



MINNESOTA WOODTURNERS

A S S O C I A T I O N

in association with the American Association of Woodturners

APRIL/MAY/JUNE, 2000

Mike Mahoney

Mike Mahoney braved a Minnesota winter to give the Minnesota Woodturners Club a great demonstration. The demonstration was held at Bob Picek's shop in Stillwater. Any member who made a reservation and took the drive to Bob's shop was in for a treat.

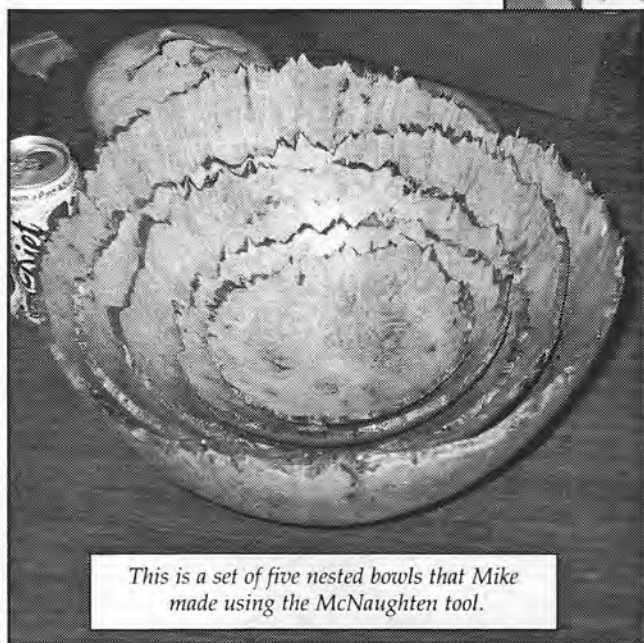
There were over 40 members of the club in attendance at this demonstration. As is known by anyone attending, it was a snug yet comfortable way to spend a great Saturday afternoon. A special thank you goes out to Bob for his wonderful hospitality and the great effort he put forth to host this demonstration.

Mike is a production bowl turner who lives in Provo, Utah. He was on his way to the John Campbell Folk School in North Carolina and stopped off in Minnesota for the weekend to provide this demonstration.

MWA MEMBERS LEARN FROM THE PRO'S



Mike Mahoney begins his demonstration talking salad bowl turning. Mike turns over 2,000 salad bowls per year.



This is a set of five nested bowls that Mike made using the McNaughten tool.

Mike is a professional turner who makes his living from bowl turning and demonstrations. His staple is salad bowls. Mike turns roughly 2,000 salad bowls a year to make ends meet.

Because of the demands of production,

much of Mike's time is spent at the lathe. Mike is the wholesaler, his pieces are distributed through American Craft. Mike mentioned that this is a key to his success. He makes the product and leaves the selling and distribution to someone else. This is no small task as Mike deals with 60 galleries on a consistent basis and up to 140 galleries total.

Other forms that Mike turns include:

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Mike shows his technique of using the McNaughton tool to create nested bowls.

small to medium hollow forms, plates, platters, nested bowls and burial urns. Interestingly, the burial urns have turned a brisk business. And not just for people. He has been commissioned to make urns for dogs, cats and even horses.

Mike's trademark feature for his burial urns is that they have a finished interior. It is important to have a feature that distinguishes your work from others. The distinguishing marks don't have to be big but something has to set the work apart.

Time is money in production turning. The more time it takes the more it costs to produce. All of Mike's food grade pieces are simply coated with butcher block oil. Don't bother getting it from your wood tool supply store. Butcher block oil is nothing more than mineral oil. It can be had for a fraction of the price from any Walgreen's or Wal-Mart.

Most of Mike's show pieces at the demonstration were covered with a simple, durable finish. It consisted of Danish oil. Dunk your finished piece in a vat of Danish oil. This should be done three times. Wipe off between dunkings. Let dry and then buff with a wax wheel. It's a pretty simple finish from a man that can turn and hollow a small vessel in 7-8 minutes!

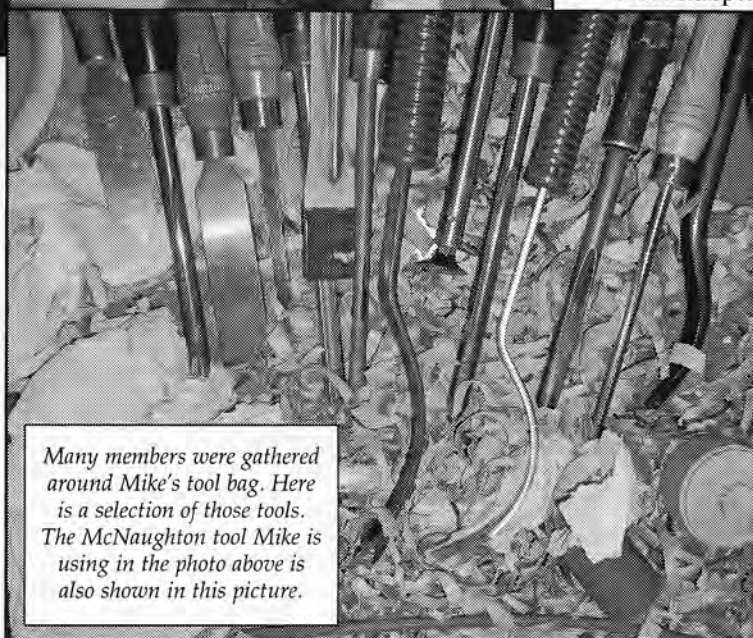
The nested bowls that Mike makes are sold as a set. Mike had several of these sets on display. One set was of three bowls and another was of a five bowl nested set. These were particularly beautiful for several reasons. Not only had the nested bowls been taken from the same piece of wood,

each bowl was virtually identical in shape and style.

He uses the McNaughton tool for his nested bowl sets. When questioned about why he choose this tool. "It's a matter of preference, I learned on this tool and it works well for me." Mike said. "However, in Australia, no one was using the McNaughton, they hated this tool."

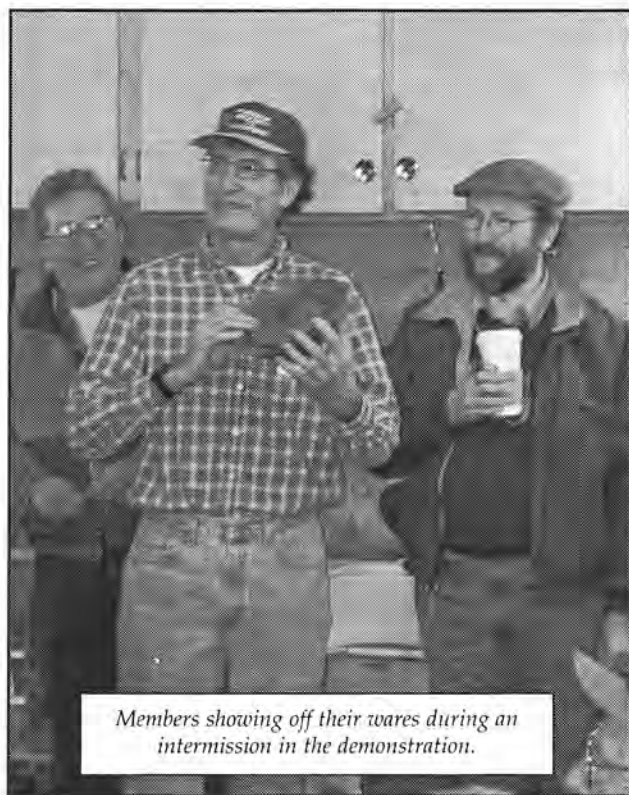
Because of Mike's high demand for wood, it is not economical that it be purchased. Virtually all of his wood comes from his local city dump. The wood is free for the hauling. "Get friendly with a local tree service. It's also a great source of wood," said Mike.

