

# T U R N I N G

Threads

February  
2025



Bob Eberhardt substituted for John Layde's scheduled Segmented Round Picture Frame demonstration with a very informative demonstration on finial turning.

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**Vice President  
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**Treasurer  
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**Program Director  
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**Other Positions**

**Membership  
Director  
Henry Troost**

**Newsletter Editor  
Tom Leonard**

**Web Master  
Dan Brandner**



We just went from the longest coldest month and are now into the shortest month. I hope this finds everyone in good health and doing well.

We had a gentleman give our club large quantity of wood for our members. Mary Weider single handedly picked the wood up. The wood was stored in his basement which required Mary to carry a large amount of large heavy logs up the steps and load into her vehicle.

She then took the logs to my house and delivered them to my shop where I processed the logs onto bowl blanks for the members. She then loaded the blanks back into her vehicle along with all the scraps. She then discarded the scraps and delivered the blanks to the clubhouse for the members to take free. It is members like Mary that makes this club such a great club. I want to speak for all the members and say ( THANK YOU ) for all your hard work!

Our beginning classes are going great with great progress being made. This week we started making a bowl.

We had a great turnout for the open house with all the lathes in use. People were busy making bowls and others were making pens and others were sharpening their tools while others were processing wood with the bandsaw. It was a very busy 4 hours.

Bob Eberhardt demonstrated how to turn finials. I hope everyone was able to pick up a few pointers.

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

## Looking to 2025

I have been sluffing off of late. My February pen was done a while ago. And despite the fact that I do have some woodturning projects, of which the March pen would be foremost. These are new projects that I could be doing. These would be different for me and require more time. After reading the article that Joe Nycz shared with us and considering my sloppy ventilation setup, I don't think I will try anything in my shop any bigger than a pen.

Selling off my woodworking tools and equipment was my first step in getting out of woodworking. Getting out of woodturning is getting close because different lodgings for my wife and I are calling with every medical visit. My wish would be to have an area where I can continue making pens. I still have my pen lathe that I bought years ago. I bought it and set it up in the garage so I could turn acrylics. It was still smelly but at least not in the house. But I eventually abandoned the garage and turned acrylics in my basement shop. I just opened two windows and turned on a fan. It was still smelly but somewhat contained.

I somewhat envy those who have shops that were planned and have adequate dust removal in mind. There are a lot of us with midi lathes and there are also a growing number of members who are purchasing the big ones. I'm amazed that these behemoths can be moved. I ask Bob how he



moved his new Robust and he said that has moving heavy weights down to a science. I can agree with that. Having an engineering mind certainly helps.

My woodturning skills have always been at the lower end. It occurs to me now and then that maybe I would have been a better woodturner if I got into woodturning earlier. It seems the most skilled and most knowledgeable have been turning or woodworking for many-many years and got a lot of practice and instruction from relatives. But I had no one with any usable manual skills to look to. There was golf, which some played and why not, there was a golf course off our back yards. I tried golf, and learned to not take it seriously. I decided keeping score was a foolish endeavor and only for the overly competitive.

Wood turning is similar. I don't really take it seriously for myself. I just do simple turnings with no pressure to do anything spectacular. I see the well turned items that our members make and I think of what skills came into play to achieve these treasures. I was not made to be so skillful. I can be somewhat scattered brain at times or at least not a critical analyzer enough to obtain a high level of skill.

These musings are sounding a bit maudlin. Perhaps, but I am slowing down and with slowing down comes lesser activities. My musings have been based on my experiences in woodturning of which I have not been doing of late. And the less woodturning experiences the less to write about and this musings certainly reflects that. This year is my eleventh editing and creating the newsletter, which I still contend is a monthly publication rather than a newsletter. Not really much news as news is defined.

I am not bowing out of this group just yet and don't plan on bowing out of this world anytime soon, but changes are upon me as with all members. My father used to tell me when I was young that a person could count on two things: Death

and Taxes. You would think it would be Taxes and Death, but the two are interchangeable I suppose. Later in my father's life, he added a new element to his two things. It was now: Death, Taxes and Change. I wonder if he would have lived longer if he would have added a fourth or even a fifth.

