



# Turning Times

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE  
CASCAD WOODTURNERS ASSOCIATION

JULY 2022

[CASCADWOODTURNERS.ORG](http://CASCADWOODTURNERS.ORG)

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Those lazy summer days are upon most of us with vacations, gardening and family being where our attention lies... but somehow we we can still find time for turning wood.

I have been collecting items from our members for display at the 20th Annual Gresham Arts Festival where Cascade will have a booth. The pieces I have gathered from our members are magnificent! There are 135 juried artists of all types for this one-day festival on Saturday, July 16. Cascade's participation is spearheaded by Len Otto, so please come out and visit this beautiful event and turn a piece or talk with people who are interested in learning more about turning. The address is 414 NE 3rd St., Gresham, 97030. Hope to see you there!

Looking toward our meeting next week, July 21, we will be having an IRD demonstration by Donna Zils Banfield (formerly a lawyer but now a full-time woodturner/teacher/artist). This meeting will be a hybrid of the in-person meeting at Wild Lilac and on ZOOM for (continued on the next page)



## JULY DEMONSTRATOR

Donna Zils Banfield will present an IRD on her "Illusions in Wood" at our July meeting. Donna writes: "Almost everything I create starts with a block of wood on a lathe... Most of the wood that I harvest comes from trees that have fallen during storms or were subject to insect damage or urban development. I take what would have been the end of a majestic life in its natural state and give it new life – a life less ordinary."

Donna received her first lathe and turning tools from her husband in 2001. In 2003 she closed her private law practice to turn full time. She demonstrated at the AAW Symposium this year in Chattanooga. You can see more of her work at her aptly named website: [LiveALifeLessOrdinary.com](http://LiveALifeLessOrdinary.com).

## GRESHAM ARTS FESTIVAL

The Gresham Arts Festival is this Saturday, July 16<sup>th</sup>! Cascade has a booth at the Festival, thanks to the excellent work of board member Len Otto. Members will be demonstrating, and turnings by members will be on display. Here are the particulars and a map:

**20th ANNUAL**  
Gresham **ARTS** FESTIVAL

FREE COMMUNITY EVENT  
Saturday, July 16

Gresham Arts Plaza • 401 NE 2nd St.  
9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

THANK YOU SPONSORS!

- Gresham Ford
- LIGHTBOX
- The Hub Bank
- Edible Therapy, Inc.

- 100+ regionally renowned artists
- Local cuisine, treats, beer and wine
- Live music and entertainment
- Free Kids Village featuring crafty activities, bounce house fun and more

## OUR JUNE MEETING

Safety Officer and turner *par excellence* Kevin Jesequel presented a video, filmed by Roger Crooks, showing how Kevin turns hollow forms. You can see the video on our website in the "Members Only" section. Log in using your password, click on "Members Only" and then click on "Information provided by demonstrators..."



## PRESIDENT'S LETTER CONT.

those who might not be able to attend in person.

Donna has been creating works of art in wood since 2001. She began teaching in 2007 at her studio in Derry, New Hampshire. She has presented at the AAW Symposium, several Regional Symposia, and the Irish Woodturner's Guild Annual Seminar. Her work can be found in the Peabody Essex Museum and private collections in Australia, India, Taiwan and across the US.

Donna will be presenting her "Illusions In Wood" for us. Her process for creating a piece is multi-layered so she will give us an Outline of the Demo, and an Equipment List with hyperlinks of where to purchase items - all while doing a step-by-step process of her work.

Look for the Outline and Equipment List attachments to download when you receive the ZOOM link for Thursday's meeting.

Remember Zoom opens at 6:30 pm, business meeting at 7:00 and presentation at 7:30!

**Suzanne Jensen, President**

## ERIN GO BRAGH



During the week of July 4th, 2022, I attended Glenn Lucas' 5-Day Masterclass for Bowl Turning in Ireland. Glenn's shop is about 90 minutes south of Dublin. I chose not to rent a car, so I relied on trains and buses for my travels to and from Dublin to Glenn's shop, though I stayed about 15 minutes from his shop in the town of Borris, Ireland.

I am of the personal belief that Glenn Lucas is one of the best bowl turning teachers in the world right now. His incredible experience as a production bowl turner has required him to hone every aspect of his wood collection, chainsawing, wood turning and finishing skills to an incredibly high degree. Glenn teaches these techniques to his class members over the period of his 3 or 5-day Masterclass.

