Hook Tools and Scrapers, the products of an enjoyable afternoon!

We had another great turn out for our membership meeting September 15th. Forty-one people spent the afternoon making tools in John Magnusen’s shop. Ken Tempero brought his son; Ron Meilahn was accompanied by his sister Helen; and Tom Shields brought his friend Robert Singelstad, who became our newest member that afternoon; also participating was new member, Paul Hill.

After a brief business meeting, conducted by President Bruce Arones, our focus turned to tool making. Romy Rauch and Willy Allshouse had brought a sampling of homemade tools, and briefly explained their construction and use. Romy often uses 3/8” socket extensions to make his tools, although it’s a soft metal, and tends to get banged up on the tool rest. Willy prefers to use cold-rolled steel, which can be purchased at places like Menards.

The meeting was turned over to Duane Gemelke, who explained the steps required to construct replaceable-tip scrapers. Heavy emphasis was placed on safety, with reminders that torches and wood chips should be kept apart, and comments like, “remember the things your mother told you . . . don’t run with scissors . . .”. Duane also suggested the use of ½” ball end-mills, with two, three, or four flutes, for making a hollowing tool. (J & L will sharpen end-mills, although they won’t be as

(Continued on page 10)
President’s Corner

After a long hot summer, we had a good turnout for the picnic in August. There was good participation in the weed pot/vase challenge. The tool making meeting in September was well attended and everyone seemed to be busy making tools. It reminded me of a bee hive or an ant hill with all of the activity.

It’s great to see Ron Meilahn at the meetings again. He has resumed the treasurer duties. Ron has been and continues to be an inspiration to all of us.

The new year is just around the corner – at least it is for the people who are planning the meetings for 2002. We need to plan some meetings well in advance in order to schedule people who will have to fit our meeting into their calendar. We need ideas for about seven meetings. Some topics for meetings have been suggested, but we are always looking for more. We now have 160+ members so there should be a lot of ideas floating around out there. There should also be a lot of talent within the membership that could be tapped into for help with meetings and other events. We are always looking for volunteers to help in planning and facilitating meetings. If you have any suggestions for meeting topics, send them to me or Roger Ronsen or Mary Lacer.

With our membership growing the way it is, we will have to find more places to accommodate our meetings. If you are aware of a place or can provide a place for a meeting, contact me or Roger Ronsen. The meetings this year have had attendance upwards of 60 people so finding meeting locations large enough is becoming a problem.

I’m looking for more people to host a small group hands-on session in their shop or other location. The 3 club lathes are available for these sessions. The purpose for these sessions is to share ideas and turning techniques with other turners. So they can be opportunities to learn and/or to teach. If you would like to host a hands-on session, let me know and I will help you organize it.

Now is the time to start thinking about making toys for the Toys for Tots program. We will collect the toys at the Holiday Party in December and contribute them to the charity. We need someone to coordinate this event, so if you are interested please let me know.

I hope to see you at the October 25th meeting.

In the meantime, Happy Turning!
October meeting will feature Michael Brolly

Michael Brolly, known for his unusual designs, will be our featured speaker at the October membership meeting. Michael graduated from college in 1981 with a BFA. Early in his turning career (he is self taught on the lathe), Michael met, and was greatly influenced by Stephen Hogbin. Michael especially liked Stephen’s walking bowl series, and had to figure out a way to duplicate Stephen’s work without copying it. Come to Michael’s slide presentation and lecture to learn about his design process--what to do, and how to redesign when mistakes occur.

Take a look at Michael's work at: http://pathwaysgallery.com/artist07.htm
You can see Stephen Hogbin’s work at: http://www.makersgallery.com/hogbin

“I always try to give my pieces personality, and explore new ways to use the lathe.”

Program Director opening filled by Roger Ronsen

At our board meeting September 12th, Roger Ronsen volunteered to take on the duties of Program Director, a position that’s been open all year. Roger is also club Secretary, and coordinator of our wood sealer program . . . thanks Roger!

