



**JANUARY
2024**

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Sycamore Tree



PREZ SEYZ

Our meeting in January was very well attended with some members we haven't seen in a while.

We made some changes to the Web Page and we now have a Facebook page. Dan Brandner has been working overtime on the project and we are seeing great results with several new members coming on board.



We had a great demo by Rich Thelen on bottle stoppers. They are a great little project that you can finish in short order. We had several small blocks of wood that were taken by members to try their hand at bottle stoppers.

Look for wood on the rack, there is plenty of small project wood blocks for members to have free. There is always wood being donated so help yourself.

We are in the process of teaching beginning classes. Each class has slots for 5 students with 3 instructors. There is a lot of 1 on 1 instruction.

Even though the weather was snowy, Saturday Open House went very well with new members working to improve their skills. They are developing some very nice techniques

Thanks again to all the members for making this a great club. It is always fun to see members challenge themselves with new items for show and tell.

See you in February
Bob

Editor Musings January 2024



The Board of Directors are working toward bringing the group up a step. Dan Brandner is working on the new version of our web site as well as creating a presence on Facebook with a group

option where CVWG members get only club news and not all that advertising and “Friends” awful posts. **BREAKING NEWS! The web site and Facebook and Facebook Group pages are up and running.**

Sue Mohr is working to straighten and clarify our financial affairs. Randy Patzke did an excellent job in helping to secure and increase our finances. It is time I think to establish a known budget and establish a miscellaneous budget based on past expenses.

Bob Eberhardt along with Dan Brandner, Bob Wilcox and Ron Bartz (and maybe others) are doing multiple classes to introduce many more beginners to woodturning and hopefully increase their passion for turning and sticking with it. The teachers are taking a lot of their time and energy to insure the continuation of the group. Thanks to them all.

Tom Leonard will continue to edit the newsletter and will be putting it on the group Facebook page. Tom also is working to insure there is enough pen kit supplies for the next chainsaw competition and that the “Smiles For Vets” will be well supplied with pens with the help of several members participation.

Things are looking good for our group and the board is working hard to keep it that way.

One factor that needs attention is the demonstrations. Demonstrations that become the heart of meetings incur the problem of a few members willing to give a demonstration. There are a lot of new members who have not reached a confidence level to give a demonstration. Demonstrating means going out of one's comfort zone and often the confidence is built up over repeated demonstrations. Members new to demonstrating might start off small with a tip that can be demonstrated. It is something to think about for the future. Far too many of the demonstrations are being given by the same members and some of those are variations of previous demonstrations. It works as long as these members are willing to keep going. I for one saw the multiplicity of demonstrators being given by a small number of members and decided to go out of my comfort zone and after 5 or 6 demonstrations became comfortable mainly knowing the members well enough to know they are behind my efforts as they would be for any demonstrator. Remember, we are not professional demonstrators and are not expected to be. Just be one self and relate what you know and how to do it and have a little fun doing it.

Buying Wood VS. Obtaining Free Wood

One of the interesting aspects of our group is their ability to obtain turning wood from sources with no costs involved. I for one have done a bit of both but after obtaining a fungal infection of the lung from moldy wood I decided to stick to bought wood. Bought wood is almost always dried and or coated. One thing has struck me this year is the large number of older trees that apparently did not make it through the last winter. A lot of trees being cut are Ash trees and these (or a portion) are being ground up on site of the cut down. There are a lot are sprawling older and dying Maple trees that have reached their lifetime limit – seems to be around 50 years. I am surprised that wood obtaining members have not obtained more Maple.

If you want to see a change in number of tree cuttings, go to the Eau Claire Waste site. There is a huge pile of logs there bigger than any I have seen. I asked what happens to these logs and was told some of it was auctioned off and the rest were already claimed wood.

Back to the subject of bought wood. Buying pen blanks is often not very rewarding. Often the blanks are too small to really bring out the nice grain if it has any. I try to buy turning wood rather than pen blanks. I usually try to find something I have not bought before. Cook Woods is my preferred vendor and buying the turning wood you get exactly what the picture shows whereas the pen blanks shown show a range of possibles. A better choice for pen blanks is called the “exhibition” choice which has a better grain and cost twice as much but again the picture shows a range not a specific piece of wood.

I have found that buying wood classed as “lumber” is a better option. Here, as with turning wood class, one picks exactly what you are paying for. It is more expensive but I will have wood for multiple pens and can share the wood with the membership. Even if the “lumber” is 3 feet long I can always find a willing member to take the extra off my hands. Smaller pieces can be just 12” long (my preferred size). Larger sizes of lumber up to several feet long with price tags in the thousands. This is exotic wood of course and Cook handles very little domestic woods.

