

Minnesota WoodTurners Association

A LOCAL CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS

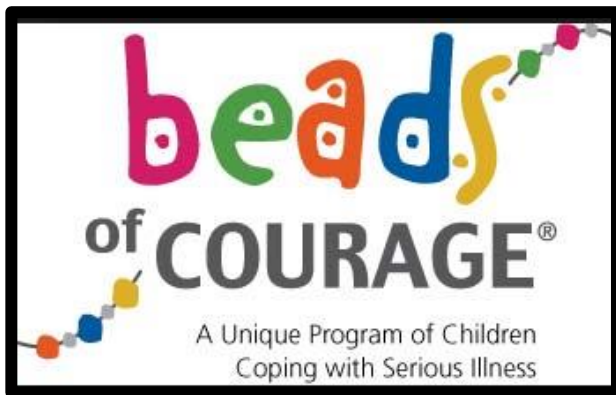
AAW | AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
OF WOODTURNERS

Mini Newsletter No 6



"I'm working from home."





Diane and Bob Puetz direct this program for the Minnesota Woodturners Association.



Greg Just continues to produce his beautiful Beads of Courage Boxes



Recalling an ancient Mexican proverb, “A man’s wealth is measured by the size of his woodpile”. . . I recently checked the balance of my own amazing wealth during the recent brief warming spell by lifting the protective tarps and checking the status of my vast, personal woodpile wealth!



This piece from the previous mini newsletter on a person’s wealth being “measured by the size of his woodpile” suggested that we take a look at a cross section of MWA members’ wood stashes. A number of members responded with pictures and some description of their wealth (well, in woodpile terms).

MWA Woodpiles



In the case of this subject, diversity matters. Diversity of storage locations, species, variety of sizes all come into consideration...

I feel content.





I am seeking professional help!

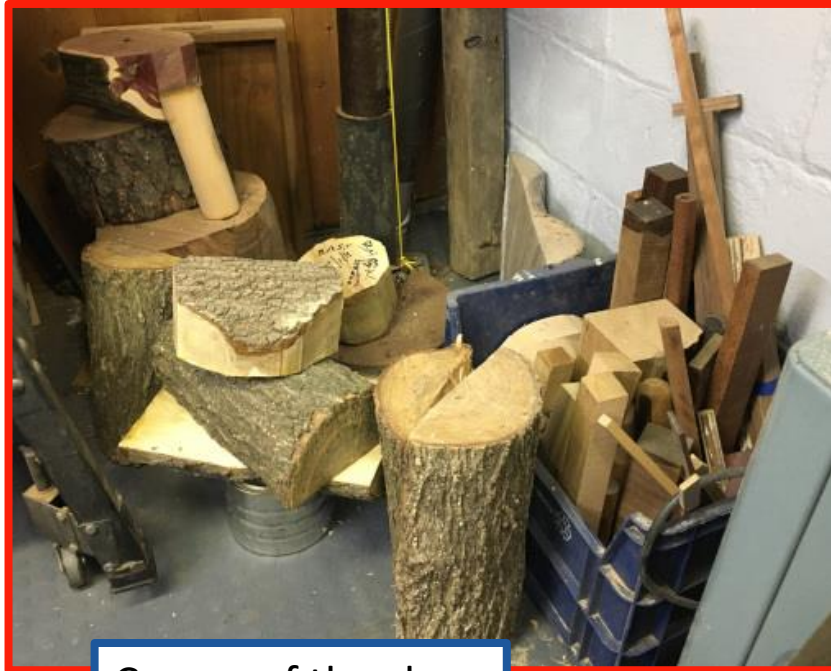


Not the best but will have to do. More wood in other piles.



Woodpile treasures. I have an area under my deck where I process logs. It's dark and wet as there is a lattice screen around it. A couple of years ago I figured I would use the area as a spalting factory. Well, that didn't go so well; never could get any good spalting going and the area ended up collecting junk pieces of wood for two or three years and was a total mess. I was cleaning out the area under my deck the other day, intending to use the area for my woodpile. I began cutting the old, slimy pieces of wood and logs to dry for firewood. That's when I spotted some of the best spalted wood that I have seen. I quickly processed the pieces for turning blanks.





