



Minnesota Woodturners

In association with the American Association of Woodturners

Club Demo

Busy summer
for MWA
demonstrators



Demonstrator Dan Hansen quickly turned a few tops that caught the attention of two youngsters and adults.

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by Chuck Bjorgen
Demonstrators from the Minnesota Woodturners Association (MWA) are having a busy summer again this year. The payoff for the club has been an increase in membership from at least one of these sessions.

At the Rockler Woodworking Maplewood store's carnival in June, eight new members joined the club and one renewal was received after that member saw our demonstrators in action.

Bruce Arones, Don Wattenhofer, Dan Hansen and Bill Klopp demonstrated during the day-long session.

Member Ken Tempero helped organize a two-day woodturning demonstration at the Rockler Woodworking store near Ridgedale Center. The event, a sidewalk sale July 11 and 12 at the store, involved several of our club's members.

Among the demonstrators on Friday were John Engstrom, John Magnussen, Erwin Nistler and Boyd Annis. Duane Gemelke manned the demo most of Saturday.

According to Duane,

"It was pretty steady from about 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. with someone watching most of the time. There were quite a few questions about the display pieces and a lot of nice comments."

Duane will again be demonstrating along with Linda Ferber, Dale Martin and Dan Hansen at the Washington County Fair beginning August 1.



Board Members

- President
Bruce Arones
barones@minnmicro.com
651-433-5364
- Vice President
Don Roden
droden@mninter.net
763-425-3110
- Program Director
Jim Jacobs
woodmanmn@aol.com
651-437-2302
- Secretary
Jim Blare
jlblare@frontiernet.net
952-469-3687
- Treasurer/Membership
Ron Meilahn
ronmeilahn@usfamily.net
763-862-2100
- Newsletter Editor
Bonnie McDermid
bmcdermid@mn.rr.com
612-920-9205
- Newsletter Mailings
John Ratliff
651-770-6471
- Librarian
Linda Ferber
lindaf@copy
equipmentinc.com
651-454-5774
- Members-at-Large**
- Chuck Bjorgen
cbjorgen@citilink.com
651-633-8850
- Tom Shields
wdturnr@hickorytech.net
507-625-4186
- Don Wattenhofer
drwatt@usfamily.net
763-572-1045

YOUR TALENT WANTED FOR STATE FAIR WOODTURNING DEMONSTRATION

by Steve Tiedman

Get a free pass to the annual cheez curd/ corn dog/favorite fair food feast, also known as the Great Minnesota Get Together. Hone your mini-donut tossing and milk guzzling skills! And while you're at it, introduce State Fair attendees to the wonders of wood turning.

Once again, our club has been asked to showcase our talents at the Minnesota State Fair on Labor Day.

I think this is a great opportunity for our club to introduce and promote our craft to a very large audience. There are a lot of people who have no idea of our craft. This will not only help us grow our club, but, maybe more importantly, make the public more aware of our talents and our work.

We will need many club members to help make this a success. Please sign up for a time slot with Tom Shields, via email: wdturnr@hickorytech.net

Event: MN State Fair
Location: Creative Activities Building
Date: Labor Day
Time: 9 am - 9 pm

Demonstration time slots will be in four hour increments:

9:00AM to 1:00PM
1:00PM to 5:00PM
5:00PM to 9:00PM

You will receive a free pass to the fair so you can visit the fair either before or after your demo time slot.

Please bring your own tools and wood to turn, also some of your work for show and tell.

Directions
The Creative Actives Building is located adjacent to the main gate off of Snelling Ave.

Note
You must be a member of the AAW for insurance purposes,

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

DAVID CANEDAY
ROSEVILLE, MN
FRAN MC CABE
RUSH CITY, MN

DAN CHRISTY
OAKDALE, MN

PETE LEWON
OAKDALE, MN

GREG & RACHEL
TSCHUMPER
HUDSON, WI

DARRELL HILLIARD
ST. PAUL, MN

DAVID PRAEGER
WOODBURY, MN

GARY JAMES
WOODBURY, MN

DARWIN WITZEL
NORTH OAKS, MN

Treasurer's Report

January 1 - July 31, 2003

PAID	179
MEMBERSHIPS	
INCOME	\$5,410
EXPENSES	(\$3,086)
CHECKBOOK	\$3,206
BALANCE	

as of 7/31/03

Submitted by
Ron Meilahn
Treasurer/Membership

Club Demo

continued

The Minnesota Crafts Council Show in late June moved to the Minnesota History Center this year. During the three days of the show, demonstrators included George Dupre, Chuck Pitschka, Linda Ferber, Jim Jacobs, Joe Cornell, Dody Bemrick, Tom Shields and Chuck Bjorgen.