Mike made a couple of great points about sharpening. "In my experience, the harder the steel the sharper the edge. However, that steel usually can not hold an edge very long. Just because steel can be sharpened to a very fine edge, doesn't mean it can keep that edge for a long period of time. It's better from a production point of view, to have a tool that will keep its edge longer. Most of my tools are just M4 steel. I like the price and the very clean cut a properly sharpened tool will



Many members were gathered around Mike's tool bag. Here is a selection of those tools. The McNaughton tool Mike is using in the photo above is also shown in this picture.





Members showing off their wares during an intermission in the demonstration.

"The artisan sander by Milwaukee isn't a great tool from my point of view. They seem to wear out too quickly for my production work. I like and use Dewalt sanders in my shop."

Here are some of his suggestions on the wood being turned. Always take the pith out. "Trying to create production turned pieces while leaving the pith in is asking for trouble. Turn the pieces green, it's so much easier to rough out green bowls." Said Mike. "Trying to dry large pieces of solid wood while not splitting or cracking is difficult and time consuming. Rough turn the pieces from green

wood and let them sit for 9 months or longer to dry. Then finish turning."

There was also a wood raffle held at this meeting. Over fifty dollars was raised for the club at this meeting. Thanks to all the members who contributed. We hope you enjoy turning the pieces of wood that were raffled off. Harold Pedersen won the platter that Mike made during the demonstration. It was part of the wood raffle. Harold was the first ticket drawn. Ironically, Harold is a new member to the club and this demonstration was the first club function that Harold was able to attend. Congratulations!

There was a short meeting before the demonstration. The American Woodworking show will be held May 19-21. The club is looking for volunteers to help out at the show. There will be a booth sponsored by our club. If you are able to help out at this show, please give Bob P. a call at 651.439.0657.

give." said Mike.

Also remember that the high priced tools with the fancy steel alloys and the very, very hard steels are not necessarily the best cutting tools. Many of these tools can be ground sharp but, because of their hardness, can not be ground to have a CLEAN, sharp edge. This won't be noticed while roughing out a piece but will most certainly be noticed while trying to put the finishing cuts on the outside of a bowl.

My body makes the curve, not my hands" Mike said. "The body moves much more fluidly than the hands do." "While turning a bowl or a hollow vessel, I try to break the piece into thirds or fifths in my head. Most of my work has a southwestern feel. I have shaped my vessels after Indian clay vessels that I've studied. The difference is the foot. The Indians didn't put a foot on their vessels because the vessel was to be placed in the dirt. Obviously, my pieces have a foot so they can be placed on a table."

"Sanding, I hate sanding. It's utilitarian work that is time consuming. Actually, I hire my sanding done. Don't get me wrong, there is a science to it, it's not just about putting paper to a spinning piece of wood. There is good quality sanding and poor sanding." Mike said.

MINNESOTA WOODTURNERS ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

☐ **YES!** I would like to be a member of the Minnesota Woodturners Association. I understand I will receive all issues of the newsletter starting with the next mailing. I also understand I will be receiving a new members kit if applicable. The fee is \$25.

☐ AAW Member? ☐ New Member ☐ Renewing Member

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Date _____

I am interested in:

- ☐ Helping out at meetings
- ☐ Being on the planning committee
- ☐ Helping at demos and shows
- ☐ Serving on the board
- ☐ Contributing to the newsletter

Notice! The potential for accident or injury does exist! By signing below, you agree to accept full and all responsibility for any accident, injury, or loss which may occur to you at the meeting or meeting site, and to release from liability the "Minnesota Woodturners Association", all members and officers of the "Minnesota Woodturners Association" and any person, company, or entity associated with the location where the meeting is held.

Signature _____

Mail this application to: MN Woodturners Association, % Ron Meilahn,
1638 23rd Ave. NW, New Brighton, MN 55112

POWER SANDING

There are few things that a wood-turner love/hates more than sanding. It takes a long time, yet the results can be beautiful. It is a bit dangerous as our fingers get into lots of nooks and hard to reach places. Yet the wood grain comes alive with a nice sanding job. And we haven't even approached the dust it creates.

Power sanding does not alleviate all of these problems. As a matter of fact, it will only cure a couple of them. It will cut down the time one spends at the lathe sanding, and it will keep your fingers out of some of those dangerous places.

Power sanding is nothing more than doing your sanding with a drill. Instead of using the single action of the wood turning and the sandpaper being stationary, both the wood and

the sandpaper are moving. It's fast and the results come quickly.

Let's start with the drill. There are a couple schools of thought on this. Basically, it comes down to a couple of different types of drills that can be used. The Dewalt 3/8 drill and the Milwaukee "Artisans" drill.

The Dewalt wins hands down if a production shop is where the power sanding is going to be done. It's reliability is unmatched and the price is reasonable for a good quality drill.

However, the occasional turner might consider the Milwaukee. The use of just one hand is nice with the Milwaukee. It is comparable in size and weight to the Dewalt and is easier to use as a sander. The variable speed grip of the Milwaukee is also a

very nice feature.

Unfortunately, the Milwaukee comes up repeatedly in conversations about reliability. It is not as reliable as a Dewalt for day in and day out sanding operations. The conversations usually center around the bearings in the head of the Milwaukee sander having to be replaced. Another drawback of the Milwaukee sander is the price. They can not be had for less than \$120.00.

