

Minnesota WoodTurners Association

A LOCAL CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS



Weekly Newsletter No.51

Minnesota Woodturners Association

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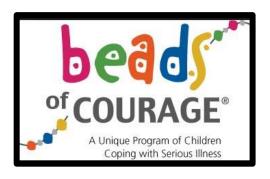
Paul Laes – Sales at Meetings

Mike Rohrer - Newsletter



Baby platypus – just because I knew you needed to see this!





Beads of Courage Project to Honor Bob Jensen – kits provided by Jim Jacobs

Bob & Diane Puetz are asking those who have volunteered to make these special boxes to do 3 things:

- 1. Finish the boxes as soon as you reasonably can
- 2. Get the **boxes to Bob & Diane** in a reasonably short time after you finish them (see list of drop off sites)
- 3. <u>Take pictures of your finished boxes</u> and send them to Editor Mike Rohrer so we may put the pictures in the newsletter and have a photographic history of this special project. If you have any questions, please contact Bob or Diane at: bobpuetz@yahoo.com

1)North metro: Diane Puetz

2)North East :Bob Meyer

3) West metro: Steve Mages

4)East metro : Mike Lucido

5)South metro: Jim Jacobs

diane.puetz@yahoo.com East Bethel

rjmbob@com<u>cast.net</u> Lino Lakes

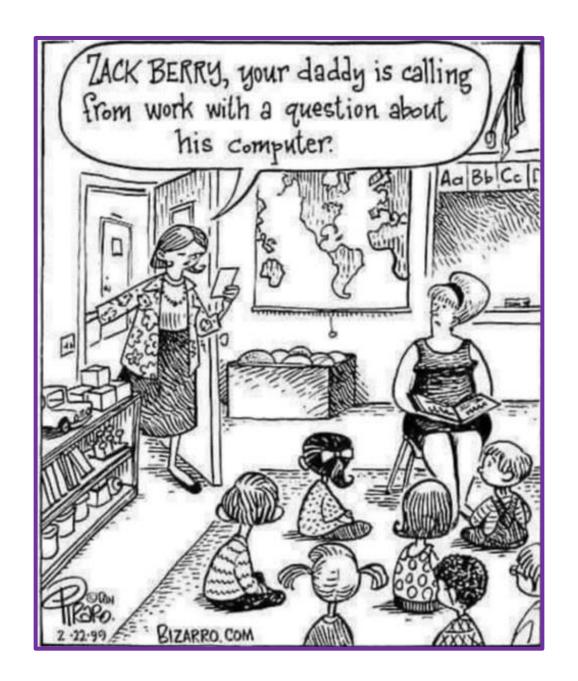
<u>smages@juno.com</u> Plymouth

mike.s.lucido@gmail.com Woodbury

woodmanmn@aol.com Hastings

It would be good if you would confirm via email when you will be bringing the finished Beads of Courage boxes







Instant Gallery

Blake Nelson











I made a black walnut platter for serving cheese or dip and chips or crackers. The middle area is sized to fit a standard can for the dip of choice should the client not want to dirty up the bowl portion of the platter. A walnut ring semi-lid sort of part was then turned to fit over the top half of the can to conceal it but still allow access to the dip product in the can. The platter is all one piece and just over 11" in diameter and the central bowl about 3.5". The blank from the client was two inches thick so that is what I had to work with.



Doug Johannsen



A friend of mine told me about "inside out" turning to make hollow ornaments. I took four $\frac{3}{4} \times \frac{3}{4} \times 6$ " red oak blanks and followed the steps in the video. The photo shows the end results. I didn't plan it and only noticed it when I took this photograph. The grain and holes form a "smiley face" or a "clown face" or a "jack o' lantern" face.

This probably isn't new to many of our guild members, but it was new to me. Google "inside out turning" to find videos showing the procedure.



George Wurtzel





Hi. I see you are getting a little break from the cold. Check out these bowls. The larger one is myrtle and the smaller one is walnut. I used tung oil finish and a couple of coats of wax; they will be for sale in the show room. I've been too busy to do much more than make biscuit cutters. I have made 400 of them now; they keep selling. I guess I could call myself a production turner now.



