

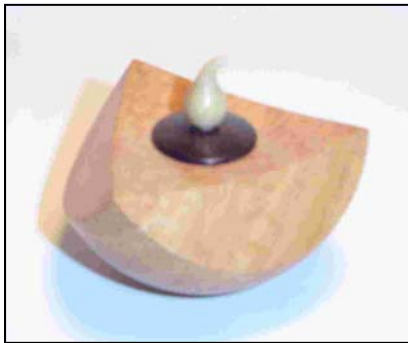
MINNESOTA WOODTURNERS ASSOCIATION

in association with the American Association of Wood turners

April 2005

The Minnesota Woodturners Association in conjunction with the Minneapolis College of Art & Design invite you to a woodturning demonstration by professional turner Mark St. Leger

Mark is a nationally recognized woodturner and will be demonstrating beginning and advanced turning techniques by making four different projects.



Bias Rocking Box



Fly House



Tippy Tops



Spiked Sphere

When: Saturday April 16th 9-4 p.m. Doors open at 8:30 a.m.

Where: Minneapolis College of Art and Design auditorium
2501 Stevens Ave. S. Minneapolis
Directly South of the Institute of Art

Cost: \$30.00 at the door

Lunch: Restaurants within short drive, walk to café in adjoining Institute of Arts or bring a bag lunch (tables and chairs are available)

FREE parking in ramp located on 3rd Ave., East side of MCAD

Minnesota Woodturners Association

Board Members

President

Donald Roden
droden@mnwoodturners.com
763-425-3110

Vice President

Bruce Thompson
952-442-4610

Program Director

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

Secretary

Jim Zangl
Jim.w.zangl@healthpartners.com
651-645-4696

Treasurer/Membership

Ron Meilahn
ronmeilahn@usfamily.net
763-862-2100

Newsletter Editor

Jeff Luedloff
jefflued@peoplepc.com
952-496-1177

Newsletter Mailings

John Ratliff
651-770-6471

Librarian

Bob Jensen
lwoodworker@earthlink.net
763-572-0525

Hands On Coordinator

Jim Sannerud
frog@bitstream.net
763-434-2882

Members-At-Large

George Dupre
gtdupre@centurytel.net
715-448-3002

Steve Luhman
sluhman@isd.net
612-414-0951

Jack Frost
jlfrost@tcinternet.net
651-777-8019

President's Corner



Greetings fellow woodturners.

It seems like not that long ago I was writing my first column as president and now time for the next one. We have had some members renew their membership and we thank you for that. We have had some new people join as members and we welcome you to the group.

We applied for and received an Education Grant from the AAW to purchase two additional mini lathes for the club. The MWA now has seven mini lathes and we have the availability to provide opportunities for seven turners at our hands on sessions. More lathe time for less experienced turners to develop their skills and also for demonstrations, hopefully more opportunities there as well.

We are going to have some small group sessions for those members who think they would like to demonstrate at many of the opportunities that the club will have. Because of our liability insurance

through the AAW, you must be an AAW member to demonstrate at any of our functions. If you think you would like to but may not be sure of what or how to do it, we will have a couple of small group session to work through those issues. I felt that way the first time I signed up to be a demonstrator. What should I turn? What if I make a mistake? I don't do well in front of crowds. Remember, you have more experience than most of the people who will be observing you demonstrate. Also, if we have people who are there to answer questions of those watching so the person turning doesn't have to talk, but can concentrate on the turning, that also helps promote the organization.

It was suggested that we have a mini symposium sometime in the future. I think it's a good idea and would like some input from you about it. It will take commitment from all of us to make this happen and I believe that we can do it. Rather than having one or two professional turners visit us each year, we could have 10 or 15 here for a weekend of education and fun.

We will be sending out a survey to all of you in the near future. Please take a few minutes to fill it out and return it to the board. We are looking for feedback from you so we can provide you with what you want to meet your goals

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

in turning.

I look forward to seeing a lot of you on Saturday, April 16 at MCAD learning from Mark St. Leger and his experience and techniques. Mark is a teacher during the week, so if you think that you are too new in woodturning and this is too ad-

vanced for you, please reconsider and join us. I always find something of interest or a technique from the professional turners I watch.

We are inviting other clubs in the area to join us and I will pass along to you on what those clubs are doing so that you will have more opportunities to gain experience from

a variety of experienced professionals.

Happy Turning to all.

Don

Demonstrators needed!

The MWA has various events throughout the year where demonstrators are needed. Demonstrators must be AAW members for insurance purposes. Some of the events already scheduled are: MN Woodworking Show (formerly Rocklers carnival) and the MN Crafts festival. Demonstrators gain free admission into most events. If you would like to be a demonstrator or just want to help greet visitors please contact: George Dupre, gtdupre@centurytel.net, 715-448-3002

Club Craft Supplies Order Saves MWA Members \$\$

The Club's April 2005 purchase saved participating members 19% off their individual Craft Supply order.

	<u>OCT 04</u>	<u>APR 05</u>
# of participating members	19	31
Catalog price	\$3,502	\$6,029
Discounted cost	<u>\$2,916</u>	<u>\$4,910</u>
Total discount	\$586	\$1,119
	or 17%	or 19%

MWA Treasurer's Report

2005	2005
12 Month Budget	2 Month Actual
Members 200	Members 181
Income \$8,950	\$4,656
Expenses \$7,560	\$2,285
Gain \$1,390	\$2,371
cash balance \$5,716	\$6,313

Name Tags!

The MWA now has over 200+ members. Please remember to wear your name tag to all MWA functions. If you do not have a name tag contact Ron Meilahn or any board member.

Need Confetti Lights?

