

Turn North



The Monthly Newsletter of the Northland Woodturners

www.northlandwoodturners-kc.com

August 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; Entrance on NW Corner of building. Parking is on top of the hill off Tower Drive.

Cost

The cost of admission is **\$45 for AAW members** and \$60 for all others. With 12 feature demonstrations, that's only \$3.75 per demonstration. Wow, a great value! And, you get many other event elements included with the price of Virtual Symposium admission. Online registration can be done at the website

[2021 AAW Virtual Symposium \(woodturner.org\)](http://2021AAWVirtualSymposium.woodturner.org)

Registration ends 7/16/2021 12:00 PM Eastern Daylight Time

Just a reminder...

The Club wishes to remind the members that fundraisers and donations are needed. When the Plug market picks up again we will need to have in stock a variety of sizes to fill the order.

Size Chart is shown below.

Coming Attractions

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

NEEDED: Fund raising Ideas.

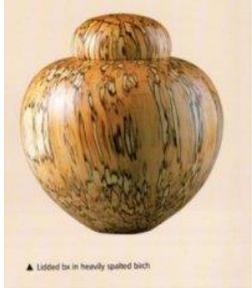
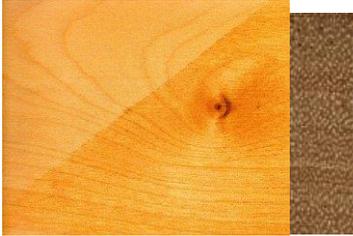
Remember—2021 dues are \$10 for the year.
Due beginning January 7, 2021

Next Meeting:
July 1, 2021

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

Wood of The Month

Birches – Betula Spp



Once again, the ‘**Wood of the Month**’ covers a wood that has a wide variety of specific species that involves several different names but with similar characteristics. As a matter of fact the *Betula* genus (Birch) contains up to 60 species of trees and shrubs that are native to the northern hemisphere. Birch trees can be found as far north as the Arctic, with European white birch (*B. pubescens*, also known as downy or hairy birch) surviving at 70 degrees north it is one of the few species of tree to grow in Iceland. The subspecies Arctic white birch is the only tree native to Greenland. Birch trees feature largely in the folklore and culture of northern European countries. In North America the bark of the paper birch (*B. papyrifera*) was used for the construction of canoes by the Native Americans, and also for writing on – hence the name.

Birch trees are typified by constantly shedding their outer bark in strips around the stem; the silver birch (*B. pendula*), familiar in Europe, is a particularly good example of this. And they typically have fine twigs and foliage, with their flowers forming in catkins.

Common names for birch are; grey birch, silver birch, swamp birch, hard birch, curly birch, yellow birch, American birch, betula wood, sweet birch, bolean jaune and paper birch. Of all the different birches, river birch (*Betula nigra*) is the most common here in Missouri. It occurs in moist ground along streams and gravel bars; common throughout the state. It is considered a pioneer species, rapidly colonizing exposed, bare stream banks and gravel bars, stabilizing the soil helping to develop a forest for other trees to succeed. It has been grown as an ornamental since 1736.

The wood of the birches are all very similar and share common characteristics. The heartwood is diffuse-porous, light to dark golden-brown to light reddish-brown. It is hard, straight grained but often wavy grained, strong, and the fine, uniform textured wood has high impact resistance. It finishes and polishes well but pre-drilling is required for nails and screws. It takes dyes and clear stains better than heavily pigmented finishes. Birch can be colored to match many different woods and therefore can be used as an alternative or substitute for more expensive woods.

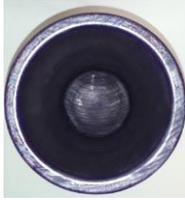
Yellow birch (*Betula alleghaniensis*) is probably the most common commercial variety. All of the birches possess the same qualities and uses and are used extensively for furniture, flooring, doors, cabinetry, veneer and higher grade plywood, cabinets, turnings from shuttles, spools, and bobbins to vessels and woodenware, butcher blocks, dowels, toys, agricultural implements, musical and scientific instruments and don’t forget toothpicks, ice-cream spoons, popsicle sticks, craft sticks and tongue depressors.

When turning or working birch, the dust is very fine and should be accounted for to protect yourself. Sharp tools will help prevent tear out and chipping.

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

Written by – Mel Bryan

SHOW AND TELL



Mikeal Jones brought a **Cherry** wood vase that he dyed purple and finished with a topcoat of lacquer. To make the dye he mixed water alcohol, paint thinner with the dye.



Mikeal's next project was a **Maple** bowl. Having been a machinist "in a former life" he used a knurling tool and embossed two patterns on the outside. Each band was colored differently using markers giving a unique look to the bowl.

Nice work, Michael!

Mikeal's third turning was another of his "open weave" staggered block, stacked layer bowls. The bottom was **Cherry** wood with layers of **Oak, Cherry, Walnut, Hard Maple** and **Padauk** and topped with **Walnut**.



Dale Pollard brought a Turned Ball and Stand, both made from **Walnut**.



The Ball and Base were both finished with lacquer. The surface of the ball was very smooth and showed no location for where the centers had been.

Nice Job Dale!!



