



Minnesota WoodTurners Association

A LOCAL CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS

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AAW | AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
OF WOODTURNERS



Dixie Biggs demonstrates intricate carving, burning, and decoration techniques on wood turnings. Samples of her work are on the lower right hand side of the picture.



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Editors Note: The Board intends to place all schedule items on the new website calendar and nowhere else. As such, some schedule items have been removed from this newsletter. More schedule item removal is to continue further in the near future. Please go to the website in the future for all schedules.



III. President's Message



Please explore our new website at mnwoodturners.com or mnwoodturners.org.

As you should all know by now, MWA has a new Website.

The process was longer than I had anticipated and took a great deal of time from our board meetings. However the thoroughness of the board working together on this project was necessary to insure we were on the right track.

Several web development companies were contacted throughout the process. One of the initial companies Avallo was the only company still standing and still willing to work with us at the end of the process.

This process made me come to the understanding of the enormous amount of work and time that Will Travis spent in setting up and running our previous website.

A website we outgrew due to our large membership. Our previous website was pieced together using free stuff found on the internet. This method limited our abilities and was a factor in the overwhelming time it took to keep the site current.

Today our membership is 291 members.

Will Travis should be commended for the work and time he spent on the previous website, and for his guidance in selecting a new vendor.

I would like to thank the entire board for their contribution and patience in this matter.

WEBSITE NAVIGATION & INFO

In the New website each member will be able to print their own membership badges and membership ID cards. There will be no more waiting for batches of cards to be printed and distributed at meetings.

(Continued next page)



(President's message continued)

TO PRINT YOUR MEMBERSHIP BADGE.

Sign in, Scroll down until you see a MEMBER PORTAL on the left of the screen. To the right of the screen is a MEMBER CARD OPTION. Type in the City where you live then hit the CREATE button at the bottom of the page. It will show a member card on the screen which you can print. Holding down "CTRL P" will give you a print option.

Membership Badges will have a bar code on them for use in checking out DVD's at the library.

Membership Badges will have a bar code on them for use in checking out DVD's at the library.

Membership and classes will now be paid online through paypal. Paypal will accept credit cards, you do not have to have a paypal account. We will discontinue taking cash for classes and membership.

Membership renewal: You will get an automatically generated email one month and again one week before your membership is to expire, reminding you of the expiration date.

If you are having trouble logging in for the first time. The following members can assist you:

Janese Evans: janese.evans@gmail.com

Rick Auge: rauge2003@gmail.com

Pete Bryant: kabplb@comcast.net



IV. Noteworthy News

A. Chapter Challenge Toys Find a Home (Todd Williams)

You all remember the great truck with football, loaded with small toys, made for the 2015 AAW Symposium Chapter Challenge. Hopefully, you heard that the AAW asked for, and received, the truck with football, to be used for promotional purposes. But, they did not want the toys. Recall the toys were made by many members of MWA.

The MWA Board voted to donate the toys to a Children's Hospital. After some searching for a hospital interested in the toys, we made connection with Gillette Children's Hospital in St. Paul. They toys were delivered at the beginning of October. See the attached picture.



MWA wooden toys being delivered by Board member Todd Williams to Anne Keenan, Supervisor-Child Life, Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare].

Later MWA received a nice letter of thanks from Keenan. So, everyone who contributed can feel really good about bringing some joy to the lives of children having to be in the hospital. Should we do it again next year?



V. Monthly Meetings

A. September Membership Meeting

1. Pre-meeting Activities

a. Instant Gallery



Red spiral fluted base and blue straight fluted vase by Arden Griep



Segmented bowl of cherry and maple with a wax finish by Richard Messer



Knitting yarn bowl of big leaf maple and jatora with finish of Mahoney's walnut oil and Renaissance wax polish by Ken Hallburg





Pendants by Steve McLoon with notification that he will be showing furniture and turnings at the Casket Arts Open Studio Event October 16 and 17.

