

What is the "Minnesota Woodturners Association" ?

Basically we are just a bunch of people who like woodturning who have formed a club so we can meet and share information and knowledge about it.

We formed in 1987 with about 25 members, and now have about 75 members. Those who formed the association felt that by sharing our woodturning knowledge, that we could learn far more than we could ever learn by ourselves.

The association is completely nonprofit, all work by members is voluntary, and no monetary marketing is done through our meetings or newsletter.

Our woodturning skill levels range from complete beginners to skilled professionals. Though some of our members are professional woodturners, most are hobbyists.

About three fourths of our members live in the twin cities area, while about one fourth live through out Minnesota and Wisconsin.

We meet once or twice a month, except during the summer, when we don't meet. We usually meet on either the second Tuesday of the month, or a Saturday. We meet in a different location each month, usually at a members home, or at one of the local woodworking stores.

Most of our meetings involve some sort of demonstration on woodturning, or some related subject. We try to vary the subjects so that members of various skill levels will have a chance to learn, and share their knowledge.

We try to hold at least one "Professional" demonstration each year where we bring in a professional woodturner from out of state.

We try to keep our meetings as informal as we possibly can, and try to keep ourselves down to earth, and nonpompous.

Nonmembers can feel free to attend a meeting or two to see if they would like to join our association.

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.

Please also sign the liability Release on the second sheet of the newsletter and send that with the registration form. If you have signed a liability release form in the past, please sign this one anyway, as we would like to have currently signed forms for all of our members. From now on, we will ask all new and renewing members to sign a form each year, when dues are paid.

Note: Even though annual dues are now being waived for members who are Professional Woodturners, we ask that you still sign and return the registration and liability release forms.

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, to consider how you might fulfill this obligation.

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:

January 18, Saturday, 1:00 - 4:00

Tools:

There have been a lot of requests for a meeting strictly on tools. What to buy, how to sharpen them, tool making, new and unusual tools, etc.

We hope for the meeting to be somewhat similar to the "Christmas" meeting. That being, no specific speaker or demonstrator, but a whole bunch of members sharing their knowledge with the whole group.

We hope that the meeting will feature several areas:

1. What to buy, how to sharpen them: We hope to have a discussion on this, and a demonstration on tool sharpening. If you are having any trouble sharpening any of your tools, bring them to the meeting for some hands on sharpening instruction.
2. Tool making: If you have made any tools, please bring them to show, and to tell how they were made. If you can give a demonstration on how they were made that would be great. Just bring what you need to show how it is done. It would be nice if someone would also come and show how to harden and temper tools.
3. New and unusual tools: If you have any tools that most members don't have, please bring them to show the rest of us. If possible, also bring some wood, and demonstrate their use
4. Measuring devices: Please bring any calipers, gages, etc that you use, particularly those used for hollow turnings.

The meeting will be held at Don Wattenhoffer's house. Don's house is located at 5312 Horizon Drive, in Fridley, Minn. The location 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.

Future Meetings:

We hope to schedule meetings for the next several months within a few weeks. The schedule will come out in another newsletter, hopefully around the end of January, or early February.

We have had the following requests for meeting subjects:

- Wood sources, Types of locally available wood, harvesting and processing methods.

- Wood finishes.

- Photographing work

- Professional demonstrations.

- Other demonstrations

What we now need are people to come forward and volunteer to "put on" these meetings, or to offer meeting sites for them.

If You might be able to volunteer do this, Please contact either John Berglund 1-558-2338, or William Allshouse 755-3373, within the next couple of weeks. If you have any ideas for any other subjects please also call John or William.

Meeting Cancellations:

If bad weather occurs on the day of a meeting, you can assume that the meeting will be canceled. We will try to inform the "person, place or 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:

October 26, 1991

We met at Don Wattenhofer's house for a demo of how he cuts round turning blanks from irregularly shaped "found wood" such as crotches or burls on the band saw. Don also showed us how he modified his Delta lathe to allow the cutting of inside and outside threads on items such as covered boxes or hollow form vessels.

