



Minnesota WoodTurners Association

A LOCAL CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS

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AAW | AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
OF WOODTURNERS



Jeff Luedloff presents “Good Form and Woodturning Design” at the July membership meeting.



Minnesota Woodturners Association

Board Members

Officers

President

Rich Auge
rauge2003@gmail.com
(651-332-1566)

Vice-President

Fred Kogler
kogler@comcast.net
651-283-9876

Treasurer

Mark Debe
mkdebe@icloud.com

Secretary/Webmaster

Janese Evans
janese.evans@gmail.com

Members at Large

Program Director

Linda Ferber
linda@garber.org

Librarian

Gar Brown
garfield.brown59@yahoo.com
763-757-0696

Membership Coordinator

Ken Crea
MWA-kencrea@q.com
(651)-633-3271

Member At Large

Ed Mielech
edmielech@gmail.com
651-332-0197

Newsletter

Pete Bryant
kabplb@comcast.net
763-242-3234



MINNESOTA WOODTURNERS ASSOCIATION

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III. Things that May Be of Interest

A. Training Videos for **Everyone** from the AAW

Linda Ferber reported:

The AAW is providing a **complimentary** new source of training videos on the American Association of Woodturners website. It is organized by 20 different categories such as chucks and centers, decoration, cutting tools, lathes, segmented, sharpening, etc. These 20 categories can be further sorted into two groups: beginners only or all levels of users. **Most importantly, qualified AAW members have reviewed the videos for accuracy and safety concerns.**

Access to the video source is obtained by going to the American Association of Woodturners website, www.woodturner.org/, going to the “videos” pull down menu, and selecting “AAW Video Source.” A page describes the Video Source Website as “links to woodturning videos the AAW thinks are particularly useful and states that videos with safety concerns are so noted.” After pushing the “continue to library” button, you will reach a search page that will enable you to search by category (e.g. chucks and centers) and group by all levels or beginner videos only. Applying the search button will pull up links to videos on the internet suggested by the AAW for your particular needs.

REMEMBER THAT YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE AN AAW MEMBER TO HAVE ACCESS TO THESE VIDEOS.



III. Things that May Be of Interest

B. New North Area Small Group

Rick Auge reported:

Saturday July 2, **we had the first North East Metro group get together.** It went well and all who attended agreed it was worthwhile to keep up.

Here is the info for the next one

This will be the second North East Turning group meeting.

Bring questions you have on turning issues. Hopefully with the collective knowledge shared, we will all learn something.

7:30 am Saturday August 6th

Matthews Family Restaurant.

#2 South Pine Drive

Circle Pines Mn 55014.

Inspired by Paul Bullock, Promoted by Bob Meyer.

You do not have to be from the North East Metro to attend, you just need to be willing to do the drive.

Last meeting, Denny Dalberg answered questions about basic segmenting. Others brought blanks with questions regarding HOW TO?

There is no agenda, this is basically a group information sharing, and question format

IV. Monthly Meetings

A. July Membership Meeting

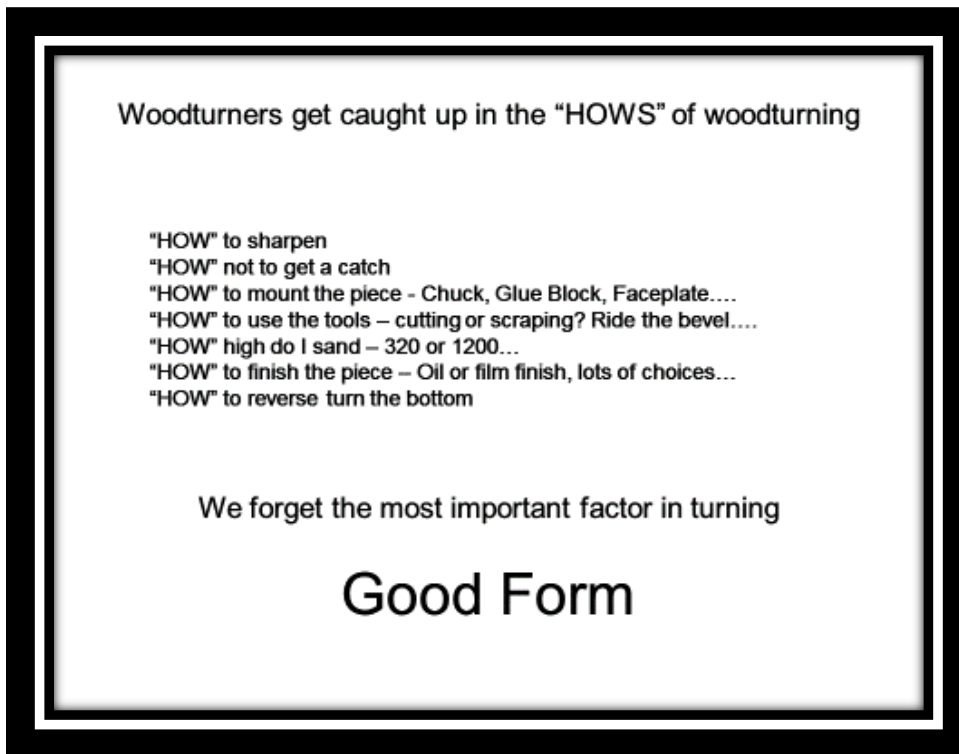


1. Main Presentation: Good Form and Wood Turning Design (Jeff Luedloff)

Despite a severe storm, attendance was good and we started on time. Jeff Luedloff gave a power point presentation on good form. There was no turning, but lots of audience participation.



