

# Minnesota Woodturners

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

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IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS



Jim Jacobs

MWA Demo, September 2012.





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## President's Message



Well it's fall and the club functions are back in full scale. We have had some great monthly sessions with great demos. My thanks to all the members that did the demos. With the new year coming up, we need more people to volunteer to do demos. If you do something or make something special, here is a chance to show the rest of the club. It doesn't have to be perfect and if you don't like to talk in front of a crowd, get a friend to help. You can even ask me to do the talking. Let's not leave the demos to the people who have done them in the past. See Linda Ferber to sign up.

Being fall, it's a good time to stock up on wood for upcoming turning sessions. Every weekend I hear chainsaws going as people are trimming or cutting down trees. Just follow the sound of chainsaws. Most people will be happy to have you take some pieces, especially if you tell them you will turn them something out of the wood. A few weeks ago I had the chance to get some large pieces of walnut from a friend's

relative that cut down a tree in their yard. Great looking wood and now I have enough walnut for the next year.

If you get some wood, you might want to get in on the wood cutting stand that was demoed by Lee Tourtelette. Club members spent a Saturday making up kits that can easily be put together and ended up selling them for \$30. You probably couldn't get the wood for \$30 much less have it cut up for you and get instructions. I put mine together in about an hour and will be using it in the next few days. I don't know if there are more kits available but Lee or Gar Brown would sure be happy to share the plans. An article in this newsletter covers some of the details.

Speaking of Gar, he and Neil Robi-nette have really done a great job organizing hands on sessions and getting them started. It took a lot of time on their part and a lot of planning. The first couple of sessions were sharpening and mounting wood on the lathe. I had a chance to assist Neil on one of the sharpening sessions and he really had it laid out well. Each person received a hand-out containing everything from the class. Very impressive job. The cost of each session is a nominal \$10 with the money being used for shop supplies and administrative supplies. There may be a schedule of classes in this newsletter or check with Neil or Gar. These are open to all club members that have paid their dues. These are open members of all skill levels. Everyone should be able to learn something new.



For those of you who missed our last few pro demos, too bad for you. THEY WERE GREAT. Mike Moch and Mark Gardner were excellent instructors and took the time to explain everything from preparing the wood, tool positioning, finishing and many embellishment techniques. You can't find training like this anywhere for what the club charges. And the hands on sessions from the pros are even a better deal. Take advantage of these and get some new ideas to add to your turning tool set.

We have a full slate of pro demos lined up for 2013 thanks to Mike Hunter. The agenda will be published later but I do know that we

will have a session in January to help you get rid of the January blahs. Our own Jim Sannerud will be doing a one day session at the U of M meeting area. Jim is a very accomplished turner and is starting to get national recognition. Make sure you take in this session.

By the time you read this, we will have had our elections for the Board of Directors. I have decided to not run for re-election as President. The demands of my job and personal life has made me realize that I can't do the job for the club as I feel it needs to be done. I want to thank all the board members I have served with, the people who have done monthly demos, people who have volun-

teered for clean up, pro demo help and help at monthly meetings for making the last 2 years a memorable experience. I hope I leave the club in better shape than when I started but there are still a lot of things that I wanted to do that are still undone.

Anyway, remember the Christmas party. This is a great social event and always has great food. Details below.

And, as always, safety first. Turn safe and keep those chips and curls coming.

Bob Meyer  
*MWA President*

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## **December 14, 2012 Holiday party**

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**Where:** Hope Presbyterian Church,  
7132 Portland Ave. South, Richfield, Mn.  
Members and spouses/guests are all invited.  
**When:-** Friday Dec. 14th  
**Time:-** 6:00pm to 9:30pm

**Food Donation:** MWA December meeting will be at Hope Presbyterian Church. They collect nonperishable food for VEAP and we would like to add to their donation. Please consider bringing a gift of food or money as you plan for our holiday party.

**Holiday Decoration Challenge** - Bring an ornament/decoration you have turned. Members will vote for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places. First place will be awarded a \$75 gift certificate from Craft Supplies. Second and third places will receive \$50 and \$25 certificates.