I had a great, though very tiring, time in Glenn's class. I was joined by 4 other turners from all over the USA, plus one turner from Austria and one from Italy. Glenn's classes are regularly attended by turners from all over Europe, the USA and other parts of the world.

Ask me about the class when you see me. I will bring in some of my projects during the July meeting of The Cascade Woodturners.

**Gary Borders, Past-President**



## THE 2022 AAW SYMPOSIUM

The AAW had its first in-person symposium since the pandemic began earlier this month in Chattanooga. Attendees Dale Larson and Kevin Jesequel report:

**DALE LARSON SAYS:** We had four chapter members at the AAW symposium in Chattanooga, Kathleen, Phil Lapp, Kevin Jesequel and myself.

I am guessing about 1000 attendees. The layout for the symposium was excellent, all on one floor in one area. It was good to see my friends after three years.

Hans Weissflog and John Jordan were probably the best known turners demonstrating. I watched a wonderful demo by Barbara Dill on multi axis turning.

I bought one more hollowing tool from Mike Hunter. The tool show was about 90% of normal. Oneway and Craft Supplies did not come for the first time in my memory. But lots of tools to pick from.

The instant gallery had a nice variety of turned objects. The four separate exhibitions were wonderful. The POP show was probably the best. For the two auction pieces you can go on the AAW website to Events-Chattanooga and the auctions and see what was in both the AAW auction and the POP auction. I bought six pieces of turned art to add to my collection.

I traveled on Delta and both flights were on time and no problems. Next year is Louisville and I recommend that everyone who can travel should go. This was my 26th AAW symposium. Louisville will be 27.

**KEVIN JESEQUEL SAYS:** Last month I attended my first symposium: the AAW Symposium in Chattanooga.

I felt like a kid at Disney World. The amount of activity was almost overwhelming. And, like Disney, there was no way to get on every ride. I did pop in on several demos and attended a number of interesting panel discussions.

(Continued on page 9)

## IT HAPPENS IN AN INSTANT!

A member of one of our local clubs, who wishes to remain anonymous, reached out to me with the following account of an accident at the lathe that could have been much worse:

1. Couldn't sleep so went to shop early.



2. Turning a 16" bowl - pretty much done and was going to start sanding.

3. Lost focus (I blame the current situation of world affairs)

4. Reached over to turn lathe that was at 900 rpm to 0 rpm

5. Couple of quick twists .... IN THE WRONG DIRECTION.

6. Almost instantly (at 2400+ RPM) the bowl blew up.

7. Not exactly sure if broke when it hit me or if just part of it hit me in the chest. But also took out a light fixture.

As you've read here, it is often not a single grave error, but a series of cumulative minor errors that leads to injury. We have probably all made at least one of the errors that lead to this end, but as you can see, if we excuse one error, then make another, and another, bad things can happen.

Another culprit here is the equipment itself. I have bumped my speed dial in the past and inadvertently changed the speed of my spindle. I have read (though I haven't tried it) of folks putting an o-ring under the speed control knob to make it harder to turn without intentional force. If you do this, or have done it and like or dislike it for any reason, I'd love to hear from you.

**Kevin Jesequel, Safety Officer**

## DOUG PIZAC'S TOOL TIP

What do you do when you have bowls slathered in AnchorSeal or other projects freshly coated in walnut oil or sprayed with lacquer?

Wood supply and home improvement stores have solutions for you such as plastic painter pyramids for 70-90 cents apiece.

Or you can make your own for free in a minute or so.

Just take a piece of leftover wood — I use common fir 2x4s cut in half to 1½x1½ sticks — and mount it in your chuck. Place a pencil mark two inches from the end and turn away most of it to a stubby point. And use your parting tool at the pencil line to cut off your new pyramid/cone.



Mark another two inches on the stick and repeat; then another and another.

Then coat the pyramids with walnut oil or lacquer or polyurethane, etc. as a non-stick barrier to AnchorSeal, glue, etc.

Another option is to first rough turn the stick to a thick dowel and turn a round cone. But I have found that the square base provides more stability from tipping over.

The pyramids can also be used to prop up your furniture when having the carpet cleaned. A couple months ago we had ours done and I turned the pyramids upside down with the pointy end down into the carpet pile and the flat base against the bottom of the table legs. They worked fine.

**Doug Pizac**

## TURNING THE OUTSIDE OF A DRY, ROUGH-TURNED BOWL

Assuming your green turned bowl has been air drying or kiln drying to the appropriate moisture content, the wood has stopped moving and you are ready to turn this bowl round and to its final shaping.

