

**Chippewa Valley
Woodturners Guild**



**OCTOBER
2019**

T U R N I N G
Threads

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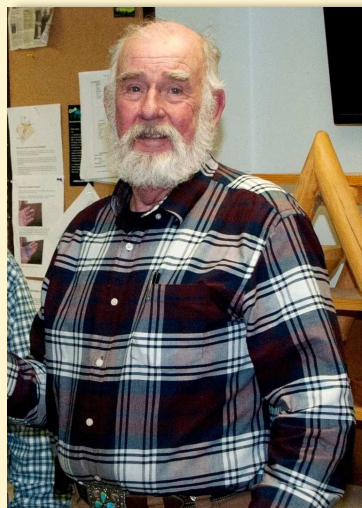
EDITORIAL

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**Seed Pods of the Kokko tree
sometimes called "woman's
tongue tree." See page**

PREZ SEYZ

Wow! It's October, fall is here ! It was just brought to my attention that after this, I only have to think of something to say to all of you two more times. In December we will officially elect a new slate of officers for the next two years. It has been a good couple years for me and fortunately we have volunteers who are willing to serve as your new officers.



As we plan for the next year, we would like your advice as to what you would like to have for meeting demonstrations. If you have a need or idea of a topic that you would like to see, just send me an email at "elk.stir@gmail.com". We will get your request on the schedule just as quick as I can con someone into signing up for it.....lol.

Don't forget that the president's challenge for November is a Christmas item. It can be a tree ornament, a Christmas candle holder, center piece or anything you can dream up that our judges will agree is a Christmas item. Have fun.

We have several newer members that are looking for turning equipment, everything from lathes to tools and accessories. If you have anything that you are willing to donate or sell, let Tom know and we can get it on the news letter.

Speaking of new members, we have printed some new folders describing our club. They are on the table at the club house. Take some with you and give them to that friend that seems interested in turning. Or when you see a Turner that you don't know at a craft show, invite them with the brochure.

Don't forget to get busy on your donation to the food bank, empty bowls event. Let's see if we can get 500 bowls this year.

Oh yes, my shop is nearly finished, only waiting for the heater to get here. Don't need that yet so now it's time to retrain my hands and eyes, that's a challenge! It's been about 6 months, that's a

long dry spell without making any chips.

I think I've wasted enough space on this rag sheet so will close for now,

See you all in November,

Prez, Duane.....

November President's Challenge

Christmas Ornament


The Christmas ornament can be of any type just so it reflects the Christmas theme.



Lidded Boxes 101

John De Ryckere

The lidded box is a good skill building exercise whose end result is a useful decorative item. What skills can be developed?

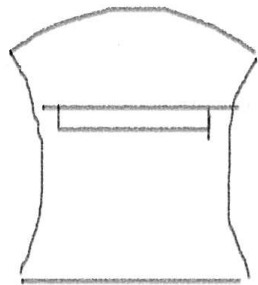
- **Spindle Turning**: In general the wood used for lidded box making is oriented with the grain parallel to the bed of the lathe. Most lidded boxes have a relatively tight fitting lid. The spindle orientation tends to expand and contract more evenly as the local humidity changes. The circular shapes stay more circular. This reduces one source of potential splitting in both the box and lid. By using very dry wood this is further reduced.
- 
- **Turning to Precise Measurements**: Usually you want the lid to be securely held to the box. This is best done by being able to transfer measurements from the lid to the body of the box. Depending on the design of the box there may be complications that need to be considered. As an example, if the lid has a tenon and the body of the box reduces diameter at its opening it's easy to accidentally make the walls thin enough that you cut through while hollowing. The measurement techniques can be primitive, there's no need for micrometers. A gouge can be used to gauge depth.
 - **Hollowing**: Lidded boxes should be light, and their insides smooth. This is done by hollowing techniques.
 - **End Grain Turning**: Beyond the hollowing, mentioned above, which is done in the end grain, the lid itself may be either spindle work or end grain turning depending on the shape.
 - **Design**: Lidded boxes aren't just functional, they are also decorative, and ought to be pleasing to the owners eye. Depending on how the

features are done on the box it can look top heavy, bottom heavy, or balanced. Looking at classical examples of artwork the golden ratio is often used. Without belaboring the mathematical meaning of this, think of it as “about $1/3$ and $2/3$.” I usually start with the box taking up $1/3$ of the overall shape. I may stray from this. I generally avoid trying to make the top and bottom even in side. Anyone who has been around kids knows how finely tuned our perception of “even” is.

