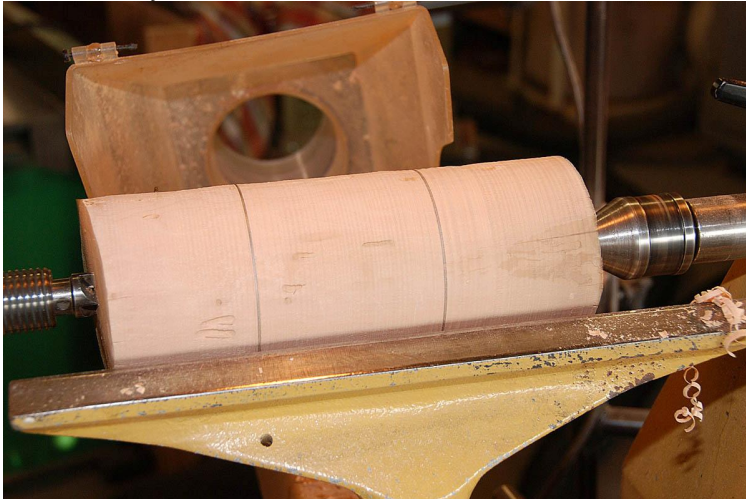


## **Turning a side grain bowl from a log**

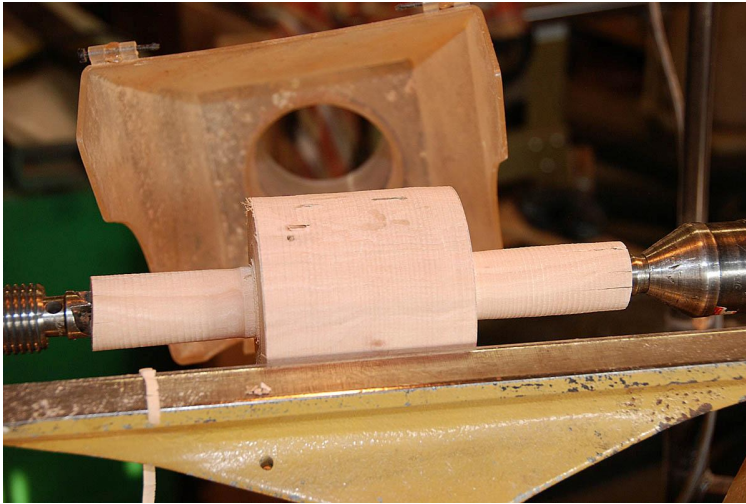
### **By John Lucas**

When you first start turning one of the biggest problems is finding wood to turn. There's usually plenty of wood around but it's in log form. If you don't have a chainsaw or a large bandsaw this can be a problem. If you turn a bowl from the log with the pith in the bottom it will almost always crack. One way around this is to turn a side grain bowl. This is a bowl where the grain runs perpendicular to the bed. The problem is, how do you cut the wood to get the bowl blank when you don't have the big tools such as a bandsaw or chainsaw to do it. Many years ago my friend Paul Ferrel did a demonstration for the club on exactly how to do this. This method allows you to turn a bowl as large as the log diameter without leaving the pith in it. I'll try to explain how to do this.

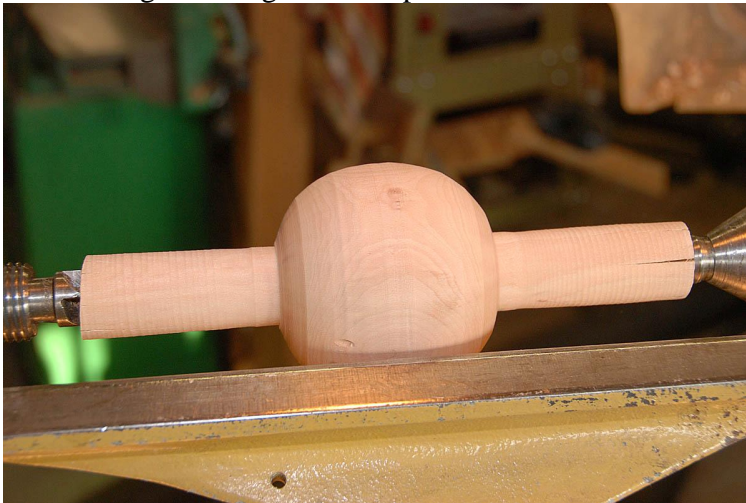
Mount a log between centers. Turn the log into a cylinder removing the bark and cambium layer.



