

WOODCHIPS 2020

Volume 26
Number 9



3189 Mercier Kansas City, Kansas 64111



October Challenge

Make a pen
Any kind of pen

October Demo

Dave Bartlett will
be turning an Irish
Wedding Goblet

Remember
to bid on
the art
auction.
It is on our
website.

Woodchips Staff
Editor:
Shaun McMahon

Photographer:
Ann Mellina

Contributors:
Mike Thomas

DEMONSTRATION



This month the demo was provided by **Shaun McMahon**. He demonstrated the steps he uses in making a SlimLine Pen. The entire demonstration can be seen through our website KCWoodturners.org. If you've never made a pen, you owe it to yourself to do so. It is a very creative activity and wonderful tool practice..



This months challenges was based on the demo by **Mike Mahoney** who demonstrated last last months meeting. A platter was the challenge

The Challenge participants were:

Ann Mellina.
Jerry Darter
Mike Thomas
Dave Stallings

Anthony Harris
Jerry McMaster
Chuck Levenson

Chris Reuter
Kris Cohan
Mike Erickson

Dan Carlson
Linda Carlson
Mike McReynolds

The winner of two \$10 Craft Supply gift certificates was **Chris Reuter**.

You can see the Challenge items by going to he website and viewing the meeting.



Show and Tell is the part of the meeting where anyone, at any level of turning, regardless of the item, can present to the club: talk about their success, concerns, the difficulty they had, and ask for help when needed to improve and/or complete the project. Everyone benefits.



Those who presented items were:

Ann Mellina

Anthony Harris

David Stalling

Jerry McMaster

Linda McMaster

Curt Cowman

Mike Erickson

Chuck Levenson

Kris Coyan



All the items can be seen in the meeting video available on our web site.

CHRISTMAS SALE AND FUND RAISER

When: November 14-15

Time: 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM

KCWT NEEDS YOUR HELP

We have lost all our fundraising activities for this year because of Covid 19. We are participating in this event with The Guild and it is the best opportunity to raise some supporting funds for KCWT that we have this year. **Mike McCauley** is the Guild member who is arranging the Guild's side of this event.

Current plans: As customers come into the club house they will be greased with Christmas decorations and the Holiday Mart and the meeting space will be set up for both the Guild and KCWT. Customers can go right into the Holiday Mart area or, if they have children, they can choose to go to the The Guild area where children can build a toy (truck) by going through various stations and end up in the hand-tool room where they will complete assembly with Santa and his elves. Part of the construction process includes drilling a hole in the truck bed so that a top can be placed in the hole. Upon exiting the hand-tool room they will enter the Holiday Mart area.

Vendor tables will be set up in the Holiday Mart area. One half will belong to the Guild and the other half will be for KCWT. We will, hopefully, be selling Christmas gifts of all kinds: ornaments, toys, boxes, Christmas decorations, etc.

Each organization will keep the money from the items that it sells. If there are KCWT members who want to sell personally turned items they are more than welcome to do so. KCWT will retain 30% of the sale price of the item and the member gets the rest.

We need help in a variety of areas:

1. The greatest need is for donated items to KCWT so that we can raise some much needed money.
2. We need help with the rest of the planning - some Zoom meetings will surely be involved.
3. Decorations need to be planned and acquired and set up.
4. Members need to participate in hosting the tables during the event.
5. We need members to sell items
6. We need help in turning tops as that will be an ongoing activity during the event.
7. Clean up is a necessary evil after the event.
8. There will probably be other needs which will come to light as the planning proceeds.

Please give some serious consideration to helping in this endeavor. Contact Shaun McMahon at sqmcmahon@gmail.com

We will also be practicing safety procedures during the event: temps will be checked upon entering, hand sanitizer will be provided, and social distancing will be maintained.

