



Members' Meeting

February

Alan Lacer

Getting Started

Right

Minnesota Woodturners

in association with the American Association of Woodturners



Photo by Bruce Thompson

Alan Lacer demonstrated the basics of woodturning during his presentation to the MWA at the February membership meeting.

by Bob Jones

Six years ago as I was making plans to move back to the Twin Cities, I mentioned to one of the officers of the woodturning club in Raleigh, N.C., that I didn't know if I would find an active woodturning club when I returned. He told me, "Alan Lacer lives there. He's one of the best; I'm sure you'll find an active club there." Well, I did, and at our February meeting Alan Lacer showed why a turner in North Carolina had told me "He's one of the best."

Alan Lacer has been involved in the turning field for over twenty years as a turner, teacher, writer, exhibition coordinator, demonstra-

tor and past president of the American Association of Woodturners. His work has appeared in a number of regional and national shows, and he has been a regular instructor and demonstrator of the craft, having worked in over 35 states and four foreign countries. His writings cover technical aspects of woodturning, historical commentaries and turning traditions in Japan and Germany. He is a member of Minnesota Woodturners.

On Saturday, February 8, Alan spent the day reviewing the basics of woodturning with about 30 members of MWA. It would be easy for our more experienced members to wonder how they

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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
woodman@aol.com
651-437-2302

Secretary

Jim Blare
jblare@frontier.net
952-469-3687

Treasurer/Membership

Ron Meilahn
ronmeilahn@usfamily.net
763-862-2100

Newsletter Editor

Position open

Newsletter Mailings

John Ratliff
651-770-6471

Librarian

Bob Jensen
1woodworker@earthlink.net
763-572-0525

Members-at-Large

George Dupre
gtdupre@centurytel.net
715-448-3002

Tom Shields
wdturnr@hickorytech.net
507-625-4186

Don Wattenhofer
drwatt@usfamily.net
763-572-1045

A message from the president

by Bruce Arones

Our membership is fast approaching our total of 192 at the end of 2003 and will more than likely surpass 200 in the very near future. There must be a real pool of talent in that number of people. How do we tap into that talent? Asking for volunteers always seems to meet with limited success. Is there a better way to find who has talent and is willing to share it with the group? If anyone has an answer for that, please let me know.

Until I find a better way, I will continue to ask for volunteers.

Bonnie McDermid has resigned as our newsletter editor due to increased demands of her job. She is willing to help out in the transition period. Chuck Bjorgen did the editor's job on this issue to maintain the continuity of the newsletter. The next issue is scheduled to come out at the end of May (hopefully with a new editor at the helm).

So the most important request for a volunteer is for someone to become the newsletter editor. The basic requirements are: produce six newsletters per year, use whatever format you know (Pagemaker, Publisher, etc.), attend board meetings (since this is a board position).

We are also looking for people to write articles about the monthly meetings and other woodturning topics, and to help with photography of club events for the newsletter.

The board of directors has also discussed forming a publications committee to assist the editor in various aspects of putting the newsletter together.

We are in need of somebody to be the small groups coordinator. This job consists of finding hosts for the small group sessions, setting up dates for the sessions and arranging to have the necessary club equipment available for the sessions.

There is an ongoing need for demonstrators for the various shows during the year. You don't have to be an expert turner to demonstrate (you probably know more about turning than most of the people stopping to watch).

If you can help in any of these jobs listed, please let me or any other board member know so that your talent doesn't go to waste.

TREASURER'S REPORT

January 1–March 1, 2004

Active Members
164

Income	\$5,009
Expenses	[1017]
Check book balance as of 3/01/04	\$6,831

MWA Club Calendar 2004

APRIL

2nd-4th Woodworking Show at RiverCentre, St. Paul.

13th

Monthly Meeting

Tom Shields will demonstrate deep hollowing techniques using his shop-built laser boring bar. At the Roseville Area H.S. woodshop.

April 29th–May 2 Northern Woods Show, Southdale Center. Contact Jeff Zinsli, 952-974-1012.

MAY

5th

Board of Directors meeting.

11th

Monthly meeting.

Member **Brad Hubert** will demonstrate the fine points of pen turning. Roseville Area H.S. woodshop.

