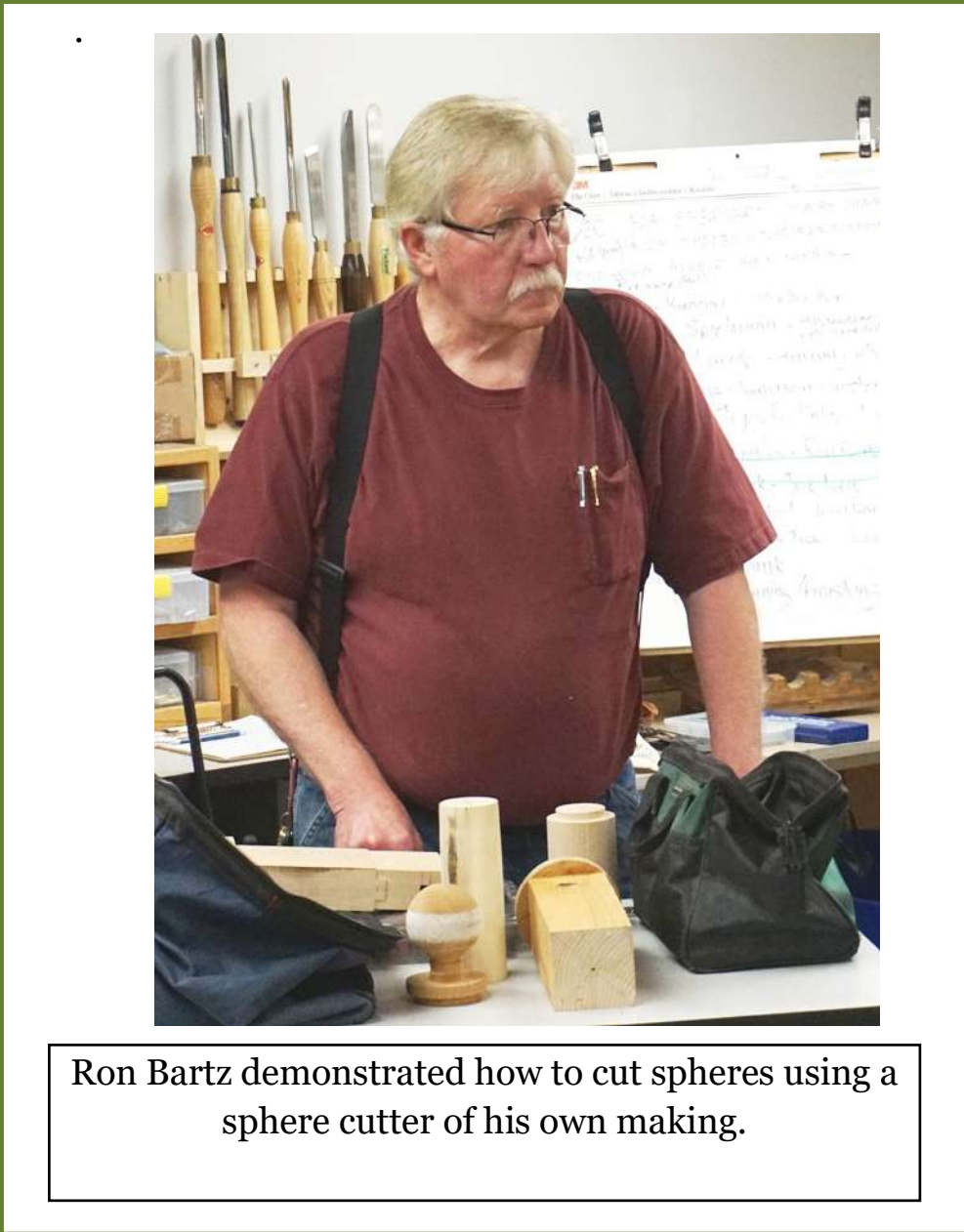


TURNING Threads

October
2024



Ron Bartz demonstrated how to cut spheres using a sphere cutter of his own making.

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**President
Bob Eberhardt**

**Vice President
Mary Weider**

**Treasurer
Sue Mohr**

**Secretary
Tom Leonard**

**Program Director
Dan Brandner**

**At Large Directors
Joe Nycz
Ron Bartz**

Other Positions

**Membership
Director
Henry Troost**

**Newsletter Editor
Tom Leonard**

**Web Master
Dan Brandner**



Hope this finds everyone in good health. October is here and we are having a beautiful Fall. There is so much to do with Fall cleanup but I hope everyone is able to set aside some time to do some turning.