George Wurtzel









For an absolutely amazing experience, go to the following URL for a 5-minute YouTube of an artist creating a 3-dimensional portrait from thousands and thousands of screws so George can actually feel his portrait

https://youtu.be/6-2KdARyjFE





These are Kubb (pronounced koob) yard games, one for our NYC granddaughter's birthday, one for us. The kings are 12" h, the men 6", the batons, 12". The set on the left was made from a decades old cedar post, the set on the right from a new post. Finished with Watco.

Mike Rohrer



THE GAME. 2 rows of 5 men are placed on opposite sides of the game area (pitch) and the king is placed in the center. Sides take turns throwing the batons at the men. When a side knocks over all the opposing men, they can try to topple the king and thus win the battle. If you accidentally knock down the king, you lose!



Mike Rohrer



I had a walnut log I was planning on using for 2 natural edge bowls. As I started, I was impressed by the very wavy pattern of the cambium layer, so I changed the plan to emphasize that feature of the wood. 8" long, 5" w, 3" d, finished with Formby's low luster tung oil.







My platter for serving cheese or dip and chips or crackers; the other end of the scale from Blake Nelson's elegant offering





MWA March "Meeting" Art Lietsman

Flame Texturing



This technique is to be used with highly figured, dry hardwood



Art's signature flametextured puzzle piece vessel



A "stone" teapot



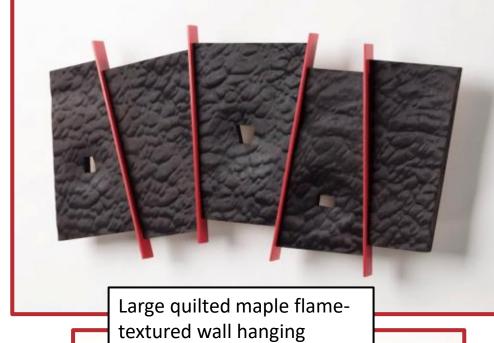
An "art canon"



A black pot showing the flame-resistant grain



A "stone" puzzle piece – note the depth of texture



"Stone" popcorn bowl – can hold one kernel of popped corn





nnesota WoodTurners Association Coronavirus 2021 Newsletter #51 March 9

The turning can be left fairly rough; leave "bumps" on the end for remounting after burning

Burn Surface



TIPS

- 1. Use DRY wood; wet wood will crack & continue to crack over time
- 2. NO SANDING is needed; the flames will round anything sharp or pointed
- 3. Sharp edges don't burn well
- 4. Tool marks will burn off
- 5. Safety first! Don't breathe the smoke & fumes. Burn outside and make sure the smoke is blowing away from you.

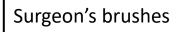


Goal is to get "alligator cracks" over the entire surface



Soft, natural bristle brush

Surface after brushing











with white acrylic



1st 4 dry brush paints

7 dry brush applications; save the paper for a record



Highlighting colors will be brushed in deeply

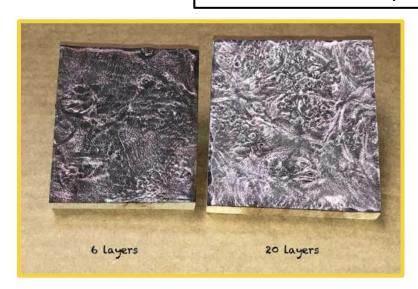


13 coats





Basic & additional acrylics



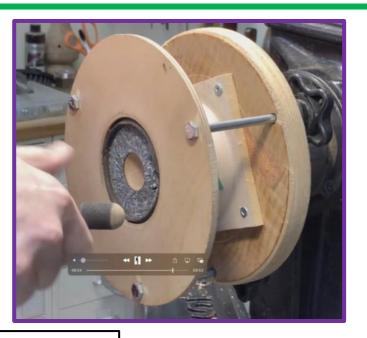


Record of layers



Recommended finish





Art's homemade donut chuck



Art's demo is now available on the MWA website. Go to MWA Chapter > Blog > Choose Art's or any other excellent video.





A Pen Story

Eric Koslowski

The monthly challenge for the MN Woodturners Club "Turn a Pen", got me thinking of this story. I haven't turned a pen in at least 25 years, but it is something that drew me into turning.

