

TURNING Threads

May 2024



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John Layde demonstrated the construction and turning of several types of vessels using plywood.

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Bob Eberhardt**

**Vice President
Mary Weider**

**Treasurer
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**Secretary
Tom Leonard**

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**Newsletter Editor
Tom Leonard**

**Web Master
Dan Brandner**



I hope this finds everyone able to enjoy the spring weather. We had a good turnout for our May meeting.

John Layde did the demo on turning Plywood. He did a great job of explaining the challenges involved with plywood. Some of those challenges are quality of the plywood, voids in the plywood, grain direction, plywood orientation, and many more. He brought in several examples of

each challenge to show the advantages and disadvantages of each.

The open house was well attended with 6 out of 7 lathes going strong. Some were making bowls, some were making jewelry cups, and some were drilling cork and making bottle stoppers. Others came to partake in cookies and bars with coffee or pop and ask questions to resolve issues they may be having with their projects at home.

Remember Paint the Town event in Menomonie in July. We will be looking for some volunteers to man the booth.

We will be having our learn to turn event at the annual Chainsaw carving in Carson Park the first weekend in August so keep that in mind!

Have fun turning!
Bob

Monthly Meetings

First Wednesday of the month

Board Meeting at 6:00 pm

Social Hour at 6:00 pm

Meeting and Demonstration

7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Open House

Second Saturday of the month

8:00 am to 12:00 pm

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

Glu Boost

In the April demonstration, Tom Spielmann mentioned using Glu Boost as the Ca glue he used to put on the wood before thread chasing. His reasoning was that Ca glue gave the wood a hardness that would better accept the thread chasing. Glu Boost is being sold by Exotic Blanks as the next generation of Ca glue solutions to finishing.

Glu Boost consists of 3 components. One is a thicker glue whose purpose was to fill in defects to repair the wood and better to receive the thinner glue which is the finish for the wood. The third component is an accelerator, but one that is not as toxic as the usual accelerators.

The three can be bought as a starter set with 1-2oz bottle of repair, 1-2oz bottle of finish, and 1 bottle of accelerator and priced at \$42.00. Exotic Blanks includes a video that can be watched while deciding on this product. The video is by Mark Dryer who is a regular on Exotic Blanks Videos Zoom demonstrations. As usual Mark made the process very easy as all professionals are apt do.



This finishing process is very simple. First sand the wood blank to the highest grit that one usually performs. Second, apply the thicker repair Glu Boost if needed for something to repair. Glu Boost is applied on a paper towel with the lathe turned off. It is applied gently while turning the lathe manually and rubbing the Glu Boost on the blank. Then the Accelerator is sprayed (from 12") once or twice turning the blank manually. Do this as much as needed(?). The finish Glu Boost product is applied in a similar manner and the accelerator is also applied.

Of course, this easy 5-minute finish is perfectly done by a professional demonstrator. But, how did I do? Well, I was unable to duplicate the demonstrators' success which did not surprise me. I do not recall ever being able to duplicate a demonstrators' demonstration. However, as a repair product I can say Glu Boost works very well but not in the finishing stage. Use it when defects are apparent at the time of the turning because there is usually still some wiggle room for continued turning. Occasionally, I find after finishing a blank that some tiny defects went unnoticed – usually small chipping in acrylics. Again, these can be fixed if there is still some wiggle room for turning.

I have always been perplexed by accelerators. The instructions are usually consistent for every type of accelerator. I always have an unsettling feeling that a single spray from 12" away would never be enough and as a result I spray too much and this causes a build-up of residual accelerator spray on the wood which then needs to be sanded before the next glue application. Glu Boost recommends that the accelerator be used with the lathe off and the blank to be sprayed needs to be turned manually while spraying the blank 12" away.

An aspect of the Glu Boost accelerator demonstration I found also perplexing. The demonstrator takes his time using the accelerator which gives the glue time to dry. Curious. It makes me think that something was left out of the video. The demonstrator also used a blue paper cloth. Is there a difference in the blue and white paper cloths?

Try as I may, Glu Boost just did not work for me. Not surprising. I will just stick to my tried and true way of finishing my pens.