I was out of town for our Wednesday night meeting and want to thank Mary for stepping in for me. I heard the demo went very well.

We have the first times set for our shop tours. The first one starts October 26th and will be leaving Mary's house a 9:00 am. Joe Nycz will be the

first shop then returning to Mary's for a quick lunch. From there we will visit Mary's shop then Dan Brandner's shop. From there we will go to John Layde's shop. The last shop of the day will be Bob Eberhardt's shop.

We are in the planning classes for this fall and winter. The beginning classes will be on a schedule similar to last year. If you are interested please contact Bob Eberhardt so we can start a list. The advanced classes will be on one Saturday morning a month, with demonstrations showing unique and different processes used. The first will be October 19th starting at 8:00 am at the club house. Everyone is invited! The subject matter is scrapers.

We had a good turnout for the October Open House. Bob Eberhardt brought in a trailer load of Black Walnut Bowl blanks that he was giving them away. They were freshly cut and had some beautiful grain.

Robust Lathe Open House is on November 2nd and if you are interested, a car pool will be leaving November 2nd at 5:30 am and going down to the Robust Lathe Plant in Barneveld Wi.

See you at the next meeting November 6th at 6:00PM

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**

Reflections on the U.S. Chainsaw Sculpture Competition

Here at the CVWG we always look forward to the chance to meet the public and introduce them to woodturning. Woodturning is not everyone's cup of tea or coffee but many people find it at least interesting enough to observe the Learn To Turn and many hardy chainsaw attendees were brave or adventurous enough to try out the turning process. In the end of the pen making process their faces of accomplishment make for our participation worthwhile.

Group donations of many types of woodturning items makes it more interesting for attendees by seeing items they may never thought could be done with wood or even acrylics and not on the industrial level.

Friday was expected to be a slow day, but on Saturday we began to see a change in attendee attendance and not much change in Sunday which was usually the busiest day of the event. There was no admission fee and we soon figured out that the tickets being sold were for the museum and logging camp museums.

There were other things that were different. The large tent with tables that had been set up for attendees to sit and eat or just sit and rest was not there. The tent that was usually set up to serve as a separate beer drinking area was missing and so were people using it. The ATM that had been a fixture at the event was missing and none was in the museums either. We encountered many attendees wanting to buy items but could not because they were only using credit cards or some on line method of payment.

One of the things that made this event less appealing to the public was the lack of a variety of food options. Food options are one of the most popular draws for visitors. There was only one that came on Saturday afternoon. The problem at this event venue was more of a space issue. But one year there were couple of food trucks that parked on the side of the

road outside the main event area.

In last month's Editor Musings, the director of the museums wrote that the organizer of these events decided to take it elsewhere stating that it needed a change of venue. No doubt recognizing the downturn of the event and possibly the need for more space to fit it into. Certainly, that was a logical decision. The museums are working on a new venue and hinted that it might include a different version of a chainsaw event (editor's interpretation). But the main objective of the museum is a fund raiser.

Where does leave the CVWG for our Learn To Turn participation? Certainly it takes away our one and only event that we can demonstrate woodturning and let people try it themselves. And it is secondarily a fund raiser for our group as well as for the woodcarvers group in which many of the woodcarvers are also woodturners. Perhaps what the woodturners and the woodcarvers can hope for is the redesigned museum venue will include more arts and crafts as well as food vendors and some sort of wood sculpture carving. The museum goal is to continue with a theme of the logging industry and area history. Hopefully the woodturners and woodcarvers will be included in the new venue.

Reflections on the Board of Directors

Our group has been fortunate in being able to maintain a board of directors. It is so important that some leadership is visible and actively working to maintain and lead the group. So many groups fall apart due to a lack of this leadership.

Leadership is not the only factor in our success. The williness for some members to do more than one demonstration in each year to ensure that there will a demonstration at each meeting.



Editor Musings Continued

The leadership has varied over the years. Not all members who have served in the various positions have that extra energy and vision to carry the group forward. Certainly, covid, injuries and other personal issues always come to the fore to create the conditions less favorable for moving the group forward.

