

# **Chips & Bits**

**Inside This Edition**

**September 2021**



**Paul Bartlett  
Ant Farm**

**Providing an environment that fosters the art and craft of woodturning**

**A Publication of the Peace River Woodturners**

## PRW President's SEPTEMBER '21 Notes...

'TIS THE SEASON... Seriously? Is it really only 3 months until Christmas & a new year? That means it's time to get "cranking" in the workshop, for oh-oh-oh so many reasons! And make your list for Santa of all the tools you might like to see under the tree, then leave it handy for someone to find...

I'm ready for the weather to start cooling a bit soon. What are you planning for your fun days playing with wood? What skills have you been meaning to brush up on, that could TURN into a delightful gift for someone you love? Looking for ideas? Try the **RE-SOURCES** page of the **PRW website** <https://www.peaceriverwoodturners.org> ! There's something there for every skill level of woodturner...

**Our October in-person demo will be given by Bob Summers** and should help those looking for tips, tricks, and ideas on turning the "icicles" or "spindles" of your Christmas ornaments and tree toppers, or possibly to "jazz up" the lid of a simple hollow form or turned box. Maybe even a "Hands-On" if time allows... and Bob uses his gouges, not that daggone skew chisel that so many of us are still trying to master!

If you've ever considered entering a Challenge or Competition: During the month of November, Allan Stratton at [www.AsWoodTurns.com](http://www.AsWoodTurns.com) hosts an Annual Ornament Challenge that you can enter by sending in a photo of your 2021 ornament, turned or otherwise! See more info later in this newsletter. Past year's ornament entries, from 2011 to 2020, are also shown on that site, if you're looking for ideas for gift-giving... <https://www.aswoodturns.com/challenges/>

Speaking of competitions...Have you started turning your **WOODEN EGG for the WoodArt Expo** in January? If you not sure how to approach turning an egg, there's great info in (where else?) the Resources section of the PRW website – Wow, there's a whole page devoted to turning eggs?!? We plan to sell our eggs for \$5 each at the Expo to help boost the Club's funds that have dwindled since we haven't had regular meetings in a while!

**And what about turning your entry for the WOODART EXPO Competition?**

**SURE COULD USE EVERYONE'S PARTICIPATION FOR THIS EVENT & AT THE REGULAR MEETINGS!** Enter the juried competition, or display your work along with other Members at the Club's table, and at the very least, **turn an egg to support the Club and raise awareness about the joys and fun of woodturning!** A/V Maestro Lou Currier has put together a great plan for our participation in the weekend event. Sign up to help work for the Expo - lots of small jobs & time slots available! You can email Lou at [loucurr@aol.com](mailto:loucurr@aol.com) , or contact him through the PRW website. More information about the Expo itself at <https://flwoodartexpo.com/turnercatpdf.html> .

**PRW Meeting: Thursday, OCTOBER 7th - 10:30 AM LIVE & IN-PERSON AT THE CULTURAL CENTER ROOM 34.** For those who can't attend in person, watch for the email invitation a few days before the meeting for Zoom online access details.

We appreciate your continuing support and involvement in the PRW. It wouldn't be as fun without you, so stay safe and healthy, and have a great time turning whenever you can!

Cheri Bauer, President      send email to: [peaceriverwoodturners@comcast.net](mailto:peaceriverwoodturners@comcast.net)

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**The Silver Fox Tips from experience...**

**I've been told that it's almost impossible to learn what you already THINK you know - That's as true in turning as it is in life! A particular cut or tool giving you the "quivers" ? May be time to step back, take a deep breath, and start making that cut from a different angle or with a freshly sharpened tool.**

**Life keeps reminding me there's a mighty fine line between my woodturning hobby & mental illness...**

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As we ramp back up to "normal" with regular in person meetings...

