

# Woodchips

NOVEMBER



www.KCWoodTurners



## Reminders

**Get your raffle tickets  
when you come into the  
meeting.**

**12/3/12**

Board Meeting

**12/10/12**

Regular Meeting

**Christmas Party**

**Intern show**

Fun turning Christmas  
ornaments—see page 8

**2013**

**1/7/13**

Board Meeting

**1/14/13**

**KCWT Meeting**

**Challenge—a whistle**

**Demo—spindle**

techniques,

Anthony Harris



If the only  
prayer you  
ever say in  
your life is  
thank you, it  
will be  
enough.

Master Eckhart

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# AUCTION-

## PREPARATION



The "We collect your money" people



Some of the "stuff."



We all had a great time, worked hard, moved a lot of stuff, and made some money. The smoked sausage and pork was good too. Thank you all who helped.



They were here all day.

# M E E T I N G



**Norm Peters** opened the meeting promptly and reminded the membership about the auction and the need for assistance (which-by the way-we received). Some information was passed on about the Maker Faire for 2013. For those of you involved in advance planning it is June 29-30 at Union Station. Norm also talked about the Christmas Party meeting and the need for those attending to bring a covered dish.



Walnut seems to be a wood that **Jerry James** really likes. His wife likes thin items and he uses a "thump test to determine thickness.



Spare wood lying around becomes something that a good turner can use to create a segmented pet urn. **Jim Faherty** used blood wood, oak, a threaded corian top, and a cocobolo finial.

A banksia pod with a rotten spot and a Christmas ornament with a large finial so **Chip Siskey's** relatives can't break them off.



**Ryan Richardson**, making a gift for a departing manager at his work—made a pen, took the box to Ranger Trophies in Riverside for the engraving.



Mesquite from Texas turns like it's really wet but the time you finish turning and sanding it, it feels dry. Don Gruis made a bowl that felt pretty dry actually.

A door knob attached to a pacifier and **David Stalling** says will soon be a blue tooth item which will be able to assess a baby's sucking patterns. Why not?



When **Efi Kamara** went to visit his family in Israel he brought some boxes and one made from osage orange and everyone wanted that one so upon return he made some bowls. Easy wood to work with.



He said that he needed to practice some for the demo tonight cause sometimes the whistles don't always turn out so good. **David Bartlett** brought a couple of his practice whistles in.



# The Challenge

Last month we had a demonstration of top making by The Top Guys and The Challenge for this month was a top or a toy of some kind.



**Paul Kaster**, (sorry for being out of focus) brought a top made of poplar, rock maple and some other wood he wasn't sure of. Great job!



About a month ago he broke a drill and the organs were harvested and given new life. One of the organs was a gear. He turned the handle, put on a metal tip and another top was born. Tops can be turned out of anything.

After the last demo **Shaun Q. McMahon** started experimenting with top design and, while some of them wobbled, they all spun. He also learned that poplar is good to experiment with but a more dense wood seems to produce better results.



Starting with twelve top blanks, **Larry Dice**, ended up with four good ones after a day of frustration. He also use some markers to decorate a couple of the tops.



**Tony Giordano** said that wanted to try some different materials for his tops. One has fiberglass in the center and the other carbon fiber. The edges are segmented. The tops are a little on the large size but seemed to spin rather well.

He also won the Challenge tool—congratulations



A first try at a top and **Larry Settle** sure made a good one. Spun really nice. Made this one out of Padauk and then blew the next four. He said that he almost blew the second one he had—turned out rather tiny and didn't spin well as it was too light.

**Don Gruis** brought a toy—the ball and cup. He said that the only reason his wife is better at it than he is, is because she must have more time. Do not give this toy to a 4-5 year old boy with a lot of energy as it can get a little dangerous.



**Jim Reynolds** brought a few. Most of them spun and a few had reasons for not spinning very well. Felt he didn't make some of the blanks the right size or use the right wood for the shaft. Use birch—it's the best wood.—That's what the Top Guys said. Also, don't use a pointed tail stock center.





He thinks he was accepted into The Top Goys because he can lift 75 pounds but it's probably because of his enthusiasm for turning. **David Bartlett** brought one in that spun really nice right side up and upside down. He also did some surface decoration. The curious thing was that there was no captive ring on the shaft. Probably just an oversight.

