

MINNESOTA WOODTURNER'S NEWS

Fourth Quarter 1991.

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Minnesota Woodturners Association Officers

President	William Allshouse	(612) 755-3373
Vice President	Don Wattenhofer	" 572-1045
Secretary	John Engstrom	" 475-0307
Treasurer	Hal Malmlov	" 789-9616
Newsletter Editor	Paul Kachelmyer	" 738-3940
Program Director	John Berglund	1-558-2338

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Membership Application and Renewal  
Minnesota Woodturners Association

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Name (Please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
phone

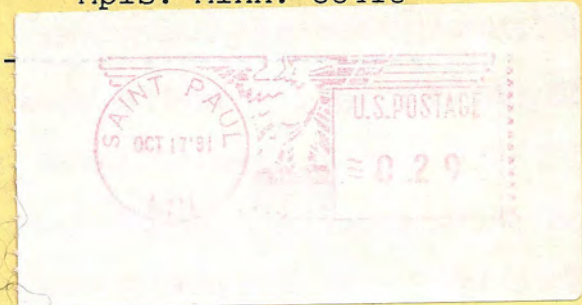
\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Zip code

Dues are \$15 yearly (starting in Jan.)  
but \$10 for new members joining after July 1.  
Please check: Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_.  
Renewing member \_\_\_\_\_. New member \_\_\_\_\_.

Mail to:  
MN Woodturners Assoc  
c/o Hal Malmlov  
3613 Belden Dr.  
Mpls. Minn. 55418

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MN Woodturners Association  
64 108th Ave. N.W.  
Coon Rapids, Minn. 55433





Please note that our mailing address has changed. It is now:  
Minnesota Woodturners Association, c/o William Allshouse,  
President, 64 108th Ave. N.W., Coon Rapids, Minn. 55433

However, dues and other financial matters should be sent to: Hal  
Malmlov, 3613 Belden Dr., Minneapolis, Minn. 55418.

#### Safety:

Right up front, we wish to remind all members and guests, that woodturning can be dangerous. Many of our members have had accidents, and injuries, of some sort, with the lathe. This is a reminder, that by attending our meetings, you do so at you own risk. This is also a reminder that we ask all members to sign a liability release. If you have not signed one, please ask one of the club's officers for one to sign. Lastly, this is also a reminder that we ask that everyone near a lathe at our meetings, bring, and wear, eye protection.

We now will be asking everyone attending a meeting to sign a "sign in sheet and liability release", for that meeting. This will include nonmembers, and will insure that everyone attending has signed a liability release.

#### Upcoming Meetings:

##### October 26 Saturday, 2:00 PM

We will meet at Don Wattenhofer's house for a demo of home made jigs for use with turning and if time permits, a discussion of the various methods of varying the speed of the lathe. The first jig is for cutting round turning blanks from irregularly shaped "found wood" such as crotches or burls on the band saw. The second jig is a modification to the lathe that allows the cutting of inside and outside threads on items such as covered boxes or hollow form vessels. The speed variation methods that will be on hand are 3 phase AC variable frequency (in operation on a Delta 12" lathe) and a mechanical variable pitch sheave mechanism.

Don's house is located at 5312 Horizon Dr. Fridley, Mn. which is between University Ave. on the east, Main St. N.E. on the west, 53rd Ave N.E. on the south and I-694 on the north.

If you come via I-694, take the exit to go south at University Ave., turn right (west) onto 53rd Ave, which is the first intersection. Go two blocks and then turn right (north) on Horizon Dr. and Don's is the first house facing Horizon Dr. on the left.

Bring a chair and something for the "show and tell" or "show and ? why did this turn out this way" table.



November 23, Saturday 1:00 - 4:00.

This meeting will feature several demonstrations on making Christmas ornaments.

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 will be open for sales to us during and after our meeting.

Please bring "show and tell" items.

December 10, Tuesday 7:00 p.m.

