Chippewa Valley Woodturners Guild

SEPTEMBER 2018

TURNING Threads

What's Inside

Pheasantwood flowers

AAW | AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS

PREZ SEYZ

Oh bummer, I had to be out of town last Wednesday so I missed Dicks demonstration on Halloween decorations. Now I'll have to wait to see if there some pictures in this news letter so I can figure out what I'm going to try for the challenge. If you miss one of our meetings, you miss a lot. All of the demonstrators have something special to share with us.

Can you believe that its September already, summer is almost over. Soon be time to be working on some Christmas presents. As you complete something, please bring it to show and tell. We're all interested and always looking for some new ideas. As turners, it's easy to get in a rut and everything we make looks the same. Your projects give us new ideas and perhaps stretch us a little. We all can use a little stretching.

Keep the chips flying and see you all next meeting.

Prez Duane

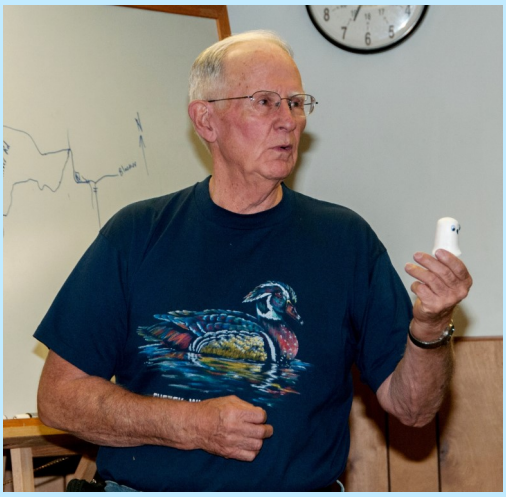
Alternating Photographer Needed

Club photographer Bruce Lindholm is looking to turn the job of photographing our meetings to others. An announcement was made at the September meeting and a new member with photography experience has volunteered to try it out. However, it would be best to have an alternate photographer since no one attends all meetings. The pictures taken are core for the newsletter and documenting our activities. Contact Bruce Lindholm: Phone 715-836-7375 or email dustyden@att.net

SEPTEMBER DEMONSTRATION

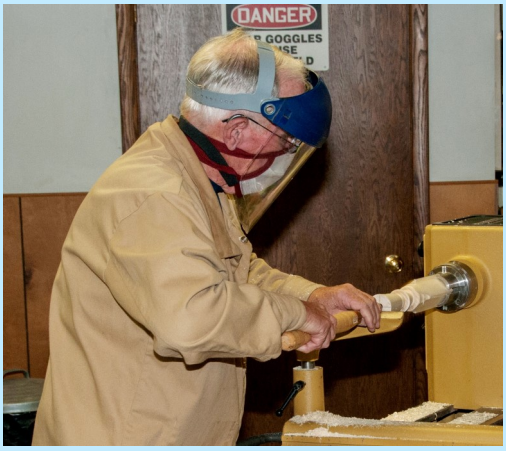
Halloween Ornaments

Dick Prouty



Dick Prouty showed us a number of Hallowe'en ornaments created on the lathe through hollowing, as well as an inside out hollowing. The were a witch, pumpkin, ghost, and an inside out ornament with a plastic skull hanging inside.

The demonstration for the witch will be written up here, as the techniques for the ghost and pumpkin are similar. Bob Eberhardt did an inside out turning demonstrations several Christmases ago, so for details on that see past newsletters.



For these ornaments the grain of the wood is not highlighted, so he chose to use a relatively plain looking basswood blank. Basswood is favoured by wood carvers because of it's consistent grain and relatively tight grain, and works well for wood turning as well.

Dick mounts the square blank in a four jaw chuck. He uses a tail stock for support (if you can use a tail stock, it always makes the wood more secure and usually dampens vibrations). Once mounted he uses a spindle roughing gouge to turn the blank into a cylinder.

Dick works on the witch in stages. The base of the witch is oriented towards the tail stock. This is important because you

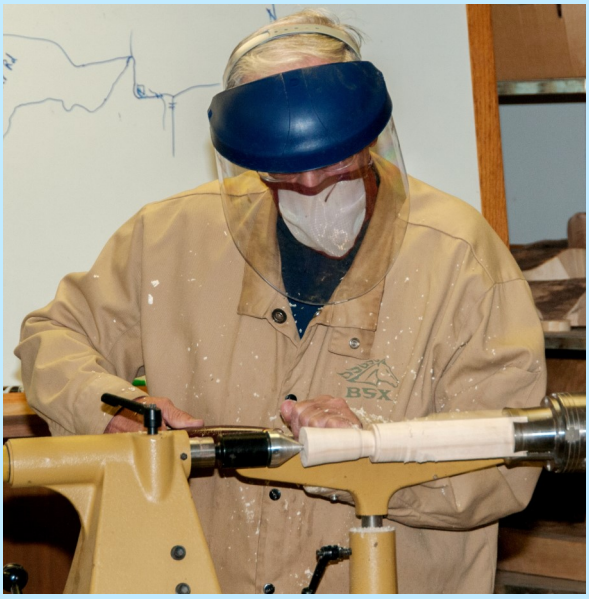
will be drilling into this, as well as hollowing. It's important to also note that the hollowing needs to be done before the entire witch is created. (You could recover from this if you made a mistake, but it's better not to rely on this)

The first thing Dick does is mark where the brim of the witch's hat will be. After this he uses spindle tools (gouges, skews) to work on the witch's body and head. When turning the head, as it approaches the brim of the hat use a parting tool to provide some room to maneuver the spindle gouge into. This will help reduce the likelihood of a catch. It would be possible to start
work on the hat at this point, again using the parting tool to create space. If you do, do not separate the witch from the wood. Leave enough support that you can perform drilling and hollowing operations.

