

December 2008

# Shavings

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Happy Holidays to  
all DAW Members  
and their Families

A MONTHLY  
NEWSLETTER BY  
DETROIT AREA  
WOODTURNERS



DETROIT AREA  
WOODTURNERS

# Presidents Message

Happy Holidays.


Well the end of the year is here and I am sure that you are all busy finishing up those presents for friends and family, but I don't want you to forget about this month's meeting on Sunday, December 21. This month's demo on "Tools You Can Make" will be hosted by Greg Smith, Russ Holmes, and Chet Bisno.

The demo is going to focus on tools that you can easily make in your own shop. Which can save you money, make some operations easier, and is just fun to do. This is going to be a great demo that should not be missed. We will even have some tool steel for sale on our resale table if you are interested in making something you see.

Your club president,

*Frank*



DECEMBER						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 Club Meeting @ 2:00 pm Nature Center	22	23	24	25 	26	27
28	29	30	31			

## OTHER GREAT ARTICLES IN THIS ISSUE

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## Save the Date!

January 17th.  
DAW Monthly meeting -  
Shadbush Nature Center -  
2:00pm  
*Multi-axis Bowls*

February 15th.  
DAW Monthly meeting -  
Shadbush Nature Center -  
2:00pm  
*Corian Turning*

March 15th  
DAW Monthly meeting -  
Shadbush Nature Center -  
2:00pm  
*Goblet or Pepper Mills*



# Turning Spheres

**With Richard Bailey**



**Recap of the  
November  
Demonstration**

If you missed last's weeks (Nov. 16) DAW meeting you missed an excellent demonstration. One of the benefits of DAW membership is exposure to new techniques. Richard Bailey's sphere turning demo was excellent. Because Richard has been turning since the age of 12, he knows and uses the simplest woodturning techniques.

Richard begins with a cylinder cut to uniform diameter of the sphere he wants. The demo utilized simple tools and materials that included:

- **Lathe and tools**
- **Pencil**
- **Chalk**
- **Shoulder Tool rest**
- **Jamb Chuck**
- **Scrapers**

Richard uses an end grain jambchuck to hold the turning, not a scroll chuck. The jamb chuck interior is turned in a slight cone inward from the sphere dimension at the entrance. This must be turned accurately accurately, as the cylinder diameter will be your diameter reference throughout the project. He said an end-grain jamb chuck has a more uniform grip than cross grain. It looked like Richard ran the lathe at about 1500 RPM – at that speed you want a good grip.

Richard inserted the turning blank into the jamb chuck. He then marked the blank with a center line that divides the exposed blank into two sections, each of which will be a hemisphere. He also marks the center axis dot on the face of the blank. Take care to preserve these lines and marks as they'll be references throughout the project.

Rather than repetitiously reposition the tool rest, Richard used a "shoulder tool rest" as an extension over the tool rest to cut the hemisphere. The shoulder tool rest enables working the end grain while the tool rest is parallel with the lathe axis. Richard completed the whole sphere project without moving the tool rest. I found the tool rest very interesting and plan to make one myself.

The "shoulder tool rest" is a 1/2" steel bar with a hook bent at one end. The other end is fixed in a

long handle. The metal bar is rested on the tool rest (fulcrum) with the hook faced up. The handle is captured under the turner's shoulder. The bar supports the scraper against the hook to control the cut. This has to be seen to be appreciated. The shoulder rest isn't mandatory, but saves a lot of tool rest movement. And you can continue with the standard tool rest if desired.

The 1<sup>st</sup> hemisphere turned on the outside of the blank. The sphere is repositioned several times as the form emerges. Sometimes it is reposition at 180 to insert the finished hemisphere into the jamb chuck. Later it will be repositioned at 90 degrees. Care must be taken care to preserve all the marks on the turning.

When the curve of the exposed hemisphere is complete, Richard finished it with a sheer scraper used on the "shoulder tool rest."

Assuming all goes well, you've now got a turned sphere. Incidentally, Richard cautioned that was unlikely this technique would work well the first time.

## Sharp Tools = Success

The most important factor to clean cuts and avoiding injury is sharp tools.

After turning for a few years, you'll be able to touch the edge with your thumb and know "this tool's not sharp." As someone once said, beginning turners have no problem detecting when a tool is sharp – but many don't know when a tool is dull. When turning becomes difficult, have no doubt, always sharpen the tool first. It's the easiest and fastest solution

Assuming you're turning the outside of a 10" bowl at 1000 RPM. That bowl has a surface speed of 31,400" Or 2616ft per minute. In 2 minutes of continuous turning the tool has had contact with the wood for about 1 mile. 'Kind of explains the need for frequent trips to the grinder, doesn't it?





