

Minnesota Woodturners ASSOCIATION

IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS



Empty Bowls

...a grassroots movement to help end hunger

The 2011 AAW Annual Symposium Return to the Community project is Empty Bowls. The goal of Empty Bowls is to raise money to help organizations fight hunger and raise awareness about the issues of hunger and food security.

Many AAW local chapters have participated in the Empty Bowls project by raising funds and awareness. At the Empty Bowl display in the 2011 AAW symposium Instant Gallery, bowls will be collected and sold, with the proceeds from sales going to *Second Harvest* to fund food for the hungry. Purchasers will take home a bowl to keep as a reminder of all the empty bowls in the world. We are asking every AAW member to contribute a bowl to the project. Let us build on past chapter success, celebrating our woodturning community and skills, and turn a bowl to help feed the hungry.

Second Harvest Heartland works to reinvent hunger relief through leadership and innovation. As the Upper Midwest's largest hunger relief organization, they deliver nearly 60 million pounds of food annually to hungry seniors, families and children through 1,000 non-profit member agencies and programs, including food shelves, soup kitchens, shelters, senior centers, faith-based organizations, and children's after-school programs serving 59 counties in Minnesota and western Wisconsin.

Second Harvest Heartland's goal is not only to help our hungry neighbors today, but to provide the means for everyone to be fed tomorrow. In addition to delivering tens of millions of pounds of food each year, they're constantly pioneering ways to reduce waste and better use the abundant resources available in this land of plenty. For each \$50 donated, Second Harvest Heartland can distribute more than 180 meals to those in need. For more information, visit 2harvest.org.

If you will not be attending the 2011 symposium, please mail or UPS your donated bowls to:

American Association of Woodturners
Attn: Empty Bowls 222 Landmark Center
75 5th St. W.
Saint Paul, MN 55102



**Minnesota Woodturners
Association
Board Members**

President
Carole Magnuson
carolemagnuson@att.net
952-881-2171

Vice President
Wade Wendorf
wwendorf@abadus.com
763-232-1684

Secretary

Currently Vacant

Treasurer/Membership

Currently Vacant

mNewsletter Editor
George Scott
gscott40@comcast.net
651-214-9341

Librarian
Bob Meyers
rjmbobco@comcast.net
651-483-6187

Web master
John Haug
jhaug_3@msn.com
763-767-2460

Members-At-Large

Larry McPeck
specialout@aol.com
763-757-3143

Todd Williams
toddwilli@comcast.net
651-777-0446

Linda Ferber
linda@garber.org

President's Message



Well, we're off to a new year with a lot of things coming up in the future for the MWA. If you're like me, the cold weather has cut down on my shop time drastically. I was able to get some ornaments and bottle stoppers done for presents before Christmas but since the start of the new year I haven't been able to do any turning. With the new year, we have some new board members. Reed Jacobs is the new vice president. Reed is an accomplished turner and has demonstrated several times during club meetings. Linda Ferber has accepted the program director position and has already lined up some interesting meeting demos for the rest of the year. I want to thank Carole Magnuson for guiding the club as president for the last 2 years. Carole will be the new club librarian. You can find the rest of the board members listed in this newsletter or on our website. Please take the opportunity to introduce yourself to me and the other board members. You may not be aware but the Minnesota Woodturners is one of the largest woodturning clubs in the United States. Last year we had

over 275 members and this year we may hit the 300 member mark. It worries me, though, that as a club we are not serving our members. We only average 75 members per meeting,, way less than half the membership. At the February meeting we only had 57 members. So my question to you, the members, is what can we do to better serve the club? If there are any meeting or demo topics you want to see, please let me or one of the board members know. Feel free to send in any suggestions. My email address is rjmbobco@comcast.net Many of you are aware that the 25th Anniversary AAW symposium will be held in St. Paul at the River Centre at the end of June. Our club, as well as 3 other clubs in the area, will play a big role in making this event a success. Our members will be asked to volunteer to help in preparing registration packets, registering participants, equipment setup and breakdown, assisting with the exhibits and demonstrators, and other similar tasks. The more volunteers we get, the better the symposium will be and we want to make a good impression on everyone who will attend. The AAW will provide our club part of the proceeds to be used for our local club functions. If you have never been to a symposium, please take this opportunity to go. I had the chance to go to the one held in Albuquerque, NM. You will see some of the best woodturnings in the world at the Instant Gallery. The top turners in the world will be doing demonstrations. This may be the only time to see Ray Key and Chris Stott, two long time pros that are getting up there is age. At the vendor show, you can see every type of turning tool and then some.

