

MINNESOTA WOODTURNERS ASSOCIATION

in association with the American Association of Woodturners

April 2002

Small Turnings Draw Large Crowd!



Boyd Annis demonstrates egg turning during his first public demonstration
Photo by Chuck Bjorgen

Over 60 people attended our February meeting at Woodcraft on Lyndale . . . what a turn out (as they say)! Bruce covered some club business before turning it over to our first egg demonstrator, Don Wattenhofer.

Don created a paper template prior to the meeting, and had turned two pieces of wood to cylinders. He used the paper template throughout his turning as a gauge for shape and depth of cut. Don began by mounting the box bottom (fat part of the egg) into the chuck. Next, he used his gouge like a drill to begin hollowing; Don rested the gouge against the tool rest at an upward angle so that he was cutting with the upper edge of the tool, and drew the gouge back toward himself. He proceeded in that manner, using his template to check the depth. By cutting with the upper edge of his gouge, Don produced a very smooth surface, which probably didn't need sandpaper!

After the hollow had been cut to the depth and shape of his template, Don began working on the outside shape. When the edges had been turned down to the appropriate thickness, he made a shoulder for the box lid, then finished the remaining outside shape. To make the final "finishing" cuts, Don used a spindle gouge with a grind that allowed him to use it, as Willy Allshouse said, "like a skew with the edges folded up out of the way". When

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Submission deadline for the next issue:

May 24th

President's Corner



With our membership now at about 170 and still growing, it is becoming increasingly difficult to find places that are large enough to accommodate our meetings - especially the demo type meetings. Some of the places where we have been meeting are not able to accommodate the numbers we have been getting at the meetings. So we need the **help of all members** in finding new sites where we can meet. The site should be within the Twin Cities Metro Area so that it is somewhat centrally located. If you know of any site, or have a connection to a large meeting hall of some type (i.e. senior center, fraternal organization hall, community center, etc.), please contact me or any board member.

I was very pleased with the response to the President's Challenge at the February meeting. There were some high quality turnings and some very innovative ideas shown in the pieces that were entered in the challenge. I plan to throw out another President's challenge later in the year. In the meantime we are still looking for **ideas for the picnic challenge**. I think the challenges

are fun and an incentive to turn at least a few things during the year.

On March 2, I hosted a small group hands-on session in my shop and was very pleased with how it worked out. (See related story on page 13). I encourage anyone with shop space to accommodate 3 to 4 people or more to host one of these sessions. The club lathes are available to anyone who wants to host a session.

I'm planning to host another session on Saturday, May 4 from about 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. I'd like to encourage anyone who has not attended one of these sessions to do so. I will give preference to those who have not been to a session. If you are interested please let me know. The **first 10 people** who e-mail or call me will be invited. Those people will be notified the week before with directions to my shop.

In the last newsletter, I asked members for feedback on several questions but have not heard anything. Is everyone totally satisfied with how the club is operating? There is always room for improvement and with the number of members we have, there should be lots of ideas floating around out there. I'd be glad to hear any questions, comments, ideas, etc. from any member.

-- Bruce Arones



From a Hands on Session - Photo by Chuck Bjorgen

A Lesson In Safety from Wally Jacobson

by Chuck Bjorgen

Ask Wally Jacobson about woodshop safety and he'll smile ruefully and remind you that he preaches safety every day to the 250 to 300 students to whom he annually teaches woodworking at Roseville Area High School.

He'll also tell you that shop safety is much like driving, that an accident is something that happens to someone else. Let your guard down though, and you can find yourself the victim.

And that's what occurred last November when Wally was preparing a bowl blank from a 10-inch diameter log for one of his students.

"I had crosscut the log to about eight inches long and then stood it

upright to remove a small branch," said Wally, pointing to the large Powermatic bandsaw in the school shop, a machine generally regarded as one of the safer power tools. As the cut was made, the log rotated moving Wally's finger in line with the bandsaw blade. The log had rotted inside and slipped through the blade unexpectedly fast, severing Wally's right index finger on a diagonal path through the first joint. According to Wally, about 85 percent of the finger was severed.

With the help of the school nurse, Wally was able to restrict the bleeding until medical technicians arrived and took him to Regions Hospital by ambulance.

At the hospital, a hand surgeon was called in to re-attach the finger, which was treated as amputated. Some tendons were re-connected but it was not possible to re-connect any nerves. "It's funny," said Wally, "but I never felt any pain until about an hour and a half after the accident."

In January, a surgeon implanted a small steel plate with screws to support the finger's joint while the bone heals. Wally says he'll have that plate removed in March and hopes to have 85 to 90 percent use of the finger. He considers himself very lucky because doctors have told him that 10 years ago he would most likely have lost the finger.

