

January 2009

Shavings

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2009

**A MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER BY
DETROIT AREA
WOODTURNERS**



**DETROIT AREA
WOODTURNERS**

Presidents Message

Happy New Year,

I have always looked at the new year as a way to evaluate my life, do some reflection on the things that I have done in the past and the lessons that I learned. I then try to focus on the things that I would like to change and make better in my life. This year one of my goals is to really challenge myself as a wood turner. Often, I find myself making excuses for not getting into my shop. I finally realized that these excuses are just that, excuses, they allow me to claim I do not have enough time or other things or people are preventing me from doing what I want to do. To some point, this is true. I do have other obligations and family, but I also need to make time for myself.

This year I am making it a point to find time to get into the shop. One way that I am going to do this is by making it a point to try doing or making what is demoed by the club each month. I hope that you will also try to do the same. I think it would great to see more of the things that have been demoed brought in and displayed in our instant gallery each month. So, come on and join me and together we can expand our knowledge and skills while making shavings.

Your club president,

Frank



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
JANUARY 2009				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 DAW Meeting 2:00pm Shadbush Nature Center	19	20	21	22	23	24
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OTHER GREAT ARTICLES AND NEWS IN THIS ISSUE

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Save the Date:

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

April 19th
DAW Monthly meeting -
Shadbush Nature Center - 2:00pm
Finding a Bowl in a Log



FOOD-SAFE FINISHES

A summary of non-toxic finishing products ideal for cutting boards, salad bowls, and other food-centric woodwork

by Jonathan Binzen

After scores of conversations with chemists, regulatory agencies, finish manufacturers, finishing experts, and woodworkers, I found that there are a few finishes that everyone agrees are food safe. However, these finishes tend to be the least protective, and the great majority are in a kind of limbo, with many experts saying most are fine for use with food but with others saying they should be avoided because there are some lingering questions about their safety. In the welter of contrary opinions about which finishes are food safe and which are not, a few naturally derived, unblended, no-hidden-ingredients, certainly nontoxic finishes stand out.

Pure tung oil - Extracted from the nut of the china wood tree. Used as a base in many blended finishes. Available from catalogs and hardware stores. Difficult to apply, requires many coats, good water-resistance.

Raw linseed oil - Pressed from flax seeds. Not to be confused with boiled linseed, which contains metallic driers. Listed as a food additive by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Very long curing time, good looks, low water-resistance, frequent reapplication.

Mineral oil - Although derived from petroleum, it is colorless, odorless, tasteless and entirely inert. Sold as a laxative in drug stores and as a wood finish in hardware and kitchen-supply stores. Simple to apply, low water-resistance, frequent reapplication.

Walnut oil - Pressed from the nuts of the walnut tree. Sold as a salad oil in health food stores and in large grocery stores. Walnut oil dries and won't go rancid. Easy to apply, frequent reapplication.

Beeswax - The work of the honey bee. Can be mixed with an oil to create a better-smelling, slightly more water repellent finish. Sold in woodworking and turning catalogs.

Carnauba wax - Derived from the Brazilian palm tree. Harder than beeswax and more water-resistant. Can be used straight on woodenware as a light protective coating or a topcoat polish. Sold in woodworking and turning catalogs.

Shellac - A secretion from the lac bug. Harvested in India. Super blond shellac in flake form is the most water-resistant variety. A film-forming finish. Sold in woodworking catalogs and hardware and art supply stores.

Nothing - Available everywhere. Makes a reasonable finish for woodenware. No application time. Free.

A recipe for one sweet finish - The food-safe finish that appeals most to me is one recommended by Jim and Jean Lakiotes, West Virginia makers of spoons and other kitchen items, as well as furniture. Their finish is a mixture of mineral oil and beeswax.

