

Turn North



The Monthly Newsletter of the Northland Woodturners

www.northlandwoodturners-kc.com

January 2019

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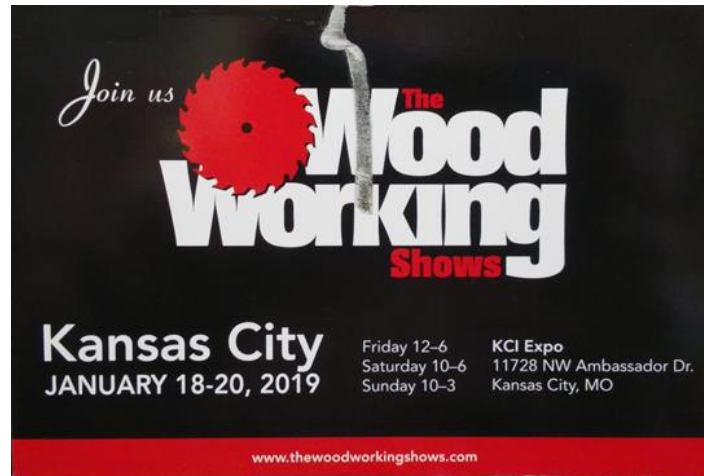
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HAPPY NEW YEAR 2019



Note the Address on the ad to the left.

Northland Woodturners will have a booth and will be demonstrating. Sign up at the January 3, 2019 meeting. You MUST be a member of AAW in order to use equipment, BUT... you CAN be a part and visit with people who come to see the Show.

Chapter Meetings:

First Thursday of every month, 7-9 pm.

Our ADDRESS: We're south of Zona Rosa just off NW Prairie View Rd., just east of the N-S drive beside the barber shop; **(Northeast Corner)** in the strip mall across from the BP station on Prairie View RD.

Coming Attractions

Newsletters on the Chapter Website:
<http://northlandwoodturners-kc.com>

Event Information:

The WOODWORKING SHOW
January 18-20, 2019

KCI EXPO

NW Ambassador Drive
(see add at top of page)

Next Month: Officer Highlights

Winner of the 2018 Loyalty prize at the December meeting is Dale Anderson. Remember to deposit your tickets each month in the little can so you, too, can become more eligible to win in December 2019.



Wood of the Month for January 2019



Alder – *Alnus rubra*.

Although the natural habitat of Red Alder, *Alnus rubra*, is the Pacific Northwest from Southeast Alaska to Northern California, it also grows around here in Missouri and the Mid-west. In the Northwest it is the most abundant hardwood tree in the area. Red alder is considered the most important commercial hardwood in the Northwest. It is in the Birch family and sometimes when freshly cut is confused with birch. When it is first cut it is light colored but darkens to a russet brown color darkening and reddening with age. It is a common substitute for cherry and/or mahogany in appearance. The catkins of the tree (reproductive flowers) are woody cones that are often covered with gold, silver or painted for jewelry.

The tree can grow up to 90 feet tall and grows around the banks of rivers and waterways. It is often planted to help control erosion and is also used as a "farming" tree to build up the soil from its copious litter and enrich it with nitrogen from the bacteria that lives in the little nodes on the roots. It is an important restoration 'crop' for disturbed forests because of this nitrogen fixing in the soil plus the leaves fall early and decay rapidly; creating nitrogen-enriched humus.

Along with being a beneficial tree, the wood of alder is a very good woodworking wood. The color of alder ranges from white through pinkish to light brown, has a relatively soft texture, minimal grain, and has medium luster. It is becoming used more and more in furniture making because of its workability and ease of finishing. It is now becoming one of the more popular hardwood alternatives as it is economically priced compared to many other hardwoods. Because alder is softer than traditional furniture hardwoods, it is often used as a 'core' wood much like poplar. Alder is valued by some electric guitar / electric bass builders for its balanced tonality. Alder works easily, glues well, nails and screws well (with pre-drilling), and finishes well. It is an excellent turning wood. Alder is a light and soft wood, which many like and some dislike. Sharp tools are needed to get good finishing cuts and it sands easily polishing up well. Avoid using standard twist-drill bits. They tend to wander in the wood and cause breakout. Instead, use brad-point bits. It is not a durable outdoors wood but holds up well under water. For example, much of the city of Venice Italy is built on alder pilings. Because of its oily smoke, alder is the wood of choice for smoking salmon.

