

Minnesota WoodTurners Association

A LOCAL CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS

AAW | AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
OF WOODTURNERS

Volume 2018 No 11



**November
Demonstration**

**Mark Palma
Finishing**



Minnesota Woodturners Association

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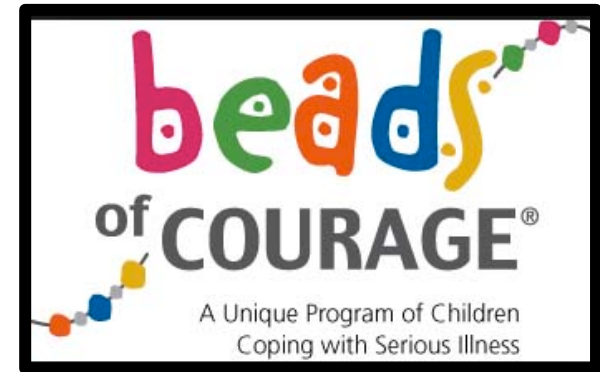
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Beads of Courage



Bob Puetz is very happy with the quantity and especially the quality of the bowls and games submitted this month



Diane Puetz accepts a great bowl from Don Schlais



Instant Gallery



The November MWA Instant Gallery was one of the largest

Woodturning techniques of all types and skills of all levels are on display at the monthly exhibition of members' turning efforts. Members of all skill levels are encouraged to bring pieces to share with others.



Instant Gallery



Bob Mugaas - Amur corktree (wood originally from Minn. Arboretum)



Bruce Sitz



Dan Larson



Instant Gallery



Greg Ford – Red Oak. Segment jig on table saw; NO SANDING before glue-up



Gary Legwold



Greg Ford



Instant Gallery



Mike Rohrer - maple vessel hollowed through a hidden insert in the base



Jim Jacobs – Segmented bell with drawn plans



Lee Tourtelotte-Beading tool made from one blade of a table saw molding cutter



Instant Gallery



Lee Tourtelotte – Natural edge bowl on pedestal



Lee Tourtelotte– Bowl *a la* Michael Mode



Todd Williams – *faux* basket weave



Jim Jacobs – Natural edge mushroom



Instant Gallery



Linda Ferber – Natural edge small bowls
with internal artwork



Tom Sciple – Natural edge bowls



Before the Meeting



Fellowship, donuts and pre-meeting activities are a favorite part of the monthly MVA meeting



Bob Jensen distributing current Craft Supplies orders



Presidents:
R - Current Rick Auge
L - Incoming Lee Luebke



Bruce Sitz (L) and Eugene Pechacek



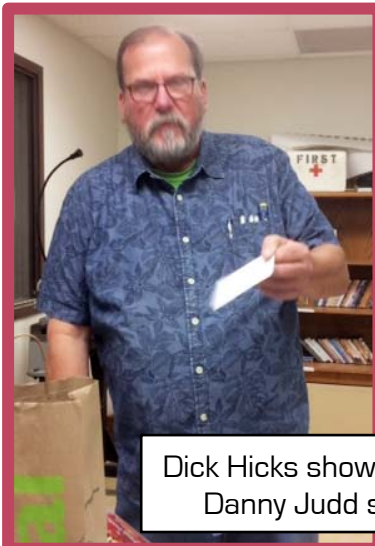
Dale Gjerde describing his submarine service to claustrophobic Mike Rohrer



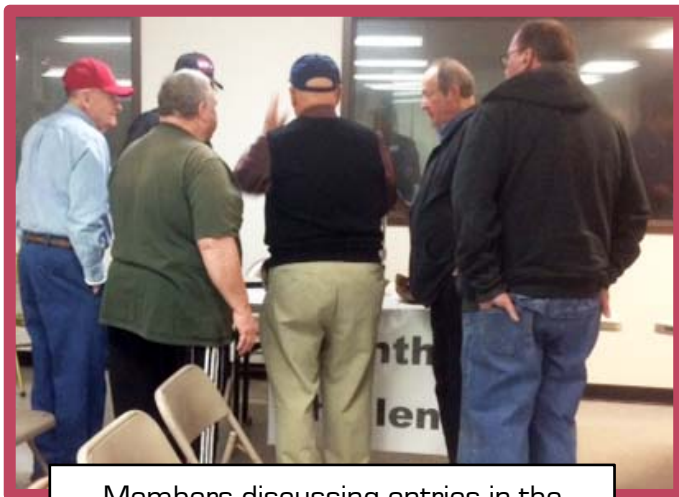
Before the Meeting



Dan Drevlow looking through woodturning magazines available to members



Dick Hicks showing the new library card system and Danny Judd signing out DVDs from the library



Members discussing entries in the Member Challenge



Greg Just, Jay Schulz and Janese Evans



Jeff Koltveit taking care of the Woodcraft table



Before the Meeting



Gordon Fay and Mike Lucido



Janese Evans and Ken Crea taking care of the raffle tickets and membership



Jay Schulz picking out an instructional DVD from the club's extensive library



Jim Jacobs and Doug Ashton



Mark Palma setting up for his demo on finishing





Jay Schulz, Tom Spielmann and Russ Loucks ready for the meeting

Before the Meeting



Reid Zimmerman and Jay Young



Mike Braml and Bill Breckon



Time for the meeting to start



Announcements

•President Rick Auge announced that the slate of candidates for Board of Directors had moved its way through the nomination process and called a vote. Each term is TWO YEARS. After the vote of members present the following were elected to 2 year terms:

- President – Lee Luebke
- Recording Secretary – Rosanne Gold
- Board – Tom Sciple
- Board – Neil Robinette

Mid-term Board Members continuing:

- Vice President - Janese Evans
- Treasurer – Mark Debe
- Membership Director – Ken Crea
- 501c3 – Reid Zimmerman
- AAW Representatives and Demonstrations – Linda Ferber



Pres. Rick Auge



October Demonstration Mark Palma

Finishing for Immortals





Jeff Luedloff and Mark Palma discussing his demo before the start of the meeting



Dan Larson adjusting the overhead camera



Safety Tips/ Finishing Tips



1. Put safety glasses on when you enter the shop
2. Always wear NEW gloves; you don't want to absorb the vehicle into your skin
3. Spray OUTSIDE
4. What you apply finish with can start a fire through spontaneous combustion; don't throw application materials in a bucket or a pile. Do something smart with them, not in a pile
5. Don't wear your turning apron when finishing
6. Use finishes that are replicable, safe and easy to find



Summary

1. Great finish won't hide bad work or preparation
2. No finish is perfect for everything
3. Specie, Design and Use decide the finish
4. You cannot get a great finish in a poor environment
5. Pick 3 finishes, buy in small quantities and master them
6. Finishes are Food Safe in 30 Days



Demonstration Bowls

Mark had turned over 30 identical oak bowls. Each had been finished with a different material (including Lemon Pledge and WD-40). The bowls were passed around the audience one- at-a-time. Attendees were encouraged to feel, observe and smell each bowl before turning it over to read the material used, how many coats and any other technique used. The audience found this a very interesting and educational experience.

Mark Palma



Part I. Finishes at a Glance

Mark Palma

“Finish is not like wine . . . it doesn’t improve with age”

Why Finish?

Preserve, Protect and Beautify – Lemon Pledge

It works, now lets find out why and if we can outperform Pledge

What is a Finish?

“Vehicle” and a “Solid”

Solid is what is left after it cures

Vehicle lets it flow, but it must evaporate before finish curing

Options:

A. Nothing

B. Oil Family (Tung, Danish, walnut, mineral, linseed, Tru Oil (gun stock), oil blends)

Penetrates wood to enhance grain

Will impart color change on most woods (darker)

Pools and sometimes bleeds back in open grain woods

May be flammable when wet

“Pops” grain



Part I. Finishes at a Glance

Mark Palma

“If you wait till the turning is finished, it’s too late to think about finishing”



Options: (cont'd)

- Oil Family (Tung, Danish, walnut, mineral, linseed, Tru Oil (gun stock), oil blends) (cont'd)

Works in high dust environments and relatively foolproof

Some wear better than others (modified oil blends generally last longer)

Easily renewable and often interchangeable for compatibility

Low to medium Gloss

“Wet” sanding oils into wood

Part I. Finishes at a Glance

Mark Palma

“Anything that penetrates is some sort of oil”

Options: (cont'd)

Oil and Wax Blends

Why add wax?

