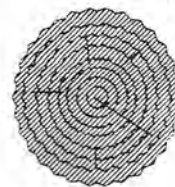




Minnesota Wood Turners Association



An Affiliated Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

July 1996

Volume 10 Issue 4

Special Summer Meeting

There has been sufficient interest to have a summer meeting and possibly go with meetings all year round.

We will be having a summer meeting at Dave Schneider's home, on **Saturday, July 27th, 1996 from 1:00PM to 4:00PM**. This will be a general meeting and get together. We will discuss the 10th National Symposium (see following pages for more info), the St. Catherine's Art Show, and any other subjects that are interesting to the members. Bring your pieces for Show and Tell and any extra wood you have for the wood raffle.

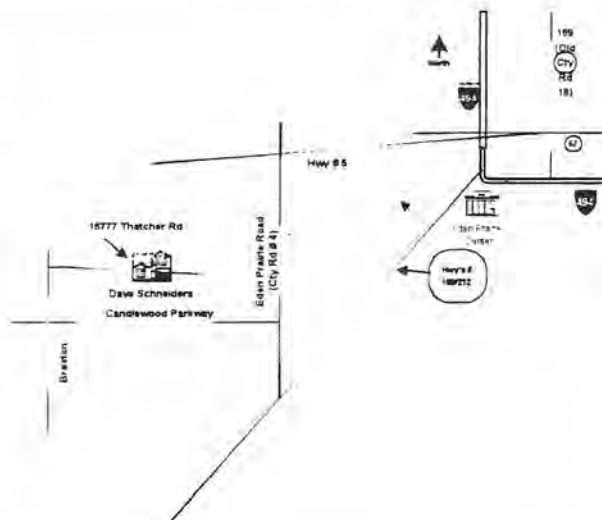
Please bring a lawn chair for your comfort and in the event of inclement weather we will reschedule for the next weekend of August 3. We'll have Pop and chips for everybody and if you bring burgers or whatever, there will be a grill available.

Please give me (*Dave Schneider*) a call at 612-934-4667 if you plan on attending so we will have an idea on how many members will be there.

Directions to Dave Schneiders:

If you are coming on Hwy # 62 (The Crosstown), follow the signs to Hwy's 5/212 always staying in the left lane, which will get you to the underpass of I-494, and then follow the rest of the instructions for Hwy #5 West

If you are coming on Interstate 494 North or South exit at Hwy # 5 West and go 3 miles to County Rd # 4 (also known as Eden Prairie Road). Go South on Cty Rd # 4 for 1 mile to Candlewood Parkway. Go West on Candlewood Parkway .6 mile to Braxton. Go right on Braxton to Thatcher Rd and right on Thatcher Rd to the 4th house on your right.



Inside....

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- 2..Choosing a Lathe
- 3..Symposium, Festivals, Demos
- 4..Past Meetings
- 5..Wanted, For Sale
- 6..Election of Officers
- 7..Tips, Tricks, etc

MWA Board**President:**

Chuck Pitschka (612) 935-0660

Vice President:

Don Wattenhofer (612) 572-1045

Treasurer:

Ron Meilahn (612) 633-8902

Program Director:

James Tracy (612) 571-3374

Newsletter Mailing:

John Radloff (612) 770-6471

Librarian:

Duane Gemelke (612) 566-8516

Newsletter Editor/Membership:

Dave Schneider (612) 934-4667

E-mail: DSchWdTurn@aol.com

Treasurers Report: Ron Meilahn

Dec 1996 Year and Bank Balance (excluding 96 dues received)	\$578
-----------------------------------------------------------------------	-------

1996 Activity thru 4/26/96

Income	
1996 Membership Dues (86 Paid)	\$1,720
Glue Sales (Net)	\$ (65)
Meeting Wood Raffles (3 to date)	\$76
Personalized Name Tags @ \$2ea	\$30
Duluth Exhibit (27 entries) surplus	\$42

Total Income	\$1,813
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Expenses

Professional Demo Costs	\$81
Library Tapes, VCR Rental, etc	\$(21)
Newsletter Printing, Postage, Supplies	\$(107)
Tools	\$(5)
Annual Liability Insurance	\$(75)
Prizes, Board Mtgs, Misc	\$(235)

Total Expenses	\$(367)
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Membership Deposits-Library Tapes	\$20
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NET Operations YTD-FAV	\$1466
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Checkbook Balance as of 4/26/96	\$2,064
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Member Helpline

Do you have a question or need help with a project or turning? The following members have volunteered to try and answer your questions, or get you pointed in the right direction for the answer.