Jeff's starting point is that many woodturners do not pay attention to Good Form and it is a most important consideration. His initial slide is as follows:



Noting that form is the most important factor in turning, he went on to define form as follows;

Form: The outward or visible shape of a body as distinguished from its substance or color.



A key component of form is proportion.

Proportion

Proportion is the relative measurement, or dimension, of parts to the whole.

Woodturners need to take into account the wood we have to work with.

Woodturners frequently try to use a piece of wood to its fullest size.

Make the best piece from your wood, not the biggest piece.

It is ok to waste wood.

One nice piece is better than 2 ok pieces.

Fit your best form into the piece you have to work with.

Don't let your chuck determine the form you are turning.

Proportion should be used as a guideline. A 3D object changes proportion depending on the viewing angle. Not a hard and fast rule. Most turned objects are viewed from above, where we can see the inside of the bowl.

The simplest method of determining best proportion is via the rule of thirds. Jeff emphasized that you should **remember this guideline if nothing else**. This is described in the next two slides.



Rule of Thirds

Ratio=1:2

Favorite method amongst woodturners and other art mediums.

Most cameras now come with "rule of thirds" grid lines in the view finder.

Easy to remember.

Examples:

9" diameter bowl should have a 3" diameter base.

An enclosed bowl or hollow form should have its widest section 1/3 from the top or bottom. 9" tall hollow form widest part should be 3" from the top or bottom.

Height of a piece should be 1/3 or 2/3 the diameter. 9" diameter bowl should be 6" or 3" high.

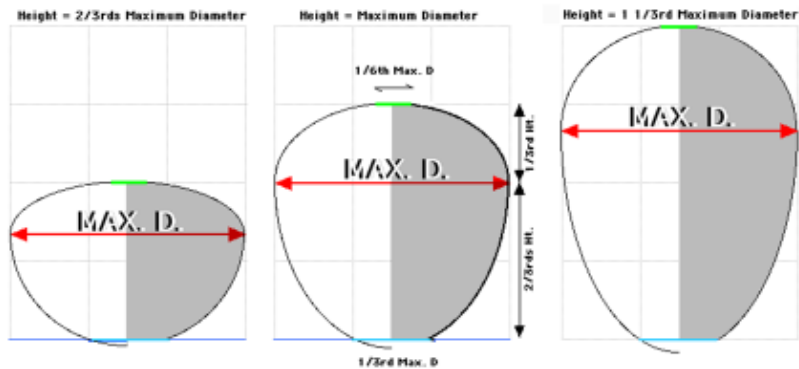
A lidded box lid should be 1/3 the size of the base.

Rule of Thirds

Rule # 1. The Maximum Diameter is placed at 2/3rds the Height

Rule # 2. The Foot is 1/3rd the Maximum Diameter

Rule # 3. The Neck is Half the Foot or 1/6th the Maximum Diameter



The Golden Mean and Fibonacci methods are also used to determine proportion, but they are more complicated to apply and used much less often. Jeff also noted that a key component of form is the curve.

The “Curve”

Curve: A line continuously bent, so that no portion of it is straight, as the arc of a circle.

Catenary Curve-

Shape seen when a chain hangs between 2 points.

Very Popular for woodturners.

Curves should bend smoothly, no kinks, no flat spots, no abrupt changes in direction.

In woodturning we should strive for no straight lines and no flat spots.

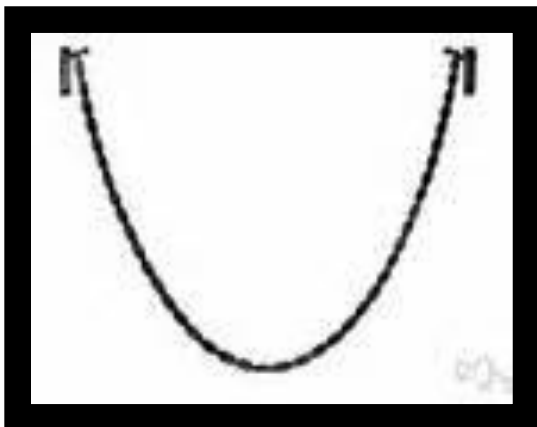
The best tip for “Seeing” the curve - “close your eyes”, you can feel the flat spots that your eyes don’t see.

Embellishments should not disrupt the curve.

Wide rim bowls or platters should have a gentle curve. They should not be flat.

