There has been sufficient interest to have a summer meeting and possibly go with meetings all year round.

We will be having a summer meeting at Dave Schneider's home, on Saturday, July 27th, 1996 from 1:00PM to 4:00PM. This will be a general meeting and get together. We will discuss the 10th National Symposium (see following pages for more info), the St. Catherine's Art Show, and any other subjects that are interesting to the members. Bring your pieces for Show and Tell and any extra wood you have for the wood raffle.

Please bring a lawn chair for your comfort and in the event of inclement weather we will reschedule for the next weekend of August 3. We’ll have Pop and chips for everybody and if you bring burgers or whatever, there will be a grill available.

Please give me (Dave Schneider) a call at 612-934-4667 if you plan on attending so we will have an idea on how many members will be there.

Directions to Dave Schneider's:
If you are coming on Hwy # 62 (The Crosstown), follow the signs to Hwy's 5/212 always staying in the left lane, which will get you to the underpass of I-494, and then follow the rest of the instructions for Hwy #5 West.

If you are coming on Interstate 494 North or South exit at Hwy # 5 West and go 3 miles to County Rd # 4 (also known as Eden Prairie Road). Go South on Cty Rd # 4 for 1 mile to Candlewood Parkway. Go West on Candlewood Parkway .6 mile to Braxton. Go right on Braxton to Thatcher Rd and right on Thatcher Rd to the 4th house on your right.

Inside....
1. Northfield Art Show
2. Choosing a Lathe
3. Symposium, Festivals, Demos
4. Past Meetings
5. Wanted, For Sale
6. Election of Officers
7. Tips, Tricks, etc
Do you know a question or need help with a project or research? Our following members have volunteered to try and answer your questions or guide you in the right direction for your woodturning needs.

Volunteers to take down the show (August 26th-28th):
- Steve Brown
- Ed Johnson
- Chuck Sjodin
- Dave Dunn
- Mel Eckhardt
- Duane Gemelke

Volunteers to transport the pieces to the show:
- Steve Brown
- Ed Johnson
- Chuck Sjodin
- Dave Dunn
- Mel Eckhardt
- Duane Gemelke

There will be a catalog of entry for sale. The pieces do not need to be for sale. 1/3 of the price will go to the Northfield Arts Guild. The display space is a little less than half of the Duluth show and we will need a catalog of entry for sale. 1/3 of the price will go to the Northfield Arts Guild. The display space is a little less than half of the Duluth show and we will need a catalog of entry for sale. 1/3 of the price will go to the Northfield Arts Guild.

The festival was held June 24th and June 30th at the College of St. Catherine in St. Paul, MN. The Minnesota Woodturners Association had the following members demonstrating at the show:
- Steve Brown
- Ed Johnson
- Chuck Sjodin
- Mike Martin
- Don Wattenhofer
- Mike Martin III
- Bruce Polk
- Jim Jacobs
- Lester Ekland
- Diane Gumpel

This has become an annual event for us and really gives a good picture to the general public as to what we do and also what we are about. Thanks members for volunteering your time to get information out to the public.

Other Demos

The symposium was held from June 22nd thru the 6th.

They were demonstrating woodturning equipment at the Grand Openings at the new Home Depot Stores in St. Paul, MN. The Minnesota Woodturners Association had the following members demonstrating at the symposium:
- Hal Malmlov
- Ed Johnson
- Don Wattenhofer
- Chuck Pitschka
- Don Wattenhofer
- Mike Martin Jr.
- Don Robinson
- Mike Martin III
- Bruce Polk
- Jim Jacobs
- Lester Ekland
- Diane Gumpel

Thanks fellows.

If you would like more information about MWA or the symposium, please call Dave Schneider at (612) 934-1667.

If you would like to help us and have your name pointed out to the public, please contact James Tracy at (612) 571-3374 or Ron Meilahn at (612) 633-8902.

The symposium was held from June 22nd thru the 6th.

Thanks fellows.

If you would like to help us and have your name pointed out to the public, please contact James Tracy at (612) 571-3374 or Ron Meilahn at (612) 633-8902.