Bob Jensen has found a source for confetti lights (without oil) and will be placing an order about April 10th. The cost is \$.99 each and everybody who orders can split the freight charges. Contact Bob at: 1woodworker@earthlink.net 763-572-0525

Club Library

Do you have any woodturning / woodworking videos, books, magazines that you are no longer using, that another club member might find useful? Donate any related materials you have to our club library. Contact bob at: 1woodworker@earthlink.net 763-572-0525

Correction!

The Mark St. Leger bio found on page 9 of the February newsletter was mistakenly cut short. See page 10 of this issue to get the complete bio.

January meeting: Sharpening

Steve Tiedman demonstrated sharpening for the club. This was the “condensed version” of his 3 hour private class which he offers and several members have taken. As we know or sometimes learn the hard way, a sharp tool makes a huge difference when turning. Steve covered several areas, and discussed safety, eye and lung protection. This should be a full face shield, dust mask and an inexpensive shop vac to suck up grinding dust. Do not use your shop vac since it has fine dust in it which can ignite. “Bluing” can start when steel reaches 600 degrees, the tool loses its temper and won’t stay sharp. It’s important to use light pressure and keep the wheel clean with a wheel



dresser. Carbon steel is used for inexpensive turning tools. This blues easier than high speed steel, which is much better quality for turning. Sharpening can be done on belt/disc sanders, Tormek style systems or high or low speed grinders. Most turners will use a bench grinder with a 8” wheel, preferably slow speed, 1725 rpm. These can be purchased with the wheels for under \$100.00. Shaping of the tool should be done on the coarse wheel (46-60 Grit) and final sharpening on the finer wheel (80-120 grit). It also helps to mount the grinder near the lathe and at the same height. A lot of the same movements are used when grinding and turning. Honing is used mainly on the skew chisel which is then used with the bevel rubbing in a “shearing” cut. Scraping (using it horizontally) will dull the edge very quickly. Honing is done with a diamond hone. Hold the tool still and ride the hollow grind. To check for sharpness, try to “shave” your thumbnail. Steve also discussed the “fingernail” grind for gouges which have the edges of the flute swept back. Although this can be done by hand and a lot of practice, it is quite easy with a grinding jig such as the Wolverine system. Homemade jigs can also be made which work nicely.

Steve stressed that it is very important to have one bevel on the tool. This should ride the wood as the cut is made. Facets or several bevels will make this difficult and leave a rough surface.

Tool angles for different tools were also provided:

Roughing gouge - 45 degrees

Spindle/detail gouge (shallow flute)

- 35 degrees

Skew - 25 degrees

Bowl gouges (deep flute) - 55-60 degrees

Scrapers—50-80 degrees

Thanks for an excellent demo, Steve, and for sharing your sharpening expertise!



Volunteers needed!

The newsletter needs your help! If you can submit a review on an upcoming event, send a bio and digital photo of yourself, write a book or video review or contribute a how-to article please send to:

Jeff Luedloff

jefflued@peoplepc.com

Or

1177 clover court

Shakopee, MN 55379



Duane Gemelke holds up 2 candle holders, turned by Steve Tiedman, during the February show and tell.

February Member Meeting

Carving

By George Dupre'

Dale Martin was introduced with his discussion on wood carving. Dale had an impressive sampling of his efforts on display and, although during his talk he said he had not been turning long, it wasn't evident in the bowls he brought as samples of his work.

He started his talk on tools pointing out that the most useful individual tool to the woodcarver is probably his knife or knives, but with the preface that sharp tools are the most important part of carving. (This of course also holds true in all wood-working) He sharpens his tools weekly and strops them on leather using Tripoli compound, White abrasive compound and Diamond frequently as needed.

The gouges he prefers are Swiss made because of the steel quality and its ability to hold an edge. Dale felt that German tools were also of high quality but felt that their tools tended to be a bit brittle. He warned against some of the low cost tools pointing out that you tend to get what you pay for. He also sug-

gested that if you are just starting out don't overbuy your tooling because at the beginning you really won't know what you need other than the basics until you have worked with three or four basic gouges and knives for a while. I believe he said that to start a no. 30 and 60 gouge would be the most useful and a #5 and #7 middle size would be most useful for the student. His choice in tools were Pfeil which are available (only) at Woodcraft. He further said he uses palm tools most (80%) of the time.

He showed a bowl on which he hand carved a band about 1" wide around the middle. (see photo) His lathe is an old Oliver and does not have an indexing device so he used his Oneway jaw chuck locked in place against the tool rest and carved the band in 3 or 4" increments. Dale also described how he pierced the decorative tops on two of his bowls using drills or some of the bits for flexible cable tools he brought with him. He uses primarily a Foredom and has found it the most useful although he also uses two or three smaller air drive units which are very high rpm but relatively low torque grinders. He had quite an assortment of cutters similar to what you would get with a Dremel grinder but the quality level was substantially higher. He also gets used tools from his dentist when they are no longer useful to him. For fine piercing he uses Ruby cutters.

On a walnut bowl he displayed he carved a ring of leaves around the top by scanning maple leaves, reducing them in size on his copier and then positioning them around the top opening on the bowl and then carving.



A hollow vessel with carved band.



A carved bison head shows the great detail Dale puts into his work.

When doing inlay work he uses epoxy to hold it in place. If a piece cracks or has a defect in the wood he uses epoxy and wood dust to fill in and also uses this as a filler. When finishing he starts with 60 or 80 grit and works his way up through the grits to a 400 grit. He seldom goes higher. He usually starts his finishing with 3 or 4 coats of shellac, and then several coats of General salad bowl finish. If he's using a high gloss finish he will reduce the gloss with 4-0 steel wool. He also will buff out the final finish sometimes with a buffer and Tripoli, white diamond followed with a coat of carnauba wax.

It's quite apparent from the quality level of Dale's carving that he is very skilled. A carving he had with him of a Bison head was exquisite. This was well worth the time.



