

March 2026 CCW

Meeting- Tuesday,
March 24th 2026

At Wethersfield
Community Center
30 Greenfield St,
Wethersfield CT, at
6:30pm.

Kip Lockhart will do
a demo on turning a
Saturn bowl.



President's Note

Spring is here! Those of you who have unheated shops, rejoice! It's time to turn. There are so many exciting things to turn. The possibilities are endless. I enjoy challenging myself to try turning new things and encourage you to do the same. You may find that there are some things that you really enjoy turning. Bring your turnings in for show and yell and share your experience with the club.

We've had some great pen-turning events recently, with good participation from the communities and our CCW members. There have been around 6 to 7 lathes and 10 or so members helping with these events. Having this number of members is nice. It gives us more time to chat with each other and with the people about our club and what we do. It looks like there will be 3 or 4 new people coming to our meeting this week from this past event.

For a moment of safety, always inspect a piece of wood before turning it. It's important to know if it has any cracks, bark inclusions, or defects of any kind. Turning wood with defects increases the risk of injury. Being aware that the piece has a particular defect is very important to turning safely. Being unaware is dangerous. If the piece does have any of these "issues", it doesn't necessarily mean that it can't be turned but it does mean that you need to be cautious. Turning wood with "issues" does require some skill, finesse and sharp tools. With this being said, some very attractive turnings have features that are from voids, inclusions, grain figure etc. So be aware of what you're turning, have fun and be safe.

Dan

No February 2026 meeting; no minutes
No February 2026 Show & Yell
No February 2026 demo

