

Turn North



The Monthly Newsletter of the Northland Woodturners

www.northlandwoodturners-kc.com

September 2019

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Chapter Meetings:

First Thursday of every month, 7-9 pm.
Our ADDRESS: We're south of Zona Rosa just off NW Prairie View Rd., in the old Mid-Continent Library building on the top floor.
Parking is on top of the hill off Tower Drive.

[Check map on page 2 of THIS issue.](#)

Coming Attractions

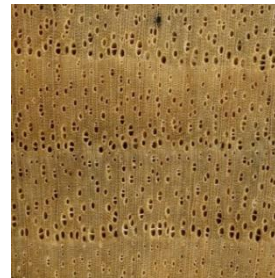
Newsletters on the Chapter Website:
<http://northlandwoodturners-kc.com>

Event Information:

NEEDED: Fund raising Ideas.

Wood of The Month

Diospyrus virginiana – Persimmon



In the 17th

century, speaking of persimmon fruit, Captain John Smith near Jamestown said, "If it be not ripe, it will draw a man's mouth awry with much torment." If you've ever been tricked into eating or accidentally gotten an unripe persimmon you know exactly what he means. The fruit of persimmon, which is about ¾ to 1 ½ inches long and wide, globe-shaped, orange to orange-purple, often with a whitish coating with an astringent and pucker to taste when green; but when ripe is sweet and edible. The ripe fruit is used to make jam, pudding and nut bread. The dried leaves can be made into a tea rich in vitamin C. At one time, the tea from persimmon was used as a folk remedy for stomachaches, heart-burn, diarrhea, and dysentery.

Persimmon, *Diospyrus virginiana*, is a member of the ebony family and is known as 'white ebony'. It is the only member of the ebony family to be found in the US. The small to medium sized tree grows in the central and southern states of the US where it is known as; bara bara, boa wood, butter wood, possum wood and Virginia date palm. Persimmon has a very small heartwood core with variegated streaks of yellow-brown, orange-brown, dark brown or black. But the wider sapwood is off-white with a gray tint, and straight grained with a fine even texture. It is the sapwood that is valuable and useful. It was once the standard for golf club heads and used for, textile shuttles, bobbins, shoe lasts, tool handles, spools, musical instruments and miscellaneous articles of turnery because of its toughness, hardness and ability to retain a smooth surface even after prolonged use. It can be difficult to work, but turns well and finishes to a high polish. It does not glue well but is high in shock resistance and the fibers do not fray.



Persimmon can be difficult to find. It is not available commercially and can be expensive. It can be found in 'out-of-the-way places' such as small local sawmills. The wood is difficult to season and shrinks when drying.

You can read more about Persimmon at; [Persimmon on the Wood-database](#) and [Persimmon on Wikipedia.org](#).

Written by – Mel Bryan

NEW LOCATION MAP



NW Prairieview Rd on left side of map; Tower Dr. near bottom; **red line** points to bldg. entrance for Northland Woodturners.

NWT members ready for a Demo by Mikeal Jones on open segment layer turning.



Show and Tell—*(Look what I Did!)*



Walnut Button turned by Mikeal Jones.
Note the unusual grain pattern on the left. The button is about 8" in diameter.

Laminated Ring at right turned by Mikeal Jones. The ring is about 1" in external diameter and about size 10 on the inside,



Four additional examples of Mikeal's turnings using the open segment design.

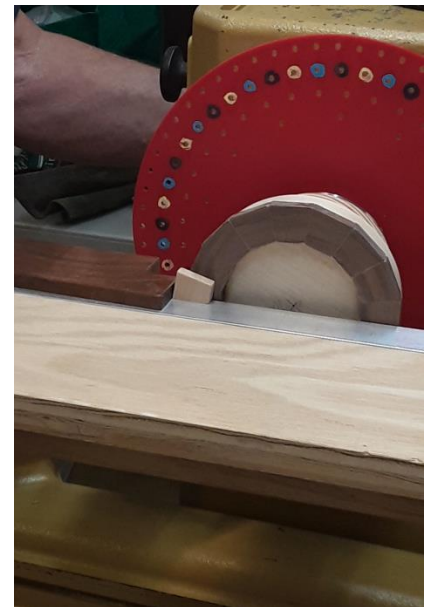
Program Highlights...



