



Minnesota WoodTurners Association

A LOCAL CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS

AAW | AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
OF WOODTURNERS

Volume 2023 March



March
Demonstrator

Mark Palma
**"What I Wish Someone
Would Have Told Me
About Turning When I
Started"**



In This Issue

Minnesota Woodturners Association

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Mike Rohrer - Newsletter

March Meeting

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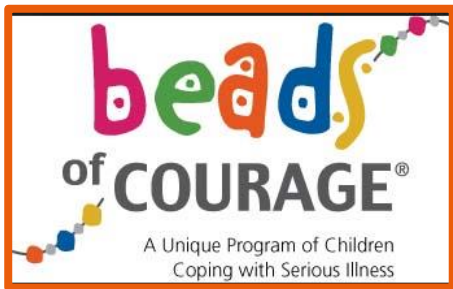
Please Wear a Nametag to the Meeting



It doesn't matter what the nametag looks like or what material as long as it's stuck on your front

The Editor





Beads of Courage is 20 years old!

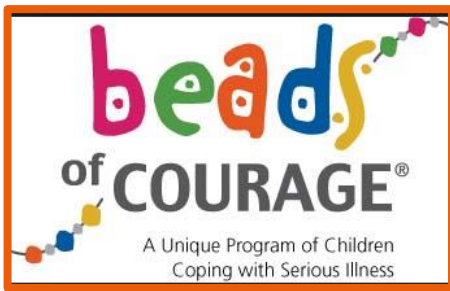


The first Beads of Courage program was piloted on this day, February 14, in 2003 at Phoenix Children's Hospital. Pictured here is Charlie, one of the very first Beads of Courage members when we piloted the program at Phoenix Children's Hospital in 2003. He graduated from high school in 2021.



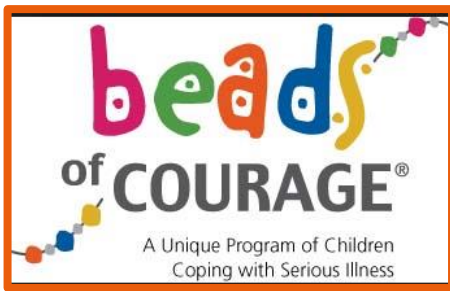
Jay Schulz manages the Beads of Courage program for the MWA





Steve Legvold managed the BoC desk for Jay Schulz this month. Lots of great contributions to BoC.





Jim Robertson



Steve Legvold



Martin Young



Don Schlais

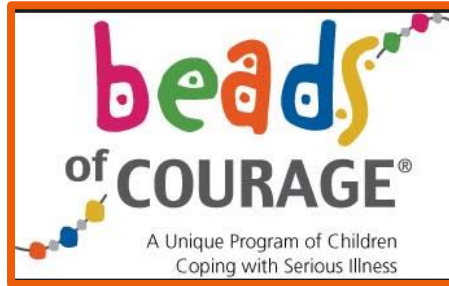


Greg Just





Mark Kelliher



Kraig Brue



Doug Swanson



Tim Rystrom



Jay Schulz





Ken Schwichtenburg



Cindy Erickson

Jay and Rhonda made a delivery on March 21 to
UM Masonic Children's Hospital



Cindy Erickson Cec Rohrer, Diane Puetz, Pete Withoff



Don Schlais



Bob Meyer, Ken
Schwichtenberg



Anonymous



Remember folks, **EVERY** bead is a procedure these kids have gone through





Instant Gallery (on – line)

Alan Fletcher





Instant Gallery (on – line)

Tim Olson



Warren Gerber has run across this excellent turner,
Tim Olson, at the Green Valley Woodworking Club





Instant Gallery (on – line)

Jim Richardson



Warren Gerber also found Jim Richardson making these plant stands from old telephone poles. He will be leaving the cracks as they are and putting on some stain as finish. Wood is hard to find here in the desert southwest.





Instant Gallery (at the meeting)



Mark Wedul - ash



Paul Laes

Jim Jacobs –
lidded vessel





Instant Gallery (at the meeting)



Linda Ferber



Ken Klein - walnut



Ken Klein - maple



Ken Klein - oak



Ken Klein - maple



Don Schlais - goblets





Instant Gallery (at the meeting)



Don Schlais –tumbling cubes



Dan Ernst –walnut, plastic threads



Burl - unknown

Eric Koslowski





Instant Gallery (at the meeting)



Jane Weisman - cherry



Greg Just –
cherry, padauk





Instant Gallery

If you have turned something recently, bring it to the **INSTANT GALLERY** at the meeting or email a photograph to mdrprof@gmail.com



Dog & Cat Monopoly





Before the Demo

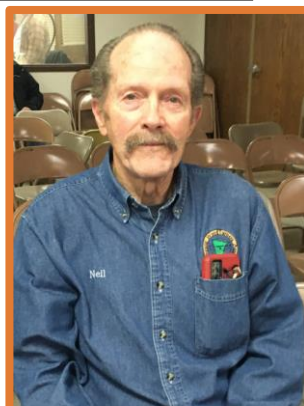


Jeff Koltveit has his Woodcraft material set up as folks begin to arrive. *

*You can contact Jeff to have him bring something from Woodcraft and you can pay for it at the meeting. If you are an MWA member, you will get 10% off. jlued@q.com



