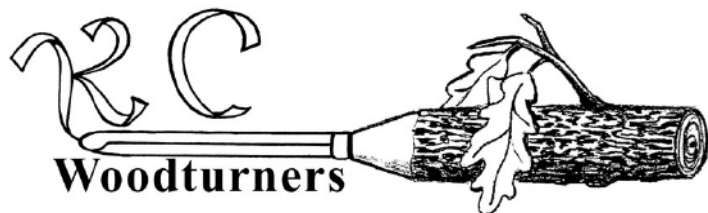


# Wood Chips



**LOCAL AAW  
CHAPTER**



**April 2005**

## Officers

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Every month I try to find something of interest on the subject of wood turning or wood in general. This month I am focused on wood allergies because of some recent personal experiences.

### Toxicity:

There is no doubt that some woods can be potentially toxic to some people. The question is always one of "what degree". This cannot truly be answered. Each individual has different degrees of resistance, some more prone to allergic reactions, and others not so. Every day our knowledge of tree biology and chemistry grows, leaving us with more information, but also more questions. How all this relates to each individual is impossible to know. All we can say is "be cautious". Use new woods in a limited way, with proper respirators, until you know that it has no adverse reaction with your body.

Toxicity can mean a lot of different things to different people so here are some basic ideas:

### Natural Chemical Poisons:

This normally refers to chemicals produced by the tree. It has been suggested that these chemicals originated as part of the tree's natural defense system against insect and other animal attack. They tend to be present in higher concentration in the sap, bark and foliage of the tree,

and to a much lesser extent in the trunk. For example, the foliage of black cherry contains a precursor of cyanide, but yet we work with the wood with little difficulty. Woods that are naturally oily, even after kiln drying are much more likely to cause an allergic reaction, just because the wood's oil can trans-

fer onto your skin more easily and enter the blood stream. The reaction can range from that of a mild irritant, to something that is truly toxic and lethal, although the latter is very rare.

### Natural Physical Poisons:

Fine wood dusts, even if they have no chemical toxicity, can pose a health risk. Dust can act as an irritant to the skin and particularly to the respiratory tract of people that have a natural sensitivity in this area. Western Red Cedar has an extremely small dust particle size, prone to penetrate deeply into the lungs and cause severe reactions in asthma sensitive people. Wear a dust mask! Have good dust extraction equipment working in your shop.

### Introduced Poisons:

Nature can introduce toxins as the wood rots on the forest floor. Fungal spores and bacteria that invade a rotting tree, creating beautiful spalted wood, but can be toxic if they are able to invade the human body. See the section on spaltic wood for more information. Mankind has also introduced toxins into wood. Every time the wood is chemically treated with products like creosote to prevent rotting. Formaldehyde glues are used extensively to glue plywood layers together in both sheet materials and flooring. In sawing these materials, the dust generated introduces these toxins back into the air. Many of these glues emit vapours long after the manufacturing process has been completed. Both the dust and the vapours can be very toxic.

### The Last Word...

Be cautious...just because something doesn't cause a reaction the first time doesn't mean you'll never have an allergic reaction. Your sensitivities can build with exposure. Allergy-prone people should be more cautious in the woods they chose and everyone should limit exposure to sawdust of new woods the first few times you work with it. Have fun, but be healthy!

## Club Events

Events held at McCray Lumber off I-35 on 67th Street in Merriam Kansas unless otherwise noted

April 11 - Monday Meeting Alex Garcia woodcut bowl extractor demo.

April 23 - Second Saturday Open Lathe

May 9 - Bill Robertson - miniature spinning wheels and a 17th century workshop

## Calendar of Events

**May 9** - Bill Robertson - miniature spinning wheels and a 17th century workshop

**June** - Anthony

**July** - Don Gruis

**July 25, 26** Turn About Wood Demo David Ellsworth

**September 10, 11** Turn About Wood Demo Andi Wolfe

**October**- Don Grimes Christmas Ornaments with lights

## Help SOS Help

Your help is needed! We need volunteers for the second Saturday demonstrations. Second Saturdays are a time for members of all levels to try new skills, learn new projects, and have fun. You don't have to be an expert turner, just willing to demonstrate a project, tool usage, or other techniques. Thanks to all of you who have demonstrated in the past, we can't have second Saturdays without volunteers like you! If you are willing to demonstrate please contact Deb Ortega at [deborao@ku.edu](mailto:deborao@ku.edu) or 785-760-3085.

## Year to Date Financial Report

Income	
Prior Balance	5037.62
Dues	1070.00
Raffle	722.00
Glue Sales	17.00
Total	6846.62

Outgo	
Gifts Given	50.00
Raffle Supplies	215.43
Postage	9.25
Jet Stand Mod	32.77
Insurance	251.00
Meeting Room Materials	254.90
Microphone and Brochures	303.44
Total	1116.79

Balance **5729.83**



## Paxton Woodcrafters

6311 St John Street  
Kansas City, Mo. 64123  
(816) 483-0659



Customer Satisfaction Since 1914

## Turn About Wood

6609 Royal Street  
Suite 101  
Pleasant Valley, Missouri 64068

**(816)-781-4230**

[www.turnaboutwood.com](http://www.turnaboutwood.com)

## Turn About Wood is Moving

Effective January 5th Turn About Wood will be in a new location with new phone numbers.

## Woodcraft Supply

8645 Bluejacket Rd.  
Lenexa, Ks. 66214  
(913) 599-2800

## Store Hours

Monday through Friday 9am - 9pm  
Saturday 9am - 6pm  
Sunday 9am - 5pm

## Craft Supplies

1287 E 1120 South  
Provo, Utah 84606  
1-800-551-8876

## Overland Tool Inc.

7905 Neiman  
Lenexa, Ks. 66214  
(913) 599-4044

## Sharp USA

1106 Valley Ridge Drive  
Grain Valley, Mo. 64029  
(816) 229-3055  
Tormek Sharpening System

## Show and Tell

Show and tell is an important part of our club meetings. Members can show their work and we all learn from each others work. Because so many have been participating, we would like each participant to write some basic information about their show and tell item. This will be used to put information in future newsletters. The cards will be available starting in the April meeting.