22nd

Rockler Woodworking Carnival. Demonstrators needed. Contact Tom Shields.

JUNE/JULY

No membership meetings

JULY

23rd–25th AAW Symposium, Orlando, Florida.

AUGUST

Sunday, Aug. 22, MWA annual picnic at Spring Lake Park, Hastings. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

SEPTEMBER

8th

Board of Directors meeting.

18th

Professional demonstration

Trent Bosch will conduct a day-long demo for members at MCAD.

19th

Hands-on session with **Trent Bosch**. Limited to 8 members.

26th–Sept. 6

State Fair demo. Contact Tom Shields.

OCTOBER

30th

Professional demonstration

Andi Wolfe of Ohio will turn a small bowl and an end grain vessel explaining form and tool techniques. She will also demonstrate surface enhancement techniques of scorching, carving and coloring which she uses extensively. At MCAD auditorium.

Check her web site at:

<http://www.andiwolfe.com>

31st

Hands-on session with **Andi Wolfe**. Limited to 8 members.

NOVEMBER

3rd

Board of Directors meeting

9th

Monthly meeting

Erwin Nistler demonstrates how he turns holiday ornaments. Roseville Area H.S. woodshop. 7 p.m.

DECEMBER

14th

Holiday party, 6:30–10 p.m., location to be announced. Gift certificates, turning challenge, gift exchange, spouse door prizes, raffling of Lacer, Bosch and Wolfe turnings.

MWA Board creates lower student rate

The MWA Board of Directors at the March meeting voted to create a student category that would make membership in the MWA less expensive for full-time students.

Any full-time student through age 24 may qualify for the reduced annual membership fee of \$8. This guideline is similar to the student membership requirements for the AAW.

Bruce Arones, MWA president said “we want to make the MWA more accessible to students who will eventually go on to benefit our craft.”

Note: Beginning in April, all evening meetings will start at 7 p.m. and conclude at 9 p.m.

Hands-on session
January

Woodturning

Basics for

Beginners

Text and photos
by
Chuck Bjorgen

The Minnesota Woodturners Association (MWA) closed 2003 with a record membership approaching 200 so it should come as no surprise that many of the club's members would be classified as beginners. Beginners need instruction in our craft, and that's where the MWA's hands-on sessions play a large part in helping new turners gain necessary skills in woodturning.

That's when a hands-on session in late January at the Roseville Area High School woodshop provided some of this help for around 26 MWA members, many new to turning. Several experienced MWA members also came to offer help.

Hosted by woodshop instructor and club member Wally Jacobson, the session began at 9 a.m. with the



Roseville H.S. woodshop instructor Wally Jacobson tried a hook tool made by Don Wattenhofer, center, for end-grain hollowing. New member Jose Palmieri, right, watched the progress on his walnut goblet.



Mike and Jeanne Molamphy watched Brian Grobe as he demonstrated bowl turning techniques.



Alan Morris and Stan Carlson watched program director Jim Jacobs cut coves and beads on a spindle turning.



David Caneday, left, received help from club president Bruce Arones on his bowl. Russ Johnson, right, watched.

five club lathes and several lathes on hand in the school's shop.

Among the members attending was Ken Kuby who spent turning time with veteran member Don Wattenhofer. "I learned a great deal at this workshop" said Ken. "I had a lot of personal attention, and the use of a lathe for the entire session. Thanks again."

Mike and Jeanne Molamphy worked with Brian Grobe on basic bowl turning. Said Jeanne: "Mike and I had a wonderful time at the workshop. Mike did not work on a lathe while we were there, but he got a lot of information for tool sharpening and other techniques. I worked on a lathe with Brian as my teacher and he was great! He taught me a lot while we were working on a bowl and I learned so much from him. He was a wonderful instructor and has the patience of a saint to put up with me for three hours."

Stan Carlson and Alan Morris tried their hand at basic spindle turning



Left photo: Ken Kuby watched Don Wattenhofer perform spindle magic on one of the school lathes. Right photo: Member Joe Cornell, right, demonstrated his Treeline carving tool for Alan Morris.

with program director Jim Jacobs, and new member David Caneday turned a walnut bowl with club president Bruce Arones.