Mary Lacer will continue to serve as the Program committee—that’s right, she's the entire committee. I’m sure both Roger and Mary would appreciate help if you’d like to volunteer . . . for one meeting, or many.
Our annual picnic was blessed with excellent weather—a welcome relief after some very hot and humid days.

The amount, and variety, of food was impressive. Luckily the weather cooperated so we were able to have fresh sweet corn, courtesy of Rod Olson, who steamed it on the spot, and Erwin Nistler. (Thanks to both of you—it was excellent.)

We had a large attendance and good participation in the weed pot/vase challenge—there were 25 entries to be voted on!

Great weather, good food, lots of people to share it with, discussing the finer points of turning, displaying inspirational Show ‘n Tell items . . . what better way to spend a Summer afternoon?
From time to time, I will attempt to offer a review of a woodturning book from my personal collection. Where some turners will admittedly collect turning tools, in the months I’ve been stuck living in an apartment with no shop space, I’ve been collecting woodturning books, and I’ve amassed quite a collection. The bulk of my collection are books published by the Guild of Master Craftsman in England. The Guild also publishes “Woodturning” magazine.

Since this is my first review, I’m offering “Woodturning: A Foundation Course, New Edition”, by Keith Rowley. This is probably my favorite all-around “how-to” book on the subject.

Rowley started his working life doing other woodworking, then after a few years went to work as a police officer. After an early retirement in 1982, he took up woodturning and turned it into another career, teaching, writing, and turning items for sale.

In this book, Rowley takes new and intermediate turners back to the basics. He starts from the beginning with wood, tools, equipment, and sharpening. Chapter 5, titled “Laws of Woodturning”, is probably the heart of this book. If followed, Rowley’s 6 “laws” will develop good habits of turning technique that will help you be more successful while working on the lathe. Beginners will develop a good, fundamental understanding of what and why they should be doing a procedure in a particular way. More advanced turners will be able to realize why they may be having particular problems and help themselves to correct (Continued on page 14)
June
*12th & 14th—Woodturning was demonstrated at the MN Museum of American Art; the demo was put on for museum employees so they could explain the lathe process to people viewing the Nature Takes A Turn exhibit.

*24th—Rockler’s in Maplewood held their first annual Woodworking Carnival.

*29th - July 1st—Club members demonstrated at the MN Craft Council’s Art Festival, held at St. Catherine’s College.

July
*5th - 8th—The American Association of Woodturner’s Symposium was held at the River Center in St. Paul.

*24th—Woodturning was demonstrated at the Landmark Center in St. Paul. The demo’s were in conjunction with the Nature Takes a Turn exhibit at the Landmark Center.

August
*2nd - 5th—The Washington County Fair ran Wednesday through Sunday. Club members demonstrated the 3rd—5th! Details on page 13.

*11th—Our annual club picnic was held in Brookdale Park (same location as last year) on Saturday. See page 4 for pictures and details.

September
*12th—The Board of Directors meeting was held at the AAW office in Shoreview.

*15th—The September membership meeting consisted of tool making at John Magnusen’s. See pages 1, 8, 9, 10, & 11 for related articles.

*15th—An Artist’s Reception was held at Ripple River Gallery: Wood Fired Clay Fired Wood—New work by Bob Carls & Dick Cooter.

October
*6th - 7th—Fall Color & Apples Open House at Ripple River Gallery. Directions to the gallery

*13th—Club members will be demonstrating at Rockler’s in Maplewood. Rockler’s will be hosting a few vendors, and a Woodmiser; they’ll also have a couple thousand feet of lumber, including some new—to them—exotics. Some of the exotics are in the form of turning blanks.

*19th-22nd—The 19th annual Northern Woods Exhibition will be held at Southdale Center in Edina. Details on page 15.

*25th—The October membership meeting will be Thursday evening at MCAD. Michael Brolly will give a presentation on design. See page 3 for details and a map.

