



Minnesota Woodturners

In association with the American Association of Woodturners

by Bonnie McDermid

Dean Wilson, Professor of Fine Arts at the Minneapolis College of Art & Design, took MWA members on a retrospective tour of his 30-year design career.

Wilson's designs are fueled by a remarkable range of ingenuity, skill, and a definite sense of humor. While turned wood objects weren't the centerpiece of Wilson's work, they definitely were integral to many of his pieces.

From photographs of the motorized "flying machines" of his early work to the sophisticated furnishings he currently makes, I experienced him as an intrepid explorer searching for new ways to express the ideas and themes that most interest him:

Members Meeting April

Journey into the Designer's Mind

An engineer's fascination with "how things work" and movement through the use of materials and/or motors

Examples include his plywood gumball machine (right) complete with turning handle, pulleys, wheels and gears and motorized flying machines with flapping wings.

Design and use of unique fastening and suspension systems to create functional furniture

A beautiful example is his bookmatched cherry wood table. Wilson designed aluminum "butterflies" to fasten the two sections of the table surface.



The sharp angles and the metal material of the butterflies contrast dramatically with the deep color and natural edges of the wood. The end result is a very pleasing, functional piece of art.

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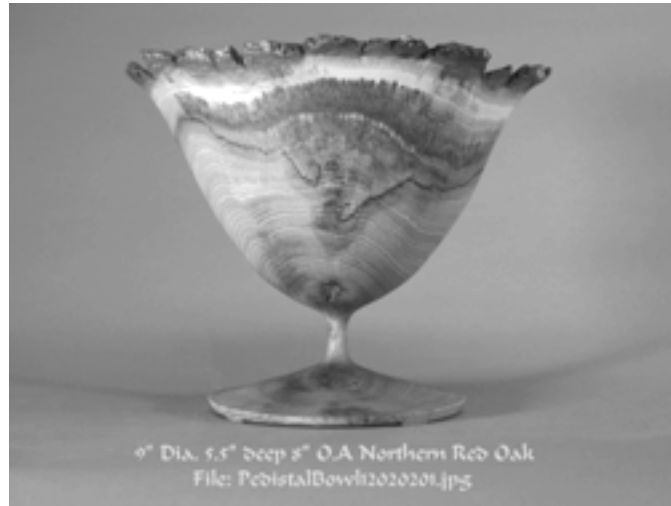
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Don Wattenhofer Wins Best Turning Award at 2003 Northern Woods Exhibition



by Don Wattenhofer

The twentieth annual Northern Woods show was held on May 1-4, 2003 at Southdale Center, Edina, MN. Hosted by the Minnesota Woodworkers Guild, the "Exhibition of Fine Woodworking" is an important regional event for woodworkers.

The Best Turning Award, which I won for my Pedestal Bowl (above), is sponsored by the Minnesota Woodturners Association. The award includes a \$150 cash prize, a plaque and free professional photography of the winning piece.

Judges at this year's exhibition were Asa Christiana, Senior Editor, Fine Woodworking, Dan Cramer, Cramer Studio and guest lecturer at MCAD, and Mitch Kohanek, Instructor, Wood Finishing Program, Dakota County Technical College.

I would like to thank the Minnesota Woodturners Association for sponsoring this award and urge all of our members to start thinking about a project to enter in the 2004 Northern Woods. The entry fee is the same for MWA and MWG members. Entrants may submit two pieces for judging and have access to professional photography at reduced rates.

Thanks Again.

Call for Turned Wood Entries for Exhibition

Art Resources Gallery, St. Paul, in conjunction with Art Crawl and Art on the Town, called for entries for a turned wood exhibition. Please call Sonia Lepoudre for more information at: 651-636- 6367 x155.

Treasurer's Report

January 1 - April 30, 2003	
PAID	167
MEMBERSHIPS	
INCOME	\$4,562
EXPENSES	
(\$1,982)	
CHECKBOOK	\$3,448
BALANCE	
as of 4/30/03	

Submitted by
Ron Meilahn
Treasurer/Membership

Members Meeting April

continued

The juxtaposition of unusual materials in design of everyday objects, such as a corrugated cardboard end table and a cocktail table with "tank treads" for a base.

Asymmetry through angles smaller than 90 degrees

Use of wood grain to convey desired characteristics and to complement design

For example, in Wilson's series of car bumpers, he typically used oak for bumper "teeth" to convey strength and solidity.

