

# Minnesota WoodTurners Association

A LOCAL CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS

**AAW** | AMERICAN ASSOCIATION  
OF WOODTURNERS

Mini Newsletter No 9



The Real Superheroes



# Instant Gallery

Grant Determan



I just finished up this bowl this weekend and wanted to share it with you and the club via the newsletter. This is only my **SECOND COMPLETED BOWL EVER** and the timing worked out great to give it to my wife for Mother's Day . I'm told the wood is catalpa.

Ed. Note: Congratulations, Grant. We love to see the successes of new turners and we're glad you're part of our group



# Byron Peterson

## Instant Gallery (cont'd)



A friend is coming to help me cut down a tree that is too close to the house for me to get by myself, so I made him a personalized screwdriver as a thank you.



When you get old and take too many meds you need a way to keep them from rolling around the kitchen table. I made myself a pill holder instead of using a dish from my great grandmother.



Working on my first captive ring. I do not have specialized captive ring tools (yet).









My brother-in-law asked if I could duplicate an old yoke he used as a wall decoration. I only have a Jet mini lathe with an extension so I did it in three sections. It's 4 ft long with sections doweled together. Biggest project I've turned to date. Red oak.





I've been trying to clean up my shop and get rid of stuff I haven't been using. Unfortunately, I can't bring myself to toss wood. So, these pieces are from a piece of hard maple with bark and a piece of cedar that I scavenged from a neighbor's wood pile a couple of years ago. They were fun . . . and easy to turn. I have more wood scraps so maybe I'll be inspired to give them a try too.





This is a cherry Calabash bowl. 9" diameter by 4 - 1/2 " high



Russian olive



Walnut



Unknown species



Walnut from Nebraska



## Ken Hallberg

This is a tribute to Tom Sciple for his excellent demos and inspiration to try pepper mills and 3 corner boxes and vases. The pieces shown are samples of what I have turned recently.

Instant Gallery (cont'd)



## Ken Hallberg



The box is my first J3 (Jig by Jim Jacobs) segmenting attempt. I was pleased with the result. The wood is "clear" redwood with a cherry cover.



L to R, buckthorn, mesquite with turquoise, and bloodwood



Doorstop attempt; bit different than the Hosaluk design. My style is similar to one I purchased in New Zealand several years ago. The process involved the "lost wood" process and a bit of tricky table saw joggling. Ash.



COVID-19 Home Haircut



This question was posted in Mini Newsletter #7

I have a salt & pepper set and a pepper mill out of Bolivian rosewood and no matter what finish I put on them the finish is TACKY. I first finished them like the other mills and applied Deft Sanding Sealer and sanded to 500 grit. I then applied my “beloved” Formby’s Tung Oil. The other 14 did fine but the rosewood remained sticky or tacky. I tried a second coat and had the same results. I wiped it with mineral spirits, and it seemed fine. I added another coat and the surface was back to sticky/tacky. I wiped with mineral spirits again and sanded to 500 grit. I tried sanding sealer and wiped the surface smooth then applied Formby’s; same results. I wiped with mineral spirits then tried spraying with lacquer, again same sticky/tacky; same results with spray-on shellac. I cleaned with mineral spirits and tried MinWay Tung Oil; same results. I cleaned again and tried wipe on poly; same results. In the meantime, I finished the other 14 mills with no problems. Any comments would be appreciated.

Tom Sciple

[Woodsbytom@gmail.com](mailto:Woodsbytom@gmail.com)



I do not have the definitive answer to this question, but I have experienced certain woods that seem to resist finishes. I am not sure why this does occur, but perhaps certain species have their own oils embedded within the structure of the wood fibers themselves and these natural oils resist any finish that is applied. Sometimes they could even react slowly, such that at first it seems that the finish is drying normally but then after a few more days the piece becomes tacky and stays that way.

In these cases, I have thoroughly cleaned off the unsuccessful finish and then, with exotic woods especially, re-sand the piece. They sand up beautifully to 400, 600, 800 grit or finer. Once the piece is cleaned and sanded to a finer grit, I apply only a wax finish ( like Renaissance wax or carnauba wax) and buff this to a desired sheen. Nothing works for every type of wood so experimentation is always an option.