Prizes will be awarded for the top three ornaments.

**Member gift exchange** - It's easy and fun! Members are asked to bring an unwrapped turning to present to another member. Everyone who brings a turning goes home with a turning.

**Spouse/guest door prizes** - Guests sign in at the door, win a turning! It is our way of thanking others for all they do.

All members are asked to bring an unwrapped turning for this drawing.

**Professional turnings Raffle.** Only \$1 per ticket. Several other items from visiting pros!

**Great Food.** We'll be having pot luck again, please bring the following foods based on the first letter of your last name:

· Last Name's Beginning with **A - F**, please bring:  
Appetizers (Meatballs, Wings, Dips, Cheese balls, etc..)

· Last Name's Beginning with **G - K**, please bring:  
Salads (Pasta, Lettuce, Rice, Beans, etc..)

· Last Name's Beginning with **L - P**, please bring:  
Main Dish (Meat, Poultry, Hot Dish, etc..)

· Last Name's Beginning with **Q - S**, please bring:  
Side Dishes (Vegetables, Potatoes, Rice, Breads, etc..)

· Last Name's Beginning with **T - Z**, please bring:  
Desserts



# My Turn

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*Kristin Holtz (aka "Tina Turner")*

In this season of thankfulness, I would like to take my "turn" to share my story.

I floundered for a long time - trying to turn dry, hard wood with poorly sharpened tools. My husband had given me a nice set of Crown tools. They looked sharp and I assumed they were. So along with my mini Jet, I took them to the cabin for a summer of turning, figuring that by fall I would need to seek help with re-sharpening. I know ... it's funny but sad. I didn't know what I didn't know, you know? Needless to say, I didn't do much turning.

However, loving wood grain and power tools and being tenacious, I persevered.

I would take an occasional class and ask many questions of other turners.

Upon hearing a chainsaw, I would get all excited and go scavenge some wood. I had been told to turn only dry wood so I was sealing and storing wood like a little squirrel storing nuts.... all along missing the opportunity and thrill of turning wet wood. End grain baffled me. I would sand like crazy - only to get sanding marks. Then I figured a few coats of finish would cover these up. Not.

Surprisingly, my passion didn't waiver. I had just enough luck to keep me going. I did not understand what I was doing wrong so I kept doing the same things over and over, expecting different result.

THEN I started attending the MWA meetings and asking many questions. Meeting people who are so willing to share their knowledge and skills is making a huge difference! I am still working on learning the basics, but I LOVE the process and the support of the club. To quote that famous turner, "Support, Support, Support".... support the lathe, support the wood, support the tool. AND support each other! The club has been a tremendous support for me. Some of you have "MoJo" shirts. I have Mo & Jo. who are so supportive and patient. Actually, they should both be named "Job."

NOW I am livin' for ribbon. I don't think there is anything more exciting than ribbons of wood streaming from the lathe - unless it is sharing that joy!

I am so thankful to be a part of the MWA. It is a blessing. Thank you!

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## SWAT Symposium

*submitted by Mike Hunter*

The SWAT (Southwest Association of Turners) symposium was held in Waco, TX on August 24-26. Two of the big winners, sitting at one table. Linda Ferber from Eagan, MN and Robert Stuart from Kingwood, TX.





## Changing the appearance of a wooden object using water based dyes

*Jim Zangl*

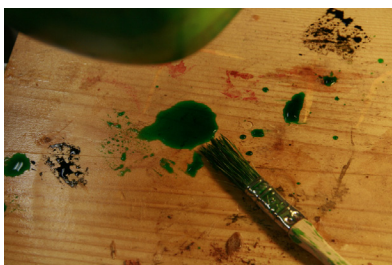
Start with a wooden object, sanded clean, remove any tool marks and bruising. Clean up any rough patches. It is not important to sand too smooth yet, since this is water based, grain will be raised and there will be more sanding later. If you have some pieces that did not quite work for you, maybe the shape was not quite right. These can be used for practice.