John Engstrom	(612) 475-0307
Jim Jacobs	(612) 437-2302
Ed Johnson	(612) 224-4194
John Magnussen	(612) 477-6294
Hal Malmlov	(612) 789-9616
Dave Schneider	(612) 934-4667
Don Wattenhofer	(612) 572-1045

If you would like to help out and have your name on this list, please call Dave Schneider at (612) 934-4667

Northfield Arts Guild/ Minnesota Woodturners Association Woodturning Exhibit

To all interested MWA members:

Our Association has been asked to to put on an exhibit from August 29th, 1996 to September 28th, 1996 in the Main gallery of the Northfield Arts Guild, Northfield, MN. This time also coincides with Northfield's "Jesse James Days", September 5th thru the 8th, which is a time of frequent visitors to the Arts Guild.

The display space is a little less than half that of the Duluth show and we will need;

Volunteers to transport the pieces to and from the show

Volunteers to set up the show (August 26th-28th)

Volunteers to take down the show (September 29th)

Entry fee is \$10 for up to 3 pieces.

Call numbers below for an entry form if you do not still have yours. The pieces do have to be for sale and 40% of the price will go to the Northfield Arts Guild.

There will be a catalog or flyer put together for the show and the number of pieces that a member can enter will be limited by the number of people in the show and the space available.

This is another excellent opportunity to get our work into the public eye and inform and educate the public on who we are and what we do.

Members that are interested in showing a piece or pieces and/or need more complete information, please contact James Tracy at 612-571-3374 or Ron Meilahn @ 612-633-8902.

10th Annual AAW Symposium

The symposium was held from June 22nd thru the 24th at the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro, NC. It was the largest ever, with estimates of over 800 attendees and 680 pieces entered into the Instant Gallery. The Minnesota Woodturners Association had the following 6 members attending: Ron Meilahn, Chuck Sjodin, Dave Dunn, Mel Turcanik, Don Wattenhofer and Dave Schneider. We will have input from the attending members in our next newsletter along with pictures taken at the symposium. It was a great success and a great learning experience!

St. Catherine's Art Festival

The festival was held June 29th and June 30th at the College of St. Catherine in St Paul, MN. The Minnesota Woodturners Association had the following members demonstrating at the show: Steve Brown, Ed Johnson, Chuck Pitschka, Don Wattenhofer, Mike Martin III, Mike Martin Jr., Don Robinson, Bruce Pollack, Jim Jacobs, Lester Eckhardt and Duane Gemelke.

This has become an annual event for us and really gives a good picture to the general public as to what we do and also what we are about. Thanks members for volunteering your time to get information out to the public.