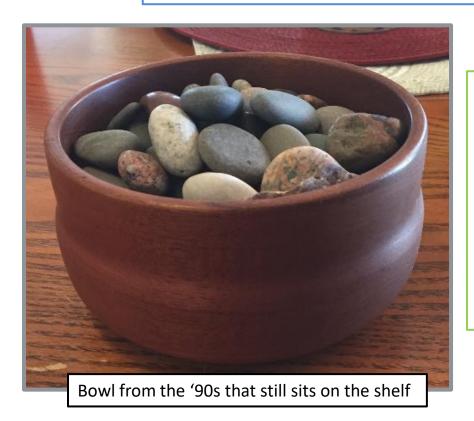
In the early 90's my someday wife bought me a Craftsman lathe. Cheap probably \$100 to \$120. We did not have much money back then. Really don't have a lot now either come to think of it. I had no idea how to use a lathe. Some of you may remember a shop called The Woodworker Store in a strip mall on Larpenter and Lexington. I think I paid \$60 for 2-3 lessons from George Vondriska, did some spindle turning, turned a bowl and a mallet on a Shopsmith lathe in the back of the store; still use the mallet today, bowl sits on a shelf.





Eric Koslowski

I joined the Minnesota Woodturners Club then. Went to a couple of meetings, in fact saw Hosulak demo at one of them. Interesting guy! Any way I was starting to do craft shows around the metro area at the time and shortly thereafter The Woodworker Store was going out of business and everything was going on sale. I had taken an interest in pen turning. I bought a few of their pen kits, which I think were kinda cheaply manufactured to begin with, but they seemed reasonably priced, and I had nowhere else to purchase them.



As the clearance sales began everything was constantly going down in price. Got a set of RECORD Lathe tools for \$200 on clearance I think they were upwards of \$450 at the time. I bought a lot of pen kits a couple hundred in fact. I bought the last box of them for \$.25 each on clearance. I think they were \$2.50 each regular price. Any way I was gonna make a fortune turning pens and selling them for \$20 per pen \$20 per pencil!!! WRONG!!! This was the early 90's. The only pens I sold for \$15 each were the ones I made with the golf club clip.



Eric Koslowski

I think I got \$20 for a few of the pen and pencil sets combined. I lost enthusiasm and ended up giving most of the pen and pencil sets away as gifts. Side note: with use the pens tended to recede back into the barrel as you use it.

Manufacture error or mine? Anyway I still have well over 100 pen and pencil kits in a box as well as many plastic cases and a few really nice wooden cases for single or double sets.

Anyway. I had started making more Intarsia (wood mosaic) items and kinda lost interest in turning . Being from North Branch the meetings seemed to all be in the southern part of the metro. The first ones were held at that store but after it went out of business, they were held at members houses. I got lost going to one down south (no cell phones or google maps back then). I quit going to meetings and let my membership lapse.





So, with the Intarsia I went on to doing art and craft shows full time all over the 6-state area. I did the Bayfield Applefest in Bayfield, WI for about 10 yrs. It was one of my best shows. It started on Friday afternoon, so I would usually get there on Thursday evening and set up my canopy and walls in preparation for the Friday start. One year it was ferociously windy that Thursday evening, but being a veteran at these things I knew how to tie down and secure my setup, so I had no problems. About 5 booths down from me was an artist that came and set his EZ UP canopy and walked back to his van to get something else and low and behold his canopy flew into Lake Superior.

We were located in a park by the ferry pier in the harbor. Though I couldn't help him (artificial leg) others fished out his canopy and he got set up. The next morning, I stopped by his booth and I saw that he was selling turnings. Mostly pens, pencils and things with handles, magnifying glasses, ice cream scoops, pizza cutters etc.

Eric Koslowski





Eric Koslowski

Nice spindle turned items almost all maple, oak and, I think some pine. He was charging what I thought were high prices. I think \$40 per pen and \$80 for sets. Remember this was probably 1997. I thought "Good Luck Man!!". Like I said this show was one of my best ones, so I didn't have time to walk around on Friday or Saturday, but I did glance down the row of booths on Saturday and there was a line of people waiting to get into that fellow's booth!