Surface protection, dust
barrier, pleasing touch,
renewable

Wax Alone (clear, colored)

Water based Finishes

Raise grain

May seem more “washed
out”

Dry fast, dry hard,
environmentally friendly



“There is no such thing as TEAK oil . . .it is high quality WATCO”

Mark does 99% of his finishing off the lathe

“ Shotgun cleaning cloths are cheap and great to use in finishing”



Part I. Finishes at a Glance

Mark Palma

“If finish doesn’t work:

1. Swear
2. Most likely used old finish
3. Contaminated finish with applicator
4. Some environmental problem, humidity, dust
5. Did not allow enough mixing or stirring between coats
6. Just bad technique”

Options: (cont’d)

Polyurethanes

Available, durable and predictable

Mineral spirits based vehicle

Thick if you do not thin it down, may hide detail and look “heavy”

Looks and feels like plastic, sometimes sticks to furniture

Long open time allows for contaminants such as dust and bugs

Surface finish no real penetration

When it fails, it is difficult to repair

Not very “food friendly”

If you are going to use poly, thin and add oil

Lacquers

History of Lacquer

Predictable Surface Finish

Imparts little color, does not hide wood grain or get “muddy”

Builds shine with thin layers and may be buffed to incredible shine



Options: (cont'd)

Lacquers (cont'd)

Health concerns, and banned in some areas (Lacquer thinner may be carcinogen).

Short shelf life

Not very food friendly

Not renewable but is repairable

Shellac

Lac Bug

Green, organic, earthy, (alcohol based vehicle)

Often overlooked as option

May be clear to amber

Short shelf life

Binds with any unwaxed finish

May itself contain waxes so look out!

Low to high gloss

Not renewable but repairable



Part I. Finishes at a Glance

Mark Palma

“I do not usually finish a piece the same week that I turn it.”

“Finish for something to be used: sand to 320, wet sand with silicon carbide paper and one coat of oil”

Options: (cont'd)

Acrylics

Artists turn to them first

Wide range of products, features and gloss

Imparts no tint, very clear

Very durable

May be thin (invisible) to thick and very controllable

Very quick drying times and low environmental concerns

Not renewable, but is repairable

Home brews (ink, vinegar and steel wool, poly/oil/mineral spirits)

On the Lathe Finishes

Instant gratification and speed, but trade off durability

Issue-- How long before the vehicle evaporates? Open time

Friction finishes use heat (friction) to burn off vehicle while work spins

Alcohol (spirit) and Lacquer (cellulose) vehicles frequently used

Wax overcoat often used to impart short term gloss



Part I. Finishes at a Glance

“A common mistake is making the finish coating too thick.”

Mark Palma

On the Lathe Finishes (cont'd)

Very reparable not very durable
CA Finish and others (e.g. water modified polyurethane)

My recommendation, either (1) use a Lacquer sanding sealer, shellac topcoat and wax final layer or (2) CA

Tips:

- Use paper towels to apply
- Cover lathe ways and everything else
- Use low speeds
- Use a sanding sealer
- Start on one end and push the finish across
- Stop lathe and check progress, fix problems
- Wear proper PPE
- Care when spraying at the lathe



Part II. Picking the Right Finishes for You

Mark Palma

“We rarely need multiple finishes on one piece.”



Do you Care if the Wood Changes Color?

If you care,
Nothing
Wax
Acrylic
Water Based Varnish without a amber modifier
If work can get darker, proceed with below.

Wood Specie

Open Grain
Deep but irregular finish absorption
Grain may cause finish to pool
Oils may ooze out of wood structure
May result in shiny and dull spots, may need more between coat sanding.

“I would not use cyanoacrylate as finish on a big piece.”



Wood Specie (cont'd)

Closed Grain

Tight , uniform absorption,
Generally more predictable

Highly Figured and Burls

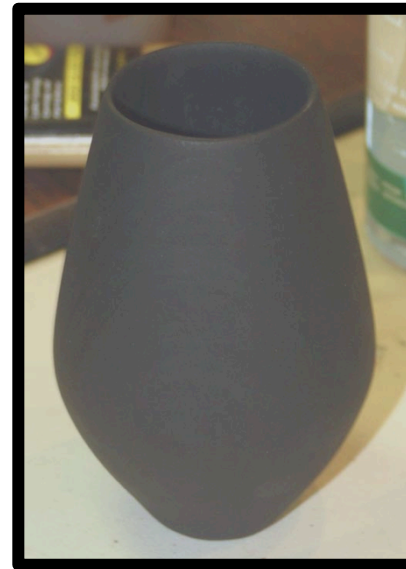
Looking to “pop” grain

Unpredictable absorption

Naturally Oily Woods

Use the oils, don't fight the oils

TEST FINISH!



An excellent way to assess a DESIGN is to finish the piece in flat black so there is no contribution of grain or wood color

Design

Will the Finish “match” the design?

Will elements be enhanced or ruined by finish?

Traditional, modern, abstract, pure art, organic

Beware of too much gloss or too thick of a finish

Use

Gallery Piece vs Daily Kitchenware, that is the spectrum

On the shelf, you can get by with almost anything

Daily or regular use, is it durable and more importantly repairable by the recipient?



Surface Preparation

All part of an overall process

Finish will not hide tear out, sanding scratches or poor turning technique

Match the final abrasive to the finish's needs

Hand sanding with the lathe off!

Finishes off the Lathe

“Beauty is in the eye of the Beholder”

Surface Finish - Natural Beauty – Longevity – Utility-- Reparability

Either they sit on the wood or they penetrate the wood, some do both

My Finishing Plan

Oil Wax blend for daily use items (Danish Oil or Teak Oil)

Walnut Oil touch up for gifts (possible allergy concerns)

Buffed Danish Oil or Lacquer for “Wow Pieces”

Acrylics for Art pieces

CA for pens

Covers 90%



Food Safe

Let the controversy begin

Lead and heavy metal dryers banned from US and UK in 1978

What is the use of the piece?

Cure time, sniff test or wait a month

Some ideas

- Leave wood bare

- “Salad Bowl Finishes” (seem to be polyurethane based)

- Walnut oil, mineral oil, butcher block oil (avoid salad oil, olive oil and cooking oils)

- Fully cured off the lathe finishes (I use Danish Oil cured for 30 days)



Added Value

If your pieces are finished with oil, order a large number of small, inexpensive bottles. Fill the bottle with inexpensive walnut oil from the grocery store.

Place a nice label on the bottle.

Give the bottle with the piece you sell.

This is a nice “added value” to the piece and helps with the sale.



Part II. Picking the Right Finishes for You

Mark Palma



When Something Goes Wrong

- Old Finish
- Contaminants in the Can
- Environmental Problems (temperature, humidity)
- Environmental Contaminants (dust, bugs, silicone, chemical)
- Insufficient Drying Time
- Compatible finishes
- Bad Technique



A Clean Finishing Environment

Take a lesson from professional cabinet shops and auto body shops

Dust, temperature and humidity

Match drying time to the conditions in your finishing space

Store finishes safely to prevent fires and environmental problems

Buy smaller quantities and “turn” your finish inventory more often

Properly dispose of any finish over 12 months old.



Part II. Picking the Right Finishes for You

Mark Palma

Finish Application

- (a) Clean environment
- (b) Do not apply from container to avoid contamination
- (c) Stir finish
- (d) Think about safe disposal
- (e) Consider grain orientation
- (f) Small lint free cloths
- (g) Paint brushes that do not shed
- (h) Support work while it dries



Summary

- Great finish won't hide bad work or preparation
- No finish is perfect for everything
- Specie, Design and Use decide the finish
- You cannot get a great finish in poor environment
- Pick 3 finishes, buy in small quantities and master them

•Food Safe in 30 Days



Thanks, Mark for a great and practical program on finishing. Virtually all woodworkers, whether woodturners, furniture makers or other types of crafts people and artists get very comfortable with their “construction”, but often feel lost or even panic when it comes to applying the finish.



Member Challenge (Natural Edge Bowl)



Mike Braml & Doug Ashton checking out the submitted challenges

Gary Legwold getting ready to vote



Marc Paulson examining a piece after registering his entry with Jeff Leudloff



Member Challenge (Beginner/Intermediate)

Natural Edge Bowl



Mike Rohrer
1st Place



Marc Paulson
2nd Place



Greg Ford
3rd Place



Member Challenge (Advanced)

