

# WOODCHIPS 2017



## November



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**December Challenge:**  
There is no challenge -  
Party, party, party

**Look at the silent auction items  
when you come into the meeting.**  
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**December Demo**  
**NO demo - party time with  
special events**



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## President's Update: November 2017

### Challenge Yourself!

Most woodturners I know strive to make their next project better than the last and many are their own worst critic. Some are also quick to point out flaws in their work that few others would even notice. I can relate, I'm one of them. This behavior indicates a strong desire to learn, expand our skills and improve. I believe that many of you share this desire by being a member of KCWT. After all, that's what the club is all about and KCWT offers many opportunities to learn and expand your turning skills by attending professional and local demonstrations, classes, Open Shop sessions, etc. However, the Board recently identified a valuable opportunity that fewer than 20% of members take advantage of. What's that, you ask? It's participating in the monthly Challenge!

Benefits of participating in the Challenge go beyond a chance to win a new tool or get an "IT" sticker on your name tag. I know because I've done it every month for the past three years. Yes, there have been some Challenge projects that I wasn't very excited about making but I did it and always learned something in the process, even if it was only how not to do something. Often, I've picked up a skill or a technique that I probably would not have learned otherwise and later find it was valuable to complete other projects (Inside-Out turning, Faux Hollow Forms, etc.). There have also been Challenge projects that I never thought I would be

able to do (thread chasing, Basket of Illusion Bowl, etc.) but after some instruction and a little practice, I got pretty good at it and impressed myself.

So, for those of you who have not participated in the Challenge for a while, I challenge you to Challenge Yourself to participate in 2018. Even if you are an experienced member who has already made the Challenge project, bring it in if you don't want to make another one. You may win a new tool but better yet, it gives the rest of us an opportunity to learn from you!

## **Announcements:**

- **Call for Basic Lathe Tool Donations** – We are collecting donations of basic lathe tools for use by students in Beginner classes who don't have their own tools. Our goal is to allow students with an interest in woodturning to take a class without having to invest in tools until they decide they want to continue. Specifically, we are looking for ½" spindle and bowl gouges, ½" round nose scrapers, 1/8" parting tools and small (1/2" – 1") skewers. They need to be modern HSS tools, not high carbon or inferior steel. So, look to see if you have any of these tools that you are not using and consider donating them to KCWT. Kevin Neelley will be glad to accept them and he can provide you with a tax deductible charitable donation receipt.
- **Attend the December Holiday Party** – You won't want to miss our annual social event during our regularly scheduled meeting time on December 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. There will be no Demo, Challenge or Show & Tell events. Instead we will feature a light meal with the Club providing Deli sandwiches and all the fixings, beverages and even wine. Please bring your spouse and/or significant other and a favorite side dish or dessert to share. You may also want to pack a few of your favorite spindle turning tools to participate in the Team Turning Competition which is always a lot of fun. We will say thanks to our departing Board members and welcome the new members for 2018, present the 2017 Awards and look back at what we accomplished this past year. Again, you won't want to miss it!

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 quickly 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.

I hope you enjoy this addition to WoodChips and find it helpful. Please let me know if you have any thoughts or suggestion on how I can improve it.

Happy Turning and Be Safe!

Mike Thomas, President

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Our demonstration this month was provided by **Mike Thomas**, our president, who, with the help of **Anthony Harris**, discussed the processes of using a bandsaw too take the wood from log to lathe. Anthony took one of the blanks cut by Mike and turned a bowl while Mike was talking about the advantages and the safe ways of using the bandsaw. It is a very important tool and there are some do's and don't's to be considered.



Goal is the prepare wood for turning on a lathe. Having a log hanging around that you want to use, the first thing is to cut the ends off as the ends are probably cracked and checked: need to get to good wood. He cut the log using KCWT's electric chain saw. Using a cutting horse is Essential as it keeps the wood stable while it is being cut. Also, make sure you use ear and eye protection.



One of the techniques Anthony was demonstrating was based on the face that a bowl blank does NOT have to be cut round before turning. Start turning the blank from what will be the bottom of the bowl toward the top- toward the headstock. Side grain is being cut and this technique will result in the corners being removed as the side grained wood is being turned away.