March Member Meeting

Turning Eggs

By Mike Hunter

This year, Easter is March 27, 2005 and Don Roden showed us how to turn eggs for our baskets and decorative objects for our bowls. A packaging tip for the finished product is to store them in the egg carton that we purchase eggs in.

One way to learn how to transition the ID or OD of our work is to learn how to turn an egg. There are four sides or transitions to turning an egg. We start out at the top with a curve to the side and continue the transition to the bottom. The goal of this lesson is turning transition or tool control.

Don turned three eggs. The first egg was turned from a maple cylinder using a skew. Basically, you pick up the first tool that comes to



your hand and start turning. The wood was placed in the chuck with the tailstock center engaged and he started turning. Don is never sure when he starts turning if he is going to turn the long side or the short side of the egg first, but in this first example he turned the short side of the egg down to the bottom. This was all done with the short side of the skew. He finished the bottom of the egg after removing the tailstock. From there he started to form the long radius to the top of the egg. Before the top gets too thin, be sure to work out any flats you have on your egg contours and the cut off the finished egg. The finished product would have required very little sanding.

The second egg was turned with a spindle gouge. The process was the same as above. Don's practice of tool control and transition points from one area to another were a great example of turning techniques. This egg was turned in less than 8 minutes and again, the finished product would have required very little sanding.

The third example was a hollow egg turned from an apple limb.

Don went back to using his skew on this demonstration. The process was the same as the first with several exceptions. Working from the tailstock, the bottom half of the egg was formed but was not cut off as stock was later need to be placed in the headstock chuck.



The pieces were separated with the cutoff and, as one member pointed out, make sure you allow for the width of the cut off or you may wind up with an oval or ball vs. the desired egg shape. The top half with joint was completed and then the hollowed bottom with joint was turned. There was some difficulty due to the grain pattern and voids, but Don finished an egg that fit together.

No pieces of firewood were created, as my wife has reminded me that there are several different sizes of eggs.

Happy transitions equal Happy turning!!!!!!



One of our members brought in an egg that he has had for over 70 years. It was made from Japanese dogwood and has 12 eggs inside.

Hands-on Sessions

Jim Sannerud

The hands-on sessions for the club have been very well attended. We usually have more people interested than we have lathes available. By the time you read this, we will have had nine sessions so far this year! We have been trying to do 2 to 3 per month. Over the summer months we will probably scale that back to once a month (gotta fish when you can). One thing to re-

member is that the hands-on sessions, put on by volunteers from the club instructing and hosting, are always **free.** The only time there is a fee involved in a hands-on session is if it is a professional turner that the club has brought in. I do not have any new sessions to announce at this time, but we have six instructors I have talked to and we just need to nail down some dates.

Thanks to **Alan Morris** for donating the materials and making

two storage boxes for the parts to the new club lathes. Also thanks to all of the instructors that showed up at the hands-on session at Roseville High School. I counted about 50 people that came that day.

As always, watch your e-mail for up coming sessions. If you have an idea for a session, the space to host one or want to instruct, let me know at:

frog@bitstream.net
763.434.2882

Thanks, Jim

Professional demos/ flyers available

We have flyers made and sent out for the April 16th demo. If you would like a flyer contact Jim Jacobs 651-437-2302. You're welcome to bring a friend, only \$30.00 for the day. Mark your calendars now for our fall professional demo, Saturday, September 17th. Dave Hout, nationally known turner, will present an all day demonstration. Dave will be showing metal spinning, vacuum chucking with shop made chucks and a venture system and other chucking methods. He has also designed the Hout bowl skew (see Craft Supply catalog). Members will have a chance to try it. The following day will be the hands on session, limited to 8 experienced turners. Look for more info in upcoming newsletters.

Seeking volunteers!

As our membership grows and our meetings get busier we would like to have a few members to handle sign in and welcoming new members to our club. We would also like them to do a simple bio of the new member and take their picture for the newsletter. This would be a great way to meet other turners and be very beneficial to our club. Call Jim Jacobs 651-437-2302 if interested.

MWA Wood Sealer Program

The MWA is currently buying sealer in 55 gallon drums, enabling us to sell to our members at a fantastic price of only \$8 per gallon. Our club could use a few clean, empty gallon jugs, such as windshield washer fluid for bottling; bring some to our monthly meetings. This super bargain sealer is available at our monthly meetings, or contact the following for other special arrangements:

Bob Jensen— Fridley 763-572-0525
John Ratliff-Oakdale 651-770-6471
Jim Blare-Lakeville 952-469-3687
Ron Meilahn-Andover 763-862-2100



New Members

Please welcome our newest members:

Anton Fast
Todd Nemitz
Bob Boettcher
Terry Capistrant
Wayne Every
Paul Anderson
John Harvath
Denny Debner
Mark Reiland

Center City, MN
So. St. Paul, MN
Stillwater, MN
Oakdale, MN
Inver Grove Hts., MN
Maplewood, MN
Mpls., MN
Eagan, MN
Cottage Grove, MN

Lidded box making session taught by Duane Gemelke.

Photos and text by Chuck Bjorgen

There are several important steps in successfully turning lidded boxes. Learning those steps is what brought four MWA members to another small group session on a recent Saturday morning in Ham Lake.

Veteran MWA member Duane Gemelke was the instructor for this session which was attended by Helen Byrne, Linda Ferber, Richard Fulner and Rich Tillson. Brad Hubert, Jim Sannerud and Chuck Bjorgen were on hand to assist.

Before any turning began, Duane talked about how wood moves with changes in humidity, cutting tools and hollowing of the boxes, and finally finishing. He demonstrated on a lathe how he decides

the proportions between the lid and box base. He then showed his preferred back hollowing method using a spindle gouge, and explained the sequence of steps needed to finish the body of the box as well as the foot.

Four hours after beginning, several completed lidded boxes were the result.

