Tool Making
page 4

Alan lacer demo
page 5

How-to
Turning a sphere
Page 7

Picnic
Stuart Batty
Donald Derry
And much more
### President’s Corner

I have been asked what makes a good bowl and other questions on that order. I always have trouble answering. I know the stock answers and I know when a bowl seems right to me, but I don’t have the skill to put my thoughts into words so that someone else understands what I mean… I don’t have that skill, so as a programmer by trade, I turned to that skill and stole someone else’s code (or words.) Here are some thoughts on the subject as gleaned from the Dale Nish book *Master Woodturners* and the Richard Raffin book *Bowl Design*.

David Ellsworth found influence in pottery, glass and fiber and believes that distinguishing between good and bad design is learned after spending a great deal of time looking at and making objects and that “a historical perspective is a basis for knowledge’.

Richard Raffin is said to believe that pure form is much more exciting and much more difficult to get right. Grain and surface decoration may be an aid to an immediate sale, but all wood fades and mellow with age, while the form remains. A good bowl functions well and should be balanced and comfortable in the hands. Shape is more important than decoration.

Rude Osolnik believed technique comes with practice but that you must force yourself to think of design as a part of what you are doing. The form of the object itself is the focal point.

Ray Key

It is easier to produce a piece with beads and coves than to produce a piece of pure form — correct and balanced, visually pleasing and showing the characteristics of the wood. The grain helps dictate the form and it is the turners’ responsibility to bring the two together.

In his book on Bowl Design Raffin says that when you pick up different bowls you will notice differences in weight and balance. Create for yourself and as your freed spirit emerges, your bowls are bound to benefit. Why a bowl? The larger fuller form of the bowl better exhibits all aspects of grain, color and form.

(Continued on page 3)
Design is a personal thing but it is also a result of seeing shapes that work, questioning why and learning how to put them in the work we do.

How many of you have missed signing up for the forum? This is where timely club announcements are made. When I receive discount offers from various businesses, this is where they get posted. Requests and notices from the AAW and various other clubs around the country get posted here. Shop tips and project information is also being posted here. And I would really like to see some more pictures of members work, you can describe what and how you did the work or you can let the piece speak for itself, but do show us what you are working on. As we do not get together much during the summer months, the forum does offer a way to get questions asked and to share knowledge. Let’s use it. If you are not yet signed up, do so.

As you read this we have already been to Alan’s demonstration on turning bocce balls. I know that I have been ‘commissioned’ to make a set for someone in my household so I will need to take careful notes. At the picnic I would like to see what others have made. The picnic in Roseville will provide us with an opportunity to show off how well our bocce balls work. I am sure it is all in the equipment.

Upcoming we have a demonstration by Stuart Batty and another by Donald Derry. I hope to see you all at one or more of these events.

See you at the next meeting.

Jim

(Continued from page 2)

### MWA Treasurer’s Report

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### TREASURER’S REPORT

**HIGHLIGHTS**

In the past two months we have gained 8 new members. We exceeded last year’s membership of 250. There was minimal income and expenses over the past two month. The June tool making session paid for itself. The on-line version of the newsletter has been tremendous cost savings for the club. We continue to stay within our 2007 budget.

Cover photo by Stuart Batty future MWA demonstrator.
June tool making session

About 25 people and one brand new member attended the MWA toolmaking session on Saturday June 23. The tools offered for sale to members were HSS M2 blanks 5/16 by 4.5" long that could be ground into various shapes for small detail turning. A 12" long hollowing tool based on a Hunter carbide insert was another choice, and the last tool offered was a heavy duty 12" long scraper with interchangeable inserts. The kits included wood for handles (courtesy of Jim Jacobs), the copper ferrule, the steel bars, and the inserts.

Members had to drill and tap for threads, turn handles, mount the ferrule, and then glue the tool in place. There was lots of sawdust made and everyone had a good time. Many thanks (again) to Jim and Nancy Sannerud for the use of their wood shop.
July meeting turns out to be a ball

By Joe Ugro and Jim Zangl

The July meeting of the MWA was held at the Lacer homestead outside of River Falls. WI. It featured demonstrations by the noted professional woodturner, author, instructor and MWA club member - Alan Lacer. The demonstrations were on making a Bocce ball - alias turning wooden spheres. While there are a number of methods by which reasonably spherical spheres can be made, the most precise is that described at http://alanlacer.com/articles/bocceball.htm, which article is included in this issue of the newsletter with the permission of the author - Alan Lacer.

The meeting was well attended for a summer meeting, with 30+ members in attendance. It was a beautiful day, temperatures were moderate and there was a light breeze - perfect for an outdoor turning demonstration!

