



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



For the MMAW members, March came in like a lion and went out like a lion. It was a busy month for many. With the help of Lyle Knopp and the generosity of Greg Pont, the final details were completed to have our treadle lathe ready for the CMWA Wood Expo on March 12th. A big thanks to the members who demonstrated on the treadle lathe and the other lathes with the

fabrication of the wooden tops given to the public. Those members include Albert Keppers, Roxanne Wyatt, Dennis Myers, John Caye, Larry Sampson and others. Tom Markman, Jay Eggebrecht and John Skalla did a fantastic job coordinating our booth. The final tally of the bowls donated to Empty Bowls by our membership was 141. Of this total, 28 bowls were sold at the Expo with \$10 per bowl returned to the club. Two of our members attended the presentation by Virgil Leih at Dunwoody in Minneapolis on March 15th (see page 2 for more details). Seven of our members participated in the St. Cloud Art Crawl on Friday March 18th displaying and selling their wares in the Paramount Visual Arts Center. The Art Crawl, as a whole, had one of the highest attendances to date. Nearly 800 visitors perused the Paramount facility. Ten MMAW members attended the Minnesota Woodturners Association’s presentation by Mark St. Leger on March 26th at the University of Minnesota. We wrapped out our 8 week exhibition at the St. Cloud Public Library. Over 250 of our club brochures were printed and distributed in March. There’s a lot happening in the world of woodturning. “**Log-on**” to our website frequently to see what’s happening. If you hear of an upcoming event, let us know and we’ll add it to our “[Classes and Events](#)” page. *Hey, I like that pun – “LOG ON”.*

Gary

April Membership Meeting

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

Please remember the April challenge is turning an egg. Bring it to the membership meeting on April 9. Meeting starts at 10 AM. More info p. 5.

April’s demonstration will be related to turning a pepper mill.



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





Virgil Leih at Dunwoody by Denny Myers

Roxanne and I attended Virgil Leih's presentation at Dunwoody. It was hosted by the Woodworkers' Guild and the Woodturners' Association. The woodturners showed some of their beautiful creations during the show-and-tell.

Virgil had some of his forms on display. They were very impressive! His technique is another dimension of working with and in wood that is really neat. He uses an Oliver Gap lathe with a 5 hp motor geared to lots of power and turns at 100 rpms. I'm not positive but I think he said that he could turn a 7'x7'x7' piece on this lathe. Also, his lathe is the largest commercial lathe of its kind in the country. It was built in 1917 and sold to an outfit in Boston. Virgil said that he purchased it in Massachusetts. He uses a right angle grinder with a chainsaw disk to hollow the form while it is turning. I didn't know that was possible.

Virgil scrounges for trees that have been cut and discarded.

After rough turning, he dries the form in a microwave that he built with the help of an engineer friend. He can stand a 7' form upright in the microwave. The form is encased in plastic and water is removed or added to ensure the drying process is just right. He checks the form daily to make sure it is drying correctly.

After the piece is dried it goes back on the lathe for finishing. He uses shellac and what appeared to be an automotive polisher to buff it out after each coat. Without a doubt, his finished forms are museum quality.

The end result of his efforts are definitely a wow.

Virgil Leih's website may be found at: <http://virgiltreeart.com/>

(A side note: a member of the Minnesota Arboretum was so impressed with Virgil's turnings that were on display at the Arboretum last spring, she donated monies to be used to purchase 3 of his large creations for permanent display at the Arboretum.)

Where can you see some of Virgil Leih's work next?

Virgil Leih's "Trunk Show" will open April 13 at the Minnesota Arboretum located in Chanhassen. The show entitled **Spring Trunk Show III - Tree Trunk Treasures** will be located in the Great Hall, Oswald Visitor Center. Forty exquisite wood-turned creations by Virgil will be on display. The show will run through May 8. Gate fee is \$9 for non-members and free to members. The gate fee gives you access to the entire 1000+ acres. The visitor center opens at 8 AM to the public.



Meeting Notes from March - no MMAW meeting due to CMAW Expo.

submitted by Bill Langen, MMAW Secretary

Meeting notes will again be published for our April meeting.



