Turn North

The Monthly Newsletter of the Northland Woodturners

www.northlandwoodturners-kc.com December 2025

2026 Officers

David Bartlett, President
(816) 331-5664
dabartle23@yahoo.com
Vice President
(OPEN)
ishear4@gmail.com
Andy Brundage, Secretary
(816) 305-32238
andybrun53@gmail.com
Leland Finley, Newsletter Editor
(816) 830-4702
lelandfinley7@gmail.com
Chip Siskey, Treasurer
(816) 858-3080
woodchipsbychip@yahoo.com

Chapter Meetings:

First Thursday of every month, 7-9 pm. **Our ADDRESS**: **7305 NW Prairie View Road** in Platte Woods. We are across the street from the Platte Woods Methodist Church who has allowed us to park there when our regular parking is taken up (only about 7 cars/trucks can park in back.

Coming Attractions

Newsletters on the Chapter Website:
http://northlandwoodturners-kc.com
Event Information:
NEEDED: Fund raising Ideas.

Remember—2026 dues are $10 for the year.
Due beginning January 8 2026

Next Meeting:
December 4, 2025



Santa Claus is Coming to Town



You better watch out,
You better not cry,
You better not pout,
I'm telling you why:
Santa Claus is coming to town!

He's making a list,
And checking it twice,
Gonna find out who's naughty or nice.
Santa Claus is coming to town!
He sees you when you're sleeping,
He knows when you're awake.
He knows when you've been bad or good,
So be good for goodness sake!

OH!...You better watch out, You better not cry
You better not pout, I'm Telling you why.
Santa Claus is coming to town.

He sees you when you're sleeping,
He knows when you're awake.
He knows when you've been bad or good,
So be good for goodness sake!

Well, it's that time of year again when the snow falls, Gift making is in process and the Northland Woodturners gather for the annual Christmas party at the club quarters at 7305 NW Prairie View Road in Platte Woods.

Quite an impressive menu is on the docket this year!!

Salad
Vegetable
Pasta Salad
Baked Beans
Brisket & Buns
Ribs
Cheesecake
Service and Drinks provided by NWT

That's not all either!
Remember the tickets that went into the small can? Well, a drawing will be held for the lucky person that left a ticket in there. Hope it's you!!

Also, A challenge turning contest will be held along with the picking of the best Christmas ornament that is brought in. So, get your tools sharp, bring your appetite, and hope for the best!!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

How Robert Sorby Tools are Made

Robert Sorby. The name itself evokes images of finely crafted tools, honed to perfection and ready to tackle any woodturning project. But what lies behind the name? What makes these tools so revered by woodturners worldwide? Let's delve into the rich history and meticulous craftsmanship that goes into every Robert Sorby tool.

A Behind-the-Scenes Glimpse

Founded in 1828 in Sheffield, England, a city synonymous with steel, Robert Sorby boasts a legacy spanning nearly two centuries. This isn't just about age, it's about a pursuit of quality, a dedication to time-honored methods, and a blend of traditional and modern techniques.

The journey of a Robert Sorby tool, from raw material to the turner's hand, is a fascinating one. It's a testament to the dedication of skilled artisans, where massive hammer forges work alongside the skilled art of hand grinding. This perfectly illustrates Robert Sorby's respect for traditional skills while embracing modern advancements.

The emphasis on craftsmanship is clearly apparent. Each tool is handled by numerous skilled craftsmen, each meticulously managing their specific stage of the process. From the initial forging to the final finishing, every step receives careful attention to detail. This ensures that every component meets the exacting standards that define Robert Sorby.

Blades undergo rigorous testing, including hardness testing, before reaching the customer. This quality control guarantees consistent performance, allowing turners to focus on their turning. The same level of care extends to the handles. They are expertly crafted and then treated to a meticulous finishing process – a personalized touch that truly sets Robert Sorby apart.

The result is more than just a tool. It's an embodiment of the expertise and care from the hands of skilled craftsman. When a Robert Sorby tool finds its way into a turner's hand, it's not simply a tool, it's a piece of Sheffield's heritage ready to empower creativity for generations to come.