## Newsletter and Web Site Submission to the AAW

One of the reasons why the newsletter and web site was redone was the thought of submitting the newsletter and web site to the AAW for judging. Dan Brandner and I have worked together to make changes that would make the newsletter look more professional. We even decided what 4 editions in 2024 to submit. But it seems that the AAW has considered judging of web sites and newsletters to be "behind them" and are concentrating on the community impact and communications excellence from the various woodturning groups.

Here are the qualifications:

### Community Impact Judging Guidelines:

A panel of judges including AAW staff and member volunteers will review the submissions and vote on a winner. Your community impact submission will be judged on the following criteria:

- Community Need – what inspired your chapter to implement a community impact project?
- Implementation Strategy – how did your chapter organize and execute your community project?
- Safety – how did your chapter emphasize safe woodturning practices with your community project?
- Innovation – what innovative or creative approaches did your chapter implement to reach your project goals?
- Results – what effect did your chapter have on your community?

- Supporting Evidence – what data or information can you provide that clearly shows your chapter had a positive impact on your community?

### Chapter Communications Judging Guidelines:

A panel of judges including AAW staff and member volunteers will review the submissions and vote on a winner. Your chapter communications submission will be judged on the following criteria:

- Creativity – are your chapter's communications original and engaging enough to catch the attention of your intended audience?
- Design – are your communications designed with a contemporary and engaging look and feel?
- Quality – how clearly and effectively (without errors) did your chapter's communications convey your message to your intended audience?
- Content – is the content in your chapter's communications engaging, well written, and suitable for your audience?
- User Friendliness – are your chapter's communications designed and implemented to provide a seamless and enjoyable experience for the users?
- Effectiveness – did the communication achieve its purpose?
- Safety – when applicable, did your chapter emphasize safe woodturning practices in your communications?

I have yet to interpret these guidelines. I read them and feel I am in a meeting of managers preparing a PR statement that was meant to be impressive but unintelligible to the audience it was meant for. How does one prove your communications were "enjoyable for the users." Exactly who are these users to which are being referred?

**Tom Leonard**

# Special Saturday Demonstration In March

Phil Holtan will be giving a special demonstration on Saturday March 22, 2025 from 9:00am to mid afternoon. Previously in March of 2024 he presented his 10 commandments of turning and his sequence of turning a natural edge bowl. (See March 2024 issue of the newsletter). This time Phil will be demonstrating grain orientation and multiple cuts on Cherry burls.



## Curious About AAW Awards

If you are a AAW member and are curious about “awards,” go to the AAW website. At the top of the page, click on “Chapters.” Go down the list and click on “Opportunities, Scholarships, Awards, and More.” Then select “Chapter Awards.” Next find the page with “Community Impact and Communications Excellence Award Requirements.” At the bottom of the page are “AAW Chapter Award Winners.”

An easier way to view this for members and nonmembers is the link below..

[AAW Awards](#)

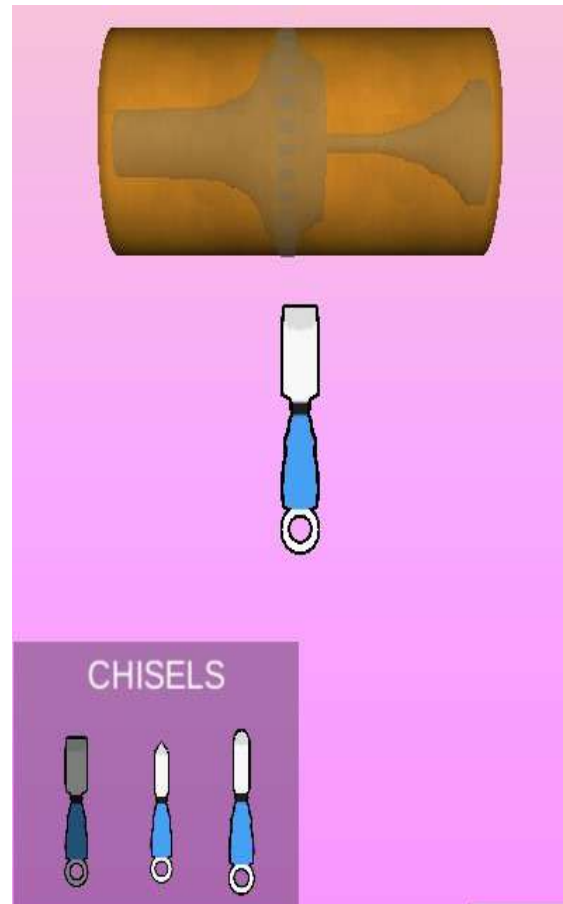
**Barry Grill demonstrated the ins and outs of turning wet wood and dry wood.**



