Turn North

The Monthly Newsletter of the Northland Woodturners

www.northlandwoodturners-kc.com August 2021

2021 Officers

David Bartlett, President
(816) 331-5664
dabartle23@yahoo.com
Danny Smith, Vice President
(816) 720-3781
ishear4@gmail.com
Andy Brundage, Secretary
(816) 305-32238
andybrun53@gmail.com
Leland Finley, Newsletter Editor
(816) 830-4702
leefin@netscape.net
Chip Siskey, Treasurer
(816) 858-3080
woodchipsbychip@yahoo.com

Chapter Meetings:

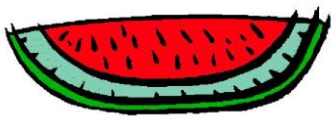
First Thursday of every month, 7-9 pm.
Our ADDRESS: We're south of Zona Rosa just off NW Prairie View Rd., in the old Mid-Continent Library building on the top floor. Parking is on top of the hill off Tower Drive.

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:
August 5, 2021



And now a word from our "sponsor" (AAW)…

What Is Woodturning?

Woodturning is the craft of using the wood lathe with hand-held tools to cut a shape that is symmetrical around an axis of rotation. Like the potter's wheel, the wood lathe is a simple mechanism which can generate a variety of forms limited only by the imagination of the artist or craftsperson.

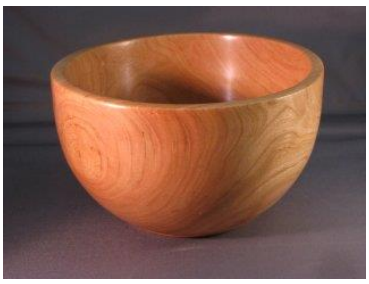
When the wood grain runs **parallel** to the lathe bed, the turnings are called **spindle turnings**. These include tool handles, candlesticks, egg cups, knobs, lamps, rolling pins, cylindrical boxes, Christmas ornaments, knitting needles, needle cases, thimbles, pens, chessmen, spinning tops, legs, spindles, pegs, balusters, newel posts, baseball bats, and hollow forms such as burial urns. Bowls can also be turned spindle-wise.
Turnings made with the grain of the wood **perpendicular** to the lathe bed are known as **face grain** or **sidegrain** turnings. They include bowls, platters, and chair seats. **by Kay Liggett** from the **AAW woodturners website** *https://www.woodturner.org/Woodturner/LearningPortals/Discover-Woodturning-Main.aspx*

(pictures from https://www.woodturner.org/Woodturner/Gregory/DiscoverWTWhatis.aspx)

Ed. Note: Just a little basic info in case newbies or people interested in woodturning are tuned in or looking at this copy of the newsletter.
Never hurts to "review" the basics once in a while. The AAW website has LOTS of great info including a piece entitled "What? Me a Woodturner?" Check it out and tell your friends all about what **you** do in your spare time.

Wood of The Month

Prunus serotina – Black cherry



Black cherry, also known as, American black cherry, wild black cherry, black rum cherry, whiskey cherry and wild cherry has a long and proud history as a furniture wood, dating to the time of the early settlers. The colonists substituted American black cherry for the expensive, imported mahogany, calling the domestic wood with similar characteristics "American mahogany".

"Cherry is probably the most popular hardwood in the world," said Herb McClaugherty, president and CEO of the Dean Co. "In Europe, cherry is the second most-used cabinet wood. Here in the United States, cherry ranks as our most popular cabinet wood assuming red and white oak are treated as separate woods," he said.

Black cherry's range in North America extends from the eastern regions of Canada to the eastern part of the United States and into Mexico. The prime cherry wood traditionally comes from the Appalachian Mountain areas, a range extending from northern Vermont to North Carolina with the very best cherry coming first from Pennsylvania and then West Virginia and New York. Cherry trees thrive in Pennsylvania because they grow in stands rimmed by hemlock, which protects the cherry trees from strong winds. Cherry is a somewhat fragile tree because it can grow tall – sometimes 20 to 25 feet to the first limb – and it can be susceptible to wind damage.

Black cherry is a straight-grained, moderately hard wood with a specific gravity (ovendry) of 0.53 or about 36 pounds per cubic foot. The sapwood is narrow and varies in color from white to light reddish brown. The heartwood varies from light to dark reddish brown. Growth rings are fairly distinct, and wood rays are plainly visible to the naked eye. Dark red gum streaks are sometimes present. The wood is naturally dull but takes on a fine luster when properly finished. The wood's color darkens with age, and it can be finished to bear a strong resemblance to genuine mahogany.