Tom Leonard



Learn To Turn Event with Members of the Boys and Girls Club

Recently before a monthly meeting, three members of the Chippewa Valley Woodturners Guild—Ron Bartz, Keith Jones and Joe Nycz—invited boys and girls from the Eau Claire Boys and Girls Club for a Learn To Turn to teach basic woodturning by making pens.



Coming Events

July 13 is the group picnic at Bob's family cabin in Colfax.

On July 20 "Paint the Town" in Menomonie.

The International Chainsaw Sculpture in August (2-4) at Carson Park in Eau Claire.

**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

June 5—Turning Tops by Dan Brandner

**July 3— Hollowing Using Jamison System
by Bob Eberhardt**

August 7—Duplicate Spindles by Ron Bartz

September 4—Vacuum Chuck by Joe Nycz

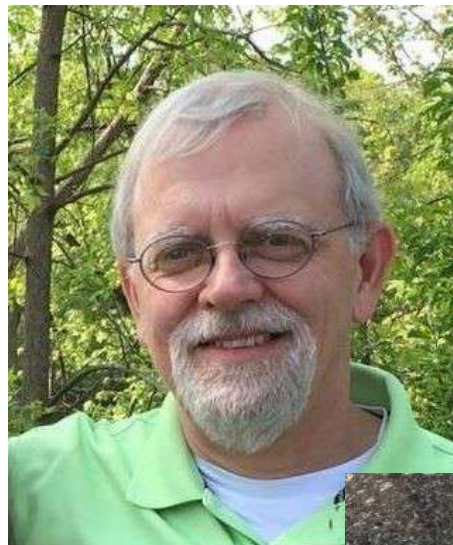
October 2—Sphere Cutting Tool by Ron Bartz

November 6—Ringed Christmas Trees by Dan Brandner

June Open House Date

**June 8 from 8:00 am to 12:00pm. If coming after 10:00,
please inform us through the web site the night before
at: 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.**

Next Month



Dan Brandner
will
demonstrate
how to make a
simple spinning
top.



AAW Safety

Recommendations

ROUTINE

- Check that all locking devices on the tail-stock and tool rest assembly (rest and base, often called the “banjo”) are tight before operating the lathe.
- Frequently check the tightness of chuck jaws throughout the woodturning session.
- Remove chuck keys, adjusting wrenches, and knockout bars. Form a habit of removing them when finished using and checking they are removed before turning on the lathe.
- Know your capabilities and limitations. An experienced woodturner is capable of lathe speeds, techniques, and procedures not recommended for beginning turners.
- Don’t overreach, keep proper footing, and keep your balance at all times.
- Never leave the lathe running unattended. Don’t leave lathe until it comes to a complete stop.
- Stay alert and watch what you are doing. Don’t operate machines when you are tired or under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Pay close attention to unusual sounds or vibrations. Stop the lathe to investigate and correct the cause.

Source: [Safety is Your Responsibility](http://woodturner.org)
(woodturner.org)

The Dark Side of Pen Turning

As odd as it may seem, there is always a dark side to a bright side. This is so in woodturning and perhaps especially in pen turning. But how can this be so? How can such a small object turn to the dark side? There are many ways. Some of which are unexpected, some are hilarious and many may lead to frustration or perhaps drive one to a furor.

Let us take for example a small piece of wood – maybe 5” by 3/4” square or even a little bigger ones at 5/8” or 7/8” square. Such a small piece of wood – innocent looking and visually attractive to an unsuspecting pen turner. What horrors lurk beneath this innocent looking piece of wood. Maybe it is that little crack in the middle of the blank or maybe something else. Perhaps it harbors feelings of inferiority because it is so small or maybe because it knows it will be unappreciated by those who may abuse it by dropping it on the ground or throwing it across a room. Not something for a pen blank to look forward to.

Think about this piece of wood and what horrors will come forth while on the lathe. Only the wood knows what lies beneath. Take for instance a beautiful exhibition grade pen blank that the pen turner joyfully nears completion and suddenly a small imperfection has been arrived at and then the dark side happens – a chunk of that beautiful blank flies in the air leaving the pen turner in a state of shock. Should the pen turner have seen it coming? The blank that turned to the dark side knew it would happen.

Let us take another example – an angle cut blank. Now here the pen turner should know better than to take on this dark side beast. It results in a broken pieces almost every time. It is a teaser and usually will let a pen turner get near the end before the dark side arises.