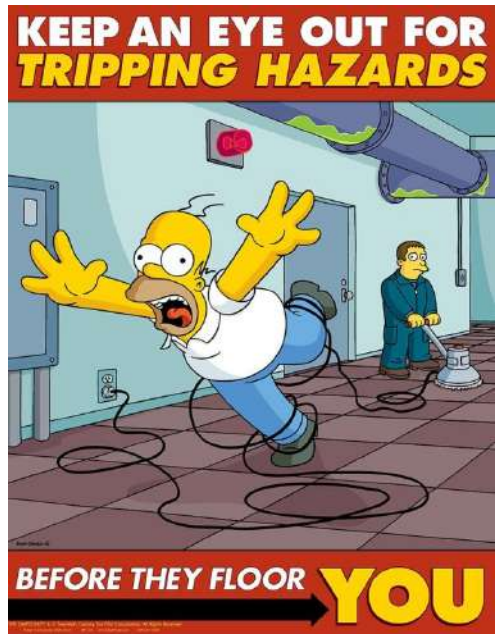
## Woodturning Games?

Just when you think you have seen it all, along comes woodturning games. They are not exactly games, but some of these can definitely demonstrate what the various turning tools can do. This is only one of many. Check it out at:

[Woodturning Games](#)



# 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

March 5 - Brent English—Lathe Maintenance

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

April 2—Dan Wold—Lidded Bowl

May 7— Not Yet Determined

June 4—Not Yet determined

July 2—Not Yet determined

## October Open House Date

March 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](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**  
**Brent English**  
**Owner of Robust Tools**  
**Lathe Maintenance**



# FOCUS ON IRONWOOD







## Previous Demonstrations

February 2025 Finials  
by Bob Eberhardt

January 2025 Making a Live Center Cone  
By Dan Brandner

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

## Previous Pen Kits and Woods

February 2025 Braseletto  
for Pocket Pen

January 2025 Pistaccio  
for Zephyr

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

# Turning Finials

**Bob Eberhardt**



A definition of a finial is a “distinctive ornament” on top of a structure. In woodturning, finials are associated with a topping for a covered box vessel or a topping or bottom of a Christmas ornament. But it can also include larger items such as a tall thin decorative structure to a building. Even more commonly finials can top stairway posts.

Bob made three finials. The first was a large round finial for a stair post. The second was a very small finial for a Christmas ornament. The third was a moderate size finial for a turned vessel.

He also showed an example of what he called a rustic finial. His wife, Pam, wanted rustic finials for the home lamp shades. It was just a simple piece of a branch that he turned the top of and put in a screw nut to fit the screw on the lamp.

All types of turned finials require a straight grain. And for very fine turned finials, a dense wood is advised. Short finials do not need to be supported at the thinner end. If the finial is long and thin, then a support will be needed. The support from the tail stock can be a cupped live center with the center point removed and replaced with a turned small cone with a hole to insert the delicate point of the finial.

The one rule for all finial turning is to start at the top point of the finial first. This is a matter of support for the turning. If the bottom part of a finial is turned first, the top part will not be supported and will be out of balance. Kind of hard to turn an intricate top if it is wobbling.

Bob did a wonderful demonstration of finials and he did it with a skew. Bob doesn't usually use a skew for finials but decided to test his skills and he joked that he using it just to let certain people see him fail. Which he definitely did not.

**Tom Leonard**



The beginning of the stair post finial. In a well seated chuck, a straight grained blank is turned round. Bob then establishes the bottom point of the large round stair finial.



Bob then shapes the top of the finial with continual cuts to establish the shape he wants to achieve.



After establishing the top of the finial, Bob then shapes the bottom and begins the parting off process.



Parting off the completed finial requires some extra thought in the finished finial. Finials require a tenon to fit into a mortise as a point of attachment. The tenon size has to be measured to fit but also the bottom of the finial needs to fit snugly where only a faint line can be seen between the two. The bottom of the finial above the tenon is important to match the top of the attachment which can be flat or curved. The bottom of the finial needs to be slightly undercut to assure a tight match.



Bob uses a gauge finder to get an accurate measurement for the tenons.