I thought, "What?! Why?!" Sunday morning before the show started, I walked over to see the guy's stuff again and as I entered his booth, on the back wall I see a blown-up article about

"RECLAIMED OLD GROWTH LUMBER FROM LAKE SUPERIOR!!"

We are literally 3 feet from Lake Superior! MARKETING GENIUS! Anyway, I understand that the Reclaimed Wood is rather spendy so I thought what if I take some wood up to Lake Superior, dip it in the water (just an inch or so, don't want to warp the piece), pull it out, ta-dah!!!! RECLAIMED LUMBER from Lake Superior! Wouldn't be lying! Wink -wink, nudge-nudge. Anyway, I may try to find my mandrel and turn a pen for my club's monthly challenge. I may even use some Reclaimed Lumber . . . wink-wink, nudge-nudge!!!



Monthly Challenge



New 2021 Monthly Meeting Challenge.

We are going to start up the monthly challenge.

The challenge will start in February and sponsored by Woodcraft. We will have some \$10.00 Woodcraft gift cards to give out through a random drawing giving all an equal chance to win. Number of cards to be determined.

To be included in the gift card drawing, pictures and description should be submitted via email to Mike Rohrer mdrprof@gmail.com once finished but no later than one week before the Monthly Meeting date. All have an equal chance at winning a gift card.

The Monthly Challenge for April is "Turn A Pen"

Deadline for entries: email your entry to mdrprof@gmail.com by Mike Rohrer's bedtime on Saturday March 27



Continued on next page

Monthly Challenge – April NEW ENTRIES

Rolf Krogstad







For Christmas a relative gave me a \$35 chunk of Amboyna Burl measuring 5" x 1 5/8" x 1 1/2". After some thought I decide that the best use was to carefully cut it into four pen blanks, which I did this week. I bought Rollerball pen kits from Penn State Industries. Here are photos of the burl and the first pen.



Monthly Challenge – April NEW ENTRIES (cont'd)

Richard Messer



#1. 30 cal. bolt-action pen in gun metal and deer antler #2. Gatsby twist pen in gun metal acrylic stars & stripes #3 Magnetic Vertex roller-ball pen in brushed satin & black ash burl



None of us are getting out of here alive, so please stop treating yourself like an after thought. Eat the delicious food. Walk in the sunshine. Jump in the ocean. Say the truth that you're carrying in your heart like hidden treasure. Be silly. Be kind. Be weird. There's no time for anything else. **Anthony Hopkins**



Linda Ferber

Midwest Penturners Gathering April 24-25

We are getting close to the Midwest Penturners Gathering. As we get closer, we plan to let you know some of the exciting demos and vendors we are planning to see participate.

Fred and Tina Wissen. We all know Fred set the standard in mold making for all of you casters out there. His molds are phenomenal. If you have not seen Tina's polymer clay pen blanks you need to check them out at ptownsubbie.com. We are lucky to announce both Fred and Tina plan to participate in the MPG. Fred will be doing a demo on casting and color casting, while Tina said she would demo polymer clay pen blanks. These are must sees. And PTownSubbie will be a vendor. Must see. And Fred might be doing a little more

To Register simply go to:

https://www.accelevents.com/e/PenmakersInternationalMPG

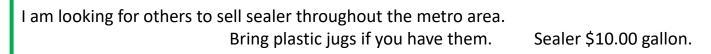






WOOD SEALER

At this time sealer is available from:
Lee Luebke, Corcoran MN, lgluebke@comcast.net
Julie Abbott, Eden Prairie MN, JulieAbbott@EdinaRealty.com
Bob Meyer, Lino Lakes MN, rjmbobco@comcast.net
Steve Mages, Minnetonka, smages@juno.com
Paul Laes, Cottage Grove, woodforfun@hotmail.com





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 Lee Luebke by credit card or cash. Each gallon is still \$10.

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.

