

# MINNESOTA WOODTURNERS A S S O C I A T I O N

*in association with the American Association of Woodturners*

June 2006

## Herman Fessler



Herman Fessler, a long-time member of the Minnesota Woodturners Association, passed away sometime in the early afternoon of May 18. It appears he had just finished mowing his front lawn and stopped to rest a bit in his favorite lawn chair and never got up. According to the family, he seems to have died peacefully and without pain or duress. This would be a fitting ending for a man whom we saw as a gentle and peaceful person.

Herm was probably best known at MWA for the beautiful segmented work he did, and the “aw shucks” manner in which he described his elaborate creations at Show and Tell. Many of us also appreciated Herm for his friendly manner and willingness to offer solutions to problems we might have and to otherwise be of help. His first “lathe” was a 3/8” drill held in a vise

Herm had retired from his position as Chief Design Engineer for the Cornelius Company, and his engineering talent was an obvious factor in his attention to detail as he assembled his segmented turnings from many hundreds of small pieces of assorted wood. In 1998 he won all three awards (best design, best finish, and best overall) at the MWA competition for turning a Frisbee. A lesser-known interest to MWA members was designing, building and flying rubber-band powered model airplanes, at which he also excelled.

A memorial service for Herm was held May 23 with burial with full Military Honors at Ft Snelling National Cemetery. Herm will be missed by many of us at MWA.

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## President's Corner



Jim Zangl

On Sat April 8 Bob Jensen, Ken Schwichtenberg, George Dupre, Carol Magnusen and I demonstrated at the American Craft Council show at River-Centre in Saint Paul. There were 250 juried artists at this event at which we were asked to demonstrate. The event co-ordinator, Debra Smith, said she felt it was important for the public to see first hand how some of the crafts were actually created. Several people were introduced to wood turning and several new members resulted. The age range of the onlookers and those wondering "...how is that done?", went from 10 to 80. I had a nice conversation with one of the show's craftsmen about the differences in turning alabaster versus turning wood. Essentially, it's the same. He uses a Woodfast lathe and the same basic techniques, but alabaster makes a lot more dust!

On Sunday of that same weekend Linda Ferber, our esteemed editor Jeff Luedloff

and Joe Urgo demonstrated at the AAW gallery at Landmark Center. I know that this was the first time as demonstrators for both Joe and Jeff and I do want to thank them for stepping forward. They also got to watch Alan Lacer close up as he demonstrated, so I think they got some reward for their time, but I would like to personally thank them for their help.

In the future we are going to set up a committee to handle the organizing of a demonstration to groups outside of our club. We receive requests from various organizations throughout the year asking for demonstrators. This provides us with an opportunity to show off our club (and get Ron some new members) as well as getting to know the various sponsors, such as Rockler. Unfortunately it is not always easy getting volunteers. So if George comes by and asks if you would be willing to help him, say yes. Alan's demonstration on finishing on May 6 was well attended and well received. It turned out that a day was insufficient to cover everything about the art of finishing, but Alan most certainly did his best. For more on that, see Bruce's article.

We also held the egg challenge. I was quite impressed by the variety and ingenuity that went into the entries. While I wish to congratulate

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the winner, I also wish to thank those other members who showed us their work: Richard Fulmer, Bruce Arones, Bruce Thompson,

Hal Malmlov, Jeff Luedloff, Jim Jacobs, Jack Frost, Mike Hunter, Linda Ferber, Brian Grobe, Brad Hubert, Erwin Nistler, Tim Heil, Anton Fast, Paul Grotenhuis, Bob

Hansen and Lisa Botten, including our youngest member, Eric Johnson, who has been a member for only a short time and is already turning eggs.

MWA Treasurer's Report		
2005	2006	2006
Actual	Budget	4 Month Actual
Members 231	Members 232	Members 214
Income \$7,281	Income \$7,000	Income \$6,002
Expenses [\$9,116]	Expenses [\$7,900]	Expenses [\$3,620]
Gain [loss] [\$1,835]	Gain [loss] [\$900]	Gain [loss] \$2,382
		cash balance 4/30/06 \$4,600

## TREASURER'S REPORT 2006 HIGHLIGHTS

In January the MWA BD approved our 2006 budget; Total income amounts to \$7,000, including \$5,800 for Membership Dues, while Expenses are targeted at (\$7,900), leaving a net overrun of (\$900). Principal increases in expenses cover \$450 for Craft Supplies gift certificates for three separate Turning Challenges, and \$1,900 covering various demos to be substantially absorbed by MWA.

## Small turnings Needed!

I now have "kits" from Craft Supplies to make turnings to give to spouses/guests at the picnic and holiday party. If you can do other small turnings for this it would be appreciated. I will have kits available at upcoming meetings. Jim Jacobs

The Minnesota State Fair has a juried fine art exhibit. For information go to [www.mnstatefair.org](http://www.mnstatefair.org).

