



# Minnesota Wood Turners Association

An Affiliated Chapter of the American Assn. of Woodturners

Sep. 1998

Volume 12, Issue 7

## REMINDERS !!

- 1.) The demo by Hans Finsterwalder is on Sept. 26. Send in your reservations soon. Details on page 5.

## Annual Picnic Highlights By Mel Turcanik

The weather was perfect, the food ample and tasty, the company talented. It was our annual picnic. This is the first time I can remember, there were more pieces on display than there was time to talk about them. I did notice that most of the time there was a crowd around the display table where people were exchanging tips, notes and complements. It is always amazing to me to see the amount of creative talent we have in our club.

The biggest thrill for me was to see the beautiful, hand turned, frisbees flying out into the wild blue yonder. Herman Fessler, Don Wattenhofer, Ken Tempero and the team of Alan Lacer and Amelia Redig won awards for their craftsmanship. I think we all were surprised by the length and

duration of the flights.

My thanks for all the volunteer help that made our get together possible, including the board of directors, who take on a variety of tasks, John Magnussen and his wife, who frequently give us a wonderful meeting place, and Rod Olson, who was up very early in the morning picking corn.

Our next few meetings will feature some new things, some familiar things; but the success of each one depends on the continued, enthusiastic participation of everyone. In December, we will be having elections again. If you have a little free time, and the desire to help out, please let me or one of the board members know. Your turning skills aren't an issue, just your desire to give a little back. There are several of us that would like a break and currently the Library and Secretary positions are open. Hope to see you soon.

Specific awards were: Herm Fessler for Best Design, Best Finish and Most Exotic  
Don Wattenhofer for Largest  
Ken Tempero for Thinnest and Longest Actual Flight  
Alan Lacer & Amelia Redig for Most Colorful

As in past Challenges we have relied on the creative talents of family members to use their fine penmanship to fill in the winners names on the certificates. For this event we can thank Amelia Redig for stepping up and doing a beautiful job.

## **“Inside-Out” Turning by Mel Turcanik**

The first time I heard this term, I envisioned one of those humongus lathes with an equally huge bowl holding the turner inside while it spun him silly. Never could figure out how the outside was done. Actually “inside-out” turning describes the technique whereby a number of spindle turnings are created with uniform off center turned surfaces. There is a very good description of the technique, and a related technique known as “drum turning” in the Summer 1998 issue of “American Woodturner”. Basically, the technique involved taking a number of perfectly uniform sticks. They are bunched together to turn the exposed outsides. They are then rotated relative to each other so that a new surface is exposed and then the turning is repeated. The relative rotation and turning is repeated until all surfaces are turned.

Usually the technique is described using 4 pieces that are perfectly square in cross section. These are glued together temporarily (See the article on hot melt glue) and held in a chuck for turning.

Once the outside profile is turned, the pieces are split apart, repositioned and turned again. The process is repeated 4 times so that all outside surfaces are turned. The ends must be left square in order to re-glue them after each repositioning. Using this technique, it is possible to make furniture spindles or rail spindles that have curved, turned, profiles and edges where the surfaces meet. If the turnings are done differently after each repositioning, wave forms or other interesting shapes can be created.

At the Akron symposium, Sigi Angerer did inside-out turning as described above, without gluing the pieces together. He said that the pieces, positioned carefully, could be held with the chuck alone. He also said that it would only work with the Stronghold chuck from One-Way.

This is one of those things that was done a long time ago because it was the easiest way to get to a specific result. Today, in the age of CAM systems, this technique may provide an avenue to unique forms that would be extremely difficult to obtain in any other way.

---

---

## **Turning and the Scientific Method by Mel Turcanik**

**M**ost of what we know and learn about our craft is passed on to us from others that have learned from others or modified from the traditional methods. In fact, that is how most human knowledge gets passed along. The scientific method specifies a particular path for the expansion of knowledge. First, a theory is formed, usually from observations. Experiments are then done to prove or disprove the

(Cont'd next page)

theory. The results of the experiments then describe what becomes known as fact, if they can be reproduced. The reason for this rather long winded introduction, is that some time ago, I mentioned a theory that I had, that heating wet wood in a microwave would allow it to dry crack free because the lignin between the cells would be softened by the heat and allow the wood to plasticize.