There are several things you must accomplish in this step to prepare for completing your bowl.

1. Mount your 'out of round' bowl on your shop-made faceplate.



2. Get the outside of your bowl round while removing a minimum of material.
3. Clean up the tenon by making it round, or even cutting a new tenon.
4. Do the final shaping of your bowl before putting it in a chuck to turn the inside.
5. Clean up any tool marks before sanding
6. Sand the outside of the bowl through the grits
7. Apply your finish of choice

Even though, your bowl may have been drying on the shelf for months, you should plan to turn the outside of your bowl (this article) and complete your bowl by turning the inside and finishing (August, 2022 article) as close together as possible – preferably in the same day. Wood moves and even though your bowl has achieved an internal moisture in the low teens (Dale, what is your preferred goal?), it will move slightly as you shape the outside of the bowl, so don't wait too long to turn the inside!

1. You must now mount your 'out of round' bowl on your lathe in a manner that is safe (safety first as this step is critical) and will allow you access to the entire outside of the bowl. Many of the best turning teachers in the world now recommend using a shop-made faceplate (see figure 1) mounted on your lathe that allows the rough bowl to make contact where it is flat and to avoid having the 'peaks' of your dry bowl to cause any issues. Ideally you want the shop-made faceplate to be slightly smaller than the diameter of your bowl, so you have full access to the outside of the rim during this step. You will bring up the tailstock to firmly press the bowl against the faceplate. The tailstock should have a live ring with either a small center point or no center point. As you bring up the tailstock, visually inspect how the bowl rim fits to the shop-made faceplate. It should fit as well as possible against the rubber and the peaks should not be touching the faceplate. Use your fingers to ensure the bowl is centered on the faceplate. Step out of the 'line of fire' and be sure to turn the lathe speed down before turning it on.
2. Using your preferred bowl gouge begin removing material from your bowl to bring it 'down to round' as some people say. Since your bowl is slightly oval at this point, you will cut only the widest areas of your bowl, until you have achieved a round shape. Try using well controlled cuts and avoid making catches at this point. Shear cuts with the handle of your bowl gouge handle held low and pressed against your hip for stability are recommended. Depending on the shape of your bowl, you may choose to use a push cut taking small amounts of material.
3. Turn your attention to the tenon next, as it will definitely not be round. Turn your tool rest to be parallel with the bottom of the bowl, being careful not to interfere with the tailstock. Using your bowl gouge, use short strokes toward the headstock to safely remove material from the tenon. Depending on your desired final bowl shape, you may decide to entirely remove the existing tenon and replace it,

allowing you to shorten the bowl. Make sure you have enough material in the bottom of the bowl before choosing to do this. Also, ensure that you have a chuck and jaws in your inventory that will be able to grab your new tenon. Depending on your chuck/jaw manufacturer, prepare to put the appropriate angle on your tenon to properly fit your jaws.

4. This step is where you can finalize the shape of your bowl. The wall thickness of your bowl will determine how much change you can make to the shape of your bowl. For example, you may choose to put a slight ogee near the tenon to add visual appeal to the shape. You can still decide to make the bowl slight more closed or open, again depending on the thickness available to you. If you want to add beads or other embellishments, this is when you can do that. Just remember, once you remove the bowl from the lathe, you won't be able to remount the bowl to do any more turning on the outside.

5. It is time to clean up any tool marks left from shaping. Shear cutting or even shear scraping, both with the tool handle held down low are good choices. Take light cuts with the purpose of achieving a smooth surface. You may also choose to use a negative rake scraper to clean up any transition lines on the surface. Make these cuts with the scraper held parallel with the floor and taking ultra-light cuts. If you need to resharpen your scraper to put a clean burr on it, this is a good time. Some turners like to use a light coat of oil, like walnut or mineral oil, to see better any visual defects and aid in the cleanup. Keep the oil light so it doesn't interfere with sanding. As a last step here, I would recommend a light spray of water to raise the grain of your bowl. This will really enhance the smoothness as you apply your finish.

6. Power sanding with your favorite variable speed drill using a 2" or 3" sanding pad is a preferred approach. If the bowl is large enough, say 14" or so, you may want to use the 3" disc. A 2" disc is preferred for 12" and small diameter bowls. Starting with 80 grit and moving through 100, 120, 180, 220, 320 is a good sequence. Keep the disc moving along the bowl to avoid making any flat areas on your bowl. Between grits, visually inspect the surface to see if there are any defects that will require you to hit them with a rougher grit. If there are, you will want to restart the grit sequence as appropriate.