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Our New Members

Welcome!

Please welcome our newest members:

Eric Koslowski from North Branch, MN
Jeff Zinsli from Chanhassen, MN
Brad Hubert from Mounds View, MN
Paul Meyer from Oakdale, MN
Tim Heil from Gem Lake, MN
Travis Reeves from Menomenie, WI
Larry Dirlam from Waconia, MN
Kenneth Kuby from West Saint Paul, MN
James Dotseth from Hudson, WI
Bill Bang from Minnetonka, MN
Erik Rusley from St. Louis Park, MN
David A. Carley from Madison, WI
Christopher Steele from St. Paul, MN
Art Broderson from Inver Grove Heights, MN
Daniel Nelson from East Bethel, MN
Erik Nelson from Cedar, MN
Don McCay from Hastings, MN



Ron Strelow's winning entry in the egg challenge; see article page 9
Photo by Steve Tiedman

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the surface suited him, Don parted off the egg bottom.

The cylinder for the egg top (lid) was mounted in the chuck, and Don proceeded much the same as he had on the bottom: “drilled” in with the gouge, and hollowed to shape using his template as a guide; completed the inside and shaped the outside. When he had turned it down to the proper thickness, he turned a spigot for the box join to fit the shoulder he’d turned on the box bottom.

With the spigot turned, Don put the box bottom onto the top and proceeded with the final shaping. Don used his skew as a scraper for the final shaping of the egg top (lid); a spindle gouge and skew to finish shaping the egg bottom, then parted the egg off the lathe. Egg box!

Following Don’s demonstration, we took a break to vote on entries in the President’s Challenge, which had to be small enough to fit inside a 35mm film canister. We had close to 30 entries—a very diverse and creative batch of turnings! Entries included a ship’s buoy, complete with blinking

light; an ear of corn; a birdhouse, several spinning tops; numerous hollowed boxes; several goblets; a bell; a set of earrings; and even a 35mm film canister! Who’d have thought so many things could be made in such a small scale?—great job everyone! Due to our large crowd and the small scale of the turnings, it took awhile for everyone to get a good look and complete their ballots. Members took advantage of the time to chat with fellow turners, get some extra pointers from Don, shop in the Woodcraft store, and stop by the snack corner. (Does life *get* any better?!)

Our second demonstrator was Boyd Annis, who turned a “basic” egg. Boyd used the tailstock to support his wood, and proceeded with the 3/8” spindle gouge he uses almost exclusively. He shaped the majority of his egg with the tailstock in place and did the initial sanding. Next, he removed the tailstock and shaped the end with a skew, finishing off the little “bump” with a gouge before more sanding. Boyd finishes with 320 sandpaper, and finally parts the egg off. That was Boyd’s first public demonstration, and he sure made it look easy to turn an

egg! Boyd is a cabinetmaker by trade, and finds turning to be one of the most enjoyable things he’s ever done.

The votes were in, and the winners were:

1st – John Nicholson for his “Chinese” box

2nd – John Nicholson for a smaller “Chinese” box

3rd – Hal Malmlov for his birdhouse

4th – Carl Sundeen for his goblet with carved stem

Congratulations!

In addition to the great challenge entries, we had another nice group of items for Show ‘n Tell: **Boyd Annis** brought a “reverse turned” Christmas tree ornament and a goblet turned from a green limb. The Christmas ornament project was in an issue of the AAW Journal, and Boyd said the instructions were excellent. He insists that if you follow the directions, you can’t go wrong—it’s all spelled out for you.

George Dupre brought two items; a Soft Maple plate and a Cherry platter. (*Editor’s note:* it was reported incorrectly in the last newsletter that George uses Kleenex to apply finish to his turnings. He actually uses a Kleenex *product*, Viva paper towels!)

Chuck Bjorgen brought his first deep hollowing effort, which he turned from a birch log won at one of the club’s wood raffles. Chuck wasn’t as happy with it as he could have been, but I thought it was wonderful for his first try!

Don Wattenhofer brought a Walnut mistake. While hollowing the vessel, Don got the wall a bit too thin and went through (drat). If that wasn’t bad enough, he later dropped it and the top edge broke—who hasn’t had that happen? (If you haven’t, you will.)

David Berger, who has only

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Don hollows his egg box

Photo by Chuck Bjorgen

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been turning since October, brought a vessel turned from a Walnut crotch; he had inserted a band of Zebra wood and Walnut. **Bruce Arones** brought a Canary wood bowl.



