

# SHAVINGS

The Mid Minnesota Association of Woodturners (MMAW) is a member based not for profit organization, providing an environment of interest and activities dedicated to the enjoyment of woodturning activities and to promote woodturning to the local community through education and charitable events.

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**AAW** | AMERICAN ASSOCIATION  
OF WOODTURNERS

*WE ARE TEACHING THE WORLD TO TURN.*

**MMAW** membership meetings are held the second Saturday of each month. **The in-person meetings are on HOLD until further notice.**

Meetings are held in the [Tech Site](#) 248 33rd Avenue South Waite Park, MN 56387. Parking in the front and rear of the building (driveway is on south side). Entrances is in the front and back.

**Socializing** with fellow members starts at 9:30AM, coffee and treats available. The membership meeting starts at 10:00AM (most meetings are about 1.5-2 hours long including the social time) and include announcements, members sharing their turned creations, a demo or presentation related to turning, and occasionally other activities such as a holiday celebration or wood exchange. The MMAW is an affiliate of the [American Association of Woodturners](#).

The topic of the February meeting will be

**"Beyond the ABC"**

IRD ( Interactive Remote Demonstration )  
by Ed Pretty



Next meeting will be a ZOOM meeting on February 13, 2021

Please check email for a invitation

Meeting will start at 10:00 AM social time at 9:30 AM

**SHAVINGS**

## Presidents letter

Greetings turners, I hope you have been able to make some shavings and sawdust in the New Year and got everything from Santa you needed. Some of our members got some real nice turning accessories this year. You can go to the email that Fred sent on Jan. 10 with the title, **Cloud Recording - MMAW Club meeting 1-9-2021** and click on the link to view our last meeting and hear about them as well as watch Gary Mrozek demonstrating his One Way coring system. I have to apologize for not getting a president's letter out for December. With moving and trying to get my shop set up I just kind of blew it off. I have finally gotten everything set up in the shop, or studio as some call it. The dust collector is hooked up and ready to suck up some dust and both vehicles are able to be parked in the garage.

Tuesday, Jan.12, will be the first day of lathe dust ☺ for me in about 3 months. I can hardly wait. I will be making a pen or two or three to qualify me for the **Craft Supply USA Gift Certificate Challenge**. Send me a picture with a short description of something you have turned, new or from the past, and I will post it on our Facebook Page and you will be entered into a drawing. From these entries I will be drawing the names of two or three different people who will win a \$10.00 Craft Supply Gift Certificate. So everybody, join in the challenge, I already have a couple bowls (Tom Harlander) and a troll (Mike Hunter) posted. The more the merrier, so send me those pictures.

We have received 13 membership forms back from our email and snail mail mailings. If you have returned your form, thanks, if you haven't please try to do it ASAP so that Ellen can update our membership roles with correct/current information.

Finally, if you are looking for some videos to watch and learn from you are welcome to visit the **Minnesota Woodturners Association** site to view the many educational videos they have posted. They are sharing this with none members during this Covid year. When you get to their site click on **MWA Chapter** and then click on **Blogs**. Click on the different years and explore. They have directions for the wonderful log processing/cutting station that we used when we did our log processing video.

Take care and stay safe.

Guy Schafer

## SHAVINGS

Minutes of the MMAW monthly meeting December 12, 2020

Social time (9:30-10:00 A.M.) Members chatted about their recent work including pens, magic wands, a stool, resin turning and Mike Hunter has a new lathe.

The business meeting began at 10:01.

President Guy Schafer announced the result of the election of officers. Guy Schafer will retain his position as President, Ellen Starr will continue as Treasurer and Bill Langen remains Secretary. Bill Baker was elected for the At-Large position.

27 of the surveys of member interests were returned. In general they confirmed continued desire for demos, workshops and information focused on skill-building.

The topic for this meeting was finishing, methods and materials. Guy emphasized the importance of sanding to complete smoothness. He then applies a sanding sealer, 2 lb. shellac cut 50% with mineral spirits. John Caye likes to use 3 lb. shellac and boiled linseed oil in a 60/40% mixture. Bill Langen was happy with the surface he obtains with the ScotchBrite finishing pads. He also uses Yorkshire Grit, available from Walnut Log. Members stated that they had tried other wax/pumice mixtures but found them inferior to the Yorkshire Grit.

Discussion moved onto wax finishes. Jerry Wervey warned against attempting to soften carnauba wax in the microwave. It will ruin the microwave. Use hot water.

Mineral oil is good for finishing salad bowls and is cheap at Fleet Farm.

Gary Mrozek sands to 220 then sprays water on the work to raise the grain before going on to the final sanding. He gets good results with Waterlux, 3 coats followed by Tripoli wax and buffing with the loose wheel. He re-bottles the finish in Gatorade bottles. He recommends Paintsource. Net and PJtool.com as sources for finishing supplies. Gary also got good results with Minwax Polyacrylic gloss sprayed on and buffed at 500 rpm with Tripoli. He warns not to press hard when buffing or you'll get a burn mark.

