

Dues are Due:

Membership dues are due this month for 1991. The membership runs from January through December. The dues are \$15.00 per year. Please make checks (no cash, please) payable to the "Minnesota Woodturners Association" and mail them, along with the membership registration form on the front of this newsletter to our treasurer, Hal Malmlov, 3613 Belden Dr., Mpls. Minn. 55418.

We ask that you pay your dues soon, as this will be the last newsletter sent to anyone who does not pay dues for 1991.

Requirements of Membership:

The requirements of membership in our club are quite simple, being:

1. Pay your dues, they cover our operating expenses.
2. Anyone attending any club meeting or event must be willing to sign a liability release.
3. This is my own opinion, but I feel that there is an unwritten requirement that every member of any organization such as ours, in some way, puts back into the organization at least as much as they get out of it. Our club exists, and thrives, because so many people seem to abide by this requirement. Membership renewal time, is perhaps a good time, for people who haven't contributed in some way, to consider this obligation.

Upcoming Meetings:

January 8: Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.

I (Paul Kachelmyer) will give a beginners level demonstration on tool sharpening and how to cut cleanly, to minimize sanding. Our club wants to serve all of our members, and this meeting will be geared to helping our less experienced members master these turning basics. This will be a "hands on" meeting and we ask that you bring at least one or two tools to sharpen. I will demonstrate a couple of basic spindle cuts with a gouge and scraper. We will then have "hands on" practice of these cuts. It would be best if those attending, brought their own gouge and scraper, so that they can learn with their own tools. I will also discuss what tools seem to get the most use.

The meeting will be held at the Shopsmith store (633-6844) at 1665 West County Road C, Roseville. The store is located in the Rosedale Square shopping center , northwest of the corner of Snelling Avenue and County Road C, about one mile north of Rosedale mall. The store hours that day are 10:00 - 7:00, then they will be open for sales to us, during and immediately after our meeting.

February 12: Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.

John Berglund will lead a discussion on the design of turned objects. We also hope that many members will bring turnings to show, and to tell how they chose the shape, size, etc. for their

turnings. Since most of our "show and tell" sessions have focused on How a turning was made, this would be a good chance for members to bring some of those turnings back, and discuss Why they made them the way they did.

The meeting will be held at "The Woodworkers Store" (822-3338) at 3025 Lyndale Avenue South, Minneapolis. This is just south of Lake Street. The store hours for that day are 9:00 - 6:00. They will be closed from 6:00 - 7:00, and will open at 7:00 for us. They will be open for sales to us during and immediately after our meeting.

March 5: Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.

Rick Stoffels will demonstrate turning a goblet. It would be nice for anyone who has turned one, to bring it (or them) for this months "show and tell".

The meeting will be held at "Woodcraft Supply" (884-3634), 9741 Lyndale Avenue South, Bloomington Minn. This is approximately 2 miles south of I-494 and 1/4 mile east of I-35W. The store hours for that day will be 9:00 - 6:00. They will be closed from 6:00 - 7:00, and will open at 7:00 for us. They will be open for sales to us during and immediately after our meeting.

April 16: Tuesday, 7:00 - 10:00 p.m.

This meeting will be a professional demonstration by Bonnie Klein. Bonnie is well known for her miniature turnings, and for her development and marketing of a small, desktop lathe. Bonnie will be covering a number of techniques and items. Among other things, she does chatterwork, boxes, thimbles, marbles, beads, pens, and tops.

This meeting will be held at "Woodcraft Supply". Same directions, hours of operations, etc. as the March 5, meeting. This meeting will be open only to paid up members of the "Minnesota Woodturners Association", and will cost \$10.00, payable at the door. Please bring a check (no cash please) made out to the "Minnesota Woodturners Association".

Meeting Cancellations:

If bad weather occurs on the day of any of the above meetings, you can assume that the meeting will be canceled. We will try to inform the store where the meeting was scheduled, of the cancellation, during the day, just in case you want to call them to confirm it.

Past meeting Minutes:

August:

John Magnuson hosted the meeting at his scenic home overlooking the Crow River near Hanover. All attending were quite impressed with the size of John's "workshop". It is the biggest shop of anyone that I know.

A couple of items were on the agenda, including practicing and reviewing techniques that we had seen at the Del Stubbs and John Jordan demonstrations. It was good to hear that a number of members had been using some of the techniques. John had set up two lathes where we practiced the techniques. As usual, the willingness of the club members to share and teach each other, was wonderful, what a great group of people!