7. Before removing the bowl from the lathe, it is time to apply a finish of your choice. You may want to slow down or stop the lathe for this step. If you are using an oil, apply it liberally at slow speed, so it doesn't fly off the bowl during application. You may want to lightly hand sand the oil during application. You can let it dry and apply multiple coats if you wish. If you are applying a wax, like a mixture of bees wax, mineral oil and carnauba wax, you should stop the lathe and apply this wax by hand using a circular motion with your hand to rub the wax into the grain. Do this for the entire exterior of the bowl and let it set for a bit. Buff the outside of the bowl with the lathe running a moderate speed. Some finishes, such as a friction polish, may need some heat to set, so turning the speed up a bit will allow you to generate more heat while buffing.

**Gary Borders, Past President**



Photo from Mike Waldt's YouTube video on finish turning a rough turned bowl.:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=illbsFFbtyQ>

## Women in Turning

The WIT (Women In Turning) class continues to meet. We currently have all 8 class slots filled. Our next scheduled class is August 6th.



For the time being, we are NOT going to hold an open shop following the class.

If you want to be added to my WIT email list, or

would like more information about WIT, please contact me at:

360-241-378 or

woodspinner@gmail.com.

**Kathleen Duncan, WIT Liaison**

For more info about WIT nationally click [here](#).



## Dale's Open Shop



Dale's open shop is a wonderful event for everyone, but especially for turners who are just getting started.

It's a great place to learn and to get to know other turners.

But Dale won't be hosting an open shop in July. His not-so-feeble excuse: "Too many summer things to do." Keep your eyes peeled for the next one!

**Dale Larson**

woodbowl@frontier.com



## Oregon Woodturning Symposium Volunteer Needed

Another symposium is being planned for March 17 to 19, 2023 in Albany, Oregon.

Cascade needs a representative to the symposium. The representative:

1. Attends the symposium.
2. Coordinates activities in the room that is assigned to Cascade.
3. Arranges to get Cascade's lathe, shield, cameras, tripods, and maybe the mic's and sound system, out of storage at Wild Lilac, down to Albany, moved into Cascade's room at the Albany convention center, and then back again to Wild Lilac when the symposium is done.
4. Participates in board meetings that happen

roughly monthly. So far they have been by Zoom.

It's a fair bit of work but a lot of fun. You get to be up close and personal with the demonstrators, and really get to know the ones assigned to Cascade's room. And you are surrounded by lots of folks who love woodturning and are right close to a good vendors area with lots of wood.

If you are willing to be Cascade's rep for the Oregon Woodturning Symposium please contact Harvey Rogers at (646) 660-3669 or harveyrogers@gmail.com.



## Storekeeper Needed

Cascade's store makes turning supplies available to members at a lower cost than they are likely to get elsewhere. Steve Walgrave is currently both our Store Keeper and club secretary. Since Steve is continuing as Secretary and is also an integral part of our tech team in producing our Zoom and the in-person technology at the meetings, his talents are needed in these areas.

I am asking to replace him in the position of Store Keeper. I would like to have someone step forward and volunteer to take over this position for 2022. You may contact me by phone or by email (see below). I'll be waiting for your phone call or email so I can explain further what the Store Keeper duties are.

**Suzanne Jensen, President**

## In Memoriam

We learned this weekend that another Cascade member died earlier this year. Glenn Robinson of Aurora, age 81, died February 16th from Covid and other health issues.



Glenn was just a wonderfully positive person. He came to many open shops and had the "wood" sickness worst than most.

He collected pretty much every piece of wood he ever saw. The good news is that both his son and grandson are starting to turn wood. If they live to 100 they might turn all the wood Glenn collected.

## For Sale

Members can advertise things they are selling. To see their ads, log in and click [here](#).

Dale Larson recently sent this in:

### Tools for sale

Ruth Ayers has several nice tools for sale (They are moving). The tools are in Springdale. Her phone number is 503-805-5355.

Powermatic 6" jointer with helix head cutter. Looks almost new. New price is \$2700. Asking \$1900.

Rockwell (old) 4" jointer. asking \$50

Porter Cable BLO Omni Jig Joinery system 24" asking \$375 new price about \$750

Several hand routers also there.

