CDC Recommends Face Masks

CDC recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain (e.g., grocery stores and pharmacies), especially in areas of significant community-based transmission.

Woodturners wear face masks much of the time that they are in their shop (which is most of the time) for dust protection so it’s a small step to wear them in public settings. CDC also advises the use of simple cloth face coverings to slow the spread of the virus and help people who may have the virus and do not know it from transmitting it to others. Cloth face coverings fashioned from household items or made at home from common materials at low cost can be used as an additional, voluntary public health measure. See next page for an example of a simple, home-made mask.
This fellow is a doctor, not a woodturner, so he can be trusted
Diane and Bob Puetz direct this program for the Minnesota Woodturners Association
Dear Minnesota Woodturners:

On behalf of Beads of Courage, Inc., I would like to thank you for your generous donation of Wooden Bowls/Boxes to support our mission in providing innovative arts-in-medicine, supportive care programs for more than 60,000 children coping with cancer and other serious illness. It is our passion to help them RECORD, TELL and OWN their story of COURAGE and your donation will go to help them mark and remember a milestone in their treatment journey.

Since March 2005, we have been working diligently to transform the treatment experience for children coping with serious illness through our arts-in-medicine programs. Through Beads of Courage, children are able to tell their story using colorful beads as meaningful symbols of courage that commemorate milestone they have achieved along their unique treatment path. We believe wooden bowls/boxes provide beautiful handmade homes for hard earned beads.
Beads of Courage, Inc. has established our innovative programs in over 260 children's hospitals in the United States, Canada, New Zealand, Japan and the United Kingdom. We believe our growth is evidence of the need for the type of support Beads of Courage provides for children coping with serious illness. This would not be possible without our generous supporters like you.

Thank you again for your interest, support and genuine concern for children coping with serious illness, their families, and the health care providers who care for them. Please visit our website (www.beadsofcourage.org) to learn more about our programs and how you can get involved in helping children with serious illness RECORD, TELL and OWN their stories of COURAGE.

Most Sincerely,

Jean Gribbon, PhD, RN
Executive Director and Founder
Greg Just

Beads of Courage Boxes
Here are bowls and boxes I have been making from some of those pesky logs that I have had in storage for all too long. Who says that an order to stay at home has to be unpleasant? All of the bowls have been done in 2020; most have been done since the lockdown.

Here's how I spent some of my mandatory stay-at-home time. Special thanks to Eric Koslowski, Jim Jacobs and Mike Rohrer.
Rusty Ogren

Oak burl
7” x 4”
with purple resin I just finished

Koa from Hawaii

Gold resin

Pine root,
depth red resin, clear resin coating
While finishing the bowls from last week I decided to turn some salt and pepper mills.

**Turned Pepper Mills** - left to right - myrtle wood, jatoba, spalted maple, Bolivian rosewood, zebra wood, cherry, and walnut

**Salt & Pepper Mill Sets** – left to right – myrtle wood, marble wood, walnut, cherry and Bolivian rosewood
Finishing- Using up a lot of my beloved Formby's Tung Oil Finish. When it runs out that is all there is folks. Believe I will cry!!! Bowls are from previous week - ambrosia maple, walnut and ash. I have entered a show I used to sell at for 10 years in Townsend, TN this Fall. Trying to build up my inventory and turn some of the wood before moving.
I brought a burl back from NC, when Jim Jacobs and I went down there to help George Wurtzel rehabilitate his building for living quarters, shop and sales room. I started working on the burl on the lathe about a month ago. Dick Zawacki had offered to try to carve out "something" on the unusual protrusion if I wanted him to, rather than just cutting it off. We agreed that he would take the burl and do his carving part, which I delivered to him "during these troubled times", respecting our new social distancing needs. I suggested he might carve a small "pond" and link the pond with a small carved "channel" to the larger "lake" that I had turned earlier.
My part of the turning was completed leaving the protrusion for Dick to do his carving.