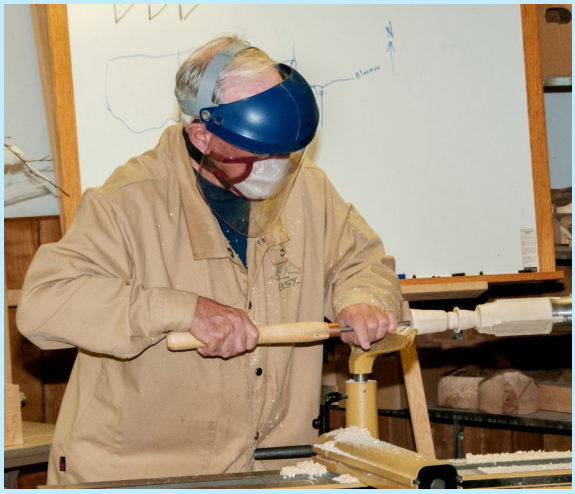
Hollowing now begins. Dick starts off by using a drill mounted into a Jacob's chuck. The diameter is sized appropriately to the ornament. He drills into the head somewhat since the intention is to hang these. The lighter the finished piece more useful they are as decorations. Reduce the lathe speed for the drilling, and back out frequently to allow chips to clear.

Dick uses Mike Jacofsky's Hollow Pro Rocket Tools <https://www.woodturnerscatalog.com/p/133/5825/Hollow-Pro-Rocket-Tool-Set> for his hollowing. There are other methods if you don't happen to have these tools. Carbides or gouges could both me used. When Dick makes his ornaments he leaves a small opening at the bottom, to turn beneath this opening he uses the hooked hollow pro tool. If you're less fastidious than Dick, you could just hollow the full width.

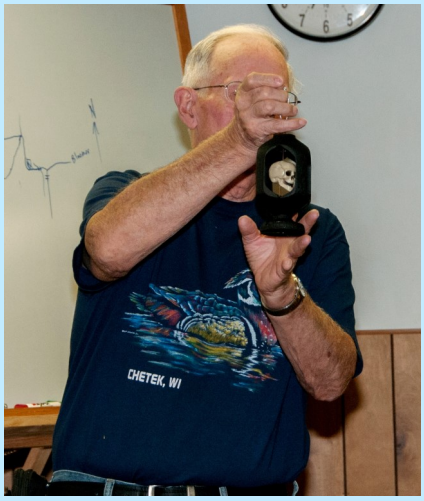
Also via Mike Jackofsky Dick demonstrated his high tech thickness gauge made from a piece of solid 12 gauge copper wire. By frequently checking the thickness you avoid the chain of profanity when you've gone a couple 64ths of an inch too far.

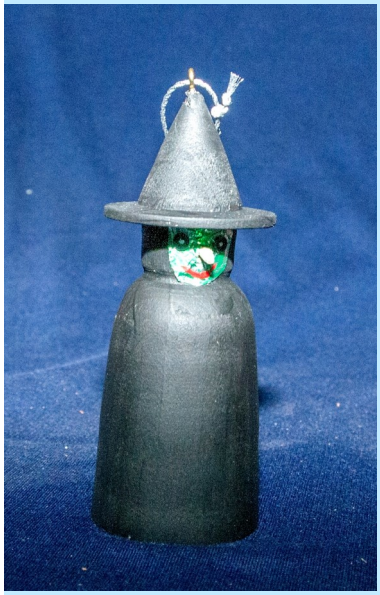


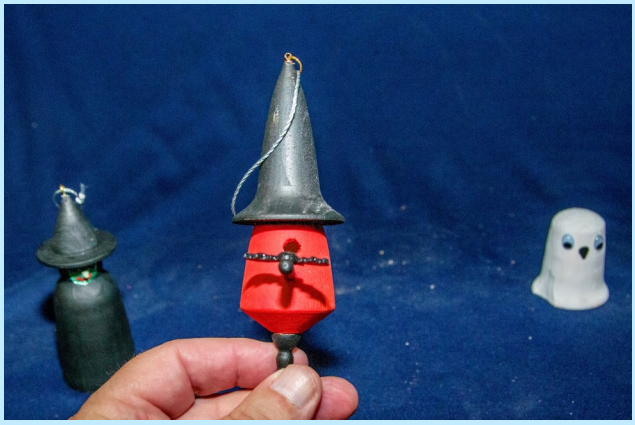
Once hollowing is complete he goes back and finishes the hat (remember to use the parting tool to create room to work in). Before completely parting the witch he does his sanding. Dick sands through the grits from 100 through 800 or so.

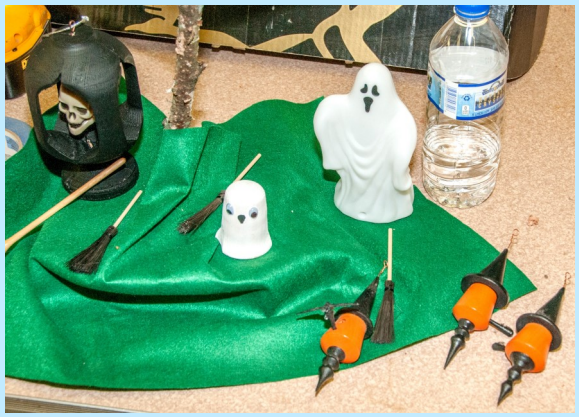


Dick then drills a hole where the nose should be and uses a skew chisel to fashion a tiny nose. The nose has a small tenon with a diameter to match the hole. For eyes Dick uses small googly eyes (Michael's, eBay, Hobby Lobby) and removes the googly part of the eye. He only uses the little black dots, not the full googly eye. 🕶🕶