The present members of the Board of Directors have been exceptional. The conditions were right and the elected board members came at the right time for our group. There is an enthusiasm I have not witnessed in years. The exception being the original board of directors. Although I did not attend a meeting their leadership reflected their dedication to the success of the group.

Each member of the board brings new ideas and more organization to the workings of the group. Our shop has gotten some much needed updates as well as equipment. And I think it has created a new enthusiasm among the members. More members who have never given a demonstration are giving it a try and hopefully a second try in the future.

Our group has been around since 2009. Fifteen years and there is no reason why it should not go another fifteen years.

Tom Leonard

Classes, Shop Tours and Trip

Scraping/Scraper Class, Oct 19th,

Bob was going to contact the interested parties directly.

Second advanced Class would be Nov 16th, subject TBD

Phil Holtan Returning, Spring dates pitched.

March 22, 29 April 5, 26 (20th is Easter)

Update on Shop Tours

Eight turners offered visits to their shops.

The first tour will be Saturday October 26th.

We will head to Joe Nycz's shop first.

We need to leave by 9:00am, as it is an hour away.

Mary said we can park at her place and carpool.

We will return to Mary's after, and she said she'd put out some food at her shop.

(Mary's, Dan's, John's and Bob's shops are all on the South side of EC.)

We start at Joe's and end at Bob's. Attendees arrange their own car pools, and can park at Mary's.

Joe Nycz	N8419 Cty Rd O, Greenwood
Mary Weider	4401 Terri Ct, Eau Claire
Dan Brandner	S8635 Heartwood Dr, Eleva
John Layde	140 Canterbury Rd, Eau Claire
Bob Eberhardt	1205 E. Mission Dr, Eau Claire

The Second Tour weekend will be Dec 7th at Paul's and Barry's shops. (Time to be determined.) We'll start at Paul's in Chippewa Falls, then head on to Bloomer.

Paul Meske	13891 45th Ave, Chippewa Falls
Barry Grill	2217 15th Ave, Bloomer

Chip is going to try something different like a video tour of his setup.

Chip Troost	1725 Cty Rd M, River Falls
-------------	----------------------------

Nov 2nd, Robust Open House, 9:00am - 4:00pm

It is 3 hours to Barneveld, so cars need to be rolling by about 5:30am

Bob Eberhardt said he'd take some riders with.

Dan Brandner will be going too, and could take some too.

A visit to Bell Forest Products Inc.—Figured and Exotic Woods by Dan Brandner

On our way to a wedding in Lower Michigan last month, I decided to stop at Bell Forest Products in Ishpeming, Michigan's Upper Peninsula. The president, Boone Bell, gave me a quick tour of what they offer and permission to write about my visit, including using copy from their website page <https://www.bellforestproducts.com>.

Bell Forest Products was started in 2001 by Dennis Bell and his son Boone. Being an avid woodworker, Dennis was frustrated with the lack of locally available kiln dried hardwoods. This was compounded by the fact that he lived in Michigan's Upper Peninsula surrounded by forests and was unable to obtain lumber for his projects. After purchasing a portable sawmill and dehumidification kiln, Dennis and Boone began buying logs, sawing them, and drying the lumber. They began selling some of the extra lumber locally and then realized there was great demand for figured wood. Some of the world's best Birdseye maple comes from the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, so Dennis and Boone began purchasing these highly sought after logs from local loggers. Early customers couldn't get enough of this high quality figured wood and the business grew steadily.

In 2003, Bell Forest expanded from Dennis' workshop into a vacant warehouse in downtown Ishpeming, MI. The 37,000 sq/ft building was formerly a train depot and produce warehouse. The old insulated coolers became useful once again – one of them became a dry kiln, another one became a wood shop, and yet another serves as our photo studio.



Figure 1 Boone Bell, President



Figure 2 Retail Space In Ishpeming

The business continued to grow and in 2005-2006 Bell Forest went through major changes. We put in a brand new sawmill and started dealing in exotic woods.



Since 2006, Bell Forest has been one of the leading online wood suppliers. We have expanded our selection of figured, domestic, and exotic woods to over 100 species. Bell Forest offers thousands of hand-picked boards, stock sizes, and other products to numerous markets throughout the USA and around the world. We are still a family business and pride ourselves on great customer service, high quality wood, and fair prices. Give us a try and you will not be disappointed.