I did some experiments with wood that had already air dried some. The first attempts at drying thickly turned bowls and vessels worked exceptionally well. Even knots didn't split. I need to go back and do some measurements to find out how much the pieces were air dried before doing the

microwave procedure. I next tried to microwave dry a very wet piece that I had turned quite thick. It cracked terribly.

Time for a new theory, or more careful measurements of temperatures and moisture contents, humidities and thicknesses. It appears key that all free water be out of the wood before the microwave process begins. There is also a lesson in all of this. It's embarrassing when you announce a theory that is, as yet, unproved and it turns out to be bunk. But I'm not tossing the theory out the window. More experimentation is needed. Those early experiments were just too good. Please pass on any experiments you may have done using the microwave.

---

---

## Temporary Holding & Gluing by Mel Turcanik

The hot melt glue gun has become the signature tool of the "artsy craftsy Martha Stewart" crowd. If you can get beyond the image, hot melt glue is a very handy addition to the tools one has available at the lathe for TEMPORARY holding of various items under various circumstances. I've used hot melt glue for holding pieces together for turning that would later have to be split apart, such as inside-out turning. Traditionally, these pieces would be glued with white or yellow glue with newspaper or brown paper in the joint so that the paper would be split and the glue and paper then sanded or cut off. The problem is that in the process of removing the glue and paper, the wood may be damaged by the scraping and sanding, or the glue may stain (or prevent staining by sealing) the surface. Under the worst of circumstances, the glue really holds and the wood must be

split or cut to separate the pieces.

Hot melt glue doesn't create any of those problems. Sometimes it does hold fairly strongly, which can be frustrating when you are trying to split the pieces apart. I have found that cooling or freezing the piece will release almost all of hot melts' bonding power. All it takes is a shock to break the bond. In the winter in Minnesota it's easy enough to put the piece outside for 20 minutes or so, in the summer the freezer works well. If there is residue on one piece, it usually peels off easily at room temperature. Otherwise, heating softens it or cooling breaks the bond and makes it brittle.

If there is a jam chuck that isn't quite jamming, a little hot melt can either fill the  
(Cont'd next page)



gap or reinforce the joint from the outside. If something is being fastened to a waste block on a face plate, a lot of hot melt can be built up around the outside to form a socket or ridge to keep the work piece from moving laterally. I have found this helpful when turning something off center. If the tool accidentally hits the glue, it forms long elastic shavings. Hot melt isn't brittle when it is dry. It has a certain amount of "give" that will allow a flexible joint where necessary.

Hot melt is, under all circumstances, to be considered temporary. It comes apart quite easily with temperature changes. I have seen two types of hot melt, low and high

temperature. There is also a combination type that works with either temperature setting. The high temperature setting creates the stronger bond. I keep the combination type around, since it costs about the same and gives more performance versatility. Experience will tell which is best for which job. The glue line should be fairly thick. This makes it easier to split later, but it also allows the piece to move a little during turning due to its "give". The right thickness varies depending on the application. Play with it. Once you get used to its characteristics, you will find it as helpful as an extra pair of hands.

### Editor's Comments:

The previous three articles were all written by our club president, Mel Turcanik. They are written in such a way as to benefit all levels of Woodturner expertise. Mel commented on the need for club members to help out wherever possible. This newsletter is always looking for articles of interest to our members. Some of you great woodworkers and Woodturners have some good tips for the rest of us. Please feel free to submit them to me or call with an idea that I can help you expand. We shouldn't put all the burden on Mel even though he is full of good information.

Don

### 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 point you in the right direction.*

Mel Turcanik	(507) 634-4988
John Engstrom	(612) 475-0307
Jim Jacobs	(612) 437-2302
Ed Johnson	(612) 224-4194
John Magnussen	(612) 477-6294
Dave Schneider	(612) 934-4667
Don Wattenhofer	(612) 572-1045

If any others wish to volunteer for this list please call Don Robinson @ 441-8207.