**New  
Member**

**Please welcome our**

<b>Chuck Chism</b>	Vadnais Hgts, MN
<b>Jim Shoultz</b>	Brooklyn Ctr, MN
<b>Walt Cheever</b>	Cleveland, MN
<b>Tom Hise</b>	Blaine, MN
<b>Marilyn Kinsey-Ward</b>	Hudson, WI
<b>Paulette Fruchtenbaum</b>	Maple Grove, MN
<b>Laurei Javorina</b>	St Paul, MN
<b>Mike Hunter</b>	Rice, MN
<b>Jim Ryman</b>	Richfield, MN
<b>Pam &amp; Eric Johnson</b>	Stillwater, MN
<b>Bob Weaver</b>	Plymouth, MN
<b>Dave &amp; Steve Baumeister</b>	Lino Lakes, MN
<b>Dave Bixler</b>	St Paul, MN
<b>John &amp; Susan Knutson</b>	Coon Rapids, MN
<b>Todd Lindstrom</b>	Stillwater, MN
<b>Larry McPeck</b>	Blaine, MN



## April Meeting “Boxes”

By Jeff Luedloff

Photos by Carole Magnuson

The April meeting was presented by member Brad Hubert on how he makes his functional boxes. Brad’s boxes are made to be sold at craft shows, so he makes them with simple designs with loose fitting lids that can be removed with one hand. The joint line is clearly visible and is not hidden with decorative beads or lines. Brad has made around 400 boxes this past winter and he is very proficient hollowing his boxes with a scraper that needs little or no sanding. Brad showed three different methods to remove the interior material: you can use a gouge, a scraper, or by back hollowing with a gouge. Back hollowing can be tricky so it’s a good exercise, but Brad doesn’t use that technique when he’s trying to complete a large amount of boxes. Brad drills the interior of his boxes with a drill bit to mark the depth and remove some of the material before hollowing. Brad described how a tight fitted box is created the same way a loose fitting box is made, you just remove a different amount of material. A few box making tips Brad offered were to make sure that your



**Brad Hubert gives a great box making demo.**

tenon on your box is shorter than the recess in your lid, otherwise the lid will not seat all the way onto the box. When reverse turning your box or lid with a jam chuck you can wrap masking tape around the fit to secure it a little more to the jam chuck offering a little more security in case of a small catch. Brad also showed how his tenons are not straight ;they are slightly domed so the contact point of the fit is in the middle of the tenon, not the top or bottom of the tenon giving a better fit for the lid. Brad also described

how he roughs out his wood blanks into rough box forms to allow better drying and making a more stable box that doesn’t move after the box is finished. Brad’s finish of choice is 3 coats of Danish oil applied off the lathe, giving the box a matte user-friendly finish. We thank Brad for an entertaining and very informative demo. If you haven’t seen Brad demo, make sure you catch the next one, its well worth it.



**A small sampling of the 400 some boxes brad has made this past winter**

# **Beginners Hands-on Session at Jim Sannerud's**

April 15, 2006

Jim Sannerud hosted another hands-on session for beginning woodturners on Saturday April 15th. Bob Jensen, Duane Gemelke, Jim Zangl, Dan Rominski and Jim Sannerud were on hand to provide guidance for new members Lisa Botten, Paulette Fruchtenbaum, Doug Lindquist and Pam and Eric Johnson as well as potential new members Patty and Laura Reinke. Lisa worked very diligently on bowl turning while Doug's efforts were devoted to skew work. Paulette was very lucky to have Bob's excellent mentorship. Eric (13) and Laura (14) turned their very first pens, and Eric talked Duane into helping him turn a natural edged bowl! All in all, it was a very fun morning, and once again demonstrated MWA's commitment to providing a great educational opportunity for those new to woodturning.



**Duane Gemelke showing Eric Johnson how to drill a hole in his pen blank.**



**Bob Jensen showing Paulette Fruchtenbaum proper tool technique.**



**Doug Lindquist perfecting his coves and beads with the skew.**

## **Club Craft Supplies Order Saves MWA Members \$\$**

The Club's April 2006 purchase saved participating members 16% off their individual Craft Supplies order.

	<u>Oct. '05</u>	<u>April '06</u>
# of participating members	18	28
Catalog price	\$3,812	\$5,240
Discounted cost	<u>\$3,036</u>	<u>\$4,395</u>
Total discount	\$776	\$845



# Woodturning Finishing

## Alan Lacer Demonstration,

### May 6, 2006

### Jim Sannerud's Woodworking shop

*Written by Bruce Thompson*

This was a great event to attend to learn what finish can be applied to achieve “the look” as Alan called it. The perfect finish, in his opinion, is on a chicken egg. It is not too flat or glossy in appearance and looks great on a round surface.

Alan Lacer is a teacher. He said he wanted to be a philosopher, but he's really a good teacher, willingly imparting lots of the information he's collected to anyone who wants to learn. He mentioned references from old books and recipes, and even gave us two of his own recipes.



**Why is a finish applied?** Stopping the transfer of water vapor (humidity) and harmful acids and dirt from fingers are the most common reasons for finishing. Alan said “Shake hands with a bunch of people and you will feel hands with 80 grit texture right up to 800 grit”. Alan pointed out that it is not nec-

essary to apply any finish if the look doesn't call for it; an example is a sandblasted finish. Thinking ahead to the purpose of your woodturning will help guide you to the quality of the finish that needs to be applied. Be aware of the color of the finish as it may change the wood. The wrong finish or a poorly applied finish can ruin the whole piece.

**Prepare the surface:** Alan gave a quick demonstration of using an Irish grind gouge to cut wood in the normal way, then using the same gouge as a shear cutting gouge to take the finest of cuts from the surface. The surface prep was completed using a shear scraper with a small burr to cut the wood for a couple of passes only. Very small curls of maple came from the piece on the lathe. Judging by the questions and audience interest, this is a topic for another demonstration.

He also introduced 3M's purple colored ceramic abrasive, which lasts forever and is a bit expensive to purchase, but it cuts very well. The other paper he used was Norton's 3X in grits from 180 to 320. He said any surface should be wetted out with lacquer thinner to look for scratches before moving on to the next step.

**Oils and film-forming are the only two classes of finish:** Oils are the easiest to use; the most common are linseed, Tung, mineral, or walnut. Be careful not to use vegetable

or animal fat based oils, as they will turn rancid. His favorite for use on food contact or small-children articles is mineral oil. It will not ever dry, but is entirely ingestible (USP grade) and can be re-applied any time you want, just give it a one-month absorption time before use.

