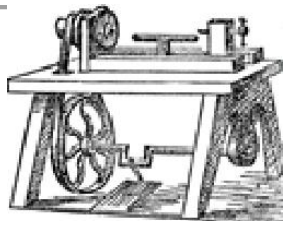
Turn North

The Monthly Newsletter of the Northland Woodturners

www.northlandwoodturners-kc.com September 2021



Well, here we are again. Another start to an educational experience as wood-turners. September is viewed by many as the time to "begin to learn new skills and maybe even make a trade out of it." I doubt, as Editor, if that's the case with most of us but… Let's give it a try, shall we?

But first, a word from our favorite artists and their creations as we peruse the **Show and Tell** part of our newsletter.

SHOW AND TELL

Mel Bryan shared pictures of some turnings he made beginning with these boxes with locking lids.

Tablock Box—
Walnut knob

Another tablock box of **Ailanthus altissima**, **Walnut lid** with **pistachio** button

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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:
September 2, 2021
ZOOM—891 7968 3696
Pass--315912

Mel's next projects were **Walnut** spheres with two different bases. One was a **Walnut** block and the other was a disc about the same diameter as the ball. Overall diameters of the spheres was 2-1/2"

Mel also shared a picture of a **Hawaiian Calabash** made of **Cherry** wood. Interesting grain in the Cherry is shown on the bottom of the Calabash.

Did you take a hint from the online ZOOM presentation to create this project?? Nice job Mel!

Kent Townsend sent a picture of the finished scoop made at the August meeting. After cleaning up and sanding some more it looks really great.

Thanks Kent for sharing.

Mikeal Jones shared two projects with those in attendance in August. The first is a **Walnut** bowl. You can see the approximate size in comparing it to a Bic™ ballpoint pen with the cap on top.

The second is a small vase/cup about 5" tall made from an **Oak** limb that had blown down. Note the defects in the side that didn't seem to affect the overall turning.

The most interesting part is the double band—one green and one red on the side of the vase. The bands were made with a knurling tool. (*wonder where those came from?*) Mikeal was a tool and die worker in a former life and used several previously learned skills to adapt to woodturning. Nice job Mikeal!!

Carl Sievering shared several creations of his with the Club members. This one has a bottom made by glueing up locking corner pieces into a symmetrical pattern. Looking almost like a jigsaw puzzle, the piece on the far left shows the individual parts glued up to form the bottom. Woods used include **Walnut, Purple Heart, Walnut, Maple and Cherry.**

Carl next shared an idea he is developing for inclusion in to another turning idea to make patterned wood. Using square blanks about ½" or so square they ae glued up and then the block is cut at a slight angle to produce the pattern seen at the right. At the left is an end-grain view of the block. On top and bottom are boards used to make a larger depth block. Note that the last layer top and bottom are half-squares to give a flat surface for glueing. Carl, we are waiting to see what you create with this kind of design.

This is a fixture that Carl uses to cut the finished block into a round shape. It consists of a piece of plywood with a straight edge to hold the block along with sandpaper glued in place to keep the block from slipping. The curved part is based on the diameter of the turning to be made. The block was made from scraps of wood left over from other projects Carl has made. Creativity "in the rough" at this point, it should be an interesting turning when Carl is done.

Wood of The Month

Osage orange end grain view

Maclura pomifera – Osage orange—(*Hedge***)**

Fence posts, hedge rows, hedge apples and flat tires are my memories of **Osage orange** as a kid growing up on the farm in eastern Kansas. Memory takes me to several cold winter days working in the hedge row cutting fence posts for the spring fence repair and stalking rabbits and quail in the underbrush of the natural fence created by the hedge trees. That is one of the primary things that helped spread **Osage orange** throughout the Midwest and southern states. It provides a natural "barbed wire" fence which actually played a part in the inspiration for barbed wire. It is well suited for that purpose because it will grow just about anywhere.

Other names for **Osage orange** besides ***hedge***, include; hedge apple, bowwood, ***bois-d'arc***, dodark, bodock, mock-orange, naranjo chino and horse apple. The French name, "***bois-d'arc***" means bow wood and thus the other names; bodark, bodock and bowwood. **Osage orange** is one of the most desirable woods for making bows for hunting and weapons. In fact, **Osage orange** was used in woodturning much more than actually being turned. It was the prime "spring pole" on the bodger's spring-pole lathes to help drive the lathe. It was the force to return the lathe by 'springing' to the starting position for the next power stroke of the foot pedal. Typical uses of ***Maclura pomifera*** (**Osage orange**) include; turning, posts, stakes, railroad ties, insulator pins, tobacco pipes, wheel rims and hubs of farm wagons and dyestuffs. The wood is so durable that it can withstand ground contact for decades without any rot or damage. As a matter of fact, that is another of my memories of when I helped my grandfather pull out a corner post by his barn that he remembered helping install at least 50 years earlier and when we got it out, the part that had been underground was in better shape than the part above ground. It is used as the insulator pins in telephone and power lines because it will not shrink, swell or decay and cause the wire to fall. The wood makes excellent firewood that will burn hotter than most any other wood. I also remember my dad warning that putting too much hedge in the stove could cause it to melt the metal sides of the stove.

