

# Turn North



The Monthly Newsletter of the Northland Woodturners

[www.northlandwoodturners-kc.com](http://www.northlandwoodturners-kc.com)

June 2019

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## Chapter Meetings:

First Thursday of every month, 7-9 pm.  
Our ADDRESS: We're south of Zona Rosa just off NW Prairie View Rd., just east of the N-S drive beside the barber shop; (**Northeast Corner**) in the strip mall across from the BP station on Prairie View RD.

## Coming Attractions

Newsletters on the Chapter Website:  
<http://northlandwoodturners-kc.com>

### Event Information:

Coming in July—**ONE WEEK LATER**—Independence Day  
Falls on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday.  
Bring your favorite July 4<sup>th</sup> dessert!

*(and your best wood turnings)*

## Turn North Program Personality Rick Bywater

After opening the meeting, Chip and Danny introduced Rick Bywater to the club. Rick has been a wood turner for over 20 years. He is a member of the Kansas City Woodturners club. He turns all kinds of shapes including wooden baskets, buttons and wedding bowls.



A sample of the buttons recreated by Rick.

At right is an eggshell covered turning where cleaned and washed white eggshells are cracked and then glued in place.



More to come later in this issue...

## Show and Tell



**Harlan Henke** made a presentation case that doubles as a desk name plate. The narrow long edges are tapered at 10° to allow a slight angle when on the desk. The case is made of Maple and Walnut woods with a satin finish. The pen and pencil set is made from *Ipe*, a Brazilian wood that is normally used outdoors for decking and other weather exposed surfaces and applications.

Both pen/pencil set and case are personalized with the recipient's name.



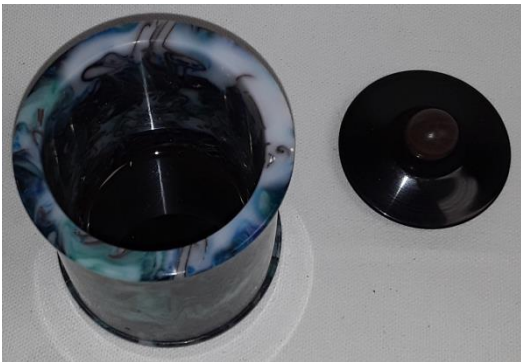
**Mel Bryan** brought a Walnut hollow form with a detachable top finial. The interior of the shape was hollowed with a narrow inside turning tool.



**Pete Stacy** turned a Sycamore vase and bowl. They both have a satin finish with the interior of the vase as smooth as the exterior.



The bowl was turned from a board narrower than the diameter of the finished turning, making the two sides flat.



A second hollow form by **Pete Stacy**. The lid is ebonized Walnut and the hollow form has been colorized with a plasticizer.



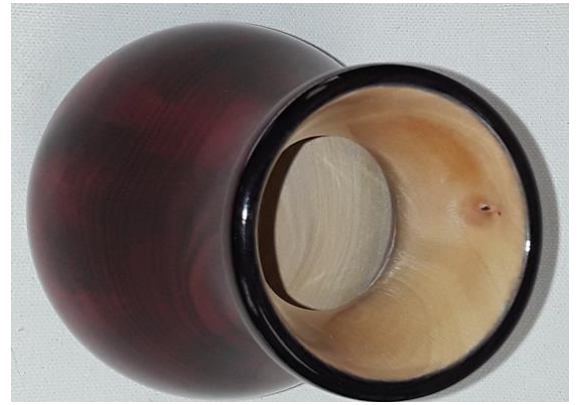
A third sample of **Pete's** hollow forms with colorizing. This vase is about 3" in diameter and about 4" tall. The interior is finished in a white color with an antique turquoise/gold finish on the outer surface.







The fourth “Hollow form” from **Pete Stacy** was a vase turned from maple with a cherry stain on the exterior. The finish is a high gloss lacquer type finish. The interior is finished natural—no stain for a nice contrast.



**David Scott** brought a bandsaw jig and an idle adjuster that he uses. The bandsaw jig holds irregular pieces for cutting without the piece to be cut moving. Note the turned handles at the right on the 3 screws.

The idle adjuster is used to adjust chainsaw and other two-cycle carburetors.

See the enlarged view for details of the driver.



**Chip Siskey** brought an architectural shape; the upper part a bullseye form and the lower part a molded shape. The wood is Poplar. Note the contrast between sapwood and heartwood, with the heartwood darker in color. As a finished piece it would be painted.



**David Dinkel** turned a nice Walnut bowl from a piece of crotch wood with a limb base showing on the left side of the turning picture. It is finished with a semi-gloss finish to highlight the grain pattern.

The bottom view highlights the limb on the side of the bowl and just goes to say, “***There is NO bad piece of wood in the hands of an artist!***”

Nice job, David!



Some other examples of Rick Bywater’s turning prowess.

The ball and form are both turned from the same kind of wood to make a nice desk piece.

The finished “buttons” in the background have been “finished” with twine to simulate thread in the center. The center button finish is a milk paint type of finish.