If you want to buy new tools or a hollowing system or whatever, you will find many vendors to show you their wares and even allow you to try them. An added bonus is that many vendors bring in top notch turners at their booths. At Albuquerque, I was able to be 2 feet away from turners like Jimmy Clewes, Cindy Drozda, Trent Bosch, Nick Cook and others and watch them turn and ask questions.

You will be hearing more about the symposium in this newsletter and in the future. We will be sending out a lot more information on how you can help with this event. Please take the opportunity to help you club and the AAW put on a great event. Some other items to note. On February 17, 2011, we will have the viewing and judging of our "Turning 25" entries for the symposium. This event will be held at the AAW headquarters in the Landmark Building downtown St. Paul. This is a great chance for all of our members to bring one of their turnings and have it judged by a panel. One piece will be selected as our club's entry into the "Turning 25" club display at the symposium. Please see Linda Ferber for additional information about this event.vvv

There will be something different for our March meeting. First, it will be held on a different night and at a new location. We will meet on March 15 at 6:30 pm at the Richfield Community Center. This will be a joint meeting with the Woodworkers Guild. Vergil Leigh will be the featured demonstrator. Vergil turns large pieces of wood, often times entire tree trunks. He has been featured on several TV stations and in many newspaper articles.

This sure sounds interesting. Please note that there will be no wood raffle or show and tell at this event. We will also have a pro demo March 25-27, 2011. The Friday and Sunday hands on sessions will be at Bob Jensen's shop in Fridley, MN. Contact Mike Hunter to register for these sessions. The general member demo session will be on Saturday and will be held at the U of M. Mark St. Ledger will be the featured pro. Mark is a great turner and excellent teacher. He does all types of projects including some of the best birdhouses. This will be well worth attending. Grab your fellow turning friends and head on over to this. Cost is \$25 and includes a lunch. Several members have asked about wood sealer. We will have sealer available again this spring. We have a problem storing the sealer so that it will not freeze. If sealer freezes, the effectiveness may be reduced. So look for the return of sealer in the next few months.

One more thing before I end. I want to thank the members that help out with the set up and clean up at our demos, the members that bring the refreshments, bring the lathe, video and other equipment and the ones who have helped with the library. A big part of being in a club is to participate – help out without being asked. Be sure to turn SAFE and make a lot of chips. Till next time.

Video Person Needed

The club is looking for someone to take over the video responsibilities for taping the monthly meetings and pro demos. Audio/video experience is not necessary but would be helpful. The club supplies the equipment.

Here is a chance to participate in the club and get a close-up view of the demos.

A Fun Fact

A 6" turning spinning at 2000 rpm is traveling at 35 Miles per hr at the outer edge...or 52 ft. per second. Now imagine pushing a hand plane that fast! This is why it's so important to keep your tools sharp, this will mean touching up your tools on the grinder several times on the same turning. Jim Jacobs



MWA Gallery Night

**February 17, 6pm
Landmark Center, 3rd floor
75 5th St. W, St. Paul, MN
55102**

Everyone knows that show-and-tell is the best part of our meetings. We are about to take show-and-tell to the next level. For the first time, the MWA will have a grand showing of the best work of its club members. On February 17 at 6pm, all MWA members are invited to show their best turned work at the American Association of Woodturners' headquarters in the Landmark Center in downtown St. Paul. Everyone is invited and encouraged to participate, including our newest turners and our seasoned professionals. That evening, we also will select one piece to send to a special exhibit at the AAW national meeting in June. To be considered for the special exhibit the piece must fit within an 8"x8"x8" space and be for sale. However, you should not feel constrained. Bring your best work, whether it is a pen or a giant hollowform. The event promises to be the show-and-tell of all show-and-tells. Please plan to attend.