Of the film-forming resins, he talked about varnishes, wiping varnishes, shellac, lacquer, water based, and finally catalyzed finishes.

Varnishes are durable, most gymnasium floors are varnished, “just buy a good quality varnish and you get what you pay for”. Varnishes will burn into the previous coat so sanding between coats is not necessary other than to remove any imperfections. Most varnishes can be readily thinned out to suit the application method.

Alan showed us a drip test for evaluating finishes before they are applied to a turned piece. This is a piece of glass or clear plastic (Lexan); the drips of finish are put onto the clear plastic. Finishes that are within their shelf life will cure quickly. This also is a good color indication as films that tend to yellow will be very evident.

Watco is a popular brand example of an oil and varnish blend, and should always be handled with nitrile type gloves for preserving your hands. Oil and varnish blends are very susceptible to spontaneous combustion, so be careful about disposal of application rags. Alan litters his lawn with them but at least they are out of the shop and no longer a fire hazard.

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He mentioned a recipe for making your own oil-varnish type finish: Mix 1/3 part (volume) of boiled linseed oil with 1/3 part pure Tung oil and 1/3 part varnish. Good quality polyurethane can be substituted for the varnish if you wish. Two weeks for between coat times is best and make sure to keep the air out of the mixture's storage container.

Deft is a popular brand of lacquer and can be applied with brush or spray. Lacquers are fast finishes and more than one coat can be applied right after the turning is completed. A proper facemask and fume extraction is necessary for personal safety and fire protection. Water-based lacquers are coalescing (latex) type finishes that remove the fire danger from applying lacquers. Alan thinks the water-based materials impart a "milky" look to the turning but emphasized that it is the turner's choice to use whatever they want. Water-based lacquers seem to be dependent on humidity and the temperature of the day they are applied.

Shellac is one of his favorite finishes. Most mixed shellacs have only a six-month shelf life so he encouraged us to mix up our own which then can be done in small quantities. Shellac can be purchased in the dry pellet or flake forms from many sources. Colors range from the light yellow "super blonde" to really dark and the resulting finish affects the wood accordingly. Dark woods can benefit from small amounts of yellow of the shellac to warm woods such as walnut. Shellac is normally sold in



a "pound cut" which refers to the number of pounds of shellac to each gallon of denatured ethyl alcohol. A 1.5-pound shellac can be applied right to the part while it is spinning on the lathe.

The term French polish refers to the method of applying shellac, not the actual liquid. Only enough oil is added to shellac so the application pad doesn't stick to the applied finish. Alan's recipe for a padding type shellac is 1.5 to 2 pound cut shellac, with some mineral oil (if the pad sticks add a little more, but not too much) and a good quality linen cloth for the applicator pad. He prefers old handkerchiefs but also said some good paper shop towels will work well. Between coats waiting time is about 1/2 hour, keep adding layers until the finish is complete.

Alan also talked about waxes, wood fillers, applying waxes, and rubbing out the finish. Even though a finish is dry to the touch, it will not be "cured" completely for about one week. He uses automotive polishing compounds that are "not rubbing compounds".

**Conversion finishes:** The last category includes cyanoacrylate, epoxy, melamine, and catalyst-

cured lacquer. His recipe for a very durable finish is 2 parts of a mix of 1.5 oz catalyst with one gallon of "pre-cat" lacquer, with 1 part lacquer thinner and one part lacquer retarder. These products are commercially available but not often in small quantities. They also have a very disagreeable odor, so be careful to use proper personal protective equipment.

**Finish the finish.** A finish should not be complete without some final steps to rub out the imperfections and apply wax to control luster. Alan talked about various types of wax including beeswax, carnauba, and something called Japan wax from a tree similar to sumac. Adding some turpentine as a solvent can soften waxes. "Don't use light wax on dark wood" (it's very hard to get wax out of the pores), and "use a dark colored wax for dark wood" were two of his suggestions.

One of the most successful woodworkers of all time is Sam Maloof who uses a mixture of boiled linseed oil, Tung oil, and beeswax on all of his high value furniture.

It is certain the 80 people in attendance learned something from this session and we sincerely thank Alan for spending the day with us.

# Tool Making Meeting June 10, 2006

By Duane Gemelke

Back by popular demand, the club will be hosting a tool making session on June 10. The session will be held at John Magnussen's beginning at 9:00 am. We plan to take orders and send out for pizza for lunch. We do not intend to include a tool sale/swap this year.

This is a session where the club will provide materials and equipment for you to make a variety of tools during the session for your own use. The intended tools include: Straight and 45 degree tip medium depth hollowing tools, a reversible-tip tool, a chattering tool, flute-less gouge and tool steel shafts to grind into a variety of shapes, including: round skew, cove tool, tri-point tool, scrapers, and captive-ring tools. We are upgrading the shaft steel quality this year to O1 drill rod for the hollowing tools, reversible tip tool, and chattering tool, and to M2 High Speed Steel for the balance of the tool shafts. We will be asking for a donation to the club of approx. \$5.00 per tool to off set expenses.

Materials will be provided for the tools, ferrules, and tool handles. If you would like your tool handles to be of a specific material, please bring this wood with you. The handle blanks for the hollowing tools should be about 1.5" square by 11" long. The balance of the tool handles can be 6" long to 8" long by 1.5" square.

We would like you to bring the following materials, if you have them: Eye protection, spindle turning

tools for making your tool handles, vise grips, a Dremel-style tool and extension cord, cone-live tail stock center with #2 Morris taper, sand paper, and hand files.

Please bring, also, any of your turning tools for which you would like advice and/or assistance in sharpening.

If you are available to make and donate a tool for the club tool box, for use during the various small-group hands-on sessions, we would ask that you consider doing so.