### MWA Board

**President:**  
Mel Turcanik (507) 634-7570

**Vice President:**  
Duane Gemelke (612) 566-8516  
e-mail:  
Duane.gemelke@corp.honeywell.com

**Treasurer:**  
Ron Mellahn (612) 633-8902

**Program Director:**  
Ed Johnson (612) 224-4194

**Newsletter Mailing:**  
John Ratliff (612) 770-6471

**Librarian:**  
OPEN

**Member-at-Large**  
Don Wattenhofer (612) 572-1045

**Secretary:**  
OPEN

**Newsletter Editor/Membership:**  
Don Robinson (612) 441-8207  
e-mail: dmrob@worldnet.att.net

### Wanted

- Glass display or show case in good condition.
- 5 to 6 feet long
- Suitable for County Fair displays.
- Reasonable.

Contact: Rod Olson  
(651) - 437-9642

## FUTURE MEETINGS

### **Hans Finsterwalder Demo**

Saturday, Sept. 26 9:00 to 5:00  
At John Magnussen's shop (see map)

Hans will be demonstrating some truly unique shapes and ideas that he has developed. Some of you may have seen some of his examples at John Magnussen's house on the "show & tell" table. I certainly was impressed and intrigued to see how he accomplishes these designs.

John has talked with Hans recently and Hans stressed his desire to see the work being done by members of our club. He doesn't want to critique any vessels. (he probably would if asked) He is probably like the rest of us in that we are awed at the wonderful shapes and colors that can be achieved when you complete a turning.

Plenty of parking up behind John's large outbuilding/shop. Bring a chair to sit on. There is a restaurant nearby for lunch or bring your own.

This should prove to be a great demo. Get your reservations in now. The fee will continue to be \$20 for members and \$30 for non-members.

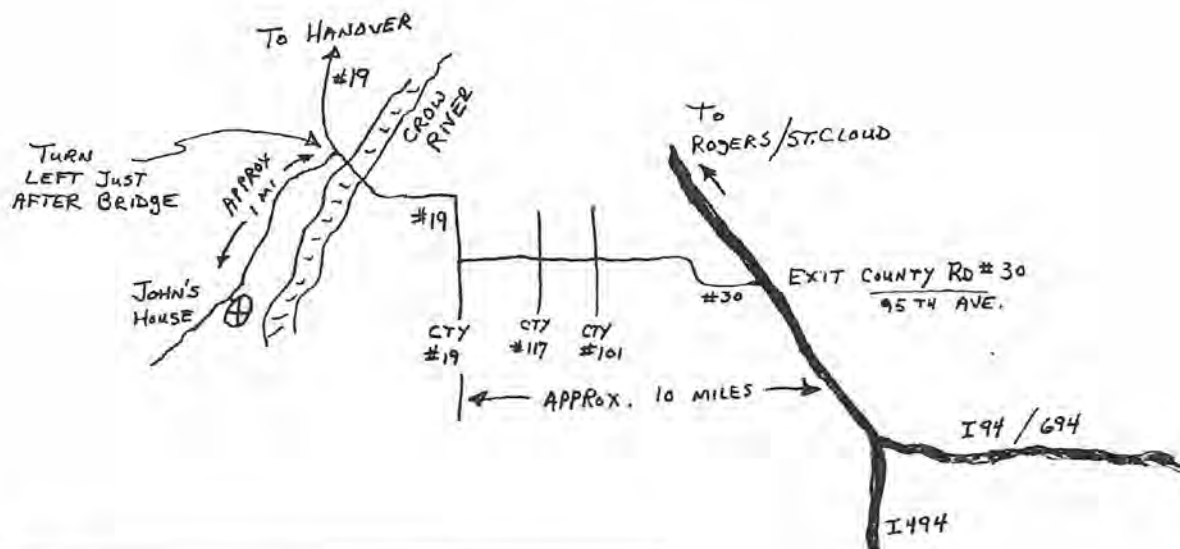
Send your checks to:

Ron Meilahn  
1638 23rd Ave. N.W.  
New Brighton, MN 55112

or during the last week send to:

Don Robinson  
13400 Island View Dr.  
Elk River, MN 55330

Contact any Board member for further info



Note:

For those of you coming from north of this map detail, you can pick up Co. Rd. #19 in St. Michael and approach Hanover from the north.

