

# Wood Chips

May your tools be sharp and your chips fly high



## LOCAL AAW CHAPTER



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### Some Chips

Being President brings unusual requests for ones services.

I received a call from an Industrial Arts Teacher (Kara Paris) from William Chrisman High School. She was in need of a last minute substitute for a judge in the SKCITEA (Suburban Kansas City Industrial Technology Education Association) project contest. They had added a new division for 2005-2006, woodturning, and one of the judges could not make it.

There were not a lot of entries and the quality of turning was credible to very good. The Grand Award went to a Junior. The surprising thing about his piece was it was the first piece he had ever turned. I talked to his teacher afterwards and she explained the boy was a very talented woodworker and was not interested in woodturning. She had to work hard to get him to turn. His piece was a shallow bowl approximately 15" in diameter and 1-3/4" high turned from glued up Cherry. Tools used were scrapers.

The second interesting call was from the Overland Park Visitors and Convention Bureau, asking me to represent the AAW. They first called AAW President Angelo lafrate to come and receive the 2005 tourism award and he said to call me. The award was given for the AAW's financial impact on Overland Park. The symposium generated 1.2 million dollars in revenue for the City. Donna and I attended the May 18 luncheon to receive the award on behalf of the AAW.

Head count for May meeting was 64.

Don't forget to share a log and see you down the road.

*Merle*

### Featured Turner

Our featured turner for June is Anthony Harris. Anthony needs no introduction. He is very skilled in making boxes and his trademark of hand chased threads. Anthony pays close attention to detail whether its three threaded pieces that make a pawn or fine threaded finials that connect to a hollow threaded vessel. Anthony has been turning since 1969.



Merle received an award from Joe Novak, Vice President of Sales & Marketing at the Overland Park Convention and Visitors Bureau on behalf of the AAW. They presented the award at their annual tourism week luncheon to recognize the AAW for bringing their convention to Overland Park in 2005.

### Club Events

Events held in basement of McCrary Lumber off I-35 on 67th Street in Merriam Kansas entrance on west side of building

June 10—Learn to turn cancelled due to annual picnic.

June 10—Annual picnic—Shawnee Mission Park Shelter #8—11:00 a.m. to ? - lunch at noon

June 12—Regular meeting at 7:00 p.m.

July 8—10—John Jordan demo



2 x 4 Contest Participants

### Angelo Has Them in the “Palm” of His Hands

Dean Thomas, AAW & KCWT member

Angelo Iafrate, president of the AAW, was the featured turner at the May 13 Second Saturday– “Learn to Turn” event for the Kansas City Woodturners Chapter of the AAW. Angelo’s quiet humor, deft turning technique, and unusual topics brought a well-deserved appreciation from the sixty-plus turners attending the event. As we admired his gallery of tricks and treasures, we learned about the history of a very old illusion after being sworn to secrecy. We won’t tell, Angelo. Honest. He shared openly about the process of learning how to provide the precision necessary to please some very particular customers, and the sort of refinement of skills needed to make that happen.

Angelo’s afternoon sessions dealt with the turning of other natural materials: palm nuts and seeds. He shared about sources for this renewable resource as well how to make the specialized tools necessary to create quality projects with this unique material. As he turned, he described the kinds of skills that one must develop to turn small projects in both harder and softer palm nuts. He treated us to a great display of the many intriguing patterns that are the natural byproduct of the many turnable species of pine seeds. The bottle stopper, miniature lidded box, goblets, and vases charmed the onlookers, many of whom had little or no exposure to palm nut turning.

Saturday evening, the chapter sponsored a wine and cheese reception to both honor our president and to allow him to provide those in attendance with a combination State of the AAW/State of the Art dialogue. He listened, and he shared and exhorted. He also instructed us in how we can get more out of the AAW by investing our talents and time in AAW events. He recalled the success of the Youth Turning project at the 2005 AAW Symposium held in Overland Park, KS last July, and attributed it largely to the willingness of the Kansas City area turners who were willing to give of their time to coach and encourage nearly 70 young people in their own “learn-to-turn” experiences. Demonstrators are needed and welcome at local, regional, and national events. Because the AAW is an all-volunteer organization, we are the life-blood. When we’re healthy and generous, the organization is healthy.



In addition to the great discussion, President Iafrate also consented to judge a 2x4 turning challenge where eight turners took an 8' construction grade stud (no cocobolo studs were allowed) and created turned objects. Angelo said it was a tough contest, but he was up to judging it! [Rick Bywater provided the winning entry, Chip Siskey was second and Bill Kuhlman was third].

