

Minnesota WoodTurners Association

A LOCAL CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS

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Gary Mrozek discusses and demonstrates “Deep Hollowing” at the September Meeting. Note the new video monitor at the right of the picture. Several video monitors are replacing the screen and projector system previous used. The video monitors provide a much clearer picture.



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III. Things that May Be of Interest

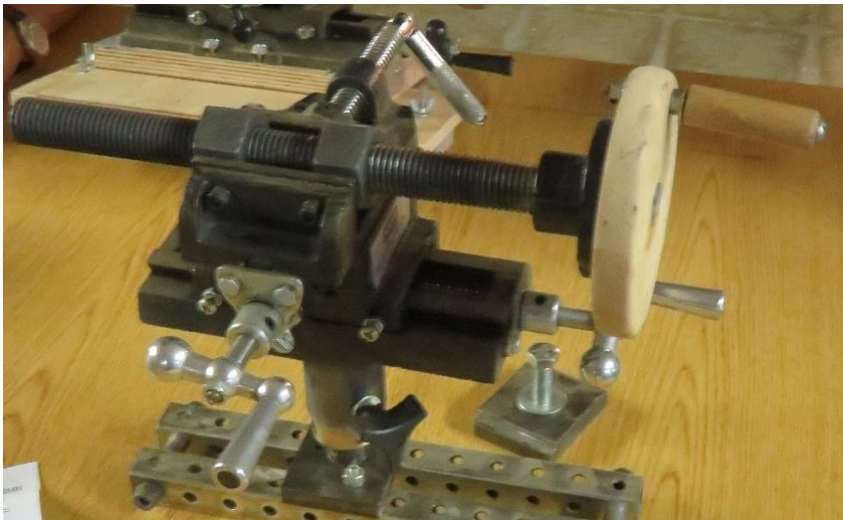
A. A Distinguished Visitor



Meet Daryll Gray from Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania. She is President of the Indiana County Woodturners Association. Her chapter is much smaller than ours. She learned a lot from our larger group and had a good time visiting with members.

III. Things that May Be of Interest

B. Thread Cutting Jigs



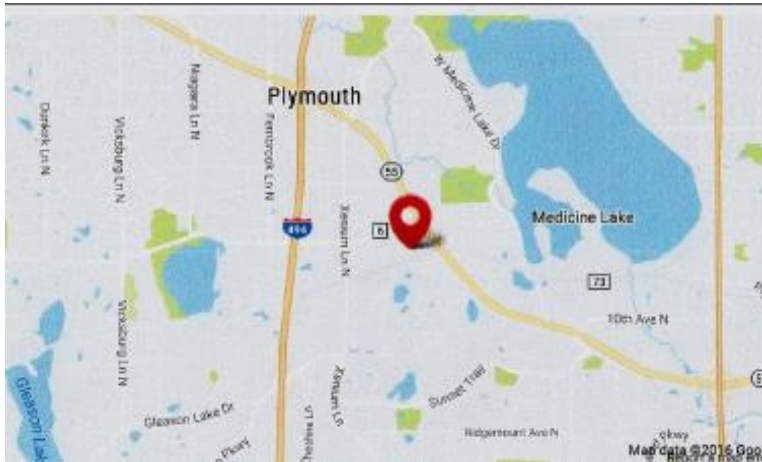
Bob Puetz brought in two thread cutting jigs. The thread cutter is mounted in the lathe spindle, the work piece is mounted on the end of the screw, the vise positions the work relative to the cutter, and cranking the handle advances the work into the cutter on a spiral path.



III. Things that May Be of Interest

C. The new meeting place.

Beginning in October, monthly meetings will take place at Houck Machine Company, 12811 16th Ave North Plymouth, MN 55441. (763-566-3792, www.houckmachine.com/). The location is shown on the maps below.



As usual, the meeting will take place on the first Tuesday of the month and will start at 6:30 pm.

IV. Monthly Meetings

A. September Membership Meeting

1. Pre Meeting



Some members (Ken Hallberg, Johnny Tillery, and Joe Zwirn) started the evening by checking out the wood raffle for pieces they could use.





Other members (Carol Langford and Jackie Baker) started the evening by evaluating the challenge submissions and deciding how to cast their vote.