Kris Coyan: Wood Tray, 16.75" dia, Sycamore

About seven years ago I sat in my office and watched in awe as they demolished the entire two story office building that was next door. A very mature sycamore tree grew next to this building and one day, much to my dismay, I watched a very large piece of equipment literally break this huge tree down and place it into a dumpster headed to the dump. When the dust settled, the tree was gone. The only thing left after the tree eating machine finished was a 5' tall trunk, about 40" in diameter and still in the ground.

Since this was a fenced off project site, I fought off my desire to go negotiate any of the Sycamore wood from the large equipment contractors. They had their job to complete, and I was busy in my office while all of that demolition was going on...but I kept my eye on that trunk piece! A couple days later, I looked over and saw that someone had used a chainsaw and cut that trunk piece off at the ground.

Well, that was just too good to pass up. I immediately walked over to the construction trailer and asked the job foreman if he I could take that big trunk off of his hands. Although he probably thought I was nuts, he gave me the OK to take the trunk, as long as I got it off the jobsite before the next day. Now this wasn't a small piece of wood. I would guess that it weighed well over 500 pounds so I am sure the job foreman was questioning that I could get it gone. Fortune was on my side, however, since the jobsite was uphill from my office building. I talked my boss into helping me 'roll' the trunk down the slight slope and onto our companies property and off the jobsite. That weekend, club member David Alexander used his chainsaw and very impressively cut the trunk into four, very large bowl blanks.

Three of these large bowl blanks were used to create (3) very large bowls. It took me a couple of years to get those three turned, as each one of them were 'twice turned' and allowed several months to dry between turnings. I cored one of these pieces during an open shop, with much assistance from Anthony Harris, and was able to get a second bowl from one of the quarters. This was my first experience with turning large diameter bowls and with the coring process.

The fourth piece, however, has been setting in my garage for about seven years. I had looked at it over these years and had several ideas of what I wanted to get out of this piece. Once again, David Alexander demonstrated his chainsaw mastery and cut the final quarter of that sycamore trunk into three pieces. The top slice, closest to the pith, was to become a tray, the second slice would be used for a large diameter bowl (about 6" deep), and I plan to use the last thin piece for a shallow natural edge bowl. I am sharing these photo's of all of the items that I was able to get out of this Sycamore trunk. This trunk was a great example of how free wood is always the best wood AND how these projects were accomplished only with the help from other club members and the access to the open shop equipment. I



Here is something that I did for The Tonganoxie Historical Society over the last winter. My wife, Laurie, and I are members. This is the town that I grew up. Laurie manages the museum and I am the editor of the newsletter. The Tonganoxie Historical Society. society is a very active one. In the Fall of 2019 effort was made to restore an old spring. This spring was very important during the time that this farm was an active dairy.

This spring provided cold water which was used to keep the milk cool. This was not a small operation. It generally milked over 200 cows per day. A large dying Mulberry tree that was growing on one side of the spring presented a problem. The roots were disrupting the rock walls of spring. It was decided that if we were going to restore this spring, the old Mulberry tree would have to go. This is where I entered the picture.

Most knew that had a wood lathe and wouldn't to be nice to make some wooden bowls from this tree that the historical society could sell. I thought I could do it and so the bowl project began.

I thought there would be numerous large bowls that we could harvest from the tree. That proved to be incorrect. The trunk was gnarled, and some areas in the trunk were very soft. Bottom line. A few bowls were large, but most were medium size or smaller.

After the tree was cut down. several things were discovered



Dying Mulberry Tree



1. The wood was generally dead, but the weight of the blanks was very heavy and the wood was still very wet. Some 20-30 year old men put the blanks in my truck.

2. By November I had all the blanks rough cut. I put them in a paper bag in my heated basement for them to dry out.

3. In February the smaller blanks were dry enough to finish the final cut. My barn is not heated so I worked on these bowls when temperature was at least 50 degrees. A large fan moved the dust outside of the barn. The surprise to me was the wood almost looked like Osage Orange trees. I discovered that Mulberry and Osage Orange are related. The yellow wood on oxidation turns purple as seen in the photo of the cut tree trunk

4. By March I was through finish cutting the bowls. I moved them to my basement and sanded, smoothed and shellacked the bowls.

