

**Chippewa Valley
Woodturners Guild**



**DECEMBER
2019**

T U R N I N G **Threads**

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**It's easy to guess this pen wood
of the month.**

AAW | AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
OF WOODTURNERS

PREZ SEYZ

Well Ho Ho Ho and Merry Christmas to all you fine folks. I hope my buddy Santa brings you lots of wood.

As I sit here this morning watching the snow pile up, AGAIN! My thoughts go to the awesome celebration we all are about to participate in. My prayer for all is great health to you and all the blessings you can handle. But in the midst of being blessed, don't forget to bless others. This is the season of giving. How awesome it would be if each of us found a family in need and would do our best to meet the need.



I want to thank you all for another great year here at CVWG. It has been a wonderful year for the club with several new members and some fantastic demos that we all learned from.

As I step down from my office of prez, I want to thank you all for another fun filled year.

Let's make 2020 a year of building, not only bowls for Feed My People, but building our club. Think what we could be if each of us would bring in one new member.

OK, that's all for now, stay warm, I see the snow is letting up so time to plow.

Be blessed and see you next year if not before.

Ex Prez, Duane

DECEMBER DEMONSTRATION

Alternative Turning Materials

Adrian York

Adrian York, CVWG youngest member, showed the group that he was very savvy in woodturning.

Adrian has been turning for only a couple of years and with the help of his grandfather Joe and mother Elisabeth he has done some remarkable turnings which he has proudly shown to the group with much amusing comments on the making of the items.

Adrian's explained that there were other items that could be turned on the lathe such as: Billiard balls; Bowling pins; Bank-sia pods; Colored pencils; and anything one could put in resin—legos, confetti, etc.

Adrian's focus was on the colored pencils. These colored pencils can be immersed in an epoxy resin to bond them together to form a blank that can be turned. **A handout showed several different ways to prepare the pencils: See page 5.**



Adrian showed the group one of their first efforts to make a colored pencil blank. It overflowed with resin and was unusable.



Another colored pencil blank that he used to partially turn was apparently used method number 3—stack the pencils in a bowl and add resin.



Adrian partially turned this colored pencil blank pointing out the problems with this turning—the prominent problem being the shards created by cutting into the blank.



It was an enjoyable demonstration and hopefully Adrian will want to do another one.

bb

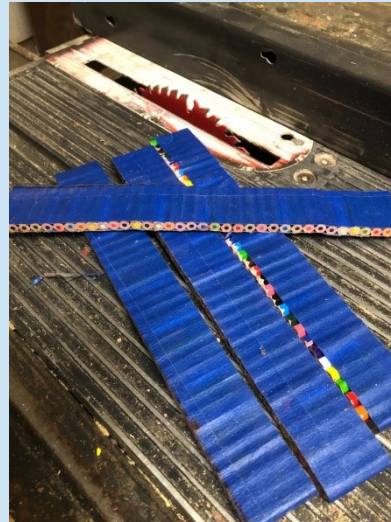
Things you can turn on a lathe that aren't wood:

- Billiard balls
- Bowling pins
- Banksia pods
- Colored pencils
- Anything you can put in resin - legos, confetti, etc.



Some different methods of using colored pencils and resin:

- You can cut the colored pencils using painter's tape and the table saw.
- You can glue the pencils on to a bowl blank, and place in a bowl and fill with resin.
- You can stack the pencils in a cup and add resin.



SHOW AND TELL / GALLERY

6

Seems that the December meeting was to be bedeviled by problems. First was the change of the door lock to the building and we were unable to get into the building. The meeting was rescheduled for the next Wednesday and despite the low temperatures there were near 30 members who showed up. However, they had to retain their coats.

Our heating problem which was discovered in November after the meeting and Coffee and Chips was thought to be resolved by replacement of a controller. But alas, it was not the problem. The meeting was a success despite the conditions and Adrian did a very nice demo.

But alas (once again) bedevilment wasn't through with us yet. Due to camera issues no pictures were taken of the Show and Tell and only a few for the Gallery.

The heating issue when resolved (hopefully by next week) will cost about \$1000.00 (\$600 for a ECM blower motor plus labor). The motor has been ordered and the HVAC company said the motor will arrive next Tuesday.

