

# Minnesota Woodturners

## A S S O C I A T I O N

A LOCAL CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS

Volume 2014, No. 3, Rev. 1  
August, 2014



MWA Chain Saw Gang

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# In this issue

<b>President's Message</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Membership Info</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>MWA Wood Sealer Program</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Supplier Discounts to MWA Members</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Safety</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Beads of Courage, Letter of Appreciation</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Becoming a wood turner</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Pictures from Monthly Meetings</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>American Craft Council Show</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Upcoming Events</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>MWA Woodlot Cutting Day</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>MWA Small Group Classes</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>The Rockler Challenge</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Regional Events</b>	<b>14</b>



## President's Message



Midsummer already here!  
Our look at 501(c)(3).  
July meetings a big success!

MWA board elections soon, your chance to make this chapter even better!!

This summer has been compacted to a few weeks because of the late spring and heavy rains in June.

In spite of this our members have been attending our meetings in record numbers! Thank you very much.

Like many of you I've been traveling around the state on short vacation trips. I just returned from the Boundary Waters, I'm afraid hard paddling and sleeping on the ground is starting to catch up to me! We also took our small travel trailer out for a trip to the Harmony/Lonsdale area where I found a non-profit gallery looking for quality turned pieces. Ask me about this.

As you know the board was looking into becoming a 501(c)(3) tax exempt chapter of the AAW. After several weeks of research our committee reached the conclusion that the extensive paperwork needed to maintain this status verses the return did not make sense at this time. We are however considered a 501(c)(4) which means the IRS recognizes our club as a non-profit.

Future MWA boards may apply for 501(c)(3) status, if

it makes good business sense.

We had a great demo in July by Jim Jacobs, who made twenty kits for Beads of Courage bowls for our members to take home and turn, and then showed us his method of turning them for the B.O.C. kids. His dedication to this cause is remarkable!

This meeting was followed on July 17th by a 2 ½ hour presentation by Steve Hagen the rep for Stihl chainsaws showing us safe use and maintenance of your chainsaw. Even though I have ten years of cutting wood for our wood furnace I learned several things from Steve that will make me a safer cutter in the future.

Please note: Our chapter of the AAW will soon be recruiting candidates for openings on the MWA board of directors. This can be your opportunity to make a meaningful contribution to this great group of woodturners. Watch for announcements next month.

Don't miss the blasts Rick Auge sends out for continuing classes on a variety of turning skills for our members at the very affordable price of \$15 for the evening classes.

You will see the locations of these classes move around the twin cities as much as possible for the convenience of our members.

As we move into late summer and fall we need to clean up our woodlots and double seal any logs we will have to leave for spring. This means lots of rouging out bowls for the winter.

Watch for a blast setting a date for cutting wood for bowl blanks at our Lakeville woodpile in early Sept.

Please look over the MWA website, there is a lot of information available.

Thank you for your membership in this great woodturning group! Please contact me with your thoughts. We need to hear from you!, if you have a complaint tell me, I'll do my best to fix it, and if you have a compliment, I'll pass that along to the deserving member. This is your club turners, be involved!

*Thank you, Neil Robinette*  
*MWA President*

## Membership Info

Why Become a Member of MWA:

- Instant Gallery and critique of gallery items at monthly meetings.
- Monthly turning Challenges.
- Woodturning demonstration at monthly meetings.
- Access to videos in the club library.
- Access to a wide variety of turning tools.
- All-day demonstrations by nationally recognized woodturning experts.
- Forum to discuss woodturning topics (i.e. tools and chucks, finishes, tips, techniques, etc.) with other members.
- Newsletters.
- Receive a discount at participating merchants by presenting your current membership card prior to making a purchase.
- Events, such as small-group hands-on sessions

If you'd like to become a member of the MWA, please contact the MWA Membership Director, Paul Laes, [woodforfun@hotmail.com](mailto:woodforfun@hotmail.com).