5. The plan is to sell the bowls, but the Covid 19 virus has made this a difficult problem. We are hoping to begin selling these bowls soon.



After COVID hit, I was given a lathe from my family for my birthday. Digging in, I was amazed by how many different things in my life used a lathe to produce. This revelation led me to find all the artwork I enjoyed that used a lathe to create, and where I received most of my inspiration for "the next project." Snapping screenshots, printing the image, running out to the garage, and mounting a block of wood became my nightly activity. Here is a piece I produced based on the work of @tornituramorella on Instagram.

Thanks,

Jeff Julian



In response to the call for recent projects while in quarantine. Here's a few photos of a project I finished in May. Thanks!

A coworker of my wife wanted a set of bowls as a wedding gift for some close friends. He went to grad school at the Rhode Island School of Design and acquired the two Honduran Mahogany blanks from the Manning Rare Woods Collection.

Inspired by thrown ceramic bowls with simple clean lines, I wanted to do something I hadn't done before. Maybe not the best idea when you are sent two pieces of old mahogany, but the size and shape of the blanks fit nicely with the inspiration. The wood turned beautifully to a thin wall with delicate cuts.

-----Phill Sikes



Tony Giordano

These two bowls were turned using Baltic birch plywood, and segmented! To keep the base similar in color maple was used.

Right one was left natural on the inside. Outside was dyed from the bottom up, yellow, orange and red.

Left was dyed blue, lighter on the outside.

Each received 3 coats of epoxy, followed by several coats of lacquer and buffed to a high gloss.

I like the visual effect from using plywood. Turning was challenging because it wanted to tear out on alternating layers, even with a sharp gouge!



Rich McCartney

I cut a lot of turning blank segments before my hand surgery in early Nov. During recovery I glued up a lot of turning blanks. In mid Feb. I was back in the Tallgrass Creek shop. Then mid March everything here was shut down. I had the 8 Snack Bowls turned but not sanded or finished. The 20 blanks for Bottle Stoppers, Bud Vases, and Brush Handles were only glued up blanks.

When the weather got nicer (we are on the 1st floor with a patio), I purchased the Apprentice 812VS Lathe from Craft Supplies. It is a great small lathe, at 700 RPM it does not have a lot of torque, but it is good for sanding. At 2,000 RPM it does a good job at turning up to 3 or 4" in diameter, but you need to take small cuts. The 20 blanks went from square to finished turnings without difficulty. They are ready for Tung oil and wax.

I also got out my 4" table saw and Ring Master bowl lathe, both had not been used in 30+ years. A few days of reconditioning and they were up and running.

I had 46 wood samples (3"x6"x1/2") of Hawaiian woods. With the table saw, I cut these in 3/4" strips. They were glued into two 12" platters of 46 woods each and two 8" platters of 36 woods each. With the Ring Master, I cut 85 rings from 6 different woods (3/4" boards). The rings were glued into 14 bowl blanks from 4" to 10" in diameter.

The Tallgrass Creek shop reopened on Sept 9th. For 6 months I kept busy and was never bored, thanks to a good wood supply, small saved power tools, and a few bucks (\$\$).



The saga begins:

Some months ago, I responded to an ad in Craig's List for a box elder burl. Drove about 40 miles and decided to buy it although I questioned how it would turnout because it had two significant voids that would have to be epoxy filled. I let it set in the garage since then pondering how to proceed. Resin casting was chosen to do this project. I bought an old paint pot with the intent to turn it into a pressure pot for resin casting (not the best buy as it leaks above 40 psi).

The next challenge was to find a container that fits the burl in order to have something close to the diameter of the item being cast. Generally, the resin on the outside is wasted and turned away. I had an epiphany of sorts, in asking myself if it was possible to use a strong paper and Elmer's glue to make a paper castomg mold that would be easy to turn away.

I decided to try doing just that after figuring out that if one wrapped thin foam around the burl, made the mold like paper mache, then get the foam out of the mold would yield a void to pour the resin around the burl.