Brian Karsjens ready for Mark's demo



Neil Robinette has been attending for decades



Bob Puetz and Julie Abbott with wood (some exotic) for members



Don Pohlman gets a good seat

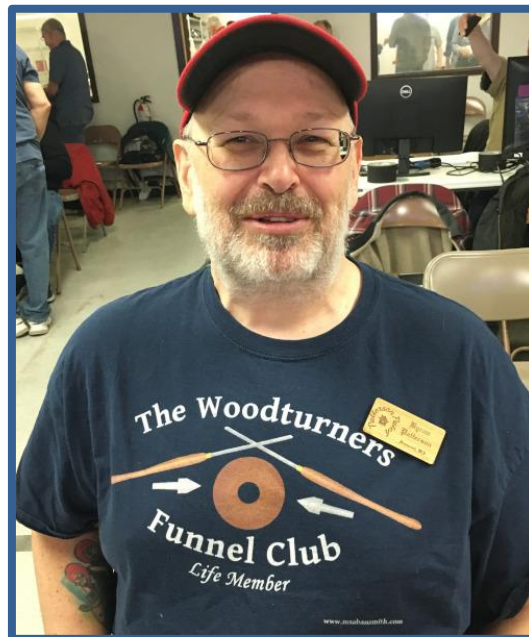




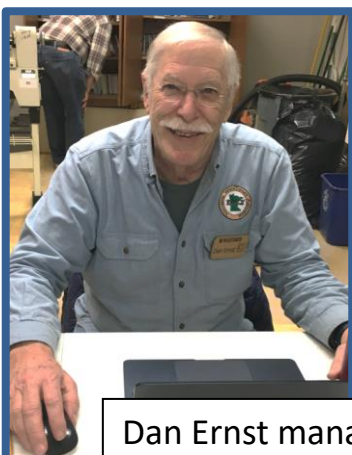
Before the Demo



Jeff Luedloff at the entrance with things for sale & silent auction



Byron Peterson & great T-shirt



Dan Ernst managing our exceptional CD library

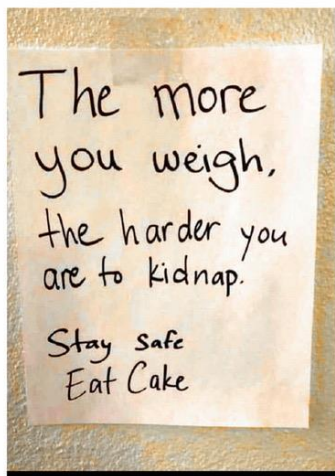


Pre-demo discussion



Ken Crea & Jeff Luedloff handling membership & sales

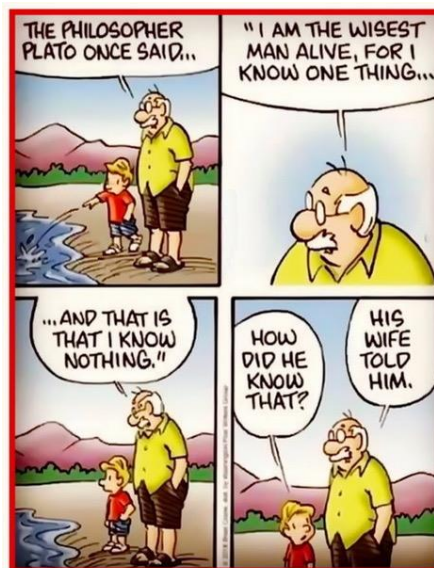




I accidentally wore a red shirt to Target today and, long story short, I'm covering for Debbie this weekend.



Had a bad mixup at the store today..when the cashier said strip down facing me, apparently she was referring to my credit card.



I'm so glad I was young and stupid BEFORE there were camera phones.

Thanks to Fred Schmoll





March Demonstration



Pres. Charlie Prokop shows us the very first bowl he ever turned



Linda Ferber announces the hands-on scoop class by Sally Ault



Jim Jacobs announces his skew class





March Demonstration

What I wish someone would have told me about turning when I started

By
Mark Palma



Pres. Charlie Prokop
introduces Mark Palma

Disclaimer

The view made in this demonstration are my own and I am not speaking on behalf of MWA, AAW or any magazine I may be affiliated with. They are provided to you for educational purposes only. Use personal protection equipment, safe and undamaged tools and lathe equipment and do not take risks or do the stupid things that turners do on YouTube. You can get hurt or killed.



For Sale

3 lathes (I bought by mistake based on the wrong features)
2 grinders (that are too complicated so I use dull tools)
3 chucks (that drive me nuts because the blank fly out and hit me in the head, but were on sale)
36 tools that were guaranteed to make turning effortless (except I can't make them cut)
Drawers full of jigs, fixtures, and accessories that don't do anything but gather dust?

So where did I go wrong???

The Secret-- there is no tool that makes turning effortless

Tools can help, but great turnings come from you, not the tools!



The Lathe

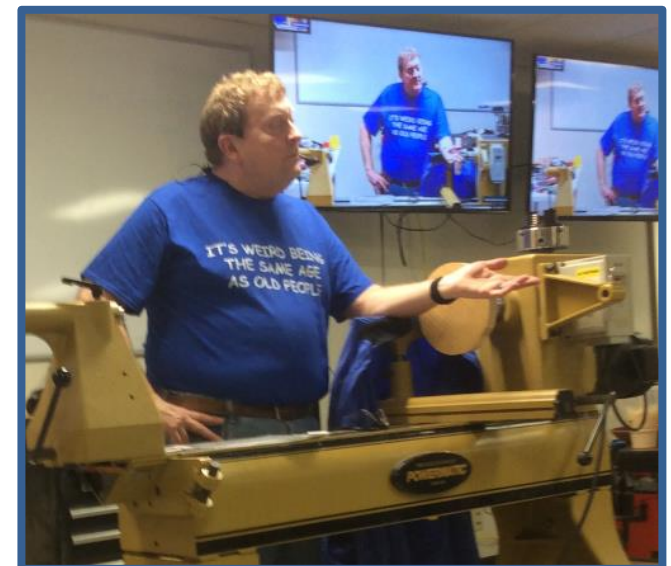
- What will we really turn?
- Ergonomics
- Weight, horsepower and swing
- Bed length
- Variable speed and belt changing
- Spindle lock
- Banjo and tail stock
- Thread size and quill
- Accuracy
- Electronics and Controls

Chucks

- Not the place to save money
- Size to your work
- Look at a family that you can expand jaw selection as your turning evolves
- Understand how to service
- Bare chuck bodies to expand your set
- Use tail stock support whenever possible

Lathe Accessories

- Throw your tool rests away and buy new ones!
- Streb and safe centers for spindle work
- Tail stock
- Indexing
- On indicators
- Upgrade clamping blocks



Reworking the bottom of your work

- Vacuum Chucking tips
 - Filter
 - Gauge tells the story
- Longworth chuck
- Doughnut chucks
- Jam chucks
- Use tail stock support!

