

# WOODCHIPS 2018



**Volume 24**

[www.kcwoodturners.org](http://www.kcwoodturners.org)

**Number 5**

**June Challenge:**  
Anything hollowed-the  
opening is smaller than the  
diameter

**Check the Silent Auction**  
Follow KCWT on Facebook

**June Demonstration**  
Mike McReynolds will  
demonstrate making a Mystic  
Box. Similar to the Cryptex on  
the Da Vinci Code movie.

## DEMO

**Kevin Neelley**, KCWT's Treasurer, showed members how to use a visualizer to do hollowing as well as a stabilizing arm.



Trent Bosch has been around for quite awhile and has made some really good tools. Kevin's favorite tool for hollowing is one made by Trent. It is a stabilizer which he calls an articulated arm. It's a tool that takes the torque out of the tool being used to do the hollowing. Typically the process is one of doing some cutting, then stopping the lathe and cleaning out the chips, measuring the wall thickness and starting the lathe and doing the same thing again. As the wall thickness gets thinner you have to do the stopping, cleaning, and measuring more frequently



He showed us the whole process in terms of setting up the stabilizer. He put a piece on the lathe that he had already started hollowing. The stabilizer fits into the tool rest and the tool he is using to do the hollowing fits on the end of the arm. What he can do now is to push the tool in and against the side of the vessel and he doesn't have to worry about the tool twisting as he does the hollowing. Lots of people use lasers to judge where they are. He said that he has a couple tools with lasers on them but has never used them. There are two sizes of stabilizers 1/2" and 3/4" and he uses the larger of the two because he turns some pretty large vessels.



When Trent came out with his visualizer which uses a TV camera to actually let the turner see what is going on on the inside Kevin thought that this was a really good idea. The visualizer is what he uses to complete the hollowing process. It enables him to see inside the vessel and get the exact measurements he wants for the bottom and side walls. He usually takes the side walls to a quarter of an inch.



Kevin has the components of the tool around his house: a camera, computer, software, and-most importantly - an imagination. He did need something to mount the camera on and Browns Laser Guide which can be mounted on the stabilizer was just the thing he needed. So he assembled all the components and was able to make something that worked much like The Visualizer. The tool arm needs to be in contact (just kissing) the stabilizer and it needs to be centered.



When everything set up he is ready to use his version of the tool. He does have to make some marks on the computer screen and he made sure to tell us to use only the dry erase markers. He learned this from personal experience. But, he did say that he was able to get the black permanent marker off the screen. More information can be found on You Tube, Trent Bosch's web site, the AAW Journal, and you can ask Kevin.



## **Sharpen your tools BEFORE they need it!**

Yeah, you've heard it before that sharpening your lathe tools is important but recently I have noticed some beginners at Open Shop struggling to make a cut to finish their project. When I offer to help, I often find their technique is good but the tool is so dull it won't cut.

Some folks may be interpreting the first law of woodturning (It's never the tool.) too literally. After all, the laws are posted on the shop wall. The law stands. There is nothing wrong with the tool itself, but it has to be sharp. Some folks may just not realize the tool is dull because it occurs gradually. I have heard "I sharpened it last week" referring to a bowl gouge they are now using on their third 8" bowl since then. Their sharpening paradigm needs to be corrected. As a frame of reference consider that if you are turning an 8" bowl at 1200 RPM it takes less than 7 minutes for that narrow cutting edge to plow through over a mile (5,280') of wood. Yes, even with the best tool steel you have to sharpen lathe tools more frequently than plane irons or cabinet chisels but consider how much wood they cut. Fortunately, it only takes a quick trip to the grinder for a fresh edge to convince them.

Sharp tools cut faster, cleaner, safer, require less pressure, are easier to control and more fun to use than dull ones. If you are not sure how to sharpen tools or if what you are doing isn't working for you, please attend an Open Shop session and ask for help. There are several methods and many jigs available that make sharpening quick, easy, consistent and repeatable. You can do it.