When I read the question, I thought I might already know who asked the question, even before I saw Tom Sciple's name at the bottom. I know that Formby's tung oil has been Tom's favorite go-to finish for some time and he has made many beautiful turnings using that finish to absolute perfection.

So, when he asked for comments on his current problem using it on Bolivian rosewood, I was surprised and didn't feel that I had any more experience on his tung oil question than Tom did. I decided to go to the one expert I know that uses lots of tung oil on a wide range of hardwoods and has the "feel" of his ultrasensitive hands to determine the highest attained quality of a truly amazing tung oil finish - our former MWA club member, George Wurtzel.

I telephoned George at his workshop in Greeneville, TN and read Tom's concerns and asked what his immediate reaction was. George said he thought it didn't sound like a problem with the Formby's Tung oil, although he admitted to not using Formby's as compared to his favorite pure tung oil brand, MinWax. (George mentioned that Formby's has a suspicious, small print disclaimer printed on the container that states, "contents contain tung oil 'like' properties".)





George said the problem is likely with the wood itself because the Bolivian rosewood, like most rosewoods, does not need sanding sealer applied, because it is already such a dense and closed grain wood, resisting normal penetration.

He thought the sanding sealer couldn't penetrate the very dense rosewood, and therefore just laid on the surface, in a very thin layer, along with the Formby's applied on top.

The thin film of Formby's and sanding sealer together could not penetrate the wood, did not dry, and remained sticky. He thought Tom might try omitting sanding sealer and try cutting the directly applied tung oil with 25% mineral spirits to help thin each application. This approach should help quicken the normal penetration and drying process.



Like Tom, I have also used tung oil quite a bit and have normally had better success with it when thinning it 25-30% with mineral spirits. I have also had a few, not fun, similar situations where it remained sticky longer than what seemed reasonable. Those situations were determined by later investigation to be most likely due to “old” tung oil that had lost its “evaporator” qualities and should have been replaced.

For me, “new” tung oil (not over 6 months old) has never left that annoying sticky feel after normal, overnight drying time, even in very dense, closed grain woods, when I have applied it thinned with 25-30% mineral spirits. In my experience, high workshop humidity can also be an unsuspected culprit for prolonged drying time of a tung oil finish,

I've had a similar experience with a variety of the exotic woods which contain a high level of their own oils. My conclusion is that those are lower molecular weight on average than the Tung oil and polyurethane film formers we have tried to overcoat them with.

The lower molecular weight of the Bolivian rosewood native oil allows it to be more mobile than the heavier polymers, especially after their vehicle has evaporated away. The surface tension is then lowered when the low molecular weight rosewood oil blooms to the surface, driven by the thermodynamic requirement to minimize the surface free energy.

So, it doesn't matter what you would coat it with if that overcoating and film-former has a larger molecular weight, or more complex polymeric chains, than the wood's own oils, the latter will be driven to the surface by thermodynamics, period.





My only success was to let the exotic wood oils evaporate enough that it would minimize what was there to bloom to the surface. The tackiness is a sign of how low the molecular weight is.

Extracting the oils with solvents could help too of course. Think of it as trying to apply paint to a wet surface, which you wouldn't do. It is a similar phenomenon.



1. A sanding sealer acts as a barrier and base coat for a surface finish (shellac, or polyurethane). It isn't per se intended to be used under an oil finish.

2. Finishes labeled "tung oil " may or may not be tung oil, and even if they contain some tung oil it may not be their primary ingredient. Many brands first use mineral spirits (to thin it) and even polyurethane (to build up a finish) without disclosing it to the consumer.

3. Sometimes wiping a piece with mineral spirits before finishing will remove the natural oil from the surface, but you are still fighting city hall to get it to stick.



4. Another approach would be to sand through say 1000 or even 4000 grit (Abralon pads are great for this) and then just wax the piece. The sanding will burnish the wood, the natural oils and the wax will make a beautiful finish.

5. As an alternative, Watco makes a finish called “Teak Oil” (it is just a name that has nothing to do with teak; you have to love marketing). It is an oil blend (I have no idea what is in it) but it works with exotic lumber.

If none of this works, give it to someone you are not very fond of (my mother-in-law has a wall of my stuff).

I have an article coming out in the May 2020 issue of AAW's Woodturning Fundamentals entitled "Why Finishes Fail" that will go into these and other concepts in more detail. (Volume 9 Issue 2}.



