

Minnesota Woodturners

In association with the American Association of Woodturners

Members Meeting March

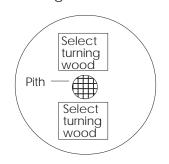
If we're turning eggs, it must be springtime!

. by Bonnie McDermid

Not content to simply demonstrate egg turning for our members meeting, Jim offered important pointers on everything from finding turning pieces, to glueing up laminate eggs to grinding gouges. As well, he demonstrated the effectiveness of a grinding jig and an "egg steady", both of his own design.



One of the first items
Jim addressed was
selecting the best
turning wood from a
log. He chooses the
wood on either side of
the pith, as shown on
the diagram below:



If you're interested in turning green wood, Jim recommended maple and birch. The discussion then turned to grinding turning tools. All present were able to get a close up look at Jim's preferred grinds for his gouges, as wooden replicas of his tool blades were passed around. These were excellent teaching tools. Especially useful was seeing how Jim grinds the tip of his roughing gouge straight across.

A less common tool, the bedan, was introduced as a tool for starting a bead.

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In Memory



Robert Stearns

Robert Stearns, a long-time member of our club, passed away on February 19, 2003, while wintering in Texas. We were notified of this sad event by his widow, Rosella. She wanted us to know how much Bob enjoyed all the club sessions with us. And for those of us that knew him, he will be sadly missed.

Ron Meilahn

rom your Program Director

Thanks to everyone for coming to my egg demonstration on the 11th. Hopefully, you will be inspired to make your own. If you have any questions about making eggs, please feel free to call or email me. I'll do my best to help out.

Don't forget to bring your eggs to the April 8th EGG CONTEST. Our members will vote on the winner, so you may come away with a certificate!

While this year's schedule is planned out, we are looking for

someone to demonstrate at our November 11th ornament turning meeting. Give me a call if you want to demo.

Now, looking ahead to next year's demonstrations, the schedule is pretty wide open. We need YOUR input. If you personally would like to demo or know of a professional turner who would create a good programs for our club, let me know. Thanks!

Jim Jacobs 651-437-2302 woodmanmn@aol.com

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Greetings to our newest club members!

DAVE & MARY JO BEATY NEW BRIGHTON

TONY LINN COTTAGE GROVE

MICHAEL LUCIDO BLOOMINGTON

PETER McMURRY MINNEAPOLIS

CORY OSLIN FRIDLEY

MICHAEL ROBIN ST PAUL

DEAN SCHMIDT BUFFALO

JUDY TAPLIN STILLWATER

LEO VASKE N. MANKATO

reasurer's Report

First Quarter, 2003 January 1 - March 31

PAID 136 MEMBERSHIPS

INCOME \$3,626 EXPENSES (\$574)

\$3,934

CHECKBOOK BALANCE as of 3/31/03

Members Meeting March

continued

Jim's session was packed with useful information and expert demonstration. Here are his key recommendations for egg turners.

Tips for Turning Eggs

Orient your wood with the narrow end of the egg toward the tail stock.

When turning a bead, always cut from big to small.

Work towards the center to avoid cutting against the grain.

Start your cut with the gouge's flute straight up.

End your cut with the gouge's flute pointing left or right, depending on the direction of your cut.

Special thanks to Jim Blare for the video work.

Many thanks also to Chuck Bjorgen for photographing all our Show 'N Tell entries.



Show
'N Tell
March's
display was
filled with fine
examples of
member skill.



rom your Newsletter Editor



Bonnie McDermid MWA Newsletter Editor

As this is my first issue as editor of our newsletter, I want to say how pleased I am to contribute to our club in this way.

My goal is simply to encourage more participation from members old and new by showcasing the quality of our programs, resources and members. While I've made some design changes, our newsletter is a group project of contributed articles about turning, news, and club activities. I hope that you will also participate in the creation of our newsletter this year. Here are several ways you can do that:

- Write about a membership meeting
- Write about a handson session
- Contribute a book review
- Share photography assignments with Chuck Bjorgen

- Share your ideas with the Board about articles, programs, resources that would make our newsletters, meetings and handson-sessions even better.

I thank you!

To introduce myself a bit, being part of the MWA newsletter team fits right in with my work in marketing communications. I have my own business writing and producing marketing materials.

