

JANUARY 2015 DEMONSTRATION *BOTTLE STOPPERS WITH DON LUM*

It is a small project that makes a good gift – wine bottle stoppers. **Don Lum** talked about design and materials that could be included in making a wine bottle stopper while he demonstrated how to proceed. Don makes all his stopper parts on the lathe except the silicone gasket that is used in his design. The materials he used were:

- A hardwood blank 1.5" by 1.5" and 3" long.
- A 2" long piece of ½" diameter oak dowel
- A silicone gasket for the stopper stem.



Don first turned the hardwood blank between centers so that it had a round tenon on one end. That tenon was used to hold the blank in a chuck while a 5/16" diameter hole was drilled in the other end ¾" deep using a drill chuck on the tailstock. After the drill chuck was removed, the tailstock was pulled up with a cone center put into the drilled hole. The drilled end of the blank was turned to the diameter wanted, finish sanded, and removed from the chuck.



The next step was put the piece of dowel in a chuck and a tailstock and turn it down to fit inside the drilled stopper. That end of the dowel should be slightly shorter than the drilled depth and the dowel roughed up to hold glue. The dowel is then reversed in the chuck and tailstock and the other end turned down to 5/16" and of the correct length to hold the silicone stopper. The dowel is then glued into the stopper and allowed to dry.

The stopper is then put back on the lathe with the stopper end into the chuck and the tailstock pulled up for support. The stopper is then turned to the desired design. The tailstock is pulled away as the stopper top is completed. The stopper is then sanded and finished and removed from the lathe. The final step is to glue the silicone gasket onto the dowel using CA glue.

Don also suggested that you could add a decorative piece – wood, stone, plastic, etc – to the top of the stopper before sanding and finishing.

If using a wooden decoration, the process is to drill your hole in the top of the stopper and make a small



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January 2015 Demonstration, continued



recess around it. Then measure your drill bit and turn a tenon on the contrasting wood piece to the size of the drill bit that will be used to create the recess for the wood



insert. Drill the hole. It doesn't have to be super deep but should at least match the length of your tenon. (If your tenon is too long, cut as needed.) Glue the piece in. Then turn your decorative wood to incorporate it into your stopper. If using stone or plastic cabochons measure the cabochon and turn an appropriate size area for the piece to be inserted. Make sure you make the recess deep enough. Glue the cabochon in then finish your stopper.

The discussion at the demo and later Saturday at the bottler stopper workshop was about the overall design and size that seemed to fit the hand and appeal to the eye. Generally, a diameter of around 1" to 1½" and a length of 1½" to 2½" seemed to appeal to most turners. The embellishments in the design were many from multiple wood glued blanks to wood inlays or plugs added to the end of the blank. During the Saturday workshop with 12 attendees, suggestions for stopper kits and other types of gaskets (stainless

steel stems with silicone gaskets, premade oak stems with cork gaskets) were discussed and multiple outlets recommended.



Supplies for bottle stoppers can be found at these websites:

Craft Supplies, USA - www.woodturnerscatalog.com

Packard Woodworks Inc. - www.packardwoodworks.com

Penn State Industries - www.pennstateind.com

Rockler - www.rockler.com

SS Niles Bottle Stoppers - nilesbottlestoppers.com

Woodcraft - www.woodcraft.com

Submitted by **Chad Dawson**

Photos by **Andy LoConte** and **Barbara Raymond-LaPrease**

SUBMITTING ARTICLES FOR THE NEWSLETTER

Each member of the Central New York Woodturners has had experiences that could educate others – whether the experiences are at the club or just in your workshop. Why not share them? Articles talking about your travels to various woodworking events, galleries, mentoring experiences, woodturning experiences, or about an article you believe others should read, or about most anything are VERY welcome. Generally, the deadline is about 1½ weeks before the next meeting since the publication date for the newsletter is the Tuesday before the meeting. So for March, the date is February 28th. Don't feel you can't write, so you can't submit. Your editor will adjust things as needed! Oh and suggestions for articles are also welcome!