

## TRI-STATE WOODTURNERS



Meeting Location:  
8361A Dayton Pike  
Soddy Daisy TN  
(Horsin' Around fac.)

### IN THIS ISSUE

June demonstrator	1
May meeting	2
President's Corner	3
Treasurer & Web	
President's Corner Officers	3
Treasure's Report	4
The Web	
Upcoming Events	
Club Challenges	
Interview	5
New turners help	6
Sponsors	
Club Challenge Pics	7
Show & Tell Pics	9
Notes for Demo	12

# Cuts and Scrapes

WWW.TRISTATEWOODTURNERS.COM

JUNE 2018 NEWSLETTER



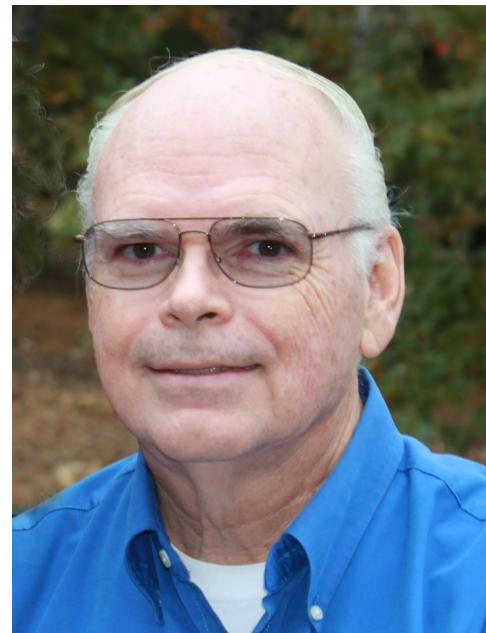
Tri-State Woodturners an official chapter of AAW

## John Dekle

### June Demonstrator

John purchased his first lathe in 1997 with no idea how to use it but a determination to learn. Shortly after that a friend gave him a segmented pencil cup. Without any hesitation the friend agreed to show him how to make segmented items and that basically started an on-the-job learning adventure into the realm of wood turning. The Honolulu Woodturners club were asked every year to demonstrate at an antique show and there John was introduced to an AAW chapter which became a huge resource for learning proper technique and procedures in turning. His skills were improved as he tried to make the club challenge presented at each meeting.

Working as the state director for Child Evangelism Fellowship of Hawaii helped shape his philosophy for teaching and instructing others in woodturning. It's not just a matter of turning a pen as fast as you can, but providing background and technique so a person can not only turn a pen but go on to do other types of turning using the principles shared. John retired and moved to Harrison, the end of 2011 and joined Tri-state Woodturners.



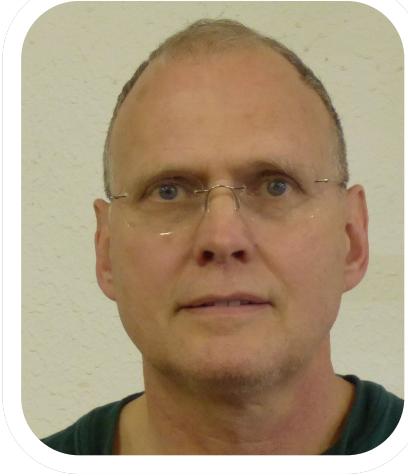
Turning pens can be more than simple basics that some view pen turning. The demo this Sat, "Pens Basics and Beyond", is designed to provide all a person needs to start successfully turning pens. For a person who has already turned pens this demonstration will challenge and inspire them to go beyond the basics to new incredible creativity. A pen selling for \$1295.00 will be shown as a sample of the level to which pen turning can advance. See you there!

# May Meeting with Frank Bowers



Frank demonstrated turning a platter primarily with carbide tools both the outside first and then the inside with a unique shape. After completing the platter he turned a small acorn box with a lid.





# President's Corner

I still want us to support the Beads of Courage box project. These kids really need this encouragement. When they see the time you spend making these, it surely lets them know they are not in this alone, that strangers are even supporting the hard road they have to travel.

Remember the June's president's challenge is something with a natural edge (Yes Jerry Bowman, you can enter something flat with a natural edge as well). The more you participate the more likely you'll win a special prize at the end of the year. And we'll have a drawing at the meeting for challenge participants to win a Woodcraft gift certificate. I'd like to thank all that participate in the challenges.