When Dick's carving was completed, I picked up the burl, again abiding by the COVID19 need to avoid close contact. Dick left the now artistically embellished burl in a box on his front porch for me to pick up. I am now planning to finish the burl by some air brushing (blue) water into the pond, channel and lake, for a nice color contrast, hopefully applying a very light coat so the burl figure remains visible.
I have turned a small "bridge" out of a piece of bloodwood and glued on some temporary fine shavings for a waterfalls effect from the channel to the lake, to see if it helps the scene. Dick and I really have enjoyed the collaboration, working on the piece together, although we were never really "together."

Ready for a title? We "fittingly" are calling it our Bridge over TrouBurled Water collaboration!!!
Why are we turners such suckers for the phrase "Do you want some free wood?" Ugh, do I say "Maybe, what is it?", no I say "YES", then find out later that the mental image and reality do not merge into a common picture. So when a friend said, "Mark, do you want some baltic birch?", of course I said yes, no questions asked. (Don't worry this was back in the day when we could travel without a special pass) Well, I ended up with a pickup full of very odd shaped cutouts from a CNC machine, of course with razor sharp edges, lots of slivers and splinters and all kinds of dust that makes you crave when N95 masks were available for woodturners. So having glued, clamped, and cut out blanks for days, here are a few examples of some of the fruits of my labor.
The milk paint bowls are cereal bowl size and were finished first with traditional milk paint in the powdered form, cut 3 parts white to 1 part color. They were then top coated with a water-based wipe on product I was experimenting with; it seems to have worked well. I sanded between coats and probably built up 5 or 6 coats over 3 days, sanding it back to about 1 ½ coats of thickness. The multiple coats allow some filling of the small voids inherent in the material.
The large bowl has a layer of glass tiles inset into the area below the rim. The tiles came from Hobby Lobby and I found them in my stash so I didn't break curfew for those as well. I measure the height of the tile, leave a little gap for variation between tiles and cut a groove with a parting tool (the plywood wrecks the edge instantly so its a good way to refresh your sharpening skills) deep enough for the tiles to be flush when glued in place. I mask off the groove and completely finish the bowl. Next, I use E6000 and clean off the squeeze out later. You can only glue on a dozen tiles or so at a time or they will fight you (trust me). When you glue in the last section you can adjust the tiles or cut one to hide the gap. You can decide if you like the end result.
I know you are encouraging everyone to use their forced indoor time for turning but there are other things that deserve attention if we do not feel the inspiration to be creative in the shop. Like giving the shop a good spring cleaning and planning the next big purchase. Let me share my shop cleaning experience with you.

Continued on next page
It seemed like a good idea to get the shelves organized and the dust cleaned up and the stuff put away where it belonged. But I soon got myself into facing decisions about what to save and what to throw out. For years I have been collecting pieces that I was working on but could not finish for one reason or another. For example, several unfinished bowls had been put aside because I had intended them to be twice turned green bowls.

However, when I re-turned the tenon on the dried bowl I had made the tenon too small to fit securely into my chuck. Now I had no way to re-mount the bowl to finish it off. So, on the shelf it went awaiting the day when I could figure out how to solve the problem. I had many projects on the shelves that were awaiting a solution. In the intervening years I have purchased a lot of chucks and tools and have learned some new skills that could now be put to good use fixing those formerly insurmountable problems. Now was my chance to fix those projects and add them to the finished pile.
I needed some rules to operate by, so I made the following list.

1. If the piece had been put aside years ago because it was beginning to look too dangerous to continue working on, it is still too dangerous. Throw it in the burn pile. The idea is to avoid going to the emergency room filled with folks trying to be tested for the virus.

2. Do not put it back on the same shelf. Either fix it or toss it.

3. If there is no sensible way to mount it put it in the burn pile.

4. Only use sandpaper between 80 and 220 grit. This is a recovery project, not worth spending a lot of time on. They will be good projects to give away when they are finished.

5. If it is your first of anything new, keep it, don’t fix it. It is a good benchmark to see how much progress you are making.

6. Do not let your spouse go through the burn pile. It will mean the stuff just goes back on the shelf for another decade.
OK, a good start. One of my rules (number 2) was to either fix it or put it in the burn pile. Do not return it to the shelf. However, some I could not fix but were so nice I hated to put them in the burn pile. The project that I had the most agony about burning was a beautiful apple platter that was way too thin on the bottom, so thin in fact the I could shine a light through the bottom. Those "light accents" are holes in the bottom of the bowl, so the bottom was thinner than paper thin. On the other hand, I wonder how I could use light to enhance one of my projects . . .