The dye will soak in unevenly, side grain will take up little and only color the surface, end grain will soak the color up like a straw.

Since these are aniline dyes, not pigments which fill the pores and sit on the surface, the color soaks into the wood, the grain and figure of the wood are not covered over. The color goes deepest where the fiber is open. A point that I use in this process. The dyes I use start as a powder and can be mixed to almost any strength desired.

Warning, unless you want colorful hands, where gloves. The dye will find any ungloved fingers available. The can be messy, so wear old clothes.



The next step is to apply the dye.



The dye will soak in and look dry in some areas and stay wet on the surface in others.

Once the dye has been applied, I set it aside to dry. This will take a day or so depending on weather conditions. Really only the surface is wet, but there are better things to do than watch paint dry.



The wetness will have raised the grain, so the piece needs to be sanded. Sanding will remove color unevenly, side grain vs. end grain.

After sanding, reapply the dye. The end grain again will soak the dye up and the side will be light. The difference intensifies with each application, to the point where the end grain can look black. Also, remember that the finish will darken the color.





Other colors may be applied and blended. Here I added Blue to some areas.



When satisfied, cut the piece free and do the bottom

I like to do the bottom and the inside Black with the main color (in this case green blended in). There are no clear cut areas of demarcation. The colors, green, blue, black should blend together. So that may mean another application of green, or maybe a different color.

Allow to dry, sand, reapply, dry until satisfied.

I frequently finish these pieces with spray lacquer, but I have also used an oil finish. Different finishes give different effects. Until sealed, the end grain will soak up the finish like a sponge.

The finish will be rubbed out eventually, so make sure there are no dry patches.

At this point you do not want to rub through the finish.



This will take repeated coats until the lacquer is evenly applied. Unless you are a lot better than I am with the spray can, there will be a run or two. The runs can be sanded out. But be careful not to cut thru the finish. For this reason, I do not sand the first time until I have a good even base coat. Once the finish is smooth another coat of lacquer and then patience. The finish should be allowed to cure before being rubbed out. They can take some time, read the label for your times. For the rubbing out process, I use micro mesh. I start at 1500 and work to the end, 12000.

This stuff was used to take the scratches out of airline windows, it will put a shine on your project.





# Lumber Processing Center

Lee Tourtelotte

Our club recently had a successful volunteer project making “LPC’s” for any of our members to purchase at cost.

What is an “LPC”? It is a “Log Processing Center” for “safely” preparing bowl blanks for the lathe. It is a waist



high stand that holds the log securely, while comfortably cutting it in half, along the log’s length, with a chain saw.

I wrote a brief article for the October 2010 newsletter that described the LPC. Soon after, a few club members, including Paul Chatfield, Bob Jensen and others, deemed it a good idea and built similar units for them selves. This year, Garfield Brown saw my LPC for the first time and had a forward looking vision that more club members should be using and benefiting from the multiple safety features the unit provides. Gar and I recently demoed the LPC to the club with the offer that volunteers would make them in kit form, available to the club members at cost, if there was interest. We immediately received orders for 30 units and our members paid \$30 each -- which included all the self-tapping screws and complete assembly instructions.

The LPC “safely holds” any size log so that the chain saw can both cut the log across the grain to length, if needed, and then longitudinally, cut the log in half. It eliminates the inefficient struggle of trying to cut the log down through the end grain.



Our MWA “LPC” is a variation of one that Emmett Manley of Lakeland, Tennessee originally designed, built and described in the June 2010 AAW magazine. Our “club” version has a few improvements that allow

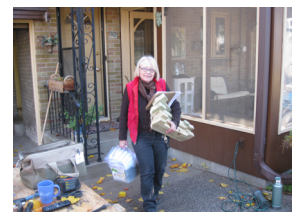
for a wider range of varying sized logs for processing bowl blanks safely. (Emmett has since advised that he has incorporated these improved features into his LPC.)

The reason the device works so well is that when cutting the log in half, as the chain saw bar passes through the center of the log, the kerf behind the bar begins to close, keeping the chain saw from binding as it finishes the cut. In addition, the saw drops free of the log into the gap between the vertical side boards so the saw never hits the ground or other wood as it finishes.

