

# 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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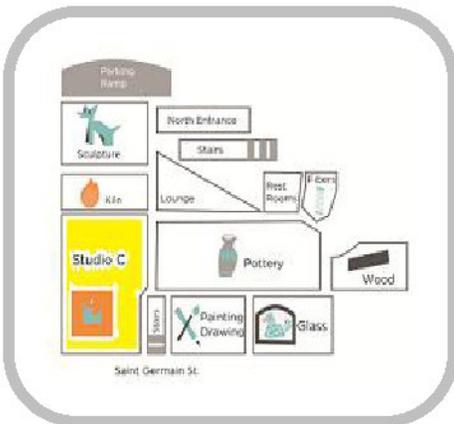


**Attention: The July 14, 2018 membership meeting will take place at the: [Paramount Tech Site](#)  
248 33rd Avenue South  
Waite Park, MN 56387**

**MMAW** membership meetings are held the second Saturday of each month. Located in Studio C. (see map) **Socializing** with fellow members starts at 9:30AM, coffee and treats available.

Meetings are held in the **Paramount Visual Arts Center (VAC)** which is located in the basement of the Paramount Theatre, downtown St. Cloud, MN. All city parking is free on Saturdays; this includes the ramp near the Paramount as well as metered street parking.

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. (Click on the above Paramount marquee for a link to their website.) The MMAW is an affiliate of the AAW. (Click on the above AAW marquee for a link to their website.)



Next Meeting Saturday July 14, 2018

**SHAVINGS****Presidents Letter**

July 2018

Greetings MMAW Members'

Summer is here and yard work seems to take on more importance than making shavings. Something very wrong with that.

July 's meeting will be our picnic to be held at the Tech Center. If you haven't contacted Roxanne yet to let her know if you are attending please do so soonest. Her e-mail is [roxanne@myriversiderealty.com](mailto:roxanne@myriversiderealty.com). Please bring your spouse and children.

Also, the President's Challenge for July is a spin top with prizes for: the largest top, the longest spin, the ugliest top and the prettiest top. There will be gift certificates for winners.

The AAW Symposium, held in Portland, Oregon was as expected a great time to be inspired, learn and socialize with like minded folks. MMAW had 7 members attending the symposium including several spouses volunteering.. WOW!! 3 couples took Amtrak together and another couple left St. Cloud later in the week. The trip for the 3 couples was relaxing and scenic. The meals were great and the roomettes cannot possibly be mistaken for roomy.

There was a bit of a glitch for the other couple as a car ran into the train causing a 10 hour delay and a bus ride. Be sure to ask Fred all about his experience.

Guy, Roxanne and Gary will be happy share their experiences at the symposium. Be sure to visit with them.

Looking forward to our picnic – see you soon.

Denny Myers  
President

## SHAVINGS

### MMAW Regular Monthly Meeting minutes from June 9, 2018

We had two new members today. Jim Benson from Big Lake joined the MMAW and Bob Carlson from Isanti returned after visiting last month to join the club this month.

Guy told club members that they should call him if anyone wanted to get a T-shirt if they hadn't ordered on at last month's meeting. The shirt's cost \$12.00. The sweatshirts will be at the July meeting.

The July meeting will be at the Tech Center and will be a picnic. Please contact Roxanne if you plan to attend the meeting/picnic so she can buy enough supplies. The MMAW will supply brats, hot-dogs, buns, pop and water. Members should bring a dish to share. Spouses are welcome to join us. Notify Roxanne no later than July 7<sup>th</sup>.

The president's challenge for the meeting will be a spinning top. There will be 4 categories for prizes. The largest top, the longest spin, the ugliest top and the prettiest top. Denny will judge the tops.

August's president's challenge will be something that includes some design element and color.

Fred Schmoll requested that when an **e-mail blast** is sent out read the **whole** blast so that you respond to the correct person. Don't just reply to the blast because then Fred has to forward the e-mail to the correct person.

