



JANUARY 2020

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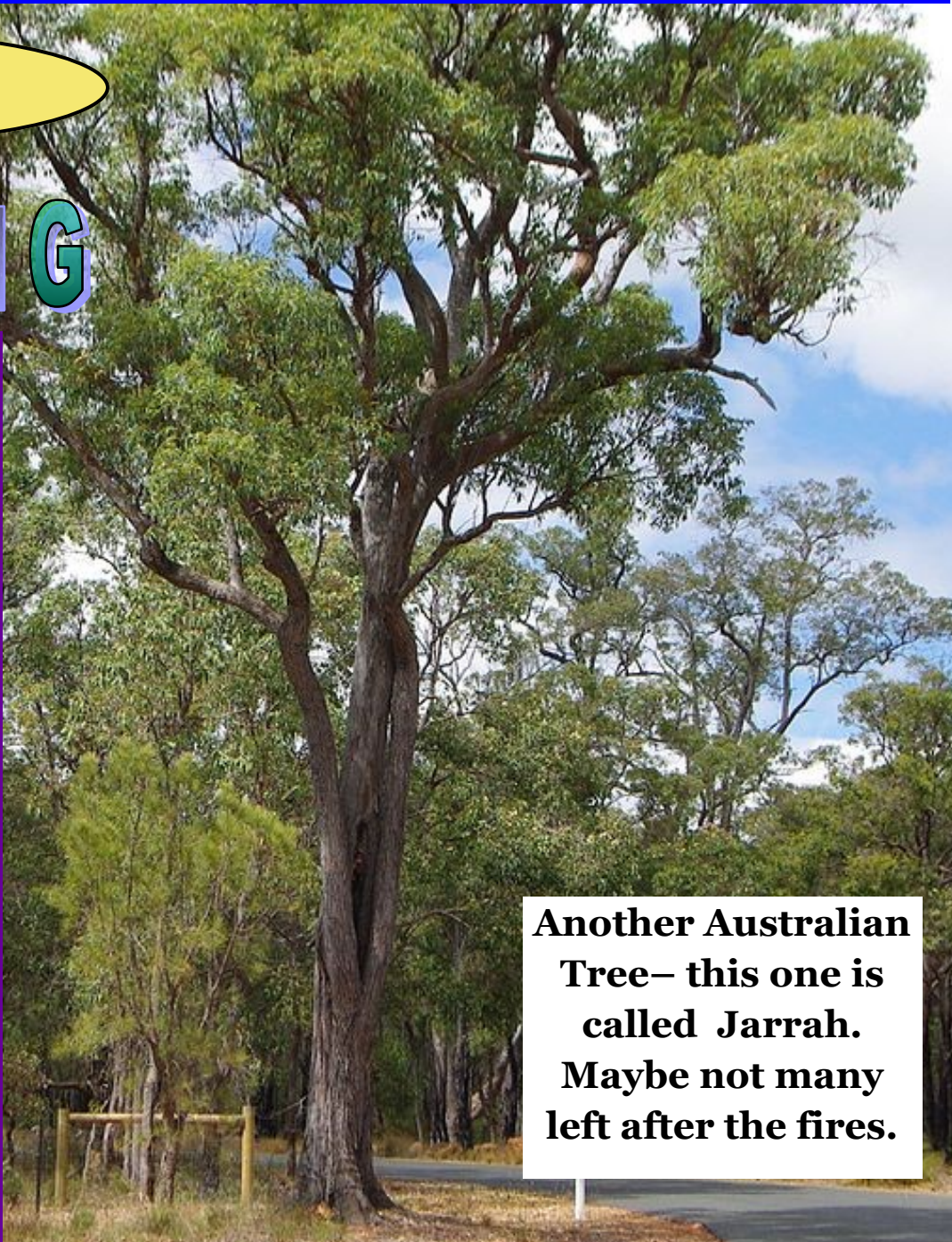
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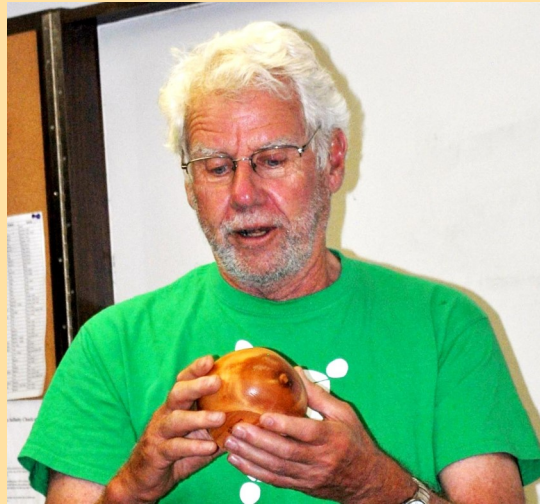
Another Australian Tree– this one is called Jarrah. Maybe not many left after the fires.