We will be having the wood raffle, library and sealer sales. There will be no show and tell and no flea market this year. John has a very impressive turning collection from various turners which will be open to viewing. Mike Hunter will be demonstrating and selling his carbide turning tools he has been developing. Some wood will be available for handles. We can use a few more grinders if you can bring one.

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.



**Don't miss your chance to make your own tools. Duane Gemelke shown at last years session.**

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.





## Items to bring to June 10th tool making session

Eye protection, spindle turning tools for making handles, vise grips, dremel style tool and extension cord, cone live center #2 taper, sandpaper, hand files, \$ for pizza, wood for raffle and turning tools you would like help sharpening



Some of the tools that will be available for you  
To make at this years tool session.

## July meeting Douglas-Baker Gallery

**11th Tuesday - 7:00 p.m.**

The presentation by Doug Koons, gallery owner, will include such topics as what constitutes gallery-quality turnings, how to price your work, and how and when to approach a gallery owner. The Douglas-Baker Gallery represents such well known turners as John Jordan,



Stony Lamar, Craig Lossing, Betty Scarpino, Andi Wolfe, and Cindy Drozda. Doug will be able to illustrate his discussion with turnings displayed in the gallery.

Gallery is located in downtown Mpls., at 225 So. 6th St., between 2nd and 3rd avenues south. The entrance is in the middle of the block on 6th St. There is an entrance to the building there, and then two doors into the gallery.

Parking is available in the building; enter on 7th Street. There is a charge for parking in the ramp - maybe \$5.00. There is a good

chance of free on-street parking in the area, or at meters. The meters may still be active, so it would be good to have a supply of quarters for the meters.



## Douglas Baker Gallery

In May of 1983, Douglas Koons opened his gallery in a small space located in the Hyatt Regency Hotel of downtown Minneapolis. As the years passed, the gallery has grown. Successively larger locations have been chosen to expand the gallery's exhibition space. Today, The Douglas-Baker Gallery is located downtown at 225 South Sixth Street at street level. There are three exhibition rooms, eight large windows for the display of art, and museum quality display cases in the building's common area. Viewers are offered choice works of art from which to choose.

The gallery represents nationally acclaimed men and women in the field of the Sylvan Arts: lathe turned and hand sculpted wood. Some of the wood artists represented at the Gallery are Christian Burchard, Ben Carpenter, Cindy Drozda, Ron Gerton, David Hill, Matthew Hill, Robyn Horn, John Jordan, Ron Kent, Stoney Lamar, Craig Lossing, Stuart Mortimer, Philip Moulthrop, Betty Scarpino, David Sengel, Alfred Sils, Steve Sinner and Andi Wolfe

Doug feels that it is wise for a gallery to represent artists working in a variety of styles, which shows in the wide variety art on display. A gifted talent executes artistic expression with clarity and confidence. From classic subject matter and technique to non-objective abstraction, superior quality is what he admires in the artists. Art is not considered an "investment." Stocks, bonds, and savings accounts are

investments which are encouraged in the knowledge that some rewards from those assets may be spent on works of art in the gallery. Art is an "investment in yourself." Visual enrichment of your home or office provides daily nourishment, and that is its own reward.



**One of the many turners represented by the Douglas Baker gallery include Cindy Drozda who is known mostly for her finely detailed finials.**

The gallery's commitment and loyalty to its artists is shown by the many women and men who joined the gallery at its inception and during the 1980's and are still with it today. Collectors of their work continue to have recently created pieces to enjoy and, when it is right, acquire!

New artists to the gallery are selected with care. To those wanting to place their work with a gallery Doug offers this advice. Prepare a file folder with your name on

it. Include five or six casual photos of works currently available along with your resume and a letter of introduction. Do not ask for this file to be returned. The gallery will review it and keep it for future consideration of including you in group exhibitions. A thoughtful and deliberate evaluation of artistic ability has proven successful for artists of long standing, clients and collectors, and the gallery.

Recently Doug attended the Collectors of Wood Art - CWA in Philadelphia. This national gathering of collectors, curators, artists and art dealers was held September 22-25, 2005. This event included exhibitions of new artwork by a group of national galleries that have expertise in this field. Work by outstanding artists was on view and for sale. Lectures, museum tours, and educational enrichment from the Wood Turning Center located in this historic city provided a rich experience for those who attended. The Douglas-Baker Gallery was there with a selection for attendees to enjoy. Special honor was experienced when the Yale University Art Gallery purchased the Ben Carpenter sculptural vessel for their permanent collection. A photograph of this piece can be seen on the Douglas-Baker web site.

To visit the gallery in person, it is located on Sixth Street between Second and Third Avenues South. This is the heart of the financial and judicial district of downtown Minneapolis. Parking is available in the building with entrance on Seventh Street South.

## Review: "Finishing Secrets" three-disk set from Russ Fairfield

by Chuck Bjorgen

Save money cutting your own power sanding disks? Final sanding with brown grocery bag paper? Mix your own oil finish for one-third the cost of the commercial variety? How about buffing your wax finish with a horse brush? That's just a sample of money and time savings tips you'll find in "Finishing Secrets," a three-disk DVD set from professional turner and finishing expert Russ Fairfield. This set is now part of the Minnesota Woodturners' Association library.

Russ Fairfield has been finishing wood for more than 50 years and has been a full-time woodturner since 1999. For those internet mavens who frequent several online woodturning sites, Russ hangs out on the popular

[www.woodcentral.com](http://www.woodcentral.com)

woodworking forums where he offers his wisdom on woodturning with many articles offered in a special section called "Russ's Corner." This DVD set contains a much expanded version of those articles devoted to finishing.