Another example is a blank with vestiges of knots are not a surprise when the dark side rears its’ head. The pen turner should know better and gets what they ask for. Only ego driving the pen turner to out- smart these hard areas give way to this form of the dark side.

Finishing wood pen blanks holds its’ own type of dark side adventures. Just the array of finishing oils and waxes and Ca glue is enough to give one pause. The wood knows this and is prepared to make a pen turner’s finishing an event not to be forgot. Sanding a wood pen blank can have its’ dark side too when the sanding never seems to obtain a smoothness expected by the sander. Then there are those natural aspects of wood like the thick walled celled nourishment pipeline when cut can produce very small to very large open pores that must be filled with a finish. Layer after layer of finish put down, re-sanded and another layer applied never quite gets the wanted results. The pen blank lies dull or rough looking and unappreciated but it has the last laugh.

Acrylic blanks hold a different but special place in the annals of dark side turning. Their wickedness lies in the abnormal birth of the blank formation. Instead of being a nature forming dark side, it has a man-made dark side. A dark side much more sinister. Turning acrylics is like turning plastic. Well, that is what acrylics are made of. Well, sort of – resins that are heated and streamed with various colors often with bizarre results. The sinisterism of this type of pen blank is the variation of resins. Man made with human errors and cheap resins that easily make for a chipped or cracked blank but makes for a happy dark side.

The dark side aspect of acrylics lies in the unexpected chipping in the blank. In the beginning, chipping can be corrected but the sinister part of their dark side are the tiny chips that become obvious only when finishing is near completion and there is little room for re-turning.

Certainly, a lot of similar dark side episodes have occurred in all types of wood turning. But pen turning does hold a special place in dark side annals. Such a small thing and yet so full of mischief. So next time a pen turner turns that innocent looking piece of wood, remember the dark side lies beneath and may arise when unexpected.

Tom Leonard: Pen Turning Dark Side Expert

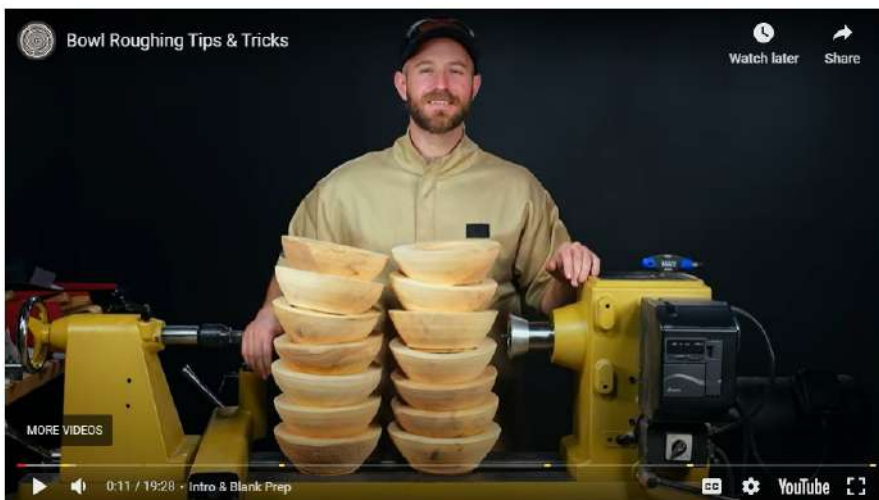


Madagascar is known for its otherworldly-looking giant baobabs, which you can easily find lining the road between Morondava and Belon'i Tsiribihina. The "Avenue of Baobabs," as it is known, is considered the most accessible place to see baobabs in Africa, and the most beautiful road in Madagascar. Baobabs can reach heights of nearly 100 feet, and live to more than a thousand years.

TURNING VIDEO OF THE MONTH

Roughing Green Wood Bowls

Here are some tips and tricks for rough turning green bowls especially if a turner has a lot of blanks to turn and dry. This production tip can get CVWG members to turn ahead of time for contributions to Feed My People Bowls Event.



[Bowl Roughing Tips & Tricks – Craft Supplies USA \(woodturnerscatalog.com\)](https://www.craftsuppliesusa.com/woodturnerscatalog.com)

Mike shares his process for roughing out green wood bowls and prepping them to dry so they can be turned later.