An “optional” trim shelf can be added, which allows the cut bowl blank to be positioned securely in a simple pop up cradle for trimming the blank’s corners at 45 degrees with the chain saw.



On a chilly Saturday morning, October 27, 2012, a few MWA volunteers including Garfield Brown, Linda Ferber, Steve Mages, Reed Jacobs, Mike Hunter, Bruce Ahrens and Lee Tourtelotte gathered and had a good time together making said LPC kits. Early feedback from the new owners indicates club members really love their new “LPC’s”! (“Thanks Gar”!)



# Add color to your work



I have been applying color to my turnings for about 5 years. I use Dylon cold water fabric dye and an airbrush to apply the color to the wood.



Dylon cold dyes come in a small packet about 1 ½ inches in diameter and can be found at art supply stores like Dick Blick Art Materials. A mixture of 1 packet of dye 1 cup (8 oz) of water and 1 cup (8 oz) of denatured alcohol will give you about a pint of dye that is ready to use. I get a shelf life of about a year with this mixture. **DO NOT USE Dylon COLD DYE FIX when dyeing wood.**

You can also use **Procion MX** Fiber Reactive Cold Water Dye. I have not used these dyes but my research says they work well on wood and that Dylon cold water dyes are a fiber reactive dye.

Make the dye solution by dissolving the desired amount of PRO MX Fiber Reactive Dye from the chart below, in ½ cup (4oz) of room temperature distilled water. Add ½ cup (4 oz) alcohol to make 1 cup (8 oz) of total dye solution. Store dye solutions in tightly capped glass bottles.

	Pale	Medium	Dark	Black
Dye Powder	½ tsp	2 tsp	4 tsp	8 tsp

This is a good time to tell you that dyeing wood comes with some hazards. For those of you that can't handle commitment, this isn't for you. Once you put color on your piece, you have made a commitment. If you don't like it after you put a finish on it you have two choices. 1, you live with it. 2, you paint it. Oh ya, Three, you can enjoy the warm glow of a back yard fire. Yup end of commitment and any evidence of bad color choices are gone.

And another thing, unless you want to display your color choices to all your friends and family, wear some sort of rubber, vinyl, latex or nitrile gloves. You will be happier at the end of the day when your hands don't look like you have been playing in a box of leaky markers.

Most of my color is applied with an airbrush I bought from Harbor Freight for \$19 and an air hose for about \$6 and they work well for me.







The first time I used color on one of my turnings was to color the piece with one color. This piece was turned from Box Elder and had no natural color in the wood. I didn't see much figure in the wood so I didn't think I had anything to lose by adding color. This piece was dyed with Dylon Permanent Fabric Dye. It turned out that the figure was enhanced by the dye and when I applied the finish the figure popped. I was told later that the color may fade in time with this dye but I haven't seen any change since I finished this piece in 2007.

OK, so I liked the green a lot but it was time to get creative. I thought, what goes with green? Well, my wife wasn't around to ask so ... Purple ya purple goes with everything right. The green went on first followed by the purple. I liked it except for one thing. The purple wasn't dark enough. So I added dark blue to the bottom. It was ok but the color transition was too abrupt. The solution was to add some red over the dark blue to get a purple that was a little more red and laid it on in streaks to add some interest. What's more interesting than blue red purple and green?



Yup, the creative juices are flowing now. It seems that any color looks good on very light colored wood. So let's use green and red. Bad choice, nice fire. So the moral of that story is, pick your colors carefully or enjoy the fire.

Blue, it's my favorite color. But I didn't want just a blue hollow form so I varied the amount of color to create a highlight at the bullseye of the grain with the blue to get some variation in the piece. It's all the same color applied at different densities. I liked the way it turned out and I use this technique with other colors as well. Make it glow, no fire tonight.

Let's get on to something other than blue and green. I have been talking about cool colors up till now so its time to get to the other colors that can make wood pop, like RED.