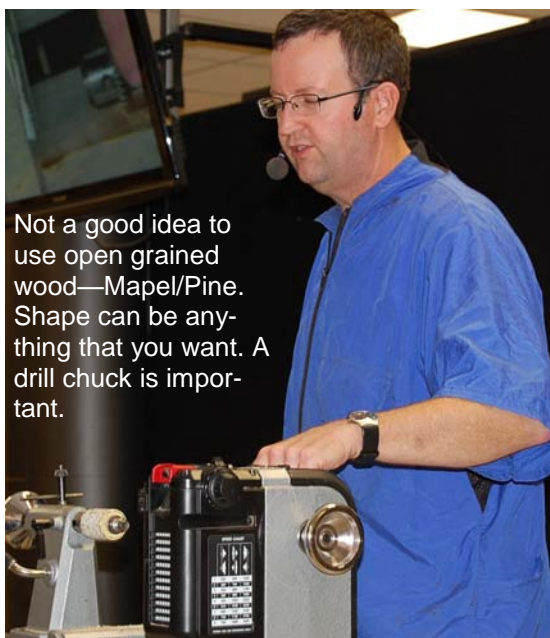
"Ya can't just turn one top. When ya start turnin, ya gotta make more than one." **Don Grimes** made some turned out of plywood which makes an interesting pattern and he did some surface decoration. He said that the heavy ones seem to spin better.



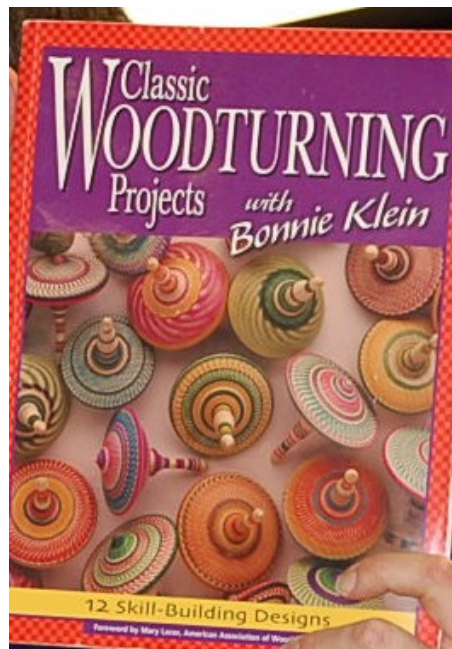
There were a couple tops which didn't quite make it past the testing stage. One was designed to fly—which it did briefly —. But **Anthony Harris** did make one that whistled-hollow with a cut out and he used a launcher to spin it and it did make a very audible noise.

# The Demonstration

This month's demonstration was provided by the newly accepted Top Guy, **David Bartlett**. He showed a couple whistles he brought in for Show and Tell and then he demonstrated how he made them.



Not a good idea to use open grained wood—Maple/Pine. Shape can be anything that you want. A drill chuck is important.



This book is in the KCWT library. It contains lots of information on styles, and strategies and all these projects are made for the mini-lathe.

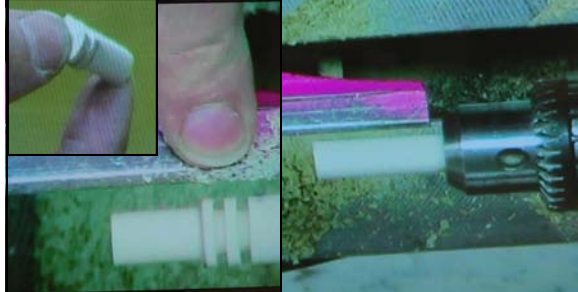
\$32.00 through Amazon





The blank is going to be drilled on the lathe so it is very important that the centers on each end of the blank are exact. Use a center finder and make the mark from all four corners as the blanks are often not square at all. He uses a brad point drill bit because it seems to cut better and clean out better on the lathe than other types of bits. Put a rare earth magnet on the key so that it is easy to locate on the lathe.

Use the tool rest under the blank to support it while drilling and your thumb "over" the top to steady it. Drill to about 3 inches with a 3/8 inch bit.



After drilling the hole, take a 1/2 inch birch dowel rod—leave an inch or so outside the chuck—and make the fipple. That is the name of the part that goes inside the hole to help make the sound. It is not a reed but a fipple. Take the dowel down to 3/8 inch so that it will fit into the hole drilled into the body of the whistle.