Black cherry is used principally in lumber form and for manufacturing fine furniture. In the printing and engraving industries it is used to mount engravings, electrotypes, and zinc etchings. It is also used for patterns, professional and scientific instruments, piano actions, handles wooden ware, toys, musical instruments, and of course, turning. Cherry is a wonderful wood to turn slicing with ease and finishing beautifully.

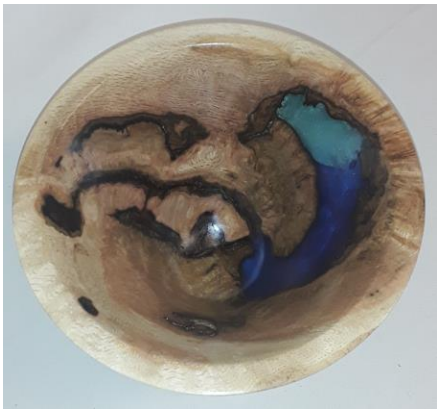
American black cherry is not the same tree that yields the fabulous fruit. However, its fruit has been used to flavor brandy and rum, hence one of the common names rum cherry. Extracts from the bark are used in the preparation of wild cherry syrup, a popular vehicle for cough medicines. The fruit can be used for making jelly or wine. Black cherry was widely used by Native Americans who used it to treat a variety of complaints. Bark tea was used in small amounts to treat fever, colds, sore throats, laryngitis, diarrhea, etc. The leaves, buds, twigs, seeds and bark contain glycoside prunasin, which is converted in the stomach to the highly toxic hydrocyanic acid (cyanide). Therefore, farmers are warned and have to be careful that downed or wilted foliage from the trees are not eaten by livestock; which can poison and possibly kill them.

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

Written by – Mel Bryan

SHOW AND TELL

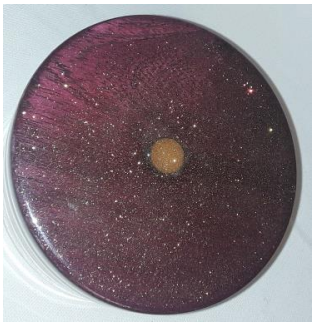
Kent Townsend showed a ladle that he had carved from some of Tony Pore's **River Birch**. The handle sits at about a 75° angle to the bowl part and is all one piece—no joints taken from a piece that grew in that shape.



Carl Sievering brought another sample of his "filled" turnings. This is an **Oak *Burl*** with colored epoxy filler for the "damaged" parts of the wood that went through the side. Other parts were not filled and have the bark inclusion showing. In the base Carl inserted his trademark, the star design. The base is a separate piece of oak fastened onto the bowl portion with the insert in the bottom. The star design was featured in the July 2021 Turn North newsletter.

This is a marking knife Carl made from an old wood chisel. It also has a poly shield to store it in to protect the user from the sharp end. Approximately 7" long, it has a 60° angle ground on the pointed end.

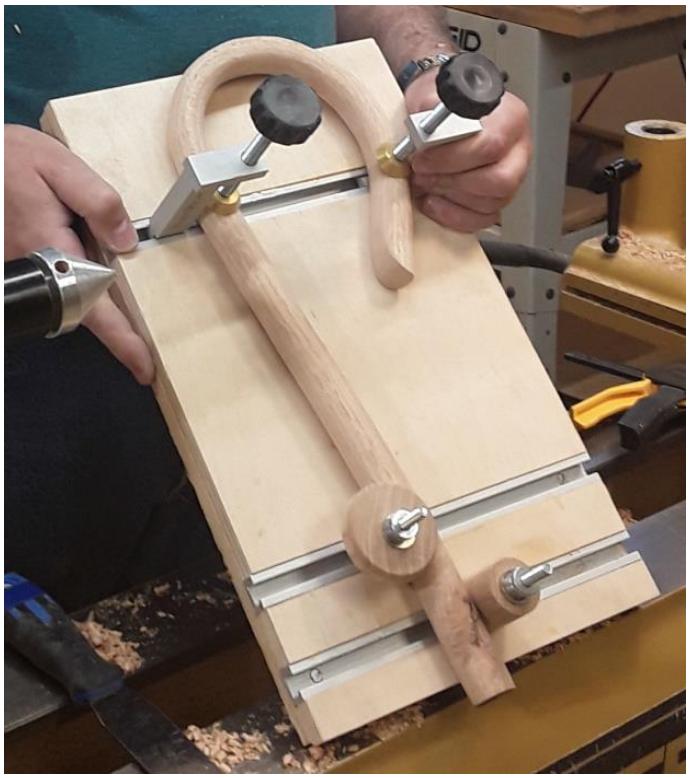
Carl also brought his segmented bowl, completed, with a good finish all around using the epoxy. Since this is a slow drying finish, he left it attached to the lathe turning slow while the finish cured. At the far right is the lid made of Purple Heart. What appear to be white specks are actually gold flecks in the finish to add some sparkle.