This set is filled with highly detailed procedures that describe Russ Fairfield's methods for achieving the best finish possible on your turnings. Disk one is devoted to his process for sanding using both hand and power and his recommendations are punctuated with tips for buying, cleaning and using the vari-

ous sanding products he recommends.

Sanding happens to be one area where I am particularly impatient with the finishing process so I viewed this disk with much interest. I was especially impressed with his section on cutting up sanding sheets and for his method of storing the sheets in an orderly system that clearly beats my "shoe box" method. I plan to implement this technique into my own system.

The author also emphasizes the need to work through the sandpaper grits. He will show how he'll start sanding at 80 grit, then move on through 100, 120, 150, 180, 220, 280, 320, 400, 600 and 1,200 grits. He'll also show the benefits of a final sanding/burnishing with grocery bag paper which he says is comparable to 2,000 to 2,500 grit. He stresses that slow speed on the lathe and your power sanding tools is better than faster, thereby avoiding heat buildup that can shorten the life of both sandpaper and sanding mandrels.

The second disk in the series introduces waxes, lacquers and shellac as finishing materials. In this disk he describes the various products available in each category and will demonstrate how to use each medium correctly. Of particular interest to me was his demonstration of using the Beall buffing system as a final finish. While the written instructions that come with the Beall package are fairly easy to follow, there's nothing better than watching someone actually using these materials in live action.

It is in this section where he de-

scribes his use of a horse grooming brush for buffing wax finishes. "All waxes like to be buffed with a brush," he says. A common household scrub brush can also be used as long as it is made from a natural bristle.

There is no question that Deft in the gloss variety is his favorite lacquer product for turnings. He shows how to apply lacquer as both a brushed on and sprayed finish. He explains how to use Deft lacquer as a seal coat under oil finishes as well as a complete finish with multiple applications.

Most intriguing for me, however, is the section devoted to his system for achieving a "French Polish" on the lathe using shellac, the traditional material for this type of finish. Russ demonstrates both hand and machine application techniques for applying a shellac finish using a piece of velour toweling to apply the traditional shellac and mineral oil materials.

He also debunks the popular notion that shellac finishes do not have the durability common to the more popular polyurethane and varnish products. However, he does offer the admonition that "quick and durable do not go together."

Russ also devotes one segment on Disk 2 to the use of dyes to color turnings. You might be fascinated as I was to watch as he applies first a blue dye to a platter, then covers that with two coats of black. He further adds a gold wax material which, when dried, is further enhanced with his favorite oil finish. The resulting gold and black en-

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hanced grain pattern is sensational!

Disk 3 deals with both commercial and home made friction polishes and the use of CA glue as a finish. And finally it sets the stage for applying oil finishes. In this presentation Russ offers his thoughts about buying commercial finishing products as opposed to preparing your own at one-third the cost. He offers moneysaving recipes for two oil finishes. Whether you choose to use these recipes to mix your own or to stay with commercial preparations is your choice.

The grand finale of Disk 3 is his demonstration of the application of an oil finish that takes roughly two weeks. You might think this excessive but at least you can watch the process in under 15 minutes of application of oil, rubbing down with steel wool and reapplication of oil in 13 steps. Oil finishes are clearly Fairfield's favorite.

#### About the production

"Finishing Secrets" is a DIY production. On his web site, Fairfield explains that he prepares his disk copies himself by the "burning" process rather than the more expensive commercial replication method which he says requires a mass market to justify the cost. Two of the disks supplied repeatedly froze at one spot in two of my DVD players, one a Sony, aged four, the other a one-year-old Panasonic. I finally contacted Russ about the problem. He quickly sent two replacement formats, one in the +R and the other in -R. I tried the +R disks and they played faultlessly.

The author explains his philosophy about this aspect of video production on his web site and guarantees his disks and offers to replace any that will not run on your equipment. He also offers VHS tape sets to U.S. customers without DVD equipment. If you have concerns about his method of DVD production, you might wish to order the VHS tapes instead.

Russ apparently was his own camera operator, a fact that is born out in the videos showing the camera's remote control in his hand in several scenes. In most cases, the action is focused on the piece being worked on at the lathe. Many of the scenes are interrupted with quick, jumpy cuts that are probably the result of his cutting and resuming a take without varying the camera angle.

Initially I was bothered by this jumpiness in the action but finally became accustomed to it. I had to decide I was willing to cut some slack on these issues because the information contained in these videos was so useful to me.

Russ also hosts his own web site located at: <http://www.woodturnerruss.com/> where he shows his gallery of turnings, publishes more how-to articles along with tips for turners, and offers his videos for sale. It should be pointed out that in these videos Russ has received no commercial gain for any commercial product he uses and recommends.

In the woodturning community, Russ Fairfield is one of the good guys. He has allowed our club to

use his articles in our newsletter without any payment. He is always willing to answer questions about finishing on the WoodCentral turning forum. He's opinionated for sure but his opinions are based on experience and thorough experimentation.

And don't forget that Russ Fairfield will be a guest demonstrator for our Saturday, October 14 membership meeting at MCAD with a special hands-on session for members on Sunday, October 15 at Jim Sanerud's shop. For now, don't miss the chance to sample these three DVDs available in the MWA club library

Finishing Secrets set of 3, \$75.85 USD or \$29.85 individually. Order directly from the author:

<http://www.woodturnerruss.com/Video.html>



## AAW Gallery at Landmark Center Contemporary American Woodturning

May 5 - August 4, 2006

Contemporary American Woodturning is a celebration of material, technique and the artists' innovative approach to the art of woodturning. Woodturning artists not only honor a longstanding tradition of fine craftsmanship and technology, but also explore the boundaries of form and function.