Upper right: Show 'n Tell items by, left to right, back row: Chuck Bjorgen, George Dupre, and George Dupre (again)
front row: Don Wattenhofer, Boyd Annis, Boyd Annis, Bruce Arones, and David Berger

Above: Some of the President's Challenge entries . . . the picture doesn't do them justice—hope you attended the meeting and were able to see them in person!

Photos by John Nicholson

April Meeting: A Review of Two Recent Woodturning Exhibitions

Mary Lacer, AAW Administrator and MWA board member, will be facilitating for the evening. She'll be presenting slides from "Nature Takes a Turn", an invitational exhibit of woodturnings inspired by the natural world, which appeared at the MN Museum of American Art during last year's AAW Symposium.

The second exhibit to be reviewed is "Wood Turning in North America Since 1930", which appeared at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts last Fall. I know many of you attended one or both of the exhibits; please join us for a discussion of the pieces in each exhibit . . . design aspects, techniques, the development of turning in recent years, etc. . . . or just come to marvel at the work you'll see!

Date: Tuesday, April 9th

Time: 7:30 pm—9:00 pm

Where: AAW Office at 3499 Lexington Ave. in Shoreview, MN (Located 3/4 mile south of I-694 or 2.5 miles north of T.H. 36 at Harriet Ave. on the NW corner, in the lower level of the Catholic Aid Assn. Bldg. Parking is available in the lot at the back of the building.

Activities: Show 'n Tell, Library, Glue and Sealer sales (but no wood raffle)

Special Note: There will be a \$20 (per person) fee for attendance at our May meeting. It would be a tremendous help if you could plan on bringing payment to our April meeting if you are planning to attend in May—see details on page 10.

Mark these dates on your Calendar

Activities you don't want to miss!

January 2002

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

July 2002

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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February 2002

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August 2002

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March 2002

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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31						

September 2002

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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29	30					

April 2002

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

October 2002

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
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May 2002

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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November 2002

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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June 2002

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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30						

December 2002

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

January

♦ **9th**—The board of Directors meeting was held at the AAW Office in Shoreview.

♦ **15th**—The January meeting consisted of "How to Photograph Your Work", and a discussion on Finishing.

♦ **18th-20th**—The Woodworking Show was held at RiverCentre in St. Paul. Big thanks to the members who demonstrated over the three days.

February

♦ **13th**—The February meeting was held at Woodcraft. See front page article.

March

♦ **6th**—Board of Directors meeting was held at the AAW office in Shoreview.

♦ **13th**—"Paper, Clay and Scissors", featuring pottery by Jim Loso, and mixed media assemblages by David Norstad, opened at the Ripple River Gallery.

♦ **16th**—Bowl making demonstration(s) were featured at the March meeting. See article on page 9.

April

♦ **9th**—Plan on attending this meeting, which will consist of a slide show and discussion. We will review two recent exhibitions: Nature Takes A Turn and Wood Turning Since 1930. See page 5 for details and directions.

May

♦ **8th**—Glass exhibit, featuring work by Robinson Scott, Bob Toensig, and Mike Tonder opens at the Ripple River Gallery. Reception to be held May 11th. (Directions to the gallery are on the opposite page.)

May (cont.)

- ♦ **11th**—Big plans for our May meeting . . . spend a day (9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.) with New Zealand turner, Soren Berger. See page 10 for details and directions. **There is a \$20 attendance fee for this meeting.

June

- ♦ **23rd**—Demonstrators will be needed for Maplewood Rockler's Woodworking Carnival (Sunday). Contact Bruce Arones at 651-433-5364 if you would like to participate.
- ♦ **26th**—An exhibit of Fred Somers' oil & pastels opens at the Ripple River Gallery. Reception will be held June 29th.
- ♦ **29th - 30th**—Demonstrators will be needed for the MN Craft Council's Art Fair at St. Kate's. Contact Bruce Arones at 651-433-5364 or barones@minnmicro.com if you would like to participate.

August

- ♦ **7th**—"Time and Place", featuring the work of Jo Wood, a bead artist, and Tina Fung-Holder, a fiber artist, opens at the Ripple River Gallery. Reception to be held August 10th.
- ♦ **17th**—Annual Club Picnic to be held at Brookdale Park. Submit ideas for the challenge to Bruce Arones at 651-433-5364 or barones@minnmicro.com. One suggestion has already been made: Rolle Bolle balls, for the Belgian game of the same name.

September

- ♦ **11th**—The board of Directors will meet Wednesday, at 6:30 (the meeting location has yet to be determined). Any member with something they would like brought before the BOD should contact any board member listed in the newsletter, and it will be put on the agenda.
- ♦ Although the date is still to be determined, we're planning a Tool Swap at John Magnussen's. Start setting aside those tools you'd like to get rid of, and prepare to accumulate others!

