Turn North

The Monthly Newsletter of the Northland Woodturners

www.northlandwoodturners-kc.com October 2026

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Chapter Meetings:

First Thursday of every month, 7-9 pm. Our ADDRESS: **7305 NW Prairie view Road, Platte Woods**. Across the street from **Platte Woods United Methodist Church**. Look for the Address Post in the front yard. Circle drive in front entrance in back. More info in this newsletter.

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 1, 2026

Next Meeting:
October 1, 2026

ONE MORE TIME…



Mr. NWT Librarian sez, "***Pleeze*** bring back the book(s), Mag(s), DVD(s) you borrowed."

The Four Rules That Transform Woodturners Into Masters

Rule #1: The Master makes it look easy! Things you can't see on camera include muscle memory and razor sharp tools.

Rule #2: The Master knows how to cover mistakes. When a master makes a mistake s/he knows how to cover it up. The master doesn't call them blunders but design opportunities!

Example: you're turning a live-edge bowl and the bark starts to come off. The beginner is tempted to throw it in the burn pile but the master will pivot and say what can we do with this? Maybe take an iridescent paint, pull of all the bark and paint the edge to decorate the piece. Lost? No, repurposed!

Rule #3: The Master does NOT point out his mistakes! This is a psychological one that is seen most often. So the master gives someone a beautiful bowl and they begin paying compliments. The master doesn't say, "*Well, there's a small nick on the bottom and the finish on the edge isn't quite the same color I intended*." Don't tell them that; accept the compliment and say, "***Thank you!***" and mean it.

Rule #4: The Master knows when to step away from the lathe. It's called the "last cut syndrome"! Every wood turner has been there when he says to himself, "Just one more little trip and it will be perfect!"

Then, BOOM! It explodes or goes off across the room and destroys whatever it hits! One woodcutter, Nick Cook in Atlanta, GA says, "Take each cut as though it is the last cut and NEVER take that LAST CUT!"

Knowing when to lay the gouge down, take up a piece of sandpaper and NEVER make another cut separates the woodturner from the Master.

So there you have it from Master woodturner Mike Peace on the 4 rules that separate a woodturner from a Master.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KgVd5b1vXxA

My Latest Creation





Yellow Heart
Kentucky Coffee Bean
White Oak
Purple Heart
Beech
Bolivian Ebony
Cherry
Niové
Grandis
Sassafras
Cumaru
Honey Locust
Ash
Sycamore
Red Oak
Maple

Walnut
~~Olive Wood~~
~~Spalted Sycamore~~
yellow Mora
white oak

Steve Dougherty brought a bowl made from 18 different wood segments (*according to his list*). Several of the segments were on hand already and some had to be purchased. The center section and the rim appear to be made from Walnut with the other kinds spaced around the interior two rings.

Whoever said "variety is the spice of life" sure got that right on this piece.

Well done, Steve! Congratulations on a unique example of segmented turning.

Never one to let his talent idle, **Kent Townsend** brought a baby spoon that he carved for Chip Siskey's grand-baby. Personalized even, he presented it to Chip at the meeting.

Finish is Flax Seed Oil, which is non-toxic to humans. Nice job, Kent!



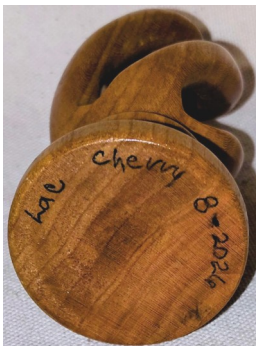




Mikeal Jones brought his version of the August turning made by Chip at the meeting prior. This piece is made from **Sycamore** and is finished with lacquer. Note the tightness of the three throats where they come together at the point. This piece could be used as a finial or just as a decorative ornament.

Michael's second piece shown on the next page is an adaptation of the same concept on a larger piece but hollowed to show separate spirals.

This piece shown at right is made from **Cherry** wood. Closed-grain woods work better for this kind of spiraling in a turning since the wood fibers, being closer together will hold more intricate shapes than softer wood or more open-grained wood would.

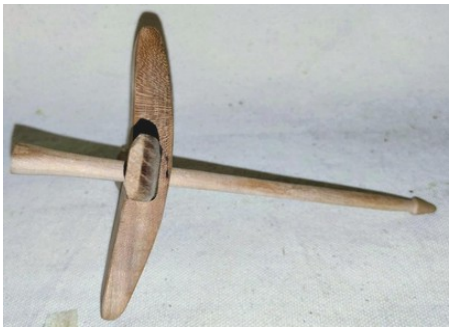


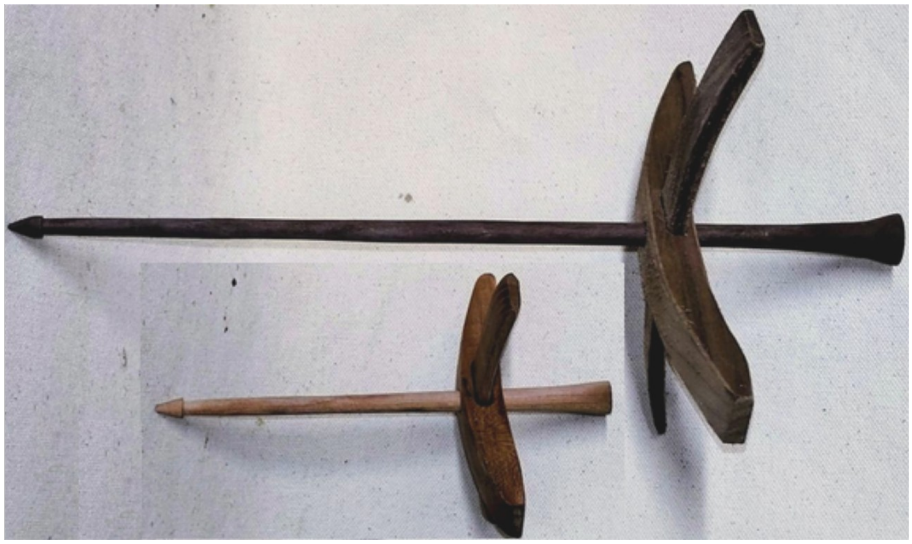


The picture at right gives a better indication of actual size than does the one at the far right.