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Choosing a Lathe

Dave Schneider

I think it would be safe to say that those of us that are doing woodturning, whether it be a hobby or a profession, have developed our interest and sometimes passion from an appreciation of turned objects. This interest could have stemmed from the first time we saw a common salad bowl, the newel turnings on a staircase, a piece that we saw at a craft show or an art gallery or any of the many other experiences we have had in life.

Once the interest goes past the common “look, touch and appreciate” to the urge to create something on your own, we then have to make a decision on what kind of lathe, tools and accessories we will need to purchase. Those of us that have gone through that stage know that it can be a time consuming and frustrating process, not because of lack of choices but to the opposite spectrum, of a wealth of information on different lathes, tools and accessories to choose from that make for some interesting decisions.

In this article I will try to cover the basic points to form guidelines that will help you in the process of purchasing a lathe. Hopefully this will make it an enjoyable experience rather than a frustrating chore.

The best way, of course, to choose a lathe would be to have access to every lathe on the market and then choose one after trying each out. Since most of us do not have the resources, nor the time to do that, the following questions should be asked, and then checked off for your particular case.

- Purpose:
  - What do you want to do with the lathe? As funny as that question sounds, there is a big difference on whether you want to do general turning or specialize in spindles or faceplate turning.
  - What do you see...
If you are turning strictly massive as faceplates, chucks, spindles, you will want a longer bed with a standard swing, as opposed to turning bowls which will require a larger swing than what comes with a normally supplied, standard lathe. (i.e. 12” swing is the current standard swing)

Outboard turning is an option on a lathe and its advantage is the size of piece that can be turned. Disadvantages seem to outweigh the advantages because you have to turn in the opposite direction you are used to (you are facing the lathe on the outside of the headstock), you have to use a floor stand for the tool rest which can be unstable and therefore unsafe. There are some lathes that are being manufactured that you can swing the head to get a larger swing but I won’t go any further into that as it is out of the realm of a “standard lathe”

Cost:
- What is your budget? What is the maximum you can spend? (The old tool axiom of “Spend as much on the tool as your budget will allow” holds true in this case as the quality of lathes does improve as the price rises.)
- Price ranges from $200 to whatever the market will bear. (There are some lathes that go well over $6,000 at this time)
- Size:
  - Look for maximum stability and minimal vibration no matter what

Lathe Components: (Refer to the picture on page # 3.)
- Headstock: This is the working end of the lathe and the size of the spindle and the size and TPI (threads per inch) will determine how big a piece of work you can handle on the lathe. As an example, a lathe with a 3/4” diameter spindle and 16 TPI will more than likely limit you to a bowl that is 8” or less in diameter and possibly much smaller than that.
- The spindle should be threaded to accept various accessories such as faceplates, chucks, etc.
- A hollow spindle is preferable to a solid shaft as it can be used to knockout accessories and also can be converted to a vacuum chucking system if desired.
- The spindle and should have a Morse taper to hold accessories rather than a solid or plain spindle. A morse taper then lets you use standard accessories from any manufacturer.

Tailstock:
- Look for how long the distance of travel of the spindle is (the longer the better, standard is 2” to 4”) whether it has a Morse taper and what size the taper is.
- The wheel should have a quick turning handle to move the spindle in/out
- A hollow spindle is preferable to a solid shaft as it can be used to knockout accessories and also to be used as a guide for a long reach drill bit for starting of hollowing a piece. There are solid spindles that have the feature of loosening the accessories when the tailstock is completely backed out.

Tool Base and tool rest:
- They both should be of heavy construction, move smoothly in all directions and have quick and simple adjustments and locking features. (Levers rather than nuts tightened by a wrench.)
- Bed and ways:
  - Should be smooth
surfed and if the are cast iron should be machined with no rough edges or open grain in the casting.

- **Base/Stand:**
  - Can be metal or wood but should be as heavy as possible and have the capacity to have weight added to it either internally (pouring sand, etc into it) or external by placing weight on it.