Thanks to Bob Eberhardt for the large array of cut up Cherry Burl wood brought for the taking by the membership.

Tom Leonard

ANNOUNCEMENT

Web master Dan Brandner announces the Chippewa Valley Woodturning Guild web site is ready for use. Some work still needs to be done but it is filled with new articles to read and enjoy.

Dan Brandner also announces the completion of the Chippewa Valley Woodturners Guild Facebook Group where members can join and post and read comments, for sale items and other important announcements and information.

Dan is working on an instruction sheet on how to access these areas for members not familiar with Facebook or web sites.

Potential program and Biographical information- Phil Holtan

Presenting Woodturner: Phil Holtan

Chasing the Ultimate Cut- Achieving a Better Bowl Surface with Less Sanding

"My goal is always to turn a better bowl with less sanding. In my demonstration, I will turn a natural edge bowl, outside and then in, and seek club member's wisdom on how to get the best cut possible. We will look at sharpening, shearing cuts with gouges and scrapers, adjusting speed, tool angles in 3 dimensions, body position and tool choice for bowl gouges, scrapers and some attention to best cuts with carbide scrapers. My most basic rule is to move on each bowl surface from big chips, to small, to microscopic. Hopefully, lots of material for both beginners and advanced turners.

---I'm willing to add a few minutes to how to market your turnings."

Bio for Phil Holtan

- Phil is proudest of the fact that he's helped introduce thousands of people to the joy of woodturning.
- His signature turnings are natural-edged, thin-walled burl bowls in local woods, and spindle-turned ringed items with Scandinavian connections. The quirkiest the wood the better- with burl, spalting, bird-peck, wormy, and after-turning twists. His customers love the chaos.

- He has also invented and turned thousands of what he calls “Kransekake,” an evergreen-tree shape of multiple loose rings based on the Norwegian wedding cake of that name. He’s diversified that into multiple sizes, a crooked tree and a variety of smaller ornament trees.
- He grew up in the oak and walnut forests along the Winnebago River near Forest City, IA, one of 8 children of Stan and Ruth Holtan -- farmers, weavers and carvers.
- By necessity, they learned to make and fix anything.
- He worked with his hands and became a craftsman and woodworker.
- During a rich and rewarding career as a Lutheran pastor, he always stole time to work with his hands to create and tell stories with wood. He sometimes hides behind the title of Reverend Doctor, with 3 advanced academic degrees.
- He’s married to Merrie Sue, college professor and writer, with 3 children, all productive young adults.
- He’s been turning for the 44 years and teaching turners in his shop, folk schools, club meetings and other venues for 38 years.
- He’s demonstrated at clubs and conferences in the Midwest and in Scotland.
- Outlets for his work are Ingebretsen’s in Minneapolis, the Krom Gallery in Rochester and several other stores and 8-10 juried art shows each year. At shows, he loves to meet new people, tell stories about wood and woodturning and invite them to learn more.
- He’s helped start 3 woodturning clubs, and treasures his membership in the AAW and Minnesota Woodturners

Artistic statement- *“Though I respect turners who use wood simply as a vehicle for their own artistic vision, I seek to partner with the wood to show off its beauty and tell its story.”* – Phil Holtan

January Demonstration

Bottle Turning

Rich Thelen

When Rich retired, he needed something to do. He settled on collecting bottle stoppers. At first, he tracked down bottle stoppers that were fancy and saw some made of wood. When he was in Door County, he saw a lathe demonstration and talked to the turner. Rich decided he could do that so he bought a small lathe. Later at one of the CVWG Expos Rich met Chuck Brovold turning bottle stoppers and joined the CVWG.



Bottle stoppers need a special mandrel called a screw mandrel that uses machine screws. This works considerably different from pen and bowl turning. To use the screw mandrel, one needs a proper sized drill bit and a thread tap. An alternative to a thread tap is a screw insert. It took several tries before Rich was able to get the right size drill size for the mandrel. Rich used a tapping tool to make the thread for the threaded mandrel.

A selected piece of wood was attached to the screw mandrel. Rich did not use a live center confident that the screw mandrel was sufficient. The wood was turned round and then shaped to the desired shape, sanded and then finished with Beeswax. **TL**



Above: Rich sets up wood to be turned.