On Sunday, a smaller group gathered for a hands-on session of turning palm and tagua nuts. Everyone had a lathe and access to the variety of palm products that Angelo brought for the workshop. Participants not only created pint-sized palm projects, but they also learned how to create specialized tools to make those small turnings possible. Many of the participants were heard relating their enthusiastic appreciation of the experience and of the man who provided it. Thanks for sharing with us, Angelo.



2 x 4 Contest Winners  
From left to right—Bill, Rick, Angelo and Chip

The AAW in Louisville—June 22—24  
[www.woodturner.org](http://www.woodturner.org)

The Utah Symposium—June 15—17  
[www.utahwoodturning.com](http://www.utahwoodturning.com)

# Sharing knowledge with a story, experience or tip, we can all benefit in **The Journey** of woodturning

I have shared many trips or adventures since starting The Journey in January. The physical trips are fun; however, even greater is the internal journey in the art of woodturning. It is this journey that I wish to share this month.

Taxes are due April 17th, but more important I am still waiting for my AAW sharpening DVD. Last November I added the motto "May your tools be sharp and your chips fly high". I really mean that. In woodturning, you can get by with a crappy lathe, cheap tools and punky wood, but if you don't have a sharp tool, not only is it dangerous, but you might as well take up knitting. Or better yet - invest in 60 or 80 grip sandpaper. When you start out, sandpaper is your friend. It took me a while to figure why holding the sandpaper at high speed is not good and can actually create heat checks in the wood—not to mention burn your hand. As you progress, the sharper the tool, the cleaner the cut can eliminate several grits of sandpaper.

It was exactly one year ago that I took a 3 day class with Trent Bosch in Fort Collins, Colorado. That class was learning how to turn a green wood bowl (day 1), hollow turning (day 2) and using decorative carving (day 3). My goal arriving back home was to apply at least 3 new things that I learned. The most important was having

## Sharpening the Superflute Bowl Gouges

By Trent Bosch

These two gouges combine to be a very useful set of tools to use when doing faceplate work. These are both 1/2" Henry Taylor superflute bowl gouges. The first is a standard grind bowl gouge, ground very similarly to the way it is when you purchase them (Fig 1). The other is a swept back version that is very versatile (Fig 2).

These tools are both very easy to sharpen. With the standard grind gouge you just hold the tool in line with the grinding wheel, then find the angle of the bevel and rotate the tool using your hand on the very back of the handle. This may sound complex but it is very simple as shown (Fig 3). Essentially you are using yourself as the jig. The swept back version is more difficult to sharpen by hand but with the use of the jig that David Ellsworth showed me it is very easy, and you get it perfect every time.

There are two major parts to the jig. The Holder (Fig 4) and the stand (Fig 5). There are also three critical dimensions we use to get the grind perfect. I look at these as starting points, and you can make minute adjustments to suit how you like the grind, longer, shorter, or steeper bevel, etc. These dimensions are shown in Fig 6. To use the jig all you need to do is put the holder in the stand

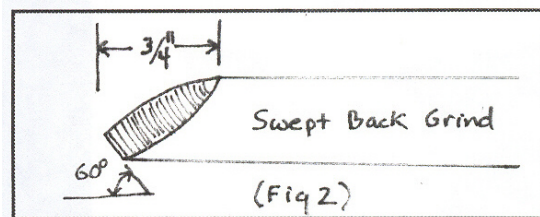
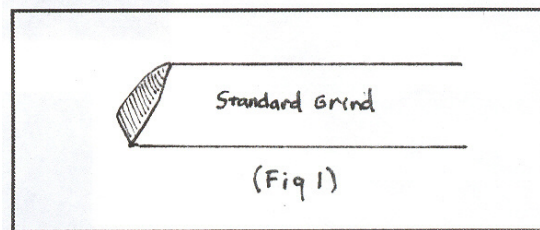
sharp tools. Trent provided a drawing diagram that when made allowed me to sharpen my bowl gouge in 3 seconds. Let me take it one step further and say "dress" the bowl gouge. With the wooden jig and the grinder located right behind the lathe, I'm able to turn 180°, attach the jig and "dress" the tool. Dressing across the face of the bowl gouge and I'm back making wood chips fly. The only modification with Trent's diagram is that the base is fixed. Once the grinding stone wears down, slight adjustments are needed. I have now modified the base making it adjustable.

Throughout my journey, it seems like I've always started out buying the wrong tool(s) like buying the expensive 6" grinder. My advice is to buy an 8" grinder at slow speed—1725 rpm. Attending the tool show in February, I compared my bowl gouge with Steve Russell of Euroworks. His gouge has an extreme swept back grind. I think Steve was using a commercial jig (wood fast?). I'm not able to duplicate this grind with my Trent Bosch jig, which is actually a David Ellsworth design. It would be nice to try it and compare. Oh well, that's another journey "down the road".