# Member Profile: Ray Frase

At the next DAW meeting, if you spot a big guy wearing a big smile and a black 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division hat, that's Ray Frase: Vietnam veteran and master wood turner. In fact, introduce yourself. You'll find him a genuine person with a positive mental attitude. He has been a member of DAW for eight years.

Ray was not always a woodturner. He worked for GMC as an inspector for 31 years before retiring in 1999.

Always the adventurous type, when GMC offered a free education in 1989, he volunteered to attend Oakland Community College where he earned an Associate's Degree in Vehicle Body Technology, Auto Servicing, and Applied Science.

When he retired in 1999, Ray soon became bored with it. He remembered the fun he had turning a bowl in his 9<sup>th</sup> grade shop class at Waterford Township High School, and so he purchased a lathe and began turning.

Although he is largely self-taught, he began taking a series of classes first with Alan Lacer (<http://www.alanlacer.com/>), and later with Ray Key (<http://www.wgdc.org.uk/members/raykey/>).

Alan Lacer advised him that to be a good woodturner you should be around woodturners. And so he joined the DAW. There he met Greg Smith who was the president at the time and who also gave a demonstration at every meeting. Watching Greg encouraged Ray to go home and try the same things. Ray also took a number of classes at the Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts (<http://www.arrowmont.org/>) "I don't have any favorite things to turn," said Ray with a grin and a chuckle. "I like to turn anything that's round: spindles, bowls, platters..." "I like to do things in three's and fives. I might do three bowls and get tired of them. Then I might make five vases or platters."

Ray likes to do BIG things: BIG bowls, BIG platters, BIG coffee tables like the 44 inch diameter coffee table in the photo below. The table top, which is a large, functioning clock, and base, both turned from segmented



strips of wood. "This," he said with another grin, "is my most challenging project. It took me six months."

Ray owns a BIG lathe: a Oneway 24-36. Basically, a lathe on steroids.

Two of Ray's projects are on display at the Lawrence Street Gallery (22620 Woodward Ave.) from December 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 26<sup>th</sup>.

Ray's philosophy is to set the highest standards with each project, and he often adds carving or wood burning. His current project is a Navaho wedding platter. Each concentric ring is carved with a wood burning tool to look like woven straw.



Ray admits that he draws much inspiration from his fellow woodturners, imitating and then adapting his personal style.



Ray also does spindle work and does work for Rockler on consignment. Here is a table that he made for his home. He also sells his work at various stores in Gaylord, Baldwin, and Cadillac.

Here are more of Ray's works:



Ray is an adventurous guy. Besides parachuting from airplanes, he enjoys sailing and riding his Harley.

This spirit of adventure is reflected in his willingness to try new things in wood turning.

Ray is a mentor to many in the DAW. On Monday and Tuesday nights he fills his workshop full of good friends, good times and good turnings.

*Jerry Bufalini*

# Boxelder

*Acer negundo*, Aceraceae

*The wood is hard (like most maples), takes a stain or dye well and is a handsome wood when finished. Where burl is available it is as stunning as any wood, but sharp tools are certainly a benefit, as tear out is a common challenge. The same goes with the end grain where extra sanding will likely be necessary.*

**The Tree:** Boxelder is a maple which can reach a height of 70 ft (21 m) and a diameter of 3 ft (1 m). The trunk can be short and poorly formed, dividing into several main branches. Boxelder is fast growing, short lived and easily transplanted. The tree is prone to injury from wind, heart rot and insects. It has green twigs and compound leaves (ash-like), separating it from other maples. It grows best in lowland areas along rivers and grows with cottonwood, willow, maple, sycamore and tupelo.

**Working Properties:** Boxelder is workable with both hand tools and machine tools.

**Durability:** Boxelder is nonresistant to heartwood decay, being susceptible to heart rot and insects.

**Uses:** Boxelder is currently used for inexpensive furniture, wooden ware, boxes, crates, wood pulp, charcoal, fuel and cooperage.



**Toxicity:** Suspected to cause allergic bronchial asthma and rhinitis (*Acer* spp.) (40).

**General Wood Characteristics:** The heartwood is yellowish brown, while the sapwood is greenish yellow to creamy white. Red streaks are composed of a pigment from a fungus (*Fusarium negundi*). The wood is light, soft, porous, close-grained and weak. It is susceptible to heart rot. It can contain a curly figure.

**Distribution:** Lower elevations in North America, extending through Mexico into Guatemala, excluding Pacific Coast states and south central Canada.

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## This Space reserved for your Article

### DAW members:

While we see evidence of DAW member creativity every month – little of it is finding its way into *Shavings*. Just like the courage it takes to stand up in front of the membership, it takes courage to submit your thoughts for publication. But the gratification more than offsets the risk.

