



Mid Minnesota Association of Woodturners 'Shavings'

Providing an environment of interest and activities dedicated to the enjoyment of wood turning activities and to promote woodturning to the local community through education and charitable events.

From the President



When the newsletter comes out, Thanksgiving will have come and gone and Christmas is approaching fast. I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Enjoy the season, whatever holiday you celebrate.

There are several announcements in this newsletter regarding activities of the MMAW so be sure to check it out. We are going to try something different at the January MMAW meeting. We will have three lathes set up and have three separate demonstrations going on at the same time. The demos will revolve around producing bowls. It should be interesting even if you're not a bowl turner.

The December meeting will be our Holiday get together. Details in a separate announcement. **See pages 2 & 4.**

The board is very open to ideas and suggestions to improve our meetings. I think we have had some very good meetings packed with information, there is always room for improvement, but we need to know what the membership would like to see. Feel free to make suggestions, ask for help if you would like some related to your turning and/or offer help to those who ask. There are several experienced members that would be happy to give individual help, if not sure whom to ask, contact me and I will suggest some turners for you to contact.

The newsletter will not be published in January. Any information we need to get out will be posted on the web site or sent out in an e-mail blast.

Enjoy the Holidays – See you at the party.

Bill Baker

MMAW President

Dec. 10th Membership Meeting

The MMAW December Membership Meeting will be held at the Visual Arts Center (VAC) in the lower level of the Paramount Theatre, Downtown St. Cloud.

The MMAW December meeting will be a holiday get together. Meeting will start at 11 AM instead of the usual 10 AM.

The Challenge Project will be a holiday ornament. Please bring your creations to share with the membership and their guests.



PARAMOUNT
THEATRE AND VISUAL ARTS CENTER
DOWNTOWN ST. CLOUD, MN





Holiday Celebration. See you at the December 10th meeting. Our holiday celebration will start at 11 AM at the Paramount Visual Arts Center, our usual meeting place. Feel free to bring a guest. It is a “potluck” format, please bring a dish to pass if you can. Beverages will be provided but bring your own if you have special needs. We will be having a turned wood exchange. See **page 4** for more information related to the exchange.

Financial Report by Lyle Knopp, MMAW Treasurer

Starting balance	\$1175.24
Debits	\$431.92
Credits	\$45.51
Current balance	\$788.83



Happy Holidays from the Board of Directors.

Update on Empty Bowls

Empty Bowls is scheduled for March 25, 2012 in St. Cloud. Tom Markman, who is coordinating our participation, has announced that Dec. 3 has been selected for the “roughing” out of the bowls. There will be 3 or 4 lathes available at the Paramount and 2 roughing sessions are scheduled - 10 until 12 and 12 until 2. Let him know if you can help rough out some bowls that day. It is an opportunity to hone your roughing/turning skills as well as helping out a very worthy cause.



For Sale

The MMAW has 2 gallons of Anchorseal for sale. Cost is \$15 per gallon or \$8 per half gallon.

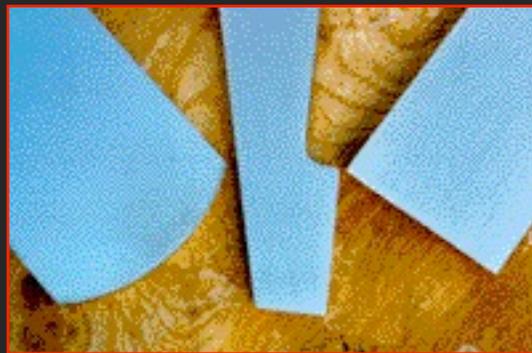
Contact Bill Baker if interested in purchasing or if you have questions.

Types of Turning Tools

Over the next several issues of ‘Shavings’, turning tools will be discussed. The tool featured in part 3 of the series is the scraper.

To achieve a fine internal finish on bowls and to refine the internal shape, many turners choose to use **scrapers**. Unlike many turning tools, these are used with only the tip of the cutting edge in contact with the workpiece surface and no substantial bevel rubbing. The name 'scraper' is something of a misnomer as a correctly sharpened and used 'scraper' should cut and produce real shavings and not just dust - just like any properly sharpened turning tool.