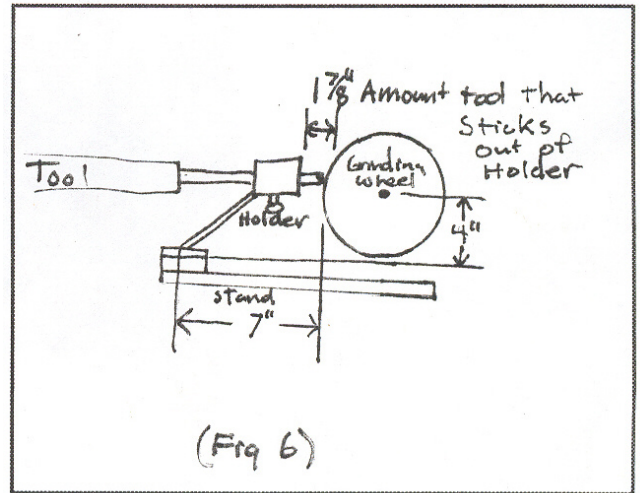
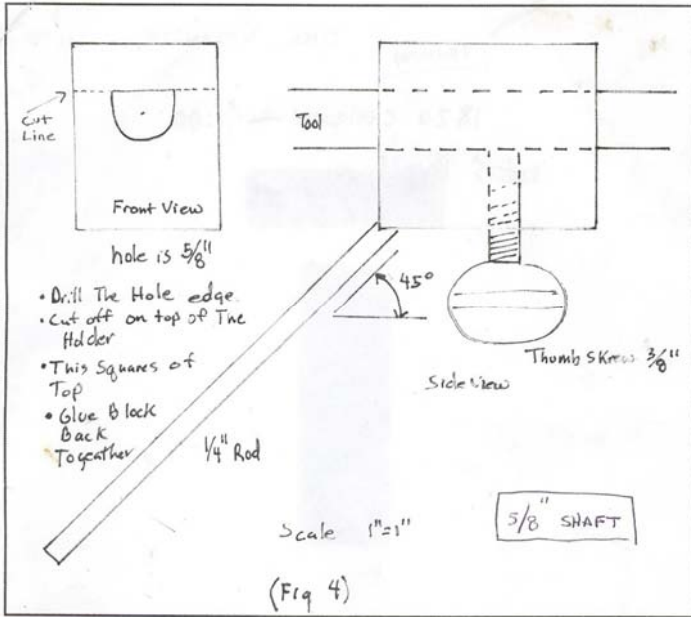
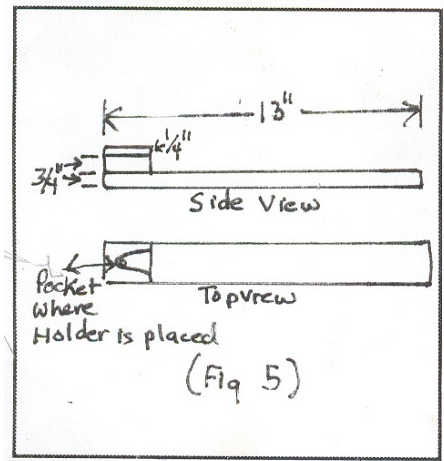
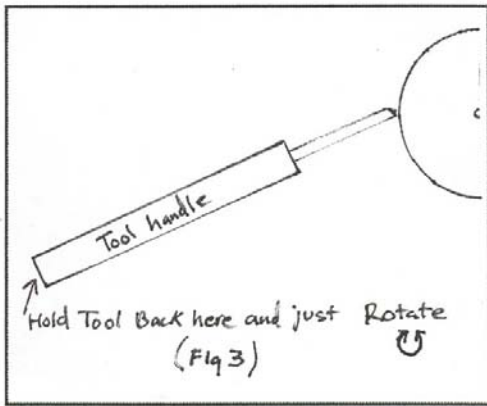
Rick Bywater  
(written on April 15)



and move the tool to the sides so that the whole bevel is sharpened.



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**Woodcraft Supply**  
 8645 Bluejacket Rd.  
 Lenexa, KS 66214  
 (913) 599-2800

**Store Hours**  
 Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri 9 am—7 pm  
 Thurs 9 am—9 pm  
 Saturday 9 am—6 pm  
 Sunday 9 am—5 pm

As a member of KC Woodturner, you receive a 10% discount except for on sale items and power tools. Make sure you present your KC Woodturner Card.