Nonetheless, every time a member discusses woodturning, there's a learning opportunity for an attentive listener. If we carry that one step further, you can expand your influence through written articles to up to ~140 members with a well thought article.

The down side of writing for publication (even one as limited in distribution as *Shavings*) is that it takes time. The benefit of that time is you can plan and craft your words just as you would a turning project.

Articles don't just have to be instructive on new techniques. There is frequently more reader benefit and connection to a writer who explains what went wrong and how it was handled. An article is yet another means for each of us to pursue specific information from the club as a whole. Every meeting DAW members leave with new information, techniques, and/or ideas on what to try.

If this request has struck a chord, but you're not sure how to proceed, get in touch with me (Chet Bisno) and let's talk it out. Additionally, if you're concerned about style, that's my task as editor to ensure the quality and coherence of material.

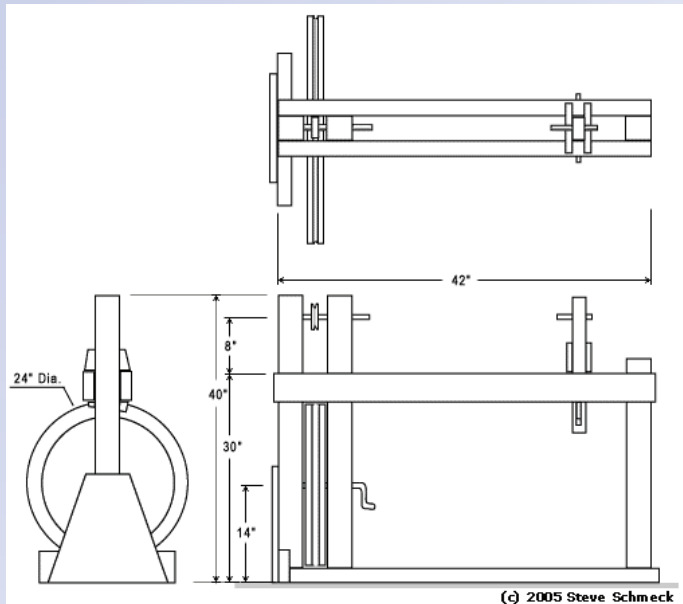


# TREADLE LATHE UPDATE

At the September Meeting, it was proposed that DAW build a man powered lathe for use at the Heritage Festival and the Wood Shows. It was thought that this would be an attention getter to create interest in turning and the DAW club, as well as demonstrating how our predecessors created so many magnificent turnings.

Glenn McClough took the bull by the horns, completed extensive Internet research and organized a meeting on October 6 for DAW members interested in working on the project at Russ Holmes home.

At the meeting, it was decided to use the plan by Steve Smeck in his booklet, "Make your own Treadle Lathe" ([www.manytracks.com/lathe/lathe.pdf](http://www.manytracks.com/lathe/lathe.pdf)) with modifications to meet DAW unique needs such as portability. We plan to have a development prototype by Spring 2009.



*The responsibilities were distributed as follows:*

**Russ Holmes** – working drawings and headstock

**Loel Gnadt** – flywheel

**Mark Maddock** – tailstock

**Chet Bisno** – tool rest

**Vince Hellman** and **Dave Blacker** – flywheel mounting and treadle adaptation

**John Sabina** and **Matt Harber** – Lathe bed

**Glenn McClough** – Treadle pedal and base



At the second meeting on Nov. 3, again at the home of Russ Holmes, there was definite progress. Loel Gnadt presented our flywheel. The wheel is approximately 24" in diameter and weighing 33 pounds.

Vince Hellman brought pillow block bearings to mount the wheel. Russ Holmes displayed drawings from which the group discussed options for the treadle drive, belt tension device, and a brake. Dave Blacker showed his eccentric wheel that will attach to the flywheel with treadle connections to enable a selection of four speeds. The rest of us participated in the discussion and took home a sense of urgency in planning our contributions that will come due later in the process.

**Chet Bisno**



**DON'T FORGET TO VISIT  
OUR WEBSITE AND  
CHECK OUT  
PAST EDITIONS OF  
THE NEWSLETTER,  
ITEMS FOR SALE,  
CLUB NEWS &  
HELPFUL WEB LINKS.**

# Missing Equipment Notice



The Club's Mini Lathe Package is missing some components. The Mini Lathe was recently used at the Wood Workers Show (11/21, 22 & 23/08). I reviewed the contents of the package upon its return, and found it was missing its spur and cup center. I'm asking everyone who manned the DAW Booth to check if those missing items might be mixed in with their personal turning tools. Those items are marked with a florescent yellow marker.

You may contact me at the following e-mail address, and phone number.