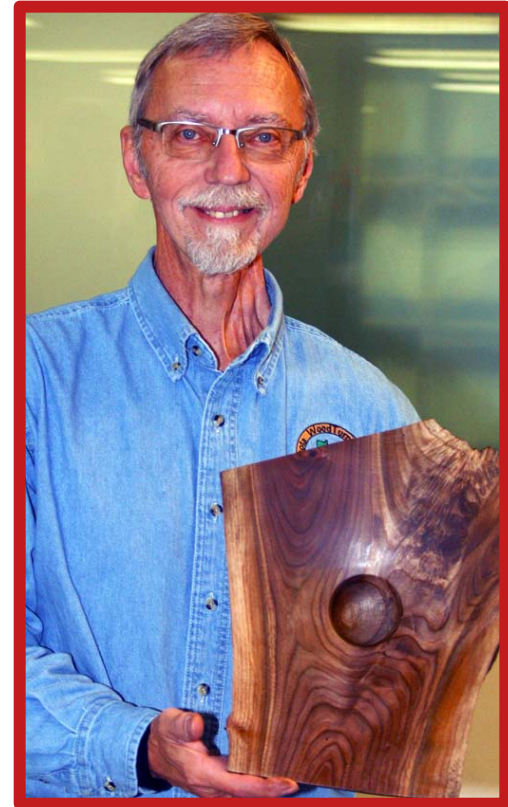
Natural Edge Bowl



Lee Tourtelotte
1st Place



Tom Sciple
2nd Place

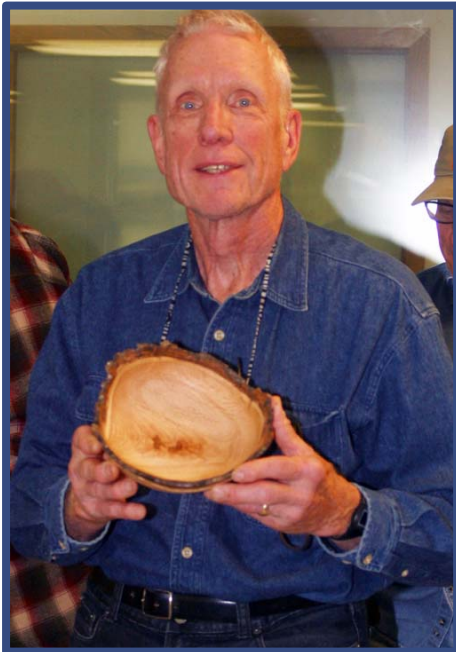


Dan Larson
3rd Place



Member Challenge (Advanced)

Natural Edge Bowl



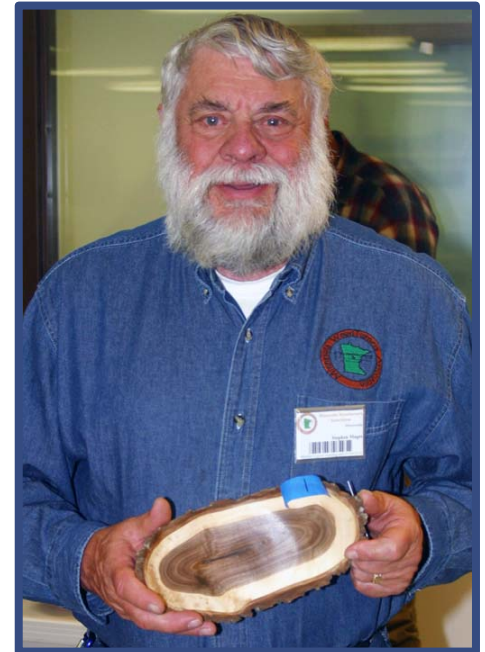
Todd Williams
4th Place



Russ Loucks
5th Place



Linda Ferber
6th Place



Steve Mages
7th Place



Welcome New Members!



William Kroll
Plymouth

Phil Holtan
Perham

Larry Wiesner
Minneapolis

Jerry Schlumpberger
Vadnais Heights

Glenn Spitzer
Maple Grove

David George
Willmar



Tool Raffle

Two of the winners



Pres. Rick Auge calls the winners of the tool raffle



Pres. Rick Auge presents turning tool to incoming Pres. Lee Luebke



Mike Pliner wins the Bionic face mask



Next Meeting

December 1, 2018 - Saturday morning 9 am

Location: Houck Machine Co.

12811 16th Ave N Plymouth MN 55441

DONUTS

Demonstration:

Long-time turner and demonstrator Tim Heil and a couple of other long-time turner/demonstrators will do three back-to-back 20 minute turning demonstrations.

The idea of this demonstration is to show turning and methods that are not usually seen in demonstrations.

See the MWA website for a slide show of a few of Tim's turning projects.

Member Challenge:

Holiday Ornament/Decoration



PROFILES IN TURNING

Joe Zwirn



This is the 14th in a
series of profiles of
members of the
Minnesota Association
of WoodTurners



MWA: Joe, when did you start woodturning?

Joe: I started about 10 years ago. I knew I needed something to do in retirement; otherwise I'd sit in a chair, watch movies on TV and drink Jack. I had seen Norm Abrams and David Marks on TV and thought I'd like to do woodturning so I went out and bought a lathe. I had a lot of equipment because I had been making furniture. I had been doing some furniture for my daughters and for some friends. I started making furniture about 15-20 years before retirement.



MWA: So, how did your newfound hobby of turning progress?

Joe: I had an interruption because I had to take about 1 to 1 ½ years off due to RA. I watched turning demonstrations on TV and decided this would be a hobby for me. A lot of the stuff I was making I started selling at arts and crafts shows. A club member gave me a lot of good tips. I saw a show on American Woodworker about doing segmented turnings.



Before that I'd had trouble getting the segments to line up. Then it was "Practice Makes Better." I'd never say PERFECT. Nobody can be perfect in woodturning. That's what keeps the interest up.



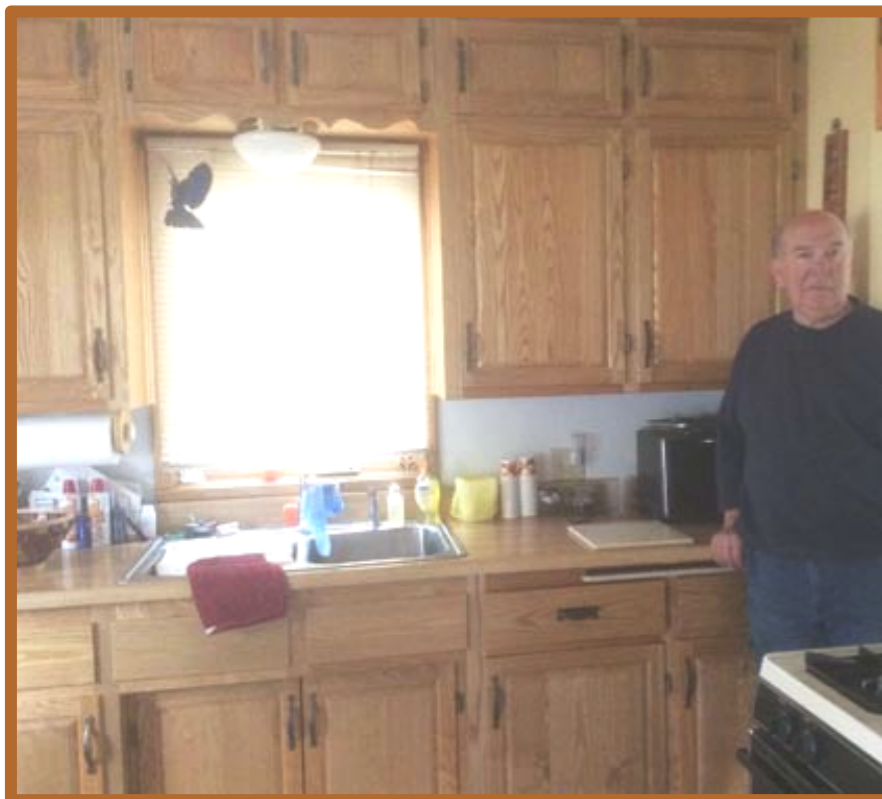
Joe: I've never "practiced" making certain types of turnings. I usually jump right into making my next level of turnings. I looked at every piece I was making, as "this piece will be up for sale." (Of course, that's dependent on whether my wife or daughters want the piece)



Joe looking over his "standup" bench in his basement shop

MWA: How long have you been a member of the MWA?

Joe: Since I started turning. I knew I needed help so I joined the club right away. I found the club on the Internet. I didn't know anything about woodturning when I started. I had done some metal turning as part of one of my jobs.

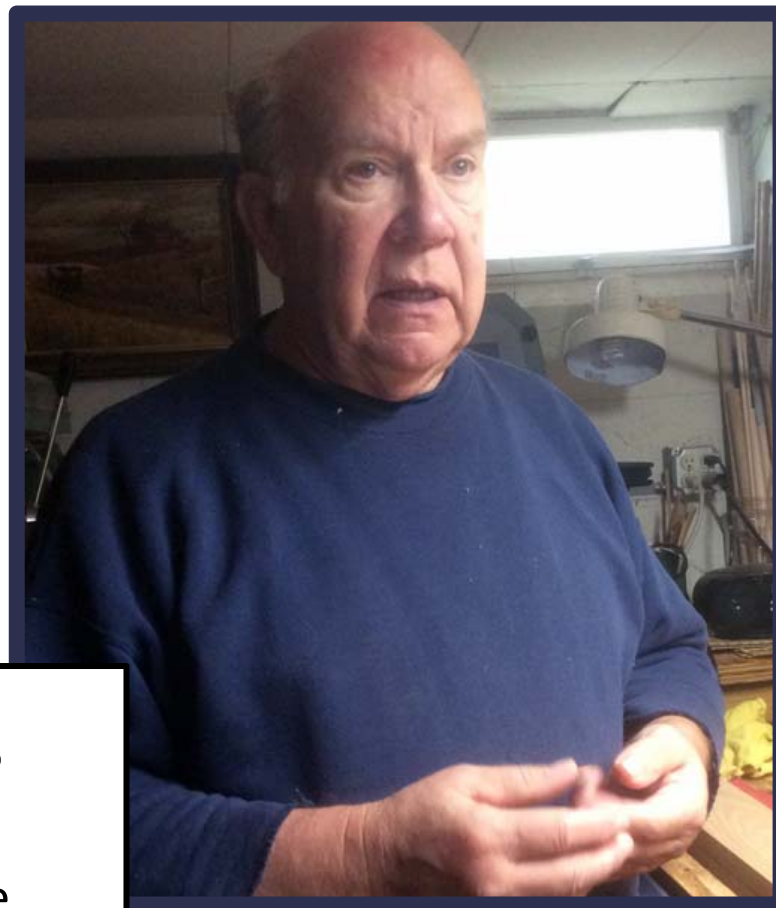


Joe made these cabinets
using black ash



MWA: Joe, have you lived your entire life in Minnesota?