Because of the nature of this show, non-profit organizations such as MWA were placed in somewhat out-of-the-way locations. The result was little traffic and exposure of our club activities to those attending the show. We're hoping to find a more productive location for this show next year.

Demonstrating woodturning can be fun and rewarding. It gives MWA members a chance to show their talents and promote the craft to the public.

If you'd like to participate in these activities, please contact board member Tom Shields to express your interest. You need to be a member of AAW to demonstrate at any club function. This rule is for insurance coverage to protect you and the club in case of an accident.



Photo, top

Club president Bruce Arones turned a top as Bill Klopp, center, who also demonstrated, and a visitor to the store watched.

Photo, bottom

Don Wattenhofer turned a cedar bowl for the crowd that gathered around MWA's demonstration site in front of the Rockler Woodworking store. The club gained eight new members from the day's demo efforts.

Books & Videos

Steve's Top 10 Woodturning Books

by Steve Tiedman

Over the years I have created quite a collection of turning books, many of which may prove to be beneficial to you. Here is a list of titles and authors, more or less in order of my suggested level of relevance to learn the more artistic aspects of woodturning.

Most of these books will already assume some level of competence at the lathe, but that does not mean novices cannot get the books for inspiration and future reference.

We all have to walk before we run, so to say. I have bought all these books just in the last few years, so hopefully they are still in print, check with local bookstores or internet retailers such as Amazon.com.

Some are available at our local Rockler and Woodcraft stores, and in catalogs such as Craft Supplies and Packard Woodworks.

I'll admit, this is not an exhaustive list of books that are available to us woodturners. I have over 3 dozen turning books, some of which are quite dated and not as good to follow as this list demonstrates. From time to time in the future I'll try to provide more in-depth reviews of these and other books that I feel would be helpful to all woodturners.

Happy Turning!

Summer

Woodturning: A Foundation Course, New Edition

by Keith Rowley

In my opinion, the finest "how to" book for beginners to intermediate level turners, it concentrates heavily on the basics, which like anything else, is the foundation for all turning work. Outstanding line figures and photographs. Written in England, so some of the accessory tools and other products are not available in the U.S., but this isn't important.

GET THIS BOOK IF NO OTHERS! (Reviewed in Sept 2001 club newsletter, available at club

The Art of the Lathe by Patrick Spielman

The first 50 pages are covering the basics of turning, tool selection, mounting methods, how cuts are made, etc.

I think these were filler pages, because the meat of the book is the next 100 pages where he gives 2 or 3 page mini biographies of about 40 world class turners showing photos of their "signature" pieces and directions of how they are made.

A very well rounded book showing all aspects of turning.



Reading



The Fine Art of Small Scale Woodturning by William R. Duce

If you own a mini lathe, well, this book is written with the mini lathe at heart. Absolutely fantastic artistic turnery, and everything can be held in the palm of your hand. If anything, this book may demonstrate that turning small can indeed be more technically challenging with a higher level of detail than turning large. Each project is outlined by photos and text, no line drawings.

Woodturning, A Fresh Approach by Robert Chapman

This is the book that turners who think they've turned enough bowls will want to read. This is the book the picks up where mastering the basics is no longer enough for you. I like it a lot.

Masterful Woodturning: Projects & Inspiration for the Skilled Turner by S. Gary Roberts

"Skilled Turner", no kidding! This one picks up where *The Fine Art* leaves off. A high end technical "how to" book, cross section line drawings, photos, text, etc. This is some really advanced skill work here. Some of the projects as shown will require a lathe larger than a mini lathe, but still a great book of artistic inspiration.

Decorative Techniques for Woodturners by Hilary Bowen

This one won't show you how to make the bowl/vase/platter/spindle, but it will certainly show you the sorts of things you can do to embellish them with decorative details. Paints, waxes, metals, carving/piercing, mixing multiple species of wood in one project, and on and on.

Carving on Turning by Chris Pye

Chris Pye is a world renowned carver (best known for his carving books) and turner who shows you how to combine the two disciplines. The turned item really is nothing more than the backdrop, a canvas if you will, for the carving placed onto it. Many turners have been combining the two techniques in recent years, and Chris Pye is about the best one to learn it from.

Shapes for Woodturners by David Weldon

This book shows thousands of graph paper style, half-section profile drawings of just about every shape that could be created on the lathe. A great resource book. (Reviewed in Feb 2002 club newsletter, available at club website.)

