

Turn North



The Monthly Newsletter of the Northland Woodturners

www.northlandwoodturners-kc.com

November 2022

2022 Officers

David Bartlett, President
(816) 331-5664
dabartle23@yahoo.com

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

Andy Brundage, Secretary
(816) 305-32238
andybrun53@gmail.com

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

Chip Siskey, Treasurer
(816) 858-3080
woodchipsbychip@yahoo.com



The things you find in the most interesting places...

Shown below is the Carpenter Shop at Fort Osage near Sibley, MO. At the left is a foot treadle-powered lathe circa 1810.

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—2022 dues are \$10 for the year.

Due beginning January 7, 2022

Next Meeting:

November 3, 2022

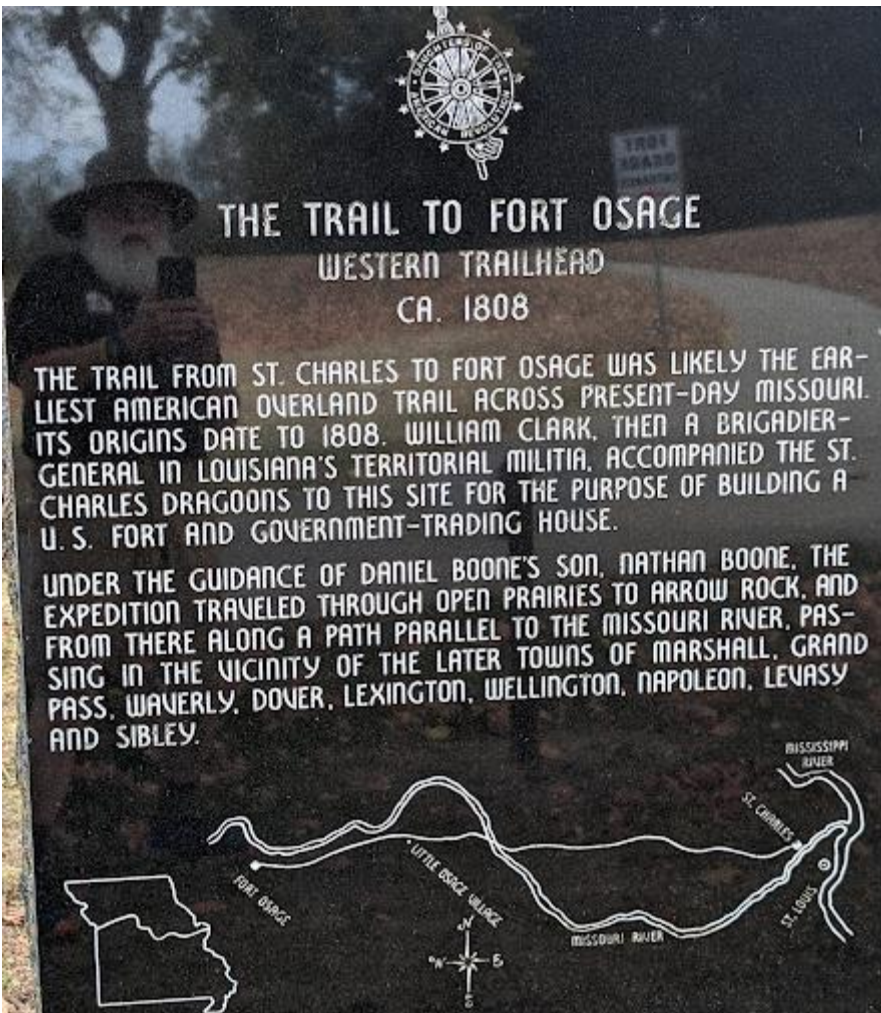
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One of many interesting things seen the weekend of Oct 22-23 during the Annual Fall Muster of the troops. Period uniforms and costumes of the 1810 era were worn by the participants. This happens toward the end of October each year and is a fascinating place to learn of our history, not just of the Osage Native Americans but also of the beginnings of our state of Missouri.



Rudimentary construction but it did the job. Amazing the quality of items produced on lathes like this back in the day.



Beware the ghost reflection on the picture above...

This marker is on the walk out from the Education Center which also houses a museum with many artifacts from the period when Fort Osage was established.



Now to more “mundane” topics...



A NEW ORDER of Batons has been picked up and is ready for our “massaging” into a “real” Baton for the KCPD retirees. Check out the details at the next meeting November 3, 2022.

