

# Turn North



The Monthly Newsletter of the Northland Woodturners

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

October 2022

## 2022 Officers

David Bartlett, President  
(816) 331-5664  
[dabartle23@yahoo.com](mailto:dabartle23@yahoo.com)

Danny Smith, Vice President  
(816) 720-3781  
[ishear4@gmail.com](mailto:ishear4@gmail.com)

Andy Brundage, Secretary  
(816) 305-32238  
[andybrun53@gmail.com](mailto:andybrun53@gmail.com)

Leland Finley, Newsletter Editor  
(816) 830-4702  
[leefin@netscape.net](mailto:leefin@netscape.net)

Chip Siskey, Treasurer  
(816) 858-3080  
[woodchipsbychip@yahoo.com](mailto:woodchipsbychip@yahoo.com)



Get ready for  
**Louisville  
in 2023!**



AAW wants to help you enrich your woodturning experience and pursue your aspirations wherever you are on your woodturning journey. We invite you to learn and grow with us and become part of the special community that is

woodturning.

**Northland Woodturners** is an AAW affiliated club and welcomes your joining with other woodturners to get the most from your experience.

## 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.

## Interesting Woodturning ideas from the Web...



## Coming Attractions

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

Event Information:

**NEEDED: Fund raising Ideas.**

**Remember—2022 dues are \$10 for the year.**

**Due beginning January 7, 2022**

**Next Meeting:  
October 6, 2022**



[Fun things to do With Woodturning - Bing images](#)

Here is an interesting list of other woodturning groups' newsletters.

Arizona: <https://www.azwoodturners.org/wood/newsletters/>

Seattle, WA: <https://seattlewoodturners.org/newsletters/>

Central Coast California: <https://www.centralcoastwoodturners.com/newsletter>

The Turning Point - Siouxland Woodturners: [www.siouxlandwoodturners.org/Newsletters/2022\\_07.pdf](http://www.siouxlandwoodturners.org/Newsletters/2022_07.pdf)

Check these out and let the editor know if you would like to see more like some of them have.

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## Is Wood Turning Dangerous? Things You Must Know

**Woodturning is very dangerous and can cause injuries such as dust inhalation, allergies, bruises, deep cuts, broken bones, and in severe cases, death. Luckily most major injuries are uncommon and can easily be avoided by using the proper safety equipment and procedures.**

### **The following dangers are present when woodturning**

#### **Pieces Of Wood Flying Off At You**

You need to be aware that pieces of wood you mount to the lathe may have splits or cracks in them which can cause them to fly apart once they are spun at high speeds.

If the wood you are turning is incorrectly mounted, it can fly off and hit you. Believe me when I say this can cause severe bruising.

Also while you are turning, pieces of bark and sapwood do fly off at you. Usually, this is not so bad but you may sometimes get small cuts from this.

#### **Sharp Woodturning Tools Can Hit You Or Be Dropped Onto Your Feet**

In order to get a good finish in woodturning, sharp tools are essential just like any other part of woodwork.

Be very careful that these sharp tools don't get caught up in the wood and flung back at you. When I did my training, another student did the wrong thing on the lathe and caused the bowl gouge to be flung from his hands and went through the roof which was 9 feet high!!

Sometimes losing control of your tools can cause them to drop onto your feet. This has resulted in things from minor cuts to missing toes.

#### **Dust Inhalation**

Whenever you turn wood on a lathe you are always going to get dust. This dust can be very fine and can be extremely harmful to your lungs. Some woods are even toxic.

Long-term exposure to wood dust will cause breathing difficulties and in some cases, lung cancer. **Dust inhalation is one of the most common injuries from woodturning because people generally don't realize they have inhaled so much dust.**

Some turners even resort to turning outside because of this.

## Allergies

This may take some time to develop or notice but some people are allergic to different types of wood dust. When you turn wood, dust and debris settle on your arms and skin and can be irritating. Some types of wood are more irritating than others and can cause welts and itchiness. People who are very allergic may even experience sickness because of this.