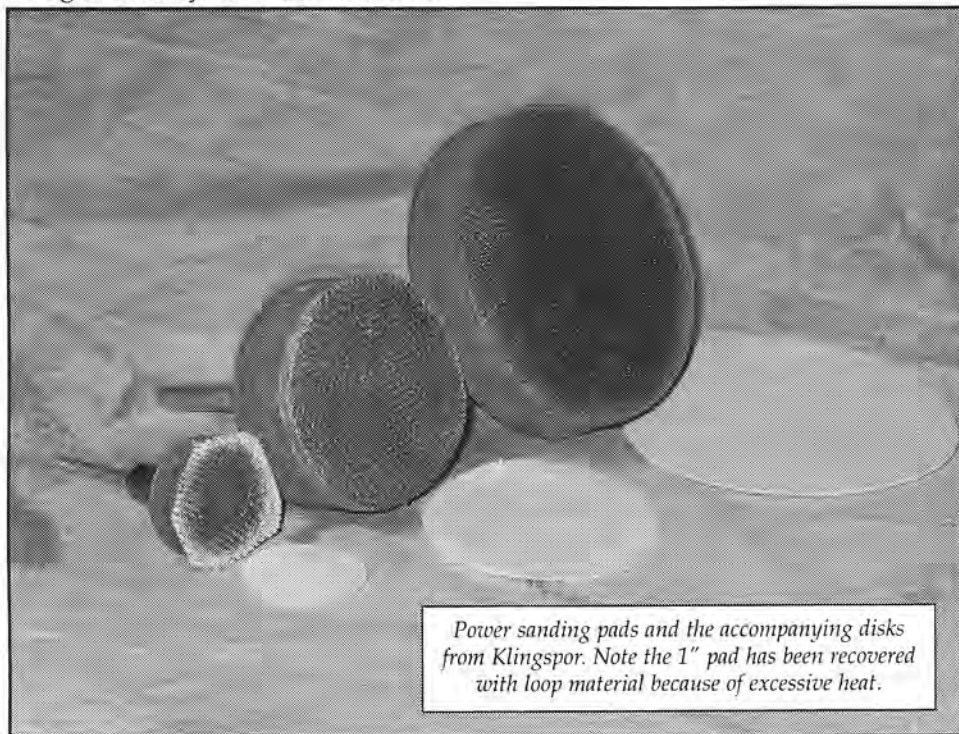
Another feature/accessory for your drill, if it does not come with one, is a keyless chuck. Get one and it will make your power sanding and general drill operation much easier. It allows you to change pad sizes in the time it takes to find the key for a conventional chuck.

Next is the sanding pads, they can be had from either Craft Supplies or from Klingspor. The sanding pads pictured are from Klingspor. The pad is simply a metal shaft attached to a plastic plate. The plastic plate has medium density foam attached to it and a velcro pad is attached to the foam.

Want to make your own? It's easy. Use a bolt and countersink it into a piece of plywood that has been cut to whatever diameter you like. Bring a nut down on the other side of the plywood. Make sure the head of the bolt is flush with the outside of the wood. Find one of those old computer mouse pads that is too gross for using as a mouse pad anymore and cut out a piece the same diameter as the disk. Using 3M permanent spray adhesive. Stick the piece of pad to the wooden disk.

Another inexpensive way to power sand is to do away with the hook and loop material all together. Spray 3M 377 permanent adhesive on the back of your hand cut sandpaper disks and stick it to the pad. Immediately after the disk is exhausted or you are finished sanding, take the disk off. If it is allowed to set, it will NOT be removeable.

Hook and loop material can be had from either Craft Supplies or from Klingspor. It is a recommended



Power sanding pads and the accompanying disks from Klingspor. Note the 1" pad has been recovered with loop material because of excessive heat.

buy whether you are making your own sanding disks or purchasing theirs. Once you spin a disk off while sanding or sand a piece too aggressively, you will know why you want the extra hook and loop material. Anyway, cut out a disk of this material and stick it to the foam pad.

A word about sanding this way. Yes it is much more aggressive but that doesn't mean you have to be more aggressive. As a matter of fact, take it easy and take your time. Don't lean in to the sanding and don't be forceful. The hook and loop material is made from plastic. It can easily



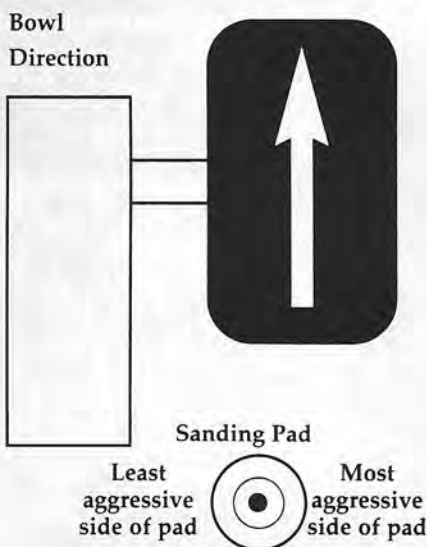
The DeWalt variable speed 3/8" drill is a likely candidate for your power sanding needs.



The Milwaukee "Artisans" drill is unsurpassed in ergonomics and ease of use.

overheat and melt. If you sand too aggressively, the sanding disk can spin off and then, for just a second, you are sanding with the hook and loop material. The heat from the friction will melt the material and you will be left with taking off the old material with a razor blade. Once the little hooks on the pad get even a little hot, the loops on the sanding disk won't hold to the pad.

Don't toss the spent sanding disks after you're through power sanding with them. Fold them in quarters and they are great for getting into those tight areas inside bowl lids.



Power sanding is also pretty simple to learn. Always remember, use the piece of the sanding pad that is going at 90 degrees or more in relation to the direction that the wood is spinning. I like to sand from the opposite side that I usually do my cutting. Therefore the bowl I am turning moves straight "up" in front of me. The power sanding disk will be spinning clockwise.

Remember that the sanding pad is most aggressive sanding directly against the direction the bowl is turning. In this case, that would be on the right side of the pad. It will be least effective while sanding on the left side of the pad because it is moving in the direction that the bowl is turning.

Hold the drill at an angle to the spinning bowl. The most difficult way is by trying to use the center of the sanding pad. The disk will have a tendency to shift directions at random. Try using the outer 1/3 of the sanding pads. It makes the pull from the drill predictable.

Make sure to check out this issue's tool tip for a great addition to power sanding. This issue's tool tip will greatly cut down the copious amounts of dust that power sanding generates.

Turning Wall Hangings

by David Schneider

Several years ago, I had the opportunity to salvage the remains of a 125 year old white oak tree that had been removed to make way for a new housing development and golf course. In the process of cutting the sections into bowl blanks, I ended up with the center section of each of these pieces which was about 2.5"- 3" thick with the pith in it.

Some of these sections were up to 36" and even though they contained the pith, I could not throw them away. I seal coated the bowl blanks and set them aside until it was time for turning. The center sections were left "as is" and generally ignored for about 2 years. These center pieces warped considerably but there was minimal cracking in a few of the pieces. I brought them inside where they sat for another year. (The other ten or so pith pieces warped and cracked so badly they even made

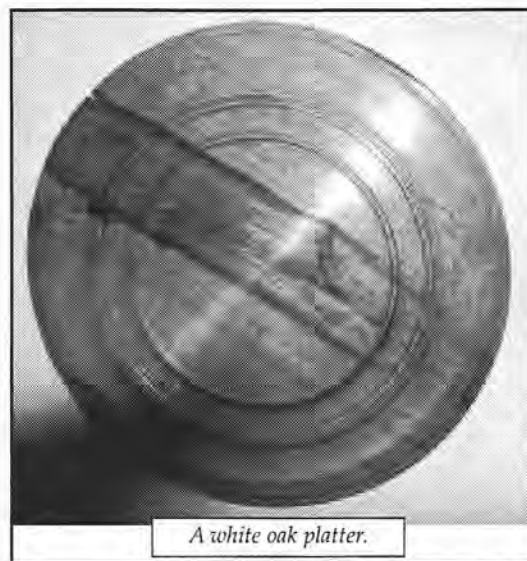
ugly firewood.)