A friend took down a large white oak last fall and saved a 2" slab to turn into a table. They plan to finish it w/ poly but don't know if it's dry enough to do so now. I'll take my moisture meter over as soon as possible (they live a ways away) but wonder if they should just finish the top side so that it will continue to dry. I don't know--does anyone? I fear it might exacerbate cracking, but don't know. Any other suggestions?

Bill Campbell

This question will be answered in Mini Newsletter #10. Please send any answers to Mike Rohrer, Newsletter Editor, [mdrprof@gmail.com](mailto:mdrprof@gmail.com)





I have a Nova Comet II Mini wood lathe. After setting up a project, the tail stock moves back slightly when I turn the hand wheel to tighten. I have to put a lot of pressure on the tail stock lock handle to keep the tail stock from moving back.

Is there something I can do to the lock plate underneath? Am I tightening the project too tight? Any ideas?

Duane Betker

This question will be answered in Mini Newsletter #10. Please send any answers to Mike Rohrer, Newsletter Editor, [mdrprof@gmail.com](mailto:mdrprof@gmail.com)



## Drying Twice-Turned Bowl Blank Question

What techniques do you use when drying a twice turned bowl? Indoors vs unconditioned shop, sitting out in the open vs box/bag, should wet shavings be added? What factors should be considered?

Grant Determan

This question will be answered in Mini Newsletter #10. Please send any answers to Mike Rohrer, Newsletter Editor, [mdrprof@gmail.com](mailto:mdrprof@gmail.com)



### Ellsworth Grind on Bowl Gouge

Some years ago, I bought a couple of beautiful salad bowls from a professional woodturner at the ACC show in St. Paul. I asked if I could visit his shop. Since I had just bought two bowls he agreed. (I've seen him at a couple of shows since then and asked if I could revisit. He always says, 'sure, sometime...' I guess I should buy more bowls.)

It was fascinating. I stole many ideas (e.g. shower curtains to control flying chips, using a forstner bit to cut the recess in the bottom of a bowl and hollow out the center), but the most important benefit was the Ellsworth gouge he sold me. He said he'd never been able to make it work and was happy to pass it on. It swiftly became my go-to bowl gouge. I just continued using the same grind it came with.

Then, a few months ago at the Southeast Sub Group meeting, Dan Larson talked about Ellsworth gouges and I realized the grind on mine was not what Ellsworth recommended. So, I bought a new one; sure enough the grind was quite different. The angle at the tip was less sharp and the wings were much longer than on the Ellsworth gouge I'd been using for lo, these many years. I've been using them both since then, trying to decide which I like better. I've had some success with each.



Mike Mahoney's presentation on the MWA May 9 Zoom meeting inspired me to check the grinds on both gouges a little more carefully. It turned out that the angle at the tip of the gouge I'd been using for years was correct, about 42 degrees, but not so good along the wings. However, the new Ellsworth gouge showed a tip angle of 47 degrees-- Mahoney recommends 40-45, as you recall, and he prefers 40 for the wood he typically turns. I turn the same woods, so I reground both gouges to 40 degrees. Here's how I proceeded:

My grinder has a fine-grind CBN wheel and a coarse-grind ceramic wheel. I decided to use the coarse wheel to do the heavy grinding. First, I set the angle of the grinder platform at 40, using a very handy angle gauge from SB and ground the tip and sides freehand as Mahoney did, leaving lots of metal under the cutting edges along the wings.





Second, I moved to the CBN wheel for final grind. I put the gouge in the jig w/ 1.5" protruding, the setup I always use--I have a stop block screwed 1.5" from the edge of the bench near the grinder.

Third, I set the angle on the jig to position 7 on the curved piece



I've marked it w/ a dot designated B, for bowl gouge. (The E is for the former grind on the new Ellsworth gouge, the S is for spindle gouges.)

Finally, I set the sliding bar almost to position E. (Actually, I just slide that bar in until the the gouge fits exactly on the wheel.)



The jig, set up thusly, works great at grinding both gouges. They're not quite identical.



The new gouge has slightly longer wings than the old one. I'll see if that difference matters as I use them. Perhaps I'll change one, perhaps I'll use them for slightly different purposes.

I'm grateful to MWA for arranging Mahoney's presentation. It was excellent.

