

Minnesota Woodturners

A S S O C I A T I O N

IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS



Lidded boxes by Linda Ferber.

First Place, MWA box challenge, April 2012.

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President's Message



It's been a while since I wrote a letter to the membership. We have found 2 or 3 members willing to help with the newsletter headed up by new editor Ray Muno. Ray will be responsible for collecting articles and getting the newsletter out. (I will be assisting Ray by bugging members to contribute articles.)

Board Members

We have had some change in board members in the last few months. Long time board member John Haug decided not to run for the board. Reed Jacobs resigned for personal reasons and Jesse Crane also resigned for personal reasons. Thanks to these three for the work they have done.

Members are always welcome to send emails to any of the board members. Email addresses for the above can be found on our website in the "Contact Us" section, and in the box to the left. We also invite members to the board meetings and will have the board meeting schedule on the web site in the near future.

Some others that need some recognition:

Mike Hunter – Pro demos,
Gary Rocheleau – Beverages,
Video Team – Bob Puetz and Will Travis.

I probably missed several others. Almost forgot Bruce Arones who does the membership cards and collects the membership fees.

Meeting Locations

It took a while but we finally found a meeting location that meets all of our needs. The Salvation Army building in Roseville was selected after a long search. Thanks to Neil Robinette for finding the location. For those of you who have not been at a meeting there, the Salvation Army gives us 3 different rooms to use, street access and close access for unloading and loading wood, lathes, etc. It is centrally located and has lots of close, FREE parking. We will continue having the Pro Demo at the U of M and I want to thank the U of M for the use of their facilities.

Complaints

This is my section to complain about the members. Being a member of a club like the MWA is a 2 way street – the club provides programs for the members to attend and take from while the members participate to further the clubs growth and goals.

I think we have a good program each month, but I have to ask:

-why do we get only 50-60 members at a meeting when we have over 200

members.

-why does everyone leave the meeting and no one volunteers for cleaning up (Gar and Neil excepted)

-why do we not get more than 4 or 5 volunteers for Rockler demos. Rockler is a great corporate sponsor of the club and gives us a chance 3 or 4 times a year to come in to their stores and promote woodturning and our club to their customers. Why is there no interest in taking 3 or 4 hours of your time to do a demo but there is always plenty of interest when Rockler shows up at a meeting with gift certificates to give away.

-why do we not have waiting lists for the pro hands-on sessions. This is inexpensive training brought to your doorstep. A club this size should be able to have 4 days of hands on session.

-why do we not get good participation at pro demos and club functions. Trent Bosch demo was FREE and we only had about 50 members attend. For Mike Mocho we had less than 50 (if you weren't there you missed a great demo!). For the wood and tool swap we had about 20 people and 4 were not even club members.

-why do we not get more articles for the newsletter (But a big thanks to those of you who have sent in articles)

This leads me to some questions. What do the members want from the club? Should the structure of the monthly meeting be changed? Are there demos you want to see? What is wrong with the pros we are bringing in? Who do you want us to bring in?

Upcoming meetings

We have some great meetings com-

ing up. On June 5, John Haug will do a demo on air brush painting. I think everyone has seen John's work and this is a chance to see him demonstrate his process and ask him any questions.

On July 10, Tim Heil will demo turning rolling pins. I have seen some of these and they are beautiful. Tim always has a lively commentary and usually has a surprise or 2 for those at the meeting.

Jim Zangl and Linda Ferber are featured in the August 7 meeting. They will show us how to add a personal touch to our turnings with several methods of decorating.

For the September meeting, we will be doing something different. First, the meeting will be at the North Country Woodshop in Burnsville. This is a great place for a meeting. Second, the meeting will be on SATURDAY, September 8. Third, this will be an all day (9am-3pm) meeting that will cover a wide range of topics and will have several demos. Gadget man Jim Jacobs will be the main person on the agenda.

Also in September, on the 27-29th, we will have professional turner Mark Gardner for 2 days of hands on training and a Saturday pro demo. You can see some of Mark's work at markgardnerstudio.com. Don't miss this.

Check our website, <http://mnwoodturners.com> for a complete calendar of events and other information.