Another point to consider is that research by AAW has consistently shown the number one reason why people who pursue woodturning try it then soon quit is because they don't know how to sharpen their tools. We don't want you to be one of them.



## Club Activities:

- **Request for Featured Art Items** – Several members have expressed interest in collecting wood turned art by KCWT members and to help accomplish this the Board decided to expand the Silent Auction at our meetings to including a Featured Art Item. This will be a finished, signed woodturning piece donated by a member that will be prominently displayed and advertised online before the meeting. Bidding is available online and there will be a reserve value or minimum bid attached to it. The item may also be Blind Auctioned. This is where each bidder writes their name and bid on paper then places it into a sealed container until time expires then Auctioneer opens container and announces the winner with the highest bid. Please review your inventory of finished

- items to select a donation for the Club. Contact me, Kevin Neelley or any Board member with questions and we will gladly accept your donation. Kevin Neelley started by donating the first Featured Art Item for our May meeting and we will offer a Jerry McMaster original at our next meeting on June 11<sup>th</sup>. Be sure to check our website and email for a picture and description of this collector's item and prepare your bid now to take this home.

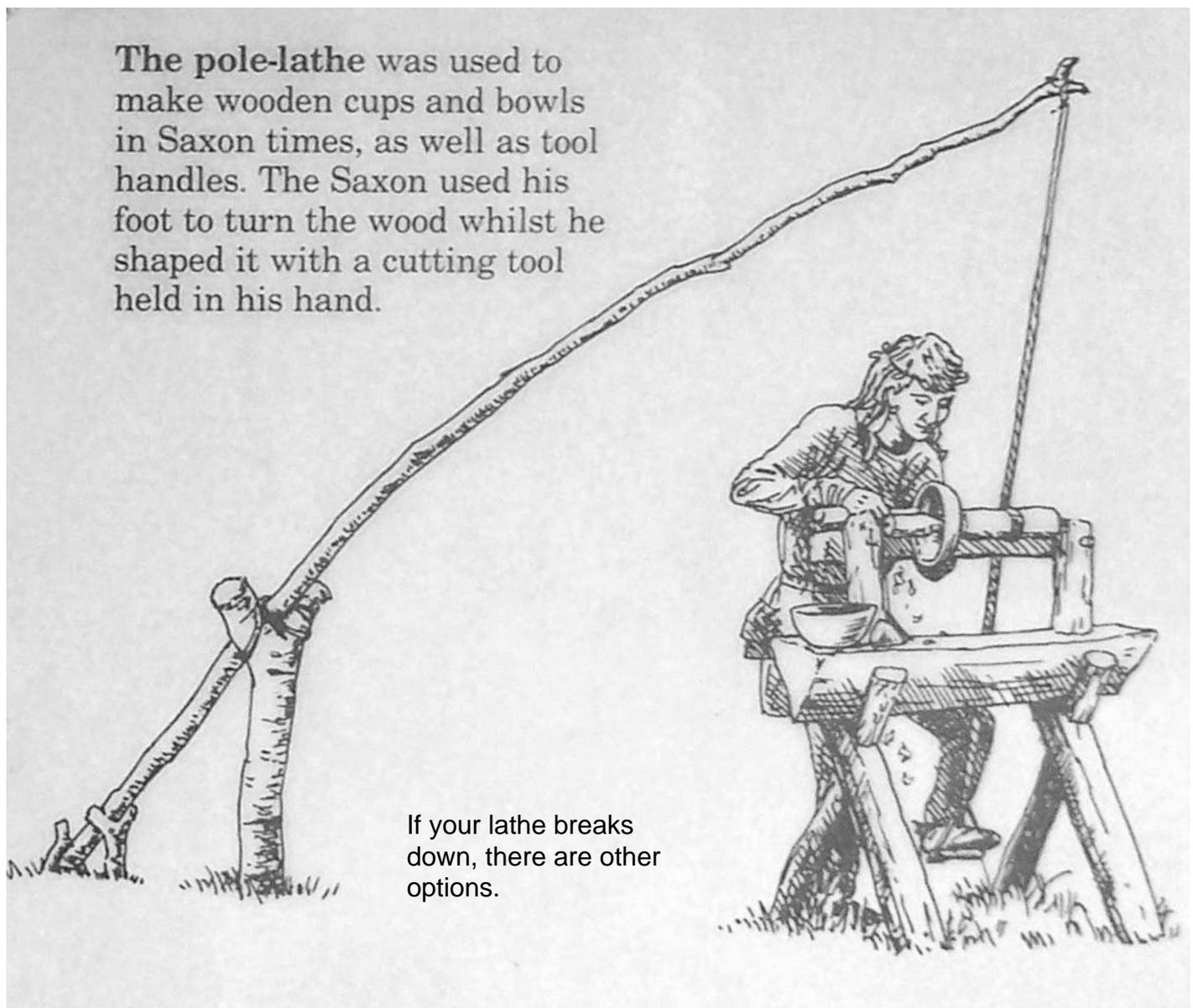
- **Request for Beginner Tool Donations** - To accommodate students interested in Beginning Woodturning classes who want to try it before investing in a set of tools, the Board is requesting donations of used or underused basic lathe tools for loan to these students during classes. Specifically, we need: 1/2" to 5/8" bowl gouges, 1/2" spindle gouges, 1/2" round nose scrapers, 1/8" parting tools and 1/2" – 1" skewers. The tools need to be at least high speed steel (marked HSS). Please check your shop and the back of drawers for these tools and consider donating them to KCWT for educating future woodturners. A tax donation receipt can be provided for all donated tools.