Lee Luebke, President MWA, 612-419-8743

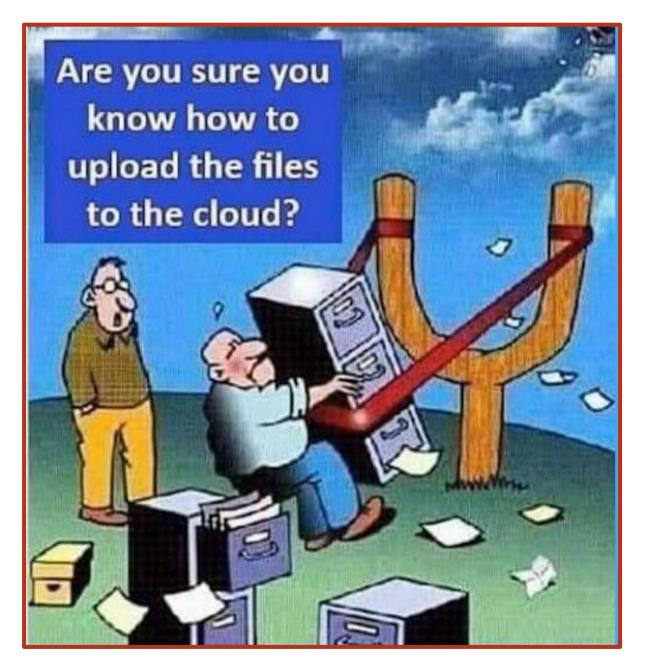




Please send items for the Bulletin Board to: mdrprof@gmail.com

As a group which cannot meet in person, 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. We're not seeing our MWA friends face-to-face, but we still need to stay in touch.







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.

LATHE	Member	Email address
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	lgluebke@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



Lathe Contact List (cont'd)

Laguna 12/16	Lee Luebke	lgluebke@comcast.net
Laguna 18/36	Jay Schulz	jfschulz@comcast.net
Laguna 18/36	Dan Larson	dhjlar@comcast.net
Laguna 18/36	Lee Luebke	lgluebke@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
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	dhjlar@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	dhjlar@comcast.net
Powermatic 45	Todd Williams	toddwilli@comcast.net
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
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 is more difficult during the Covid-19 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, some personal contact using social distancing and masks, 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.

Continued on next page



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
			resin/epoxy casting, hybrid turning, vacuum	
Andy Levesque	651-769-4070 TEXT	andy.m.levesque@gmail.com	stabilizing, CNC & laser engraving	Lindstrom
Rusty Ogren	612-990-4857	rustywoodsart@gmail.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



MWA Demonstrations Since July 2017

<u>Newsletter</u> <u>Demo</u>	<u>Demonstrator</u>
July 2017 Hollowing for Embellishment	Gary Mrozek
Aug 2017 Turning & Decorating a Platter	Jeff Luedloff
Sep 2017 Bowl Coring	Neil Robinette
Oct 2017 Traditional Platter, Viking Bowl	Glenn Lucas
Oct 2017 Natural Edge Bowl	Bob Meyer
Nov 2017 From Tree to Bowl	Dan Larson
Dec 2017 Turning Ornaments	Jim Jacobs
Jan 2018 Making a Pendant	Alan & Lauren Zenreich
Feb 2018 Spindle Turning/Milk Paint	Linda Ferber
Mar 2018 Chain Saw Safety & Techniques	Steve Hagen
Apr 2018 Lidded Boxes	Steve McLoon
May 2018 Hollow Forms & Platters	Trent Bosch
Platters & Bowls	Mike Mahoney
June 2018 Travel Mug	Greg Just
July 2018 Log Preparation & Sawmill	John Enstrom
Aug 2018 Squarish Platter	Mike Hunter
Sep 2018 Pens	Ed Mielech & Rick Aug
Oct 2018 Safe & Comfortable Turning	Eric Lofstrom
Nov 2018 Finishing	Mark Palma
Dec 2018 Finials	Steve McLoon
Lefse Sticks	Jim Jacobs
A Shop	Todd Williams
Handles	Tim Heil
Jan 2019 Scandinavian Inspired Bowls	Dan Larson
Feb 2019 Segmented Turning	Curt Theobold
Mar 2019Peppermills	Tom Sciple
Apr 2019 3-Legged Stool	Keith Gotschall
May 2019 Baby Rattle with Captive Rings	Gary Mrozek
June 2019 Spheres & Embellishments	Steve McLoon
July 2019 Wood-Mizer Portable Sawmill	John Enstrom
Aug 2019 Finial Box	Cindy Drozda
Sep 2019 Spalting	Seri Robinson
Oct 2019 Rings True to Life	Phil Holtan
Nov 2019 Be More Creative	Beth Ireland

