

FEBRUARY 2015 DEMONSTRATION

HONEY DIPPERS & HONEY POTS WITH BOB PASTEL

The demonstration for the February meeting was by **Dr. Robert Pastel** showing how he makes honey dippers and a pagoda shaped honey pot. He explained how these two projects are good starting experiences to learn about both spindle tool work and bowl or box turning work.

Honey Dipper

The honey dipper can be made from hardwood that is not porous and can hold detail such as maple. Bob started with a piece of wood about 1.5" in diameter and 8" in length. He put the wood between centers and used the spindle roughing gouge to turn it into a cylinder about 1¼" in diameter. He stopped the lathe and marked out about 5" for the handle and about 2" for the honey dipping end or head. The head was then marked every ¼". Enough was left at each end of the piece so that it could be turned down later to less than a ¼" but with enough wood so that neither the drive nor the tailstock would be touched by the tool.

The lathe was turned back on and a parting tool used to cut out every other of the ¼" marks to leave about ½" in the center diameter. The cuts were kept very sharp and clean. Then the spindle roughing gouge was used again to begin to shape the head by rounding it in both directions. The center of the spindle was then shaped to curve from the head into a tapered handle. As the spindle became thinner it was necessary to support the back of the spindle with a finger (very carefully) to support the thin center of the spindle. The handle was then shaped to the end. At this stage, any detail or wire burning for handle detail can be added.

A small detail gouge was used to shape the bottom of the head near the tail stock and the top near the drive spur. About a ¼" was left on each end to hold the piece on the lathe for sanding through all the sandpaper grits. Each end was then parted down until only a small nub held it on. The lathe was stopped, the piece removed, and the waste on each end snapped off and hand sanded. The honey dipper then could be finished with any food safe finish.



February 2015 Demonstration, continued

Honey Pot

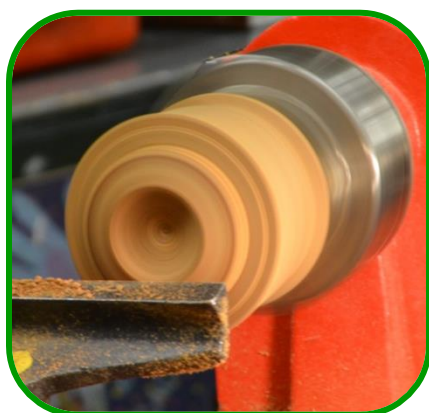
Bob explained that considerable variation in honey pot design was possible. The basic idea was to make a small lidded box that may or may not have a slot in the top to allow the honey dipper handle to stick out. Again, he recommended the use of hardwood that is as non-porous as possible so that it is easy to clean. Alternately, he suggested designing the box with a glass or plastic insert that would make it easier to clean.

Bob started with a piece of hardwood approximately 8" long and 5" in diameter. He put the wood between centers and used the spindle roughing gouge to turn it into a cylinder about 4 1/2" in diameter with a tenon on one end. He then stopped the lathe, put on a chuck, and put the tenon end of the piece into the chuck with a live center on the tailstock end. Using a spindle roughing gouge and then a detail gouge he made the outer form of the lid and the box. To get the *pagoda* shape he wanted, he shaped the lid as a sloping up to a point top with a lip that was larger than the box. The box tapered gradually to a smaller base. The tail stock was pulled back to allow the lid to be finished all the way to the top point. Then Bob sanded the outside and top of the box through all the grits necessary for a good finish.

Just below the protruding edge at the bottom of the lid, he put in a wide parting cut about 1/4" deep and a 1/2" wide. He then started an angled parting cut at the bottom of that first parting cut to create a flange on the lid (this flange would later fit inside of the box base). The angled parting cut was at the same angle as the lid top so that an upside down cone resulted and the lid was hollowed out until it was parted off from the box. Once off the lathe, the lid was hand finished inside.

The box was now hollowed out by first drilling with a drill chuck on the tailstock until the desired inside depth was reached. That hole served as a depth guide while the box was hollowed out. A small carbide hollowing tool and a box scraper were used to complete the hollowing process. The inside diameter of the box was made to accept the flange that protruded down from the lid so that the lid would stay in place.

A parting cut was put on the base to separate the waste wood in the chuck from the box base. The parting cut was widened to allow tool access to slightly hollow out the base. With some wood left in place to hold the box, sanding of the entire box was completed down to final grit necessary to apply a finish. Then the box was parted off and the bottom of the base sanded and finished. The finish used should be food safe material.



Submitted by **Chad Dawson**
Photos by **Andy LoConte**