We encourage you to experience the Robert Sorby difference for yourself. Give these exceptional tools a try – you won't be disappointed.

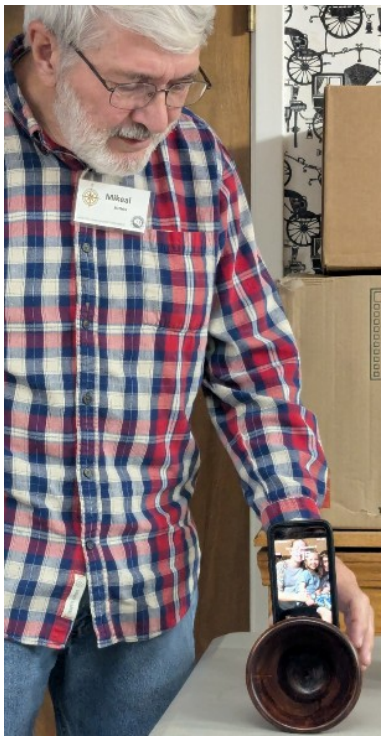
Want to see more? Watch this video: (*copy the whole thing or ctrl-click on the list*)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pEnNzRiwY7M&embeds_referring_euri=https%3A%2F%2Fwoodturnerscatalog.com%2F

Interested in a CA finish procedure too? Watch this video...
https://woodturnerscatalog.com/cdn/shop/articles/blog_ca_finish_project.jpg?v=1700674272&width=720

Thinking about an inside-out Christmas ornament instead? Here's a video of it being done...

https://youtu.be/JS8OFtMyDxc

SHOW AND TELL



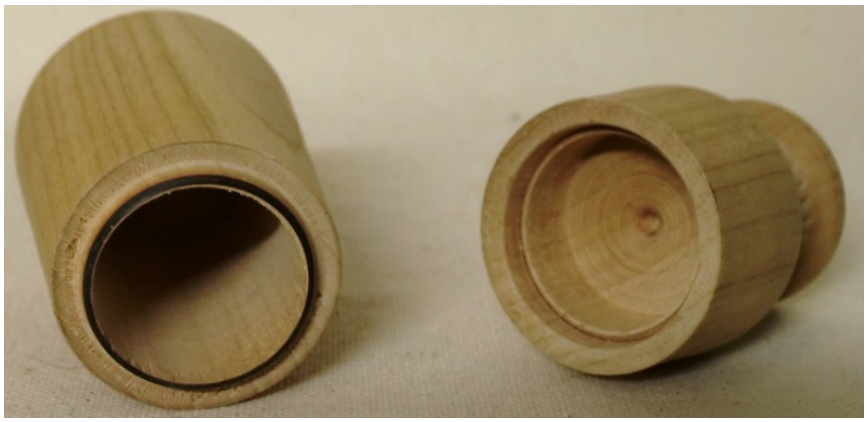
Mikeal Jones gave the club members present at the November meeting a good idea for increasing the volume of your cell phone. It IS an amplifier that needs no external power to use.

Made of stained **Sycamore** and appearing to be a deep bowl it has a flat on one side and a slot cut for the phone to slide into. Diameter is 6” at the top and 4-1/2” at the base. The base is about 1-1/2” tall Finish is stained lacquer.









Brad McElhaney brought a lidded box made of **Cherry** with a wax finish. Total height is about 4” and diameter is about 1-1/2” at the base. Smooth interior and nice grain match when assembled make for a nice storage place.









Once again Chip Siskey brought his "mosquito" turned Bird Houses along with a stand to mount them. They also can double as Christmas Ornaments if Christmas comes earlier—like August!!

A variety of woods and stains were used to "manufacture" er.. uh.. Turn these examples. All finished with lacquer.



Leland Finley brought a Yarn Bowl which he made by assembling hollowed circles of **Walnut.** Once the shape was turned a slot was cut into the side to allow yarn to be pulled from a ball which rests inside. Much of the interior was removed by cutting circles with a circle cutter with the center drill removed to make solid "puds" before turning.