To make it, warm the mineral oil in a saucepan over low heat, and melt a chunk of beeswax in it equal to about one-fifth or one-sixth the volume of the oil. (*At high heat, there's a potential for fire. Be sure to keep the heat low, and consider using a double boiler.*) As the wax begins to flake apart and dissolve, stir frequently. When the mixture is blended, pour it into a jar to cool and solidify.

To apply, wipe on an excess of the soft paste, let it dry a bit, then wipe it off. If you want to apply it as a liquid, you can reheat it. Like any mineral oil or wax finish that will take a lot of abuse, this one will need to be reapplied often to afford decent moisture protection. But applying this fragrant finish is such a pleasure that you may find yourself looking forward to the task.

*This article is excerpted from Jonathan Binzen's article "[Which Finishes Are Food Safe](#)," featured in *Fine Woodworking* #129.*

WOODWORKING ON TV AND THE INTERNET

Is the sight of another Detroit Lions game on TV depressing you? Tired of the History Channel? (Ok. So we know who won World War II.) Do you cringe at the bathroom renovation programs – especially when your wife gets a little too enthusiastic about watching them? (You married guys know what I'm talking about.)

What about some good woodworking or woodturning programs? They might be a little difficult to find on TV, but once you do, you can video tape them or DVR them if you have a DVR player.

Not all of the programs involve woodturning, but some projects occasionally do involve some turning. For example, **The American Woodshop** with Scott Phillips recently featured a segment where he turned a finial.

His Normness, Norm Abrams, also does occasional turnings on **The New Yankee Workshop**. So does David J. Marks on **Wood Works**. Roy Underhill of **The Wood Wright's Shop** often does turnings on an old treadle lathe.

How do you find these programs? Generally, these programs can be viewed on Friday's and Saturday's on PBS or the DIY channel. It helps if you have the Internet. Each site will direct you to TV listings. Some will allow you to view entire episodes on line.

The exception is **The Woodturning Workshop** with Tim Yoder. The first two seasons of his program are listed and each episode can be purchased. I have contacted him via e-mail concerning a possible third season, and he indicated that an entirely new set of woodturning programs would begin in March of 2009.

Follow these links to view more interesting TV programs:

The American Woodshop

(To view Videos, QuickTime must be downloaded)
<http://wbgu.org/Americanwoodshop/>

Wood Works (David J. Marks)

<http://www.djmarks.com/woodworks.asp>

The Woodturning Workshop

<http://www.rsublictv.org/index.html>

New Yankee Workshop

<http://www.newyankee.com/index.php>

The Wood Wright's Shop

<http://www.pbs.org/woodwrightsshop/>

If you enjoy browsing the Internet, perhaps you might enjoy these links:

Popular Woodworking

<http://www.popularwoodworking.com/GeneralMenu/>

Woodturning Design

<http://www.woodturningdesign.com/>

Woodturning Magazine (England)

<http://www.lightningpublications.com/html/wt.html>

Shop Notes

<http://www.shopnotes.com/>

Wood Magazine

<http://www.woodmagazine.com/>

Woodsmith

<http://www.woodsmith.com/>

Woodturning on line

http://www.woodturningonline.com/Turning/Turning_articles.html

The Woodworking Channel

<http://www.woodworkingchannel.com/>

International Association of Pen Turners

<http://www.penturners.org/>

Fine Woodworking Magazine

<http://www.taunton.com/finewoodworking/>

Jerry Bufalini

Butternut



Butternut (*Juglans cinerea*) is a hardwood also known as white walnut, oilnut, tropical walnut, nogal blanco, and tocte. It grows in United States and Canada

and is straight grained, coarse texture with a satiny luster. It has a light brown heartwood with occasional dark soft, moderately light, with low strength, stiffness, shock resistance and decay resistance. Quite stable in service The heart wood is light brown, often with pinkish tones variegated with different shades of brown and nearly white sap wood. Physi- cally it is soft, moderately light, with low strength, stiffness, shock resistance and decay resistance. It is quite stable in service.