Mikeal Jones brought his version of Kent's baby rattle. Kent was the program personality in June. Mikeal's is also made of **Hard Maple**.
Mikeal also brought two funnels made from **Cherry**. The decoration bands were made by using a wire to burn the design into the turning. On the larger funnel, a stop has been turned to allow the funnel to sit without sliding in too far. Probably best to use them for oily liquids, not water.

Dwight Herrick brought another duck call—"Quack, Quack"! This one is made from Maple Burl and Curly Maple. It sounded really good when Dwight demonstrated it.

Program presenter **Chip Siskey** showed two of the jigs he uses to make the tops of cane handles. The one on the left is used to hold the cane handle while it is drying from the moisture obtained to bend it and the one on the right fits his **Shopsmith™** at home to drill the attachment hole for inserting the assembly screws. If one looks closely the "wrinkles can be seen on the inside of the crook on the left next to the jig. The crook on the right is positioned such that a hole drilled goes straight into the end of the lower part of the crook. More to come in the **Program Highlights**.

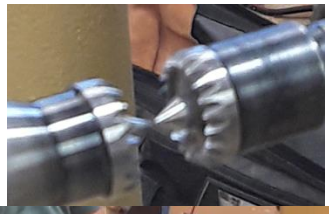


Program Highlights

The presenter for the July meeting was Chip Siskey. He shared the process he uses to first make a "dowel" for steam bending, then inserting the assembly hardware and last the steam bending of a pre-made "dowel" used to make a cane.

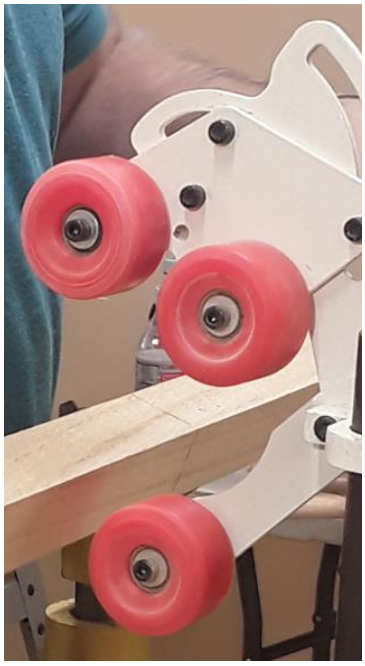
Chip first showed a finished product of a cane. The purpose of the center part in Chip's hand is to assemble the top and bottom parts of the cane. A decorative part has been inserted in this particular cane to dress it up and make it somewhat unique.

The first step in making the main body is to find the center on each end of a 1¼" to 1½" square piece of Oak with as straight grain as possible. During the bending process any deviation from straight or imperfections present will probably end in failure for the bending process.



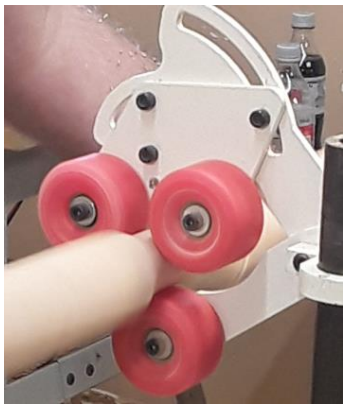
The next step is to make SURE the headstock and tailstock centers are aligned straight. This also assures that the turning produced is not tapered. Note the design of the two centers—

teeth grip the blank and allow turning right up to the very end of the blank without running into mounting chucks. The tailstock is also a live center to allow it to turn. The headstock is a drive center.

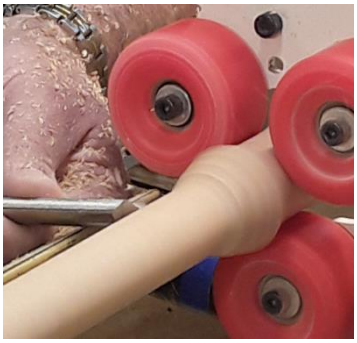


A special center rest is used to stabilize the blank in order to limit any "*whip*" when turning due to the length of the blank. All this to assure that the turning remains true and doesn't have taper built into the piece.