The completed stair post finial.





Bob is starting the second finial. This one will be a small finial and the process is much the same but the degree of delicacy has risen greatly.



Here, the top of the finial is being established before moving on to the delicate decoration.



Bob is now continuing to develop the character of the finial.



Further down the blank, Bob adds more to the finial's final shape.



At one point, the smallness and delicacy of the finial has come to a point where the end of the finial needs support. His fingers are only pressing lightly. Bob does say this process can be warm to the hands.



The end result of the small finial. Portions did break off because he was using a segmented blank.



Left is the rustic finial Bob made for lamp shades.

Right is the third finial that is larger than the first.

# SHOP ADDITIONS



The old Rikon lathe was replaced with a new Jet.



A set of collets were purchased.



Sanding pads were purchased for use on a drill.



Shelves were put up to clear off the messy chaotic cabinet top.



There was a large contribution of bowl blanks from Christopher Widstrand who had to give up turning.

Many thanks goes to Bob Eberhardt for getting the new additions.

Many thanks go to Mary Weider who brought up the bowl blanks from Christopher's basement and delivered them to our club house.

## Consider your gouges to be consumables like sandpaper.

"One of the best things I did was to consider my gouges consumables like sandpaper. I used to worry about excessive sharpening and grinding away my gouge. After I considered it a consumable I sharpened all that I needed to. This did 2 things. A sharp tool **of course is more fun to use. Sharpening more often taught me to sharpen better and remove less steel. My gouges** last many many years. So if you divide the cost of a gouge by 36 months or more they are really pretty inexpensive. I have a parting tool and a spindle roughing gouge that are 20 years old and get used a lot. So it's worth spending the time to improve your sharpening." - *John Lucas (AAW Forum Expert) June 6th, 2020*

A good progress point for a turning student is when they first realize their tool needs sharpening. --unknown, but I've found it to be true.

**Submitted by Dan Brandner**

## Mary Weider

Mary turns and finishes what she calls junk wood. But she can make some beautiful turnings with the use of resins. She showed a few of her examples but not all were finished. She asked the group for advise on finishing with varnish or lacquer.





# Joe Nycz



Joe Nycz made a slew of antler pens after December's demonstration on making antler pens. Leaving the points on the antlers make for some interesting looking pens.



# Joe Nycz



Above: Joe also made a Walnut plate, a shallow Walnut bowl and a bowl made from green pine.

Below: Joe made two bowls from Hackberry.



# Henry Troost

Henry made a natural edge bowl of Silver Poplar and a lidded box of Oak.



# Brook Erickson



Brook made two Dibber gardening tools—a big one and a little one.

Brook recently acquired her first lathe but didn't have a chuck. So she tried making a bowl without a chuck. For her first turned bowl and without a chuck she showed what can be done with determination.



# Scott Burkart



Scott made a natural edge Black Ash bowl and turned it into a yarn bowl.

Another bowl was a natural edge turning. And a smaller bowl of Walnut.



# Dan Brandner

Of the many items Dan turned included, the 4 bit screwdriver, honey dipper jar, Mixed drink muddler and a MT2 Taper Cleaner.



# Tom Leonard



Tom Leonard showed the January pen kit of the month called Zephyr. He also had an antler themed 30 cal. bolt pen made with an antler. Tom said it was his backup pen for his demonstration in December on making antler pens.



**Pictures for the demonstration and Show and Tell by  
Tom Leonard and Dan Brandner**

## Brasiletto

*Haematoxylum brasiletto*, or Mexican logwood, is a species of tropical hardwood tree in the legume family, Fabaceae. It is known in its native Mexico and Guatemala as "palo de brasil" or "palo de tinto". The timber is used to make bows for stringed instruments, the manufacture of dyes and in ethnobotany.

### Description

Flowers and leaves

*H. brasiletto* is a small tree or large thorny shrub, seven to fifteen metres high. The trunk and larger branches are fluted and the heartwood is deep red. The tree has pinnate leaves with three pairs of heart-shaped leaflets and no terminal leaflet. The clusters of yellow flowers are typical of the Caesalpinioideae, with five distinct lobes, and are followed by copper-coloured seed pods that split laterally when ripe, rather than at the edge. The seeds are black and kidney-shaped.