Alan had his Oneway lathe set up on his new pavilion in the backyard and was attired in a tuxedo apron supplied by Tim Heil, albeit without a pocket for the all important diamond hone. The membership sat on chairs in the grassy area of the backyard with a good view of Alan's demonstrations and enjoying the light breeze and the outdoor atmosphere.

International standard Bocce balls are 107mm (4.2 inches) in diameter and weigh 920 grams (~2 pounds), but sets are sold with diameters which vary from 100mm (3.9”) to 115mm (4.5”).

As turners, we are used to making cylinders out of square stock, but those ends are always a problem. And how to make the object symmetrical - in this case, that is key. At least seven methods were discussed, and two were shown. The first method Alan demonstrated was to rough turn the ball from 4” x 4” stock. The stock was turned to a cylinder between centers then a center line was marked around the circumference and the diameter measured. Alan then marked the cylinder for plus & minus the radius of the cylinder minus a little bit (~1/16” either side) from this center line. The layout marks are made to give less than the cylinder diameter to allow for the differential loss of material in sanding. The end grain being harder results in less material being removed from these ends during the sanding operation than is removed from the long grain. A rough oval is then turned leaving a nub at both ends. Care is taken to be sure the marked center line is left untouched. This is used later for alignment. The oval is removed from the lathe and the nubs cut off proud of the projected sphere.

Two cups are turned, one for the headstock, one for the tail. These are used to hold the ball without marking it and act as a friction drive. The ball is placed between the cups, using the center line to align the ball with the lathe bed such that the nubs are now oriented 90 degrees to the lathe ways. As the material is rotating, one will observe a ghost image or "shadow" caused by material that is asymmetrically distributed around the rotation axis. Inward from this ghost or shadow region is a more solid image. That is what the form would be after removal of the asymmetrically distributed material. The idea is to carefully remove the material that is producing the ghost image to get to a fully symmetrical ball. In the process Alan made use of a spindle gouge and a skew chisel to reduce the wood to the proper shape. This is work that re-

(Continued on page 6)
quires a light touch and much care. Alan chose to wear a face shield for this work - as the ball is only being held by pressure from the two cups. It is important to work slowly to develop the sphere. If one takes too much on any one cut a sphere having a smaller diameter will have to be made requiring substantial adjustments to the curves. When sanding, since this is very much an end grain/side grain situation, a very light touch is needed to keep the ball from having flat spots.

The article at http://www.detroitareawoodturners.org/SphereDescription.pdf by Al Hockenberry, gives good description of a systematic way to turn the sphere by eye and follows the essentials of the technique Alan demonstrated.

The next method demonstrated by Alan uses a jam chuck. Again the blank for the ball is prepared as described above. In this case, Alan chose a block of hard maple that was purchased from Youngblood Lumber. The block being longer than it was wide, it is reduced to a cylinder; the diameter is measured; the middle of the cylinder is located and half the diameter is marked on either side of the middle minus a little bit (~1/16") as before. This represents the 'ends' of the sphere to be. Now he cut away to those ends.

Having done this, Alan mounted a new blank (poplar about 3-4 inches thick) on a face plate and turned a kind of deep bowl, one with an opening that had steep sides and just fit the rough ball. Now a light tap on the ball with a dead blow mallet seats the ball in the chuck. It is sometimes advisable to drill a knockout hole through the back of the jam chuck to assist in removing the ball from the chuck. Again a light touch is required during the turning and then it is a matter of removing the ghost. The sound of the tool is another indicator of the progress being made. As the "shadow" material is removed the sound changes from a knocking to a smooth whisper. All sides of the ball may be worked by removing the ball, shifting its position and replacing it in the chuck. As the ball loses diameter, by becoming rounder, it may be necessary to remove some of the top edge of the jam chuck. Scraping, (yes scraping), may be the best method for removing the ghost and yes, I do have pictures of Alan using his skew chisel as a scraper. In this case it was the proper tool for the job. This is what we saw that Saturday morning and more, and I hope this gives a little idea of what was seen by those who came and what was missed by those who did not attend. Again this latter method is described at http://alanlacer.com/articles/bocceball.htm. Another interesting article on turning spheres can be found at http://www.rrosand.com/articles/18-2.html.

A silent auction was held of one of Cindy Drozda's demonstration pieces. Wade Wendorf had the winning bid.

We thank Alan and Mary for their wonderful hospitality and Alan for an enlightening demonstration.
Turning a sphere

By Alan Lacer

Freehand turning of a near perfect wooden sphere without flat spots or bumps is a wonderful challenge for a turner. Whether it's for croquet, furniture drawer knobs or simply as a decorative object, the wooden sphere is a wonderful exercise in developing form, tool control and understanding grain direction. We've chosen to make wooden balls for the ancient game of bocce ball. Originating in the Middle East some 7,000 years ago, the game was popular with ancient Greeks and Romans. It hit its heyday in 16th century Italy, where it was something of a national sport. Much of the vocabulary and manner of play stems from this period.