My choice of paper was lawn leaf bags as that paper has good wet strength and there is lots of area to cut to form to cover the burl. I had some foam about 1/4" thick that I wrapped completely around the burl and then cut the first piece of paper 1" taller than the burl and long enough to overlapped the outside of the burl and foam; next, I glued the edges together and began coating the outside of that paper cylinder with glue (Elmer's household glue). I wrapped the 2nd layer of paper onto the glued 1st layer. The bottom of the mold was curved and I had turned a 5" recess that fit the jaws of the burl; this recess was packed with molding clay to fill it flush to the outer edge of the burl.

To make the bottom of the mold cover the base of the burl, I cut one 6" circle piece of paper to form the base and then glued wedge shaped pieces of paper that overlapped this circle and the outside edge. I continued to glue the next wedge pieces onto cover these pieces on the base area. I finished the mold with a 3rd layer of paper and allowed it to dry overnight.

To get the burl out of the mold, it was necessary to cut opposite sides of the cylinder vertically from the top too just above the base. This freed the burl and foam. Then I used a 2" wide strips of paper coated with glue to rejoin the seams on the inside and outside of the mold and allowed that to dry again overnight and sprayed the inside of the mold with shellac spray and the mold was ready to use.

I calculated how much resin in Liters from the formula $L = \text{Height (cm)} * \pi * (r_1^2 - r_2^2)$. The radius of the paper mold and the radius of the burl were measured in cm. The resulting volume is in milliliters. In my case, the result was ~1 Liter. You also need to allow for and add the volume of resin that will be needed to fill the voids of the burl.

The burl and mold were placed in the pressure pot and then 1-L of resin was mixed with a red pigment added. A last minute issue surfaced in that burls will float in the resin and I found that the center cardboard from a roll of packing tape would compress enough to hold the burl down to the bottom of the mold. The resin was allowed to cure overnight at 40psi. Upon removing the mold and burl, it turns out that I did not adequately estimate the volume of the voids adequately. There were two places that needed about 25 mL total additional resin.

To do an additional fill of resin I used hot glue to adhere doubled strips of packing tape (sticky sides were stuck together) to the top side and edge of the burl. After securing the tape with the hot glue, another wrap of packing tape was placed around the burl and resin added to fill the voids. The burl was returned to the lathe and put on centers where the mold base was cut through to just outside the 5" recess that was filled with clay. After removing the clay, the burl was remounted on the lathe chuck and the paper was turned away along with the excess resin to reveal the wood and epoxy filled areas. To minimize turning the burl into sawdust, a Oneway coring adapter was used to remove a 6" conical section from the center of the burl. This piece was transformed into a base for the burl and the support was formed to mate with the space occupied by the lathe vice. The burl and base were joined with TiteBond II, a carpenter's glue.

All in all, this effort supports using strong paper to create custom fitting molds for projects that need to have areas filled with epoxy resin.

Pictures are attached to show creating the resin filled burl and conical base

David Stalling



Best Home-made Danish Oil Finish!

(Mike Mahoney's recommendation)

by **Mike Thomas**

September 6, 2020

Are you a fan of penetrating oil finishes? Looking for an alternative to Watco? Want to save money? Well, keep reading.

During Mike Mahoney's IRD for KCWT on August 10th, and more specifically during a discussion about wood finishes, he briefly mentioned that he doesn't make a Danish Oil finish because it's too easy for anyone to inexpensively make it themselves. Now, this got my attention coming from the owner of Mahoney's Finishes, maker of *Utility Finish* but better known as *walnut oil* to most all of us who use it. And he also commented that this little walnut oil side business he has is going to provide him with a well-funded retirement. So, he probably knows something about marketing wood finishes. I blurted out "How?" (my microphone wasn't muted) and Mike said there are plenty of formulations available on the internet, just Google it, but the most common one people use contains equal parts of oil-based gloss polyurethane, boiled linseed oil (BLO) and mineral spirits. I really wanted to try this, having answered "yes" to the three questions above, so I called him the next day to confirm the formulation. Mike told me that's all there is to it and the ingredients are widely available at hardware stores, WalMart and the big box home improvement stores.