These projects were recovered. I had several on the shelf that will now be used to stoke the fire pit in the back yard this spring as I shelter in place. Still serving a function.
This is my 12" rotating spray table, inspired by Jim Jacobs. I’m calling it my "junk yard dog", made from all junk stuff that I just couldn't bear to part with! The iron feet are from an old cobbler’s workbench (circa 1940’s), the glass plate & track from an old discarded GE microwave, a 10" sanding plate from a long-gone radial arm saw and the rotisserie motor from a long -departed BBQ grill - 2RPM . . . works great!

Seemed like my spray table didn't seem fully dressed out! Now an old pair of tennies and argyle socks completes this goofy project! (I need to get serious on something else!)

Lee’s Workshop Principle

When in doubt, Pay no heed Lois’s shout, Save those dear old parts for a future bout!
From the previous newsletter:
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.

See Mini Newsletter.3 for 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
I hope people are making their doorstops. No one sent me any pictures, so you’ll have to look at the ones I made last week.

Mike Rohrer
Our floors are all oak and the stops’ wood surfaces slipped, even though I left them slightly rough from the bandsaw. I attached leftover “non-skid” material intended for use with area rugs. Stops absolutely hold the doors. The space between the bottom of the doors and the floor is quite big in several rooms. I made some stops from blanks thicker than Hosaluk’s pattern.
March Demonstrator
Steve Hagen
Chainsaw Safety & Maintenance*

*Reprinted from March 2018 MWA Newsletter
March Demonstration
Steve Hagen
Chainsaw Safety and Maintenance

Steve is Technical Sales Specialist and Safety Instructor for the Midwest Area for Stihl.

1926: Andreas Stihl patents two-person saws: a 116-pound electric model, and a 139-pound gas one in 1929.

1949: McCulloch Motors Corp. debuts the world's lightest chain saw, weighing 25 pounds. This immediately doubled the output of the 2 men.
So many safety features have been incorporated into chainsaws that issues and problems with chainsaws are virtually all due to the operator.

“A chainsaw at work or at home is exactly the same - it is just as dangerous.”
The basis of all chainsaw safety is reading and understanding the manual. The manual should be with you WHEREEVER you are with the chainsaw.

The chainsaw manual: The first 26 pages of the Stihl manual is Safety Factors. Chainsaw safety has 4 sections:
1) Personal safety equipment
2) Chainsaw safety features and safe operation
3) Maintenance: this is the MOST IMPORTANT thing for safety.
4) Common Sense
Chainsaws must conform to a number of Safety Requirements.

• Kickback standard. The dangerous area of the chainsaw is the upper quarter of the tip, or nose of the bar.

- Low kickback bars are laminated and lighter; they won’t kickback as violently.

When you buy a chain:
GREEN is a low kickback chain.
YELLOW is not low kickback; it is more aggressive.
Chain Brake. This stops the chain in a kickback. Top end chainsaws (Steve included Husqvarna, Jonsered, and Stihl in this group) have inertia chain brakes – activated by inertia if the saw kicks back with sufficient force stopping the chain within fractions of a second.

Chain catcher. This prevents the chain being thrown back towards the user if the chain breaks or becomes derailed.
Bumper spike. Should be used to keep the chain in the cut. A bumper spike is used to rest the chain saw on wood as you are cutting to prevent kickback, especially when performing a buck cut.

Hand protector and Trigger Interlock. Chainsaws are built to be used right-handed. Your hand must be fully in the handle for the saw to run.
Maintenance:
Maintenance makes all the safety features functional. All parts must be maintained, auto vibration, bolts, trigger, etc. Air filters have been greatly improved. On new saws you don’t have to check the air filter for 5 years.

Steve said this is probably the largest group to which he has ever presented
Fuel. Gasoline from the station’s gas pump doesn’t last more than 30 days. As soon as you put in fuel, you’re losing ground. We’re actually being forced to use engineered gasoline. There is no magic gas treatment. Gas from the pump is only 45% gasoline. 91 octane doesn’t have ethanol, so it’s a little bit better. Ethanol destroys the gas lines.