Other Demos

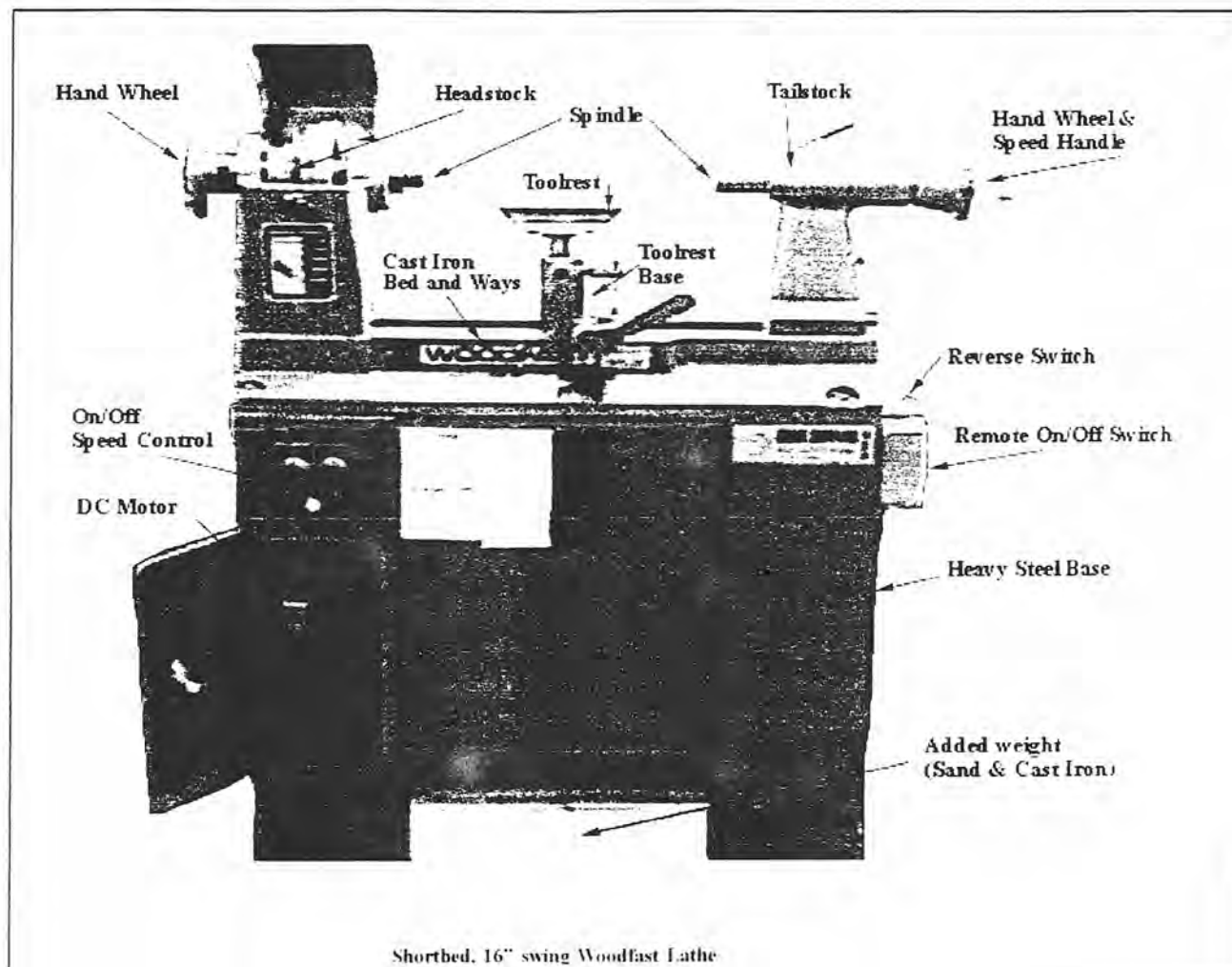
Hal Malmlov and Ed Johnson also were demonstrating Delta Equipment at the Grand Openings of the 2 new Home Depot Stores on July 4th thru the 6th. They were handing out info about MWA at these demos. Thanks fellows.

Choosing a Lathe

Dave Schneider

I think it would be safe to say that those of us that are doing woodturning, whether it be a hobby or a profession, have developed our interest and sometimes passion from an appreciation of turned objects. This interest could have stemmed from the first time we saw a common salad bowl, the newel turnings on a staircase, a piece that we saw at a craft show or an art gallery or any of the many other experiences we have had in life.

Once the interest goes past the common "look, touch and appreciate" to the urge to create something on your own, we then have to make a decision on what kind of lathe, tools and accessories we will need to purchase. Those of us that have gone through that stage know that it can be a time consuming and frustrating process, not because of lack of choices but to the opposite spectrum, of a wealth of information on different lathes, tools and accessories to choose from that make for some interesting decisions.



Shortbed, 16" swing Woodfast Lathe

In this article I will try to cover the basic points to form guidelines that will help you in the process of purchasing a lathe. Hopefully this will make it an enjoyable experience rather than a frustrating chore.

The best way, of course, to choose a lathe would be to have access to every lathe on the market and then choose one after trying each out. Since most of us do not have the resources, nor the time to do that, the following questions should be asked, and then checked off for your particular case.