Bill Baker uses shellac sanding sealer followed by finishing with wax free shellac mixed 2 parts alcohol to 5 parts shellac. It takes 6-8 coats for a good finish but each coat dries quickly. A paper towel can be used to apply this finish and then sand to 320.

Tom and Pam Lillehei use whatever is handy.

There was a discussion of the good deals available at the Hazardous Waste Center.

Watco Danish oil and sanding sealer followed by buffing with carnauba wax were mentioned as were Minwax Antique Oil (be sure to wipe off after application or it will develop a rancid smell) and Treewax. Also recommended was a mixture of  $\frac{1}{3}$  polyurethane,  $\frac{1}{3}$  boiled linseed oil and  $\frac{1}{3}$  mineral spirits.

## Minutes of the MMAW Monthly Meeting, January 9, 2021

The social portion of the meeting began at 9:30 A.M. Members discussed wood movement in green and dried wood. The movement is a result of the release of stresses in the wood as it dries or responds to being cut. The discussion moved on to opinions on the ideal temperature in the workshop and then on to the problem of some lathes constantly tripping a circuit breaker.

The business meeting began at 10:00 but discussion continued, moving on to the advantages of various chucks and tips on dust collecting. Guy Schafer asked if anyone got lathe accessories for Christmas. Gary Mrozek relayed a tip that desiccant, the drying agent contained in the packaging of some products, is useful in drying green wood. Large sacks of the product are available online for \$35.00.

The main portion of the meeting was a video in which Gary demonstrated his Oneway Coring System with a Mike Hunter cutter. He pointed out each element in the System and explained its function and set-up. Gary explained a jig he uses to set the elements of the System so as to achieve the dimensions and shape of the bowls he plans to get out of his large blank. Starting on the smallest bowl near the center of the blank, Gary cut progressively larger bowls as he moved the cutter further toward the edge of his blank. By the time he got to the last, biggest bowl, he had six nested bowls. The whole process took 23 minutes.

Members had set seemed quite interested in the technique and coring jig itself and asked questions concerning the speed Gary had set considering that the blank was quite large when he started. Members expressed a lot of interest, asked quite a few questions and complimented Gary on the video.

Guy has a number of Crafts Supply certificates and encourages everyone to send in pictures of their recent projects to get a certificate entitling them to a discount at Crafts Supply.

Members are reminded everyone that the Minnesota Woodturners Association posts videos of its demos and workshops. These are available to anyone on the MWA website.

The CMWA is not charging dues this year.

Gary Mrozek is experimenting with a wipe on finish of his own concoction and will give anyone who asks a bottle of it to try out.

The meeting adjourned at 11:12

**SHAVINGS****Instant Gallery**

Send some pictures of what you are turning to be included here!  
midmnwoodturners@gmail.com



There's beauty in the burl, and club member Gary Mrozek found it!

What do you do with a scrap of burl not suited for a turning project? You start on the lathe and finish with various carbide-tipped rotary burr tools. There's beauty in the burl, and club member Gary Mrozek found it!

**Pens are a quick (sometimes) and easy (sometimes) project for the lathe. Check out this beauty made by club member Jerry Wervey. The project started from a glued-up blank provided by club President Guy Schafer.**





**Club member Mark Scholer turned this "Bad Apple" cider tap handle for his son Jamie. It is turned from Acacia wood with genuine wormholes. He finished with Yorkshire grit and then buffed it.**





**Club member Gary Mrozek turned this winged /handled bowl from white oak. The pictures show it from rough turned to finish.**





Club member Mike Hunter turned this great looking Gnome. The hat started out as a 8 by 2 ½ inch walnut blank. Under the whiskers is a sphere appx. 2 inch in diameter. The finished piece is about 6 1/2 inches tall. He turned the nose from a scrap piece of (he thinks) maple. Mike got his inspiration from a You tube video by Rebecca DeGroot. Nice job Mike!



Guy Schafer turned these three pens today after a three month layoff from turning because of moving to a new home. The shop is finished so he can get back to making shavings again!







**How's this for a stack of nested red elm burls? Club member Gary Mrozek used his coring system to create this batch of bowl blanks.**



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### Consider joining the AAW!

#### AAW Best of Woodturning Fundamentals Video

Hello Everyone,

**AAW is making available the "Best of Woodturning Fundamentals" video featured during AAW's Virtual Symposium in July. Click either of the links below to view. No AAW membership is required to view. And please feel free to pass the link along to all of your chapter members, friends and associates.**



[www.woodturner.org/Woodturner/Join-Pages/...](http://www.woodturner.org/Woodturner/Join-Pages/...)

- [tiny.cc/AAWAffiliate](http://tiny.cc/AAWAffiliate)

Also, if you not already aware, any member of your chapter who is not presently an AAW member may now become part of the AAW community under our Affiliate member program. Joining as an Affiliate grants free access for 90 days to all of the same online benefits reserved for paid members. No credit card required. No long term obligation. Use the same link as above for more information.

[tiny.cc/AAWAffiliate](http://tiny.cc/AAWAffiliate)

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Phil McDonald  
American Association of Woodturners

**SHAVINGS****Tips**

Check out the newsletters from the [Minnesota Woodturners Association](#) they are very interesting.

