

SHAVINGS

Volume 16, Issue 3

A Publication of the Mid Minnesota Association of Woodturners

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.

MMAW membership meetings are held the second Saturday of each month.



WE ARE TEACHING THE WORLD TO TURN.

The next meeting is scheduled for

March 14, 2026

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 are in the front and back.

The March 14th meeting will have

Gary Mrozek

demonstrating making a bandsaw box the

[Michael Cullen Way](#)

Check the above link out for a quick look

The [MMAW](#) is an affiliate of the [American Association of Woodturners](#).

MMAW membership meetings are held the second Saturday of each month.

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 includes 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.

Remember that there are MMAW members that are willing and able to stay after our regular monthly meetings to help you with wood processing, sharpening, turning or any other things you would like.

Open Shop Nights are every month on the First Thursday and the Second Tuesday from 6 – 8:30, come take advantage of it!

Letter from the Prez,

If you weren't inspired by Dan Larsons demo to step outside your comfort zone and try something new, I'm not sure what will. That was such a fantastic technique that has been around for such a long time.

Next month we have Gary Mrozek teaching us how to make a box on a band saw. Almost all of us have a band saw and it will be great to see what else we can do in the shop with it.

There are a couple more openings in our schedule for demo's. If there is something you would like to see, please let me know and I will do my best to bring them to us.

In April, we will be participating in Snow Daze. At our next meeting I will have a sign up sheet for the three days. Please help when you can. All proceeds will go to the club.

As always, stay safe in the shop and keep your tools sharp.

Tyler

February 14 meeting minutes

February was a very well attended meeting- especially for Valentines' Day!

We welcomed many new people- hopefully potential new members. We are currently at 83 members and are providing streaming for those who cannot attend in person (as well as the archived meetings on our member website.) We had 40 views on last month's program.

BTW : The website password will be changing soon- so watch your email...

Dan Larson from Minneapolis demonstrated a fascinating ring style demo for making toys like they do in Seiffen, Germany. He presented his video experience --learning from the last few reifendrehers and then he turned a ring of dala horses as his project. Members had a chance to purchase a horse to carve for their own at the end of his presentation.

Gary Mrozek will present making a bandsaw box at our next meeting.

Snow Daze is coming up soon- we could use some help with the booth. Please volunteer if you can- we will have a pen making/finishing demo in April to help prepare you. Snow Daze is at the Sartell Community Center April 24-25. Everyone is welcome to visit and watch the carvers turn blanks into artwork, visit the vender booths and bid on auction material.

Challenge for MARCH 14- make something, doesn't have to be a turned piece. Show us your artistic or craft interests!

Help Needed,

1. Someone with electrical knowledge needed to help figure out why one of our Jett Lathes at the Tech Site keeps blowing the breaker . Everytime the power is turned on, the breaker pops. Can you help?
2. The lathes at the Tech Site and the Paramount are in need of some regular maintenance to help them run and move a bit smoother, cleaning and adjusting is needed.
3. One of the Delta lathes at the Paramount has been very noisy, we're thinking it may be a bad bearing but ?? Is anyone able to help check it out and possible help replace the bearing?

Please contact Guy Schafer if you can help, 320-420-5119 or guyandted@charter.net

Here is a summary of Gary's upcoming demo....

Bandsaw Box Making

As woodturners, many of us can relate to a time when we had a leftover piece of wood that may have been too nice to throw, but not of a size worth turning the time. We put it on a shelf where it collects dust.

In September of 2018, I attended a 4-day workshop taught by renowned furniture maker [Michael Cullen](#) from Petaluma, CA. This class was offered by the Paramount Center for the Arts. In this class we investigated different approaches and forms that a box can become using both hand tools and machines.

This highly creative workshop explored ideas in box making that go beyond the typical six-sided container. Emphasis was on shaping and sculpting boxes to create pleasing curves, unusual shapes, and just about anything fun and zany. A primary focus was on creating patterns and textures and applying color to the surfaces of the boxes.

I would like to share the basics of what I learned in this workshop with you. I'll have physical examples as well as visual slides of boxes the Michael Cullen way.

Sharpening Is Turning,

You can't separate sharpening from turning. They're the same skill, expressed differently.

A turner who can't sharpen is dependent on someone else's work. They're waiting for permission to continue. They're hoping the edge lasts just a little longer.

A turner who can sharpen is free. They know that a dull tool is thirty seconds away from being sharp again. They don't fear the work. They welcome it.

Learning to sharpen was the biggest leap forward in my turning. Not because the technique is hard (it isn't, once you understand it), but because it removed a barrier. I could turn as long as I wanted, knowing the edge was always renewable.

If sharpening still feels like a mystery, make this the week you solve it. Your turning will transform.

By M Saban-Smith

Here are a couple of videos that give you a quick look to get you [started](#) [or this](#)

Here are another couple of videos you might enjoy.

One with **Richard Findley** turning a bowl. He is demonstrating how to not let your chuck dictate the size of your [bowl](#).

Also check out this video from **Rescued Wood**.



Instant Gallery

Gary Mrozek with a couple of his segmented pieces



Bill Langen turned this nice lidded box



Guy Florek and his bark included black ash platter



Steve from the Minneapolis club, last name unknown:), and his heart platter



Chuck Hunt with some more wig stands and a bench he made



Guy Schafer turned this bowl from a first turned bowl by Mike Hunter and the handles are for some garden tools





Some pen kits and pen blanks ready to be cut, drilled and tubed for the Snow Daze event

At the **Snow Daze** carving weekend the **MMAW** , that's us, will be demonstrating some woodturning. People will be able to try their hand at some turning of their own. We'll need to have lots of volunteers and pen blanks ready to go so pens can be turned. After our next two meetings people can learn how to do that and maybe even try their hand at turning a pen before the **Snow Daze** event. If you've wanted to learn how to turn pens this will be your chance to try it.

Dan Larson did a great job demonstrating **Traditional German Ring Woodturning**





More of Dan's German Ring demo



Guy Florek, Mike Rothstein and Tyler Smith, the young guys, put some clutter up out of the way. Thanks!

