

# TURNING Threads

September  
2024



Joe Nycz demonstrated his homemade vacuum chuck and went through the process of how he makes these chucks, setting up the vacuum chuck on the lathe and did some turning to show it's usefulness.

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**AAW** | AMERICAN ASSOCIATION  
OF WOODTURNERS

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Hope this finds everyone in good health.

September is here and kids are back in school. Watch for school zones and kids not paying attention when crossing roads!

Be careful and drive safe!

There was a great turnout for our Wednesday night meeting.

We will be planning our shop tours starting in October. There are several members that

have volunteered to host short visits to their shops. We are looking at week nights or Saturdays. If you would like to attend these shop visits please let me or Dan Brandner know which days would work for you. We need your inputs.

We are in the planning mode for classes this fall and winter. The beginning classes will be on a schedule similar to last year. The advanced classes will be on a Saturday mornings with demonstrations showing unique and different processes used.

Joe did a great job showing how he makes and uses a vacuum chuck. He covered a lot of material in a short time. I have since been asked several questions and I think maybe Vacuum usage would be a Saturday advanced class in the near future.

We had a good turnout for the Open House. We had 4 lathes in use with several projects being worked on.

See you at the next meeting October 2nd at 6:00PM

Have fun turning!

**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](mailto:woodturnercvwg@gmail.com)**

## The Future of Woodturning and The Chainsaw Event

This is not a prediction of the future but looking at possible advances in woodturning techniques. In other words, change. Growing up, my father's mantra was there are two things one can count on in life: Death and Taxes. Later in life he revised that to three things: Death, Taxes and Change.

Probably over the last millennia woodturning was more of a foot driven enterprise and still is in many sections of the world. Along came electricity and motors and the birth of the power-driven woodturning lathe. With that came many innovations to improve turned items and improved turning tools.

A lot of time-tested single person-oriented artistry turners can make an unremarkable piece of firewood into a stunning piece of artistry. Certainly, there are islands of individuals who find the old way more appealing but the artistry that these old techniques produce will sometime become a much wanted and treasured piece and maybe for collectors or museums.

When the time is right and the technology is such that it can be translated into woodturning, someone will be enterprising enough to start the trend. I am thinking of lasers or something similar. Already there are laser engravers for wood in the form of CNC machines. The unique thing about lasers is the controls that make it useful from cutting metal to delicate eye surgery. Of course, the question is whether one could laser cut out a bowl.

Interestingly, the woodworking industry focuses on mass production using improvements like robotics, automation, and AI. Not very useful for the Individual or small shop. The other woodturning industry focuses on individual turners by improved woodturning tools with better metals and an array of specialty jigs that make a turning job easier with better results. Then there are the carbides. Continual improvement in carbide design is starting to match the results of the gouges. Carbide tools are

still in their infancy and cannot match the performance of gouges. Cutting edges of gouges having the ability to have the shape changed for individual preferences or for better cutting abilities. Carbides are stuck with one unchangeable cutting edge but variations in shape of carbides are making them a not far behind contender.

Groups like the Chippewa Valley Woodturners Guild are maintaining a public awareness of this long-practiced art form and will for many more years. Our members keep up with the latest improvements and will implement them if interested.

### Post Chainsaw Event Evaluation by the Board of Directors

The board members discussed likes and dislikes and problems we encountered. It was for all practical purposes a planning for future chainsaw events.

Some suggestions were:

- A rack for the face shields (which was already made by Bob Eberhardt.)

- An addition of four round carbides for groves.

- A pen sample at each lathe station.

- A point tool.

- A roughing gouge and a spindle gouge for turners not new to turning.

- A possible 4<sup>th</sup> lathe.

- Replacing the 10X12 unstable tent with a more stable 10x10.

- Logo shirts.

Among the problems seen were:

- Lack of art and craft vendors.

- Lack of food vendors.

- The lack of an ATM on the grounds.

The lack of an ATM and the many requests to use some form of credit instead of cash was more prevalent this year than in the past. At this point no decision is anticipated for the group to go to a credit card or app. method of payment.

## Other Topics

Two other subjects not related to the chainsaw event was the planned shop tour. At this point there are 8 members willing to show their shops. In past shop tours, all the tours were done on the same weekend. Shop Tours have been established, except for Chip's. Five shops on 10/26 (Joe Nycz's shop will be first then 4 shops close together near Eau Claire). Paul Meske's and Barry Grill's shops on December 7th.

