# Turn North

The Monthly Newsletter of the Northland Woodturners

www.northlandwoodturners-kc.com April 2021

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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—2021 dues are $10 for the year.***
***Due beginning January 7, 2021***

**Next Meeting:**
**April 1, 2021**
**ZOOM—891 7968 3696**
**Pass--315912**


***The Woodworking Shows-Virtual*** weekend seminars are history. If you missed out, the seminars (paid @ $20.00 per weekend) were informative. Your TN Editor "attended" the last weekend and took in a good conference from Barry Gross on pen turning. Also a good and informative seminar by Charles Bender regarding CNC in the woodworking shop gave insight into another phase of woodworking. All the seminars for the weekend are available for the paid subscribers for a year in YouTube.

Maybe next year all will be in person. BTW, the exhibits were open and available **for no charge** to anyone checking in.

# The History of Woodturning

Excerpted from https://mollerstead.com/the-history-of-woodturning/#:~:text=%20The%20History%20of%20Woodturning%20%201%20Different,also%20known%20as%20the%20Industrial%20Revolution%2C...%20More%20

The history of woodturning shows that this classic woodworking art was practiced thousands of years ago. It is the process of building, making or carving something by the use of wood. There were two significant historic civilizations that used woodworking; the Chinese and the Egyptians…

Dated to around 1300 BC, Egyptians were considered to have discovered woodturning. Two persons were responsible for working a lathe in those days. The first person would turn the wood with a rope, while the second one used the sharp tools that would cut shapes in the wood…

To make the work much easier, a turning bow was added. The turning bow discovered and used by the Germans. This meant that the craftsman could use one foot to turn the lathe, freeing up his hands to use the tools for designing the spinning timber. A pedal was then used during the Middle Ages…

During the 18th and 19th century, also known as the Industrial Revolution, significant changes occurred with regards to agriculture, manufacturing, mining, and transport. This period also had an effect on the use of the lathe which became motorized…

Almost every year people try to make new discoveries in woodturning. Definitely, woodturning has evolved and become a more highly skilled art form than it once was. And though the number of machines and equipment we have

today is wider than was possible in the early days of woodturning, it is still important to appreciate the work of art in any simple way.

Despite the fact that the products produced from woodturning are no longer necessary because they are made from man-made materials, the ability to still create them from the process of woodturning will stay strong and will still continue for as long as there are people who believe in and appreciate the artistic and useful items of woodturning.

## Wood of The Month

**Dogwood – *Cornus florida***



If you like the wood of persimmon, you are bound to like the wood of Missouri's official state tree, Flowering dogwood. There are many similarities between the two woods that even makes dogwood a good substitute for persimmon in many of the items made from persimmon such as golf club heads, bobbins and other turned objects.

The flowering dogwood, Cornus florida, is best known for its large, attractive, white, pinkish and rose colored blossoms which appear in the spring and for its brilliant scarlet-colored autumnal foliage. It is a slow-growing tree seldom more than 40 feet in height and has a short trunk 8 to 16 inches in diameter. As the old saying goes, "you can identify a dogwood tree by its bark". Its bark is only about ¼ in. thick and has the texture of alligator hide. Other names that dogwood goes by are, arrow-wood, cornel, false boxwood, Florida dogwood, boxwood, or white cornel.

The rather small heartwood of flowering dogwood is reddish-brown to light chocolate in color, sometimes streaked with mottled white lines. The wide sapwood has a creamy white to pinkish cast and makes up the majority of the wood available for woodworking and turning. The wood texture is fine and uniform. The interlocked grain is very fine, hard and compact. It is sometimes confused with hard maple. It is sometimes difficult to air dry without checking unless the process is done slowly under controlled conditions. The availability as lumber is scarce and it is high priced and sometimes sold by the pound. Therefore, acquiring dogwood usually means cutting it yourself.

Flowering dogwood finishes with glossy smoothness and **can be turned** with ease because of its close-grained characteristics. The bulk of commercial use is for weaving shuttles. It is also used for mallet heads, spools, bobbins, golf-club heads, tool handles, machinery bearings and charcoal for gunpowder, and sporting goods.

The name dogwood comes from the old word "dag," meaning skewer. As the name suggests, this hard, tough, splinter-free wood was used in making skewers to hold meat together while cooking. Native Americans prepared a scarlet dye from the roots to color their quills and feathers. They also dried the bark of the root to treat malaria, and the early European settlers fought chills and fevers with it; at one time it also was used as a quinine substitute. Dogwood twigs were used by pioneers to brush their teeth. They would peel off the bark, bite the twig and then scrub their teeth. So, if you want to "*get your teeth into*" a great turning wood, give dogwood a try. You will be pleased with the experience and outcome.

You can read more about Dogwood at; Dogwood on the Wood-database and Dogwood on Wikipedia.org.

Written by – Mel Bryan

# Show and Tell

**Mikeal Jones** showed a vase of **Cherry** wood with a red cherry stain. The approximate height is 10" with a diameter 0f 3".
Nice job Mikeal.

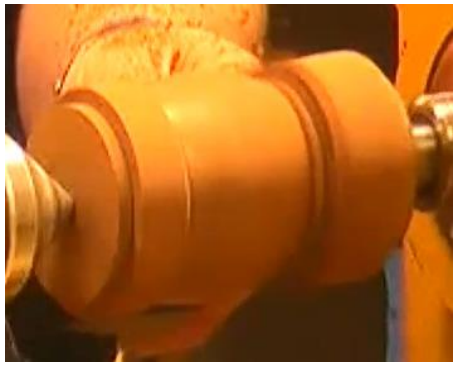
**Mel Bryan** shared some pictures of scratch-awls he had made with turned handles. Notice the design in the top of the right picture. Copper tubing was used for the ferrules and a variety of woods were used.