I'll give both gouges a full-scale test and let you know how they work.

# Tips For Turners

## Making a Lathe Tool

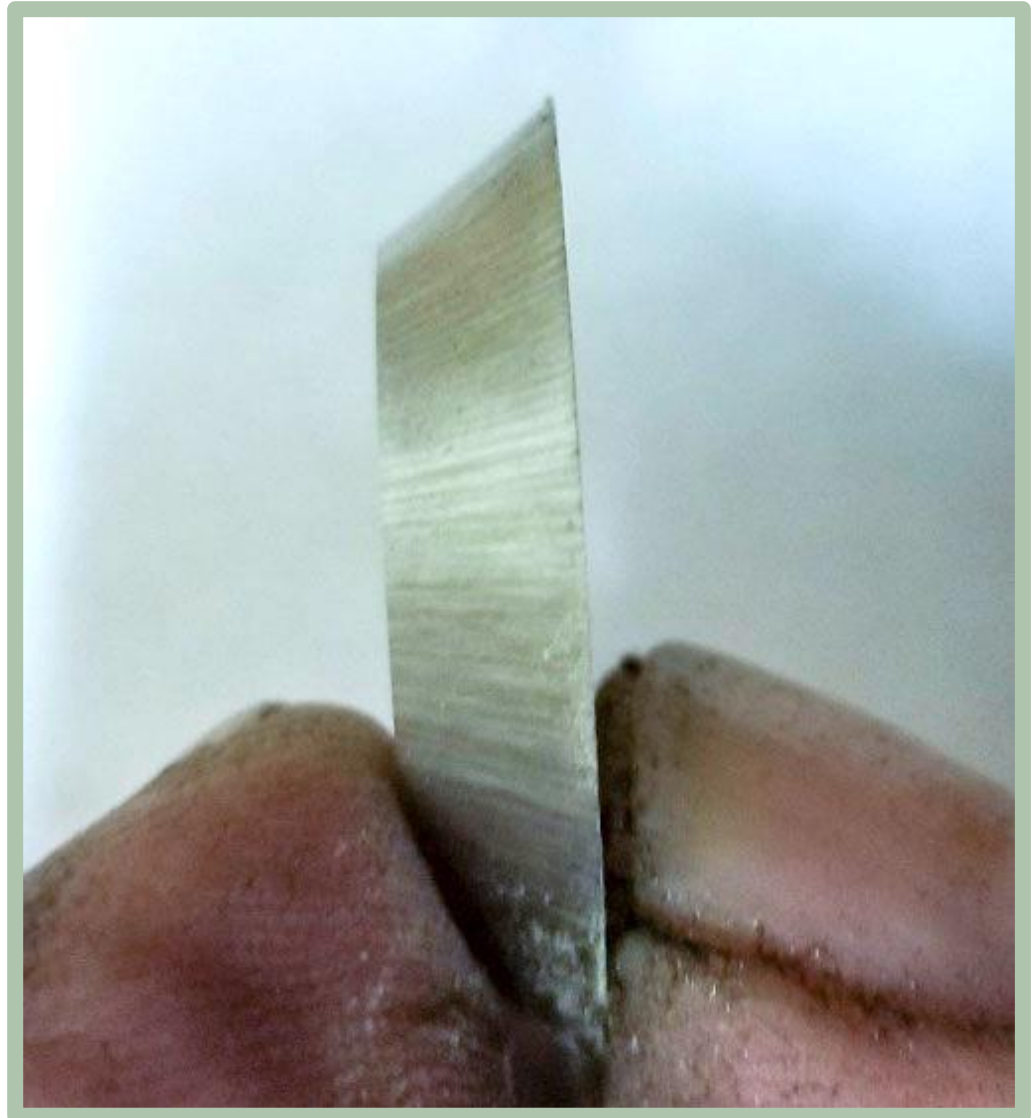
John Schultz

I purchased a deep hollowing package with carbide cutters. I am still learning how to use the hollowing system but one thing that is difficult for me is to get a good finish on the inside of the hollowed parts. Upon further reading and a YouTube video, a scraper was recommended for finishing the inside.

Because I had an extra handle with a bent tip and an HSS blank 5 mm thick and 30mm wide, I decided to try and make my own scraper. I drew an egg shape on the HSS, cut it out with a grinder and a cutoff wheel, smoothed the corners and put an edge and a bevel on it with my 80 grit CBN wheel.