If you are unable to attend or will arrive late, you may deliver your piece prior to the event to Steven McLoon in Roseville (email s.c.mcloon@gmail.com) or to Linda Ferber at AAW headquarters (linda@woodturner.org).

Sometimes we tend to overlook treasures in our own backyard. Just like many New Yorkers haven't gone to the top of the Empire State Building, many Minnesota woodturners haven't been to the AAW's Gallery of Wood Art in St. Paul. From pure turning to embellished work, whatever your own turning style you are likely to find some inspiration for your own work.

Art From the Lathe - through February 26, 2011

A selection of pieces from the AAW Permanent Collection, including work by Bob Stocksdale, the Moulthrop family, David Ellsworth, Mark Sfirri and more. A special treat: a display of pioneering woodturning teacher and artist Rude Osolnik's turning tools, which were donated to the AAW by his family.

Roots- An Artists Voice - March 1-June 16, 2011

More than forty professional turners explore the theme of 'roots', both literally and figuratively. The show includes a wide range of styles and approaches, from traditional to not-so-traditional.

Hours are Tuesday-Friday, 11-4 and Sundays 12-3. Parking is free at Macy's, just two short blocks away, on Sundays.



March meeting

The Art and Artistry of Giant Woodturnings

By Virgil Leih

March 15, 6:30pm show & tell, 7pm presentation

Richfield Community Center

7000 Nicollet Ave., Richfield, MN 55423

When most of us want to try something new in woodworking, we buy a book or a DVD or we take a class. Virgil Leih, however, had few resources available when he decided to turn tree trunks into giant hollowform vessels. Virgil rescues discarded urban tree trunks and turns them into sculptures the size of a man. His sculptures are truly a work of fine art. He turns the 2,000 pound trunks on a giant lathe. The story of how he developed the tools and techniques to turn tree trunks is inspiring and a lesson to all of us with a desire to push the boundaries of our art form. You may have seen Virgil's sculptures at his show at the Landscape Arboretum or in the fine arts building at the Minnesota State Fair. His work also has been featured in the press and on television. We are pleased to welcome Virgil to our meeting to present his story of discovery and to show some of his work.

This meeting will be unusual in that it will be held jointly with the Minnesota Woodworkers Guild. The two groups have much in common, and this is an opportunity for each group to introduce themselves.



Mike Siemsen is in the process of restoring a beautiful treadle powered lathe, estimated to be 150 years old. He's been fabricating parts and learning how to turn while balanced on one foot.

For the full Story....



MWA Apparel Ordering

Greetings all! I've had several requests for getting together another shirt and hat order so that our members can show up in style to the symposium this year. You can place your orders for apparel online by going to our website, and clicking on "MWA Clothing" from the menu, or, you can go directly to the ordering page which is

<http://www.abadus.com/mwa/>

Orders will be taken thru March 20, 2010, and will be delivered to the general membership meeting on April 5th, 2011. If you are not planning on attending the April 5th meeting, please choose the shipping option.

There are long and short sleeved denim shirts, polo shirts, sweatshirts and baseball caps available.

Thanks,
Wade Wendor



Black Ash Burl

Mike Hunter submitted the picture above, of a black ash burl he has, wondering if anyone has an idea of what he can make with it.



Kirk DeHeer chasing some threads



Turning a Turning Tool Handle

by Tim Heil



Select a ferrule for your handle. Copper, brass and aluminum pipe are all good ferrule stock. Use a pipe cutter or hacksaw to cut the ferrule to length.



Select a piece of hardwood for your handle. Use a scroll chuck on the tailstock and support the turning blank with a live center on the headstock.



Remove the live center and insert a Jacobs chuck with a drill bit. This setup will allow you to drill a hole to accept the shank of the tool. I use tape on the drill bit to mark the depth of the hole.



Use outside calipers and a parting tool to measure and fit the ferrule.



I like to use a spindle gouge or skew chisel to shape the handle. Or, shape your handle with a roughing gouge as show in this picture. Note, my index finger is acting as a steady rest to support the wood as



Final-turn your handle to a pleasing shape. Test the handle by holding it as you would when turning. If the fit feels good and the design looks good, it is good.