Has anyone considered turning Alabaster?

“Alabaster, a crystalline type of the gypsum, is extracted from the quarries in several places in the world. This soft stone is excellent for working for carving and lathe. It can be turned using carbide tools and standard HSS tools which stay sharp longer. You many know that many individuals give alabaster as a gift. “



Previous Demonstrations

May 2024 Turning Plywood

by John Layde

April 2024 Chasing Threads

by Tom Spielmann

March 2024 Shaker Pegs

by Dan Brandner

February 2024 Wet/Dry Wood Tips

by Barry Grill

January 2024 Bottle Stoppers

by Joe Nycz

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

Previous Pen Kits and Woods

May 2024 Lacebark Elm

for Dura Click Slim

April 2024 Hard Rock Maple

for Dura Click Slim pen

March 2024 Black Chacate

for Cyclone pen

February 2024 Honduran Rosewood

for Medical pen

January 2024 Sycamore

for PMK-3 pen

December 2023 Orange Agate

for Ultra Cigar pen

November 2023 Sindora Burl

for Saxa pen

October 2023 Cambodian Ormosia

for Button Click pen

September 2023 English Yew

for Yari Click pen

August 2023 Lauro Preto

for Diamond Knurl pen

July 2023 Limba

for Aero pen

June 2023 Pau Marfim

for Thank You pen

TOOLS YOU CAN USE TO TURN THE BELOW PROJECTS:

Note: The tools listed below were suggested by 11 different members of our club. Sizes of the different tools aren't listed due to the fact that they will vary depending on the size of the turning project.

1. Bottle stoppers

- Spindle roughing gouges, Spindle gouges, Bowl gouges, Detail gouge, Skews, Parting tool and Cutoff tool

2. Bowls

- **Outside:** Spindle roughing gouges, Spindle gouges, Bowl gouges, Skews, Square and round carbide tools, Parting tool and Scrapers
- **Inside:** Spindle gouges, Bowl gouges, Square and round carbide tools and Scrapers

3. Christmas trees

- Spindle roughing gouge, Spindle gouges, Bowl gouges, Skews, Square and round carbide tools, Parting tool and cutoff tool

4. Lidded boxes

- **Outside:** Spindle roughing gouge, Spindle gouges, Bowl gouges, Skews, Scrapers, Parting tool and Hook tool
- **Inside:** Drill chuck and Forstner bit, Spindle roughing gouge, Spindle gouges, Bowl gouges, Square and round carbide tools, Skews, Scrapers and Parting tool

5. Pens

- Spindle roughing gouge, Spindle gouges, Bowl gouges, Carbide radial bit (neg.), Square carbide tools, Skews, Parting tool and Scrapers

6. Plates and trays

- Spindle gouges, Bowl gouges, Square carbide tools, Skews, Scrapers, Parting tool and Band saw

7. Shaker wood pegs

- Spindle roughing gouge, Spindle gouges, Bowl gouges, Skews and Parting tool

8. Vases, salt and pepper grinders and wine goblets

- **Outside:** Spindle roughing gouge, Spindle gouges, Bowl gouges, Carbide tools, Skews, Hollowing tool and Parting tool
- **Inside:** Drill chuck and Forstner bits, Spindle gouges, Bowl gouges, Round and square carbide tools and Hollowing tools

9. Wooden eggs

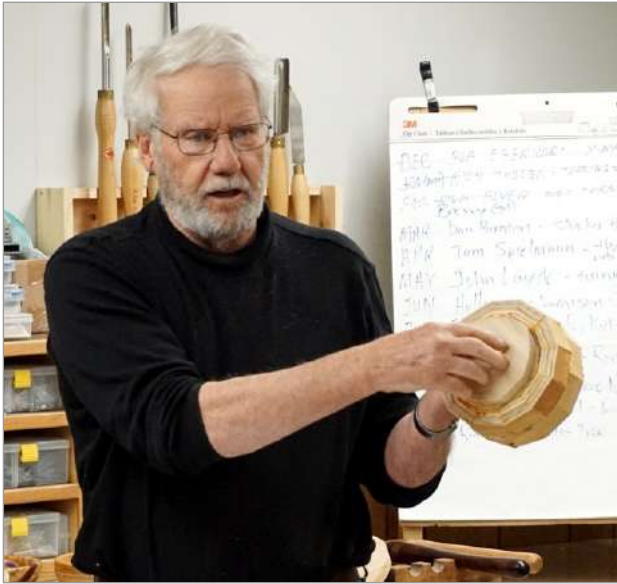
- Spindle roughing gouge, Spindle gouges, Bowl gouges, Skews and Parting tool