October

- ♦ Our membership meeting will consist of a demonstration by well known turner Robert Rosand. The date has yet to be determined—details will be supplied in a future newsletter.

October (cont.)

- ♦ **2nd**—"The Elements", an inaugural portfolio exhibit by the Northern Printmakers Alliance, will open at the Ripple River Gallery. Reception to be held October 5th.
- ♦ **5th - 6th**—Fall Colors & Apples Open House at the Ripple River Gallery.

November

- ♦ The date of our membership meeting has yet to be determined, but we're planning on a Bowl Saver demonstration at the Rockler's in Burnsville.

December

- ♦ **10th**—Our Annual Holiday Party will be held at the AAW office in Shoreview.
- ♦ Plan a trip to the Ripple River Gallery for their Holiday Open House.

Directions to Ripple River Gallery:

from Deerwood: Five miles south on Hwy. 6, then 3 miles east of Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge on County Road 14 to Partridge Avenue (formerly County Line Road), then north 1/4 mile on Partridge Avenue.

from Aitkin: South on Hwy. 169 to Bennettville, then 3.2 miles west on County Road 11 to Partridge Ave.



Linda Ferber's prize-winning entry in the egg challenge; see article, page 9
Photo by Steve Tiedman

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As he related this story during class time at the school, Wally corrected a woodshop student who was using a chop saw. The student had reached with his left hand across the path of the blade to hold the piece he would cut. "If you're holding the piece on the right side of the saw, operate the saw with your left hand," Wally instructed.

Before Wally's students can take a regular woodworking class they must first take an Introduction to Woodworking class that describes safe operation of power tools used in the shop. Two class periods are devoted to operation of table saws and the students must pass written safety tests.

What would he do differently making that same cut today? "I was holding the log on the throat side of the blade. I've done that same cut several times since the acci-

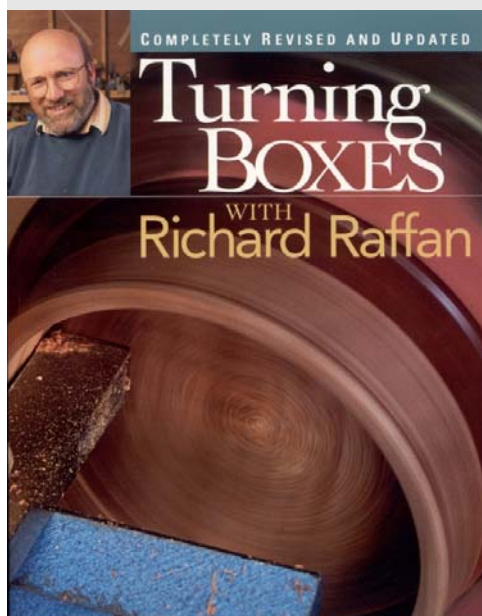
dent and now hold it on the outboard side."

"When using any power tool," Wally warns, "don't get too comfortable. If you think a procedure might be unsafe, find another way to do it."



Darren Olson, left, listens as Roseville Area High School woodshop instructor Wally Jacobson critiques a bowl he worked on.
Photo by Chuck Bjorgen

Off the Shelf . . .



"Turning Boxes with Richard Raffan: Completely Revised and Updated", by Richard Raffan. (Revised in 2002.)

Recently, I headed into a local woodworking supply store looking for a new tool. A small spindle gouge for small detail work is what I was thinking. Well, instead I came out with a tool of another kind, the completely updated (copyright 2002) version of "Turning Boxes with Richard Raffan."

I must clarify that I haven't read through the original version of this book. I've thumbed through it a few times in the bookstore only to set it back down for no particular reason. Maybe because I al-

A book review by Steve Tiedman

ready own his excellent video tape covering the topic. But this new version really caught my eye. Lots of great photos of both works in progress and finished pieces, line drawings showing cross sections of boxes being turned and how the cuts are made, and group photos of boxes that show variations on a common theme.

Raffan does a good job of taking us through the entire process of making turned wood boxes. He starts off with the obligatory chapter on "Equipment & Tools", basic information on lathes, chucks, saws, turning tools, ancillary tools, and dust collection and safety. From there he writes about the wood that should be

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March Meeting: Bowls, Bowls, and more Bowls!

The March '02 meeting was hosted once again by Wally Jacobson at the Roseville Area High School woodshop. After a very

brief business meeting presented by President Bruce Arones, including a treasury and membership report by Ron Meilahn, we

by Steve Tiedman

were off and running. (Paid membership is at about 150, and nearly 60 were at Saturday's meeting!!)