### Distribution and habitat

*H. brasiletto* occurs in Mexico, Belize, Costa Rica, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Colombia.<sup>[2]</sup> It grows in a range of habitats including deciduous tropical forests, xerophytic scrub and montane forests where it is associated with oak and pine.<sup>[5]</sup> It is found growing in desert scrub in Baja California in association with elephant trees (*Bursera microphylla*), the woodrose (24) and the large Cardón cactus (*does not exist*) "*Pachycereus pringlei*".

### Uses

The wood of this tree is used in the making of bows for stringed instruments.<sup>[3]</sup> The tree yields other valuable products and has been exported for several centuries. It was included in the *London Pharmacopoeia of 1740*, which listed logwood tea as being effective against tuberculosis and dysentery.<sup>[4]</sup> The heartwood is used to produce dye for wool and cotton cloth and a pink colouring used in pharmaceuticals and toothpaste. The pigments hematoxylin and hematein can be extracted and are complex phenols similar to bioflavonoids. Extracts of hardwood chips are used as remedies by the Tarahumara Indians.

<sup>[4]</sup> Ethnobotanical uses mentioned in "Duke's Phytochemical and Ethnobotanical Databases" includes use as an astringent, a dentifrice, a refrigerant, for treating condyloma, erysipelas, fever, jaundice, inflammation and stomach pain.<sup>[6]</sup> An extract of boiled heartwood chips is reported to have antibiotic properties, to reduce fever, and to act as a tonic to strengthen the body.



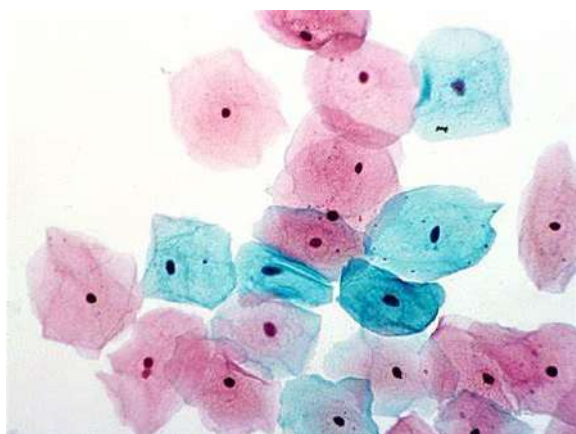
## Hematoxylin As Used in Health Care

Hematoxylin was a familiar word to me. It was familiar for 49 years. It is used in pathology to stain the nuclei of cells. Cells in a tissue sample or cells put on a slide.

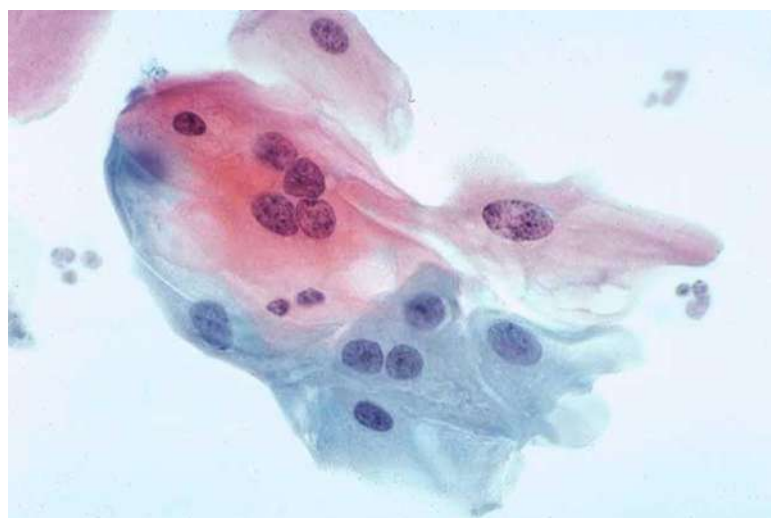
I was a Cytotechnologist for 48 years (the 49th year mentioned was my training year) and the Cytology department received slides with cellular material already on the slides or liquid specimens that were processed and cells put on slides.

The prepared and fixed slides were stained with 3 different stains: Hematoxylin stained the nucleus of the cell the color of purple; EA (Eosin) stained the cytoplasm (it was a mix of green and blue) ; and Orange G which stained a particular type of cytoplasm called keratinized the color of orange.