*26th-28th—”Wood Turning in North America Since 1930”, Symposium I, will be hosted by the Minneapolis Institute of Arts. See page 14 for details.

*The Woodworker’s Show, usually held at the MN State Fair grounds in October, has been rescheduled for January at the RiverCentre in St. Paul.

November
*13th—The November membership meeting will be held at Roseville Area High School, and will consist of Christmas ornament demonstrations. See page 13 for details and directions.

December
*11th—We’ll hold our Holiday Party Tuesday evening. Mark your calendars now. We’ll be donating sets of blocks to Toys For Tots again this year; we’ll also be repeating the Toy Challenge, and having our traditional gift exchange. So . . . there are lots of projects to keep you busy as the snow begins to fly! See page 12

Woodturning Display at the Shoreview Branch Library:
Mary Lacer arranged a display of turned items, many by MWA club members, at the Shoreview Library. The display should be set up by October 10th, and will run for a month.

If you’re in the area, stop in and take at look at some great turnings! The Shoreview Branch Library is located at 4570 N. Victoria St. in Shoreview.
Phone: (651) 486-2300

Directions to Ripple River Gallery:
from Deerwood: Five miles south on Hwy. 6, then 3 miles east of Ruttger’s Bay Lake Lodge on County Road 14 to Partridge Avenue (formerly County Line Road), then north 1/4 mile on Partridge Avenue.

from Aitkin: South on Hwy. 169 to Bennetttville, then 3.2 miles west on County Road 11 to Partridge Ave.
A Good Day Of Tool Making

Saturday, September 15 was a good day. Like many of you, Greg Super, Chuck Bjorgen, and I took a leisurely drive out to John Magnussen’s wonderful country workshop to spend the day chatting with friends and making some tools.

First of all, many thanks to Alan Lacer, Duane Gemelke, and any others “in the know” for their guidance on making the tools, and of course to John Magnusen for providing such a great environment to hold such an event.

Since I own a few hollowing scrapers already, I chose to make a hook tool. I must say, at first I was a bit apprehensive about metal work. Like most of you, my extent of metal work is sharpening my turning tools. Wielding MAPP torches, oil hardening the metal, and heat-treating seemed mysterious to me. All I could think of was how I was going to goof things up, and if I was going to go home with any new burn scars. Well, I did goof up the heat-treating process on a hook tool, but thankfully nobody came away hurt from anything I may have done.

First, I hopped on one of the Jet mini’s and turned down a handle for my soon-to-be hook tool. Okay, now that the easy part is over, I guess I have to go make a tool for this perfectly good handle.

Trying to remember what Alan taught us before lunch (this was a very common theme among everyone at the hook tool station at that time), I approached the big belt sander with the piece of tool steel. Grinding the steel down was easy enough, no more difficult than any other tool grinding work. Alan showed me how to fine-tune the shape, and when I got to the shape I needed, it was off to the MAPP gas torch. Oh, boy.

Okay, keep it in the flame, keep rotating it, and get it bright red-hot. Now the tricky part, bending that hook with the needle-nose pliers fast enough so the steel didn’t cool. After a second heating to finish the hook shape, I get the steel red hot again for an oil quenching. “Hey Alan, how’s that hook look?” He says I’m good to go. A little cleaning and polishing, and now the really tricky part comes up - tempering the hook.

Well, here come goof-ups #1 and 2 at the tempering step, which meant back to the MAPP torch and pro-
pane torch a total of 3 times before I got the tempering just right. On the 3rd attempt, I got it just right. Alan smiles and says now I am the club tempering expert. (Great, another responsibility I must shoulder!! Oh well, no rest for the weary.) Alan then shows me what I must do to obtain the proper cutting edge. But I skip this step for now, because I’m so excited about making the first tool. I decided to grab another steel rod and make a second hook tool. And you know something, that one went through the entire process without a hitch, start to finish, and in about one-quarter the time it took me to make the first one. Alan gave his stamp of approval on both.