Curves are everywhere: the human body, a flowing stream, a windy road.....

The catenary curve is generally the best form and is shown below:



Jeff noted that many turners struggle with artistic considerations in determining form. He suggested using your regular surroundings to get inspired. For example, he works in an elementary school and used stick figures and handprints on the outside of one bowl as shown below.



He also recommended looking at pottery classes, other woodturners, the AAW Gallery, and said that there is nothing wrong with copying a good bowl form.

Someone commented that it is helpful to cut out the form in paper to evaluate it. Lee Tourtelotte has found that using a white background has also been beneficial and it is best evaluated off chuck. Someone else recommended spray painting it black.

Through out the presentation, Jeff emphasized using good form and being prepared to use smaller pieces to achieve good form. He stressed being prepared to throw away any piece having bad form as quickly as possible, and not trying to fix it which seldom works well.

Mark Debe noted that sometimes continuing to work on a piece is often educational, but agreed that after the education is complete, throw away the wood.



Jeff summarized his recommendations for good form in the following two slides.

Tips for Turners

The outside profile of a bowl is the most important feature of your piece.

Quality of the profile directly relates to the quality of the finished piece.

The basic curve and proportion always show through any embellishments you add to your piece.

Find the "flat" spots - "don't go there".

Find the "high" spot - and "remove it".

It is ok to waste wood to get a better form.

Form needs to be correct before you embellish. Cut, Carve, shape, burn.

Smooth flowing curves can be both elegant and beautiful.

Some people see form naturally. Most need to practice, practice, practice good form.

Don't get too complicated. Beads, coves, abrupt change in the curve can be distracting.
Don't over do it.

Don't get attached to your piece of wood on the lathe. It is not finished until it is off the lathe and you are satisfied with the results.

The more money you spend on a piece of wood, the more likely you are to make an inferior piece. Wood turners don't like to waste wood.

If you're not sure if it needs "one more cut"? It probably does.

"It's a design opportunity" "trying to save a piece that shouldn't be saved".

Fixing mistakes usually doesn't improve the piece.

Gluing checks and cracks usually makes for a bowl with glued cracks.
1 crack bad, 100 cracks maybe interesting "artsy".

Think about its intended purpose- A shallow highly figured bowl displayed on a high shelf will never be seen - But a tall vessel or deep bowl will.





Jeff favors critique of one another's work when done without hurting feelings. He demonstrated good critique technique of form to close and encouraged turners to do so if they are comfortable with the setting and people.

IV. Monthly Meetings

A. July Membership Meeting

2. Instant Gallery



Jim Jacobs made some nice mushrooms



Tom VonWalter submitted a fine segmented bowl





Left: Bill Brecken made a 74 piece segmented bowl. Below: Jim Jacobs made a rugged half round scraper.



Below: Lee Luebke, Jim Jacobs, and Lee Tourtelotte discuss mushroom turning.



Below: Mark Palma shares his experiences at the AAW show with Larry Staedal



IV. Monthly Meetings

A. July Membership Meeting

5. Tool Raffle Items

There were some good items
for the tool raffle



V. Area Meetings

A. Hamburger Club

14 members came to the hamburger club meeting. Here are a few left to right: Steve Mages, Gar Brown, Rick Auge, Mike Hunter, and Gar's son Todd Brown,



At the other end of the table, Paul Laes, Lee Tourtelotte, Bob Puetz, and Bob Jensen carry on conversations of their own.





There were a lot of pieces brought to the hamburger club. One of the most interesting was this pen made from a pine cone by Ed Mielich.

V. Area Meetings

B. Plymouth Area Meeting

Nine Members attended. Eight are shown below



From Left to right: Lee Luebke, Steve Luhman, Roy Estes, Kim Burke





From Left to right: Wayne Johnson, Steve Mages, Al Feist, Dennis Quigley



Wayne Johnson brought in his first bowl made many years ago.



Steve Mages shared this bowl of cedar obtained on a trip to Tofte “where he just happened to have a chain saw with him.”





Steve Luhman made this bowl from African Sumac. The wood was donated by Larry Yost. It had low moisture content and is supposed to grow darker with time.



Steve Luhman applied a two part epoxy finish to this goblet. The finish is new at Rockler. It is tricky to apply, but appears to have promise.



Spindle turning exercises



Lee Luebke



Tom Estes



Kim Burke turns her first wood piece ever. Note long hair is pulled back for safety.



VI. Chapter Classes

A. Lazy Susan Class



In this class, the materials shown at the left are converted to the finished pieces below.



Instructor Rick Auge demonstrates turning the base to the class. From Left to Right: Roy Estes, Laura King, Mary Allea, Rosanne Gold, and Rick





Rick approves the turning of Mary Allen while Rosanne Gold waits her turn.



Roger Erikson and Roy Estes help each other on one phase of the project



From Left to right: Roy Estes, Rosanne Gold, Roger Erikson, Linda Ferber, and Laura King proudly display their finished work.