Oneway Stronghold chuck with 1"-8TPI insert, #2 jaws, woodworm screw, operating key, T-handle hex wrench and owners manual—about a year old and in good condition. I would like \$200. Call Ron at 785-233-8832 or e-mail at rlwarman@cox.net.

**Calendar of Events**  
 Jul 8-9-10—John Jordan Demo  
 Jul 10—Regular meeting  
 Jul 24—Learn to Turn

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

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For those of you who signed up to donate an item that will be auctioned to benefit Child Search, please bring your piece to the July meeting or no later than August. Any member who would like help, see Jim Faherty or Frank Novich.  
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During Angelo’s visit to Kansas City, he provided us with some insight on where the AAW has been and where it is headed. To better aid the direction requires feedback from it’s members. Please visit the AAW website at [www.woodturner.org](http://www.woodturner.org), click on the 2006 survey and take a 10 minute survey. One question they are asking is about expanding the American Woodturner magazine from 4 to 6 issues. Please take the time to complete this survey.

This leads me to the next subject. Maybe our own club needs a survey. With over 100 members, we only had 8 contestants in the 2 x 4 challenge.

- \*\*\*\*\*  
★ Don’t forget the annual picnic June 10 at Shawnee Mission Park. Please bring a covered dish and your table service. Meat and drinks will be furnished by the club. Below is a list of door prizes that will be given away.  
★  
★ 8” bench-top drill press  
★ 18V cordless drill and flashlight set  
★ 2—2-pin wood moisture meters  
★ 1/4” air die grinder kit  
★ 1/8” micro air die grinder kit  
★ 29-piece TiN coated drill bit set  
★ 2—electric rotary tool kits w/60 accessories  
★ 6” digital caliper  
★ 3-piece diamond hone set  
★  
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Special thanks to all who helped on Saturday. We did the following: installed the bandsaw on a portable platform, added a 6” riser block, installed a new “greenwood blade for the bandsaw, mounted the drill press on a moveable cart, re-aligned pully’s on the nova lathe, installed a new flushing mechanism for the toilet and did a lot of cleaning.

The Northland Club is looking for demonstrators for the Sixth Annual Northland Symposium on October 8th. Follow up with Dennis Avondet at 816-734-4248

Nuts and results from Sunday’s “hands on” class with Angelo



Our featured turner for May was Jerry McMaster. Jerry is becoming a very skilled turner and demonstrated turning a thin wall vessel 1/16” thick for piercing. Thank you Jerry and thank you to Linda for the May Journey article.

**July's Second Saturday is a  
LEARN TO TURN WORKSHOP  
with John Jordan**

**Saturday, July 8, 2006 9 AM to 4 PM**

**\$10 Members \$20 Non-members**

Saturday's demo will consist of turning a hollow vessel with carving and texturing of that vessel

**Sunday & Monday, July 9 & 10, 2006 9 AM to 4 PM**

**Sunday's Hands on Class 4 OPENINGS LEFT**

**\$65 Members \$90 Non-members**

**Monday's Class is \$50 for Members and \$75 for Non-members 2 OPENINGS LEFT**

Hands on Class will do the following:

Hollow turning and/or carving—your choice—you can just hollow or just carve—or both

John Jordan is a Woodturner from Antioch (Nashville), Tennessee. Known primarily for his textured and carved hollow vessels, John has been featured in nearly every major turning exhibition the past fifteen years. His work has received numerous awards, and is in the permanent collections of many museums and corporations.

John is in great demand as a demonstrator/teacher, traveling extensively teaching at universities, craft schools, turning groups and trade shows throughout the US, Canada, the UK, New Zealand and Australia, including an annual week or two at world famous Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts. His work is frequently seen in publications in several countries as well as articles written by him. He has also produced two woodturning videos, which have received very favorable reviews.

John's pieces are initially turned on the lathe from fresh, green logs, using a number of techniques and tools that have evolved over the years. Each piece is then hand carved and textured, using a variety of different hand and small powered tools. This texturing process is very labor intensive, and can take as much as several days to weeks to complete. There is little room for error during this carving—one small slip can ruin the piece. A light lacquer finish is applied to most pieces, including the dyed work.

**John's requirements are that you have good sharpening skills and can easily turn a simple bowl with no problems.**

**TOOLS NEEDED:** Turning and hollowing tools of your choice. Anything can alter the surface of a piece of wood such as; carving gouges, wood burning tools, electrical/air rotary tools with grinding wheels or rotary burns.

If interested, please follow up with Bud Schenke.



Sample of John's work