





Tom Leonard demonstrated how to make pens from antlers. Topics covered cutting the antler, drilling the antler, finishing the antler and assembling the pen.

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PREZ SEYZ

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Other Positions

Membership Director Henry Troost

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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



Now that winter cold is here, I hope deer hunters had a fun hunt and were able to get out and enjoy the outdoors. Thanksgiving came and went and now on to Christmas. I have been busy with Christmas gifts in the workshop and hope you are able to spend some time in your shop also.

We had our final round of shop visits to Paul's and Barry's. It was a big hit for those that could make it.

The advanced class for November was held Saturday

November 16 starting at 8:00 am. The subject was vacuum chucking. We had some hands on time and everyone had a chance to see and do a few things involving vacuum chucking.

We had a good turnout for the December Open House. Several members brought in their tools from home and were able to get them sharpened. My wife put together a tray of Christmas cookies so we were able to partake in some sweet treats. Thank you Pam!

At our last meeting of 2024, Tom Leonard demonstrated how to turn a pen from a piece of deer antler. Great job Tom!

The presidents challenge for December was something to do with Christmas. We had three winners with some beautiful turnings.

We have had a few members sign up for the next beginning class starting in January. Times and dates to be announced at the next meeting.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

See you at the next meeting January 8th at 6:00PM

Have fun turning! Bob

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

Repairing a Lathe Issue

I bought a used PSI lathe from one of our members. It looked good and ran just fine. It had a variable speed control which was not an absolute necessity for me but it adds to the experience of woodturning. One aspect about the speed control concerns a safety issue. For safety purposes the lathe speed should be reduced before turning the lathe off. This is because when turning the lathe back on it won't be at full speed. I found that having to turn the speed down was a bit annoying because not being able to turn my Rikon nonvariable speed lathe down before turning off was normal for me, but I realize it could be a safety issue and safety is always a prime consideration.

Everything on the lathe worked, except the external light. At first, I thought it was the bulb, but it was not. Taking off a back plate I discovered that the connection from the light to a small circuit board was shorted out. What was interesting was that the LCD readout was connected to the same circuit board and it worked, so the board was not totally fried. However, due to my absolute lack of DIY abilities, I attempted to disconnect the lead from the LCD and forgot to disconnect the power. So, the entire circuit board was fried.

My thought was to get a replacement circuit board and I contacted PSI and talked to Ken who happens to be the engineer on the PSI lathes. After giving him the name of the lathe and the description of the wiring, I was surprised to find out that this lathe was at least 14 years old. Ken said a lathe this old may be good for another couple of years. Hopefully by the time it fails I would have given up turning.

However, the good news was that Ken thought he had a circuit board for that model and he was able to find it, though he would not guarantee that it would work. I received the board and half was similar and half not similar to the old board. I then consulted Bob Eberhardt and after showing Bob a couple of pictures of the wiring on the lathe, Bob told me that the dissimilar connectors were technically the same and were designed to be adapted to dissimilar connections. All that was needed was to pull out the pin connectors which had been inserted into slot connectors. I call them slot connectors because I have no idea what the proper name is for them. However, I found out that male and female designations are still in use. So what I did was to make a male connector into a female connector by pulling out the male part. Has to be a better way to describe this process.

Surprisingly with my absolute disability to electrical things and being extremely careful to be sure the power cord was disconnected, I was able to replace the circuit board and connect all the connecting wires. With much trepidation I connected the power cord surprisingly the light and LCD speed readout worked.

One of the common comments about new cars is that the engineers disregard how the results of their engineering effects the maintenance and repairs. Every thing is squeezed in with little room for working on a problem. I bring this up because that is the way this lathe was designed. The area where the circuit board was placed was in a small cramped spot. It took me a while to get the circuit board attached to the lathe frame. It required a small screw and a small plastic bushing to separate the circuit board from the metal frame. The limited space and short wire to the LCD required a bit of off color full language to get connected.

This lathe also has four wires coming from a control unit and all four are out in the open. I don't

know if there is a way to attach them out of the way. I'll bet OSHA would not have approve of this.

Tom Leonard



EDITOR MUSINGS





Left Above: The tight space where the circuit board is located.

Right Above: The loose wires from the switch box. The wire on the left is the power cord. The next wire goes to the motor. The next wire is the power to the small circuit board for the light and the speed LED. The next smaller wire with telephone type connectors have something to do with the variable speed.