## Objects, Clothing, or Hair Getting Caught In The Lathe

The wood lathe spins at high speeds and objects especially clothing can easily be caught around the wood or chuck and pull you in.

This is one of the most frightening things that could happen to you. You may simply be leaning over to grab another tool and your apron or sleeve can get caught and sucked around the spinning wood.

The outcome of this is not pretty and can result in loss of fingers or limbs. This is why all modern lathes have a shutdown button close by.

## Hands Getting Knocked By Chuck

When the lathe is spinning it is very easy to misjudge where the chuck or live center is and accidentally get your hands or knuckles knocked by the chuck. This can break the skin or break a finger.

Also, a square piece of wood spinning on the lathe has corners that are very hard to see where they are. You must be careful not to catch fingers or lathe tools on these edges. The more rounded you make the wood, the more defined the edges become.

## How To Avoid Injury

As you can see from the above, there are a lot of potential hazards and injuries that can arrive from woodturning. Luckily just by using a few safety precautions, most can easily be avoided.

**The below methods are what I would normally do when I am about to start turning which can avoid all of the above injuries.**

- **Pieces of wood Flying off** – Before mounting your wood onto the lathe, be sure to thoroughly check it for cracks and splits which may cause it to break. Also, [inspect the grain direction](#) which may help you in the turning process. Any cracks or splits could be cut out or filled with epoxy prior to turning.
- **Tool Safety** – Make sure you press woodturning tools down onto the tool rest with the other hand over the top of it. Slowly bring the bevel in towards the wood and raise the tool until it starts to cut. Always ensure you make small light cuts and hold the tool firmly. Protective footwear is a must just in case.
- **What to do about dust** – Whenever you do woodturning I always recommend a full face shield and a dust mask. You could get away with a basic dust mask but these do not filter very well and are uncomfortable. **I highly recommend a face mask and respirator all in one like this.** You also need to make sure you have adequate [dust](#) extraction hoods to remove air-born dust and shavings.
- **Allergies** – Are you allergic to dust or pollen? This could be a telltale sign if you may have any reactions to wood shavings and dust. You should [always wear a woodturners apron](#) and wear a long-sleeved shirt with tightly buttoned sleeves. **Another great tip for sleeves is to use rubber bands around your wrists.**
- **Stop hair or clothing getting caught** – Whenever working around any type of machinery, long hair needs to be tied up short and any loose clothing should be removed or tightened up. This might seem obvious but is usually overlooked when we plan to rush a job through.

- **Avoid the chuck or spindle** – When woodturning you always need to be alert and think of where your hands are at all times. If you are known to go too close to the chuck or live center, maybe build a guard to keep your hands away.



Determining a Safe Minimum Operating Speed

$$6,000 \div \text{Diameter of Blank} = \text{Minimum Operating Speed}$$

Determining a Safe Maximum Operating Speed

$$9,000 \div \text{Diameter of Blank} = \text{Maximum Operating Speed}$$

The below items are a **MUST** if you are wanting to start woodturning safely.

1. A [woodturners frock or apron](#) with tight-fitting sleeves
2. A full-face shield NOT glasses
3. A dust mask or even better a respirator
4. Hearing protection
5. Tie back hair or loose clothing
6. Remove all jewelry
7. Don't wear gloves
8. Use safety guards if your lathe has them
9. Use Proper [dust](#) extraction to remove excess shavings and dust

To see more go to <https://www.woodworkhubby.com/is-wood-turning-dangerous-things-you-must-know/#:~:text=Woodturning%20is%20very%20dangerous%20and%20can%20cause%20injuries,by%20using%20the%20proper%20safety%20equipment%20and%20procedures.>

**Ed. Note:** Safety is everyone's business whether at a (club) meeting, demonstrating at The Wood Shows™, working at home or a friend's home to help out. The above ideas are just a start since everyone with any experience at wood turning can probably add anecdotes, tips or warnings of their own. The Editor knows of one bad experience a college student had while doing outboard turning and kept him out of class for the better part of the spring semester his junior year.