This meeting will feature a showing and raffle of lathe turned Christmas ornaments. We ask that you try to make a Christmas tree ornament to bring and show at the meeting. We also ask that you bring an ornament to give away in a raffle. Everyone giving an ornament will be entered in the raffle, and will thus win an ornament made by someone else. If you aren't able to bring an ornament, that is OK, you are welcome at the meeting anyway.

We also would like to have a large "show and tell" at this meeting. This is the time of year when many members are making Christmas gifts on the lathe. We would like for you to bring them, and show them, before you give them away. A lot of people said they really got a lot out of the meeting this last spring that was mostly a "show and tell" meeting. We hope that this meeting will turn out the same.

The meeting will be held in a meeting room at the apartment where one of our members, Glen Vant, lives. The address is 3101 111th Ave. N.W., Coon Rapids, Minnesota.

There are a number of routes that can be taken to get there, one being: from I-694 take the University Ave. exit, and go north on University Ave. for about 5 miles to Coon Rapids Blvd. (Northtown shopping center will be off to the right). Take a left on Coon Rapids Blvd. (if you took a right you would be on Highway 10) and go a little over 4 miles to 111th Ave. N.W. (there is a White Castle hamburger place on that corner). Take a left on 111th and go one block and turn right. You are there, it is a 3 story apartment building and is across the street from a Rainbow foods store.

#### Past Meeting Notes:

September 7, Saturday.

Alan Lacer, President of the American Association Of Woodturners, was in town on business, and graciously offered to meet with our club, and give a short demonstration.

Alan spoke of his enjoyment of woodturning, and of the efforts of the AAW to help woodturners. Alan told of a situation that I could



identify with: of how 15 years ago, he couldn't find any place to go to learn woodturning, or anyone to talk to about it. Now, he was happy to say, that in his home state of Oklahoma, there are two active woodturning clubs.

Alan gave a demonstration on ten different cuts that can be made with a skew chisel. I can't really describe the cuts, but here are some of the points he made:

- A sharp tool is real important. Alan sharpens the edges often, using a hand stone. He also "sharpens flat" the top and bottom.

- For sharpening, he also uses a hard fiberboard disc, coated with stainless steel buffing compound (like Del Stubbs), to polish the edge.

- Alan uses the point of the skew to do a lot of cuts. For softwoods, the point can often give a very clean cut.

- He likes to use skew chisels made of high speed steel. The point, or cutting edge is subjected to a lot of friction and heat, and high speed steel holds its edge better, and resists "blueing".

- A skew may have problems cutting cleanly in wood with knots, or irregular grain.

- Alan likes to have a light rest near the lathe, since seeing exactly where the skew is contacting the wood, is very important.

- Alan likes to drive his wood using a cup center, instead of a spur center. He likes for the point in the center to extend just a little beyond the cup edge. He has found that cup centers sold for "Powermatic" lathes have a larger surface area, and work better, than most centers.

September 28, Saturday.

We met on a beautiful fall day at John Berglund's shop near Clearwater Minnesota. John gave a great demonstration on how he turns a "normal" bowl, from green wood. That being a bowl with a round top, not a natural edge. John made a beautiful bowl out of Madrone burl from Oregon. The bowl was about 10 inches in diameter and about 4 inches deep. Some observations:

- John likes to use wood that will look beautiful as a finished piece. In his experience as a professional woodturner, he has found that the quality of the wood, controls how much he can sell his work for.

- John bandsawed the "blank" round, then mounted it on a "Glazer" screw chuck and turned the outside of the bowl to the desired shape. During the shaping, he had the tailstock against the wood for extra stability. He uses a ball bearing cup center in the



tailstock. He said that he used to use a pointed tail center, but had found that they have a tendency to split the wood. He left a bottom on the bowl about 4 inches in diameter and 3/4 of an inch thick.

