

NOVEMBER 2015 DEMONSTRATION

TURNING JEWELRY WITH JIM YONKERS

At the November 2015 Central New York Woodturners meeting, **Jim Yonkers** demonstrated some jewelry making techniques on the lathe and talked through how to make other items, such as medallions, earrings, necklaces, and bracelets. Some resources mentioned included: *Woodturning Jewelry* by Hilary Bowen available from Amazon and the YouTube videos of Chas Thornhill (www.youtube.com/user/chas6444). Following Jim's talk, **Barbara Raymond LaPrease** discussed beadwork and jewelry making tools, techniques, and materials. Most of her discussion was in the November newsletter available on the club website.

Medallion

- Mount a piece of 5" to 6" diameter pine or fir (from a 2" x 6") as a waste block using a face plate or recessed tenon and scroll chuck. Flatten the face of the waste block using a bowl gouge or scraper. Sand the face of the waste block flat using "stick on" sandpaper on a flat board.
- Use double stick tape to mount a small thin square of hardwood to the center of the face plate. This is the wood piece that will be made into the medallion, so select it for color, grain, and other features.
- Use a parting tool to cut the square thin block into a round shape. If you need the tailstock to hold it securely, use it; however, the point of the tailstock live center will leave a mark so either cover the point with a small block of wood or incorporate the center mark into the medallion design.
- Stop the lathe and pull the outer cut off pieces of the square from the face plate (they are held on by the double sided tape) and leave the round center piece for further shaping. Pull the tailstock out of the way at this stage to allow access to the face of the medallion.
- Shape the medallion face according to your imaginative design. If you use a face plate to mount the waste block, you can loosen some screws and add shims to make the piece uneven



as you contour it. Always make sure the face plate screws are tight after you adjust the waste block with shims or remove them.

- Sand the medallion according to your design.
- Stop the lathe and take the medallion off the double sided tape. The piece can be completed with any finish or paint that enhances your design. Also, the medallion can have beads, coins, or other materials added to whatever you imagine your design to include.
- Drill a hole near the top center of the medallion or glue a ring to the back to allow it to be hung on a necklace. Alternately, a pin assembly can be epoxy glued on the back, if the medallion is to be worn without a necklace.

Earrings

- Make a waste block ("carrying stick") that is 1 3/4" by 1 3/4" and about 5" to 6" long.
 - Glue several layers of veneer together that are 1 3/4" wide and 2" long. Make two equal sets of these.
 - Glue these two veneer pieces to two opposite sides of the carrying stick. Make sure that each is exactly opposite and centered with the other piece. Do this gluing with thin wood glue and include a piece of brown paper bag between the veneer piece and the carrying stick. This will allow for easier removal from the carrying stick later.
- Mount the carrying stick between centers on the lathe. Using a roughing, spindle, or bowl gouge, shape the entire piece so that the veneer pieces become ovals or tear drop shaped as they show on the carrying stick.
- When you have the desired shape, sand the pieces while they are still on the carrying stick. Remove the veneer pieces from the carrying stick by sliding a knife in the layer that is the glued brown paper bag.



Jewelry Making, continued

- Sand the back of the veneer pieces. Add a small hole in the top of each for an ear ring holder and finish according to your design.

Necklace

- Two different approaches to make trapezoid shaped bead pieces for a necklace were described.
 1. Glue up thin pieces of wood or veneers into a stick about 1 1/2" square by 6" long. Rip down the stick on opposite sides to a 15 degree angle. Chuck the stick up and make it secure and centered using the tailstock. Then remove the tailstock and part off 1/4" thin slices of the stick. Make as many pieces as your necklace design requires.
 2. Using the same methods as described above for a medallion, make a large medallion that is shaped like a donut (round with no center). Sand it, take it off the face plate and cut into arc shaped pieces with approximately 15 degree angles on each side.
- Hand sand the trapezoid or arc shaped pieces and finish according to your design. Drill small holes in the narrow end of the trapezoid or arc shaped pieces and across the width so they hang flat on the necklace.
- String the trapezoid or arc shaped pieces on a necklace wire with small round beads in between to set off the larger pieces just made.

Bracelet

- Wood bracelets can be made on the lathe by a variety of methods. A more complete description of a bracelet demonstration by Bob Norton can be found in our club's *Turning Times* newsletter of February 2013 (<http://cnywoodturners.org>).
- Another approach to wood bracelets is to make a wood piece that fits into a commercially available stainless steel band (www.bangleguy.com). These metal bands are two piece and fit around the wood bangle. They are then glued together so

that the wood is exposed only on the outer ring of the bangle.

**Beadwork and Jewelry Making**

- The essential bead work tools include: wire cutters, crimp tool, etc. Purchase good quality tools because tools like wire cutters last longer and make creating beadwork more enjoyable.
- Learn the different types of clasps and hook & eye combinations that work in different applications for necklaces and earrings.
- Wire is the recommended material to use when string beads on necklaces. A wide variety of sizes and weights of wire are available for different applications and techniques.
- Many different types, sizes, colors and materials of beads can be purchased and added to your wood turned work to enhance the overall design and outcome of the project.



Submitted by **Chad Dawson**

Photos by **Andy LoConte**

NOTE: If you decide to create some jewelry and would like help with stringing, Barbara is willing to help you. You must bring your project to the Eight Acres Event Center. Give her a call or email to setup a time.