If you have room in your shop to host a session, please contact small group coordinator Jim Sannerud at: frog@bitstream.net or by calling 763-434-2882. For those interested in attending a session, look for announcements in the newsletter or by email. Remember, you don't need to be an expert to host a small group session. Experienced turners are always available to help.



Richard Fulner proudly displayed his lidded box.



Linda Ferber's first box, made from cedar.



Helen Byrne with her creation turned from walnut.



Box making proceeds with Richard Fulner, left, Linda Ferber being assisted by Duane, and Rich Tillson.

Pen making small group session taught by MWA member Brad Hubert

Photos and text by Chuck Bjorgen

Four MWA members spent a Saturday afternoon learning the fine techniques of pen making from club member Brad Hubert, who has made hundreds of pens over the years.

Starting with the basics of selecting pen kits and preparation of wood blanks to the turning, finishing and assembly of the pens, Brad gave the four students all the information necessary to continue making these projects on their own lathes.

Participating were Jim Thrun, Rich Tillson and father and son members Jake and Luke Weismann. Several hours after beginning, the four members walked away with finished, turned writing instruments.

If you have room in your shop to host a session, please contact small group coordinator Jim Sannerud at: frog@bitstream.net or by calling 763-434-2882. For those interested in attending a session, look for announcements in the newsletter or by email. Remember you don't need to be an expert to host a small group session. Experienced turners are always available to help.



Brad's home made jig for holding pen blanks for drilling.



Variations on the slim line pen design by Rich Tillson and Jim Thrun. Brad likes the heavier body of this pen created by eliminating the center band that is part of the kit.



Brad Hubert, left, demonstrated his pen turning techniques after drilling the blanks and gluing in the brass tubes that are parts of pen kits. Participating were Rich Tillson, Jim Thrun, Jake and Luke Weismann.



Brad gives Rich Tillson advice on shaping the bodies of the pens.

Professional turner Mark St. Leger

Coming to the MWA

Mark has been working with wood since he was a young boy, helping his father who is a cabinetmaker/turner. He took woodshop for a year in high school where he first turned on a lathe, and still remembers his teacher's name (Mr. Snyder). It's funny, some of the things we don't forget. After high school Mark served a four-year apprenticeship and became a journeyman carpenter. Thru the years his interests moved towards the finer aspects of building which enabled him to become an accomplished cabinetmaker as well.

In 1982, Mark moved from Pennsylvania to the mountains of southwest Virginia, where he still lives today with his wife Barbara. Their three children are grown and branching out in their own careers. After working years in the field of building, Mark was approached and asked if he would consider teaching woodworking to high school students. Fifteen years later he continues to teach at a rural high school and loves it. Thru the years, along with some very caring contributors, Mark and his students have built a virtually empty shop into a fine woodworking facility. It is setup for a full range of carpentry and cabinetmaking along with woodturning and carving.

Mark's interest in woodturning came from a weekend visit by his father who brought a weed pot and small tagua nut vessel he turned, along with his excitement about turning. Well, that was the

spark that ignited an interest in woodturning. Eighteen years later Mark enjoys exploring the endless possibilities of woodturning with enthusiasm and creativity.

As an honorary lifetime member of the Blue Ridge Woodturners Club in Virginia, Mark has served as vice-president, president & activities coordinator along with hosting their club meetings, at the high school shop, on a monthly basis. He is also a member of the American Association of Woodturners where he has served as a member of the board of directors. Several years ago the AAW produced a "Skill Building Projects" video featuring some of Mark's teaching techniques.

Mark has been an active demonstrator and workshop leader for turning clubs, along with demonstrating at many regional and national symposiums. He is currently on the faculty list of Arrowmont School of the Arts in Tennessee, and the John C. Campbell Folk School in North Carolina. Mark also finds satisfaction in teaching woodturning courses for a local college. His work has been shown at many venues and is in private collections.

Known for his sense of humor and ability to effectively teach a variety of age groups and skill levels, Mark's teaching techniques are easily followed and incorporate much skill building. His enthusiasm for woodturning has offered him the opportunity to meet a variety of

individuals who share the same interests in woodturning. Meeting talented woodturners throughout the world contributes to the continual process of growth in learning. Woodturning is an art that should be explored and felt with each new piece of wood we have the good fortune to work with.

Submit your bio!

The MWA will be featuring different members of our club in each newsletter. With our club growing we need your help to "get to know one another better"

To be featured in an upcoming newsletter send a short bio and digital photo (we will help if you need a digital photo or assistance writing a short bio) to:

Jeff Luedloff

jefflued@peoplepc.com

Or call: 952-496-1177 if you need assistance

March 5th Small Group Turning Session

by Steve Tiedman

Yet another great Saturday morning of letting the wood chips fly. On March 5th Jim Sannerud opened his shop to another small group hands on turning session for MWA members. The theme of this event was turning small natural edge goblets from freshly cut (green) branch pieces.

Jim Sannerud helped me guide the group of turners, which included Luke Weismann, Eric Tuck, Joe Urgo, Marv Grabau, Jim Dotseth, Rick Buckner, and John Plahn. All of the “students” arrived eager to pick up some new skills while honing other basic techniques. This is a project that forces good tool control, and by the end of the session the floor was covered with apple and maple wood shavings and everyone was feeling more confident in their abilities.

I found the inspiration for this session from two of my favorite turning books; “Woodturning: A Foundation Course, New Edition” by Keith Rowley, and “Turning Green



With the doughnut box to his left, Jim Dotseth discusses with Jim Sannerud (right) which flavor of doughnuts are, indeed, the best when accompanied by a hot cup of coffee. Photo by Steve Tiedman.

Wood” by Michael O’Donnell. For new to intermediate turners, the Rowley book is considered by many to be one of the best, same for the O’Donnell book covering all aspects of green wood turning, which is one of my favorite forms of woodturning. Under a sharp tool, green wood cuts like butter, but what I enjoy most is getting through a project from start to finish in one shot, then letting Mother Nature take over and performing her magic by warping and distorting the piece in ways that we turners cannot.