I checked my shelf of finishing products and found that all I needed was some oil-based gloss polyurethane so off to Home Depot I went. I returned to compound the ingredients then bottle, label and distribute 8 ounce "samples" to some other members interested in trying it. Those that I have heard back from say they really like this finish and I do too. It has the same consistency and easy application like the original Watco formulation. It dries quickly into the wood leaving a smooth hand-rubbed satin sheen. Look at the before and after photos below of a walnut platter that I just completed with this finish. The cost was also about one third to half of what I paid for my last quart of "reformulated" Watco Danish Oil (\$16.50) in June of this year. Cost range is based on purchasing gallon or quart quantities of the ingredients.

If you want to make a quart of this finish to try for yourself, simply combine 11 ounces of each ingredient below in a quart container (32 ounce) and stir.

Ingredients:

- Oil-based clear gloss Polyurethane - 1/3 total volume
- Boiled Linseed Oil (BLO) - 1/3 total volume
- Mineral Spirits - 1/3 total volume



Directions: Use this just like you would use Watco Danish Oil Finish on any clean bare wood interior surface sanded smooth with dust removed and adequate ventilation.

1. Shake container thoroughly.
2. Flood surface using a brush or clean lint-free rag and apply additional finish to areas that absorb all the liquid. Keep the surface wet and allow to penetrate for 15 minutes. Reapply and work the finish deep into pores then allow it to penetrate for an additional 15 minutes.
3. Wipe surface completely dry with a lint-free rag, old tee shirts work well. This is important because otherwise it can dry tacky, look glossy and be difficult to remove.
4. Allow to dry for 8-10 hours before use. Dry time varies with temperature, humidity and ventilation. A second coat may be applied to increase the sheen and depth of the finish in the wood, if desired. Wait 72 hours before applying a topcoat, like polyurethane, if desired.
5. Allow to dry for 8-10 hours before use. Dry time varies with temperature, humidity and ventilation. A second coat may be applied to increase the sheen and depth of the finish in the wood, if desired. Wait 72 hours before applying a topcoat, like polyurethane, if desired.

Clean up with mineral spirits or paint thinner. Apply a fresh coat as needed for maintenance or to repair surface scratches and remove minor stains. Burnish affected area with fine steel wool or 220 grit sandpaper before application.

Caution: This is a penetrating oil finish that cures by generating internal heat. Rags, steel wool or other waste soaked with this finish may spontaneously combust if improperly discarded so after use unfold and lay rags flat to dry or place in a sealed water-filled metal container for disposal. Use common sense as you would with any of the ingredients and keep out of the reach of children and don't take internally, etc.



THINGS YA JUST GOTTA KNOW



Efi's **SAFETY FIRST** Minute

It is ALWAYS a good idea to make sure that you are very conscious regarding safety.

★ Shop is open - use Signup genius

★ Remember: Amazon Smile donates part of your purchase to KCWT

★ If you are in the shop and see a maintenance issue, please tell someone.

★ There is a pressure pot available for member use.

★ We will be having a Christmas fundraising event. See the article in this issue of Woodchips

★ Kevin Neelley is looking for pictures of members work along with a picture and a bit of item info to put in the website gallery.

★ The Freedom Pens are due by October 31st.

★ John Beaver will provide the November demonstration. More info coming soon.

★ We had 31 members attend the last Zoom KCWT meeting.

Dear members,

Here is your chance to get your work in front of the entire KCWT membership and, perhaps, even more.

During this Covid period you may have been spending more time in your shop. You may have been trying new things. You may have been expanding your skills in a particular area. We, the KCWT Board, are inviting you to take a picture of one of the items you have produced since April 2020. Then tell the story of your piece in less than 100 words;

How you came to turn this particular piece:

The wood; where you got it

What you turned it with - the tools

The finish and why this finish

What you learned

How you feel about the piece

Then send the picture (a JPG) and the story (Rich Text Format is best-RTF) to Shaun McMahon at sec@kcwoodturners.org.

