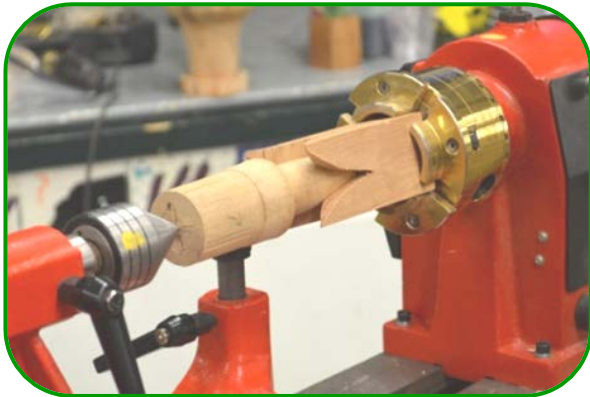


FANCY FLOWERS

Turned Flowers

Jim Yonkers did a demo on making four different types of fancy flowers on the lathe at the Central New York Woodturners' April meeting. For each flower, he started with a hardwood block approximately 2" by 2" by 4" or 6" long. He decided which was the stem-end and which was the flower-end of the block of wood based on wood grain. His philosophy is to experiment and quickly be creative with these wood turning techniques.

4-PETAL TULIPS: First drill a 1/4" hole in the stem-end of the flower and then a 1 1/2" hole in the flower-end (flower-end needs a hole that is about 75% of the diameter of the piece of wood).



Then layout and mark each flat side of the flower-end with a deep 'V' shape to represent the space between the petals (the petals are the corners of the wood piece). The 1 1/2" center hole should extend to below the bottom of the 'V' shape you layout. Cut out and remove the deep 'V' shape using a band saw.

Chuck the piece on the stem-end and bring the tailstock into the 1 1/2" hole (with appropriate live center).

Round off the piece and shape the flower and petals and then taper into a rough stem.

Reverse the piece using a jam chuck that you made to fit into the open flower with the jam chuck wood piece held by your scroll chuck. Bring the tailstock up to lightly fit in the 1/4" hole in the stem-end of the flower (do not over tighten or the stem will split).



Leave the bottom part of the stem large enough to stay stable with the tailstock point and part off to your desired length after finishing the sanding. Start sanding the piece while on the lathe and finish it by hand. Finish with any clear varnish or oil, or finish with colored stain or paint.

5-PETAL FLOWER: With one end of the piece held solidly in a scroll chuck and the tailstock pulled up to the piece, round off the piece and make a goblet shape. Leave the stem fairly heavy at

first. Remove the tailstock and hollow out the goblet. Sand the goblet-end inside and outside. Then begin to slim down the stem to the desired thickness. Sand it as needed, and part off the piece at the desired stem length. Drill a 1/4" hole in the stem end of the flower.



Layout and mark five petals evenly around the goblet end of the piece.

Insert your piece into a clamping device so it is stable for the next step. Using a motorized carving tool, like a Dremel,

carefully and safely remove the "V" shaped spaces between the petals. Hand sand the piece as needed. Finish with any clear varnish or oil, or finish with colored stain or paint.

FLAT FLOWER: With one end of a 4" x 1" piece held solidly in a scroll chuck and the tailstock pulled up to the piece, round off the piece. Mark 1/2" spaces down the length leaving about 1" in the scroll chuck.



Using a parting tool, cut into the piece every 1/2" down its length leaving 5/8" diameter of material. Remove the piece from the

chuck and layout and mark petals on the tailstock end of the piece. The petals should end at the 5/8" inner diameter of the piece. Now carefully hold the piece vertically with a vise grips or other tool (on scroll chuck end). Cut the entire 4" length of the piece into the band saw blade to remove the "V" between the petals. Move the tool each time and cut the next 'V'. **This must be done very slowly and carefully on the band saw!** After all spaces between the petals are removed, put the piece back on the scroll chuck using the tailstock to center the piece up again. When securely tightened into the chuck, remove the tailstock and part off the first 1/2". Resurface the remaining end as needed, and part off the next 1/2". Repeat this until all 1/2" segments are parted off up to the waste-end in the scroll chuck. Hand sand the pieces as needed. Drill a 1/8" or 1/4" hole into the edge of a petal on each flower to place a wire inside as the stem of that flower. Finish with any clear varnish or oil, or finish with colored stain or paint.

RUFFLED FLOWER:

Using a green tree branch about 3/4" diameter and 6" long, put it solidly in a scroll chuck



and use the tailstock to center the piece. Round the piece out and remove the bark. Remove the tailstock. Apply the heel-end of a skew to the free-end of the stick to peel back very thin layers of

wood about ¾” long that are still attached to the piece. These ruffles of



wood shavings are cut in layers that progress toward the center of the stick on its free-end until most of the end is ruffled. These ruffles are meant to look like multi-layered flower petals. When the effect you want is achieved, turn a tapered base to the flower and part it off from the stick. Repeat the process to make more than one flower from a stick. Dip the flower in a finish of your choice or spray paint a color on the petals. Drill a 1/8” or ¼” hole into the stem to place a wire inside to hold that flower.

**Central New York Woodturners
Submitted by Chad Dawson
Photos by Andy Loconte & Barbara
Raymond-LaPrease**



**May Meeting Challenge Photos
Left to Right**
Top Row: Larry Prunotto, Mel Taber
Middle Row: Charlie LaPrease, Mike Malecki
Bottom Row: Don Lum (People’s Choice),
Chad Dawson, Jim Yonkers