Corner of the shop



Corner of the basement

I don't have much, but
it's more than I can
transform into chips

Totally disorganized remnants of
flat boards left after more than
3 decades of furniture making





Before covid-19





AFTER covid-19





Yes, it's in my garage. I have a couple of small piles stored outside, but this is where I put the wood that I think is best and will produce the best turnings.

Warren Gerber

Woodpiles (cont'd)

Kristin Holtz*



Here's my mini pile offering.
Need to work on it



My stash

*Holtz-from Middle High German:
woodworker or wood cutter



Jay Schulz

Woodpiles (cont'd)



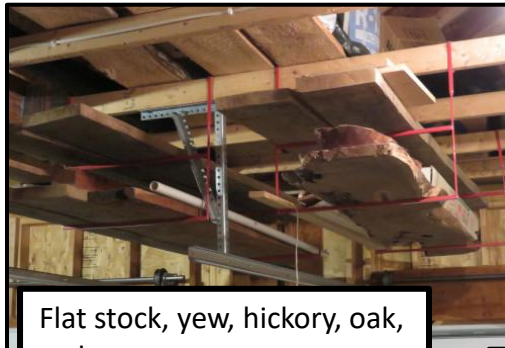
Crabapple, birch, cherry, walnut



Assorted turning blanks



Shorts, walnut, cherry, exotics



Flat stock, yew, hickory, oak, cedar



Flat stock, maple, cherry oak, birch, pine



Madrone, maple, basswood, black cherry, LPC station



I'll be lucky to live long enough to work through half of this



Tom Sciple



Drawers of blanks

Woodpiles (cont'd)



Walnut, ash, sycamore, spalted maple

Wine stoppers





I've reduced the pile of logs a lot since December

Byron Patterson

Woodpiles (cont'd)



Part of my wealth. The trees were cut down late last November so they would not fall across the driveway during the winter. I have slowly been making progress on getting them cut up now that it is nicer outside. The winter picture is a tree that fell across our pond and needed to be cut up before spring so it would not be sitting in the pond come spring.



Thanks to everyone who contributed to the “Woodpiles”. Members of the MWA got a chance to see a variety of “stashes” of wood, ready to be turned into objects of pride.

The types of wood, the condition of the wood, the organization of the wood differed for every member who contributed pictures. No matter the size, organization or condition of the wood, it is obvious that we all love our “hobby”. For some it is more than a hobby, a partial occupation. But for all of us, woodturning is an important part of our lives.

In this international emergency with the covid-19 pandemic, I feel that woodturners are some of the most fortunate of creatures. Our Governor, our health experts, our families are all telling us to do what most of us enjoy the most: STAY AT HOME - MAINTAIN A SOCIAL DISTANCE FROM OTHERS – USE THAT STASH OF WOOD TO CREATE BEAUTIFUL (maybe even functional) OBJECTS THAT OTHERS WILL ENJOY.

A person who has material with which to be creative is truly WEALTHY.



Instant Gallery

Brian Karsjens

I am a relatively new member of the club and have only been turning about a year. Here is a short story and picture about some turnings I finished last week.



After my parents passed away in 2019 and things were dispersed amongst the family, the seat from the bedroom vanity was left. It was part of a bedroom set given to them as a wedding present in 1946 by my grandfather and was made from the kitchen table on the farm when mom was growing up. Rather than toss it I decided to repurpose it once again and make a slimline pen for my wife, sisters and the granddaughters as a remembrance. Here is the vanity seat that was re-purposed and the 16 oak pens finished with BLO, CA and hut polish.