Butternut works well with machine or hand tools. It screws, nails, glues, stains, and finishes quite well. It is also an excellent carving wood, once highly valued for church altars. Used for furniture, cabinets, paneling, interior trim, veneer, boat building, boxes and crates, instrument cases, trunks, and millwork. It resembles black walnut when stained but lacks its strength or stiffness.



It has been used in furniture, paneling and small craft work. Its use has been mostly limited by its lack of availability. Rarely do you find it in anything but a fine wood dealer's showroom. Butternut has a distinctive ridged and furrowed bark. It produces drooping clusters of sweet nuts which are used in baking. Prefers moist soils. Grows to 40' to 60', 35'-50' spread. (Plant two trees for pollination).



A member of the nut Trees, it grows slowly to be 40' - 60' feet in height and has a spread of about 35' - 50' at full maturity. It does well in full sun and thrives in acidic, alkaline, loamy, moist, rich, sandy, well drained, wet, wide range, clay soils. Flower color is yellow-green, bloom time is late May to early June. Its fruit is tapered, oblong, 1 1/2"-2 1/2" covered with sticky hairs en- closes a brown, corrugated, thick, 1"-1 1/2" shell that terminates in a point. The oval kernel is tender with sweet, oily, buttery flavor. Harvested in late October.



Sources: [Tree- pictures.com](http://Tree-pictures.com)

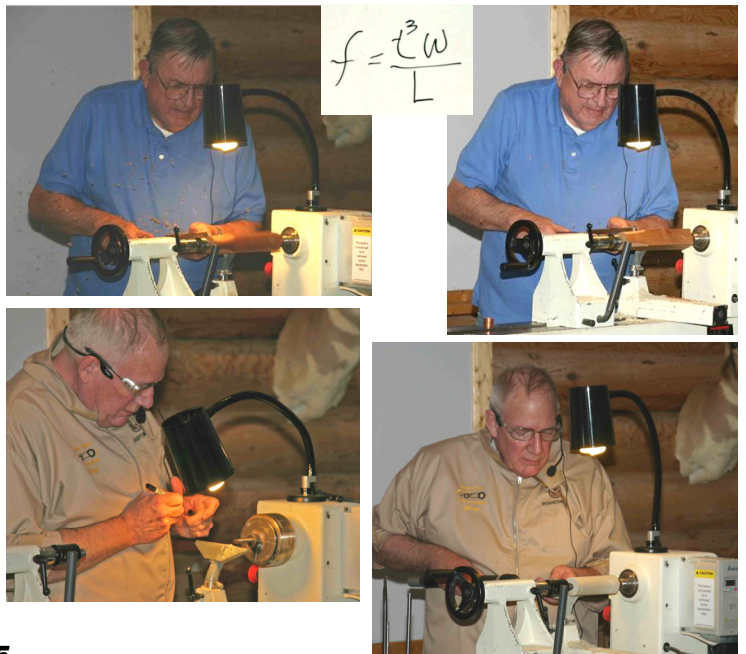
NOVEMBER MEETING RE-CAP

At the November meeting, the topic was Handmade Specialty Lathe Tools. Greg Smith demonstrated how to make and grind a three point tool. He also demonstrated some neat applications that could be made with the tool, such as coves and beads.

Russ Holmes demonstrated how to make a tool handle and also how to make a chatter tool from a jig or saber saw blade. The demonstration of the chatter tool made a unique decoration that could be used to add character to your turned piece.

Later, the Club had tool steel for the point tool and kits to make a chatter tool available for purchase so we could make these tools at home.

Thanks to both Greg and Russ for your informative presentations.





MEMBER PROFILE: GLENN McCULLOUGH

**“True, This! —
Beneath the rule of men
entirely great,**

**The pen is mightier than the sword. Behold
The arch-enchanter’s wand!”**

Glenn is an extraordinary maker of pens. Last year the Detroit Free Press did a feature article on him and his website (<http://goldmountainwoodworks.blogspot.com/>)



In addition, **Pen World Magazine** (April 2006) featured one of his pens from many that were submitted for display. His pens have also been featured in **Stylus Magazine** (July 2007) in an article entitled *Pens Made by Hand*.