John Plahn (right) watches as Steve Tiedman assists Joe Urgo with the bowl section of his goblet. Photo by Jim Sannerud.



John Plahn, Rick Buckner, Jim Dotseth, and Joe Urgo watch as Steve Tiedman explains the layout of the piece of branch wood, soon to become a 5” tall goblet. Photo by Jim Sannerud.



Three sample goblets by Steve Tiedman, the center goblet has an oil finish, the other two have no finish. Photo by Steve Tiedman.

Sharpening Woodturning Tools

by Steve Tiedman

This article is a follow-up to my presentation at the January 2005 MWA club meeting, where I talked about the importance of creating and maintaining sharp tools that are used to turn wood, and demonstrated how to create a superior cutting tool.

Most of us probably take for granted all the edge-type tools we use on a daily basis- scissors, kitchen knives, razor blades, lawn mower blades, and the list goes on. Or for us woodworkers- router bits, table saw blades, and carving tools. When these cutting instruments lose their ability to complete the task they were designed to do, we do one of three things- #1, we dispose of the dulled cutter and replace it with a new one; #2, continue to use the dull cutter risking damage to wood and equipment, and danger to ourselves; #3, we sharpen the cutter back to its previous prime condition.

What about us woodturners? Option #1 is certainly not a practical solution for any woodturner I know. Have you scanned your favorite woodturning supply catalog recently to check tool prices? It's not hard to find yourself spending nearly \$100 for a bowl gouge! (Just a few years ago I was spending around \$50 for a 1/2" bowl gouge.) Option #2 is something I see many woodturners attempting- always unsuccessfully. Option #3, sharpening the tool, this is what we woodturners *need to master* if we hope to better our turning skills, and stay safe in the shop.

Dull turning tools won't cut wood fibers; they will bludgeon and tear wood fibers off the surface of the timber. They cause erratic tool control, and can lead to catches which will damage wood and possibly the machinery and the operator.

Okay, so we as woodturners have finally admitted to ourselves, we must keep our tools sharp for all the reasons mentioned, and probably a few more. So how do we do this? If we were to take a sampling poll of the woodturning community, we'd likely find that the vast majority of turners are using motorized dry wheel bench grinders to shape profiles and create sharp edges on their tools. I've observed in the last several years that turners are getting away from the old shop standard 6" high speed grinder (3400-3600rpm) and instead using 7"-8" slow speed grinders (1700-1800rpm). The larger wheel has the advantage of a longer life than the 6" wheels, and the slower speed creates less heat and wastes away less tool steel. Also, once a wheel gets to be smaller than 6" diameter, the bevel radius of the tool (which is a direct representation of the radius of the wheel) becomes too tight to be practical for the purposes of woodturning. It's just fine for many other grinding applications, but no longer effective for woodturning tools as the tight bevel radius can cause the bevel heel to leave burnish marks on the surface of the wood.

An observation on grinders- we all love to find bargains in life, why buy expensive when thrifty will do? I've seen enough grinders over the years to know that being "thrifty" on the purchase price of a grinder

can either pay off with good performance, or it can come back to haunt you in the form of sloppy motor bearings or motor shafts that are not true, which makes the machine vibrate to the point where you think the grinder will walk off the benchtop, no matter what you do with the wheels to make things run better. My experience with budget price grinders is that you just don't know what you are getting until you take it out of the box, and this holds true for both the "no-name" grinders and some of the name brands that we have known over the years as being a quality brand, who have in the past generation been building most of their equipment off-shore to much lower levels of quality and at lower prices. (One familiar brand makes a wide variety of woodworking machinery...) If buying a budget price grinder, scrutinize it very carefully including running it without wheels, do what you can to tune it up right away (see Aug 2002 MWA newsletter at www.mnwoodturners.com), and if the machine is giving you problems, return it for a replacement or a refund. It's no secret that this is not the path I traveled when purchasing my grinder. Instead, I invested in what I felt was the best; an American built, industrial duty, 7" slow speed grinder made by Baldor. Like many, I've learned my lesson the hard way about buying low cost tools. As the saying goes, "Life is too short for cheap beer." A good quality grinder with a set of good aluminum oxide wheels (grits of 60 to 120 grit) should last the typical hobby turner, and even the professional turner, many, many years, or possibly a lifetime in the case of the grinder.

(Continued on page 13)

(Continued from page 12)

Finally, some thoughts about the actual grinding process. To freehand grind, or not to freehand grind? That is the question. I am not an advocate of traditional “freehand” grinding as we all know it to be, that is to hold the tool with both hands, and while resting it on a simple tool rest, manipulate the tool on the grinding wheel in order to shape the tool with a new profile/bevel angle or to freshen a dulled edge. I am an advocate of grinding jig systems, especially for bowl, spindle, and roughing gouges. And you know something? Utilizing a grinding jig system to assist in the shaping and sharpening of your tools IS STILL FREEHAND GRINDING. The jig is not performing the grinding process, you are, with your two hands. Think of it instead as “assisted freehand” grinding. The magic of the jig is that it holds the tool in a fixed travel path while you move the tool on the face of the wheel, providing a consistent, repeatable grind that is simply not possible with traditional freehand grinding.

There is not a cutting tool out there for any purpose that I am aware of that cuts to its best potential when the bevel behind the edge has multiple facets, not on a saw blade, not on a router bit, not on a pocket knife, and not on a woodturning tool. Multiple facets mean multiple edges presenting themselves at different times and angles to the surface of the material being cut, for each facet ends at the tool edge, and so each facet will have its own tiny cutting edge. The result is an inferior tool edge, and an inferior cut, when compared to the single flow-

ing facet that is created when grinding a tool with a jig to orient the tool in a fixed travel path on the grinding wheel.