We also went digging and searching and cutting in John's woods, and woodpiles for turning wood. Most people went home with some wood to try. Mary Redig showed some of her farm upbringing talents by driving John's old Ford tractor.

John had hoped to have some "home grown" spalted maple to give out, but it had not spalted. In the spring, John, Mary Redig, and Hal Malmlov had cut down a tall, 12 inch diameter, maple tree and buried it. They had cut it into 3 foot lengths. They had hoped that it would spalt over the summer, but it had not spalted one bit.

Quite a discussion on producing spalted wood took place. Spalting is one of the first stages of decomposition, and, in maple, produces a random, lacy, pattern of black lines, that can be very attractive. A number of different methods of spalting wood had been tried by various people, and produced varied results. A summary of the methods, seems to be, that for best results, the following should be done:

- Cut logs 1 1/2 to 2 feet long.
- Stand them on end, on bare ground, sawdust, or concrete.
- An outdoor, shaded area where they won't dry out is preferred.
- The tops of the logs should be covered with sawdust, dirt, or spalted wood shavings. Fertilizer can be applied to the tops or bottoms of the logs.
- Maple seems to produce the most figured spalting, though many other woods will spalt.
- If a number of logs are started at the same time, the progress of the spalting can be checked, perhaps every six months, by taking one and cutting its ends off an inch or so from the end. If any evidence of spalting exists, it should be cut lengthwise to see how far the spalting penetrates in from the end.
- When the desired stage of spalting has been reached, all the logs should be "processed" to stop the spalting and keep the wood from rotting.
- "Processing" them could involve making turnings out of them as partially green wood, or cutting off the ends an inch or so in,

cutting them lengthwise, sealing the ends, and putting them in a place to dry.

Using basically the above method, I had real good luck spalting some 14 inch diameter soft maple that I got. It took a little over 1 1/2 years (through 2 full summers) to reach the nicely spalted stage. I was interested to find that they spalted equally from the ground up, and from the top down.

Trees or logs laying on the ground may also be spalted. The only way to find out, is to cut them up. It is common to find wood that has spalted, and has gone on to the rotten stage. Some people do attempt to work with this, but I wouldn't care to.

October:

About two dozen members drove nearly to Saint Cloud for a very enjoyable demonstration by John Berglund. John's workshop definitely has that "worked in" look, with wood and partially finished pieces all over the place. John made three turnings during his demonstration including a weed pot, a "winged" bowl, and a covered box. During the demonstrations John had a tremendous amount of advice and tips, some being:

- He keeps one of his gouges razor sharp, and only uses it for finish cuts.

- For small turnings, such as weed pots and tops, he uses fast speeds and finds that he can cut faster and cleaner.

- He sands his turnings when they are dry, going from 150 grit sandpaper, to 180 to 240.

- He uses either an orbital sander, or small "Merit" sanding discs with foam glued to them, and sandpaper glued to the foam.

- He often spends about the same amount of time sanding a piece as he did turning it.

- He uses "seal a cell" General finish.

- For turning natural edge bowls he makes sure to keep the pith of the wood out of the base, where it could cause cracks.

- John likes working with green wood because it cuts cleaner and there is less dust.

- John cut a cone out of the inside of a bowl. He will do this with nice woods to save the wood to make something out of it.

- To cut the cone he made many side by side cuts with a "Stewart" tool that is about 3/16 inch wide. The side by side cuts got as wide as 1 inch, and in being much wider than the tool, reduced the chances of the tool grabbing.

-The tool cost about \$90.00, and came with a small diamond hone, which is used only on the top surface of the tool, which appears to be essentially a long, narrow scraper.

-John warned people that the process is tricky, and that it shouldn't be tried with a small tool such as a Sears parting tool.

-During the coneing process he had to stop and blow the chips out with compressed air, before completing it.

-When turning a natural edge bowl the outer edges should be turned to final thickness while the rest of the bowl is still thicker. There is less flexing of the edges at that stage.

-John has rounded the bottom of his scrapers so that they rest on the tool rest better, and don't nick up the tool rest.

-John takes care not to use dull sandpaper with fast drills; it can burn the wood.

-John does not use "Merit" sanding discs finer than 150 grit because the finer grits wear out to fast.

