

# SHAVINGS

Volume 13, Issue 10

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.



*WE ARE TEACHING THE WORLD TO TURN.*

**The next meeting is scheduled for**  
**October 14**

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

The October 14 meeting will have a demo by John Menning.

He is teaching a class for the Paramount center for the Arts, Making a Decorative Ornament, on Nov. 13. This will be a chance to share that with the club.

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 is 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.

The PCA (Paramount Center for the Arts) is no longer requiring all folks in their buildings to show proof of vaccination or a negative COVID test within 48 hours of the event. They are encouraging everyone to wear a mask while in the buildings.

Hello members.

We just returned from an Alaskan cruise. We had an enjoyable 11 days looking at the scenery and ports along the Alaskan and Canadian coast. Not to mention over eating and drinking. The weather this year was not the best. There were a couple of big storms in the Pacific that made us reroute the ship course and change the order of the ports we visited. We have visited the ports a few times so now I usually just walk around town and look at the local craft stores. It is always interesting to see what people are making and what is being sold. I saw some very nice turned and carved pieces.

We are starting to think of what the club will do next year and have been in contact with the Minnesota Woodturners to see if we can coordinate some things. If you have any suggestion on what you would like to see and do please reach out to myself or one of the board members. I hope a few of you have had a chance to look at our [YouTube channel](#) I think we are getting the recordings better. The plan will be for them to stay on for a few months. There will be OPEN SHOP after the October 14th meeting. Please stay for awhile to talk or turn. I am usually around until 2:00pm or so.

Stay cool now that the weather is changing to warm.

Turn safe,

Fred

Arts Underground has started up again. Guy Schafer and Mark Scholer are there most Thursday nights to work with anyone over the age of 13. The first two nights has seen Jaden returning to continue his journey. We also had two rookies join us, Jamie, a 40 something mom of two and Lydia, a young women out exploring the Paramount Center for the Arts opportunities at Arts Underground with a friend . Nice job all around!



Jamie has been there both nights and turned a candle stick holder and two spurtles, which is a wooden Scottish kitchen tool.



Lydia turned a "pretty stick" that we turned into a candle stick holder.

Jaden has been working on perfecting his wand turning skills.



## MMAW Meeting, Sept. 9, 2023

Fred showed a video clip of a person using a chainsaw to down a tree. The result was surprising.

**New Member:** Joe Backoven from Milaca. He's been turning for a year.

### Announcements:

Ellections: Bill Baker and Guy Schafer have made some progress on finding candidates but still need a candidate for the Executive Board.

The Tech Center has Open Shop on the 1st Thursday and 2nd Tuesday of each month.

Art Crawl: It went pretty well with people coming by to watch our lathes working on the sidewalk making tops. About 50 tops were turned and given away.

Google St Cloud Downtown Art Crawl to see which stores are offering to display members' work for sale.

Members came through with additional bowls for the Empty Bowls event, but at the last minute the club received word that the event has been postponed until Spring, 2024.

A poll was circulated to assess member interest in possible options for future demos.

Renneberg Hardwoods on 25th has a selection of hardwood 2" thick and can be used for turning projects. Their prices are good.

Mark Reule won the \$10.00 Instant Gallery drawing.

### Demo:

Sharon Giesfeldt described her experience in turning going back to work on the metal lathe. She has been making pens for about ten years. Her pens all have a thicker grip due to a problem Sharon had with carpal tunnel syndrome which left her with a problem in her grip. Sharon's pen turning led to trying out other types of spindle turning projects, for example yarn spindles and handles for some of her tools.

In making her pens, Sharon is constantly weighing the dynamic between two priorities: ergonomics (the pen must feel good when held) and design (is it pleasing to look at). Sharon begins by turning her blank down to a cylinder which she then divides into sections. She then establishes the thickness for each of these sections.

**50/50** Guy Schafer won.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00.



Sharon Giesfeldt and Guy Schafer from the MMAW and Linda Garber Ferber and Roseanne Gold from the Minnesota Woodturners Association did demos at the MTEEA Fall Conference in Waite Park on Friday, the 29th.

It's was fun to connect with youth educators today at the Minnesota Technology Engineers Educational conference. We heard great stories about lathes in the classrooms. Everyone wants to improve their woodturning and sharpening skills. We were able to answer questions about tools, wood, equipment and sharpening.

**"Show us a man who never makes a mistake and we will show a man who never makes anything. The capacity for occasional blundering is inseparable from the capacity to bring things to pass."**

**Herman Lincoln Wayland  
(1830-1898)**



Not to leave the women out, same thing goes for them!



## Instant Gallery



LeAnn Kemper  
Turned these pens.  
One is a buckeye burl, another is a Rockler fish inlay and the other is walnut with a segmented upper part.



Mark Reule turned this walnut lidded box, with his brother, Carl, turning the purple heart lid.



John Menning rough turned this Russian Olive bowl



Art Buhs turned these fishing lures.  
He air brushed the colors.