V. Monthly Meetings

A. October Membership Meeting

1. Pre-meeting Activities

b. Tool Raffle

Will Johnson received a donation of modular tools from a company called Harrison Specialties which was raffled at the meeting. See picture below which generated a lot of interest. In addition, Harrison issued a Woodturners Special certificate for a 15% discount to members purchasing tools there. [See below.](#)

Thank you very much Harrison Specialties. FYI Harrison Specialties is located in St. Michaels and could be worth a visit just to see their woodturning products.



The table top saw at the top of the picture was donated by Rick Auge



Save 15%

Simple Woodturning Tools

Made in the USA in St. Michael, Minnesota

Woodturners Specials!

Enter coupon code **MNWT15** during checkout for 15% off! Expires 10-17-2015

Simple Hollowing System
shown with optional laser and 3 woodturning tools.
Starts at \$149.97

6 Woodturning Tools With Interchangeable Handle
The complete line of full size woodturning tools.
Package price \$324.99

Mid-Size Set of 3 With Interchangeable Handles
Three tools with a different color handle for each.
Package price \$259.99

See it all at:
www.harrisonspecialties.com

V. Monthly Meetings

B. October Membership Meeting

2. Meeting

a. Main Presentation: Linda Ferber “Off Center Turning”

Linda shared that she has about eight hours a month for turning. She has found out she accomplishes the most if she focuses on one project for one year. For example, in 2015, she worked on lidded boxes, and in 2014, she focused in jewelry. In both these



areas, she developed a technique to decorate the surface in a distinctive way. In both methods, the part is held so that the part centerline is neither coincident with or perpendicular to the machine centerline. Rather the part is held at an angle to the machine centerline when machined. When held in this manner, a dimple is produced in the part using a small spindle gouge, and an attractive pattern is achieved. The two dimpled parts are shown below.



Dimpled Box Lid



Dimpled Pendant Jewelry

Linda achieves the dimple in the lid by machining various holding jigs in the following manner.

1. Turn a length of wood to a diameter consistent with the lid to be held.
2. Using a chop saw, cut top angles of 5, 15, and 20 degrees.
3. Apply double sided tape each jig top. The three jigs are shown below.



4. **Select a jig and mount the lid to the jig via the double sided tape. Once in the lathe, additional pressure may be applied using the tail stock.**



In addition, Linda recommends applying external duct tape for better lid retention. This external tape is the red tape wrapped around the lid and the jig in the adjacent picture.

Linda then cuts the dimple into the offset lid.