Another large crowd!

Photo by Steve Tiedman

Wayne Keifer got things going with a lesson on basic bowl turning. He emphasized wood preparation, tool selection, and tool presentation, along with the fact that the turning tools must be sharp and free from nicks. Of particular importance are Wayne's three tips to successful turning, as written by Wayne:

1. The depth or shallowness of the cut can be controlled by a rotational twist of the turning tool. As the turner is cutting, rolling the tool counter clockwise will "open" the tools edge to more cutting

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used for boxes, suggesting the general kinds of woods that should and should not be used, and why.

An entire chapter is dedicated to designing boxes. In this chapter he explains his concepts of box design, while several photos show how the basic shapes can be manipulated into many different forms. Tall boxes, short boxes, fat and thin boxes, tall slender lids and short round lids, from plain to ornate- the same basic shapes with subtle changes that create an entirely different result, showing that one is really only limited by his or her imagination. He does, though, suggest not to overstep your abilities. In his words, "Just remember, it pays to walk up some hills before tackling Mount Everest" (page 39).

Other chapters deal specifically with lids for boxes, deep hollowing, surface decoration (I showed a texturing process I learned from the book using a wire brush wheel mounted to a drill at the March club meeting), and a chapter titled "Variations on the Basic Box", where practice and creativity really start to shine.

I own two of Raffan's other books, his original versions of "Turning Wood" and "Turning Projects". Neither excited me very much. They were good, but lacking some pizzazz needed to hold my attention. (The companion video to "Turning Projects" is very good, with or without the book, and I watch it often just for the entertainment value.) This revised book "Turning Boxes" grabbed my attention and has managed to keep my interest without any problem. Raffan has been updat-

ing most of his books in the past year, and if they all turn out like this one, then he's succeeded in providing a real service to the woodturning community. I consider this to be a very good book on the subject of turning wood boxes on the lathe, and anyone interested in exploring box making should add this book to their library.

As a side note, I've had Raffan's "Turning Boxes" companion videotape for a few years now. The tape is an outstanding way to see him utilize the skills he teaches, in his book, to make boxes. I strongly recommend the video along with this revised book to aid your efforts in learning and mastering box making.

May Meeting: Join us for a day with Soren Berger

Don't miss this great opportunity!

We have a full day planned for our membership meeting on May 11th! Soren Berger, a professional turner from New Zealand, will be demonstrating several topics over the course of the day. Soren has been a full time studio turner for 23 years, and has focused on teaching over the last eight years. Says Soren, "The experience that I have gained in my travels throughout the USA, Sweden and NZ have given me a clear understanding of many of the common problems people encounter while learning to turn. My presentations have proved to be well received and of great interest to both beginners and experienced turners."

There will be a \$20 per person fee for attending. It would be really great if you could plan on paying at the April meeting. If you cannot attend the April meeting, but plan to attend Soren's Demo, we'll need to receive your payment by May 3rd—the Technical College needs a head count a week prior to our meeting for insurance purposes. To sign up, send your checks, payable to MWA, to:

Ron Meilahn, 13968 Alder Street NW, Andover, MN 55304

Date: May 11th

Time: 9:00 am—4:00 pm

Where: Minneapolis Technical College Transportation Center, 1021—2nd Ave. N. Minneapolis (see map and directions below)