- **Motor:**
  - AC or DC
  - Most lathes offered today that come supplied with a motor, have an AC motor. DC motors and controllers are much more expensive but offer the capability of having an infinitely variable speed from Zero RPM to whatever the top speed of the motor and pulley arrangement is setup for.

- **Manual or Variable speed**
  - Size of motor. 1/6 Hp to 1 1/2 Hp are standard sizes with larger lathes in the 2 to 5 Hp range and massive lathes up from 5 Hp. If you are going to consistently turn larger bowls or faceplates you will want a minimum of 1 HP or higher.

- **Controls and safety:**
  - They should be convenient from your work position and you should never have to get in front of or reach over the piece you are working on to shut the motor off.

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When making the hole for the glass to fit and it is very important to have it as snug as possible so that there is no movement of the 3 mirrors. There are at least 2 ways to create the opening for the mirrors. 1) Drilling, 2) Beveling 3 pieces of wood so that the mirrors will be an exact fit. First the drilling: One way that Steve has found successful is to mount the body of the scope in his chuck and start drilling very slowly, clearing chips frequently, to reduce the heat generated by the large bit. When he has gone in as far as the length of the bit will allow him, he then attaches an electricians extension to the bit and continues drilling to the desired depth. Once the depth is reached, Steve turns a plug that will be centered in the drill hole and while the piece is between centers, he turns the outside to the proper diameter. This guarantees that the hole is centered. The other way to create the opening is to cut 3 pieces at 30 degree angles with the inside flat being exactly the width of the mirrors so that when the pieces are glued together, the mirrors will slide right in. (Steve has promised to give us a more complete writeup on how he does his scopes in a future article.)

Steve also showed us his bench holdfast for holding bowls to work on their bottoms.

Steve showed us how he splits a log by lining up the heart of the log at each end. He also uses a cardboard or heavy white board cut into a circle and the tacked to the half piece to use as a guide when bandsawing to a circle prior to turning.

When burning lines into a piece, the wire has to have all of the kinks out of it. If the wire is kinked, Steve ties one end to something solid and uses a heavy set of pliers on the other end to yank very hard. This will straighten it out nicely. It is important to get the length correct and definitely do not wrap around your hands or fingers! Mary Redig made the suggestion to attach dowels at each end to hold and have better control. The wire has to be held against the wood very tight, (enough to get the wood to smoke).

We then took a break to try and identify the 12 trees that Steve had marked on his property. Amazingly nobody was able to identify all 12 trees. The consensus of opinion was that it was harder to identify the trees because they did not have their leaves on them. (Yes, it was May 11th, but you have to remember that this is Minnesota!) Among the list of trees were - Mulberry, Cottonwood, Cherry, Juniper, Box Elder, Butternut, etc

After the break a piece of green Butternut was mounted on Steve's Conover lathe and everybody that wanted to got a chance to turn a decent size of green wood to see how satisfying it is to get foot long shavings coming off a piece.

Thanks Steve for your hospitality and a very informative meeting.

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Membership Application/Renewal
MINNESOTA WOODTURNERS ASSOCIATION

Name (Please Print) _______________________________ Telephone # _______________________________ Date _______________________________

Address _______________________________ City _______________________________ State _______________________________ ZipCode _______________________________

Dues are $20.00 yearly (Starting in January) but $10.00 after July 1st of that year

Amount Enclosed: $ ________

I would be willing to:

Help out at meetings 0

Be on a planning committee 0

Help out at demonstrations and/or shows 0

Serve on the Board of the Association 0

Contribute to the Newsletter 0

Mail To:
MN WOODTURNERS ASSOCIATION
c/o Ron Meilahn
1638 23rd Ave N.W.
New Brighton, MN 55112

Are you a member of the AAW? Yes 0 No 0

You will receive all issues of the newsletter starting with January of the year you join, plus a new members kit.

September 1996
Classified Ads

Turning related, personal classified ads are free to members. Commercial ads are billed at $4 per month, per column inch. To place an ad, call Dave Schneider (612) 934-4667.