10. Wooden handles

- Spindle roughing gouge, Spindle gouges, Bowl gouges, Skews, Parting tool, Drill chuck and Drill bits

How to turn Plywood

John Layde



John began by saying what the negatives were for turning plywood

Splinters

Sharp edges

Ply runs in different directions

Ply is usually full of holes

But on the positive side, John stated that splinters and sharp edges are solved by sanding the turned blank in both directions. Ply being full of holes can be solved with epoxy and sawdust. Ply in different directions can be coped with as the blank is turned. John also explained that he uses Titebond II to glue the ply layers and he has finished the turnings with a variety of finishes such as Epoxy, Polyurethane, and Aussie Oil.

John spent some time explaining how he made the plywood blanks. Some blanks were turned straight as with a regular bowl blank while others were cut at an angle and revealed an unusual pattern especially when John added veneers and other woods with the plywood.

John's real interest is segmenting and he had several examples of segmented plywood including barrel construction. John made his own segment cutting slide and has a jig which he said was for centering successive rows while segmenting. The top side of this jig has series of holes for pegs different at distances from center to hold the ring. The back side has Morse taper to fit in the tail stock. If you have Cole jaws and a way to mount it on tail stock it can do the same thing. John favors a table saw for cutting segments but a bandsaw can also be used.

There was a hand-out which is included in this write-up that explains how John figures angles on the segment cutting slide jig. For those who want to make their own segment cutting slide an attendee suggested that a video about making a slide. The creator is master turner Jerry Bennett though the demonstrator is not Jerry Bennett. Check out this video. [Making The Wedgie Sled](#)



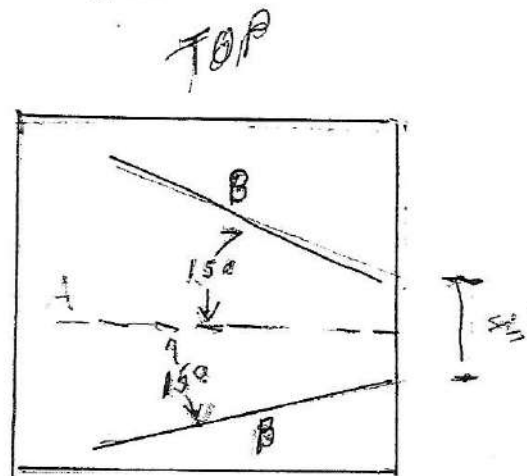
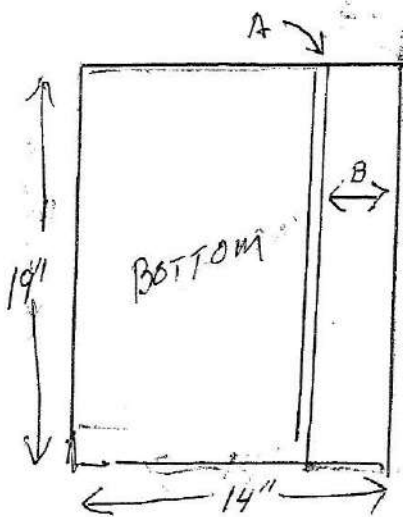
John Layde's' Handout

Turning plywood and segmenting

Cheap plywood works but voids a problem.

