‘Twas the night of December 10th … and throughout the party: good friends, good food, good cheer!

by Cathy Nicholson

I’m sure you could ask any one of the 71 attendees at our Holiday Party and they’d all agree that it was a great time! A group of us accosted each new arrival; first they were directed to the kitchen to deliver their food (an all-important step), then “made” to sign in, sign up for door prizes, pay their dues, and sign up for the raffle. You’d think that was enough, but no, their next steps were delivering turned items for the gift exchange, the holiday ornament or decoration challenge, Show ‘n Tell, and the blocks for Toys For Tots. Whew … people worked up an appetite just signing in, but it was worth it!

(Continued on page 4)
If you have not paid your dues for 2003 this will be the last newsletter you receive!

If you have not already paid your dues, please send a check for $25, made payable to MWA, to:

Ron Meilahn
13968 Alder St. NW
Andover, MN 55304

HELP WANTED

Newsletter Editor for the MWA newsletter.

Cathy Nicolson has resigned as newsletter editor because of a job change, which will relocate her to Madison, WI. This issue of the newsletter is her last one.

The next issue is scheduled for the end of March 2003. The program that Cathy used is Microsoft Publisher and we will have the templates that she used. The software will be provided for the editor’s use. There are some people who will write articles and take photos, so most of the editor’s work is putting it all together.

If you are interested in becoming the editor, please call Ron Meilahn at 763-862-2100 or Chuck Bjorgen at 651-633-8850 (before 8:00PM please).

CLASSIFIED ADS

Turning related ads are free to members. Commercial ads are billed at $4 per month, per column inch. To place an ad, contact Don Roden at 763-425-3110 or droden@mninter.net. Ads will run one issue unless you call to extend your ad for each additional issue.

Submission deadline for the next issue: March 21st

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Please welcome our newest members:

Steve and Cathy Luhman from Plymouth, MN
Stu Smith from Lakeland, MN
Congratulations To Our New Board Members ...

Don Roden -- Vice President

Don started woodturning when he was about eight. His first turned piece was a candleholder, which he still has. After high school Don joined the U.S. Air Force and moved around a lot. He did not do any turning for the 22 years that he was in the Air Force, but then resumed turning about three years ago using the same lathe that he grew up with. Don says he is trying all different kinds of turning: green wood, small pieces (chess body pieces, ornaments, etc) and a large Advent Wreath stand for a local church. Don, who lives in Osseo, has been a member of the MWA for one year and is currently employed as the webmaster for the Rockler Companies, Inc.

Jim Blare -- Secretary

Jim did some woodturning in his high school shop years ago and decided to get back into the craft two years ago when he discovered the AAW and then the Minnesota Woodturners Association. Turning is his main woodworking activity because he doesn't care for the sanding required in general woodworking. He prefers working on smaller turnings. Jim lives in Lakeville and is a computer software developer.

Jim Jacobs -- Program Director

Jim joined the MWA back in 1995. He first started woodworking at age 12 using only hand tools. His experience in high school woodshop turned him toward a career in cabinet making, a job he still has. Jim does his turning on a Jet mini lathe with the extension. He makes many of his woodturning accessories such as a sharpening jig, a steady rest and has fashioned his own vacuum chuck for the Jet lathe. Jim lives in Hastings.

Tom Shields -- Board member-at-large

Tom began woodturning in 1997 and looked to professional turners for guidance right away. He had two sessions with Phil Holten, Fargo, N.D., and then later studied turning with David Ellsworth in 1999, and with Richard Raffan in 2000. Tom's favorite work is hollow vessels, many of which he has sold in galleries in Minnesota and Wisconsin. Tom lives in North Mankato and hopes to add an outstate perspective to the MWA Board. He also wants to promote more small group sessions and wants to help promote greater public interest in woodturning to increase the overall market for our craft.
The party began with... you guessed it: FOOD. In addition to great turning talent, our club includes some excellent cooks (or spouses who cook). We had a wonderful assortment of hot dishes, appetizers, sandwiches, salads, and desserts. Thanks to everyone who contributed.