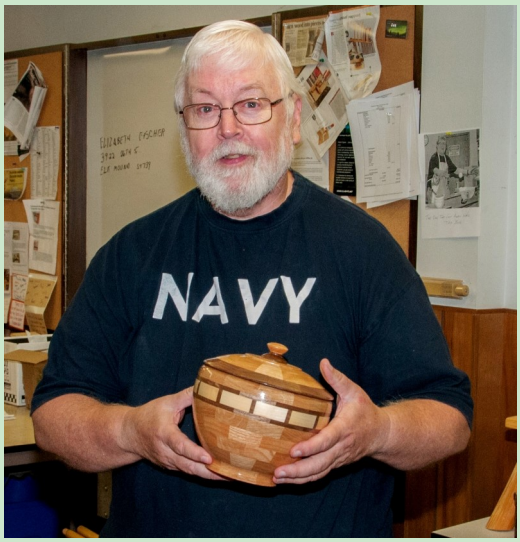


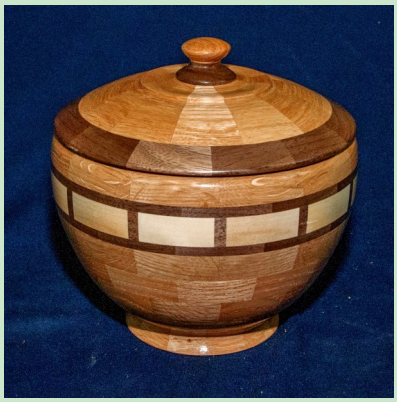


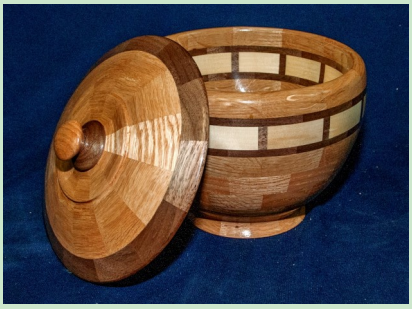
Examples of the Halloween ornaments made by Dick Prouty.

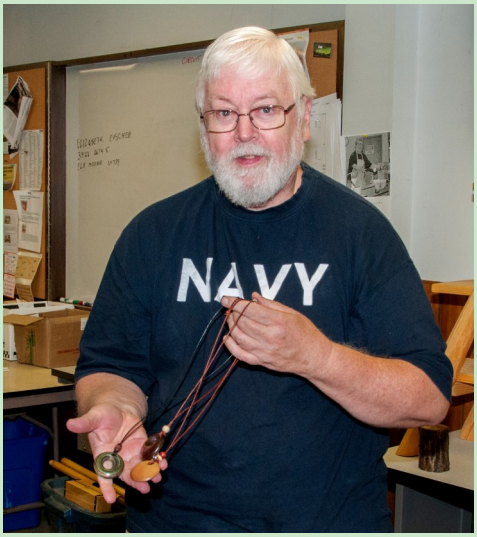
Above is a pumpkin whose eyes light up with a small tea candle light. Upper Left: Witch that also has capacity for eyes to light up. At Left: additional ornaments. Below Left : An inside out ornament with a skull.

SHOW AND TELL / GALLERY

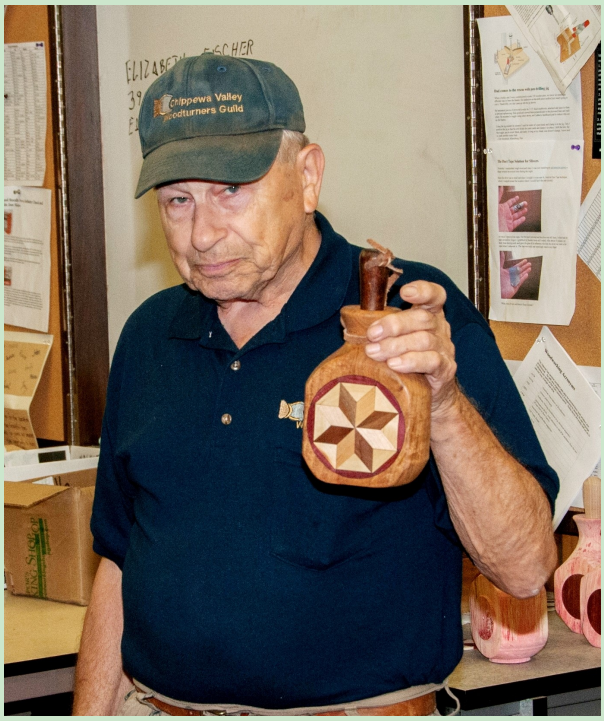




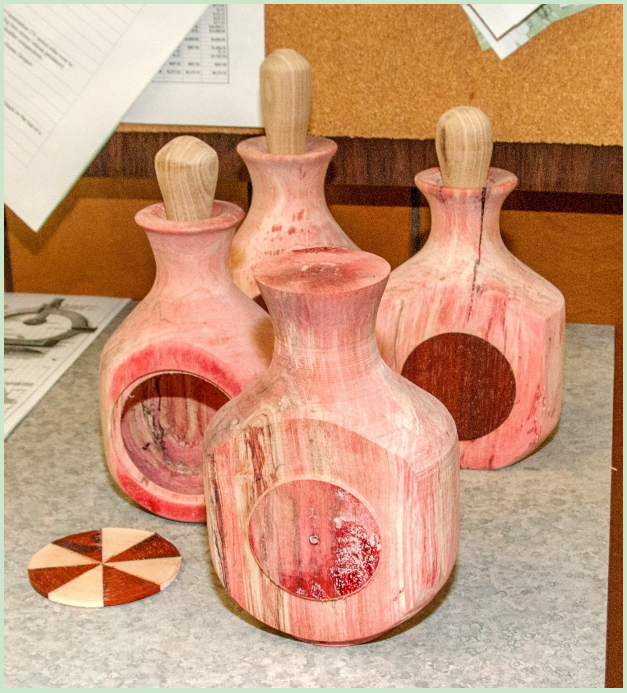


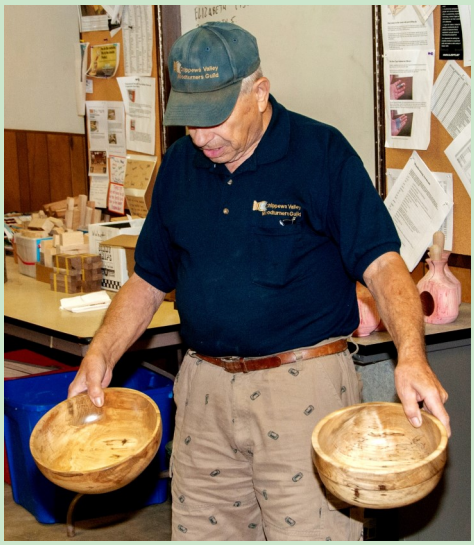


Bruce Lindholm with a segmented bowl with lid and another segmented bowl designated as an M&M Bowl or Peanut bowl.. Bruce also made 3 necklaces with pendants .