I'd like to take a moment and discuss AAW  
<https://www.woodturner.org/>

They do a great job supporting and promoting this hobby. The resources available are many. Just the magazine American Woodturner alone is worth the dues. "But wait, there's more" There are video's, a fundamental section, a forum and many other aspects to the Association. So do consider becoming a member.

**Remember when you drop your things off for the Presidents Challenge or Show and Tell, fill out a provided form that will have your name, type of wood and finish on the piece. This will help during the Show and Tell segment as well as John as he does our newsletter.**

Finally, shop safety: Cutting round stock (cylinders) Another cut frequently employed by woodturners is cutting cylinders, such as tree limbs, into manageable lengths. Cutting

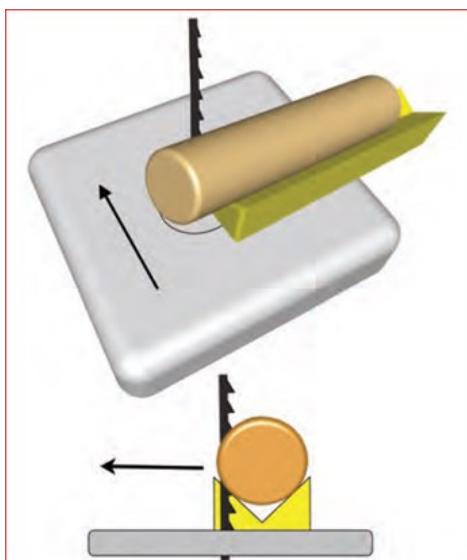
cylinders on the bandsaw, however, is a potentially dangerous operation. Aggressive saw blades may work just fine for cutting bowl blanks, but that same blade will cause an unsecured round piece to roll rapidly into the blade, possibly carrying the operator's hands with it. There is also the possibility that the workpiece will roll with enough force to break the saw blade. Even something as small as a  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (13 mm) dowel rod can break a bandsaw blade.

There are several ways to prevent injuries when cutting cylinders. (A chainsaw may be a safer alternative when cutting large-diameter logs.) A shopmade V block will help stabilize smaller pieces and allow them to be cut safely, as seen below. A miter gauge, in combination with the V block, is a good choice as well.

Never attempt an unsupported cut on round stock. The material to be cut must be sitting flat on the bandsaw table. A common, and incredibly unsafe, mistake made by some woodturners is attempting to shorten a too-long tenon on the bottom of a bowl blank using the bandsaw. The saw will pull the stock down to the table, rolling the round bowl at the same time. Even the most experienced bandsaw operator should never attempt this cut. Do not attempt to cut a sphere using the bandsaw unless you know how to correctly and securely attach it to a jig.

## TSW CLUB OFFICERS

<b>Josh Bowman</b>	President (423) 280-0954	jsbowman@bellsouth.net
<b>Jim Dvorak</b>	Vice President (423) 883-2212	dvorak6258@epbfi.com
<b>Charles Jennings</b>	Treasurer (423) 902-1482	cwjwoodturner@epbfi.com
<b>John Dekle</b>	Secretary/Newsltr Editor 423) 508-8051	Turning411@yahoo.com
<b>Doug Spohn</b>	Program Director (423) 240-4386	djspohn@epbfi.com
<b>Ed Lewis</b>	New Member Mentor (423) 344-7295	EdLewis3267@gmail.com
<b>Jeff Wheeler</b>	Librarian (201) 841-8896	47wheeler@gmail.com



# Treasurer's Report \$



# The Web

Starting Balance	4,652.04
Income:	
Wood Raffle	70.00
Snack collection	10.00
Orton workshop	240.00
Expenses:	510.00
Demonstrator	300.00
Rent	210.00
Ending Balance	4,142.04

There is an amazing amount of information available on the Web related to the topic this month on turning pens. Looking at the "Resources" provided at the end of the notes for this months demonstration you will find several excellent web sites. You can google "Turning a Pen" and find a lot of info or videos on the subject. Books and DVDs are also available at most outlets that provide turning supplies. Check out some of the available resources for inspiration to take your pen turning to the next level or for help in starting this type of turning.



