They told me that the only things I needed to wear to be safe from the coronavirus at the grocery store were safety goggles and a face mask.

They were WRONG! Everybody else was wearing clothes!
Woodturners welcomed Gov. Walz’s latest executive order

Governor Tim Walz

Emergency Executive Order 20-20

Directing Minnesotans to Turn at Home
Cherry bowl, 8x2 with a foot

Bill Campbell

Two failed cherry bowls. I think including our errors is only fair. One out of three is a somewhat lower success rate than I usually experience; the penalty for turning green, I guess.
Instant Gallery (cont’d)

Don Schlais

Yellowheart

Maple, cherry, wenge, padauk
Jay Schulz
Left stein is cherry and walnut.
Right stein is walnut, cherry, lacewood and birch.
Epoxy finish.

Lee Luebke – walnut
I was an assistant at Dick Hicks’s platter class; last class that was not canceled.
Shelter in Place project of the week. I am gluing up colored veneer scraps (I was given a small pallet of them from a veneer manufacturer; I am sure you could use it as toilet paper so they probably can stay in production during this dire time). Alas, you can make a bowl.
Instant Gallery (cont’d)

Alder with walnut laminations – 6.5” d, Mylands friction polish

Birch 7.5” d, Mylands friction polish

Cedar – 7 x 7.5”, MinWax Poly

After Dick Hicks’s class – elm, Mahoney’s Walnut Oil

Mike Rohrer
Instant Gallery (cont’d)

Red oak with some spalting and worm holes. First one I've done with worm/bug holes.

Julie Abbott
Instant Gallery (cont’d)

Mesquite bowls

Warren Gerber
While traveling in Bergen, Norway last August I was in a shop that had turned soup bowls with handles so I bought one thinking that might be a good project.

Now with the coronavirus sheltering I finally had a chance to try some. They were more challenging than I thought but quite fun.
Scandinavian style 3-legged bowl that I just made. It will probably get some milk paint on it before it is done. Traditional birch wood.

Dan Larson
I found 3 old cherry wood burls. Largest log was about 9" biggest diameter x 24" long. After coring, I have 43 bowls to finish; don't know if there will be any art shows, but planning for some late July-October. The 3-year old burls are very hard and create a lot of dust. I usually try to core when the wood is partially dry; easier to core, turn and less dust.
The jewelry box is made from a piece of wood I found in one of my drawers. It is "chickrassy" of the mahogany family from South China. Note how the sap wood formed an image of the box itself.

All turned this last week. What else is there to do but eat, sleep, repair washing machine pump and two vacuum cleaners plus my beloved vacuum pump.
Tom Sciple

Ambrosia maple, walnut & chickrassy box

All will be finished with Formby’s Tung Oil. Formby’s was bought by Min Wax and will no longer be manufactured. I have managed to obtain 3 - 16oz cans of high gloss and 3 - 8oz bottles of low gloss. This has been my choice of finish for over 20 years and hate to see it go. If anyone has a can and would like to donate or sell it, I would be most eager to hear from them.
Here’s an MWA Chapter project. Members can work on this *from home* and whenever we have our next meeting, we can use it for show and tell and EXCHANGE.

Attached is an article by Michael Hosaluk from 1998 with a simple spindle project from the AAW Archives on making a door stop. Members are encouraged to give it a try and make as many as they would like. The project results in two door stops. At the next chapter meeting people will be paired up and exchange one half of their door stop with the other member. If they make more than one – we can do more than one exchange. Members of all skill levels should be able to participate.

Linda Ferber
TURNED DOORSTOPS
A two-for-one production item

MICHAEL HOSALUK

One of my regular production items is a doorstop, turned in pairs from a solid piece of wood. Paul Tierman of Australia makes these, and I learned of them on a trip down under a few years back. I vary the style of each set of doorstops, but those variations are based on a family of forms that I have developed over the years. By using a wide variety of familiar forms, I can increase production output and still not become bored (see my article “All in the Family,” AW, December 1997).

Start with a blank, 1½ inches square by 9 inches long. I use woods to match floors: oak, cherry, walnut, and local birch; although most any wood will work. Mark the centers on each end using the centering jig (see sidebar at right). It is important to mark these centers perfectly.