By this time Greg and Chuck were getting ready to hit the road, so we said g’bye to everyone, grabbed a few pieces of butternut from the big pile outside, and headed for home. Yup, a good day.

Finally, I would like to share an observation Chuck made. He made a hollowing tool. When he was getting started on the tool, he needed some help with the process. Duane gladly came over to him and got him going on it. When Chuck was done with the drilling and such, the next person in line asked Chuck what he should do first. I experienced the same thing over at the hook tool station. In the matter of just a few moments, student became teacher. Without realizing it, but realizing it afterward, this was happening throughout the shop all day long. I think this is one of the real assets of our club, and of any good club; we share with each other what we learn, and each of us is richer for it in the end.

p.s. Welcome back, Ron!! We all missed you!
Following Duane's presentation, was a demonstration by professional turner Alan Lacer. Alan demonstrated the process of making a hook tool from a piece of O1 tool steel. Alan is a wonderful speaker, and explained the process very clearly; he also provided a handout describing his process—see opposite page. (For those of you who missed the meeting, Alan's presentation was video taped—see our librarian, Linda Ferber, if you're interested in renting the video.)

The demonstrations took us up to lunch time; some members opted for a sack lunch in John's shop, while others went to a nearby restaurant. Those that ate in the shop were able to start making tools immediately, which worked well for taking turns on the equipment required for each stage of tool making. The workstations were set up as follows: four or five heavy-duty sanders (for grinding the tool steel to the proper bevel), three torches (for heat treating the tool steel), five lathes (for turning the handles), a drill press and tap & die station (for making replaceable-tip scrapers), and a couple grinders! WOW! The afternoon passed quickly in a hum of activity as members concentrated on their tools, with help supplied by Alan, Duane, Willy, and others who had completed their tools.

Our thanks to John and Terri Magnussen for inviting us to their home for the afternoon—special thanks to Terri for making the goodies!
RESOURCES FOR MAKING A BASIC HOOK TOOL:
- Drill rod of "O1" tool steel, 3/8" diameter, 9" length
- Pint of olive oil
- Heat source: forge, MAPP Gas, acetylene, propane with oxygen, etc.
- Templestik (optional) in 1450 and 500 degrees
- Mill file
- Needle-nose pliers
- Grinder

KEY TERMS:
- Annealed: in a softened state.
- Hardened: Steel that has been heated to its critical temperature to bring to a very hard and brittle state.
- Tempering: the process of bringing hardened steel to a softer, working hardness for a particular use.
- Oxidation color spectrum: the color spectrum that results from the oxidation of cold steel as it gradually gets hot. The polished metal sheen shows the colors as clearly as the color spectrum in rainbows.

PROCESS:
1. Grind steel to profile in diagrams above.
2. Heat last 1' or so to bright red and bend with needle-nose pliers to create the hook—bending to left as viewed from above (cutting edge down).
3. Reheat hook area to bright cherry red and quench in oil.
4. Test for hardness by trying to file top of hook—should skate off.
5. Clean the hook and rest of rod back about 3 inches—goal is to get as clean and polished as possible (Use soap and water, wet/dry paper, polishing wheel).
6. Heat about 3" behind hook very gradually—avoid bringing to any red—and let the oxidation colors develop. When the hook looks to be a dark bronze color, quickly quench.
Block Sets and Toy Challenge to benefit Toys For Tots

... and other preparations for the holiday party

We’ll be making block sets again this year as a donation to Toys For Tots. Our goal is to make 10 sets of 30 blocks in 15 different shapes. They’re quick and easy to make—choose to make an entire set, or only specific pieces. (We’re still looking for a person to coordinate our donations to Toys For Tots; if you’re interested, contact Bruce Arones at barones@minnmicro.com or 651-433-5364.)