## TURNING SOUTHERN STYLE

SEPT. 21–23, 2018

DALTON, GA

Distance is no excuse for not attending this Symposium as it's only 30 miles from Chattanooga. In one week-end you can gain a wealth of information on turning. This might be a good time to put this on your calendar for this fall. You can stay in Dalton or drive back and forth daily. Don't wait too long and miss available discounts or find the hotels are all sold out for the discounted price offered symposium attendees.

## 2018 Club Challenge

January	Spindle— <b>10 submitted</b>	July	Utilitarian
February	Wall Art— <b>11 submitted</b>	August	Plate
March	Scoop — <b>6 submitted</b>	September	Celtic Knot
April	Beads of Courage— <b>6 sub</b>	October	Snowman
May	Goblet— <b>9 submitted</b>	November	Inside Out
June	Natural Edge	December	Silent Auction Item

*You still have time  
to turn something  
with a natural edge  
for this months  
challenge*

# Next TSW Meeting Sat. June 16, 2018

# Interview with TSW Member



Charles Jennings was educated and worked most of his professional life in the field of engineering including four years in the USAF.

In the fall of 2005 he saw a woodturning demonstration at Northgate Mall. At the time he was planning to build a boat. He says, "I had been quietly cruising down the

river in my "new" wooden boat until I came upon the vortex in the river known as wood turning, I got sucked into its currents and have never looked back." He bought a lathe and started to let the chips fly.

Watching good turners has been one of the greatest influences in his development as a turner. Initially he took lessons from Ed Lewis and learned from other turners and demonstrators both in club meetings and symposiums. The openness and willingness to share by other turners has always been helpful and impressive to Charles. This attitude must have rubbed off as he is extremely willing to share information and help others learn from his experience.

Charles enjoys turning a wide variety of items and learns new things from each new piece he turns. While it is hard to select a favorite this large vase and these two ebonized bowls rank pretty high.



Some of his favorite woods for their sheer beauty of color and grain would be elm, honey locust and cherry burl. For functionality, maple and poplar are very versatile and would head his list. The projected end of the piece have a great influence on the type of wood being selected.

Charlie has a large spacious studio from where he works and over the years has stocked it well with a couple lathes and a good selection of tools. His primary turning tools are located close at hand by his lathe. He uses Sorby, Packard and Thompson tools along with some homemade tools especially for small items. His primary lathe is a Powermatic 3520B but he also has a Jet mini lathe for small turnings.



Normally, weather permitting and other demands, he spends three or four days a week in the studio. Last year he turned 52 pieces plus pens for the troops, birdhouses and small tokens for family and friends. The majority of his turnings become gifts while a few are sold to people requesting items.



Miniature birdhouses and pens are typically finished with friction polish while utility items are usually finished with walnut oil. Vases, bowls and hollow forms are normally slow turned with polyurethane on one of three turners.



Charles has made and uses various jigs and story boards for turning one of which is a gauge for making tenons fit his chucks.

(Continues on page 6)

# Free personalized help in Turning

**NEW MEMBER MENTOR:** Are you new to wood turning or at least have an interest in it? TSW club is providing opportunity for you to learn from an expert turner who has provided instruction and guidance to many in the club and others. Ed Lewis opens his workshop on Saturdays and would love to help you. Contact him at (423) 344-7295. There is no fee for this instruction from an excellent turner & teacher.



Ed Lewis has been turning for 42 years and has graciously offered to open his shop on Saturday mornings to help newbies. This is as good as it comes. Ed is not only skilled as a turner but an excellent teacher. Many TSW have gained valuable lessons from him over the years to where they are now very proficient. Call Ed at (423) 344-7295 or talk with him at the TSW meeting Sat. This is an official function of TSW.

## Continued from page 5—Interview

When turning a quantity of any project, creating story boards or jigs to speed up the process helps. Charles developed a mandrel for making combo salt and pepper mills when he turned 52 for family Christmas gifts.

Charles says,



"Nothing beats practice on the lathe. It might have been firewood when you started and it could still be firewood or mulch when you are finished. Experiment with tool angles while you are sharpening, position of tools when you are cutting, and always practice safety, wear that face shield even when no one else is watching. I continue to be impressed with the creativity of our club members and the beauty that God has hidden in wood and the great satisfaction that I get from discovering that beauty and enhancing it for all to enjoy."