Our first official item was the election of officers. Chuck Bjorgen introduced the new electees: Jim Blare, Secretary; Jim Jacobs, Program Director; Tom Shields and Don Roden, Members at Large. Running unopposed for their positions were: Bruce Arones, President; John Nicholson, Vice President; Ron Meilahn, Treasurer, and Cathy Nicholson, Newsletter Editor. A motion, accepted unanimously, was made to accept the ballot as presented! Congratulations on joining the board go to Jim Blare, Jim Jacobs, Tom Shields and Don Roden.

Following the election was Show ‘n Tell, facilitated by Duane Gemelke. I don’t know about the rest of you, but I really enjoy Duane’s handling of Show ‘n Tell; he has a knack for drawing people out and encouraging them to talk about their work. There were some wonderful pieces shown and shared at the party:

*John Kempkies* – a White Ash bowl ... his first bowl.

*Steve Vadnais* – a Cherry Burl box.

*John Nicholson* – a confetti lamp from an unknown wood. (The consensus was either Madrone or Myrtle.)

*Bob Bouvin* – a Birch bowl with an inlaid Walnut moose.

*Hal Malmlov* – a vase turned “inside-out”, then soaked in a dark aniline dye; and a birdhouse ornament of Buckeye Burl (body), Mahogany (roof and bottom), and Ebony (perch and finial).

*Wally Jacobson* – a large Box Elder bowl, which started 12” square but ended up 11” x 13”.

*Richard Fulner* – a natural edge Walnut bowl and a Spalted Maple vessel—his first hollowing
attempt.

Don Wattenhofer – what started to be a Cherry goblet, until it broke and turned into a mistake.

Paul Kachelmyer – a homemade lathe he bought at an estate sale.

Don Roden – pictures of an advent candle stand he turned for a church.


Show ‘n Tell was followed up with voting on the Holiday ornament/decoration challenge. The winners were:

1st place – Dale Martin for his ornate ornament
2nd place – Hal Malmlov for his birdhouse ornament
3rd place – Bruce Arones for his Rosand style ornament
4th place – Tom Larson for his inside-out ornament

Door prizes were drawn and distributed by President Bruce Arones, and Vice President John Nicholson. There were lots of smiles as people came forward to receive their gift certificates!

Twenty five people participated in the gift exchange. There were some wonderful pieces exchanged, and I’m sure everyone went home pleased with the gift they received!

And as if that wasn’t enough, the gift exchange was followed by the raffling of pieces turned by Soren Berger and Bob Rosand during their demonstrations for the club in May and October respectively.

We were also able to fill 12 bags of blocks for the Toys For Tots program. Thanks to everyone who contributed their time and talents to making the blocks; and a special thanks to Carolyn Allard for sewing the fabulous block bags! I’m sure there were 12 very happy children when they received their bags of blocks.

It was a fun evening; one I’ll remember for a long time. Happy New Year!
Bob Jensen Hosts a Mini-Session

"The session was awesome," said Erik Nelson. "As a beginning turner, I learned more in the first five minutes of turning than I have in countless hours of reading. There's just nothing more valuable than getting to watch an experienced turner, and then having them watch you and explain and correct you."

Those words might sum up the feelings of all seven participants who attended a small group hands-on turning session at MWA member Bob Jensen's shop in late November of last year. Bob, who is an experienced woodworker, but a relatively new turner, offered his Fridley version of the New Yankee Workshop for another of MWA's popular small group sessions.

Joining the group along with Bob and Erik were Ken Kogler, Ken Schwichtenberg, Rick Bucker, Dick Davideit, and new board member Jim Blare. Other club members on hand to offer help were John Magnussen, Steve Tiedman, John Nicholson, Don Wattenhofer and Chuck Bjorgen.
Jim Blare noted "that the willingness of the experienced turners to help and give advice is wonderful. A turner will stop by and work with you on what ever you want for as long as needed. I picked up several tips from multiple sources. I was also able to watch John Magnussen make a birdhouse Christmas ornament and ask questions and make observations through the entire process."