A lot of value was found at the tool table as well

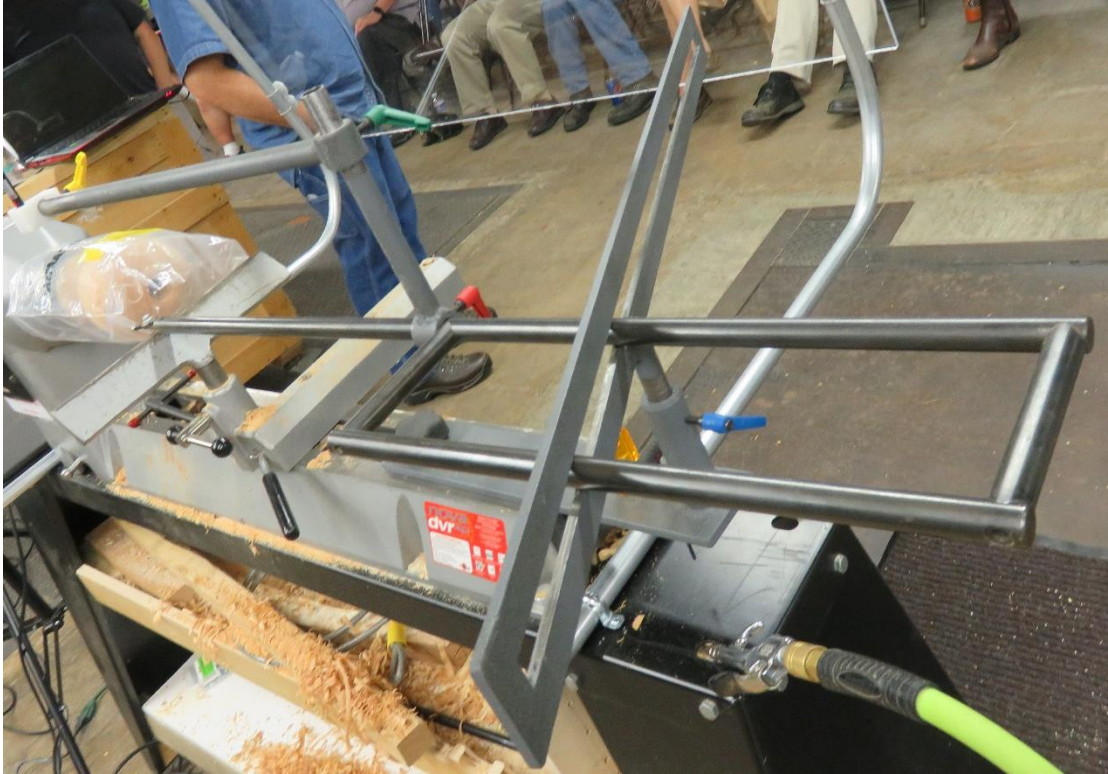


IV. Monthly Meetings

A. September Membership Meeting

2. Main Presentation: My Story of Hollowing By Gary Mrozek

Gary began by giving a brief, Power Point history of the evolution of hollowing systems going from bent and sharpened high speed tools to current laser guided carbide tooling.

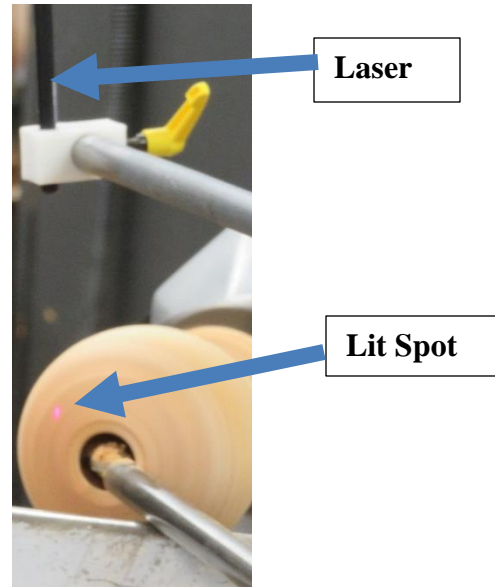


This is the most recent hollowing system designed and built by Gary. He points out that a key feature of the system involves handling the torque generated by the cutting action. Gary uses a Hunter tool for the rough cutting and makes finishing cuts with a scraper tip made from A2 steel. Gary hardens his scraper bits by heating them to a cherry red for about one hour. It is critical to have his equipment set parallel to the lathe bed.

For this meeting, Gary worked with green cherry wood. He is setting his equipment to operate at 1000 rpm and a wall thickness of 3/8". Gary can operate as thin as 3/32" wall. His hollowing process starts with drilling into the hollow form as deep as 1/2" from the bottom.

Gary's equipment is similar to those sold by Lyle Jamison for about \$500.





In the above left photo, Gary demonstrates the technique of cutting using both hands spread out over the equipment. The right hand picture shows the laser projecting a purple/pink spot on the workpiece. The cutting edge has been set 3/8" inside this spot as part of Gary's set up procedure.



Gary finds that debris in the bowl causes problems and must be blown out (left hand photo). This extraction takes much more time than cutting. The right hand photo shows the small opening in the hollow form.





To the left are some of Gary's finished hollow forms. He took the MWA Avelino course to improve his embellishment techniques. He finishes with Mahoney Walnut Oil.

Gary prefers to start and finish a project at the same time. Drying the green wood therefore is an issue. Gary microwaves his pieces in a zip lock bag. Using a clean, dry bag each cycle, he heats the piece at 100% power for about 1 minute cycles or until the ziplock bag is about to burst. He then lets it sit in the microwave for a while before opening the bag and pouring the water out. He then repeats the cycle with a new bag. Normally, 10 cycles are required to dry the part. Gary checks for dryness by putting the piece to his cheek. When the piece no longer feels cold, the part is deemed dry.

Gary lives in St. Cloud and is a member of both that chapter and MWA. He teaches deep hollowing classes at the Paramount Center of the Arts in St. Cloud.