You need to buy from someplace that has very fast turnover. What was in the hose before could be as much as 1 ½ gallons of something you do not want. Only buy from a pump that has separate hoses for each grade.
The best is **canned gasoline**. It is 98% gasoline. It can be used for 2 years after it is opened. Canned gas is much more expensive. Camp stove “white gas” is only 55 octane. The fuel filter in a chainsaw should be changed once per year.

The key is FRESH gasoline. Make sure the gas/oil mix you use is 50:1. **Gasoline COOLS** the engine. More oil does not cool the engine. Do not use outboard motor oil; outboards run **much cooler** than chainsaws.
Sharpening
The Stihl YouTube on sharpening is very useful and accurate. You should use sharpening guides; do not free-hand sharpen. The guides provide the 30° angle AND keeps the file on top of the tooth. You must have the right file for the chain.
When is a chain dull? You should not have to force the chain to cut. The chain should pull itself into the wood.

Steve was very good about answering the many questions that were asked during the program and he worked them into his presentation very well.
A file without a guide can easily ruin a chain by incorrect filing. A guide will control the correct angle and depth of the file.

Sharpen in 1 direction only. Push only, pulling back undoes the process, reversing the sharpening. File to “clean chrome” appearance.
Tensioning.
Proper tension is critical; too tight will wear out the chain, too loose and the chain could come off.
Adjust the tension with the bar up. The chain should be snug to the bottom of the bar and turn freely with one hand. Chains contract when hot. DO NOT adjust tension when the chain is hot.

Remove the bur that can form at the edge of the bar or it will wear too fast. The chainsaw can drift one way or the other; it will drag in the cut.

Is the oiler working?
If the chain is stiff, the oiler is not working.
The most frequently injured area is the LEFT HAND. Hand protection. The best is well-fitting leather gloves so you have excellent control, but you can have Kevlar on the back.

Safety Apparel
OSHA requires protection for head, ear, eye and face, leg and foot.

Steve looking for a “widow maker”

Steve explaining the parts of a good safety helmet, which is not that expensive
Chainsaw Safety & Maintenance

• Upper body and legs. A jacket and chaps made with the material with the fiber that stops chainsaws immediately.
• Feet. Steel-toed shoes are a MUST.
Basic operation. Stihl’s video is a very good presentation.

1. Starting
   Have chain brake on. DO NOT drop start.

- **Ground/floor start**
- **Standing start**
2. Operating
Use **TWO HANDS**. Fingers and thumb must be locked around the handle. **Lock** your elbows. Stand off to the side to be out of the way if there is a kickback. **LOOK AT THE LEFT SIDE OF THE BAR!** This will keep your head out of the danger zone.

3. Keep wedges in your back pocket to keep the kerf open, called “felling wedges.”

4. Keep bystanders, animals away.
Editor’s Note: Several members of the MWA developed a “log processing center” which emphasizes safety when preparing logs for turning. It can be seen on the MWA website. [home page, in the “search” area type in LPC and you will be able to click on “Project Log Processing Center”]

“If it looks like you can’t handle it . . . DON’T!”

Thank you, Steve. A great presentation on an extremely important topic.
All of these safety rules should be followed. But what if you are blind?

This week we received some pictures of former MWA member, George Wurtzel, using a chainsaw. Those who know George know he is totally blind since birth but an outstanding, woodturner, carpenter and furniture maker.

George needed to even the end of this large blank before mounting it on the lathe.

George using his well-used Stihl chainsaw and turning the large blank. The light in his shop is only for taking the picture.
How do you keep bark attached to natural edge bowls. I’ve heard of using ca glue but I think that looks fake. If ca glue is the answer, is there a certain type? Any special technique or tricks?