I Like Pens

by Jim Zangl



I have come to regret the fact that I did not grant my full attention to penmanship back in 6th grade. I blame it on the fact that we used pencils and splotchy ball point pens. No soul. A fountain pen seems to make me WANT to write with a finer more elegant hand. I won't say I collect then since that implies a sort of organization that does not exist with me. But I do buy a few. I have a Bexley, a Shaeffer, a few Parkers, a S. J. Dupont, a Waterman... But I cannot afford or justify buying all the pens I would like, so I also try my hand at making pens. Since I do not have the necessary training, engineering skill or equipment to make a pen from scratch I make use of the various kits available.

At one of the sympottiums I listened to a demonstrator discuss how he bought a kit, had some one else make an inlay, still another agency create a clip. The demonstrator coater the tube with glue (finish), polished it put it, put it together and sold it as his creation.

I think the Broadwell kits are pretty (a little top heavy if you actually try and write with one), an Emperor Pen is massive etc. All these kit leave you with little left to do other than drill a hole, glue a tube, and turn the wood to set dimensions. Many of the kits are more about the kits than about MY Pen.



The kit being used.

Between the Fountain Pen Network and the AAW Journal and other turning publications I was shown that one didn't need to use all the parts of a kit to make a pen. (The goal of many on the Fountain Pen Network is to make a kit-less pen) I am not so extreme, but I do like make some changes. Kip Christiansen has shown us how to throw away the center band on the 7 mil and stop making wasp waisted pens. Make your own band. For this I prefer the Comfort pen kit, the clip has a lot more clearance and is better looking.

But throwing away parts, means substituting some of your own. The part I mostly discard, is tat big hunk of metal at the opposite end of the nib (the writing end)

Whether used to post or not, in most kits, it looks out of place. And so I make closed end pens at least on one part.

To make a closed end pen, a way of holding the part from a single end is required, the mandrel will not be able to penetrate all the way thru. For this I use a pin chuck, held on to the lathe by a Beall Collet chuck. I made my own from drill rod and it was no fun but it can be done.

(A different pin chuck is needed for each size tube, so pay someone else to make them or settle on a single kit for convenience)

Once a means for holding the tube in place from a single hole, a lot of things become easier, for example squaring the ends. If the pin chuck is true and there is a good fit between tube and chuck, squaring the end is just a matter of holding a parting tool steady



Making a blank is really messy.



Finished blank with tube glued in place and a pin chuck.



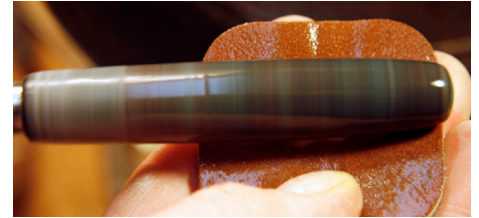
Upper barrel mounted on pin chuck. Easy it is to square a tube in this way.



Lower barrel on pin chuck , closed end.

One type of closed end pen calls for the drilling of a hole that does not penetrate. This requires careful measuring, especially for a roller-ball, since the refill is held in place by a spring and the end cap. I like to add a contrasting end cap. I first turn down to rough specs on the mandrel, using a contrasting material, make an end cap and piece the tube and end cap together on the pin chuck. When the glue has cured I can finish turning the now closed end barrel.

Another way I have made the pen a little more my own creation is by making my own pen blanks. I have fooled around with using epoxy resin in bowl turning, even mixing a substantial amount of rosewood dust with the epoxy and making an entire bowl. But a pen blank from epoxy alone is too brittle. One pen company described their product as being made from cotton resin. I thought, if I mix a fiber with the resin I would add strength. I used cotton fiber for one and it worked well. Then I realized I was throwing away on a daily basis a source of fiber. I have (god help me) 4 cats, two of them demand to be brushed/combed, every day. What the hell. I Am now using cat fur mixed with Epoxy resin, to make pen blanks. (dog fur will work as well, but take note, water dogs have water resistant fur, northern Dogs have hollow fur). Keep in mind that the resin does not soak into the fiber real well, it more like encapsulates it. A good measure of thin super glue is needed to fill the pores.