Dick Ericson, who had recently bought a new Jet mini lathe said "The event was very valuable. I learned many things about my new lathe and turning techniques."

Member Joe Cornell showed up



to demo his Treeline air powered carving tool that offers features similar to the dental drill used by demonstrator Bihn Pho at a club membership meeting last year.

As usual, time passed quickly and by noon it was clean up and clear out time. Again, the MWA thanks Wally Jacobson and Roseville Schools for providing the club use of this fine facility.

Members' Meeting

March

3M's Cliff Frey Respiratory Hazards of Woodworking

by Bob Jones



Cliff Frey, left, discussed some recommended devices for protecting woodturners from the hazards of wood dust after his formal presentation with MWA members Alan Morris and Jeff Luedloff.

Warning...

Turning wood can be a **SERIOUS** health hazard!

Unless, of course, you...

- Protect your face and eyes with a face shield
- Protect your respiratory system and ventilate your work space with a proper dust collection system
- Remove all moldy (spalted) wood and shavings immediately
- Protect your skin from toxic materials and possible allergies to some woods

Does the above warning look familiar? It should...it is the warning sent out with your AAW directory each year.

At a well-attended March 9 MWA meeting, Cliff Frey of 3M's Occupational Health and Environmental Safety Division

presented information on an aspect of workshop safety that some turners are quite concerned about, and others perhaps give relatively little thought to – the effects of woodturning on our health.

Frey focused on air borne particulates (particles) and airborne vapors and gasses. Particles include dust (solid particles), mist (liquid droplets, as from spraying), and fumes (solids that have evaporated and then cool to form solid particles). He differentiated between fumes and vapors (although my dictionary and common usage do not).

Vapors are air borne hazards that are released into the air from solvent-based paints and adhesives and from acids. Gasses such as ammonia, chlorine, or carbon monoxide are also concerns, but much less likely to be encountered

in the shop in the normal course of woodturning.

Frey pointed out that our respiratory systems are part of the body's filtration system. Particles may be filtered out in the nose, trachea, or bronchi or alveoli in the lungs, depending on particle size. Vapors that affect other organs may enter the blood stream through the lungs. Exposure might result in short-term effects such as coughing, difficulty in breathing, asthma, nausea, or drowsiness, or longer-term effects such as cancer, silicosis, or birth defects.

Exposure to certain woods and wood dust can result in dermatitis, sinus membrane inflammation, eye irritation, asthma, loss of lung function, sensitization, or cancer. (Note: many of the woods commonly used in turning such as birch, blackwood, cocobolo, ebony,

spalted maple, oak, purpleheart, satinwood, black walnut, wenge, and western red cedar– to name a few – are known to commonly cause irritation, sensitivity, cancer, or other reactions in the skin, eyes, or respiratory system. Source: *American Woodturner*, June 1990.)

Exposure is a function of time and the amount of contaminants in the air. Someone working in a very dusty environment for long periods at a time and over a long space of time is at greater risk than someone who works for shorter times at a hobby in a well-ventilated shop with a dust collection system and wears a respirator. Still, even if you produce only a small amount of turnings, precautions are worth taking.

Frey discussed various methods for dealing with these potential hazards. The best solution is to eliminate the hazards completely with engineered controls, but few of us can afford – or need – to make the investment necessary to achieve that level of protection. A good dust collection system, such as a cyclone collector or a smaller, portable system, collects dust at the source. Air filtration, ranging from shop-built models adapted from box fans and furnace filters to ceiling-hung commercial models, will help clean the air circulating in the shop. These methods are intended to collect the particles in the air before they get to you; are generally more comfortable than equipment you wear for protection; and help keep the entire shop (and the rest of the house!) clean.

Because it is nearly impossible to collect all air borne hazards,



An assortment of 3M dust protection products were on display at the meeting for members to examine. N95 rating is likely the best for woodturning exposures.

turners should consider wearing a respirator. A respirator is a piece of equipment worn to help protect against breathing air borne hazards. A respirator may be the basic “dust mask” or may include a face shield, hood, or helmet. There are many types of respirators on the market.

Frey showed a variety of respirators available, some from 3M and some not. Prices range from about \$2.00 for a disposable dust mask to \$800 - \$1,000 for full-face respirators with supplied air systems. Some respirators are negative flow (you draw air in through the filter by breathing) and others are positive flow (the air is pushed to you by a fan). In an industrial environment, industrial hygienists would assess the risk and recommend protective equipment.