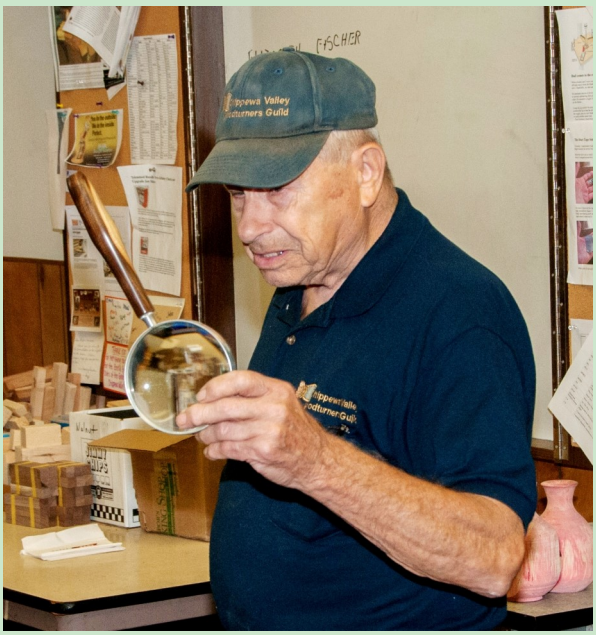
Joe Nycz with a flask made of wood. Below: Joe made mock ups of the stages in making this type of flask using Box Elder wood.

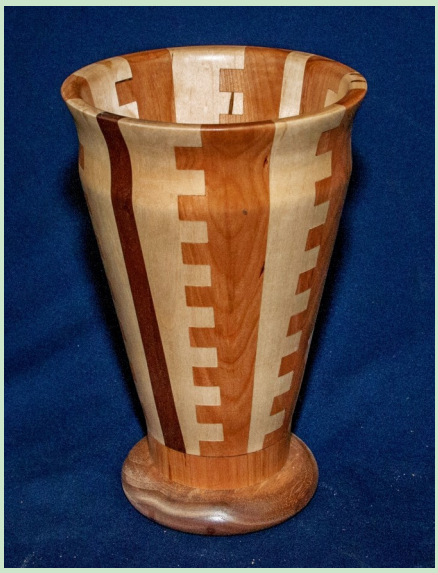




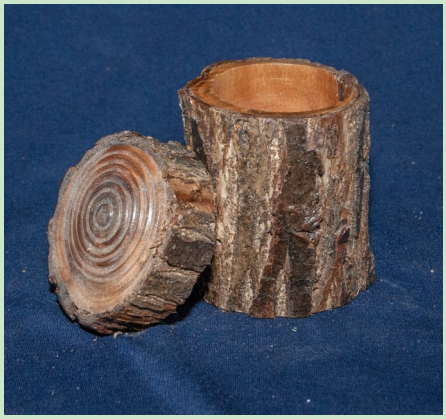
Joe Nycz with 2 large bowls designated as Popcorn bowls. Joe took up the challenge from Paul Meske to make something out of two large odd pieces of wood.

Joe Nycz with 4 turned bowls that were coated with a stabilizer before turning. He also had a stabilized bowl not turned but it was not photographed.

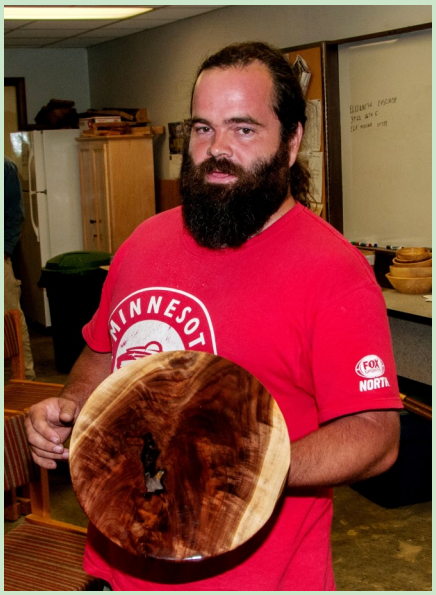


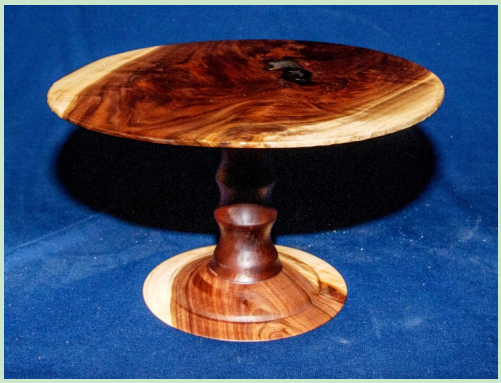


Above: Joe Nycz turned a handle for a magnifying glass. This piece was meant to be in the President' s challenge for Junk to Treasures. Right: Lidded box made from small log. Upper Right: Segmented vase made with a dovetail design.

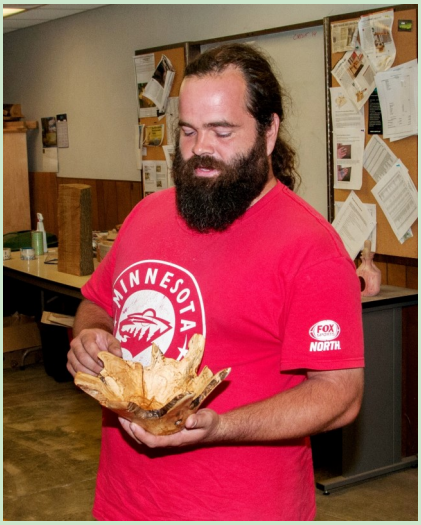


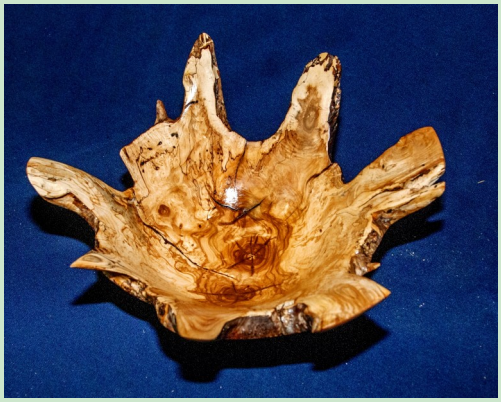
This bowl is unidentified as to the turner.

