

January 2015 Meeting—Shaun Clifford

Shaun proposed to make a natural-edged winged bowl from a piece of Yew. He is seen here with the piece of Yew mounted on the lathe and a sample of the proposed shape he will turn.

A large half log was mounted on the lathe using a faceplate and six screws. Shaun emphasised that a good fixing was important for safety. Also for safety a slow speed was used and gentle cuts with a gouge made to start to remove some of the bulk. He concentrated on getting a rough size for the bowl part and to get part way to forming the wings.



Once the basic shape was turned he put a curve on the edge of the rim, treating the piece as if it was a continuous round blank. He then reduced the thickness of the wings by taking some of the wood off the top edge of the wing (i.e. from the headstock side). This not only balanced the piece better but also allowed room for the later formation of a small rim around the bowl opening.

The speed could now be increased and Shaun proceeded to remove all the sapwood from the base as it is important that the chuck jaws hold only onto heartwood (the sapwood is weak and may fracture if gripped in the jaws). With the sapwood removed the underside shape of the bowl was formed and a spigot turned to fit the chuck jaws. Final cuts were made on the underside using the wings of the gouge and a negative rake scraper was applied to take very fine shavings from both the underside of the bowl and beneath the wings ready for sanding. Shaun cut a few rings on the underside of the bowl - he stated that he likes to do this as his “trademark”.



The part turned bowl was reversed onto the chuck and the thickness of the wings reduced further. He was careful to ensure the outer edge of the raised lip lined up with the outer edge of the underside of the bowl below the wings. Finishing cuts on the upper surface of the wings were taken with a scraper.

At this stage the bowl was hollowed out, Shaun takes rough cuts in steps, leaving some bulk in the centre, and then switches to a freshly sharpened gouge for finer finishing cuts to get an even wall thickness. The bulk in the centre is to stabilise the bowl - he turns wet wood and it needs the bulk to prevent distortion and movement while turning. Successive cuts finally removed the bulk in the centre and a French curve scraper was used to clean up the inside ready for sanding.

The lip around the edge of the bowl opening was defined using a point tool. The final touch was to roll over the edge of the wings with a spindle gouge.

The final picture shows Shaun answering questions at the end of the evening.

A very good start to what promises to be a very interesting program for the year. Thank you Shaun.