Voids can be filled with epoxy and appropriate shaded sawdust

Tightbond #2 works best also Elmers carpenters glue



A-wood or metal slide saw table

3/4x3/8 inches

B-distance to blade minus 1/2"

A- draw line perpendicular
to the saw blade

B-draw line 15degrees above

And below with 4" gap at

Saw side and glue wood

Strips on each side

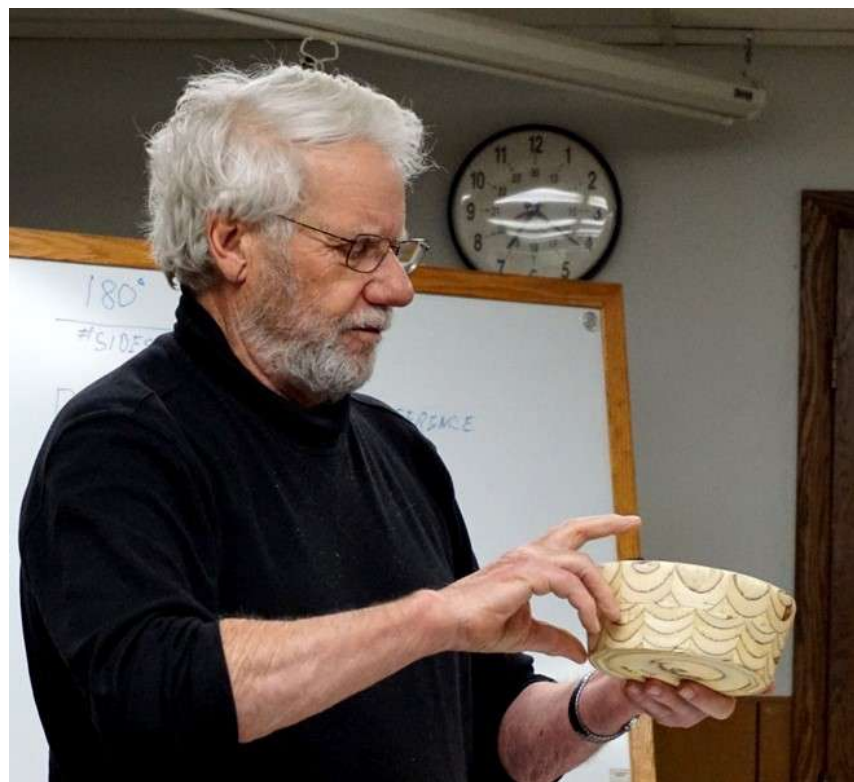
Chop saw, 180 degrees divided by #sides equals angle setting

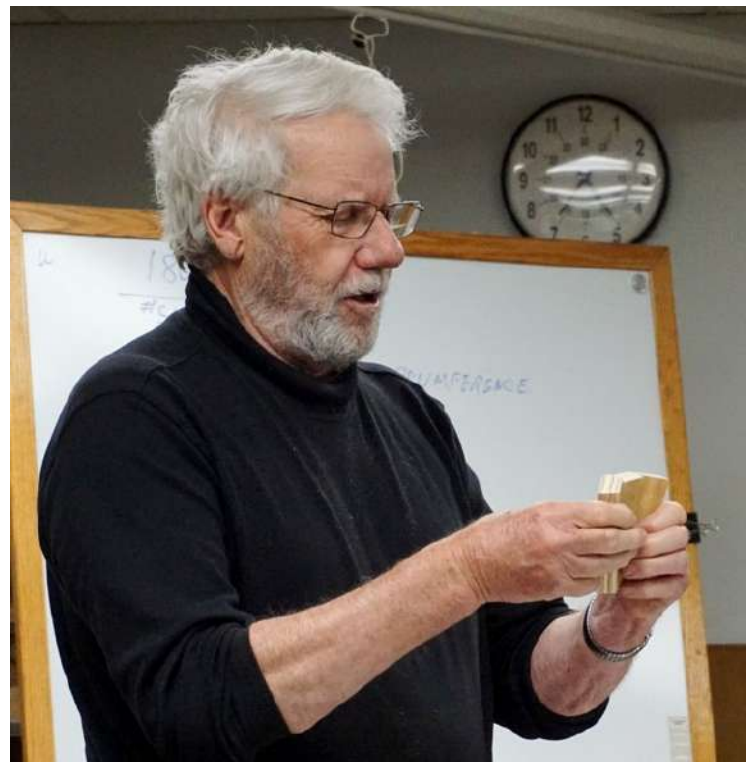
Cutting segments- multiply diameter x3.1 equals circumference

Circumference divided by number of segments equals outside length of each segment



During the demonstration John Layde showed the various gluing and turning methods that he employed.





Above Left: John shows a plywood turning with barrel construction .

Above Right: John shows the difficulty of a barrel construction because it requires different angles.

