

Biographical information: Mike has been a full-time woodturner for 15 years specializing in utility items (salad bowls, plates, and platters). Mike's work is sold widely throughout the United States in galleries that specialize in American Craft. Mike's other specialties are nesting bowls. Mike was the originator of the natural edge nesting sets. His bowl sets are even used in the White House kitchen. Mike's other specialties include hollow forms, thread chasing and box making.

Recommended tools: I highly recommend bringing your favorite gouges even though the school is well stocked. This will allow me to critique your cutting skills and help you understand what grinds achieve the best cut for all your turning projects.

Bring hollowing tools if you'd like.

I would also like to see pictures of your work if you have some.

Mike Mahoney 5 Day Intermediate Class – “The finer points of Woodturning”

Day 1

The first half of the morning is a discussion on turning tools, including: the specific grinds required for each tool; how we adjust tools to suit our needs and what tools to use and when. A demonstration on how the tools will be sharpened for the week will follow. My method of grinding is very simple and will help you achieve competency within the week.

Later in the morning we will turn a couple remedial projects utilizing end grain work-consisting of making a mallet and an eggcup. This will help me to determine your skill level. Then we jump into making a basic green bowl. There will be a discussion on cutting the wood from the log, laying it out for figure, and the drying process.

Day 2

There will be a natural edged bowl demonstration. We'll learn how to balance a piece for symmetry. The class members will finish this project and then we will have a critique. After lunch we will go back to basic bowls. This time we will nest 2 to 3 bowls out of a larger piece using the McNaughton center saver. There will also be a discussion on power sanding.

Day 3

There will be a demonstration on making hollow forms using the Stewart and similar systems. The class will blow-up a couple of these before finishing the project and then we will have a critique. Most of the day will be occupied with hollow forms and students are allowed to go back and repeat any previous projects.

Day 4

There will be a demonstration on cutting wood out of the log to get the best figure in our pieces. Then we will concentrate on making platters and "heirloom" utility items for your kitchen. There will be a discussion on base sizes, proportions, proper finishes, and timbers for these projects. Students will spend the day on these projects or repeat any previous projects. We will also take a field trip to my home and shop to see my collection, drying room, and equipment.

Day 5

This is an open day to achieve a gallery quality piece from any of our previous projects. There will also be time to make a sphere and to learn thread chasing.

Other demonstration will consist of a comprehensive finishing guide for Woodturners.

Mike Mahoney 3 day Workshop

Day 1

The first half of the morning is a discussion on turning tools, including: the specific grinds required for each tool; how we adjust tools to suit our needs; and what tools to use and when. A demonstration on how the tools will be sharpened for the week will follow. My method of grinding is very simple and will help you achieve competency within the week.

Later in the morning we will turn a couple remedial projects utilizing end grain work, consisting of making a mallet and an eggcup. This will help me to determine your skill level. Then we jump into making a basic green bowl. There will be a discussion on cutting the wood from the log, laying it out for figure, and the drying process.

Day 2

I will demonstrate the use of the McNaughton tool. The class will try to achieve removing 2 to 3 bowls out of a single blank. All bowls removed from the piece will be turned to match the largest piece creating a nested set.

Later in the day we will demonstrate hollow forms. The class will try to complete a hollow form and finish it.

Day 3

There will be time to finish all earlier projects first thing in the morning. There will be a demonstration on making platters and a discussion on the proper timber and finishes for these projects. Each student will accomplish a platter. There will also be a non-compulsory demonstration on thread chasing.

There will be one more demonstration that will include a comprehensive discussion on finishes for Woodturners.