What is Chatoyance?

Like snowflakes, no two pieces of wood are exactly the same. That's one of the things that makes woodworking so much fun. Like Forrest Gump said (using a little artistic license), wood is like a box of chocolates. You never know what you're gonna get. It's so cool to clean up a piece of wood, the right piece of wood, and see amazing grain start to pop out at you.

The characteristic we're specifically looking at here is chatoyancy. Now, there's no such thing as chatoyance wood. Chatoyance is a characteristic that shows up in some pieces, not in others. There's no specific specie we can call chatoyance wood. That being said, it seems to show up with the most frequency in maple.



Picture is Myrtle wood which shows chatoyance

One cause of chatoyance is the tree being under stress as it grows, causing the grain to curl back on itself. This results in an effect that basically looks like waves within the wood. This is an amazing and beautiful 3D look that changes as you look at the wood from different angles.

You can see chatoyancy in wood, to some extent, as soon as you start to clean up the surface. The smoother the wood gets, the more the chatoyancy will show up. But the real trick is to use mineral spirits to show the wood grain. This gives you a great idea of what the piece will look like under finish.

There are so many amazing aspects of wood. That's why we have an entire section that deals with nothing but understanding wood. Spalting, expansion and contraction, bark inclusions—there are so many things that make each piece of wood unique. **George Vondriska**

Chatoyance





Cross Drilled Christmas Ornaments

Bob's Eberhardt's demonstration was two part—Making a wooden Morris Taper Drive for use with the ornament turning. A video is included showing the taper making process. A picture taken at Bob's demonstration explains a measurement gauge which Bob said he bought 25 years ago at Rockler and has no particular name. I was not able to find anything like it online.

Cross Drill Christmas Ornaments

Turn a Wood Morse Taper Mandrel





"Are you ready for me to read the instructions yet?"

WOODWORKING HUMOR

We had a nice tour of Paul Mesk's "Sawdust Shop" in Chippewa Falls. This is an unheated shop in the detached garage that was his dad's. He makes effective use of the space though, unfortunately doesn't turn too much in the winter months. From there we traveled to Bloomer to Barry Grill's shop. He has a lot of equipment, tools and jigs from both wood working and wood turning. A lot of blanks surrounded us that he will be working on this winter. His shop was heated with a wood stove making it nice and cozy and allows him to burn up his scraps and cutoffs. **Dan Brandner**



Barry Grill





Tour Members



Members on tour: Dan Brandner; John Layde; Gordy Simon; Kate Mullins; Paul Meske; Jack Corey; Bob Eberhardt; Gary Rambo; and John Mueller. All are ready to depart to Barry Grill's shop.

Member Safety Tips







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

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

February 5–John Layde – Segmented round Frames

March 5 - Brent English–Lathe Maintenance

March 22—Phil Holtan—Cherry Burls—Grain Orientation and Multiple Cuts

April 2–Not Yet Determined

May 7- Not Yet Determined

June 4-Not Yet determined

October Open House Date

January 11 from 8:00 am to 12:00pm. If coming after 10:00, please inform us through the web site the night before at: woodturnercvwg@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 Making a Wooden Live Center Cone with Baltic Birch Glue-up





INTERESTING TREES

Focus On Tree Varieties Ebony







Ebony: The Million Dollar Tree Ebony Tree Varieties

Don't Have a Lathe? Use Your Car and a Plow



Previous Demonstrations

December 2024 Antler Pens Tom Leonard November 2024 Ringed Christmas Tree by Dan Brandner October 2024 Turning a Sphere by Ron Bartz 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

Previous Pen Kits and Woods

December 2024 Silver Wattle No Pen Kit

November 2024 Madrone Burl for EDC Kole Click Pen

October 2024 Zambezi Teak for Fiber Tip Ink Pen

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

December 2023 Orange Agate for Ultra Cigar pen

Drilling, Turning and Finishing Antler Pens

Fist step is to clean the antler to remove dirt. A spray nozzle wash usually works fine but a small amount of dish soap and scrub brush can be used.



Cutting the antler for a pen blank size: Getting a length not too curvy and getting a large enough circumference for the drill size.





Drilling can be tricky: Mounting the blank on a drilling jig requires paying attention to where the curve is between the top of the blank to the bottom of the blank. Draw a line that would seem like the straight drill hole will go completely through. Use the drill bit against the blank to determine whether it is possible to go from top to bottom with that size drill bit and have enough blank to avoid a break through. The antler blank should be longer than needed so that if a break through is made at the end of the blank, the blank will be still usable.