Activities: Show 'n Tell, Library, Glue and Sealer sales, Wood Raffle

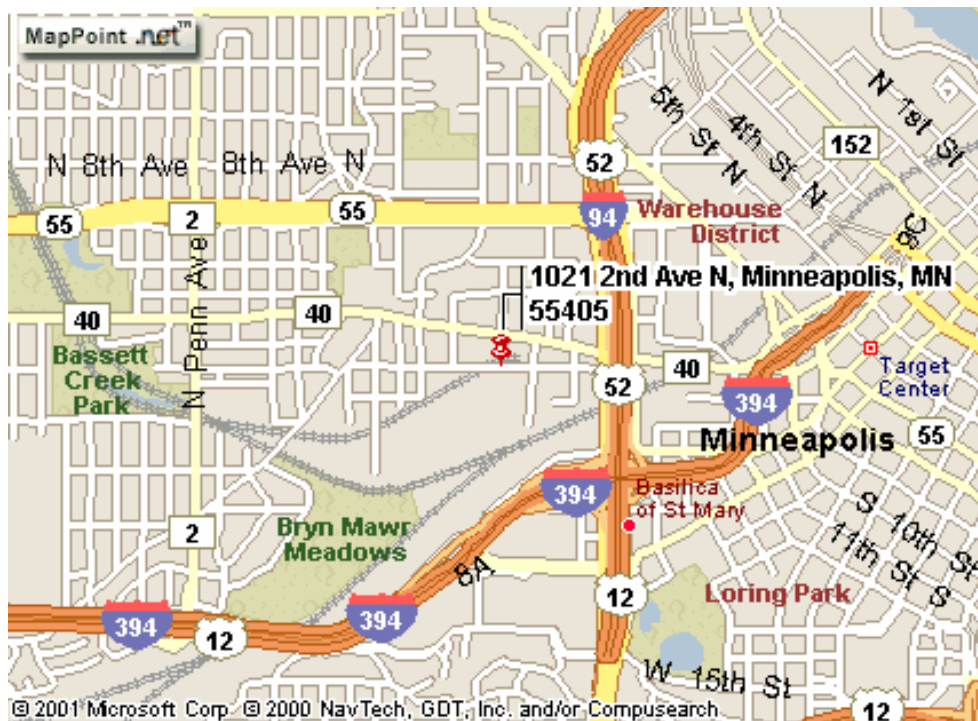
****Snacks and beverages will be provided by MWA****

Please bring:

- A chair
- Your lunch; if you'd prefer going out to lunch, we'll have a list of restaurants that are within a short distance.
- A desire to learn!

Soren's demo will consist of the following four sessions:

1. Understanding your tools; discover how the best cuts are made in both spindle and bowl turning.
2. Small hollow vessels with simple tools.
3. Vacuum chucking small objects, and how to make the chucks.
4. Multi axis scoops and ladles.



Directions:

Going north on Lyndale Ave. turn left on Glenwood Ave., go to Colfax Ave. (about 3 blocks) turn left go one block, turn right on 2nd Ave. N. The building is on the left, go to the far end of the building where there is a parking lot.

Going south on Lyndale turn right on Glenwood and follow the previous directions.

Free Parking in the lot, or on the street!

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area, thus taking off more wood. Rotating the tool clockwise will close the cutting edge, thus reducing the amount of wood removed.

2. Be sure the bevel is pointing in the direction the turner wants to make the cut on the bowl.

3. Proceed to push the tool in the direction the bevel is pointed! (Sounds like a forgone conclusion but sometimes a concerted effort must be made to do this!)

After a short break, Herm Fessler gave a talk on designing segmented bowls. Herm has amazed us with these segmented turnings several times; turnings as complex as his require a lot of good planning and very careful execution. Heck, turning the finished piece appears to be the easiest part! Patience is the name of the game here, but the end result justifies the amount of work put into each piece. Nice work, Herm!

Next was the judging of the Easter egg turning contest. An egg is an innocent enough item, but put in the hands of a woodturner... Imagination showed through in this year's batch of eggs, everything from



Wayne Keifer demonstrates bowl turning

Photo by Chuck Bjorgen

lidded box eggs to hanging display eggs, bowls of eggs, and individual eggs. From big to small and everything in between, and in every color.

After the egg judging, Wally Jacobson showed us bowl turning from the perspective of a high school woodshop teacher and his students. Wally did a great job bringing us back to the basics of "woodturning on a budget". He reminded us what we used before the slew of today's fancy scroll chucks: the ever-dependable faceplates and glue blocks. He showed us that what we'd think of as useless pieces of scrap wood, when properly used, can turn out to be gems. Varied pieces of scrap wood can be glued into different forms resulting in strikingly colorful segmented turning.

Lastly, the results of the egg turning contest. All are winners, but darn it, someone has to take home the

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Herm Fessler explains his segmented bowl process

Photo by Chuck Bjorgen



Members examine egg challenge entries and show 'n tell items

Photo by Steve Tiedman

first place prize! This year 1st place went to Ron Strelow, 2nd place to Boyd Annis, 3rd place to Linda Ferber, and 4th place to Don Robinson. Great Job to the winners and to all who made an egg—start thinking about next year's contest!

Wood sealer sales continue to be strong. At \$8.00 per gallon, you can't go wrong. This is almost half the "street" price, and profits help keep the club kitty full for operating expenses and special events. See Roger Ronson or Jerry "Romy" Rauch at club meetings for one gallon jugs. For those not familiar with the program, the club buys 55 gallon drums of wax emulsion end grain wood sealer, the stuff used to seal the end grain of freshly cut wood to help limit cracking and checking of the logs due to rapid drying. And remember, the club is getting out of the CA/ superglue business. There is still a good supply of medium and thick formula "Hot Stuff" brand glue left; the thin glue formula is gone. \$5.00 per bottle, see Chuck Bjorgen at club meetings.