Below: Shaping the bottle stopper.





Sanding the bottle stopper.



Finished bottle stopper.



Finishing with Bees wax



Some of Rich Thelen's bottle stopper collection.





This is the Bottle Stopper Chuck system offered by Penn State Ind. Has all that is needed to secure project . Sells for \$29.95.



Pieces can be purchased separately. The screw chuck sells for \$17.00 at Penn State Ind. See below comment from Rich about purchasing screw tap and T handle.

Rich said: “It was a standard 3/8-16 machine screw tap. It was held in a tee handle. Both are commonly available at any hardware store. The stopper had a 3/8-16 threaded stud. That particular stopper was sold by Penn State.” The Classic bottle Stopper kit at Penn State is \$3.95. Alternative to tapping are screw inserts. Available at Penn State—\$6.95 for a 4 pack.

The Very First Cordless Power Drill!



What is this??
Any Guesses.



PAST DEMONSTRATIONS

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DECEMBER 2023	Christmas Ornaments by Bob Eberhardt
NOVEMBER 2023	Wands by Paul Meske
OCTOBER 2023	Basket Weave Illusion by John Layde
SEPTEMBER 2023	Tenon Pens and Buttons by Tom Leonard
AUGUST 2023	Tool Handles by Ron Bartz
JULY 2023	Coring by Bob Eberhardt
JUNE 2023	Turning Gnomes by John Layde
MAY 2023	Bowl from Scrap by Dan Brandner
APRIL 2023	Resin Filled Bowl Turning by Mary Weider
MARCH 2023	Antique Peppermills by Joe Nycz
FEBRUARY 2023	Long Neck Vessel by Barry Grill
JANUARY 2023	NO DEMO—WEATHER

Show and Tell / Gallery

Grayson Schwartz

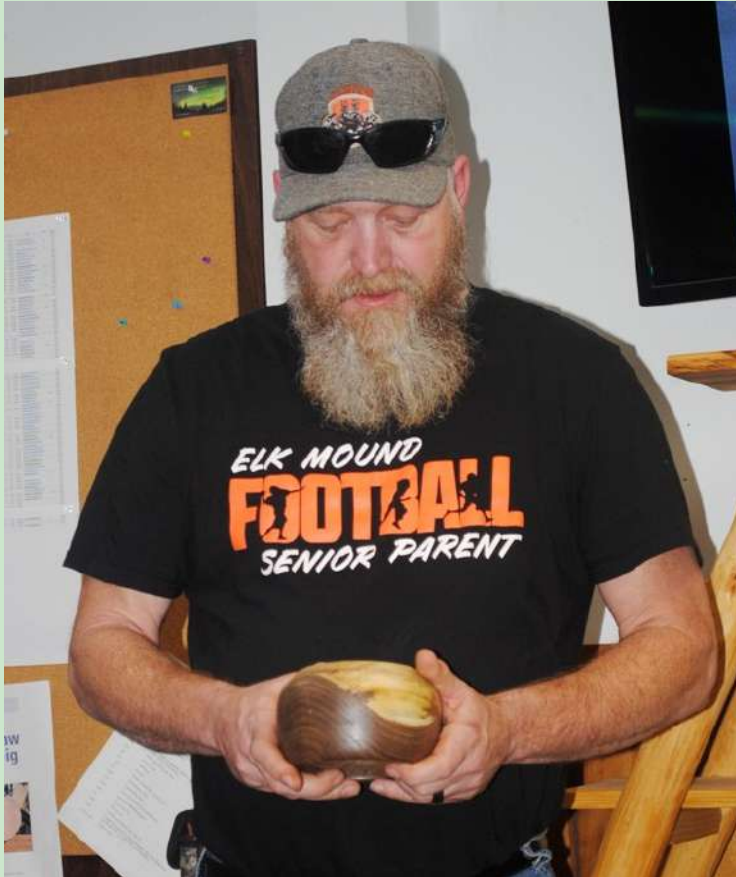


Grayson made a crochet hook. To me it was an amazing turning. Beautiful Apple Wood with a design I normally would not expect for a crochet hook.

A couple of similar turnings would be great for the Chain-saw event.



Steve Hay



Steve made a nice Walnut bowl showing both the heartwood and sapwood. Nice contrast gives this eye appeal.