Area Coordinators

Todd Williams is heading a project

to develop area coordinators that will work on getting members in different geographic parts of the city together to discuss woodturning, get together for turning, or just get together for breakfast or a cup of coffee and talk about anything. One of the biggest benefits of being in this club should be getting together with fellow members. I get together with a small group and I have learned so much from my group. We get together for breakfast, look at items that were turned recently, join together to buy items so we can save on shipping or get discounts. We also occasionally harvest wood from a tree that a neighbor or friend has cut down and we share the wood within the group. The best part is the friendship and camaraderie.

If you are interested in being an area coordinator, contact Todd.

Sealer

We now have 2 barrels of sealer available for sale to the members. We are still able to offer the sealer to members at \$10 per gallon.

Wood

Springtime is a great time to harvest wood. Hope you had a chance to resupply your inventory. Remember to bring a piece or two to share at the monthly wood raffle.

Video

I hope you have enjoyed our new video camera setup at the meetings. We have upgraded pretty much everything and the videographers (Bob Puetz and Will Travis) are doing a great job and are getting better every time they use the equipment.

Thank these guys because it is a big job to set up and break down the equipment so you have a better view of the demo.

Safety

I saved the most important topic to last. TURN SAFE!!! I cannot stress safety enough. Wood turning is dangerous but can be very safe if you just think safety and use your head. If you come to a meeting and sit in the first 2 rows, you WILL be wearing safety glasses or be asked to move to a seat further back. Accidents happen quick and can usually be prevented or minimized.

We will also be installing a plexiglass shield around the demo lathe. Linda Ferber was able to get a grant from the AAW to partially fund this. She also is receiving some funds from the American Craft Council that will be used to help defray the cost.

Carol Magnuson is working on developing a safety manual. She is looking for volunteers (there's that word again!) to help assemble the manual. We are looking at requiring each member to acknowledge receipt of the manual and that you have reviewed the manual as part of being a club member.

Finally

Once I get started I can't stop.....Try doing an article for the newsletter and you will see. It's not that hard.

One thing to add is that our new webmaster, Will Travis, is working on updating our website and giving it a facelift.

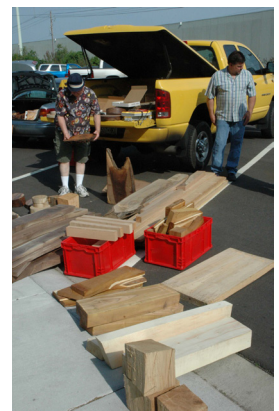
Hope you enjoy the newsletter. Sorry for the delay but here it is.

Bob Meyer
MWA President

First annual Swap Meet

Photos by Chuck Bjorgen

On Saturday, May 18th, the MWA held its first Tool and Wood Swap Meet. The location was Locke Park in Fridley.



Jimmy Clewes Demo and Class

Neil Robinette

I attended a demo and class at the Lake Superior Woodturners Club on the 5th and 6th of May with Gar Brown that was very informative. It started at 9 AM which meant Gar and I were up at the crack of dawn to drive to Duluth. We found the club location south of the city. They have a modest sized area in a commercial building that will accommodate 50 – 60 members for a demo because part of the space is occupied by six Jet 16-24s in separate “stalls” so each turner is shielded from the next by a 4x8 sheet of OSB., and they have built secure storage areas on each wall for lathe accessories.



Jimmy Clewes, as many who have seen him, is smooth, informative, humorous, and friendly. He describes what he's doing continually while completing four turnings



in about six hours. The projects were: A drum shaped box with an African Ebony insert that he decorated with silver rod inserts, then an off center twisted candle stick took us to lunch. After lunch he did a platter out of maple, and finished the demo with a natural edge vase. His presentation is down to earth and he often will re-

mark that you don't have to spend big to do nice work. He feels standard high speed steel is more than adequate for most turning, and tool control is the key to better re-



sults. We went back on Sun. the 6th for hands on class that got started at 9 again with seven turners. Jimmy requested that we choose just a couple of items to turn so his instructions could include more people. So we chose a drum box and bowl turning and started. After lunch some of us worked on other different items and enjoyed his help. I would have to recommend that if you can af-



ford a small class at his studio in Las Vegas it would be money well spent to greatly improve your skills. The Superior club charges \$35 for the group demo and for the Jimmy Clewes classes it was \$120, they adjust each pro demo class depending on costs involved. Finally Gar and I enjoyed both days and our hats off to the Lake Superior Woodturners for a well-organized demo and classes, and the hospitality shown to us southerners.