Below Left: John shows his largest plywood turning with a Walnut top and bottom.

Below Right: John shows and explains his jig for centering successive rows while segmenting.



Henry “Chip” Troost



Chip made 2 pens .One pen had a Federal theme and made with an unknown wood but possibly Bocote.

The second pen was a Slimline made with 2 woods—the top with Apple and the bottom with Oak.



Barry Grill



Barry made an urn from spalted Maple.

Barry also made a cup or vase from White Oak. The bottom was punky and he set the bottom of the turning in a plastic cup with Epoxy which helped stabilize the bottom of the turning.



Bob Wilcox



Bob made 2 urns from box Elder for a dog. The larger for the ashes and the smaller as a keepsake.

Bob also cored a Cherry Burl to get a large and a smaller natural edge bowls.



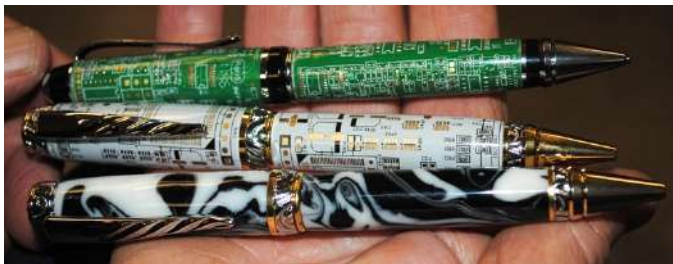
Mary Weider



Mary made a burl bowl from an unknown type of wood. It came from John DeRyckere's stash and needed lots of fill ins. Mary did her magic on this one.



Tom Leonard



Tom made his first bowl in 2 years. It was a spalted Maple or Birch among the stash of John DeRyckere. He finished it with Mahoney's Butcher Block because it was all he had left after 2 years of not turning anything but pens.

Pens, pens and more pens. Upper left are the pens and wood of the month. Center are 2 Cigar pens and one Cigar pencil. Below are more themed pens. These are Football themed with one with Green Bay Packer colors and the other with Minnesota Viking colors.

John Layde



Closer views of the various turnings by John Layde. The lower picture includes the open segmented turning not shown in demonstration write-up which John said has an issue with finish getting stuck on the open segments. He said that an open segment is not recommended.



Photos for Show and Tell and Gallery provided by Mary Weider and Tom Leonard

Lacebark Elm

A **lacebark elm tree** (*Ulmus parvifolia*), also known as **Chinese elm**, is a medium-sized deciduous tree native to China, Korea, and Japan. It typically grows to heights of 40 to 50 feet (12-15 meters) with a rounded crown and long pendulous branching. Here are some key points about lacebark elm:

1. Appearance:

- o The tree features shiny, dark green foliage and a rounded shape.
- o Its bark is the focus of its name, displaying multiple colors and rich textures.

2. Benefits:

- o Lacebark elm provides shelter, food, and nesting sites for various bird species.
- o The leaves attract butterfly larvae.
- o Unlike Siberian elm, lacebark elm is not considered a “trash tree.”
- o It is more resistant to Dutch elm disease, a deadly ailment affecting other elm varieties.
- o Lacebark elm also withstands elm leaf beetles and Japanese beetles.

3. Growing Conditions:

- o Lacebark elm thrives in well-drained soil but tolerates various soil types, including clay.
- o It is a good shade tree and can handle some drought.
- o Suitable for prairies, meadows, and home gardens.

4. Considerations

- o Branches may break in strong winds or under heavy snow or ice.
- o In some areas of the eastern and southwestern United States, lacebark elm is considered invasive.
- o Always check with your local cooperative extension office before planting lacebark elm trees¹.

Remember that once established, the care of Chinese lacebark elms is relatively uninvolved. Regular watering during spring, summer, and early autumn ensures a healthier, more attractive tree. Occasional application of a high-nitrogen fertilizer can also help the soil is poor or growth appears slow.

Ulmus parvifolia, commonly known as the **Chinese elm**^[2] or **lacebark elm**, is a species native to eastern Asia, including China, India, Japan, Korea, and Vietnam.^[3] It has been described as "one of the most splendid elms, having the poise of a graceful *Nothofagus*".

The tree was introduced to the UK in 1794 by James Main, who collected in China for Gilbert Slater of Low Slayton, Essex.