Gordy Simon

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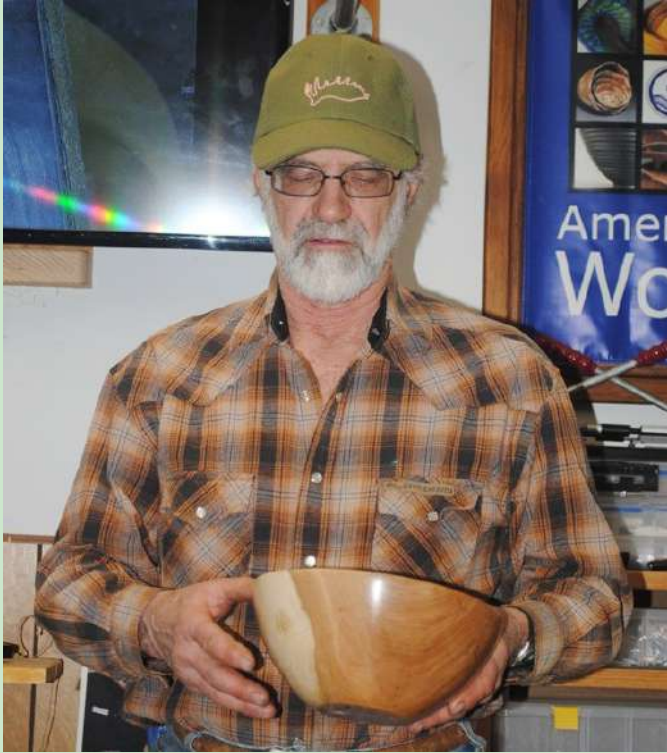


Gordy made a beautiful bowl from Juniper wood. Looks like Red Cedar because Juniper is related to Red Cedar.



Gordy simon

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Gordy also had a nice Cherry bowl with a type of grain we all wish for rarely get. Nice work Gordy.



Jerry Lilly

20



Jerry turned several Christmas tree ornaments that he was going to enter into the President's Challenge in December. Due to time constraints the Challenge never took place.



Mary Weider



Mary had a chunk of Cherry Burl that looked like a disaster but she managed to keep it intact and made an amazing piece of art work.



Rob Jackson



Rob Tried his turning skills to a challenge to make an egg of White Oak and a stand for it. A great future family heirloom.

Rob Jackson



Rob also turned a goblet out of Purple Heart. Members really thought it was a beautiful piece.

Rob Jackson



Rob also made a bowl from Red Oak Burl. Looks like another challenge of turning a piece that should not have been turned. Great work Rob.



Rob Jackson



Rob also had a smaller bowl that is a burl but he did not know the wood type. Still a beautiful piece.



Bob Collinson

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Bob made a really nice segmented bowl that appears to be mostly Red Cedar. Bob had to leave early and was not available at Show and Tell. Segmented turnings always have an interesting story to tell and maybe Bob will tell us next meeting.

Pen Wood of the Month

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Sycamore

Common Name(s): Sycamore, American Plane

Scientific Name: *Platanus occidentalis*

Distribution: Eastern United States

Tree Size: 75-120 ft (23-37 m) tall, 3-8 ft (1-2.4 m) trunk diameter

Color/Appearance: Similar to maple, the wood of Sycamore trees is predominantly comprised of the sapwood, with some darker heartwood streaks also found in most boards. (Though it is not uncommon to also see entire boards of heartwood too.) The sapwood is white to light tan, while the heartwood is a darker reddish brown. Sycamore also has very distinct ray flecks present



on quartersawn surfaces—giving it a freckled appearance—and it is sometimes even called “Lacewood.”

Grain/Texture: Sycamore has a fine and even texture that is very similar to maple. The grain is interlocked.

Endgrain: Diffuse-porous; small to medium pores, numerous; solitary and in radial multiples and clusters; tyloses occasionally present, though not easily seen with lens; growth rings distinct due to lighter color of latewood and decreased pore frequency; medium to very wide rays easily visible without lens, noded, wide spacing; parenchyma rare or absent.

Rot Resistance: Sycamore is rated as non-durable to perishable regarding decay resistance, and is susceptible to insect attack.

Workability: Overall, Sycamore works easily with both hand and machine tools, though the interlocked grain can be troublesome in surfacing and machining operations at times. Sycamore turns, glues, and finishes well. Responds poorly to steam bending.

Odor: No characteristic odor.

Allergies/Toxicity: Besides the standard health risks associated with any type of wood dust, no further health reactions have been associated with Sycamore. See the articles Wood Allergies and Toxicity and Wood Dust Safety for more information.