PPE

- Protect your eyes!
- Dust extraction
- Gloves --the controversy
- Hearing protection
- Gel mat protect your feet
- Lathe height and body position
- Protect your lathe bed



Lathe Tune Up

- Line up the points
- Polish the bed and wax
- Banjo modification, lubrication and adjustment
- Clean your quill
- Ease all the edges
- Check the belt



WHAT TOOLS DO WE REALLY NEED TO START TURNING???

Dollar Store 6" Ruler and Pencil

- Measure chucks and tenons
- Set calipers
- Mark out boxes and determine bowl depth
- Check tenon and dovetails for shape
- Check platters for flatness and bottoms for how they will sit on a table
- Check measurements
- Lay out work and proportions

Spindle Work

- 3/8 Spindle gouge
- Spindle roughing gouge (around 1" or larger)
- Parting tool either 3/16" or 1/4"
- Pick quality over quantity
- Measuring caliper with rounded tips
- Later, detail gouge, thin parting tool, and if you want to punish yourself a skew



Bowls

- 1/2" and 3/8" bowl gouge
- Thick french curve flat scraper 3/8" thick
- Carbide tools (purests can pout here)
- Measuring tool
- Later add more scrapers (flat top or negative rake), bigger or smaller gouges

Boxes

- Hunter 6mm Hercules tool
- Flat bottom scraper
- Thin parting tool

Tool Tips

- Steel composition matters, many better options than HSS, don't bother with carbon steel
- Make your own handles to fit you and to allow investing in better steel
- Single angle (and set up) on all gouges
- One scraper angle
- Grinder set up



Sharpening

- QUALITY low speed grinder
- CBN wheels
- Wolverine jig
- Understand how jig works
- LED light

Embellishing Tools

- Borrow a tool from someone before you buy
- Tools are expensive, use proprietary cutters (which are expensive)
- Some work far better than others
- Most have a learning curve (some quite extensive) so they require lots of practice
- Some drive you nuts

Body Mechanics

- Most important skill and hardest to learn
- Control comes from core body, not hands and arms
- Don't turn like a duck
- Elbows in, handle against body, shift weight from leg to leg
- Anticipate movement and position yourself before you start the cut
- Practice, practice and learn the "dance"
- You will not get sore and have better results



Wood

- .Life is too short to turn bad wood, false economy
- .Visual vs fatal cracks
- .The CA trap
- .Match wood to the purpose, don't force the wood into the wrong use
- .Don't sell repaired work
- .Your work impacts every turner's reputation

Sanding

- .350 rpm
- .Abrasives are a consumable cutting tool
- .Not a place to save money
- .Buy name brands, use once and throw away
- .Discs are used too long by turners
- .No heat, you will create microcracks
- .First grit must resolve all problems
- .1000 grit tear out
- .Starting and ending grit

Finishes

- .What is the purpose of the piece?
- .Is renewability and repairability a factor?
- .The gloss misnomer
- .Food safe misinformation
- .Don't use contaminating oils
- .Use patience when finishing
- .3 finish approach, not McFinish



What is your work's legacy?

- Heirloom or Goodwill that is the question?
- At the end of the day design, attention to details (remember patience) and provenance will matter.
- How does your work reflect on other turners?
- Signing our work-- the final quality control

Why Do I Turn?

- There is no end to the learning and challenges from this hobby
- Tangible outcomes
- Incredible community of sharing people
- Problem solving-- I hate crosswords
- It requires focus and concentration which makes other life issues evaporate



Thank you, Mark.
A very educational demo!

Mark's Demo is not archived
on the MWA Blog Archives





The Monthly Challenge for March was
"Platters"



Paul Laes



Greg Just



Steve Legvold



Lee Tourtelotte



Alan Fletcher



Nathan Parker





The Monthly Challenge for March was "Platters"



David Blume – platter clock



Anomymous – tell me who!



John Suhreptz



Bill Campbell



Bill Breckon



Yes, we have tough winters!





MWA April MEETING

April 1, 2023 MWA Monthly Meeting

Doors Open at 9 am

Zoom is live at 9:30 am

Demo starts at 10 am

Houck Building

12811 16th Ave N Plymouth MN 55441

Demo - Charlie Prokop - Flutes

Bring your **Bowl From A Board** for the Member Challenge to the April meeting

INSTANT GALLERY TURNINGS CAN BE SENT TO EDITOR MIKE ROHRER

(mdrprof@gmail.com) OR BROUGHT

TO THE MONTHLY MEETING.

MONTHLY CHALLENGE TURNINGS MUST BE BROUGHT TO THE MONTHLY MEETING

Remember Jeff Koltveit from Woodcraft will be at the meeting

You can call in an order & Jeff will bring it to the meeting





FUTURE MONTHLY MEETINGS

In person and Zoom Demonstration April 2023
April 1 – Demo - Charlie Prokop - Flutes

FUTURE MEMBER CHALLENGES

To work on in March – Bring to the April Meeting
A Bowl From A Board

To work on in April – Bring to the May Meeting
A Musical Turning



Ask A Turner

Al Fletcher



Al brought his questions relative to working with green wood to the February MWA meeting. He spoke to Jim Jacobs and Dan Larson.

"I received some green cherry wood logs from Paul Keller last month and I wanted to experiment with doing rough turnings and then wait for the full dryness to take place. In this case I did these two as rough turnings, the one on the right was done 3 weeks ago and the lidded bowl was done only 4 days ago. After doing the rough turning I put them in sawdust and enclosed them in a bag. But as you can see, they both cracked immediately. I may be able to salvage these pieces, but I really want to learn how to deal with rough turning of green wood successfully."



Ask A Turner (cont'd)



Both Jim and Dan emphasized that when turning green wood, a turner **MUST eliminate the pith**. All of the turning to even wall thickness, packing in wood chips or sawdust, sealing in a paper bag are of no value if the pith remains. The pith will be the focus of a major crack, every time.