A lot of you are saying, "never use the pith" and that is very true if you want a functional piece with no defects. One of the reasons these pieces were so hard to throw away was because of the beautiful contrast of the white oak normal growth wood and the dark inner pith and the unique figure.

Because of the warpage of the piece, the best usable diameter out of 36" diameter ended up being a 22" diameter wall hanging approximately 1 1/4" thick at its' thickest point. The larger cracks were filled with epoxy and the smaller cracks were flood filled with cyanacrylate glue. I had an idea in mind as to what I wanted for design but as I was turning the piece it just seemed to flow and I went with what was developing.

A very close woodturning friend

saw the first of these wall hangings and asked if I had ever turned Maple or Redwood Burl. "I just hate to buy wood," I said. And the subject was left at that. On Christmas morning of that year when we were leaving the house, much to my surprise, there was a piece of Big Leaf Maple Burl, 2" thick by 24"x 30" sitting in the snow-bank with a big red ribbon tied to it. My friend had decided that I just



A white oak platter.

had to try a quality piece of wood. That experience spoiled me from then on when it comes to large burl pieces.

Burl can make some very beautiful pieces and is exceptional when shown over a larger area such as a platter or wall sculpture or wall hanging. One way of creating an interesting space is to have a wall hanging with one or more turnings from the same material placed in a grouping in the same area. When bowls or hollow forms are shown in conjunction with the wall pieces, they give a wonderful feeling of warmth and continuity from the wall to the sitting piece.

There is no limit to size, these hangings can be as small as 2" or as large as the wall it is to be hung on will support and display. In all practicality, sizes run from 2" to 40". The majority of wall sculptures/hangings I create are in the 16" to 24" range, which is a range that will fit well into hallways, entryways or offices.

Remember to use all of the resources possible when doing any kind of turning. When doing wall pieces, I usually let them be Greek, Roman or Egyptian influenced. A good part of the design will depend on the type of wood at hand. Excellent reference points for ideas are libraries, art museums, art galleries and art shows.

This is one of Big Leaf Maple platters that hangs in David's home.

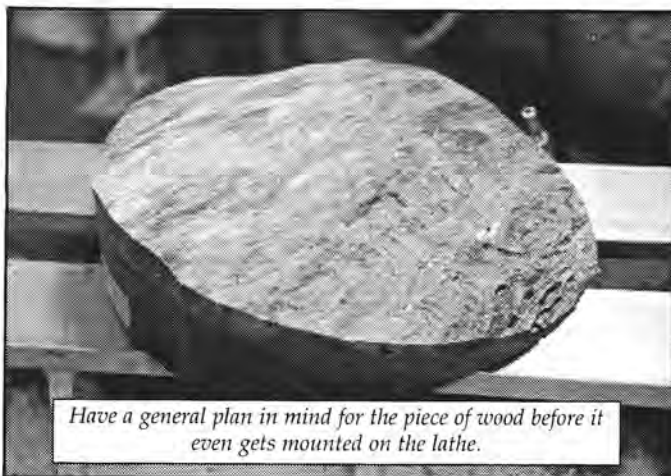


Basic Assumptions:

As in all areas of life there is no one way of doing anything. The only wrong way is the UNSAFE Way.

The following criteria are used for creating these platters.

- The capability of the lathe to mount a piece between centers. (For safety and for better tool control.)
- The use of an expanding type chuck. (OneWay, Axminster, Carlton, Nova, etc)
- A variable speed lathe. (not necessary but extremely helpful and time saving when turning. It can also be safer because you can adjust speed up or down when a piece is shaking the lathe and this can smooth out vibrations.)
- Selection of piece material can be Big Leaf Maple, Redwood Burl, Myrtle Burl, Center slabs containing pith of trees, crotches of trees, glued up pieces, etc. The selection process depends on whether we have an immediate or future need for material.
- Gifts: Use the pieces that are found in downed trees, trees we harvest or trees others have harvested and shared with us. In this case, we work with what we are given and use the material whenever it is appropriate.
- Have stabilized wood (Dry to local conditions for the time of year - moisture content of approximately 8-12% here in Minnesota.)
- Have a plan or design in mind or even on paper but be prepared to be flexible as to the end product. Flexibility is necessary when turning, as different pieces, especially Big Leaf Maple, can sometimes reveal hidden flaws or inclusions that have to be worked around. These inclusions can really add character to a turning. The random and disordered characteris-



Have a general plan in mind for the piece of wood before it even gets mounted on the lathe.

tics of the burl and high figure can be used in the design of the piece and can make a mundane piece stand out for its' uniqueness.

- As a form of sculpture, the piece should elicit some type of response from the viewer, preferably because it is aesthetically pleasing and possibly because it excites an individual's imagination.
- If it is an irregular piece, figure out the best orientation of the wood to show its' features off.
- Will it be strictly for form or will it also be a functional piece? Can the beauty of the wood, the burl or grain design, cracks, splits be

emphasized? Do not be afraid of using a piece with defects, these can be used as attributes to the work most of the time.

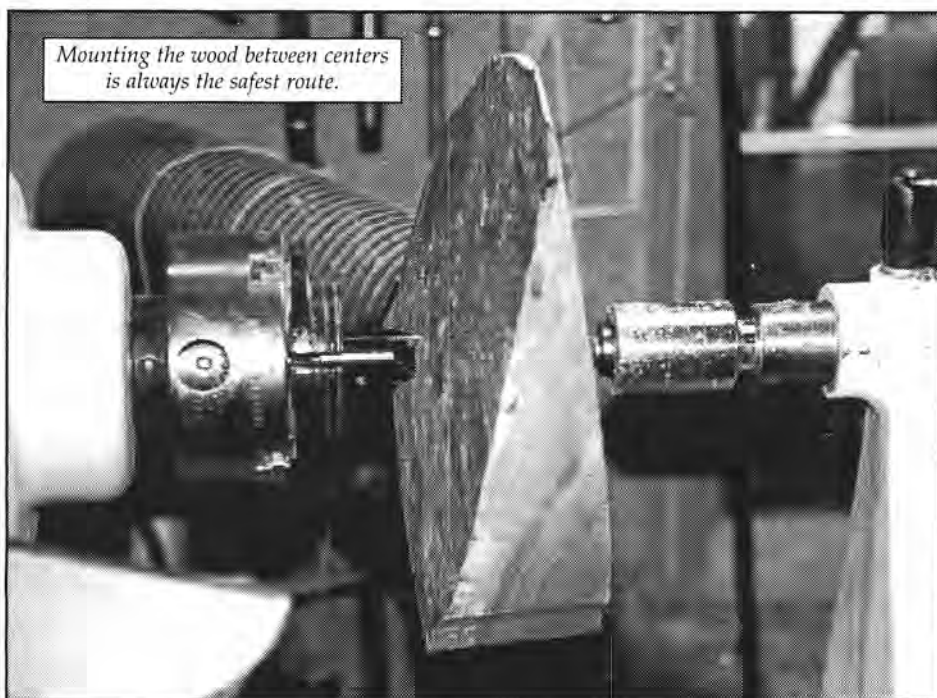
Wood Considerations

When purchasing wood, there are several things to take into consideration:

Cracks can be filled with various materials, brass, turquoise, Inlaid, pewter, exotic woods, avonite, semi-precious stones,. Don't be afraid of bleaching or burning of the wood.