Glenn grew up in Warren and graduated from East Detroit High School and later attended Wayne State University majoring in Art and Design and had planned to become a teacher. However, he took a break from school and worked at Art Van Furniture for a while and discovered that he could make much more money selling furniture. Thirty years later, he still works for Art Van and is currently a manager of the Clearance Center in Warren. Through high school and college a neighbor down the street who was a “jack of all trades” inspired him. He helped him in kitchen remodeling, roofing, etc.

In 2002, Glenn bought a Harbor Freight lathe for \$75 at a garage sale and started making walking sticks and canes after seeing them at the Renaissance Festival.

About five years ago while browsing at Woodcraft Supply, he happened upon the pen kits. A salesperson that was passionate about making pens sold him several kits. Glenn started out making Slimline, cigar pens, Euros, etc. Although his first pen was a disaster (it was too short), he has since progressed to making over 600 pens, some of which he sells on line at his blog, Gold Mountain Woodworks. He began locally at a Frame and Art Shop that also sold crafts made by local residents. He sold six pens on consignment for \$25.00 each. The frame shop sold each of them for \$75.00. He realized he could sell his own pens for his own profit.

He has since sold, on two occasions, 100 pens to Kingsdown Mattress Company (<http://www.kingsdown.com/>).

Recently, he made a pen for William Cavanaugh, also a pen maker, in a pen trade who showed it to a friend in Singapore who then contacted Glenn through his website and purchased two very customized pens for \$500.00.



Glenn is a self-taught pen turner, but he has learned a great deal from his mentor, John Sabina, The Yahoo Pen turner’s Group (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/penturners/>) and the

International Association of Pen Turners (<http://www.penturners.org/>). To become a member of the Yahoo Pen turners, you must submit a sample pen to be approved by a committee. If they like your work, you can become a member.

Glenn’s most challenging pen was a limited edition of 60 modified Churchill pens, which were made for Jim Cleary and features his art work and logo. The pen was inspired by Angelo Iafrate and Richard Klienhenz, fellow members of the



Pen Maker’s Guild, as part of a birthday swap in which two members make a pen for another’s birthday. Angelo showed Glenn how to do the roping and the laser engraving was done by Ken Nelson of Kalenshaan Woods.

Glenn also makes bottle stoppers, duck calls, bowls, peppermills, etc.

He sells some of his work annually at the Holiday Craft Show at Parsell’s Middle School in Grosse Pointe between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Many of his patrons are return customers who have grown to admire his craftsmanship.



He particularly likes to work with blood wood, ash, kauri, rattlesnake, corncob, and antler. He likes to make each project challenging.

His most difficult and challenging work to date is hollow form vessels. ("I need to go back and see Ray Frase.")

He currently lives in Chesterfield Township with his wife and two daughters.

Glenn's greatest satisfaction comes in pleasing his customers. For example, a gentleman wanted several pens made from his deceased grandmother's walking stick. Glenn was reluctant to cut into it, but he did so and made two pens. The customer was absolutely delighted.

Glenn does very professional work. His workshop is the epitome of neatness and organization. Everything is organized and neat as evidenced by two of his cabinets. The first is for the variety of wood he uses; the second is for the variety of finishes he uses.



His advice to new wood turners?
"Learn to sharpen."

A Gallery of Glenn's Work:



***By:
Jerry
Bufalini***

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 fluorescent yellow marker.