Figure 3 The New Sawmill

Behind Boone Bell, in his picture above, are 3 rooms. The one on the left is full of exotic pen blanks and knife scales. The center room is full of exotic bowl blanks. They all felt really heavy and he told me they are cut green/wet and fully waxed so take that into account working with them. The third room was full of exotic spindle blanks and boards in varying sizes.



Figure 4 Bowl Blank Room

One of the coolest features is the “Hand-pick Your Board” area. While you would expect that if visiting the store in person (5 hours away from Eau Claire), on their website they measure, photograph and number individual exotic boards they believe would interest wood workers. And on their website, you can look through the boards individually, and select the ones you want sent to you. Now that is a nice feature.



Besides exotics, you can also get maple, cherry and walnut lumber but I presume that would mostly be picked up by locals.

Although our vehicle was loaded for our trip, I had to get at least one bowl blank and selected a 4” x 4” x 2” Goncalo Alves, along with some cutoffs from the Exotic Woods bin and the Birdseye/Curly Maple bin.

Read a few of the customer testimonials to get a feel for their business.

Their website also has some YouTube links that are quite informative.

[Bell Forest Products Story by Corey Soumis](#) 10.31 min

[An Excerpt from the Wood Whisperer](#) 2.41 min

[Hand Pick Your Board](#) 4.45 min

Contact information for Bell Forest Products:

Their normal business hours are Monday thru Friday, 8am to 5pm, Eastern Standard Time. During those hours you can call or email to discuss your needs. Outside of normal hours, you can email them or leave a voicemail.

Contact information for Bell Forest Products: hours are Monday thru Friday, 8am to 5pm, Eastern Standard Time. ‘

Boone's Email: boone@bellforestproducts.com

Eric's Email: eric@bellforestproducts.com

Toll-Free: (877) 770-9663

Local: (906) 486-4769

Fax: (906) 486-4211

If you have questions about or problems with an order, please don't hesitate to let them know. They are a small company, and customer satisfaction is of the utmost importance. They will value your feedback!

Their Address is

Bell Forest Products, Inc.

200 E. Hematite

Ishpeming, MI 49849



PLAYING FOR PINK BREAST CANCER EVENT



Left Above: Items donated by members of the CVWG which were used in a basket raffle.

Right Above: A deer antler pen.

Left Below: Two bowls.

Right Below: Bowls and plates and a pizza cutter.





Left Above: A yellow and gold pen for a Packer fan.

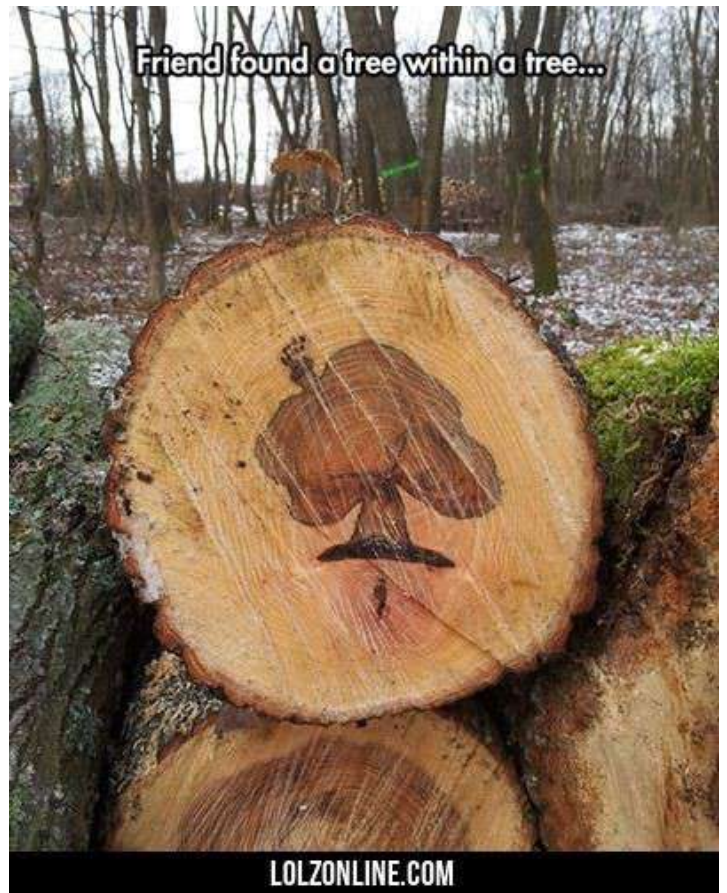
Right Above: A writing theme with a circuit board pen.