Jim Zangl

What I saw.

Beyond helping a little with setup and clean up, I was able to take in some of the attractions.

I spent most of my time with Ray Key and John Jordon, but I also looked in on Halley Smith, Michael Hosalak, as well as a panel discussion with Albert LaCoff, Dick Gerard, John Jordon and David Ellsworth. There were numerous other presenters but time was limited. I did not get nearly enough time in the Instant Gallery, but I did take pictures, so I can review them latter.

I arrived at Rivercentre about 8:00 and paid my 10 dollars to park. The city of Saint Paul sure cashed in on me(us) on the parking tribute. I stood in line at the one coffee stand to get a cup before the first rotation. The vendor area opened at the same time as the first rotation, not before, so I was able to hang on to some money I might otherwise have spent (needed it for the parking ramp).

I visited Ray Key for the first and second rotation. 1st Oriental Boxes and 2nd Small Delicate Bowls.

Boxes are sometimes purely functional pieces (tea caddies, needle cases, ring holders, etc.) and sometimes purely decorative pieces, and often a mix. Ray Key talked first of his ongoing experimentation in design, constantly trying to improve by refining through small changes. Ray demonstrated his Pagoda boxes, a series of stacking boxes where the base of one is the lid of the next. To look correct there boxes must de-

crease in size as they go toward the top, a design element the columns of the Parthenon use, no straight lines and the eye follows the lines through the entire piece.



The second rotation was on making small delicate bowls. These are decorative, not functional and are a challenge to our skill both technically and in design. A large bowl can be impressive just by its mass, but a small object must be pleasing visually or it will be dismissed. Ray showed three shapes, a simple open design, a footed shape and a closed footed form. Each shape is a little more challenging than the one before, and to get them right does require practice. Turners that Ray found influential are the usual list of suspects (for good reason) Bob Stockdale, Bert Marsh, Richard Raffan.

Words of advice from Ray: prove to yourself that you can do the technique, then pull back a little. The time that is spent learning the technique will pay off. You will find that it is possible to do what you imagine.

Manipulate the tools as they agree to be manipulated. On coping... The first impulse on seeing something demonstrated, is to rush home and try to reproduce it, and this is ok for developing skills, but this should only be a lesson, a starting point for working out your own design, for

developing an eye for shape and balance and visual acuity.

The second day of the symposium, I spent with John Jordon. In this rotation, John discussed and demonstrated his version of the hollow form. He currently positions his blank so that the top was the trees surface and the vessel bottom was toward the pith. The vessel opening will then have the color of the sap wood, making a distinctive break in the color. He strives for a grace-



ful curve in the work he does. While shaping and profiling the piece, one also has to be aware of color. The design of the piece has to make your intentions clear. Words of advice: the last thing done is dictated by the first action. Every problem in woodturning is related to an un-sharp tool. Sharp tools and finesse are the keys.

The next rotation was Inspiration and ideas. No wood was sacrificed in this time period. What makes our work our own and not a copy of someone else's? Learning is done by copying design and technique. That is the start. The thing that makes your work your own, your focus, your interest, is developed by doing a lot of turning. The man said that he pulls ideas out of his pocket but he spent a lifetime filling his pocket. Your personal experiences shape your work, what you see, feel touch, live. Other peoples reaction shape

your work, do they back away or approach it. What you work with shapes your work, are you starting from the tree or from a precut block, or somewhere in between. Memories shape your work. The work of others shapes your work. Your environment shapes your work. Recognize and build on these influences and turn a lot, there is no substitute for doing it.

Next a turn with Hayley Smith Color & Texture This is something that I always think I want to try but don't know why. When THEY do it, it is often beautiful. When I do it, people ask why. I look for enlightenment.



