

Turn North



The Monthly Newsletter of the Northland Woodturners

www.northlandwoodturners-kc.com

November 2023

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Chapter Meetings:

First Thursday of every month, 7-9 pm.

Our ADDRESS: 7305 NW Prairie View Road in Platte Woods. We are across the street from the Platte Woods Methodist Church who has allowed us to park there when our regular parking is taken up (only about 7 cars/trucks can park in back).

Coming Attractions

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

Event Information:

NEEDED: Fund raising Ideas.

Remember—2023 dues are \$10 for the year.

Due beginning January 5 2023

**Next Meeting:
November 2, 2023**



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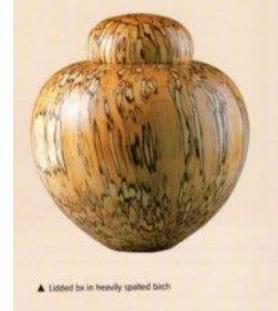


https://www.aaw Symposium.org/sweepstakes?utm_medium=web&utm_source=woodturner.org&utm_campaign=2024symposium&utm_content=sweepstakes

"The AAW has affected my life in a positive way. I view the AAW as the core source from which all information and advancement in woodturning originates."
- Mark Wood



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

Surprise me with your work!!



Jim Tate brought an interesting turning he labeled (?). More accurately it should be called an art piece since it contains several unique design pieces.

First of all, the base started out as a round turning. Sliced into two narrower pieces it was reglued aligning the turned lines on the base. The same goes for the large part of the upper form. However, the upper piece is hollow and is covered with a flat, thin piece of **Walnut**. The top shape is a turning that contains both **Hard Maple** and **Walnut**. It is centered on the upper shape and gives a unique design to the whole piece. The major parts of the object are made from **Oak**. The support between the upper and the base is a random shape that is fitted into both parts to add to the design.

Nice job, Jim!



Mikeal Jones brought another offset turned bowl with decoration on the top surface. The bowl is Cherry wood with a lacquer finish. The gouge texture on the top was hand carved into the finished turning. The black color was done with a torch to get the correct patina.

Danny Smith brought three bowls—all from Walnut for his “*Surprise*”.



Bowl #1



Bowl #2



Bowl #3 This is Danny Smith's third bowl.



Darwin StMeyers brought a bowl base made from **Box Elder**. It shows the characteristic color that sometimes is available in **Box Elder**—note the red color. This would appear to be about 2-3/4" in diameter and about 6' long. There appears to be some burl grain in the solid base at the far left below. Nice turning and probably needed SHARP tools to turn.



Carl Sievering brought two paper towel holders made from native **Cedar**. No finish was used but the outer bark was removed from the bases. These are heavy and bulky enough to support a full-size roll of paper towels. These would also be excellent in a lake cabin, camper or other outdoor activity location.

Nice idea Carl!!

Program Highlights

The presenter for October was Club President David Bartlett. His topic of presentation was making a goblet with two floating rings on the stem.

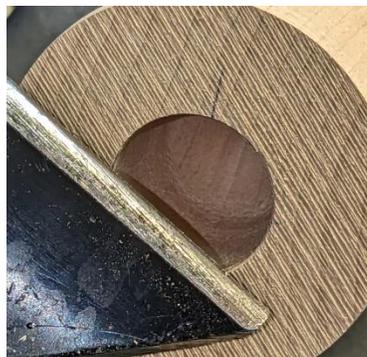


Starting with a 3" x 9" blank of hard maple, David mounted the blank in a 4-jaw chuck to begin turning.



Sharing one of his "tricks of the trade" David used a router bit to make the initial hole in the end of the blank. This would become the interior of the cup part of the goblet and give a nice center to turn to inside, alleviating a problem often encountered when turning something like this. The router bit was mounted in a chuck in the tailstock in order to "drill" into the end of the blank.

This operation was done AFTER turning the blank round in order to preserve a place for the dead "live center" to support while rounding the blank.



At far left the general layout for the bowl and foot of the goblet is marked with pencil. At near left shows the hole started with the router bit before any turning of shape begins. It might also be good to use an oversize attachment to the tailstock to support the turning while outside shaping is beginning.

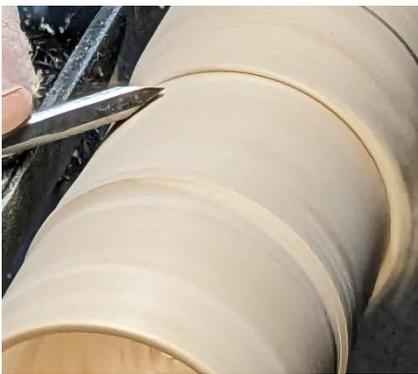


Once David began to turn the inside of the goblet, he switched to a carbide tipped tool because of the smoothness of the resulting turning. Sharpening is eliminated—just turn the insert a little to expose a new edge.



Note the smooth transition from side wall to bottom using the carbide insert tool as shown at the left. Once the basic shape is attained, the “boring” job of sanding takes place.

Turning his attention to the exterior of the goblet, David began to turn down and shape the rings that would float on the stem. Since this is a symbolic goblet used by a bride and groom,, two rings would be turned. Again, a specialized tool was used by David to turn the rings.



Showing some of his prowess, David used a skew to smooth and reduce somewhat the exterior before beginning the shaping of the rings.



With a Bowl Gouge, David began the shaping of the first ring. The exterior of the ring needs to be done before separating the ring to float.



This is the best time to do sanding on the exterior of the ring before it is released.



David used a ¼” ring tool to cut the ring loose on the underside of the ring from the main turning blank. At near left one can see the loose ring before removing extra stem material under it. The hardest part in ring turning now involves keeping the ring from interfering with material removal under the ring.



Upon “freeing” the second ring, some sanding is in order. Also, the stem needs to be thinned down to allow internal sanding of the rings. One trick David used was to attach the abrasive to the undeveloped stem and carefully hold the ring up to the abrasive as the spindle turned.

Care must be taken not to allow anything to catch though while doing this.



In order to complete the turning without rings in the way tape was used to trap them against the bottom of the cup part of the goblet. When the base part is completed, the rings are then moved to the base and the outside bottom of the cup is completed.

Shown at right is the turned goblet. The base still needs to be finished but the main turning is done.

Nice Job David!!



We still need plugs made. Below is the size chart for making plugs.

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

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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Enter "NorthlandWoodturners" when asked for club name.

REMINDER:

The annual dues for 2023 **are still**
only \$10.00. Advanced payments are accepted.
Checks can be made payable to
Northland Woodturners.