The correct respirator for you is best determined by considering the obvious hazards (dust, solvents)

you are likely to be exposed to, the exposure time you will have, and other environmental controls you may have in place, such as a dust collection and/or air filtration system. Beards prevent a good seal with a respirator. In some cases positive-pressure, loose-fitting headgear or a hood can overcome this problem.

A further consideration is your own health. If you know or suspect you have a respiratory or cardiac condition that might be a factor in wearing a respirator, you should consider consulting an occupational medicine physician. Frey recommends looking for a NIOSH (National Institute on Occupational Safety and Health) rating when selecting a respirator. For particle filtration, a N95 rating is likely to be the best for woodturning exposures. He recommends 3M’s 9200 series of flat-folding dust masks for persons

Hazards continued on Page 9

Hands-on sessions

Jan/Feb

Bowl turning with Wayne Keifer



Photos by Darlyn Keifer

Bob Harris worked on the outside shape of his bowl on Wayne's Woodfast lathe.

MWA member Wayne Keifer has typically shared his shop during our long winters with several club members who want to focus their turning efforts on bowls.

January and February were no different this year as Wayne invited members for two hands-on sessions. Rick Bucker and Jack Frost participated in the January session.

“As a novice turner,” said Bucker,

“I found the bowl turning session to be excellent. Wayne was very patient and provided excellent instruction. I would highly recommend the course. I just need the time to practice what I learned.”

“Wayne is an excellent teacher” said Frost. He went over about the same thing as the club meeting (January 2004) but in more detail. Even though I have been turning bowls for a number of years I

learned a few new techniques that I am already using.”

Bob Harris attended the February session and, because of a cancellation, had Wayne's expertise all to himself. “I saw Wayne demoing in New Prague last fall, got interested, joined the club and got myself equipped for turning. I tried some bowls earlier in the year, but wanted to get some tips from Wayne. It was great,” said Harris.



Left photo: Jack Frost had reversed his bowl on the lathe prior to hollowing. Below: Rick Bucker, right, proudly displayed his freshly turned project along side his teacher, veteran MWA member Wayne Keifer.



Hazards *continued from Page 7*

who wear glasses, or persons with smaller faces.

Frey also briefly addressed other non-respiratory hazards that might be encountered in the shop – auditory and eye protection. A range of inexpensive and effective noise-reduction systems, from foam or rubber ear plugs to a more expensive ear muff with a built-in FM radio, were discussed. He recommends protective eyewear,

even if using a full-face shield. Protective eyewear should meet ANSI Z87.1-1997 requirements, and include wrap-around or side-shield design.

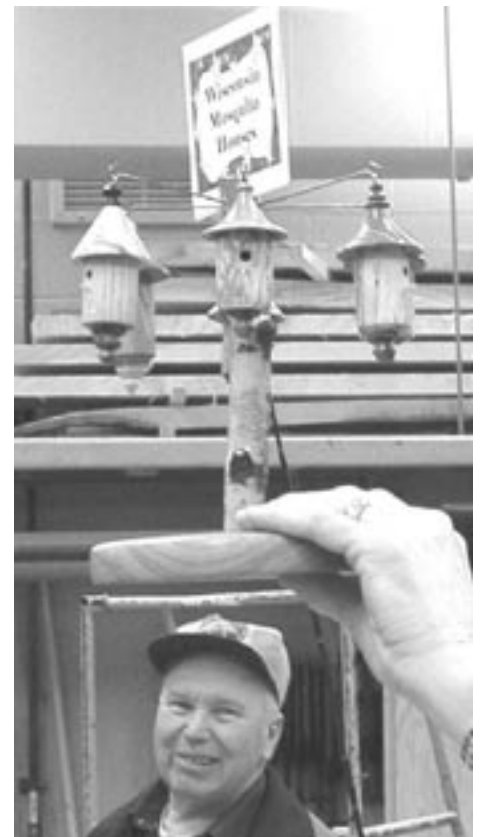
Frey, who is also a woodworker, presented a wealth of material on a difficult and rather technical subject in an understandable manner. His use of a Power Point presentation and handouts was helpful in following along, and the opportunity for questions and answers helped clarify a number of

issues for those present.