Membership dues are \$30 annually.

## MWA Wood Sealer Program

The chapter has purchased Anchorseal Wood Sealer in bulk. MWA members can purchase it for \$10/gallon. Our club could use a few clean, empty gallon jugs, such as windshield washer fluid jugs, for bottling. Bring some to our monthly meetings. This super bargain sealer is available at our monthly meetings, or contact the following people for other special arrangements:

Larry McPeck - [specialout@aol.com](mailto:specialout@aol.com)

Bob Jensen - [1woodworker@earthlink.net](mailto:1woodworker@earthlink.net)

Neil Robinette - [neilka@embarqmail.com](mailto:neilka@embarqmail.com)

Jim Jacobs, Hastings - [woodmanMN@aol.com](mailto:woodmanMN@aol.com)

Reed Jacobs, Bloomington - [reed@hope-pc.org](mailto:reed@hope-pc.org)

Steve Mages, Minnetonka - [smages@juno.com](mailto:smages@juno.com)

Rick Auge, Shoreview - [rauge2003@gmail.com](mailto:rauge2003@gmail.com)

## Supplier Discounts to MWA Members

The following suppliers offer special discounts to MWA members. To receive a discount you must be a member in good standing, and show your current membership card to the merchant.

### Abrasive Resource

900 Lund Blvd #400, Anoka, MN  
763-586-9595 or 1-800-814-7358

No showroom - Internet or catalog orders only.

Sandpaper, coated abrasives, rolls,  
clearance items - 20% discount

[www.abrasiveresource.com](http://www.abrasiveresource.com)

### Forest Products Supply

2650 Maplewood Drive  
(NE corner of County Rd. C and Hwy 61),  
Maplewood, MN 55109

Phone: (651) 770-2834

[www.forestproductssupply.com](http://www.forestproductssupply.com)

Discount for MWA members:  
10% discount on all lumber purchases.

### Rockler Woodworking

Burnsville, 2020 W Cty Rd 42  
952-892-7999

Maplewood, 1935 Beam Ave  
651-773-5285

Minnetonka, 12995 Ridgedale Dr  
952-542-0111

10% discount on all regularly  
priced items, except power tools.  
Wholesale lumber prices to MWA members.

[www.rockler.com](http://www.rockler.com)

### Woodcraft

9125 Lyndale Ave S, Bloomington  
952-884-3634

10% discount on all items, except power tools.

[www.woodcraft.com](http://www.woodcraft.com)

### Youngblood Lumber Company

1335 Central AVE, MPLS.  
612-789-3521

Wholesale prices to MWA members.

[www.youngbloodlumber.com](http://www.youngbloodlumber.com)

## Safety

Safe, effective use of a wood lathe requires study and knowledge of procedures for using this tool. Read, thoroughly understand, and follow the label warnings on the lathe and in the owner/operator's manual. Safety guidelines from an experienced instructor, video, or book are a good source of important safety procedures. Please work safely.