Woodturning, A Source Book of Shapes by John Hunnex

Similar to the previous book, but with only a couple hundred examples, but they are all color photos instead of line drawings. I'd suggest getting both books. (Reviewed in Feb 2002 club newsletter, available at club website.)

Turning Green Wood by Michael O'Donnell

Another "how to" book, with chapters covering basic turning information, but the book concentrates on using freshly cut timber as the turning stock, which really is another realm of turning because the wood does not behave at all like dry wood. I really like green turning, especially to see what Mother Nature will do to the finished piece. She usually adds artistic touches not possible for human hands.

Club Calendar



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.

Directions

Driving west on 694 to the 694/94 split, take 94 West.

Driving north on 494 to 694/94 split, take 94 West.

AUGUST

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

SEPTEMBER

10th
Board of Directors meeting to be held.

13th
Annual Tool Sale & Swap plus our monthly meeting topic: 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.

Club Order to Craft Supply planned for October. Details to come.

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.

Take 2nd exit (Cty Rd 30 is the same as 95th Ave N). Go west over freeway to 3rd stop light. This is a little tricky, stay in right lane. Watch for Cty Rd 30 sign, go west past Hwy 101 and Cty Rd 116 to a "T" in road - which is Cty Rd 19. Turn right onto Cty Rd 19, drive about 4 miles. Turn left, drive about 3 miles and cross over river. Turn left immediately onto Cty Rd 20. You'll go over the river and continue 1 mile. John's house is on left. John will have signs at river and house.

Or take 55 west from 494 about 15 mi to Rockford, turn right immediately over bridge (Co Rd. 20), go 5.6 mi to yellow building with brown trim, on right side, watch for sign.

Special Hands-On
Session Preview
October

**David
Ellsworth**

Session One

Small Group Hands-On*
October 3, 2003
10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Woodcraft Supply
9741 Lyndale Ave So
Bloomington
Cost \$75

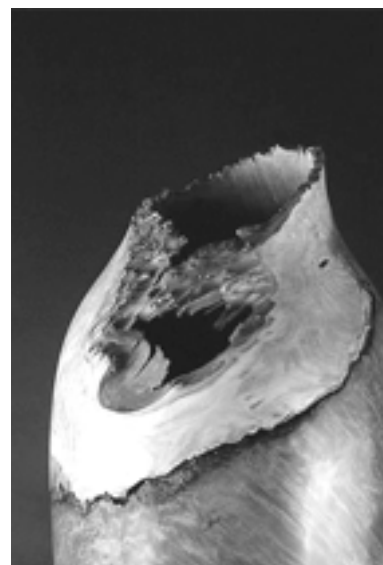
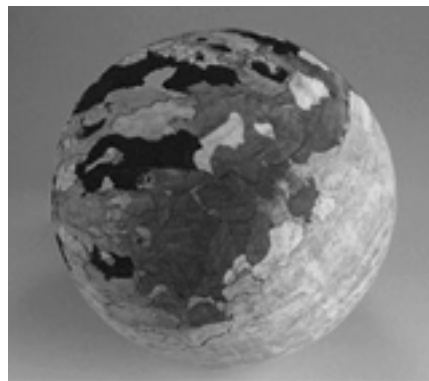
Session Two

Demonstration
October 4, 2003
9:00 am - 4:00 pm
MCAD
2501 Stevens Ave
Minneapolis
Cost \$35

Attendance at the Hands On Session is limited to around eight people and participants will be chosen by lottery. Please contact Jim Jacobs at 651-437-2302.

Whet your appetite for our October sessions with these excerpts from Ellsworth's website. We include highlights from three of his design series.

For more inspirational browsing, go to:
www.ellsworthstudios.com



"Stratum Sphere", 1999.
Spalted Sugar Maple. 6"
"Vessel", 1989. Redwood Pitch
Burl (top detail). 38"h x 11"d
"Homage Pot" 1999.
Spalted Sugar Maple. 13"h x 10"d

**"Vessels"
1980-1989**

The process of vessel making is one of balancing ideas with execution where the heart, not the head, is in charge. Throughout this process, the material must speak, command - even scream - for its own identity. Without this interaction one simply makes a good object, a good design, but one which lacks the presence of the power of "self".

**"Sphere" Series
1997-present**

Because the sphere is such a universal form, making them becomes an extraordinary design challenge...Within these simple forms, one can draw elements of power and repose, gesture, texture and self-expression. Thus through these objects, one gains a true sense of the 'pulse' of the creative process.