Cliff Frey is a Senior Technical Service Representative for 3M, and is a Certified Industrial Hygienist. The 3M Occupational Health & Environmental Safety Division Technical Service department can be reached at 1-800-243-4630; Internet www.3M.com/occsafety; or E-mail at occsafety@mmm.com. He encouraged members to feel free to contact the department with questions. There is no charge.

March Show & Tell turnings show humor, imagination

Another MWA Show & Tell session, left photo, featured turned fishing lures by Tim Heil along with an assortment of tools and bowls. Below, Jim Dotseth showed his pleasure as his collection of turned bird houses was discussed during the session. Jim's sign reads "Wisconsin Mosquito Houses."



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Marty Loso, Crystal
Joe Cruz, White Bear Lake
Will Fifer, Golden Valley
Jose Palmieri, Minneapolis
Dean Eidem, Mound
Matt Erickson, Harris, Minn.
John Anderson, Jr.,
Bloomington
Paul Wilcox, Shoreview
Mark McKinley, Lakeville
Alan Morris, Woodbury

Dave Carr,
White Bear Lake
Denise Prince, Chanhassen
Josef Ugro Jr., Mahtomedi
Dan Rominski,
St. Mary's Point
Tim Bruns, Golden Valley
Mike & Jeanne Molamphy,
White Bear Lake
Jay Bergstrand,
Balsam Lake, Wis.

Lacer *continued from Page 1*

would benefit from a review of the basics, but Alan kept us all awake and attentive and learning throughout the day. Even the cautionary references to safety were presented so that we could identify with the issues as serious ones, ranging from dust control to the need for full face protection.

Alan provided a handout listing sources of woodturning tools and supplies. Also included were the tools he considers essential for spindle turning, face work, and end-grain hollowing, along with examples of projects in each of these areas.

We started with a review of the three basic parts of a lathe (headstock, tailstock, tool rest assemblies) and covered the various ways of securing stock for turning, with a discussion of the pros and cons of each. Live centers, dead centers, faceplates, spurs, screw drives, scroll chucks, the value of a hand wheel on the headstock, variable power vs. belt drive – were also included. Alan presented a short video clip covering the development of lathes from ancient to modern times, illustrating how the essential nature of woodturning has not changed over the millennia except in terms of the tools we use.

We then moved on to a discussion of scrapers, parting (or sizing) tools, skews, and gouges. Alan pointed out how confusing some of our terminology has become – for example, one gouge may be variously called a spindle, shallow, detail, coving, fingernail, or lady-finger gouge – all referring to the same tool.

The focus then moved to sharpening – probably the number one challenge faced by many turners, and certainly something that has been—or still is—the nemesis of each of us. Alan discussed in detail, and answered many questions, about grinders and grinding wheels, problems of sharpening our tools, and knowing when they are sharp. Time was spent on the scraper, the parting or sizing tool, the skew, roughing gouge, and detail and bowl gouges. (For a more detailed description of learning to sharpen properly, refer to Alan's two articles in the fall and winter, 2003, issues of the *American Woodturner*. The articles are available on his web site.)

*sharpening...
the number one
challenge faced by
many turners*

In the afternoon Alan demonstrated turning between centers, starting with the so-called roughing gouge and its uses. He demonstrated technique with a spindle gouge, scooping coves and rolling beads. He recommends becoming proficient with the spindle gouge before attempting to master the skew. He completed the between centers session by making a handle for a gouge, demonstrating fitting a ferrule, customizing the fit to your own hand, and drilling a hole to hold the tang. We were even taught how to fit a flat tang into a handle without having a loose-fitting oversized hole.

Alan completed the day with a demonstration of turning a bowl

from a piece of green maple that had been cut about four months ago. The demonstration began with 1) pointers on how to cut the log and eliminate the pith, 2) proper technique for rounding it safely on a band saw, 3) attaching a faceplate with #12 sheet metal screws, and 4) selecting a gouge. The bowl was then roughly shaped, prepared for a faceplate, and the faceplate attached. Alan used a Jacobs chuck and a drill bit to drill a hole into the open face of the bowl to the approximate depth to be hollowed. He then removed the wood from the interior with the bowl gouge. All this was accompanied by helpful discussion of each step, taking time to answer questions as they came up. The end product was a bowl turned green which would then be dried and turned again to final dimensions.