'46 Chev Ouch! Bumper
Cleverly designed, Wilson transformed a large knot into a "dent" in this bumper. See photo, above right.

Art Nouveau Bumper
Wilson chose the soft grain and creamy color of butternut to underscore the fluidity and gracefulness of the curves of this bumper.

Following his slide show, Wilson answered questions on the design process itself.



Members Meeting April

continued

Show & Tell Egg Turning Contest

We had an excellent "turnout" for our Show & Tell and Egg Turning Contest. Thank you to everyone who brought in their work and told us about their turning process and their finishing methods.

First Place
Richard Davideit with a laminated plywood and walnut egg

Second Place
Jim Dotseth with a green sumac egg

Third Place
Jack Frost with a pierced cedar egg

Fourth Place Ron
Strelow with a tulip
mounted on an egg
base

April's Show & Tell entries were numerous and of particularly fine quality. Please see article at right about Robert Bouvin's entry.



Top Photo
From Left to Right
Ron Strelow, Jack Frost
Jim Dotseth, Richard
Davideit



Bottom Photo
Robert L. Bouvin and his
Banister and Balustrade

They were turned on a new Delta 642 lathe with a homemade steel and oak bed extension, made to accommodate the long posts.

Banister and Balustrade for the Turbanna Farms by Robert L. Bouvin

I was commissioned to restore the banister above the stair tower in the home place of the Turbanna Farms, a 400-acre farm adjacent to the Oscar Mayer Farm near Elkhart Lake.

The home is presumed to be antebellum (pre-Civil War).

This elegant new railing consists of a king post, two newel posts, a half-post, and three panels of balustrade. The posts are copies of the original, turned out of solid laminated oak, 4.5" square, 46" high.

The bannister is 4" across, 2.5" high, cut and sanded to a perfect oval top and sides.

The balustrade is a Swiss chalet design interpreted from the balustrade in the Many Glaciers Lodge in Glacier Nat'l Park.

Hands-On Session April

April hands-on session emphasizes basics

by Chuck Bjorgen

MWA Member Bob Jensen once again opened his well-equipped shop in Fridley for another of the club's popular hands-on turning sessions in April.

Bob, along with his woodworking friend Ken Schwichtenberg, joined Sheila Martin, Denny Debner, Dick Ericson, Kris Holt and soon-to-be member Pete Anderson for the Saturday morning event. On hand to help out were Don Roden, Tom Shields, Steve Tiedman and Chuck Bjorgen.



Host Bob Jensen guided Denny Debner through the steps of bandsawing a bowl blank from a log. First step was sawing a flat surface on the log to keep it from rolling during the final cut.



Denny Debner turns birch bowl.

Sheila Martin and Dick Ericson both own Jet mini lathes that they had not yet tried so they requested information on the basics of lathe use. Because Pete Anderson had never turned, he also requested basic lathe help. Long-time Jet mini owner Steve Tiedman guided the three through the essentials of lathe operation and soon had them all making some basic cuts on wood.

"As a rookie turner," said Dick Ericson, "I very much appreciated the hands-on session Saturday. I learned a great deal. Steve's knowledge, his considerable skill, and passion for the science and art of wood turning was contagious."

Denny Debner had done some basic spindle turning and wanted to try his hand on a small bowl.



Kris Holt and Tom Shields



Below
Steve Tiedman, Dick Ericson, Sheila Martin and Pete Anderson

"This was a wonderful introduction to the hospitality and friendship of the Woodturner's Club that not only reached my expectations but far surpassed them," said Debner. "I am very much looking forward to the next meeting and anticipate learning and growing in the club. Some day I hope to be able to help others in this craft as you did with all of us today."

Pete Anderson came to MWA to investigate woodturning and its similarities to the art and craft of bronze casting and wheel-thrown pottery. Pete joined MWA immediately after this turning session and plans to equip himself for woodturning to further explore these similarities. Kris Holt came prepared with a project. He planned to turn a wood base for a glass chimney that would ultimately hold a candle.

Ken Schwichtenberg spent the morning working on a hollow form under the guidance of Don Roden. The piece of wood he turned revealed some voids that required a "design change" as he worked on it. "As usual woodworkers are the most helpful people around," said Ken. "Between the help with technique and tips on tools and finishes who could ask for more?"