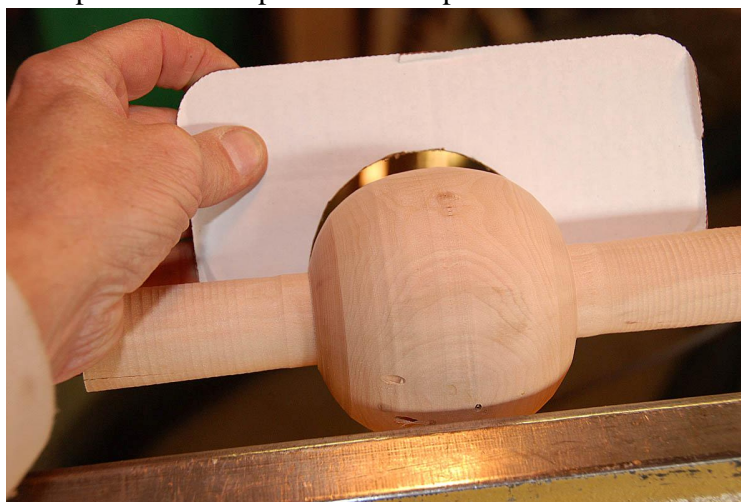
Measure the diameter and put 2 lines this distance apart on the cylinder. Use a parting tool to cut down at these lines and then use the rough out gouge to remove the wood outside these marks.



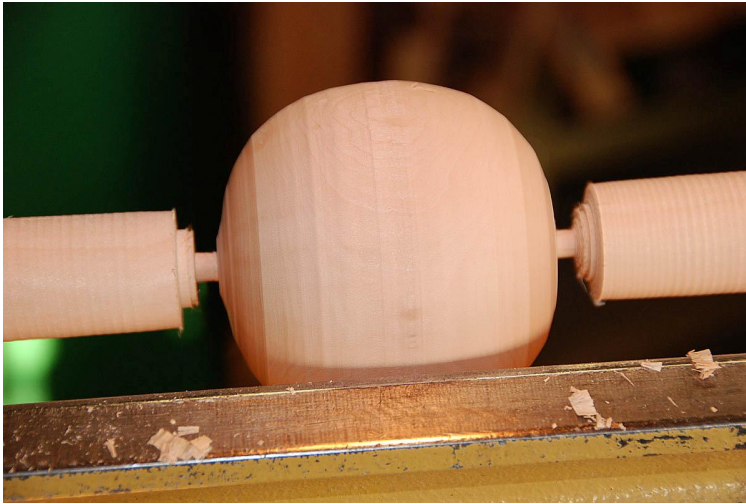
Now begin turning a ball shape.



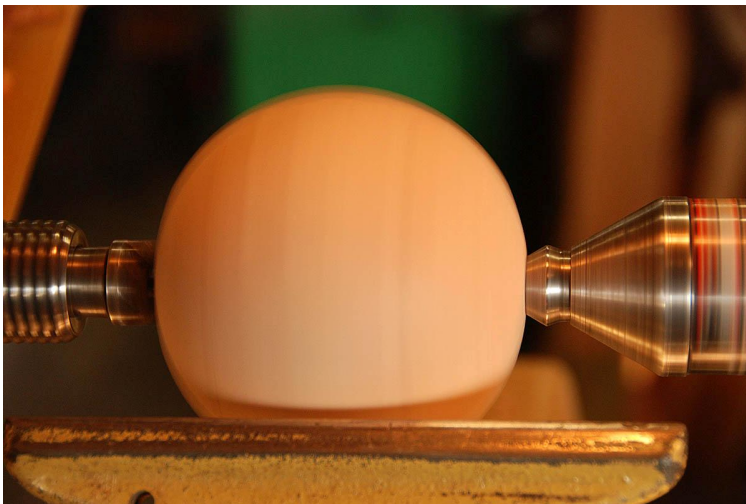
It helps to cut out a pattern from a piece of cardboard.