When drilling an antler, the drill hole will not reflect an even in and out. It is common for one end of the antler to show all outer bone and the other end to show some or a lot of inner bone (Cancellous). Turning will not be any different, but finishing will make a difference.

Glue in tube. Plug ends of tube to prevent Ca glue build-up in tube. One can use an apple, pear, beeswax, or any thing with the consistency of either of those and can be easily pushed out. If not use a round file to remove plug of Ca or a needle file and twist back and forth in the tube.



Squaring the blank: A tricky procedure. Try to get the end as square as possible. A sander can be used to square the ends or a blank trimmer. However, my method is to put the blanks on the lathe using the bushings to hold the blank in place. Then turn the blank until at least half of the blank is round. I then use a pen blank drilling chuck from Penn State Ind. The blank is put in the drilling chuck holding the rounded sides. A carbide tool is used to square the ends. Once both ends are squared the blank is put back on the mandrel to finish turning. If the ends are not entirely square, use a sander to square off. (Note: don't be aggressive. Take a little off at a time). If one is confident enough, use a bandsaw saw to square off the ends.

Guest Demonstrators in March

March 5 at our regular meeting, Brent English, owner of Robust will demonstrate lathe maintenance.

March 22 on a Saturday, Phil Holtan will demonstrate how to orient and make multiple cuts on Cherry Burls. This demonstration will be from 9:00 to mid-afternoon.



Antlers do not need much sanding. It is especially important not to sand the Cancellous of the antler until it has a couple of layers of Ca glue. Apply 2 layers of thick Ca glue (GLUE BOOST-Blue label). Sand with a high grit . I use 800. The lathe should be off with these applications.



Apply two layers of thin Ca glue (GLUBOOST—Orange label) sanding in between with 1200 grit. Wipe off blank after each sanding. Do all of the above with the lathe off.



After the applications of Ca glue, sanding, apply a plastic polish (ULTRA GLOSS). Apply two coats with the lathe off then turn on lathe to get a shiny surface. Apply more coats if shine is not acceptable.



The final finish should show a straight line across the blank after application of the plastic polish.



The final assembly of the Mini 30 Cal. Bolt pen. This pen was given away to a member in a drawing. Steve Hays won the pen.

Scenes From the Demonstration







Though the members are looking bored, it was a pause during the assembly of the pen. The spring went missing and while three people searched for the spring, the attendees relaxed and chatted among themselves. The spring was found on the floor (not an unusual situation with those pesky little pieces of twisted metal). The spring was deformed and after some stretching, the pen worked as expected.

On the bottom left: An array of antler pens .

Bottom Right: The demonstrators finishing kit.

There once was a demo with deer horn I had some old antlers so thought born I lopped off a piece It smelled like dead geese But today a smart pen I have worn

John Layde



Names for the parts of the antler vary from source to source. Do deer hunters really care what each part is called except the number of points the antler has?



What determines the color of antlers?

As fall winds down, I'm sure you've seen many pics of happy hunters with their trophies. I am continually impressed with the size, growth patterns and color of antlers. Age and nutrition are mostly responsible for the size of free-ranging bucks' antlers, with a side of genetics thrown in, but what about their color? Is color driven by genetics, environmental factors, or something else?

Several factors may be responsible. According to Dr. George Bubenik, world renowned antler growth expert and former professor of zoology at Guelph University in Ontario, antler color depends partly on the amount of oxidized blood on the antlers (from velvet shedding) and partly from a chemical reaction between the blood and juices from plants on which the antlers are rubbed. If a buck begins rubbing his antlers before the velvet and blood have completely dried, the blood stains the antler and gives it a darker color. The predominant species of trees in an area also influence the color. Pines allegedly cause darker antlers, likely from bucks rubbing on exposed sap after they break the tree's cambium layer. A buck's genetics may also influence color. Some bucks are predisposed to having lighter or darker antlers, and some rub more or fewer trees. A buck's age can play a role as older bucks tend to rub more than younger animals. Finally, the time of year can influence color as antlers generally lighten over time due to the bleaching effect of moisture and sunlight.

Do individual bucks maintain a consistent color from year to year? According to Dr. Mickey Hellickson from Orion Wildlife Management Services in south Texas, antlers are similarly colored from one year to the next within individual bucks with the following exceptions.