-John turned a "box" out of ash, turning in endgrain. He tries to use completely dry wood for the boxes to limit movement of the wood after turning. With boxes, if there was movement in the wood, the tops would not fit correctly. He rough turns cylinders to the general size of the box, then sets them aside for months to insure their dryness and stability before finish turning them.

November:

The meeting was held at Craig Lossing's shop in Maplewood, with about three dozen people packing the place from wall to wall. Elections were scheduled, and like in some countries, there was only one candidate per position, so the votes were all unanimous ! Officers for the next two years will be:

President - Willie Allshouse

Vice President - Don Wattenhofer

Secretary - John Engstrom

Treasurer - Hal Malmlov

Program Director - John Berglund

Newsletter Production - Paul Kachelmyer

- Steve Suchy

Mailing List and newsletter mailing - Mike Lucido

- Ron Krietemeyer

Mary thanked past officers, and a number of others people for their services, as well as George Heine, who maintained the mailing labels and list, and John Engstrom and Don Wattenhofer for their recent work with our club's totem pole segment at Arrowmont.

Craig Lossing showed us some of his recent , and unusual wood acquisitions. Many of the woods came from a recent trip to Hawaii, such as Koa, Norfolk Island Pine, Mango, Milo, Pheasant wood, coconut wood, and Lama. He also had manzanita burl, obtained through a buyer in Houston, Minnesota. Another unusual "wood" is the bankasai seed pods from Australia. They are available from Berea Hardwoods, Berea, Ohio. If anyone visits Hawaii, Craig can provide names of turners, and sources of local wood. Craig traded some native Minnesota wood for most of the wood he brought back. Black Walnut and especially maple are sought by the Hawaiian turners.

Craig also demonstrated how to turn several different items. He turned spinning tops from previously turned dowels. The dowels were held in a large 4 jaw chuck. The bottom of the top is turned first, then sanded. The rest of the top is turned, sanded, and parted off. Three tops are made from each dowel.

Craig made a letter opener by turning a handle with a tapered tip. The cutting blade is made by cutting waste away from the tapered tip, with a band saw. The blade is then sanded with a flexible disc.

Craig also turned a weed pot out of a bankasa seed pod. He likes to leave some of the exterior rough, but with an overall shape that is close to a sphere.

Unfortunately Craig's new lathe was experiencing technical difficulties (it wouldn't turn on). Hopefully we can see it demonstrated at a future meeting.

December:

We met at Mary Redig's shop for a "Christmas" meeting. We had asked that members bring turned Christmas tree ornaments to show and to trade. Eighteen ornaments were displayed. I was amazed at the variety of types of ornaments. It really highlighted how creative and diverse the members in our club are. It also highlighted how much we can all learn from each other.

Mary demonstrated turning an ornament on her small "Bonnie Klien" lathe. It was a very good demonstration of turning, and a nice opportunity to see the small lathe in operation. Mary's son was giving impromptu demonstrations on the lathe on how to do chatter work. That eleven year old was teaching us, how about that ! We were shown that hard, plain woods, seemed to produce the best chatter patterns. Woods with prominent grain tended to obscure the chatter patterns.

Board Meeting:

A board meeting of the past and present club officers was held in December. Decisions were made on the following subjects:

Professional demonstrations: Bonnie Klein was chosen to do a demonstration this spring. She will be traveling near this part of the country and can give us a reduced rate. It was determined that we should also try to have a professional demonstration this fall. A number of possible demonstrators were discussed. As in the past, it was decided that we want to keep the costs for the demonstrations, to our members, as low as possible. We will therefore be paying for a portion of the demonstration's cost out of the club's treasury, so attendees will have lower registration costs.

Treasury: For accounting purposes it was decided that all payments to the club, for anything, should be by check. It was also decided that written receipts would be required for all payments from the club. Please, everybody, try to keep to this.

Club Library: It was decided that the club should start a book and video library. John Magnussen offered to coordinate it (be the Librarian). A number of board members offered to donate materials. A yearly amount of money was designated for acquisition of materials. We ask that any member who may have materials that they would be willing to donate, contact John (477-6294). John has the capability of copying videotapes. A number of club members have videotaped club demonstrations. We hope that those members would offer those tapes to John, to copy for the library.