Scrapers come in many and varied shapes and are often reground by turners to suit individual jobs and special applications. The most important characteristic of a scraper is rigidity where as a light weight scraper represents a rippled surface waiting to happen.





Meeting Notes from the November 12 Membership Meeting submitted by Bill Langen MMAW Secretary



New Members: Earl Pillaud, Ron Larson, Sid Herrick, Bill Larson, Paul White, Jerry Wervey

Welcome to New Members: *Dennis Myers* welcomed new members with the story of the first meeting he attended and the warm reception he was given. He especially emphasized that new members can count on the support and advice of older members.

Demo: *John Wilson* gave a talk and demonstration of his invention for using a Dremel Tool to carve bowls. His article on his tool and his technique appear elsewhere in this newsletter.

Chippewa Valley Woodturners Symposium: *Gary Mrozek* attended this event which he thought was a valuable experience. One of his strongest impressions was that many professional turners are using embellishment techniques to enhance their work and increase its sale value.

Ed Outreach Program: All of the members involved in this program agree that it is an enormous success with both club mentors and young participants reporting their satisfaction. One measure of this success is the fact that there are always more teenagers wanting to participate than our resources and mentors will permit.

December Meeting: The Chapter will hold its annual Christmas/Holiday Potluck celebration. The meeting will be held on December 10 starting at 11:00 rather than the usual 10:00. Spouses are very warmly invited to accompany all who attend.

December Challenge: A Christmas ornament.

Empty Bowls: Lutheran Social Services stages an annual soup and bowl sale as part of their fundraising effort for their charitable work. The woodturners have donated bowls in the past, and this year we will set a date in December where members may come by in the afternoon and turn bowls for this event.

March Wood Expo: several people have volunteered to help with our participation.

Challenge/Show and Tell: *Bud Becker* displayed his segmented hickory platter; *Bill Langen* brought three boxes turned from osage orange, walnut and persimmon; *Bill Larson* showed us his segmented vase in spalted birch with an epoxy inlay and a lidded box from manufactured wood; *John Caye* has been busy and showed us a piñon bowl and six lidded boxes made from various woods in different styles; *Brad Knowles* displayed a tiny Molly Winton style lidded box which he had made using reshaped Allen wrenches; *Lenny Merten* explained the technique he used to make two vases with a very complex Space Shuttle design commemorating the Challenger astronauts; *Jay Eggebrecht* brought a lidded box he had made from butternut; *Jim Preusser* made a plate with alternating woods bandsawn in a wave pattern to make the blank; *Allan Sias*, *Larry Sampson* and *Bill Baker* showed their lidded boxes. The number of items displayed as well as the craft evident in their design and execution are the best testimony to the expertise and enthusiasm of our group. Bravo to all who brought pieces to the meeting!
Challenge drawing winners were *John Caye*, *Bill Baker* and *Bud Becker*. The 50/50 winner was *Larry Sampson*.

Library funds available stand at \$27.00



Notes from the MMAW Board of Directors

submitted by Bill Langen, MMAW Secretary

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday and people having guests or being out of town the minutes from the November 21 Directors' Meeting will be in the February newsletter (no newsletter for January).



Holiday Turned Wood Exchange

In the spirit of the season we are hoping members attending the MMAW Holiday Party will bring a turned item to exchange with another member. Your name will go into a hat and you will have an opportunity to pick an item that another turner has brought to exchange. We are hoping to have a lot of items for the exchange. Don't be shy!

MMAW Board of Directors

- Bill Baker – President
- Jay Eggebrecht– Vice President
- Bill Langen – Secretary
- Lyle Knopp- Treasurer
- Gary Mrozek – Past President
- Albert Keppers – Member at large
- John Caye – Member at large



The MMAW Board of Directors wish all members a Happy and Safe New Year.

'Shavings' will not be published in January. Any information will be posted on the MMAW site, <http://www.midmnwoodturners.org/> or will be sent out to members in e-mail blasts.

Disclaimer: as the newsletter is laid out and room allows photos of MMAW members' work is included, the creators's name is usually not known. Please do not be offended if your turning(s) are not shown, the work is not juried. It is the amount of available space that dictates how many photos are included.



