January 1997

Editors Corner

1996 has come and gone and for the Minnesota Woodturners Association it has been a very productive and educational year. We were very lucky to have participated in two shows where our members' works were open to the public for viewing and sales. (The Duluth Art Institute sponsored "Turning North" at the railroad museum in Duluth from Feb. 12 to Mar 31 and The Northfield Arts Guild Gallery sponsored a show for the month of September in their gallery.)

We had two membership challenges that encouraged our members to participate and complete a non threatening atmosphere and at the same time able to compare their work with other turners. We brought in Christian Burchard for a professional demonstration which was a sold out meeting. Our membership at all meetings has been picking up. Thanks to everybody over the year that has donated wood at our meetings for the Wood Raffle. Our wood raffle has been very popular and we want to encourage everybody to keep on sharing those extra pieces of wood you have laying around. Someone will benefit from their use and the MWA has an additional source of income.

We had a summer meeting for the first time in years and had a pretty decent turnout which we are going to turn into a picnic this coming summer for all members and their families. We had a meeting that focused on wood harvesting and chainsaw safety where each attending member got their choice of wood to take home and turn. (We are looking forward to these pieces to start showing up in our "Show and Tell" sessions in future meetings.)

1997 is now upon us and we have an exciting and busy year to look forward to. In this issue on page # 5 you will see our calendar for the year with meetings scheduled thru August. You will notice that we are bringing in two excellent professional demonstrators and are seriously considering a third for the Fall. You will also notice that we have scheduled our summer meeting as a picnic at John Magnussens' home on the Crow river and we are looking into conducting a meeting at the St Catherines' Art Show in June on one of the weekend days. Speaking of weekends, the suggestion has been brought up to hold all of our meetings on weekends (Saturday or Sunday). We will be discussing this at our Board of Directors meeting this month and would like feedback from members on how they feel about cutting out evening meetings. Please contact any board member with your opinion.

Speaking of meetings, we will be addressing and implementing a more formal agenda for our membership meetings so they stay consistent and we find the time for the special things like "Show and Tell", "Open Questions", "Wood Raffle", "Open Library", "Glu Sales", etc.

We have created a new position of "Board Member at Large" that will help out at meetings and give more input to the board. We also plan on more membership turning challenges and will be discussing several different agendas for these challenges.

As you can see we have been very busy and plan on another busy year. The success of an organization such as ours is determined by the quality of involvement of its members. That means all members have a stake in our success and by involving yourself in one or two projects a year, by volunteering to serve on the board, by volunteering to help out at meetings, demonstrations or any function we are involved in helps to ensure that success. Don't be bashful, all of our goals are the same. I look forward to seeing all of you at our meetings. If I don't get a chance to say hi to you, it's only that I probably am preoccupied by something, so please say hi to me.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

Dave Schneider

REMINDER:
If you haven't renewed your membership, this could be your last issue of the newsletter and all other benefits of membership. If you did not receive your 1997 membership card with the newsletter, and it says "Expired" rather than "12/31/97" in the lower right corner of your mailing label, we had not received your renewal prior to mailing of the newsletter. We will be printing a new membership list in the middle of January and will have to have your renewal prior to January 15th to include you in the list. See page # 8 for the renewal form.

Inside....
1. Ringing out the Old and Bringing in the New
2. Know your Minnesota Trees
3. Past meetings
4. Calendar of events - 1997
5. Future meetings
6. Treasurers Report
7. For Sale/Wanted
**Know Your Minnesota Trees**

**IRONWOOD (HOP HORNBÉAM)**

*(Ostrya virginiana)*

**FORM** Height 20' to 40', diameter 5'' to 12''; top generally rounded; foliage resembling that of birch; branches long and slender, drooping at ends. The tree receives its common names from the quality of its wood and hop like fruit.

**BARK** About 1/4'' thick; light gray-brown; finally divided into thin scales which are easily rubbed off.

**LEAF** Alternate; generally oblong with narrow tips, sharply toothed along margin; sometimes doubly toothed—length 2'' to 4'', dark, dull, yellow-green above and light yellow-green below. It resembles somewhat the leaves of the elm.

**FRUIT** In clusters resembling that of common hop vine; each sack contains one flattened, ribbed, hard nutlet about 1/3'' long and 1/8'' wide; blossoms in April and May; fruit ripens in July and August.

**RANGE** Found mostly in rich, not too dry, soil throughout state, except in northern Roseau and Lake of the Woods County in vicinity of Lake of the Woods; seldom found close to shores of Lake Superior.

**WOOD** Very strong, hard, heavy, durable, light brown, with thick, pale sapwood; used for fence posts, handles of tools, mallets and other small articles, and fuel.