Our group has been fortunate to have had few problems and usually our members have the expertise to resolve most of them. Bob Eberhardt recently added electrical plugs and some rewiring to replace the extension cords to meet fire codes which we have been in violation of for some time. Bob said his helpers Bob Collinson and Ron Bartz were "awesome and allowed us to get it done in 1 day!"

Tom Leonard



**Bob
Eberhardt
“better late
than never”
collection of
Christmas
ornaments.
Most are
inside out
types with
inserted
smaller
trees or
snowmen.**



Bob Eberhardt made several in process inside out turning examples as a way to explain how to do an inside out turning.



Adrian York's demonstration collection.



Fred Steffens showed the results of his use of the Beall Threader Kits which he received as a gift. Fred explained the problems and emphasized the importance of exact measurements.



A very large and heavy box Elder bowl made by John Layde. John said that he was pelted by large wood chips as he was turning and because of this he didn't attempt to make the bowl thinner and lighter. John said he needed a flak jacket to turn this piece of wood.

Show and Tell Items

Adrian York had a Maple cup and a small Maple bowl.

Fred Steffens had threaded wood bolts and clamp made with the Beall Wood threader.

John Layde had a large bowl of Box Elder.

Rick Olson had a large Cherry burl bowl and a bowl of Balsam Poplar.

Bob Eberhardt had many inside out Christmas ornaments.

Tom Leonard had Beefwood pen and 2 Lilac pens.

Pen Wood of the Month Tigerwood

Common Name(s): Goncalo Alves, Tigerwood, Jobillo

Scientific Name: *Astronium* spp. (*A. graveolens* and *A. fraxinifolium*)

Distribution: From Mexico southward to Brazil

Tree Size: 100-130 ft (30-40 m) tall, 3-5 ft (1-1.5 m) trunk diameter

Janka Hardness: 2,170 lb_f (9,640 N)

Color/Appearance: *Heartwood is typically a medium reddish brown with irregularly spaced streaks of dark brown to black. Color tends to darken with age.*



Grain/Texture: *Grain can be straight, but is usually wavy or interlocked. Fine, uniform texture with good natural luster.*

Endgrain: *Diffuse-porous; medium to large pores in no specific arrangement, few; solitary and radial multiples of 2-3; tyloses and other heartwood deposits common; growth rings indistinct; narrow rays visible without lens, normal spacing; parenchyma vasicentric.*

Rot Resistance: *Goncalo Alves has excellent weathering properties, and is rated as very durable regarding decay resistance.*

Odor: *No characteristic odor.*

Workability: *Goncalo Alves* is generally not too difficult to work, despite its high density. Figured pieces with irregular grain can pose a challenge in planing and machining operations. *Goncalo Alves* can also have a moderate blunting effect on cutters. The wood is very resistant to moisture absorption, which can make it difficult to glue. *Goncalo Alves* turns and finishes well.

Allergies/Toxicity: Although severe reactions are quite uncommon, *Goncalo Alves* has been reported as a sensitizer. Usually most common reactions simply include eye and skin irritation. See the articles *Wood Allergies and Toxicity* and *Wood Dust Safety* for more information.

Pricing/Availability: Widely available in a variety of widths and lengths as both lumber and veneer, as well as smaller craft blanks. Prices should be moderate for an imported hardwood.

Sustainability: This wood species is not listed in the CITES Appendices or on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

Common Uses: Flooring, veneers, furniture, cabinetry, carving, turned objects, and other small wood specialty objects such as: pool cues, archery bows, knife handles, etc.

Comments: *Goncalo Alves* is commonly referred to as “Tigerwood” or “Brazilian Tigerwood” among flooring dealers. The wood has superb stiffness, strength, hardness, and durability. However, density and other mechanical properties can vary widely depending on the growing site and source region. The name “Jobillo” is sometimes used to refer to higher grades of *Goncalo Alves* among woodturners.

Related Species: None available.

From the Wood Database (<https://www.wood-database.com/goncalo-alves/>)

Pen Kit of the Month

Elegant Sierra Button

This pen kit was purchased from Bear Tooth Woods which describes it as “well balanced for comfort”, “attractive elegant style”, and “uses Parker type refill or gel refills.” A bit pricy at \$11.00 with bushings for \$6.00 and 27/64 drill bit for \$4.00.

One of the increasing issues I am finding with these click/button pens is the ink point can be pressed softly or not softly. If not softly, the point sticks far out and the retraction is not complete and the pen point sticks out slightly, although light pressure will push it completely in.