As for my turning history, I joined MWA two years with rookie-level skills. The first item I turned was a cedar bowl (in high school shop class). Then a few years ago, my father

taught me some of the basics. Since joining MWA, with the generous guidance of our experienced turners, my technical skills will eventually catch up with my creative ideas!

Please feel free to give me a call or email me about our newsletter.

Bonnie McDermid 612-920-9205 bmcdermid@mn.rr.com

January

Ninety Attend Great New Year's Kickoff Meeting



Above - Professional woodturner and MWA club member Alan Lacer spoke to the membership about the use and sharpening of turning tools.

Top left - Alan explained how he presents a woodturning tool to spinning wood.

Top right - Alan demonstrated his methods of sharpening turning tools. Visitor Trish Shaack, center, paid close attention.





by Steve Tiedman

Ninety attendees for the January 2003 meeting. WOW!!

Ninety lucky MWA members, visitors, and Roseville High School woodshop students were present to see a very useful demonstration from professional turner (and MWA member) Alan Lacer.

We've got a lot of rookie woodturners in the club now, so Alan agreed to put on a "basics of woodturning" session including:

sharpening tool selection tool use wood characteristics lathes & grinders Key highlights of Alan's presentation were:

-The importance of maintaining a sharp tool, to result in nicely cut shavings of wood instead of torn fibers and dust from dull tools:

-"Reading" the grain of the wood so you can recognize how a cut must be made:

-Body mechanics while working at the lathe, utilizing a sharp tool, and the power of the lathe motor to minimize your effort while getting the result you want. Let the tools do the work, no "death grips", no pushing the tools into the wood; and

-How a simple set of 5 or 6 basic cutting tools can suffice for nearly all bowl and spindle turning.

What I, a turner for eight years now, was reminded of by Alan is that sticking to the basics accounts for most of what we will be doing at the lathe.

We don't need a vast collection of turning tools to do most jobs at the lathe. What we need to teach ourselves is how to use the basic tools to their fullest potential. And what is, arguably, the best way to do this?

Just as Alan recommended, turn, turn, turn. Make lots of shavings purely to make shavings. Practice. Grab that chunk of firewood, or that clipping from the backyard tree, mount it to the lathe, and turn it down to nothing. Then do it again.



Show 'n Tell
Show 'n Tell moderator
Duane Gemelke, left,
listened as Jack Frost talked
about his turned piece.



Member Bob Hansen decribed how he made this small vase.



Ron Strelow explained how he turned small crosses for gifts.

Forget about making a useful gadget for now. Pay attention to what you are doing. If you are not masterful in a particular cut, whether with a gouge, skew, or scraper, practice with that tool until you get it right, then keep going until that proper cut becomes second nature.

Practice makes perfect!

Small Group Sessions Bowl Turning



Wayne Keifer's
Shakopee workshop
has been THE destination for his monthly
small group sessions.
Generously, Wayne
offered expert bowlturning instruction and
guidance to MWA
members, two at a
time. Everyone who
participated felt they
had definitely gained
skill and comfort with
bowl-turning techniques.



Left - John Kempkes worked on Wayne's lathe as Above - Ken Kogler turned on a club Jet mini lathe. Ken, John and Wayne Keifer stopped the lathes long enough to pose for a picture. Ken and John proudly display the results of their three hour session.

Comments from January participants.

Ken Kogler: Wayne is a very good teacher. He showed us how to turn bowls and then we followed his expert advice. Then, as we were each turning he would point out how we could do it better.

John Kempkes: The biggest single help from this session was





learning how to keep the gouge's bevel rubbing and to avoid the catches that have plagued my early efforts.

Most importantly, this time I actually brought a bowl home in one piece (though I tried with some nasty catches!)

It was a fun day!

January

Big turnout of new turners at Roseville High School session





Above - Bill Singlestad, left, and long-time turner Ron Strelow.

Above right - Trish Schaak, left, and Colette Sacksteder, center, turned with Mary Lacer.

Bottom right - Jim Dotseth and Bill Bang watched Wayne Keifer, right, as he demonstrated bowl turning.









Captions on next page

by Chuck Bjorgen

As a small group hands-on session, this one was pretty big.

That's because at least 38 active and potential woodturners showed up at the January hands-on session of the Minnesota Woodturners Association (MWA) at the Roseville Area High School woodshop, on a chilly Saturday morning. The session was hosted by Wally Jacobson, instructor at the school.

The five MWA club lathes, as well as the club's new grinder, were brought in to accompany the seven lathes available in the school shop.

