

Turn North



The Monthly Newsletter of the Northland Woodturners

www.northlandwoodturners-kc.com

July 2020

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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.

Coming Attractions

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

Event Information:

NEEDED: Fund raising Ideas.

Remember—2020 dues are \$10 for the year.

Due beginning January 3, 2020

Next Meeting:

July 2, 2020

**U-Bring Ice Cream Social
(??) in the
Parking Lot**

Summertime and the livin' is **NOT** easy this year!!

Rumor has it that we will have *Ice Cream, snacks and share Show And Tell* in the parking lot where the usual meeting is located. Stay tuned for further details.

Once again Northland Woodturners met for the June meeting on ZOOM. Pres. David Bartlett showed how he made some projects from Acrylic and colored pencils for the program part of the meeting. The program feature of this newsletter will attempt to show David turning a pen using a blank he had previously made. He also had a couple of **Show and Tell** items made of the same material. He had helped his son make a project for his son's teacher using the same material. His son turned a pen and David turned a small bowl. See those items later in our **Show and Tell** section of this newsletter.

Wood of The Month



Nyssa spp – Tupelo

There are basically two species of tupelo that grow here in Missouri. One is, Water tupelo, *Nyssa aquatica*, and Black gum, *Nyssa sylvatica*. When you buy tupelo you may actually get a mixture of the two as black gum is often mixed with the tupelo. They are closely related and have very similar characteristics and look, however, black gum has a wider distribution. Here in Missouri tupelo grows mainly in the southeastern boot heel area of the state and the territory for black gum stretches farther up into the state and farther west. Black gum, also called black tupelo, grows in acid soils on rocky wooded slopes, ridges, ravines, borders of sink-hole ponds in the Ozarks, and lowland forests. Water tupelo grows in swamps with bald cypress trees

in the lowlands of the southeast. Black gum is often used as an ornamental for its brilliant foliage even though it is slow growing. Honey from the tupelo is very light and mild-tasting. Besides the excellent honey from bees, the tree is often used as the beehive because the heartwood decays first causing the tree to become hollow and providing the beehive.

On Martha's Vineyard the black gum goes by another name; "beetlebung". The native whalers on the island used the local black gum tree to make tools, one of which was a mallet called the beetle used to pound in the bung of the oil barrels thus it was dubbed "beetlebung".

The wood is favored by carvers especially for wildfowl carvings. It takes fine details and holds paint well and does not fuzz up under power carving like basswood does. The heartwood is pale brownish-gray to light brown with a very wide, lighter colored sapwood. It is uniform in texture, has close interlocked grain and is without luster. Besides carving, it is used in woodenware, novelties, fixtures, handles, boxes, crates, the concealed parts of furniture and is an excellent wood for turnery.

Written by – Mel Bryan

SHOW AND TELL



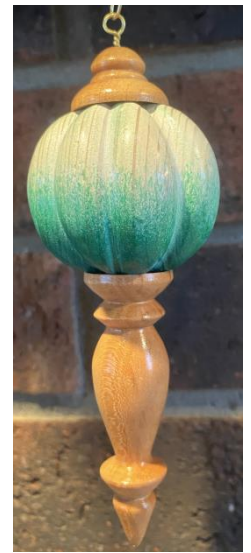
David Bartlett's Colored pencil/Acrylic bowl and pencil that was given to his son's teacher this past school year. It took a lot of pencils cut in pieces to make the blanks. The bowl blank was cast hollow and turned to finished shape and size.

Good job David!!

One of **Mel Bryan's** S & T projects was a set of Christmas ornaments. You will need to ask him how the flutes were made. Each one was slightly different and colored differently as is evident in the pictures. The two on the left appear to have top and bottom made of Cherry wood with the main body of Oak (?). The one on the right would appear to be Oak (?) but maybe not.

All in all, nice work, Mel!

Mel's second entry was a limb bowl.



More details on the next page.



Made of **Silver Maple**, it was a storm branch repurposed.

(The Editor is not exactly sure but, it takes a steady lathe to turn something this long and narrow and NOT get “whacked” by the turning piece!)



Mel's third entry was a Sphere turned about 3" in diameter from what appears to be spalted wood.





Mikeal Jones is a regular participant in the club **Show and Tell** activity.

Mikeal's turnings were an apple and a pear, almost lifelike enough to bite into. Both were made from **Spalted Maple**. The stems were dowels cut and inserted into holes drilled into the "fruit".

David Halter showed two turnings. The first was a Segmented Bowl. It is made from **Maple** and **Walnut**.



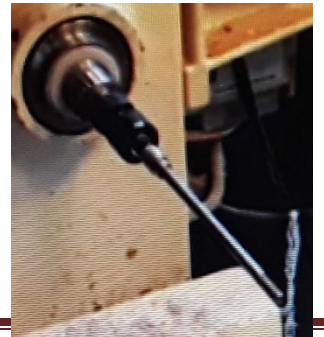
David's second turning is a partial set of Column Bases for an old house in St. Joseph. You can see the relative size from the picture below on right.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



NWT President David Bartle was the presenter at the June meeting. His program showed how to use an acrylic blank to turn a part for a pen or pencil. Shown at right is a pen kit that David used to make the pen. At far right is the pen mandrel Dave used to mount the drilled and glued blank.





a



b



c



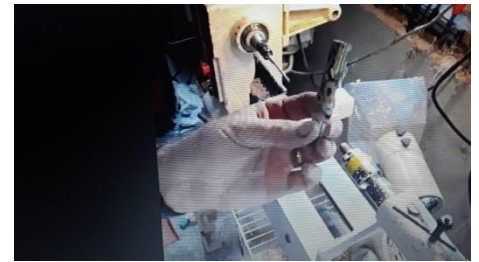
d

Shown above from left to right are: **a.** the drilled blank; **b.** mounted in a drill vise to counter bore for the bushing; **c.** close-up of the counter bore; and **d.** mounted on the pen mandrel ready for turning.



David is shown here holding one of the spacer/alignment bushings used to gauge the turning and mounting of the pen blank on the pen mandrel.

Setting the tool rest is vital so that the square blank does not touch when starting the lathe. Turning was done using a spindle gouge and moderate speed. Super sharp tools are required on this kind of material since soft spots and possible voids can occur in the blank.



Unfortunately, the demo came to an abrupt halt when a chip from the blank rendered it unusable. Having no backup piece, David shared the hazards of making blanks using the materials he had used.

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/>

If you have completed plugs, bring them with you to be turned in and shipped.

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M-F, 7am-6pm, MST
Check out the Club Specials every month.
Enter "NorthlandWoodturners" when asked for club name.

REMINDER:

The annual dues for 2020 **are back to**
\$10.00. Advanced payments are accepted.
Checks can be made payable to
Northland Woodturners.

The suppliers above are back open for business in-person in spite of Covid-19.