**HONEY LOCUST**

*(Gleditsia triacanthos)*

**FORM** Medium sized tree; height 30' to 50'—taller under very favorable conditions—may reach diameter of 16'; slender, spreading, somewhat pendulous branches form broad, open, rather flat top head.

**BARK** Dark grey or brown on old trees; divided into thin, tight scales; strong, brown, straight, sharp, shiny thorns appear on one year old wood and remain for many years.

**LEAF** Compound or feather-like with 18 to 28 leaflets or twice-pinnate consisting of 4 to 7 pairs of pinnate or secondary leaflets each 6'' to 8'' in length.

**FRUIT** A pod; length 10'' to 18'', width 1/2'' to 1 1/2'', flat, dark brown or black when ripe, containing seeds and yellow-whitish pulp; pod often becomes twisted as seeds ripen. Seeds are hard and each is separated from the others by the pulp. Pods are eaten by many animals.

**RANGE** Occurs in scattered stands or as individual trees, especially in southern Minnesota in counties along the Root River Valley and Mississippi bottom lands; found in forest, but is more common in waste places besides roads and fields.

**WOOD** Reddish-brown, coarse grained, hard, strong, not durable in contact with ground; however it is used for fence posts, cross ties and fuel. It has been planted to some extent for windbreaks and hedges in southern Minnesota. It is not a hardy tree and it sprouts readily from the root.
Before I get into the presentation of the November meeting, just a reminder that Woodcraft grants a 10% discount on turning related tools and supplies on the night of a meeting. They also had a discount table with up to 60% markdowns available that night.

Dave Schneider presented a very comprehensive and detailed demonstration of the making of a "Bird-house" Christmas tree ornament. He passed out an illustrated instruction sheet, equal to the articles in many magazines, which is included in this issue on page #7.

Here are a few things Dave added in his presentation:

* If using softwood, like a 2x4, drill the entry door after turning in order to prevent splintering during the turning process. Splinters that end up inside from the drilling won't be noticeable. He uses a forstner bit for a clean cut.

* For pleasing proportion, the height of the body of the house should be about 1.1 times the diameter of the house.

* Before hollowing the body, drill out the center. Dave uses a hand held 3/8" drill which allows him to start the gouge at the center and come out to the edge without concern for the ultimate depth (the drilled hole determines the ultimate depth) or the formation of that pesky nub in the center.

Once the body is hollowed, a caliper can be used to measure the inside diameter of the body so that the tenon on the "bottom" can be turned to fit into it.

Duane Gemelke showed some of the birdhouse ornaments he has made. He uses a hole saw to cut the inside out, then parts off the outside to leave a new blank for another, smaller piece. This requires a three piece house with a top, body and bottom.

Hal Malmov then quickly demonstrated the making of his hollow sphere and icicle ornaments. He starts with laminations of maple plywood and a contrasting darker wood. (see fig. 1) He uses a 1/2" metal cutting bandsaw blade to cut the parts to be laminated, and he says they don't have to be jointed before gluing. The joints looked flawless to me.

The blank is mounted in a chuck and turned round, and sanded smooth. A hole is drilled using the tailstock to drive the drill 2" in for a 2.25" diameter ball. This open hole allows the use of scrapers to hollow to a 3/16" wall thickness.

The scrapers are made from old HSS planer blades. The shape is drawn on the blade and one of those flexible cutting wheels advertised on cable TV is used to make the cuts as indicated in figure 2. A vise and punch is used to break off the fingers and leave a shape which can then be smoothed with any grinding method which won't overheat the metal and change the heat treatment. BE SURE TO WEAR COMPLETE EYE PROTECTION WHILE PUNCHING OFF THE METAL FINGERS AND GRINDING. THE SCRAP PIECES WILL FLY!!! Any handle of sufficient strength is then added.

Once the sphere is hollowed, it can be parted off and a hole introduced on the other end. The icicles can be turned with a concave bevel around the tenon which fits into the sphere so that a seamless fit can be made. (see fig. 3)

The demonstrations were about ornaments but the techniques could be used for any number of turned objects and I'm sure that beginner and veteran alike benefited greatly from the information presented.

(Continued on Page #4)
Member Feedback

The American Association of Woodturners (AAW) not only puts out a great magazine but it also publishes a yearly resource directory, which lists Local Woodturning Chapters, AAW members alphabetically, Demonstrator Directory, Woodturning Resources, Book and Video List and AAW members alphabetically by each state in the union. This roster can offer some unique opportunities to members.