**I've been to a lot of places,
but I've never been in
Cahoots. Apparently you
can't go alone, you have to
be in Cahoots with someone.**

**I've also never been in
Cognito, either. I hear no one
recognizes you there. I have,
however been in Sane. They
don't have an airport, you
have to be driven there. I
have made several trips.**



New Members March 2023

Welcome all new members and we all look forward to getting together face to face and meeting you soon

Dave Schulte
Grant Matthews

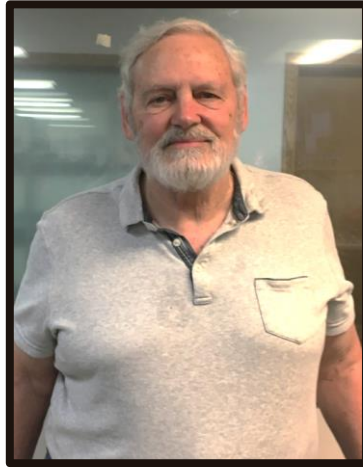
Brooklyn Park
Delano



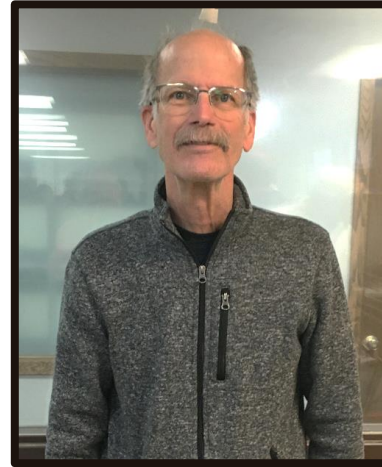
New Members at the February Meeting



Mike Egelen



Lou Taylor



Jim Schottman



Tony Sweson



Rick Jenkins



Jeanne Gannon



Michael Hunt



Spike's Keg of Nails and 'Nowledge

The famous Lindberg kidnapping case in 1932 had no suspects. The ultimate conviction of the kidnapper, murderer involved wood in the evidence. Three wood ladder sections, each 80 inches long, with rungs spaced 19 inches apart were the wood of interest. The ladder was used in the kidnapping of Charles, Jr. The ladder was ingeniously designed but crudely constructed. Arthur Koehler, chief wood technologist at the Forest Products Laboratory measured each of nineteen ladder parts to the nearest 1,000 inch. He angle-lit each board to highlight marks left by saws, planes and chisels. No signs of wear indicated that the ladder had been built for this one single mission. By matching grain patterns, he found the rungs had been cut from a single ponderosa pine board.

Two of the long ladder sides, or rails, had come from a 14-foot-long North Carolina pine board. Koehler found that the planer had six knives in the heads that planed the top and bottom surfaces. The heads rotated at 3,300 rpm and the automatic feed mechanism pushed the board through at exactly 258 feet per minute. He sent the information to all 1,598 mills in the region that handled North Carolina pine. By elimination and examination of many pieces of wood he discovered the mill where the wood had been processed and after a half year of frustration narrowed the retail outlet down to the National Lumber and Millwork Company in Bronx, New York. Eureka!

Then in September 1934, a carpenter, Bruno Hauptmann, was arrested for passing some of the marked ransom money. The \$14,000 in marked money was incriminating, but even more incriminating was something else in the garage: Hauptmann's tools. The nicks and grooves in the blade of his 12 1/2 -inch hand plane created the exact same nicks and grooves as those found on the ladder rails. His handsaw blade cut the exact same 0.0035-inch-wide kerf as the kerfs cut on parts of the ladder. Identical nails to those in the ladder were found and a sketch of the ladder was found in one of Hauptmann's notebooks. A floorboard in his attic was found to have come from that same board as part of the ladder. Hauptmann was executed in the electric chair on April 3, 1936.

From: A Splintered History of Wood, c.2008, by Spike Carlsen, published by Harper Collins
Spike lives in Stillwater, MN



Area & Regional Meetings

Hamburger Club

The Hamburger Club met at Big Louie's for fellowship and discussion of various aspects of woodturning.



Dan Ernst with color palate



Always a good lunch at Big Louie's



Area & Regional Meetings

Hamburger Club (cont'd)



Dan Larson, mugs



John Suhreptz and a great segmented frog vessel



Joe Zwirn and his beautiful, multi-wood bowls from a board

If you would like to be added to the announcement list, email Mike Hunter.
huntertoolsystems@gmail.com



Area & Regional Meetings (cont'd)

SE Metro

The SE Metro group met at the Green Mill in Hastings on March 24



Mike Lucido enjoying the fellowship and the "show & tell"



Area & Regional Meetings (cont'd)

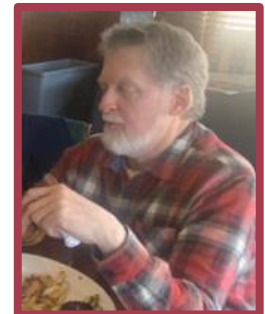
SE Metro



Steve Miller's NE pieces



Thanks to Lee Tourtelotte &
Jay Schulz for the photos



Jim Jacobs organizes
the SE Metro group

To be added to the SE Metro list, contact Jim Jacobs at woodmanmn@aol.com



Area & Regional Meetings (cont'd)

