



**JUNE
2020**

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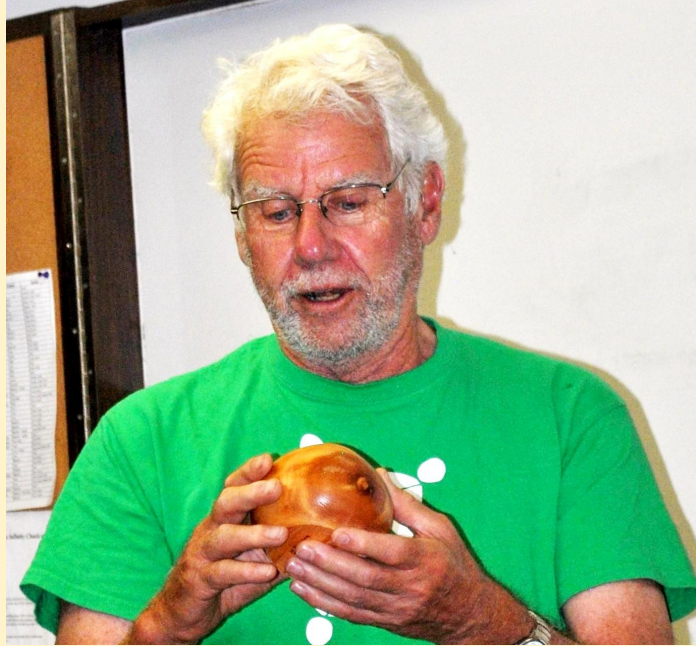
**PEN WOOD OF THE
MONTH**

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**Pair of Narra Wood Swirl Wing
False Spiral Ear Rings (No kid-
ding—that's what these are called)**

PREZ SEYZ

We had a June meeting of the board and past presidents of the CVWG to figure where to go from here with COVID. Unless something changes we will resume with the August meeting. We will require all to wear masks and space people as well as possible. Coffee and chips will not start since that calls for closer contact.



In other business Rich Thelen brought the ordered shirts and hats and they will be at the club house for the next meeting. We will have a few hats available for sale then.

We also have new membership cards, also available at the next meeting. We are working on a virtual workshop video from some of the members shop layout. Prizes for the presidents challenge from last month were won by everyone who entered--we had no judges!

Tom Leonard has done a great job with the newsletter but he needs material. Please send him pictures of your “show and tells” Remember till this mess settles down TURN TURN TURN

John Layde

Editor Musings – Inlaying For Beginners

I had a sudden fit of mild insanity and decided to try inlays. I bought couple of inlay stone powders (**Turners Select Crushed Stone Powder**—Turquoise and Magnesite—Craft Supplies USA at \$8.50 for 1 oz), one white and one turquoise. It actually came with an instruction sheet that did not contain helpful instructions. I didn't refer to any YouTube videos because I thought, how hard could it be - just fill the hole with powder and CA glue.



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My first two attempts were, well, sloppy, but I was only experimenting by filling cracks around the rim of the bowls. I used the popsicle stick method which is to mix the powder with Ca glue on a plastic sheet then transfer mixture with a popsicle stick. Wasn't a very good way to get the inlay to the bowl. However, when returned, it didn't look too bad.

When I was looking at a YouTube video that was connected to the AAW site, I noticed a video on inlays and decided to take a look. It was a teaser for selling a DVD by Ted Sokolowski called **Metal Inlay Techniques for Woodworking & Woodturning** (\$29.95 + \$7.95 shipping from Craft Supplies USA). He briefly covered the main topics and made it sound interesting, so I ordered it. I figured it could go in the group library if I didn't find it helpful.

While I was viewing the DVD, I remembered my attitude of "how hard could it be." On one level it seemed simple enough, but on another level more time consuming than I ever thought possible. And as usual, Ted Sokolowski used an array of tools I didn't have and probably wouldn't buy. But it did get me interested enough to try it.