- **Finishing:** Tool marks, sanding blemishes and poor finishing all show up on boxes. I feel that they’re items that should hold up to scrutiny in the palm of your hand.

What follows is my technique for turning a lidded box, there are a large number of ways of approaching it, and I’ve taken bits and pieces of the various methods to come up with what works for me. It’s evolved over time, and will likely continue to evolve.

Note the tenon, the drawing reminded me that I needed to be aware of how narrow the box got in that area. Too narrow and I create a problem.



First, I normally start with a sketch of what my final goal is. I do this so that I come up with something pleasing to my eye (your eye may be different!) It also lets me see where potential difficulties in the turning process might arise. For instance, I put the tenons on my lids. I prefer that the box be a finished piece in itself. If the lid is lost then the box is still something pleasing to look at. As I’m turning I may

change the shape if I don’t quite like what I am seeing, but the sketch is at least a point of reference for me.

Next I select my wood. For the types of boxes I make the wood has to be dry, and the orientation of the grain should be like a spindle blank. Even dried lumber absorbs moisture, and in a spindle orientation it will more or less expand and contract evenly, so the circular opening of the box expands the same way as the circular tenon that sits inside it. If the grain runs the other way it’s more likely that the box will crack. I cut the piece to an inch or so longer than my final block. I do this because my technique makes use of the extra wood to build a jam chuck for turning the bottom of the piece. Once my piece is mounted in the four jaw chuck I prefer not to remove it until I am done, in my experience this keeps the lid and body running true.



lower than for a 1/2" bowl gouge.

I start off between centers and turn the box to a cylinder. I'm using spindle oriented wood, so there is a wide variety of tool choices: Spindle roughing gouge, the dreaded skew, bowl gouge, carbides. Where do I set my tool rest? It depends on the tool. In general, for spindle work, I like to cut on center or slightly above. For my spindle roughing gouge the tool rest will be



Next, I mark off important design details on the spindle. Where is the top of the lid? Where is the bottom of the lid? Where is the bottom of the box? Note that at the top of the box I leave room for a small tenon. This will be used later.



At this point I've turned a pair of tenons. One is obscured by the four jaw chuck to the left. The second tenon is the small one on the lid. I've rounded the shoulders a bit to give myself a hint of where the rounded portion of the lid is. I am still using the tailstock, it's not in the way, and it provides a good "just in case" level of protection. The four jaw chuck has a dovetail on it, so the tenon which goes into it has a matching dovetail. My shoulders are square to provide the best hold on the chuck. The right tenon may not show it well, but there is a small flat adjacent to it.



I then do some light shaping on the cylinder, and then part it off. I forgot to take a picture of that step.



I start hollowing the body at this point, but not to it's final thickness. Instead I need to be able to use the body as a jam chuck for the lid (this is the tenon I previously mentioned). For hollowing there are a variety of techniques. The easiest is to start with a Forstner bit and then use a carbide to expand it to the right size. I often use a spindle gouge and kind of scoop it out. I try to creep on the side so that the lid fits in the jam chuck firmly, but not so firmly I can't remove it. You can't put wood back on, but a moist piece of tissue paper can make a tenon fit in a slightly oversized hole.



Here I've mounted the lid, and I've used a piece of tissue paper to make the tenon fit. I'd lie, and say I did this on purpose to illustrate a point, but that's not one of my particular vices.



I then scoop out the lid, paying attention to the hint of curvature I made while making the tenon so that I don't go too deep. I also put a small tenon. This tenon will need to fit into the body of the box at its final thickness. It needs to be wide enough to fit the design, but not so wide that it ends up protruding through the box. The tenon is very slightly conical. This makes sizing the socket it sits in easier.