As a carving wood, alder has an even texture, straight grain, and relative softness (similar to butternut) which makes red alder easy to carve with both hand and power tools. And for turning, be sure to use sharp turning tools to avoid tear out, otherwise expect red alder to turn with the ease of cherry, only softer.

Native Americans of the Pacific Northwest extracted a red dye from the inner bark of red alder, which was used to dye fish nets, making the net "invisible" to fish. Red alder contains salicin, which chemically is closely related to acetylsalicylic acid (commonly known as aspirin). This is probably why Native Americans used various preparations for medicinal purposes.

You can read more about Alder at; [Alder on Wikipedia](#) , [Wood Magazine](#) and on [The Wood Database](#).

Written by – Mel Bryan

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10/12/2018

Ornament Contest

First Place: Andy Brundage



Second Place: Mikeal Jones



Third Place: Dave Dinkel



Show and Tell



Three Duck Call bodies



Fifteen-wood Turned Basket



Walnut and Cherry wood Vase—side view.



Bottom view of Walnut-Cherry vase.

Show and Tell Ornament Tournament Showcase.

Match up the Ornaments below with the names posted at the meeting for a prize.
Most CORRECT answers wins—no ties allowed.



A.



B.



C.



D.

(continued on next page)



E.



F.



G.



H.



I.



J.

(background is actually same as "I" at left. Color has been enhanced to show actual colors of wood better.)

Christmas Turning Contest

Each contestant had to turn a replica of a brass bell as close as possible in Three minutes.



First Place: Danny Smith

Second Place: Dave Halter

Third Place: Mel Bryan

Other contestants were Chip Siskey, Leland Finley and Dave Bartlett.



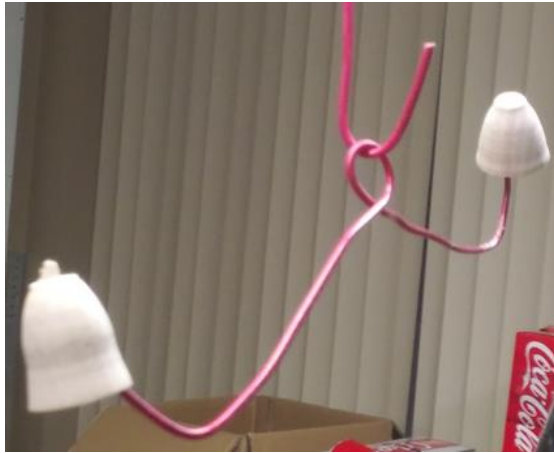
Danny Smith VS. Chip Siskey



Leland Finley VS. **Dave Halter**
(winners in bold above)



Mel Bryan VS. Dave Bartlett



Balance used to check the accuracy (weight too) of the bell turned by each contestant. Too thick a wall or too tall a bell ended up being disqualified.

Some of the Christmas treats being shared by members of Northland Woodturners at the Meeting. Quite a variety of choices were available to the members, including some hot items, cold items and lots of desserts.



Damage Control Plugs

Thanks to everyone who's helped with our plug orders. Our inventory is getting low so we will be asking for help getting restocked. There will be boxes of blanks at the next meeting. Please consider taking a box home and turning them by the following meeting. Here's a table with the plug dimensions for reference.

It's also on the CLUB NEWS tab of the club website at

<http://www.northlandwoodturners-kc.com/>

Plug	Lg Dia	Length	Sm Dia
#1	1 1/2	7	5/8
#2	2 1/4	4	1 1/4
#3	3 1/4	3 1/2	2 1/8
#4	4 1/4	5 3/4	2 3/4
#5	6 1/2	6	4 3/4

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Enter "NorthlandWoodturners" when asked for club name.

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REMINDER:

The annual dues for **2018** are **\$10.**

Checks can be made payable to
Northland Woodturners.