Now, the first job in preparing a piece for inlay involves removing all the debris - meaning loose bark, worm hole stuff and assorted embedded dirt and rot. I tackled a piece of spalted Birch (I got from Duane Walker) that was well beyond it's prime. I believe I took the better part of an hour cleaning out the various holes,

cracks and worm hole stuff. You just don't clean the defects, you need to excavate the defects. You could also work in some design to disguise the holes and cracks and wormholes like they didn't exist.

If one is trying for a design, first draw out in pencil incorporating the excavated areas on the piece to see what it might look like. That way you can change your mind and redo it (or forget it altogether). It is also important to allow enough room in the cracks and defects to get the metal inlay (powder) to easily settle on the bottom. This may mean that the crack or defect has to be enlarged (excavated further that is). A knife can work but a Dremel tool is more effective. If the defect is deep, fill mostly with sawdust and CA glue in layers leaving room for the inlay. Once the defects are filled with inlay, apply the Ca glue liberally (more like washing it) and you don't have to be neat about it. It looks like something destined for the trash, but if done correctly, it will be "marvelous" when returned or sanded and finished.

The pictures show the inlay applied with Ca glue – a before and after. I had the option of re-turning but one bowl was minus a tenon. Neither probably wouldn't survive re-turning, so I sanded them with the Penn State Ind. **2 in. Bowl Sanding Hook and Loop Disc system** (\$39.95).

I have more to do on these bowls before finishing. It will be finished with Mark Palma's finishing formula – WB.

Tom Leonard

Left: Inlay with Ca glue applied.

Right: After sanding.



A Member Asks

I'm wondering if one of you with more experience can suggest a good orientation to make a bowl or lidded box out of this old walnut Burl.

It is solid but dry, and probably has cracks in it. But I'm wondering what is the best orientation to expose the grain pattern.

My first thoughts are to put the bottom of the bowl or lidded box on the sawed off side, so the sides rising cut across the grains in the burl.

I think I heard this was covered in previous meetings, but I'm a new member, and new to turning and everything is new to me.

I would appreciate any comments or suggestions.

Dan Brandner



Membership Responses

John Layde Says:

Burls have no consistent grain so I would go whatever way would make what you want. And wear a face shield.

Joe York Says:

Here is my two cents' worth:

Using my vast wood turning experience (all 16 months, on and off, now and then), and after consulting with my mentor Adrian, I would advise *rounding the burl (cut side down) on the band saw, making a bowl blank of about six or seven inches in diameter. Then I'd mount a face plate on that cut side and go from there. (And I'd probably end up with lots of wood chips and a small piece of very pretty firewood.)*

Member Questions:

Randy Patzke has two questions:

How can you tell when to change out a bandsaw blade?

Question about turning spalted Box Elder wood. I have never turned box elder before. So I am looking for some guidance. The pieces I am turning seem to have a large amount of tear out. Is this normal and is there anything that can be done to reduce the tear out?

Send your answers to tl9597@charter.net for next month's newsletter.

AT HOME SHOW AND TELL



Adrian York's first attempt at turning a burl - a cherry burl. His choice of finish was *Cabot Wood Stain*, natural tone.