To answer that last question, the club is always looking for both hosts and coaches for these small group hands-on sessions. If you'd like to help either way, please contact Chuck Bjorgen. Announcements about these sessions are made through email.

Hands On Session May

Big turnout of new turn- ers

by Chuck Bjorgen

On a warm, sunny day in mid-May when many Minnesotans were chasing the walleye on a northern lake or home mowing their lawns, 15 members of the Minnesota Woodturners Assn. gathered at the shop of MWA club president, Bruce Arones for several hours of hands-on woodturning.

Five of the members served as coaches for the other 10 who attended this session as beginners or otherwise seeking help to improve their turning skills. Among the new members were Mary Jo and David Beaty, Todd Williams, Pete Anderson, Paul Kovarik, Brian Campbell and Will Travis.



Above - Pete Anderson



Right - Carolyn Allard

Carolyn Allard, Carol Wagner and Irv Swanson used the session to get back to turning. Coaches were Bruce, Brian Grobe, Linda Ferber, Duane Gemelke and Chuck Bjorgen.

Pete Anderson and Paul Kovarik did not yet own lathes. Pete's passion is throwing pots on a potter's wheel. He is looking at woodturning as another three-dimensional art form to add to his interests in pottery and bronze casting.

Paul turned wood as a youngster in school and, now retired, wants to return to the craft. Both hope to add a lathe to their workshops.

Several projects were tried by the 10 members with a variety of results. Mary Jo Beaty completed a nice little bowl with a wax finish. "I learned a lot and came home with my very first bowl ever," said Mary Jo. "For me it was a wonderful morning and indeed I did learn a lot!" Husband David tried his hand at a natural-edged bowl from an ash blank, which he intended to complete turning at home on the couple's new Fisch mini lathe.

Pete Anderson tried turning his first bowl from box elder. He was on his way to success when a slight catch tore the bowl out of the Talon chuck. Sound familiar? If not, you're not trying.

Lidded boxes were also popular items to turn. Carolyn Allard, showing off her Airmaster powered visor, worked on a lidded box with a tight fitting lid. The subject of allergic reactions to dust exposure was among the topics of discussion before turning started. Carolyn's Airmaster is her solution to dust problems.

Carol Wagner also turned a lidded box. Her Dad, Irv Swanson brought in a glued up bowl blank of walnut and maple that he worked on. Todd Williams and Brian Campbell both spent time hollowing small projects.



Above - Irv Swanson, Brian Campbell, Brian Grove

Paul Kovarik wanted to just "watch and learn" until he had a roughing gouge placed into his hands and was shown how to starting roughing a between-centers blank. By the time he left the session he was rolling basic coves and beads.

A highlight of the session was the break for lunch in Bruce's family dining room. Joyce Arones was out of town for this session but still managed to prepare in advance a wonderful lasagna for the participants. Said Bruce, "People have to drive so far to get here that Joyce doesn't want anyone leaving hungry."

Right - Duane Gemelke, Will Travis

Look for more of these sessions throughout the year. Announcements of small group sessions are made through email.

Contact Chuck Bjorgen if you'd like to host a session. You need to be able to accomodate at least two MWA members to serve as host.



Linda Ferber and Carol Wagner

Club Calendar



Preview September Meeting

Date
September 13th

Time
9:00 am-2:00 pm

Location
John Magnussen shop
118 Jansen Ave SE
Buffalo, MN

Topic
Chain saw operation and safety, including how to cut turning stock from trees.

Activities
Tool Swap & Sale

Wood Raffle
Video Library
Show & Tell

Bring your tools to sell and trade. Pack a lunch or eat at nearby restaurants. John also has a fine collection of turnings from several turners. This is an impressive sight if you haven't seen it yet.

MAY

7th
Board of Directors meeting held.

10th
Binh Pho demonstrated his woodturning, piercing and airbrush painting techniques.

JUNE

22nd
Woodworkers Carnival
Rockler Store
Maplewood MN
Woodturning demos
See ad on page 14

MN Crafts Council
MN Heritage Center,
St. Paul. Need volunteers to demo. Call Tom Shields at 507-625-4186 or wdturnr@hickorytech.net.

AUGUST

16th
Annual Family Picnic. See page 16 (back cover) for all the details.

SEPTEMBER

10th
Board of Directors meeting to be held.