All blocks should be uniform in size. Avoid tropical woods, woods that splinter easily, and dark colored woods (walnut, etc.). Sand all edges. Leave a natural finish or finish with non-toxic paint or dye.

There will be a sign up sheet at the October and November meetings so we can keep track of which people will be making which pieces, and in what quantity. You (or your spouse) may also sign up to sew drawstring bags, which are used to hold the block sets.

Bring all blocks to the holiday party in December, where they’ll be bagged, and then donated.

In addition to the blocks, we plan to donate the products of our Toy Challenge (as we did last year).

Toys made for the challenge do not need to be made exclusively on the lathe. Have some fun and get creative—just remember to keep the kids in mind, and stick to non-toxic woods and finishes.

While you’re on the lathe, you might want to start on an item for the gift exchange. Everyone who participates will go home with a unique piece from a fellow turner; it’s a wonderful way to enlarge your turning collection!

The next newsletter will contain more party details.

Size and shape of each block:

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Learn to Turn Christmas Ornaments at our November Meeting

Novice and experienced turners alike will benefit from attending our November meeting. Several club members will be demonstrating their techniques for turning ornaments. The demos will be just in time to give you great ideas for those last minute Christmas gifts, or the gift exchange at our holiday party!

In addition to the demonstrations, we’ll have our regular club activities: glue sales, wood sealer sales, library, a wood raffle, and Show ’n Tell. If you’ve made ornaments in the past, consider bringing them for Show ’n Tell—let’s see how many ideas we can share with each other.

The meeting will be held Tuesday, November 13th, from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at the Roseville Area High School, which is located on County Road B2 (1 block north of Highway 36) between Hamline Avenue and Lexington Avenue. The meeting will be in the School’s woodshop, which is located on the east end of the building. As you enter the parking lot, go to the left, which is east, down to the end of the building. The door to the woodshop is on the south side of the dumpsters. See you there!

Members Take a Turn at the Washington County Fair

Several club members put on turning demonstrations at the Washington County Fair, August 3rd, 4th, and 5th. We were right in the middle of a hot spell, but that didn’t seem to affect the enthusiasm of fair goers.

Demonstrating for the club were: Bruce Arones, Hal Malmlov, John Nicholson (for all of about 10 minutes!), Duane Gemelke, Mary Lacer, and Linda Ferber.

Below: Hal Malmlov and Wayne Keifer attract an audience.
Upper right: John Nicholson works on the snowman Hal started.
Lower right: Young fair goers entranced by Wayne’s turning.
Photos by John and Cathy Nicholson
(Continued from page 5)

their technique.

The remainder of the book covers 12 projects that will allow you to utilize the skills you learned in the early part of the book. Now, there are other books out there meant for the beginner/intermediate turners, but the writing and layout of this book gives you such a good understanding of the steps in the process to complete the projects that I feel this is THE book one should purchase to learn or fine-tune the craft. Photography is great, and the line drawings show just how something is done, making each step in the process very clear.

This book has received many accolades from other owners that have written about it or suggested it on the internet. If there may be one issue to be noticed with this book it is this; it is written in England, so a few of the references Rowley makes may not be applicable to turners in the USA, but these details are so minor they should not be a concern.

This “New Edition” updates the original, first published in 1990. I have seen the original still on a couple shelves here in the Twin Cities. Buy only the “New Edition”, which will be written on the front cover under the title. Rowley also has a follow-up book to this one, its purpose is to cover more projects as practice pieces to what “Foundation Course” covers. That book is “Keith Rowley’s Woodturning Projects”.

This book is available locally at Barnes & Noble, and I believe I have seen it at Rockler and Woodcraft. Woodturning catalogs have carried it, too. Any bookstore can order it as well.