Cherry 4x3 finished with
beeswax and mineral oil



Birch 5.5" x 3" finished with
beeswax and mineral oil



Maple 8" x 3" finished with
beeswax and mineral oil



Cherry 8" x 3" finished with
beeswax and mineral oil





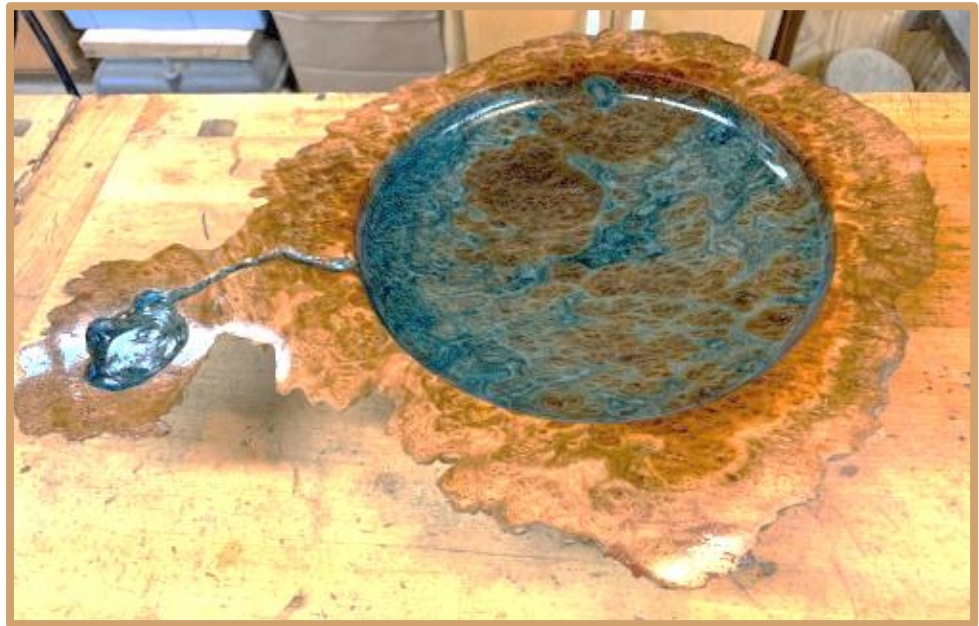
Rick Auge

Instant Gallery (cont'd)



50+ year old swamp oak

Lee Tourtelotte



Red cooliba burl completed





Cottonwood



Cherry burl



14-inch walnut crotch platter



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Volume 2019 No 5



Gary Mrozek

“Baby Rattle with Captive Rings”*

*This demo by Gary first
appeared in the May '19
MWA Newsletter





APRIL
Demonstration

Baby Rattles with Captive Rings

Gary Mrozek

Gary said he'd start with the finished piece and then show us how he got there. He passed around a couple of finished rattles to the group so we could handle the finished product before we went from the beginning, step-by-step.



Gary finishes the rattles with Mahoney's Walnut Finish so they are food/baby safe. See later in the article for safety guidelines about choking hazards.



A quote from Gary: "Mistakes can be good." The vessel on the left almost ended in the burn pile because of a major defect during turning; but after thinking about it for quite a while, Gary salvaged the "mistake" resulting in this outstanding piece.



Gary started with a 1 ½" diameter cherry round cylinder long enough for the rattle. Laying it out to make it long enough for 3 rings, Gary makes 7 divisions 3/8" wide, which will be enough for creating the rings and the adjacent working spaces.

Gary suggests making a jig with all of the divisions and measurements you will need for the entire piece and so you can easily set up the calipers without using a ruler.



Gary starts with a parting tool with the lathe turning fairly fast. He turns the cylinder 1" in diameter at either end. He then sets the remaining dimensions for the caliper from his jig.

Gary marks off 7 widths so he can get 3 rings with space on either side of the future ring.



Gary likes to do “production runs” so he can improve from one piece to the next.



Making the space on either side of the future ring with the parting tool.



He likes to make the center ring slightly larger than the adjacent rings.