Joe: Yes. I grew up and lived in St. Paul until I got married. My wife made me move to Minneapolis. All of my schooling had been in St. Paul. Instead of college I went in the Army



MWA: You're my age; did you go to Vietnam?

Joe: No. I was stationed in Japan. I was in the Army Security Agency. It was actually pretty good duty; I sort of had it made.



MWA: Where and how big is your shop?

Joe: My shop is divided between my garage and basement. Milling work is done in the garage; turning and assembly take place in the basement.



Joe in the garage shop where he does all the milling



Joe's garage and one of his "woodsheds"

MWA: You've got great equipment in the garage. Does it get too cold to work in the garage in the winter?

Joe: I can warm the place up enough when it's 40 degrees or warmer, but colder than that I shut it down.

Profile
Joe Zwirn



The garage is a well-equipped woodworking area with many woodworking tools

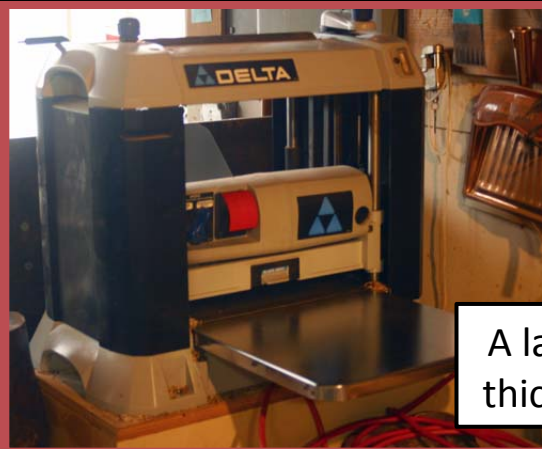
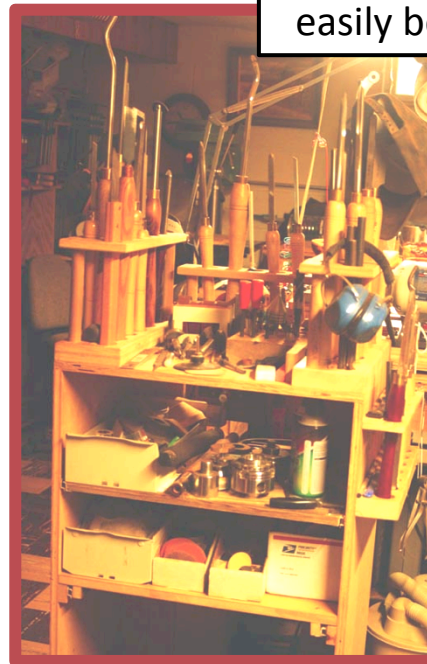


The tool cart can easily be moved

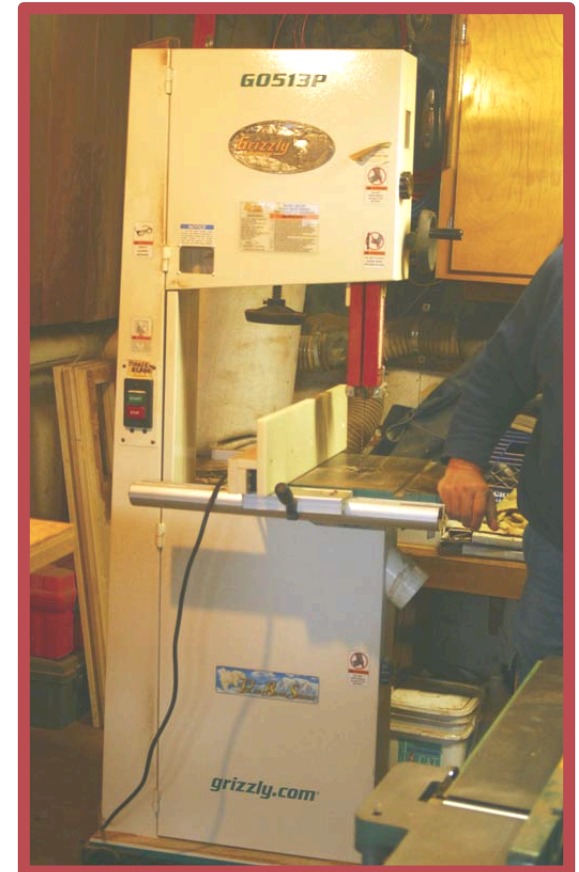
Profile
Joe Zwirn



The cabinet saw and large jointer/planer are on wheels as is all the equipment



A large capacity thickness planer



The large Grizzly bandsaw will move on wheels



MWA: What about using the garage for your car?

Joe: I have everything on wheels. I can move everything so that my wife can get the car in the garage in no time at all.

Profile
Joe Zwirn



Folding the outfeed table to be placed on the cabinet saw, which has wheels



Clearing the garage quickly



The garage cleared in just a few minutes with plenty of room for a car



MWA: What kind of a lathe do you have?

Joe: I have a Jet 16-40 and I also have a small Delta. I had a Nova before the Jet and I am really satisfied with all the functions on the Jet. I bought the Jet with a tailstock swing away to make it easier to turn the inside of bowls and goblets.



Small Delta lathe



Jet 16-40





Swing-away Tailstock





MWA: I notice you have a heavy-duty plastic curtain and a circular curtain rod almost all the way around your lathe. What's that for?

Joe: That confines the turning chips to the immediate area around my lathe; some chips from hardwood turnings would travel all the way across the shop.

Clear plastic curtain keeps turning chips to a space just around the lathe



MWA: Joe, you usually bring a couple of very nice pieces to the Hamburger Club. What is your favorite type of turning?

Joe: Segmented without a doubt! For me, segmented turning offers so many challenges. The only thing bad about segmented turning is all the extra equipment that is needed.



Open segmented bowl

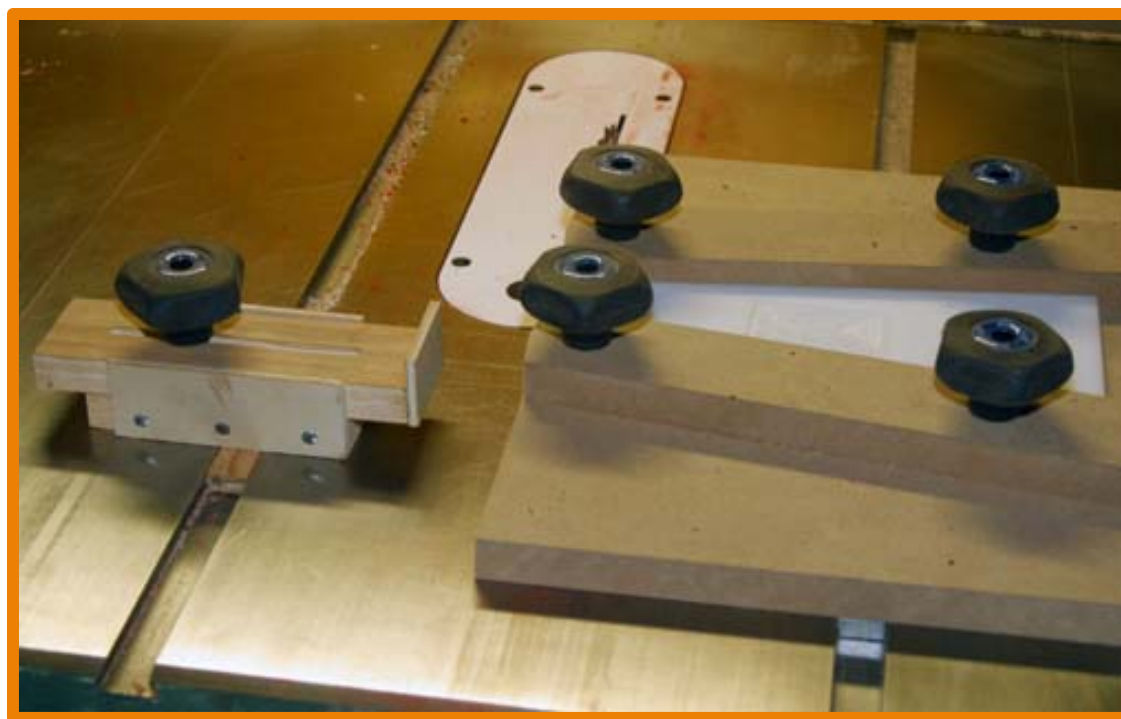


Shop-made clamp for segmented bowls

Joe: To make my segmented turning easier, I made these jigs and I use these Seg-Easy Wedgies to adjust the jig. With the jigs and the wedgies I can make a perfect circle. The first time I used them the circle was perfect when I joined the segments with a hose clamp.