An invitational national exhibition is paired with a juried regional exhibition of works from Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin, highlighting the very best of both national and regional work being created today. "Turned-wood objects embody a provocative combination of the natural and the manmade. The dialogue between an artist and the wood on the lathe is a balancing act

between precise control and the forms of chance, a collaboration of hand, machine, mind and matter. The allure of a turned-wood piece resonates from the interaction of the material's inherent beauty and the turner's mastery of technique, concept and form." [Carolina Arts Magazine, May 2002](#)  
The field of fine art woodturning has matured rapidly in the past few decades, as reflected in the growing

number of exhibitions and acquisitions made by major arts institutions, including MOMA, the Metropolitan, Detroit Museum of Fine Art, Fine Arts Museum of San Francisco, the Cooper-Hewitt, and the Smithsonian's American Art Museum. Locally, *Woodturning in North America since 1930* was a featured exhibit at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts in 2001.



## AAW member SCAM

Recently one or more people have received telephone calls to join the AAW or to subscribe to the AAW Journal (magazine).

Here are the facts:

- The AAW does not do any telemarketing or phone soliciting for membership.
- The AAW does not do any telemarketing or phone soliciting for magazine subscriptions.
- The AAW does not endorse any agents to solicit AAW membership or magazine subscriptions.

Any such telephone call you receive to this effect is a form of "phishing", where an unscrupulous person is

trying to get your credit card or other personal information for their illegal usage. You should not give out your credit card number or personal information as a general policy unless you initiate the phone call to a known business.

Thanks,  
John Hill  
Chairman AAW Chapters and  
Membership Committee  
828-645-6633  
[johnrhill@charter.net](mailto:johnrhill@charter.net)

# MWA Annual Picnic

Sunday August 20th  
10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.  
Spring Lake park reserve

- Games with prizes for the spouse/guests
- We'll have the regular show and tell
- No library
- No wood raffle

Bring the whole family! This is a beautiful park overlooking the Mississippi river with hiking trails and a playground for the kids.

Bring your own meat for grilling as well as buns or bread AND a dish to share.

Last names A-O bring dessert  
Last names P-Z bring salad or main dish

Also suggest lawn chairs, lawn games, bug spray.

The following will be provided:  
Grills, beverages, condiments, plate, napkins, eating utensils and sweet corn!



The annual picnic has become one of the highlights of the year.



The "group" showing off there new ear protectant muffs donated by 3m at the 2005 picnic.

## Turning Challenge!

This years challenge is flying Frisbees. This is a distance contest. Appearance will not matter. Must be 100% wood! Longest flight wins a \$75.00 gift certificate from Craft Supplies, second place wins a \$50.00 certificate and third place wins a \$25.00 certificate.

## Directions:

From cities driving south on hwy 61: Cross Mississippi, thru bridge, take immediate right on 3rd street. Take next immediate right, proceed 1 block. Take left onto 2nd street. Proceed up hill, past hospital on county road 42 for 2 miles. Turn right at park entrance, 3.7 miles from the bridge. Proceed down long driveway and park by the smaller shelter on the east side, close to the playground. Parking lot is towards the right.

From Minneapolis follow 55 south from St. Paul via hwy 52: take 52

south towards Rochester, This will merge with 55 in Inver Grove Heights. Proceed south and when you near the refinery stay in the left lane and take the Hastings exit (hwy 55) continue approx. 4 miles, past the golf course, there will be a brown hwy sign "Spring Lake Park Reserve 2 miles" take the next left onto county road 42e. Proceed 2 miles to the park entrance. Shelter and parking will be towards the right.

From the west suburbs: Take 42 eastbound, this will T into highway 55, take a right and go past the golf course, proceed as above.

Watch for "MWA picnic" signs.



## Pam Reilly September Demo

September 9th  
Saturday—9.00-4.00

Pam began turning about 4 ½ years ago and now turns full-time out of her shop in Elgin, MN. She is a member of the AAW, and belongs to the Coulee Region Woodturners of LaCrosse, WI. Pam has demonstrated several times in MN as well as in Canada. She has been featured on the Woodturners Resource website, in *Woodturning Design Magazine*, and *Couleur Bois*, a French woodworking publication. She also wrote a box article that was published in the summer 2005 issue of *Woodturning Design*.

Pam's most recent accomplishment was receiving a Jurors' Award for her mosaic hollow form at the Contemporary American Woodturning exhibit at the Rochester Art Center in Rochester, MN.

Pam will spend Saturday morning demonstrating her box-making techniques. She will show how to achieve a nearly seamless grain match, hide the joint between the



3"w x 2.75"h

**Bubinga lidded box with detailing and Ebony finial**

lid and base, and get a nice, tight friction fit of the lid. She will also turn a finial, showing how this can be done with standard tools – no pen turning tools or mini tools are needed for these small finials.

Saturday afternoon will be dedicated to Pam's mosaic motif surface enhancement. Form will be discussed and easy to make home-made jigs will be used. She'll show how she selects/creates the patterns, and then how they are applied using pyrography. Texture is added using a high-speed turbine air powered carver. Finally, color is applied and various finishes will be discussed.

Cost will be \$10.00.

We'll be ordering pizza or bring a lunch. Bring a chair. We will be having the library and sealer sales as well as the wood raffle. No show and tell.

Demonstration will be at Jim Sannerud's shop.

Directions to Jim Sannerud's in Ham Lake

From the South:

Get on Hwy 65 headed North through Blaine. As you enter Ham Lake, watch for Glen Cary Lutheran Church on your left hand side. At the next traffic light after Glen Cary, you will take a Left on Constance Blvd. Landmarks to watch for at the intersection include an SA and the Red Ox Cafe. Go 1/4 mile West on Constance and take a Right on Buchanan Street. We are the first house on your right, turn right at the mailbox with the "Farm Fresh Eggs" sign.