- Purpose:
 - What do you want to do with the lathe? As funny as that question sounds, there is a big difference on whether you want to do general turning or specialize in spindles or faceplate turning.
 - What do you see

<p>yourself doing in the future?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you are turning strictly spindles, you will want a longer bed with a standard swing, as opposed to turning bowls which will require a larger swing than what comes with a normally supplied, standard lathe. (i.e. 12" swing is the current standard swing) Outboard turning is an option on a lathe and its advantage is the size of piece that can be turned. Disadvantages seem to outweigh the advantages because you have to turn in the opposite direction you are used to (you are facing the lathe on the outside of the headstock), you have to use a floor stand for the tool rest which can be unstable and therefore unsafe. There are some lathes that are being manufactured that you can swing the head to get a larger swing but I won't go any further into that as it is out of the realm of a "standard lathe" <p>Cost:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is your budget? What is the maximum you can spend? (The old tool axiom of "Spend as much on the tool as your budget will allow" holds true in this case as the quality of lathes does improve as the price rises.) Price ranges from \$200 to whatever the market will bear. (There are some lathes that go well over \$6,000 at this time) <p>Size:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look for maximum stability and minimal vibration no matter what 	<p>size!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small, medium, large, massive Weight, weight, weight.....is the important factor for stability and should only be sacrificed if you have the need for portability. What is the size of the spindle? If you have more than one lathe it would be advantageous to have the same size spindle on the headstock so that you could interchange faceplates and accessories <p>Material: What are the lathe and its components made out of?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stamped, Fabricated Steel, Wood, Cast Iron, Aluminum (Cast Iron and Wood will give more of a dampening effect to vibrations and in most cases are proportionally more expensive) Quality can be determined by the finish on the various parts, the ease of moving the tailstock, tool base and toolrest on the bed and ways, and the smoothness of any other moving parts such as the spindle travel on the tailstock. <p>Lathe Components: (Refer to the picture on page # 3.)</p> <p>Headstock: This is the working end of the lathe and the size of the spindle and the size and TPI (threads per inch) will determine how big a piece of work you can handle on the lathe, as an example, a lathe with a 3/4" diameter spindle and 16 TPI will more than likely limit you to a bowl that is 8" or less in diameter and possibly much smaller than that.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The spindle should be 	<p>threaded to accept various accessories such as faceplates, chucks, etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A hollow spindle is preferable to a solid shaft as it can be used to knockout accessories and also can be converted to a vacuum chucking system if desired. The spindle should have a Morse taper to hold accessories rather than a solid or plain spindle. A Morse taper then lets you use standard accessories from any manufacturer. <p>Tailstock:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look for how long the distance of travel of the spindle is (the longer the better, standard is 2" to 4"), whether it has a Morse taper and what size the taper is. The wheel should have a quick turning handle to move the spindle in/out A hollow spindle is preferable to a solid shaft as it can be used to knockout accessories and also to be used as a guide for a long reach drill bit for starting of hollowing a piece. There are solid spindles that have the feature of loosening the accessories when the tailstock is completely backed out. <p>Tool Base and tool rest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> They both should be of heavy construction, move smoothly in all directions and have quick and simple adjustments and locking features. (Levers rather than nuts tightened by a wrench.) <p>Bed and ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Should be smooth
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surfaced and if the are cast iron should be machined with no rough edges or open grain in the casting.

- **Base/Stand:**
- Can be metal or wood but should be as heavy as possible and have the capacity to have weight added to it either internally (pouring sand, etc into it) or external by placing weight on it.
- **Motor:**
- AC or DC
- Most lathes offered today that come supplied with a motor, have an AC motor. DC motors and controllers are much more expensive but offer the capability of having an infinitely variable speed from Zero RPM to whatever the top speed of the motor and pulley arrangement is setup for.
- Manual or Variable speed
- Size of motor. 1/6 Hp to 1 1/2 Hp are standard sizes with larger lathes in the 2 to 5 Hp range and massive lathes up from 5 Hp. If you are going to consistently turn larger bowls or faceplates you will want a minimum of 1 HP or higher.
- **Controls and safety:**
- They should be convenient from your work position and you should never have to get in front of or reach over the piece you are working on to shut the motor off.

Hopefully this short list will help you in your quest for your new lathe.

Past Meetings

Saturday, May 11, 1996 1-5PM

Steve Brown's Home

.....