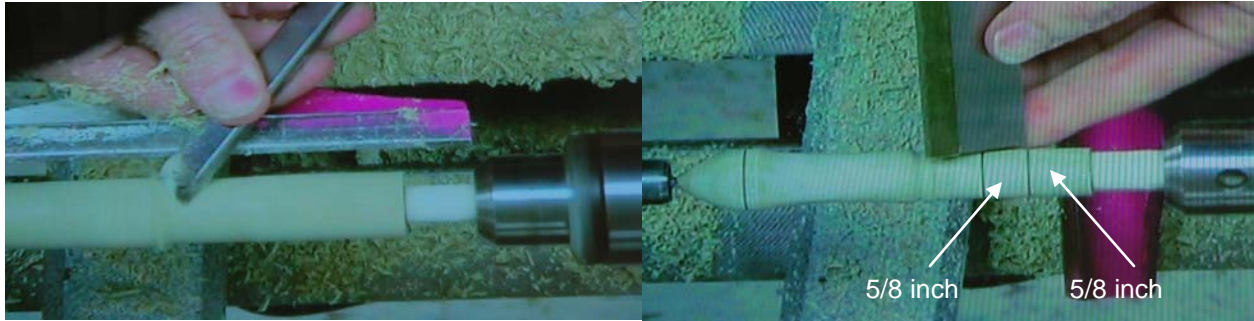


The fipple part will, essentially become a jam chuck. Then sand a bit off the dowel so that it has a bit of a flat side. This flat part will be at the top of the hole in the whistle.

Now start shaping the body of the whistle.

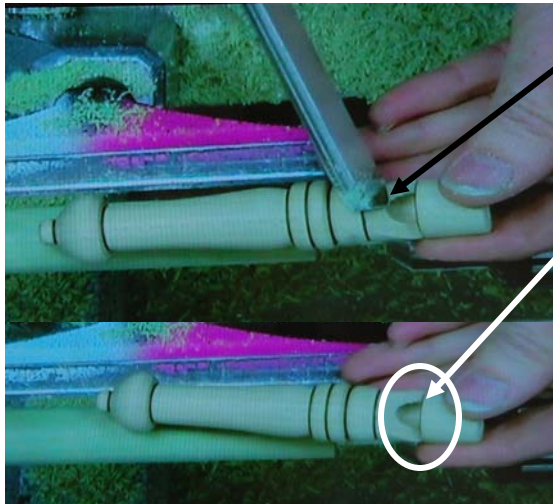


This is the "fun part" as you can get as creative as you want. Make sure that you have marked the body of the whistle so that you know where the hole drilled ends so that you don't cut into the whistle body. On one of the whistles he brought for Show and Tell he had put a captive ring on the body. Hew also said that he will put an eye and a ribbon on the solid end to make it an ornament to hang on a Christmas tree. He loves to give these as gifts to nieces and nephews as they tend to blow them at "their" house and not his because they take them home.



The first 1-1.5 inches of the whistle turn to about 5/8 of an inch because you need enough wood to be able to cut the groove into the wood and need the support. What makes the whistle work is that the air comes across the top of the fipple into the groove and splits as it hits the back of the groove. The thickness of the wood where the air splits will determine the pitch of the whistle—something to experiment with.

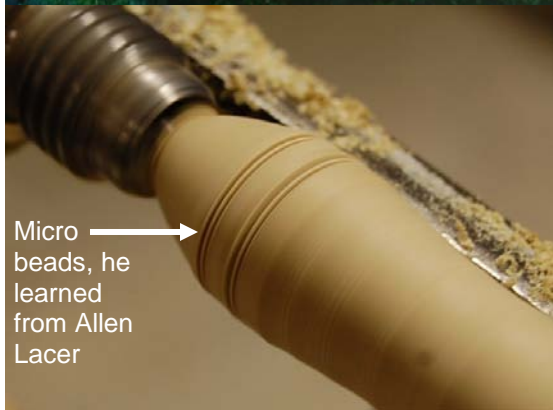
There are some who are trying for perfect pitch—David is basically trying to get the whistle to work. Essentially, an admirable goal.



Do NOT turn on the lathe after you have cut this groove as you WILL destroy the whistle. He cuts the groove with a razor saw. The cut is made to about halfway through the whistle body starting 5/8 inch back from the mouth.

After making the cut, insert the fipple and secure it with some CA glue. Then sand the waste wood off the end of the fipple.

Now try the whistle and admire your work.