Turned Wood Symposium
Friday, October 26, 6 p.m. and Saturday, October 27, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
The Minneapolis Institute of Arts is pleased to host a variety of events relating to the new exhibition "Wood Turning in North America Since 1930." The art of wood turning has been practiced for centuries. But its serious revival began in the 1930s by artists who produced highly refined turned wood objects for daily use. This symposium will bring together the leaders in the art lathe field. Offering their perspectives are artists David Ellsworth, Stephen Hogbin, Michelle Holzapfel, Mark Lindquist, Michael Monroe, and Merryl Saylan; curators Patricia Kane and Christopher Monkhouse; and gallery directors Martha Connell and Ray Leier. Keynote speakers are Glenn Adamson, Chipstone Foundation, Milwaukee, and Stephen Lash, Christie's, New York.

Admission: $20 members, $25 nonmembers, lunch option: $15.

“reTurn to Wood” Family Day
Sunday, October 28, noon to 5 p.m.
Meet Wood artists (see names above), and hear them talk about their work in the gallery. Make your own turned wood sculpture with artist Betty Scarpino. See Alan Lacer demonstrate a wood lathe and watch the chips fly! Other activities as well. Family Day activities are free and open to all ages.

“Wood Turning in North America Since 1930” Exhibition
October 21—December 30, 2001 at Target Gallery
This exhibition will feature about 125 objects of turned wood, including pieces from institutional and private collections. The more experimental and challenging approach to wood turning between the 1960s and the 1990s will be the main focus of this exhibition.

For more information, Contact:
The Minneapolis Institute of Arts—612-870-3131, or go to their web site: www.artsmia.org

Orders from Craft Supplies (CS) due October 22nd!

Your Craft Supplies orders will be collected at the October meeting. If you can’t make it to the meeting, you may send your order to Bruce Arones (see info below). If you don’t have a Craft Supplies catalog, call them at 1-800-551-8876, and have them mail a catalog to you. To qualify for the discount, we must order a minimum of $1000 in products, and the order must be shipped to one address. The larger our order, the bigger our discount.

➡️ For each item ordered, you must include: the page #, quantity, item #, description, and price.
➡️ Send your orders via e-mail to Bruce Arones (barones@minnmicro.com), or mail them to Bruce at: 16393 Morgan Ave. N, Marine on St. Croix, MN 55047
➡️ If you have any questions, call Bruce at 651-433-5364, or Ron Meilahn at 651-633-8902.

As in the past, we will submit the entire order to CS, who will advise us of the net cost; we will then notify each member to send in his or her check while the order is being shipped.
Available in our library! The following tapes by David Ellsworth:
- Sharpening Gouges chucks Bowl No. 1
- Lathe Mods, chucks, Ship No. 2
- Hollow turning, No. 3
- Tools for Hollow Turning No. T

New library check out policy; Beginning at the April meeting videos went to a rental basis. The rental is $2.00, with the video due back the next meeting. The charge will help increase the library size and only original videos will be rented. The new policy will improve quality and quantity.

Thank you all for your support.

If you have seen a video you would like to see included in our library let us know.

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**Tools for Sale**

If you need a lathe, or a table saw, here are some great deals:

**Lathe** for sale. Delta model # 46-700, 12” variable speed, 34” between centers, outboard turning. Some accessories included. Will include bench/storage stand. **$350.** If interested, contact: **Joe Moran** 763-473-0997 days, 763-473-6074 evenings/weekends.

**Delta 10” Contractor Table Saw,** model 34-444
- 30” Delta UniFence and table extension, model 36-905
- Miter gauge clamp attachment
- Woodworker II—Forrest 60 tooth finishing blade
- DML 80 tooth finishing blade, plus extra blades
- Dado head cutter and insert
- 24” panel miter board
- other accessories

**Asking $625 . . . contact Ron Meilahn at 651-633-8902**
Although not a club sponsored event, many MWA members benefited from the felling of a large Butternut tree in New Brighton on September 13th.

The felling was arranged by John Magnussen; some of the MWA members who participated were: Ken Tempeiro, Don Wattenhofer, and Herman Fessler. John took the remaining wood home, and let attendees of the Tool Making meeting take what they wanted—thanks John!