Now I enlarge the original hole (I don't go to the full depth at this point, there's no need to, and it reduces vibration if there's a lot of solid wood). Note that I use the tailstock for support, because I can at this point. Also note that I sized the hole so I didn't need the assistance of wet tissue paper.



I now finish the exterior of the box, and the top of the lid. Once the lid is finished I remove it and set it aside. Now is when the majority of end grain hollowing takes place. As before, there are a variety of techniques. You could start with a Forstner bit, carbides etc. Pay attention to the area where the lid tenon fits. You don't want to accidentally make it too loose. Also pay attention to the bottom, when you part it off you will be very disappointed if you end up with a hollow cylinder. Once this is done I part it off, and use the remaining wood to make a jam chuck that the opening of the box fits securely over. I then finish the bottom of the box.

The finished box, without finish. I start my sanding on the lathe, and I use Klingspor A/O Stearated papers up to 800 grit. I start my sanding on the lathe, but I also hand sand each grit with the lathe stationary, very slowly rotating it by hand. Finally I hand sand off the lathe. My go to finish is Danish Oil (Watco) followed by microcrystalline wax. I have experimented with polyurethane and dies but for most of the wood I use, such as this walnut piece, Danish Oil works very well. ④④



PENS FOR VETS

The Chippewa Valley Technical College Health Center is holding their event for veterans on November 2. Last year we donated 70 pens to this event and this year we contributed 102 pens to cover several aspects of this event beside the dental. Thanks for your contributions.

SHOW AND TELL / GALLERY



**Adrian York with a
Cherry bowl and a
mallet with a Maple
handle.**





Barry Grill with a burl cut flat and sanded and then turned to form a shallow bowl in the middle.



Bob Wilcox with a Walnut bowl and a natural edge bowl. Also Bob had a bottle cork which he made 150 (but only 130 were usable) for his daughters wedding as wedding favors.





Joe York with a Cherry bowl, an Oak bowl and a cup.





Paul Meske with a large spalted Oak bowl and a variety of mallets which he experimented as to the type with the best hand fit.





Tom Leonard besides the pen wood of the month being Sheoak , made two chain pulls - one a Cherry burl and the other he didn't remember the wood type.



Though not shown as Show and Tell items, demonstrator John DeRyckere had several lidded boxes that he had previously made.

New Addition to be Unveiled at the November Meeting

The Board of Directors have received several complaints that the demonstrators aren't speaking loud enough for attendees in the back rows to hear distinctly. This is partially due to the noise of the lathe or the safety shields being down or the demonstrator does not speak loud enough.

Beginning at the November meeting the demonstrators will be using a digital microphone supported by 400 watt speakers. John DeRyckere will be setting up the system at the next Coffee and Chips.

Since nothing works the first time, attendees must have some patience until the system is fine tuned for our situation.



Large Walnut Crouch Auctioned Off

Paul Diedrich (not a member of our group) contacted our group about donating a large Walnut log that was cut only a couple of days previously. Paul didn't have any preference when asked if he preferred whether the log was given away or auctioned. President Duane Walker auctioned it at the last meeting. It was a large piece and few members would have a lathe large enough to turn it, though it could have been cut into smaller pieces.

Bruce Tremble got the piece with a \$10 bid.



Out of Round Pen Blanks

One thing you can count on in woodturning is problems. Most are easily solved by a little ingenuity or by purchasing something that can fix the problem. The pen kit and accessories industry – like so many other industries – sell items that require additional purchases. There are a host of items that fall in this category but there is one that is particularly odious (depending on how in need you are at the time).

I'm referring to the barrel trimming items. The pen kit instructions always say to match the barrel trimmer (also called pilot shafts) with the brass tube size. Now considering how many sizes of brass tubes involved in pen turning, one would have to purchase a large number of different sized trimmers.