Below: List of donors.





CVWG member Jeff Fagan entertains the group playing a banjo type of instrument called a ban jolin and singing a humorous song. All this after demonstrating how to make a coffee scoop with a specially made jig.



Member Safety Tips

From John Layde

There once was a turner called crazy
"Me wear face shield" too lazy
He hollowed with flat tang
One day a catch BANG
And now he's pushing up daisies

There once was a turner named Bessy
Whose shop was cluttered and messy
She tripped on a cord
Flew into a board
And now her face looks like Nessie

There once was a turner called Rose
Who always got dust up her nose
Walnut she breathed
And exotics she sneezed
She now walks with oxygen hose

From Bob Eberhart

Make sure your project is in good shape with minimal cracks and no shakes.

Make sure your blank is securely mounted with proper screws.

Make sure all fixtures are tight before starting the lathe.

Make sure of the proper lathe speed before you turn the lathe on.

Make sure the work piece clears the lathe bed and tool rest.

Start out slow and increase speed after the work is balanced.

Use the tailstock for safety when possible.

Use sharp tools that are in good shape.

[More from Bob next month]

FUTURE DEMONSTRATIONS

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

November 6—Ringed Christmas Tree by Dan Brandner

December 4 — Turning Antler Pens by Tom Leonard

January 8—Making a Wooden Live Center Cone with Baltic Birch Glue-up by Dan Brandner

February 5—Not Yet Determined

March 5 - Not Yet Determined

April 2— Not Yet Determined

October Open House Date

November 9 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

Ringed Christmas Tree



Found on the Yemeni archipelago of Socotra in the Indian Ocean, dragon's blood trees get their name from the red sap they produce. Given the island's separation from the mainland about 20 million years ago, unique flora has been allowed to grow there undisturbed. According to [National Geographic](#), 37 percent of the island's 825 plant species are found nowhere else in the world.



Banyan trees are short and stout trees native to India. Their particularity, what makes them unique trees, is their aerial roots that develop from their branches and drop to the ground to grow new trees. This growing technique is the reason why Banyan trees have such wide trunks — it's actually several trunks that grow closely together. One of the best-known Banyan trees is the Arbol del Tule, a tree estimated to be between 1,433 and 1,600 years old in the Mexican state of Oaxaca, whose trunk has the widest-known circumference in the world at 119 feet (according to the [Guinness World Records](#) in 2005).



Woodchuckles



Unable to afford a panel sander, Ned still saved valuable time with his team of 80 grit cats.



CS 455287

CARTOONSTOCK
CARTOON COLLECTIONS
MEAN

Previous Demonstrations

October 2024 Sphere Cutter

by Ron Bartz

September 2024 Vacuum Chuck

By Joe Nycz

August 2024 Duplicating Spindles

By Ron Bartz

July 2024 Tops

by Dan Brandner

June 2024 Hollowing

by Bob Eberhardt

May 2024 Plywood Turning

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

Previous Pen Kits and Woods

October 2024 Zambezi Teak

For Refillable Fiber Tip Pen

September 2024 Cerejeira

For Aquilo pen

August 2024 Thuya Burl

For Diplomat pen

July 2024 Texas Ebony

for Sketch Pencils

June 2024 Kirandy

for Jazz Bolt pen

May 2024 Lacebark Elm

for Exemplar/Professor pen

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

Sphere Cutter

Ron Bartz

Ron Bartz is another member of the Chippewa Valley Woodturners Guild that is a gifted engineer. Rather than buy a lot of expensive jigs, Ron examines them and figures out how it works and makes his own version. He made two versions of a sphere cutter. One version was made with a wood base and the second with a metal base.

A sphere cutter jig does exactly that – makes it possible to turn a sphere with pre-determined specifications. To do that, requires some pre-planning involving measurements and a bit of math. The math is used to determine the cord length of the wood and the location of where the 45 degrees angle begins to curve by using calipers then setting of the jig to 22.5 degrees. Ron doesn't use the jig in the beginning stages of the sphere cutting process but roughs out the 45 degrees curve free hand.

The cutter on the jig is a small round carbide bit. It has to be applied to the wood center just like any other carbide bit. If off center, the cutter will tend to grab the wood.