Denny Myers announced that Lenny Merdan will have to resign his vice president's position. We need to find a replacement for him. We thank Lenny very much for his contributions to the club and are pleased that he will remain a member of the club and continue to inspire us with his turning.

Mark Scholer has access to a butternut tree. He and Guy Schafer will harvest it and sell pieces to club members as a fund raiser. There will be an e-mail blast with further details before the July meeting. Guy Schafer also shared that he may have access to two locust trees. More news to follow on that.

Fred Schmoll passed around a list of mentor for any additions and or corrections. He also encouraged MMAW members to send in pictures of their turnings so that they can be added to the member's gallery on the club's website.

Josiah Skeate and Guy Schafer gave a very informative demo on making a pen.

Dave Pogattchnik won \$13.00 with the 50/50 drawing.

Meeting adjourned.

## SHAVINGS

### How to turn a Pen

Pen specific materials needed are pen blanks, a pen kit, pen mandrel, and the proper size drill bit. Other materials are needed but most turners have them. There are hundreds of YouTube videos to help you with the process of pen turning. Simply Google what you want to know and watch.....

1. Pen blanks are usually  $\frac{3}{4}$  by  $\frac{3}{4}$  by 5 inches long. They can be bigger but smaller can be a problem. I cut many of my own from neat pieces of scrape wood.
2. Be sure to mark your blank so that the grain will match when you put the pen together. Most people draw a line with arrows on each end on one side of the blank. Take your pen blank and cut them to length, cut the blank  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch longer than the tube so you can square the end of the blank up after the brass tube is inserted. The pen style you use will determine the lengths you need. You can modify the tube lengths if you want. I buy 10 inch long tubes because I like the bottom section to be a bit longer and most slimline have them the same size top and bottom.
3. I use a set of smooth spigot jaws to hold the blanks for drilling on my lathe. Some people use a drill press with a jig of some sort to hold the blank vertical. Drill slowly when you get to the end of the blank so you don't chip or blow out the end of the blank.
4. Once the hole is drilled it is time to glue the brass tube into the blank. Be sure to rough up the brass tubes with some sandpaper first so that the glue will hold the tube in the blank. Put some medium or thick CA glue on the tube. **I wear plastic gloves whenever I mess with the CA glue to keep it off my fingers.** Slowly insert the tube into the hole twisting and pulling in and out to be sure the glue is spread over as much of the tube and the inside of the hole as possible. Be sure that the tubes are inserted all the way in and then let them dry. I glue up several sets and let them sit overnight before I continue.
5. I use a pen barrel trimmer to square up the ends of my blanks. Many people use a sanding disk or homemade jigs to square the blanks up. Trim the wood down to the brass tube and when the end of the tube is shiny, you are done.
6. Mount your blanks onto your pen mandrel with the proper bushings on each end. I have extra bushing so I put 2 bushings on each end with one bushing between the blanks. Be sure to line the blanks up so that the line you marked earlier with the arrows are pointing away from each other. This will make sure your wood grain lines up. There are ways to turn pens without a pen mandrel, but I don't use this and can't help with this. YouTube it if interested.
7. Turn the pens to the desired shape. Get the ends of the blanks turned to the same size as the bushings. **Don't let your tools touch the bushings.** The turned blanks can be a tiny bit proud as you can/will sand them down to the size of the bushings. I use a bowl gouge with a shearing scrape most of the time for turning but have been told carbide tools work well too if you turn very fast. Experiment to see what works best for you.
8. Sand the pen blanks. I usually sand to 1000 grit, some people sand to thousands. **Work at not sanding the bushings, just the wood or your bushings will get smaller as you turn more pens.**

9. There are many finishes to use. Friction polish, CA glue finish, oils, etc. etc.... I use a CA finish most of the time. I seal the blank with a few drops of thin CA applied with a small square of paper towel and let it dry and then I do a quick sand with 600 grit paper and wipe with a paper towel. I then take a few drops of medium CA and apply quickly with a paper towel then apply a few drops of boiled linseed oil and spin it fast. After 30 seconds another quick sand with 600 grit and then wipe and repeat. Some people put many coats on like this I do about 3 – 4. You can be finished now or you can wet sand into the thousands, especially if you have a blanks other than wood.
10. Remove the blanks from the pen mandrel and assemble the pen. Sand the end of the blanks first with 220 or 320 grit sandpaper on a flat surface to remove any glue from the ends to remove any glue that may be present. Keep the blanks in the correct order so that the grain of the blanks match up. I used to use a hand clamp to assemble but I purchased a pen press and like it very much. No more mistakes or accidents putting the pens together.