13th
Monthly meeting planned to feature chainsaw use and safety. See notice above.

OCTOBER

3rd
Hands-on session with David Ellsworth for small group.

4th
Monthly meeting to be an all-day demonstration by professional turner, David Ellsworth.

NOVEMBER

5th
Board of Directors meeting to be held.

11th
Monthly meeting tentatively planned to be Christmas ornament demos. Details to come.

DECEMBER

9th
Our fabulous Holiday Party!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

The Board meets on the first Wednesday of every other month; January, March, May, September, and November.

Board meetings are held at 6:30 pm at the following location:

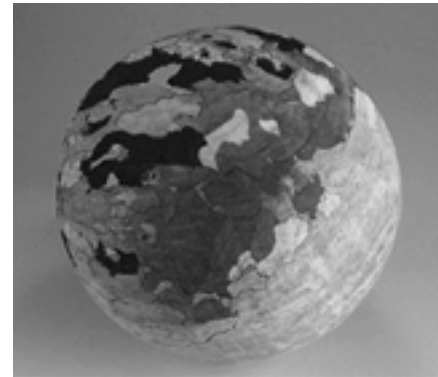
AAW Offices
3499 Lexington Ave No Suite 103
St Paul, MN

HAVE A TOPIC FOR THE BOARD?

If you would like to bring a topic to the Board's attention, please contact any board member and we'll include it on the meeting agenda.

Board members listed on page 2 of this newsletter.

Well, it's hard to believe the year is almost half over and summer is upon us! Here are a few events of interest going on over the summer...



David Ellsworth in his studio
"Stratum Sphere", 1999.
Spalted Sugar Maple. 6"

Woodworkers Carnival

Rockler's Maplewood store is holding their annual event on Sunday, June 22nd. Address is 1935 Beam Ave., near the Maplewood Mall.

Our gifted members will demo* and sign up new members. See their ad on page 14 for details.

Tom Shields is looking for three or four more people to demo at Rockler. Contact him at 507-625-4186 or wturnr@hickorytech.net

MN Crafts Council Show

Formerly at St. Kates, now being held at the MN History Center June 27th, 28th & 29th. We will have a booth set up **INSIDE** for our woodturning demonstration. **More turners are needed for each day. If you're available, contact Tom Shields** 507-625-4186 or wturnr@hickorytech.net

Mpls Institute of Art Woodturning Exhibit

The Legacy of the Lathe: Gifts of Turned Wood from Robyn and John Horn and Their Friends. Now through November

Woodturning Advice Online

If you happen to be surfing the web, check out- www.woodmagazine.com. Click on **woodturning** and you'll find yourself in the middle of an excellent discussion group hosted by Phil Brennan, a professional turner from Arizona. I have posted questions here and always get quick and great advice.

Search their archives, too, for most everything you want to know about woodturning.

NOTE TO DEMONSTRATORS

You must be a member of AAW to demonstrate at any club function. This rule is for insurance coverage to cover you and the club in the event of an accident.

David Ellsworth

We have David Ellsworth in October! This is a rare opportunity to see one of the best known turners there is. For a look at Ellsworth's online gallery, go to: www.ellsworthstudios.com

Have a good summer and keep those turning skills honed - it takes practice.

Once again, if you have ideas for next year or would like to demo yourself, please call me.

Jim Jacobs
Program Director

Members Meeting May



A Day with Binh Pho

by Bob Jones

Binh Pho is an artist, turner, and teacher living in Maple Park, IL, with his wife and two small children. He is well known for his turnings, which are very thin, airbrushed and pierced. On May 10th he led an all-day workshop at the Mpls Community & Technical College for twenty MWA members.

The day was divided into several parts: turning the basic form which becomes his "canvas", a slide presentation and discussion of some of his pieces, piercing, and transferring art work to wood for painting and piercing.



Pho began with a demonstration of turning a Box Elder blank into a nicely turned bowl about 1/16th of an inch thick, using a 3/8" bowl gouge with a swept-back grind as his primary tool.

For this writer, and perhaps others, it was fascinating to watch him use our desk-top Jet with its inherent limitations, on a bowl blank with a small crack that promised trouble without super glue, and yet produce a bowl with form and dimensions that were enviable.

He showed how he turns the bowl or vessel in stages, turning between centers and first shaping and smoothing the exterior form.