-He then removed the blank from the screw chuck and screwed a 4 inch diameter faceplate to the bottom. John uses #10 sheet metal screws, one inch long. He takes care to not line up the screw holes with the grain of the wood. Some woodturners advocate lining up screw holes with the grain, so that after drying the holes will still fit the faceplate. John however, has experienced cases where the piece split, during turning, when screws were lined up with the grain. He found the worst cases to be when he glued a waste block on to a blank, and the waste block would split.

-John sharpens his tools with the tool "sideways" (90 degrees, perpendicular) to the grinding wheel, rather than "straight on".

-When sharpening his shear scrapers, he uses the burr that is produced directly off of the grinding wheel, without any further modification.

-John tries to produce a smooth enough finish from his tool work so that he can start sanding with 220 grit sandpaper.

-John wet sanded the bowl using a power drill with 3 inch diameter "Merit" sanding discs. No one says that the discs can be used for wet sanding, but John has found that they work well. He has found that "worn out" sanding discs seem to work better than new ones for wet sanding.

-Wet sanding with a power drill can be dangerous, since water and electricity don't mix. John is careful to keep everything, except the bowl, dry.

-To keep the surface of the bowl wet, John uses a spray bottle. The more water, the less the disc clogs up. He does have to take the disc off the drill periodically, to wash it out in water.

-For finer sanding he hand holds wet/dry sandpaper, with the bowl spinning on the lathe. Again, he uses the spray bottle to keep the surface very wet. To clean off accumulations of sanding goop, he uses a wet scotchbrite type pad.

-He washes the piece well before going on to a finer grit of sandpaper.

-He is careful not to touch any metal, and then the wood, because it can leave dark stains. It can be particularly bad with light colored woods.

-It was very interesting to see how long it took for John to completely sand the bowl (quite a while). Many woodturning demonstrators seem to skip this part of a demonstration because it



might be "boring". By seeing John do the sanding, we were able to see how much work it is. John said that he often spends as much time sanding a piece as he does turning it.

-For a finish, John uses "General", "Seal a Cell" finish. This is a finish that has been around for years, and is nontoxic, so it is a good finish for salad bowls.

Some other things:

-John tries to arrange his shop so everything is within an arms reach of his lathe.

-He uses double faced, cloth backed tape, to attach many items to faceplates, or waste blocks. He has found that he can reuse the tape three or four times.

-John owns, and uses some of the tools sold by Dennis Stewart. He says that the tools currently being sold are slightly heavier duty than those sold a few years ago. He said that with valuable woods, he uses the Stewart "coneing" tool to remove the "center" of a bowl, in one piece. He can usually make something out of the removed piece, that will pay for the cost of the wood.

-John demonstrated how to sharpen a chain saw chain. I will not attempt to describe the process, as it is one of those things that needs to be seen to be understood.

-John also demonstrated cutting a big slab, off a log, with his chain saw sawmill. It was quick, and fascinating.

October 8, Tuesday

We met at William Allshouses' house where he gave a talk on the types of chucks available for holding wood on the lathe. Though William has many fancy and expensive chucks he made quite a point of stressing that his most used chuck is just a common faceplate. He gave many examples of the ways that faceplates, along with waste blocks, glues, and double faced tape, can be used to hold wood.

Another chuck that William uses a lot is a simple screw chuck. He said that they are surprisingly strong, and can hold surprisingly large pieces of wood. There are some cheap, and some expensive screw chucks on the market, and most work pretty well. A screw chuck can also be made, using a faceplate, a block of wood, and a bolt or screw.

At a number of the recent meetings, many beginning turners have brought up basically the same question, namely, what equipment is needed to do turning ? The answer is basically "not much". William made quite a point of showing that with just a faceplate, most turning situations can somehow be handled.

So if a faceplate is all that is needed, why did William buy a



number of fancy and expensive chucks. I gathered that the answer to that one, is that in some cases they are faster and more convenient than other methods. So someone considering buying an expensive chuck should be aware, that what they may be buying is not the only way to get the job done, probably just another way, or a faster way.