Another point to consider- jig or no jig, go look at your benchtop right below the grinding wheels. Do you see that dark gray powder? That’s tool steel, the same tool steel you paid dearly for (from \$30-100) when it was still in the form of the tool. I am a “Tuesday evening, Saturday afternoon woodturner”, just like most of you. I don’t have the time or the funds to spend (in the form of replacement tools) to learn and master traditional freehand grinding. A grinding jig system may set you back around \$80-150, but it is a one-time purchase, and it will start paying for itself immediately in the form of tool steel you won’t be leaving on the benchtop as metal dust. Yes, there is a learning curve involved with jig systems (less than with traditional freehand grinding), but the jig will help produce a superior cutting edge in less time and in the long run, with less expense.



SUPPLIER DISCOUNTS to MWA MEMBERS

The following suppliers offer special discounts to MWA members. To receive a discount you must be a member in good standing, and show your current membership card to the merchant.

ABRASIVE RESOURCE

900 Lund Blvd #400, Anoka, MN
763-586-9595 or 1-800-814-7358
No showroom - Internet or catalog Orders only.

Sandpaper, coated abrasives, rolls, clearance items - 20% discount

www.abrasiveresource.com

ELMO LUMBER & PLYWOOD

3481 Laverne Ave N, Lake Elmo
651-777-1431

10% discount on all stock items.

ROCKLER WOODWORKING

Mpls, 3025 Lyndale Ave S 612-822-3338

Burnsville, 2020 W Cty Rd 42, 952-892-7999

Maplewood, 1935 Beam Ave
651-773-5285

Minnetonka, 12995 Ridgedale Dr
952-542-0111

10% discount on all regularly priced items, except power tools, and wholesale lumber prices to MWA members.

www.rockler.com

WOODCRAFT

9741 Lyndale Ave S, Bloomington
952-884-3634

10% discount on all items, except power tools.

www.woodcraft.com

YOUNGBLOOD LUMBER CO.

1335 Central AVE, MPLS.

612-789-3521

Wholesale prices to MWA members.

www.youngbloodlumber.com

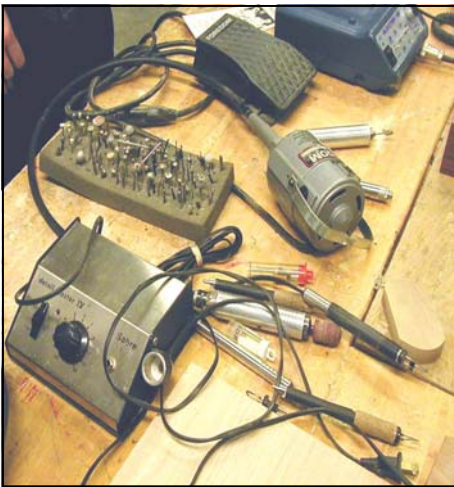
Dale Martin – Carving MWA, Feb. 8, 2005

By Bob Jones

A review of current turning publications shows a current interest in applying carving to turned objects. This can vary from carving legs or handles onto turned pieces, incised carving such as lettering on a bowl, low relief carving as typically seen on furniture turnings and bowls, to the more intricate pierced work as done by Binh Pho. At the February MWA meeting club members were given an overview of carving by member Dale Martin.

Martin started out as a carver, and only more recently has taken up turning. It is likely easier for a carver to pick up turning skills than for a turner to decide to master the skills of carving (author's opinion). Still, carving on a turned piece, whether simple, decorative cuts or more elaborate work, can enhance a piece by freeing the turner from the inherent dimensional limitations of the lathe.

Martin's objective was to present



Dale displayed an assortment of power carving tools along with assorted bits.

an introduction to power and hand carving. He reviewed the tools needed, discussed sharpening and finishing, and answered questions about how he did some of the work being exhibited.

Tools

Carvers use a variety of hand tools similar to turning tools – chisels and gouges - for shaping their work. Compared to what is available to turners, carvers seem to have an almost unlimited number of tools available to them. These tools vary in size, from palm-tools to large tools for massive work powered by a mallet. They vary in shape as well, in terms of flatness, curvature, angle, width, and longitudinal shape (bend). Like turning tools, there is a wide range in the quality of the tools produced and sold. Martin recommends Pfeil carving tools from Switzerland. Woodcraft is the sole U.S. distributor of Pfeil tools.

(Woodcarvingviz.com is the Canadian distributor and may be less expensive due to the exchange rate on funds.) There are other quality manufacturers as well; it's a matter of learning the pros and cons of each, including price, before buying.



Some of the carving chisels in Dale Martin's arsenal of carving tools. Dale recommends this brand that are Swiss made.



Dale Martin spoke to MWA members at the February 8 membership meeting about carving for woodturning, carving tools and finishing.

Martin stressed that regardless of brand, one should purchase quality tools because they hold a sharp edge better. Consequently, a carver spends more time carving and less time sharpening. He also advised against purchasing a “starter” set or buying a lot of tools to begin with. He recommends a #7 gouge, a V-tool, and a quality carving knife to start with, and possibly a #5 gouge as well, then adding to this basic set as needed.

Power carving tools use essentially the same assortment of chisels and gouges, but are powered by electricity or air. A basic starting unit would be the Dremel tool. Martin's “work horse” is a Foredom unit with a flex shaft, using tungsten carbide or ruby tips. Various electric carving tools are available

(Continued on page 15)

(Continued from page 14)

through carving supply catalogs and stores. Compressor, or air-driven, carvers are yet another option. One suggestion made by Martin was to ask your dentist to save used dental burs for use in power carving.