SHOW AND TELL



Mikeal Jones brought a piece of **Bradford Pear** that he had turned. He confessed that some of the bark did come off while turning and had to be re-attached with glue. Nice job Mikeal.



Danny Smith brought a Spatula made from **Mulberry**. This is all in one piece—NOT separate pieces glued together...



The end of the spatula has been shaped on a sanding drum to give the curved shape. The back side of the spatula part is flat and the grain runs straight from the handle to the tip of the spatula. Nice work Danny.



UPDATE

UPDATE

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Ed.NOTE: This is a **CORRECTION** from the October 202 Turn North.

Steve Dougherty brought a bowl made from **Walnut** and **Spalted Sycamore**. Note at the right in the pictures above the construction before turning. This was inadvertently mislabeled in the October newsletter.

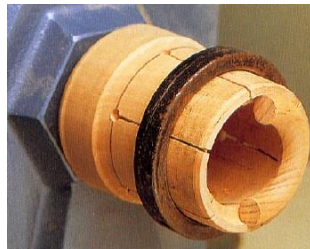
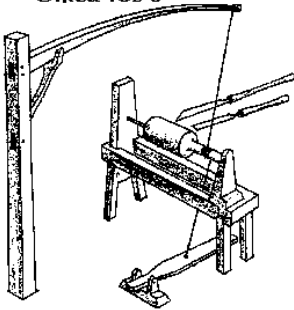


This is the bowl that **Carl Sievering** used as a basis for his demonstration at a previous meeting of Northland Woodturners. It contains his trademark star in the bottom and includes **Walnut, Sugar Maple, Purple Heart, and Cherry** in the inserts around the edge. It is finished with a semi-gloss Lacquer finish.

NOTE TO ALL CLUB MEMBERS:

December is a special time and you are encouraged to turn your version of a tree ornament. We have had some rather unique examples and we look forward to more of the same.

Springpole Latch
Circa 1390



Simple Wooden Spring Chuck

One of the earliest styles of chucks (although mounted on a modern lathe) holding half of a turned ring. The "fingers" are tightened down on the work by forcing the iron ring to the left.

Scanned from *M. Darlow's Woodturning Methods*.

The Basics of Woodturning

By

CHRIS BAYLOR Updated on 01/20/20

Woodturning can be a very enjoyable hobby, and if one focuses on learning good fundamental woodturning basics, it can be a safe hobby too. The same woodturning techniques needed to turn spindles such as table legs, bed posts, stair rail spindles or finials can be applied to turning bowls, attractive pens, and more.

While this one article certainly cannot cover every aspect of safe woodturning, if the budding woodturner can learn and consistently implement all of the following points, their woodturning skill will develop quickly.

Sharp Tools are Safe Tools

One of the first and most critical skills a woodturner must develop is the ability to properly sharpen their tools. Properly sharpened gouges, skew chisels, parting tools, scrapers, and other lathe tools will cut cleaner and be less inclined to grabbing or gouging the wood stock being turned.

Woodturning tools should be sharpened on a bench grinder, or better yet, a slow speed wet sharpener. Each tool has a particular bevel that must be maintained, and the curve of the sharpening wheel will help maintain the tool's concave edge.

Turn the Wood at Proper Speeds

The wood that is being turned by the lathe must be turned at an appropriate speed. A variable speed lathe will typically turn the stock from about 500 RPM to a max speed of about 4000 RPM. A good rule of thumb is, "the wider the stock, the lower the speed."

In other words, a relatively narrow piece of stock (about 2-1/2" in thickness or thinner) can be turned at about 1500-2000 RPM (longer pieces should be cut at the lower end of the range), while thicker pieces should be turned at about half that speed.

Hand Positioning

One key to safe woodturning is to keep your hands in safe positions that will control the tool, but keep the fingers clear of the action. For right-handed woodturners, the left hand will be against the tool rest and the right hand will be holding the handle of the tool. Position the left hand so that the forefinger will be under the tool, resting against the side of the tool rest opposite the wood. The left hand's thumb will be on the top of the tool, helping to steady it against the forefinger and the tool rest. (See the image above for an example.)

Left-handed woodturners will likely want to reverse the hands.

The Tool Should Always Contact the Tool Rest

When turning, the gouge, chisel or scraper being used should always remain in contact with the tool rest. There is no such thing as safe "free-handing" on a lathe. Ideally, the tool rest should be about a quarter-inch away from the wood, and the cutting tool needs to be in contact with the tool rest before it comes into contact with the wood.

Additionally, there should be a limited distance between the point where the tool comes into contact with the tool rest and where it contacts the wood. The greater the distance between the two points of contact, the less support that is provided to the tool.