By Photographs by JarrahTree...commons.wikimedia.org, CC BY 2.5 au, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/>

PREZ SEYZ

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Well the transition from Duane to myself as prez was a bit rocky with being locked out of a meeting and then freezing with the furnace out for the re-schedule. It can only get better???



Since none of us seem to be starving let's do something for those who are. Please turn some bowls for feed my people. I will turn them in after the February meeting. I expect everyone from the best to the worst turner to donate something. Yes, that means you!!

I will add the "30 seconds" idea to the meetings. If you have a tip present it (in 30 seconds) and if a question we will get possible solutions after the demo. From the January meeting Mark Palma showed me how round a distorted tenon from drying a bowl by using a jam chuck and tailstock support to reround it.

My tip of a piece of a cracker box cardboard on the headstock to prevent faceplates from sticking works much better than the plastic washers you buy. Let me know if there are any programs you would like to see or are willing to present. As the lyrics from the old song turn turn turn.

John Layde

Editor Musings January 2020

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I'm always amazed at the attendance for this group. Amazed because so many of our members have to travel what seems to me as a long way. This tells me that what our group has to offer is something they seek and distance is no object.

An average meeting attendance is 30 to 40 and many times near 50. The lowest has been about 25 which though seems low it is actually 30% of our present paid membership.

Out of curiosity I looked at the membership list to get an idea of where our members are from to either confirm or not confirm my impression that most of our members live far away. Far away is a relative term. I have relatives that live in the Twin Cities and I considered them going somewhere across town to be far away. They just laugh at me.

Here are the results based on all members on the list regardless of whether dues are current and based on a total number of 82.

Eau Claire / Altoona has the most with 30 but this is only 36% of the membership.

Chippewa Falls has 9

Elk Mound has 8

Menomonie has 7

Durand has 5

Mondovi has 3

Cameron has 3

Colfax has 3

Greenwood has 2

Fall Creek has 2

Arkansas, Sheldon, Bloomer, Cornell, Spooner, Nelson, Chetek, Hayward, Stockholm and Hastings (Mn) all have 1.

64% of our membership live outside Eau Claire/ Altoona area. Considering Wisconsin weather I think this is truly amazing for our small group.

Tom Leonard

Senior Capstone Project Presentation

Alex Sackett, grandson of member Bob Eberhardt presented to our group his senior Capstone project which is a graduation requirement for the school district of Fall Creek. Alex made a 1/4" scale model of a building saying he was interested in construction. Alex told us how he constructed the model and also told some of the problems faced with the construction.



The purpose of the Senior Capstone Project according to a Fall Creek webpage is to "give the student the opportunity to demonstrate the skills and talents they have developed during their academic career and to explore future career possibilities.

They will choose a topic that interests them and will allow them to grow in ways that are exciting and challenging. The Senior Capstone Project has three phases: PHASE I - Introduction/Proposal. PHASE II - Project. **PHASE III - Presentation.**"



[https://
www.fallcreek.k12.wi.us/
students/Fall%20Creek%
20Senior%20Capstone.pdf](https://www.fallcreek.k12.wi.us/students/Fall%20Creek%20Senior%20Capstone.pdf)

January Demonstration

Making Better Bowls

(Some suggestions and tips for a better outcome)

Mark Palma

Mark began his demonstration by passing out to the attendees a bowl that he turned and finished. What he wanted to know was what was wrong with it. After the bowl made the rounds he asked for comments on the bowl's issues. There were a few such as small nicks, sharp edges and the finish needed more sanding and more finish. Mark then revealed that the bowl had 18 issues. 18 issues that he purposely put in the bowl such as:



flat top; sharp edge; sanding scratches; little tear outs; cracks; radial scratches; bump tear out; bump in button; base tear out; grooves; needs more sanding; finish issue

His point to all this was there were many things that have to be considered in order to make a well designed and at least nearly flawless bowl.