**SHAVINGS**

**A big thank you to Tom Lillehei, Bob McClintick, Byron John, Denny Myers, Guy Schafer and Dave Kramer for volunteering to turn/demo at the June 8<sup>th</sup> Art Crawl.**

**It is important for the MMAW to be out there showing the community what we do and these 6 people did a great job. The next Art Crawl is August 10<sup>th</sup> and is the big one for us as we are out on the sidewalk in front of the Paramount doing our thing. This is a great activity and everyone seems to have a good time. There will be an e-mail blast before the July meeting to remind you of it and asking for volunteers. Check your calendars to see if you can help out with this activity. If you have any questions give Guy Schafer a call at 320-253-2434.**

## SHAVINGS

### Protect wood from chuck jaws

After trying several ideas for reversing a small turning and holding it in a chuck to finish the bottom, I devised my own method, which is simple and inexpensive. I had tried cloth, tape, foam, and electrical wire, but always ended up with marks on the turning from the chuck jaws. To solve this, I took some plastic tubing, which is available by the foot in a variety of sizes, and slid it on the chuck jaws.

For pin jaws I cut pieces the length of the jaws. For No. 2 jaws, I cut pieces long enough to cover each jaw. I cut a slit in the tubing so that it can slip over each jaw. The tubing is thick enough to prevent the marks and also provides some holding power for the work piece.

For pin jaws I use 5/8" (16 mm) ID tubing and for the No. 2 jaws, 3/8" (10 mm) ID tubing. Other chucks may require different sizes.

~ Bill Fordney, Pennsylvania



## SHAVINGS

### AAW Symposium

There were 7 members of the MMAW who ventured to Portland for the 32<sup>nd</sup> annual AAW Symposium. Duane Lembcke, Fred Schmoll, Gary Mrozek, Guy Schafer, Roxanne Wyatt and Denny Myers all traveled there on the train from St. Cloud. Willie Allhouse was also there. Ask Duane about the food on the train and see what Fred has to say about what happened when a car hit their train.

Four times a day on Friday and Saturday and 3 times on Sunday there were 10 or more rotations (1 ½ hour demos) and panel discussions to choose from. The topics consisted of embellishing, finishing, segmenting, pen turning, hollow forms, ornamental turning, boxes and lids, platers, bowls, sculpture, turning for furniture and some learning to turn and mastering specific tools. There were approximately 60 different individuals presenting these rotation and participating in the panel discussions. Some of the people you may be familiar with were David Ellsworth, Ashley Harwood, Nick Cook, Mike Mahoney, Mike Peace, and Cindy Drozda.

The Instant Gallery opened Thursday evening and was held in a huge area with the largest display of turned wood objects in the world. The demonstrators showed examples of what their demonstrations were about along with many, many AAW member's work. This area was truly inspirational to see. Willie Allhouse had three pieces here. Ask him about his 9 nails bowl.