Carl Sievering brought the finished product from a previous **SHOW AND TELL** after completing the finishing using an epoxy finish. The pictures in the newsletter don't do justice to the look. The "white specks" are actually gold sparkles mixed into the finish before applying. In the center picture one can see a white ring around the bottom. This is the excess finish that hardened before it could be swirled around to distribute. This can happen because it takes a minimum of 4 hours to set up enough not to cause runs and irregular thicknesses.

At the right below is an enlarged image of another piece like the center insert with the star. These were Carl's "experimental" practice pieces using the finishing material.



At left is a side view showing the staggering of the pieces used to make the bowl. Alternating pieces of Walnut, Oak and Hard Maple were used to form the rings with pie-shaped pieces surrounding the star insert on the bottom layer.

Nice Work Carl!

Mel Bryan sent pictures of his Torus Bud vases. We teased Mel telling him that he should eat donuts not make vases of them; all in good fun though!



All of the above are Walnut.



Box Elder



Claro Walnut—front and back views



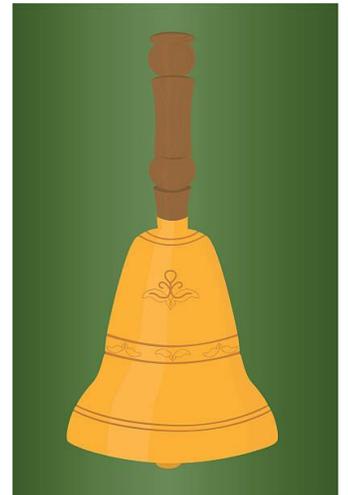
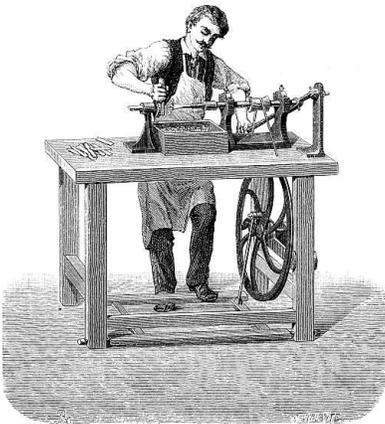
Norfolk Island Pine—front and back views

The last picture is of an unknown wood but has a nice grain pattern to it.

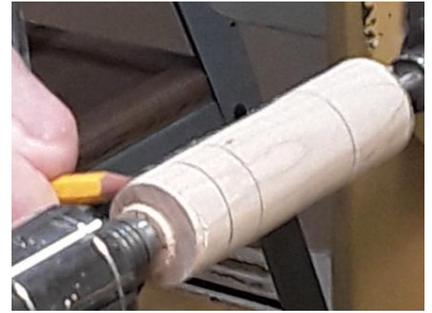


All in all June produced some great **SHOW AND TELL** turnings. Let's keep up the good work for future months.

Surely with all the "free" wood being offered we can get more turnings and make for great **SHOW AND TELL** in the coming newsletters.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



Long-time member **Kent Townsend** was the Program Highlight for the June Northland Woodturners meeting. One of Kent's favorite things to make is a baby rattle. A sample of what would be the finished product is shown above next to the picture of Kent. Shown above at the right is the beginning of the rattle turned from a 2" square by 5" piece of Hard Maple. In the far right picture Kent is laying out where the two end balls will be and where the two loose rattles will be. Some special turning tools are used but can be done with basic turning tools.

Shown below is the shaping of the ball ends from left to center. At right, Kent is laying out the two torus shapes to be turned on the spindle center.

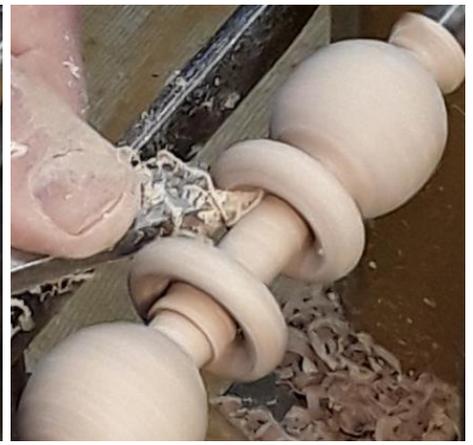


From left to right the torus shapes are blocked in, turned round and rough sanded before final turning and release off the center spindle.



This is what the end of a ring tool looks like. It works by a scraping rather than a shearing action. To make the ring, work either side alternating until the rings just about break free. Sand lightly as much as possible since it is difficult after the ring comes off.

In the far right photo, Kent just about has the rings free.



Once the rings are “free” the spindle in the center needs to be cleaned up. Kent used a scraper to pare off the remnants where the rings were attached. Then using the spindle gouge again he cleaned up the balls on the inside and did some more sanding. Finally, the two outside ends of the balls were cut free from where the centers were attached.



A little cutting with the old reliable pocket knife removes the center attachments from each end and some light sanding finishes the piece.



Here is the finished rattle. For a finish Kent uses mineral oil since it is not toxic and will give the wood some protection from the action when a baby puts the rattle in its mouth—a sure action to occur.

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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Check out the Club Specials every month.
Enter "NorthlandWoodturners" when asked for club name.

REMINDER:

The annual dues for 2021 **are still**
only \$10.00. Advanced payments are accepted.

Checks can be made payable to
Northland Woodturners.