**Soft press extension
of pen point**



**Hard push
extension of pen
point**



**Hard push
retraction of pen
point**

OTHER TIGERWOODS

Tigerwood, or *Coula edulis*, is a very dense, heavy and hard wood that is found in the more tropical areas of western Africa. It is an evergreen tree that grows to 125 feet tall with long leaves that range from four to twelve inches. From April to June, the tigerwood tree produces green and yellow flowers. From August to January, the tree produces a nut similar to a walnut. Other names for this tree are African walnut and Gabon nut.

Geography

The tigerwood tree tolerates light shade, and it produces a thick crown that provides good shade. According to Argo Forestry Tree Database, the *Coula edulis* is native to the Democratic Republic of Congo, Nigeria and Sierra Leone, and the tree can be grown on plantations.

Function

Tigerwood is growing in popularity as a hardwood in flooring. Because tigerwood can be grown on plantations, it is considered a green wood or sustainable lumber resource. The hardness of the wood, its water resistance, and its resistance to termites have made it valuable in heavy construction applications such as bridge pilings and railway ties, as well as any typical type of moderate construction use. Because of its unusual appearance when cut, tigerwood is also valued for its visual appeal. This tiger-like striped effect is highly desirable in furniture-making and cabinetry, as a veneer or in any type of fine woodworking applications.

Misconceptions

The tigerwood tree or lumber is sometimes mistaken for zebra-wood, the Brazilian Goncalvo alves. Tigerwood differs from zebra-wood by having a distinctive bronze to yellow-brown coloring, reminiscent of a tiger. The striping effect is quite pronounced. The heartwood of zebra-wood tends to be much darker than that of tigerwood, with colors often ranging from dark brown to black.

Considerations

Over-logging of African tigerwood is prevented by export restrictions, which maintains the status of tigerwood as a more expensive wood more likely to be used in veneer applications.

<https://www.gardenguides.com/12185659-about-tigerwood.html>

Creepy or Cute!





**Above: Tigerwood log—
looks like tiger stripes**

Right: Tigerwood tree

**Below: Tigerwood tree
leaves**



Various things made with Tigerwood

Smoking pipe



Dice Game



Right: Artisan Dice

Below: Decking

Below Right: Table



My Adventures with Harbor Freight Central Machinery

Having taken the plunge of acquiring a Central Machinery (aka Harbor Freight) bench wood lathe, I decided to take the plunge of acquiring their 4 speed 14" bandsaw. In both cases I searched the internet for ratings and videos to hopefully be able to evaluate whether these shop items were worth the cost and effort. I never found any really bad reviews but never any really rave reviews. The general opinion seemed to be that each are Delta knock offs, are solidly built and have a few quirks. Well, everything has a few quirks doesn't it.

The list price of the bench lathe was \$239. With a 20% coupon I was able to lower the price to less than \$200. One note here. The 20% coupon lists Central Machinery items as not applicable. Not so. It can be applied to Central Machinery items.

The bench wood lathe was easy to set up and ran just fine. One quirk is changing the speed. Once you get the hang of nearly standing on your head after having to open 2 covers – one in back and the other beneath the headstock handwheel – to change the belt slots, it's not so bad. Fortunately, I don't need to change the speed that often.

The second problem was the tool rest lock. It had a long handle and the locking was downward and of course didn't lock because it came to rest on the lathe bed. However, with a bit of readjustment I realigned the lock. I might say at this point that the Delta lathe our group has also has the same problem.

One of the known complaints about this lathe was the tendency for the motor to overheat. I don't know how much the lathes in question were run but I had no worry about that. I did have a concern about the motor having no cover and being exposed through the lathe bed. My Rikon has a cover. The issue is that I mostly use this lathe for turning acrylics and was concerned that the acrylic shavings would melt on the motor. So far that has not happened but since my car is close to the lathe (but somewhat covered) some of these shavings that landed on the car seemed to be melted on the car because these don't just brush off.

Before tackling this project, I viewed a You tube video made by Matthew Solis whose website is NR Northwest. I viewed this video more than once before purchasing the bandsaw and periodically during the assembly of my purchased one.