Don's method for cutting round turning blanks from irregularly shaped wood was quite simple, and quite effective. By looking at his piece of wood, he figures out what size bowl he can cut. He then drills a one inch diameter hole about three inches deep into what will be the center of the bowl. He has fashioned a board with a dowel slightly less than one inch diameter attached to it, that can be clamped to the band saw table.

The dowel can be moved away from the band saw blade the same distance as the desired radius of the bowl. The log is then mounted on the dowel via the drilled hole. The dowel is long enough so that the log is held up off the board. The band saw is switched on and the log is slowly rotated all the way around until the blank has been cut out.

Don says that it is important to have a real sharp blade. It also helps to have a band saw with an ability to cut thick pieces.

To turn the blank on the lathe, Don took a screw chuck and turned a one inch diameter "dowel" on it, slightly longer than the depth of the hole drilled in the bowl blank. Don then slid the bowl blank onto the screw chuck and dowel. He then brought the tailstock to the blank to hold it in place. With a snug fit of the dowel in the hole, the blank will spin on the lathe.

Some pointers:

-To insure that the high points of the natural edge bowl are at about the same height, Don drilled the hole in the log on the drill press. He adjusted the position of the log with wedges to get the high points of the log where he wanted them.

-Don uses a compass to determine the optimum diameter bowl he can make from a log.

-Don made the board with the movable dowel, that is clamped to the band saw table. The board contains a row of tee nuts with a 5/16 standard thread. These are the type of nuts that short furniture legs are often screwed into. They are mounted in the wood by drilling a hole, and pounding them in place. The nuts are one inch apart and run perpendicular to the band saw blade. The dowel has a 5/16 furniture bolt in its end. Thus the dowel can be easily moved to accommodate different sized pieces of wood. The board has on its underside a strip of wood that holds it in place in the miter guide slot on the bandsaw table.

-When cutting green wood, the band saw table should be cleaned of sawdust after each use, or it will cause rust. Oak is especially prone to do that.

-Don has a Delta band saw with an extension on it to allow him to cut extra thick wood. The 105 inch blades for this are sold at 7 Corners Ace Hardware in Saint Paul, and Allied Machinery in Burnsville.

Don also demonstrated how he cuts threads in the tops of his lidded containers:

The device he rigged up looked very complicated, and obviously took a lot of ingenuity. The basic concept of the setup was really fairly simple though:

-The actual cutting of the thread is done by a small V shaped cutting bit in a laminate cutter (similar to a router).

-While the lathe turned object is held on the lathe, it is slowly rotated, while the laminate cutter is slowly drawn into the edge of the object.

-The trick of doing this, is to make sure that the object is rotated at a constant rate while the cutter is advancing into it. For example, 6 revolutions for every one inch of cutter advancement, would produce a threading of 6 threads per inch.

-Don bought a threaded steel rod that had 6 threads per inch.

-He made a device to hold the laminate cutter horizontally and attached a nut to it that had 6 threads per inch, and fit the threaded rod.

- Thus, if the rod is held in one place and turned, and it is attached to the nut on the laminate cutter holder, the cutter will move at the rate of one inch, for 6 revolutions of the rod.

-Next, Don needed a way to connect the lathe drive shaft to the threaded rod. He also needed to make the connection so that the lathe shaft (and thus, his object), would rotate one time for every one time that the threaded rod turned.

-He did this by attaching a bicycle type drive "pulley" to the lathe shaft. He added to his lathe, another shaft located about a foot below the lathe shaft. This second shaft also had the same sized bicycle pulley on it. The second shaft had a coupling that allowed it to be attached to the threaded rod.

-A bicycle chain was then hooked up between the two bicycle "Pulleys".

-Since the pulleys were the same size, for every one time the lathe shaft goes around, The bicycle chain causes the second shaft to go around one time. Thus the threaded rod goes around one time, and the laminate cutter advances $1/6$ of an inch.

-The second shaft was mounted, so that when it is hooked up to the threaded rod, that the laminate cutter holder rested on the ways of the lathe.

-That is basically a general description of the whole setup, with the exception that the device made to hold the laminate cutter must be adjustable, to allow cutting on different sized objects.

-To cut the threads, Don lines up the cutter teeth with the edge of his object. He switches the cutter on and then starts to rotate the lathe shaft by hand.