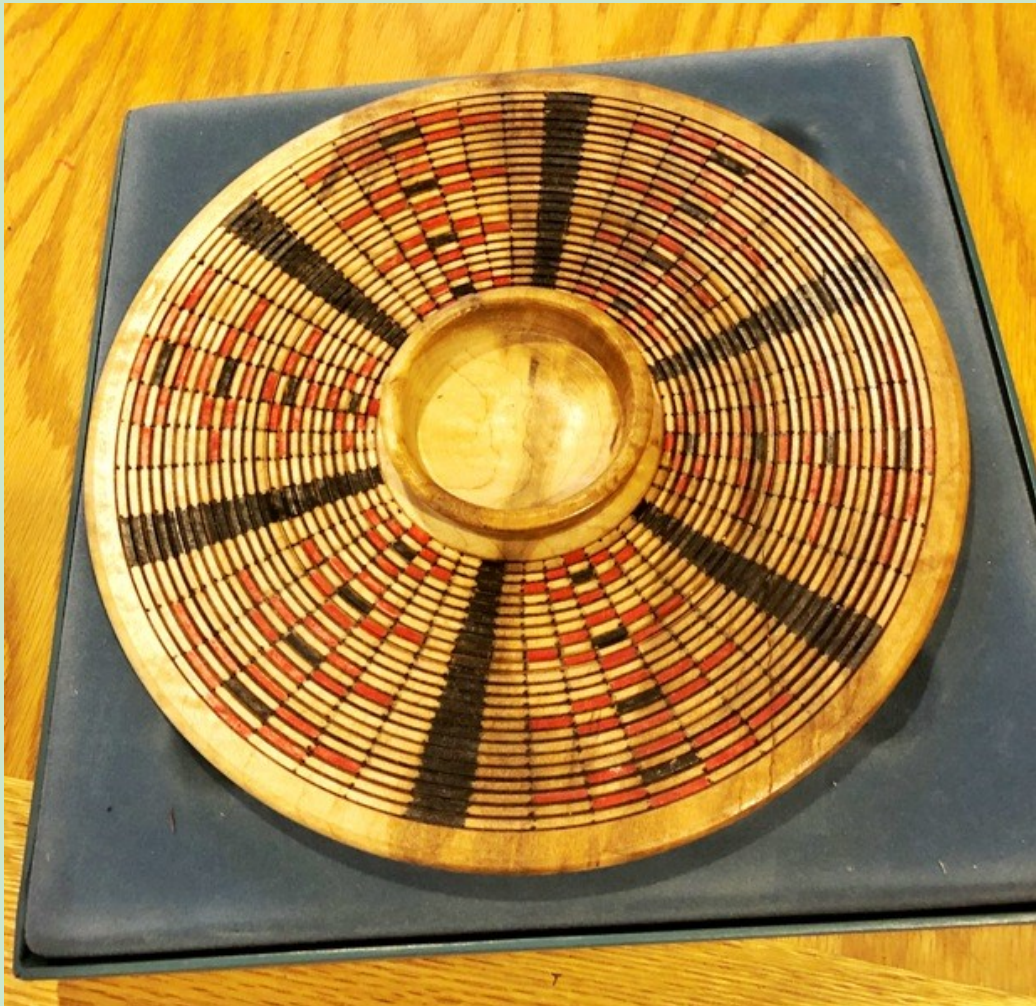


John Layde

“I’m playing with pyrography (wood burning) on some turnings.”



John Layde also did a basket illusion tray with center bowl.



Duane Walker's shop has turned into a lamp factory.



Tom Leonard's Experiment with Black Ca Glue mixed with Sawdust

(Tom says it's not very appealing)



Tom Leonard made a closed end fountain pen of Cherry Burl. The pen kit is called Apollo.



This fountain pen is destined to be on a table top made of an exotic wood called Massaranduba which will be next to a large red chair. Fans of Nero Wolfe will make this connection.

May 30 Second Solutions—E-Version

John Layde sent this picture with a question.

“I rough turned these 4 days ago. What should I have done differently?”



May 30 Second Solutions Answers

Colin Kenow

Soak in denatured alcohol for 3-5 days, then put them in a paper bag with sawdust/turning chips for 2 week. They'll come out uncracked and dry as a bone.

The alcohol helps to pull moisture from the wood rapidly and evenly, distributing the stress throughout the bowl.

Jeff Fagan

I would boil them in water right away.

Dennis Cieseilski

Your rough turned bowls have spoken to you and are saying "Complete carefully and then be creative with your design embellishments."

Wood Art



Pen Wood of the Month

Narra

Common Name(s): Narra, Amboyna (burl)

Scientific Name: *Pterocarpus indicus*

Distribution: Southeast Asia

Tree Size: 65-100 ft (20-30 m) tall, 3-5 ft (1-1.5 m) trunk diameter

Janka Hardness: 1,260 lb_f (5,620 N)



Color/Appearance: Heartwood can vary widely in color, ranging from a golden yellow to a reddish brown. Pale yellow sapwood is clearly demarcated from the heartwood. Quartersawn surfaces display ribbon-stripe figure, and the wood is also seen with mottled, beeswing, or curly figure. Narra burl is full of well-defined knot clusters, and the highly valued wood is known as Amboyna.