It turned out to be a very nice day with temperatures in the mid 50's and it was very comfortable in Steves shop. It was also a very good turnout with 30 members attending.

Ron Meilahn gave the treasurers report and told everybody about the discount list and dealers that we could get discounts on supplies.

James Tracy talked about our upcoming show in Northfield and asked all people interested to contact him. We will be sending out notices to all members. Volunteers will be needed for setup and take down of the displays.

Duane Gemelke gave his report on the possibility/feasability of having a mini-symposium here as a prelude to possibly hosting the National Symposium in the year 2000 or 2001. He explained the involvement that would be needed from volunteers and asked for a show of hands for support. We will have to get more support than what was shown if we want to hold the mini-symposium.

Show and Tell had a good turnout with pieces from:

Mel Turcanik brought in several multiple piece units that were made out of different woods and very artistic in design. Mel said that as the individual pieces were removed from the main piece that they also should be able to stand on there own as a piece.

Ed Johnson showed some of his segmented pieces and a rectangular flying piece. (He and Mel negotiated a trade where Mel ended up with the flying piece.)

John Magnussen showed us one of his hollow vases in spalted maple.

Dave Schneider had a hollow walnut Hopi sty bowl with an extended neck.

Phil Neese had a piece with a water based finish on it that really was nice.

Chuck Pitschka brought in a bowl that he had almost turned through the bottom on and showed us how he had glued a pice on to the bottom to save it.

Jim Jacobs brought in a sphere he had turned from oak which was well done and he also brought in some of his staved piece work and a homemade holdfast he uses when turning these pieces.

Don Wattenhofer showed a small hollow form and the threaded egg that he had made for the egg challenge. The egg was really impressive and I am quite sure it was overlooked at the judging in the egg challenge because Don had done such a good job of threading that the egg looked like a solid piece.

The wood raffle brought in \$34. Thanks to everyone that are bringing in wood for the raffle. It is going into our treasury and really helping us to keep membership costs down.

When we got to our main presentation, Steve Brown took us down several paths. He explained to us how large burl is cut using special jigs setup with very large chain saws. He then showed us some of his large platters and bowls that he makes. He had 3 platters of Maple, Redwood Burl and Walnut that were handsomely finished. These platters could also be wall hangings or small table tops. His bowls were no less impressive, and one bowl that he showed was the biggest piece of Hackberry I had ever seen. (approx 16" in diameter.) It also was much prettier than the Hackberry that I am used to seeing. Steve also mentioned the reason for cutting downhill on a piece was to give a much better finish and used the analogy that it is easier to pull a 2x4 downstairs rather than trying to push it up the stairs.

Steve went on to describe his way of building kalideoscopes and the unique way he has of attaching the turning part of the lens to the body. He mentioned the fact that it drives him crazy to see somebody turn the whole kalideoscope rather than hold the body and turn the lens. Steve has a spiral glass cutter specifically for cutting his own lenses to size. The source for glass and supplies he uses is Gaytee Stained Glass Inc. 2744 Lyndale Ave S. Minneapolis, MN Tel # (612) 872-4550.

When making the hole for the glass to fit and it is very important to have it as snug as possible so that there is no movement of the 3 mirrors. There are at least 2 ways to create the opening for the mirrors, 1] Drilling, 2] Beveling 3 pieces of wood so that the mirrors will be an exact fit. First the drilling: One way that Steve has found successful is to mount the body of the scope in his chuck and start drilling very slowly, clearing chips frequently, to reduce the heat generated by the large bit. When he has gone in as far as the length of the bit will allow him, he then attaches an electrician's extension to the bit and continues drilling to the desired depth. Once the depth is reached, Steve turns a plug that will be centered in the drill hole and while the piece is between centers, he turns the outside to the proper diameter. This guarantees that the hole is centered. The other way to create the opening is to cut 3 pieces at 30 degree angles with the inside flat being exactly the width of the mirrors so that when the pieces are glued together, the mirrors will slide right in. (Steve has promised to give us a more complete writeup on how he does his scopes in a future article.)

Steve also showed us his bench holdfast for holding bowls to work on their bottoms.

Steve showed us how he splits a log by lining up the heart of the log at each end.