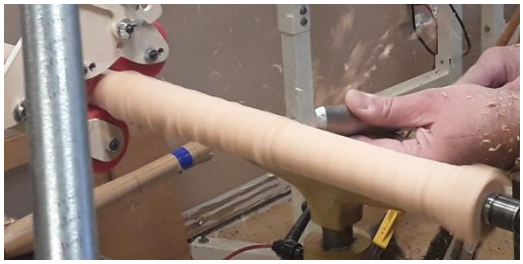
The location for the center rest is first turned round and wide enough to accommodate the wheels, which are made of urethane.



Once the center of the blank is round the center rest is tightened to hold the blank steady while each end is then turned round to size.



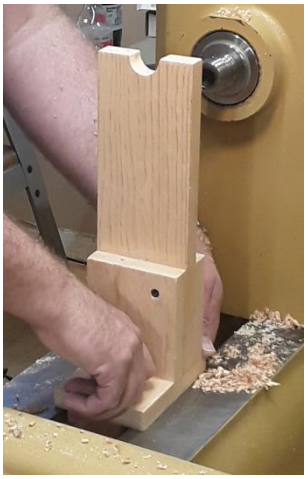
Once one end is turned to size then the center rest is moved and the other end is turned. On both sides Chip used a spindle gouge rather than a roughing gouge to turn the blank to size.



Once the desired size is reached, the "knob" in the center is turned to size.

At left is why the center rest needs to be on a larger diameter to begin with. Slipped chisel caused this chip. the spindle blank.

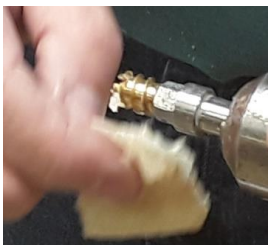
At right above the final size is turned on It will now be ready for steam bending.

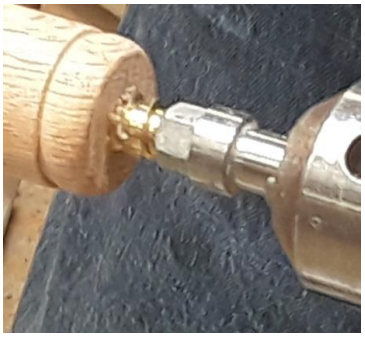


This is another idea for a steady rest. The one shown is designed for a specific lathe with a larger turning radius than the Club lathe and is not adjustable.

This jig is used to make sure the hole being drilled in the end of the spindle blank is centered. No way exists to put this in first since the drive or tailstock centers would not work with a hole in the end. This has one end that fits over the spindle and the visible hole is the size of the tap drill used to make the threaded hardware insert hole.

After the hole is drilled on the end, the threaded insert is installed. A special drive is used to turn the insert into the wood. The insert hole must be the correct size or the wood will split. Using some paste wax as a lubricant helps the insert go into the wood





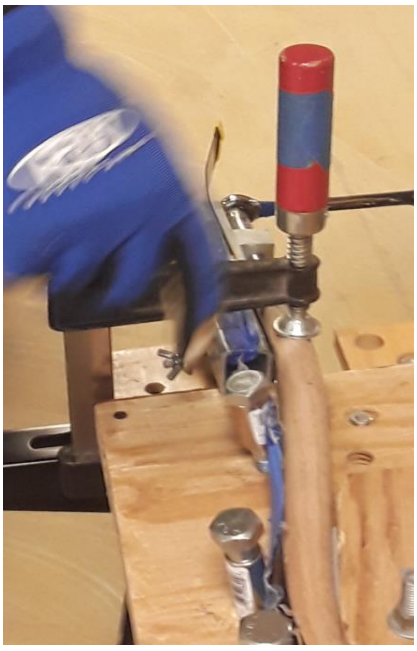
Chip then went to his steam bending unit which is a piece of schedule 40 pipe about 4” in diameter with caps on both ends to contain the steam being generated by the steam unit shown.

Wrapping in insulated pipe tape helps hold the temperature which needs to be between 200° and 250° Fahrenheit.

This process takes about 1 hour to heat the spindle hot enough for it to be bent.

Using another club member for weight to hold the jig table, Chip inserted the crook into a form, bent it around the center piece and the volunteer placed spacers to hold the part in place.

Using a clamp, the blank is held down to cool and dry out. This process of drying can take up to 48 hours to complete.



As the piece sits in the bending jig, the wrinkles begin to appear. This cannot be avoided but they can be sanded out later. Note the straight grain of the piece being bent.

This was an excellent program and did NOT run over time allotted for club meeting time.

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/

Please patronize our advertisers.

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