## From Our Secretary

Cascade WoodTurners held a general Board meeting on May 12, and a follow-up Officer's meeting on May 26. Minutes from both meetings are available on the Cascade website, in the 'Members Only' section. Significant item of note is the renewal of the use agreement with Wild Lilac for another year.

**Steve Walgrave, Secretary**

## In-Person Meeting Place

When Cascade meets in person it meets at the Wild Lilac Child Development Center (Wild Lilac), which is located at:

[3829 SE 74th Avenue, Portland, Oregon.](#)



## The Company Store

The Company Store will be back at the live meetings at Wild Lilac as soon as we have our onsite storage facility there, hopefully by our August meeting. We hope to have all of our supplies available then.

The Company Store is here for the benefit of our members. We buy in bulk (usually with a discount) and sell at cost!

Now In Stock – The Store now carries 2” Scalloped Sanding Discs, hook & loop backed, for power sanding. Grits available are from 100 through 400. Packages of 10 or 50 available.



Made from the same PS33 aluminum oxide paper as in the sanding sheets. The scalloped edge discs wrap around the edge of the sanding pad so there is no sharp edge to scratch your work.

We continue to carry Klingspor 9x11” sheet sanding paper, Walnut Oil, EndSeal, as well as

StarBond CA glues and accelerator.

Cascade WoodTurners also has an online STORE for your turning supplies! Since we do not always have in-person meetings, and even after we do, we have created an online store for you, our members. You will find it on the Cascade Website, in the Members Only section. Orders and payments are all handled online. Once an order is created, delivery and/or pickup will be arranged. Current prices are listed on the website. Try it, you’ll like it!

You also have the option of ordering your supplies before a meeting, paying for them online, and then just picking them up at the meeting. Please order at least a day ahead of the meeting. Easy as pie!

**Steve Walgrave, Secretary and (hopefully temporary) Store Keeper**

## TRYING TO GET BACK TO NORMAL

As many of you know, the pandemic lockdown had a dramatic effect on Cascade. First we could not meet because of COVID, and then we were told we could not keep meeting at the Willamette Carpenters Training Center after the lockdown ended.

Then President Gary Borders arranged for all of our equipment to be moved out of the Carpenters Center and stored, mostly with generous member Steve Strawn. Gary then led us in learning how to hold virtual meetings on Zoom, and how to present Interactive Remote Demonstrations to members while they stayed at home.

As the lockdown eased Gary, with help from member Tom Hansen, found us a new meeting space at Wild Lilac Children’s Center. We have had several club meetings there, but we haven’t been able to have live demonstrations because the equipment we need to have those demonstrations has mostly been in storage.



To be reasonably confident that our equipment would be safe when we moved it to Wild Lilac, we needed to build a large storage box. Gary, Steve Strawn and Steve Walgrave worked together to design the storage box, and earlier this month Steve Strawn, Steve Walgrave and Ajit Aserappa built it. We can now start moving our equipment to Wild Lilac in preparation for future live demonstrations!



## THE 2022 AAW SYMPOSIUM CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

### Kevin Jesequel continues:

My favorite areas were the Instant, POP and Member's galleries.

Not only was it a place to examine other's work up close, it was also a great place to meet those other artists. The main attraction for me was the opportunity to

finally meet many of the people that I have only known through the various internet forums and social media apps.

There was a lot of value in the symposium itself, but coming home with new friendships that inspire me to give more of myself to this craft was priceless.

## Cascade's Sponsors

Support of the sponsors listed helps make available tools and supplies for our hobby. Remember that your current membership card may good for discounts at these firms.



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[Gilmerwood.com](http://Gilmerwood.com)



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[Klingspor.com](http://Klingspor.com)



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## Cascade's Officers and Board Members

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Vice President	Harvey Rogers	646-660-3669	<a href="mailto:harveyrogers@gmail.com">harveyrogers@gmail.com</a>
Secretary	Steve Walgrave	503-997-6378	<a href="mailto:woodsven13@gmail.com">woodsven13@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Ken Kirkman	360-687-9866	<a href="mailto:kenpegkirkman@gmail.com">kenpegkirkman@gmail.com</a>
Web Mistress	Kathleen Duncan	360-574-0955	<a href="mailto:woodspinner@gmail.com">woodspinner@gmail.com</a>
Safety Officer	Kevin Jesequel	971-777-3198	<a href="mailto:kevinjesequel@msn.com">kevinjesequel@msn.com</a>
Librarian	Len Otto	503-663-0794	<a href="mailto:Len@HonorYourPast.com">Len@HonorYourPast.com</a>
Video Librarian	Joyce Botsch	503-473-3889	<a href="mailto:joycebotsch@comcast.net">joycebotsch@comcast.net</a>
Storekeeper (temp)	Steve Walgrave	503-977-6378	<a href="mailto:woodsven13@gmail.com">woodsven13@gmail.com</a>
Member-at-large	Howard Borer	503-901-3401	<a href="mailto:howardborer@yahoo.com">howardborer@yahoo.com</a>
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Mentor Coordinator	Skip Burke	503-233-4263	<a href="mailto:drgramp@comcast.net">drgramp@comcast.net</a>