- **Outside Event Participation Contest** - The Board has approved a new contest to encourage and expand member participation in outside events and help us put our best foot forward as we promote the art of woodturning to the public. Each member who signs up to help at outside events will earn a chance to win a \$100 Woodcraft Gift Certificate for each day (or portion thereof) they participate to help. The winner will be drawn at random from all entries annually during the Holiday Party in December. So, the more events and days you sign up to help, the more chances you have to win.

## Outside Events:

- **KCWT Picnic** - Plan now to attend the annual KCWT Potluck Picnic on June 16<sup>th</sup> at Shawnee Mission Park in Shelter House #6 from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. If you have not attended in the past, you owe it to yourself to come. This is a really fun social event for the entire family at an outstanding location with great food and camaraderie. Bathing suits optional. Check [kcwoodturner.org](http://kcwoodturner.org) for complete details.
- **Maker Faire** - Union Station will be the site on June 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> for us to again showcase KCWT's skills and abilities to the public, sell items and recruit new members. Plan now to schedule time and volunteer to help make this event successful by turning, staffing, set-up, etc. Look for a sign-up sheet to be circulated at our next meeting on June 11<sup>th</sup> and contact Shaun McMahon with any questions. This is always a fun event you won't want to miss.

Please check our website ([kcwoodturners.org](http://kcwoodturners.org)) often and consider it your source for the most current information about club activities and events. It is also becoming a comprehensive resource for all things woodturning. Bookmark it on your computer and create an App on your smart phone for quick, easy access anytime.



# THE CHALLENGE

The Challenge for this month was to make something captive in the turning. This was based on **Jerry McMaster's** demonstration of a captive sphere last month.



**Phil Royer**



**Dan Carlson**



**Anthony Harris**



**Chuck Levenson**



**Sue Bergstrand**



**Jim Garner**



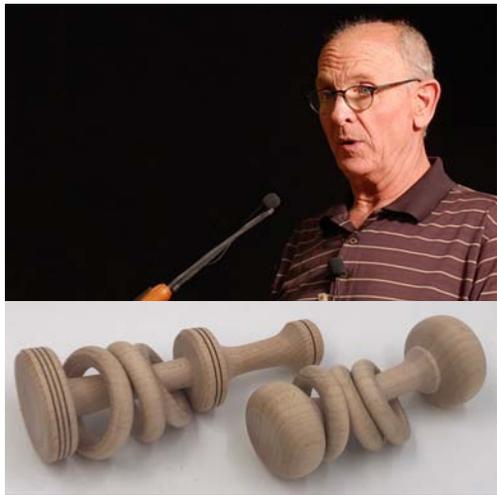
**David Stallings**



**Rick Bywater**



**Jack Karstens**



**Mike Thomas**



**Kris Coyan**



**Linda Carlson**



**KCWT** is in need of tools to assist in the teaching of the beginners turning class. We now have two tool sets that we can add to the dedicated class tools.