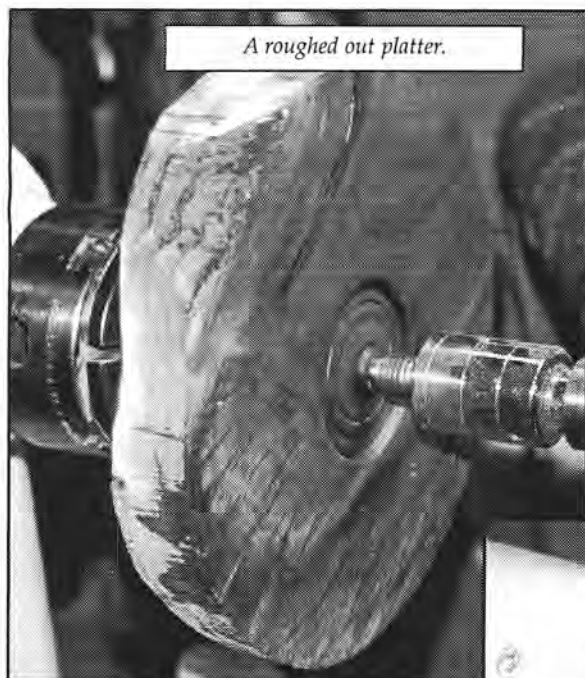
Radiating lines can be carved out from the center to suggest the sun, the moon, and even the halos of Byzantine icons and other Christian art.

Initial price and shipping and handling cost should be taken into consideration. Do you buy with bark inclusions still on and in the pieces or had the wood been pressure cleaned? Pressure cleaning can add up to 50% to the cost of the wood. Don't forget to add the cost of shipping and handling to the price of the piece of wood.



Mounting the wood between centers is always the safest route.

A roughed out platter.



Redwood have some nasty edges and a person has to be extremely careful of these. On sharp spurs or growths, I will use a sticky masking tape to cover the points or to bridge gaps that can catch. The nice thing about tape is that it will just turn away as you get to that point in the piece.

Turning

Smooth and shape the back of the piece. The back is

one that is a concentric circle and goes out of shape the more it is expanded.)

The nubbin that is left will be taken off at later stage unless the piece has a glue block on the front where you can then release the tailstock to finish the opening.

Sand the outside diameter of the back to completion, the center is to be done later.

Remove from centers and reverse to mount to headstock in chuck. Insert jaws of chuck and expand to hold tight.

Bring up tailstock and roughout the face shape to get a good balance on the piece.

Once the piece is balanced, it is possible to work without the tailstock in place and the speed can be increased considerably.

Finish

Remove piece from lathe and finish sanding, finish and buff to final finish.

What kind of wood is needed?

Good figured maple is equal to a curly, quilted, burl. It does not have enough figure to make it high grade, but it is still very nice. It will have 30% figure or better throughout.

High figured Maple is equal to a curly, quilted, burl with 60% figure or better throughout, variation in color is mild to dramatic. The price rises considerably for high figure maple.

It is good to keep in mind if the wood is wet, semi stable or dry.

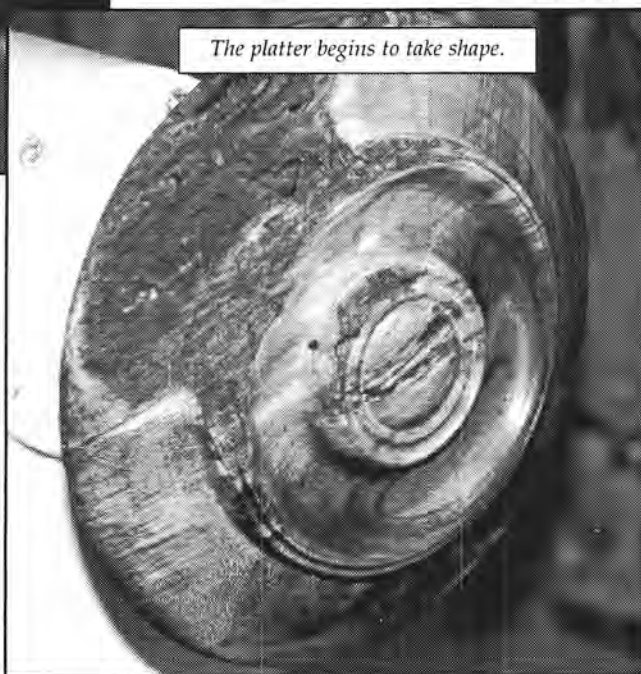
Mounting

The piece can be held between centers with a spur center and revolving tail center or you can glue a block on the front of the piece to be held in the chuck, with the back of the piece facing the tailstock.

It is important to figure out balance. Run at the maximum safe RPM when possible. (I will bring the speed up to where I am comfortable with from experience.) I have had to run pieces slower than I liked because of balance but I have not to this point added any ballast to a piece to balance it.

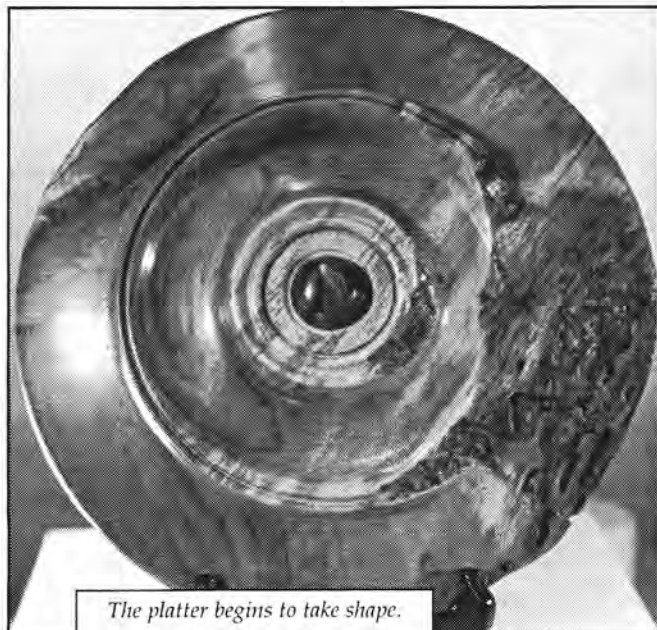
A lot of the Big Leaf Maple and

The platter begins to take shape.



as important as the front when designing and especially finishing and the same care in turning and finishing should be used on the back as is used on the front.

