

August 2019 - Sandra Adams

This was Sandra Adams's first visit to our club. She hails from the North Devon Woodturners Club and is on the Register of Professional Woodturners.

Her main demonstration for the evening was the making of flowers out of branchwood in this case ash. Some of her work and a previously made bunch of flowers is shown below ...



Bulrush ...

Mounting a slim piece of branchwood about 6" long, with previously drilled holes at both ends to eventually take pieces of thin dowel, the bark was removed using a spindle roughing gouge and then the ends slightly rounded over to imitate the shape of the bullrush.

Top Tip 1 - Sandra rarely uses a spindle gouge preferring to use small and large bowl gouges.

Then sand , don't seal, but go straight to polishing, in this case using Fiddes polish. If not a tight fit glue a long piece of dowelling for the stalk and a short piece on the top.

Flower e.g. convolvulus type ...

Using a larger (c. 4" diam) piece of branchwood ...

- Remove the bark on the end and create a spigot using parting tool
- Remount on the spigot in the chuck
- Flatten off the end using a small bowl gouge
- Hollow out a suitable bowl shape (about 1.5" deep) and then use a round nosed scraper to finish
- Make a mark where the bark is to be removed up to so that the outside can be shaped

- Using a bowl gouge remove the bark up to the mark and then shape the underside of the flower
- Sand, polish and part off

Top Tip 2 - when parting off, using the side edge of the tool creates a sharper finish

- Drill a small hole all the way through and then push a stalk of willow through

Poppy seed head ...

Using a medium sized log (c. 3" diam) ...

- Create spigot, remount and flatten off the end as before
- Make a mark just below the front face and then remove and shape the base of the poppy head
- Sand, part off, drill and insert dowel (thinner than the dowel used for the bullrush)



The flowers are then assembled into a bunch along with a real head of corn and a strand of willow, soaked a then rolled around a rolling pin and dried. The result is a very attractive display which can be sold as is or fixed in an appropriate wooden vase

...

Sandra then demonstrated the techniques she uses to create her dyed bowls. Using water based dyes rather like one would do wet washes in water colour painting ...

- Sand top of bowl, wet with water, dry with an hairdryer and then clean up with yellow webrax (1000 grit)
- Wet rim and inside recess and then with a brush apply small amounts of water based dyes

Top Tip 3 - keep wet so no harsh lines are created

Top Tip 4 - fully finish the outside of the bowl first so that the dyes do not run into the outside

- Spray whole surface with sanding sealer
- Apply yellow webrax
- Use some coloured wax (Martin Saban-Smith)
- Apply Chesnut liming wax in random places if required
- Finally Fiddes polish on the whole surface



Finally, using similar techniques to the above, Sandra made an onion shaped vase ...



Thanks to Sandra for her demo using unusual and previously unseen subject matter. I shall look more closely now at the flower shapes in my garden to create a variety of flower shapes.

David Langan