-It only takes a minute or so to cut an inch of threads. Don only cuts with the cutter going in, not out. He gets cleaner threads that way.

-As you can probably guess, this is one of those things that is a lot easier to understand if you see it firsthand. Since we are having this months meeting at Don's house, we can possibly get another chance to see it.

An article in one of the recent "Woodturning" magazines, from England, featured how Bonnie Klien cuts threads for the tops of "containers" that she makes. She uses methods somewhat similar to Don's. Some of the differences however, were that she has rigged up a simple device, separate from the lathe, to cut the threads. With her device the cutter stays stationary, while the turned object is "advanced", while being rotated, into it.

We also had a good turnout for Show and Tell at the meeting. Everyone who brought items told about them, and answered questions, to the whole group. It was very informative.

November 23

This meeting featured several demonstrations on making Christmas ornaments.

I was not able to attend this meeting, so unfortunately I don't have anything to write about it.

December 10

This meeting featured a big show and tell of dozens of turned objects. The meeting also featured a showing and raffle of lathe turned Christmas ornaments.

I was amazed at the variety of types of ornaments and other works. 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. I know that I learned quite a lot.

A few specific things that were mentioned:

-Craig Lossing brought a large vase, over a foot in diameter and about 16 inches tall. It was less than 1/4 inch thick. It was turned from green wood and slowly dried in a plastic bag. He said that it took him about 10 hours to make it. The bottom was hand carved, and sanded.

-Ron Krietemeyer had some nice ornaments decorated with chatterwork. He had made his chatterwork tool by buying the blade for it at "Woodcraft" for \$6.95, and mounting it into a 1/2 inch steel rod with a hacksaw and a set screw.

-Duane Gemelke brought a vase with a plastic vial for "wet" flowers. He found a flower shop that will sell him the vials for 15 cents each.

-John Berglund brought a nice Christmas tree ornament that had a very attractive "hole" on top for a hanger. The hole was made by turning a small ball on top of the ornament, then filing two sides of the ball flat, and drilling a hole through the flat sides.

-Someone mentioned that they had made their turning by attaching their piece of wood to a waste block with hot melt glue. When they were done doing the turning they put it in a microwave oven for a few moments to loosen the glue, so they could remove it from the waste block.

Custom Turning: Jim Fry, of the "Woodcraft" store, 9741 Lyndale Ave. South, Bloomington MN 55420, 884-3634, had, in the past, let me know that they get a number of customers asking if the store knows of anyone willing to do custom turning. They typically are looking for someone to turn a replacement spindle or something for a broken piece of furniture, or for some other small job. If any of you are interested in doing this, you can call the store and talk to Jim, and he will then give out your name to interested customers. You may want to specify a minimum dollar amount for work you would do.

Need help with the basics ?

Willie Allshouse, 755-3373, Ron Krietemeyer, 739-8410 and I, Paul Kachelmyer 738-3940, have all offered, that if any club member needs a little help learning some woodturning basics, that we would be happy to help you. Feel free to call us.

CLASSIFIED ADDS: Any member wanting to place an add,(free to members) send the pertinent information to me, Paul Kachelmyer, at 558 Farrell st. Maplewood Minn. 55119. I will try to get it in the next newsletter.

Trees Available? On several occasions, club members, knowing of a tree that needed to be cut down, have gotten together and shared the work and shared the wood. If you know of a fallen tree, or one that needs to be cut, that may be good for turning, please let me know. I will either print it in the newsletter, or if time is short, will make a few phone calls to members who have indicated an interest in such endeavors.

Articles needed

Anyone who would like to add anything to the newsletter, is encouraged to do so. These could be anything that could be of interest to anyone...tips and techniques, jigs that you have found useful, reviews of new products, tools, or lathes, book or videotape reviews, or reviews of seminars or symposiums that you have attended. Just send the info or article to me, Paul Kachelmyer, 558 Farrell street, Maplewood Minn. 55119, and I will put it in the next newsletter.

DEMONSTRATORS: If any accomplished turners are travelling near or through Saint Paul, Minnesota, please give one of our officers a call to possibly set up a demonstration --- (yes, for a fee). We would appreciate at least a month or two notice.