Cut an opening for the dovetail to be held by a chuck. (This opening should be just a fraction on an inch larger than the jaws when they are fully closed. (On all of the chucks I am familiar with, the closed position is the



The platter begins to take shape.

Maple Sources:

Here is a list of wood suppliers found on the WEB: I have not used any of these, so use care in choosing.

Maple Specialties, Inc.
43306 SE North Bend Way
Suites 1 & 2
North Bend WA. 98045
Mill: (425) 888-9663
Fax: (425) 888-9092
Orders: 1-800-409-9663

Exotic Burl
1501 W. Central
Coquille, OR 97423
Phone: (541) 396-2333

Randle Woods
PO Box 96
Randle, WA 98377
E-mail: roberts@lewiscounty.com
(360) 497-2071

All Righteous Woods
Yankee Pine Corporation
288 Newburyport Turnpike
Rowley, MA. 01969
Toll Free 1 (877) 843 - 9265
www.righteouswoods.com

American Woodturning: An Emerging Contemporary Art Form

The Rochester Art Center, with assistance from the American Association of Woodturners and the Minnesota Woodturning Association, is planning a woodturning exhibition to run from November 18, 2000 to December 31, 2000. The Art Center, with help from Alan Lacer and Mel Turcanik representing the above organizations, has requested participation from some of the top woodturners in the U.S.

In addition to the professional exhibitors, there will be a call for entries to a juried exhibition of turnings from turners of the upper midwest. This will require slides for the jury process. If you haven't entered an exhibition like this before, it will be a great opportunity. In the MWA we will try to have a meeting to do photos for slides, probably before September. Because of the long lead times in organizing something like this, it's time to start your entry now so it will be ready for photos and jurying. There will be no fee for entering.

Exhibitions such as this can introduce those who appreciate art and potential collectors to woodturning. It can also promote the art of woodturning to hobbyists by demonstrating what is possible. Since this is part of our mission in the Minnesota Woodturners, I hope many will participate. As we continue to plan this event, we will try to provide for demonstrations for school children and the public, lectures about woodturning and other educational activities. We will also be seeking sponsorship for some of these other functions.

Mel Turcanik

American Woodworker Magazine

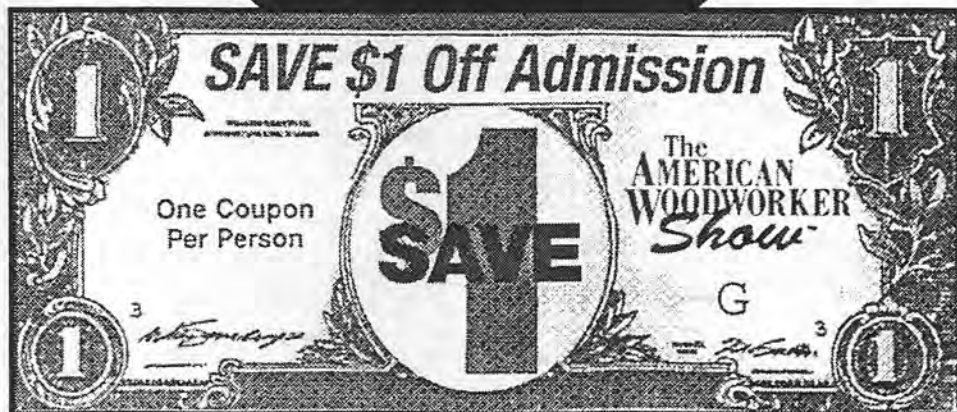
PRESENTS

The American Woodworker Show

*The Ultimate
Woodworking Event*

May 19, 20, and 21, 2000
Friday 11 - 7, Saturday 10 - 6,
Sunday 10 - 5

Saint Paul's RiverCentre
Saint Paul, MN



President's Letter

It looks like winter, such as it was, is over. There certainly wasn't any excuse, such as snowmobiling or skiing, to keep us away from our lathes. I hope everyone is starting to work on some show-stopping pieces for the Rochester exhibition, or at least thinking about it. As I'm writing this, we have already received commitments from most of the top professionals we asked to participate. Just imagine being in an exhibition with the likes of David Ellsworth, Ron Kent and Rude Osolnik.

We have decided to put off an entry for the chapter collaborative until the 2001 AAW symposium. That should give us the opportunity to produce a really fine piece of work. Design is in progress and the turning should be starting soon. Remember, the subject is a secret. We don't want a whole bunch of the same thing out there. If you want to be involved, get a hold of Don Wattenhofer.

The board has been talking about doing some more events for charity. I think we all got a good feeling from the *Toys for Tots* project last December. We are talking about a 'top-a-thon' where people can sponsor turners who turn tops and they donate so much per top, kind of like the "walks" for various things that we all are familiar with. We can do this at the various tool shows and get a lot of publicity at the same time. Other chapters have done this with great success. Ken Tempero has also suggested another charity event to benefit Methodist Hospital, more details will be coming in the future.

At the last Board meeting, Bob Picek suggested that the club start a woodturning collection. This idea was enthusiastically accepted by the Board. The mechanics aren't yet established but this would enable a member to borrow a turning for a month to study it at home, or just show it off. I haven't heard of any other clubs doing this and it could also be a way to further publicize woodturning since we would have an exhibit ready to go on short notice.

Our meetings have been growing in size. Participation at meetings sometimes approaches 50% of membership. For clubs like this, that is phenomenal. Because of the increase in meeting popularity, there has been a search for a permanent meeting site. It might be at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design. As I write this, our first meeting there will be next week. I guess we'll see how it goes. Knowing where all our meetings will be could make planning much easier.

It's also time to start thinking about elections. No, not the President and Congress, our club elections. Most of the Board has indicated that they will be willing to stick around. This is my fourth year as President, and it's about time someone else get on the hot seat. Bruce Arones has volunteered to run, for which I am grateful. He's been on the Board for some time now, and I'm sure that he will do a fine job. As I phase myself out, I have to say that this has been a very gratifying experience. When I took over, there were a few volunteers doing everything. Today we have the board filled to the limit and many others doing a lot of valuable work to support everything. If you want to help out, especially with the new projects I mentioned above, don't be shy, just get a hold of any board member. Being involved is where the fun is. This club is growing and developing because of the contributions of many members. Remember, it's YOUR club.

Mel Turcanik, President
Minnesota Woodturner's Association

Home Sweet Home! MWA finds a new home at MCAD

We have a new meeting place for some of the upcoming events of the Minnesota Woodturners Association. MCAD, the Minneapolis College of Art and Design will be the location. Here are the directions to MCAD.