From the North:

Head South on Hwy 65 through East Bethel, past Soderquists Market. At the next intersection by the Red Ox Cafe, take a Right on Constance Blvd. Go 1/4 mile West on Constance and take a Right on Buchanan Street. We are the first house on your right, turn right at the mailbox with the "Farm Fresh Eggs" sign.

Call us at 763.434.2882 or 763.434.8557 if you need further directions or get lost along the way. See you Saturday!

Jim Sannerud  
MWA Small Groups Coordinator



4"w x 4"h

**Ash vase with pyrography, texturing and coloring**

# Mark these dates on your Calendar

*Activities you don't want to miss!*

## June 2006

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	

## July 2006

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
23/30	24/31	25	26	27	28	29

## August 2006

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		

## September 2006

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 2006

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				

## November 2006

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		

## June

**10th Saturday** - 9:00-4:00

Tool making returns! This has been a very popular session.

See page 8 for more detailed information.

Location will be at John Magnusson's in Buffalo.

**11th Sunday** - 1-4 Mike Hunter parade of shops.

**22nd Thursday** - 6:30-9 Dean Wilson parade of shops.

**22nd - 24th** - AAW Symposium 2006

The 20th Annual National AAW Symposium

Louisville, Kentucky

## July

**8th Saturday** - 8-11 Ken Schwichtenberg parade of shops.

**11th Tuesday** - Douglas-Baker Gallery.

The presentation by Doug Koons, gallery owner, will include such topics as what constitutes gallery-quality turnings, how to price your work, and how and when to approach a gallery owner. The Douglas-Baker Gallery represents such well known turners as John Jordan, Stony Lamar, Craig Lossing, Betty Scarpino, Andi Wolfe, and Cindy Drozda. Doug will be able to illustrate his discussion with turnings displayed in the gallery.

**21st Friday** - 6:30-9 Jim Jacobs parade of shops.

## August

**20th Sunday** - 10:00 a.m.-3:00p.m. Annual family picnic in Hastings; pot luck; sweet corn; beautiful park overlooking Mississippi river; hiking trails; playground.

## September

**7th Thursday** - Board meeting, 6:30-9:00 at Bob Jensen's.

**9th Saturday** - 9:00-4:00 Pam Reilly will be doing a one day demo.

Cost is \$10.00. bring a chair

Location will be at Jim Sannerud's shop in Ham Lake.

## October

**14th Saturday** - 9:00-4:00 Russ Fairfield will be doing an all day demo at MCAD

**15th Sunday** - 9:00-4:00 Small group hand on session with Russ Fairfield at Jim Sannerud's shop.

(Continued on page 17)

(Continued from page 16)

## **November**

**2nd Thursday** - Board meeting, 6:30-9:00 at Bob Jensen's

**7th Tuesday** - 6:30-9:00 Jim Jacobs will demo ornamental birdhouses and show two other gift ideas.

## **December**

**5th Tuesday** - 6:30-10:00 Dakota lodge holiday party. Holiday decoration challenge with gift certificate prizes, spouse/guest door prizes, Member gift exchange, professional turnings raffle. Many more details to come.



**Winning entry for the 2006 Minnesota Woodworkers guild best turning category was this skewed checker bowl with diamonds by Peter Schulzetenberg**

## **The parade of shops continues...**

In years past when our group was smaller we met in members shops. This was always interesting since it was a great way to pick up ideas for your own shop as well as see what some of the other members have been working on. These are meant to be informal. You do not have to demo unless you want to. You set a date and time to fit your schedule. Contact Jim Jacobs if you would like to open your shop, it's a great way to get to know fellow turners!

### **Mike Hunter:**

Open shop Sunday June 11th from 1-4 p.m. Uptown area of Minneapolis, call for directions 612-922-1197. Refreshments served. Mike works in a smaller space and invites ideas and suggestions on how to improve it. You can also check out his carbide turning tools he has been developing.

### **Dean Wilson:**

Professor of fine arts at MCAD. Thursday June 22nd 6:30-9 p.m. Oakdale, MN. Dean has been working with wood, metal and fiberglass for over 30years. More details will come by email soon!

### **Ken Schwichtenberg:**

Saturday July 8th 8-11 a.m. Belle Plaine, MN call for directions 952-873-3342. Ken turns bowls, goblets and small items. Belle Plaine is in the southwest metro off highway 169.

### **Jim Jacobs:**

Friday, July 21st 6:30-9 p.m. Hastings, MN Call for directions 651-437-2302. Jim has worked as a cabinet maker for 30 years. He will be showing several jigs: Grinding Jig, Disc sander for mini lathe, Tablesaw sled for segmented parts, hydraulic press, roller blade steady rest and more. Refreshments will be served.



## Professional turner Russ Fairfield To demo for the MWA

When: Saturday October 14th 9-4 p.m. doors open at 8:30 a.m.

Where: Minneapolis College of Art and Design auditorium (MCAD)

2501 Stevens Ave. S. Minneapolis  
Directly South of the Institute of Art

Plenty of free parking, park on the top level of ramp (use southern most entrance) walkway is located at back of ramp towards MCAD.

Cost: \$20.00 at the door

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

Russ will be demonstrating basic spindle turning without the skew and will turn a Queen Anne leg and natural edge goblet. He will also show his technique for making segmented platters, the basics of thread chasing and the finishing process he prefers.

**Sunday:** Small group hands-on session with Russ Fairfield from 9-4. A small group session limited to 8 members will be held at Jim Sanneruds shop in Ham Lake. Cost is \$30 and you will have the choice



between turning a weed pot and natural edge goblet or Lay out and work on a segmented platter. Sharpening will also be discussed and demonstrated.