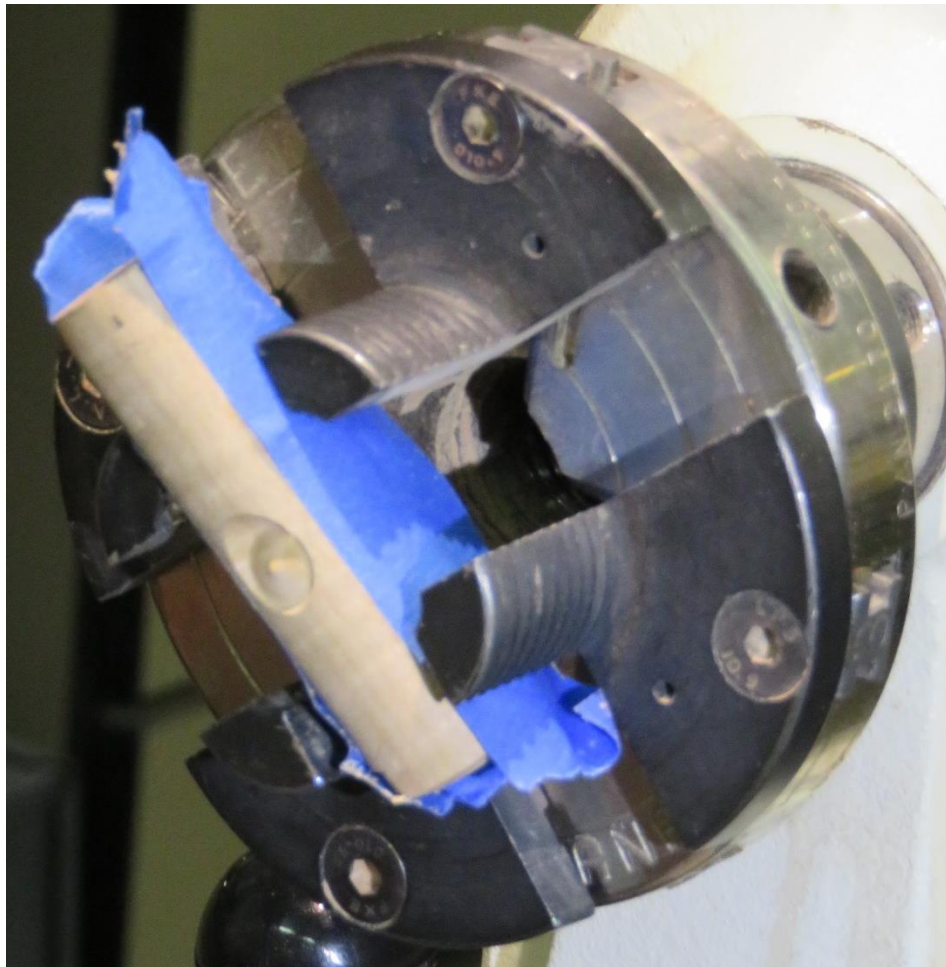
Linda describes the cutting action as starting out with the flutes up and turning to the left. The action is similar to turning a bead. The cutting time is very short.



Since this is an easy part to make, the turner can easily make at least twenty pieces to practice cutting technique, to experiment with dimple depth and width, and to optimize offset angle using the various top jig angles.

Since these parts are quite small, imperfections are apparent and sanding is very important.

When cutting the dimple into the long tubular pendant jewelry, the part retention method is different from that of the flat, plate like lid. An apprentice brand chuck with extended jaws is used and the pendant is cocked between the sides of the jaws. Tape is added to the side of the pendant to prevent the jaws marring the work piece. The set up is shown below.



V. Monthly Meetings

A. October Membership Meeting

2. Meeting

b. Beads of Courage



There were seven bowl collected in October for the Beads of Courage Program.

Diane Putz advises that there are bowls on hand for at least three months. **She plans to pause collecting Beads of Courage for the months of December, January, and February.** This will allow turners to enjoy the holidays and take a short rest before resuming Beads of Courage bowl collection in March.

Diane and Bob Putz are most grateful of the generosity of the members' faithful participation in this program. They felt that a short break might be one way to express their appreciation.