Several years ago, I bought a set of barrel trimmers from Woodcraft which contained only 4 sizes – 7mm, 10mm, 25/64ths and 27/64ths. Curiously, the container had a piece of foam that held the four trimmers but the foam had 4 more holes. Hmm, was there a hint here that by buying additional trimmers there would be a nice place to store them?

Now to be fair, in today's market there are more choices – sort of. Sets of trimmers still contain only four but included is a sleeve usually for pencil sets. The usual offering of the four are 7mm, O, 3/8ths and 10mm. The "O" size is cited as compatible with 8mm. These sizes at least reflex 2 of the most popular sizes.

Individual trimmers (14 in all) can be purchased from Craft supplies USA for \$10.50 each. Penn State Ind. offers few individual trimmers and all come with the cutter for about \$17.95 each.

The trend seems to be toward sleeves. Sleeve sets contain up to nine different sizes with some being usable for 3 extra sizes for \$64.90. These sizes are: 7mm, 11/32nds, 3/8ths, 25/64ths, 10.5 mm, 27/64ths, 15/32nds, 31/64ths, 12.5mm, 33/64ths, 9/16ths and 37/64ths. Some sets even include a carrying case (where would you carry them?). Reviews for these sleeve sets seem to be

positive. Not having used these I can see a possible problem. Reviewers say these fit snugly in the tube. Suppose the tube has some glue in it that normally a trimmer is supposed to remove? Do the sleeves remove the glue? The sleeve provides a means to square the blank and not remove the glue which is the trimmer's purpose. I can find no reference to this issue. Not even reviewers mention this and I've concluded that I must be a really sloppy gluer. However, an inquiry to Penn State Ind. brought the response that if glue is in the tube it will interfere with the sleeve (duh!).

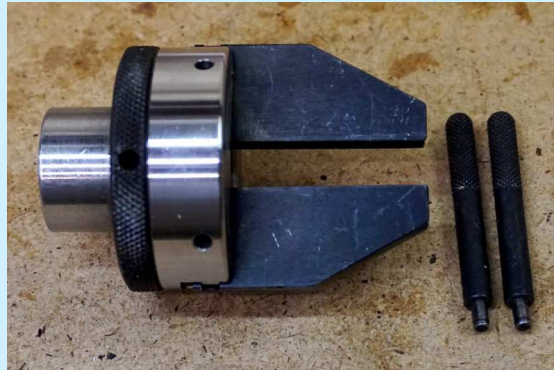
Now, why have I brought this up? The consequences of using a barrel trimmer too small for the brass tube will result in a blank with the cutter not making the end square. Turning a blank with ends not squared will result in an out of round turning and the final result is that pen pieces will not fit evenly and have gaps between the hardware and blank.

So, if one lacks the proper sized trimmer, what can be done? One of the methods to solve this after obtaining an unsquared blank end is to square the blank on a bench sander with a miter gauge set at 90 degrees. This method is almost always mentioned in the pen kit instructions. One can hold the blank tightly against a miter gauge when applying the blank to the turning sander but it is not recommended because it would be unstable. Instead there are Disc Sanding Barrel Jigs (Woodturningz has one for \$19.95). There are several others on the market for about the same price. But that's not all that's required. In order to stabilize the blank a rod from a disassembly punch set (\$18.95) that matches the tube size is needed. Penn State Ind. version has a 7mm rod attached to the jig but it requires sleeves to stabilize. The jig includes the sleeves and the set costs \$64.90.

Don't have a bench sander? Well, there is always the option of a purchase in the form of a lathe squaring jig which includes a disc sander that attaches to the head stock of the lathe for \$54.95 (Penn State Ind.).

