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blank lends itself to a certain forms. He drew some examples on the board that showed a blank with the height roughly equally the diameter. A blank with a height much greater than its diameter lends itself to a vase or goblet. A blank wider than it is high lends itself to an open form. Jim mentioned that the tendency sometimes is to use as much of the blank as possible. This can lead to dog bowl shape.

Jim gave some additional advice. Don't interrupt the line. Avoid shoulders on your forms. Don't have a piece land "hard" on the table. Create a shadow by forming a slight radius on the bottom of the piece. You don't want a sharp corner between the side and bottom of the piece. It is not necessary to create the shadow if the form has a foot. The foot "lifts" the piece. Jim mentioned that decorations (burning, texturing, etc.) should be kept above center.

Jim turned a dry maple closed form. The piece had a wide area near the top similar to a rimmed platters. This area would be for decoration. Jim started with the top mounted to a faceplate. He later reversed the piece but it didn't run quite true so Jim had to touch up the outside and refine the shape. Jim assured us that this normally doesn't happen. He pointed out that he wants the line of the piece above and below the decorative area to be continuous. Jim used a skew to cut deep grooves into the section to be decorated and then switched to a screwdriver sharpened to a point. He smoothed the area with a file. Jim put a small dimple in the center of the face before he hollowed the piece and used a drill bit in a T-handle to drill to the depth he wanted. The wood had knots, checks and the pith, but he persevered and simply reduced the size of the project.

Great job Jim. Thanks!