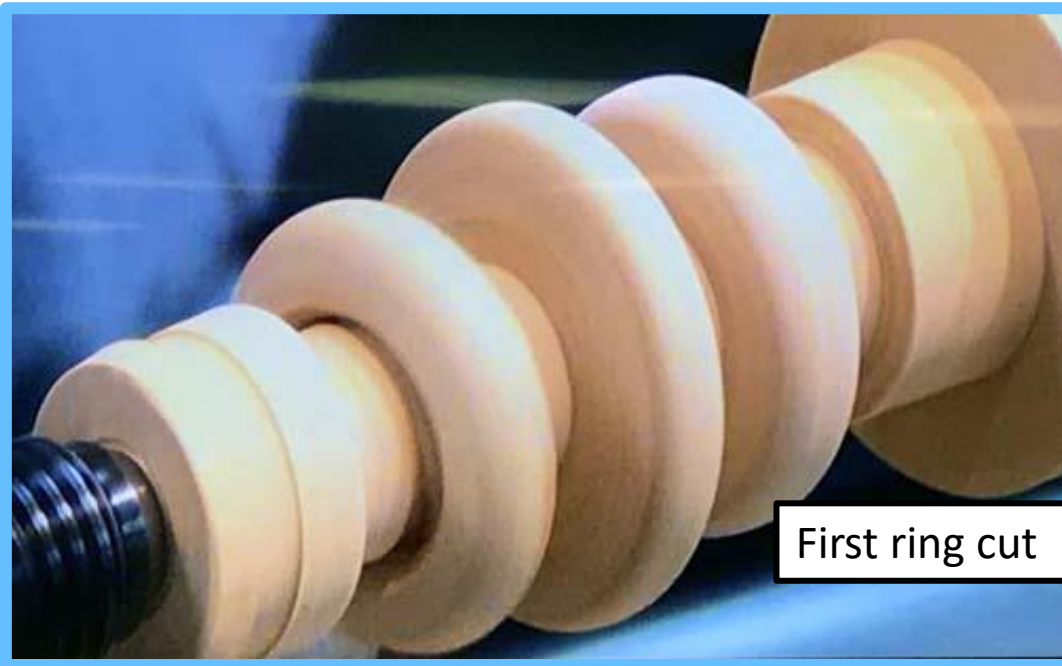
This is the best time to finish the rings, BEFORE they are separated from the cylinder. He wants the mass of the piece in the area of the rings.

Use a spindle gouge (or a skew if you're comfortable with it) to profile the rings. Gary just roughs the shape first. He shapes and then refines the profiles of the rings with 100g sandpaper. He considers sandpaper a "tool" that he uses in creating his pieces, not an admission of a failure in his use of turning tools.



Gary makes the ring parting tool from an Allen wrench. He leaves it a little blunt on the end. It is sharpened by “lapping” the top and bottom of the tool. Gary flattens the special parting tool for stability on the tool rest.

This tool can tear the fibers but at this time he is just trying to separate the rings from the cylinder.



First ring cut

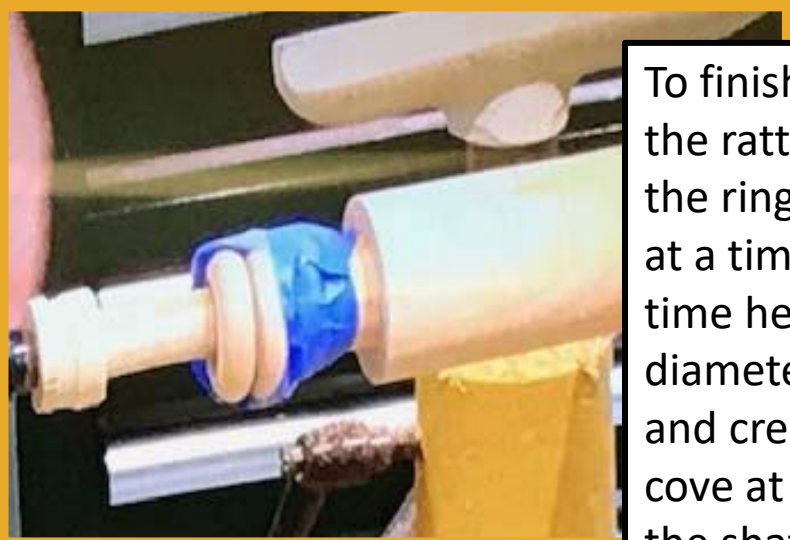
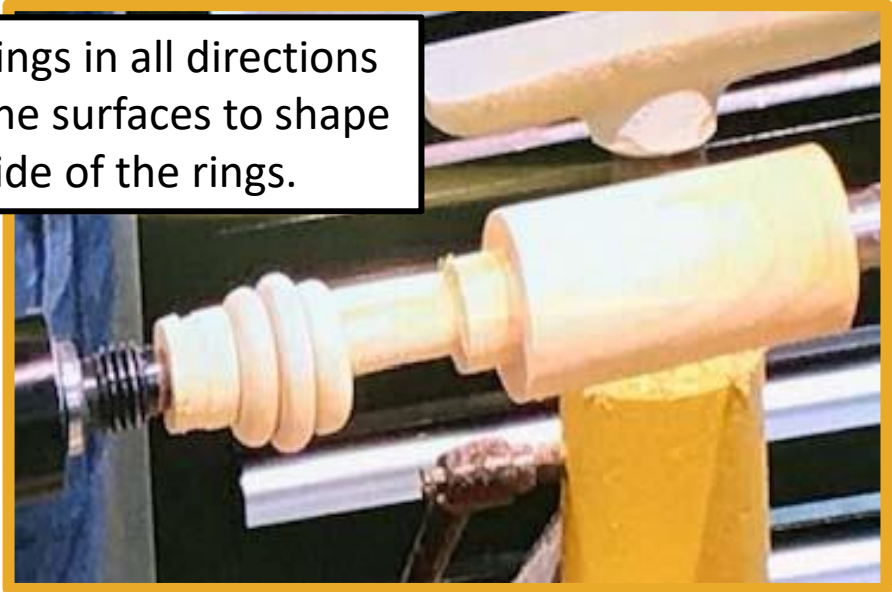