Mount the wood on your lathe. I use a cup center in the headstock to drive my work instead of a spur center, and a live cup center in the tailstock. The cup center allows me to work to close tolerances. The point in most live centers will work like a wedge and may split the piece you are working on.

Once I have the piece between centers, I turn at high speed—2,500 to 3,000 rpm. Because you will be leaving a square section in the middle, it is easier to turn at a high rate of speed because the tool does not bounce off the corners of the wood. For most production work, I use a 1½-inch detail gouge, ground to a fingernail profile with a long double bevel. Once I have the gouge ground properly, I can go days without having to grind again. I use diamond stones to maintain sharpness. First use a round hone for the flute, then use a flat hone for the bevel. Make sure you do not create a micro-bevel on the cutting edge—hold the hone flat against the first bevel. I use the honing dry so that I can keep my hands clean.

Rough out the shape at both ends. The knobs at each end should be slightly smaller in diameter than the square section so that the doorstop will rest on the flat part when cut in half. The profiles represent a great opportunity to practice different shapes and see what forms work best together. Production volume also allows you to refine shapes, making good ones better. Make the finish cuts at the tailstock end first, ending at the headstock. The cup centers allow me to work close to the end of the blank of wood, keeping wasted wood to a minimum. If the headstock and tailstock of your lathe line up properly, you can turn down to less than ½ inch, leaving very little to clean up.

I use a bandsaw jig (see sidebar at right) to make a clean, straight diagonal cut the length of the square section of the turning, which yields the two doorstops. I use a 4-tooth, 1/4-inch-wide blade. Leave the bandsaw marks on the wood for added grip when the doorstop is placed under an open door. You can belt sand smooth the other flat surfaces and even bevel the edge of the thin end for appearance.

This project should open the door to other possible uses of familiar forms.

Michael Hosaluk, an accomplished one-of-a-kind as well as production turner, demonstrates frequently and lives in Saskatoon, SK.

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Bandsaw Jig for Cutting Doorstops

Before making this jig, you will need to turn a doorstop. Take a piece of 1/4-inch thick plywood, 6 inches wide by 14 inches long. Mak this 10-inch-long cut down the middle of the length of the plywood. Lay a turned doorstop on the cutline, then glue two blocks of wood onto the plywood so that the doorstop is centered along the cutline. The cutline should pass through the same part of the doorstop at each end of the turning, leaving the end of each doorstop thick enough to be sturdy with repeated use. (But not so thick that it won’t slide under most doors.) Glue some sandpaper on the plywood between the blocks so the doorstop does not slip.

An end-stop can be used, but be careful, as the finished lengths of your turnings may vary. Make and attach a handle at the closed end of the plywood for pushing and pulling the jig through the bandsaw blade. —M.H.
I did a little experiment with wood glues that I had in my shop to see the actual drying color. This might be of interest to the segmenters in the club. The glue types by number are:

1. Titebond Original
2. Titebond 2
3. Titebond 3 or Ultimate
4. Titebond Quick and Thick
5. Titebond Translucent
6. Gorilla Wood Glue

I believe 4 and 5 are actually clearer than the picture shows. I think they are picking up the color of the wood.
TURNING TIPS (cont’d)

Maybe we should define inverse social distancing as spending time being closer to our lathes.

Dick Zawacki
I'm a new turner and of course I'm confused about finishing . . . so many choices!
• On the lathe? • Off the lathe? • Hand finish? • Spray finish? • Buff or no buff? • What finish works best for buffing?
I want something which is easy and looks good. I do like "satin”; and my wife prefers "gloss" (think shiny jewelry).
• Not too toxic; I need to save my brain cells!
• Hearing about your finishing process would be appreciated!
  Newt Urner

Everyone is looking for good finishes. I’d be interested in knowing if anyone has had any luck mixing beeswax (I have a very hard old chunk of it). I tried melting it and mixing with boiled linseed oil. It was a disaster. When I finally got it mixed it turned rock-hard so I threw it out.
  Jane Hilary
This is an area with no absolute answers. There are a lot of different ways to finish a turned piece depending on many factors. I thought this would be a good chance to reprise a club demo from a couple of years ago as well as add a small additional finishing suggestion. I’ll leave this question open and would appreciate any other contributions from any MWA members. I’ll print your answers in future mini newsletters.

