

MAY 2015 DEMONSTRATION

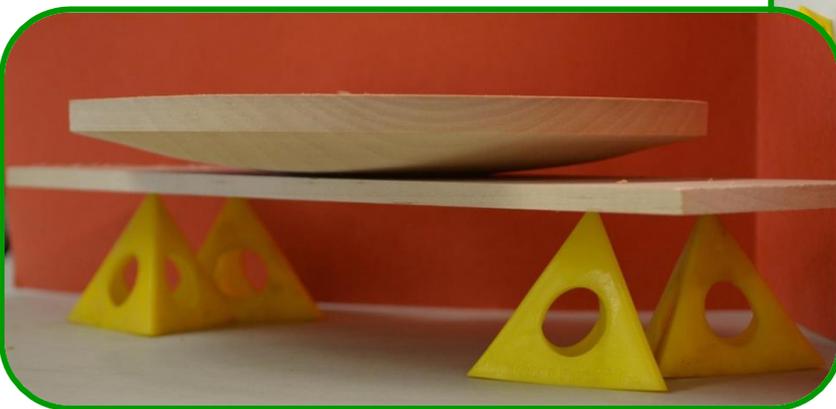
PLATTERS THAT MATTER WITH BOB IRELAND

During the May meeting, **Bob Ireland** demonstrated his approach to designing and turning decorative platters. Bob defined a platter as a shallow wide bowl or a large plate. He discussed his creative approach as considering the use of wood species, different grain, grain orientation, unusual grain features, color, size, and the profile shape of the platter.

Bob started with a blank of 1" thick hardwood cut into a circle on a band saw and with the centers marked on both sides of the piece. The piece was put between centers with the intended top of the platter toward the tailstock. He trued up the piece to round with a bowl gouge, flattened the top face, and used a parting tool to cut a 1/8" deep recess into the top face at a diameter that fit his scroll chuck jaws.

The piece was then taken off the lathe and a chuck put on with the piece turned around so that the recess (face side) was mounted into the chuck. He used the tailstock while he flattened the bottom of the piece. Then he moved the tailstock to cut a 1/8" deep recess on the bottom of the piece at a circumference to again fit his scroll chuck jaws.

At this stage, Bob began to discuss how to design the profile of a platter. He showed several platter designs he had brought to the demonstration to illustrate different profiles with either concave or convex curves between the foot (base) of the platter and the outer rim. He stressed the idea of creating a curve and foot combination that appeared to lift the platter off the table by having a curvature that would visually pass through the foot rather than appear to continue into the table.



Bob then made a 1/8" deep foot for the platter at a circumference that gave stability to the base and left enough material between that outer foot diameter and the recess to safely hold the piece on the lathe when using the scroll chuck. He turned the curve on the underside of the platter from the foot to the rim with a concave curvature. Bob stressed the

need for crisp detail and definition at the point where the curvature met both the foot and the rim so that each element was clearly set off as part of the overall design. He then sanded the entire bottom. Finally, he turned the piece over again to put the foot recess into the chuck so that he had complete access to start turning the top of the platter.

The rim was turned for the final outer edge and the top surface was flattened. The outer edge of the rim was very slightly rounded to soften the edge. A discussion followed about choosing the width of the rim before hollowing out the center of the platter. The main idea was to select a design proportion like 1/5 or 1/3 of the diameter to be the width of the rim. The inner edge of the rim was marked for hollowing.

The hollowing of the top was done with a bowl gouge starting from the inner rim and continuing to the center of the platter. As the depth was increased, the rim was undercut slightly with a small hollowing tool to visually set the rim off

May 2015 Demonstration, continued

and give the appearance that the platter was somewhat deeper than it actually measured. Bob measured several times to check the thickness of the platter and to check that the shape of the bottom and hollowed area would produce a relatively uniform thickness inside the rim.

Design of the top of the rim was discussed with ideas that included: no additional detail, if the wood had highly figured grain; some texturing or shallow grooving; a wood burned design; shapes cut through the rim with a small power tool; a bead or cove detail; a bead on the inner rim that rounded over into the hollowed center; or a second rim inside the first at a slightly greater depth than the outer rim. The top of the platter was then sanded and a finish applied.

The Saturday workshop on platters produced different designs and lots of wood chips – the challenge for June was underway.

Submitted by **Chad Dawson**

Photos by **Andy Loconte**

SATURDAY WORKSHOP – MAY 2015

On Saturday, May 16th, **Bob Ireland** hosted a workshop with eight participants on making platters. One beginner, **Robert Johnston** worked with **Larry Prunotto** refreshing his very old knowledge of turning working on the basics. Here's a collage of pictures from the morning. Photos by **Barbara Raymond-LaPrease**.