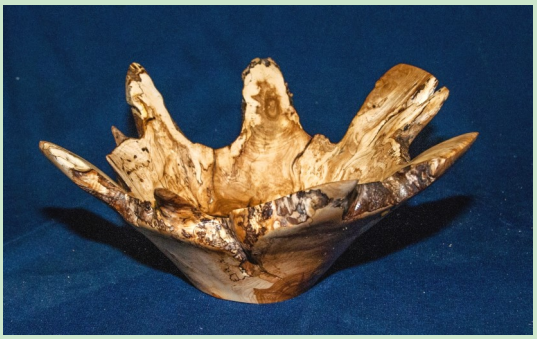




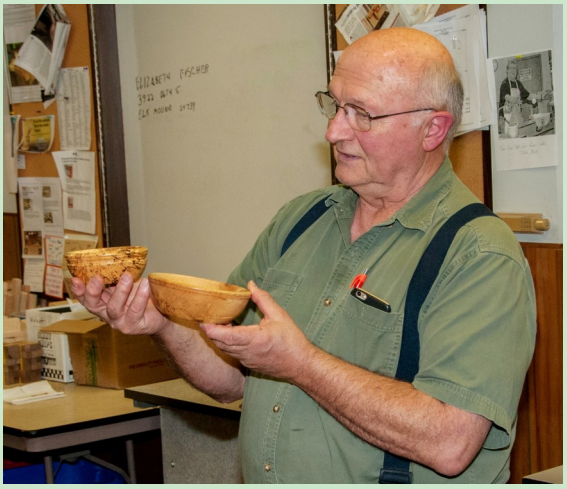
Matte Sime with a cake plate and a root bowl. The upper parts of the bowl were the roots.

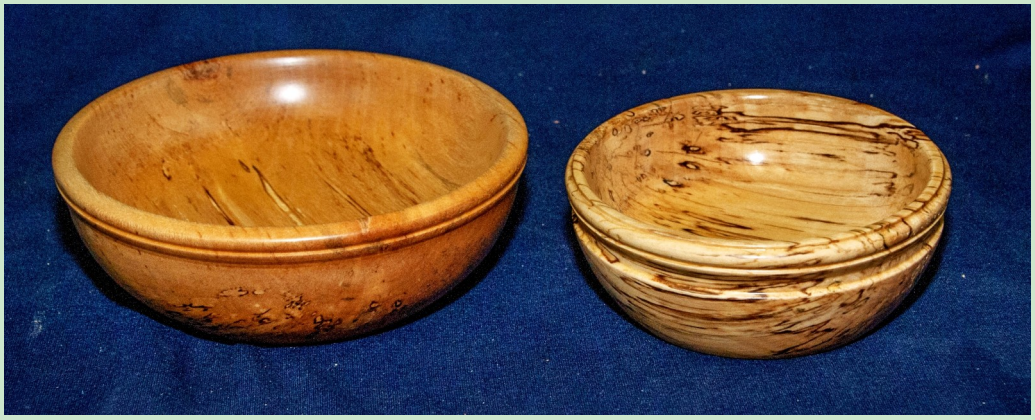




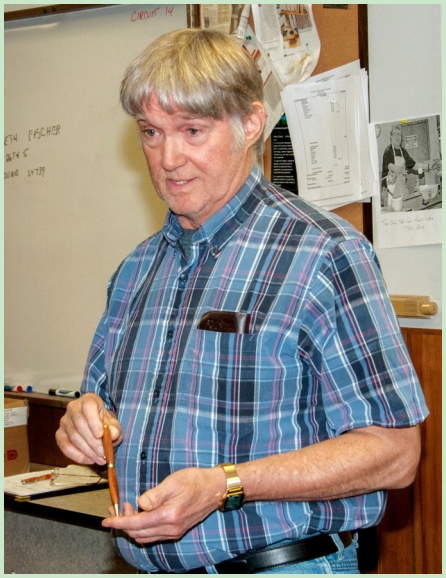


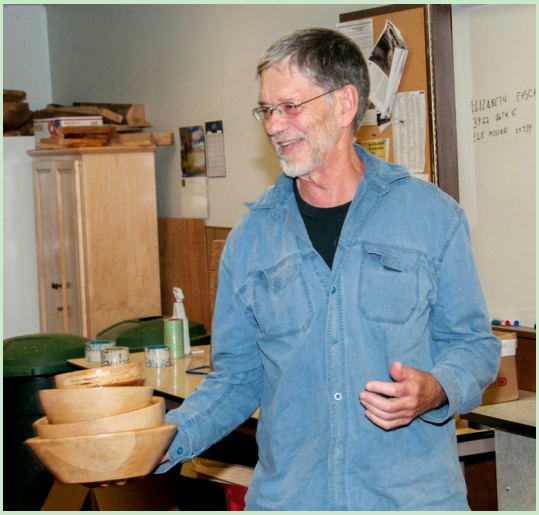
Paul Meske with two bowls that were embellished with an unknown tool that he got in a club drawing. Paul made a handle for it and tried it out on these bowls not knowing what it would do. The results can be seen on the rims of the bowls. Paul announced that he has made 101 bowls for Feed My People Bowls Event.