Hollow form workshop March 7th 2026

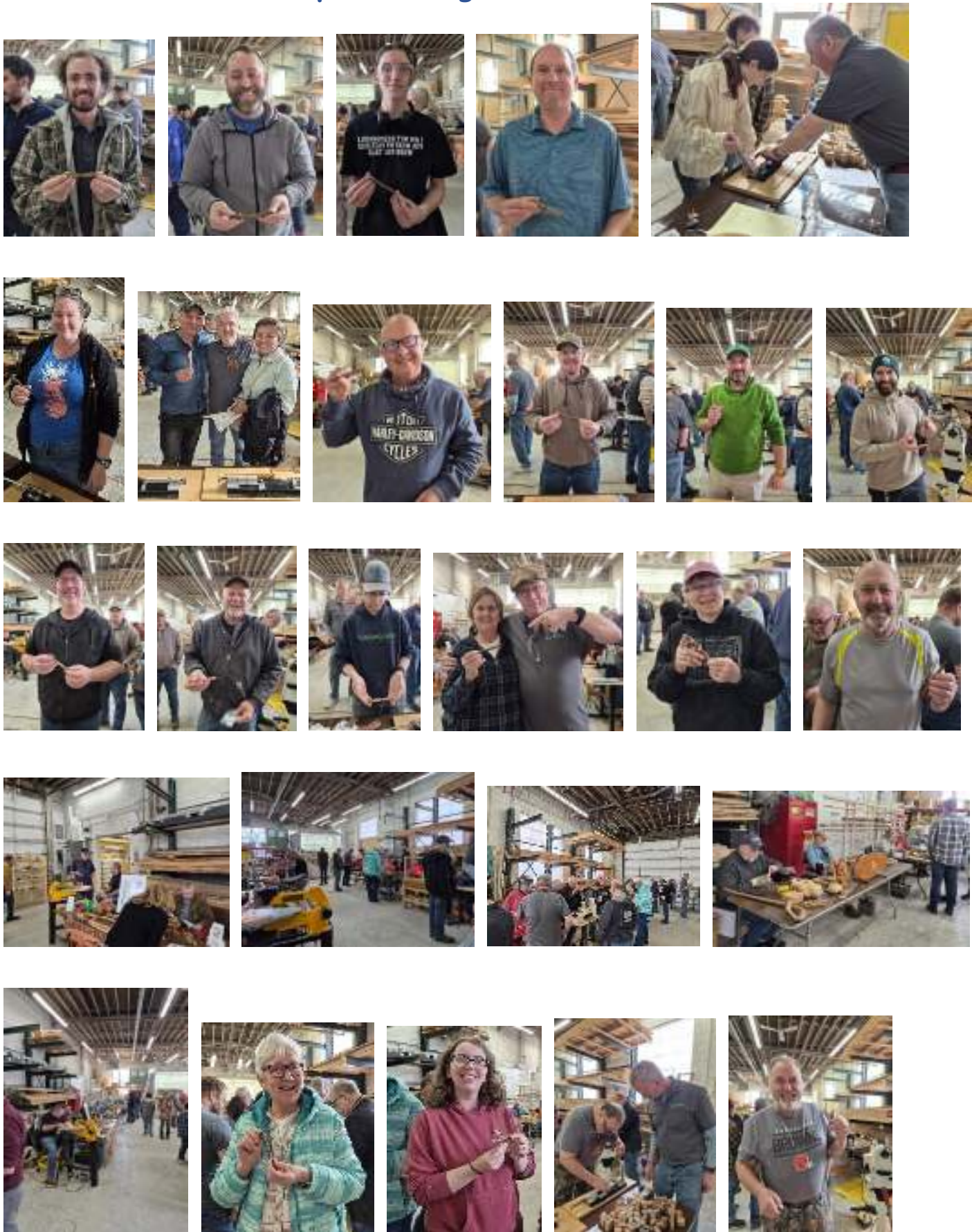








Parkerville event and pen turning March 21st 2026





Finding Wood To Turn – Dan Merlo

I often get asked where do I get all of my wood. Well, I hope I can give you some pointers on where to find it. I started turning in 2013 and have found or have been offered all of the wood that I've turned. I don't believe that I have bought any wood at all. I have found Curly figured wood, burl wood, bird's eye Maple, Black Walnut, Cherry, Black Birch, Box Elder, Hickory, Apple, Peach, and that's just to name a few.

You need to do a few things to really be successful at finding good wood to work with. One is to familiarize yourself with what these different species look like. To try to determine what kind of tree it is by either its bark, limbs, leaves or even the cut ends of a log. I'm not an arborist so I'm not a pro at this but can usually figure out what kind of tree a cut log is. You also can tell most of the time, if a log has some figure in it or is just straight grain by looking at its bark. A wrinkled appearance usually means the wood has curl for example. A cut Ambrosia Maple log is easy to spot. It will have a star-like patterned stain at the cut end of the log.

We live in CT and we have trees everywhere. Road crews are always cutting down trees and usually leave the logs by the roadside at least for a while before they come to haul them away. Honestly, they leave them for people to take, at least on rural roads where it's safe to pull over and get them. If they are left in someone's yard or on the edge of someone's property, I'm not afraid to knock on their door, explain that I'm a wood turner and ask if they mind if I have a few pieces. I have never had anyone say no. If they are intending to burn it for firewood, they have still said it's ok for me to take a few pieces to turn.

I also get offered wood all the time at shows that I do. It's funny though that some people think that the bigger the tree they're offering, the more interested I'd be in it. Like I really want a five-foot diameter tree to get a 20-inch piece out of it to put on the lathe. Most of the wood that I'm offered, I pass on, but if it's something interesting and worth looking at, I'm in!

So bottom line, always keep your eye open and look at what's being cut down. Don't be afraid to ask if you can have some. Most people are glad to have someone take it at no cost to them, but if they are intending to use it, they still are usually open to sharing a couple of pieces. Familiarize yourself with what valuable wood looks like so that you're not wasting your time on junk. Most importantly, have fun and enjoy the hunt. Dan Merlo

And please don't forget to send a picture of what you make from Kevin's roughed in bowls!!



Key word = "Tippytoe"