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=harbor+freight+bandsaw+assembly&&view=detail&mid=33156410396115AC932833156410396115AC9328&&FORM=VRDGAR>

Given all this I decided the shortcomings of the lathe didn't out weigh the benefits. So, investing in the Harbor Freight larger bandsaw became a possibility. Several You tube videos convinced me that it was worth purchasing.

This bandsaw is not for the weak or faint hearted. It comes in a large heavy box weighing 167 pounds. Comes with a 27 page manual complete with a two page parts list which comes in handy at times. The only part not in pieces was the saw body which included the wheels and cast iron housing for the wheels. It was the heaviest part coming in just ahead of the motor.

As usual the manual does not tell all. In fact it skips a couple of steps as manuals are apt to do because some manual writers must think the steps are so obvious that if it didn't occur to you shouldn't be assembling this product anyway.

To give a couple of examples. Among the loose items supplied are 3 grommets. Now it is obvious to me where the grommets go – on the electrical cords but maybe not to someone unfamiliar with grommets. These grommets were not the standard round rubber ones that are seated in a hole and then the electrical cord is passed through. These were a two part hard plastic snap hinged grommets. Consulting the parts schematic, I saw where 2 of the grommets were to be installed but not a third. Was this an extra? Never found out. After snapping the grommet over the electrical cord, one has to snip off the hinge in order for it to fit in the hole (that was a lucky guess).



Now the power cord leading into the frame and attaching to the power switch was dangling. Obviously in need of a grommet. But the third grommet was too small. No hint in the manual or parts list as to how to secure this cord.



After assembling the bandsaw, I had parts left over. Parts that obviously went together. It was a small curved piece of metal with a hole, a screw, a washer and a nut. The manual gave no hint. I then deferred to the YouTube video and even after paying careful attention, I almost missed it. He showed it so quickly that it didn't immediately register as to what was said. The parts left over were to secure the power cord. As I was securing the power cord, I thought what idiot thought this up. The cord had to be curled at an odd angle inside the base and even though it was secured, it still came into contact with the sharp edge of the frame hole. A regular round rubber unhinged grommet would have been better suited.

Now for a last complaint – the side panels which completes the cover of the motor. Two side covers of the stand assembly provide support for the bandsaw and is made of metal. The other two side covers are not made of metal. These are two pieces of slightly bendable material of unknown type (at least to me) with 2 finger holes. The sides are populated with “press blocks.” These blocks are little plastic pieces attached near the edges of the side covers with screws. The idea was to place the side cover into the frame opening and holding on to the sides using the two finger holes, bring the side forward and turn the press blocks onto the frame edge to attach.

Didn't work for me. The side covers were too bendable and the press blocks didn't seem to be in the correctly placed. I took these side covers and attached wood strips to the back to stabilize them and relocated the press blocks further inward and replaced the press blocks with simple picture hangers. It worked great.



Now what went right with this project. The factory that made this decided to do one thing that helped facilitate assembly. Most of the screws, washers

and nuts were attached to the parts and the few that weren't were sized for the parts they went to. So, there was little chance of confusion where what went where. The manual was generally good showing how to piece this together with a few exceptions.

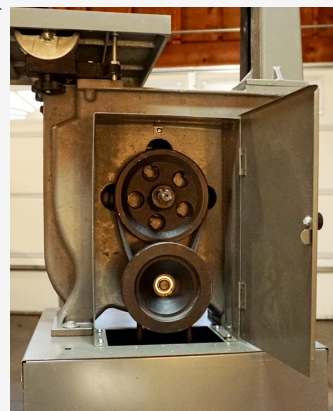
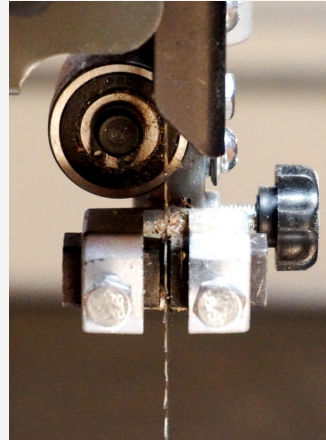
About the 4 speeds. Ignore this feature. The lowest speed is considered to be used for metals. The next two speeds are for ignoring. The speed to use is the fourth or fastest speed. Leave it there. In order to change the speeds, one has to loosen the heavy motor and lift it a couple of inches in order to move the belt.