DeWayne Hirdler
Ask A Turner

Answer from Tom Sciple

I have had really good success with the following: After turning the dried bowl and sanding to 180 grit I apply a sanding sealer to the bowl but not the bark. I very carefully apply the sealer with a cheap 1” brush (from Harbor Freight) right to the edge of the cambium layer on both sides of the bowl – inside and outside. I then soak both sides of the cambium layer, the living bark and the dead outer bark with copious amounts of THIN Super Glue. On a large bowl I may use almost an ounce of super glue. The reason for using the sanding sealer is that if the sealer is not used and the super glue runs it will leave a mark that cannot be sanded out. This hardens the dead bark and gives a better bond between the sap wood and the cambium layer and bark. If handled correctly I have had extremely good success with this method even with very thin bark (less than ¼”). I then let the super glue dry without accelerant and sand the sealer and glue from 180 to 320 grit paper. If the bowl is not completely dry the bark can separate from the wood especially with walnut. Some may question the cost of the large amount of super glue; however, after putting all the effort into turning a natural edge bowl the cost of the glue is negligible compared to your effort and the sale price of a nice natural edge bowl.
Hi, I found your contact info via the American Association of Woodturners website.

I'm looking for someone to make some custom, big caveman-style clubs like these. The size is shown on the photo.

They look like they are probably made of oak or a different hardwood. They don’t need any finish or sanding.

If this is something you could make, contact me. What would the pricing look like per club? I could probably supply the wood if that works better for pricing.

Ben Wales bwales89@gmail.com
Tips For Turners

Vacuum Chuck

Lee Tourtelotte

Lee made his vacuum chucking system using many items he had in his shop or using common things he was able to find in his shop saving a great deal of money compared to buying a system off the shelf, ready to go.

Lee used a magnet to attach vacuum gauge and valve in a prominent, easy to see place. The valve is used to adjust amount of vac necessary. You don’t want too much vacuum, or you would break a fragile piece. Never trust a system without a gauge; you need to know how much vacuum you’re exerting on a piece.

Everything must be sealed with hot glue

Handwheel with vacuum hose. A turned wheel is used in order to use a bearing, which is attached to the metal hand wheel. The bearing allows a connection to be made to the through chamber of the spindle so the fittings can be attached to the vacuum line without twisting the line as the lathe turns. All parts are available at home improvement stores. The bearing is from a bearing shop in St Paul.

Continued on next page
Vacuum Chuck

Lee had sent Linda Ferber a similar picture and she saw Richard Raffan’s signature. Lee didn’t know when it had been signed; he had gotten the lathe from a former club member who had bought it from another turner. Linda contacted Richard and he checked his diary and found that he had done a demo in Ohio on that day and that’s when he’d signed it.

Lee bought the pump on Ebay; it is typical for hospital use. For turning, the pump needs to pull 20 inches of mercury (Hg). The lower hose has a gas line filter to filter the air that comes into the pump; very important in a turning shop.

The pump is mounted on casters to facilitate moving for cleaning. Lee used a “wheel dollie” he had used for moving his classic car, another example of using stuff you’ve got.
Vacuum Chuck

This attachment is made from stacked Baltic birch ply. It has a threaded tap on a glue block to mount. The rubber is special for vacuum chucks from Craft Supplies. This leaked air and wouldn’t hold. Gar Brown told Lee it had to be well coated with varnish; that cured the problem.

From the rear the large amount of hot glue used for sealing is obvious. This attachment is held to the headstock with a dedicated faceplate that is no longer being used for bowl turning.

This is a big chuck for a flatter plate; you must be careful with pieces and have a small opening so there won’t be too much vacuum pressure.

Continued on next page
This attachment is an example of having different configurations for different diameter bowls.

A chart to use for the different amounts of vacuum needed for different diameter bowls. At 20 inches of Hg you can’t pull a bowl off.
Baking Adventure for Locked-down Turners

I hope lots of you have tried the 5-minute bread recipe from the CV.3 newsletter. I’m enjoying the bread every day and will make more mid-week.

Here’s a note from Greg Just and some pics of his bread. Greg says, “Bread is fabulous. Thanks for the idea.”
Nova 1624 II lathe with 1.5HP 120V motor. Excellent condition, machined parts cleaned and waxed after every use. 2 1/2 years old. Only used for about 18 months. I built a heavy bench for it (with drawers) on lockable wheels. The bench also includes solid leg stands at each end that lift the bench off the wheels. Price: $600 for the lathe, with original legs/stand, original centers, faceplate, and manual. $150 for the bench
Russ Loucks  mailto: russ@loucks.email
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. Offer has been extended to 4/16.
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.

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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This is the fourth 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*