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

Ron Sztumerski - DAW Asset Manager
rsztrumerswki@wideopenwest.com
248-689-5615

Lyle Jamieson coming to Woodcraft

Lyle will be conducting two classes on Woodturning. The first, offered Feb. 21, is a lecture/demo class on "Woodturning Basics: A to Z." The second, offered Feb. 22, is a hands-on class in "Deep Hollowing." Do not miss this fantastic opportunity to learn all about turning from a Master Turner and developer of his own deep hollowing system! Call (586) 268-1919 to register, and for costs.



MEMBER PROFILE DANNY PAWLAK



Mark Twain was often heard to mutter, “Youth is wasted on the young.”

Danny Pawlak, a seventeen-year-old junior at Troy Athens High School, doesn’t seem to have the time to waste his youth.

Danny has been working with wood since the age of three. His home was one of the first to be built in the subdivision and so there were plenty of wood scraps in the neighborhood.

With encouragement and guidance from his dad, he began making shelves for his bedroom. Soon, he was working with a scroll saw and a small, battery-operated drill. Last year, he made a child’s toy rocking chair.



In ninth grade, however, there occurred an epiphany during his wood shop class: he learned about woodturning and there was no turning back.

Danny took a Table Saw Basics class at Woodcraft Supply taught by Tom Kearns who suggested that he join the Michigan Woodworker’s Guild.

At one of the meetings, he met Greg Smith who encouraged him to join the Detroit Area Woodturners.



Danny has been a member for about a year and was mentored by Russ Holmes who taught him to make a three-point tool with a turned handle, and a lidded box. He also taught him how to use the dreaded skew.

The Alan Lacer videos (<http://www.alanlacer.com/>) *Skew Chisel: The Darkside & The Sweet Side* and *The Son of Skew* were also very helpful to him..

Danny turns wood a little every day on anything that interests him. He is often inspired by the demonstrations at the Woodturner’s meetings. Seeing a finished project is his greatest satisfaction — to say “I built this.”

Last summer for the St. Lawrence Fall Festival, Danny made eight piston trophies for the winners of the Classic Car Show. Unfortunately, there are no photos. However, here is a photo of the prototype to give you an idea:



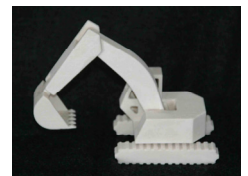
His most challenging projects have been with segmented turning.

But whatever the project, he likes to make the “chips fly” – especially with green wood.

Danny’s favorite subject is science—especially physics. He is currently learning to use CAD

(Computer Assisted Drawing).

He recently made a steam shovel model using the AutoCad software and the rapid prototype machine at school.



One of his segmented vessels won a regional 1st Prize and a State Honorable Mention last year at the Michigan Industrial Technology Awards. (<http://mites.cc/>)



This year, he plans to submit another segmented vessel and a multi-pieced globe with a finial decoration.

He would like to attend Northern Michigan University and major in some type of engineering (research and development) with at least a minor in woodworking.

In his spare time, Danny enjoys golfing, which he has done for the last twelve years.

Danny’s advice to new turners? ***“Listen to what the old timers have to say.”***



A Gallery of Danny’s work:



USING GREEN OR PART SEASONED WOOD FROM HEDGES, WOODLAND, GARDENS ETC...

By: Peter Child

Dry Wood Does not exist!

Many visitors to our wood store come looking for nice seasoned discs or chunks of wood 3" thick or more, preferably with the face machine-planed to show the grain. They ask "is it dry?" What they want is wood which can be turned straight away and delivered to the user immediately, without any risk of warping or splitting.

You might think this a reasonable request but as you progress with your woodturning, you will learn one extremely important fact of life which is. . .

Seasoned wood 4" thick or more is virtually unobtainable. The reason is purely economic. It takes many years to fully air dry a 4" plank of wood or several expensive weeks in a kiln. The high wastage and the cost of the overheads are so high that most sawmills are reluctant to cut anything thicker than 2" for stock.