OK, red, but let's ease into it for now. I used red but I tempered it with, you guessed it, blue and got this great wine color. The black on the top is done with India ink because the top was turned from a contrasting wood to cover a last minute redesign. I think the redesign and the black along with the color worked. Almost had a fire that night but I pulled it out at the last minute. Don't give up, redesign and ad color. The black is finished with a satin finish and the color as you can see is high gloss.



So far I have talked about green, purple, blue and red. Yellow is a good color to continue with. I like to apply the lightest color first. In this piece I applied the yellow about half way down the vestal. Then I applied the red which gave me the orange to red blend. I finished the bottom with black paint and a dash of blue between the black and red. I had some repairs I made with CA glue that dye wouldn't cover on the so I used paint as a cover-up. Again, no fire except what I got from the color.

Yellow to deep blue and this time I added yellow to the inside to get a little glow from the inside. Again, I applied the yellow first but to the sides to accent the grain. The red was applied next and covered the rest of the piece. The last color was dark blue applied over the red.

After you apply the color the surface is dull and lifeless. I use an acrylic finish called Triple Thick Crystal Clear Glaze by Krylon. I apply 3 to 4 coats sanding between coats with 320 grit sand paper. It dries quickly but I usually apply a coat and put the piece in my drying cabinet for a few hours before I sand.







Blue, purple, red and yellow and you get fire. The wood this piece came from was a scrape from the first green piece I discussed. It was lying on the burn pile because it didn't look like it had any figure to it at all. After I finished the green piece and saw the figure pop I rescued this piece of scrap and this is the result.

In the last few months I have experimented with using natural sponges to apply the dye. The effect is interesting but I'm not sure how often I will use it.



Anyway this is what I did and how I did it. I had an old sponge so I cut it into 3 inch by 3 inch pieces. The sponges soaked in water to soften them and are squeezed to remove as much water as possible. The dye is applied directly to the sponge and blotted on a paper towel to help distribute the dye evenly and eliminate excess dye. Lightly touch the surface of your turning with the sponge to apply the color. Continue to randomly apply color without creating a pattern. You don't want to cover the whole piece with one color at this point so leave a lot of bare wood showing with the

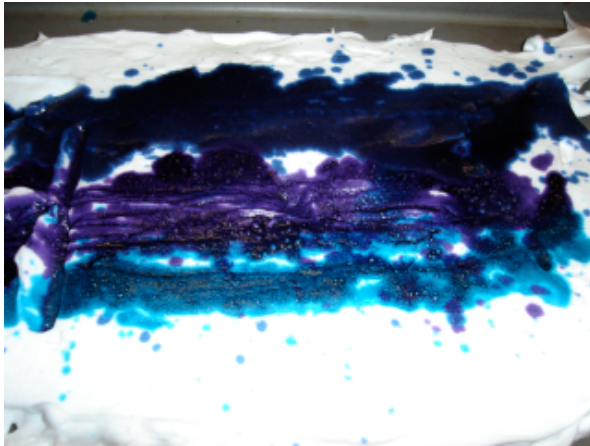
first application. Apply the next color as you did the first but this time apply the new color in the places that didn't get any color the first time. Again leave some bare wood showing. The third if you choose to do another goes on the same way and leave some bare wood. When you are done applying color let your work dry and get ready to apply the finish.

Last, I have been experimenting with another new technique.  
Wood marbling with shaving cream



Start out with a cookie sheet or something to contain the shave cream. Fill the cookie sheet with the shaving cream deep enough so you can press your turning into the shaving cream. Use a plastic card to spread and level the mound of shaving cream. I've been using one of those fake credit cards that come in the mail to spread the shave cream as well as spreading glue.

I apply the dye in wide parallel lines onto the cream from the plastic bottles that my dye is stored in.



After I have 3 colors laid down I use the plastic card to draw through the lines of color to create a marble affect in the cream. Leave some white mixed in the dye mixture and get ready to apply it to your turning.