Editor
October Demonstration
Mark Palma

Finishing for Immortals*

*Reprinted from the November 2018 newsletter
Jeff Luedloff and Mark Palma discussing his demo before the start of the meeting

Dan Larson adjusting the overhead camera
Safety Tips/Finishing Tips

1. Put safety glasses on when you enter the shop
2. Always wear NEW gloves; you don’t want to absorb the vehicle into your skin
3. Spray OUTSIDE
4. What you apply finish with can start a fire through spontaneous combustion; don’t throw application materials in a bucket or a pile. Do something smart with them, not in a pile
5. Don’t wear your turning apron when finishing
6. Use finishes that are replicable, safe and easy to find
Summary

1. Great finish won't hide bad work or preparation
2. No finish is perfect for everything
3. Specie, Design and Use decide the finish
4. You cannot get a great finish in a poor environment
5. Pick 3 finishes, buy in small quantities and master them
6. Finishes are Food Safe in 30 Days
Demonstration Bowls

Mark had turned over 30 identical oak bowls. Each had been finished with a different material (including Lemon Pledge and WD-40). The bowls were passed around the audience one-at-a-time. Attendees were encouraged to feel, observe and smell each bowl before turning it over to read the material used, how many coats and any other technique used. The audience found this a very interesting and educational experience.
Part I. Finishes at a Glance

“Finish is not like wine . . . it doesn’t improve with age”

Why Finish?
Preserve, Protect and Beautify – Lemon Pledge
It works, now lets find out why and if we can outperform Pledge

What is a Finish?
“Vehicle” and a “Solid”
Solid is what is left after it cures
Vehicle lets it flow, but it must evaporate before finish curing

Options:
A. Nothing
B. Oil Family (Tung, Danish, walnut, mineral, linseed, Tru Oil (gun stock), oil blends)
   Penetrates wood to enhance grain
   Will impart color change on most woods (darker)
   Pools and sometimes bleeds back in open grain woods
   May be flammable when wet
   “Pops” grain
Part I. Finishes at a Glance

“If you wait till the turning is finished, it’s too late to think about finishing”

Options: (cont’d)

- Oil Family (Tung, Danish, walnut, mineral, linseed, Tru Oil (gun stock), oil blends) (cont’d)
  - Works in high dust environments and relatively foolproof
  - Some wear better than others (modified oil blends generally last longer)
  - Easily renewable and often interchangeable for compatibility
  - Low to medium Gloss
  - “Wet” sanding oils into wood
Part I. Finishes at a Glance

“Anything that penetrates is some sort of oil”

Options: (cont’d)

Oil and Wax Blends
  Why add wax?
  Surface protection, dust barrier, pleasing touch, renewable
  Wax Alone (clear, colored)

Water based Finishes
  Raise grain
  May seem more “washed out”
  Dry fast, dry hard, environmentally friendly

“There is no such thing as TEAK oil . . .it is high quality WATCO”

Mark does 99% of his finishing off the lathe

“Shotgun cleaning cloths are cheap and great to use in finishing”
Part I. Finishes at a Glance

OPTIONS: (cont’d)

**Polyurethanes**
- Available, durable and predictable
- Mineral spirits based vehicle
- Thick if you do not thin it down, may hide detail and look “heavy”
- Looks and feels like plastic, sometimes sticks to furniture
- Long open time allows for contaminants such as dust and bugs
- Surface finish no real penetration
- When it fails, it is difficult to repair
- Not very “food friendly”
- If you are going to use poly, thin and add oil

**Lacquers**
- History of Lacquer
- Predictable Surface Finish
- Imparts little color, does not hide wood grain or get “muddy”
- Builds shine with thin layers and may be buffed to incredible shine

“If finish doesn’t work:
1. Swear
2. Most likely used old finish
3. Contaminated finish with applicator
4. Some environmental problem, humidity, dust
5. Did not allow enough mixing or stirring between coats
6. Just bad technique”
Part I. Finishes at a Glance

Options: (cont’d)

Lacquers (cont’d)

Health concerns, and banned in some areas (Lacquer thinner may be carcinogen).
Short shelf life
Not very food friendly
Not renewable but is repairable

Shellac

Lac Bug
Green, organic, earthy, (alcohol based vehicle)
Often overlooked as option
May be clear to amber
Short shelf life
Binds with any unwaxed finish
May itself contain waxes so look out!
Low to high gloss
Not renewable but repairable
Part I. Finishes at a Glance

“I do not usually finish a piece the same week that I turn it.”