The purpose is to achieve contrasts through the use of color and texture, allowing light to play differently across the object's surface. The eye defines the object by edges, so different patterns and how they are accentuated with color will define the object, or not. A lot of experimentation is required to get a 'feel' for what is right, what works. And surface texturing is not for the impatient.

On Sunday morning I watched and

listened as Mike Hosalak described how he reshapes and rethinks the wood into the different creations he produces. Cut twist glue, cut twist glue and a straight round tube becomes a slithering snake or a crooked nose or a bent leg, or a teapot spout. As he puts it, the sum of the parts becomes one. He considers himself a wood alchemist, with good ideas he can make anything. Color is as important as shape, color accentuates the form and lends validity to the shape.

The last rotation I attended was a panel discussion, with Albert Lecof, David Ellsworth, John Jordon and Dick Gerard on the Future of The Field. This started with a brief history. The influences of David Pye, Bob Stockdale, Rude Osolnik, Palmer Sharpless and many others, The part then Center for Art in Wood played in helping to bring turners together. The challenges the turners like Mel Lindquist and Ed Moulthrop and latter Mark Lindquist offered to the conventional ideas of turned wood. There was some discussion about the conflict in ideas between the 'artist' and the 'craftsman', between the purist who believes in the wood and the wood alone as opposed to those who use wood as a medium to express an idea. There are conflicts but the association tries to be and is a home to all. It was founded with the idea of teaching and allowing ideas to spread and holds to that promise. These Gentlemen spoke of seeing a paradigm shift, a movement toward conceptual awareness. How will this shift affect us as individuals? Educators are presented with the challenge of overcoming current prejudices. To offer the understanding of where we are coming from and to know where we are going. The over-

whelming idea was that as long as we remain students to our craft, we, and the organization, grows.

And then it was time to start packing up. Until next time

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 \$10 per gallon. Our club could use a few clean, empty gallon jugs, such as windshield-washer fluid jugs, 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:

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

Bob Jensen
1woodworker@earthlink.net

Neil Robinette
neilka@embarqmail.com

Shop Corner

In each newsletter we would like to include articles, submitted by MWA members, that showcase their shops and the work that they do there. In depth articles, regarding various aspects of woodturning, are always welcome as well.

My Wood Shop

Arden Griep

After retiring, an 8 ft. x 40 ft. semitractor/trailer sitting on my commercial property no longer had a use, so I turned it into my workshop. My wife was most pleased in this arrangement because it kept the woodshop (and sawdust) out of the garage. One of the pieces of equipment I still use is an old 7 1/4" Delta table saw that I inherited from my father years ago. It's vintage is either late 50's or early 60's. It's my favorite saw for cutting segments!



I learned woodturning from some talented fellows while spending our winters in an RV park in Casa Grande, Arizona. The covered segmented box in the picture is the one that was awarded 2nd place at the April MWA meeting. You can see from the other

photo that it took more than one attempt to complete the cover. The book *Segmented Wood Turning* by William Smith gave me the inspiration and guidance to turn the box cover. The vase shown in the photo is also featured in that book.



Woodturning and Stroke Rehab

Dean Reinke

I've been attempting to do this for the past 2 years.

I do bowl turning partly because I can use a faceplate that I screw to the piece of wood. Spindle turning, using small diameter pieces and centering them between the headstock and the tailstock, is almost impossible. You need to hold the piece of wood steady with one hand while the second hand slides the tailstock to tighten the piece down. If I had access to freshly cut wood it would be so much easier. Green wood turns much easier and sprays you with water/sap as you are turning. The objective in turning green wood bowls is to leave a substantial side wall thickness so after they dry into oblong shapes you still have enough material to make them round again. I however have to use dried half logs. In order to get them rounded down the easiest, you normally would take them to a bandsaw and rough cut them to a round shape. Bandsaws at best require two useable hands to push the wood through the blade. I don't have two useable hands, or a bandsaw, so I punted. I bought a JAW-horse,



JAWhorse. 3 legs, the jaws ratchet closed with the foot lever. Yellow button locks the jaws in place.

which you can use its ratchet clamp on your piece of wood to hold the wood while you use a hand bucksaw to cut off the corners.



What the wood looks like when clamped in.