Mark made available an outline of the steps he went through in the demonstration:

1. **What this discussion is not about**
 - Not competition about who is a better turner
 - This is an individual journey
 - It is about setting aside biases, keeping an open mind and considering if there are better ways to approach bowl turning
2. **Start with Better Wood**
 - Use determines wood—not wood determines bowl
 - Do not compromise safety, form, craftsmanship, or outcome due to wood
 - Throw away bad wood
 - Consider cracks fatal
 - Choose wood congruent with use
3. **Have a Plan Before you Start**

- Home builders have a blueprint
- Turners need a strategy before the lathe is turned on
- Mounting for grain balance and grain direction
- Best outcome vs. Biggest Outcome
- Mounting plan, interim mounting plan and final mounting plan (3 times)

4. Form can only be determined with the lathe off

- Rim, body and foot are three separate elements that have to work together for end purpose of the turned work
- Many turners rush to mount work, get it spinning and never turn off the lathe until the bowl is “done”
- Great bowls are not accidents, but developed through turning off the lathe and seeing the work developing.
 1. Ratio of height to width
 2. Looking at grain, wood features and surprises
 3. Finding the best bowl, not the biggest bowl
- Step back and examine
 1. Black background
 2. Remove chuck from lathe and set upright
 3. Step back 6 feet
- Look at nuances of curves, avoiding bumps and flat spots
- Great vs. not great may be a few very small changes to form



5. Foot—Design begins with what we see least

- Tenon vs recess for interim holding plan and impact on design
- Will it be removed, reworked or left?
- Diameter of blank determines maximum size, but not correct height
- Use determines actual foot (40% working bowl) + or – for art pieces
- Too small makes them tippy
- Too large makes them look like a blob on the table
- Should sit on a ring, not a flat, slight inward taper
- No rough or sharp edges

6. Body-bridge between the ends

- Widest part either top 1/3 or bottom 1/3, never middle
- Shape congruent with use to be practical
 1. ease of grasping
 2. appropriate volume
- Continuous curve
- Showcases wood

7. Rim—what our eye sees first and the journey to the bottom

- Options
 1. Round
 2. Flat
 3. Flows out
 4. Flows in
 5. some under rim treatment (inside thumb groove, or outside decorative element)
- No sharp corners
- Determines thickness of bowl
 1. Wall thickness should be intentional
 2. Support the use of the bowl
 3. Goldilocks just right not too thick or too thin
 4. Leading to a continuous curve ending in the bottom
- Use vs. decorative and the platter exception
- Cleanability



8. Developing a Critical Eye to Your Own Work

- Tear out
- Sanding
- lumps, bumps and grooves
- crushed fibers from gouge burnishing
- last cut with a fresh sharp edge
- Stopping the lathe and looking critically at everything

9. Sanding – get over it and do it right

- Sanding Karate Kid—lathe on, lathe off
 1. Purpose of first power sanding
 2. Understand dynamics of wood structure and why power sanding doesn't remove all problems (hard end grain and the speed bump effect)
 3. Radial scratches
 4. Why finer grits do not fix tear out, sanding mistakes and radial scratches
- Great bowl makers know hand sanding is a critical step to the end result
 1. Hand sand out every scratch and problem
 2. Avoid heat results in micro boiling wood
- Use fresh abrasives and the right starting abrasive
- Tear out and radial scratches do not disappear at high grits

10. Finishes-the grand finale, not a bedspread thrown over an unmade bed

- Great bowls have great finishes congruent with use, design and wood specie
- Professional bowl makers do not use polyurethane and generally avoid all surface finishes (poly, varnish, shellac, lacquer or water based poly)
- Why- repairability, durability use and heirloom potential
- As gloss increases practicality of use diminishes
- Goal should be to look like nature, not Tupperware
- To Turn the Perfect Bowl—Bob Stockdale

At the end of the demonstration Mark was asked what he used for a finish. He said he used an oil finish mixed with wax. As a way for the attendees to experience his type of finish, Mark came with 50 containers of oil and wax mixtures to pass out to attendees. Each had a code and Mark wanted feed back on the finish mixture.



SHOW AND TELL / GALLERY

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**Rob Jackson
with a Walnut
bowl and a
Walnut vase.
He said the
vase was used
for aromatic
sticks.**





Adrian York with his pencil cup demo from December that was completely turned but with no finish yet.





Barry Grill with a Maple burl saying that not all bowl turnings have to be useful but can be decorative as well.





**Bob Eberhardt
with some additional
Christmas ornaments.**

**These ornaments
were done with a
skew only. He
said it was an
experiment to
see how small a
turning can be
done with a
skew.**





Joe Nycz with a small bowl made from a nob off a piece of firewood. A second turning of a vase was made from Cherry wood.





John Layde with a staved bowl. He mentioned that if any member made bowls of staves he would like to see a demonstration done for the group.





