

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.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Reminders	2
MMAW Regular Monthly Meeting	3
Arts Underground Report 2018	4
Kiln for Drying for Wood	5

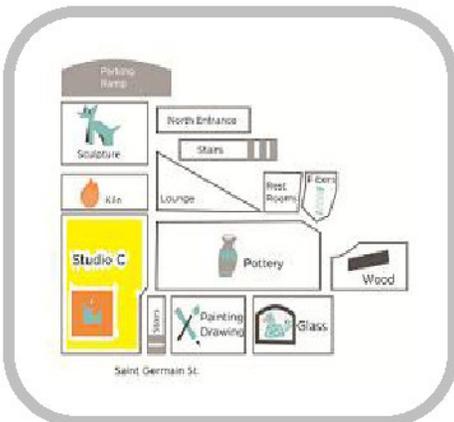


MMAW membership meetings are held the second Saturday of each month. Located in Studio C. (see map)

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 June 9, 2018

SHAVINGS

June's president challenge will be a bowl with some type of embellishment.
Our June demo will be a Pen Turning demonstration.

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MMAW Regular Monthly Meeting minutes from May 12, 2018

Denny called the meeting to order. Next month's president challenge will be a bowl with some type of embellishment.

Bob Carlson from Isanti joined us today to check the club out.

Our June demo will be a Pen Turning demonstration.

The July meeting will be a picnic at the Tech Center. Spouses and guest welcome Beverages, hot dogs, brats and buns will be provided. Please bring a dish to share. **Please RSVP to Roxanne** at 320-360-0900 or roxanne@myriversrealty.com with the count as soon as you can.

T-shirts and sweatshirts with the club logo on the breast pocket area will be ordered. A sign-up sheet was sent around.

Fred Schmoll will continue working on our webpage. He will continue to post the instant gallery photos on the site. If you would like to have more pictures of your items posted send pictures to Fred. Include your name and any other information (webpage if you have one of your own, descriptions of the turnings....) with the pictures you'd like posted. If you have any question contact Fred. Fred will send out an e-mail blast concerning this.

Fred is also getting ready to post the mentor list. Let Fred know if you would like to be included on this list.

Gary Mrozek mentioned that the Paramount is putting together the class offerings. If anyone is interested in teaching a class please contact Derick Segerstom at 320 257 5928.

Neil Robinette and Dan Larson from the Minnesota Woodturners Association (MWA) gave an informative demo on tool sharpening. The handouts referred to can be found at the MWA's web site. <https://www.mnwoodturners.com> Go to the site, scroll to the bottom left and click on classes, scroll through the calendar to the sharpening class and click on it. On the bottom of that page is a listing of information they use at their sharpening classes. Feel free to read or make copies of this information. At the June meeting there will be paper copies of Dan's grinding wheel jigs he used and passed out. **Anyone can sign up for the class. The class is free to MWA members and MMAW members are invited to sign up for the class for \$20.00.**

Neil uses the vari-grind jig to sharpen tools and Dan uses the vari-grind 2. Both work fine to help you get repeatable angles and edges on your tools. They recommend you set your vari-grind jig at 23 degrees to start (on the vari-grind 2 set the stem in the middle or 2 1/2). Set it and leave it so things are the same each time with your tools. There is a Kirk DeHeer tool sharpening DVD available from Craft Supply USA that they like to use with their classes.

Dan and Neil talked about CBN wheels versus aluminum oxide wheels. Both work fine, just **don't use carbon steel tools with the CBN wheels.** !80 grit CBN is equivalent to 100 grit aluminum oxide and 80 grit CBN is equivalent to 40 or 50 grit aluminum oxide. !80 CBN is a good wheel to use if you only have one. The MWA has purchased many wheels from Woodturners Wonders and if you buy CBN wheels from them they recommend you buy the concave washers offered to help get your wheel balanced and centered quickly.

When purchasing new tools with a flat bottom like scrapers, round the bottom edges off to help the tools slide more smoothly on the tool rest. Neil also mentioned that he has had good luck with

Benjamin's Best tools and Hurricane tools.

The source for those small HS cutters I mentioned at the meeting is below. MSC bought them out so thus the name change www.mscdirect.com/enco

Thanks very much for a great demo with lots and lots of information.

Dan Larson won \$16.00 with the 50/50 drawing.

Meeting adjourned.

SHAVINGS***Arts Underground numbers 2017 - 2018.***

A total of 80 different people came to turn wood during the 29 nights.

Ages ranged from 13 to over 68 years, a couple signed in as old 😊

41 males and 39 females came to turn wood.

One person showed up 17 times, one person came 16 times, one person came 15 times, 2 people came 6 times, 1 person came 7 times, 1 person came 4 times, 3 people came 3 times, 14 people came 2 times, and 56 people came once for a total of 164 individual visits. This averages out to 5.7 visits each evening.