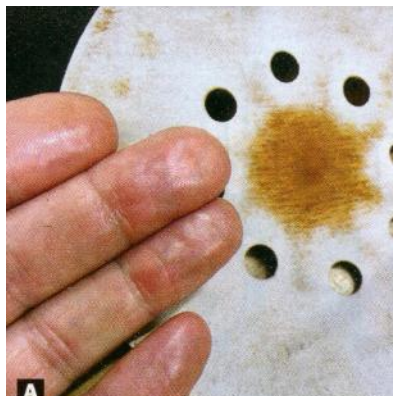
We are an **ALL VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION** and have no paid staff. If you think you might be able to help us with something, **YOU ARE CORRECT.** Please Volunteer! You have knowledge, skills, and energy that can benefit others.

Remember that **ONE HUNDRED PERCENT** of the PRW Members are on the Participation, Fundraising, Membership, and Good Will Committees.

**ONE HUNDRED PERCENT** of the Members need to volunteer to help the PRW succeed and prosper. Without you, we have no purpose.

**If you give back just 1% of your day to something you are passionate about, that would be just 14 minutes of your time every day, or 85 hours per year. Will you find a way to help us keep the PRW a vital and worthwhile organization WITH YOUR ONE PERCENT?**

# Your Solution to Oily Woods



**A** Ebony contains oils that easily rub off on fingertips and show on the sanding pad.



**B** These solvents remove any surface contamination and the natural oils in many exotic woods. The solvents dry quickly and won't leave any residue to interfere with topcoat adhesion.



**C** Wax-free shellac brings out the inherent color of the stock. Standard shellac contains wax, which can compromise good topcoat adhesion.

The thought of applying finish to a project can be enough to kick up your pulse rate and blood pressure, especially when the project contains an “exotic” wood full of natural oils [Photo A]. That’s because the oils and resins in woods such as cocobolo, rosewood, padauk, purpleheart, teak, and even eastern red cedar can markedly slow or practically stop a finish from bonding or curing. These wood species require different preparation before finishing. Follow these helpful tips to make the process smooth as silk.

## Prep, seal, then topcoat

Typically, I sand to 150 grit for projects receiving stain. But because we prize exotic woods for their inherent color, skip the stain and apply a clear topcoat. For oily exotics, sand instead to 220 grit for a smooth surface that allows any finish to bond well. Remove all sanding dust between grits.

Eliminate any oils from the wood by wiping down the freshly sanded surface with a fast-evaporating solvent [Photo B]. Then, apply one or two coats of dewaxed shellac, such as SealCoat, sealing the wood and preventing additional oils from migrating to the surface [Photo C]. A very light sanding with 400-grit sandpaper between coats smooths the surface and removes dust nibs. The prepped surface is now ready for your choice of topcoat.

Choose the best topcoat by considering the intended use of the project: Furniture subjected to heavy use benefits from varnish or a durable oil- or water-based polyurethane finish. A sprayed catalyzed lacquer is also a good choice for experienced finishers.

For decorative pieces and projects that see less wear, try a simple buffing [Photo D], regular nitrocellulose lacquer, or additional coats of shellac. A quality paste wax also suits those projects.

## Troubleshooting

If you apply finish to an exotic-wood project and discover a sticky or tacky finish days later, don’t lose faith: Try these options.

First, be patient. The oils and resins can delay the curing process, so with a little more time, the finish may harden. But be aware that the tacky surface will trap dust during the wait.

Second, a vigorous wiping of the surface with a fast-drying solvent may remove the uncured finish. If that works, follow with a light sanding and a couple of coats of dewaxed shellac to seal the surface and prevent any additional bleed-through. After the shellac cures, reapply the topcoat.

As a last resort, consider it a lesson learned, and scrape, sand, or strip the old finish completely and start over. An out-of-date finish may not cure, so test-apply the finish on scrap to check for freshness before recoating.

The beauty and character of exotic woods should increase interest, not angst, in your projects. Now that you know how to handle those oils, you’ll find finishing Nirvana. 🌳



**D** For decorative projects that aren’t handled frequently, simply buff the natural oil with a lamb’s wool, left, or a synthetic buffing pad, right, on a random-orbit sander. This provides an incredibly smooth—though not very protective—surface.