Minneapolis College of Art and Design
2501 Stevens Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55404

Coming from East on I-94 (from St. Paul)

Take the 11th Street Exit and curve left to Third Avenue.
Turn Left on Third and proceed to 25th Street.
The college is on the right next to the parking ramp

Coming from West I-94

Take the Lyndale Ave. exit South to 24th St.
Turn left on 24th Street and proceed to 3rd Avenue.
Turn right on Third Avenue to 25th Street.
The college is on the right next to the parking ramp

Coming from West I-394

Take Hennepin/Dunwoody exit off I-394
Turn right on Lyndale Avenue and continue South to 24th Street.
Turn left on 24th Street and proceed to Third Avenue.
Turn right on Third Avenue to 25th Street.
The college is on the right next to the parking ramp

Coming from South I-35W

Take 31st Street/Lake Street exit.
Turn left on 31st Street and proceed two blocks to First Avenue.
Turn right on First Ave. and continue to 24th St.
Turn right on 24th St. and proceed to Third Ave.
Turn right on Third Avenue to 25th Street.
The college is on the right next to the parking ramp

Coming from North I-35W

Exit on I-94W.
Go to the 11th Street exit.
Stay on 11th Street to Third Avenue.
Turn left on Third Avenue and proceed to 25th Street.
The college is on the right next to the parking ramp.



DON'T MISS OUR UPCOMING DEMONSTRATOR ALAN STIRT,

Alan Stirt

ALAN has been a professional wood turner for over 25 years. He specializes in open bowls, both functional and decorative. Many of his pieces incorporate texturing, carving and painting.

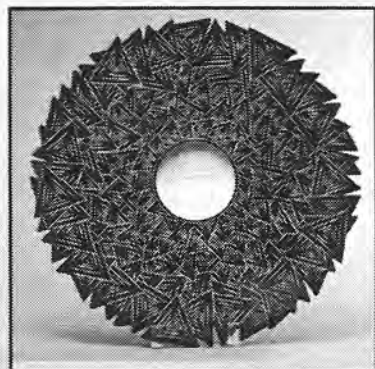
He is an internationally respected turner and teacher, having demonstrated and taught woodturning in Canada, England, Ireland, New Zealand as well as throughout the U.S..

Fine examples of Alan's creativity may be seen in the prestigious collections of the American Craft Museum, the Renwick Gallery of the National Collection of Fine Arts (Smithsonian Institution), the High Museum of Art, and the White House.

In 1997 he was awarded an honorary lifetime membership in the American Association of Woodturners "in appreciation for his commitment and contributions to the field of wood turning".

He believes that the main purpose of wood turning, both professional and amateur, should be to enhance the lives of both the creators and the collectors.

Additional details will be forthcoming!



UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENT PLANNED
April 11	Demonstrator: Don Wattenhofer Don will demonstrate spindle turning and if time permits, a goblet. Location: Minneapolis College of Art and Design <i>See directions elsewhere in this issue</i> Turning Challenge: Egg's Wood Raffle Snacks Provided
April 14-16	FYI: American Craft Show
May 15	Newsletter Submission Cutoff
May,	Monthly Meeting-- Open
May 19-21	American Woodworking Tool Show St. Paul River Centre <i>Volunteers needed for demonstrating, please call Bob at 651-439-0657</i>
June	Minnesota Crafts Festival College of St Catherines <i>Volunteers needed for demonstrating</i>
July	Open
August 15	Newsletter Submission Cutoff
August 4-6	Washington County Fair <i>Volunteers needed for demonstrating,</i>
August 12	Picnic
September xx,	Submissions for Nov. Rochester Show completed
Sept.23 10:00a.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Demonstrator: Al Stirt Location: Minneapolis College of Art and Design Show and Tell, Wood Raffle
October	Woodworking Tool Show Minnesota State Fair Grounds <i>Volunteers needed for demonstrating</i>
October, 2000	Monthly Meeting--Open
October, 2000	Minnesota Woodworkers Guild Northern Woods Exhibition Southdale Shopping Center
November 15	Newsletter Submission Cutoff
November, 2000	Monthly Meeting
November 18 - December 31	Exhibition at Rochester Art Center

Hot Tool Tip

As a reader, you might be skeptical that this "Paste Wax" method really works at removing deep tools marks. But try it, the results are remarkable!

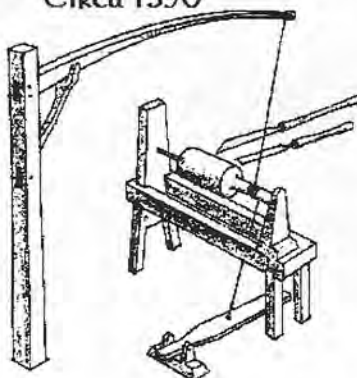
If a woodturning isn't as nice as you have hoped for, i.e. the tool-marks are a little too deep, try Johnson's paste wax. Wipe a heavy coat on to your turning.

Immediately start to power sand the wax off. The sanding disks will clog immediately with dust and wax. The disk can be quickly cleaned by using a crepe rubber sandpaper cleaner. Move back and forth between the turning and the rubber sandpaper cleaner.

In a very short time you will be down to the bare wood again. The surface should be void of those nasty tool marks. Finishing can continue normally after that.

For those problem spots on wood, this is a really useful way to clean them up quickly and easily. It doesn't take much more time, there is very little dust in the air, and the results are spectacular!

Springpole Lathe
Circa 1390



What to do with those turner's shavings has driven more than one turner and his garbage man around the bend.

Here is a short listing of some of the many uses for woodturner's shavings.

- Compost them.
- Wood shavings are handy when a dog or cat does something disgusting in the house. Chuck a handful of shavings over the offensive heap and it becomes a lot less stomach churning to clear up.
- Large amounts of shavings make good dog bedding.
- Composting (rather than straight mulching) is a good idea especial-

Turner's Shavings

ly if you have a mix of shavings you are not sure of. Only mulch larger shavings.

- If mulching, keep in mind the acidity of the wood. It will change the Ph of the soil.
- Use the shavings to make fire starters by packing shavings in an appropriate small container such as a segment of paper towel tube and then pouring melted paraffin on the shavings.
- Speaking of fire, a couple of shovel fulls of shavings in the woodburner or fireplace is the perfect firestarter!
- It's a great way to pick up oil or fluid spills on the garage floor. A shovel full of dry shavings should do the trick.

Our Club is Growing!

The Minnesota Woodturners Association is growing! Below is a list of some of the new & renewing members of our club since January. WELCOME!