The following sponsors give generously to Tri-State Woodturners and we want to encourage members to support them generously



5824 Brainerd Rd., Chatt. TN 373411 + (423) 710-8001

[www.woodturnerscatalog.com](http://www.woodturnerscatalog.com) +(800)551-8876

# Club Challenge for May - Goblet



Beverly deYampert



Charles Jennings



Doug Spohn



Charles Abercrombie

Don Moore →



# Club Challenge for May - Goblet



← John Dekle



Jim Dvorak →



← Les Isbell  
Jeff Wheeler →



# Show, Tell & Learn - Instant Gallery



Top 2 pics made by Charles Jennings

Middle pics made by John Dekle

Bottom pics made by visitor Gary Nosek



# Show, Tell & Learn - Instant Gallery



Created by

← Gary Nosek

Doug Spohn →

↓ Don Moore



← Pens for the troops and ↑  
another Beads of Courage Box

By Jim Dvorak

# Show, Tell & Learn - Instant Gallery



Saw made by Jeff Wheeler

There was  
Plenty of space for  
Something you made



← These embellished ↑  
boxes were created by  
Les Isbell

# Pen Basics and Beyond

## 1. Safety:

- A. Always wear eye/face protection
- B. Beware of dangerous clothing, jewelry or hair
- C. Consider your environment
- D. Don't turn when tired or stressed
- E. Enjoy turning

## 2. General Principles:

- A. ABCs of turning (Anchor, Bevel, Cut)
- B. Bushings are a general guide for thickness of tip, clip and center band - calipers
  - Smooth transition is important
  - Storage of bushings for various projects
- C. Cut - gently round off sharp edges
  - More aggressive at first - final cuts clean and smooth eliminates sanding
  - If the blank catches (stops spinning)
    - less aggressive cuts
    - tighten the quill (do not over tighten - bend the mandrel)
    - increase the lathe speed
- D. Drilling the blanks:
  1. Mark center if a two part pen so you can match the grain
  2. Center the blank to be drilled - Pen vise or clamp, drill press or lathe
    - Drill press be sure bit is 90° to table in all directions
  3. Start from the center of the pen (both pieces for 2 piece pens)
  4. If long slender bit - start with shorter stiffer bit (1/4" then 7mm) [preventing wander]
    - A center drill can start the hole helping the longer bit to not wander off center.
  5. Clear flutes frequently - avoid overheating
  6. Backer piece can help prevent blowout on the end - stop short even better
- E. Equipment needed:
  1. Lathe - any size can turn a pen
  2. Mandrel - 7mm, #2 morse taper, adjustable with collet, threaded end with knurled nut  
(MT1 1/2" or less, MT2 9/16", screw on - match threads on headstock)
  3. 60° live center or mandrel saver tailstock center
  4. Barrel Trimmer or squaring jig
    - Barrel trimming squares the blank with the tube. For precise fit, blanks must be exactly perpendicular to the drilled hole.
    - Barrel trimmers come in various sizes to fit the barrel size of different pen kits. Sold in sets or individually. Sleeves are available for additional tube sizes.
    - Universal pen blank squaring jigs are available to sand blanks perpendicular to drilled holes.
  5. Pen kits are available from many suppliers (see resources at the end). It is possible to make pens/pencils other than with kits using Bic® pens or Pentel® mechanical pencils.
  6. Pen blank - could be wood or other turnable material
  7. Adhesive - CA (cyanoacrylate) glue and Boiled Linseed Oil (BLO) or 5 minute epoxy
    - Insertion tool is helpful

## Notes for Demonstration

8. **Sharp** turning tools - almost any turning tool can be used as long as it is sharp!
9. Safety gear - face shield (goggles at the least), dust mask is good prevention
10. Sandpaper - if a lot of shaping is needed 150 grit may be needed, for a better finished turning 240 might be a starting point with the following grits as high as desired: (320, 400, 600, 800, 1200, 2000, 6000\*, 8000\* & 12000\* [micro mesh] also could start micro mesh 1500 after 600 grit.
11. Finish - there are many finishes available for pens. Recommended in these notes will be CA glue and boiled linseed oil. Then Beall buffed and finally renaissance wax.
12. Pen press or some alternative method to assemble the pen. Other methods could include a vise, hand clamps, drill press or lathe.