Sharpening

As with turning, sharp tools and carving go hand in hand. Martin pointed out that a much higher degree of sharpness needs to be attained with carving tools – equivalent to that of surgical tools – whereas turning tools can be used straight off the grinder. The idea is to get the bevel at the correct angle, and long enough to wedge its way through wood fibers with minimal friction. At the same time, the bevel must have enough body to buttress the cutting edge, or the fibers will damage the cutting edge before they are cut.

A really sharp tool leaves a clean, polished facet as it cuts. Martin demonstrated this by cleanly and easily slicing across the end grain of a piece of beechwood with a sharp gouge. This is the test he uses to determine when he has achieved a sharp edge on his tools. Once properly sharpened, sharpness is maintained by regular and proper use of sharpening stones and honing.

Finishing

When sanding, Martin may start as low as 60 grit, especially if he is working with material such as inlaid. He rarely sands beyond 400 grit. He prefers to seal the work with about three coats of clear shellac, working it down with fine steel

wool between coats. He then typically uses salad bowl finish, applied with cotton shotgun cleaning patches, which are inexpensive, the right size, and can be discarded after use. He finishes with 0000 steel wool. On very soft wood he may use lacquer and steel wool, applying up to 30 coats. He uses lacquer in spray cans to achieve beautiful results. When buffing, he uses a Beall system, progressing from Tripoli to White Diamond compound and finishing with carnauba wax.

Dale Martin is an accomplished carver who has also been turning for about five years. Dale lives in Stillwater, MN, and teaches carving. He has authored a number of articles on carving.



Dale Martin shows some of his carved and turned works to fellow MWA members prior to his carving demo.



One of Dale's wood sculptures, this one from a butternut log.

Annual Hands on Session

Story by Jeff Luedloff
photos by Chuck Bjorgen

The MWA's annual hands on session was held on Saturday February 26th at the Roseville high school. Approximately 50 plus people took advantage of this large group turning project. The club got to use our 2 brand new variable speed Jet mini lathes which were just purchased with our awarded grant from the AAW. Other lathes on hand for use were the club's other 5 Jet mini lathes and the Roseville school shop's lathes. A few members brought there own mini lathes. The day started with Jim Jacobs giving us some guidelines to help the day go smoothly and also gave us some very important safety advice. Then the newer turners picked a lathe and discussed what their interests in learning were and the more experienced turners helped in their areas of experience. Some of the helpers went around to many areas and helped give pointers, while others worked in smaller group type settings. Some of the newer turners

didn't even want to turn, they just picked up tips from many sources. Some of the items being worked on include: natural edge bowls, a first pen, boxes, bowls, goblets, tops, and spindle turning. With the small group hands on sessions and annual hands on sessions being so well received the club is considering increasing the number of sessions it holds. If you have an idea for a hands on session or can host a hands on session please contact Jim Sannerud at: frog@bitstream.net or 763-434-2882



Joe Urgro, left, and Greg Super watched Wayne Keifer as he demonstrated bowl turning.



A busy Saturday morning at the MWA's annual club-wide turning session at Roseville Area High School saw beginners and experienced turners working together. All the club's seven mini lathes as well as the school's lathes were put into service.



Club librarian Bob Jensen helped former club librarian Linda Ferber with a chuck on one of the school lathes.



Steve Tiedman, center, explained the operation of the club's scroll chucks that are part of the MWA's turning equipment available for small group hands-on sessions.

New AAW gallery opening soon

“Northern Reflections”

This show will be one of several exhibits during the first year at AAW’s new gallery space at Land-

mark Center in downtown St Paul. It will run from May 20, 2005 – August 12, 2005, and will feature work exclusively from members in the Midwest area. (see accompanying photos to view some of our member’s work chosen to be included in the gallery).



**A lidded box with turned insert
by Duane Gemelke**



**A natural edge bowl turned from
desert ironwood
by member Tom Larson**



**An enhanced platter created
by Linda Ferber**



**A lidded box with scalloped edge
by Alan Lacer**

May meeting

Tool making, sale, show and tell and egg challenge

May 14th from 9-3 at John Magnussen’s shop in Buffalo, MN. The tool making session is back by popular demand! We will have steel blanks available at a small charge, members will tap for setscrews and grind the small cutters. We will also be making small cove tools and skewers. There will be mini lathes and wood available to make handles, bring turning tools and eye protection. We also need grinders, if you can bring one, please do. Bring any tools you would like to sell or trade, benches will be provided. We will have the library, wood raffle and regular show and tell. Members are also encouraged to bring other tools they have made to show and tell. Pack a lunch or dine in nearby restaurants. *** Reminder to bring your turned eggs for the egg challenge!**

John Magnussen
118 Jansen Ave SE
Buffalo, MN

Directions:

Driving west on 694 to 694/94 split, take 94 west.

Take 2nd exit (Cty Rd 30 is the same as 95th Ave N). Go West over freeway to 3rd stop light. This is a little tricky, stay in right lane. Watch for Cty Rd 30 sign, go West past Hwy 101 and Cty Rd 116 to a “T” in road—which is Cty Rd 19. Turn right onto Cty Rd 19, drive about 4 miles. Turn left, drive about 3 miles and cross over river. Turn left immediately onto Cty Rd 20. You’ll go over the river and continue 1 mile. John’s house is on the left. John will have signs at the river and house.

Or take 55 West from 494 about 15 Miles to Rockford, turn right immediately over bridge (Cty Rd 20), go 5.6 miles to yellow building with brown trim, on right side, watch for sign.

Mark these dates on your Calendar

Activities you don't want to miss!

April 2005

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

May 2005

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				

June 2005

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		

August 2005

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			

Directions to Roseville High School

Roseville Area High School is located on county rd B2 (1 block north of Hwy 36) between Hamline and Lexington Avenues. The meeting is held in the schools woodshop on the east end of the building.

As you enter the schools parking lot, veer left (east) to the end of the building. The door to the woodshop is on the south side of the dumpsters.

