

**JUNE 2017 DEMONSTRATION  
JIGLESS HOLLOWING WITH DICK PARKER**

Members and guests of the Central New York Woodturners gathered on Wednesday, June 14<sup>th</sup> for their monthly meeting. Our demonstration for the evening was jigless hollowing. **Dick Parker** demonstrated how to hollow small wood pieces for use as the body for ornaments or other projects. The idea presented was to create pieces that would be as light as possible and could be done with simple, small hollowing tools. Dick suggested wood species that are lighter and with good grain for hollowing but any wood could be used. The hollowing of the interior of the body does not need to be exact nor completely smooth because no one could ever see inside; thus, the cost of the equipment for a jig is not necessary. Rather a simple hook tool can be used for hollowing. Two are in the photo.



Many hollowing jigs—simple and complex—are available on the market. **Mike Gridley** brought his unit in (see photo). A hollowing jig could be as simple as a laser pointer to show where the hollowing tool tip was inside or even some type of wire



indicator that pointed where the hollowing tip was inside the body. Dick explained that not using a jig could be compensated for by marking the depth desired on the shaft of the tool and learning to feel where it was cutting inside sight unseen.

He started with a 2" by 2" block of red cedar 4" long between centers. First, he used a roughing gouge to round the piece to the diameter wanted for the body. Second, he put a tenon on one end of the piece and put it into a chuck to hold it. Third, he marked the piece for length and the midpoint – the length is the same as the diameter of the piece when trying to make a sphere. Fourth, Dick put a 1/2" drill bit in a drill chuck and drilled the length of the piece to a depth just greater than the intended length of the piece.



Using a spindle gouge, Dick began to create the outside sphere shape by working from the midpoint to the open end of the piece.



Then he used a parting tool to cut the end nearest the chuck to a depth that left

**July 22  
9am—?  
Wood  
Cutting  
Demo**

Continued on page 14

**JUNE 2017 DEMONSTRATION, page 2**

enough wood to hold it on the chuck – remembering that there is a 1/2" hole through the piece. Then he carefully rounded the second end toward the parting cut just made. Again, the rounding stopped short of cutting the piece off.



The hollowing process was done from the open end of the piece through the 1/2" drill hole using a small angled hollowing tool. Dick talked about small hollowing tools (angled scraper) that could be purchased on line or those that could be made at home. He explained that hollowing should leave about 1/8" to 1/4"



in the walls and with the inside as smooth as possible. Start hollowing just inside the 1/2" entrance hole by scrapping to the left and then taking off layers inside by starting at the

drill hole and working towards the outer wall. Put a mark on the shaft of the tool to indicate when the inside of the other end of the piece is reached (1/4" less than the diameter of the piece).

Sand the outside of the piece carefully and as thoroughly as possible before parting off. The parting off process requires that you remember that there is a 1/2" drill hole that came through the body and that it will part off when the tool reaches that point – so be ready to catch it by hand or put a small plastic bucket under the piece as you part it off. Finish sanding the parted off end by hand. If you need to put the piece back on a chuck for sanding or other tool work, use a



1/2" wood dowel that has a band saw cut down one end and a small wedge can be placed in it to expand it out and force it to hold the piece through the 1/2" hole in the length of the body. The dowel can be put in a drill or Jacob's chuck to remount it back on the lathe.

Make finials for the top and bottom of the body. Each finial needs to have a tenon on one end that is 1/2" in diameter so it can be glued into the 1/2" openings in the body.

Demo write up by **Chad Dawson**

Photos by **Heather Muckley & Barbara Raymond-LaPrease**



**Remember, the *Monthly Challenge* for July is making a piece that is hollowed—preferably not using a hollowing jig. *What will you make?***