Joe's shop-made segmenting jigs on the router table



Segmenting jig with adjustable stop. White Seg-Easy Wedgie is in place within jig



Goblet with captured rings

MWA: I see an interesting goblet. What's the story behind that?

Joe: I have a goblet with captured rings around the stem; it was the first one I ever made and it is from the most beautiful wood from Chile. I usually have 4 or 5 for sale (none from this species of wood). They don't sell fast but they are a great attractant to get people to stay and look at my other pieces.



After I had told my daughter's friend in detail how the rings were done she said, "But I still don't see how he gets the rings on!" So I told her I soaked them, and then stretched them over the goblet.

MWA: What type of wood do you prefer, wet or dry?

Joe: Dry for any segmented turning. For segmented turning the wood HAS to be dry. Either wet or dry is fine with me for regular bowls.

Profile
Joe Zwirn



Box elder (Red River maple)



Natural edge cherry

MWA: What's your favorite species to turn?

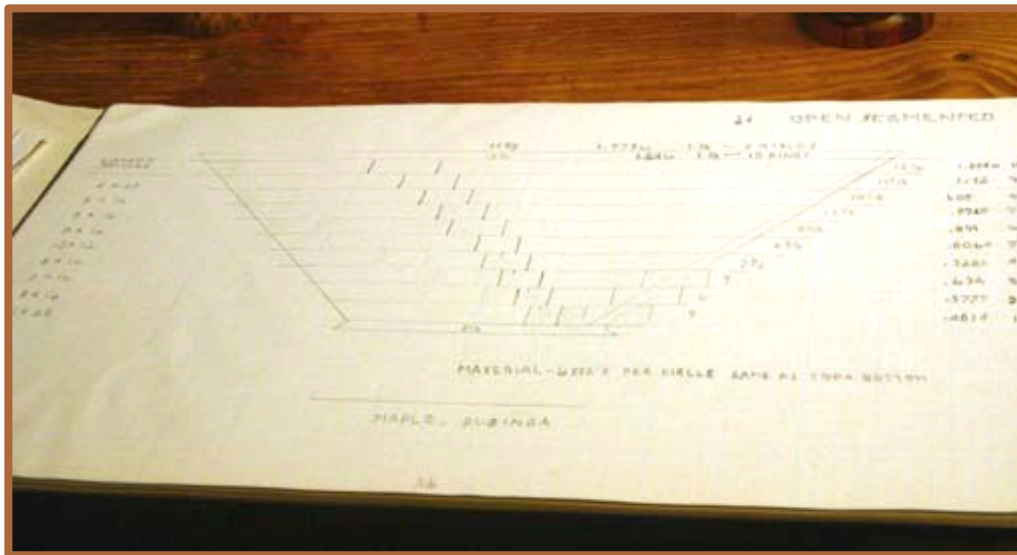
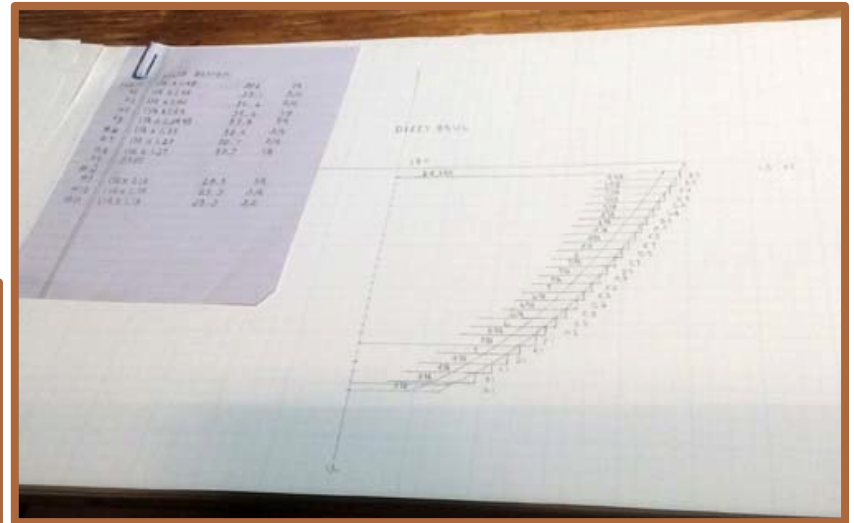
Joe: I like birch best. I started with birch, and I just like it. I did some large birch bowls, which I had no problem selling. Not knowing how much to charge, I charged too little. Fruitwoods have a tendency to crack; I don't like the process of drying them. If you cut out the pith when it's green, you have a lot less chance of cracking.



MWA: Joe, what's your greatest challenge?

Joe: I think my hardest challenge is to start something new, figure out what I need to do and what my form is going to be to accomplish my goal.

Profile
Joe Zwirn



Drawings for open
segmented bowl and
Dizzy bowl

Before, it was making segmented bowls. But with the jigs and cutting with the wedgies, cutting the segments is much easier than before. I draw out every type of segmented bowl that I make.



Profile
Joe Zwirn



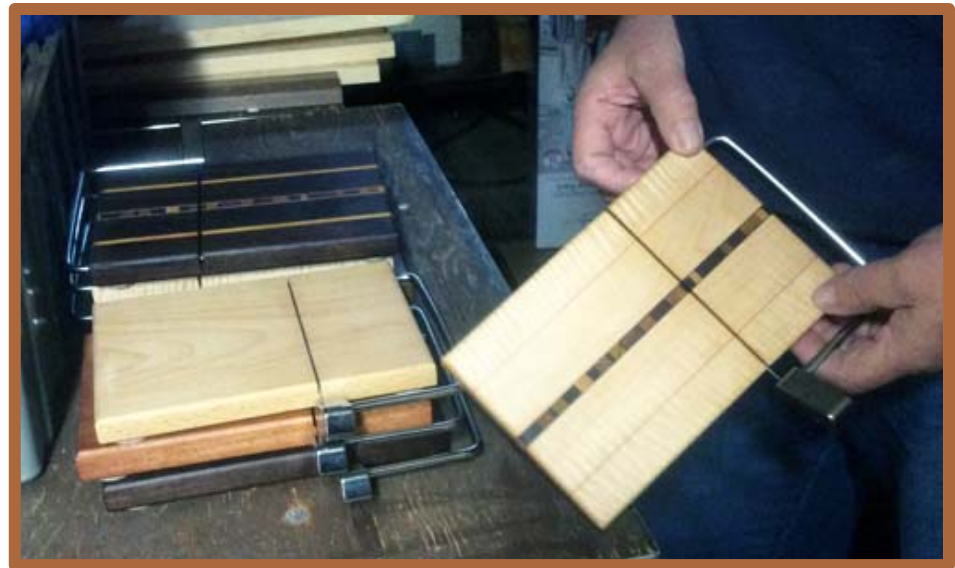
Lamination during dizzy
bowl process

Joe brought one of his
“dizzy bowls” to a
Hamburger Club lunch



MWA: You sell at Arts & Crafts Shows. How many shows do you participate in? Do most of your turnings go to the shows to sell?

Joe: I do 5-6 shows a year; a couple of them are juried. One of the juried shows is in Anoka. I only go to one-day shows. I don't do two-day shows. I think they are a problem; you take a gamble if you leave your stuff there overnight. The shows just can't have enough security to watch all the booths.



Joe incorporates leftover laminated pieces from the dizzy bowls in his cheese slicers



Joe: It usually takes me at least 1-½ hours to set up. My “vendor’s” tent has sides to put on if I need them for bad weather. I usually take 9 large totes that I have to watch how full they get because they get too heavy to carry.