He also uses a cardboard or heavy white board cut into a circle and the tacked to

"It is easier to pull a 2x4 down the stairs, than it is trying to push it up the stairs."

Steve Brown

the half piece to use as a guide when bandsawing to a circle prior to turning.

When burning lines into a piece, the wire has to have all of the kinks out of it. If the wire is kinked, Steve ties one end to something solid and uses a heavy set of pliers on the other end to yank very hard. This will straighten it out nicely. It is important to get the length correct and definitely do not wrap

around your hands or fingers! Mary Redig made the suggestion to attach dowels at each end to hold and have better control. The wire has to be held against the wood very tight, (enough to get the wood to smoke).

We then took a break to try and identify the 12 trees that Steve had marked on his property. Amazingly nobody was able to identify all 12 trees. The consensus of opinion was that it was harder to identify the trees because they did not have their leaves on them. (Yes, it was May 11th, but you have to remember that this is Minnesota!) Among the list of trees were - Mulberry, Cottonwood, Cherry, Juniper, Box Elder, Butternut, etc

After the break a piece of green Butternut was mounted on Steves Conover lathe and everybody that wanted to got a chance to turn a decent size of green wood to see how satisfying it is to get foot long shavings coming off a piece.

Thanks Steve for your hospitality and a very informative meeting.

Membership Application/Renewal MINNESOTA WOODTURNERS ASSOCIATION

Name (Please Print) _____

Telephone # _____

Date _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip Code _____

Dues are \$20.00 yearly (Starting In January)
but \$10.00 after July 1st of that year

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Please Check: Renewing Member ☐ New Member ☐

Are you a member of the AAW? Yes ☐ No ☐

You will receive all issues of the newsletter starting
with January of the year you join, plus a new members kit.

I would be willing to:

- Help out at meetings ☐
- Be on a planning committee ☐
- Help out at demonstrations and/or shows ☐
- Serve on the Board of the Association ☐
- Contribute to the NewsLetter ☐

Mail To:

MN WOODTURNERS ASSOCIATION
c/o Ron Meilahn
1638 23rd Ave N.W.
New Brighton, MN 55112

Classified Ads

Turning related, personal classified ads are free to members. Commercial ads are billed at \$4 per month, per column inch. To place an add. call Dave Schneider. (612) 934-4667

Submission deadline of Ads and Articles for the Newsletter is the 1st of the month prior to publication (i.e. The 1st of Dec, Feb, Apr, Aug, Oct)

Turning Squares

Turning squares of Bloodwood, Purpleheart, Honduras Mahogany, Philippine Mahogany, Cocobolo, Bocote, Bird's Eye Maple, and Wenge are approximately 1 1/2" x 1 1/2" x 22"

They are \$5.00 each or \$24.00 for an assorted package of six.

Dymondwood

Dymondwood is made of natural hardwood veneers that have been impregnated with specially formulated resins and permanent coloring agents. It is then bonded and densified under very high temperatures and pressures.

Turning squares of Dymondwood are approximately 1 1/2" x 1 1/2" x 8".

The squares come in four colors: Blue, Brown, Red and Green.

They are \$3.50 each or \$12.00 for an assorted package of four.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

CHUCK PITTSCHKA @ (612) 935-0660

For Sale: Cherry Wood

John has purchased a large Cherry tree and has pieces available to members for a reasonable cost. Contact John Magnussen @ (612) 477-6294

Election of Officers

Elections of officers for our association will be held at our November meeting. Please consider the possibility of being an officer or Board member for the club.

