

SHAVINGS

Volume 16, Issue 5

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

May 9th, 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 May 9th meeting will be about

“Tools and their uses.”

**Multiple lathes will be available and BYOT.
(Bring your own tools for help using them
or if you have something unusual that you
would like to share.)**

We can sharpen tools too!

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,

Snow Daze went great. Thank you to everyone that took the time to make it a success. My hope is that we gain some new members.

At the May meeting we will be talking about tools and their uses. If you have a special tool that you like to use, and odd tool, a dull tool, bring it in and show it off or ask how to use it. We will have multiple lathes set up for demos plus the grinding station for sharpening. In other words, let's make some creative shavings.

The AAW in-person and virtual symposium is right around the corner. Don't forget to use your club discount.

That's all for now. As always stay safe in the shop, and keep your tools sharp.

-Tyler

We had a large turnout for the meeting again in April.

Welcome to all the new members and visitors who joined us.

Much of the discussion concerned the up coming meetings including our participation in Snow Daze- which seemed to pull many interested carvers away from their projects.

We are considering having a Watch Party for a virtual Symposium here during a Saturday meeting.

April's show and tell featured bowls, pens and some bandsaw boxes.

Tyler Smith and Guy Schafer demonstrated pen finishes for our member demo. Turns out there really are more options for tools to purchase for the various steps of pen making that are much more affordable.

Three people stayed after the meeting and turned a pen.

Next Month: Odd tools , tool inspirations and of course, show and tell.

We are exploring the insurance options we have for our club for liability and property. We currently have liability coverage but are considering adding fire and theft coverage for the personal property that the club owns.

If you have any knowledge or expertise in this area please contact Guy Schafer.

Some upcoming volunteer opportunities for MMAW members

From our membership form,

“Do you acknowledge that, like all membership based organizations, it requires the volunteer help of all members to operate? As a new member or returning member of the MMAW we ask you to consider 6 hours of annual service to the club. “

1. Help organize and recruit volunteers for the downtown St. Cloud August Art Crawl, August 14, 2026.
2. Help recruit volunteers for **MMAW** demonstrating at the Millstream Arts Festival, Sunday August 30. Turners and folks to haul the lathe and supplies are needed.
3. Volunteer at Open Shop the **first Thursday** and **second Tuesday** of every month, we need to have a woodturner there to help anyone who might come to turn.
4. Be a demonstrator at one of our meetings or set up and put away chairs or.....
5. Help organize our summer August picnic meeting.
6. Think about running for one of our Executive Board positions in December. New people bring new ideas and give some of the regulars a chance to retire:)
7. **Minnesota Technology and Engineering Educators Association (MTEEA)** will be held on Friday, October 2nd, from 8 am to 3 pm in Waite Park. The MMAW has been doing demos at this conference for the past 4 or 5 years so we need volunteers for this activity. They serve us a great lunch and everyone who has helped has really enjoyed the activity.

If you volunteer for any of these turning demonstrations listed above, you will not have to do any woodturning, so don't let that scare you from volunteering. We need people to interact and answer questions from the people as they watch others turn or you can help others who turn . You can give instructions about safety, holding the tool, set-up etc.

Instant Gallery



Earl Felling with his boxes and three bowls he finished from his demo.



Karen Maier with a couple of bowls she turned at Arts Underground



Gary Mrozek and his family depiction



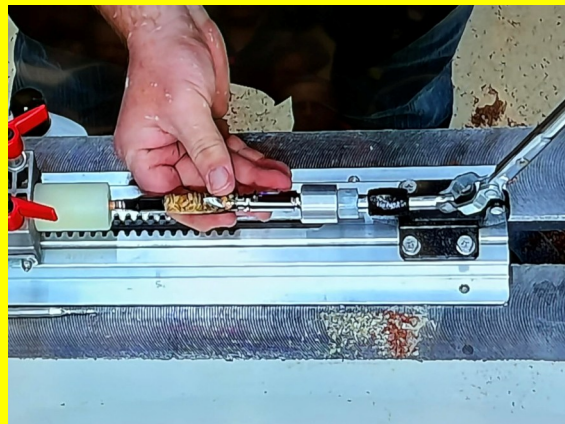
Steve Clark and his open segmented platter

Tyler Smith with his pen

Guy Schafer turned this very wormy-spalted bowl



Guy Schafer and Tyler Smith did a **from start to finish** pen turning demo. Tyler demonstrated a **CA finish** on his pen and Guy used **Doctor's Woodshop Pens Plus** for his finish. After the meeting a few people turned their own first pen!



Our Snow Daze adventure was a BIG success!

Tyler Smith, LeAnn Kemper, Earl Felling, Bob McClintick, Bill Baker, Ellen Starr, Guy Florek, Steve Clark, Guy Schafer, Dave Johnson, Karen Maier, and Josh Mumme all pitched in to help. Over 30 pens were turned as well as many tops and mushrooms. Lots of wood carvers had a ball turning wood and were so excited several came back for a second go around and referred other wood carvers to come over and give it a try!



Woodturning Classes

Tyler Smith and Guy Schafer just completed teaching classes in April.

Tyler taught a beginners intro class and Guy taught a lidded box class.

Maybe you want to teach a class in the future???

Talk to Guy, John Menning or Tyler for more info.



Wayne H. Rusch, age 65, of Acoma Township, rural Hutchinson, Minnesota, passed away on Thursday, April 30, 2026, at his home in Acoma Township. Wayne was a member of our club since 2024. We are sorry to hear of his passing.

The following is taken from an email from Hunter Tools

"Many woodworkers, especially turners, consider making their own handles a **"rite of passage."** It transforms a generic factory tool into a custom instrument tailored to your specific needs.

One thing many folks don't realize is that you don't have to settle for the stock handle that comes with a tool. If you've got a scrap of hardwood in the shop and a quality **ferrule**, you can turn a custom handle that actually fits your hand and the way you like to work.

Why Go Custom?

When you use your own hardwood scraps and one of our ferrules, you gain total control over your gear:

- **Custom Ergonomics:** Some turners prefer a longer handle for added leverage against the tool rest, while others like extra weight in the back for better balance.
- **No "Right" Way:** There's no industry standard that beats personal comfort; it's all about what feels right to you.

The Golden Rule: When turning your handle, make it a little longer than you think you need. You can always take wood away to find that perfect balance, but it's much harder to add it back once it's hit the floor as shavings!

The Role of the Ferrule

To build a tool that lasts, you have to manage the Tang: the tapered metal "tail" of the tool blade. Because the Tang acts like a wedge when driven into wood, a ferrule is non-negotiable.

Our **ferrules** provide the necessary "hoop stress" around the wood fibers, reinforcing the handle so the Tang can't split down the middle. It's the bridge between your favorite piece of shop scrap and a professional-grade tool.

Ready to upgrade your grip? Grab a few **ferrules, head to the scrap bin, and build a tool that's uniquely yours."**

We had a great turnout for the April 11th meeting. Always lots of people to visit with and thing to see, hope to see you at the May 9th meeting!