Profile
Joe Zwirn

Joe is trying something new, cribbage boards



Off-center, spalted candle sticks



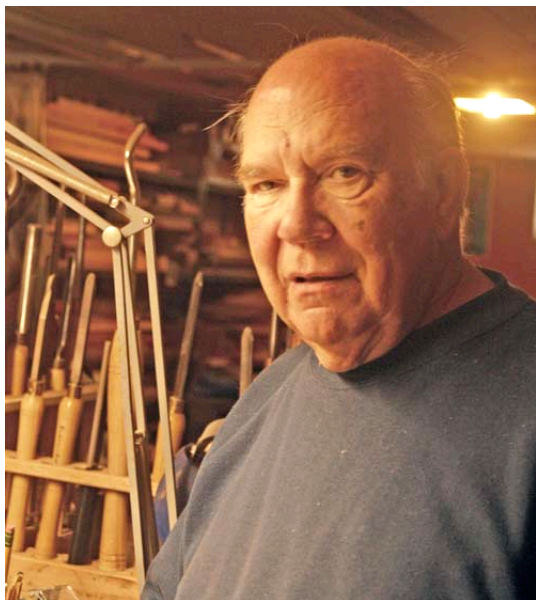


Apple knitting/yarn bowl

Joe: Everything I make is with the intent to sell unless my kids or wife decide otherwise. My wife has her eyes on the latest knitting/yarn bowl; she may trade me for an earlier one I made that she is currently using.



Everything is made with the intent to sell



MWA: Do you have some favorite pieces that you wouldn't give away or sell?

Joe: I have no qualms about selling my work. I'd rather have someone else enjoy my piece – I can probably make another one.



Profile
Joe Zwirn



Joe has 2 sheds of
wood just waiting to
get to the lathe





MWA: What did you do before you retired?

Joe: I was a building engineer; that's really a glorified name for a repairman. My last job was in a hotel in downtown Minneapolis. I started out as a Documentation Engineer for Control Data. At one point I got laid off and couldn't find comparable work so I started as a building engineer.

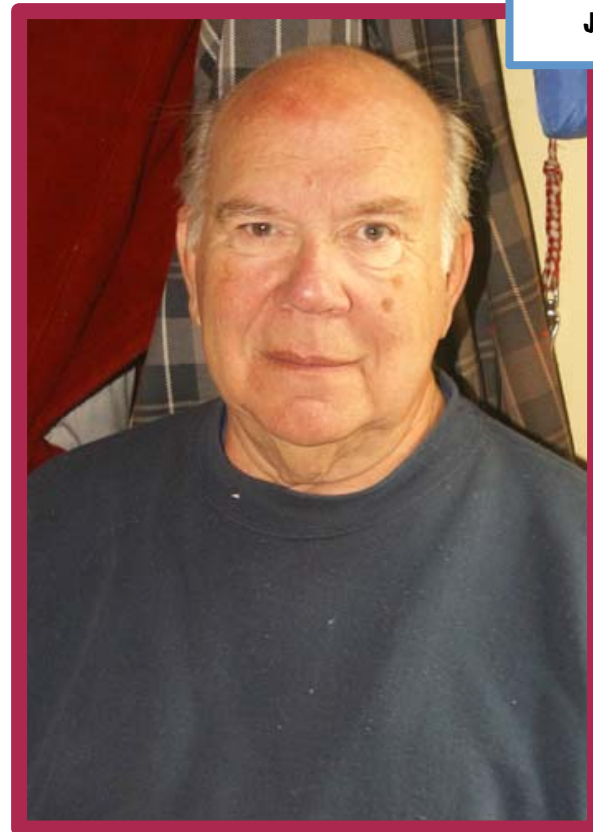
MWA: Joe, any last thoughts?

Joe: I'd like to recognize Bob Jensen for his help, Arden Griep for his help in open segmented turning and Neil Robinette for showing me the right way to sharpen tools.

Before someone starts with turning, I have some suggestions: Join the club! Watch it being done before you invest in the equipment. Go to as many classes as possible. Keep an open mind for how to do things. Seek LOTS of opinions. It can be a big investment if you end up not enjoying it.

I hope people who purchase my product enjoy it!

Profile
Joe Zwirn



Joe,
Thanks for the interview and letting us visit your shop(s). Your work and accomplishments can be a goal for members of all experience levels.



Area & Regional Meetings & Gatherings

HAMBURGER CLUB

Joe Zwirn, Mike Hunter, Tom Peter, Steve McLoon, Paul Laes, Steve Mages and Mike Rohrer attended the Hamburger Club meeting Thursday, October 18.



Tom Peter was last to arrive but he brought an interesting problem for the group to discuss



Area & Regional Meetings & Gatherings (cont'd)

Hamburger Club



Need expertise with finishing or other problems? Tom suggests seeking experienced resources within the club like he did at the Thursday Hamburger Club luncheon. Tom had a tree-care client who had purchased a beautiful hand-carved burl vessel years ago in Oregon. It needed some special care; it had lost its luster, so Tom brought it to the luncheon to ask for advice.

Almost all of the folks at the luncheon had some advice. Steve McLoon even gave Tom a very specific protocol and a recipe for a finish he thought would best bring out the beauty of the burl. “I really appreciate the advice I received; my client will benefit as well”, Tom said after hearing everyone’s thoughts.



Area & Regional Meetings & Gatherings (cont'd)

Hamburger Club



Joe Zwirn brought a beautiful apple “yarn” bowl or “knitting” bowl – note the groove in the side of the bowl to guide the yarn to the knitter’s needles



Joe also brought this box elder bowl turned from a burl



Area & Regional Meetings & Gatherings (cont'd)

Hamburger Club



In a continuing saga of photo-reactive African sumac wood that Tom Peter had brought to the Hamburger Club's August meeting, Mike Rohrer had turned a natural edge bowl and brought it to show at the September meeting

Tom Peter had suggested at the September meeting setting the bowl in front of a window in one position



Mike positioned the bowl in front of a South-facing window and did not move it for 2 weeks, then put it in a bag to prevent exposure to the light. The South facing outside and inside surfaces turned a very pleasing red in that short time.



Area & Regional Meetings & Gatherings

•HAMBURGER CLUB

We generally meet the Thursday of the week following the club meetings. Our December meeting will be Thursday, Nov. 15. We meet at 11:30 am with lunch to be ordered about 11:45 am.. No topics ... just an open dialogue of woodturning friends.

Any member that would like to be included on the mailing list please send an email to MLH55410@aol.com.

50's Grill, 5524 Brooklyn Blvd, Brooklyn Center

•PLYMOUTH AREA SMALL GROUP

The November Plymouth area small group meeting will be Tuesday the 20th, 7:00 pm. As usual bring a turning, problem, tool or ? to share. No special agenda.

Due to Steve's schedule, Wednesday is no longer available for the foreseeable future.

As usual bring a turning, tool, problem etc to share.

The usual meeting place is [10501 Belmont Rd, Minnetonka](#).

Steve Mages [952-544-5286](tel:952-544-5286)



Area & Regional Meetings & Gatherings (cont'd)

Plymouth Sub Group

Wayne Johnson, Mike Anderson, Jeff Luedloff, Al Feist, Jerry Hanscom, David Struck, Pete Withoff, Bob Grant, Roy Estes and Steve Mages attended the October meeting.



Area & Regional Meetings & Gatherings (cont'd)

Plymouth Sub Group



Maple burl



Spruce bowl with blue milk paint



Natural edge and
nicely patterned bowl



Multi axis
candlestick



Area & Regional Meetings & Gatherings (cont'd)

Lake Johanna Sub Group

This is a new sub group that has been organized by Gordon Fay. Members interested in meeting other turners from our club in an informal setting in Arden Hills, the address is

[3355 Lake Johanna Blvd, Arden Hills MN](#)

at the big white house on the corner of Stowe (enter from Stowe Ave).

Watch the MWA website for info on the November meeting.

Please bring something you've turned for show and tell.



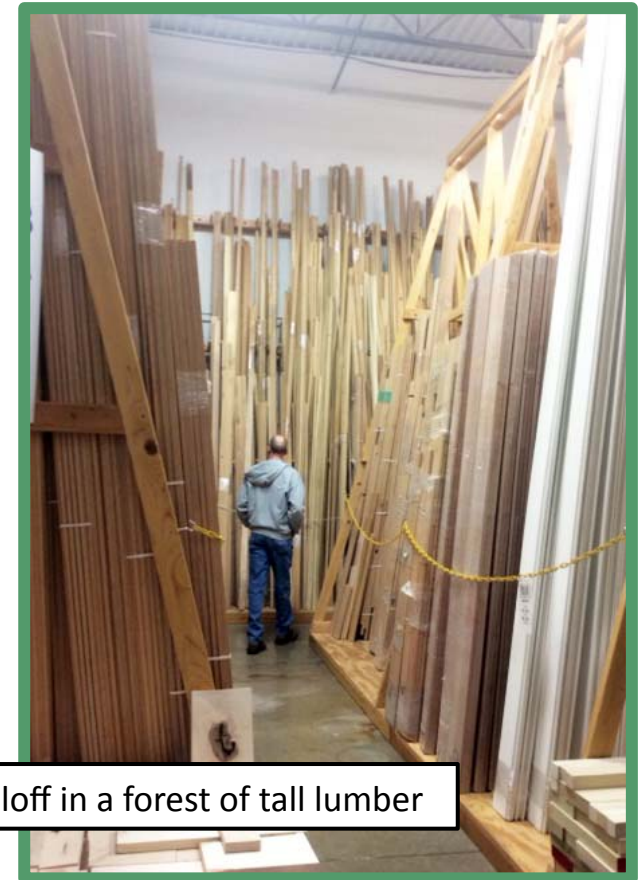
Gordon Fay, founder of the Lake Johanna Sub Group



Area & Regional Meetings & Gatherings (cont'd)

SE METRO SUB GROUP

Northern Forest Products/Discount Lumber Tour



Jeff Luedloff in a forest of tall lumber

Warren Gerber, Bill Campbell, Jim Jacobs, Jay Schulz, Mike Rohrer, Lee Tourtelotte, Dave Olson, Steve Mages, Jeff Luedloff, Wayne Johnson and John Lindner attended the tour



Area & Regional Meetings & Gatherings (cont'd)

SE METRO SUB GROUP

Northern Forest Products/Discount Lumber Tour

On Friday, October 26 the S.E. Metro Sub Group toured Discount Lumber and Northland Forest Products, both owned by Dick Pyle. First we met at Discount Lumber, which is located in Savage. This is open to the public and is very well organized. They stock the typical woods, which are already surfaced and sanded. They also stock exotic lumber, approximately 30 species, zebra wood, lace wood, tiger wood, blood wood to name a few.