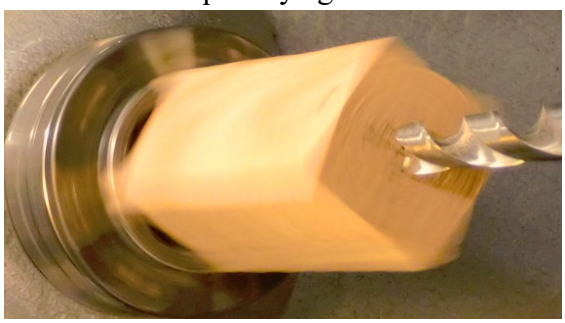
Two of those puds were glued together to make a follow block allow the finishing of the base which had the tendon for attaching to the 4-jaw One-Way chuck rremoved. The finish is the **Walnut Oil** wax which was available several months ago to club members after a demonstration and "give-away" by the supplier. Much sanding and polishing was done to provide the finish seen here.



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Program Highlights

The Program personality for this past November was **Chip Siskey**, an accomplished woodturner on the side from his paying occupation.
A man of many talents when it comes to woodturning Chip showed how to make a spiral handle for an interchangeable screw driver.
Chip's second demo was a ring holder which would make a nice birthday or Christmas gift.
For the Screwdriver handle Chip used a piece of **Hard Maple** with straight grain. This works best for the tools to be used since a "squirrely" grain doesn't react well with a spiraling tool.

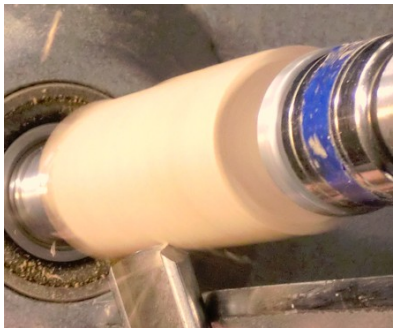


One of the first steps was to drill the hole where the screwdriver part will be mounted. This hole needs to be large enough to allow assembly while being small enough to grip tightly the part being inserted.

Chip mentioned that a 9/16" bit would work for the one he was going to make.

To make the blank ready to have the spiraling cut a Roughing Gouge was used. Once this was done and the blank was smoothed to remove any obvious ridges, the spiraling tool was prepared.

For complete instructions on how to use the tool go to this website and download the pamphlet. https://robert-sorby.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Spiralling-and-Texturing-System.pdf



The tool is held so the wheel that produces the spiral is at an angle similar to what is shown at the right.



This is an operation that takes a certain amount of practice to "get good" at producing a spiral.

One participant at an **AAW** Symposium who watched a Robert Sorby engineer explain how to do spiraling commented that:

First, here's the engineer's trick. Measure the distance between any two of the cutting head points. The circumference around your spindle has to be a multiple of that distance. As the spindle and wheel rotate, they have to come back to the same beginning point every time or the cut will never align. Okay, that's the explanation; now, here's how to do it.

Round your spindle and get it as smooth as possible. Dry wood is a must. Next, set up the tool so that the saddle is comfortably placed on your tool rest and engage the wood at about 400 RPM with the tool pointing slightly DOWN. Remember, the cutting actually occurs at the junction of the bevel side and the top.

Now comes the big "Secret." Make a cut to see what you've got. It will probably not be clean. Smooth that off using a gouge or scraper JUST until the existing trashy spiral goes away and THAT will be the perfect size.

Engage the tool again and, almost as if by magic, the spiral is there in clean, beautiful form.
Works for me every time.