Cont'd next page

### Future Meetings (Cont'd)

#### **Tuesday, October 6<sup>th</sup> – 6:30 to 9:00**

The topic will be "Alternative Material". Some of our members will discuss various materials other than wood and have examples to show. This should prove to be an interesting meeting since a lot of us have not had the courage to try something new (myself included). Maybe this will give us a little push to try it.

Everyone should try to bring in at least one item for Show-and-Tell. There is never any critiquing done unless the turner requests it so don't hesitate and don't be shy. I remember as a complete novice I brought in items which were far from great but I felt good about sharing with other turners and ultimately I learned a lot and improved a lot.

The meeting will be at Tim Mannings house (shop is in back yard). Bring a folding chair.

#### **Directions:**

1100 44 ½ Ave. NE

Columbia Heights

About 1 mi. So. of I 694 and

2 blocks E. of Central Ave.

- Take Central to 45<sup>th</sup>. Turn East on 45<sup>th</sup>, go 1 block then go So. 1 short block to 44 ½. Turn E. to Tim's house (#1100)

#### **Saturday, Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> – 10:00 to 2:00 PM**

The topics will be "Lace Making" and "Lace Bobbin Turning". The meeting will start with a

presentation by Blanche Crbechek, a member of the Minnesota Lace Society. She will discuss the art of lace making and give a demonstration of her craft. She also has extensive knowledge of the history of lace bobbins. We will tie in the making of lace with the making of some bobbins. Some of our members are quite talented at bobbin making and it should be interesting to see how to start.

Again, let me emphasize the need to bring items for Show-and-Tell. Everyone should try to bring in at least one item. This will give each of us a push to complete something and best of all the members get a chance to see a variety of work. This was an overwhelming comment from people at the picnic.

The meeting will be held in the basement of the Woodworker's store located on Lyndale just a couple of doors south of Lake St. As for the last meeting it is requested that we use street parking instead of using the store's parking lot.

#### **Tuesday, Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> – 6:30 to 9:00**

Again we are planning the annual Holiday party complete with the now famous Ornament Challenge. There will be prizes, gift exchanges and certificates for the challenge winners. It will be held at the same location:

@ Norwest Bank (2<sup>nd</sup> floor)

1200 Silver Lake Rd

New Brighton, MN

Located 1 block north of I-694 at the crossroad of Palmer Dr.

It is on the NW corner, across from McDonalds.

### **AAW Notice**

#### **Emma Lake Relief Fund** **Established to help turners injured in auto crash.**

Donations are being sought to help four members of the AAW family injured in a car crash as they left the "Breaking Barriers" Conference for turners and other artists last August at Emma Lake in northern Saskatchewan, Canada.

Injured were Michael Peterson and his wife Jean of Lopez Island, WA; David Sengel of Boone, NC; and Steve Loar of Warsaw, NY. Sengel is expected to require extensive hospital treatment and was expected to be airlifted back to the US from Canada. The other three were released from the hospital following treatment.

If you'd like to make a contribution to help with expenses incurred as a result of the accident, send a check payable to:

The Emma Relief Fund, c/o Mark Sfirri

1669 Pineville Rd.

New Hope, PA 18938.

Sfirri is a member of the committee formed in an effort to help the victims. The other members are Robyn Horn, Fleur Bresler and Michael Hosaluk.

If you would like to send cards and letters to David, please direct them to his Dad who is also an AAW member. His

address is: William Sengel

6908 Park Terrace Dr.

Alexandria, VA 22307

Ed Johnson wishes to thank all of the volunteers who have helped him provide club visibility at the Washington County Fair and at St. Catherine's Craft festival. Your help is appreciated.

Along the same vein I will thank Ed from the rest of us for all his work setting up these activities.

Having said that, Ed informs me that he is already looking for volunteers for the Tool Show at the State Fair Grounds site on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of October. Admission is free to volunteers so give him a call and set aside a 3 hour slot to sit at the booth. His number is 224-4194.

Look at all this space !

The Board will discuss filling this space with photos of our work or other interesting things.

# 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 100 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.



Editor  
Minnesota Woodturners Assoc.  
13400 Island View Dr  
Elk River, MN 55330

SEP. 1998



First Class Mail