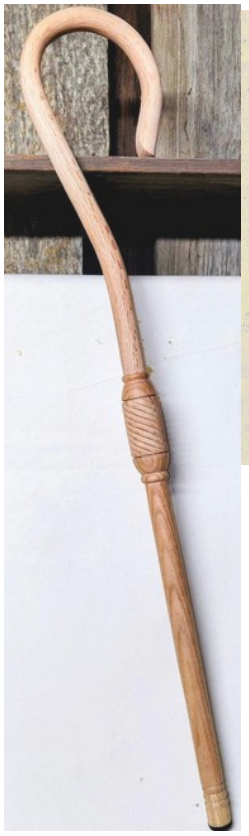
This piece stands about 3-1/2" tall and has 4 "flutes" instead of three. This would require a disc divided into 8 sections rather than the six used by Chip in August.





Danny Smith brought 2 Drop Spindles used in making yarn from fleece or wool. The larger one is made of **Walnut** wood and the smaller one is made from **Cherry** wood. They are unfinished since finish might interact with the material being spun. Overall length of the larger one is about 11" and the smaller one about 6". Nice turnings, Danny.







Chip Siskey brought a combination Cane, Walking stick, Camera monopod made from Red Oak. Several parts make up the total as can be seen at the far left. A decorative turning in the middle of the cane/walking stick incorporates other skills previously demonstrated by Chip at earlier meetings.





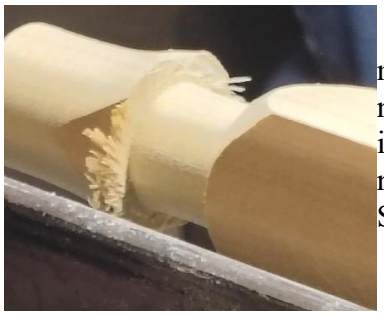
PROGRAM Highlights

Kent Townsend was the presenter for the September meeting. His topic was the Skew Chisel and its versatility in turning. Kent's point was that many turners discount the creative ways that the lowly Skew Chisel can be used..

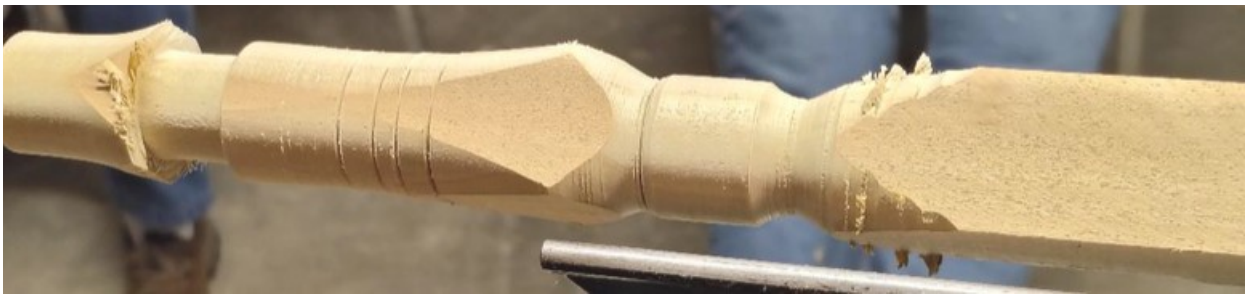
Some turners only see the skew as a scraping tool but as Kent pointed out, there are several othere tools that work much better when a scraping action is needed.

Using a piece of poplar 2" square and about 12" long, Kent proceeded to show how multiple shapes and cuts can be made.





When a transition from square to round is to be made the Skew Chisel is ideal. The basic skill needed is learning to "ride the bevel". This skill is not unlike using several other tools but may need some practice to develop one's skill with the Skew.



A combination of several types of cuts are shown above. Left-center shows how a Skew may be used to mark for layout and future design.

It goes without saying almost that to be skilled witih a Skew Chisel, sharpness determines the ease of use and quality of finish on the turning.

Shown at right are several kinds of Skew Chisels, some smaller than others.

The one third from left has a curved cutting surface. Some skews have a rounded back as the one next to right shows.





To produce the object at left, Kent began with a turning shown at right.



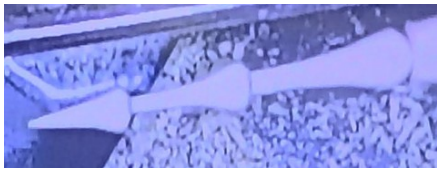
Using ONLY skew chisels of various sizes he began turning, supporting the turning piece using a piece of leather to reduce friction against his finger.

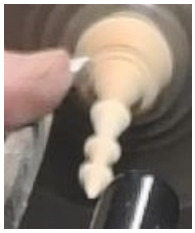




As the work progressed the shape emerged as seen below.









Final turning required forming the base part for attachment to whatever this turning will be used on.





The final result using just Skew Chisels

Well done, Kent. Thank you.

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.

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Enter "NorthlandWoodturners" when asked for club name.

REMINDER:
The annual dues for 2026 **are still only $10.00**. Advanced payments are accepted.
Checks can be made payable to *Northland Woodturners*.