## Remote Demonstration Event Calendar

The American Association of Woodturners maintains a list of remote demonstrations. Members of the AAW can access it here:

<https://community.woodturner.org/events/ird-demonstrations>

## Local Woodturning Chapters

### Northwest Woodturners

Next Meeting: Thursday, July 7, 2022  
Multnomah Art Center, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM  
Rick Rich — Three Piece Dish



### Southwest Washington Woodturners

Next Meeting: Friday, June 24, 2022



### Willamette Valley Woodturners

Thursday, July 14, 2022, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

**Willamette Valley Woodturners**

## Local Classes

The following local stores offer a variety of classes on turning:

**Rockler Woodworking and Hardware, 11773 SW Beaverton-Hillsdale Hwy Beaverton, OR 97005.**

Rockler's list of classes is here:

<https://www.rockler.com/retail/stores/or/portland-store#mt>

**Woodcraft of Portland, 12020 SW Main Street, Tigard, OR 97225.**

Woodcraft's list of free classes is here:

<https://www.woodcraft.com/stores/portland/events>

**Woodcrafters, 212 NE Sixth Ave | Portland, OR 97232**

Demonstrations and classes are currently suspended

# RED ALDER

## Harvey's Research:

This is the third in a series of articles that focuses on wood growing in the Pacific Northwest that may be available to Oregon turners.

The three most common hardwoods in the Pacific Northwest are cottonwood, big leaf maple and red alder. The first article in this series was on cottonwood, which is pretty useless for turning. The second was on big leaf maple, which can be



wonderful for turning. This article is on red alder, which is somewhere in between pretty useless and wonderful.

According to the Oregon State University website, red alder is the most common and commercially



important of the pacific northwest hardwoods; red alder comprises about 60 percent of the total hardwood volume in the northwest.

Red alder is a member of the birch family (Betulaceae), it grows from 70 to 120 feet high, has a diameter from 10 to 34 inches, and seldom lives more than 100 years. In Oregon it is common in low elevations along the coast and in the Cascade mountains where there is adequate moisture.

Red alder gets its name from the color of its wood when it is first cut, and because a red dye may be



made from its bark. Its wood was used by native americans for many purposes, including dishes,

spoons, platters, and masks. Today high-quality commercially harvested alder is used for furniture and veneer, lower quality alder is used for pallets, chipboard and firewood.

Red alder is “monoecious,” which means it has male catkins (flowers that hang down) and female strobiles (small cones) on the same tree. The catkins release pollen in late winter and early spring and are a significant cause of allergies. The strobiles release a large number of small, winged seeds beginning in September.

Red alder machines well (lathes are machines ;-)) but requires sharp tools. It is sometimes called “poor man’s cherry”). It has a subdued grain pattern, moderate weight and hardness, and relatively low strength. Red alder has poor resistance to rot and spalts relatively easily. Spalted alder can be quite soft.



Here’s a picture of a spalted red alder bowl on a yew pedestal from the YouTube [CraftWithAfshin](#) channel.

**Harvey Rogers, Vice**

### President

Sources:

<https://owic.oregonstate.edu/red-alder-alnus-rubra>

<http://nativeplantspnw.com/red-alder-alnus-rubra/>

<https://landscapeplants.oregonstate.edu/plants/alnus-rubra>

## Dale's Wisdom

Red Alder is on the soft end of the hardwoods. It is very turnable. Ok for bowls, good for spindles.

The wood grain is pretty plain. I like it for cabinet wood because it mills very nicely. The furniture people like it because it takes a wide variety of stains.

The prettiest alder I ever got was from Swede Pearson. It was a spalted stump. Once I figured out how to turn the very soft wood it was beautiful.

I would suggest it would be a good wood to practice spaltling on. Currently there is a disease killing the alders. All of my alders are now dead.

Dale Larson, [woodbowl@frontier.com](mailto:woodbowl@frontier.com)