Tool Library: It was decided that the club should start a lending "library" of tools. We have so often seen, or heard about, unique tools, that we would like to try. However, experience for many of us has found that some "New" tools work great, some don't work as we expected, and some don't seem to work at all. The library of tools should give members an opportunity to try such tools for a month to see if they want to buy one themselves. I (Paul Kachelmyer) will coordinate this library. The board has designated a yearly amount of money for acquisition of tools. Please contact me if you have suggestions for tools we should acquire. If anyone has any tools they would be willing to donate to this library please contact me. Also, we have seen many homemade tools at meetings. If anyone would be willing to make a tool for the club, please contact me , and we should be able to reimburse for expenses.

It will likely be a few months before these libraries are functional. Future newsletters will carry listings of library materials. Deposits will be required for materials checked out from the libraries, and such withdrawals will be limited to one month, and to paid up members only.

Free symposium award: Our club won the contest sponsored by the American Association Of Woodturners (AAW) for new members. The prize was a free registration for this years AAW national symposium. The board decided that this would best benefit the entire club if we auctioned it off to our members, and used the proceeds to fund either the libraries or professional

demonstrations. As I typed this up, it was unsure if the symposium would be this spring. If it is scheduled for this spring, a silent auction (sealed bids) will be held for the registration, at our February meeting. If someone would like to make a bid, but will not be at the meeting, they can send their bid beforehand, to our treasurer, Hal Malmlov, and it will be opened at the meeting.

President's Page:

By outgoing President, Mary Redig.

Four Years ago a group of about 30 people met at The Woodworker's Store for the initial meeting of the Minnesota Woodturners Association. A number of people came forward at that time to help organize and get the organization off the ground. Over the years, we have had a good group of dedicated people and the organization has grown to 84 current members. It has helped many of us grow in a variety of ways: getting help with problems, being exposed to other work at our monthly show and tell, someone suggesting a new idea and watching what each person did with it, cut down trees together, did some bulk purchasing of various supplies, demonstrating at woodworking shows, and the list goes on. Probably the most notable is our yearly professional demonstration - we have had some excellent people in, and have learned a great deal from each one of them. I would like to thank everyone who has helped the organization in any way - officers, board members, demonstrators, people who have brought in lathes for demos, provided refreshments, kept up our mailing list, shipping the totem pole for the club, and many other ways that people have helped our club.

I feel good about the new slate of officers coming in - a dedicated group of turners with exciting new ideas - which was very evident at the Board meeting. If there is anything I or any of the other Board members can help you with, do not hesitate to give us a call. So I leave feeling very good about passing the torch and looking forward to all the exciting meeting and demonstrations planned for the future.

1991 AAW National Symposium

As of this writing, plans for the 1991 symposium are still up in the air. The AAW had originally planned to have the symposium in the Dallas / Fort Worth area in April. However, They found that the accomodations would not be adequate, and had to cancel their plans. Mary Redig has assured us that the AAW will inform its members of specific plans as they are made.

If the symposium does end up in Dallas / Fort Worth, I have a recommendation for those flying down. Twice in the last year I have flown there on Sun Country Airlines. The flights are nonstop, are only about two hours, were both on time, and were cheaper than anywhere else, \$248.00, round trip. I was real satisfied with the

flights. They are charter flights, and reservations have to be made through a travel agent through MLT tours. For those driving down, it is almost exactly 1000 miles, and is Interstate highway the whole way.

1990 AAW Symposium By Mary Redig.

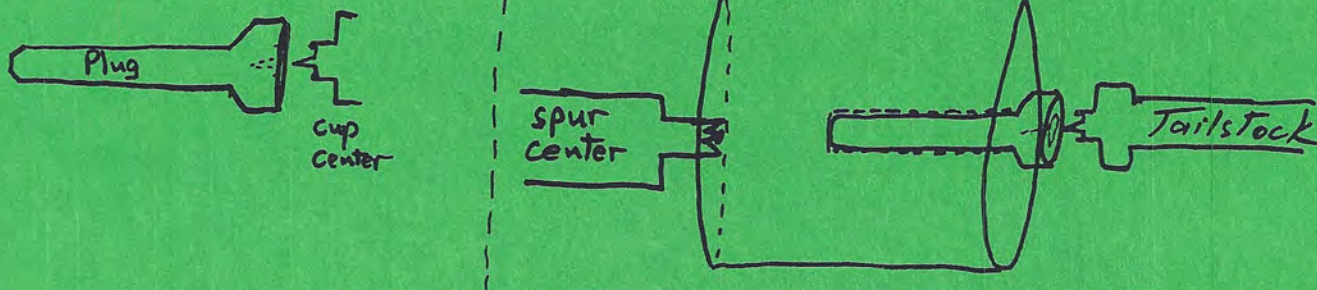
Each year it was with great excitement that I prepared for the annual AAW Symposium. Last year I had a little different role than other years, but that too was very enjoyable. The demonstrations were excellent, put on by new and old demonstrators ranging from small scale turning up to lathes big enough to turn pieces several feet in diameter. There was something going on almost all the time - you could not get it all in. In the evening there was a gallery opening, the usual banquet with the education auction (once again a success) and a picnic on Saturday night. The tradeshow had a lot of tools, lathes and plenty of wood to choose from. Right next door was the instant gallery which was filled with a maximum of three pieces from each individual attendee. If you have not attended a Symposium, I recommend it highly in 1991.