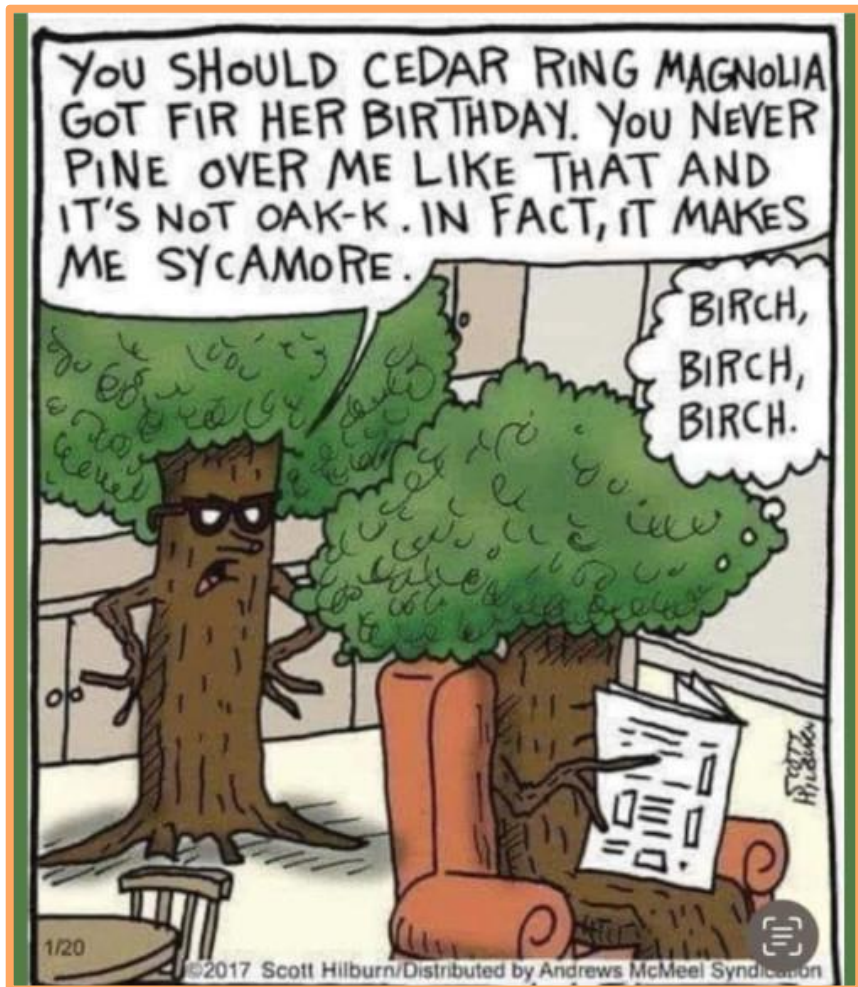
Northeast Turners

Nine woodturners in the Northeast Metro area met for breakfast at the Rusty Cow restaurant in Circle Pines on Saturday, March 18. . If anyone would like to join in, drop an email to Greg Just at woodturner07@gmail.com. We usually meet on the third Saturday at 7:30.



Thanks to Marty Leiding for the photo





(This one's fun if you read it aloud)



Sally Ault, professional demonstrator holding hands-on scoop class

- **Dates:** Two hands on classes at Houck for MWA April 25 & 26
- **Fee:** \$60 for hands-on class
- **Location:** Houck Machinery (MWA classroom area) limit 8 students per class
- **Time:** 2:30 to 6:30

Register online at <https://www.mnwoodturners.com/>



Sally Ault

I was born and raised in San Diego, California and graduated with a BA degree in Art with a Crafts emphasis from San Diego State. My work there was focused on Weaving, Jewelry Design and Ceramics. During a furniture class, I discovered woodturning. After a break of a number of years, I resumed woodturning in 2004.

I have been a demonstrator at the American Association of Woodturners, North Dakota Symposium, Campbells Hands on, Utah Woodturning Symposium in Orem, Utah, the Wisconsin woodturning Symposium and at a number of woodturning clubs across the country and been instructor at Arrowmount and John C Campbell craft schools.

I am a member of the San Diego Woodturners Association, American Association of Woodturners, Point Loma Artists Association and Spanish Village Art Center in San Diego



Sally Ault's Course

For materials you will need an endgrain block that is 2 1/2-3" square by 2 1/2" long. It can be straight grain or burl and should not have any defects. The size of the block determines the size of the scoop...obviously. If someone wants to make a larger scoop, they should have a larger diameter block.

For the handle it should be straight grain reasonably hard wood...preferably tight grain...1" square by 7-7" long. The bowl and handle do not have to be the same wood, but the color of the woods should work well together.

Students with some turning skill will probably be able to make 2 scoops in class but one well made one will teach them the techniques. I'll have to do a demo first so that will cut down a bit on the class time. For finish oil or CA both work well.

Tools

- A spindle gouge, small bowl gouge or whatever they like to use for small bowl hollowing
- Small round nose scraper (preferably negative rake) and
- As small a spindle roughing gouge as possible.
- A small skew is also useful.

A spindle gouge can be used for the whole thing, but the other tools are useful.

You will need one or two drills to use with Jacobs chucks. I will bring a 1/4" forstner bit or two.

Bring sandpaper and both medium and thin CA glue.

Other items needed the chapter has in the tool boxes. Small spigot jaws for chuck , mandrel savers and Jacobs chuck with 1/4" forstner bits.





WOOD SEALER

At this time sealer is available at the monthly meetings and from:

Charlie Prokop, Woodbury, MN charlieprokop@gmail.com

Julie Abbott, Eden Prairie, MN, julieabbott@edinarealty.com

Bob Meyer, Lino Lake, MN, rjmbobco@comcast.net

Steve Mages, Minnetonka, smages@juno.com

Paul Laes, Cottage Grove, Woodforfun@hotmail.com



I am looking for others to sell sealer throughout the metro area.

Bring plastic jugs if you have them.

Sealer \$20.00 gallon.

We need heavy duty plastic jugs for dispensing sealer. If you have any gallon containers, we could sure use them. It would be best if you could bring your empty containers to be filled.

The club now has a chip card reader so you can pay Charlie by credit card or cash.

Anyone wanting to sell sealer can buy a quantity from me if you like or take some gallons and sell them to members and send the money to Treasurer Mark Debe.

Charlie Prokop, President MWA





Please send items for the Bulletin Board to: mdrprof@gmail.com

As a group which has a common hobby but also is a group of good friends, we'd like to keep up with our friends and hear about awards, shows, family news (weddings, accomplishments of children and grandchildren), retirements, hospital stays, illnesses, book recommendations, website recommendations and anything else you would normally talk about in person at MWA or Sub-Group meetings. All of these and more are possibilities for the Bulletin Board. As we start seeing all our MWA friends face-to-face monthly, we can still reach the entire membership by the Bulletin Board.



Lathe Contact List

The MWA Newsletter is presenting a list of members who would be happy to give you pros & cons and experiences with the lathes they own or with which they have had experience.

This list is being updated every week as more members are contacting me saying they'd be happy to be listed. If you would be willing to have your name and email address listed under the type of lathe(s) you have, please contact me .