He then turns a spigot on the piece and reverses it on the lathe, holding it in a chuck.

He hollows in several stages, depending on the overall size of the piece, finishing the wall to the desired final thickness at each stage before hollowing out more of the piece.

This is done to maintain a mass of wood to stabilize the wall as he progresses, since the upper part of the vessel would become too unstable for finishing if he hollowed it out to the final dimensions before making his final cuts.

To gauge his wall thickness as he works, he placed a light source on the opposite side of the bowl body. The bowl became translucent as it became thinner, and he judged the thickness by the uniformity of the color on the lighted side.

Pho showed us two "tricks" in completing the bowl. Since he is working to very thin tolerances, any effort to remove ridges or thick spots must be done with extreme care, yet done quickly, as a very thin bowl under a hot light bulb quickly dries out and changes shape.



He turns off the lathe, feels on the inside for any ridge and, holding a pencil point on that spot, restarts the lathe and marks a ring. He then carefully removes only that ring to smooth the curve of the bowl.



He also demonstrated a technique for finishing the outside of the bowl at the foot when the bowl has become slightly out of round. Rather than trying to sand the bottom into round, he creates a new or modified profile just above the foot, which then has the appearance of being part of the original design.



See more of Binh Pho's work at online gallery:
<http://www.angelfire.com/il2/binhpho/>

Members Meeting Totem

MWA Adds Minnesota- shaped Section to AAW Totem

By Don Roden

Starting out with 2 x 6 x 8 and 2 x 4 x 8 cedar lumber, I ripped them down and cut them to the length of the size of squares needed for the totem layer. I created a groove for a spline on the edges that would be joined for added strength. I used 4 pieces of 2 x 6 to create one layer.

Then Kris Holt and I created layers, leaving a 4 x 4 hole in the middle of each layer.

Part of the specifications required that we have a 4" diameter hole through the middle of mounting on the pole. Rather than trying to bore a hole through the middle after turning, we created it in the glue-up process.

We cut to length and edge glued and splined 15 layers (one extra just in case). On 8 of the 14 layers we added a 2 x 4 splined on to the outside edge to add additional material to make larger diameter sections. Once all the layers were glued up, we used a router and jig to make each layer a specific diameter.

Once all the individual layers were glued up, we glued those layers into short sections. This process was continued until the height of 21 inches was achieved.

We glued 5 layers of 18" in diameter together. Then we glued 3 layers of 14" in diameter together; then 3 layers at 21" in diameter together, and finally 2 layers 14" in diameter together.

Then we glued the one group of five 18" layers to the three 14" layers. Following that, we glued the three 21" diameter layers to the two 14" layers. Finally, we glued the two groups together.

At that point, we had used one-half gallon of Gorilla glue, and the weight of the full piece was 75 lbs.

After the piece was all glued up, it was transported to Bruce Arones shop for turning Saturday...

Bruce cut tapered blocks to put into the ends to support and drive for turning. Once we got it mounted on Bruce's lathe, we started out turning it to a rough diameter. This was rather interesting as we had two people turning on the piece at the same time trying to rough out the piece.



Above - MWA club's totem being mounted on the AAW totem at Arrowmont in Gatlinburg, TN

Above right - Don W., Don R., & Bruce A. after turning
Right - Tom Shields
Finished weight: 42 lbs.





Above - Glued-up weight 75 lbs.
Left, top and bottom - two of three medallions turned by Tom Shields. Woodburned designs were made by Yvonne Shields.



Bruce Arones, Todd Williams, Don Roden



Don Roden

Once the rough shape was achieved, we started the final shaping. While one person was turning, the others would offer advice on where to take material off on a specific location.

After some sanding, we agreed the piece was turned to its final shape.

Then I brought the piece back home. Tom Shields turned the medallions, and his wife did the burning on them. He brought them over to my house.

The next day Kris and I routed spots into the base and glued the medallions on to the piece, using more Gorilla glue.

Steve Teidman stopped by on Monday night after work, and we put several coats of Man-O-War spar varnish thinned to 50/50 to make sure it soaked in well.