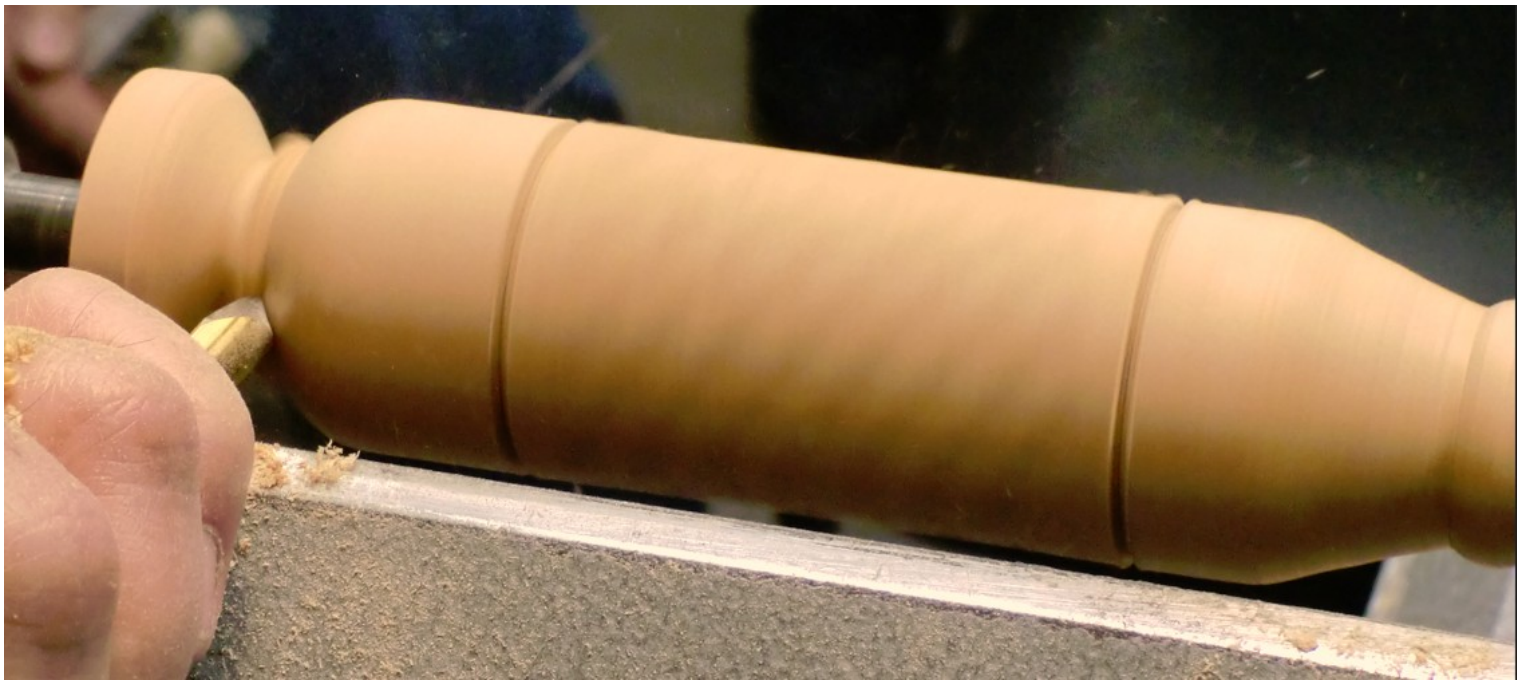
Engage the tool again and, almost as if by magic, the spiral is there in clean, beautiful form. Works for me every time.

I've also learned that it's easy to reengage the spiral to extend it left and right or to make the cuts deeper. And, I sand after each cut, then cut again, sand more and so on. That allows me to see how clean the cut really is and get rid of any tear out along the side of the cut; bound to be some, so be prepared for it.

And, finally, keep the cutter sharp. Doesn't take much to do it but you'll wind up working yourself to death if you don't.