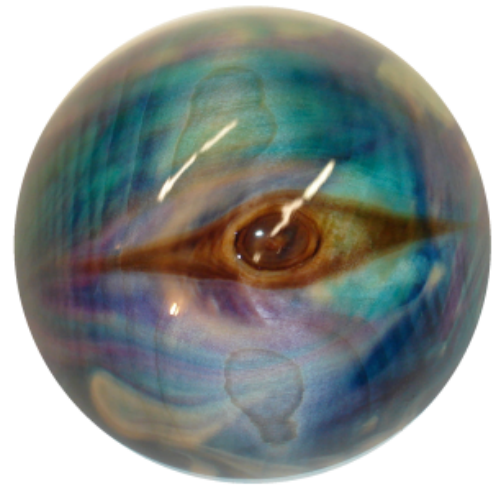
Start on one end of the colored shave cream and role the turning through the dye field so the entire turning is covered in colored cream. The color of the wood will show through where the shave cream has no color. When your turning is completely covered allow the piece to rest for a few minutes.





Scrape the shave cream off the turning with the same plastic card as leveled the shave cream. Then wipe it down with a paper towel and let it dry for at least an hour.

After it has dried, begin applying the finish. This was first coated with lacquer to seal the wood then finished with Krylon Triple-Thick Cristal Glaze.



One final thought. Don't get hung-up on coloring the whole piece. Sometimes color can enhance the beauty of the natural wood. A little color can make the piece unique.



# Turn-on Chicago (TOC) 2012

Jack Frost

I just got back from attending the 3rd biannual TOC and it was fantastic. I was immersed in woodturning demos for 2 ½ days. All of this took place at College of St Mary on the Lake in Mundelien Illinois about a 5 ½ hour drive from the Cities. Once you are on site you do not have to move your car. Lodging, which was somewhat spartan, cafeteria food, institutional but plentiful, and demo rooms are all within a very short walking distance. For roughly \$450 I was feed, lodged and thoroughly entertained from Thursday supper until I left Sunday afternoon.

There were 17 featured demonstrators and 5 rotations per session. So at times it was hard to choose who to see. I went to a number of demonstrations of people I have not seen before and was not disappointed. My first rotation was Kirk DeHeer, from Craft Supply who turned a threaded box. Lots of good tips on thread chasing.

Next I saw Eli Avisera turn textured and carved platters. Eli is from Israel and for me he was one of



the highlights of the symposium-- an excellent teacher and turner.



My final rotation on Friday was watching Alan Carter turn his split bowls. I was not sure what I expected but this demo was inspiring. The

actual turning on the lathe was minimal but what he does off the lathe was very artistic and different.



Here is a turner we definitely need to demo at one of our club meetings.

Started Saturday watching Dixie Biggs demonstrate how she applies different surface treatment to her turned bowls and vessels.

Another demo, by Bob Rosand, was on his Christmas bell. His wife Susan does most if not all of his painting on his ornaments.



Finished up Saturday watching Kurt Hertzog show us the 20 things we need to know about pen turning. I thought I knew lot about pen turning but I found out lots of info I did not know.



I then watched Dick Sing make his Christmas ornament while similar to Bob's it had a few twists that made it unique, like a very small captive ring which he makes





with a dental tool. Dick is a retired machinist from GM so he is very exact using a micrometer in lieu of calipers to fit pieces together.



Saturday night banquet and auction were very well done. The auction raised \$13,000 for the Chicago Woodturners education fund.

On Sunday I watched Stuart Batty demo bowl and spindle turning, Alan Carter turn thin long stem goblets, two piece ones and lastly Eli Avisera do offset square bowls, boxes and pens. While this was the last demo of the day, this demo, along with Alan Carter were the highlights of TOC 2012 for me.

If you can only attend one symposium I definitely recommend Turn-On Chicago. Only two years away.



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](http://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](http://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](http://www.rockler.com)

### **Woodcraft**

9125 Lyndale Ave S, Bloomington

952-884-3634

10% discount on all items, except power tools.

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

### **Youngblood Lumber Company**

1335 Central AVE, MPLS.

612-789-3521

Wholesale prices to MWA members.

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