Wally demonstrates the turning of his glued-up bowl blank

Photo by Chuck Bjorgen



The egg challenge winners, from left to right: Linda Ferber, Boyd Annis, Don Robinson and Ron Strelow—Congratulations! Photo by Chuck Bjorgen



A variety of members' work displayed at the March meeting (talented group, aren't we?)



Photos by Steve Tiedman

New Turners Benefit from Small Group Session

by Steve Tiedman

On Saturday, March 2, 2002, Club President Bruce Arones hosted a small group hands-on turning session at his shop. This time the event was aimed primarily at club members who were new to woodturning or had some experience but felt they could benefit from exposure to other turners in hopes of learning skills and sharing information.

"... I learned two very important things on Saturday, how to sharpen a bowl gouge and that the skew I was using had too steep an angle ..."

- Bruce Thompson

In attendance that day were: Linda Ferber, Bruce Thompson, Paul Meyer, Ken Kuby, Dave Berger, Jim Blare, Richard Fulner, and Travis Reeves. Lending a hand to Bruce were John Nicholson, Chuck Bjorgen, and myself.

"... as for the workshop, the best of any kind that I've ever attended. Plenty of lathes for everyone, plus tools ..."

- Ken Kuby

The day started off with a round of introductions, followed by Bruce demonstrating the basics of turning; then we jumped right to the lathes. Bruce had a plentiful supply of practice wood on hand and in no time the smell of cut wood was in the air. While Bruce, Chuck and John were lending a helpful hand at the lathes, I found myself giving impromptu lessons on grinding and sharpening. Many a tool went from being

dull or poorly shaped to a sharp, useful, instrument of the craft. Lots of questions were asked about grinders, jigs, grinding wheels, bevel angles, tool steels, and tool manufacturers.

Once more tools were sharpened, folks discovered the importance of a keen edge, and soon beads, coves, long tapers, hollow sections, and even some captive rings were being made throughout the shop. At the lathes, Bruce, John, and Chuck gave guidance on the use of the lathes: mounting the wood to the machine, tool presentation, body mechanics, and cutting techniques to avoid disasters. More than once we heard, "Oh, that's how it's done."



Hands on!

Photo by Chuck Bjorgen



Travis Reeves watches Dave Berger at the lathe

Photo by Chuck Bjorgen



Steve Tiedman explains the fine points of sharpening

Photo by Chuck Bjorgen

But, if you ask those that stayed for lunch, they will most likely tell you the highlight of the day was the surprise Bruce's wife Joyce had waiting for us in her kitchen. Homemade lasagna, cookies, and bars made for a most enjoyable lunch break. Heaping servings of delicious food and lots of good discussion were passed around at the lunch table. Thank you Joyce!

Our club has education at the forefront of its mission, and as president, Bruce tries to foster this whenever possible. Whether it be small group sessions, public demonstrations, or the monthly club meetings, learning by sharing is one of the most effective ways for all of us to expand our horizons

"... I learned some real good tips on sharpening ..."

- Richard Fulner

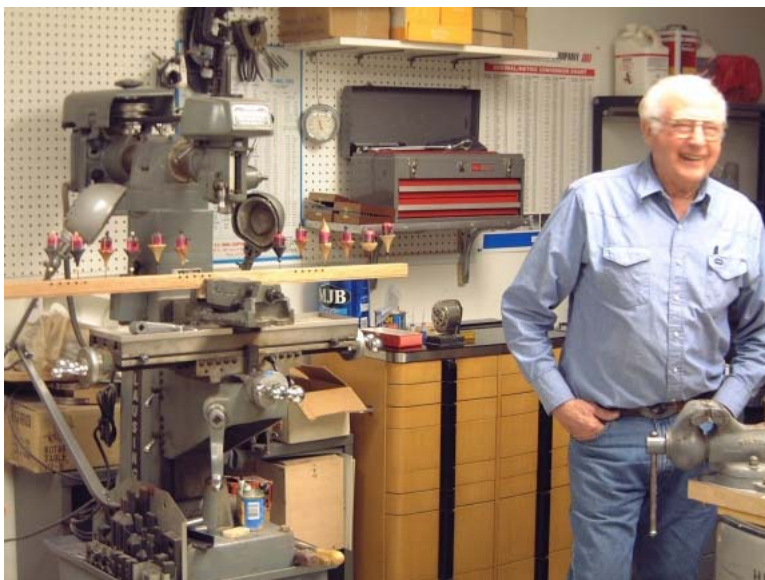
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In the shop with Hal Malmlov

by Cathy Nicholson

Steve Tiedman recently mentioned that getting to know fellow woodturners and sharing ideas is one of the greatest benefits of club membership—I have to agree. John and I recently spent an afternoon with Hal Malmlov and his wife Peg. Several wonderful hours of visiting, touring Hal's shop, sharing war stories (John and Hal), more chatting, eating . . . you know, all the good things in life!