### Safety is YOUR responsibility.

1. Always wear safety goggles or safety glasses that include side protectors. Use a full faceshield for bowl, vessel, or any turning involving chucks and faceplates.
2. Fine particles from a grinder and wood dust are harmful to your respiratory system. Use a dust mask, air filtration helmet, proper ventilation, dust collection system, or a combination of these to deal with this serious issue. Be especially mindful of dust from many exotic woods, spalted woods, or any wood from which you notice a skin or respiratory reaction.
3. Wear hearing protection during extended periods of turning.
4. Turn the lathe off before adjusting the tool rest or tool rest base, i.e., banjo.
5. Remove chuck keys, adjusting wrenches, and knockout bars. Form a habit of checking for these before turning on the lathe.
6. Tie back long hair; do not wear gloves; and avoid loose clothing, jewelry, or any dangling objects that may catch on rotating parts or accessories.
7. When using a faceplate, be certain the workpiece is solidly mounted with stout screws (#10 or #12 sheet metal screws as a minimum). Do not use dry wall or deck screws. When turning between centers, be certain the workpiece is firmly mounted between the headstock driving center and tailstock center.
8. Ensure the belt guard or cover is in place.
9. Check that all locking devices on the tailstock and tool rest assembly (rest and base) are tight before operating the lathe.
10. Ensure the blank is securely fastened.
11. Rotate your workpiece by hand to make sure it clears the toolrest and bed before turning the lathe on. Be certain that the workpiece turns freely and is firmly mounted. A handwheel on the headstock simplifies this process of spinning the lathe by hand before turning on the switch.
12. Be aware of what turners call the "red zone" or "firing zone." This is the area directly behind and in front of the workpiece, the areas most likely for a piece to travel as it comes off the lathe. A good safety habit is to step out of this zone when turning on the lathe, keeping your hand on the switch in case you need to turn the machine off. When observing someone else turn, stay out of this zone.
13. Always **check the speed** of the lathe before turning it on. Use slower speeds for larger diameters or rough pieces and higher speeds for smaller diameters and pieces that are balanced. Always start a piece at a slower speed until the workpiece is balanced. If the lathe is shaking or vibrating, lower the speed. If the workpiece vibrates, always stop the machine to verify why. As a starting point, consult your operator's manual for recommended speeds for a particular lathe. Ensure the lathe speed is compatible with the size of the blank.
14. Exercise extra caution when using stock with cracks, splits, checks, bark pockets, knots, irregular shapes, or protuberances. Beginners should avoid these types of stock until they have greater knowledge of working such wood.
15. Hold turning tools securely on the toolrest, holding the tool in a controlled but comfortable manner. Always contact the tool rest with the tool before contacting the wood.
16. Note that, when running a lathe in reverse, it is possible for a chuck or faceplate to unscrew unless it is securely tightened or locked on the lathe spindle.
17. Know your capabilities and limitations. An experienced woodturner is capable of lathe speeds, techniques, and procedures not recommended for beginning turners.
18. Always remove the tool rest before sanding, finishing, or polishing operations.
19. Don't overreach, keep proper footing, and keep your balance at all times.
20. Keep lathe in good repair. Check for damaged parts, alignment, binding of moving parts, and other conditions that may affect its operation.
21. Keep tools sharp and clean for better and safer performance. Don't force a dull tool. Don't use a tool for a purpose that it was not designed for or intended for.
22. Consider your work environment. Don't use a lathe in damp or wet locations. Do not use in presence of inflammable liquids or gases, and always keep a fully-charged fire extinguisher close at hand. Keep your work area well lit.
23. Stay alert. Watch what you are doing. Pay close attention to unusual sounds or vibrations. Stop the lathe to investigate the cause. Don't operate machines when you are tired or under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
24. Guard against electric shock. Inspect electric cords for damage. Avoid the use of extension cords.
25. Never leave the lathe running unattended. Turn power off. Don't leave lathe until it comes to a complete stop.
26. Many accidents to woodturners occur while using saws, especially band and chain saws. Learn and follow the safety guidelines for this equipment.

Source, **American Association of Woodturners** web site, *reprinted with permission.*



## Beads of Courage, Letter of Appreciation

In August, we received this letter from the mother of a child who received a B.O.C. lidded box from our Chapter.