Gary then starts to profile the shaft using the spindle roughing gouge. At this time he is holding the rings out of the way with his fingers. He flattens the shaft to “smooth” and using double sticky tape with a piece of sandpaper smooths the inside of the rings by manipulating them over the sandpaper. (Make sure to put the tape on in the correct direction).



This is Jerry Manion's first meeting & he is enjoying Gary's demo

Gary moves the rings in all directions and contacts all the surfaces to shape and finish the inside of the rings.



To finish the shaft of the rattle Gary tapes the rings to one side at a time. At this time he reduces the diameter of the shaft and creates a slight cove at the end of the shaft.





He then refines the shaft with sandpaper and softens all the edges.

Gary shapes the handle with the spindle roughing gouge, finishes it with the spindle gouge and then sands it to final finish.





Todd says: Nick Cook had an article in American Woodturner, Fall 2004, about turning baby rattles. Included is a simple jig for testing. He refers to a CPSC article: "Small Parts Regulation, Toys and Products Intended for Use by Children Under 3 Years Old". Go to cpsc.gov and search for "small parts regulation". This article should be at or near the top of the hits. It includes another design for a testing jig. Note the critical size is 1 11/16" diam.

Two safety issues were brought up. Gary says he avoids all nut wood because of possible allergies and Todd Williams brought up the federal safety standards for prevention of choking of children.

Thank you, Gary, for an excellent demo. Your directions were clear and concise; the timing of your presentation was excellent. Your jokes interspersed in your instructions were enjoyed by those of us who like "groaners".



The Mid Minnesota Association
of Woodturners has a video of a
recent virtual demo by Gary.

You can access this video at:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1iveaYQ_JPeTg30JavNArnBSBxHAIh8Yr/view

Or

[demonstration by Mid Minnesota Association of Woodturners](#)



Irate business owner: “You painted the sign on my door totally wrong! You’ve got to fix it IMMEDIATELY!”

Sign painter: “I painted it just like you wrote it out for me.”

Irate business owner: “IT’S ALL ONE WORD!”



PSYCHO THE RAPIST



People might be interested in my article on liming wax as a follow-up to Jim Jacobs' experience. It is in the article section on my website:

www.millennium-studio.com

or straight to it at:

http://webfarm.foliolink.com/Artists/43893/Coloring_Wood_Grain_with_Wax.pdf

Intro to Steve's article

Coloring Wood Grain with Wax by Steven McLoon

White colored paste wax, often called liming wax, can be used to fill the pores in wood. When the wood is dark or stained dark, the contrast between the white pores and dark background can have an interesting effect. This process is called liming or pickling wood.