Hal, who has been an MWA member since about 1988—it's been so long that he can't remember exactly, also enjoys the friends he's met through MWA, and the camaraderie of club membership. He gets together frequently with fellow turners John Magnusen and Dave Schneider for sessions of turning . . . visiting . . . eating . . . story telling, etc. The three men do a lot of collaborative turning, and Hal has several pieces on display in his home that are the product of their combined talents. One of his favorites is a large hollowed vessel made from a Cottonwood burl. (See picture, opposite page, upper right.) The burl was purchased from Craig Lossing, a professional turner and MWA member;



then roughed to a manageable size by Dave, and finally, turned and hollowed by Hal and John. The initials of all three are on the bottom of the piece.

Another collaborative effort began with a roughed out bowl blank that Hal won when Michael Hosuluk demonstrated for the club. Hal finished the bowl and painted the exterior white, then Dave Schnieder airbrushed

the inside—he stopped when the paint began to run. Hal and Dave were pleased to discover that it came out looking like a forest, they had “accidentally” achieved a very attractive effect.

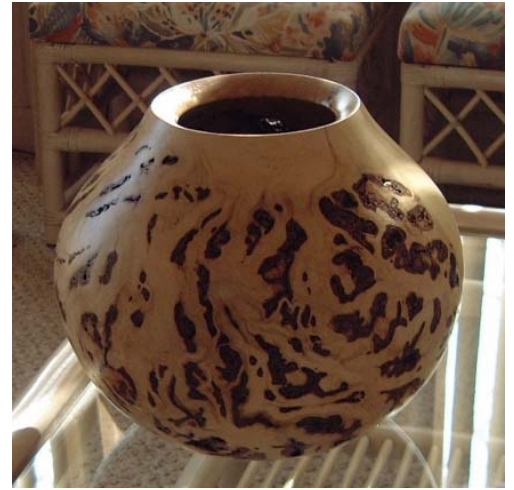
Among other things, Hal turns a lot of small birdhouses (he's currently experimenting with colorwood glue ups) and Christmas ornaments, which he sells through Harlan Downing, who appears regularly at area Craft shows.

While he was still working, Hal took machinist classes in the evening at St. Paul Vocational Technical Institute. Using the skills he acquired, Hal made all his own turning tools. His hollowing tools are made from planer blades, while his gouges,



etc., are made from high-speed steel, which he sent out to be hardened after making them; and he weighted the handles with lead to dampen vibration. I think he enjoyed making all the tools, but he did mention that he wouldn't do it again!

Hal's shop is immaculate and well organized; he has utilized a small space very efficiently, and painted white, it makes a very well lit shop. His tools hang, clearly visible, from the pegboard covered walls. His dust collection system, comprised of sewer pipe and Y connectors, runs around the shop perimeter to all machines. And the machines . . . Hal has a large Delta lathe, a Oneway 1018, and a homemade finishing lathe, which is geared down to very slow rpm and used for spray finishing. He also has a milling machine, a machinist lathe, not to mention the more standard grinders, table saw, jointer, sander, oscillating spindle sander, and of course a workbench! Ya gotta love tools!



John and I had a great time visiting with Hal & Peg. Their home is a beautiful showcase for both Hal's work, and their collection of turnings by artists including, Del Stubbs, Mel Turcanik, Craig Lossing, John Engstrom, Dave Schneider, John Magnussen, and John Berglund.



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in a craft that is really only limited by our imaginations.

If you have thoughts or suggestions for small group sessions in the future, please contact Bruce and let him know of your ideas.

Thank you, Bruce, for hosting the hands-on session!

“... The atmosphere was great for asking questions and swapping ideas. I gained some confidence and some light was shed on the procedure of sharpening...”
- David Berger



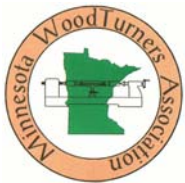
Above: Bruce Arones assists Jim Blare, while Ken Kuby works on his lathe
Photo by Chuck Bjorgen

Below: Ken Kuby, Bruce Arones, Jim Blare, and Richard Fulner

Photo by John Nicholson



Bruce Arones gives a few pointers to Bruce Thompson
Photo by Chuck Bjorgen



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