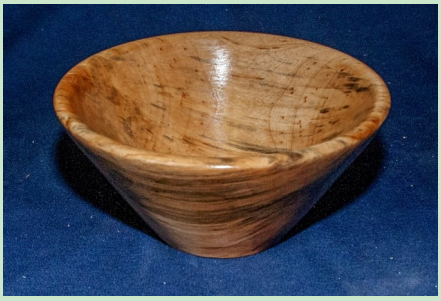


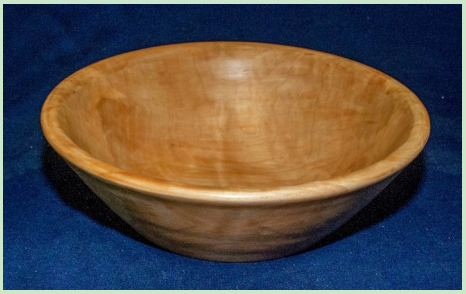
Tom Leonard showed the pen wood of the month which was Honey Mesquite. He also showed a pen made of Tzalam wood—a wood that he admitted defeat on it's finishing. He tried again using Aussie Oil and made an acceptable finish.

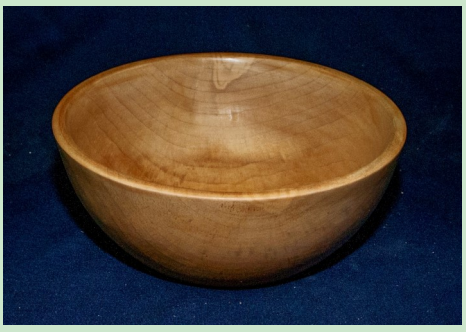




Joe Felling shows his first turned bowls







Considerations on Cutting a Log for Bowl Blanks

Part II: Saw Bucks and Log Holders

Cutting a log for bowl blanks on the ground can be done but it is not good for the chain. Dirt tends to dull the sharpness of the chain and make it less effective. Looked at from another perspective, a sharp chain ensures a log can be easily cut and cut to give on the most bowl out of a log.

If cutting on the ground is preferable, try cutting in a pile of sawdust. It is infinitely preferable to the dirt with stones and other unknown enemies of a sharp chain.

One of the simplest support forms is using a couple of logs for a log holder. It should be waste logs. I emphasize waste log because as you cut through the blank log the holding logs will also be cut possibly ruining a good blank log. However, one doesn't have to cut completely through the blank log. It can be turned over to complete the cut.

One of the problems some might find for this method is kneeling down to do this type of cutting which might be an issue with one's back or knees. Kneeling down with a chainsaw running fairly close to one's legs and knees can also be disconcerting. For those who want to cut a bowl log standing, there are an infinite variety of saw bucks – use of lumber to build a raised platform for cutting logs.

One simple raised platform is to attach 2 stakes to a platform log and drive the stakes into the ground making for a stable platform for the log to be cut. The reason for the stakes is that when cutting a log it will tend to come back toward one when cutting and this stops the backward movement.

Essentially, a saw buck is a modified saw horse with emphasis on seating a log in such a way that it will not move around when cutting. These can be simple or very elaborate depending on amount of use. Most of these are only good for cutting a log into smaller sections to be split for firewood.

A saw buck that can be used for cutting a log into bowl shapes has to be a simple two parallel boards several inches apart so the log can be secure and the cutter can cut with no interference from structures only meant to prevent the log from rolling around.

Almost all of the videos on cutting the log into rough shaped bowl blanks cut on low laying log holders or on the ground.

www.docgreenwoodturner.com/sawbucks.html

Part III: Cutting a Log for Maximum Use

One approach to getting the most out of a log is to set it on the end grain and draw out the places to make cuts. Despite drawing out the shape of prospective bowl blanks on end, the cut should always be made long grain and not end grain. The reasons for this is not that it cannot be done, but it is harder to do and will dull the chain that much faster. If in doubt as to where the cut is to be made, use a marker to draw lines on the bark side.

One heads up here is make the logs just slightly shorter than the length of the chainsaw bar. That way the cut goes smoothly to the end of the log leaving a smoother overall inner surface that will better conform to faceplates and other forms of attachment to the lathe.

When cutting a log in half, cut around the pith. This center part is considered to be worthless by some, but the wood on either side of the pith can be used for pens, ornaments, pepper mills and a host of smaller items. The larger outer parts of the log with the pith removed can provide at least 2 bowls or if the halves are longer than the average bowl, one can slab the piece for more than one bowl or plates.

https://www.woodmagazine.com/materials-guide/lumber/from-trees-to-turning-blanks

keithlarrett.com/2010/08/26/processing-a-log-for-bowl-blanks/

The best way is to round the log blank on a bandsaw. To do it more or less perfect requires the bark side to be marked with circle templates. Without the templates, the cutting on the bandsaw is more or less guess work and will result in a slightly off circle (closer to an oval).

There are many ways to make a square cut log half into a round or near round blank. If one has a sharp chain, the long half can be shaped roughly round (actually more like the edges are cut off offering less rough turning of the blank).

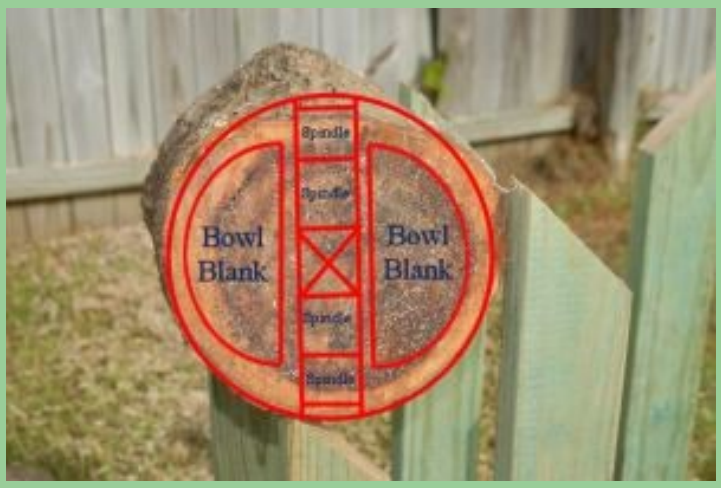
https://woodshopmike.com/making-bowl-blanks/

There are many videos on cutting a log into blanks and one of the best is Ernie Conover in Woodworkers Journal.

http://www.woodworkersjournal.com/cutting-bowl-blanks-chain-saw/

The latest AAW magazine – ***American Woodturner*** – has an article on cutting logs for bowls and marking the log to get the most out of the log.