### **3. Preparation to turn**

- A. Selection:
  1. Pen style - Kit or other style (700 kits available at Pennstate Industries alone)
  2. Pen blank - Material (wood, acrylic or some other unique material)
  3. Unique feature such as inserts, lamination etc.
- B. Cut blank to size (pay attention to grain orientation)
- C. Drill hole for brass tubes (follow directions provided by supplier)
- D. Glue tubes into pen blank
  - Scuff tubes that are not pre-etched
  - Use CA glue or 5 minute epoxy
- E. Trim the end to make them square 90° to the tubes
- F. Using the correct bushings mount on the lathe with a 7mm mandrel
  - Follow the same orientation consistently i.e. tip toward the tail stock
  - Bring up the tail stock with 60° live center or mandrel saver

### **4. Turn and sand the pen blank**

- A. Bushings are an estimate - calipers can measure more accurately
- B. Start at 150 if the blank is a little rough or needs to be reduced more - otherwise 220 grit
- C. Sand through the grits - the finer the grit the slower the speed. Too fast or too much pressure can leave unwanted marks esp. with fine grits or micromesh.
- D. Sand with the grain after each grit
- E. Be careful not to drag dark dust across light colored wood
- F. Metal bushings can also leave dark streaks on light wood

### **5. Applying the finish (CA & BLO)**

- A. Clean pen blank with Denatured Alcohol (at least wipe dust off with a paper towel)
- B. Fold 1 sheet (select-a-size paper towel) in half then thirds
- C. With lathe running very slowly apply a stripe of CA on towel then to the blank moving back and forth constantly
- D. Immediately apply a stripe of BLO to towel then to the blank moving constantly
- E. Gradually increase speed and move to dry area of towel - Rub until dry. Then repeat 8 more times.
- F. Remove mandrel from the lathe (blank still on mandrel) and Beall buff if possible
  - Light colored wood - skip the Tripoli wheel
- G. Return mandrel with blank to lathe and apply a very light coat of Renaissance wax. After it hazes over, polish with a soft cloth.

## Notes for Demonstration

### **6. Assemble the Pen**

- A. Most kits come with instructions to follow for preparation and assembly. These can be saved in a folder for future reference.
- B. Be careful keeping the orientation of the pen correct when removing from the lathe
- C. Assemble according to the directions for the kit being used

### **7. Presentation**

- A. Add value to the effort with a good presentation - a gift box or case for the pen
- B. People will appreciate information regarding the pen.
- C. The informational tag below demonstrates how vital info can be shared. Such info can be inserted with each pen
- D. Retaining this info can be helpful if needed to address an issue with the pen in the future

This pen was handcrafted from Exotic Milo wood

by Dr. John Dekle of Harrison, TN #170402

*It was made especially for you with Aloha!*

This is a precise writing instrument you may use with pleasure and treasured for years to come.

This Patriotic Etched Bolt Action Pen with antique copper

accents uses a Parker® refill for continued enjoyable service.

### **8. Pricing to sell**

- A. If you want to give the pen away - do so. Be considerate of others who may be selling items for a living. Under cutting their price can hurt them or cause your work to appear to be of less quality. Some distributors provide estimates for what completed pens sell for on an average.

- B. Sample price guide: Purchase price of kit then the MSRP

Up to 5.99	\$35.00	12.00—14.99	\$50.00
------------	---------	-------------	---------

6.00—8.99	\$40.00	15.00—17.99	\$55.00
-----------	---------	-------------	---------

9.00—11.99	\$45.00	18.00—20.99	\$60.00
------------	---------	-------------	---------

Add \$5 for added things i.e. specialty wood, antler, acrylic etc.

Add \$5 for things like segmented, Celtic knot or other time consuming embellishments

Sample - give or take a little. Discounts can always be given as needed.

### **9. General tips**

- A. Brass tubes in a kit may be different sizes (length and width)
- B. Be very careful turning the milled end of blank - gouge can easily jump as it breaks free
- C. If bushing is too close to mandrel adjustment nuts add a spacer (7mm bushing)
- D. If blank is not round (one side is a little proud of bushing) rotate  $\frac{1}{4}$  - $\frac{1}{2}$  turn  
 Cause for either maybe a bent mandrel or headstock and tailstock are not aligned  
 Both problems can be corrected
- E. Some kits like Cortona are very precise and the brass tube cannot be milled down at all

## Notes for Demonstration

### F. Tip of filler is too long

1. Could have assembled wrong (Top of blank on the bottom if top is shorter)
2. Can disassemble a kit
3. May have pressed transmission in too far - solution: remove plastic cap on filler, sand or file metal down and replace plastic cap. The same has to be done with new refills.