Information from others:

Chris Effrem, of the Woodcarvers Store, at 3056 Excelsior Blvd. 927-7491, has asked us to let you know that he is clearing out his inventory of lumber, wood, and logs, accumulated over many years. He says to come in and make him an offer. It has been a couple of years since I have been in his store, but I can say that it was always a real enjoyable experience; wood, carvings, tools, all over the place.

We got a notice from "Personalized Wood Products, Inc." of Amana, Iowa, that they are seeking sellers for a wood carving and turning festival that they are having on June 14, 15, 16, 1991. They will be charging \$35.00 for a 5' by 10' tented booth, and \$60.00 for a 10' by 10' tented booth. For further information/Applications call (319) 622-3100, or write: Personalized Wood Products, Box 193, Amana Iowa, 52203.

To achieve perfectly centered holes in vases, candlesticks, etc. 1st pre drill hole in wood blank. Then turn a "plug" slightly smaller, using a cup center in the tailstock. Insert the plug into the wood blank and turn between centers with spur center centered on opposite end of hole.

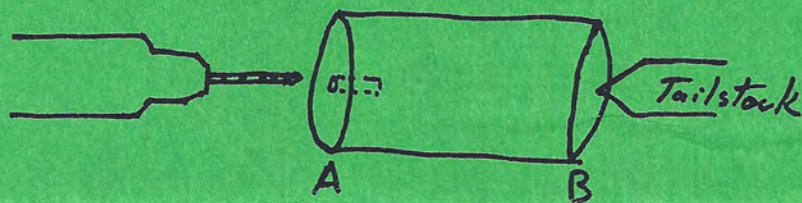


Screw Chuck:

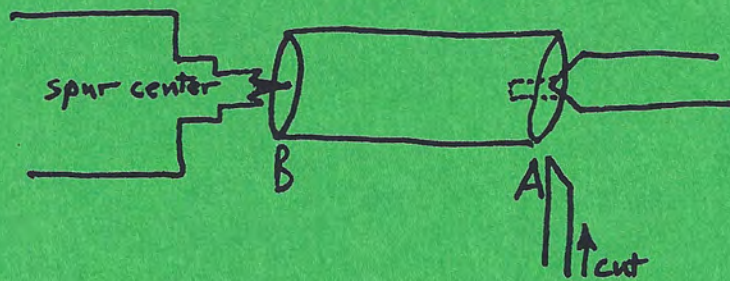
For a screw chuck to work best, the screw should go straight into the wood at a 90° angle, and the surface of the wood should be square to the surface of the face of the chuck. If the screw is long and slender, and does not go into the wood at a perfect 90° angle the screw may bend and will not work well.

Del Stubbs showed us the following method last year, that he uses to get a proper fit:

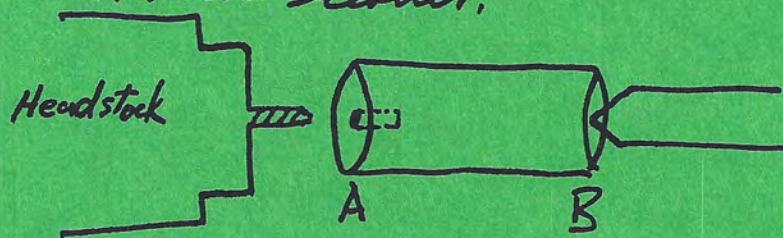
1. Drill Hole:



2. Turn the wood around & mount on lathe with a spur center. Cut straight in, and slightly hollow, at end A.



3. Turn around again and mount on screw chuck, a straight in, snug fit should result.



Del uses a screw chuck about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch long and $\frac{1}{2}$ inch diameter.