On the left, Mike prepares to flatten the surface of the base blank and first solid row of segments using a board with sandpaper glued to it. The board is held against the slowly rotating blank to assure a flat surface for the next layer,

On the right, the jig for positioning the segments, along with the angle disc, is in place. At the left, a small piece of wood is positioned below and toward the operator. This is to anchor the red disc in the photo on the right so spacing can be controlled for placement of the segments.

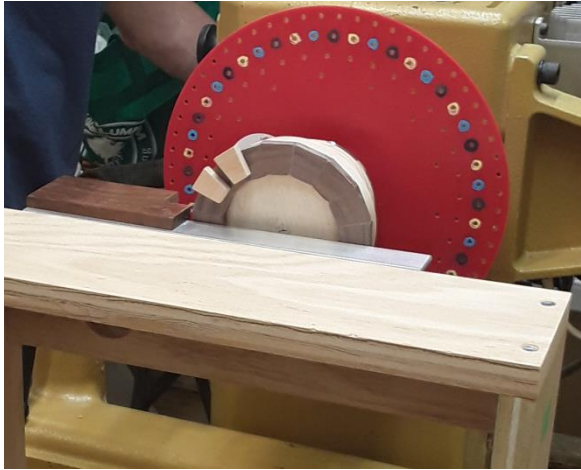
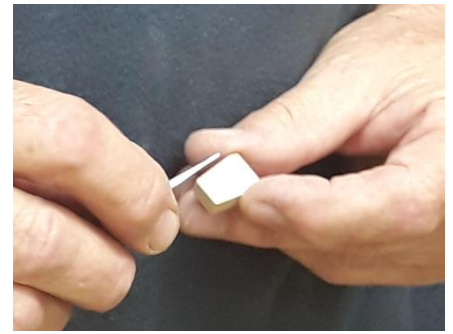
The first open segment piece is in place on top of the jig. It will be glued on with fast-setting glue.





This is the glue Mikeal uses to attach the segments to the previous layer. Usually 3 layers are glued on before the truing process begins.

At the right, Mikeal uses a toothpick to apply a sparing amount of glue to the surface before placing the segment on the “building” form.



The second segment has been placed and the piece is being positioned for the next one.

At the right, the third layer has been placed. This is a piece that has been done previously for the demo.

Trimming by turning begins to shape the interior so that when done assembling, the interior will take minimal tuning/sanding to complete.



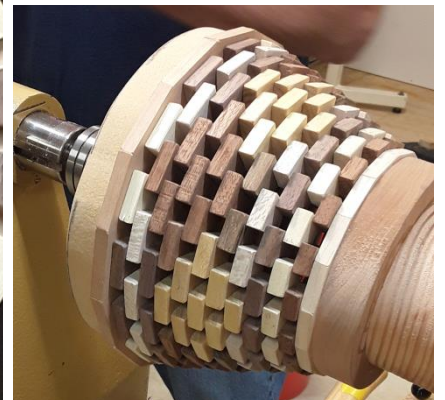
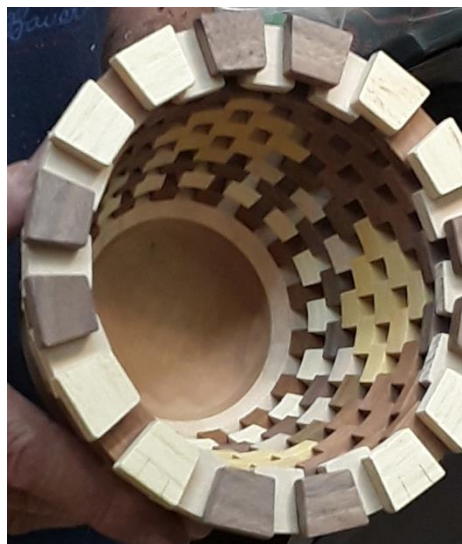
Mikeal typically uses a round nose scraper to trim the interior, allowing him to smooth the bottom part slightly also.

At right, you can see where the solid segment bottom layer connects with the base and how it was smoothed in the action at left.



All open segments have been placed on this form. The next layer will be a solid layer to tie the open segments together and provide a smooth top surface. Notice the pattern of segments as seen on the inside.