Face grain – American elm



Am Elm, Red Elm, Siberian Elm



End Grain View

## **Ulmus Americana – American elm**

Elm. Almost every city in America has a street named after the popular shade tree; Elm. It was a common sight to have streets lined with elm trees shading the thoroughfares until the Dutch elm disease wiped out much of the elm population. In 1930 the Asian fungus, *Ophiostoma ulmi*, was imported from Europe on logs and quickly spread and began killing hundreds of thousands of trees. The disease is spread by the European elm bark beetles that fly from tree to tree. The elm is a fast growing prolific tree and the young trees continue in the areas affected but also succumb to the disease before reaching full maturity.

The elm has had a long history of use, utility and appreciation including love and conflict even on political levels. One interesting use the Romans began and is still in practice today in Italy, is planting elm trees as a support of the vines in vineyards. Besides being used for fine furniture, elm was used by the Iroquois Indians as a medicine for headaches and, early in the game of baseball, players would chew a gum of the elm bark which would produce a sticky saliva which they would rub into their gloves to help them catch the ball. Elms are very large trees reaching 100 feet in height and trunks four feet in diameter. There are many ‘elms’ including; *Red elm/Slippery elm*, *Chinese elm*, *Siberian elm*, *English elm*, *Rock elm*, *Cedar elm*, *Dutch elm*, to name a few, but this article will be mostly concerned with American elm, *Ulmus Americana*, also known as white elm, water elm, soft elm, or Florida elm.

The wood of American elm has a grayish white to light brown, thick sapwood and the heartwood is light brown to brown frequently with a reddish tinge and even a gray cast. It is moderately hard with straight or sometimes interlocked-grain and has a unique chatoyance similar to quarter sawn sycamore. The grain pattern of elm resembles the grain pattern of ash. The wood can present some challenges to working or turning in that it can chip out or leave a fuzzy surface. And if you’ve tried to split it for firewood, you know that it does not split easily. That attribute is actually a positive characteristic for elm in that it is hard to split when driving nails or screws, but does require predrilling. It is easily bent and its toughness makes it popular for interior parts of furniture that require good wearing properties. Sharp tools are needed, can dull fast and can be a challenge for hand tools due to the interlocking grain. Elm has been used in a large variety of uses including cooperage, baskets, ship building, boxes and crates, toys, turning, furniture, flooring, sporting goods and plywood veneer.

Red elm (Slippery elm), *Ulmus rubra*, is a common first cousin to American elm and is sometimes sold along with American elm although it is softer and sometimes called soft elm. It is darker in color with a red to brown shade.

Elm can have a strong offensive odor when green and wet, but has very little odor when dry. Serious allergic reactions are not common, but it can be a “sensitizer” to skin or eyes.

You can read more about Elm at; [Wikipedia](#) or on the [Wood Database](#) and at [Wood magazine](#).

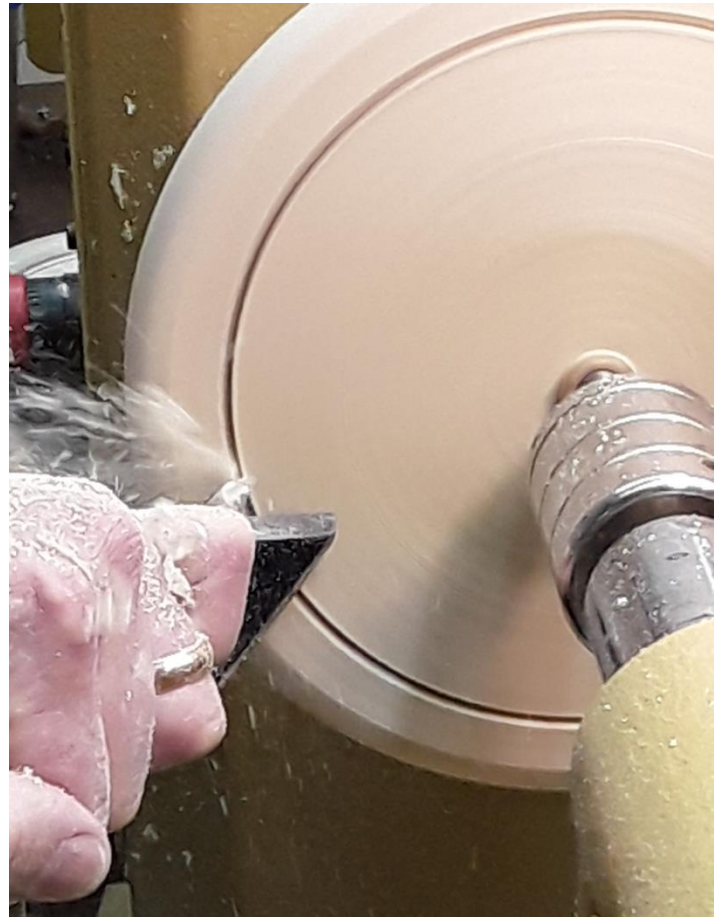
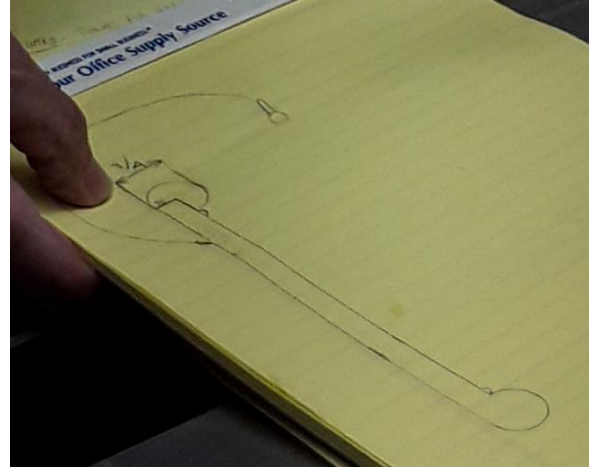
Written by – Mel Bryan