Recently, I received a call from Fred Schmid, a woodturner from California. He was on vacation in the Stillwater, MN area. We got together and had lunch where we shared turning ideas, newsletters and stories. I also gave Fred a tour of Andersen Windows, my place of employment. A week or so later Fred sent me a nice letter and a box with a couple bowl blanks of Avocado and Acacia; a wood raffles dream come true.

Late in October I had business in New Hampshire. I looked in the AAW roster to see if there were any members in the West Lebanon area. There was, so I wrote and informed him on how to contact me and where I would be staying. As it turned out we never had the opportunity to meet because he was on vacation while I was there. However, we have shared a couple letters and through the AAW, I now know another turner.

My point is, the AAW roster gives us a great opportunity to meet other turners outside of our local area. If you are not a member of the AAW consider joining. It is money well spent.

Paul Keller

Editors Note: As Paul has pointed out, the AAW's quarterly magazine alone, is worth the membership fee. The Minnesota Woodturners Association is an affiliated local chapter and we are listed in the resource book. Get our insurance through the AAW and cooperate jointly with the AAW on many things. The national office for the AAW is located here in Minnesota. Contact Mary Redig, AAW Administrator 3200 Lexington Ave, Shoreview, MN 55126. (612) 484-9094 Fax: (612) 484-1724

December 10th, 1996
Christmas meeting

"It was a Dark and Stormy Night"! The weather did not cooperate with us as we had rain turning to ice that really cut back on our anticipated attendance. 30 of some of our members braved the weather to participate in the Christmas Ornament Challenge, Member Gift Swap and MWA gift drawing along with refreshments and good companionship.

Winners in our Ornament challenge:

Mel Turcanik (With his colorful piece hanging from his beard)

Below left to r: Dave Schneider, Ron Strelow, Hal Malinov, Mel Turcanik, John Engstrom

Jim Jacobs & Ron Meilahn

Jingle bells in the hollow ball.

Mel Turcanik won "The Most Colorful" award with a brightly colored bell that he says is one of his better sellers during the Christmas season.

Ron Strelow won "The Ebenezer Scrooge" award for his hanging spindle type ornament made out of colorwood and shared his story of getting a drill bit stuck in the piece and had to wait until a very strong friend of his came over to get it out of the piece.

Finish" award with this same piece.

Jim Jacobs won “The Most Whimsical” and also “The Smallest” awards for two separate segmented pieces that were hollowed into the form of hot air balloons. Jim explained his segmenting / herringbone process and maybe we can talk him into putting that in writing for an article in our newsletter.

Dave Schneider won “The Largest” award with a Basswood and Walnut finial, ball, icicle ornament that was 7” in diameter on the width of the ball and 13” in overall length from top of finial to the bottom.

(Continued on Page # 6)
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<th><strong>MWA</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>1997 MEETING SCHEDULE &amp; UPCOMING EVENTS</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Tuesday, January 14.</strong> Screws and fasteners with Al Gaskell, then the rest of the meeting with member involvement of their Tips, Tricks and Special Tools - South Hennepin Vo-Tech, Rm H117/H118</td>
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<td><strong>Saturday, February 8.</strong> Threading and Hands on for members at the lathe - Don Wattenhofers Home</td>
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<td><strong>Saturday, March 8 - Professional Demo by Rus Hurt - Charge of $15 for members, $20 for non-members @ Woodcraft in Bloomington, MN</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Tuesday, April 8 - Finishing &amp; Techniques - Mel Turcanik @ Tim Mannings’ Home</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Saturday, May 10 - Professional Demo by Clay Foster - Charge of $15 for members, $20 for non-members @ Woodcraft in Bloomington, MN</strong></td>
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<td><strong>June 27, 28, 29 - College of St. Catherine Minnesota Crafts Festival</strong></td>
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<td><strong>July 18, 19, 20 - National Woodturning Symposium in San Antonio, Texas</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Saturday, August 9th, Family picnic at John Magnusseins in Hanover, MN - 1:00PM-7:00PM</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Tuesday/Saturday, September 9 or 13 - Open</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Tuesday/Saturday, October 7 or 11 - Open</strong></td>
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<td><strong>October - Woodworking Shows @ Minnesota State Fairgrounds</strong></td>
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<td><strong>October - Northern Woods Show</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Tuesday/Saturday, November 4 or 8 - Open</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Tuesday, December 9 - Annual Christmas party</strong></td>
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Congratulations to our winners and to all members that participated in the challenge. It is a fun learning experience to see how we compare to others and also gives us goals to work toward in design, craftsmanship and finishing.

Our gift swap was a success with all of the turned gifts brought in. They were all greatly appreciated by the recipients, especially those that received the elegant acorn box contributed by Duane Gemelke, the miniature piece with the removable top from Craig Lossing and the finial, ball, icicle ornament made by Ron Meilahn. Thanks to everybody for their contributions.

