



How to create an Eagle Cane: An opportunity for collaboration in wood

In October 2006, Northern Virginia carver Hank Cloutier heard about the Eagle Cane Project and Jack Nitz's effort to get carvers and turners involved across the nation.

Hank learned that if a soldier from a state is injured, then carvers and turners from that state could make a presentation cane for that soldier.

Hank forged a collaboration between his carving club and the Capital Area Woodturners. C. A. Savoy, a master woodturner and operations director for the chapter, went to work with Hank by cutting turning blanks out of maple, walnut, oak, and ash, and recruiting fellow turners to join the effort. C. A. adjusted the shop drawings downloaded from eaglecane.com, making the cane shaft stronger and more stable. C. A. presented cane-turning demonstrations and hands-on direction to turners in the bimonthly skill



Mount a kiln-dried 2x2x37" blank between centers. (Hardwoods such as maple, walnut, oak, and ash work best.) Using a spindle roughing gouge, C. A. Savoy brings the bottom half of the cane into round by working from the tailstock toward the headstock.

sessions he runs for the Capital Area Woodturners.

In the meantime, Hank and the Northern Virginia Carvers went to work carving eagle heads, as described on page 32. He received donated materials and supplies from local companies including Woodcraft and North Land Forest Products. People were happy to pitch in and in some small way say "thanks" for the heroic efforts of our soldiers,



Hank Cloutier, left, and C. A. Savoy personify the spirit of the Eagle Cane Project that brings together talented carvers and woodturners across America to make handcrafted canes to honor wounded veterans. So far, the Northern Virginia Carvers and Capital Area Woodturners have created more than 80 presentation canes. As a result of the collaboration, carvers are learning woodturning, and woodturners are learning how to carve.