“Finish for something to be used: sand to 320, wet sand with silicon carbide paper and one coat of oil”

Options: (cont’d)

Acrylics

Artists turn to them first
Wide range of products, features and gloss
Imparts no tint, very clear
Very durable
May be thin (invisible) to thick and very controllable
Very quick drying times and low environmental concerns
Not renewable, but is repairable
Home brews (ink, vinegar and steel wool, poly/oil/mineral spirits)

On the Lathe Finishes

Instant gratification and speed, but trade off durability
Issue-- How long before the vehicle evaporates? Open time
Friction finishes use heat (friction) to burn off vehicle while work spins
Alcohol (spirit) and Lacquer (cellulose) vehicles frequently used
Wax overcoat often used to impart short term gloss
Part I. Finishes at a Glance

“A common mistake is making the finish coating too thick.”

On the Lathe Finishes (cont’d)

Very reparable not very durable
CA Finish and others (e.g. water modified polyurethane)
My recommendation, either (1) use a Lacquer sanding sealer, shellac topcoat and wax final layer or (2) CA
Tips:

- Use paper towels to apply
- Cover lathe ways and everything else
- Use low speeds
- Use a sanding sealer
- Start on one end and push the finish across
- Stop lathe and check progress, fix problems
- Wear proper PPE
- Care when spraying at the lathe
Part II. Picking the Right Finishes for You

“We rarely need multiple finishes on one piece.”

**Do you Care if the Wood Changes Color?**

If you care,
- Nothing
- Wax
- Acrylic
- Water Based Varnish without a amber modifier

If work can get darker, proceed with below.

**Wood Specie**

Open Grain
- Deep but irregular finish absorption
- Grain may cause finish to pool
- Oils may ooze out of wood structure
- May result in shiny and dull spots, may need more between coat sanding.

“I would not use cyanoacrylate as finish on a big piece.”
**Wood Specie (cont’d)**

**Closed Grain**
- Tight, uniform absorption,
- Generally more predictable

**Highly Figured and Burls**
- Looking to “pop” grain
- Unpredictable absorption

**Naturally Oily Woods**
- Use the oils, don't fight the oils

**TEST FINISH!**

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**Design**

Will the Finish “match” the design?
Will elements be enhanced or ruined by finish?
Traditional, modern, abstract, pure art, organic
Beware of too much gloss or too thick of a finish

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**Use**

Gallery Piece vs Daily Kitchenware, that is the spectrum
On the shelf, you can get by with almost anything
Daily or regular use, is it durable and more importantly repairable by the recipient?
Part II. Picking the Right Finishes for You

**Surface Preparation**

- All part of an overall process
- Finish will not hide tear out, sanding scratches or poor turning technique
- Match the final abrasive to the finish's needs
- Hand sanding with the lathe off!

**Finishes off the Lathe**

- “Beauty is in the eye of the Beholder”
- Surface Finish - Natural Beauty – Longevity – Utility-- Reparability
- Either they sit on the wood or they penetrate the wood, some do both

**My Finishing Plan**

- Oil Wax blend for daily use items (Danish Oil or Teak Oil)
- Walnut Oil touch up for gifts (possible allergy concerns)
- Buffed Danish Oil or Lacquer for “Wow Pieces”
- Acrylics for Art pieces
- CA for pens
- Covers 90%
Part II. Picking the Right Finishes for You

Food Safe

Let the controversy begin
Lead and heavy metal dryers banned from US and UK in 1978
What is the use of the piece?
Cure time, sniff test or wait a month
Some ideas

Leave wood bare
“Salad Bowl Finishes” (seem to be polyurethane based)
Walnut oil, mineral oil, butcher block oil (avoid salad oil, olive oil and cooking oils)
Fully cured off the lathe finishes (I use Danish Oil cured for 30 days)
Part II. Picking the Right Finishes for You

**Added Value**

If your pieces are finished with oil, order a large number of small, inexpensive bottles. Fill the bottle with inexpensive walnut oil from the grocery store. Place a nice label on the bottle. Give the bottle with the piece you sell.

