

# Turn North



The Monthly Newsletter of the Northland Woodturners

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

December 2021

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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., in the old Mid-Continent Library building on the top floor. Parking is on top of the hill off Tower Drive.

## Coming Attractions

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

**NEEDED: Fund raising Ideas.**

**Remember—2021 dues are \$10 for the year.**

**Due beginning**  
**January 7, 2021**

**Next Meeting:**  
**December 2, 2021**  
**This is a party and turning challenge night.**



Turning Challenge night this month will have you working hard to duplicate the idea. Bring your sharp tools and be ready. Loyalty prize will also be awarded for those who have been in attendance during the year. Rumor has it there are some nice prizes to be awarded. Come and enjoy your favorite goodies too so bring your favorite home-made and enjoy a variety of fare.

Oh, and Santa MIGHT make a guest appearance too. No promises or guarantees so don't be naughty but be nice!!

Some of the previous entries in the Ornament contest from past years are shown below.

Kenneth Heermann's entry in 2020



David Bartlett's entries in 2020.

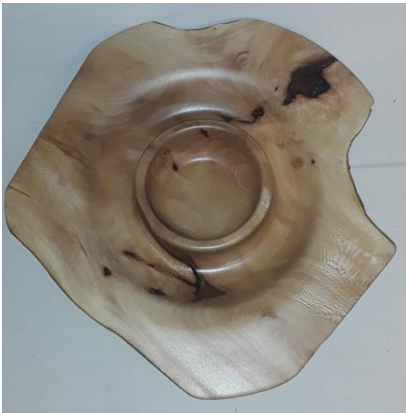
Candle in a ring on left and enclosed candle on right.



Mel Bryan's hollow candle with a Cross enclosed.

Let's see some more ideas for Christmas ornaments this year.

# SHOW AND TELL



**Mikeal Jones** brought a live edge **Sycamore** square bowl. Turned with a nice indentation in the center that would hold lots of things it was finished with a very shiny matte finish. Nice Job Mikeal.

Let's see some more ideas this month for unique turnings. (Ed.)



## Wood of The Month



*Sycamore Flat sawn*



*Sycamore Quarter sawn*



Sycamore  
end grain view

### **Platanus occidentalis** – Sycamore

The American sycamore is also called; plane tree, buttonwood, buttonball, ghost tree and water beech. It is easy to see why it is called ghost tree especially in the fall and winter after its leaves have fallen with its huge scaly white branches spreading out reaching for anything surrounding it. The bark of the tree sheds off in large poster board like sheets making it a tree that needs constant cleanup effort all year long along with the constant rain of crooked sticks and huge leaves. The fruit is round dry balls about 1 to 1 ½ inches in diameter that persists through the winter and are food for Purple finches in late winter. The branches of the tree are crooked and bent often at 90 degrees to themselves. In the process, they can break off and provide nooks and crannies for birds and mammals seeking shelter.

The tree can reach massive proportions rising to 130 ft. and 6 ft. or greater in diameter. Some have even gotten to 13 ft. in diameter. The heartwood is light to dark brown or even reddish brown and the sapwood is whitish to light yellowish or reddish brown. The wood is generally irregularly interlocked-grained and though firm, tough and strong, it is not very heavy. Sycamore is very similar to maple in texture. When quarter sawn, the mottled texture with conspicuous rays is quite attractive and even dramatic. It is often used for guitar or other musical instruments. Because of its toughness, sycamore is a favorite wood for butcher blocks and buttons, hence the common name

buttonwood. It is used for boxes and crates, trunk slats, brush backs, woodenware, and furniture especially as the secondary wood or quarter sawn for its appearance. The veneers are used for berry boxes, baskets for vegetables and cigar boxes.

Sycamore can be turned with ease and finishes smoothly when sharp tools are used. The turned wood can have a dramatic effect when the quarter sawn portion of the turned object is viewed contrasting with the plain sawn view.

Since the sycamore is fast growing and an excellent shade tree it is planted in urban areas and therefore can be fairly easily obtained when trimming or removal is required. It might be difficult to dry without warping or splitting without observing the proper precautions.

A fun piece of trivia is; "The terms under which the New York Stock Exchange was formed are called the "Buttonwood Agreement", because it was signed under a buttonwood (sycamore) tree at 68 Wall Street, New York City, in 1792." Ref: Wikipedia.org

You can read more about Sycamore at; [The Wood-database](#) and [Wikipedia.org](#).

*Written by – Mel Bryan*

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## News from AAW...



# AAW Annual International Woodturning Symposium Chattanooga, Tennessee June 23 - 26, 2022

Chattanooga Convention Center 1 Carter Plaza Chattanooga, TN 37402

## Together again!

**Whether you're a NEW TURNER or a PROFESSIONAL...**

Reunite and connect with other turners who share your interests. You'll find demonstrations targeted to your skill level. Over 3½ days, you'll have 100 compelling presentations to choose from to help you enrich your woodturning experience.

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### Just a few of the opportunities to peruse:

- Bowls & Platters
- Embellishment, Carving & Finishing
- Segmented Work
- Hollow Forms & Boxes
- Pens
- Inspiration and Creativity
- Spindles, Finials, Multiaxis
- Tool Making and Tool Handling
- Small Treasures



# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS FROM NOVEMBER 2021



**NWT Vice Pres. Danny Smith** demonstrated finish turning a bowl first using a roughing gouge to rough out the interior.



Danny showed the angle of grind on the cutting end and mentioned that some turners grind the end to be “flat across” instead of having a curve.



Chips flew as Danny turned the inside surface of the bowl blank. This was originally a green wood turning from **Soft Maple**.



Danny next turned a blank to be used as a jam chuck insert for reversing the bowl and finish turning the end mounted in the chuck.



The chuck end of the insert was turned using a gouge, shown at left.

All that remained was to put a curve to fit the bottom of the bowl on the Jam Chuck blank.



Like a wrestling tag team, **NWT Treasurer Chip Siskey** then showed some more turning tools for interior work on a wood turning.

One of the tools, shown at right, had a circular cutting edge that was sharpened on the inside of the circle.

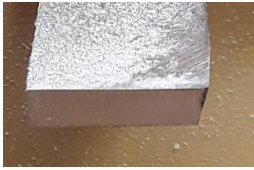


Chip showed another comparison between a Bowl gouge and a Spindle gouge. The Angle of grind is different as is the “wing” on each side. The interior is usually more shallow on the bowl gouge and the interior of a spindle gouge is deeper with a round, vee or parabolic cross section.





Using a bowl gouge, Chip made a hole in the center to the depth he wanted the turning to be. Then it was simply a process of removing the excess wood to hollow out the shape.



Using a flat scraper tool with a special sharpened angle on one side shown below, Chip then cleaned the bottom of the turning to smooth out tool marks and produce a “square” corner in the bottom.

Note the slight undercut to the side angle of the grind on the right side of the tool shown. This provides a way to scrape the inside side and get into the corner of the bottom hollow part.

The face of the tool is also ground with a negative angle to provide for the scraping action in the bottom of the interior. At right is another shot of the same tool.



Here is a picture of the bottom of Chip’s turning using the scraper tool above.

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# Remember to bring your tools for the turning challenge at the December 2 meeting.

Thanks to everyone who has helped with our plug orders in the past. We will be asking for help getting other projects to raise funds. All ideas are welcome along with samples.

The CLUB NEWSLETTER tab of the club website is at  
<http://www.northlandwoodturners-kc.com/>

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

**REMINDER:**  
The annual dues for 2021 **are still**  
**only \$10.00.** Advanced payments are accepted.  
Checks can be made payable to  
**Northland Woodturners.**