The process works great on turned wooden eggs. Here is the standard procedure. Sand the egg up to 400g, and then stain it with Behlen Solar-Lux stain. The dark colors such as blood red, work well. Wipe on the stain with a paper towel. Allow each coat several minutes to dry, and keep applying coats until the desired color density is achieved. Next spray the egg with a minimum of three thin coats of lacquer using a spray can of Deft clear semi-gloss lacquer. Once the lacquer is completely dry, rub on white liming wax with 0000 steel wool. I have tested a number of variations on this method and have learned several things.





Setting up my poor man's spray booth and following Jim's guidelines of spraying with the right wind direction, so the overspray blows into your neighbor's yard!

Dan Larson

When Dan Larson was asked about the moisture content of the wood he was working with he said something like, "I put it on my cheek and if feels wet, it's wet and if it feels dry, it's dry."

Steve McLoon

"There are no rules in wood turning"



5-minute Bread (again)



Here's some more bread from Greg Just's oven. Have you tried the recipe and directions for 5-minute bread from Mini Newsletter #3 yet? If not, you'd better. Greg will confirm it's easy and delicious and a good break from the lathe.

I'm just getting involved in segmented turning. Using Jim Jacobs' Super Simple Segmenting System there is no problem getting the complete circle of segments absolutely accurate. I never even check them; I just cut them and glue the segments into a circle. Where I'm having my problem is truing up the flat surface of the segment circle. How do you do it, on the lathe, on a sander, by hand? With the different grain directions I'm afraid to send it through the thickness planer.

Novice Segmenter

Please send answers to mdrprof@gmail.com
and they will be printed in the next newsletter.



For Those of You Who Occasionally Step Away From the Lathe to Play Chess

A moment of tension in Vatican.
If the bishop moves forward the
queen can take him.



FOR SALE

- Guidelines: Short description, price, seller's contact information, one photo in .jpg format. Submit to mdrprof@gmail.com
- The ad will run in one newsletter only; if it needs to be run again it will have to be resubmitted for the next newsletter.
- The ad must be submitted by Wednesday the week before the monthly MWA meeting to be in that month's newsletter.

Nova 1624 II lathe with 1.5HP 120V motor. Excellent condition, machined parts cleaned and waxed after every use. 2 1/2 years old. Only used for about 18 months. I built a heavy bench for it (with drawers) on lockable wheels. The bench also includes solid leg stands at each end that lift the bench off the wheels.

Price: \$600 for the lathe, with original legs/stand, original centers, faceplate, and manual.

\$150 for the bench

Russ Loucks mailto: russ@loucks.email



Member Help Line

The club is setting up a "Member Help Line", the purpose of which will be to answer questions /give advice/ and help educate our membership. Maybe you're a beginner looking for advice on what to buy. Maybe you have questions on chucking. Maybe you have sharpening questions.

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.

Name	Phone	Email	Areas of Turning	Location
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	651-437-1309	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	northsideturners41@gmail.com	sharpening, tool control, turning vs budget	Brooklyn Park



Editor's Notes

This is the sixth of the mini newsletters to be published during the coronavirus emergency when we will not be having regular or sub group meetings.

- Instant Gallery. We all want to see what each other is doing during our mandatory shop time. **Please send me pictures** of your creations during this unique period. I know you're in the shop protecting yourself and turning.
- Member Help Line. Send me an email if you are willing to answer questions/give advice/help educate our members.
- FOR SALE. We're going to try a FOR SALE section for the newsletter. During the duration of the "mini newsletters" they'll probably run for a couple of weeks.
- Please consider a QUESTION or an ANSWER to *ASK A TURNER*. Please more suggestions on FINISHING. Send me your tips to the feature, *TURNING TIPS*. This is especially important because we're not meeting as groups. End grain???
- Send me suggestions for additions/improvements for the mini newsletters
- Stay healthy. Follow all guidelines. A majority of our members are in the high-risk category.

Mike Rohrer, Editor mdrprof@gmail.com