This is a nice “added value” to the piece and helps with the sale.
When Something Goes Wrong

- Old Finish
- Contaminants in the Can
- Environmental Problems (temperature, humidity)
- Environmental Contaminants (dust, bugs, silicone, chemical)
- Insufficient Drying Time
- Compatible finishes
- Bad Technique
Part II. Picking the Right Finishes for You

A Clean Finishing Environment
Take a lesson from professional cabinet shops and auto body shops
Dust, temperature and humidity
Match drying time to the conditions in your finishing space
Store finishes safely to prevent fires and environmental problems
Buy smaller quantities and “turn” your finish inventory more often
Properly dispose of any finish over 12 months old.
Part II. Picking the Right Finishes for You

**Finish Application**

(a) Clean environment  
(b) Do not apply from container to avoid contamination  
(c) Stir finish  
(d) Think about safe disposal  
(e) Consider grain orientation  
(f) Small lint free cloths  
(g) Paint brushes that do not shed  
(h) Support work while it dries
Summary

• Great finish won't hide bad work or preparation
• No finish is perfect for everything
• Specie, Design and Use decide the finish
• You cannot get a great finish in poor environment
• Pick 3 finishes, buy in small quantities and master them
• Food Safe in 30 Days
Thanks, Mark for a great and practical program on finishing. Virtually all woodworkers, whether woodturners, furniture makers or other types of crafts people and artists get very comfortable with their “construction”, but often feel lost or even panic when it comes to applying the finish.
I wanted to try using a soft paste wax for a sanding medium as well as a finish. Having only the typical hard paste wax in my shop, I thought I could mix it with a solvent, paint thinner, and make my own soft paste wax in any consistency I desired. I tried hand-mixing the wax and thinner; it took a few sessions of almost an hour each. Then I thought of a kitchen implement I’d used a few times helping my wife prepare food, the relatively new tool, the hand blender.

I asked my wife if I could use her Cuisinart hand blender. You might still be able to hear her answer if you listen carefully. I’m sure it is still echoing around somewhere.
I looked on the web and found one for about $17. It looked good to me.

It worked! What was taking me hours by hand only took 15-20 seconds to have totally soft paste wax & I could vary the consistency.
Soft Paste Wax Finish (cont’d)

My paste wax, solvent and mixing container

Adding solvent to wax

20 seconds!!!!!
Totally softened wax!
Soft Paste Wax Finish (cont’d)

Quite soft consistency of paste wax. Any consistency is obviously possible.
Coating surface of 5-pointed bowl after last turning tool

Buffing after final sanding with 800 grit and soft wax

Sandpaper with wax 120 thru 800 grit. No dust; quiet without the dust collector.

Sanded & waxed outside of bowl

Continued on next page
Lowe’s—they could say any price because it’s not available in stores or by ordering. Maybe it will come back for $5.98.

This is mine; a bit more than I spent

I’m sure I’ll find lots of other uses for this very handy blender

Good price for Ovente
My experience in the Green Valley area and in their community wood shop was very interesting. It is a well-furnished shop open to all members of the Green Valley Recreation Association, which has an annual membership fee for the residents (and snow birds) of $70 and if you want to join in the wood workers group, they also have a $40 annual membership. The wood workers require a 6-hour orientation and training session on shop procedures and safety for all new shop users so it is a pretty big commitment for the short term snow birds. Interestingly enough, of the 15 students in my training class I was the only one that I saw using the shop while I was there in Green Valley. That is actually a good deal for the folks who use the shop frequently, not much competition for the shop equipment.