**Ron Sztumerski**  
DAW Asset Manager

[rsztrumerswki@wideopenwest.com](mailto:rsztrumerswki@wideopenwest.com)  
248-689-5615

## Murphy's Laws of Woodworking

- ▶ The more expensive the wood, the more wood you will waste.
- ▶ When you drop a piece with freshly applied glue, it will land glue-side down on a pile of dust and shavings.
- ▶ Every scrap piece will be ½ inch short of being useful.
- ▶ During glue-up, nothing lines up as well as it did during the dry fit.
- ▶ For every hour you spend woodworking, you will spend two hours cleaning up.
- ▶ The phone rings only when you are applying glue or a finish.
- ▶ You will always spot the area you forgot to varnish immediately after cleaning your brush.
- ▶ When you install butt hinges, at least one brass screw will break.
- ▶ A dropped tool always lands where it does the most harm.

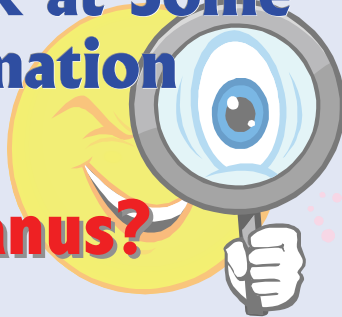
Edwin Hackelman  
*American Woodworker Magazine, Sept. 2008*

If you have any MURPHY'S LAWS based on your own experiences, please e-mail them to Jerry Bufalini:  
[gbach@wowway.com](mailto:gbach@wowway.com)

## A Look Back at Some Great Information

Safety Sam Asks:

### What is Tetanus?



Tetanus is a condition that affects the nervous system and causes extremely painful and uncontrolled muscle spasms. Early symptoms are headaches and jaw muscle pain that progresses into the inability to swallow. It ultimately attacks more muscle groups in the neck, legs, and stomach - sometimes causing severe convulsions.

Tetanus incubation is generally two days to one month. Usually the shorter the incubation (introduction into the system until symptoms show), the more severe the attack will be. Approximately 11% of people who contract tetanus in the United States die from it.

The tetanus spores are found in soil, dust, and animal waste. Spores enter the nervous system through skin punctures, generally through knife or nail wounds. But even tiny scratches or slivers can be an avenue.

You might ask "So what?" As woodworkers, we're at high risk. We get wood from who knows where. A common carrier is old barn siding or beams where animals have lived or been kept.

There are only about 50 to 100 cases per year in the U.S. but they are mostly in **under-immunized older adults**. To insure yourself against this potential killer, get vaccinated at your family doctor's office or the county board of health. **You need a booster every ten years.**

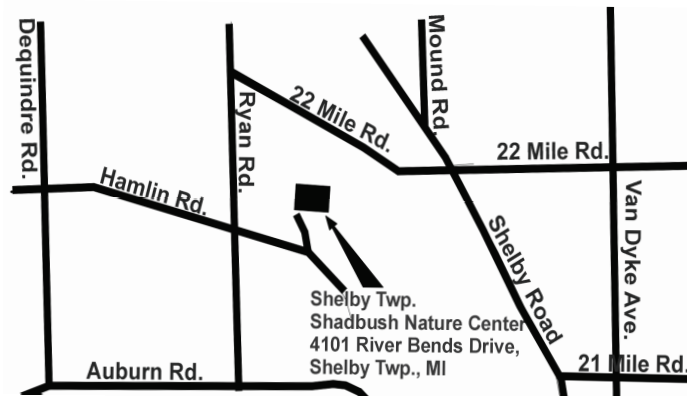
Of course, you can always take a chance on spending several weeks in a hospital intensive care unit. The choice is yours. Personally... I'll take the booster.

*Bill Youngblood*

**I saw this article when I was looking at our website, it is five years old but it is still a great reminder for us to stay safe and healthy.**

# Next Meeting December 21, 2008

Detroit Area Woodturners meet at the Shelby River Bends Park, Shadbush Nature Center, Shelby Township, MI, from 2:00 to 4:00 PM. The Park is located on Ryan Road between 21 and 22 Mile Roads opposite the Hamlin Road junction.



<b>DAW Officers - Here to Help!! Don't Hesitate to Call</b>		
President	Frank Marabate	586-246-0503
1st. Vice President	Russ Holmes	248-645-1970
2nd. Vice President	Frank Goettl	586-286-0831
Secretary	John Sabina	586-786-1967
Treasurer	John Fitzpatrick	248-608-6972
Membership	Greg Smith	248-649-3565
Library	Glen Lieving	586-726-2856
Mentoring & Shavings	Chet Bisno	586-254-7605
Club Logo apparel	Dave Earl	248-544-8947

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