<u>LATHE</u>	<u>Member</u>	<u>Email address</u>
Bonnie Klein Mini	Bill Szydlo	szydlo.bill@gmail.com
Bonnie Klein Mini 12x18	Linda Ferber	lindajaneferber@gmail.com
Craftsman Professional	Steve Mages	smages@juno.com
Delta mid size 12"	Randall Thompson	thomp013@umn.edu
Delta mid size 12"	Dan Larson	dhjlar@comcast.net
Delta midi	Bob Meyer	rjmbobco@comcast.net
Delta midi	Joe Zwirn	joezathome@msn.com
Grizzley G 0733	Martin Young	martin.clay.young@gmail.com
Harbor Freight(Central Machinery 10x18)	Rusty Ogren	rick.Ogren@consolidated.com
Jet 1015	James Zangl	james.zangl@gmail.com
Jet 12/21	Lee Luebke	lguebke@comcast.net
Jet 14x42	Rusty Ogren	Rick.Ogren@consolidated.com
Jet 1640	Joe Zwirn	joezathome@msn.com
Jet 1642 EVS	Jenny Trice	jennytrice@aol.com
Jet 1642 1.5 hp	Greg Just	woodturner07@gmail.com
Jet JML 10/14 Mini	Neil Robinette	northsideturners41@gmail.com
Jet JWL - 1220VS	John Campbell	campbell.jn@gmail.com
Laguna 12/16	Lee Luebke	lguebke@comcast.net
Laguna 18/36	Jay Schulz	jfschulz@comcast.net
Laguna 18/36	Dan Larson	dhjlar@comcast.net
Laguna 18/36	Lee Luebke	lguebke@comcast.net
Laguna 18/36	Mike Lucido	mike.s.lucido@gmail.com
Laguna Revo 18/36 220v	John Campbell	campbell.jn@gmail.com
Laguna Revo 18/36 220v	Neil Robinette	northsideturners41@gmail.com



Lathe Contact List (cont'd)

NOVA 3000	James Zangl	james.zangl@gmail.com
Nova Comet II	Rolf Krogstad	rolf.krogstad@gmail.com
Nova Comet II	Mike Anderson	manderson4700@comcast.net
NOVA DVR 16"	Dan Larson	dhjar@comcast.net
NOVA DVR 16"	Joe Zwirn	joezathome@msn.com
NOVA DVR XP	Bill Szydlo	szydlo.bill@gmail.com
NOVA DVR XP 16"	Chuck Shreffler	cshreffler@outlook.com
Oneway 2036	Dick Zawacki	dickzawacki@gmail.com
Powermatic 2014	Steve Legvold	stevelegvold@gmail.com
Powermatic 2520B	Steve Mages	smages@juno.com
Powermatic 3520B	Todd Williams	toddwilli@comcast.net
Powermatic 3520B	Steve McLoon	s.c.mcloon@gmail.com
Powermatic 3520C	Reid zimmerman	reidazimmerman@gmail.com
Powermatic 3520C	Dan Ernst	piloto1@comcast.net
Powermatic 4224B	Dan Larson	dhjar@comcast.net
Powermatic 45	Todd Williams	toddwilli@comcast.net
Record Power Coronet Herald 14 x 20	Gary Egbert	gtegbert@yahoo.com
Robust American Beauty	Tim Dodds	tbikefast@aol.com
Robust Liberty	Jim Jacobs	woodmanmn@aol.com
Robust Liberty	Warren Gerber	xlwalleye@gmail.com
Robust Sweet 16	Linda Ferber	lindajaneferber@gmail.com
Robust Sweet 16	Bob Meyer	rjmbobco@comcast.net
Shopsmith	Martin Young	martin.clay.young@gmail.com
Shopsmith (restored)	Lee Luebke	lgluebke@comcast.net
Vega 2600	Bill Szydlo	szydlo.bill@gmail.com
Vicmarc VL 300	Lee Tourtelotte	leetourtelotte@icloud.com



Member Help Line

The club has organized a "Member Help Line", the purpose of which is to answer questions/give advice and help educate our membership. Even though it has been more difficult during the pandemic social distancing time to help people in home workshops, there are still ways to help each other with woodturning questions & problems. The volunteers can help via email, telephone, Zoom, personal contact using social distancing and masks if desired, and probably other ways we haven't tried yet.

Maybe you're a beginner looking for advice on what to buy.

Maybe you have questions on chucking.

Maybe you have sharpening questions.

The volunteers listed on the next page are more than happy to help. Some have listed areas in which they feel more comfortable, but all will help with your woodturning question.

We would like more members to volunteer for our Member Help Line. If you would like to be "on call" please contact Mike Rohrer at mdrprof@gmail.com with your phone #, email address, area where you live, areas you'd be willing to help with, and your name will be added to the list.