# Program Highlights



**Rick Bywater** began his presentation with a block of Ash wood approximately 10" in diameter.

At the right is the drawing from which Rick would work. The hub in the center is about  $\frac{3}{4}$ " thick with the outer rim at the same height only rounded to a 1" bead.



Once the blank is trued, both diameter and face, the outer rim of the button form is located and marked by turning a groove. The grooving tool is shown at right. Round on top and angled below, it is sharpened to a point with the angled part making the point.







After the faceplate side was smoothed, Rick held another blank. The center has been textured using a needle scaler. Not having live compressed air, he could not demonstrate the process.



Marking the “thread” holes is easy with a template made by Rick. Scoring at right indicates where the center design will be.

Having turned to this point with the remaining skill set merely cleaning up and smoothing the turning, Rick switched to the texture blank.

Rick made mention that he does not unmount a blank from the faceplate until the piece is completely finished, paint and all.

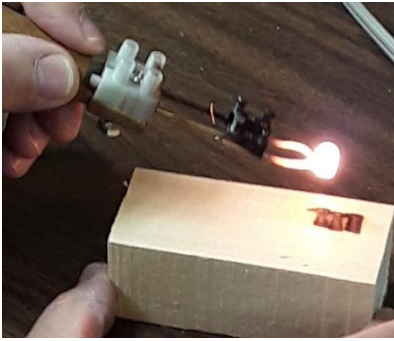
This makes the removal and remounting simply an unscrewing from the headstock with centering and roundness preserved.



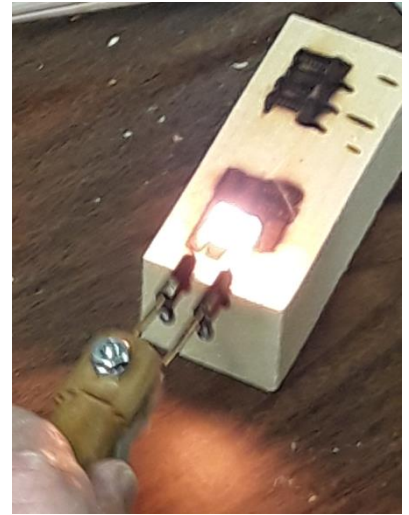
Rick uses a milk paint to color many of his pieces. Stable and non-fading it holds its color well. It is available in powder form.

First coat goes on and soaks into the wood. Once the interior of the button has been coated, a top coat sets the color. At right is the finished painting of the button. Notice the “stippling” produced by the needle scaler.





Another “coloring” process Rick demonstrated was a “wood burning” process using a coiled wire and battery power. The heated wire burns a pattern into the wood, depending on how fast or slow it is touched or dragged across the piece.



Another decorating medium uses a product that is disposed of by most people, wood turners included. Rick demonstrated a process using spent egg shells, cleaned and washed, with the inner membrane removed. Then, after drying, the egg shell is “crushed into irregular small pieces and, using a milk paint wash, attached to the wood surface.

One example was on page 1 of this newsletter. Another example was a button that Rick had started and brought with him.

On flat surfaces it can be difficult to maintain the sizes without crushing the shells.

On curved surfaces, once the pieces are in place and dried, the surface can be sanded smooth, crevices filled with a contrasting color or left open, and finished with most finishing non water-based finish.



Shown at the right is some of the special tooling used by Rick in doing the button turning during the program.



See you next meeting. Bring your latest turnings and **“Show and Tell!”**



## Damage Control Plugs

Thanks to everyone who's helped with our plug orders. Our inventory is getting low so we will be asking for help getting restocked. There will be boxes of blanks at the next meeting. Please consider taking a box home and turning them by the following meeting. Here's a table with the plug dimensions for reference.

It's also on the CLUB NEWS tab of the club website at

<http://www.northlandwoodturners-kc.com/>

Plug	Lg Dia	Length	Sm Dia
#1	1 1/2	7	5/8
#2	2 1/4	4	1 1/4
#3	3 1/4	3 1/2	2 1/8
#4	4 1/4	5 3/4	2 3/4
#5	6 1/2	6	4 3/4



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Check out the Club Specials every month.  
Enter "NorthlandWoodturners" when asked for club name.

**REMINDER:**

The annual dues for **2019** are **\$10.**

**Checks can be made payable to**  
**Northland Woodturners.**