The sphere cutter jig has two adjustment knobs. One knob advances the cutter and the other knob locks the cutter. Only one back and forth pass can be made with each adjustment. It is a slow process.

Once the sphere has reached near the size desired by measuring the diameter of the sphere, Ron parts off the tenon at one end of the piece. The jig is repositioned to complete shaping the curve at that end of the sphere. The opposite end tenon is then parted off. The piece is then put between two jam chucks to finish off the rough parted off side of the sphere. Ron did not use the sphere cutter jig to finish the sphere due to the time to reset up the jig.

Some tips for best sphere cutting:

Be sure carbide cutter is sharp.

If making several spheres the same size, do each step for all before going to the next step.

When making several spheres the same size, make a sample sphere to measure by.

To make the sphere with a specified curve, make a template curve. Chalk the inside of the curve and slide over the turned sphere to determine high spots to be turned down.

When making a sphere an exact size, make it larger so the overlap between cutting the sides and ends do not over cut the sphere.

Sand the sphere with the lathe on.

Use a tail stock extension to have a longer banjo to get closer to the piece being turned.

Best wood for spheres: Hard Maple.



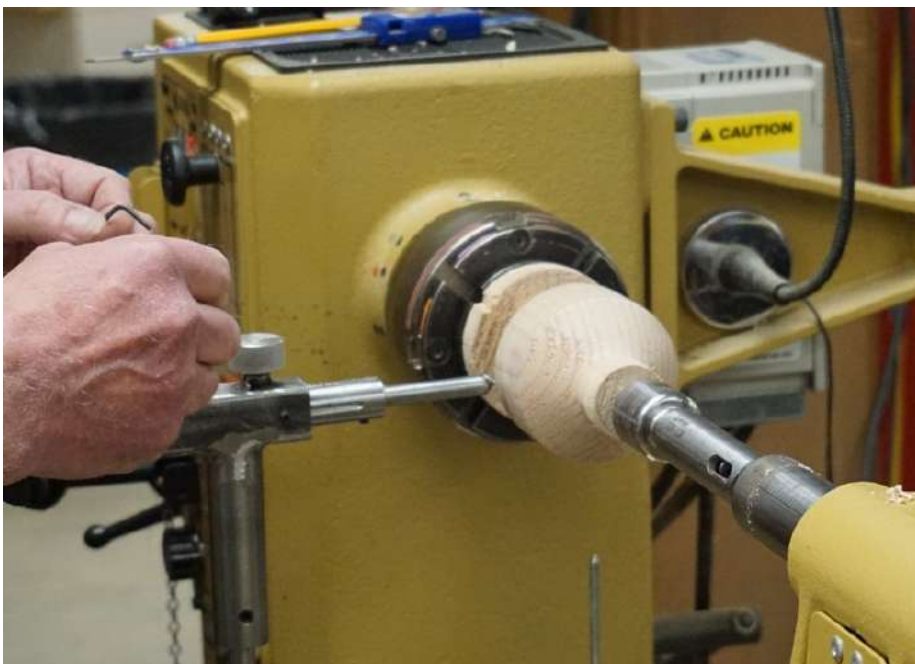
Thanks to Ron Bartz for this informative demonstration.



Ron begins the sphere cutting process by turning the blank at 45 degrees angle on both sides



Ron then sets up the sphere cutting jig to 22.5 degrees. The jig can then be moved back and forth in a curve. Cutting is slow and cuts are thin to prevent tear outs.



After one back and forth cut, Ron unlocks the cutter to advance the cutter slightly and then relocking for the next cut.



Ron uses a foot stock extender to increase the space between the cutter and the foot stock. He also finds it useful when he needs to use a longer banjo.



Left: Sphere progression after turning off one end of the piece.

Right: The sphere cutter is repositioned to curve one end of the sphere.



Near final stage, sphere needs one end curved off. Picture shows one of the jam chucks used to finish sphere.



Above Left: The near finished sphere between two jam chucks.

Above Right: The finished sphere.

Middle: Ron's home made metal sphere cutter.

Below left and right: Ron's home made wood sphere cutter.



Henry Troost



Henry made a vase with an unusual swirling grain. Wood type unknown.

He also made a gnome.

Henry made a Christmas ornament snowman that lights up using a switch at bottom of piece of wood. A very innovative work.

Dan Brandner asked Chip for the sources for his supplies and original poster of the item. The original turner is Emma Cook, UK Tiny Turner.