John Wilson and Bowl Embellishments Using a Dremel Tool and Attachment

John Wilson, now sixty years old says he's always loved to play around in the woodshop making odds and ends out of scraps of wood ever since he was just a small boy back home on the family farm. His dad had a humble woodshop in the corner of their two car garage. John recalls having fun with his dad's old Craftsman 8" lathe as a boy, making little rockets, toy bats, and a few other simple objects, but never tried his hand at anything real challenging. His dad made do with the most humble of lathe chisels, making mostly plates and candle sticks.

Today John likes to pick intriguing wood projects from time to time that offer a new challenge, and when his father passed away three years ago, John suddenly found himself the caretaker of his Dad's old Craftsman lathe. When the Mid-Minnesota Association of Wood Turners (MMAW), a splinter group from the Central Minnesota Woodworkers Association (CMWA) began to form, John, already a member of the CMWA, thought this new wood turners group might serve as a good resource for expanding his limited knowledge of wood turning. He says joining the club quickly proved beneficial. It's a great group of people, eager to share their knowledge with others, something he's now found himself doing as well. Turning bowls and other vessels got a lot of attention when it came to topics of discussion, and John decided to try his hand at it as well. By the time he finished his fourth bowl, he realized that bowl turning wasn't difficult with the right chisels.

John appreciates good art, and that's what kept his mind occupied for the last 18 months. He wanted to blend the art of relief carving, something he'd done often as a boy, with bowl turning. He could envision the style of artwork that he wanted to create; he just couldn't find the right tool to accomplish it. He spent the latter part of those 18 months searching the internet for a micro router, and when he found none to fulfill his needs; he set out to create his own. What he needed was something small and agile enough to perform stock removal around intricate designs applied to the outside of turned vessels, he crafted his own router base from various parts found in hardware stores, attached it to his hobbyist's rotary tool, which now gives him the ability to stand it upright, and created his own micro router.

After creating a few more carved bowls, he decided to have a working prototype of his little tool made

at a local machine shop. It performed well enough that he soon found himself being coached to patent it, which he did. Hobbyist's router bits are not what he had hoped they would be. His first experiments revealed that high speed steel router bits will last for only about an hour. Bad economy he says. Instead he's found a good source for 1/8" carbide CNC router bits. They're about twenty dollars each, but are a far better value than their alternative. He's still on his first router bit after five more bowls, and it's still going strong.

John, through his own experimentation, has tried various ways to apply patterns to the perimeters of his vessels. For economy's sake he makes his own out of paper and glues them to his vessels with rubber cement. If you're good with freehand art a dark pencil will work nearly as well, you just need to remain vigilant not to cross over the pencil lines. Stick-on Patterns are best as constant reminders to do so. He says that the adhesive patterns found in craft shops work well but there is a very limited choice of patterns to choose from and they're difficult to remove when you get to that point. Sanding them off doesn't work because the vessel quickly becomes out of round within just hours of turning it, and, depending on the pattern, it can take that long just to perform the relief routing. By then the vessel is out of round and trying to sand the pattern off sands too deeply into the artwork on opposing sides. Once he's carved the veins into the maple leafs he uses a good sharp chisel to remove the patterns. Then he can begin to do the finish work on the leaves with a fine grit sanding flap wheel.

He's also fashioned his own poor man's bowl holding bracket, which simply fits into the lathe's chisel rest. The bracket is made up of readily available plumbing pipe parts and is fashioned to receive the faceplate he attaches to each bowl for turning. The use of this bracket allows him to swing the bowl out towards him into a more ergonomic position for carving. It also allows the bowl to be turned incrementally and locked into place through the use of a locknut turned tight behind the faceplate with a wrench.

To date John has worked to perfect a Maple leaf motif within a carved band encircling his bowls. He wants to try his hand at incorporating wood dyes in his patterns as well as wood burning. He's ready to move on to more challenging patterns as of now.

See page 6 for photos of John at work



**John Wilson:
Embellishing a Bowl**





MMAW Members' Work

These photos show some of the work that was shared at the November membership meeting. Thanks to all the members for bringing in their creations and sharing how they made them.





More Creations From The November Meeting

