the same format was used for the next class. We have had Mark Sillay now several times and he always is a welcome visitor to our club with his unique style and presentations. We look forward to his next visit. *Russ Fellows*





Mark Sillay's workshops included Alan Brown, Scott Himes, Gary Frier, Norm Stabinski, Jim Coates, Alan Levin, Joe Fairchild and Gary Janko.



## Chet Orzech's Termite Ring Demo at Franck's Studio, November 26, 2019



**Chet Orzech** began turning 20 years ago. There weren't many finishing tools for hollowing end grain bowls when he started. Just the Termite ring tool and Andre Martell hook tool.

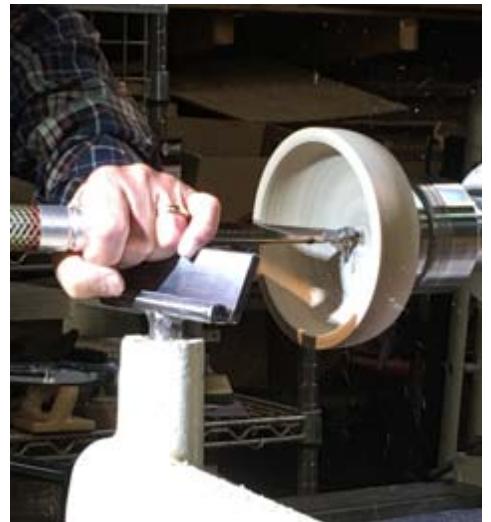
The Termite Multi-Tip Ring Tool can hollow into end grain so fast, the manufacturer in Canada calls it the "Termite." The Termite can leave a very smooth cut that requires little sanding. While the Termite Tool is very useful in hollowing of boxes, goblets and hollow vessels, it can also be used for bowls.

The Termite comes with two specially designed interchangeable M4 high speed steel cutters that are held securely in a 7" long by 1/2" diameter steel tool shank with a set screw. The #1 Termite cutter measures 3/8" in diameter while the #2 Termite cutter is 1/2" in diameter. A larger optional #3 Termite cutter, which measures 5/8" in diameter, is available for removing more wood per pass.

The Termite comes with a grinding point that is held in a router to sharpen the cutters. This is easily done with the Sharpening Fixture that is included. The inside bevel of the cutter is easily sharpened by rotating the cutter around the grinding point. It is then flipped over to sharpen the other side.







**Show & Tell at Franck's Studio Meeting November 26, 2019**



**Charley Bell's**  
Norfolk Island Pine  
tea caddy.



**Franck Johannesen's**  
Rosewood vase with  
Cherry Wood top.



**Allen Coppes'** finished a roughed-out bowl from Franck. He added an inlay around the rim



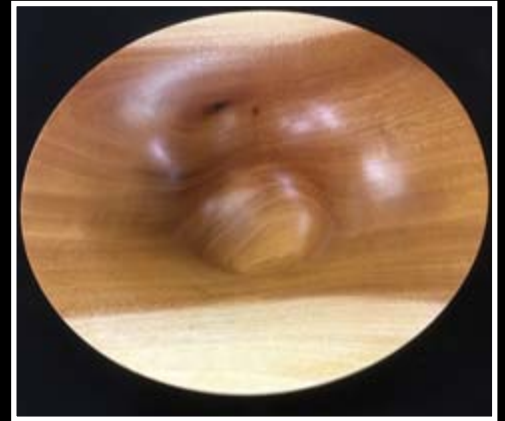
**Franck Johannesen**  
designed tool for cutting  
grooves on back of Russ's  
sunburst piece.



**Pat Sullivan's** Flame Box Elder  
from Mark Sillay bowls.



**Russ Fellows'**  
2 Section Epoxy Sunshine bowl  
with front grooves cut on  
table saw.



**Jim Titze's**  
Natural Edge River Birch bowl  
from Minneapolis.

**Norm Stabinski's** weed pots.



**Dick Rochester's** Box Elder  
hollow form.



**Steve John's** Mark Sillay  
grind for spindle gouge.



**Jim Titze's**  
Natural Edge River Birch bowl  
from Minneapolis.



**Jim Titze's**  
India Ink Microwave  
Burned bowl.

## Sarasota Woodturners Holiday Party at Sun N Fun, December 7, 2019

A great time was had by all at the Holiday Party. Tim Flow showed his lively auctioneer talents and raised \$938.00 in profits for the club.



## Larry Ellis Demonstrates How To Dry Green Wood with Silica Gel Beads



On Tuesday evening **Larry Ellis** explained to Sarasota Woodturners how he uses Silica Gel Beads to dry green or wet wood turned bowls and hollow forms. He stores white and blue Silica Gel Beads in a 20 gallon sealable airtight drum. When turned pieces are emersed in the beads they loose their moisture rather efficiently. Silica gel is a pure, vitreous, porous form of silicon dioxide made from sodium silicate. It is purified and processed into either granular or beaded form. Its high absorption capacity is attributed to its millions of tiny pores. The mechanism of absorption is purely physical, with no change in size or shape of the particles even as they become saturated. Even when fully saturated, the material still looks and feels dry. Blue beads turn pink when saturated. Beads can be reactivated in an oven for 0.5 - 2 hours at 200 - 250° F or in a microwave set on defrost for 7-12 minutes. Spread beads evenly in thin layer for best results. Beads can be ordered from Dry & Dry at [www.drydry.com](http://www.drydry.com)



## Pat Sullivan's Platter and Bowl Feet Demo at Franck's Studio, December 10, 2019



Pat begins his demonstration with a warped "mono-foot" bowl which "rocks". To stop the rock Pat makes three marks approximately 120° apart and then sands areas between the feet.