Cutting Bowl Blanks From A Tree by Dale Larson
June 2018 Vol.33 No. 3 page 28



Pen Wood of the Month

Pheasantwood

Common Name(s): Pheasantwood

Scientific Name: Senna siamea (syn. Cassia siamea)

Distribution: Native to South/Southeast Asia, widely planted throughout the tropics

Tree Size: 50-65 ft (15-20 m) tall, 1-1.5 ft (.3-.5 m) trunk diameter

Color/Appearance: Heartwood is a medium to dark brown, to nearly black, with ligher brown contrasting stripes, sometimes with a red or yellow hue. The striping is due to very wide parenchyma bands, which can give it an appearance somewhat similar to Wenge, though Pheasantwood's stripes tend to be lighter and with better contrast, especially once a finish has been applied.

Grain/Texture: Grain can be interlocked or wavy, with a coarse texture. Pores naturally filled with resinous material which creates a smoother surface than other open-grained woods with large pores. Good natural luster.

Endgrain: Diffuse-porous; large to very large pores in no specific arrangement, few to very few; solitary and radial multiples of 2-3; reddish brown gum deposits abundant; parenchyma confluent, with wide bands of parenchyma typically as thick as the pores; narrow rays, spacing normal.

Odor: No characteristic odor.

Rot Resistance: Rated as durable, though susceptible to insect attack.

Workability: Produces moderaately good results with hand and machine tools, though Pheasantwood has a high cutting resistance, and also produces a pronounced blunting effect on cutters. Glues, turns, and finishes well.

Allergies/Toxicity: Cavities within the wood can sometimes contain a powder that causes eye and skin irritation, as well as skin discoloration. See the articles Wood Allergies and Toxicity and Wood Dust Safety for more information.

Pricing/Availability: Reported to be rare, and not commonly available. Usually only available as small turning squares and short lumber. Expect prices to be in the upper 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.

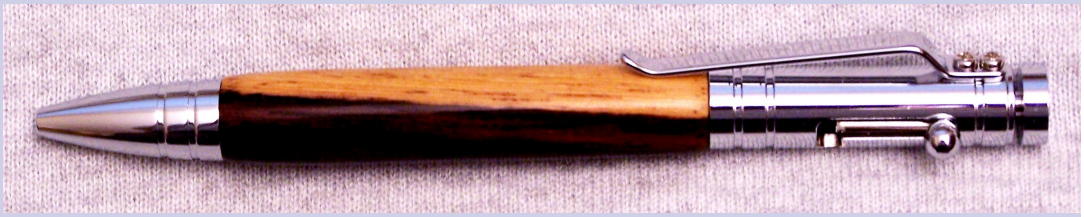
Common Uses: Musical instruments (ukeleles and guitars), turned objects, carvings, and other small specialty wood items.

Comments: So named for the wood's resemblance to the coloration and patterns found on the tail-feathers of pheasants. Pheasantwood exhibits the most figure on flatsawn sections of wood.

Related Species: None available.

Source: https://www.wood-database.com/pheasantwood/

This months pen kit is called **30 Caliber Bolt Action Bullet Cartridge** (Whew!). The kit comes with an optional Stylus end cap (Wow!)



Senna—Now where Have I Heard That Word

Pheasantwood is in the Kingdom of Plantae; the family of Fabaccae ; and the Genus of Senna. Beside the tree, there is a plant called Senna which is in the Kingdom of Plantae; the Family of Fabaccae; and the Genus of Senna.

The difference is that one is a tree and one is a bush. Pheasantwood which can be called Cassia siemea or Senna siemea or Kassod tree or Cassia tree.

Some Senna Trivia:

Senna flowers are often referred to resemble scrambled eggs, yellow butterflies and yellow Buttercups.

The variety that caught my attention was the Senna.alexandrina. This variety is used to make a variety of products that are laxatives such as Sennakot.

Cassia gum can be used as a thickening agent.

Pheasantwood trees are commonly used in Southeast Asia as shade trees on tea, cocoa and coffee plantations.

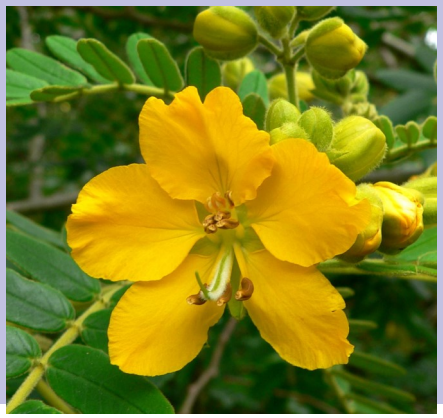
The leaves, tender pods and seeds are edible.

The difference in the flowers is too narrow for an amateur to ascertain. The one on the left is from the tree and the one on the right is from the plant but the varieties tend to be more alike than not.

Sources:

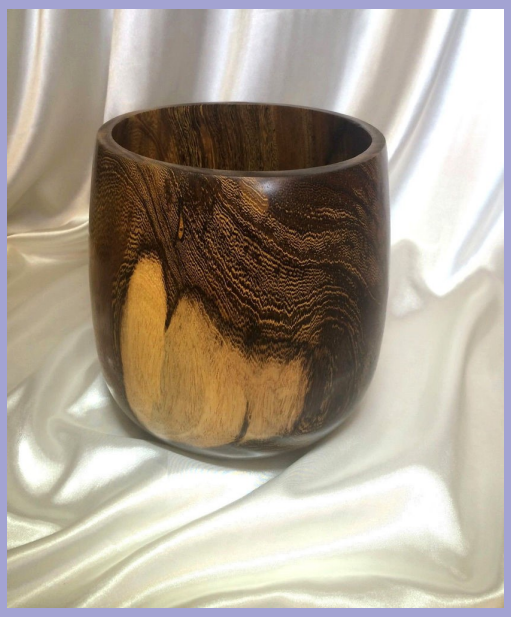
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Senna_%28plant%29