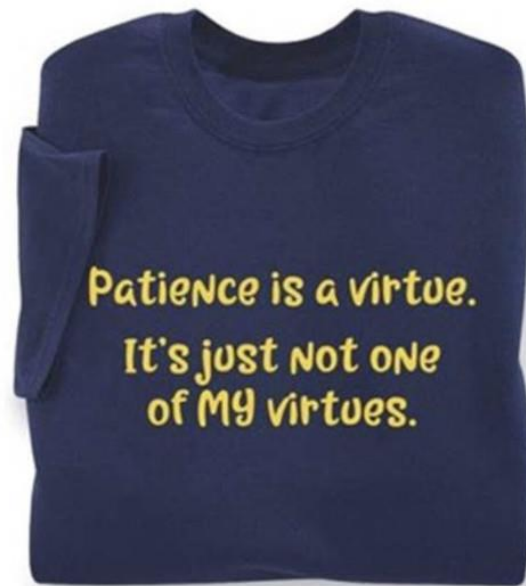
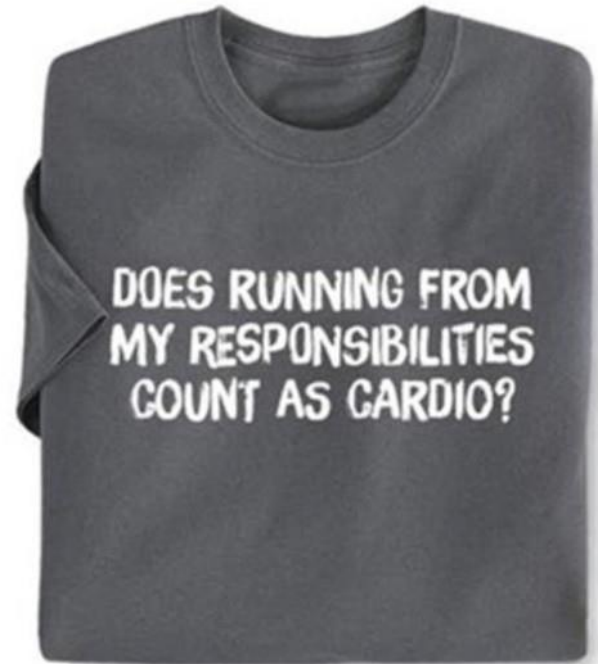
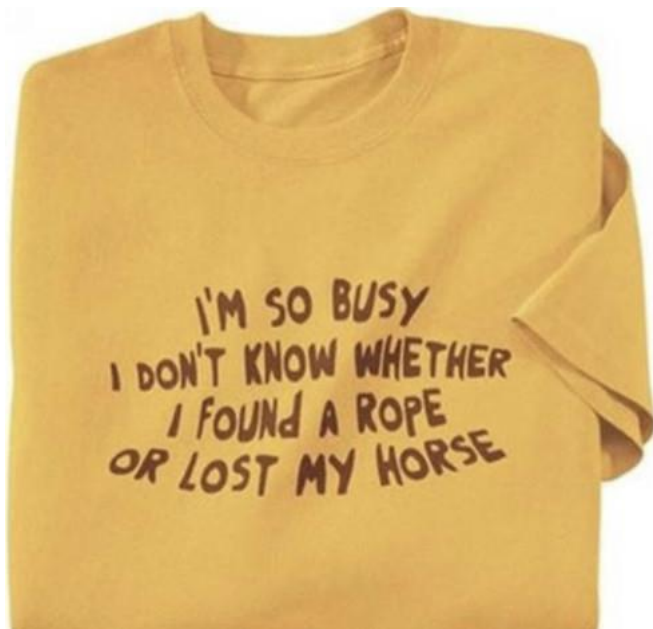
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Member Help Line

Mike Rohrer	612-276-9556	mdrprof@gmail.com	bowls, boxes	South Mpls
Steve Miller	715 821-8726	ssmiller920@gmail.com	all types, light on segmenting	River Falls, WI
Lee Tourtelotte	612-670-1874	leetourtelotte@icloud.com	all types, beginner, advanced	South Mpls
Warren Gerber	651 403 2883	xlwalleye@gmail.com	Bowls	Mendota Heights
Jim Jacobs	651-497-1309	woodmanmn@aol.com	beginner/advanced, segmenting, skews	Hastings
Dick Zawacki	507-744-5748	dickzawacki@gmail.com	general, bowls, wood carving	Northfield
Mike Lucido	651-738-2551	mike.s.lucido@gmail.com	general woodturning	Woodbury
Bill Campbell	715-338-2634	wm.e.campbell@uwrf.edu	general woodturning	River Falls, WI
Mark Kelliher	651-636-8678	markandkathy007@comcast.net	general woodturning	Arden Hills
Todd Williams	651-274-4658	toddwilli@comcast.net	general woodturning	Lake Elmo
Bob Meyer	651-483-6187	rjmbobco@comcast.net	bowls, ornaments, sharpening, gen'l.	Lino Lakes
Dick Hicks		rbhicks@rbhicks.com	platters, spindle work, bowls	Zoom from shop
Steve Mages	952-544-5286	smages@juno.com	general woodturning	Minnetonka
Neil Robinette	763-639-1085	northsideturners1@gmail.com	sharpening, tool control, turning vs budget	Brooklyn Park
Andy Levesque	651-769-4070 TEXT	andy.m.levesque@gmail.com	resin/epoxy casting, hybrid turning, vacuum stabilizing, CNC & laser engraving	Lindstrom
Rusty Ogren	612-990-4857	richardogren@protonmail.com	resin questions, crack filling	Plymouth
Dan Ernst	651-280-7484	pilot01@comcast.com	coring, wing bowls, bowls, gen'l turning	Maplewood, St Paul
Bill Szydlo	651-206-5547	szydlo.bill@gmail.com	segmenting, sharpening, gen'l turning	Northfield, MN
James Zangl	6541-645-4696	james.zangl@gmail.com	bowls, hollow forms, vases, pens, etc	St Paul -Hamline area
Joe Zwirn	612-619-4793	joezathome@msn.com	segmenting, general woodturning	Brooklyn Center
Mark Palma	612-991-7733	marksworkshop@gmail.com	finishing & color	Lanesboro





Editor's Notes



The attendance at the monthly MWA meetings is increasing. There are lots of advantages to personally attending the monthly meetings. I feel the most important is meeting and becoming friends with our fellow turners. The ability to ask each other questions is invaluable. Obviously, you can gain a lot just standing by and listening to other turners who are having discussions.

The advantage of being able to pick up, examine and discuss turned pieces in the Instant Gallery and the Member Challenge is only possible if you are at the meeting.

If you have any suggestions for the newsletter, please contact me.

Continue to the next page for Death At The Lathe Episode 2.

Mike Rohrer, Editor
mdrprof@gmail.com



Death at the Lathe

A short story in 4 parts by Michael D. Rohrer

Synopsis of Episode 1 in the February 2023 Newsletter

Dr. Mark Roberts is a retired professor of pathology at the University of Minnesota who lives by the “Witch’s Hat” water tower in Prospect Park near the campus. He has spent decades making furniture as a hobby and about 15 years ago got interested in woodturning. He took a class from David Ellsworth and they had become friends. Mark really enjoys turning Ellsworth style hollow vessels. During his career at the university, his research focused on the areas of bone cancer diagnosis and treatment. Not long before retirement a professor of surgery came to Mark with an idea for a new diagnostic technique, which Mark perfected. The surgery professor insisted they apply for a patent. One day Mark’s wife returned from volunteering at a neighborhood food shelf and quickly got supper on the table. When Mark didn’t come in to eat from his shop at his usual time, she went to his shop and found his lathe running and Mark in a pool of blood on the floor with a turning tool embedded in his chest.