The manual was very good with the heart of the bandsaw – the blade, tensioning and adjustment. However, the blade adjustment spacing moves with the guide post when raising or lowering the throat height. Therefore, one has to watch the spacing of the blade when readjusting the height.

After assembling the bandsaw, I plugged it in and flipped the switch. There was a disconcerting noise that wasn't natural for a bandsaw. It turned out that I had forgotten to tighten the middle pulley – the one that connects the motor belt with the lower wheel belt. OOPS!. No damage done but I was unable to get the belts on the 4th and fastest speed. I could only get it to the 3rd placement. Fortunately, my grandson is staying with us and he helped readjust the speed setting.

My first cuttings went with no problems except for some minor blade adjustments. I believe the bandsaw will serve my purpose of rounding blanks larger than 5 inches.

I was cleaning the bandsaw after cutting some pieces and notice something I was previously not aware. My smaller Craftsman bandsaw has a brush on the lower wheel to clean the wheel tire as it turns. The Harbor Freight bandsaw does not have this brush. I don't know if these brushes are standard or not but I cleaned the tire with a brush. It is my habit to always clean my machines after each use.



One other note. Because I would have to move the bandsaw to and from a storage spot, I needed to put it on wheels. In one of the You Tube videos I noticed that the bandsaw was on a mover's dolly. Not knowing how wide the base would be I opted for the larger 20" dolly. The choice was between a wood and a plastic dolly. I got the plastic one because it appeared to be sturdier and had a center support which turned out for the better because the bandsaw doesn't sit on the wheels but in between. I assembled the bandsaw from the base frame on the dolly.

The bandsaw comes with a miter gauge but no rip fence. Fortunately I have no need for either one but a rip fence could be made with a little ingenuity.

The bandsaw listed for \$379. With a 20% off coupon I was able to get this down to \$316. I added a year repair warranty for \$49 which brought it up to \$365 because I wasn't sure if I could get it assembled until next spring. I think for general hobby use it will serve and considering what I have heard about brand name \$1000 plus bandsaws about their shortcomings I feel I have done my wallet a favor. Certainly, if one needs a bandsaw and doesn't want to spend a \$1000 or more you can't hardly go wrong with this one if you are willing to do some serious assembly. 🙏🙏

Northeast Wisconsin Wood Workers Guild

38th Annual Spring Show

March 21—22 , 2020

Green Bay West High School

1331 Packerland Drive

Green bay, WI

Visit Website at: www.newwg.org/annual-show

CVTC Veterans Event Give Vets A Smile

The CVTC Health Education Center which includes schools for several health specialties including Dental Assistant, Dental Hygienist, Radiography, Medical Assistant and many more.

<https://www.cvtc.edu/experience-cvtc/campuses/health-education-center>

This event covered many services to veterans from dental care to physical exams to haircuts.

The CVWG was glad to participate in a small way with the contribution of turned pens for the veterans. Nearly all the pens were taken by veterans.



Next Demonstration

Demonstrator: Rich Thelen

Rich was president of the CVWG for several years taking over for Brian George who resigned due to health issues. He has shown many items combining turning and carving.

Demonstration: Winged Bowl Revisited

A winged bowl is a bowl with a rim usually square with or without bark. It can be square, oblong, round or irregular in shape and has a round bowl in the middle - or near middle—of the piece.



COMING EVENTS

Meetings are first Wednesday of the month at 7 pm. Open house—Coffee and Chips - is the second Saturday of the month from 8 am to 12 pm

Meeting Dates and Demonstrations

January 8—Rich Thelen—Winged Bowl Revisited
February 5—Bob Eberhardt—Everything You Have Ever Wanted To Know About A Bowl Gouge
March 4—Ron Bartz—Bowl From A Board
April 1—Bruce Lindholm—Fearless Segmenting With Jigs
May 6—Tom Leonard—Pen Assembly and Disassembly- Plus Tips, Tricks and Workarounds
June 3—To Be Announced

Open House-Coffee and Chips Dates

January 11
February 8
March 14
April 11
May 9
June 13

Meetings and Coffee and Chips are held in the Eau Claire Insulation building at 1125 Starr Ave on the northeast side of Eau Claire, Wi.

Board of Directors for 2020

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President	John Layde 1-715-577-2248 elk.stir@gmail.com
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*Photos of Show and Tell / Gallery items
provided by : Mary Weider*