V. Monthly Meetings

A. October Membership Meeting

2. Meeting

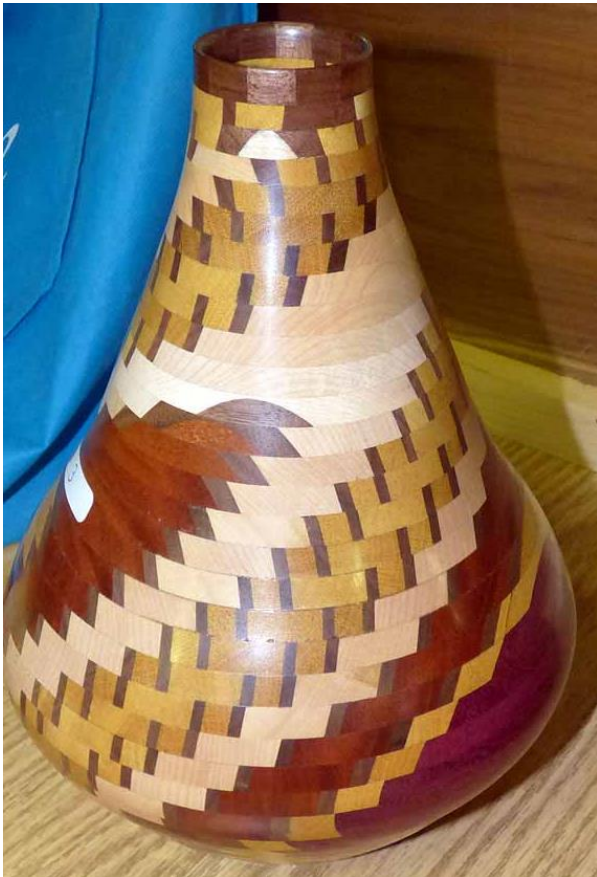
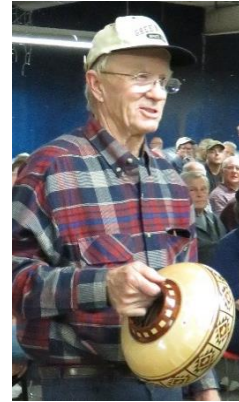
c. President's Challenge

The theme for the month is "Something Segmented." Entries shown below.





First Place Arden Griep.
Contains 718 Pieces and
took six weeks to make.



**Second place Denny Dalberg. Made
by the method of Tom Wohlen**





**Third Place John
Gundale 480 Pieces**



**Fourth Place Jack
McGowan 400 pieces**





**Fifth Place Ken
Hallberg**



6th Place Joe Swirn





Seventh Place Greg Just



V. Monthly Meetings

B. Local Gatherings and Turners Groups

1. Hamburger Club

The Hamburger Club met Thursday 10/15 from 11:30 to 1:00 at the 50's Club in Brooklyn Center. **The next meeting is planned for Thursday November 12 same place, same time.**

For the winter, the normally scheduled date is every Thursday of the week after the MWA meeting. In the summer it is the Wednesday of the same week.

This meeting is most convenient for members on the north side, but everyone is invited.

Note that in the future the schedule for this event is planned to be posted on the MWA website calendar only. Highlights will continue to be reported here.



2. South East Regional Turning Meeting

Jim Jacobs reports

Our south east metro small group September meeting was held at Warren Gerbers shop in Mendota heights on Sept 24th.

“Warren has been turning for about 3 years and has quite an impressive quantity of turnings. It is often easier to ask questions and learn from each other in these members shops. We are open to new members..you don't have to be "south east metro" Watch for e-mail blasts on up coming small group meetings.



Warren shows off his Nova lathe with anti fatigue mat. He demonstrates his Laguna dust collector with which he is very satisfied. He also has a cabinet full of his turning accomplishments. They look pretty good for a three year turner.





Steve Miller takes the Nova for a spin. Note position and intensity of the light.



Warren shows us his wise crack prevention tool. Jim tries to gain control of tool before making his first wise crack.



The next meeting of the South East Turners Group will be on Oct 30 from 10-3 pm

Location: Steve Miller's shop 1748 Kimberly Circle, River Falls, Wi

Here are some of the possible topics:

ornaments.....urchins.....hollowed
lidded boxes
pepper mills
bowls...natural edge and traditional
hollow forms
coring bowls using different systems
finishing

This meeting is open to the membership. We're just a bunch of members who like to share and help other members of the club

If you plan on attending ,respond to Steve, or [715-821-8726](tel:715-821-8726). Bring a show and tell item and \$5.00 to cover lunch.

Note that in the future the schedule for this event is planned to be posted on the MWA website calendar only. Highlights will continue to be reported here.

3. Plymouth Area Turning Meeting

The Plymouth Area Turning group plans to meet Wednesday October 29th 7:00-8:30 PM at Steve Mages Shop in Minnetonka. The group intends to turn a goblet with a captured ring.

The group normally meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month same time, same place. Everyone is invited to attend.