**"Homage" Series
1998-present**

The Homage series evolved as a means of reflecting on the influences I received from the many Native cultures of the American southwest. The unsanded, off-the-tool surfaces symbolize the textures of hand-worked adobe. The domed tops and recessed openings were inspired by Navajo bread ovens.

Book Review

Michael O'Donnell's Turning Green Wood

by Steve Tiedman

Green wood. If you follow the harsh cry of the elusive chain saw to find where it may be doing its thing, you will likely find green wood.

For you new turners, "green" refers to freshly cut trees, where the wood is still wet with its natural water content.

Heck, I've got a garage full of green wood after this past year. Snow storm damage last spring to a neighbor's box elder maple, Russian olive and walnut trees cut down in my general area, and some honey locust log sections found in a yard waste recycling drop-off center. All green, and best of all, all free!!

I've come to really enjoy turning green wood. Airborne dust is limited, nice big shavings come off a sharp gouge like a hot knife through butter, and when you are done

and allow Mother Nature to dry the piece, the result is a shape that would otherwise be impossible to obtain with dry or "seasoned" wood.

So where to go for knowledge of working with green wood? To the excellent book by British turner Michael O'Donnell titled "Turning Green Wood". This is another of the top-notch offerings by British publisher Guild of Master Craftsmen (well over 30 turning titles alone, and as many on general woodwork and another list on carving).

O'Donnell brings us through all the stages of working with green wood. He starts with an education of wood itself, the science behind the material. He explains how wood is made up and teaches the reader how the wood is likely to react based on being a hardwood or softwood, the grain patterns within the timber (cross grain, end grain, burls, crotches, etc.), the moisture content, pith and bark, what happens inside the living tree, and other criteria.

This is one of the best books I've seen for showing you how to "read" and prepare the wood for turning, using very clear line drawings and photographs to demonstrate getting the most from a piece of wood.

He then writes about the equipment he uses for his work, which is comprised of basic turning tools such as bowl, spindle and roughing gouges, parting tool, and scrapers, along with faceplates and a variety of chucking systems. He takes the reader through the proper use of all the tools for the best results.

A point of interest here: O'Donnell does design and market some tools that have his name on them, and he uses them in the book. Such as the accessory "O'Donnell Jaws" for the Axminster chuck he uses, and the "O'Donnell Grind" (a.k.a. "swept back", "Ellsworth", "Irish", etc.) on his bowl gouge. Don't worry about these. It's the procedure he demonstrates that is important, not the name on the tool. If you've seen me sharpening tools at a club event, then you've seen this grind.

Finally he takes the reader through a series of step-by-step projects to demonstrate the various methods of working green wood. Cross-grain turning, end grain turning, natural edge turning, and "seasoning" a rough green-turned project, that is, turning a green piece of wood to a rough size, drying the rough project, and then completing the turning once the wood has dried and is stabilized. All of these procedures are followed very easily, and described clearly through text, drawings, and photos.

I am personally a huge proponent of obtaining your turning stock from tree cuttings whenever possible. Sometimes new turners will ask me what my favorite kind of turning wood is, and I tell them "the free kind". Keep an eye out and your ear to the wind; sometime this spring, summer, or autumn you'll come across a tree be trimmed or cut down and now you'll have a reason to stop and ask for a few pieces.

And here is one of my rules- I always give back to the person I got the wood from a token turned piece in appreciation for giving me the wood. When I got some horse chestnut limb sections from the neighbor across the street last spring, I made her a medium size bowl (turned green and allowed to dry and naturally warp) and she couldn't be more thrilled with it. Now she has an ever-lasting memento of that tree that stood for many years in her back yard. That's one of my favorite parts of being a turner.

"Turning Green Wood" by Michael O'Donnell - add this one to your library. Available at local bookstores, online, and even at local woodworking stores from time to time. Craft Supplies also carries the companion video for this book. I've not viewed the video, but I'm told by a reputable source that it is very good.

Hands On Session July

Turning Pens

by Linda Ferber

July 19th we had a small pen demonstration group. The expert, Brad Hubert, had both participants turn out a perfect pen. Attending were Harvey Koenig and myself. Thank you, Brad for taking time and sharing your skills.

Brad first went thru the steps in the process with details. Many of the steps in the process can cause variations and problems with pens fitting at the end. Turning pens is very precise and small variations can cause failure.

