

MARCH 2015 DEMONSTRATION

BIRD HOUSES WITH TERRY VERMILYEA

Terry Vermilyea demonstrated how to make birdhouse ornaments during the March meeting. Terry explained and showed examples of different style birdhouses with various combinations of hardwood species and colors to add interest to the ornament. There are 5 holes to drill and Terry suggested using Forstner style bits at about 500-600 rpm's. He started by explaining that he makes his birdhouses as four pieces and then assembles them together:

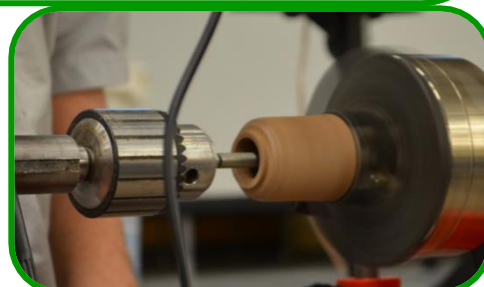


1. The body of the birdhouse was started between centers and made into a cylinder approximately 2½" long and 1¾" in diameter with a tenon on one end ¼" long and 1¼" in diameter. The tenon end of the cylinder was then put into a 4 jaw chuck and a drill chuck used in the tailstock to drill a 7/8" hole about 1¾" deep followed by a ¼" hole all the way through the body end to end. Any combination of additional drilling or hollowing tools can be used to remove more wood and lighten the weight of the ornament.

With the body still in the chuck, holes were marked and hand drilled on the outside of the body for the entry hole and perch insert as follows: a ¼" hole was drilled about 1" from the top and into the center cavity of the body and a 3/16" hole was drilled for the perch insert 1 and 3/8" from the top and in line with the entry hole. Terry chose the best looking face and wood grain pattern area on the body for these holes.

Terry then turned the top outside of the body to 1 1/8" outside diameter (¼" long) to accept the inset in the roof piece to be made later. He turned the rest of the body into his desired design as close down to the tenon and chuck as was safe. He sanded and finished this part of the body. He reversed the piece by putting small jaws inside the 7/8" hole (top) of the body (or he said he could make a jam chuck to go inside the 7/8" hole or a jamb chuck to accept the 1 1/8" outside diameter of the top of the body) and turned down the bottom of the body in a design that would allow adding the finial on the bottom later. He sanded and finished the entire body and set it aside.

2. The roof of the birdhouse was started between centers and made into a cylinder approximately 2" long and 2" in diameter with a tenon on one end ¼" long and 1¼" in diameter. The tenon end of the cylinder was then put into a 4 jaw chuck and a drill chuck used in the tailstock to drill a 1 1/8" hole about 3/8" deep and that was the inset to accept the top of the body piece. Any combination of additional drilling or hollowing tools could be used to remove more wood and lighten the weight of the ornament. Terry put the tailstock in place and turned the roof design down toward the chuck end but left enough at the roof peak so that it stayed attached to the tenon in the chuck. He sanded and finished the roof as much as possible. Then he parted off the peak of the roof from the remaining wood; he sanded and finished the entire roof and set it aside.



March 2015 Demonstration, continued

3. The finial for the bottom of the birdhouse was started between centers and made into a cylinder approximately 2" long and 1/2" in diameter with a tenon on one end 1/4" in diameter to insert into the bottom of the ornament body. He sanded and finished the entire finial before parting it off. Terry complete all hand sanding and finishing and set it aside.
4. The perch for the bottom of the birdhouse was started between centers and made into a cylinder approximately 3/4" long and 1/4" in diameter with a tenon on one end 3/16" in diameter to insert into the body of the ornament body. He sanded and finished the entire perch before parting off. He then complete all hand sanding and finishing and set it aside.



Terry dry fitted all pieces together to make sure they fit properly before applying wood glue to final assemble the 4 parts into the birdhouse ornament. He drilled a very small hole into the top of the peak on the roof and screwed in a small eye screw to use to hang the ornament.

Submitted by **Chad Dawson**
Photos by **Andy Loconte**



EDITORIAL RAMBLINGS

I hope you enjoy this latest edition of our club newsletter. At 28 pages, it is the largest ever. My neighbor thinks I am writing a magazine. In addition to the standard club information about our March meeting and AAW's Symposium, there are a couple of pages summarizing NWA's event, the Ideal Woods event, and an article from **Jim Yonkers** on turpentine and long leaf yellow pine. There are also memorials for each of the members we lost. I love the addition of articles like what Jim wrote. Not only is it educational but it adds a little *flavor* to our newsletter. Past issues of the newsletter were entered into the AAW annual competition and we hope to get a favorable response to our entry.

I could be very philosophical about events that have occurred during the past month or I could just say, wow it has been hard. Charlie and I lost two good friends in John and Bob and also lost the wife of a good friend. I think it makes us agree that we've been lucky to not only find each other but also overcome my breast cancer battle. Hold on tight to those that matter to you.

The weather is breaking and the snow is almost gone. The neighbor's dog visited yesterday and was playing in what snow piles we have left. Ever seen a really large dog snuggle in the snow banks? It sure is funny! We both are looking forward to getting into the gardens to remove the winter residue but are delighted to see crocus popping up! I just hope the deer that seem to be wandering closer to the house don't eat the tops off the flowers!

I am looking forward to seeing everyone's birdhouses at the meeting next week. For now ... keep turning.

Barbara