



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

## Next Meeting

The Next meeting of the Corridor Woodturners will be held on **Sunday, September 11** at the shop of Tom and Stacy Nehl, 1008 Rolling Glenn Drive in Marion. This is the annual picnic. There will be **no meeting on September 8th** which would be the date for the regular meeting. The open turning portion of the day will begin at 8:00 AM and there will be door prizes through out the day.

We will have plenty of very nice pen blanks, both regular and stabilized, and some exotic wood bowl blanks as well as some native wood to bid on in the silent auctions. Bidding for the silent auction starts whenever you arrive. The first group closes at 12:30, the second group at 1:00 and then every half hour until we are done. Lunch will be at 12:00 Noon. **Bring a chair and a dish to share**, the club will provide the meat and drink. We have enough table ware from previous events that needs to be used up so unless you don't like eating from paper plates and using plastic utensils there is no need to bring any.



## Last Meeting

**Tom Mills submitted this overview of his demonstration on making chopsticks.**

This is how I do it, but, of course, there are many other ways to get-r-done.

**Wood choice:** Traditionally, bamboo is used, but can be from nearly any material. My preference is a close-grained wood, such as maple or birch or cherry, avoiding open-pore woods like red oak. You



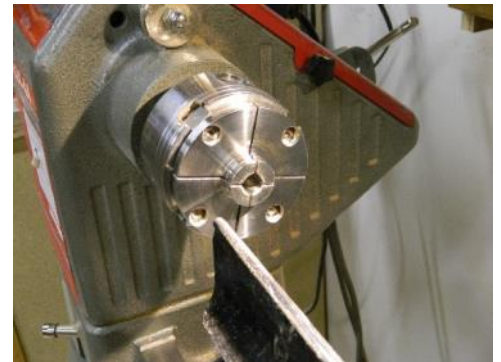
obviously want to avoid woods that have toxicity issues. I've used white oak with success.

**Size:** Japanese chopsticks are about 9 inches long, with Chinese being a little longer. Your personal preference should dictate how long you go. Japanese chopsticks are rather pointed on the end, compared to the more blunt Chinese style.

**Preparing the blanks:** using a zero-clearance table saw insert, mill the blanks 5/16 inch square by about 12 inches long. You want as nice a finish on them as you can, because part of the square will show on the finished product, and you don't want to cause yourself needless sanding if you don't have to. Typically, you'll want to make 8 chopsticks and 4 rests for a gift. Start with at least 10 blanks to yield 8 finished chopsticks. Stuff happens.

**Tools required:** Of course, the skew is the only proper tool for this project.

I hold the work in a 4-jaw chuck with 25mm jaws. This size jaw closes down nicely onto the 5/16 square blank. Alternatively, you could use a simple jam chuck with a tapered hole. The tail stock will hold the blanks



in place. I like to use a 9 inch tool rest, so I don't have to readjust in the middle of the project. The tail stock should have a sharp point so it can dig into the end of the blank. A sanding disk is handy for final finishing. A miter box or band saw is useful for cutting the chopsticks to length after shaping.



## From the President

Hello to all, hope you are well and enjoying this cooler weather. I was able to spend this past Sunday at Woodfest and had a great time. Although I think the crowds were smaller we kept busy visiting with many people. John Cox, Don Coleman and Harvey Jeck kept busy on the lathes, and if you get the Gazette you could see photos of John's hands and one of his tops. John and I spent a little time with the Gazette reporter and we did get some press notice in the paper. Also included were photos of club member Mike Duss with his hand hewn serving bowls. This was not a big money maker for the club but I

Kevin Bierman am hoping we may get a new member or two out of it. A big thank you to all the club members who manned the booth and or donated items to be sold.

As I'm sure all of you know we will be having our regular meeting this month, it is time for the annual picnic at Tom and Stacey's. Not a lot of change in the way we run this except we will be doing the silent auction in stages to give everyone a chance at some nice pieces of wood. Club will provide hamburgers, hot dogs and tableware, we ask that you bring a dish to share and a chair to sit on. Please remember to bring your challenge project for a chance to win \$75 dollars, this is not a contest, winner will be drawn out of a bowl. Look for more details in this newsletter or on the website.