But the bigger the club the greater their influence in lobbying for more financial support from the GVR association. That is not so much different from my experience with the Minnesota Woodturners. With over 300 members we have a relatively small number of "active" members who participate in the classes and the meetings. It seems like the same folks show up all the time and I don't know where the other members receive their value from the club.
The GVR wood workers club had a lot of flat wood guys active on a daily basis. The lathe guys were keeping the 4 Powermatic lathes busy in the AM but not so much in the PM. They also had 5 lathes that must have been purchased from a high school when they closed out their industrial arts program and two Jet Minis. No chucks were offered so a lot of turners were using glue ups to mount.

I made a big mistake in not bringing along my sharpening jigs. With all those lathes running they had only one grinder with a 180 grit CBN wheel and it was never busy. I am sure you can make a pretty good bowl using a screwdriver if you are willing to spend lots of time hacking away. There was a lot of hacking going on, and it was really noisy as wood was squealing in protest. And the hollowing tools often consisted of a 5-foot iron rod with some kind of tip on it. Noisy too.

Without training classes or demonstrations there was no way for some of the lathe operators to learn how to do it right (or better at least). There were some really good turners there with beautiful work being done, but the typical turners were really struggling.

Our average club members are way better turners than the average turners in Green Valley. Besides the howling wood, the next noticeable difference was in the safety practices. Not enough face shields and safety glasses! Scared the heck out of me.
The picture is from another community shop in Green Valley, showing the "wall of shame" with all the Stop Saw blades wrecked. This shows how hard it is to keep a community shop running smoothly with members at all different skill levels.
FOR SALE

Jet 10X36 wood lathe $200
12 inch Jet Disc Sander $150
10 inch Jet Bandsaw. Needs table bracket $150
Jet 10X20 Surface Sander $400
Delta 12 inch Planer $200
Delta 6 inch Variable Speed Bench Jointer $150
Delta Dual Bag dust collector $125
Performance Scroll Saw $125
Drill Press 16 speed $350

Call Larry Froehlich at 218-401-0044 or 218-785-2122. I live in the Bagley, MN area and would consider delivery of items. Will provide pictures of other items on request.
Go to www.mybluprint.com for 1300 free classes. According to Greg Just, mybluprint.com is giving free access to over 1300 lessons on their website and there are a few excellent woodturning classes. They are free until April 9th.
I had two basswood trees taken down on my property on March 10\textsuperscript{th}. I have processed 1 log into half log segments (7” to 10 “ diameter and ~ 16” long) and sealed them. I still have two 8’ logs yet to process & seal so should be about 30 or so in total.

I had been planning to bring to the MWA meeting on April 4\textsuperscript{th} to see if anyone wanted them. It is basswood (American linden) so it is not the most desirable wood, but it is sound, fresh wood with nice bark and suitable for teaching or messing around or production turning, or even firewood. Just looking for a home for it.

Jay Schulz  Contact: Email :  jfschulz@comcast.net  Cell#  651-398-0717
The club is setting up a "Member Help Line", the purpose of which will be to answer questions / give advice/ and help educate our membership. Maybe you’re a beginner looking for advice on what to buy. Maybe you have questions on chucking. Maybe you have sharpening questions.

We would like more members to volunteer for our Member Help Line. If you would like to be "on call" please contact Mike Rohrer at mdrprof@gmail.com with your phone #, email address, area where you live, areas you’d be willing to help with, and your name will be added to the list.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
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This is the second of the mini newsletters to be published during the coronavirus emergency when we will not be having regular or sub group meetings.

• Instant Gallery. We all want to see what each other is doing during our mandatory shop time. **Please send me pictures** of your creations during this unique period. I know you’re in the shop protecting yourself and turning.

• Member Help Line. Jim Jacobs is setting up a Member Help Line to answer questions/give advice/help educate our members.

• FOR SALE. We’re going to try a FOR SALE section for the newsletter. During the duration of the “mini newsletters” they’ll probably run for a couple of weeks.

• Please consider a QUESTION or an ANSWER to **ASK A TURNER**. Please more suggestions on FINISHING. Send me your tips to the feature, **TURNING TIPS**. This is especially important because we’re not meeting as groups.

• Stay healthy. Follow all guidelines. A majority of our members are in the high-risk category.

**Mike Rohrer, Editor** mdrprof@gmail.com