Dan Brandner said that he is working with professional turner Phil Holtan for a return demonstration in March on how to handle a burl.

## Now for the bad news or Not

Information from a member who receives a newsletter put out by the Chippewa Valley Museum told of the board that the management of the museum and logging camp are considering a change in venue for the event. Although this would not be a disaster for the group it certainly would cut out an important avenue to reach the public which has been a key to membership and getting area interests in woodturning.

This chainsaw event in Eau Claire is the only one in the Midwest and it would be a loss for the surrounding area. The biggest problem is space at the site of the event. It is limited and that affects what is there for the attendees. The event is sponsored by the logging camp and museum and is an important fund raiser and even if held elsewhere in the Eau Claire area there is the problem of a sponsor. Perhaps the museum and logging camp will reconsider and reimagine the event on a bigger scale but better use of the space available.

**Tom Leonard**

## Statement from the Chippewa Valley Museum Happenings Newsletter

I promised a US Open Chainsaw Sculpture Championship wrap-up in the last newsletter, and a wrap-up you'll get.

The four-day event drew about 1,100 visitors, 30 carvers, 30 family and friends of carvers, and at last count, 156 volunteers (there are still some

more than 850 hours of service between July 31st - August 4th.

**It was a high** energy and visually stunning four days (but why did the hottest stretch of summer have to happen then?). Regardless of the weather, many good memories were made. I am thankful for all the support provided by volunteers, service clubs, museum members, sponsors, local businesses, and residents.

The US Open Chainsaw Sculpture Championship was a wonderful event, and it will be the last one here under that name. [*Ed. Note: Notice the wording in the last sentence*].

Jamie Doeren started the US Open Chainsaw Sculpture Championship in 2010. Wisconsin Logging Museum hired Doeren in 2011 to bring the event to Eau Claire. The logging museum, and then Chippewa Valley Museums, worked with him every year since. Doeren, an outstanding chainsaw carver himself, has decided to re-imagine the event he named and first developed. This includes changing venues. In other words, the US Open Chainsaw Sculpture Championship will not be held in Eau Claire next year. I do not know where it will be held, or when, or what it will look like. I do know I'm grateful for all that Jamie and the other carvers brought to the museums and to the community over the years. Thank you for the memories and the many beautiful carvings throughout our region.

What comes next? I don't know, to be honest. In some ways, this change comes at a good time. Chippewa Valley Museums has the opportunity to start something new. his new event can take the best from both the Wisconsin Logging Museum and former Chippewa Valley Museum and reflect who we are today as an organization. Like every program and event we do, we will develop something that looks to the future while respecting the past. We will consider how to best use available human and financial resources, and we will try to meet as many needs and desires as possible. This is an exciting time, thinking about and discussing a new signature event. I welcome your input.

*Carrie Ronnander* Executive Director, Chippewa Valley Museums

## Ron Bartz with the Prototype UWEC Mace



The University Wisconsin - Eau Claire asked the Chippewa Valley Woodturners Guild to make a replacement for their ceremonial staff. The university wanted the staff to be part of their 100th anniversary but could not locate it.

Ten members took on the job to make separate pieces of the mace and the pieces came together perfectly. The final mace was completed with a stand and plaque and presented to the university officials in May of 2016.

In 2023 the mace was found broken and again the Chippewa Valley Woodturners Guild was called upon to repair the mace. Bob Eberhardt took on the task and was able to repair the mace back to the original.

### Rules For Chopping Your Own Wood

1. Never park down hill of a tree you are cutting.
2. When in doubt, park twice as far from the tree as the tree is tall.
3. Just because you live within driving distant of a forest, does not make you a Lumber Jack.
4. Always use the neighbors truck.



### How much wood could a wood truck truck if a wood truck could truck wood?



# Member Safety Tips

From John Layde

There once was a turner named Bert  
Who only worked when alert  
a facemask to wear  
And dust worth a care  
He probably will never get hurt  
(More limericks next month)

From Gary Rambo

I put a furnace filter in front of a large box fan running on low speed every time I work in the shop to filter the air. Of course, I run a vacuum with a good filter every time I am sanding a turning project.