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# OUR CHRISTMAS PARTY ACTIVITY



At a Board Meeting we were thinking about what we could do for the Christmas Party. The first thing that came up was the party aspect and the food. **Those who are coming, please bring a dish to share; a salad,, a dessert, vegetables, a hot dish of some kind.** The food, story telling, and camaraderie has always been an important part of the meeting and this year it will be as well.

But, what else? We're a group of woodturners so we should turn. Everyone. **Jerry James** came up with the idea of turning Christmas ornaments and everyone had to use the same size wood, the same kind of wood, and have the same amount of time. So...he took the wood from what we had in the shop, cut the blanks, made some examples—**see above**—and all the blanks are in the shop waiting to be used.

When we get to the meeting, there will be a short business gathering, a display by our intern, Kim Davidson, and every member has 10 minutes to turn an ornament from the blanks in the shop. After turning, please display the ornaments in the meeting area so that everyone can appreciate the talent in this organization.

## See you at the meeting



Woodchips



# Our Intern



Kim Davidson has been working with Anthony Harris for this semester. She is a student at The Kansas city Art Institute and has been at all the Open Turnings practicing her skills. On 11/10/12 she brought quite a few things that she had turned during the previous week.



## Officers

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Mike Erickson  
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By **Shaun Q. McMahon**

## Where Do We Get Our Ideas?

It seems that the logical answer and the simplest is—"We think of them." Sounds simple enough. But it isn't. I run out of ideas all the time but I like to turn stuff. My wife is constantly giving me ideas that I can't possibly fulfill. I think it is because she wants more wood for the garden.

I've only been turning for a couple years. And, frankly, most of the ideas I have acted on have come from The Challenges, Show and Tell, and the Demonstrations right here at KCWT.

There are a myriad of other places as well. The AAW publication is always full of images and information about how to make things. They are spectacular, actually. Just the last edition had lots of gallery photos which can provide inspiration; how to make an algae pen, Urns, turning a fishing rod and reel; how to meld wood and other materials; making a sphere-cutting jig; jewelry boxes; filling voids.

Walking can provide many ideas: shapes and forms are everywhere, houses, trees, toys in the yard, lawn ornaments. Getting out to do anything can provide inspiration. If I've learned anything since I began woodturning it is that those who do woodturning are rather involved people from scouting, to church, gardening, exercise, music, politics, woodworking and the list could go on and on.

I think one of the things that spurs ideas is boredom. I first learned to turn by turning pens. I turned a lot of them, the same style too. Then I started wondering about different styles. I started reading more, looking at what others were turning penwise. Then I found myself wondering about "other things." One of those things I was interested in became Christmas ornaments. But, I found that I could not just turn ornaments every time I went into the shop.

There's a learning curve for most things. We start something new and are excited about it so we learn as much as we can at the time and engage the activity as enthusiastically as we can. Then the learning starts to slow down and we start getting a little bored. "There must be something else I can do." We hit a bit of a plateau and, sometimes, we don't understand what the plateau is—it is a time when we practice what we've learned over and over till we develop some real skill in what we've learned. We practice and practice and practice till we just feel the need to do something new.

Unfortunately, some allow their boredom to take over and let frustration sink in and they stop altogether because they don't understand the process: learning something new excitedly and being involved-hitting a plateau where we NEED to practice and benefit from that practice, and then we can start the process of being excited about something new all over again.

Woodturning can be an interesting metaphor for life. Ideas seem to come from learning how to live a full and complete life, Ideas seem to come from the need to be creative, to explore more of who we are and what we are capable of being, to push ourselves to be better, to be more than what we are right now, to achieve what we are capable of being from shaping ourselves from the inside out using all the tools that are at our disposal. When we start woodturning we are externalizing the internal desire for self expression. But all arts do that—true. Which puts woodturning right in the same category with all those other practices which are termed arts.

Where do ideas come from? They come from the internal human desire to give expression to ourselves in the world, to say this is part of who I am, to say "I am here."

Hey grandpa, can you make me a new top?

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## Officers and Board members for 2013

Here is the slate of officers and board members the current board is proposing for 2013.

President	Larry Dice
Vice President	Efi Kamara
Treasurer	Kevin Neelley
Secretary	Shaun Q. McMahon
At large	Mike Erickson
	Anthony Harris

We are short one Board member. Volunteers are accepted—new members are welcome to volunteer as well. If you have any suggestions as well, please call one of the current Board members.