Starting the session, experienced turners paired with beginners and the shavings began to fly.

A few members worked on the school lathes with Wayne Keifer and Ron Strelow. Others tackled projects such as goblets and lidded boxes on the club lathes.

Two women members of the Minnesota Woodworkers Guild worked with Mary Lacer to see if woodturning might be in their futures.

Jeff Zinsli brought his godson, Brent Woodward, 13, to try his hand at the lathe. Brent was last seen hollowing a bowl under the guidance of member Brian Grobe.

Steve Tiedman tended the club grinder with a steady line of turners who sought help sharpening their turning tools.







Bottom Left - Duane Gemelke expertly guided our new newsletter editor, Bonnie McDermid. Upper Left - Dodie Bemrick got help from veteran turner Boyd Annis.

Above - Brian Grobe, left, worked with Brent

Above - Brian Grobe, left, worked with Bren Woodward, 13, godson of Jeff Zinsli, right. It seems that Brent was converted to woodturning on the spot.





Top - Bill Klopp, left, used calipers to measure the tenon on a box lid before parting it off from the box body. Boyd Annis helped with the procedure.

Bottom - Manning the club grinder, Steve Tiedman, left, showed Bill Klopp how adjustments are made to the Oneway Vari-Grind jig.

Captions for Photos Page 6

Tom Tuchfarber, left, watched as Tom Shields showed his hollowing technique. Tom joined MWA immediately after this session.

Our host, Wally Jacobson and his 10-month-old son, Jordan. Wally has made the Roseville HS woodshop available for many MWA club activities.

Dale Martin, left, made suggestions to Stu Smith on hollowing techniques.

The appearance of MWA board member John Ratliff who brought in the club coffee pot, cooler and other refreshments was a welcome sight.

For the record, John is the member who takes care of providing refreshments at most of our monthly meetings, in addition to his assigned duty of handling newsletter mailings.

Three hours passed quickly with varying results coming off the lathes, some successful, others clearly practice wood.

By around noon, participants pitched in with brooms to clean the shop benches and floor of all shavings created during the session.



Club vice-president Don Roden, left, drew a bead on the hollowing efforts of his friend, Kris Holt.

About MWA's Small Group Sessions

Most of our small group hands-on sessions are, indeed, small with participation ranging from as few as two to occasionally eight or more. These sessions are held in members' shops.

Notification of coming sessions is made by group email or announced, if possible, at monthly meetings.

Club Calendar







MARCH

5th

Board of Directors meeting held.

11th

Monthly meeting featured Jim Jacobs' demo on turning eggs.

APRIL

4th-6th

Woodworking Show River Centre, St. Paul Need volunteers to demo. Call Tom Shields at 507-625-4186 or wdturnr@hickorytech.net.

8th

Monthly meeting to feature Dean Wilson on the design and incorporation of turned pieces into furniture. Location: Minneapolis College of Art & Design.

MAY

7th

Board of Directors meeting to be held.

10th

Monthly meeting to feature Chicago turner, Binh Pho, who will demonstrate his piercing and airbrush painting techniques. This all-day session to be held at the Mpls Community & Technical College.

AUGUST

16th

Annual Family Picnic. Stay tuned for more details.

SEPTEMBER

10th

Board of Directors meeting to be held.

13th

Monthly meeting planned to feature chainsaw use and safety. More details to come.

OCTOBER

3rd

Hands-on session with David Ellsworth for small group. Price and details to come.

4th

Monthly meeting to be an all-day demonstration by professional turner, David Ellsworth. Details to come.

NOVEMBER

5th

Board of Directors meeting to be held.

11th

Monthly meeting tentatively planned to be Christmas ornament demos. Details to come.

DECEMBER

9th

Our fabulous Holiday Party!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

The Board meets on the first Wednesday of every other month; January, March, May, September, and November.

Board meetings are held at 6:30 pm at the following location:

AAW Offices 3499 Lexington Ave No Suite 103 St Paul, MN

HAVE A TOPIC FOR THE BOARD?

If you would like to bring a topic to the Board's attention, please contact any board member and we'll include it on the meeting agenda.

Board members listed on page 2 of this newsletter.

Members Meeting May



"There is a place in everyone's mind - we call it "home." Exploring the possibilities of woodturning is like "coming home" to me."