Grain/Texture: Grain is usually interlocked, and can sometimes be wavy. With an uneven medium to coarse texture with good natural luster.

Endgrain: Semi-ring-porous; solitary and radial multiples and clusters; very large pores grading down to large/medium pores, very few; mineral/gum deposits (reddish brown) common; parenchyma vasicentric, winged, confluent, and banded; narrow rays, spacing fairly close.

Rot Resistance: Narra has good weathering characteristics and is typically very durable regarding decay resistance. It is generally

resistant to termite and powder post beetle attack, though there can occasionally be ambrosia beetles present, especially in the sapwood.

Workability: Easy to work with both hand and machine tools, one of Narra's only downsides is that it has a moderate blunting effect on cutters. Narra turns, glues, and finishes well.

Odor: Narra has a distinct fragrance that lingers even after being worked.

Allergies/Toxicity: Although severe reactions are quite uncommon, Narra has been reported as an irritant; most common reactions simply include skin and respiratory irritation, as well as asthma-like symptoms. See the articles Wood Allergies and Toxicity and Wood Dust Safety for more information.

Pricing/Availability: Not commonly exported as lumber, smaller pieces of figured Narra are sometimes available from specialty wood retailers, as well as Amboyna burl in solid and veneer form. Prices vary depending on the amount and type of figure: unfigured wood is moderately priced, while high-grade Amboyna ranks as one of the most expensive woods in the world.

Sustainability: This wood species is not listed in the CITES Appendices, but is on the IUCN Red List. It is listed as vulnerable due to a population reduction of over 20% in the past three generations, caused primarily by exploitation.

Common Uses: Veneer, furniture, cabinetry, boatbuilding, plywood, turned objects, and small specialty wood items.

Comments: This wood has a seeming split personality. On the one hand there is the humble Narra, with good workability and dimensional stability (much like other members of the *Pterocarpus* genus)—on the other hand there is the exotic and highly-prized burl wood known as Amboyna. Both come from the same tree (*Pterocarpus indicus*), though the resemblance between the two is virtually unrecognizable.

Related Species:

- **African Padauk** ([Pterocarpus soyauxii](#))

- **Amboyna** ([Pterocarpus indicus](#))
- **Andaman Padauk** ([Pterocarpus dalbergioides](#))
- **Burma Padauk** ([Pterocarpus macrocarpus](#))
- **Muninga** ([Pterocarpus angolensis](#))
- **Zitan** ([Pterocarpus santalinus](#))

Source: Wood Database :

<https://www.wood-database.com/narra/>

This month's Pen Kit of the Month is Longwood Click Pen. Called Longwood because it's long on wood (just a guess). This pen kit seems to be only available at Rocklers. I don't remember if I got it there or elsewhere because I've had it a long time. Rocklers lists it for \$9.99 with the bushings for \$4.99. It uses a 3/8th drill bit which makes it a bit large.

The new version of the Longwood pen kit is being offered at various places is somewhat different. It has two blanks with a center type ring near the nib end of the pen and there is no click version—just a twist and pencil versions. The pen is still 3/8th but the pencil is 7mm.





**Narra tree ,
leaves, flowers
and fruit**



Things to make with Narra wood



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

Future Meetings when possible

Bruce Lindholm—Fearless Segmenting With Jigs

Tom Leonard—Something Different—Dust Port Adapter

John Layde, Ron Bartz, Mark Palma and Joe Nycz—
Jigs and Gizmos

Rich Thelen—Winged Bowl Revisited

Joe Nycz—Heart Bowl

Ron Bartz—Carbide Tool—It's Hard to Go Wrong

Open House-Coffee and Chips Dates

To be announced when possible

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.

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