NAME	FROM	DATE JOINED
Ron & Tom Kranz	Stillwater, MN.	1/00
Dann Chapman	Roseville, MN.	1/00
Gary Papermaster	Marine on St. Croix	1/00
Eric Knuth	Park Rapids, MN.	1/00
Wally Jacobson	Roseville, MN.	1/00
Dan Noren	St. Paul, MN.	1/00
Charlie Resmussen	Scandia, MN.	1/00
Geral Buhag	Roseville, MN.	1/00
Glen Simonson	Hugo, MN.	1/00
Donabelle Hansen	Stillwater, MN.	2/00
Greg Grothe	Medina, MN.	2/00
David Briggs	Elk River, MN.	2/00
Les Cordes	Scandia, MN.	2/00
Harold McGregor	Owatonna, MN.	3/00

On Turning Wood

*Take off your tie, fasten your sleeves
and bind up your hair.
Sweep the floor and shut out distractions.
Check all clearances and tighten
all adjustables.
Sharpen your few good quality tools
of proven design.*

*Stay on your side of the hand rest.
Rub the bevel, lead the flute, lag the scraper
and cut toward supported fibers.
Keep your conscience clear,
your mind attentive,
your bowels open, your mouth shut
and ALWAYS protect your hide,
ears, eyes and lungs.*

*Finally, if you don't have fun and
enjoy turning, there is golf or fishing.*

Putting Our Programs Together

by Bob Picek

Getting involved with program planning for the MWA has been an eye opening experience. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ed Johnson for his work in putting together previous programs that I was privileged to attend.

I would like to share the process it takes to put a program together.

Selecting topics

What do members want? The MWA sent out a survey some six months ago. Unfortunately, only 15 of those surveys were returned. The only way we can improve our programs is through your input. If you still have your survey, send it in!

Costs

The average cost of a national demonstrator today is \$400 demonstrator fee + airfare + lodging + meals. The tab could be as high as \$1000. But there are major savings for members!

Member Benefits

Rather than spending \$300-400 plus travel expenses to learn from a professional turner, MWA members can learn at a day long demo for a package price of about \$25.00.

Keeping costs down

I try to capture a turner when passing through. That inhibits doing long range planning. We are at the mercy of where turners are "on their way too". But to limit costs, it's less expensive to pay a turner to make a layover in Mpls. for an extra day rather than pay for a round-trip ticket and make our club the turners sole destination.

Demonstrators?

It requires knowing what our mem-

bers want, and keeping close watch on other organizations. I watch organizations like AAW, Arrowmont, Marc Adams and the Campbell Folk School,

Arrangements

It requires calling and negotiating with a demonstrator and selecting a meeting date. Arranging for meeting facilities to handle the anticipated group size. It is important to keep in mind the needs of the demonstrators. Some like to demonstrate on a mini-lathe, while others need a larger lathe.

Meeting Day

Equipment needs to be hauled in and setup. Not the least of which includes: chairs, video, Lathe, white board, lights. Don't forget to put someone in charge of the snacks and pop! The Video and Book Library will need setup. The wood raffle and glue sales need to be coordinated.

Financial affairs need to be handled both to accept payment for the demonstration and then to access if a profit or loss was made from the demonstration.

It sounds like a daunting task, but it isn't. Everyone in the club contributes their own way. If you have yet to find your niche, feel free to jump in and help with the demonstration/meetings. The more people that jump in and volunteer, the more the club benefits.

TOILET BOWL FINISH for wood

Beautiful finish, takes patience though

Ingredients:

Johnsons Paste Wax
Beeswax toilet bowl ring

Boiled Linseed Oil
Mineral Spirits

This is a penetrating finish that is easily restored and has moderate water resistance. It will take time for the ingredients to homogenize, so be prepared to let it sit overnight. Start with equal parts of each ingredient and adjust the proportions as they suit your needs.

Mix together the following ingredients, stirring or shaking until a smooth consistency is obtained:

Johnsons paste wax. *(This wax is thinned with spirits and contains no toluene or other nasty stuff.)*

Boiled linseed oil. *(Don't boil the oil, just buy it with that label on the can. It's not boiled anyway.)*

Beeswax toilet bowl ring. *(These are found at the hardware store and contain mostly beeswax.)*

Paint thinner or mineral spirits.

Depending on how much thinner you add, the mixture can be a creamy paste or a thick liquid. The oil slows drying and provides a bit of "sealing". The beeswax provides a bit of water resistance. The other wax gives it a shine.

Liberal apply this finish on the lathe. The longer it's allowed to penetrate, the deeper it will go and the longer lasting the finish will be. I usually wipe off the excess and polish with HUT (a brand of carnuba and polish in a stick). If this finish is allowed to dry overnight, the piece can then be polished with a buffing wheel.

Cut out recipes and save



MEMBER HOTLINE

The activities of this club are the product of many volunteer efforts by a number of people. The following individuals have volunteered to help out from time-to-time in various ways. Please let them know you appreciate their efforts when you see them. Also, if you would like to volunteer, just let Mel T. know and he will add you to the list.

GROUP PURCHASES

Bruce Arones651-433-5364
Larry Heyn612-571-2117
Ron Meilahn651-633-8902

WOOD RAFFLES

John Ratliff651-770-6471
Wayne Keifer612-496-1280

MENTORSHIP

John Magnussen612-477-6294
John Engstrom612-475-0307
Jim Jacobs651-437-2302

Tom Shields507-625-4186
Roger Ronsen612-890-8713
Mel Turcanik507-634-7570

GLUE SALES

Hal Malmlov612-831-7676

MEMBERSHIP SERVICE

Ron Meilahn651-633-8902
Bruce Arones651-433-5364

LIBRARY

Linda Ferber651-454-5774

REFRESHMENTS

Duane Gemelke612-566-8516
John Ratliff651-770-6471

PROGRAMS

Bob Picek651-439-0657
Mary Lacer651-483-6428

PERMANENT SITE SEARCH

Duane Gemelke612-566-8516
Mary Lacer651-483-6428
John Ratliff651-770-6471

NEWSLETTER

Todd Schweim612-941-9492
John Ratliff651-770-6471

VIDEO

Jim Jacobs651-437-2302
George Dupre715-448-3002
Bob Picek651-439-0657



WANTED TO BUY: FULL-SIZE BAND SAW — I am looking for a full-size band saw. Please contact Sister Karen Warren at (320) 632-4621.

COMPLETE LATHE — Complete Record Power lathe with stand and 5 ft. bed for sale. It had light use for two years. Paid \$1,100.00. Will take any reasonable offer. Call Todd at (612) 861-7409.

INCREDIBLE WOOD! FANTASTIC PRICES!

Bocote	\$14/bd. ft.	Snakewood logs	\$12/lb.
Mex. Cocobolo	\$15/bd. ft.	Chechen Burl	\$5/lb.
Paela	\$8/bd. ft.	Ramone Burl	\$5/lb.
Redhear	\$8/bd. ft.	Ziricote Burl	\$5/lb.
Honduras Rosewood	\$16/bd. ft.	<i>Other woods available!</i>	
Ziricote	\$16/bd. ft.		
Lignum Vitae	Cheap		

**Call Craig Lossing
(651) 785-4194**

CLASSIFIED ADS

Turning related ads are free to members. Commercial ads are billed at \$4 per month, per column inch. To place an ad, call Todd Schweim (612) 861-7409.

Ads will run one issue unless you call to extend your ad each additional issue. Call for submission deadline information.