Newsletter <u>Demo</u>	<u>Demonstrator</u>
Dec 2019 Holiday Ornament	Bob Meyer & Mike Hunter
Jan 2020 3-Pointed Vase/Box	Tom Sciple
Feb 2020 Long-stem Natural Edge Vessel	Rudy Lopez
Mar 2020 Hollow Form	Lyle Jamieson
May 2020 Shop/Multiple Topics	Mike Mahoney
Mini # 11 Bowl Turning. Part 1	Dan Larson
Mini # 12 Bowl Turning. Part 2	Dan Larson
Mini # 13 Christmas Bell Ornament	Robin Costelle
Mini # 13 Irish (Glenn Lucas) Platter	Dick Hicks
Mini #15 Log Processing Center	Lee Tourtelotte/Dan Larson
Mini #16 Coring	Dan Larson/Dan Ernst
Mini #17 Wing Bowl	Dan Ernst
Mini #18 Finials	Dick Hicks
Mini #19 Natural Edge Bowl	Bob Meyer
Mini #20 End Grain Platter	Dan Larson
Mini #21 Michael Mode Style Bowl	Lee Tourtelotte
Mini #22 Super Simple Segmenting	Jim Jacobs
Mini #23 Turning & Painting a Mushroom	Linda Ferber/Rosanne Gold
Mini #25 Stamping & embossing	Joan Sauvageau
Mini #27 Pepper Mills	Steve Miller
Mini #28 Marking Turnings	Linda Ferber
Mini #29 Texturing, embossing	Mike Peace
Mini #31 Xmas Ornament	Hunter/Meyer
Mini #32 Calabash Bowl	Emiliano Achaval
Mini #34 Bowl Basics, Twice Turned	Sam Angelo
Mini #35 Shop design, arrangement	Mark Palma
Mini #36 Skew Fundamentals	Jim Jacobs
Mini #38 Lidded, beaded bowl	Glenn Lucas
Mini #39 Christmas ornaments, gifts	Dan Larson, Dick Hicks
Mini #40 Richard Raffan style box	Mike Hunter
Mini #43 Walnut; Quarter-sawn platter	Mike Mahoney
Mini #44 Embellishments	Linda Ferber
Mini #45 Heart-shaped NE bowl	Dan Ernst
Mini #47 Finishing	Eric Lofstrom
Mini #51 Flame Texturing	Art Lietsman



Editor's Notes

The April Monthly Challenge is "Turn A Pen". Your entries are due to me by Saturday, March 27. Finish your Beads of Courage boxes for the Bob Jensen memorial and get the pictures to me.

I am enjoying being editor of the MWA Newsletter and I think most members are happy with my efforts. When the pandemic was officially recognized last March, and the preventive measures started, which included the cessation of our monthly meeting and any small gatherings at Sub-Group meetings or classes at Houck Machine, I thought it would be a good idea to put out a short, much more frequent newsletter. I decided on a weekly format and had no idea at that time the temporary format would continue for as long as it has. Little did any of us know what was going to happen. I had no idea the weekly newsletters would become almost as large as the monthly ones. We're just about one year into the official Covid-19 protocol. This newsletter is #51 and the one I'll publish on March 16 will be #52; 52 weekly newsletters equal one year.

The good thing about the frequent newsletter is that I've never had a moment to get bored. It also means I've had to forego other things, like turning in my shop. I spend at least 20 hours per week on the newsletters, sometimes more. My plan is to cut down to a newsletter every other week. I think that will still serve our purpose, keep the membership in contact, and keep the MWA at the front of our fellow woodturners' minds.

With the population slowly but surely getting vaccinated, we may reach a status near "herd immunity" sometime this year. We'll probably not get back to totally "normal", but things like small groups, visits among woodturners, maybe even accessibility to Houck Machine, should make the world of the MWA much more recognizable.

Mike Rohrer Editor mdrprof@gmail.com