Last thing from me this month is a little correction, in last month's newsletter I had mentioned we were headed to Harvey Jeck's shop for the October meeting, my bad, I got ahead of myself. We will be doing that sometime in the near future. Greg Ellyson will be showing us how he makes the Christmas Tree's that were so popular at Woodfest. Family obligations will keep me from attending the picnic, but look forward to see you in October.

Kevin



## Woodfest Photos



**Trint Adams-Hackberry-Lacquer**



**Jim Bodin**

M  
E  
M  
B  
E  
R  
S  
  
G  
A  
L  
L  
E  
R  
Y



**David Kesler**



**Stacy Nehl-Maple**



**Bruce Kruse-Red Oak-Lacquer**



**Jim Bodin**



**Jordan Ferr-Carob-Wipe on Poly**



**Tom St.John**

M  
E  
M  
B  
E  
R  
S  
  
G  
A  
L  
L  
E  
R  
Y



**Joannie West**

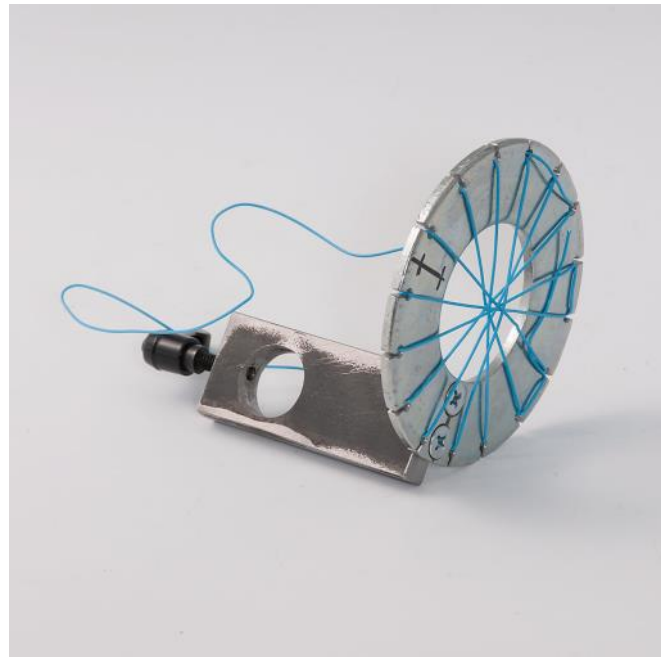


**Tom Nehl-Cherry Burl-Sanding Sealer**



**Tom Nehl-dyed Maple-Poly**

M  
E  
M  
B  
E  
R  
S  
  
G  
A  
L  
L  
E  
R  
Y



**Bruce Kruse**

## The Help Corner

Hello to all,

Here it is September already. What happened to summer? I have a couple of things to share with you this month.

The first thing is something that I learned from John Cox and Bruce Kruse at Woodfest on Friday August 26<sup>th</sup>. It was how to keep dust off of your face shield when you are turning. John Cox had a bottle of STP Son of a Gun, and it really works.

Thanks for the wonderful tip. Bruce said the bottle he purchased was at O'Reilly's Auto Parts. I went to O'Reilly's on 7<sup>th</sup> Ave. in Marion and purchased a bottle. The second thing I found in one of Cook Woods emails concerning figured wood. I have

always had trouble with figured wood meaning. I have always called it wood that moves. I hope this helps. Have a great Labor Day weekend. Look forward to seeing everyone on September 11<sup>th</sup> for the picnic.



### What does figure mean?

In wood, figure refers to the appearance of wood, as seen on a longitudinal surface (side-grain): a "figured wood" is not plain.

The figure of a particular piece of wood is, in part, due to its grain and, in part, due to the cut, or to innate properties of the wood.

A few of the tropical hardwoods, like the rosewoods, may have quite spectacular figure.

Types of figure include ambrosia, bird's eye, burl, curly, quilted, saplted, and many more!

### What are the different types of figure?

#### Ambrosia

Comes from an infestation of the ambrosia beetle which leaves an entrance and exit hole within a black streak. Fungus specific to the beetle attacks in the sapwood leave a dark stain near the entrance and exit holes.

#### Bird's Eye

The name derives from the small "eyes" that are spread throughout the wood. It has a distinctive pattern that resembles tiny, swirling eyes disrupting the smooth lines of grain.