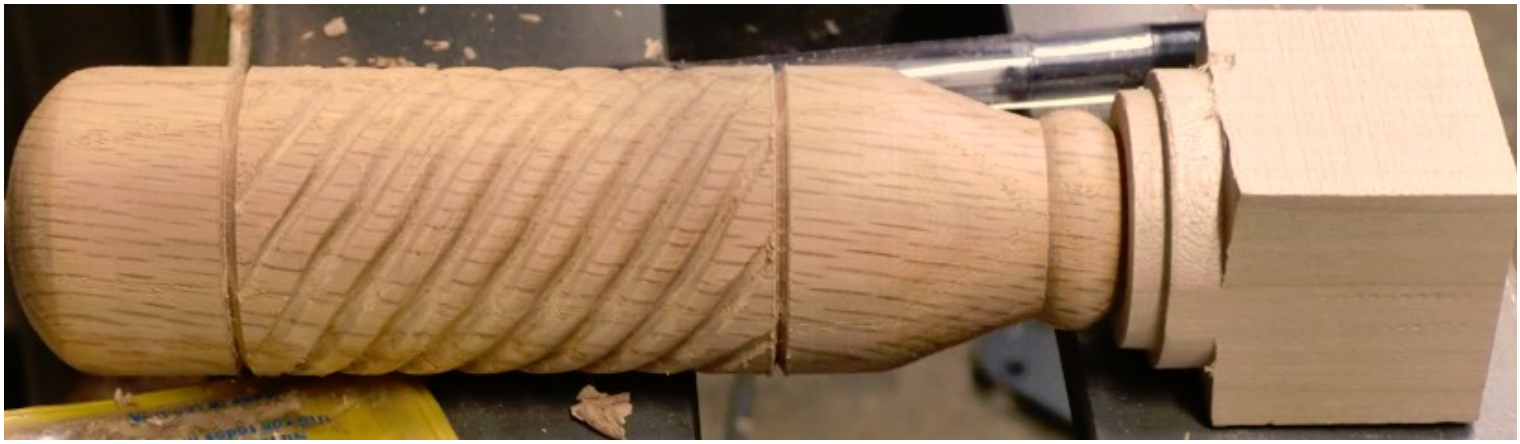
Back to Chip's demo.

This is what happens when the tool is used to produce spiraling. Depth of the spiral is determined by what you want to produce. Once the spiraling is done, cut a small groove at either end to better define the shape.

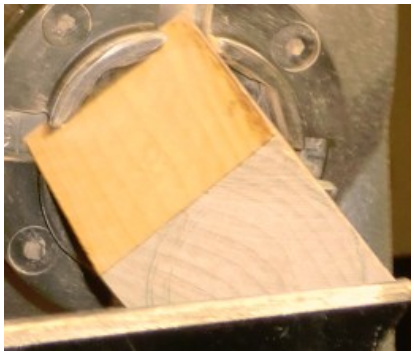


The final shaping of the handle required finishing each end to produce a good shape that removed sharp edges.

Once this part of the turning was done,



This was the result before final finishing and assembly which wound be done at home later.





Chip also made a ring holder to show how to make use of short ends left from turning other projects.

Using a 2” x2” blank Chip mounted it in the 4-jaw chuck and using a roughing gouge, rounded the blank to prepare for the ring part.



Using a turner-made insert chuck, Chip reversed the ring holder turning to finish the base.





With a cutoff tool Chip removed the remaining part that was used to stabilize completed.

the turning while the base was

Note in the left-hand picture above the stem which holds rings is a straight projection and the cup base for the rings is slightly tapered.

Tools used included Rouging gouge, Small Spindle gouge and Cutoff tool.

Ideas for your Christmas list include the ring holder, a turning sliced to make earrings, deorative Christmas ornaments (*Check out what shows up at the Meeting Thursday Dec 4.*)

As we look forward to 2026 see what you can dream up to sell either in a club silent auction, online or at a craft show in the area.

Bring your sharp tools, appetite and enjoy the December meeting with fellow club members. If you haven't been in attendance recently, this would be a good time to renew old acquaintances and make friends with some new members to the club.

See you Thursday…

Thanks to everyone who has helped with our plug orders in the past. We will be asking for help getting other projects to raise funds. All ideas are welcome along with samples.

The CLUB NEWSLETTER tab of the club website is at
http://www.northlandwoodturners-kc.com/

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REMINDER:
The annual dues for 2025 **are still only $10.00**. Advanced payments are accepted.
Checks can be made payable to *Northland Woodturners*.