Use a parting tool to cut the tenons smaller outside the ball.

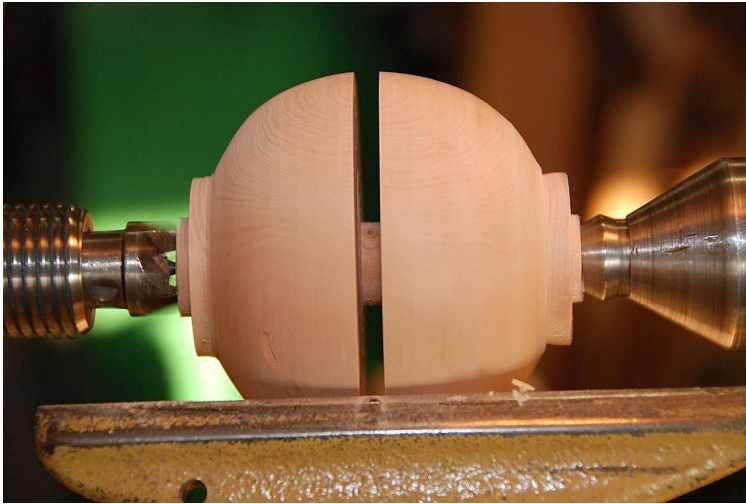


Draw a line at the center of the ball. Then remove ball from the lathe and cut the tenons off. Now mount the ball between centers using the line as your center marks. Now the pith runs perpendicular to the bed. Rotate the ball by hand and check to see that it's centered. If not readjust it slightly. Your ball probably won't be round at this point. You can see a shadow as it rotates.



Turn away the shadow portion. Now imagine 2 bowls facing each other. Use a parting tool to make a shallow cut to help identify the bowls. Turn the outside of each bowl shape including the foot and a small tenon. Sand the outside of the bowls. Now use the parting tool to extend the center cut down until there is a very small tenon.