From Bob Eberhart

Eye protection is a must. Safety glasses or goggles are necessary. If turning larger items a face shield is also required.  
A good dust mask or respirator is a must.  
Wear comfortable clothing. loose clothing, jewelry, or long hair make for a big hazard. Make sure nothing can get tied up in a spinning lathe.  
A smock is nice to shed shavings and keep clothing clean.  
A clean work area void of slipping and tripping hazards. The floor can become very slippery with wood that has been treated with a wax like anchor seal.  
Hearing protection may be needed at times.  
[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

**October 2—Sphere Cutting Tool by Ron Bartz**

**November 6—Ringed Christmas Trees by Dan Brandner**

**December 4 — Turning Antler Pens by Tom Leonard**

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

**February 5—Not Yet Determined**

**March 5 - Not Yet Determined**

## October Open House Date

**October 12 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](mailto: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  
Sphere Cutting Tool  
Ron Bartz**



An example of a sphere cutting tool.

The famous angel oak is estimated to be between 300 and 400 years old. It's growing just outside of Charleston, South Carolina, in the Angel Oak Park on Johns Island. Angel oak is considered one of the oldest living oak trees east of the Mississippi River. Forty-thousand visitors come to the park each year to see this magnificent 65-foot-tall tree.



Ta Prohm is one of the many beautiful temples in Siem Reap, Cambodia. Its popularity comes from the ceiba and fig trees that are slowly reclaiming the centuries-old stonework, their roots encroaching on the ruins, in a scene that shows the power of nature. You can wander through the temple's corridors and explore the more natural maze created by the expanding roots.



## Interesting Survey of Woodturners

According to the results of a [2015 survey by Richmond Woodturners](#):

- **30%** of woodturners have been practicing their craft for more than ten years. However, another 28% have been turning for fewer than five years.
- **65%** have joined more than one woodturning club.
- **50%** have had some form of woodturning training, ranging from high school wood shop classes to professional seminars and workshops.
- **38%** have participated in a woodturning demonstration
- **45%** list a bowl gouge as their favorite woodturning tool
- **63%** are interested in collaborating on a turning project

See entire article at: [Statistics of Woodturners](#)

## Previous Demonstrations

September 2024 Vacuum

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

October 2023 Basket Weave Illusion

by John Layde

## Previous Pen Kits and Woods

September 2024 Cerejeire

For Aquilo

August 2024 Thuya Burl

For Diplomat

July 2024 Texas Ebony

for Sketch Pencils

June 2024 Kirandy

for Jazz bolt

May 2024 Lacebark Elm

for Exemplar/Professor

April 2024 Hard Rock Maple

for Dura Click Slim

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



# Vacuum Chuck

## Joe Nycz

Vacuum chucks have been on the market for a while. If you search the internet you'll see only a picture of the chuck for the attaching to the head stock listing for \$150 or more. However, the other working parts of the vacuum system are sometimes shown but it is not obvious whether these are included with the \$150 chuck or the cost of a whole system.

One thing that really impresses me about the Chippewa Valley Woodturners Guild is we have members with incredible engineering skills They look at a problem and figure out how to solve it by making it themselves.

Joe Nycz understands how to make things that many of us would just buy. This demonstration was about how to make a vacuum chuck system with all the bells and whistles of a commercial made system.

First, he showed how to make the chuck using MDF with a groove to attach to a PVC pipe to form the chuck part that holds the blank. He used craft foam to cover the face of the PVC pipe and put a hole in it. Next, he re-purposed a curtain rod to provide a conduit to the vacuum hose and added a modified bearing to turn with the chuck without turning the rod.

The vacuum pump itself consisted of a filter (car vacuum filter), a chuck, a vacuum chamber, a gauge, and a vacuum bleed valve to reduce the pressure while the vacuum is still running. Seems simple enough.

Joe offered these tips to be successful using a vacuum pump:

Line up piece with center hole and guide to vacuum.

Center bowl with the vacuum off.

End grain not suited for vacuum. Vacuum pulls through pores and there is little suction. However, this depends on the density of the wood. The denser the better.

Vacuum chucks are an alternative to maxi or mini chucks for holding a bowl or plate tightly enough to finish turning the outside and for finishing.

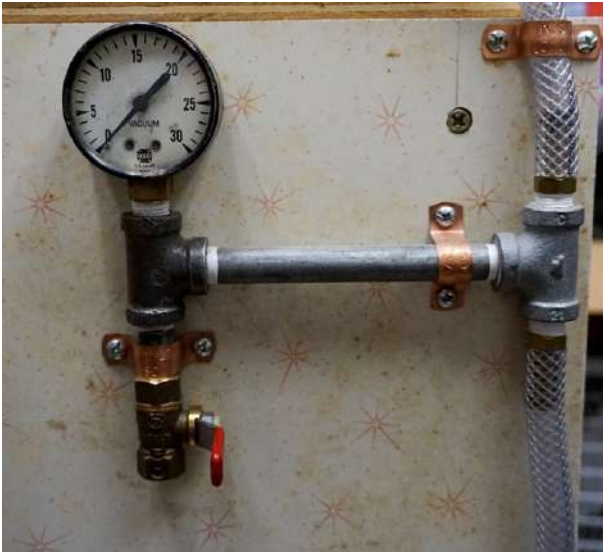
Thanks Joe. It was very informative.