Thicker timber is available but it is usually sold as "part seasoned" before it has a chance to dry fully. It is a sad fact that many sawmills, even reputable ones, will sell thick wood as "kiln dried" which is only dry on the outside skin. If you turn something out of it - say a bowl - you are asking for trouble. The stresses inside the timber are released when it is turned and it will soon warp or split.

You might be lucky and find some timber which has been stored for years for some reason, but normally you can be sure that wood more than 3" thick will be only "part seasoned" and will not be suitable for turning immediately into a finished object.

There are exceptions to this rule - I have found a supply of imported American cherry, ash, maple etc which is correctly kiln dried down to 12% moisture or so. If you do find really well seasoned wood you will have to pay a high price for it.

Using part seasoned wood

One of the big advantages of being a wood turner is that you can use green or part seasoned wood - provided you know what you are doing.

Instead of paying a sawmill to store wood for years, you can take any piece of fresh cut material, even from the firewood pile, and turn it. As green wood is very cheap if not free, wood turners who understand the green turning process can save a lot of money on material.

Useful sources of supply. . . .

- Friends with large gardens or woodlands.
- Firewood merchants
- Tree surgeons, estate maintenance contractors, farmers etc.
- Timber auctions
- Old furniture
- Sawmills
- Off cuts from furniture makers
- Specialist woodturning shop

The Seasoning Process

There is no such thing as a dry piece of wood. Every wood blank or finished turning will lose or absorb moisture from the air until it eventually reaches an equilibrium point with its surroundings.

The equilibrium point in, for example, your living room depends mostly on the average value of the relative humidity from month to month. If the atmosphere is very dry due to the central heating, then all the furniture and wooden objects in the room will lose water to the air until the percentage of water inside the wood drops to the value corresponding to the conditions. The percentage of water in the wood may get as low as 5% but there always will be some water left in there.

If you switch off the heating for a month or two and the air gets moister, then the wood will slowly gain water until the percentage water content achieves the value for an unheated room in a house which is typically 12%.

The equilibrium value in our wood store which is an unheated oak framed barn is 15%. I can prove this by using an electronic moisture meter to measure the water content of the oak beams which have been "seasoning" there for 300 years, maybe more. They never get drier than 15% of water. Any piece of wood I put in the barn is it initially sopping wet or dry as dust, will lose or gain water from the air until it gets to the 15% value (more or less).

Wood warps if its water content changes. It shrinks if it loses, and expands if it gains.

Seasoning wood is the process of drying out wood to achieve equilibrium with its intended final home. It can then be turned or made into furniture or whatever without fear of warping. It should be realized that wood

does not season with time as the word suggests - it seasons with water loss. I am sure that if I was to cut a piece out of my oak beam and turn it into a bowl, it would warp if I took it into the house because it would change from 15% moisture content to about 8%. The fact that it has been "seasoned" for 300 years will not prevent it shrinking when it dries a bit. On the other hand I could dry out a piece of fresh green oak to 12% in a few weeks in a kiln, take it into the house, and expect it to absolutely stable in shape.

To be safe, you should store wood blanks, before turning them, for as long as possible in an atmosphere close to the intended final environment of the finished

turning. This will ensure the minimum movement or warping in the finished piece and prevent splits. You should allow about 4 weeks for 1" thick timber to achieve equilibrium. Less time is needed if the moisture content of the blank is already close to the final value. Fine grain wood takes longer than coarse grain to achieve equilibrium. Bowls should be rough turned to 1" thickness or so and stored before re-mounting and finish turning.

Wax coating of end grain is essential to prevent splits in blanks which are suddenly exposed to a dry atmosphere or to direct sunlight. On sunny days cover any timber you take away in your car.

Commercial logging is wasteful

The commercial method of processing wood is as follows.

- (1) The trunk is trimmed on site (lots of lovely wood is left behind to be burnt) and trucked to the sawmill.
- (2) It is sawn through and through prior to seasoning. Any lumps and bumps together with the top and bottom planks are thrown away.
- (3) The planks are then air dried in the traditional way or put in the kiln to speed things up.