Binh Pho

Binh Pho's artistry extends the creative possibilities of woodturning. His turnings become sculpture with the addition of small turned elements, pierced edges and designs, and painted surfaces.

Featured Presenter Binh Pho

Topic

Piercing and air brush painting.

Date

Saturday, May 10, 2003

Time

9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Location

Mpls Community & Technical College 1501 Hennepin Ave Minneapolis Follow signage to Plaza C Conference Room

Parking

Ramp parking across Hennepin Avenue

Lunch

You may bring your own or eat at nearby restaurants.

Activities

Show & Tell Library rentals Sealer sales No wood raffle

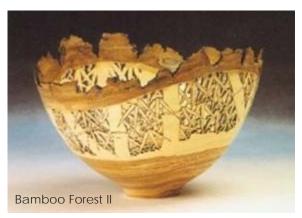
Registration Required

Please reserve your space with payment in advance.

\$30 per person due Friday, May 2nd

Send your check made payable to MWA to:

Ron Meilahn, Treasurer 13968 Alder St. NW, Andover, MN 55304



See more of Binh Pho's work at online gallery: http://www.angelfire.com/il2/binhpho/



SUMMER PICNIC IN NEW LOCATION

This year, our club picnic will be held in Hastings at Spring Lake Park. This is a beautiful park overlooking the Mississippi. There are great hiking trails and big playground. Rod Olson's famous sweet corn and grills will be provided.

Mark your calendars on Aug 16th from 10 till 5. A map with directions will be included in our June newsletter.

Looking for a New Challenge

In the past, we've had a friendly "turning challenge", including croquet mallets, bats, frisbees, weed pots and yo-yo's. If you have ideas for a new challenge, now is the time to speak up!

Contact Jim Jacobs, Program Director, at woodmanmn@aol.com or 651-437-2302.

Members Meeting February

Marbling adds new dimension to turned wood





Above left - Steve Pittelkow first demonstrated marbling on paper.

Right - Steve also tried wood marbling using birch plywood.



Above right - Marbling tools and materials include liquid acrylic paint, combs and rakes, plus cups and eyedroppers for adding colors to the carageenan bath. The spray bottle is for wood prep, the straw bunches for adding colors to the bath.

by Chuck Bjorgen

"Your 'oohs' and 'aahs' are encouraged right about now," the demonstrator said.

Steve Pittelkow, of the Minnesota Center for Book Arts (MCBA), had just finished immersing a turned wood platter into a tray containing a solution into which he had dropped and "combed" various acrylic colors.

The event was the February monthly meeting of the Minnesota Woodturners Association (MWA). The subject was marbling, the art or practice of variegating in color, of imitating marble.

In late June last year at the College of St. Catherine's Minnesota Craft's Council Show in St. Paul, several members of MWA shared outside demonstration space with Steve. As the MWA demonstrators showed their skills on the club lathes, club president Bruce Arones noticed the colorful patterns that Steve was creating on sheets of paper.

"It reminded me of those Easter egg coloring kits that would leave those swirly patterns on the eggs," says Bruce.

He asked Steve if he had ever tried the technique on wood and was told he hadn't.

Having unfinished pieces that had been freshly turned during the demo, Steve took one of the demo turnings, a top, and immersed it in the "mysterious solution."

Here was born another subject for an MWA club meeting.

While marbling is done mostly on paper, its application on turned wood seems to be growing.

The Fall 2002 issue of American Woodturner, the Journal of the American Association of Woodturners (AAW), contained an article, written by Minnesota woodturner Mary Thouin, about marbling on woodturnings.

Steve's methods, tools and materials demonstrated during this meeting, were similar to those described in that article.







Above left - Various colors were dropped into this bath to achieve the "fried egg" pattern, good for three-dimensional objects.

Above right - A plastic bowl holds the bath for this turned wood plate, provided by a MWA member.

Left - The wooden plate, after immersion in the marbling bath.

The solution or "the bath" he uses is carageenan, mixed from dry ingredients according to label directions.

Carageenan is available from art supply stores or directly from the store at MCBA. The carageenan mix had been allowed to age for 24 hours before using, a practice Steve says is essential.

He poured this bath into a shallow container, for the demo, a plastic picture frame. Plastic or glass bowls could be used as well to handle the three dimensional qualities of turned pieces.