Russ Fairfield  
Woodturner Resume

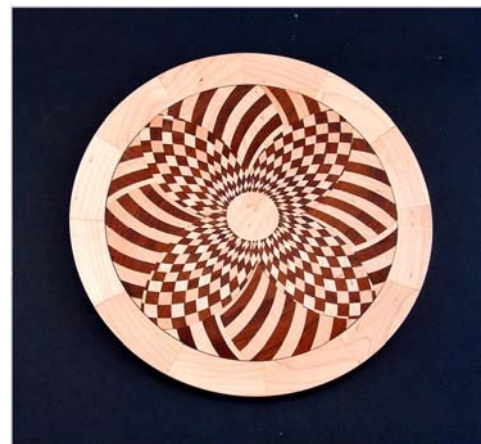
Russ Fairfield credits a hurricane as the reason for his devotion to woodturning. For many years, Russ had made replica tall clocks as a hobby and part-time job. The wood lathe was always a part of his home-shop for making finials and other parts for these clocks, pianos, and furniture; but he had never turned a bowl and had never heard of a hollow form. All of that changed when Russ had a chance meeting with Melvin Lindquist and John Read over a giant magnolia tree that had fallen in Tallahassee, Florida in Hurricane Elena in 1985. They awakened him to the possibilities of the "Art" of turned wood. He bought a General 260 lathe, added riser blocks, and got seriously into woodturning. He hasn't stopped since.

After working as an engineer in the pulp and paper industry in the south-eastern US, and living in Tallahassee, FL for 23 years, Russ moved back to Washington State in 1999. In early 2002, he and his wife, Gerry, moved to Post Falls, Idaho, where he has a new shop with enough space to continue collecting tools and turning wood for a lot of years.

The past three years have been busy for Russ with demonstrations for club meetings and regional symposiums in Washington, Oregon, Brit-



ish Columbia, New York, Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Florida, and Nevada. He has published feature articles on the techniques of turning and finishing in the *American Woodturner*, and other domestic and foreign magazines. He has made video presentations on pen turning and finishing turned wood. Russ is an active participant in the online woodturning site, Wood Central (<http://www.woodcentral.com>), where many of his articles have been archived as "Russ's Corner". If you want to know more, visit his website at: <http://www.woodturner-russ.com>.



# Classifieds

## Wooded Acres Specialty Products

Burls, Curly Wood, Spalted, Crotch Wood, Blocks, Blanks, Rounds, Half Rounds, and Specialty Orders.

Hinckley, MN (320) 384-7761 evenings

Or: [woodedacres@ecenet.com](mailto:woodedacres@ecenet.com)

## For Sale:

Teknatool Nova Mercury mini lathe with 1/2 hp variable-speed motor. Lathe has eight-inch swing over bed and comes with one bed extension to provide a total of 22 inches on centers. Includes standard drive and revolving centers and is mounted properly according to Teknatool instructions. Includes Nova Precision Midi Chuck with standard jaws and additional 25mm jaws. This lathe is no longer being sold by Woodcraft but parts and accessories are still available from Teknatool's U.S. representative. Perfect lathe for boxes, ornaments and other small items. Very portable. \$350.00. Complete product description at the Teknatool web site:

<http://www.teknatool.com/products/Lathes/Mercury/merc.htm>

Chuck Bjorgen, 651-633-8850 or [cbjorgen@comcast.net](mailto:cbjorgen@comcast.net)

## For Sale:

McCulloch 16-inch chain saw. Used very little. This is an older model probably purchased in the 1980's. Excellent condition. \$40.00.

Chuck Bjorgen, 651-633-8850 or [cbjorgen@comcast.net](mailto:cbjorgen@comcast.net)

## For Sale:

JET DC-650

Dust Collector.

Like new.

Ideal for the small shop.

Asking \$145.

Contact Dan Rominski :  
651-261-8400 or

[drominski@comcast.net](mailto:drominski@comcast.net)



## For Sale:

Older, heavy 20 inch Delta bandsaw about 13" under guide  
\$1250

Alan Lacer  
715 426 9451.



## Sharpening Turning Tools

One-on-one class where you will gain the skills and confidence to shape and sharpen your tools for maximum tool control and cutting performance. I've taught this class for several years to many satisfied turners, both novice and experienced. Utilizing the Oneway Wolverine jig system to get your tools into top condition. You cannot be a successful woodturner without mastering tool sharpening, this class will be highly beneficial to your success. Evening and weekend class times. \$45.00. Call or e-mail Steve Tiedman, 763-789-4505 or [stiedman@mninter.net](mailto:stiedman@mninter.net)

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Free member advertising Free turning-related ads for members.

Commercial advertising \$4.00/Issue per column inch. To place ad, contact Jeff Luedloff  
([jefflued@peoplepc.com](mailto:jefflued@peoplepc.com)) or (952) 496-1177

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

## 2006 Egg Turner's Challenge

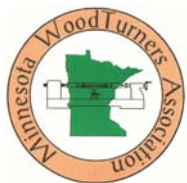


First place egg challenge winning entry by Erwin Nistler was this pair of segmented and inlaid eggs and stands. Each egg is hollowed and the insides are full of mini cut out rabbits. "What did you expect in an Easter egg, Chickens?"

Winners of the egg turning contest were (RtoL) 1<sup>st</sup> place - Irwin Nistler, 2<sup>nd</sup> place – Brian Grobe, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place – Antone Fast



Winners of this years egg challenge won certificates from Craft Supplies. 1<sup>st</sup> place received \$75, 2<sup>nd</sup> place got \$50, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place \$25.



**Minnesota Woodturners Association**  
13968 Alder Street NW  
Andover, MN 55304  
[www.mnwoodturners.com](http://www.mnwoodturners.com)

*First-Class Mail*