1. Within years – not counting the blood stain, antlers begin lightly colored immediately after velvet shedding. They darken with rubbing, with this darker color lasting until winter when they lighten from prolonged exposure to the sun.

2. Across years – antlers gradually become darker as an individual buck increases in age, likely due to increased rubbing behaviors as his dominance standing improves.

What Determines a Buck's Antler Color? | National Deer Association

I always thought that the inner part of an antler was similar to bone marrow although blood is involved. Looking at these diagrams the inner Bony Core seems more akin to heart wood and the Germinal Epidermal Layer akin to sap wood.



Henry Troost



Henry made several whistles. One with the ability to vary the sound similar to a slider on a trombone. He also made a natural edge bowl.



Dan Brandner







Dan made a nice sized Walnut bowl and several tree ornaments. He made a couple with bent tops. When asked how he did it, Dan said he sanded them down. Nice innovation, Dan.

John Layde



John made a segmented vessel with spacers. The idea was to put a light inside which would be an interesting lamp of sorts. John said the problem with this type of segmented form was that he wasn't able to sand in between the spaces. He said he wouldn't make another one.



Bob Eberhardt



Bob made several different types of ornaments that demonstrated types of turning techniques, such as inside out turning and cross drilled.



Rich Thelen



Rich made a small bowl out of a left over piece from another project.



Tom Leonard



Tom showed the November's pen kit and wood on the left called EDC Click . Wood was Madrone burl. The other two are acrylics: Gum pods and Glow Powder; and a hybrid with Scottish Oak.

The October pen wood and kit was Fiber Tip fountain pens. Wood was Zambezi teak and an acrylic call Superstrata.







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

Dan Brandner





Above Right: Dan made two bowls from Maple wood. The bigger bowl shows chatoyance effect. See page 4 and video about chatoyance.

Bottom Left and Right: Dan made a honey dipper that serves as a top for a honey jar. The dipper and top was made of Maple and the handle was made from Cocobolo.





Annual Gift Exchange



President's Challenge Anything related to Christmas

The winners in the President's Challenge are from left to right: Henry Troost, John Layde and Dan Brandner. Since they were the only three competing, all were given a prize and no specific Christmas themed turning was chosen as a winner.







Silver wattle

Silver wattle scientifically known as Acacia dealbata is a species of Acacia belonging to the Fabaceae/Leguminosae (Pea family). The plant is native to southeastern Australia in New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, and the Australian Capital Territory and widely introduced in Mediterranean, warm temperate, and highland tropical landscapes. It favors disturbed places in coastal prairies, riparian areas and coniferous forests. The Latin specific epithet dealbata also means "covered in a white powder". Few of the popular common names of the plant are **Mimosa, Silver wattle, Sydney black wattle, Wattle bark, black wattle, blue wattle and Tasmania mimosa.**

Silver wattle is often confused with green wattle (Acacia decurrens), but is distinguishable by the small, silvery hairs that grow on its twigs. It spreads via rhizomes and seeds, and easily resprouts after being cut. Acacia dealbata changes soil chemistry by fixing nitrogen and the plants' fallen leaves may have allopathic effects that prevent the growth of native understory plants. Like many acacias, silver wattle is commonly planted as an ornamental. The plant is attractive to wildlife, and also is commonly grown by the cut-flower industry both for its foliage and flowers. It also is known for its Nitrogen fixing abilities that benefit other plants growing nearby as well as the tree itself.

Plant Description

Silver wattle is a large, unarmed, fast-growing evergreen spreading tree or bushy shrub that grows about 1.5-10 m tall, but occasionally reaching up to 30 m in height. The plant is found growing in railways, roadside, natural forests, natural grasslands, riverbanks, montane forests, along watercourses, in dry sclerophyllous forests and woodlands. The plant requires well-drained and slightly acidic soil.

Stems

The bark of this species is mostly smooth and either grey, grayish-brown, brown or dark brown in color. However, older trunks may become deeply fissured. Younger branches are rounded or slightly angular with ridges towards their tips. These branches are usually finely hairy and conspicuously bluish-green (i.e. glaucous) or whitish in color due to the presence of a powdery substance (i.e. they are pruinose). The young foliage-tips are white, whitish-yellow or cream-colored and densely covered in fine hairs (i.e. velvetytomentose).