The session was essentially open to make shavings with no specific theme. Some chose variations on Christmas ornaments, other spent time developing hollowing skills. According to new MWA member Rick Bucker, "It was a great opportunity to meet more of the members and to learn some new skills. The hands on sharpening was very helpful."

Ken Schwichtenberg made a base for a confetti light similar to those made by Bob Rosand during his demo at the October club meeting. Dick Davideit worked on a small bowl under the guidance of club president Bruce Arones. Erik Nelson, working with Don Wattenhofer, "was watching the master of thin goblets showing some of us how it's done."

Host Bob Jensen spent time with John Magussen who demonstrated how he makes small birdhouse ornaments. "I thought the format was great," said Bob. "I think there were things of interest going on for everyone. I only wish it lasted longer. My shop will always be available for any club activities."

Club members can expect more of these sessions throughout 2003. As was the case with Bob Jensen, you don't need to be an expert turner to host a session, just a willingness to share your shop with as few as two or three club members. The club has five lathes with accessories that can be provided for your session. Just contact Chuck Bjorgen for details. Contact information appears on page 2 of this newsletter.
Mark these dates on your calendar …

… the MWA has great plans for 2003!

January

- The board of Directors meeting was held at the AAW Office in Shoreview.

- The January meeting consisted of a presentation by Alan Lacer at the Roseville Area High School.

February

- The February meeting will be held at the Minnesota Center for Book Arts and will feature Marbling, both paper and wood. See page 11 for details and a map.

March

- The board of Directors will meet on Wednesday, at 6:30 at the AAW Office (3499 Lexington Ave. N., Suite 103). Any member with something they would like brought before the BOD should contact any board member listed in the newsletter, and it will be put on the agenda.

- The membership meeting will feature an egg demonstration and will be held at the Roseville Area High School. For directions and meeting details, see page 16 (the back page).

April

- Woodworking Show at the River Centre in St. Paul. We will be looking for volunteers to demonstrate. Contact Tom Shields at 507-625-4186 or wdturmr@hickorytech.net if you’re interested.

- The membership meeting will be held at MCAD. Dean Wilson will give a presentation about the design and incorporation of turned pieces into furniture. More details to come.
May
*7th—The board of Directors will meet on Wednesday, at 6:30 at the AAW Office (3499 Lexington Ave. N., Suite 103). Any member with something they would like brought before the BOD should contact any board member listed in the newsletter, and it will be put on the agenda.
*10th—We’ll have an all-day meeting at the Minneapolis Community and Technical College, which will feature a demonstration by Chicago turner Binh Pho. Binh will demonstrate his piercing and air brush painting technique.

August
*16th—We may hold our annual family picnic at a new location in Hastings. Stay tuned for more details as the date gets closer.

September
*10th—The board of Directors will meet on Wednesday, at 6:30 at the AAW Office (3499 Lexington Ave. N., Suite 103). Any member with something they would like brought before the BOD should contact any board member listed in the newsletter, and it will be put on the agenda.
*13th—We’re planning on a program featuring chain saw use and safety. The location has not been finalized, but details will be provided in upcoming newsletters.

October
*3rd—David Ellsworth will be giving an all-day hands-on session for around 8 intermediate turners at Woodcraft. Price and more details will be supplied in future newsletters.

October (cont.)
*4th—Our membership meeting will consist of an all-day demonstration by professional turner, David Ellsworth. The location, price and other details will be provided in upcoming newsletters.

November
*5th—The board of Directors will meet on Wednesday, at 6:30 at the AAW Office (3499 Lexington Ave. N., Suite 103). Any member with something they would like brought before the BOD should contact any board member listed in the newsletter, and it will be put on the agenda.
*11th—We’re tentatively planning to have Christmas ornament demonstrations as the program for this membership meeting. Location and further details will be provided as the date gets closer.

December
*9th—Our fabulous Holiday Party, which is always a good time!

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 Bennettville, then 3.2 miles west on County Road 11 to Partridge Ave.

Orders from Craft Supplies (CS) due March 24th!
Your Craft Supplies orders will be collected at the March 11th meeting, or you may send your order to Ron Meilahn (see info below) no later than March 24th. If you don’t have a Craft Supplies catalog, call them at 1-800-551-8876, and have them mail a catalog to you. (Catalogs will be available at the February and March meetings.) 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 discounts!
Note: Product discounts are not guaranteed, and some products may be back ordered.