An article of this length and nature cannot begin to include the level of detail and information shared with the club members. Suffice it to say, it was clear to this writer why Alan Lacer has the reputation of being “one of the best.” He speaks from a broad base of experience and knowledge and has the elusive ability to communicate effectively while teaching. Anyone wishing to begin woodturning, or improving his or her skills, would do well to spend some time with Alan.

He can be contacted by e-mail at: alan@alanlacer.com, or by telephone at 715-426-9451. He lives in River Falls, WI, a short drive from the Twin Cities metro area. His web site is www.alanlacer.com and contains articles he has written, as well as information on his schedule, his videos and DVDs, and some tools.

AAW members asked to respond to online survey

The American Association of Woodturners (AAW) asks members to fill out an online survey about the *American Woodturner* magazine at:

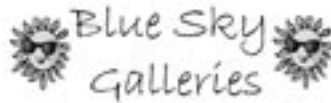
<http://www.woodturner.org>

The short survey also includes a couple questions about the revamped AAW web site. The survey will be available until April 15.

The national organization also announced it would post rules on the web site for two new AAW awards: Best Chapter Newsletter and Best Chapter Web Site. The AAW board will recognize the top three newsletters and web sites at the Orlando symposium.

-- Carl Voss, editor,

American Woodturner



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Club member in AAW magazine

Veteran MWA member John Magnussen was featured in the Winter 2003 issue of *American Woodturner* magazine. Photos and descriptions of John's work with chrysalis and of his birdhouse ornaments appear on page 35 of that issue.

Nice going, John!

Classifieds

FREE MEMBER ADVERTISING
Free turning-related ads
for members.

COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING
\$4.00/month per column inch. To
place ad, contact Don Roden at
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Steve Tiedman, 763-789-4505

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stand. Clean and well maintained.
Many extras.
Tim Heil, 651-492-3047. \$400.00

Craft Supplies order deadline extended to April 13

The current MWA CRAFT SUPPLIES group order deadline has been extended to April 13, the date of our April membership meeting. To qualify for a discount and free shipping, our club order must total a minimum of \$1,000 and be shipped to one address. As in the past, we consolidate our individual orders and submit to Craft Supplies, who will advise us of net cost; we will then notify each member to send payment while the order is being shipped. For each item ordered, you must include:

- page #
- quantity
- item #
- price
- item description

All orders to be sent to Ron Meilahn. Send your orders via email or surface mail as follows:

Email: ronmeilahn@usfamily.net

Surface mail:

Ron Meilahn
13968 Alder St NW
Andover, MN 55304

You may also bring your written order to the April 13 membership meeting at the Roseville Area H.S. woodshop. If you don't have a Craft Supplies catalog, call them at 1-800-551-8876, and have them mail a catalog to you.

If you have any questions, call Ron at 763-862-2100.

NEW EMAIL ADDRESS? NEW PHONE NUMBER?

Keep us in the loop! Please
advise Don Roden if any of
your contact information has
changed -especially your
email address. Just email
updated information to:
droden@mninter.net .
Thank you!

Members' Meeting
April 13

**Tom Shields to
demonstrate his
shop-built
laser assisted
deep hollowing
unit**



MWA member Tom Shields, North Mankato, will demonstrate his shop-built laser assisted hollowing rig at the April 13 MWA membership meeting. Tom built the laser system based on one he had seen on an Internet woodturning web site.

Date

Tuesday, April 13

Time

7–9:00 p.m. (Note: New start time)

Location

Roseville Area H.S. woodshop

The school is located on County Road B2 (1 block north of Hwy 36) between Hamline and Lexington Avenues.

Meetings are held in the woodshop, at the east end of building. As you enter the school parking lot, veer left (east) to the end of the building. The door to the woodshop is on the south side of the dumpsters. Ample parking is available in the school parking lot.

Activities

Library Rentals

Wood raffle

Sealer sales

Show 'n tell



Minnesota Woodturners Association
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www.mnwoodturners.com

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