Tom Leonard



# A closer look at Joe Nycz's Vacuum Apparatus

Pressure Gauge

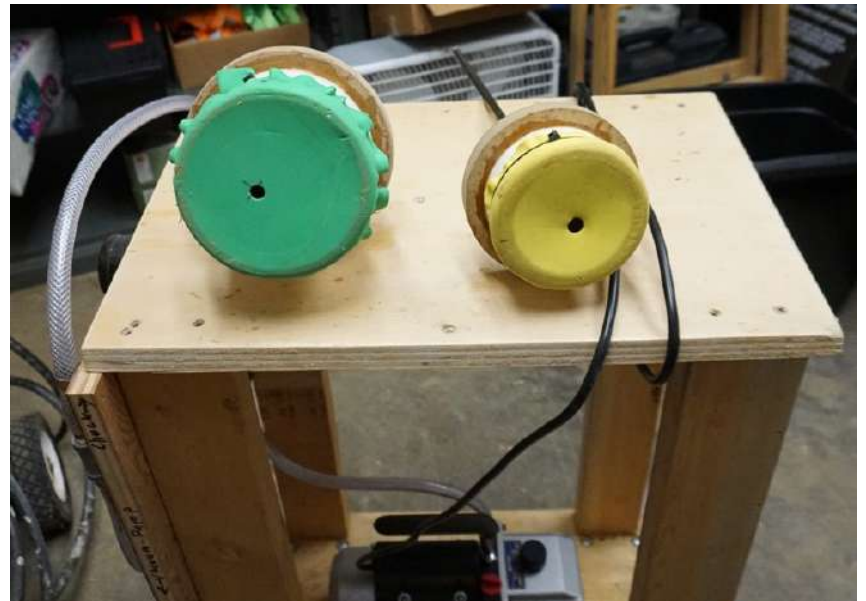


Car Vacuum Filter



End View of Completed Chucks

Completed Chucks with Modified Curtain Rods



Vacuum Pump



## John Mueller

John obtained some large pieces of Yellow Wood (not Yellow Heart) that he has been turning. The big bowl is of Yellow Wood. He turned a smaller bowl that was very similar in color and grain to Yellow Wood but was Myrtle. As with any wood, color and grain can vary from piece to piece. This Myrtle just happened to be a bright yellow.



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

# PEN WOOD OF THE MONTH

**Common Name(s):** Cerejeira, amburana

**Scientific Name:** *Amburana cearensis*

**Distribution:** Brazil and Bolivia

**Tree Size:** 65-100-130 ft (20-30 m) tall,  
2-3 ft (.6-1 m) trunk diameter

**Color/Appearance:** Heartwood ranges from pale yellow to medium golden brown. Sapwood isn't clearly distinguished from heartwood. Quartersawn surfaces can have moderate ribbon-stripe figure, resembling satinwoods. Wavy grain or feather crotch are other figured grain patterns seen, especially in veneer form.

**Grain/Texture:** Usually straight or shallowly interlocked. With an uneven coarse texture and slightly oily feel. Good natural luster.

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

**Workability:** Overall easy to work with both machine and hand tools. Care should be taken on quartersawn surfaces with interlocked grain to avoid tear-out. Turns, glues, and finishes well.

**Odor:** Has a characteristic odor similar to vanilla when being worked.

**Allergies/Toxicity:** Besides the standard health risks associated with any type of wood dust, no further health reactions have been associated with cerejeira. See the articles Wood Allergies and Toxicity and Wood Dust Safety for more information.

**Pricing/Availability:** Commonly available as both plain and figured veneer (usually crotch or wavy grain). Also exported occasionally as solid lumber and turning or craft blanks. Prices are in the mid-range for an imported hardwood, though figured pieces can be much more expensive.

**Sustainability:** This wood species is not listed in the CITES Appendices, but is on the IUCN Red List. It is listed as endangered due to a population reduction of

over 50% in the past three generations, caused by a decline in its natural range, and exploitation.