Even though all reasonable precautions are taken during seasoning, there is a great deal of wastage due to splits. Planks (especially thick ones) always split at the ends so a percentage is lost there. Planks with any thickness suffer from surface splits and split open around any features in the grain such as knots, crotches, wild or swirl grain - all the prettiest bits. This is because these parts of the trunk will simply refuse to dry evenly. All kinds of stresses will inevitable build up inside the wood until it splits open. What is left to sell is boring straight grained stuff ideal for furniture but of little interest to the turner.

Discoloration due to fungus can cause a lot of waste - blue stain in sycamore can affect a percentage of the available material even though special precautions are taken.

If the wastage due to all the above is 50% then the price is doubled. If you look at the costs all along the line including the cost of transport, sawing, storage and distribution you will find that the initial cost of the raw material - trees - makes up a tiny, almost negligible percentage of the cost of the finished material.

Wood is expensive principally because of the wastage - so much of it is destroyed by the pressures of the commercial world which oblige large sawmills to operate this way. The situation is much worse in the tropical rain forests where millions of "non-commercial" species of trees are cut and wasted just to provide access to the loggers. All the most attractive portions of the tree - the part where the branches divide, the branches themselves, and the roots and burrs are nearly always discarded or destroyed. Sawmills do not "rescue" this wood because it is not profitable to do so. If only a wood turner would intercept the process and cut the wood into discs and rough turn the material before it dries! Then all the pretty swirl grain pieces would be saved because rough turning relieves most of the stress. Bowl turning was always done this way in olden times.

Green Turning of Bowls

A hundred years ago, the wood turner was an important member of the village community - every bit as busy as the village blacksmith and employed to make furniture and household "treen", including lots of wooden bowls for the kitchen and dairy. All his material would have come from nearby woodland.

If you could go back in time and ask the turner if he used dry or seasoned wood for his bowls he would surely look at you as if you were mad. Where could he get such a thing? Why should he use dry wood when it is much easier to turn wet wood?

The process of making a bowl from green or part seasoned wood is very straightforward.

- (a) The bowl is roughly hollowed from wet wood to around 1" thickness - thinner on a small bowl. Allow say 10% of the bowl's diameter.
- (b) The roughed out bowl is stored for a few weeks (Not years!)
- (c) The dry bowl is re-mounted on the lathe and finish turned.

The advantages of this process are many. . .

- You can buy the wood cheaper and have a much better choice of material.
- You can get material as thick as you like for nice deep bowls.
- Wastage from the log due to end splits etc is eliminated.
- You can use pieces with wild grain which would not dry properly if left in the plank.
- Wet wood cuts easier and quicker
- Less dust is generated so that is healthier for your lungs

The disadvantage is you have to look some weeks ahead - you cannot buy wood as you need it, you have to maintain a stock.

Storing rough turned bowls

Once the bowl is roughed out it has to be stored in such a way that it dries out as quickly as possible without splitting. Drying can be accelerated by warmth but moisture has to be prevented from evaporating from the surface too fast or the bowl will surely split.

With coarse grained quick drying wood such as elm and walnut you can dry a large bowl from green in about 6 weeks. Simply wrap it well in twenty or thirty layers of newspaper (open up a whole newspaper and use it to wrap the blank to make a parcel) and keep it in a warm room. Tape it up so that no gaps show. Write on what it is and date it. My father (Peter Child) use to rough turn hundreds of elm bowls and protect them with "paste wax" before drying them in the airing cupboard. Paste wax is a kind of cheap floor polish used commercially in factories, hospitals etc. End seal coating such as Mobil "C" would do just as well. I use newspaper because it works and I don't have to pay for it.

With difficult fine grained slow drying wood, such as Cherry or Apple, more protection is required. The best method is to put the roughed out bowl in a cardboard carton full of dry shavings, again in a warm room. The process will take 3 months or so. You will lose a percentage of these especially if they have a lot of sapwood in them.