Safety doesn't take a holiday, you shouldn't either when wood turning!!

Check at the club meeting and see if any of these safety items are available,

used in demos, or are at least present for use.

# Show and Tell



**Steve Dougherty** brought a segmented bowl (plate?) that he made from **Walnut** and **Cherry**. At the right is the process of assembling the parts before being turned. Note the hole in the middle. This was filled with the **Cherry** insert as seen in the middle picture above. Finished with a satin lacquer it really looks nice. Nice job Steve.

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**Andy Brundage** brought an interesting inheritance as evidenced by the left photo above. Standing about 40" tall this would appear to be an occasional table. Made of Walnut from a farm owned by the creator Elvis Anderson and presented as a gift to his sister no date was indicated on the base under the lower part. Not a "finely turned" or really "smooth" turning, it nonetheless is a great example of things turned over 60 years ago by then-available machinery. Andy mentioned that he had to rebuild slightly due to some over-size holes in both the upper dish part and lower base. Nice restoration Andy!!



# Program Highlights

Last month's program was not "small potatoes" and was interesting in how it developed as President **David Bartlett** showed. The pictures below do not really do justice to what took place, however.

Sort of as a preview, David showed some of his more important—to him—tooling he uses in his hobby of woodturning. The first is a "back saver" used to pick up small tools, parts, etc. dropped on the floor while producing a pile of shavings.

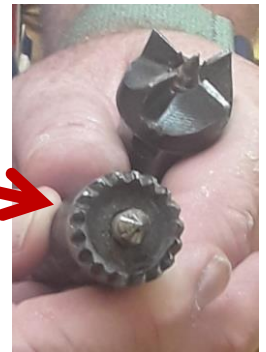


The next is a lathe tool holder that sits on the lathe to prevent tools in use from:  
a.) falling on his foot,  
b.) rolling off the lathe and becoming dull when hitting the floor cutting edge first.



This handy little add-on is a magnetic button on the back of his chuck key. When using the Drill chuck this allows the key to be available without getting mixed into the chips, falling on the floor or some other annoying happenstance.

Everyone knows what a live center is but do you have one of these? David explained that the center point is spring-loaded and centers the object, but allows the turning to slip if the tool grabs. The teeth grab the work without making a huge indent like the upper drive center does and, if it slips, doesn't tear up the work as bad.



David also showed various other ways to attach a blank for turning. Below are several of these.



At the left above is a screw center. This is good IF the end is not important or will be turned away later. Next is the forming of a tenon to be held in the 4-jaw chuck. **Very Important:** the tenon must be shaped to fit into the chuck so that the blank butts up to the outside face of the jaws. It must ALSO be deep enough to be fully gripped in the jaws or flying objects instead of turnings will be produced. At the far right above is a collet. This is handy if a collet chuck is used to hold round items like dowels and other round shapes to be turned.



One more example of a screw center used on bowl blanks by drilling a hole, screwing the blank onto the screw up flush to the chuck jaws and then proceed to turn the blank. The hole goes away when the bowl is hollowed. One caution: DO NOT drill the hole too deep. The bottom of the bowl interior should be below the bottom of the hole. Then when the turning is complete the interior never gives away the fact that a screw was used to mount the bowl initially.



What's wrong at the left?

How **should** this be done?

What could happen if the lathe is accidentally turned on in this condition?

Efficiency of time should NEVER replace safe practices while turning.



David prepares to mount the chuck with a backup piece of wood to allow some hollowing before removing from the chuck

At the right is one more mounting tool for attaching bowls and other hollow items. Some of these have plastic bushings around the outside and some have metal. They can also be adjusted to fit the bowl size, note the slots in the flat plate.

With that final demo, David concluded his program..

Great information shared and lots of good ideas were brought out also by some of the members present.



Another good program is planned for the October 6<sup>th</sup> meeting. See you there.

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.**