So, what else is there? Obviously at this point, you suspect that I am now at my problem. If you thought that you are correct. I had 7 blanks trimmed for

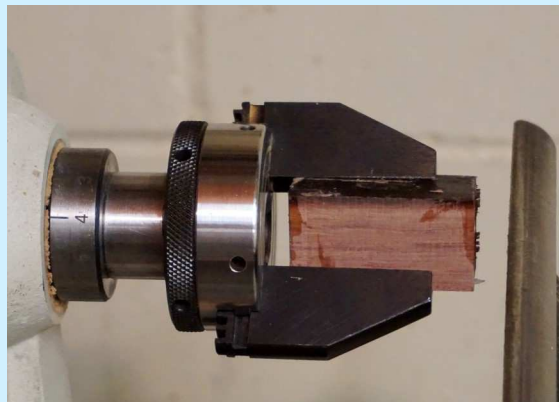
Stratus pen kits. I also had just turned a blank with an 8mm tube for another pen kit and noticed it was out of round. I have had this problem before but had not figured out why it was happening. After looking at the Stratus blanks, I realized what the problem was. The Stratus blanks use 3/8ths tubes and I used a 7mm trimmer. The turned blanks were trash but how could I save the seven unturned blanks. I just happened to have a solution with pen blank chucks.



Pen blank chucks come as dedicated tools or as a part of chucks with interchangeable jaws. The Barracuda chuck version of this sells for \$29.95 at Penn State Ind. I happened to have the dedicated pen blank chucks from Penn State Ind. The small one now costs \$79.95 and the large one costs \$104.95. These were a Christmas gift a couple of years ago and I think they were about \$10 cheaper. I had tried to drill blanks on the lathe with these but found them to be not to my liking. I had a jig for my drill press and it worked better.



The idea using the pen blank chuck was to see whether it was possible to turn the cut and trimmed end to a near 90 degrees. On first try it looked like the turned end was



slightly convex but redoing it turning the tool to produce a slightly concave effect did the trick. Test the flatness by inserting the bushing to see if it

shows no gaps or gaps that are very small. The Stratus turned blanks were even to the bushings and turned evenly.

This worked fine until a problem arose. The problem was the pen assembly revealed the blanks were too short and resulted in the pen tip sticking out even when retracted. The solution is to make the blanks slightly longer to account for the trimming.

There is one caveat to this method. There are probably more but this one stands out for me. Usually I use a small square carbide bit tool to square off the blank. However, I made the mistake of using this smaller tool with a larger sized tube. I wasn't thinking when I moved the bit to the middle and the entire carbide bit went into the tube and not only ripped the blank off but bent the jaws of the pen blank chuck. This was the smaller chuck—the 1" blank capacity. The larger chuck jaws that holds up to 2" blank had to be reversed to handle the less than 1" blanks.

Make Your Own Trimmer Sleeves

This seems to be a popular topic in several You Tube videos. Check this one out. [https://www.bing.com/videos/search?](https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=HOW+DO+BARREL+TRIMMING+SLEEVES+WORK&view=detail&mid=F528D0E4F736D5818DD8F528D0E4F736D5818DD8&FORM=VIRE)

[q=HOW+DO+BARREL+TRIMMING+SLEEVES+WORK&view=detail&mid=F528D0E4F736D5818DD8F528D0E4F736D5818DD8&FORM=VIRE](https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=HOW+DO+BARREL+TRIMMING+SLEEVES+WORK&view=detail&mid=F528D0E4F736D5818DD8F528D0E4F736D5818DD8&FORM=VIRE)

Here's a video showing squaring of a blank using a Penn State Ind jig with included attached rod and the addition of a sleeve.

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=trimming+blanks+with+sleeves&&view=detail&mid=284E419CDB212B756471284E419CDB212B756471&&FORM=VRDGAR>

Pen Wood of the Month

Common Name(s): Lebbeck, **Kokko (Koko)**

Scientific Name: *Albizia lebbeck*

Distribution: Native to southern Asia; widely planted throughout tropics as an ornamental tree

Tree Size: 65-100 ft (20-30 m) tall, 2-3 ft (.6-1 m) trunk diameter

Janka Hardness: 1,330 lb_f (5,920 N)

Color/Appearance: *Heartwood is golden brown, frequently with bands of lighter and darker colored wood. Contrasting sapwood is pale yellow. Color tends to darken with age.*



Grain/Texture: *Grain is deeply interlocked. With a coarse texture and good natural luster.*