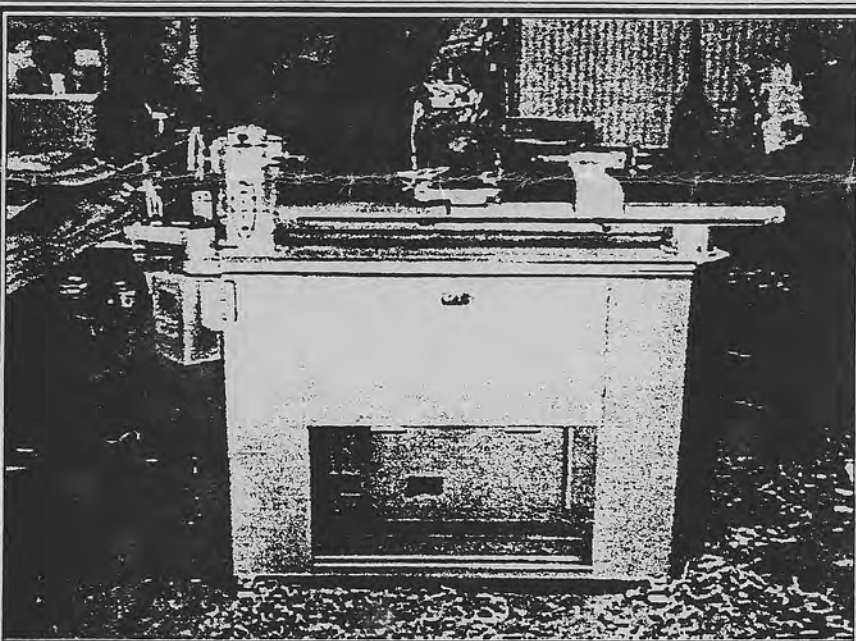
All officer positions are open for election. The term of office will be for two years, and will run from Jan. 1997 to Dec. 1998.

All of the current officers have served for at least two years, and some have served for four, or more years. It is important to see new people in these positions to insure that different viewpoints, interests, and opinions are reflected in our meetings.

Serving as an officer is an excellent way to return to the organization some of what you have gained from it.

There is only one qualification necessary to run for office, a willingness to put forth the effort to do the job. It is important to note that woodturning skill level is not a factor. In fact, this is a prime way that lesser skilled members can contribute to the club.

We ask that you please consider the possibility of serving as an officer. We will be asking for volunteers at the upcoming meetings. If you cannot attend those meetings, but are willing to serve as an officer, please call Dave Schneider @ 934-4667, or Chuck Pittschka @ 935-0660, to volunteer. We will have a finalized list of candidates by the November meeting and will vote and count any absentee ballots at this meeting.



For Sale:

Myford ML8 Lathe with Accessories. 48" between centers Excellent condition. Very well made lathe. All moving parts operate very smoothly

Contact Steve Brown @ (612) 934-1812

VICTORIAN WOODTURNING AND WOODWORK

Balusters, Newels, Stairs, Railings, Porches, Verandas, etc

An unabridged reprint of the 1893 catalog of the

Blumer & Kuhn Stair Co., with 130 plates and introduction by

William L. Stephenson, Jr.

\$16.95 plus \$4 s&h (OH add \$1 state tax; allow 4-6 weeks delivery)

Chestnut Publications, PO Box 844, Loveland, OH 45140

For Sale: Sealtite 60 to protect your green wood

In the following quantities:

2 Quarts \$7.75

3 Quarts \$11.00

1 Gallon \$14.00

Contact Dave Schneider @ (612) 934-4667

Special
Edition

July 1996

First Class Mail



Newsletter Editor
Minnesota Woodturners Association
1677 Thatcher Rd
Eden Prairie, MN 55347-2261



Minnesota Woodturners Association

Dedicated to providing education, information and an organization to those interested in woodturning.

The Minnesota Woodturners Association was formed in 1987 with approximately 25 charter members and now has about 80 members. The Association is non-profit and all work by members is done voluntarily.

The skill level of our members ranges from complete beginners to skilled professionals. Membership includes a few professionals but hobbyists make up the majority. The members live mostly in the Twin Cities metro area, however there are members in all areas of Minnesota stretching into western Wisconsin.

The Association normally schedules meetings once a month during fall, winter and spring of the year. (September thru May) The meetings are normally held on Tuesdays or Saturdays and the group meets in a different location each time. The meeting locations vary from members shops, educational associations, to the various woodworking stores located throughout the metro area.

The Newsletter is published bi-monthly, 5 times a year, excluding the months of July/August

The meetings usually consist of some sort of turning demonstration or related subject. The subjects of the demonstrations vary from basic techniques to advanced levels. The meetings are always open to questions from the members and we invite and encourage them to share their knowledge and skills freely. The Association tries to arrange at least one professional demonstration each year, with past professional demonstrators coming from all areas of the United States, England and as far away as Australia.