Your Own Website

Have you ever considered having your own website?

The MMAW web host package is licensed for up to 9 additional websites. To offset the club's investment, we would like to offer the use of these sites to our members. For as little as \$15.00 per year we will help design, publish and maintain your site. This fee is based on you providing the digital content (text and pictures) and one hour of labor. Depending on the complexity of your desires, each additional hour chargeable at \$10 per hour. Your site address would be [your name of choice].weebly.com. There are many options available. If you would like more information, contact Gary at: (320) 252-2764 or send an email to: gmrozek@charter.net.

Ten Members Attend Demonstration

On Saturday March 26, ten MMAW members attended a turning demonstration by Mark St. Leger at the U of M.

Take aways from the demo included:

- Next time you want to burn accent rings in your turned item, instead of wire try a piece of Formica.
- You don't need to invest in fancy thin parting tools. Use an old butter or steak knife (see photo below).
- An alternative to a chuck, faceplate, or drive center is to turn a Morse tap to fit in your headstock spindle.



Remember to Use Our Suggestion Box

Let us know what types of demonstrations you would like to see. Put your questions or suggestions in the box at our next meeting or email them to Gary at gmrozek@charter.net Any question(s) received will be addressed at the next meeting.



Notes from the MMAW Board of Directors

Members present: Gary Mrozek, Bill Baker, Nadine Nelson, Bill Larson, Bill Langen, John Caye, Albert Keppers, (Dick Beumer)



Meeting on March 21. Called to order at 7:05 P.M.

- President's Report: Empty Bowls was a big success.
 - 141 bowls made
 - 28 sold at the Expo
- Treasurer's Report: The Club has a balance of \$1105.00.
- Discussion on the purchase of a lathe: discussion revolved around the advisability of buying a midi or full sized lathe.
 - Motion: The Board directs Bill Baker to pursue contacts for the purchase of a Delta 46-460 Midi lathe. Moved by Bill Langen, second by Albert Keppers
- Announcements:
 - Gary Mrozek is working on a member booklet to be distributed at the April meeting.
 - There have been 1558 visits to the Club website in the past 30 days, many from across the country and several from abroad.
 - The current website has exceeded the maximum content for service. The President paid \$71.80 for an unlimited capacity site which additionally allows members to get their own sites. For a small fee members can get help in setting up their site.
 - Motion: The Club will reimburse Gary Mrozek for his expenses in upgrading the site access. Moved John Caye, second Bill Baker; Passed unanimously.
 - Hartville Tools' "club and guild program" will give members a 20% discount. Gary will proceed with application process.
- Discussion of the importance of starting early recruiting of Board members for next year.
- Club demos during the Art Crawl generated a lot of interest. The next Art Crawl will be June 10th. The MMAW will be represented.
- Of our current 36 members, 16 are AAW members. The Board as a whole will be attending the Symposium in June.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:10 P.M.



Virgil Leih and a "tree trunk" creation

Next Art Crawl at the Paramount on June 10
 Many viewed the MMAW's wood turning demonstrations and creations during the Art Crawl on March 18 at the Paramount. Showing how we create along with examples of our work is the best way to inform the public about a wonderful past time. It also fosters an appreciation in the non-turner and often results in them purchasing our creations at some point.
 The next Art Crawl is June 10. Contact Gary for details if interested in sharing your work with the public at this function.

April 9th MMAW Meeting
 Our April 9th Chapter meeting will be at 10:00AM in the Rehearsal Studio at the Paramount Visual Arts Center. Parking is free in the adjacent ramp as well as street parking. Enter through the rear doors and proceed down the stairs to your left. The meeting begins with a social followed by a demonstration by Jay Eggebrecht. The topic will be making a pepper mill. Following the demonstration will be our monthly show-and-tell and open forum for question and answers. Our challenge project is an Easter egg. Participants will be eligible for a \$10 Craft Supplies USA gift certificate.