Note that in the future the schedule for this event is planned to be posted on the MWA website calendar only. Highlights will continue to be reported here.

4. NorthWest Turning Meeting

This group is currently on hold until Neil Robinette recovers enough from surgery to do some turning. At that time, it is expected that he do some preliminary rough turning and then call a meeting of the group. Each member will do a turning project based on Neil's initial work. It is anticipated that this group will resume shortly.

Note that in the future the schedule for this event is planned to be posted on the MWA website calendar only. Highlights will continue to be reported here.



VI. Pro Demonstration Dixie Biggs



The woodturnings of Dixie Biggs combine the highest craftsmanship in both her selection of materials and in their shaping on Dixie's lathe. The intricate carvings that cover the surfaces of many of her pieces are inspired by nature and are not mere embellishments but seem an integral part of the particular piece of wood she is focused on as she works, unlocking classic, balanced forms from rough logs which she seems able to see into from the first time she touches them.

(From the Florida Wood turning Symposium)

Here are some samples of Dixie's work that she shared at the MWA demo.





The following observations were made by attendees of both her large group and small hands on groups:

DENISE AUGÉ (Rick's wife and a woodcarver for 2-3 Years):

Dixie is a lovely person who is very down to earth. I met her at this year's AAW meeting.

She is a natural teacher who has the special ability to recognize where students are and teach at that level. She has the skill to teach at any level. She could teach beginners through experts. She spent a lot of time making sure the students were holding their tools properly which was very helpful. She is expert at both carving and burning. Her course was a good way to expand your expertise.

DAN LARSON (MWA teacher of Pizzazz for your Bowls)

Dixie is highly talented and an excellent teacher. She went step by step which was very helpful. In class, she taught us how to make a leaf come out of the wood by rendering it three dimensional, making it come alive, and undercutting the leaf to make a shadow. The following photograph was the work piece in the small hand's on group. She used wood burning to darken and texture the piece. Because the work takes such a long time, each piece is expensive, but they sell because they are so good.





GAR BROWN; (Turner with 10 years of experience)

The demonstration was exceedingly well done. Dixie was thoughtfully prepared and knows exactly what she wants to do. She walked students through the process in a rational way. She was interesting, down to earth, and without any arrogance. She was particularly open to questions and was easily interruptable. She emphasized how the design is affected by the tools. Her practical hints were great. In particular, she shared a source sheet of tools and materials which was quite price conscious. I have seen over 50 professional demonstrations and feel that Dixie's demo is better than them all.

Most of our presentations are geared to beginners because many of our members are in that category. This presentation was special in that advanced and intermediate turners could learn quite a bit. From time to time, advanced turners would appreciate these types of advanced demonstrations.



A review of the tools needed for the small class indicated that purchasing these could run \$4-500. Since most of our club do not have this type of tooling, this may have discouraged some people from coming to small group classes.

The slide show of her different pieces was excellent. Her pieces sell for \$2-3000. It takes her 4-5 days to complete a five inch bowl.

VII. MWA Classes

A. The monthly sharpening class taught by Neil Robinette was held Wednesday October 21.

B. A basic bowl class was taught by Bob Meyer on Saturday October 1.



The class was attended by Dan Katuhitpe, Jill Dobrick, Todd Somner, Jerry Morton, Kerry Anderson and Hanz Neisz. Bob Meyer is at the lathe.





Jill Dobrick is off to a good start on her first bowl. She says growing up in a hardware store helps.



Assistant teacher, Dan Larson, helps student Hans Neisz.

C. A natural edge bowl class was taught by Bob Meyer who was assisted by Neil Robinette Saturday October 17.

The class was attended Paul Bullock, Hans Neisz, Dale Gjerde, Mary Hurwitz, and Roger Erickson. They are shown below with Neil Robinette closely listening to Bob.





Bob Meyer checks out the work of Roger Erickson



Mary Hurwitz turns a natural edge.