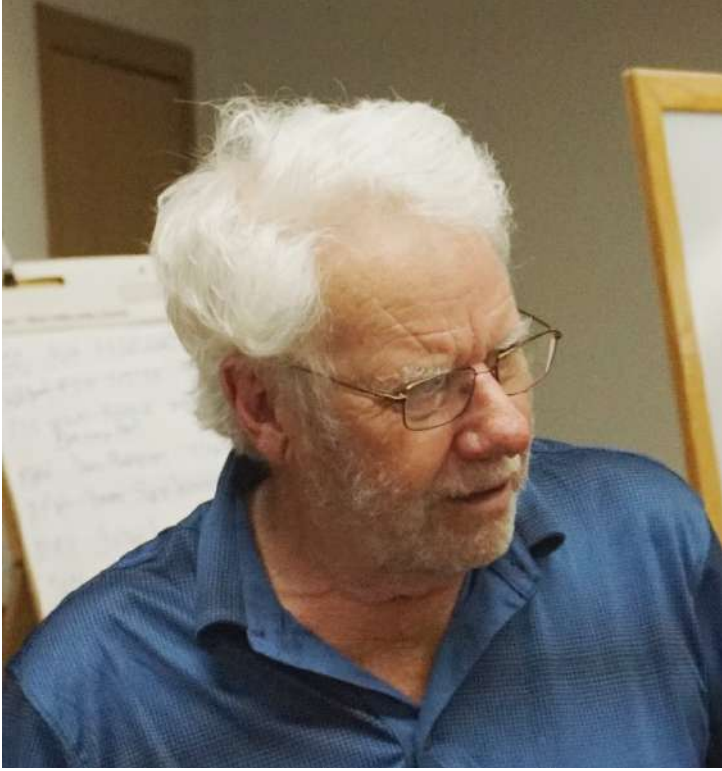
[Fairy Lights, 12 pk](#)

[3" Glass Ornaments, 8 pk](#)

[Emma Cook, The Tiny Turner](#)



John Layde



John made two segmented picture frames and rounded the edges.



Joe Nycz



Joe made a bowl from a large green Pine limb.

Joe also made several vases and says he includes glass tubes if owner wants to put in live flowers.



Steve Hay



Above: Steve made 2 cups of Oak wood and charred the inside with a propane torch to give it the look of a bourbon barrel.

Below: Steve turned a Maple Burl bowl with all the burl at the bottom of the bowl. Nice effect.

Apologizes to Steve for not getting his picture at the time of the Show and Tell. This is a picture from January Show and Tell.



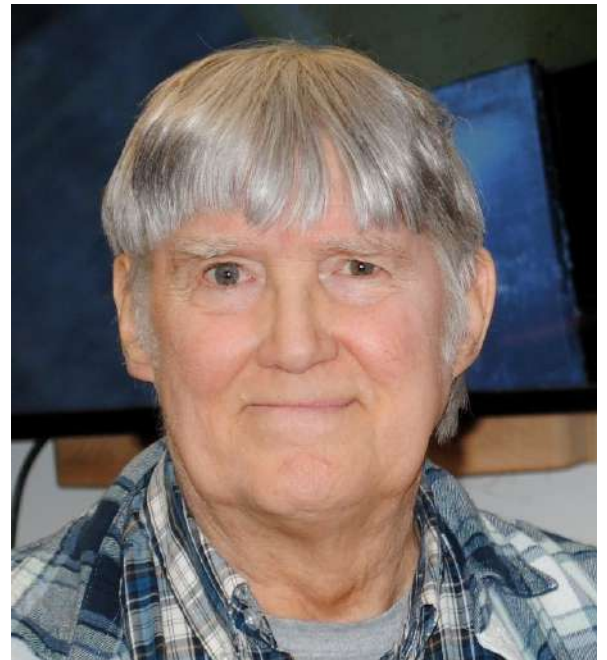
Jayne Kulberg



On the left Jayne made a seam ripper and a pen with a SpectraPly wood blank.

On the right Tom made pens with Aquilo kits and Dog themed pens.

Tom Leonard



**Photos for Show and Tell / Gallery and Demonstration
provided by Dan Brandner and Tom Leonard**

Zambezi Teak

Baikiaea plurijuga, known as African teak, Mukusi, Rhodesian teak, Zambian teak or Zambesi redwood, is a species of [Afrotropical](#) tree from the [legume](#) family, the [Fabaceae](#) from southern [Africa](#).