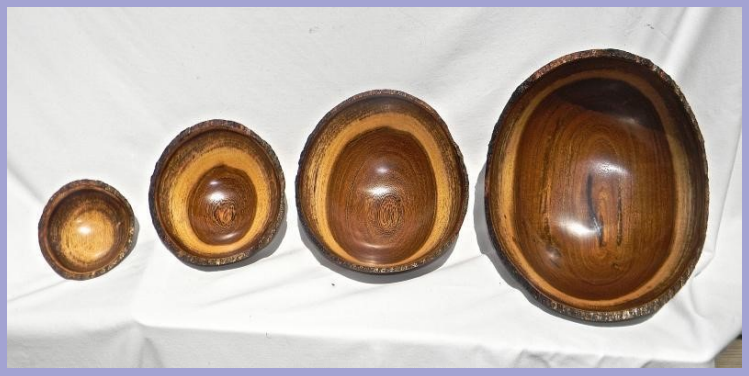
https://www.herbwisdom.com/herb-senna.html

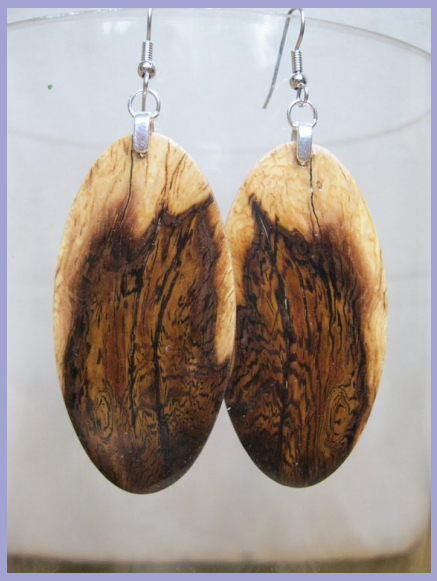


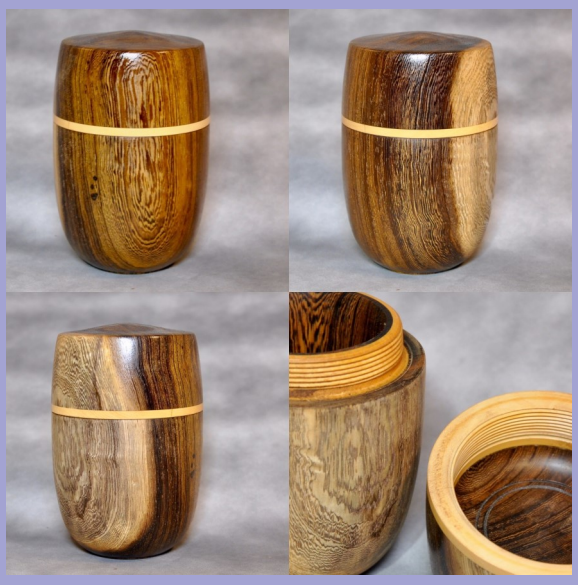
Pheasant Wood— Tree, Flowers and

Things to Turn with Pheasant Wood









Next Demonstration
Polka Dot Bowl
Richard Ryan

Demonstrator

Richard has been a member of the Chippewa Valley Woodturners Guild for many years, He has previously given a demonstration to the group in July 2015 on Celtic Knots

Demonstration

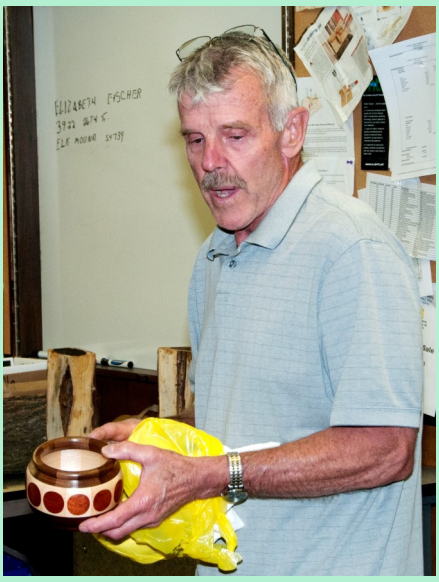
Richard was in Arizona a couple of years ago and decided to attend a class about a Wedge Sled which is used to cut angles for segmented pieces. The class was 3 nights for $15. The first thing the class had to do was to watch a video by Jerry Bennett demonstrating the Wedge Sled:

https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=jerry+bennett+wedgie+sled&qpvt=jerry+bennett+wedgie+sled&view=detail&mid=A86079930FAE11561D1AA86079930FAE11561D1A&&FORM=VRDGAR

The making of the Polka Dot bowl is an offshoot of using the Wedge Sled.

A video showing the construction of a Wedge Sled is at :

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hpFNE1CHsc4



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

October 3—Richard Ryan—Polka Dot Bowl
November 7—Joe Nycz—How to Make a Vacuum Chuck
December 5—To Be Determined
January 2—To Be Determined
February 6—To Be Determined
March 6—To Be Determined

Open House-Coffee and Chips Dates

October 13
November 10
December 8
January 12
February 9
March 9

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 2018

President	***Duane Walker*** 1-715-577-2248 elk.stir@gmail.com
Vice President	***John Layde*** 715-834-9371 ouzo@charter.net
Treasurer/ Membership	***Randy Patzke*** 1-612-845-6185 arpatzke@hotmail.com
Secretary	***John DeRyckere*** 715.838.9480 jderyck@gmail.com
Program Director	***Mark Palma*** 1-612.991.7733 marksworkshop@gmail.com
At Large Director	***Joe Nycz*** 1-715-937-2803 nyczjoseph@live.com

Non Board Positions

Librarian	***Dennis Ciesielski*** 715.233.0236 daciesie@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor	***Tom Leonard*** 715.831.9597 tl9597@charter.net
Web Master	**Jerry Engedal** 712.834.1022 joanandjerrye@gmail.com

Photos of Show and Tell / Gallery items provided by : Bruce Lindholm