

Last month Kevin demonstrated how to turn a natural edged bowl. This means that the half log with the bark attached will be mounted with the bark toward the headstock. Because there will be some bark removed during the process it is imperative that a face shield be worn and it is advisable that some form of smock or other protection be worn to protect against the wet wood shavings. It is important that the pith be removed from the blank to avoid cracking and splitting. Look at the blank and determine the best balance and then mount it to the lathe with the bark toward the headstock. The foot will be turned first cutting from the bark toward the tailstock to determine the shape. If the cut is made from the other direction the bark will almost always come off as the gouge lifts it away from the blank. Make a tenon to fit in the chuck or face off the foot end for a glue block leaving the mark from the tailstock, it will be needed later when the tenon or glue block is removed and the base is finished. Reverse the blank so the bark is toward the tailstock and begin cutting the interior of the bowl. A parting tool will often help to start the cut because of the amount of air being in the cut. Advancing the speed of the lathe will also help. When enough of a groove is started for the bevel of a gouge to ride, continue cutting toward the center of the bowl in small steps with the bowl gouge. Stop and check your progress often finishing an inch or so at a time as you advance to the center of the bowl. If you are using a chuck to hold the piece, check that it is held tightly because wet wood will compress and loosen in the chuck. Complete sanding the inside. For finishing the foot, Kevin uses a "pud" made from a short piece of PVC pipe in his chuck covered with a piece of router matt to prevent slippage and then covers the inside of the bowl where the "pud" contacts the bowl with painters tape to prevent any marring on the inside of the bowl. The tailstock is brought up and aligned with the mark left by the tailstock when turning the outside, and align the bowl to turn as true as possible before turning the lathe on. Start out slowly and increase the speed and carefully turn away the tenon or glue block making a slight under cut on the foot so the bowl will sit flat. Kevin uses Antique Oil on his bowls and does the finishing with the bowl removed from the lathe.

The question comes up as to whether wood cut in the summer or winter is best for this type of turning. Kevin says that he has made bowls with both types of wood and has had success and failures with both types. The general feeling is that wet wood is easier to turn than dry. It is for this reason that it is best to do the turning in one session and turn the bowl as thin as possible to avoid cracks and splits in the finished work. Some have advocated the use of thin CA glue around the bark-to-wood joint to help strengthen the hold of the bark to the bowl.

A good video can be seen at the site of Sam Angelo, it is <http://wyomingwoodturner.com/>. Navigate the site and check out his U-Tube channel or go to <https://www.youtube.com/user/WYOMINGWOODTURNER?feature=mhee> and check out his videos.