Mini newsletter #43 is on the MWA website. It can also be accessed at the following url:

<http://mnwoodturners.com/cms-files/-mini-43-converted.k.pdf>

Mike Rohrer  
MWA Newsletter Editor



At our December Zoom meeting, many different finishes were discussed. They included mixing Zinsser Seal Coat (dewaxed shellac) and boiled linseed oil at a ratio of 50/50. This has been John Caye's tried and true wipe-on finish for 30+ years. It's easy to use and reasonably priced (approx. \$11 per quart) and all ingredients available locally. John uses as a "once and done" finish as well as a base coat for top finishes such as lacquer. He suggested purchasing an inexpensive squirt bottle, such as used for Ketchup, mustard or salad dressing. This makes for easy application on the lathe. I also shared my favorite finish, Waterlox Original. The drawback of this finish is, to my knowledge, it's not available locally. It runs from \$32 a quart to \$85 per gallon. It's the best product I found if you like to buff out the finish when dry. This is David Ellsworth's main finish. He applies it straight from the can and buffs with Tripoli followed by a clean white linen buff wheel to remove the residue from the surface of your object. I also shared a formula that Mike Mahoney offered during a Zoom meeting earlier this fall. He mixes 1/3 boiled linseed oil, 1/3 Polyurethane and 1/3 Odorless Mineral Spirits. I tried this with some questionable results. First, it's very thin and penetrates deep into the wood. This could be considered a good thing. I didn't catch how Mike applies his. I brushed mine on. The first bowl of soft maple, it worked pretty well. It sealed the wood, but really didn't have a finish. I next tried it on an Elm bowl by applying a heavy brushed coat and wiping off the excess after a few minutes. That seemed better. Then I tried a walnut bowl by brushing it on and leaving it sit overnight. In the morning I found that I had some puddling in the bottom of the bowl that was still tacky. I also found some finish had formed a drip on the underside base of the bowl. This too was still tacky and when I whipped it off, the finish came off down to the bare wood. My conclusion this is best used as a wipe on finish with (X) coats to achieve a finish. I then decided to make some modifications to Mike's blend. Rather than using urethane, I opted for a true Alkyd resin varnish. This is the stuff that was used before polyurethane (plastic) cornered the market. For years, fine woodworker's swore by Pratt and Lambert 38. Unfortunately, they're no longer making it. I did find an equivalent at Hirschfield Paint in St. Cloud; Old Masters Super Varnish. I wanted to make a small amount and opted to use an old 16oz plastic Coke bottle. I wanted to stick with Mike's ratio, so I used a 2/3 (5.333 oz.) measuring cup. I mixed 2/3c Boiled Linseed Oil, 2/3c Old Masters Super Varnish (I used Satin) and 2/3c odorless mineral spirits. The final ingredient that I added was 1tbs (1/2oz) of Japan Drier, also sold at Hirschfield's. My source at Hirschfield's and online research said that adding mineral spirits to varnish, paint and oils dilutes the drying agents that the manufacturers had formulated for their original formulas. Cost breakdown;

varnish \$18 qt., Linseed Oils \$6 qt., Mineral Spirits \$9 gallon and Japan Dryer \$6. That makes this product \$16 for a working quart of product, ½ the price of Waterlox.

I tried it as a wipe-on friction finish on the lathe and it worked great. I turned the rmp's up and buffed it in and it worked great. I brushed it on and wiped off after a few minutes and it worked good but needs a second coat to my liking. It appeared to be dry in about an hour. Other tests to be tried will include: •Hours until a white powdered dust and no plugged sandpaper between coats is achieved •Buff ability •Odor/fume levels in the shop •Shelf life before jelling in the container •The “wife” test...does it meet a potential buyers approval •A day or two in the sun •A day in the cold •other I'll continue to run it through its paces and report back accordingly. If anyone is interested in joining me in this journey by trying a sample, I'll share it if you'll give your honest feedback. Feel free to contact me direct at [gary@treesremembered.com](mailto:gary@treesremembered.com) or (320) 250-1277.

**Caution:** With the high volume of linseed oil and the added driers, be sure to take spontaneous combustion precautions when disposing of used towels and rag



## SHAVINGS

Please check out our [Facebook page](#) (click to open) Be sure to like and follow us if you are on Facebook

Photos Of Meeting on [Facebook](#)  
(click to open)

To make a post show up as a tag!

To get  
the



MidMinnesota Association of Woodturners to show up as a tag, I simply typed the @ symbol followed by MMAWoodturners. So it looks like this:

**Walnut on walnut: Equal halves of the same walnut log were used to create this 7-inch platter and 6-inch bowl. A special thanks to the @MMAWoodturners for the coaching and guidance you've provided over the past couple of years. I'm a better turner for it!**

The @MMAWoodturners is the tagging action recognizes the club's page on your personal post. When the tagged organization is selected as you write the post, it inserts the full club name--the blue highlighted text--into the post, which in turn publishes your personal post to the club's news feed.)

Thank you Bob McClintick for taking care of our Facebook page!



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## Empty Bowls

Bill and Guy with some of our bowls made for the Empty Bowls event rescheduled to ?, 2021.