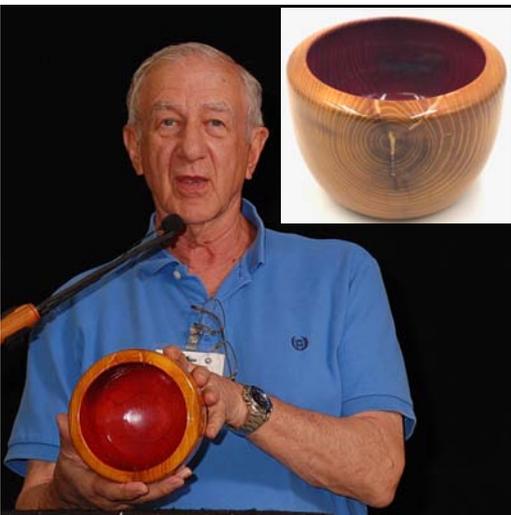
A big **THANK YOU** to **Jim Lambe.**



# SHOW AND TELL



**Mike Erickson** brought in 100 tops for Jerry to take to Ronald McDonald house and the finished tool handle (drilled out and filled with BBs) that he started during his demonstration. Taking a bit of a cue from Rich Bywater, **Mike McReynolds** made this beautiful plate that took best of show in the Elegance in Wood show in Lees Summit. **Chuck Levinson** saw this while browsing the internet and finding that Time Yoder did something like this. He actually took a propane torch to the base.



**Jerry McMaster** isn't afraid to show his failures which is why he brought his dammit doll along. But the success was a hollow sphere containing examples of cholera that he is presenting as a gift to a friend's son. **Tony Giordano** brought in piece of Osage Orange which he turned a bowl from, dyed the inside red and finished it with epoxy and two part polyurethane like is used on cars. **Don Frank** showed a bowl turned from spalted Maple.



This past month **Rick Bywater** has been doing a lot of natural edge things. His favorite wood for doing this is Black Walnut as he really likes the bark. **David Stalling** brought in a piece turned from the base of a tree one inch from the ground. This was turned from Walnut which he wanted to turn thin. Let the rough turning dry for 4-5 weeks, wet sanded and finished with natural Watco finish. **Kris Coyan** turned these from some free wood that he heard about from Don Franks who had a friend. He turned them wet and sanded and finished and was very pleased with the feathers and that they didn't crack.



Every meeting we have a silent auction. The items are different from meeting to meeting and there are some members who just get excited about what is available to bid on. **Howard Russell** could hardly contain himself and just had to have this. He seems elated.

**Make sure that you check out the table - it could happen to you.**

# NEXT SILENT AUCTION FEATURED ITEM

**Jerry McMaster** has donated one of his beautiful turnings to the KCWT JUNE 11th 2018 Silent Art Auction. This is the second Silent Art Auction and we propose to have one at every regular KCWT meeting. Each month, there will be a Silent Art Auction with a piece by a different KCWT wood artist. Between meetings, the donated piece will be stored for viewing in the glass display case in the clubhouse main meeting area. This sale supports your club and will hopefully be a good way to get member woodturnings into the hands of other KCWT members and the community.

Pre-Auction bids can be made before the June meeting by email to <mailto:treas@kcwoodturners.org>. The highest bid will be posted on the KCWT website in the Sidebar. Bids will be shown as \$ amount and last 4 digits of bidder phone number, see [www.kcwoodturners.org](http://www.kcwoodturners.org)

Title: Airbrushed and Pierced Ash Woodturning  
Wood: Ash

Design: The design was placed in the “natural window” provided by the wood grain. The piece was burned, airbrushed and pierced. The piece is signed and numbered by the artist.