These pictures and stories will then be put into Woodchips so that the members will be able to see what has been going on during the time we have not been able to meet. ALL members and ALL skill levels are encouraged to participate.

You have till the end of September in which to get your picture and accompanying story to Shaun. We hope to fill Woodchips with your work. Thank you in advance.

KCWT Board

October Silent Art Auction

KC Woodturner Tony Giordano has donated his “Osage Orange Vase” woodturning to the KCWT October 12th 2020 Silent Art Auction. See the photos and description below. Each month, there will be a Silent Art Auction with a piece donated by a different KCWT artist. This sale supports your club and will hopefully be a great way to get member woodturnings into the hands of other members and the community.

Pre-auction bids can be made before the October meeting by email to treas@kcwoodturners.org. The highest pre-auction bid will be posted on the KCWT website in the sidebar area. Bids will be shown as \$ amount and the last four digits of the bidder phone number: see our website sidebar at www.kcwoodturners.org The last day for bidding on Tony’s piece is October 16th.



Artist: Tony Giordano
Title: Osage Orange Vase
Dimensions: 7-1/4" diameter x 8-1/8" tall



Tony's Description: The Osage Orange tree originally grew in my front yard. Osage Orange does not always grow round and this one didn't either. The void was filled with resin. The finish is several coats of epoxy followed with clear polyurethane.

The photo above was lit from the inside with an LED tea light.

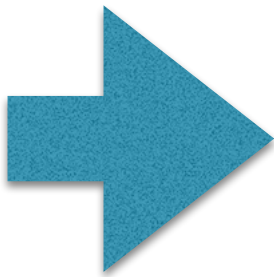


Website Gallery - KCWT is going to update the photos in the Gallery on our website. We want more current pictures. And, we want yours. If you would like to have one or two of your best pieces shown in the gallery, please bring them to a meeting and we will photograph them for you. We also need some information about the piece(s) - wood, any story associated with it, your name, anything that you think pertinent. If you can't bring item(s) to a meeting you can bring them to Open Turning but let Kevin or Shaun know in advance that you are coming.

We are all busy during the year and it helps to know what's around the corner. Here is an expanded version of the events that KCWT is participating in during 2020. This is not ALL inclusive as there will probably be more events added during the year. The Board will try to keep you informed about what is in the works. We hope that you will do some of your planning to include these events and activities. KCWT is a completely volunteer organization and we really do need your help.

Volunteering has some tangible benefits: it helps counteract the effects of stress, anger, and anxiety; combats depression; makes a person happy; increases self confidence; provides a sense of purpose.

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To set up your computer to donate to KCWT:

You can support your club when you shop on Amazon. AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of each sale to us and it doesn't cost you ANYTHING. All you have to do is use this link the next time you shop on Amazon: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/51-0568355> Then choose Kansas City Woodturners Association as your charity of choice the first time you shop there. It's automatic the next times. Save this link and use it every time you shop Amazon. I do all my shopping at AmazonSmile and I have made Kansas City Woodturners my charity of choice. KC Woodturners is a 501(C)(3) charity. So far, the AmazonSmile donations to your club have been tiny, but every bit helps. **Kevin Neelley**

Here is the link again: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/51-0568355>

Please check our website (www.kcwoodturners.org) often and consider it your source for the most current information about club activities and events. It is also 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.

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the learning and fun never end.**

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Store Hours

Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri 9 am—7 pm

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Saturday 9 am—6 pm

Sunday 9 am—5 pm

As a member of KC Woodturner, you receive a 10% discount except for on sale items and power tools. Make sure you present your KC Woodturner Card.

Craft Supplies

1287 E 1120 South

Provo, Utah 84606

1-800-551-8876



Jeff Edemann offers KCWT members 10% off all items except sale items and power tools. Ask Jeff about any discount on power tools.



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