➤ For each item ordered, you must include: the page #, quantity, item #, description, and price.
➤ Send your orders via e-mail to Ron Meilahn, ronmeilahn@usfamily.net, or mail them to Ron at: 13968 Alder Street NW., Andover, MN 55304
➤ If you have any questions, call Ron at 763-862-2100.

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.
Harvesting Harvey’s Maple Tree

As it turns out, it was a nice morning to cut down a tree on Saturday, Dec 21st. Club member Harvey Koenig had a sugar maple tree in his yard that was developing a sickness, so he decided to cut the tree down while there was still salvageable turning wood.

On that pleasant morning, 10 of us showed up to help Harvey with the tree. As is club policy, it is the responsibility of the tree owner to get the tree onto the ground. Once Harvey made the cut that brought the tree down, several of us went to work with chainsaws, methodically cutting into the tree from the twiggy branches to the limbs and trunk. Our informal “logging crew” seemed to get right into the groove of things. A few of us cut, while others pulled out the brush and debris being made, while others kept watchful eyes on everything to make sure no accidents occurred. (Thankfully no injuries were reported!)

Granted, this was only a medium-size tree, but the entire cutting process went very quickly. (I think we probably spent more time sitting in Harvey’s heated shop drinking coffee, eating donuts, and sharing lots of good conversation. But isn’t that what it’s all about anyway?) In no time at all, the tree was cut down into manageable pieces, the brush all neatly piled, and all the turning wood hauled down to the waiting cars and pickup trucks. And there was no usable wood left behind, either. Even the smaller branch wood will serve the purposes of everything from twig pots to practice stock.

I think we all had a very good time that Saturday morning; just another benefit to club membership. Sorry that nice tree had to come down, Harvey, but thanks much for sharing it! 

All photos by Steve Tiedman
Come Find Out About Marbling Your Turnings … … at our February membership meeting

Are you looking for a unique way to decorate your turned pieces? If so, we have got the meeting topic for you … marbling! The AAW’s Woodworking Journal has had articles about marbling in its last two issues—now here’s your chance to see it demonstrated.

Date: Tuesday, February 11th     Time: 6:30 PM—9:00 PM
Location: The Minnesota Center for Book Arts; maps and directions below

Program: Steve Pittelkow, of the MN Center for Book Arts, plans to present the following:
- Information about MCBA (there will be an opportunity for self-guided tours of the facility before or after the meeting) and a history of Marbling
- A demonstration of marbling on paper
- A demonstration of marbling on turned wood pieces

Bonus: There will be a chance for you to try marbling! If you’re interested, bring an unfinished turning, no taller or larger in diameter than six to eight inches. (We may not have time for everyone, but we’ll try.)

Other Activities: Library rentals, Sealer sales, and Show ‘n Tell (but no wood raffle).

How to Find Minnesota Center for Book Arts
Minnesota Center for Book Arts is located at Open Book at 1011 Washington Avenue South between 10th and 11th Avenues, near the University of Minnesota’s West Bank campus. You may enter through the front or the back door.

Heading EAST on I-94
(From northern suburbs)
Take 4th Street North exit
Turn left on 2nd Avenue
Turn right on Washington Avenue
Continue to 10th Avenue
Open Book is on the right hand side

Heading NORTH on 35W
Take 3rd Street/University exit
Follow sign for West Bank
Turn left on Washington Avenue
Go five blocks to 10th Avenue
Open Book is on the left hand side

Heading WEST on I-94
(From St. Paul)
Take 5th Street exit
Turn right at first stop sign
Turn left on 3rd Street
Turn right on Washington Avenue
Open Book is on the right hand side

Heading SOUTH on 35W
Take Washington Avenue exit
Turn right on Washington Avenue
Go three blocks to 10th Avenue
Open Book is on the left hand side
Elegant Crushed Stone Inlays
A New Approach

By: Steven D. Russell © 2000
Eurowood Werks Woodturning Studio
The Woodlands, Texas
Article reprinted with permission of the author

Overview
There are several ways to inlay natural stones, agates and crushed stones into woodturnings. Inlaying crushed stone is a very exciting artistic path to explore and can be a creative springboard towards your overall growth as an artist. In my studio work, I work with large amounts of professionally cut and brilliantly polished stones. The high quality of these stones made me look for ways to bring this level of visual perfection to my crushed stone inlays.