Those who worked on the piece were:
Bruce Arones turning & providing lathe
Chuck Bjorgen turning & photography
Kris Holt glue-up & finish
Don Roden glue-up & finish
Tom Shields turning the medallions
Yvonne Shields woodburning designs on medallions
Steve Teidman turning & finishing
Don Wattenhofer CAD drawing & turning
Todd Williams turning



Steve Teidman



Chuck Bjorgen

WOODWORKER'S CARNIVAL

Sunday June 22 • 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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Club News

Club Grinder At New Location for the Summer

by Chuck Bjorgen

MWA members who are interested in using the club grinder/Wolverine sharpening system that has been housed in the Roseville Area High School woodworking shop can still use the system but at a different location.

After June 11 when school is out for the summer, Wally Jacobson will keep the unit in his shop at home until classes start again around September 1.

Club members wishing to use the grinder during the summer months should call Wally at the following phone numbers to make sure he will be home:

Home: 651-631-1221
Cell: 651-402-1227

Wally lives only about two blocks from the high school. His address is:

1733 Stanbridge Av.
Roseville, MN 55113

The grinder and accessories will return to the school after September 1.

Remember, a dull tool is a dangerous tool!!

Wood Sealer Program Update

MWA is currently buying clear, winterized sealer in 55 gallon drums, enabling us to sell to members at \$8.00 per gallon. These jugs will be available at all regular monthly meetings. For orders between meetings, please contact the following members:

Ron Meilahn
(763) 862-2100
Romee Rauch
(651) 784-0898
John Ratliff
(651) 770-6471
Hal Malmlov
(952) 831-7676

Annual Picnic August

LUNCH

The following will be provided

Grills
beverages
condiments
plates
napkins
eating utensils
AND sweet corn
from Rod Olson!

You should bring

Your own meat (or whatever) to grill buns/
bread
AND

A dish to share

Last Names A-O
bring salad or main dish
Last Names P-Z
bring dessert

You may want to bring

Lawn chairs, lawn games, bug spray

Directions

From Cities driving south on Hwy 61:

Cross Mississippi, thru bridge, take immediate right on 3rd Street. Take next immediate right, proceed 1 block.

Take left onto 2nd Street. Proceed up hill, past hospital. Road will fork - stay left, which is Cty Rd 42 for 2 miles.

Turn right at Park entrance, 3.7 miles from the bridge.

Proceed down long driveway and park by the smaller shelter on the east side, close to the playground.

Parking lot is towards the right.

Directions

Driving south on Hwy 52/55:

(Hwy 52 from St. Paul)
(Hwy 55 from Mpls)

(they merge together at the Koch refinery.

Stay on Hwy 55, past the refinery 4 miles. You'll see a golf course on your right. Just past the golf course, take a left onto County Rd 42E. Proceed 1.8 miles to the park entrance. Take a left into the park.

Proceed down long driveway and park by the smaller shelter on the east side, close to the playground.

Parking lot is towards the right.



David Ellsworth
"Vessel", 1989.
Redwood Pitch Burl
(top detail).
38"h x 11"d

Advertisements FOR SALE

FREE MEMBER ADVERTISING

Free turning-related ads for members.

COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING

\$4.00/month per column inch. To place ad, contact

Don Roden at 763-425-3110 or drodenn@mnet.net.

Ads will run one issue unless you call to extend your add to additional issues.

FOR SALE

6" slate pool table. Excellent condition, includes accessories. Can deliver. \$475.

Call 651-437-2302.

General Maxi Lathe with stand. Used only a few times for demos. Stand has lock down wheels. New \$300+. Asking \$200. Call Joe Cornell at 612-281-2917.

Tormek Sharpening System. Complete Master system minus the jointer/planer blade jig. Two stones included - the original (now worn down to ~8 inches) and a fairly new (~9.5 inches left) Japanese 800 grit water stone. Also includes the recently released small tool jig for carving tools. New \$829+. Asking \$450. Call Joe Cornell at 612-281-2917.

Annual Picnic August

Bring the whole family!
This is a beautiful park overlooking the Mississippi River. Lots of hiking trails and a great playground for the kids.

Date

Saturday, August 16th

Time

10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Location

Spring Lake Park Reserve, Hastings, MN

Detailed directions to Spring Lake Park Reserve are on page 15.

Activities

Turning Challenge **MUSHROOMS**

Anything goes - big ones, small ones, boxes, portabellas. Be creative! We'll vote and award certificates to the winners.

Show and Tell

Bring several examples of your work. It's always interesting to see all the talent.

and...our **Video Library**



Minnesota
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Andover, MN 55304
www.mnwoodturners.com

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