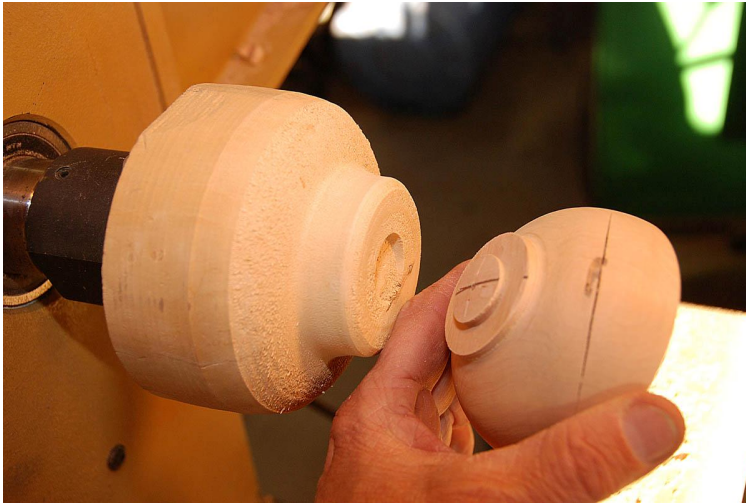




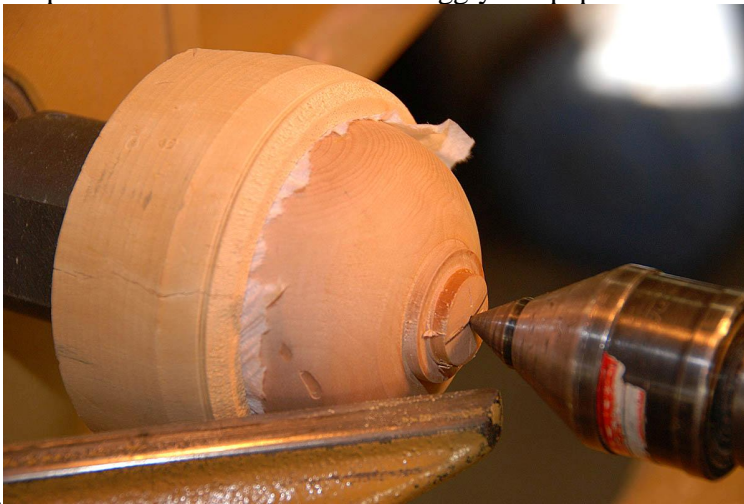
Remove this from the lathe and cut it in half with a handsaw. If the tenon is small enough you may be able to simply twist the two apart. You now have 2 side grain bowls.



Mount a faceplate with a waste piece of wood on the lathe and turn a small hole for the little tenon on the bowl bottom. Then glue the bowl into the wasteblock.

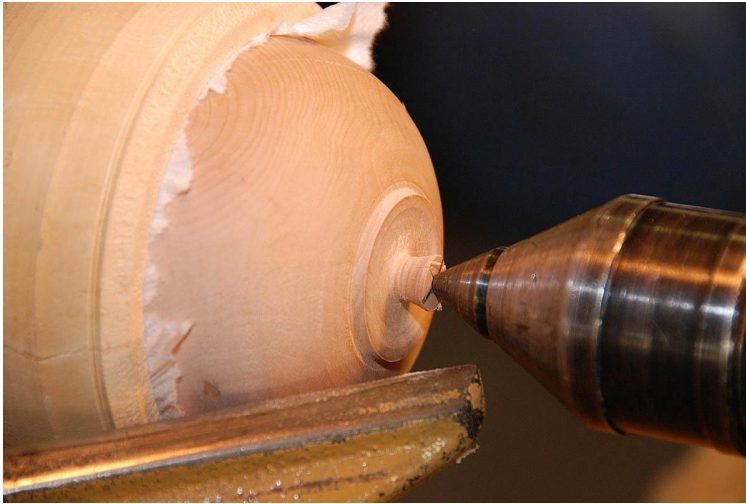


Turn the inside of the bowl. You may need to true up the outside as well. Sand the bowl inside and out. Use a parting tool to cut the bottom of the bowl. Now turn an opening in the waste block the size of the bowl. Insert the bowl into this opening and bring the tailstock up to hold it. If it doesn't fit snugly use paper towels to make it fit more

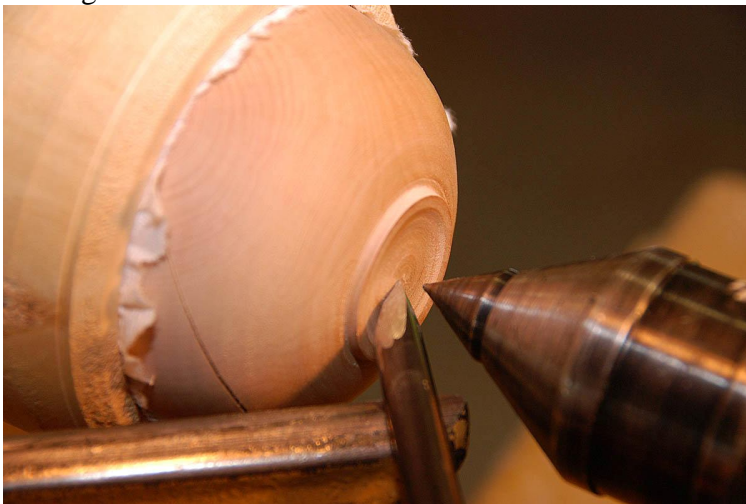


firmly.

Now turn the bottom of the bowl leaving a small tenon. You may want to resize the foot and true up the bottom of the bowl at this time also.



You can now carve this little tenon off. I use my spindle gouge to remove the little tenon. I push forward very gently while keeping pressure on the bevel to hold the bowl in place. This allows me to cut all of the tenon off with the spindle gouge instead of carving it off. Sand this area.



You now have 2 side grain bowls that are the same diameter as the original log.