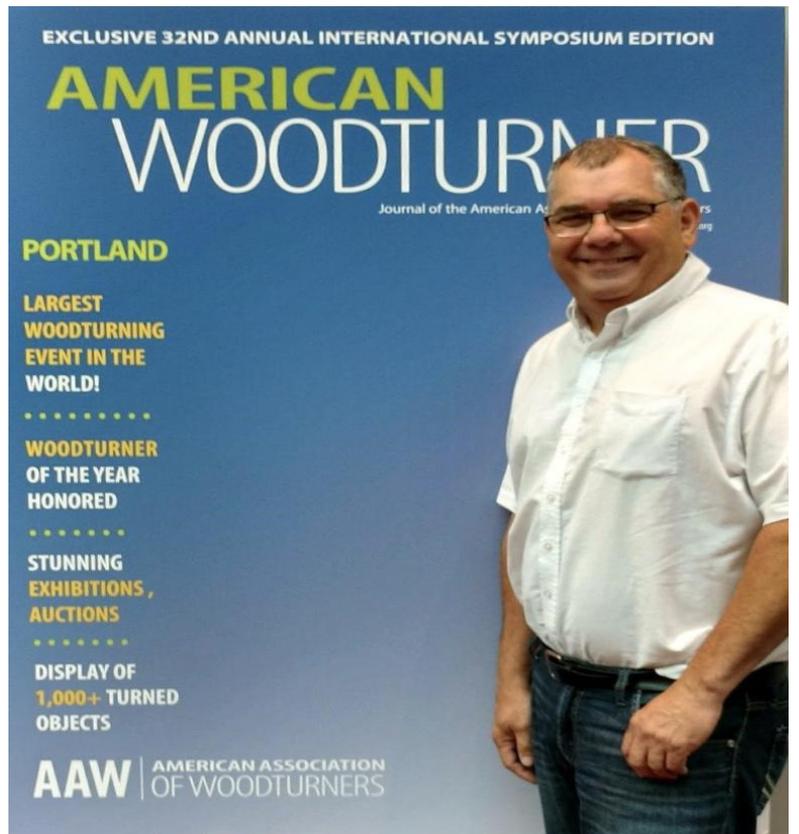
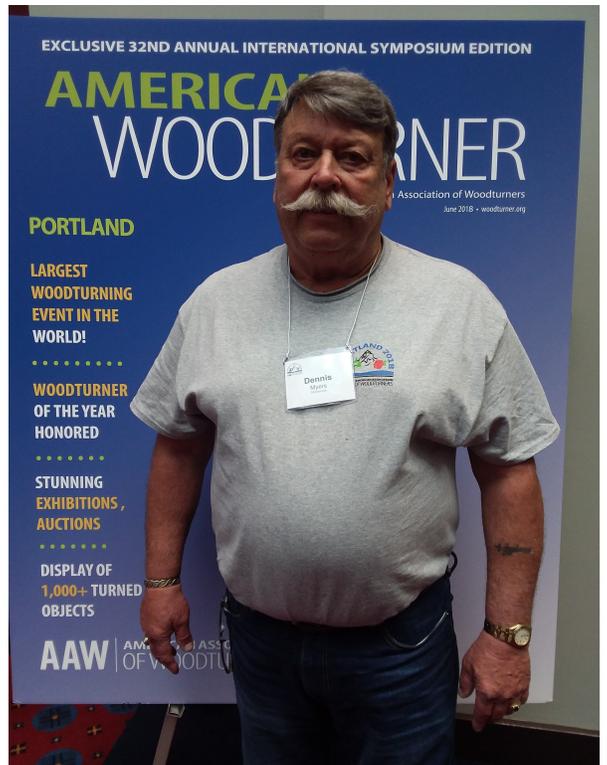
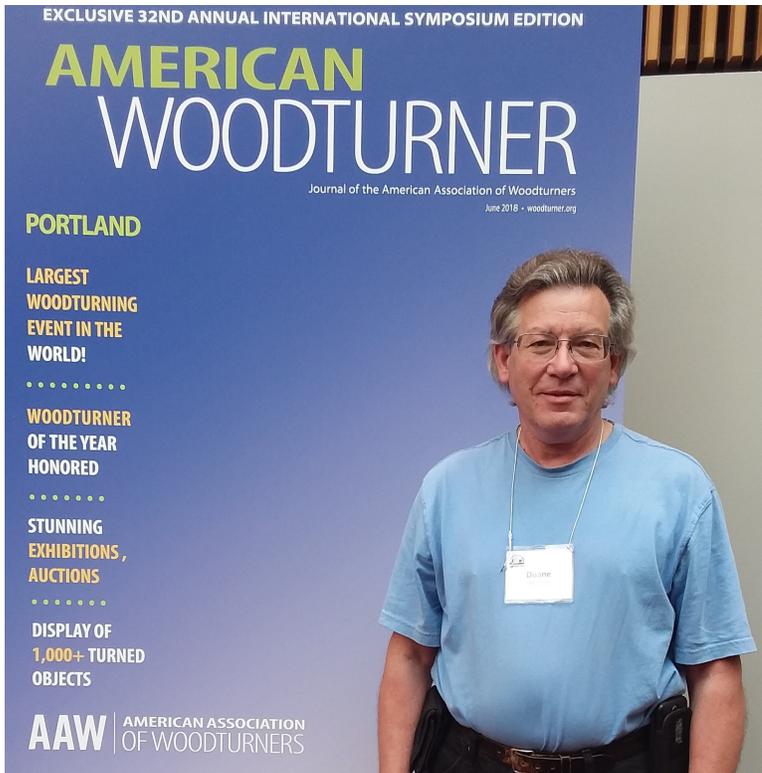
Each day there were approximately 60 different vendors participating in the tradeshow area. Everything and more that a wood turner needs was here and all the big companies we are familiar with were there (Craft Supply USA, Woodcraft, Rockler, Easywood, Thompson tools, Carter Products, Carter and Sons Toolworks, .....). Some of the well-known turners doing demos in the trade show area were Nick Cook, Ashley Harwood, Kirk DeHeer (he seemed to be doing demos all day every day), Stuart Batty, Carl Jacobson, Lyle Jamison and Jimmy Clews, ..... It was a great place to spend some money.