The colors are liquid, acrylic paints. He prefers Golden Fluid Acrylics brand. He sets them up in the work area in paper cups with eye droppers used to drop the colors into the solution (see photo of setup of materials and tools). He then uses the "combs" or "rakes" to integrate the various colors into patterns on the surface of the bath he thinks will be successful.

Steve first demonstrated his marbling technique on paper. He gently applied the paper to the surface of the liquid in a rolling motion, leaving the paper to float for a few moments and then gently, again, rolling it off the liquid.

That's when the first 'oohs' and 'aahs' came from the audience.

continued on next page

Steve Pittelkow offers marbling classes at MCBA and plans to offer a class in three-dimensional marbling during the summer of 2003.

Check the MCBA web site class schedule at: http://www.mnbookarts.org or call MCBA directly at (612) 215-2520.

February

Marbling adds new dimension to turned wood

continued



Above - Alan Lacer's dyed tool handle was rolled along the surface of the bath for this interesting effect. Right - Several turned pieces after Steve marbelized them.



After each marbling try, Steve used four-inch strips of newspaper to wipe the colors off the bath's surface before adding new colors for another application.

Each bath can be used for 35 to 50 sheets of paper, but has a shelf life of three to five days.

After several more examples on paper, Steve tried the technique on wood, first on plywood pieces and then on turnings supplied by a few members of the MWA audience.

One final challenge was offered by Alan Lacer who handed over a turned tool handle that had been dyed blue. In this instance Steve rolled the handle over the surface of the liquid and to the delight of everyone, revealed the desired, but random, marbleized pattern. Success!

While getting accurate, repeatable patterns is not possible, Steve says that as you gain experience, it's possible to closely approximate certain patterns.

He showed the audience previously done examples on paper that appeared similar to those he had just tried during his demonstration.

Steve recommends doing your initial marbling experiments on paper so you are not sacrificing your woodturnings. He suggests using good quality 50 pound offset paper, available from art supply stores.

When you try a turned piece, it should have no waxes or other finishes applied, just the raw, sanded wood. He recommends using tight grained hardwoods.

The bare wood is prepped for marbling by spraying with a solution of aluminum sulfate mixed at a rate of 1-1/2 teaspoons per 16 ounces. This treatment provides "tooth" for the paints to better adhere to wood. You should expect the water to raise the grain of the wood.

Any finish that will not disolve the paint can be applied after marbling.

Steve has successfully applied water based varnish on his wood trials. Lacquer based spray paints and sanding sealers with applications of wax can also be tried.

If you are looking for new ways to express yourself through woodturning, marbling may be another approach you can take. It will require some planning, experimenting and acquisition of tools and materials - but that's beginning to sound like woodturning.





Show 'N Tell

Show 'n Tell

Left - Another great selection of Show 'n Tell pieces from the membership for the February meeting.

Above - Linda Ferber described her two Show 'n Tell pieces as Duane Gemelke displayed them for the audience.

Materials and tools for marbling

Carageenan
Available from the
store at MCBA or from
art supply stores. Mix
according to package directions. Allow
to age 24 hours before using.

Aluminum Sulfate Dilute 1-1/2 teaspoon to 16 ounces of water. Store in plastic spray bottle and apply to wood turnings to be marblized. Available from garden supply stores.

Rakes and combs Wood strips with nails of various sizes used to "rake" patterns into the colors. Steve uses rakes with nails set to 3/16, 1/2 and oneinch spacing. See photo. Acrylic colors, liquid, diluted with water to heavy cream consistency.

Newspaper strips, about four inches wide, used to skim off colors from the bath from previous applications.

Water from the tap that has not been softened. If results are spotty, try distilled water.

Usual eye protection and rubber gloves for mixing solutions.

Small Group Sessions Bowl Turning II



Dann Chapman and Bonnie McDermid took part in Wayne Keifer's February bowlturning session.

Bonnie's comments: Wayne guided me through some tricky work with end grain by teaching me how to manage the gouge more gently. I learned a great deal at this session.



Left to right -Wayne Keifer, Bonnie McDermid and Dann Chapman

February

Homemade tools and lidded boxes created with Jim Jacobs







Top - Irv Swanson checked the shape of his box. Bottom - Already missing MWA club activities, John Nicholson, was soon put to work sharpening turning tools

by Chuck Bjorgen

Four more lucky MWA members were treated to a February afternoon of tool making and box turning in the heated garage shop of MWA program director, Jim Jacobs. This was another in our club's frequent hands-on small group turning sessions that are gaining in popularity.