Using a Arbortech Turbo Plane he grinds between the feet to shape the area between the feet. He then finishes with an orbital sander using 80-120 grit.





Feet are more important on platters than bowls. Pat cuts a recess in the center of his wood and then chucks it in expansion jaws. He then shapes the platter to the desired thickness and then proceeds making the feet in the same way as he does with bowls.



Tuesday Night "Show & Tell," December 10, 2019



Steve Johns' Rosewood Box with Lid.



Norm Stabinski's Rosewood Weed Pot with CA Finish.



Steve Johns' Norfolk Island Pine hollow form.



Dave Hausmann's Norfolk Island Pine wig stand and vase with Lacquer Finishes.





**Bill Clark's** Burl vase with Finial.



**Russ Fellows'** Yellow Birch bowl with Wave Rim.



**Franck Johannesen's** Box Elder Urn.



**John Miller's** Norfolk Island Pine bowl.



**Franck Johannesen's** bowls.



Dick Rochester's Maple bowl.



Alan Coppes' Maple Ambrosia bowl with Tung Oil and Wipe-on-Poly finish.



Jonathan Weinbach's bowls.



**Turning A Natural Edge Bowl Workshop at Franck's Studio, December 14, 2019**

*Instructors Russ Fellows, Franck Johannesen, William Clark and Jim Titze work with Scott Himes, Tim Flow, Huey Ponte, George Raffa and daughter Christie, Gary Janko, and Sheldon Crocker.*



*Russ demonstrating how to mount a blank, shape the outside, and add a tenon. Franck preps a rosewood blank on the bandsaw. Russ works with Christie.*



*Bill assisting Sheldon. Franck helping Scott mount the blank.*



*Russ helps Christie make a tenon. Jim helps Tim shape his piece. Bill demonstrating a cut for Gary.*



*Russ starts the class with a safety review and shows how to mount a bowl blank, shape the outside, and add a tenon.*



*Scott making chips. Gary shaping the outside of his bowl. Christie, learning proper tool techniques.*



*Tim refining the shape of his bowl. Bill cutting a tenon. Franck assists Gary.*

## Making a Natural Edge Bowl

Youtube has literally hundreds of videos about making natural edge bowls. Mike Waldt, Mark Silay, Carl Jacobson, and Wyoming Woodturner(Sam Angelo) all have reliable information. For a nice short one with a lovely guitar sound track, try "The Carolina Grain Co"! (I don't know the reason for the name!)

- 1) Select the stock you wish to use and drill a hole in the center on the bark side. A 3/8" for a screw chuck, 3/4" for a spur or step drive. A Big Bite can also be used.
- 2) Mount workpiece using the tailstock for support. Use a reference point on the tool rest for aligning the wings. This can be adjusted as the bowl starts to take shape.
- 3) Make a tenon the approximate size the foot of the bowl will be. Start turning the bowl, working from the bottom toward the rim. Use a bevel supported cut, but be aware that as you approach the rim, your tool will be in the air twice with each rotation, so don't put too much pressure on the bevel. As you get near the rim, turn the tool around and cut from the other direction. If you don't do this, the edges and bark will tear out.
- 4) Turn the bowl around and mount in scroll chuck. With a Jacobs chuck in the tailstock, drill a hole to the approximate depth of the finished bowl. Start removing material with your bowl gouge. Use the

bevel for support, but again your tool will be cutting air as you get closer to the side of the bowl. Check the side wall thickness periodically. It should be consistent well down into the bowl. Any variation will show in the rim. As with the outside, cuts must be from the rim to the center, or you will get tear out.

- 5) Finish turn inside and outside. Sheer cuts will produce the best surface.
- 6) A few tips: a) A face shield is smart for all turning, but essential when turning a natural edge piece due to the possibility of pieces of bark flying off. b) keep your gouge sharp! Because you don't always have bevel support, this is very important. c) Speed is your friend.....but don't go wild! The faster your bowl is turning, the shorter the "air time", lessening the chance of the tool dipping into space and causing a catch! d) Check the tightness of the chuck often, and every time you adjust the tool rest, hand turn your workpiece before turning the lathe back on. e) HAVE FUN! Natural edge turning offers an exciting variety of shapes, depending on how you use the log. People will ask "How in the world do you turn an oval bowl??"

Tuesday Night Extended "Show & Tell," December 17, 2019



Bill Clark's Eucalyptus double rim bowl.



Bill Clark's Tabebuia (an orchid varient) bowl.



David Senecal's Unique Salt and Pepper mills turned for his wife.



Chet Orzech's Cherry Burl Turquoise-filled vase.



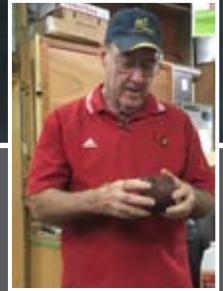
Chet Orzech's China Berry bowl.



Dick Rochester's Bow Elder lidded box with Wipe-on-Poly finish.



**Tim Flow's Brazilian Pecan wood Peppermill with colored pencils and Natural Edge bowl.**



**Steve Johns' Eucalyptus box with lid.**



**Dave Laubisch's Rosewood platter without feet.**



**Dave Laubisch's Holiday ornaments**







**John Miller's Mahogany and Poplar bowl and pen holder.**



**Box Elder vase.**



**Russ Fellows' End Grain Butcher Block Segmented bowl.**



**Russ Fellows' Overstock Caliper find.**



**Russ Fellows' Natural Edge Side Grain bowl from Saturday's Workshop.**