People came from 20 different towns, and a total of 26 different locations

St. Cloud, Princeton, Becker, Albany, Stewart, Royalton, St. Joseph, Brainerd, Woodbury, St. Stephen, Sauk Rapids, Little Falls, Foley, Foreston, Sartell, Big Lake, Pierz, Rockville, Badger, Maple Grove

3 different Countries besides the United States....New Zealand, Scotland, and Canada as well as 3 other states besides Minnesota...California, Alaska, and New York

Art's Underground numbers 2016 - 2017

30 nights...

149 people signed in to turn

Averaged 4.9 people per night 😊

69 different people

35 males 34 females

Ages 13 to 59

One person showed up 22 times

9 people showed up 4 or more times

People came from 16 different towns

St. Cloud, Sauk Rapids, Sartell, Rice, Foley, Princeton,

Browerville, Clearwater, Albany, Cokato, Becker, Cold Spring, Nowthen, Albany,

Waite Park, Bowlus

Art's Underground numbers for 2015 - 2016

27 nights...

168 people signed in to turn

Averaged 6.2 people per night 😊

71 different people

52 males 19 females

Ages 13 to 63

One person showed up 14 times

10 people showed up 5 or more times

People came from 18 different towns

St. Cloud, Sauk Rapids, Sartell, St. Joseph, Rice, Foley, Princeton, Browerville, Clearwater, Albany, Avon, Cokato, Little Falls, Dassel, Milaca, Duluth, Becker, UBMS (Upward Bound?)

SHAVINGS

Kiln for Drying Wood

By Larry Zubke

To speed up the drying process and improve the odds of successfully preserving wood blanks, I built a drying kiln. A kiln provides a stable environment by maintaining a consistent temperature and humidity. For research, I spoke to woodturners in my local club and also found articles on the Internet. I discovered that there are no hard-and-fast rules for building a kiln, so I took several ideas and combined them into something that would work for me.

A small chest freezer that had quit working began the project. The metal walls with insulation between them help retain heat, making this kiln economical to run, even in wintertime. For safety, I installed a hasp and padlock on the door.



Mounted on the left-hand side of the kiln are the controls, power switch, and outlet, as well as the greenhouse controller. Note the padlock for safety.

I removed the compressor and mounted casters on one side to stand the freezer up so it can move around easily. The vertical positioning of the door allows easy access. An upright freezer or refrigerator might work better, but this unit takes up less space.

I installed open-wire shelves to support the green wood and to allow air to move freely within the kiln. A watertight light fixture with two 60-watt incandescent lightbulbs mounted on the base of the freezer provides the heat source. A thin sheet metal plate sits over the bulbs to protect them from dripping water. The metal also retains heat from the bulbs, slowly releasing it after the power is off.

A greenhouse thermostat with a remote sensor monitors and



A fan is mounted underneath the wire shelf.



regulates the temperature inside the kiln by automatically turning the bulbs on or off so that a consistent temperature is maintained. I drilled four 1/2" (13mm) holes in the bottom of the freezer below the lightbulbs and four matching holes in the upper rear wall. Heat convection from the bulbs draws outside air into the freezer through the bottom holes. Warm humid air exits the freezer through the top holes.

After my first batch of wood was dry, I decided to install a 5" (13cm) fan, salvaged from computer equipment. This fan runs all the time and helps circulate the air, which speeds up the drying process. Without the fan, the first batch of wood took approximately seven weeks to dry. The second batch took only five weeks.



The lightbulbs are mounted on the back of the kiln near the bottom, a sheet of metal covers the bulbs, and the holes are drilled through the bottom of the freezer.

I generally start by setting the temperature at 80°F (27°C) for the first week. At week two, I increase the temperature to 85°F (29°C). The third week, I raise the temperature to 90°F (32°C) and leave it there until the wood is dry. During the first few weeks, the humidity is 70 to 80

percent, so the air exiting the kiln often condenses on the outside of the holes. As the drying process progresses, the humidity continues to drop. The time it takes for the blanks to finish drying depends upon: the time of year the tree was cut, wood species, diameter, rough-turned wall thickness, stor-



The sensor for the greenhouse controller is mounted to the ceiling inside the kiln. The four holes drilled through the upper back wall of the freezer can be seen.

age-environment temperature, and humidity.

To measure the wood's dryness, I weigh the largest and thickest blanks with a digital fishing scale and write the weight and date on each blank. At first, I check the blanks monthly, and then weekly as the weight loss begins to slow.



A 13" (33cm) cottonwood bowl, rough turned from green wood, weighed 5.09 lb (2.3kg) June 11 when it was placed in the kiln. It weighed 3.43 lb (1.6kg) July 15, and 3.42 lb (1.6kg) July 22. This bowl stopped losing weight, is dry, and ready to be finish turned.

When the blanks stop losing weight (moisture), they can be finish turned. ■

Larry Zubke has been an avid woodworker all of his life, learning from his father and other family members. Since joining the Dakota Woodturners, his focus shifted to woodturning.