Use the Bevel

One key to safe woodturning is to remember to always keep the bevel behind the sharpened edge of the tool resting on the wood. Following this rule will help keep the tool from taking too much off at one time, or worse, grabbing the wood and perhaps ripping the tool out of the woodturner's hands.

When beginning to cut with a tool such as a gouge, while keeping the tool on the tool rest, lay the back edge of the tool onto the spinning wood so that the point of contact is on or behind the bevel, but that the tool's cutting edge is not yet cutting. Once contact is safely made, use your right hand to slide the tool backward (toward the body, away from the lathe) until the cutting edge begins to engage the wood. Throughout the entire cutting process, the bevel should remain in contact with the wood.

Always Cut With the Grain

When woodturning, one should always work "with the grain." Turners often refer to this as **cutting downhill**. For instance, when hollowing out a cove, cut from the edges toward the center. Cutting from the center out toward the edge of the cove would be considered as cutting uphill, which is far harder to control and could easily cause the tool to grab (since it is very difficult to cut uphill and still keep the bevel of the tool on the wood).

Cutters Lead and Scrapers Trail

When working with gouges, chisels, parting tools, and other cutters, the rear hand (the one on the handle) should always be **lower** than the forehand (on the tool rest). This will keep the tool a leading position, where the wood will be turning into the cutting edge of the tool.

However, a scraper should be used in exactly the opposite manner. A scraper doesn't cut like a chisel but works more like a butter knife. As such, the rear hand should be higher than the forehand, which will allow the cutting edge of the scraper to be beneath the tool rest, and be in a trailing position to scrape the wood.

Practice Makes Perfect

As with any skill, it takes a lot of practice to become a good woodturner. An experienced woodturner makes it look easy, a point that will be driven home the first time the novice begins to turn.

One thing almost every novice turner will notice is that they're so focused on following the above tips that they have a "death grip" on the tools. The grip on the tool should be firm and in control, but one should avoid "choking" the tool. After a bit of time on the lathe, the novice turner will begin to relax their grip on the tools, and at that point, they'll find woodturning becomes a little easier.

[Learn the Basics of Woodturning 101 \(thesprucecrafts.com\)](https://thesprucecrafts.com)

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



This little "house" was the basis for Chip Siskey's demonstration on the lathe for the October 2022 meeting. Turned from a scrap of Oak since the grain pattern would be more obvious, the body (colored orange) would become the "house" of the item.

Alternates considered but not selected by those present are shown at right. The first one is an "acorn" using the same idea but not as "colorful" and the far right was billed as a hummingbird house. All would use the same procedures with slight differences based on the designs shown.

All had been made by Chip for various purposes and the one at the left was chosen to be duplicated.

So, let's get started seeing how Chip did his "magic" to duplicate the chosen one.



First off a piece of wood was selected to use for the main body.

Mounting this piece in the lathe One-Way chuck and using a live center in the tailstock Chip proceeded to make a hole inside.



In the interest of time, Chip used a forstner bit (*the "f" word* according to Chip) to make the 1" hole inside the body.



After drilling a couple of holes, one closer to the end than the other hole, Chip then proceeded to round the outside of the shape. These holes would become the "Entrance" and perch holes in the finished piece. Drilling them before turning round can be risky but makes clamping and holding much easier now.



Note the position of the lathe tool at left.

"Riding the bevel" as described in the earlier article makes this easy work and prevents catching of the tool. Notice that the shape at the right has produced a slight taper from end back on the body. The other end will be turned by turning the blank around in the chuck.