IV. Monthly Meetings

A. September Membership Meeting

3. Beads of Courage



September Beads of Courage bowls and toys are shown to the left. Steve Miller, Lyle Bye, and Rick Auge received gift cards for their work.



IV. Monthly Meetings

A. September Membership Meeting

4. Challenge



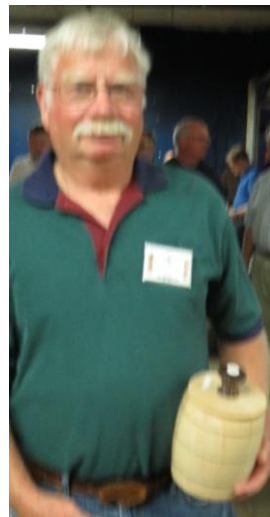
There was a fine collection of lidded boxes for the competition.



Dan Larson
First Place



Greg Just
Second Place



Richard Messer
Third Place



Rod Nelson
Fourth Place



V. Area Meetings

A. Plymouth Area Meeting



Al Feist, Jerry Morton, Peter Withof, Lee Luebke, Steve Mages, and Roy Estes (left to right) discuss deep hollowing.



Al Feist shared this bowl.



Lee Luebke made several Ulu cutting/chopping systems.





Lee turned his ulu bowls on his shop smith. Each board had a block glued on the back fitted for expanding chuck jaws. The blocks were glued on with wood glue and a paper strip. They were easily removed with a hammer and chistle.



Steve Mages demonstrates his deep hollowing system to the group. It is purchased rather than home built.



Steve uses a Hunter carbide tool when hollowing





Ron Miller takes the hollowing system for a spin during the “you turn” portion of the meeting.

V. Area Meetings

B. SE Metro Area Meeting



Dave Olson, Mike Lucido, Dave Vinck, Bob Hanson, and Dave Zawicki (left to right) relax after finishing breakfast and before starting the program.





Left to Right: Gar Brown, Bob Hanson, Lee Tourtelotte, Jim Jacobs, Shane Maki, and Wayne Gerber chat over coffee.



The first part of the meeting addressed how to cut up a burl. Bob's son, Dan Hanson, (behind Jim Jacob's red shirt holding burl) brought one that needed cutting. He, also, brought a logger to cut it (Ben Plunkett wearing chaps and behind the log processor). Warren Gerber, Lee Tourtelotte, Doug Ashton, Jim Jacobs, and Glen Hambleton offer their comments on how to begin.

Note that the chaps Ben wears consist of spun kevlar fiber and can stop a chain saw from cutting through to his legs. He advises that 80% of chain saw accidents involve the legs.





It was decided to cross cut adjacent to the burl to determine if there was any decay that could be avoided. The crosscut showed decay and gave a good indication of the best angle at which to make the axial cut through the burl.



The burl did show some decay, but was deemed worth turning. Charlie Prokop shows the plate he uses for holding the wood in the lathe at this point.



Jim Jacobs showed us how to turn a mushroom. Starting with a fairly straight log, he cut an angle in the base and manually drilled a hole for an Elio drive. Then, he began removing bark using Bob Hanson's beautiful Robust lathe.





Jim first turned the top



and then roughed out the stem



The top was undercut and the stem finished



leading to the mushroom

At this point, the group adjourned for lunch. Bob Hanson, a retired professional chef, prepared an excellent meal. We were so busy eating that no pictures were taken!





Left: It was noted that Gar Brown's birthday was that very day. He was presented with a wood birthday cake with black crayon frosting. The numbers on the cake indicating age are only a best estimate. Gar is currently turning his cake rather than eating it.

The flag pole on the right is fascinating. Many years ago, Bob Hanson made it himself. It was constructed from 4" x 4" cedar pieces with a hole thru the center for a 2" pipe. Each piece was 10 inches long because that was the maximum drill depth available. Three pieces were then assembled on a 2" pipe mandrel and turned. The pieces were then assembled to two ten foot pipes and the pipes were joined together and further stiffened by 1" and ½" pipes internally. Finally the base was encased in concrete three feet into the ground. The flag pole has stood over twenty years and remains rigid. The tilt shown is the effect of the river flooding and upsetting the base.



V. Area Meetings

C. Hamburger Club

The Hamburger Club met in Plymouth at the Round Robin Restaurant. This location was selected to permit a visit to the new meeting place (Houck Machine) which is nearby.



At one side of a long table are Duane Gemulke, Gar Brown, Jeff Luedloff, Bob Puetz, and Neil Robinette. Steve Kingdom, owner of Houck Machine, is not visible between Bob and Neil.



At the other side of the table are Steve Mages, Tom Kramer (visitor from Cincinnati), Mike Hunter, Tom Peters, and Paul Laes. Carol Magneson is not visible between Tom and Mike.



Pictures taken at Houck Machine are below.



This is the west room. We currently plan To have tables here (registration, raffle, Instant gallery, challenge, etc)



The hamburger club unloaded some recently purchased chairs for the club meetings.



The above pictures show the east room where the meetings will be held. It is roughly the size of the seating area at the Salvation Army. There is a storage space available for meeting equipment.