On initial testing, the scraper does a great job of smoothing the ripples left from the carbide cutter. The egg shape should let me do both the bottom of a bowl (the fat end of the egg) and up the side (the narrow end of the egg).







COVID-19 Home  
Haircut #2

# Support Woodturning Suppliers

Warren Gerber

In a March 13 email, the American Association of Woodturners announced the cancellation of the AAW 2020 symposium that was to be held in Louisville, Kentucky this summer. They pointed out that the COVID19 virus was disrupting the livelihoods of all those associated with the woodturning community and that we need to continue to support them however we can.

What grabbed my attention was their statement: “Your online purchases could tip the scales for small businesses, keeping them afloat in these very challenging times.”

Now that is an idea that I can support with a great deal of enthusiasm. Online sales are the perfect way to shop while practicing social distancing. And if you cannot find that perfect tool to enhance your woodturning experience in the online catalogs, on Amazon or on eBay you need to shop for a faster computer.



You may have noticed that having a woodshop to retreat to during this “Shelter in Place” event has contributed greatly to your domestic tranquility. As the living room and kitchen seem to shrink in size, your lathe is happier than ever to keep you out of harm’s way. Your woodshop used to be a place where you had to be careful not to do something that might end up sending you to the emergency room. The shop seems relatively safe now and a good way to keep you out of the hospital.

Here is your chance to finally get your garage woodshop fitted out with a heater so you can work out there in cold weather. No one will protest that it costs too much; it will be worth whatever it costs. Take that \$1,200 check you just received and get a nice heater and have plenty left over to buy something nice for the living room or kitchen.



## Support Woodturning Suppliers

Which brings up the whole question of how does a dedicated woodturner satisfy their need to buy more tools in this new environment? The 401 k has taken a pretty big hit lately. Your household is getting more careful about expenses and there is a lot more monitoring of income and outgo. However, it is quite apparent that if you spend \$100 on a tool, within a few days someone else in the household spends about \$100 on something else. You are being monitored and something about being “fair” or “treating everyone equally” means that your \$100 tool purchase will ultimately cost the household budget a matching \$100.

Warren Gerber



**Hamlet Glenn Lucas M42 GL5 1/2  
Inch Finishing Bowl Gouge  
\$99.95**





So, what are the strategies a woodturner can use when buying shop supplies or a new tool that ultimately will lead to woodturning perfection and keep the small woodturning suppliers in business?

1. The Three-Day Rule. If you can get the new tool into the shop for three days before it is discovered by the household monitor you can claim “What, this old thing? It’s been here forever”. This is the same strategy that the household monitor uses when you ask about a new item of clothing or a new addition for their favorite hobby.



Carter Products Perfect Sphere  
Tool with Riser Stud

2. The Win/Win Rule. The number of home improvement projects increase proportionally to the amount of time you and your spouse shelter in place. The kitchen chairs wobble and could use some glue to firm them up, the dressers have nicks and scrapes that need attention, leather furniture needs to be cleaned and the living room table needs another coat of oil and wax. There is the opening: Titebond wood glue (\$24.00 per gallon) Mahoney wood finish (\$17.99 for 16 oz) Odie's Oil (\$38.50 for 9 oz) Renaissance wax (\$27.95 for 7 oz). Oil and buff up the dining room table before you store the leftover material in the shop.



3. The Follow the Leader rule. Remember you are not the only one looking on the internet for something to buy. Online shopping is one of the few things left to do in this age of sheltering in place. Sooner or later the Amazon truck will drop off a package that you did not order. Now is your chance, use the old “treat everyone fairly” argument to get a matching purchase.



**Hamlet Glenn Lucas GL6 Bottom  
Finishing Gouge**



**Oneway Vari-Grind 2 Jig**

4. The Increasing Wealth Argument. Now that we know the woodpile is really the same as money, anything that will increase the size or quality or yield of the woodpile is a great investment. That should be good for a new chainsaw, and with a little creative thinking, a new bandsaw, maybe even a Super Simple Segmenting System.



# Sub-Group Meetings

## Plymouth Group

The May meeting will be on Zoom: Tuesday May 19, 7:00pm.