**Financial Report by Bill Larson,
 MMAW Treasurer**

Starting balance	\$872.66
Debits	
Credits	
Current balance	\$1105.00





Woodworkers' Expo, etc.



Mid
Minnesota
Association of
Woodturners

A local chapter of the
American
Association of
Woodturners





Calendar

April 9, 2011
MMAW Meeting - Jay Eggebrecht demonstrating making a pepper mill

May 14, 2011
Dick Beumer presentation on 4 jaw chucks and how to use safely

June 11, 2011
Jay Eggebrecht demonstration making necklace medallions

July 2011
Rollie Johnson demonstration on photographing, editing and emailing photos of your work and Review of bylaws and candidates for board positions

August 2011
Board member election and bylaw vote if needed

MMAW Members' Classifieds

Items that are Wanted or For Sale /Trade

This space reserved for items that MMAW members may want or have for sale/trade.

All wanted or for sale/trade items should include a brief description, price (if for sale) and name of person listing and their "how to contact" information.

Send to Gary Mrozek at gmrozek@charter.net or Nadine Nelson at nnelson1953@clearwire.net.

Treadle Lathe

One highlight of the Wood Expo on March 12 was the debut of our reconditioned treadle lathe. Many of the Expo's attendees stopped by for a closer look at it in action.



Mentors

Dick Beumer – 8:00AM to 4:30PM daily (320) 251-7013

John Caye – Flexible (320) 253-2875

Gary Mrozek – Evenings 6:00PM to 9:00PM (320) 252-2764

Let's keep our mentor list growing, volunteer today.

Challenge Projects

Mark your calendars, the following will be our challenge projects for the upcoming months.

May - bird house

June - candle holder

July - mosquito house

August - plate or platter

MMAW Board of Directors

- Gary Mrozek – President
- Bill Baker – Vice President
- Bill Langen – Secretary
- Bill Larson - Treasurer
- Nadine Nelson – filling the Past President position
- Albert Keppers – 1 year at large
- John Caye – 2 year at large

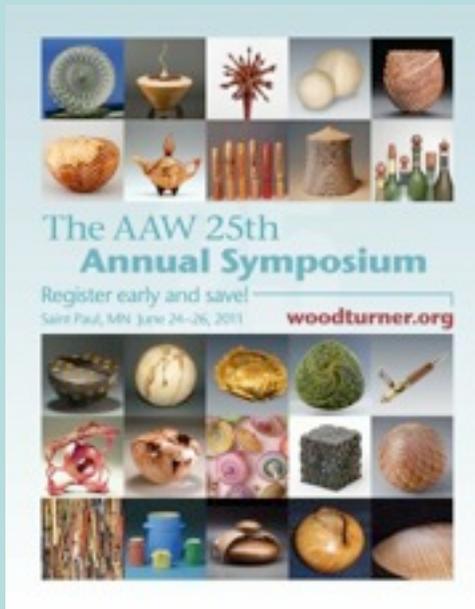
Welcome Dave Klug

Let's extend a warm welcome to our newest MMAW member, Dave Klug.

The MMAW has 36 members and 16 of our members are also members of the AAW. Interested in becoming an AAW member? Check it out at: <http://www.woodturner.org/org/mbrship/>



Reminder that May 15th is the deadline for early registration for the AAW Symposium being held in St. Paul on June 24-26, 2011. We have many members who are planning to attend. Thank you to John Caye and Bill Baker for volunteering to work as raffle ticket distribution coordinators for our chapter's work donation for the AAW national Symposium.



John Caye demonstrating at the Wood Expo

Reminder to all those interested that the CMWA will hold its next membership meeting on Wednesday April 20. Topic to be determined. See you there.

English Yew

Before and After



Calling All 'Chucks'

Our May 14th chapter meeting topic will be applications and safe use of 4 jaw chucks. We'd like to have a variety of makes and models to show our members. Contact Dick Beumer at the April Meeting or call him at 251-7013 if you would consider bringing your chuck and saying a few words on likes and dislikes of your chuck.



"Shavings" is a publication of the Mid Minnesota Association of Woodturners, PO Box 227, Sartell, MN 56377