Winners of these gifts were:
- Mike Martin Sr, $25 gift certificate;
- Mike Martin III, Rosewood Sizing/parting tool;
- Tim Manning, 3/8” Bowl gouge;
- Bruce Arones, 3 pc set of miniature gouges;
- Hal Malmlov, Centering tool;
- Phil Neese, diamond hone;
- Don Wattenhofer, diamond hone;
- Art Nelson, Sorby Scraper;
- Paul Keller, set of General finishes;
- Al Gaskell, set of hot glue (thin, medium and thick) and accelerator;
- Rod Olson, diamond hone;
- Jim Jacobs, $25 gift certificate.

The following incumbent Board members will serve 1 year terms through the end of 1997:
- Don Wattenhofer as Vice-President,
- Ron Meilahn as Treasurer,
- Duane Gemelke as Librarian,
- John Ratliff as Newsletter Editor and Membership.

Welcome to the following new members:
- Richard Gotz 10/21/96
- Joe Cruz 11/16/96
- Mir Verner 11/16/96
- Bruce Francis 11/16/96
- Alison Emslie-Smith 11/16/96
- Ray Proia 11/16/96
- Kenneth Anderson 11/19/96
- Wayne Keifer 11/19/96
- Rod Olson 11/19/96
- Thomas Schwartz 12/2/96
Creating a Birdhouse Ornament from a standard piece of 2x4 lumber.

Dave Schneider had this as a handout at the November membership meeting where he also demonstrated making a birdhouse ornament.

Tools/Supplies Needed:

- 1/2" spindle gouge or 1/2" skew
- Parting tool
- Sandpaper and/or 3M mesh
- Glue (CA or Yellow)
- Calipers to measure tenon for bottom to fit into body

This is an excellent exercise that will improve your woodturning skills and not cost you in terms of wasting a part of your valuable wood supply.

As you can see in Figure 1, from top to bottom, the original piece of lumber, next sawed into turning squares of approximately 1 1/2" x 1 1/2" x 7", then the entry and perch holes are drilled prior to mounting on the lathe.

Mount the piece in between the head and tailstock (Figure 2) and then round the piece and take it down to the size of the body as shown in Figure 3.

Back off the tailstock and hollow the body as far into the top as you can go (Figure 4), and then return the tailstock into the hollow to continue turning out the top and finial. (Figure 5)

After parting off the Top, body and finial, turn the bottom and acorn in one piece (Figure 6), shaping a tenon that will fit into the hollowed out recess of the body. Turn the perch and then assemble the body, bottom and perch using Hot Stuff (CA) glue or regular yellow glue.

The finished product is shown in Figure 7. Finish as you desire. (Some finishing can be done on the lathe prior to parting the body and bottom off.)

January 1997
As promised at the beginning of the year we managed to "Get more bang for the buck in 1996".

By increasing our annual dues to $20 and reaching a record breaking 99 paid members, we took $1900 to the bank, compared to only $1185 last year. The Duluth Art Show, St. Catherine’s Craft Show and the Northfield Art Exhibits altogether added another $270 to our coffers that had not happened in 1995.

The Christian Burchard Demo in April generated a net gain of $66 and the holding of 7 wood raffles throughout the year was another nice money maker adding $189 to the cookie jar.

Altogether, our 1996 income went up approximately $1200 over 1995; at the same time we managed to reduce expenses from $2000 to just under $1900, thus we pumped out a net gain of close to $600 in 1996, compared to a net loss of ($800) in 1995.

Several expense categories were favorably impacted in 1996 and a few bear mentioning here. The biggest was our newsletter costs; this past summer OfficeMax announced they were raising their prices significantly to be more in line with their competitors—much to our detriment. What was costing us 20 cents for a 10 page newsletter would now be closer to 70 cents for us (a 350% increase!). That’s when our summer Santa Claus came along. Through the efforts of member Paul Keller and the generosity of his employer, Anderson Windows, we now have all of our printing done for free! This in turn enables us to buy the blank paper thru “Nationwide Paper Inc” in a high volume to cover our annual needs. So, instead of 70 cents per copy for our newsletter we are down to approx. 5 cents per copy. This annual savings of over $500 will be put to good use in our organization.

One other cost category worth mentioning is the price of our cyanoacrylate glue (like SuperGlue). We were able to get a significant quantity/price reduction on our last buy, so each 2 oz. bottle of glue or accelerator is only $5 to our members. Hopefully this price reduction will continue indefinitely.

