

## The Bandsaw

Not every woodturner uses a bandsaw but many do. We use it to rough out bowl blanks or cut to size other pieces of wood to fit onto our lathes. We use it to trim the corners off of larger spindle turning blanks. We use it to cut segments for our segmenting turnings and we even use it to cut staves that we then glue up into turning blanks. It's certainly a versatile tool in any woodturners' shop.

More woodturners are hurt by the bandsaw than any other piece of equipment that we turners use. It doesn't seem all that scary or dangerous at first look. It has a narrow and fairly small exposure of blade compared to other equipment. It doesn't really produce kickback like a tablesaw does. I suppose with it's first impression of relative safety it's all too easy to not respect it as much as we should. Here's a couple of things to keep in mind when working with the bandsaw next time...

- Keep your hands and arms out of the "danger zone". It's a place directly in front of the blade (as you feed into it) extending all the way to the edge of the table. It's all too common for a slip of the hand or for the wood to suddenly come apart on you. If your hand is close to it and you have some pressure on the wood, your hand is going to be next to get sliced by the blade.
- Don't prop up a piece of wood to get it even while cutting. You have that piece of wood you want to make a bowl blank out of, right? But it's chainsawed uneven on the bottom. All you have to do is just shim it up a little with a piece of wood on the bottom to make it sit evenly while cutting it, right? NO! Flatten that wood **before** you start cutting. Bandsaw blades aren't very strong and the slightest bit of twist or crimping will snap them. And it might get you as well.
- Want to trim off that waste area on your turning? Don't roll it into the blade. Push it through. Rolling it sets up some nasty dynamics that you can't control. The blade wants to cut on the top part instead of the bottom part of the wood. This isn't good and can result in either the blade snapping or twisting the wood so that your hands are in danger of the blade.
- Got a crimped blade? Don't try crimping it back. That area of the blade is damaged and it's not going to last long. It can get dangerous. Anyway, you'll never get it back to a usable condition anyway. Throw it out or find a different use for it.
- Use jigs or fixtures. Trying to cut the corners off a long spindle turning stock so it's easier to rough out? Use a "V" block on your bandsaw to hold the wood. It's safer and quicker than trying to hold the wood by hand.



## **November/December Meeting** (Saturday Dec 4th)

from and email by Don Carlson

Dear Members,

At the October meeting it was voted to have a single meeting between November and December due to holidays. This meeting will be primarily a social event for members and spouses. The only order of business will be the elections for the coming year. My experience is that you do not want to miss this meeting for any reason, you may end up as president!



Kathy Rutledge and the officers have selected a restaurant for this event. At the meeting we had discussed a potluck affair. After further discussion, it was decided to have a catered, sit-down meal. With Kathy's assistance and pull, we are having it at the Courtyard by Marriott. This is close to the airport essentially at I-44 and Kearney. The address is 3527 W. Kearney. The cost will be low to mid teens per person. The time will be at 7:00 PM. The meeting will be in the Ozark Room.

Please RSVP to Kathy by November 19th. Her email address is [kathy.rutledge@jqh.com](mailto:kathy.rutledge@jqh.com). Please try to reach her by email. If this is not possible, her work number is 873-3535. This is a work number so if possible, email her. The total number of attendees factors into the final cost of meal.

The Club Officer nominating committee consists of Paul Pruett, Dan McKinzie, and Mike Ilkiw. If you have a suggestion for an officer, or would like to volunteer for an office please contact one of these three.