Steve Mages & Bill Campbell

These exotics are priced by the lineal foot and they will cut them to length for you. There is not a minimum length or a certain length you must leave from a board. They also have some moldings and butcher block cut offs for sale. They also sell lumber "shorts" by the pound, oak, maple, poplar, walnut; these come from the main plant in Shakopee.



Area & Regional Meetings & Gatherings (cont'd)

SE Metro



Segmented bowls in the display area



Bill Campbell checking out exotic wood sold by the lineal foot



Group listening to description of the operation



Baxter Banwell has Discount Lumber well organized



Cut-offs of many species are sold by the pound



Area & Regional Meetings & Gatherings (cont'd)

SE Metro

After lunch we toured Northland Forest Products which was led by the owner Dick Pyle. This is located in Shakopee not far from Valley fair and is not open to the public. This is a s4s plant or "surfaced 4 sides." The lumber is purchased from mills all over the world and arrives kiln dried in the rough. It is then sanded and milled for resale and shipped all over the U.S. either by truck or train. Dick is a big believer in modern machinery and technology. The plant is very clean and organized.



This is the "surfaced 4 sides" sander



The cut off saw is fast. It trims both ends of the board as it moves through the saw!



Area & Regional Meetings & Gatherings (cont'd)

SE Metro

Every inch of wood is used; the small rippings become small moldings and anything left is ground up and becomes cattle bedding. They also make their own moldings and cut knives from high speed steel using a water jet. This was very impressive to watch. The water is mixed with sand and is blasted out of an angled gun at 60,000 psi. We saw a 4" wide knife cut in approx 5 minutes. Remember it's 1/4" thick! Since the gun cuts at an angle, the knife needs a quick final grind and it's done! The tour lasted about a hour, It was great to have the owner as our guide.



They ship lumber all over the U.S. by truck and train. Every piece of wood has a bar code sticker on it.



Area & Regional Meetings & Gatherings (cont'd)

SE Metro

NOVEMBER MEETING

When : Friday Nov. 16th 2018 10-12

Where: Denali Woodworks, 1275 S. Frontage Road, Hastings, MN

Lunch afterwards at Wyatt's bar just around the corner

Agenda: This will be mainly a show-and-tell. Bring completed pieces, work in progress, jigs, questions, answers.

Wood: Bring any wood to give away; this will be in the parking lot.

Denali woodworks is owned and operated by Jason Skagen. He is not a member and has been a great guy to let us use his space. This will be the second time we have met there.



Jim Jacobs, organizer of the SE Metro Sub Group, and Jason Skagen at the May, 2018 meeting at Denali Woodworks in Hastings, owned by Jason



Future Classes

- Nov. 10, Jim Jacobs -“Taming of the Skew” – Morning and afternoon classes, \$15
- Nov. 27, Sharpening Class. Every member is entitled to one free sharpening class

CHECK THE WEBSITE *Quick Links* FOR DETAILS
OF ALL CLASSES



Some Memories of Gar Brown



Gar Brown and his redwood burl bowl

It was sad to report that the June Hamburger Club was the last meeting Gar Brown was to have with his woodturning friends. Gar had been suffering for years with heart conduction problems. He passed away peacefully in his sleep on Saturday, July 7, 2018. Gar will be remembered as a skillful and caring surgeon, an accomplished woodturner and an intelligent and thoughtful person. Our condolences go to his family.



Jim's "misinterpreted"
captive ring

Years ago Gar did a captive ring demo at the old Salvation Army location. He turned several captive rings which would spin around the spindle as we have all seen. Gar loved to joke around and had a mind for facts and details, after all he was a retired surgeon who had practiced in Ashland, Wisconsin. He was always willing to offer advice on most anything . . . including wood turning! I decided to take a poke back at him; I re-invented the "captive ring". I told him "I misunderstood his demo" He loved it!

Jim Jacobs



Some Memories of Gar Brown (cont'd)



Gar and his black ash burl natural edge bowl

I met Gar when I started going to the Hamburger Club lunches; Gar was no longer attending the main MWA meetings by then. He was an interesting conversationalist and a very knowledgeable woodturner. He had constructive but always polite and helpful comments about any piece that a turner had brought to the H.C. lunch. I found Gar very knowledgeable about woodturning, materials, interaction between materials and so many other things. He occasionally brought pieces of his and I was always impressed. Early on we found that we'd both served in MEDDAC units during the Vietnam War, Gar as a surgeon and I as a young dentist. After that short conversation we never again mentioned our professional activities; we were gathered for only one reason, woodturning and the fellowship of people who loved their hobby of woodturning. **Mike Rohrer**



Mike Rohrer & Gar Brown after telling "stories" about their experiences in the Vietnam War

I can't think about Gar without smiling. He was fun to be around and always had a story. Gar was also very willing to answer my many questions.

When I bought my Robust lathe, I installed it on a special cabinet. However, there was no obvious way to mount the required restoration spring-force arm for the optional tilt-away tailstock.

Gar was visiting my shop and saw my conundrum. Being a great problem solver, he promptly took measurements, a few pictures and made a template. Then with his son's help, Gar designed and fabricated a special mounting bracket that linked the restoration arm and the cabinet. It works amazingly well! Every single time I use the tilt-away, I think of Gar and get a big smile. For all his time on this project, Gar would only take a few homemade cookies. I miss his smiling face and his friendship.

Kristin Holtz



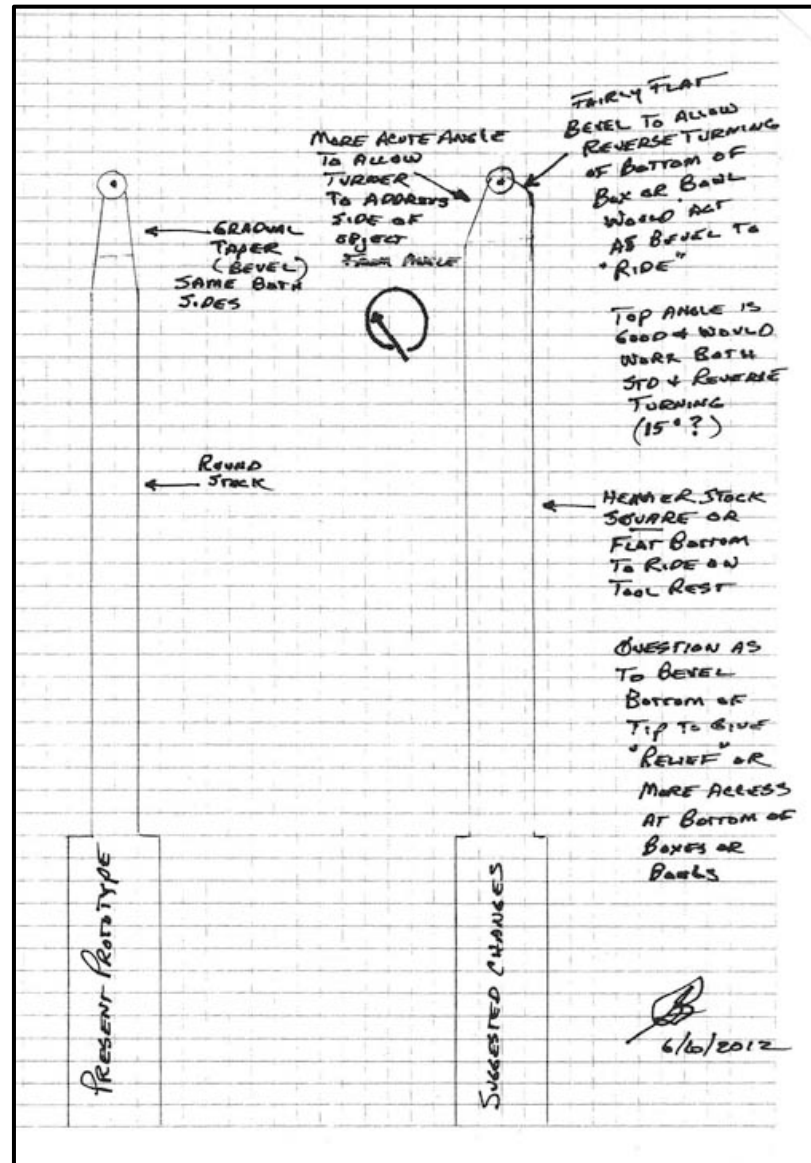
Some Memories of Gar Brown (cont'd)

Most woodturners did not know that Gar was also a tool designer. He always enjoyed testing and evaluating new tools. He did not want evaluation tools with handles. He often took pride in making handles for these prototype tools. Several were from some very nice cocobolo.