Description

Baikiaea plurijuga is a medium-sized [deciduous](#) tree with pinnate leaves each with 4-5 pairs of opposed leaflets. They show pink to deep mauve flowers have yellow stamens and are clustered in large axillary racemes; it flowers from November to April. The fruit are flattened, woody pods with a hooked tip which splits explosively sending the seeds out over some distance.

Habitat

Baikiaea plurijuga is confined to the [Kalahari](#) sands and the woodland which it dominates is known as Gusu woodland. This woodland grows on the deep, aeolian and fluvial Kalahari Sands which have virtually no clay or silt. These sands provide exceptional growing conditions for deep-rooting trees, but the deficiency in clay restricts tree growth to sites holding nutrients in the form of organic matter.

Distribution

Baikiaea plurijuga occurs in southern [Angola](#), northern [Botswana](#), northern [Namibia](#), southern [Zambia](#) and northern [Zimbabwe](#).

Uses

The wood of *Baikiaea plurijuga* forms a dense hardwood which makes it a difficult wood to work, but it is valued for its [termite](#) resistance and resistance to rot, is used for railway sleepers, in construction and for furniture making. Extensive teak forests in some parts of its range (e.g. in [Sesheke District](#), Zambia) have been [over-exploited](#) by the commercial timber industry. However, *Baikiaea plurijuga* is not listed in the CITES Appendices.

Conservation

Baikiaea plurijuga is classified as Near Threatened because its forests have been and considerably reduced as a result of high levels of logging over the last half century. Older, mature trees are also scarce. However, the species geographic range has only diminished by a fraction as the species has the ability to regenerate readily in modified habitats and it tolerates [coppicing](#) very well. It is legally protected in [Namibia](#).

Source: [Zambizi Teak](#)



PEN KIT OF THE MONTH

Refillable Fiber Tip Ink Pen

PSI says of this pen:” Here is a unique fiber tip pen that writes like fine line marker pen and accepts fountain pen ink. Makes crisp, smooth extra fine .7mm lines, and moves effortlessly over the page. And you can refill the pen with ink when it runs out with any fountain pen ink within the pump which gives you the ability to use your favorite colors; or use a standard fountain pen ink cartridge. As fountain pen ink is water based and not permanent like a disposable fine line marker, you will find that our fine line fiber tip provides a perfectly fine line. One ink pump and one black ink cartridge included. Replacement tip assembly sold separately (2 pack). Tips should last about a year depending on use and writing pressure. “

Pen kits are \$9.95, bushings are \$5.95 and a 10mm drill bits are \$9.95.



This pen is capable and cap is screwed onto cap end.

Several colors of ink cartridges can be obtained or one can pump none's favorite ink into an ink pump.

Zambezi Teak Tree



Zambezi Teak tree in the wild. Plantation trees are grown with one trunk and straight.

Characteristic bark on this tree.



Zambezi Teak Tree



Flowers, leaves and seeds of Zambezi teak



Large Uses for Zambezi Teak



Lumber and decking



Large Uses for Zambezi Teak



Workbench



Restored Safari Table.

Hard to believe something like this was carried on someone's back.



Large Table



Chair



**Virginia Woodturning
Symposium**
November 2-3, 2024
ExpoCenter, Fishersville, VA



**TAW 36th Annual
Woodturning
Symposium**
January 31 - February 1, 2025
Marriott Hotel and Convention
Center
Franklin, TN



**2025 SOUTHWEST FLORIDA
WOOD ART
EXPOSITION
AND COMPETITION**
JANUARY 10 & 11, 2025
CHARLOTTE HARBOR EVENTS CENTER 9 AM - 4 PM
75 TAYLOR STREET, PUNTA GORDA, FL 33950
Woodcarving & Woodturning Competitions, Vendor & Sales Tables
All forms and more information available at:

SWFLWOODARTEXPO.ORG

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* Displays and Judged Competition * Vendor Booths - Wood, Tools, and more *
* Daily Technique Demonstrations * Silent Auction * Wood Art Sales *

**2025 Southwest Florida
Wood Art Exposition**
January 10-11, 2025
Charlotte Harbor Events
Center,
Punta Gorda, FL



**Fifth Oregon
Woodturning
Symposium**
March 14-16, 2025
Albany, OR