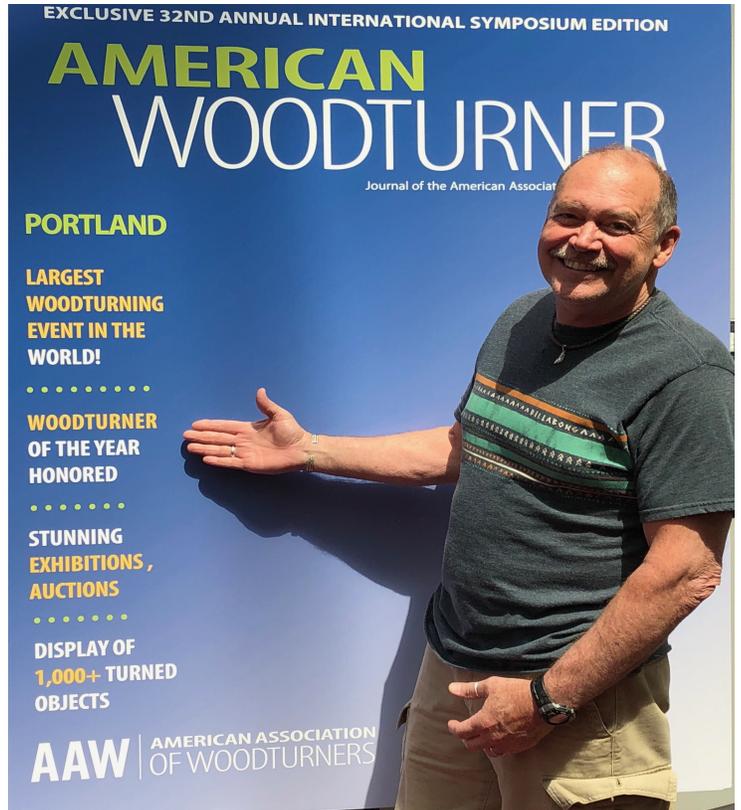
I'm sure all six of the members that attended would tell you that it was time well spend and would encourage you to go to the AAW Symposium in the future.

The following link will let you take a look at the AAW handout book that all participants got. It will give you a great idea of what was offered at the symposium.

Just copy and paste this link in to your browser and you'll be able to view the handbook.

<https://guidebook.com/guide/121751/list/678506/>





**Willie Allhouse piece**