Needless to say, **Osage orange** is tough, heavy, very hard and resilient and rates highly in all strength categories. Therefore, it is a particularly difficult wood to work because of its hardness, and tools require frequent sharpening. It also has a tendency to split and splinter if not 'cut' properly. **Osage orange** belongs to the mulberry family (***Moraceae)*** which can be seen in the appearance of the wood. **Osage orange**, when freshly cut is a golden yellow, sometimes with reddish streaks, but becomes russet-brown after exposure. It surpasses white oak in strength but not in stiffness and ranks very high in strength properties compared to other North American woods.

The availability of **Osage orange** wood for turning is pretty well limited to tree trimming and clearing because the tree generally grows so irregular it does not make very much "lumber". (*Ed. Note*: *Many of the trees also have wire inclusion and nails grown over causing sawmills to refuse to cut* ***Osage orange*** *wood*.)

You can read more about **Osage orange** at; Forest Products Laboratory and Wikipedia.org - Osage orange or on the Wood Database. A fun article to read about **Osage orange** may be found at Great Plains Nature Center.

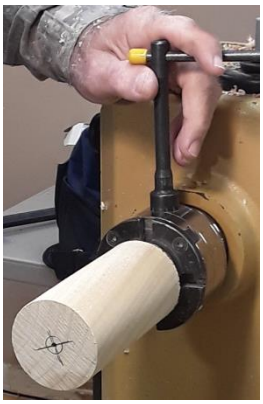
Written by – Mel Bryan

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

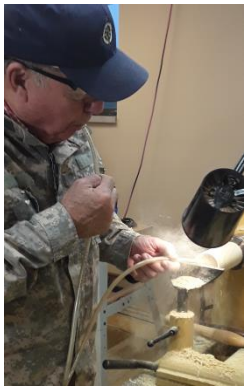
The featured woodturner for the August meeting was **Kent Townsend**. His skills are wide and varied from wood turning to wood carving. His presentation centered around making a wooden scoop. Using poplar because it was softer and easier to turn allowed him to produce a finished product in under an hour and a half.

Beginning with a 3" square by 5" long block of poplar wood, Kent first found center points on each end and then using between-center turning skills shaped the block round. (*Basic spindle turning using a roughing gouge)*

After adding a tenon on one end of the turning, Kent then mounted the turning in the chuck and proceeded to first face off the end. Then after squaring the end Kent proceeded to drill into the blank to the approximate depth he would need to form the scooping part. Instead of using a drill Kent used a spindle gouge to work his way into the end. After multiple paths of turning, cleaning, turning some more, he switched to a round nose scraping tool. This he used to flatten and clean out the cavity produced by the spindle gouge.(*See pictures below*.)



Cleanout was accomplished using compressed air (actually Kent blowing through a plastic tube.)






(1) (2) (3) (4)

Once turned, rough sanded and dressed to size Kent laid out where to cut the mouth of the scoop. Note the markings in picture 2 on the end. Marking a line on both sides and measuring back the depth of the cavity, he drew a line at each cut point-pictures 3 and 4.



(5) (6) (7)

In picture 5 above the line for cutting is visible on the tool rest side. In picture 6, using a Japanese saw that cuts on the pull stroke, Kent began the cut at the two marks on the end. Cutting to the final depth is shown in picture 7.





(8) (9) (10) (11) (12)

Beginning on the left, picture 8 through 10 shows the removal of the "mouth". Pictures 11 and 12 show the rounding of the front corners to a nicer shape. At this point, the handle must still be formed. This process was interesting. Watch on the next page as Kent finishes the shaping of the handle and parting off of the "finished" scoop.

A special ball center was pressed against the inside of the scoop to hold it steady as the handle was formed on the end clamped in the chuck. On the far right above, in motion, the beginning of the handle takes shape. Layout lines show how close to the scoop hollow the handle can extend.

From left to right—excess material is first removed to the approximate diameter of the handle. Then the shaping begins. At the far right is the completed shape of the handle.

Note the turning center at the bottom of the picture along with the cut lines of the mouth of the scoop.

(13) (14) (15) (16)

Left to right: Picture **13** shows the final turning just before parting. Kent catches the handle part as he parts off the final turning—picture **14**. Picture **15** show the completed turning and **16** shows the handle. All that remains is some cleanup, sanding and finishing. See the Show and Tell section of this newsletter to see the finished product. **Great job and good demo Kent. Thanks.**

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*.