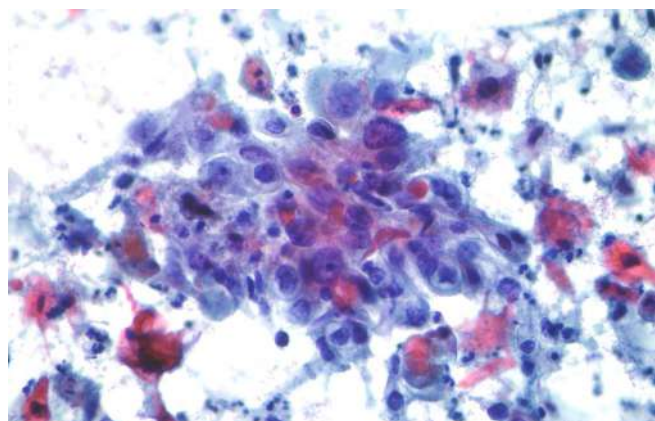
The purpose of these slides was foremost the detection of cancer or pre-cancer and secondarily any benign changes that would indicate a particular cellular process. Most common benign changes were fungi and virus infections. **Tom Leonard**



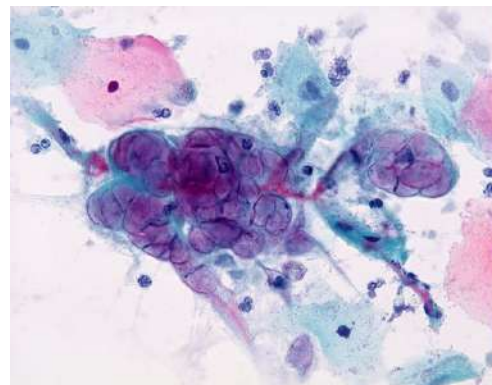
**Normal Squamous Cells**



**Atypical squamous Cells**



**Malignant Squamous Cells**



**Herpes Simplex**

## PEN KIT OF THE MONTH

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This month's pen kit is the Pocket Pen from Wood World of Texas. This pen kit was mentioned in last month's Editor Musings. It was about the bushings being too big and the nib that was too small.

Wood World says of this pen, *"Our Pocket Pens have enjoyed wide popularity because of their classy, classic look and their ease of making. Now you can enjoy the sophisticated styling of our new Pocket Pen Kits in 3 great Finish colors."*

Pen kits were \$7.99 each and the bushings were \$8.00 but I got all three and bushings in one package.

**Brasiletto**



**Blue Acrylic**



**Hybrid with Scottish Oak Burl**



# THE BRASILETTO TREE



# USES FOR THE BRASILETTO WOOD



Notice the red areas of the wood. It is these red areas that provide for the basis of the hematoxylin stain.

Hematoxylin has become popular in pre-prepared liquid form (left) and for good reason. The powdered version (right) had to be mixed with three other chemicals - Mercuric Oxide, Potash Alum and Ethanol. It wasn't a preparation for the faint of heart. In the last step, the hematoxylin mixture is poured slowly into the ethanol. If one poured too fast, the mixture would explode. It would create quite a mess. I was lucky to have never experienced this but I knew someone who did.





## 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 -

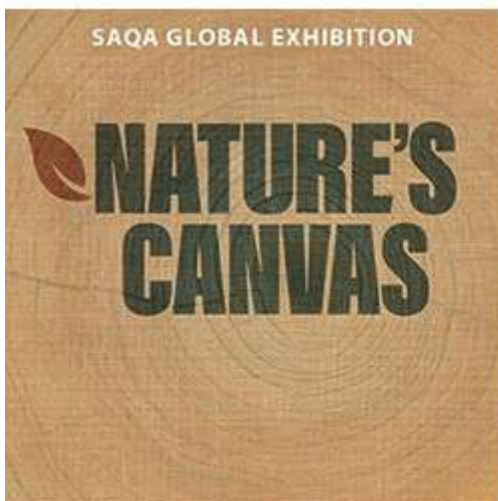
**[REGISTER FOR EARLY RATE](#)**



**Call for Entries: AAW  
2025 Member Show  
"Beginnings"**  
January 1 - March 15, 2025



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



**Call for Entries:  
Nature's Canvas  
Exhibition**  
March 1-31, 2025



**Midwest Penturners'  
Gathering**  
April 11-12, 2025  
Chicago Marriott Northwest  
Hoffman Estates, IL