Endgrain: *Diffuse-porous; solitary and radial multiples; large pores in no specific arrangement, few; dark brown deposits occasionally present; parenchyma vasicentric, lozenge, confluent, and marginal; medium to wide rays, spacing normal.*

Rot Resistance: *Rated as moderately durable; poor insect resistance.*

Workability: *Tends to be difficult to machine on account of its interlocked grain. Drying checks and splits may occur if not dried with care. Turns, glues, and finishes well.*

Odor: *No characteristic odor.*

Allergies/Toxicity: *Although severe reactions are quite uncommon, Lebbeck has been reported to cause eye and respiratory irritation.*

ry irritation. See the articles *Wood Allergies and Toxicity* and *Wood Dust Safety* for more information.

Pricing/Availability: Usually available as veneer or turning blanks, or occasionally as boards. Prices are in the mid range 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: Furniture, veneer, turned objects, carving, and other small specialty wood items.

Comments: Sometimes traded as Kokko, this *Albizia* species is a common ornamental tree throughout tropical regions, and yields lustrous orangish brown lumber. Because of its deeply interlocked grain, it's difficult to plane or machine, but the divergent grain directions impart a unique banded appearance which, coupled with its golden color, makes for a truly unique hardwood.

Related Species:

- **Albizia** ([Albizia ferruginea](#))
- **Mimosa** ([Albizia julibrissin](#))

Source: Wood Database

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

The pen kit of the month is called the **Shake** pen which was purchased from Penn State Ind. for \$12.95. According to Penn State the **Shake** pen is "a new fun way to write" and extends and retracts by a "flick of the wrist." A 1.5 x 1.5 x 12 inch Koko blank was purchased from Woodturningz for \$5.95.



More on KOKO

Ibiza lebeck is a species of *Albizia*, native to Indomalaya, New Guinea and Northern Australia^{[1][2]} and widely cultivated and naturalised in other tropical and subtropical regions. English names for it include **lebbeck**, **lebbek tree**, **flea tree**, **frywood**, **koko** and **woman's tongue tree**. The latter name is a play on the sound the seeds make as they rattle inside the pods. Being one of the most widespread and common species of *Albizia* worldwide, it is often simply called **siris**, though this name may refer to any locally common member of the genus.^[1]

It is a tree growing to a height of 18–30 m tall with a trunk 50 cm to 1 m in diameter. The leaves are bipinnate, 7.5–15 cm long, with one to four pairs of pinnae, each pinna with 6–18 leaflets. The flowers are white, with numerous 2.5–3.8 cm long stamens, and very fragrant. The fruit is a pod 15–30 cm long and 2.5–5.0 cm broad, containing six to twelve seeds.^[3]

In the West Indies and certain parts of South America this tree is known as a 'Shak Shak Tree' because of the sound the seeds make in the pod.

Lebbeck is an astringent, also used by some cultures to treat boils, cough, to treat the eye, flu, gingivitis, lung problems, pectoral problems, is used as a tonic, and is used to treat abdominal tumors.^[7] The bark is used medicinally to treat inflammation.^[8] This information was obtained via ethnobotanical records, which are a reference to how a plant is used by indigenous peoples, not verifiable, scientific or medical evaluation of the effectiveness of these claims. *Albizia lebeck* is also psychoactive.^[9]

Its uses include environmental management, forage, medicine and wood. It is cultivated as a shade tree in North and South America.^[4] In India and Pakistan, the tree is used to produce timber. Wood from *Albizia lebeck* has a density of 0.55–0.66 g/cm³ or higher.^[5]

Even where it is not native, some indigenous herbivores are liable to utilize lebeck as a food resource. For example, the greater rhea (*Rhea americana*) has been observed feeding on it in the cerrado of Brazil.^[6]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Albizia_lebeck

Pictures by

By Forest & Kim Starr, CC BY 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=6148197>

New CVWG Sign

New sign is on a plastic sawhorse and the sign is made of vinyl. Weather resistant and can be easily collapsed and stored. Will be stored in the photography room.