Guy Schafer turned this candle holder from some apple. The small bowl was turned from some dimensional walnut he purchased from Renneberg Hardwoods in St Cloud.







Jim Brodd shared a lidded container he made from some figured birch.



Bill Baker, a baker and woodturner, shared a pastry rolling pin he created from walnut, cherry and maple. Maybe someday he'll share some of the pastries he makes!



Tyler Smith had a couple duck calls to share. They were turned from black ash burl wood and acrylic.



Bill Langen continued his exploration of offset or multi-axis turning with this lidded box turned from crabapple, katalox with a blue topaz finial topper.



## Meet the Turners



Meier Art Buhs who was born in the South Side of Chicago

-10 years old moved to a resort parents bought on the Spider Lakes chain, Hayward Wisc. (Died and went to Heaven!!!) -19 in 1969 moved to Sauk Rapids and started construction career building apartments in the cities as a union apprentice,( night classes at the Vo-tech School) now SCTCC.

-1977 moved to Bozeman Mt. to build a Motel for Dan Brutger.

Construction Supt. on the Sweetgrass Co. High School in Bigtimber Mt. Including building a gold mine facility with rattlesnakes under our materials piles at Whitehall Mt. and flew one complete summer in helicopters with no doors forming and pouring conc footing at the 8500 foot elevation on a 60% grade on the West Rosebud for Montana Power, (best job ever!) I was a Foreman over 50 guys.

Moved back to Minn. in 1988, ( couple of parents with terminal illnesses)

- Owned and operated Art Buhs Const. till about 2013 specializing in ICF and GeoThermal, (during that time I did my first stretch in the St, Cloud Reformatory) Not what you think, I had the keys, about a dozen of them , worked as a consultant for SCTCC teaching 15 Felons Construction Career Orientation, two 13 week stints.

Spent the next 3 years building 7 projects at the St. Cloud V.A.M.C. as a Construction Supt. among other things a 1140 well Geothermal system and yes the walking paths are a Work Of Art. During this time I spent 3 years on the Central MN. Habitat For Humanity Board.

-Then 7 years as Construction Manager for Central Mn. Habitat, now semi-retired but still consulting 10 hours a week for CMHFFH.

As President of the Central Mn. Builders Association in 2001 our fall board meetings (National) were on Maui, While flying home I noticed a flight attendant sprinting down the aisle, the pilot came on the intercom and said the President has ordered all aircraft from the sky! Landed in Tulsa on 9/11 and hitched a ride to MPLS, airport with two guys that had a corporate car, all rentals, Uhauls etc. were gone by the time we made it to a phone.

Now, as Paul used to say, you know the rest of the story .

Rob Benson here, I am retired. I was a School Administrator for 23 years.

I and my wife have been married 61 years. We have 2 sons, 6 Grandchildren and 1 Great grand daughter. My son Brent is a member of the club.

My hobbies are many – Woodworking – Fishing – Gardening – Jigsaw Puzzles – Teaching Confirmation at Church – Writing Articles for a Hometown Newspaper – Teaching Diamond Willow Carving – Saying “ Yes Dear” to my Wife. (Makes for long and Happy Marriage) Doing the math to get the most usable material out of a bolt of cloth while my Wife Quilts.

I started woodturning when I was playing Little League Baseball and wanted my own bat. My Uncle had a lathe and worked with me – I made my own bat.

My favorite thing to turn was Lampshades. (I turned 21 Lampshades over the years.)

My Favorite wood to turn depends on what I am making, Bowls would be Cherry, Walnut, or Maple. Lampshades – Aspen. Of course any solid Hardwood Burl is always #1.





# There are still some openings for upcoming classes offered through the Paramount Center for the Arts

## Turning a Decorative Nutcracker (10/4-10/11/2023)

October 4, 2023, 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm

REGISTER

\$55

### Turning a Decorative Nutcracker

with Sharon Giesfeldt

Experience Level: Intermediate, some prior experience required

Wednesdays October 4-11, 6-8:30pm (2 Sessions)

Ages 14+

Continue exploring the lathe, as you learn how to safely use a variety of chisels to create, assemble, and then paint a decorative nutcracker. This whimsical piece, though not able to actually crack nuts, is sure to bring smiles! Join us!



October 4, 2023, 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm

**Paramount Technical Site**  
248 33rd Avenue South  
Waite Park, MN 56387

## Beyond the Basics of Turning: Lidded Boxes (10/17/2023)

October 17, 2023, 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

REGISTER

\$55

### Beyond the Basics of Turning: Lidded Boxes with Guy Schafer

Experience Level: Intermediate, some prior experience needed  
Tuesday October 17, 6-9pm (1 session)  
Ages 14+

Learn to safely make a beautiful lidded box on the wood lathe using a variety of tools. You will leave with a finished lidded box! This class is designed for those with prior experience, please join us for a beginner level class for an introduction to the lathe!