#### Burl

Burls are balloon shaped growths composed of swirls of grain laced with eyes.

#### Curly

Contortions in grain direction that reflects light differently create an appearance of undulating waves known as curly grain. All species develop this figure, but is most commonly seen in maple. Other versions, or names, for curly are: Fiddleback, Tiger Stripe, Flamed or Ripple.

#### Quilted

Quilted figure has bulges that are elongated and closely crowded. Quilted grain looks three-dimensional when seen at its best.

#### Spalted

It is the result from infiltration of coloring materials in irregular patterns that are laid down by different species of fungi in the wood competing for territory. The lines represent a zone line where two different species of fungi have met with each species leaving their own distinct color.

*Last Month (Continued from page 1)*

**Makin' shavings:** Load the blanks loosely into the chuck, press the right end into the tail stock point by hand, visually centering it (not overly critical), then tighten the chuck jaws around the blank, with about 3/4 inch or so clamped in the jaws. Crank 'er up to about 2000 rpm, and take light cuts, starting from the left, and gradually tapering the work to about 1/8 inch diameter at the tail stock end, stopping about 3/4 inch from the end.

You'll need to back up the cut with your left-hand fingers to minimize flexing of the work. The reaction forces from the tool push the wood mostly away from you, not toward the ground, so you need to have your left hand resist the flexing in that direction. You're aiming for a smooth taper over about an 8 inch span. When you're done, sand the chopstick while it's spinning. To even out any high spots, you can sand with a 1 to 2

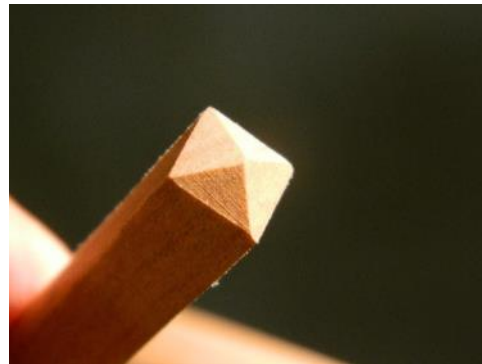


inch wide strip of sandpaper, which will bridge the low spots and just sand the high spots. When you're happy, stop the lathe and sand the flats smooth and sand the round part in the direction of the grain. If you're not happy, throw it away and chuck up one of your spare blanks. Told you so. Since you don't want the chopsticks to be too slippery to grab the food, don't overdo the sanding, stopping at maybe 100 or 120 grit. You can even texture the tips if you want.

**Final steps:** After you've turned all 8 chopsticks, cut them all to the same length on the band saw or miter box. Using a disk sander, smooth the tips and sand a little pyramid on the fat end. My favorite finish for chopsticks is mineral oil, the same as you'd use on a cutting board. You can also leave them bare, or use salad bowl finish or lacquer.

**Beyond:** Chopsticks lend themselves well to ornamentation of the big ends, such as paint, pyrography, carving, dye, or even lamination. You'll also want a chopstick rest. This can be either turned or bandsawn, or even non-wood. There are a thousand variations of rests. Of course, if these are a gift, you'll also want to include a presentation box or sleeve.

**Etiquette:** It is considered rude to point at people with your chopsticks, just as it is to spear food with them or to nervously chew on them. You don't want to tap the side of your dish with them to get attention; only beggars do that. You don't stick them vertically into a bowl of rice. That's done only for the departed at funerals as a sign of respect for the afterlife. This would send a negative message to the host of your dinner. Typically, in a table setting, chopsticks are placed next to the top edge of the dish, with the tips on the rest pointing to the left.



## **For Sale**

Have something for sale? Let the club members know about it here. Get the info to John Cox to be added to the next newsletter

## **Dues Structure and Meeting Attendance Policy**

Club dues are:

\$25.00 per year for an General membership.

\$30.00 per year for a Family membership

\$100.00 per year for a Supporting membership.

Dues are for the calendar year January 1 thru December 31 with a grace period ending at the close of the February meeting. New membership cards will be distributed at the March meeting.

Dues paid in September and later by NEW members will be considered in force for the rest of that calendar year plus the following calendar year.

Potential members may attend two meetings as a guest then must either join the club or pay 1/4 of the current general membership fee to attend a regular meeting.