How to process a small log

Visitors to our little shop often want to know how to make use of a small cherry tree or some such which has come their way.

It is no good just keeping the log and hoping it will eventually dry to usable stock. You have to process it in some way. If you leave it in log form it is likely to split or rot or both and you will lose it.

You might be lucky with fairly small logs however - anything under 5" diameter will often dry without degrade if you dry them very slowly over a period of two or three years.

It is important to realize that any piece of wood is liable to split open if the very centre of the log (the pith) is left contained within the piece. It is O.K. for the pith to show by running down one face but it is wrong to leave it inside the wood.

One method is simply to cut or split the log straight down the middle into two halves and seal the end with wax, paint or end seal. This is fine for logs up to about 8" diameter. You could split them into four if you prefer.

Heart shakes tend to get larger as the wood dries so it is best to remove any heart shakes or defects at the centre of the log by cutting either side of the defects to yield split-free pieces which are likely to dry without further loss.

Sealing the End Grain

It helps when seasoning or storing any piece of wood to seal the end grain against over fast evaporation of moisture. If you do not do this the end grain will split in hot weather.

The best seal is candle wax or paraffin wax. Melt the wax in a shallow tray and dip the ends of the piece of wood in it. If it is a disc of wood for a bowl, roll the disc in the molten wax to coat the entire periphery of the disc. Take precautions against fire - as with a chip pan.

Turning Branches

Some of the prettiest turned objects are made from branches and small logs of Laburnum, yew or similar trees. These can be turned green or part seasoned. If they are well sealed after turning, perhaps with three or four coats of sanding sealer, they will be O.K. It is worth trying the following home grown timbers. . .

Laburnum

Yew

Boxwood

Oak

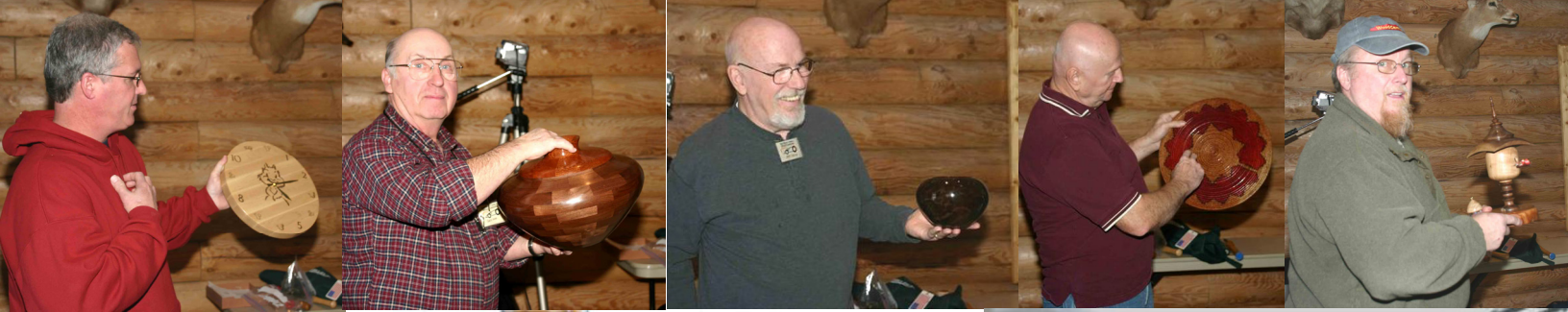
Strawberry tree (garden shrub)

Lilac

Mulberry

Hawthorn and Blackthorn

Plum, Cherry, Apple etc



NEXT MEETING JANUARY 17, 2009

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.



DAW Officers - Here to Help!! Don't Hesitate to Call

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

**Detroit Area
Woodturners**
is an affiliate of the
**American Association
of Woodturners**



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TROY, MICHIGAN 48085