Polishing lower barrel with water and micro-mesh pads.



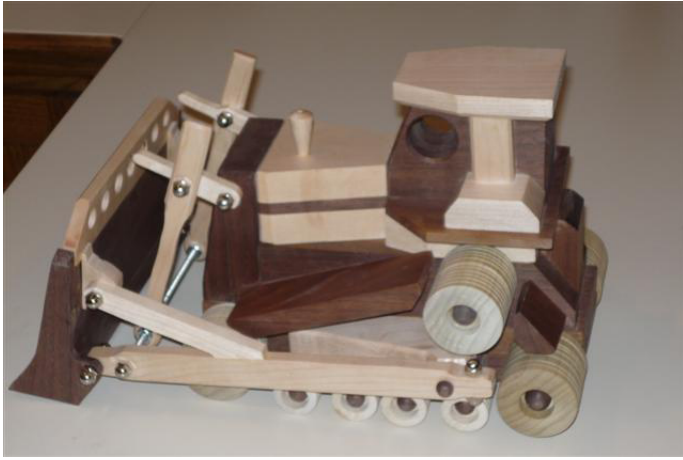
Finish barrels and part laid out for assembly.



Some pens I have made.



An assortment (shudder) of store bought pens.



This was mainly flat work I did turn all the axels and wheels for the two bulldozers I made for my grandsons. Wood, walnut and maple.

Jack Frost...



Kevin and Reed

One of my sons, Kevin, is a college sophomore at San Diego State, studying kinesiology on a Naval ROTC scholarship. He was in town for a week over New Year's. That Sunday afternoon, I called Reed Jacobs to see if Kevin and I could come over to hang out in his shop. He quickly responded "Sure! It will be fun." When we got there, Reed was starting to turn a 12 x 12 maple board into a platter. He asked Kevin if he wanted to try it. Kevin gladly said yes. So from rough turning all the way to the finish cuts, sanding and finishing, Reed coached him through it. What a great hands-on experience for Kevin! And I was grateful beyond expression for Reed's generous sharing his time and talents with my son.

Kevin is very proud of his handiwork. He posted a photo of the platter on Facebook with the caption "I made that with my hands. like a man. gonna eat some steak on it. like a man." Hooyah!

by Charles Shreffler

Make A Spatula or Spoon

by Jim Jacobs



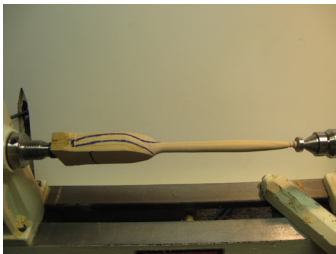
Cut a hardwood blank larger than the spoon using a band-saw or sabersaw. Cut kerfs in the end for the spur center and counter sink.



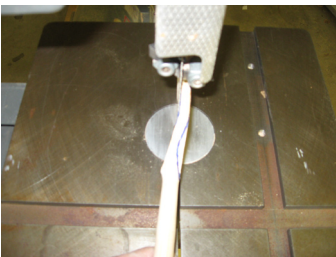
Here you see the outline of the finished spoon..Note the extra wood at the ends . Rpm should be around 2000. Using a 3/8" spindle gouge (shallow flute) and 1/2" scraper , turn to shape, working from the headstock towards the tailstock. The whole spoon can be turned with skews if your confident with them . Use a 1/2" skew in the tight corner and a 1" skew for the rest.



Hold fingers along back side for additional support to prevent whipping and spiraling. Raise the tool rest up and pretend your using a block plane. The bevel rubs all the time, preventing catches. The skew must be sharp with 1" bevel, not multiple facets. Note the cutting edge has a slight radius.



The handle portion is done... now to the bandsaw.



Stand the spoon on edge and cut the waste away from both sides. Sharp blade is always important.



Now the front and back are drum sanded. A belt sander would also work. Using sandpaper smooth the sharp corners and sand the handle with the grain. Trim the nubbin at the end with a sharp chisel or knife and sand smooth.



The top spoon in this photo was turned by Bonnie Klein. It is Cherry with no finish on it. (think early settlers) It's about 10 yrs. old and we use it all the time. It even goes thru the dishwasher.