PART TWO

Lt. Ed Sylvester, Head of the Homicide Unit of the Minneapolis Police Department got to his office soon after 7 am as usual and looked over the reports of the unit from the previous evening and night shift. It had been a quiet time after he had left at the end of his shift yesterday. The only interesting thing was a report from the homicide duty sergeant from just about supper time.

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Sgt. Wayne Davis had been called by the 911 operator as he was arriving at police headquarters to begin his evening shift, telling him to go to the residence of Dr. Mark Roberts in Prospect Park. Sgt. Davis reported that Dr. Roberts' wife had found her husband in his workshop, which is attached to their garage, when he had failed to come in the house for supper. She had immediately called 911 and Sgt. Davis had gotten to the scene quite quickly. After looking at everything the situation was unusual enough that he put in a call to the Medical Examiner's office to send someone right over.

Because he had put on latex gloves, Sgt. Davis thought it was OK to turn off the lathe. The assistant medical examiner who showed up in about 30 minutes said it looked like the deceased had had an unfortunate accident with his big, powerful woodturning lathe and one of his very sharp woodturning chisels. Sgt Davis agreed, and in his report, he stated that the Medical Examiner's Office would submit its official report as quickly as possible.

Ed's interest was immediately piqued because his main relaxation was woodturning. He felt a little embarrassed that his first thought was not about the doctor's death but his interest in what kind of a lathe a doctor would have and how fancy his workshop would be when he got to his shop. Ed called Sgt. Davis at home, not even thinking that he might still be asleep. Sgt. Davis answered the phone groggily.

"This is Lt. Sylvester. That doctor who died in his shop last night! I'm a woodturner myself and I've never heard of somebody dying from it! I hope nobody touched anything! I'm on my way over. Meet me there!"

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Ed had to work to put on the “tough boss” persona. He was really a very quiet, gentle appearing, soft spoken man. People refused to believe that he had been a Marine pilot in Iraq and Afghanistan. The Marines always prided themselves that they provided very close air support for their grunts on the ground. Ed had followed his father as a Marine pilot. Ed’s dad’s company had flown “Prop Attack” in the early days of the Viet Nam war.



They flew the last of the WWII vintage gull-winged Corsairs. The Corsairs were better than jets at supporting the Marine infantry because they could go slower, were more maneuverable and could get much closer to the Marines and their adversaries on the ground. Because they didn’t land on carriers, their gull wings were fixed and didn’t fold up.

Their planes were designated Corsair F4 AU1 and were the most powerful prop planes ever made by the US. When his dad’s enlistment time was up the Marines wouldn’t let him out because there were only a few pilots who could fly these amazing fighters. The Marines kept him an extra 3 years and only let him out when they stopped flying the Corsairs. Ed had a large photo of his dad in the cockpit of his plane on his office wall.

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Ed had wanted to get into law enforcement when he got out of the Marines. He used his veteran's benefits to get a master's degree in Criminal Justice at St. Cloud State University, about 70 miles northwest of Minneapolis. For a short time after the Marines and before St. Cloud State, Ed had returned to his home in Wyoming where his dad ran a cattle ranch that had been in the family a few generations and his mother owned a Ford dealership.



Surprisingly, this is where Ed met his wife, Jules. Surprising because Jules was the daughter of a very prominent dermatologist in the most prestigious suburb of Detroit, Grosse Pointe Farms. How did Jules get to Wyoming? She loved horses and as a teenager had come up with an amazing business plan that her dad was very willing to finance.

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Jules would travel to the Detroit Race Course and other big horse racing tracks and find out which racehorses weren't doing as well as expected and were just costing their stables money to keep taking them from track to track. These thoroughbreds might not be winning, but they were beautiful specimens of horseflesh and very healthy. Jules would offer the owners money for the "losers," much less than one would expect but it was a good deal for the stable to get money for horses that were just costing them money. She would then train them for dressage, a form of exhibition and competition riding that is in the Olympics. Jules would then sell these horses for a lot of money to society women who would compete with them. On a trip to Wyoming trying to find a particular horse for a client, Jules instead found Ed.



While Ed was doing everything he needed to do to get into law enforcement and then progress in his field, Jules went to medical school and then took a PhD in neuroscience and became a professor at the University of Minnesota Medical School. Jules knew Dr. Mark Roberts and Dr. Ralph Kitson from committee work and from participating in various Tumor Boards, the committees of specialists from a variety of fields that meet to plan the best treatment for cancer patients.

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When Lt. Sylvester arrived at Dr. Roberts' home, he found Mrs. Roberts and two of her sisters who had come to support her. He went into the shop, which had been isolated and remained as it was when the police and medical examiner left. Ed Sylvester had had a chance to see all the photos from the evening before. The amazing thing to Ed was that a straight woodturning tool, a skew, with a very sharp and slightly curved end was embedded approximately 3-4 inches into Dr. Roberts' chest. Ed looked at the Vicmarc VL300 EVS lathe with a bit of envy. Attached to the headstock was a spherical hollow form, typical of David Ellsworth's style, at least 12 inches in diameter

The outside was finished, and it appeared the hollowing was in progress. Ed looked around the extremely well supplied shop with expensive cabinetry. On the walls, taking up space where tools could have been hung on peg boards, were two large posters of David Ellsworth, both personally autographed to Prof. Roberts. One was an enlarged cover of David's new book, *Ellsworth on Woodturning*, which Ed had gotten as soon as it had been available.

In his report, Sgt. Davis said he had turned the lathe off. Ed could see Dr. Roberts had finished turning the outside of the large hollow form and had partially completed the hollowing. At this point Sgt. Davis arrived and panting from his haste to get to the crime scene as quickly as Lt. Sylvester wanted him, rushed into the shop. Ed said to him, "A woodturner does NOT use a skew to hollow a turning like this. A "catch" while using a turning tool would not throw it into the turner's chest like what you found with Dr. Roberts. This was not a woodturning accident.

This is MURDER!"

To be continued in the April issue of the MWA newsletter