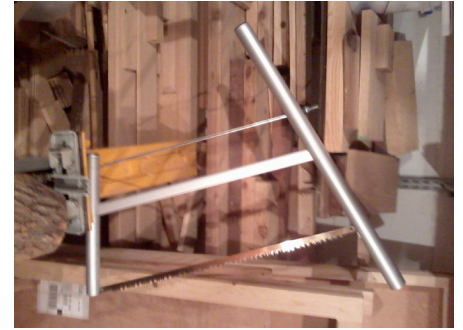
One corner cut off.



Two corners cut off.

For some of my wood I have 12" logs that first need splitting. I stand them upright in the JAW-horse and cut a 2" deep kerf to start the splitting process. My splitting wedge has a very blunt end and in order to use it I first have to drive 2 wood chisels

in the kerf to open it up. Holding the wood chisels in my left hand still in order to pound them in is real problematic, I can't grasp my fingers



My bucksaw that I use. Its a takedown model, it took lots of swearing to put it together one-handed.

tightly enough to hold the chisel. My spastic wrist curls in, pulling the blade out of the kerf, my spastic pecs pull the whole arm away from the block of wood. When I finally get them buried I get out the 3lb. splitting maul and try to hold that upright while I use my 2lb. hammer on it. So far no smashed fingers or hand. Lots of swearing though.



My splitting wedge. Its almost impossible to hold this upright with my left hand and be able to pound on it. Wood underneath is a blue spruce.

For the actual turning, my left hand pretty much just rides along with the tool as the right hand controls the angle and pitch. I'm hoping that the vibrations will send signals back to whatever proprioception center I have or am recreating.

Farewell to Industrial Electric

Chuck Bjorgen

The August meeting of the Minnesota Woodturners Association (MWA) combined the ingredients of a regular monthly meeting along with the annual summer picnic and a fond thank you to Gary Novak, who has offered his business site as a venue for club meetings over the past six years.

Gary, of course, has sold his business and has chosen retirement and this would be the last club meeting at Industrial Electric in northeast Minneapolis. According to MWA president Bob Meyer, other meeting sites will be selected and announced prior to coming monthly meetings.

Unique for this meeting was the format that had four stations set up for informal demonstrations that members could choose to watch. Among the demonstrators were Mike Hunter, who showed members the use of some of his Hunter Tool Works turning tools, and Jim Jacobs, who demonstrated lidded box making. Bob Jensen showed members how he turned tops and Bob Meyer helped members use the club's sharpening system.

Added to these activities was a food table provided by the club that allowed members to have their dinners and watch the activities at the same time. The food was topped off by a cake that offered thanks to Gary for providing meeting space over these past few years.



Members checked the supply of donations for the wood raffle that would take place at the end of the meeting.



Mike Hunter, right, attracted an audience as he demonstrated turning with his newly introduced "Hercules" tool.



Food for this event, which substituted for the regular summer club picnic, was furnished by the the MWA.



A thank you to Gary Novak who had made his business available for club meetings for several years.



Mike Hunter showed hollowing with one of his swan neck tools.



Bob Jensen, left, demonstrated top making for interested members.



Jim Jacobs attracted a crowd as he showed his technique for making a lidded box.



Jim Jacobs sanded the box with the tight fitting lid attached.



Fred Jude, left, tried his hand at sharpening with the Wolverine jig. He had made his own similar system using his machinists' skills.



MWA member Chuck Schreffler tried out one of Mike Hunter's tools under the watchful eyes of the creator, right.



The Minnesota Woodturners Association is a local chapter of the American Association of Woodturners.

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

Forest Products Supply

2650 Maplewood Drive

(NE corner of County Rd. C and Hwy 61),

Maplewood, MN 55109

Phone: (651) 770-2834

www.forestproductssupply.com

Discount for MWA members:

10% discount on all lumber purchases.

Rockler Woodworking

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.

Wholesale lumber prices to MWA members.

www.rockler.com

Woodcraft

9125 Lyndale Ave S, Bloomington

952-884-3634

10% discount on all items, except power tools.

www.woodcraft.com

Youngblood Lumber Company

1335 Central AVE, MPLS.

612-789-3521

Wholesale prices to MWA members.

www.youngbloodlumber.com