Election of Officers

Elections of officers for our association will be held at our November meeting. Please consider the possibility of being an officer or Board member for the club.

All officer positions are open for election. The term of office will be for two years, and will run from Jan. 1997 to Dec. 1998.

All of the current officers have served for at least two years, and some have served for four or more years. It is important to see new people in these positions to ensure that different viewpoints, interests, and opinions are reflected in our meetings.

Serving as an officer is an excellent way to return to the organization some of what you have gained from it.

There is only one qualification necessary to run for office, a willingness to put forth the effort to do the job. It is important to note that woodturning skill level is not a factor. In fact, this is a prime way that lesser skilled members can contribute to the club.

We ask that you please consider the possibility of serving as an officer. We will be asking for volunteers at the upcoming meetings. If you cannot attend those meetings, but are willing to serve as an officer, please call Dave Schneider @ 934-4667, or Chuck Pitschka @ 935-0660, to volunteer. We will have a finalized list of candidates by the November meeting and will vote and count any absentee ballots at this meeting.

Turning Squares

Turning squares of Bloodwood, Purpleheart, Honduras Mahogany, Philippine Mahogany, Cocobolo, Bocote, Bird's Eye Maple, and Wenge are approximately 1 1/2" x 1 1/2" x 2". They are $5.00 each or $24.00 for an assorted package of six.

Dymondwood

Dymondwood is made of natural hardwood veneers that have been impregnated with specially formulated resins and permanent coloring agents. It is then bonded and densified under very high temperatures and pressures.

Turning squares of Dymondwood are approximately 1 1/2" x 1 1/2" x 8". The squares come in four colors: Blue, Brown, Red, and Green. They are $3.50 each or $12.00 for an assorted package of four.

For Sale:

Cherry Wood

John has purchased a large Cherry tree and has pieces available to members for a reasonable cost. Contact John Magnuson @ (612) 477-6294.

VICTORIAN WOODTURNING AND WOODWORK

Balusters, Newels, Stairs, Railings, Porches, Verandas, etc. An unabridged reprint of the 1893 catalog of the Blumer & Kuhn Stair Co., with 130 plates and an introduction by William L. Stephenson, Jr.

$16.95 plus $4 s/h (OH add $1 state tax; allow 6-8 weeks delivery).

Chestnut Publications, PO Box 844, Loveland, OH 45140

For Sale:

Sealtite 60 to protect your green wood in the following quantities:

- 2 Quarts $7.75
- 3 Quarts $11.00
- 1 Gallon $14.00

Contact Dave Schneider @ (612) 934-4667.

For Sale:

McFord MLS Lathe with Accessories. 48" between centers. Excellent condition. Very well made lathe. All moving parts operate very smoothly.

Contact Steve Brown @ (612) 934-1812.

Submission deadline of Ads and Articles for the Newsletter is the 1st of the month prior to publication (i.e. the 1st of Dec., Feb., Apr., Aug., Oct.).

July 1996
The Minnesota Woodturners Association was formed in 1987 with approximately 25 charter members and now has about 80 members. The Association is non-profit and all work by members is done voluntarily.

The skill level of our members ranges from complete beginners to skilled professionals. Membership includes a few professionals but hobbyists make up the majority. The members live mostly in the Twin Cities metro area, however there are members in all areas of Minnesota stretching into western Wisconsin.

The Association normally schedules meetings once a month during fall, winter and spring of the year. (September thru May) The meetings are normally held on Tuesdays or Saturdays and the group meets in a different location each time. The meeting locations vary from members shops, educational associations, to the various woodworking stores located throughout the metro area.

The Newsletter is published bi-monthly, 5 times a year, excluding the months of July/August.

The meetings usually consist of some sort of turning demonstration or related subject. The subjects of the demonstrations vary from basic techniques to advanced levels. The meetings are always open to questions from the members and we invite and encourage them to share their knowledge and skills freely. The Association tries to arrange at least one professional demonstration each year, with past professional demonstrators coming from all areas of the United States, England and as far away as Australia.