Pricing/Availability: Usually moderately priced, though Sycamore is commonly sold as quartersawn boards, which can increase the cost.

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

Common Uses: Veneer, plywood, interior trim, pallets/crates, flooring, furniture, particleboard, paper (pulpwood), tool handles, and other turned objects.

Comments: Not to be confused with European Sycamore—which is actually just a species of maple (*Acer pseudoplatanus*)—Sycamore is sometimes referred to as “American Plane” in Europe.

Related Species:

- **London Plane** ([Platanus x hybrida](#))

Source: [Sycamore | The Wood Database \(Hardwood\) \(wood-database.com\)](#)

Other Sources: [Sycamores Get No Respect - Eat The Weeds and other things, too](#)

As usual, tree species are numerous in the same type. Sycamore is no exception. Confusion comes when the Sycamore is confused with a fig tree types and even a Maple tree because of similar leaves. Pictures represent strictly the *Planantus occidentalis*.

Occasionally the pen wood is a domestic wood and there will be one later called Hard Rock Maple. Dan Brandner had some Sycamore and thought the grain looked interesting for a pen. Thanks Dan. It certainly looks better than some I've done.

Pen Kit of the Month

PKM-3 Ballpoint Twist Pen

In my search for different pen kits I stumble on ones not seen in the pen dealers regular inventory. Most pen kits are from Taiwan and occasionally from China. These were listed in Etsy and almost always are from China (Stronglink—Amoy Fujian). Why these are called PKM-3 is a mystery except there is also a PKM-1 which has a less fancy nib.

There is no description except from a customer who relates that the pen has a “sleek style and high end look.”

The pen kits were \$3.62 each (really cheap), bushings were \$1.80 (really cheap) and the 8mm drill bit was \$1.60 (really cheap). There were no instructions but these were fairly basic Slimline type only bigger and fancier.



PAST PEN WOODS AND PEN KITS

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ORANGE AGATE	PMK-3	December 2023
SINDORA BURL	SAXA	November 2023
CAMBODIAN ORMOSIA	BUTTON CLICK	October 2023
ENGENGLISH YEW	YARI CLICK	September 2023
LAURO PRETO	DIAMOND KNURL	August 2023
LIMBA	AERO	July 2023
PAU MARFIM	THANK YOU	June 2023
RED CABBAGE BARK	MINI PORTABLE	May 2023
FAVA ARMAGOSA	DEVIN CLICK	April 2023
ACACIA	CJK1	March 2023
AFRICAN CAMELTHORN	DESIGN TWIST	February 2023
AFRICAL BELI	TACTICAL	January 2023

FUTURE PEN WOODS AND PEN KITS

HONDURAN	MEDICAL	February 2024
ROSEWOOD		
BLACK CHUCATE	CYCLONE	March 2024
HARD ROCK MAPLE	DURA CLICK	April 2024



The Sycamore tree and its distinctive bark.

5551384



**Sycamore
leaves and
fruit**



Sycamore wood used in making a rustic table and for flooring.



**Smaller uses
for Sycamore:
a bowl and a
keepsake box.**



The distinctive fleck pattern of Sycamore make for a beautiful guitar sound board. Also for a box that could be for jewelry or a keepsake box.



Next Demonstration

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Wet / Dry Turning

Barry Grill



COMING EVENTS

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

Meeting Dates and Demonstrations

February 7—Barry Grill—Wet/Dry Turning

March 6—Dan Brandner—Shaker Pegs

April 3—Tom Spielmann—Thread Chasing

May 1—Not Yet determined

June 5—Not Yet Determined

July 3—Not Yet Determined

Open House-Coffee and Chips Dates

February 10 from 8:00 am to 12:00pm. If coming after 10:00 please inform us through the web site the night before at: (www.woodturnercvvg@gmail.com)

Meetings and Open House are held in the Eau Claire Insulation building at 1125 Starr Ave on the northeast side of Eau Claire, Wi. Look for the meeting sign. No sign—No meeting.

Board of Directors for 2024

President *Bob Eberhardt*

Vice President *Mary Weider*

**Treasurer/
Membership** *Sue Mohr*

Secretary *Tom Leonard*
Co-Secretary

Program Director *Dan Brandner*

At Large Directors *Joe Nycz*
Ron Bartz

Non Board Positions

Membership Director *Henry Troost*
Newsletter Editor *Tom Leonard*
Web Master *Dan Brandner*

Members and interested persons may contact the Chippewa Valley Woodturners Guild by email at: woodturnercvwg@gmail.com

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