**Common Uses:** Veneer, furniture, flooring, carvings, windows, doors, and interior joinery.

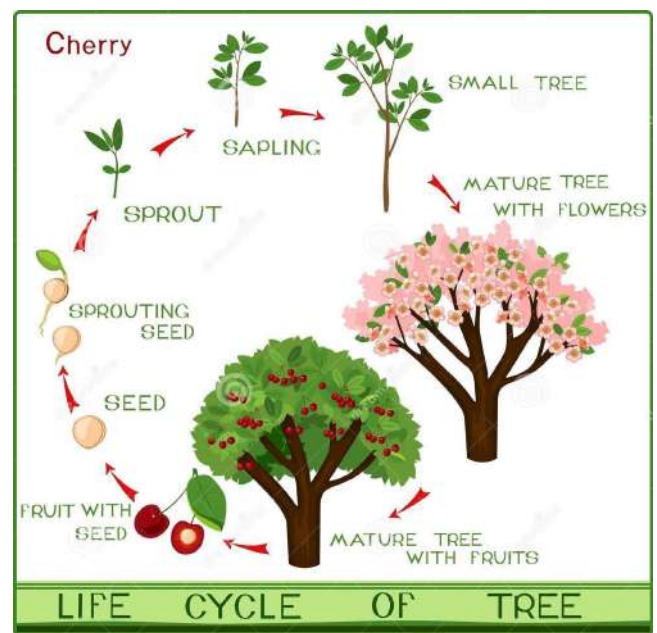
**Comments:** For commercially exported cerejeira, the wood is most often seen as decorative veneer—sometimes as crotch veneer. Figured pieces with interlocked grain can resemble satinwood, and the wood is sometimes sold under its genus name as its common name, amburana—a word relating to the amber-like wood of the tree. Source: [Cerejeire](#)

## More Information on the Cerejeire Tree

Cerejeira is a Portuguese word for Cherry tree.

What I found confusing about this tree was that a fully flowered tree has few if any leaves. Looking at a life cycle diagram, the fully flowered Cerejeire tree drops the flowers and the flowers are replaced by leaves. The cherry fruit then grows with the leaves.

Turns out my confusion was due to a lack of knowledge of cherry trees. All cherry trees have the same life cycle. Inquiring minds are now satisfied.



# PEN KIT OF THE MONTH

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Turners Warehouse has this to say about the Aquilo pen : "With its mechanism mounted in its finial, and a narrow tube to allow plenty of meat on the finished pen, the Aquilo features an engraved and enameled motif on its nib section and a super-smooth twist action finial. Its modern, sleek and well-balanced offers pen makers versatility, both in the finished shape of the turning and in the ability to cast tube-in blanks which feature more bulky elements such a watch parts and other decorative items that require a bit more space.

Made to the same exacting standards and tolerances that our customers have come to expect from Beaufort Ink, the Aquilo pen kit is available in a choice of upgrade gold, chrome, gunmetal or black chrome, and is supplied with a Parker style Beaufort Ink refill."

A starter set of 4 pens cost \$53.49 and individually the pen cost \$11.49. The pen uses a 11/32" drill bit and the bushings cost \$7.49. These Beaufort pen kits are British and in Britain each pen would cost £ 8.85 (\$11.55).

**Cerejeire**



**Maple**



**Antler**



**Confetti**



# The Cerejeira Tree



# Small Uses for Cerejeira Wood

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Above: Pen Blank

Middle: A Crotch Veneer

Below: Veneers



# Large Uses for Cerejeira

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Above Left: Sofa

Above Right: Bench

Below: Credenza







**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



**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:

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January 10-11, 2025  
Charlotte Harbor Events  
Center,  
Punta Gorda, FL



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



## Ornaments with Finials

October 12, 2024

1:00 PM - 4:00 PM ET

Cindy Drozda

**Vendor Showcase**  
Free & Interactive Zoom Meetings

Saturday Oct 19th 12:00 - 4:00 PM EDT

# HALLOWEEN

Tool Showcase      Weekend Specials  
Mini demos      Q&A with all of us  
Fun Time Hangout      Bring the Popcorn

Turning Wood.com      Live Online Woodturning  
Cindy Drozda  
Cork and Popcorn

WOODTURNING      TOOL STORE      John Jordan

## Halloween Vendor Showcase

October 19, 2024

12:00 PM - 4:00 PM ET

Cindy Drozda