**Meeting id:** 781 6820 2282

**Password:** 6AR7Cv

Direct

link: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78168202282?pwd=amNmQWo4UjMvYnhJUWw5UHpNa2VUUT09>

## Hamburger Club

Our May luncheon is scheduled on Thursday, May 21, 2020 at 11:30 am via Zoom

**Meeting ID:** 215 870 5900

**Password:** 2020

One meeting topic will be ... Dan Larson and Dick Hicks have recently participated in "one on one video lessons" with Glenn Lucas and will share this experience with our group.

This is an open dialogue of our woodturning friends. Please feel free to invite others.





# For Sale



I am now offering a new style bead box kit.

These have the body and top assembly ready to go on the lathe. Designed for the intermediate wood turner.

Total cost of \$25.00 includes shipping to your door.

Can accept checks or Pay Pal.

Contact Jim Jacobs

[woodmanmn@aol.com](mailto:woodmanmn@aol.com)

or 651-497-1309



**FREE!!!**

Contact Mark Kelliher emailto:

[markandkathy007@comcast.net](mailto:markandkathy007@comcast.net)



# 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](mailto: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	<a href="mailto:mdrprof@gmail.com">mdrprof@gmail.com</a>	bowls, boxes	South Mpls
Steve Miller	715 821-8726	<a href="mailto:ssmiller920@gmail.com">ssmiller920@gmail.com</a>	all types, light on segmenting	River Falls, WI
Lee Tourtelotte	612-670-1874	<a href="mailto:leetourtelotte@icloud.com">leetourtelotte@icloud.com</a>	all types, beginner, advanced	South Mpls
Warren Gerber	651 403 2883	<a href="mailto:xlwalleye@gmail.com">xlwalleye@gmail.com</a>	Bowls	Mendota Heights
Jim Jacobs	651-437-1309	<a href="mailto:woodmanmn@aol.com">woodmanmn@aol.com</a>	beginner/advanced, segmenting, skews	Hastings
Dick Zawacki	507-744-5748	<a href="mailto:dickzawacki@gmail.com">dickzawacki@gmail.com</a>	general, bowls, wood carving	Northfield
Mike Lucido	651-738-2551	<a href="mailto:mike.s.lucido@gmail.com">mike.s.lucido@gmail.com</a>	general woodturning	Woodbury
Bill Campbell	715-338-2634	<a href="mailto:wm.e.campbell@uwrf.edu">wm.e.campbell@uwrf.edu</a>	general woodturning	River Falls, WI
Mark Kelliher	651-636-8678	<a href="mailto:markandkathy007@comcast.net">markandkathy007@comcast.net</a>	general woodturning	Arden Hills
Todd Williams	651-274-4658	<a href="mailto:toddwilli@comcast.net">toddwilli@comcast.net</a>	general woodturning	Lake Elmo
Bob Meyer	651-483-6187	<a href="mailto:rjmbobco@comcast.net">rjmbobco@comcast.net</a>	bowls, ornaments, sharpening, gen'l.	Lino Lakes
Dick Hicks		<a href="mailto:rbhicks@rbhicks.com">rbhicks@rbhicks.com</a>	platters, spindle work, bowls	Zoom from shop
Steve Mages	952-544-5286	<a href="mailto:smages@juno.com">smages@juno.com</a>	general woodturning	Minnetonka
Neil Robinette	763-639-1085	<a href="mailto:northsideturners41@gmail.com">northsideturners41@gmail.com</a>	sharpening, tool control, turning vs budget	Brooklyn Park





# Stay At Your Lathe Orders



## Editor's Notes

This is the ninth of the newsletters to be published during the coronavirus emergency when we will not be having regular or sub-group meetings. People have been telling me the newsletters have been helping keeping the MWA members thinking about each other, different facets of wood turning and how much we all enjoy our woodturning activities and colleagues.

- Instant Gallery. Keep sending 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.
- Please consider a QUESTION or an ANSWER to *ASK A TURNER*. There are several *Ask* questions in this issue. Send me your tips to the feature, *TIPS for TURNERS*. This is especially important because we're not meeting as groups.
- Stay healthy. Follow all guidelines. A majority of our members are in at least one or more of the high-risk categories.

*Mike Rohrer, Editor* [mdrprof@gmail.com](mailto:mdrprof@gmail.com)