► Nothing, including glue, sticks to an oily surface. Before gluing exotic woods, clean all mating surfaces with a solvent.

► Catalyzed lacquer has a shelf life of about 6 months. It chemically cures, creating a more durable finish than nitrocellulose lacquer, found in spray and cans on home-center shelves.

► Learn more about the benefits and uses of shellac.  
[woodmagazine.com/shellacfinish](http://woodmagazine.com/shellacfinish)

# SHOW & TELL



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## **Chapter Information**

Peace River Woodturners Inc. (PRW) is an organization formed for individuals interested in woodturning and was formed on Oct 1, 2007. The primary purposes of the PRW are consistent with the fundamental purposes of the American Association of Woodturners: To provide information, education and an organization for those interested in turning wood.



The PRW web site can be found at:  
[www.peaceriverwoodturners.org](http://www.peaceriverwoodturners.org)



AAW site can be found at:  
[www.woodturner.org](http://www.woodturner.org)

## **Photo's**

Photographs for this months "Chips & Bits" were provided by Bob Roehrig. If you have digital photo's that you would like to have considered for use in the newsletter, please send them along with any articles to the editor at:

[rjroehrig@gmail.com](mailto:rjroehrig@gmail.com)

## **Membership**

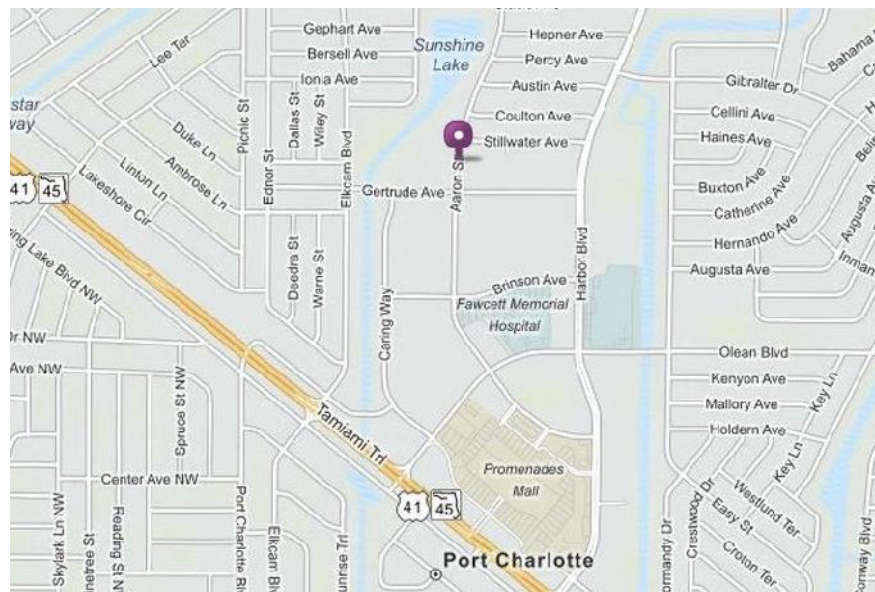
Yearly chapter dues are \$50 per individual or \$60 a family. Membership is for the calendar year. These dues help the club provide tools for our monthly demonstrations, bring in outside demonstrators, pay room rent, have a yearly picnic and other club related activities.

## Meeting Location

Our Meetings are on the first Thursday of the month starting at **10:30 pm and ending by 12:30 pm**. We meet at the **Charlotte County Cultural Center** 2280 Aaron St. located in Port Charlotte, FL



**October 7th 10:30 AM**



## Upcoming Events

**PRW meeting: October 7th  
10:30 AM**

**Demonstration: Bob Summers**

## Library

The Library is available for all current club members. The club library contains Books, magazines, and DVD's available to check out.. A list of materials is available on the PRW website:

[www.peaceriverwoodturners.org](http://www.peaceriverwoodturners.org)

Please help us maintain the library by returning checked out items promptly. The library is maintained by Mark Yates. New material can be ordered by request.