At far right, the solid layer is clamped in place using the lathe as a clamp,

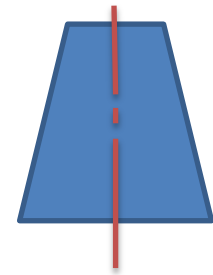
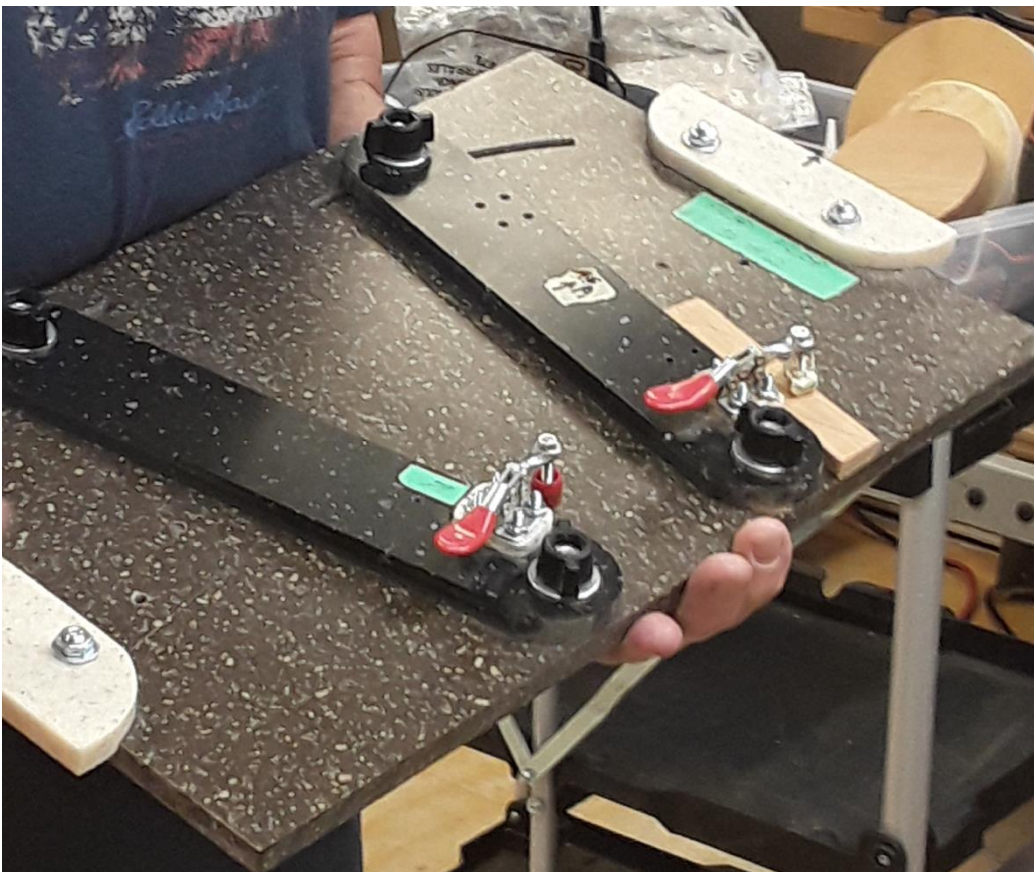




This is a detail of the positioning fixture with magnets to hold the angle disc (*red disc on page 3 and 4*) in place for segment positioning. Made of hardwood with an indexing hole (*right*) and magnets glued to it, it is stuck on the headstock. Aluminum lathes need a steel plate fastened to allow the fixture at left to be positioned.



This segmented bowl was made by the same process only with NO space between segments. Made of stained hard maple, this is another of Mikeal's creations.



This is a picture of Mikeal's segment cutting jig. This is a purchased one; plans are available on line for building your own. Dimensions are critical to get the right shapes and sizes. Mikeal's segments are approximately 3/8" deep and 1 inch inside to outside thickness.

The piece is first cut as positioned, then the blank is moved to the other side for the second cut. There is also a "flip-flop" process to assure both pieces have a symmetrical about a center-line for each piece. (*See above drawing*)

Damage Control Plugs

Thanks to everyone who has helped with our plug orders in the past. We will be asking for help getting other projects to raise funds. All ideas are welcome along with samples.

The CLUB NEWSLETTER tab of the club website is at

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



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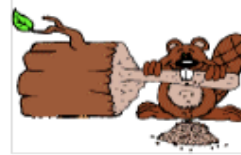


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Enter "NorthlandWoodturners" when asked for club name.

REMINDER:

The annual dues for 2019 are **STILL**
\$10. Advanced payments are accepted.
Checks can be made payable to
Northland Woodturners.