The question was asked, where can tools be bought locally. Probably the most well stocked retailers are:

- "Woodcraft Supply" at 9741 Lyndale Ave. South, Bloomington, 884-3634.
- "The Woodworkers Store" at 3025 Lyndale Ave. South, Minneapolis, 822-3338.
- "Shopsmith" at 1665 West County Road C, Roseville, 633-6844.

A smaller amount of turning equipment is also available from:

- The "Wood Carvers Store" at 3056 Excelsior Blvd., Minneapolis, 927-7491.
- "Sears" They have low priced, good quality, high speed steel tools.
- "G.C. Peterson Machinery Company" at 3815 east Lake Street. 721-6661

There are a number of other stores that have various woodworking supplies, but the above listed stores are the ones that I know of that have the most.

Recently "Goodwill" stores have been selling good quality sandpaper for really cheap. It looks like it is from ends of rolls from some manufacturer. If you call one of their stores they can tell you if they have any in stock, or if they expect any.

Some of the other chucks William talked about:

Spur center: A spur center is usually used for "spindle" work (work done with the wood held between the headstock and tailstock). Using the method shown by Del Stubbs, William now uses a cup dead center to drive the wood, instead of a spur center. Some of the advantages to this are:

1. This greatly reduces the potential for bad "dig ins" or "catches", because the wood just stops, when the tool grabs. This is a great method for beginning turners because it reduces the frightening, and destructive dig ins. He mentioned that he has heard that some school shop classes have gotten rid of their spur centers, and replaced them with cup centers, for this reason.
2. Pieces can be removed from the lathe, and remounted, in exactly the same position. William has found that when pieces are remounted with a spur center they often don't run perfectly true, and will have a slight wobble.
3. Pieces can be removed, and remounted backwards. This can be helpful during sanding.



William has found that to make the cup center drive the wood, he must "burn" the center into the wood. To do this, he switches the lathe on, and holds the wood, and presses it into the center until it burns a bit. He then brings the tailstock up to hold the piece between centers. If the piece isn't being driven with enough force, the tailstock needs to be tightened.

Nova Chuck: These cost about \$180.00, and are available from "Craft Supplies" in Utah. William thought that this was a good all around chuck. He said that because the jaws move quite a lot, that sizing pieces to fit in it doesn't have to be real exact. This chuck can also be used as a screw chuck.

Four Jaw Chuck: William said that he likes these chucks for many uses, particularly for pieces that must retain a square end, such as a table leg. There are two types of these chucks, the type where each jaw is adjusted separately, and the type where all four are tightened at once. The type that all are tightened at once tend to be a lot quicker to use.

Collet Chucks: William had several of these chucks, and has found that they have some good uses. One drawback of these, is that the wood must be sized very close, to fit in them (within 1/16 of an inch).

Expanding Dovetail Chuck: William likes these for bowl turning. He has found that he can rough turn a bowl from green wood, let it dry, and that the chuck will still fit for the final turning.

Precision Combination Chuck: These chucks cost about \$190.00. William thought that there were many good uses for this chuck, one being, that it can be made into a big screw chuck.

#### Woodturners Guild of Toronto

In mid September Don Wattenhofer had the opportunity to go to Toronto on business unrelated to woodturning. The first night, which was a Monday, was spent by calling Bob Stone of the Canadian Woodturners Association whose phone number is listed in the future events section of Fine Woodworking Magazine. Mr. Stone gave the number of the President of the WGT, Greg Gage, who after about an hour and a half long phone conversation about woodturning gave out the directions of how to get to the first meeting of the season the following Tuesday night. The meetings are held in a High School shop in the town of Markum, which is on the northeastern corner of the Toronto Metropolitan area (about a 45 minute drive in light traffic from the airport area). The meeting was attended by about 30 members in the full range of ages from about 30 years on up. The meeting was mostly business and miscellaneous discussions, a table with a few show & tell items and some informal demos. The club does not have a news letter but they do carry liability insurance. The meeting was a nice way to spend the evening away from home [lathe] and get to know people with similar interests.