Marv Grabau, Linda Ferber, Dodie Bemrick and Irv Swanson spent four hours with Jim as he showed how he makes a small gouge from 5/16-inch steel drill rod and uses this tool for the hollowing of a small box.



This was the Saturday afternoon winter scene in the heated garage shop of Jim Jacobs. From left, Marv Grabau, Dodie Bemrick, Irv Swanson, Linda Ferber and Jim.

Jim had prepared the tools by gluing steel rods into tool handle blanks. The tools were then mounted on the club lathes and members turned the handles to the desired shape. Jim then sharpened the tools to a shape that would be good for box hollowing.

At one point in the session, the club's Carba-Tech lathe ceased running and Jim had to put his own Jet mini lathe in service for the members. Jim also set up his home built vacuum chucking system on his lathe to help Linda make some changes to the lid of her small turned box.

Midway through the session, the group took a break for refreshments provided

by Jim and a couple of the participants, then went back to work.

Former club vicepresident John Nicholson was on hand just to observe the session, but was soon enlisted to help sharpen tools for the participants.

John and Cathy Nicholson, as most members know by now, are moving to Madison, Wis., because of an employment change.

As usual for these sessions the afternoon hours passed quickly. The participants helped sweep up shavings and the session was over.

Small Group Sessions

Bowl Turning III

Don McKay and Jim Blare made the short trip to Shakopee in March with excellent results.

Comments from Don McKay: Wayne's step-by-step guidance made a big difference to my turning and learning. It was a very good session.

Jim Blare: While I've never had interest in bowl turning before, I think Wayne's session started something! A very good session.

Thank you, Wayne for teaching three great sessions and sharing your enjoyment of wood turning to six very motivated turners.



L to R - Jim Blare, Wayne Keifer & Don McCay





The club's small group sessions are gaining in popularity because it is easier to get personal turning help with smaller groups. If you would like to host one of these sessions in your shop, call or email Chuck Bjorgen and indicate how many participants you can handle. You do not need to be an expert turner to host and the club Jet lathes are always available for these sessions.





Advertisements

FREE MEMBER ADVERTISING

Free turning-related ads for members.

COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING

\$4.00/month per column inch. To place ad, contact Don Roden at 763-425-3110 or droden@mninter.net. Ads will run one issue unless you call to extend your add to additional issues.

Top left - Linda Ferber made use of Jacob's home made vacuum chuck setup to do some final finish cuts on her lidded box.

Left - Marv Grabau turned his tool handle on Jim Jacob's modified Jet mini lathe.

Bottom left - Lots of fine shavings were produced by Irv Swanson as he turned a lidded box.

FOR SALE

6" White Wheel, 1/2" Arbor, 100 Grit. Barely used. Paid \$40 at Craft Supplies. Will sell for \$30. Call 651-437-2302.

PRIVATE LESSONS

Learn TOOL SHARPENING on the Oneway Wolverine system. A MUST for anyone serious about mastering woodturning.

One-on-one sessions in my shop will cover tools & equipment, shaping, sharpening and honing. Call now for appointment, classes start in May. \$45/session. Steve Tiedman 763-789-4505.



Learn how Dean Wilson approaches the design of studio furniture, including turned wood elements. He'll show examples from his 30 year design career.

Featured Presenter

Dean Wilson Professor of Fine Arts Minneapolis College of Art & Design

Topic

Design and incorporation of turned pieces into furniture

Date

Tuesday, April 8th

Time

7:00 - 9:30 pm

Location

Mpls College of Art & Design-Main entrance Follow signage to Auditorium 2501 Stevens Avenue Minneapolis 612-874-3700

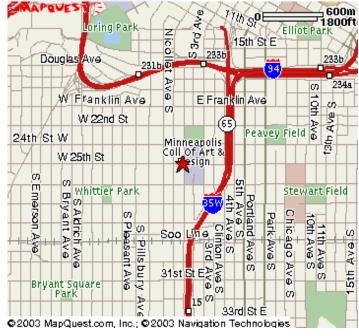
Parking

Ramp parking
On-street parking

Activities

Egg Contest Library Rentals Sealer Sales No wood raffle







Minnesota Woodturners Assn 13968 Alder Street NW Andover, MN 55304 www.mnwoodturners.com FIRST CLASS MAIL

Bring your Eggs for the April 8th Contest