*Dear Mr. Robinette,*

*Many thanks to the MN Woodturners for their donation of jars to the Children's Hospital Beads of Courage Program.*

*My daughter Lyla, 5, recently finished her second year-long course of chemotherapy treatment for brain cancer. She loves her beads and they have a place of honor in our home. Having such a beautiful vessel in which to store them makes them even more special.*

*I thought you might enjoy this photo of Lyla's beads in her jar. Please pass on our sincere thanks to your members -- especially Gordon Fay who made Lyla's piece -- for the beautiful, artful contribution to this program to encourage our little fighter. You've made a special day even more special.*

*Sincerely,*

*Emily Mamun*



## Becoming a wood turner

Warren Gerber

### *Revised*

I needed a hobby. Once I retired I needed something to fill in the empty time. I got real tired of sleeping in late, or going to McDonalds for senior coffee, or thinking about joining a bridge club. And I just did not think I was ready for the Senior Center, although it is a fine place with lots of nice people. I first checked out woodworking, like building tables and chairs and bookcases and end tables and desks and lots of other furniture for the house. But we really do not have any space in our house for any of this kind of stuff; in fact we already have too much furniture. Besides I soon found out that it required a serious investment in fancy table saws, jointers, planers, routers, wood clamps and lots of other expensive machinery. I was only starting out with a hand held circular saw, a good electric drill, a nice orbital sander, lots of hand tools that might come in handy, as well as several buckets of nails, bolts and screws. Spending a lot of money for the new equipment I would need seemed a little excessive. So with no use for the end product and no real equipment to make the furniture I gave up on the woodworking idea.

Next I started to check out woodturning as a possible way to spend some time. This looked like a relatively simple hobby to get started with; a midi lathe from Craig's list for about \$350 bucks, a few used gouges and scrapers, scrap wood I already had laying around, a few trees in the back yard, and finally a use for the drawer full of sandpaper I had accumulated over the past 50 years. There seemed to be a lot of neat wood turning things to make like pens, which everyone could use, wine stoppers for my few relatives who do not drink the whole bottle at one sitting, mushrooms, candle sticks, jewelry, little boxes, wooden spinning tops, and ice cream scoop handles. There just seemed to be a lot of things to make and some of them might even be useful, if not for use in our own home, then to give away as gifts. It sounded like a real good solution for Christmas, birthdays, weddings and anniversaries for the next decade or more.

Before long I found a midi lathe on Craig's list that sounded pretty good. I went to the bank, pulled out

the \$350 I would need, and before I could pick it up someone else bought it. So as long as I had the money in my pocket I decided to look at the other equipment I would need to support my new hobby. My new shop was going to be in the basement, right next to the forced air furnace. Someone told me that without taking good care of the dust involved in woodturning I would be spreading large quantities of dust around the house. So I installed a dust collector and an air purifier to manage the dust, for about double the \$350 I had in my pocket. Next I found a band saw on Craig's list that would be needed to shape the wood into something I could mount on the lathe. That was another \$350. Then I went to a tool sharpening class and found I needed a bench grinder. That could have been another \$350 but I found something a bit less expensive. Then just by chance I met a wood turner who turned mostly box elder bowls, and they were really beautiful. He said I should forget about getting a midi lathe and buy a bigger one. He said "Everyone starts out turning about 25 pens, 30 bottle stoppers, 15 wooden tops, and then they look for something bigger to make, like bowls and platters. Big lathes can do the small things but the small lathes can not handle large pieces of wood. Sooner or later you will replace the midi lathe for something larger". He then sold me a \$75 bowl gouge to get me started on the right track. Next I needed a chain saw, safety chaps, face mask, and I even built a Minnesota WoodTurners wood processing kit so I could use the saw safely. But, I still did not have a lathe.

After a long, long shopping experience looking at every possible option I finally bought a Nova 16/24. Plus a \$200 chuck so I could use it. It cost a lot, a lot more than my original budget of \$350. I had two members of the Minnesota WoodTurners Association help me set the lathe up in my basement and they provided me with many tips to get started correctly with my new hobby. When my wife came down to the woodshop to inspect the progress they told her that my new lathe was a really good purchase and that it would be sufficient for my woodturning needs for many years. For her that was small comfort.