Above: Koko (Kokko) tree with seed pods
Below: Koko wood slabs



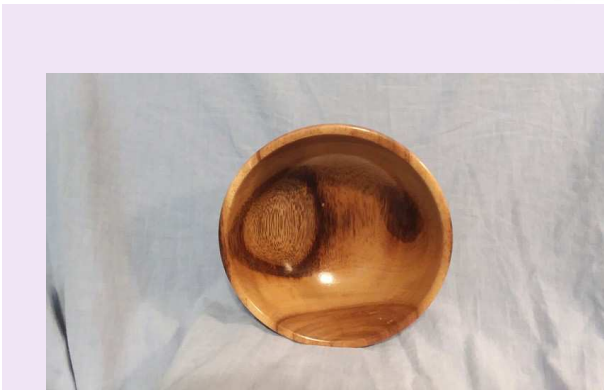
**Right: Koko
flowers and
seed pods**

**Below: Koko
tree leaves**





Left top: Koko serving utensils

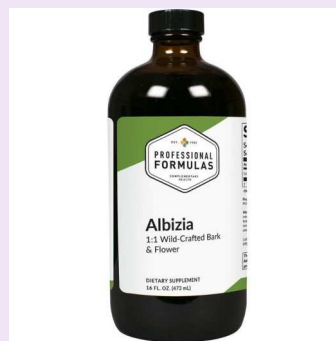


Left center: Turned bowl



Left bottom: Measuring device

Below: A herbal preparation "For the temporary relief of red, watery, or burning eyes, nasal irritation, minor sore throat, occasional headache, shortness of breath, mild abdominal pain, nausea, or vomiting due to sensitivity to or exposure to pesticides used in airline travel."



Members Needed To Demonstrate

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Normally this time of year several demonstrations would be committed into the next year. As of now there are none for next year although the regular demonstrators will fill some of the slots.

I have done 2 demos on pens and will do another next year probably in the spring. I did this because I realized how few of our members were giving demos. It is not in my comfort zone to do these. But I realized that by sticking to what I know without adding things I was not familiar with I was able to do a demo in relative comfort.

It came as a surprise to the board that our youngest member Adrian York had volunteered to do the demo in December. If Adrian can do it then there is no reason why others can't at least try it once. Member Mary Weider did her first demonstration in April on segmentation and did a wonderful demo.

The board would rather not go to video presentations or even expensive interactive demos over the internet because they feel that the group interaction is an important aspect of our meetings.

The interaction of many of our members show that there is a lot of woodturning talent that could be made into a demonstration. I also realize that many members are new to woodturning and are not able at this time to give a demonstration but consider in the future about "giving back" to the group for all the expertise that has been received.

Even if a member is not able to give a demonstration it would help the board planning by knowing what ideas the membership may have for a demo. It would help a regular demonstrator who has an expertise in that area to consider planning a demonstration on that topic.

One suggestion I have for those who do not want to give a full demo is to have a "Tips, Tricks and Workarounds" night when several members can present their problem solving solutions. Each demo would be limited and would concentrate on each person's expertise.

Tom Leonard

Next Demonstration

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November 6, 2019

Demonstration:

The November demo is how to get the most out of a log without too much waste and how to rough cut the logs or branches for Bowls and other turnings.

Demonstrator:

Joe Nycz has been an active member of our group participating in training many of our new members. Joe also has given many wide ranging demonstrations including: Threaded boxes; Making Your Own vacuum Chuck; Pepper Mills; and Chucking Types.



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

November 6—Joe Nycz—Getting the most out of your wood

December 4—Adrian York—Colored Pen Cup

January 8—To Be Determined

February 5—To Be Determined

March 4—To Be Determined

April 1—To Be Determined

Open House-Coffee and Chips Dates

November 9

December 14

January 11

February 8

March 14

April 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 2019

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President	<i>Duane Walker</i> 1-715-577-2248 elk.stir@gmail.com
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***Photos of Show and Tell / Gallery items
provided by : Tom Leonard***