All materials to create lidded box included in the cost of tuition



October 17, 2023, 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

**Paramount Technical Site**  
248 33rd Avenue South  
Waite Park, MN 56387

## Beyond the Basics of Woodturning: Yoyos, Tops, & Fidget Sticks (11/6/2023)

November 6, 2023, 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

REGISTER

\$75

### Beyond the Basics of Woodturning: Yoyos, Tops, & Fidget Sticks with Gary Mrozek

Experience Level: Intermediate, some prior experience needed  
Monday November 6, 6-9pm (1 session)  
Ages 14+

Continue exploring the woodturning lathe as you dive into the more whimsical side of making toys. Gary Mrozek will guide you through the process of safely using chisels to create a yo-yo, top, and fidget stick, using techniques that can be applied to other projects too!



November 6, 2023, 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

**Paramount Technical Site**  
248 33rd Avenue South  
Waite Park, MN 56387  
United States

## Beyond the Basics of Turning: Decorative Ornaments (11/13/2023)

November 13, 2023, 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

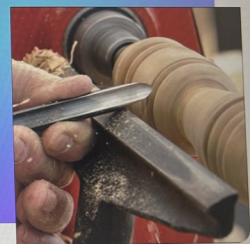
REGISTER

\$45

### Beyond the Basics of Turning: Decorative Ornaments with John Menning

Experience Level: Intermediate, some prior experience needed  
Monday November 13, 6-9pm (1 session)  
Ages 14+

Learn to safely make a beautiful decorative ornament on the wood lathe, using a variety of tools. This class is designed for those with some prior experience, please join us for an beginner level class if you need an introduction to the lathe!

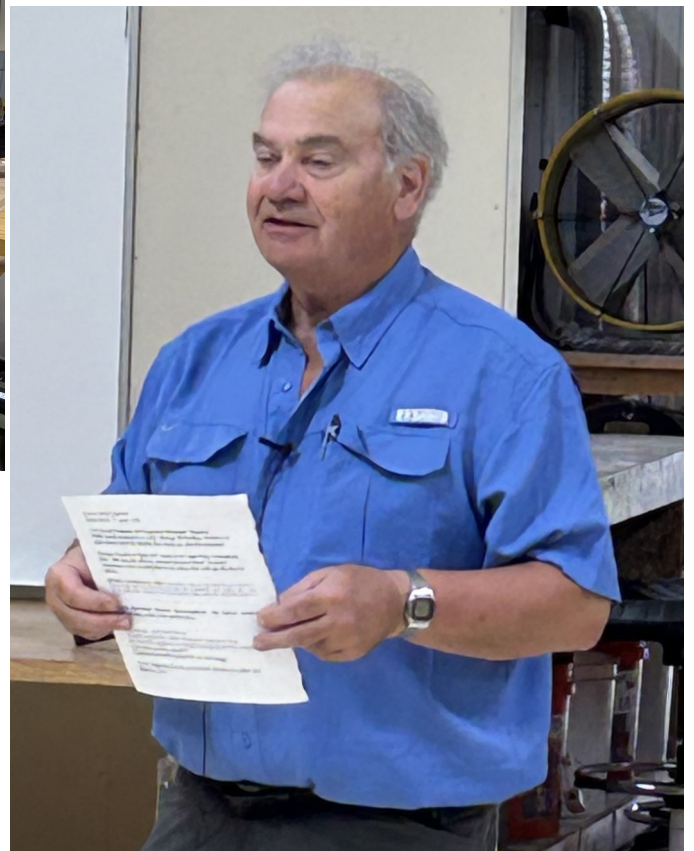


November 13, 2023, 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

**Paramount Technical Site**  
248 33rd Avenue South  
Waite Park, MN 56387



Membership meeting from September 9th.  
Come join us at the October 14th meeting.





Start looking for wood to donate for another wood swap/exchange in the New Year. As they say “one persons junk (piece of wood) is another’s treasure!

We will be having a **Gift Exchange** at our December 9th meeting.

Anyone who brings a turned item will be able to exchange that item for another

Member’s turned item. I wonder what you’ll get????

Come join in the fun and dazzle and impress other members with your work.

Be sure to bring a tool handle that you have turned to our next meeting to share. Maybe a kitchen utensil, a garden item, or a bowl gouge handle.

One lucky person who shares will receive \$10.00 in a drawing.

Start looking at all the tools you have that never get used, or you have duplicates of. that you can bring to a meeting in the new year for a tool swap/sale. Rather than it collecting dust and rusting away maybe someone can put it to good use.

If anyone is in need of end grain sealer please give Bill Baker a call. He picked some up from the Minnesota Woodturners Association for himself and a few extra gallons for the club.

**Elections are coming, Elections are coming, Elections are coming.....**

If you are interested, or know someone who is interested, in joining the Executive Board to help lead the MMAW in the coming year please contact a current board member.

Ballots will be mailed in mid Nov. and need to be returned by Dec. 6th for the following positions:

President

Secretary

Treasurer

At Large Executive Board (2 year term)