Turn the bowl at a speed you are comfortable with but remember that speed is your friend: it makes cutting much easier. Pay attention. Pushing toward the headstock makes the cuts nice and clean and as the tool approaches the corners, because it is cutting side grain, it goes right up to the corner and clips it off nice and cleanly.



One way to tell if the saw is cutting straight is to start a cut, stop it, and take the wood and turn it around and the kerf should fit right into the back of the blade. If it doesn't, some adjusting needs to be made. The wider the blade the less effective it is in making a curved cut. If you are using a wide blade, just hunk the corners off, if that's what you desire. The blank does NOT have to be a circle.







When cutting a round piece of stock on the bandsaw, use a tool like the Carter stabilizer. Crosscutting and hand holding can easily cause a problem as the blade comes down into the wood there is a tendency for the wood to turn and slip the wood out of your hands. It is safest to use something to stabilize the stock

When ripping a log, again use a jig. We have these jigs in the shop. It is very important to stabilize the wood so that it does not roll and that the cuts are made cleanly.. The jig for ripping has the wood screwed onto it so that it will not move and you will get a straight safe cut

If you are not sure how to use the bandsaw correctly, ask for some help when you are in the shop. You will happily get it.



**We hope that you all  
have a wonderful  
Thanksgiving filled with  
family, friends, fun,  
fantastic food.**

**KCWT Board**





Everyone can and everyone is encouraged to participate in this activity. It really helps growth in turning. You don't have to be perfect - just try.



**Jerry Darter**



**Larry Dice**



**Bill Secret.**



**Sue Bergstrand**



**Phil Royer**



**Chuck Levinson**



**Ed Jaszczak**



**David Blair**





**David Albright.**



**Dan Carlson**



**Linda Carlson**



**Anthony Harris**



**Mike Thomas**



**Efi Kamara**



**Kris Coyan**

The Challenge this month was based on Kris Coyan's demonstration last month and he said he wanted the challenge to be a Christmas ornament.

We have 11 Challenges a year. We leave the challenge up to the one who does the demonstration but the challenge is generally connected to the item which was demonstrated. The demonstrations are chosen as a way of presenting new information, new techniques, new tools to the members of **KCWT**. The challenge is for everyone, and the product of your participation in the challenge is that you have learned something, you have tried something, and we are all better for it.



Everyone has the opportunity to show what they are working on or have done. Doesn't even need to be completed. Bring it in.



**Dan Carlson.**



**Tony Giordano**

Dan brought in a couple bowls made from a maple tree that his church cut down last November. He made a couple bowls then only the wood didn't look this good then. Now it was spalted really nice and had more figure to it.

Tony brought in a piece made from holly that he obtained on the island of Malta which is in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea. It was interesting to turn. He ended up with some tearout the middle. He put one layer of tongue oil on it. The ornament's finish has a funny metallic look to it. At the symposium one of the vendors had some pearlescent finish which he mixed with some clear lacquer.



**Andrew E. Mitchell**



**Chuck Levinson**



**Jerry McMaster**

He started to turn cones but Andrew ended up with tops instead. He loves turning tops. The ones he brought in were turned from spalted maple and oak. Just remember that the proportions are the length is five quarters of the diameter.

Chuck decided to combine a number of elements into his display. He turned a number of mushrooms - a la Carl Jacobson, and didn't know what to do with them so he made a Christmas display.

Jerry got some wood from his daughter and son-in-law when they cut down a cyprus tree by their pool in Texas. He said the if anyone offers you bald cyphers just say "no thanks." You have to wear a snorkel to turn it as it is really wet no matter how old it is and after it is turned it is not all that pretty. So he put some art work on it and it is a good looking popcorn bowl. Used beeswax and mineral oil on the inside.





**Efi Kamara**



**Dick Woodhouse**



**Kris Coyan**

Efi brought a few things in: a small cedar bowl and he really liked the red color in the wood the made it look like flames. Another one was a lidded cedar bowl not finished on the inside as he wanted the cedar smell to stay. Third were two lidded camphor boxes he learned to make from the Liam O'Neil demonstration.