After talking thru all the steps we turned our pens. Both Harvey and myself have attempted pens before with poor results. After this session I better know why some steps are necessary and how they contribute to the end results and also how to correct or avoid.

The MWA library has a CD by Steven D Russell that includes instructions on pen turning. You may check it out of the library and print out further instructions.



L to R - Harvey Koenig, Brad Hubert and Linda Ferber



"I had a great time Saturday. The concept of one on one works great for me. I learned a lot.

Making pens isn't as easy as it looks. You need to pay attention or it wouldn't work. I had a great host and instructor. THANKS."

Harvey Koenig

Brads Tips:

1. Use gorilla type glue. It allows longer time to fit tube. It gives a better bond with this glue small gaps will be filled in instead of open voids.
2. With this glue place potato plugs in each end of the brass tube. This prevents glue from going down tube.
3. Always mark wood blanks so you can match centers.
4. Always drill from these marked centers out to the end. This will ensure the drill is starting at same spot and grain will match better. Rotate these centers one to left and one to right.

"Universal Truths" of Woodturning" (As I Know Them)



by Russ Fairfield

Russ Fairfield is a retired paper mill engineer, and now a full-time woodturner working in his shop in Post Falls, Idaho. He has been an active woodturner since 1983.

This article is reprinted from a series of articles Russ Fairfield prepared for Wood Central, the on-line woodworkers website. They can be found at: <http://www.woodcentral.com/russ/russindex.shtml>.

These Truths I hold as self-evident. These are the things about woodturning that I have learned to accept without question. They are above argument. I have no doubt that many more can be added as I become more proficient in the art/craft of woodturning.

I also have no doubt that there will be arguments on the merits of some of those that I have included. There is no importance in their listed order; I wrote them down as I thought of them.

1. There are only three ways to become an accomplished woodturner, and they are practice, practice, and more practice.

That practice will be easier with a copy of Keith Rowley's book, "Woodturning: A

Foundation Course", and learning to do everything that he discusses.

Follow that with his book, "Keith Rowley's Woodturning Projects", and make all 20 of them. If you do these things, you will be well on your way to becoming a woodturner. There are comparable books and videos, but I happen to like these.

2. It takes years to become an expert woodturner.

Standing in front of a lathe, all day, every day, for 20 years would be a good start. Others may be faster than that, but most of the real experts have a lot of gray hair.

3. Woodturning is both an "art" and a "craft." The "craft" is in how the wood is cut, the tools we use, and how we use them. The shape of the finished piece is the "art." Learning about other art forms (pottery, glass, sculpture, etc.) will improve the "art" of our woodturning.

4. Continue being challenged to learn new things. One year's experience repeated ten (10) times is not the same as having ten (10) years of experience.

5. Never lose sight of the customer/user. Anything that is intended to be used must be usable.

6. You can't cut wood with dull tools. The corollary is that the sharper the tool is, the better it cuts.

7. Consistency is more important than the actual profile of the cutting tool. Otherwise we are using a different tool after every trip to the grinder. It doesn't matter what the grinding wheel is made of, how fast it spins, whether the tool is held in a jig or freehand, or if we use a belt sander or a rock, so long as the same edge profile is repeated every time we use it.

"Universal Truths" continued

8. The speed of the grinding wheel doesn't matter. They all remove metal. The faster wheel removes it faster. There is some justification for the new woodturner to use the slower wheel.

9. It doesn't matter what color grinding wheel is used.

It can be pink, gray, white, violet, blue, green, or whatever color. It can be made from Aluminum Oxide, Silicone Carbide, sandpaper, or a rock. They all remove metal.

Some may be softer and require dressing more often to make them flat again. Others, like the hard gray wheels that came with grinder, will require dressing more often to remove the glaze of embedded metal and "sharpen" the wheel.

Part II - Universal Truths of Woodturning will be in MWA's October newsletter.

Advertisements FREE MEMBER PRIVATE LESSONS ADVERTISING

Learn TOOL SHARPENING on the Oneway Wolverine system. A MUST for anyone serious about mastering woodturning.

One-on-one sessions in my shop will cover tools & equipment, shaping, sharpening and honing. Call now for evening and week-end appointments. \$45/session. Steve Tiedman 763-789-4505.

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 droden@mninter.net. Ads will run one issue unless you call to extend your add to additional issues.

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.

Annual Picnic August

Looking forward to a beautiful day at the Spring Lake Park Reserve.

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 on page 11.

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
Woodturners Assn
13968 Alder Street NW
Andover, MN 55304
www.mnwoodturners.com

FIRST
CLASS
MAIL