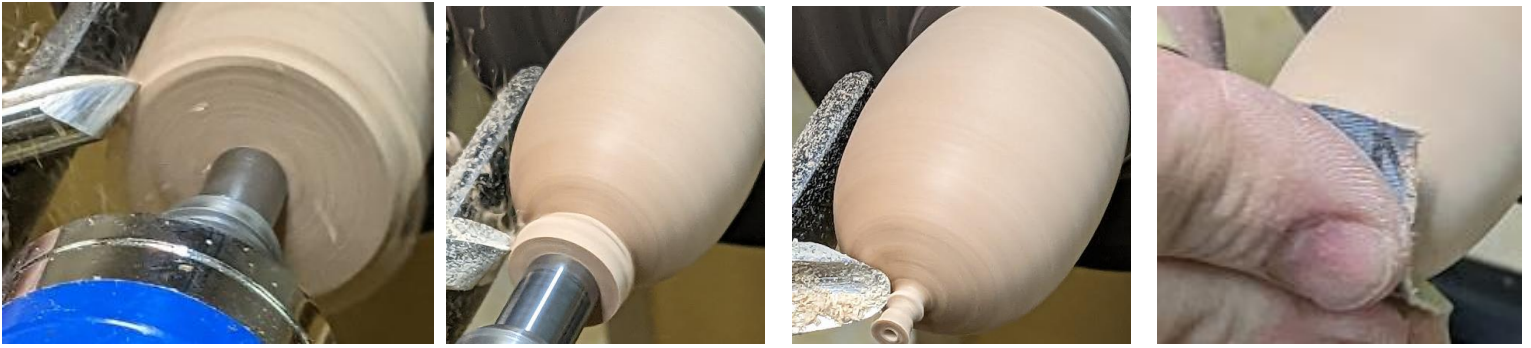


After light sanding the grain really pops out. Note that the grain is straight and parallel to the body of the piece.

Then it was time to turn the blank around and finish the bottom curve. Shown below-left is the tailstock center used to hold the piece. The center is located as near center of the overall block as possible to allow a smooth transition from the bottom trning to the previously turned part.

Turning the bottom end now commences. Using a bowl gouge and riding the bevel, Chip proceeds to shape the lower part into a smoothly rounded bottom.





From rough shape to finished design the main part of the piece is formed. At the right the “nose piece” is removed CAREFULLY and prepped for sanding.



Using a marker obtained locally, Chip proceeded to color the body a bright orange to go with the October/Halloween theme. At far right the holes are visible for the entry hole, perch and lower finial.



Note that the orange body is held with inside fingers on the chuck. Care must be taken not to expand too much and crack the piece since it is somewhat fragile.

Next comes the other parts that make up the finished piece. Note the “perch” hat and lower finial.



This piece will become the top hat and will be turned to a slightly larger diameter than the lower part to give some overhang.



Turning a tenon on the end allows the piece to be reversed in the chuck to finish the shape. This will later be removed from the finished piece.





The curve becomes the “brim” of the top hat. Again, a tenon is turned to hold the part in the chuck for finishing the top of the hat.

After some light sanding, the “hat” is ready to have a hole drilled in the top to allow hanging.



This “precision” drill bit was used to make the mounting hole for the attaching of the rest of the hanger.

Chip used a #12 gold plated fish hook to make the hanger. The eye is already formed so cutting off the “hook” part makes a perfect part.



A little cyanoacrylate glue holds the hook “eye” in place. Since the hole is slightly undersize, inserting the hook was easier with the lathe running slowly as the part is forced into the hole. The glue acts as a lubricant and when set will not release.

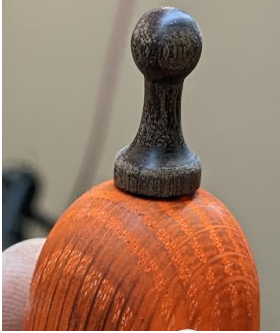
Now to the other end of the project.



One can begin to see the size of the part that will become the perch from the pictures above and the turning of the shape at the far right. To support the piece and not allow it to catch on the tool, Chip supported the piece with his finger while shaping the end. This **REQUIRES SHARP TOOLS!** Also note the direction the tool is traveling to shape the end.



From finished ball shape on the end to detail added the piece is then parted off into Chip's fingers.



Once mounted in the hole in the bottom, the last piece is now ready to be turned. This part is very small since the mounting hole is only 1/16" in diameter.

This was formed from the remainder of the part used for the base finial. It will be VERY small in diameter and will require support like what Chip used for the finial.



From a rough turning at left to a finished piece at right, the perch is ready to be parted off. Again, SHARP TOOLS make this seem easy in retrospect. Also the skill of the turner "MIGHT" have had a part in the precision. Realize that the largest part of this piece is only slightly larger than 1/16" and the part at far right being sized is 1/16".



Using a skew chisel to part off the perch Chip catches it between his fingers.

Now to insert and see if it fits....

VOILA... success. Note that the coloring of the body left some deep grain uncolored. This adds to the "aged" look and really isn't noticeable from a slight distance.

Overall a very interesting demonstration and finished product. The hat, finial, and perch all were made of Walnut. A darker look could be given if colorant were used.



REMEMBER—December is a special time with Turning Challenges and Awards to be made.

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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REMINDER:

The annual dues for 2021 **are still**
only \$10.00. Advanced payments are accepted.

Checks can be made payable to
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