So now I was ready to become a woodturner. I got everything all set, some wood mounted on the lathe, got my bowl gouge sharpened and ready, safety glasses on, face shield down, turned on the switch and plunged the basement into total darkness. I found a face shield

is handy when you are working your way out of a shop in the dark with new equipment everywhere in your path. I had not planned on needing an electrician to rewire my basement.

But this can all be overcome. What is harder to live with is the reaction I received from family and friends over the results of my early woodturning projects. I spent 3 hours making a nice natural edged mushroom that I bought up from the shop to show my wife. She asked me what it was, which I found rather insulting, and then she gave me that same type of compliment she gives the grandchildren when they present her with a coloring project. "Good job". I mean really, if she could not identify it as a mushroom it certainly did not qualify as a "good job". So back to the shop for another go, maybe a candle stick. How could you possibly mess up a candle stick?

Now that I can actually make a bowl and make it look pretty good, and is recognized by my wife as a bowl, I am thinking a variable speed lathe would be really nice. It takes about 20 seconds to change the speed on my lathe but I could save those seconds with a lathe

that costs about double what I spent on the one I have. Time is money you know and changing the belt is wasting time. But the guys who helped me set up my lathe and told my wife that it would be sufficient for my wood turning needs for many years have poisoned the water. How am I going to get bigger lathe with variable speed when the expectations from the kitchen are that what I have is good enough? It has not been many years yet, it has not even been one year. In addition there have been a bunch of \$75 gouges and scrapers and parting tools added to the inventory, a power sander, air compressor, waxes and oils and buffers and paint and lights and wood sealer.

I see myself as a woodturner now. I have a MWA membership badge and travel with a chain saw and wood sealer in my SUV looking for trees that might be useful for some project. If I just had a little more practice I might get good enough to be able to sell a bowl to someone who is not a relative. Then I could start looking for bigger lathe.

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## Pictures from Monthly Meetings



Bob Boettcher, June 2014



Mike Hunter, August 2014



Jim Jacobs, July 2014

## American Craft Council Show

Earlier this year, in April, the MWA participated in the American Craft Council show at the Saint Paul River Centre. Here is a collection of photos highlighting items presented by professional artists from around the country.



Tim Niewiadomski  
Akron, OH



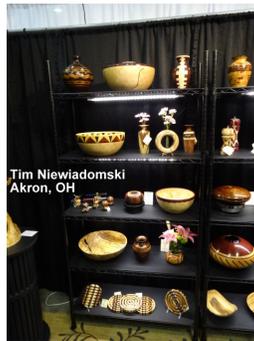
Tim Niewiadomski  
Akron, OH



Tim Niewiadomski  
Akron, OH



Tim Niewiadomski  
Akron, OH



Tim Niewiadomski  
Akron, OH



Michael Mode  
New Haven, VT



Michael Mode  
New Haven, VT



Michael Mode  
New Haven, VT



Michael Mode  
New Haven, VT



Martha Collins  
Sequim, WA



Martha Collins  
Sequim, WA



Martha Collins  
Sequim, WA

# American Craft Council Show



Martha Collins  
Sequim, WA



Martha Collins  
Sequim, WA



Steve Baldwin  
Omaha, NE



Steve Baldwin  
Omaha, NE



Steve Baldwin  
Omaha, NE



Glen Hambleton demonstrating

## Upcoming Events

### Monthly Membership Meetings

At each meeting there will be a Wood raffle and the club library will be available.

**September 2, 2014 (6:00 – 9:00 PM)**

This month the demo will be a Skype presentation with Professional, Trent Bosch, for a look at Trent's style and creativity go to: <http://trentbosch.com>

As with any demo questions are encouraged!

Trent will be shipping a container of his work to the meeting for our members to look at while he describes some of his tooling methods.

There will not be a charge for this pro demo.

Depending on how long this pro demo runs we will try to include all of our regular activities.