Fruit

Fertile flowers are followed by an elongated and somewhat flattened pod (20-115 mm long and 6-14 mm wide). These pods are not, or only slightly, constricted between some or all of the seeds and are either straight or slightly curved. They are bluish-green (i.e. glaucous) or covered in a whitish powdery substance (i.e. pruinose) when young and generally turn greyish-brown or purplish-brown in color as they mature. Fruit are normally present during late spring and summer (i.e. mostly from November to January, but sometimes through to March). Each pod contains several seeds (about 4 mm long) that have a small fleshy structure (i.e. aril) attached to them.

Traditional uses and benefits of Silver wattle

- The essential oil is soothing and reducing the nerves, astringent and antiseptic.
- They are used in the treatment of diarrhea and dysentery, and can also be helpful in cases of internal bleeding.
- When applied externally, as a wash, they are used to treat wounds and other skin problems, hemorrhoids, perspiring feet, some eye problems, as a mouth wash etc.

Culinary Uses

- Flowers are rich in pollen; they are often used in fritters.
- Gum that exudes naturally from the trunk is edible and is used as a substitute for Gum Ara bic.
- Larger quantities can be obtained by tapping the trunk.
- Some species produce a gum that is dark and is liable to be astringent and distasteful, but others produce a light gum and this is sweet and pleasant.
- It can be sucked like candy or soaked in water to make a jelly.
- Gum can be warmed when it becomes soft and chew able.
- · Leaves are sometimes used in Indian chutney.

Other facts

- Yellow dye is obtained from the flowers.
- Green dye is obtained from the seed pods.
- Extensive root system of this plant helps to prevent soil erosion.
- Tannin is obtained from the bark.
- It is a satisfactory fuel wood, is used as a furni ture timber and occasionally for wood wool, poles, and has good gluing properties.
- Its kraft pulping and paper making properties make it suitable for a range of paper and paper board products such as liner boards, bag and wrapping papers, white boards and writing and printing paper.
- Flowers are used for perfume production and French manufacturers recognize the extract for its ability as a blender and 'smoothing agent' for synthetics and as a fixative in high grade per fume.
- · dealbata is a valuable source of pollen for bees.
- Its gum may be used as a substitute for gum Arabic and occasionally its bark is used for tanning.

production but is lower yielding and poorer quality when compared with A. mearnsii.

- Wool may be dyed yellow-fawn or green using A. dealbata leaves depending on the mordents used.
- Its young branches and immature fruit have a whitish-colored powdery or waxy coating that gives them a frosty appearance.
- It has been used in windbreaks and also to con trol soil erosion, stabilizes hillsides and gullies.
- An essential oil obtained from the flowers is used as a fixative in high-grade perfumery prod ucts.
- In some European countries, the flowers are frequently given to Women on International Women's day.

Silver wattle facts and health benefits

More information on wattle that is more than one probably needs to know but maybe someone might be interested anyway

Editors Note on Silver Wattle

There is little to be found on woodworking examples of Silver Wattle. Most of what was found was examples of Black Wattle. Even the Wood Database is lacking information on the Silver Wattle. And any other variety of Wattle.

One confusing aspect of Wattle is that one variety is called Mimosa. This variety is common in Australia. The Mimosa familiar in the United States is a different species. Originating in Asia and has flowers that are similar but distinct from the Wattle variety.

The word wattle is traced back to Teutonic times which means to weave. Trees that provide flexible vines, branches and sticks were used to make fences, roofs and wall. Australian legume trees provide these type of branches and vines and have been given the common name of wattle.

No pen kit this month due to punky wood.













SILVER WATTLE TURNINGS







Ways to Save on AAW Symposium Registration

Registration is open for the 2025 AAW International Woodturning Symposium! Join nearly 2,000 other woodturning enthusiasts June 12-15 in Saint Paul, Minnesota at the best rate possible by registering now with these great ways to save:

- Register by April 11 to get the early bird rate and save up to \$120 -

- AAW Members get an exclusive discount of \$70 off -

- Request a Chapter Group discount to save \$40 -

REGISTER FOR EARLY RATE





2025 Southwest Florida

Wood Art Exposition

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

TAW 36th Annual Woodturning Symposium

January 31 - February 1, 2025 Marriott Hotel and Convention Center Franklin, TN



Fifth Oregon Woodturning Symposium March 14-16, 2025

Albany, OR



2025 AAW International Woodturning

Symposium

June 12-15, 2025 Saint Paul RiverCentre St. Paul, MN