Randy Patzke with a mallet and a large popcorn type bowl made of Southern Yellow Pine. It was an experiment of sorts.



Randy Patzke also had several bowls that he classed as bowls from boards. A separate bowl was made from Ash.





Tom Spielmann shows a whimsical piece that he made that serves as a toothpick holder.





Giant Bowl Turning

(I wonder what the blanks looked like and what do you do with the finished bowl??)







This is what one turner did with his giant bowl—advertise his shop! See the story .

<https://www.woodworkingnetwork.com/woodworking-project-photos/woodworker-project-plans/Largest-Segmented-Wood-Bowl-in-Alaska-Attracts-World-Travelers-271694501.html>



Pen wood of the Month

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Jarrah

Of the many exotic woods available to woodworkers, Jarrah wood, *Eucalyptus marginata*, exhibits one of the most distinctive colors and grain patterns. The heartwood of this tree is most prized for its deep red to burgundy color, which occasionally shows black streaks. The wood can darken over time with exposure to air so that it resembles mahogany. The sapwood is paler, usually pinkish-red. Jarrah grows only in southwestern Australia.



Availability

According to Woodworkers Source, jarrah is the most widely harvested species of the Eucalyptus. And because jarrah trees have a relatively limited distribution area -- about a 20-mile band around the coast of southwestern Australia -- old-growth sources are dwindling all the time, although some environmentally responsible or sustainable sources do exist.



Characteristics

Jarrah trees are large, growing from 100 to 130 feet tall and over 6 feet in diameter. The wood is dense and resistant to insect damage and decay, although it is susceptible to the root rot fungus. The wood appears in either straight or irregular grain patterns, and sometimes exhibits wavy or fiddleback patterns. Sometimes you might see dried sap pockets or

gum veins. On the Janka Hardness Scale, it ranks as harder than oak but not as hard as teak or mahogany.

Uses

Jarrah wood is most often used for hardwood flooring, cabinetry, doors and window sills. It is widely used for tool handles and veneers. It also has marine applications such as bridges, ships, rafts, wharfs and decks. At one time, it was used as a road base. It is seldom stained due to its rich natural color, and is usually finished with varnish or wax.

Workability

Because of jarrah's dense nature and varying grain patterns, the wood can be difficult to carve or shape with both hand and power tools, and it is usually necessary to predrill holes for nails and screws. Keep tools very sharp, as the dense wood can blunt them quickly. Straight-grained pieces of Jarrah can be successfully steam bent. The wood can be planed, but keep blades sharp to avoid tearing out the grain.

Source

<https://homeguides.sfgate.com/jarra-wood-99464.html>

Pen Kit of the Month

Pen kit of the month is Designer NT Brushed Satin. The NT means NO Tenon for the center band. Penn State calls this "an old world style pen", and "features fine components and emulates the world's most expensive writing instrument." All for \$4.75. Bushings are \$4.95 and 7mm drill bit for \$3.95. Penn State offers a variety pack of 12 Designer pens in 4 colors (3 of





Examples of the Jarrah tree that includes an old growth tree, it's flowers and the interesting fruit it produces.





Products made from Jarrah wood include pepper grinders, a weed pot and utensils.





Larger objects from Jarrah wood include furniture and decking.



Next Demonstration

Demonstration:

Everything You wanted to Know About A Bowl Gouge

Demonstrator: Bob Eberhardt

I started my woodworking when I was a young child helping my Dad and Grandpa with various projects. My Grandpa had a shop with several woodworking power tools. I was on-allowed to use hand tools until was about 8 years old. This allowed me to develop many of the skills I would later use when allowed to use the power tools. Those skills were measuring, marking, sawing, drilling with a brace and bit, using a hand plane, etc. I believe the most important, was sharpening each of the tools. It made me appreciate a sharp tool. I would help my Grandpa build wooden boats. Most were fishing boats but a few were motor boats. I also built cabinets, stools, tables, kitchen cupboards, surf boards, water skis, and many other projects. My lathe work started when I was 8 years old. My Dad had a wood lathe and my grandpa had a wood and a metal lathe. I spent many hours in front of those tools. The learning curve continued through school and still continues to this day. It seems I will always search for a better and safer way to complete all my woodworking projects.

Bob Eberhardt



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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

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—Something Different

June 3—Rich Thelen—Winged Bowl Revisited

July 1—To Be Determined

Open House-Coffee and Chips Dates

February 8

March 14

April 11

May 9

June 13

July 11

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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***Photos of Show and Tell / Gallery items
provided by : Mary Weider***