***Reminder-**Member meetings officially start at 7:00 pm. Wally will open early at 6:30 to allow setup and socializing.

April

16th Saturday—Professional demo with Mark St. Leger. From 9:00-4:00 at Minneapolis College of Art & Design, 2501 Stevens Ave. \$30.00 at the door. Mark will be demonstrating a wide range of techniques both for the beginner as well as experienced turner.

17th Sunday—Hands on session with Professional turner Mark St. Leger. (full)

28th-May 1st—Northern Woods Exhibition Southdale-Edina, presented by MN Woodworkers guild

May

5th Thursday—Board meeting at Bob Jensen's. If you have a topic you would like addressed by the board please contact any board member.

14th Saturday—Tool Making at John Magnussens shop, tool sale and swap, hand made tool show and tell and egg challenge judging. (See details on page 17)

20th and 21st Friday and Saturday— The 2005 Minnesota Woodworking show (Formerly Rockler Carnival) held at the Minnesota State Fair Grounds from 9:00 am-6:00 pm. 60 vendors. Demonstrators needed, contact George Dupre'.

May 20th- August 12th-AAW exhibit "Northern Reflections" Midwest woodturning show held at Landmark center

June

24th-26th—MN Crafts Festival— History center, demonstrators needed, contact George Dupre'.

July

Take a vacation-relax.

August

20th Saturday—Annual family picnic in Hastings; pot luck; sweetcorn; beautiful park overlooking Mississippi river; hiking trails; playground; many more details to come.

September

8th Thursday—Board meeting, 6:30-9:00.

17th Saturday—9:00-4:00 Professional turner Dave Hout.

18th Sunday—9:00-4:00 Hands on with professional turner Dave Hout.

October

11th Tuesday—Beginning segmenting, Jim Jacobs.

15th-17th—Woodworking Show-Minneapolis Convention Center, Details to follow.

November

3rd Thursday—6:30-9:00 Board meeting

8th Tuesday—Beginning turning, details to follow.

December

13th Tuesday—6:30-10:00 Annual Holiday party, Dakota lodge, West St. Paul; pot luck; member gift exchange; turning raffle; library; spouse/guest door prizes; details to follow.

Classifieds

Make your own steady rest!

I made a steady rest according to Jim Jacobs' model. The key is to use high quality roller blade wheels. These have a nice polyurethane rubber surface, so you can hold the wood securely without marring it. They come 8 per package. I used only three, so I have five for sale. \$3.50 each to cover my cost. Todd Williams 651-777-0446

Gadgets for sale:

1. Carba-Tec Thread Master: Never used; immaculate condition, looks brand new. Threading jig mounts directly on lathe bed (larger lathes may require a riser block, easily made from scrap lumber). Package includes Thread Master jig, two cutter blades and shafts, extender bolt, and two extra spindle sets to permit making 16 TPI, 10 TPI, or 4 TPI threads. Original manual completes the set (you will need a chuck to hold the cutter shaft – not included). \$250.

2. Robert Sorby RS-60 Eccentri-chuck: enables calibrated off-center turning. Complete kit, with adapter for 3/4"x16 mounting. Never used; some light rust showing. Includes instruction manual. \$175.

Jerry Martin

612-861-6726 (home)

<Gerald.Martin@so.mnscu.edu>

Spend a day in Brainerd

- Lessons on the lathe
- Basic to advanced
- customized to your needs
- one on one to a maximum of 3
- call for details 218 828 8481
- e-mail turningtrail@charter.net
- woodturning instructor Tom Larson

Private Lessons:

You learned the basic information on tool sharpening at the Jan. '05 club meeting, now put that knowledge to good use with my hands-on class. Learn Turning Tool Sharpening on the Oneway Wolverine and David Ellsworth systems. 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 evening and weekend appointments. \$45/session.

Steve Tiedman, 763-789-4505

Lathe... for sale: 12" Delta Variable Speed Lathe (floor model) and Duplicator for sale. There is also a set of carbon tools to go with it. The price is \$1000.00. I was going to sell it eventually to get a smaller one but have hit a financial crisis and need to sell it.

Anyone interested can either call me or email me.

Thanks

Fran McCabe

320-358-4541

fmm@ecenet.com

For Sale

Rockwell 14" Bandsaw – Like New

\$500.00

Contact Don Roden

droden@mnwoodturners.com or

(763) 425-3111

Wood for sale, Barter, Trade?

Angico Preto turning squares from Brazil.

1 1/2" x 1 1/2" x 21" dry and rough sawn.

Very hard salmon reddish brown with dark almost black streaks. \$3.00 each or make offer or possible trades welcome.

Large quantity available.

Jeff Luedloff, 952-496-1177

or email: jefflued@peoplepc.com

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@minter.net

Ads will run for one issue unless you call to extend your ad for additional issues.

The 2005 Minnesota Woodworking Show

Brought to you by Rockler Companies, Inc.



**Tickets
available at a
store near you.**

- **Minneapolis** 3025 Lyndale Ave. S. ☎ (612) 822-3338
- **Burnsville** 2020 W. Cty Rd. 42 ☎ (952) 892-7999
- **Maplewood** 1935 Beam Ave. ☎ (651) 773-5285
- **Minnetonka** 12995 Ridgedale Dr. ☎ (952) 542-0111

- *Show Specials*
- *Vendor Reps on Hand*
- *Demonstrations*
- *And Much More!*

May 20 & 21, 2005

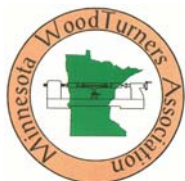
9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

\$7 at the door • \$5 at the store

Tickets go on sale 2/1/05 at all Twin Cities
Rockler Woodworking And Hardware locations.

Minnesota State Fair Grounds

1265 North Snelling Avenue
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108



Minnesota Woodturners Association

13968 Alder Street NW
Andover, MN 55304
www.mnwoodturners.com

First-Class Mail