Shortly after the Hercules series of tools and the Phoenix tool were introduced to the market, he offered up several suggestions via a phone conversation. In June 2012, he followed up with a sketch. Attached is his sketch, which today, closely resembles the Viceroy tool we have in production.

Gar was a fun woodturner to know and we will miss his joyful input.

Mike Hunter



Some Memories of Gar Brown (cont'd)

I got to know Gar through the MWA. He was already an established member when I joined. Back then, our meetings were small, and there were more opportunities to visit with one another. As our group coalesced, we had numerous lunches, dinners and weekends with the pro turners. Gar was always one of the pillars of the group. Gar's intelligence and wit made these events a pleasure. Gar was definitely important in my bonding to the MWA.

Some MWA members may have noticed that I often take copious notes during turning presentations. (It keeps me focused and awake.) Whenever Gar saw me with a notebook, he reminded me that he wanted to be listed in my will as the inheritor of my notebooks. He would say that once he gets my notebooks, he will be a great turner... and then he would give the Gar-grin. I miss that grin.

Gar, may you rest in peace.

Steve McLoon

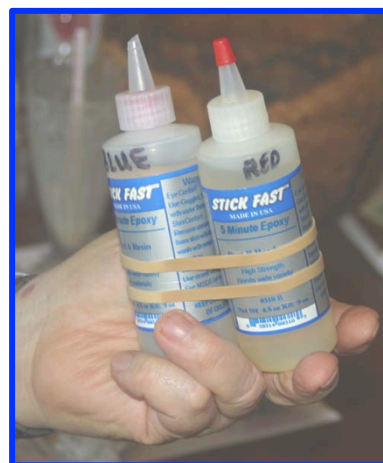
Gar talking about George Wurtzel:

George never ceases to amaze! I will never forget how he directed me away from Linda's house that night in that dark neighborhood by simply telling me when to turn and which way to turn to get out of the neighborhood. He has developed various skills to make up for his loss of sight and is amazing. More than a normal sighted person ever could - George is a special person.

Garmeister

There are many things I remember about Gar Brown, but a couple of them are that he loved footed bowls; All of his bowls had a foot. Another thing is how he would regale folks with medical stories that were very interesting and definitely unusual.

Steve Mages



Gar used epoxy rather than CA glue to repair cracks and fill holes. He discussed the problem with the epoxy resin crystalizing and becoming solid. He explained it is like honey and can be liquefied with heat; he used the microwave oven.



Some Memories of Gar Brown (cont'd)

I first met Gar at Mike Hunter's "Hamburger Club" luncheon, six or seven years ago. I had listened to him previously give a very in-depth presentation to the club on the benefits of adding vacuum to the lathe. It was very technical, comprehensive and interesting, but I did not think I was quite ready for that big step, with the imagined expense. However, during my first real conversation with Gar at the HC luncheon, we seemed to really hit it off. I casually had mentioned to him that I had use of a friend's McNaughton coring system, but wasn't sure how to proceed, not ever having cored bowl blanks before. Gar immediately took charge, (that was his style) saying he had the McNaughton system himself, was keenly aware of all the nuances of it and he would like to save me from the steep learning curve that he had endured by sharing a few tips on what he had learned. I quickly agreed and during that coring get-together at my shop, Gar convinced me that he would also like to help me add vacuum to my lathe, without much expense.

We soon accomplished this at another of what turned out to be many sessions spent together, exchanging information, tips and ideas, while enjoying each other's company. Gar enjoyed sharing his deep understanding of woodturning, world events, many stories of his exemplary medical career, his fondness of new technologies, his love for his departed wife, Sigrid, his love for his two sons, his suspicion of certain politicians, organized religion, and scores of other subjects that we covered by phone, emails and frequent visits to each other's shops.

Last November Gar shared with me that because of his age and his long battle with heart disease and multiple heart operations, he did not expect to live many more months. He knew what was coming! Before his death he wanted to give his granddaughter, Brianne, a wood-turned bracelet for Christmas as a lasting memory from him. He knew I had made a couple of these "bangles" and asked if I would help him. I was very happy to do so, and eager because Gar had always been the one "ready and willing" to help me, and anyone else whenever he possibly could. We soon spent several sessions in my shop, selecting the woods, debating and deciding on the exact style, cutting the segments, gluing the rings and then Gar went to work turning the bangle bracelets with his keen surgical skill. He was very pleased with his results, knowing Brianne would also enjoy these, perhaps for the rest of her life, the best ever Christmas present from her dear Grandpa! I can't forget Gar; he was a true friend. He had a full life. He enjoyed his many friends in the MWA. I think of him often and the enjoyable influence he had on me from our close MWA association and resulting friendship.

RIP, my friend! **Lee Tourtelotte**



Some Memories of Gar Brown (cont'd)



Brianne's bracelet



Gar turning the bracelet



Some Memories of Gar Brown (cont'd)

Neil Robinette's memories of Gar Brown

I met Gar in 2005 at a demo of turning chair spindles at Carol Magnussen's home. We hit it off immediately. He had an insatiable interest in the world around him. Gar readily admitted he was a "talker", as am I, so on our frequent car trips we had a system: the passenger was the delegated navigator because the driver was driving *and* talking!

When I was elected as president of MWA the first person I asked to help was Gar, asking him to take over the job overseeing the MWA's video library. This was at a time before YouTube, and the club had a ton of turning videos, keeping track of our extensive video inventory was very important. Gar went at it with a vengeance, reorganizing the record keeping, instituting a barcode reading system and instituting a small fine for late returns.

Gar and his son, Todd, had taken to addressing me as "Mr. President" during my term in office, and they continued the honor long after my term ended. I still get extra special presidential-sized cookies at Christmas! Like so many of us, Gar's weight was a concern, so when we were at a restaurant and he ordered a malt or burger with everything, he would remark he hadn't done this yet this week so it was OK. Smiling ear to ear as he said it.

On one occasion, when there were three of us trying out a new blank coring system, while struggling with a large piece, Gar always the cautious one said, "three guys, each trying to force the cutter into the blank, what could go wrong?" Safety conscious to a fault; perhaps as a result of his many years as a doctor and having to fix up others who were injured as a result of not being safe.

Gar and I volunteered for several turning events always settling in to our familiar roles, I would turn something and Gar would entertain the onlookers with information about the MWA, woodturning, safety, and sometimes, get drawn into a deep discussion with someone about his or her medical issues, he couldn't help himself!



Some Memories of Gar Brown (cont'd)

While camping in Wisconsin, Gar invited us to their “farm” (lake home getaway) for breakfast. He said he would fix French toast, as that was the only thing he knew how to make (another fib). However, he had a hard time keeping an eye on the toast and entertaining us at the same time, needless to say a few pieces were a bit overdone . . . but eaten!

Gar was generous to a fault. My wife and I have spent a few hours in Urgent Care at one time or another. A short time after we had arrived Gar would show up to ask how we were doing and translate some of the doctor-speak we had been told. Gar, being very respectful of the staff, would ask some questions and, only when the attending doctor asked if Gar were a doctor, he would respond that he was retired and here as a friend.

Gar lived for many years with serious heart issues but didn't let it get in the way of his passion for wood turning. He was an artist, turning what can only be described as turned sculptures, in addition to beautiful bowls. His patience and attention to the details was evident in each of his pieces.

Sigrid was his nurse, wife and confidant. She passed away in 2010, and I am sure Gar has found her and they are reunited.
We miss Sigrid and Gar very much.

Neil Robinette



Editor's Notes

- Thanks to the contributors to the remembrance of Gar Brown.
- Please consider doing a Member Mini Class for the newsletter; so many members could contribute to our knowledge and skill but would not like to get up in front and demonstrate.
- Congratulations to the new board members elected and the new president, Lee Luebke. I'm new enough that I've only known Rick Auge as president. I want to thank Rick for encouraging me to take over the newsletter and for his support as I was feeling my way at the beginning. And once again, I'd like to thank my predecessor editor, Pete Bryant, for his help and especially the high bar he had set for the quality expected of the MWA Newsletter.

Mike Rohrer, Editor mdrprof@gmail.com