**October 7, 2014 (6:00 – 9:00 PM)**

**November 4, 2014 (6:00 – 9:00 PM)**

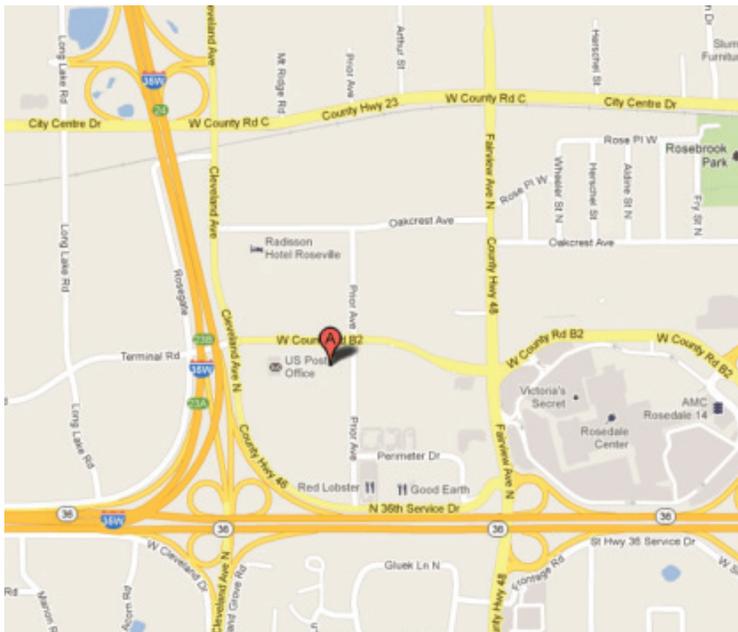
### MWA Board Meetings

Board meetings are scheduled for every month, on the Tuesday after the monthly meeting. They are held at the Salvation Army Headquarters (see inset below). All MWA members are welcome to attend.

**September 9, 2014 (7:00 - 8:30 PM)**

**October 14, 2014 (7:00 - 8:30 PM)**

**November 11, 2014 (7:00 - 8:30 PM)**



Monthly Meetings are held at:  
Salvation Army Headquarters  
2445 Prior Avenue North  
Roseville, MN  
Time: 6:00 social, meeting starts at 6:30

## Upcoming Pro Demos

Each three day event consists of two days of hands on, small group sessions.

Jason Swanson  
Woodturner/Instructor/Demonstrator

**Saturday, October 25, 2014** All day demo

Time: 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Location: University of Minnesota

E117 Regis Center for Art

405 21st Avenue South

Minneapolis, MN 55455

Fee: \$25

**October 24 and 26, 2014** Small group sessions

Limit: 8 per class

Location: Woodcraft

9125 Lyndale Ave. South

Bloomington, MN 55420

Time: 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Contact: Mike Hunter [MLH55410@aol.com](mailto:MLH55410@aol.com)

Fee: \$75.00



For your Holiday presents, Jason is well known for Pepper Mills. I teach and demonstrate woodturning all across the country now at local clubs, Woodcraft stores, woodturning symposiums, and at Folk Art Schools, including John C. Campbell in Brasstown, NC.

The segmented peppermills have literally taken me across the country in both teaching and demonstrating how I make them.

Jason Swanson <http://www.wiwoodguy.com>



## MWA Woodlot Cutting Day

Need wood for turning?

MWA is planning a “cutting day” in Lakeville.

If you would like to add to your wood pile join the MWA chain saw gang on Sat. Sept. 6th from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM .

No need to bring a saw as only members of the chain saw gang will be cutting wood to order for three hours in the morning .

The Lakeville MWA wood pile address is 22702 Hamburg Ave. , Lakeville MN. On Cedar Ave. just south of the Airlake airport.

Directions are: Take Cedar Ave South to 225th , turn right, then left on Hamburg ½ block to Mark Parranto’s Applewood Orchard.

The wood pile is made up of Maple, Ash, etc. and Mark will have some fresh apple from his orchard as well.