If any member of the club has a similar opportunity the American Association of Woodturners has a listing of clubs through out the United States and many other areas of the World.

#### Book and Video Library:

John Engstrom says that we now have about a half dozen videotapes in our library that are available for use by our members. People may check them out for one month, or until the next meeting. We will be starting a policy whereby when someone checks out a tape, they will be asked to pay \$2.00, for which they will be given a postage paid mailer. If they cannot return the tape at the next meeting they can use the mailer to mail the tape to John before the meeting. If they return the tape ,and mailer, at the next meeting, they will be given their \$2.00 back. There has been a high demand for our tapes, so hopefully this will make them more available.

Several people have videotaped some of our demonstrations in the past. We would appreciate it if those people would be willing to let us copy their tape for our library. Please contact John (475-0307) on this.

Creating a tape for the club: John Engstrom has volunteered to videotape individual members doing a demonstration in their own home workshops. This sounds like a wonderful idea, especially for people who don't want to demonstrate in front of a crowd. It would also allow the opportunity to get the best camera angles, and to reshoot things, if the demonstrator wants to do something over. I know that a lot of you have something unique to offer here, please call John if you are willing to do this.

#### Board Meeting:

A number of items were discussed at a board meeting this last month, they are:

-Frequency of meetings: Based on input from the members, it was decided that we would try to have two meetings per month during October, February, March, and April.

-A number of our members live "quite a ways out", or work evenings. We have received a lot of requests to try to have weekend meetings, that will allow those people to make it to the meetings. We will therefore try to periodically have meetings on Saturdays, possibly every other meeting.

-Many of our members are fairly inexperienced at woodturning. We will therefore try to gear many meetings towards them.

-Going on the concept, that most of what goes on at our meetings, is a sharing of knowledge among us, it was decided that we would like to try to emphasize two things more at meetings: 1. Highlight



"show and tell" as a regular part of each meeting. We would like to have the people who bring their work, tell about it to the whole group. 2. We would also like to try to encourage short demonstrations by many of our members. Many times, people have told about little things that they do, that others would like to see, that might take only a short time to demonstrate. A number of these demonstrations could be grouped together for a meeting. This would also be a good chance for people with unique (or costly) tools, to demonstrate their use. We ask you to please come forward and volunteer to do this. Please talk to John Berglund, or one of the other club officers if you have any ideas on this.

-At a number of past meetings, there have been items that have been raffled off, for free, to those present. It was decided, that in the future, if there is anything to be given away, that it would be raffled off to the people who brought show and tell items to that meeting. This might encourage more show and tell participation.

-The subject of liability releases was discussed, and it was decided, that in addition to the full page form that we ask all members to sign, that we would have a combination sign in sheet and liability release, that we will ask everyone attending every meeting, to sign. This will then cover nonmembers, and new members, who have not yet signed the liability release.

-Having a lathe available at meetings has been a very big problem, for as long as our club has existed. It has been a problem that we never really solved. After years of discussion it was finally decided that we should buy a "portable" lathe for the club. A small lathe has since been purchased. It was decided that this lathe should only be used for demonstrations at our meetings, and not be lent out for private use.

The lathe did not come with a motor. If anyone has a small 1/4 horsepower (or thereabouts) motor that they could donate, we would appreciate it. Please call William Allshouse on this.

-It has long been recognized, that the members of our club who are professional woodturners, tend to contribute to us, great time, effort, and expertise. To somewhat compensate for that, it was determined, that we would waive the yearly membership fee for our members who are professional woodturners, if they have been a paid member for at least one year.

-It was decided that the club would subscribe to "Woodturning" magazine, and make the issues available to the members through our library.

Attached are two sheets of information on the American Association of Woodturners. Many of our new members have asked for information on this.