At our upcoming board meeting in January we will be finalizing our budget for 1997, and we welcome any input you may have for 1997 activities. Thanks!!!

Ron Meilahn, Treasurer

**Membership Application/Renewal**

MINNESOTA WOODTURNERS ASSOCIATION

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

Amount Enclosed: $_____

Please Check: Renewing Member  O  New Member  O

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

Mail To:

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

Month 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 add, call Dave Schneider. (612) 934-4667

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)

Wood for Sale:

EXQUISITE Guatamalan Cocobolo
Wild Figure and Color!!!
1" - 4" thick up to 15" wide
$25 per board foot
$24 per board foot for purchases of over 10 bd ft

Mexican Cocobolo
Large sizes, $15 per board foot
Nicaraguan Cocobolo
1 pair bookmatched boards 19" wide by 9 feet long.
$18 per board foot
Osage Orange
Turning Squares and Bowl Blanks $6 per board foot

Call Craig Lossing - (612)785-4194

January 14th, 1997, Tuesday 7:00 to 9:00 PM - Fastening devices and Member participation on Tools, Tips, Jigs and Techniques

Al Gaskell will give a presentation on fasteners. Following Al’s presentation, members to participate in showing special tools, tips or techniques they use in their quest to better woodturning, for the rest of the meeting. Please bring in anything that will be of interest to the group.

* Also, Show & Tell and Wood Raffle
The meeting will be held at South Hennepin Technical College. 9200 Flying Cloud Drive, Eden Prairie, MN Tel # 944-2222, Room H117-H118. The Campus is located approximately 2 miles south of the Eden Prairie Shopping Center on Hwy #212

February 8th, Saturday, 1:00 to 4:00PM - Threading on a lathe and Hands on at the lathe.

The meeting will be held at Don Wattenhofers house, 779-2379, Directions to Don’s house: 5312 Horizon Dr, Fridley, Mn. If coming from the North or South, take University Ave N.E. to 53rd Ave. Go west 5 blocks to Horizon and North to the 2nd house on your left. If coming from Interstate # 94, take the South exit to University and go approx 1 block to 53rd Ave. Go west 5 blocks to Horizon and North to the 2nd house on your left.

Don Wattenhofer will demonstrate threading on a lathe for us, and then we will have hands on time at various lathes.

March 8th, Saturday, 9:00AM to 5:00PM - Professional Demo by Rus Hurt - Charge of $15 for members, $25 for non-members @ Woodcraft in Bloomington, MN (This will be limited to 40 people on a first come basis for registration) See the following article for more information on Rus Hurt.

Some information on Rus Hurt

Rus Hurt combines technical skill, artistic sensitivity, and his love of wood, in the art of woodturning. Rus has been working wood in various capacities for more than twenty five years; eighteen of those years have involved the use of the lathe directly or indirectly.

Raised in Hutchinson, Mn., west of Minneapolis, Rus moved north after graduating from the U of M. Living in the northland generated diverse exposures to worlds of “work” and “life” experience including working in the Emergency Room at a large general hospital and, a stint in the Merchant Marine sailing the Great Lakes to the Atlantic Ocean. In the mid 70’s Rus met his wife, Cindy, and the hook was dropped in Port Wing, Wi. located along Lake Superior’s south shore.

Out of necessity and experience Rus has developed a pragmatic approach to living in the northland and, as called by his friends, a “Yankee cheese-head” approach to turning wood. (Friends?)

Rus’s work on the lathe ranges from the utilitarian to the sculptural and purely ornamental, often blending a pleasant mixture of both. Hurt’s turnings speak eloquently about a turner’s affection for his craft and medium. His commitment to detail, to the process itself, and to understanding wood, give a character and depth that accompany his works for beyond the basic bowl.

Rus is a founding member of the AAW and served as the first secretary of the Board of Directors from 1986 to 1992. In addition to turning wood, Rus has written several articles for American Woodturner, Wood Magazine, and other publications. He is trained and certified in Neuromuscular therapy, and along with his wife, Cindy, a physical therapist, operate Hartwell Alternatives, a service providing physical therapy, massage therapy, and somatic education. Rus is an avid photographer and videographer and adventurer and family man.

Join us at Woodcraft on Saturday, March 8th, 1997 and spend an eclectic day as he shares his long standing interest in natural beauty, his fascination with wood, and his ability to unlock beautiful turnings from unsuspecting chunks of wood. Learn some tips and techniques and what makes this unique northerner tick.

January 1997
Minnesota Woodturners Association

Dedicated to providing education, information and an organization to those interested in woodturning.

The Minnesota Woodturners Association was formed in 1987 with approximately 25 charter members and now has about 100 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.