# Program Highlights

**David Bartlett**, Northland Woodturners President, was the presenter for the March meeting. His project was to turn an Egg, not just any egg but a HOLLOW egg. See the progress below as David proceeded.

Starting with a square block 3" x 3" x 5" David proceeded to outline the process he would follow to turn the egg. Rough shaping of both ends before separating the parts so they could be hollowed was explained.

Then David explained the tools to be used and why he would not use a roughing gouge. The tang where the handle meets the tool on a roughing gouge is too small compared to a bowl gouge. This affects the handling and operation of the tool when turning, especially inside for the hollowed part. Note the comparisons in the pictures below.



The progression from round to rough egg shape is shown above. The largest diameter is approximately in the "center" of the egg.

As can be seen on the left, the blank David used is not perfect, seeing the worm holes in one side.

Next, marking the approximate center then the inset on the right, David proceeded to mark the other inset on the other side of the "center" mark.

Using a narrow parting tool, David then proceeded to separate the two halves of the egg.

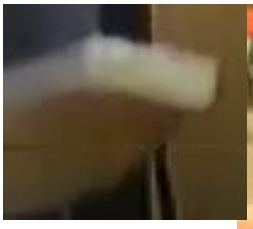
One can see on the right the size of the slot and a better view of the parting tool cutting edge.

Using a very thin blade saw, David cut the two halves apart. This left a small "pud" in the center that would go away when the hollowing was complete.

Once one of the egg halves was mounted in a 4-jaw chuck, one jaw was marked on the wood blank to facilitate remounting later.

Next David proceeded to face off the end in preparation to establishing the interlock for the two egg halves. Note the initial position of the bowl gouge compared to the final position facing off the end.

Changing from a parting tool to a beading/parting tool David began to establish the interior hollow of the egg part.
See picture at right for a detail of the cutting edge of the beading/parting tool.



Continuing with the gouge, he hollowed and removed the nib in the center of the egg half.

After taking a "rough" depth measurement, David used a round-nose tool to trim out the wall thickness and smooth up the interior of the egg. Care must be used to not deepen the interior too much or a nice "funnel" becomes the result.

Once some light sanding was done to the interior, a smooth surface emerged.

At right David took measurements of the depth and width of the flange needed on the other egg half to make mating as accurate as possible.

Semi-final shaping to give shape to the end of the egg half came next.

After a light trim cut to remove the initial layout cuts, the egg half got one more interior trim to even the wall thickness. (*see next page*)

Once trimmed inside the egg half is parted off and the remaining "pud" is removed from the chuck as shown at the right.

The other half-egg was mounted and the first half was held up to check the mating and possible fit.

When determined that the two would work together it was time to finish turn the second egg half.


Using a caliper to scribe a line where the inset would be turned, a dividers was used to emphasize the line better.

Trimming the edge to approximately the depth then checking the fit caused David to use some water to “swell” the flange enough to provide a tighter fit.





From left to right the progression from assembled egg to finish-turned egg is seen above.

Using a machinist 6” rule, David then checked for flat spots. Finding one on second check where his finger is touching at right, he did some light sanding to smooth over the flat spot.

After some light sanding on the end and main body, the one end was complete, worm hole and all.

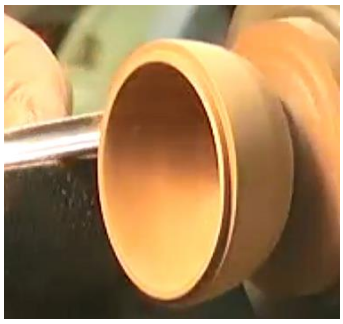
is

Upon removal of the finished half, the work remaining was exposed. Using his thumb, David indicated the rim needed to be left for the two halves to reassemble and stay put.

Repeating the same operations used on the other half, the second half is hollowed out. Notice the rim remaining for reassembly in the right-hand picture above.

Using the ground surface on the back of the gouge to determine the depth of cut, a final cut was made. Note the center remains leaving in the right-hand picture as David smoothed the center surface.

Some light sanding using a "finger-saver" finishes the inside of the 2nd half of the egg. One quick touch to the end of the egg assures a good, tight fit when the two halves are re-assembled.

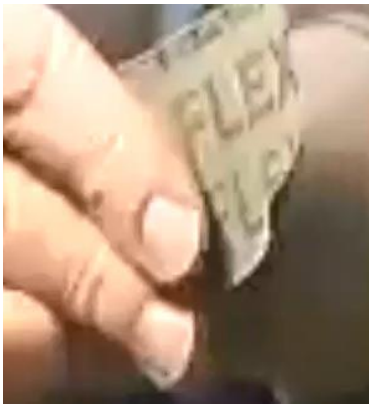


Final shaping of the top of the egg can be seen in the pictures above along with some finish sanding of the outside surface. Now all that remains is to release the egg half from the "pud" in the chuck.

From removal of the "finished" turning a "pud" remains in the chuck. Using this, a jam chuck to hold the just-removed turning can be held to smooth where it was removed.

OOPS! Just a little too far. That's why a little wood is still left on the chuck.

Turning by hand to check alignment, David proceeded to turn off the roughness on the end of the 2nd egg half.



With just a little more sanding the "egg" is ready to be "laid" into the hands of those present.

Ta, DA! The finished product back in David's hand!!

Congratulations, David, well done!

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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REMINDER:
The annual dues for 2021 **are still only $10.00**. Advanced payments are accepted.
**Checks can be made payable to *Northland Woodturners*.**