Finish: Acrylic airbrush paint, milk paint, satin acrylic finish

Dimensions: 5” tall by 2-3/4” diameter



## Is your Turning Tool Not Sliding Smoothly? How to Fix

In addition to supporting your lathe tools the top edge of a tool rest must be nick and dent free. Unfortunately, some tool rests are manufactured from relatively soft metals and nick and scratch quite easily. And, lathe tools are often made of steel harder than the rest itself.

Run a finger along the top edge of your tool rest to feel for imperfections. Small indentations in the tool rest can make it difficult to smoothly slide a turning tool along its top edge, resulting in unwanted changes in the cut being made to the turning. To maintain the top edge of a tool rest, use a fine machinist's file for the initial smoothing. Using long, smooth strokes, file from one end of the rest to the other. Check the edge with a quality straightedge to ensure you're not removing more stock from the center of the rest than the ends. With a clean cloth or paper towel wipe the tool rest to remove any residue from filing.

Once the dents and nicks have been filed smooth, wrap a piece of 220-grit paper around a block of wood and use the same long smooth strokes to further smooth the surface. Finally, rub a light coat of wax on the tool rest top edge. The wax not only helps tools slide smoothly along the edge when making cuts, but also helps seal and protect the edge. The wax will wear off, so recoat frequently.



**This information is currently running on the Penn State Industries web site. Most of the websites for woodturning supplies contain some really useful information. Even if you are not planning on buying something, a visit to a site can frequently lead to more learning.**

# TIP

## Protect wood from chuck jaws

After trying several ideas for reversing a small turning and holding it in a chuck to finish the bottom, I devised my own method, which is simple and inexpensive. I had tried cloth, tape, foam, and electrical wire, but always ended up with marks on the turning from the chuck jaws. To solve this, I took some plastic tubing, which is available by the foot in a variety of sizes, and slid it on the chuck jaws.

For pin jaws I cut pieces the length of the jaws. For No. 2 jaws, I cut pieces long enough to cover each jaw. I cut a slit in the tubing so that it can slip over each jaw. The tubing is thick enough to prevent the marks and also provides some holding power for the work piece.

For pin jaws I use 5/8" (16 mm) ID tubing and for the No. 2 jaws, 3/8" (10 mm) ID tubing. Other chucks may require different sizes.

~ Bill Fordney, Pennsylvania



**The Kansas City Woodturners Association Board** has decided to say THANK YOU with a \$100 Woodcraft Gift Card to one of the many people that will help at our 2018 outside events, like Irish Fest and Maker Faire.

One lucky recipient will be drawn at the 2018 Holiday Party. The winner does not need to be present to win. People that SIGN UP to help for an outside event in 2018 will get one drawing chance per day so, if you SIGN UP to help for three days, you get three chances. We don't keep track of helpers who show up but don't SIGN UP, so you must SIGN UP to help to get a chance at the drawing.

Thank you all in advance for all the help you give us at your club's outside events. Let' make this a successful 2018 event season.

Your Board



# AAW

# AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS

**REGISTRATION IS  
NOW OPEN**

*Save the date!*



**AAW** | AMERICAN ASSOCIATION  
OF WOODTURNERS  
June 14-17, 2018 - Portland, OR

Woodturners might be curious about why other turning artists have been spotlighted in the world of contemporary art. But, how were they selected? How did they form relationships with the galleries? Kevin Wallace's article, "Alternate Realities: Recent Works by Sharon Doughtie and Pat Kramer," from the Spring 2009 issue of *American Woodturner*, offers a little insight on this topic. **Additionally, most of the work featured in the article is made from Norfolk Island Pine!**

**If you took advantage of the AAW's half price offer regarding membership, we encourage you to renew your membership. The AAW is the parent organization of The Kansas City Woodturners and we hope that you will continue to support it.**

**AAW** AMERICAN ASSOCIATION  
OF WOODTURNERS

**Keep Turning**  
with the AAW

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