I began to experiment with different ways to inlay crushed stone through graded layering, in an attempt to perfect the ultimate reflective quality of the inlay. My goal was to have the inlaid surface look as close as possible to a professionally cut and polished stone. I have always felt that inlaid stone and timber are a natural, provocative and beautiful combination. There is a unique tactile and visual harmony when the two materials are joined that can elevate and transform an ordinary piece into a “work of art.”

Preparing Crushed Stone
There are two basic types of crushed stone inlays: (1) filled voids and (2) channel set inlays. Being a bit of a perfectionist, I prefer to crush my own stone, as I can control the raw material (selecting the proper stone color and quality) and the finished size of the stone particles. I have a welding friend who made up a stone crusher for me.

It is made out of 3/8” sheet metal and 2.0” solid bar stock. The crusher has a wide foot about 12”x12” that is 3/8” thick. There is an upright crushing chamber about 6” high welded into the center. The solid 2” thick impact bar (which acts as the crushing ram) has a large smooth bolt welded to its top to facilitate easy removal. The bottom of the impact ram is deeply scored to increase the efficiency of the crushing process.

I use a hand sledgehammer to drive the impact ram. Stones are loaded into the bottom of the upright crushing tube and the ram is replaced. Several hits with the sledgehammer are usually required to crush the stones. Periodically, I will
remove and sift the stones to avoid getting too much fine dust. If building your own crusher is impractical for you, there are several sources where you can obtain crushed stone for your inlay work.

To obtain the very best visual quality to your inlay, you will need to sift and grade your crushed stones. The resulting inlay will look more “natural” and visually provocative, than just dumping a bit of crushed stone into the area in my opinion. I sift my crushed stones into three grades - fine, very fine and dust.

Grading the Crushed Stone
For sifting the crushed stones, I use woven stainless steel kitchen mesh strainers. I obtained these at a local kitchen equipment stockist. The fine grade strainer (sifter) is what you would find at any housewares stockist. The very fine and dust grade sifters may not be available outside of a specialty kitchen equipment stockist. The dust grade sifter in particular has an extremely tight weave and is usually only available at a specialty shop.

Elements of the Crushed Inlay
Each area to be inlaid is composed of six (6) elements: a sealer basecoat (if necessary), a sub-base material (if necessary), the fine stone, the very fine stone, the dust and the bonding agent. If you will be filling a void, make sure that the area has been cleaned of dirt and loose debris. I use an air hose to clean these areas, although a stiff brush would also work well.

After the area has been cleaned, you need to apply a sealer basecoat. This prevents the bonding agent (CA or epoxy glue usually) from “wicking” into adjacent timber cells causing discoloration and subsequent sanding difficulties.

I use cellulose sanding sealer or a spray lacquer for this task. After the area has been sealed, you are ready to begin filling the void with the crushed stone. On deep voids I usually apply a super thick CA into the very bottom of the void, before I install the sub-base or the crushed stone layers.

Note: If you are filling a void that is quite deep with a solid bottom, you can add a sub-base material to limit the amount of crushed stone used. I typically use a bit of sawdust, mixed with small shavings that I pack tightly into the area. Then, I flood thin CA glue into the sub-base to stabilize it.

Once the sub-base has been filled and stabilized (if necessary), I apply a small amount of super thick CA to the bottom of the void. Then, I begin to fill the void with the three grades of crushed stone. I add the fine stone first and fill the bulk of the remaining void. Gently tap the piece to settle the stone or use a thin stick to pack and level the stone. The very fine stone is added next, over the top of the fine stone and gently settled into the void. The dust grade stone is then added over the top of the very fine stone and gently settled.