He got some wood from Mike Erickson, cut it into quarters and wanted to make two matching vases but Dick didn't quite succeed. It was difficult to get the dimensions right but the two came out pretty nice.

Kris made a couple winged bowls. In one he drilled different size holes before turning and found that he liked the rather unique design produced. The second one he used a scroll saw and cut out a good portion of the wings making a sort of spoked design. He polished them using the Beall system.



**Anthony Harris**

Anthony said that he just turned easy things. He made some ring holders made big on the bottom so they don't slide around. The other item was a loose lid box made from mahogany that he picked up off the floor. Somebody had cut it off something else. You can use all sorts of scraps.



# BOX LID ALIGNMENT PIN

Alan Falk

I like making lidded boxes from a single piece of wood with interesting grain or figure. Making the lid and box from the same piece of wood allows for the grain to flow continuously from box to lid, but it bothers me when the lid is rotated and the grain becomes misaligned. One simple, unobtrusive way to keep the lid aligned properly is to install a very small alignment pin where the lid meets the box. The pin is glued into a hole in either the lid or the box, depending on your lid design. When the lid is rotated, it “clicks” into place in exactly the right position.

The idea is to align the grain as you like, drill a hole centered on the joint line between the lid and base, and glue in a pin. A short length of 14/2-gauge copper wire (*Photo 1*), stripped of its sheathing, works well for the pin, though you could use skewer sticks or another type of thin cylindrical material. My copper wire measured about .080" on the digital calipers, so I drilled a  $\frac{3}{32}$ " (2.4mm) hole to accept it. You'll have to size your hole according to the pin material you choose.

## Drill pinhole

After you've turned your box, firmly tape the lid to the base with the grain aligned to your satisfaction. The tape keeps the grain in proper alignment



An unobtrusive pin affixed at the box/lid juncture registers the lid at the correct grain orientation.



and holds the lid tight against the box. The hole should be drilled straight into the box, not at an angle, so I use a V-block type jig to hold the box securely in place on the drill press table (*Photo 2*).

Align your drill bit *exactly* where the lid and box meet (*Photo 3*), so half the hole will be in the lid and half will be in the top edge of the box. Drill to a depth appropriate for your box lid design; my lid design allows me to drill about  $\frac{3}{4}$ " (19mm) deep.

## Affix the pin

Cut a piece of stripped wire about 1" (25mm) long. Smooth one end with abrasives to remove any sharp corners. Separate the lid from the box. Apply a bit of epoxy or cyanoacrylate (CA) glue to the

hole in the lid (or box, depending on your design) and push the pin material into the hole. Allow the adhesive to cure, then trim the short length sticking out so it doesn't extend beyond the circumference of the lid, as shown in the *opening image*.

Now a simple turn of the top will “click” the lid into place with the most attractive grain pattern aligned beautifully. Someone suggested a dab of black marker to disguise the pin, but I like the look of the copper dot on the side of the box. ■

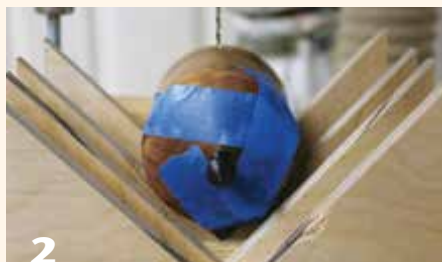
*Alan Falk has been turning wood for about five years, after getting his start with a class taught by Alan Leland. His work can be seen at [plusaf.com/woodshop/woodshop.htm](http://plusaf.com/woodshop/woodshop.htm) and at a few local craft fairs. Alan, a member of the Woodturners Guild of North Carolina, is happily retired in Raleigh, North Carolina, with his wife Claudia.*

## Pin material



The copper core of 14/2-gauge electrical wire is a good choice of pin material.

## Drill pinhole



Tape the lid to the box securely before drilling. Use a shopmade V-block to hold the round box and then drill a pinhole centered on the box/lid juncture.







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- [AAW's Woodturning Calendar](#), offers a schedule of upcoming chapter and demonstrator events, exhibitions, classes, symposia, and more.
- [The AAW Forum](#) is a member-moderated online community ideal for sharing work and ideas, obtaining feedback, and connecting with other woodturning enthusiasts. Separate online registration is required.

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