If your interested contact me with your RSVP. I hope to have several members show up and it will be good to know how many are coming.

Neil Robinette - [neilka@embarqmail.com](mailto:neilka@embarqmail.com)



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## MWA Small Group Classes

Our class coordinators, Rick Auge and Alan Nelson, are developing the curriculum for small group classes. These will be held at different locations around the Twin Cities area. Below is a list of classes that will be offered. Watch your email for MWA blasts and the MWA website for information on dates and locations. Rick and Alan would like to hear from you if you have ideas for future classes. They can be contacted at

Rick Auge [rauge2003@gmail.com](mailto:rauge2003@gmail.com)

Alan Nelson [dr.alan.nelson@gmail.com](mailto:dr.alan.nelson@gmail.com)

Upcoming Classes (Times and locations will be announced in an e-mail blast)

September 17: Sharpening Class, Neil Robinette’s Shop .

September 18: Lidded Box Class, Rockler in Maplewood,



## The Rockler Challenge

At each of our regular monthly meetings we plan on having a turning challenge for our members. This is currently sponsored by Rockler Woodworking and they are providing prizes in the form of gift cards. The purpose of the monthly challenge is to encourage club members to participate, no matter what their skill level. The main thing is to have fun. There will be awards given in various categories each month, with categories aimed at beginners and experienced turners alike.

**September Rockler Challenge:** Off-Center turnings.

Surprisingly easy but needs lots of practice to perfect.

These turnings are some of the most creative of all. Candle sticks, Pens, Baseball bats, or bowls can all be turned off center producing strange but graceful looking creations.

Go to You Tube for videos that will inspire you. Winners will receive Woodcraft gift certificates.

And don't forget; one category for judging will be for 'first time entries' so don't be bashful!

**October Rockler Challenge:** Lidded Boxes!

If you've made a box for Beads of Courage your ready to enter this challenge with something big, or small.

This may become one of the most popular challenges of the year because boxes can be both functional and very creative at the same time.

Our judges will be looking for the exceptional from the long time turners and our talented new turners.

Your entry will become part of our challenge photos in the next newsletter.

Turners, start your lathes.



The Minnesota Woodturners Association is a local chapter of the American Association of Woodturners.

## Regional Events

### Chippewa Valley Woodturners Guild

#### 6th Annual Expressions in Wood Expo October 25th and 26th, 2014

Formerly Wisconsin Woodturners Expo  
Eau Claire, Wisconsin

The 6th Annual Expressions in Wood Expo will be at the Plaza Hotel & Suites, 1202 W. Clairemont Ave., Eau Claire, Wisconsin, on Saturday and Sunday, October 25th and 26th, 2013. This event is presented jointly by Chippewa Valley Woodturners Guild and West Wisconsin Woodcarvers Guild.

Hours will be 8 AM - 6 PM on Saturday and 8 AM - 5 PM on Sunday. You will enjoy lathe woodturning demonstrations, exhibitors, vendors and an Instant Art Gallery. A Silent Auction will be held for supporting our youth outreach program.

We will also hold our "Learn-to-Turn" woodturning workshops for youths and beginning woodturners which was such an overwhelming success last year. There will also be hands-on demonstrations of woodcarving by the West Wisconsin Woodcarvers Guild. This will be a great opportunity to learn the basics of woodturning and woodcarving.

Having been recently at the art show at Springfest in Chippewa Falls in April, many of the same artisans will be presenting at this event. This will be a great opportunity to buy your Christmas gifts.

The professional demonstrators this year will be Allen Jensen of Loveland, CO and Tim Heil of Gem Lake, MN. Also, this year we will have Bob Boettcher from Minnesota Woodturners; Barry Grill and Mark Palma from the Chippewa Valley Woodturners. Wayne Dubberke from West Wisconsin Woodcarvers Guild will also demonstrate woodcarving. Many vendors will be performing woodturning and woodcarving tasks in their booths.