Once the dust has been added and settled, I (Continued on page 14)
(Continued from page 13)

flood thin CA or epoxy over the area. After the thin CA has been added, a small amount of thick CA is added over the top of the thin CA. I generally wait a wee bit before I hit the void with the accelerator. This prevents any white craze from occurring in the rapidly curing CA.

The finished level of the inlay should protrude slightly over the top of the adjacent area. This leaves sufficient inlay material to sand the area flush with the surrounding timber. I like to power sand the filled area with the lathe off and the spindle locked until I get close to the finished height of the surrounding area.

Sanding the Inlay
Then, I turn the lathe on and sand as usual. After you have sanded the piece, examine the inlaid area. If you notice small pits in the surface, apply a bit more of the dust into the pits and add some thick CA over the top. Re-sand the subject area to insure a smooth pit free surface.

For inlaying voids in hollow forms where there is no backing material, I inflate a small balloon inside the piece. The balloon acts as a “stop” for the inlay and can be turned away once the inlay has been completed.

A strong tape can also be used, but I prefer the using a balloon. The balloon is especially useful in hollow forms with very restricted openings where tape cannot be applied.

If the area or void is unusually large, I like to add strips/bits of bark back into the inlay. This results in a much more elegant and natural looking inlay and saves some of the expensive crushed stone. If you are inlaying into a turned channel, the inlay procedure is the same except for the addition of a 1-2 degree rebate on the inside of the channel walls.

The internal rebate acts to secure the inlay and keep it in place with seasonal movement changes. The depth of the channel depends on the subject species estimated seasonal movement and is usually no more than 1/8” deep.

Alternative Products
If all this is a bit much for you, there are artificial products you can purchase to simplify the inlay process. “Inlace” is a readily available brand that works very well and can be used in very thin (1/16”) layers to save on material costs. When using Inlace in a channel setting, I still include the 1-2 degree internal wall rebate to insure the inlay has a good gripping surface.

On very oily timbers, I will apply a bit of Acetone to the walls with a Q-tip to insure a good bond between the material and the inlay. Once this has dried, I proceed with the manufacturer’s instructions for mixing and applying the Inlace material.

My inlay procedure is a bit time consuming, however it rewards you with a very natural and elegant looking inlay. The three layers of stone dust combine to create a stunning inlaid surface that a casual dumping of ungraded material can never come close to. If you get into crushing your own stone, observe the Mohs hardness scale of your desired stones. This will insure your sandpaper will efficiently cut the material when you sand it!

Health Concerns
Be careful around stone dusts, as some are quite toxic (via inhalation or skin exposure) and need to be handled with care. That means suitable gloves and a good quality respirator with a toxic dust certified H.E.P.A. filter. The CA glue also presents a need for an organic vapor cartridge to be added to your respirator, especially if you will

(Continued on page 15)
I recently purchased a Oneway 2436, but unfortunately don't have the room in my shop for two lathes so my faithful Delta Midi needs to go.

It comes with the bed extension and a good stand. You can see pictures on my web site www.geocites.com/stevenowilson.

Price is $250 - lathe is available in Eagan.

You're welcome to see it under power prior to purchase.

Contact Steven Wilson at stevenowilson@yahoo.com or (651) 683-0604
March Meeting - it’s sure to be eggstrodinary!

Our March meeting is going to be one you won’t want to miss! Here are the specifics that have been planned:

**Date:** Tuesday, March 11th  
**Time:** 6:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Roseville Area High School, located on County Road B2 (1 block north of Highway 36) between Hamline and Lexington Avenues. 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.

**Program:** will include an egg turning demonstration by board member Jim Jacobs. Jim will be using the Jamison bar hollowing rig during the hollowing portion of his demonstration. You’ll certainly want to come and pick up some hints and techniques you can incorporate in your egg for the egg challenge!

**Other Activities:** Library rentals, Sealer sales, Show ‘n Tell and a Wood Raffle.

**Please bring:** your own chair, an item for Show ‘n Tell and lots of enthusiasm!

Don’t forget to check out the new club website:  
[www.mnwoodturners.com](http://www.mnwoodturners.com)