Description

A small to medium deciduous or semideciduous (rarely semievergreen) tree, it grows to 10–18 m (33–59 ft) tall and 15–20 m (49–66 ft) wide with a slender trunk and crown. The leathery, lustrous green, single-toothed leaves are small, 2–5 cm long by 1–3 cm broad, and often retained as late as December or even January in Europe and North America.

The apetalous wind-pollinated perfect flowers are produced in early autumn, small and inconspicuous. The fruit is a samara, elliptical to ovate-elliptical, 10–13 mm long by 6–8 mm broad. The samara is mostly glabrous, the seed at the center or toward the apex, is borne on

a stalk 1–3 mm in length; it matures rapidly and disperses by late autumn. The trunk has a handsome, flaking bark of mottled greys with tans and reds, giving rise to its other common name, the lacebark elm, although scarring from major branch loss can lead to large, canker-like wounds. Ploidy: $2n = 28$.

Many nurserymen and foresters mistakenly refer to *Ulmus pumila*, the rapidly growing, disease-ridden, relatively short-lived, weak-wooded Siberian elm, as "Chinese elm". This has given the true Chinese elm an undeserved bad reputation. The two elms are very distinct and different species. The Siberian elm's bark becomes deeply ridged and furrowed with age, among other obvious differences. It possesses a very rough, greyish-black appearance, while the Chinese elm's smooth bark becomes flaky and blotchy, exposing very distinctive, light-coloured mottling, hence the synonym lacebark elm for the real Chinese elm.

Wood and timber

Elms, hickory, and ash all have remarkably hard, tough wood, making them popular for tool handles, bows, and baseball bats. Chinese elm is considered the hardest of the elms. Chinese elm is said to be the best of all woods for chisel handles and similar uses due to its superior hardness, toughness, and resistance to splitting. Chinese elm lumber is used most for furniture, cabinets, veneer, hardwood flooring, and specialty uses such as longbow construction and tool handles. Most commercially milled lumber goes directly to manufacturers rather than to retail lumber outlets.

Chinese elm heartwood ranges in tone from reddish-brown to light tan, while the sapwood approaches off-white. The grain is often handsome and dramatic. Unlike other elms, the freshly cut Chinese elm has a peppery or spicy odour. While it turns easily and will take a nice polish off the lathe without any finish, and it holds detail well, the fibrous wood is usually considered too tough for carving or hand tools. Chinese elm contains silica which is hard on planer knives and chainsaws, but it sands fairly easily. Like other woods with interlocking grain, planes

should be kept extra sharp to prevent tearing at the grain margins. It steam-bends easily and holds screws well, but pilot holes and countersinking are needed. It tends to be a "lively" wood, tending to warp and distort while drying. This water-resistant wood easily takes most finishes and stains. 🪵

Sources:

[Ulmus parvifolia \(Chinese Elm, Drake Elm, Lacebark Elm\) | North Carolina Extension Gardener Plant Toolbox \(ncsu.edu\)](#)

[Ulmus parvifolia - Plant Finder \(missouribotanicalgarden.org\)](#)





**Lacebark Elm tree and characteristic
lace appearing bark.**





Lacebark Elm leaves and seeds.

**Lacebark Elm is a popular tree
for making Bonsai trees.**

PEN KIT OF THE MONTH

Exotic Blanks says of this pen: *“The Exemplar (Professor) pen kit is a great-looking, easy-to-make twist pen that features a low-profile diamond texturing on the cap and tip finials. The pen's finished size is 4 7/8”, which makes it perfect for that all-day carry pen! “*

These pen kits are \$8.95 each with the drill bit costing \$5.95 and bushings for \$3.95.

Lacebark Elm



Thuya Burl



Olivewood



Cherry



**Turn-On! Chicago
Woodturning Symposium**

August 2-4, 2024

Crowne Plaza Northbrook Hotel

Northbrook, IL



**Southwest Association of
Turners Symposium**

August 23-25, 2024

Waco, Texas



**Mid Atlantic Woodturning
Symposium**

September 20-22, 2024

Lancaster, PA



Here are AAW symposium links

<https://www.aawsymposium.org/about>

<https://www.aawsymposium.org/demonstrators>

<https://www.aawsymposium.org/schedule>