### G. Be careful not to sand down bushing so they are not accurate for future use

H. Don't loose bushings when removing mandrel from the lathe or pen from mandrel - they can be like hunting for a needle in a haystack when they fall into a pile of shavings

I. Pressing parts into blank at an angle rather than straight can damage the blank - too much pressure can also be damaging esp. with soft wood in a modified slimline pen

### 10. Directions for a Modified Slim Line Pen

- A. Cut your blank slightly longer than the 2 tubes (approximately 4  $\frac{1}{8}$ " - 4  $\frac{1}{4}$ ").
- B. Glue one tube into the clip end of the blank. Square that end of the blank.
- C. Square the tip end of the blank with the brass tube floating free. The wood or blank can be a little proud of the tube.
- D. Put on a pen mandrel on the lathe and turn using slim line bushing on either end with the free floating brass tube in place (do not glue it).
- E. After finishing the pen, press the cap and clip in place.
- F. Next remove the floating tube\* and press the tip and transmission into that brass tube. G. Insert the filler to check if the transmission is pressed in correctly.
- H. Slide the assembled tube with the tip, transmission & filler into the turned pen.  
The transmission will fit snug into the brass tube on clip end.

### I. Extend the filler by turning the tip.

\*Occasionally the tube is difficult to remove

Solutions:

1. A threaded  $\frac{1}{4}$ " bolt works well to pull the tube from the blank
2. Sometimes burrs on the wood hinder the removal of the tube
3. Burrs can be removed with a reamer used to countersink a screw
4. A pen mill can be used to trim off burrs or a round file.

Be careful not to alter the 90° angle with the tube

### 11. Going Beyond Basics

A. What sets your pen apart from another? Any turner can turn a basic pen, but to go beyond basics a turner needs to do what others may not be willing to do.

B. Quality is in the details!

1. Be certain there is a smooth transition between the metal kit parts and the blank
2. Take the time to clean between grits and sand with the grain - remove any flaws or circular scratches
3. Take the effort to do a quality finish one that looks and feels good
4. Move into better quality pen kits
5. Buy quality refills

## Notes for Demonstration

### C. Plan to make the pen unique

1. Could be by design
2. Unique materials for blanks (acrylic, antler, metal corn cobs, paper, etc. be creative)
3. Creative designs are possible with casting
4. Steampunk - watch parts etc.
5. Connect the blank with something with which the receiver can relate (team/school colors, special event or something of significance)
6. Special inlays or a Celtic knot
7. Serpentine/DNA style pen blanks
8. Texturing, pyrography or burning

### D. Grow and experiment - become creative

1. Read and save articles on making pens (books too)
2. Attend workshops and glean from others
3. Experiment
4. Join a forum or pen turners group i.e. International Association of Penturners (IPA) <http://penturners.org/>, or Pen Makers Guild [www.penmakersguild.com](http://www.penmakersguild.com). This gallery could provide some stimulating ideas to create a beautiful pen. <http://penmakersguild.com/browse.php>
5. Variety of pens
  - a. desk pens
  - b. pen/pencil sets
  - c. roller ball or fountain pens
  - d. mechanical pencils

### 12. Resources

- A. Chad Schimmel's Youtube are helpful at:  
<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=Chad%20Schimmel&qft+=filterui:userpage-ctschimmel&FORM=VQCHNL>
- B. Schimmel Woodworks at: [www.impeccablepen.com](http://www.impeccablepen.com)
- C. [www.Jlrodgers.com](http://www.Jlrodgers.com) has some good ideas for unique pens
- D. Check out Russ Fairfield Woodturner web sites for info on pens
- E. [www.KurtHertzog.com](http://www.KurtHertzog.com) provides great inspiration for unique pens
- F. RJBwoodturner comes out weekly with videos on pens [www.youtube.com/user/RJBwoodturner](http://www.youtube.com/user/RJBwoodturner)
- G. [www.woodturningz.com](http://www.woodturningz.com)
- H. [www.Pennstateind.com](http://www.Pennstateind.com)
- I. [www.woodturnerscatalog.com](http://www.woodturnerscatalog.com)
- J. [www.woodcraft.com](http://www.woodcraft.com)
- K. Many of the above suppliers have books and DVDs available on turning pens