Bocce Ball Essentials
To play the game you have to make either five or nine wooden balls, in two sizes. One ball, the "pallino" or target ball should be approximately 2-1/4 in. in diameter, in a contrasting or colored wood. The other balls, or "bocce" that are tossed, should be approximately 4 in. in diameter. Create either a full set with eight bocce balls, or a half set of four, with one-half of each set in distinctive colors or patterns to identify two sides or teams. Within each team you may want to create a crisscross or other pattern to distinguish individual bocce balls.

Wood to Turn
Turn the bocce balls and pallino from a dense hardwood such as hard maple, birch or white oak in either solid or laminated stock. If you laminate, choose glue that is water-resistant and does not "creep" at the seams such as plastic resin or polyurethane.

Here's what you need:
- Hard maple, 4 X 4 by 18 inches. (makes four bocce balls; buy twice this amount for a full set of 8). Each ball blank should be 4-1/2 inches long.
- Hardwood, 2-1/4 inches by 2-1/4 inches by 2-3/4 inches (for one pallino).
- Basswood (or poplar) 3 inches by 3 inches by 2 inches in length (headstock side holding chuck for larger ball); two pieces 2 inches by 2 inches by 2 inches (headstock side holding chuck for smaller ball and for tailstock side holding chuck that fits over the live center).
- 1/2 inch detailing gouge ground to a fingernail shape, roughing gouge, parting tool, 1/2 inch to 1 inch roundnose scraper, 1/2 inch or larger skew chisel.
- Outside calipers with a minimum capacity of 4-1/2 inches.
- Dividers or compass.
- Either a scroll chuck or a 3 in. faceplate with 1-1/2 in. thick piece of face-grain poplar or soft maple.
- Live center for tailstock, spur center for headstock.
- Jacobs chuck and appropriate bit for fitting tailstock side chuck to your live center.
- Acrylic paint in two colors and a small, stiff brush.
- Wood dye.

FIG. A: SHOP-MADE CHUCKS
you have to make three different concave holding chucks to turn these balls. For the headstock side you need two different sizes that fit into your scroll chuck or a recess in a scrap block on your 3 in. faceplate (a "jam chuck;" see Photo 2). On the tailstock side, make a chuck that slips over your live center (two styles are shown as examples). This tailstock chuck works for both size balls.

Figure 1: BEGIN by turning a chuck to hold the balls as they are tuned. This one is for the larger balls, and is held at the headstock (Fig. A). Work from the center out with your round-nose scraper to produce a smooth surface. Make a smaller chuck for the headstock to hold the pallino.

Figure 2: TURN another holding chuck for the tailstock. It needs to fit over a live center so it can spin (Continued on page 8)
freely (Fig. A). Drill or turn out the center of the chuck to match the outside diameter of the live center. Each live center requires a slightly different design. The chuck must be centered and fit snugly.

**Figure 3: LAY OUT** the size of the ball with dividers or a compass after roughing out the blank to a cylinder. Mark the centerline (red) and two radius lines (blue) that are equal to half the diameter of the cylinder. After marking, reduce the waste outside of the radius lines to approximately 1 in. in diameter.

**Figure 4: ROUGH CUT** the cylinder to a very crude ball form using a 1/2 in. detail gouge. Don't be too zealous in trying to hit the perfect sphere at this point, it is far too easy to cut below the curves of the final sphere. Allow considerable waste material to be trimmed away in the next step.

**Figure 5: MOUNT** the rough ball between the two holding chucks with the red centerline turned 90 degrees so it's parallel to the bed or axis of the lathe. Rotate the lathe by hand a few times to be sure both sides of the red line are in alignment. When all seems right, firmly secure the block by tightening the tailstock.

**Figure 6: A "GHOST BALL'** is revealed when you turn on the lathe. By experimenting with your shop lamp and different angles of viewing, you should see a definite ball with a ghost like appearance inside the spinning blank. With light colored woods, a dark background often helps to make the ghost more visible. Keep your lathe in the slower speed ranges (400 to 600 rpm).

**Figure 7: TURN** down to the ghost ball, using a 1/2 in. detailing gouge with a fingernail shape. Work from smaller to larger diameters on both sides of the centerline (the ball now has the same grain orientation as a face grain bowl). Go slowly and gently, with a mixture of cutting and light scraping actions to remove waste surrounding the ghost ball.

**Figure 8: DRAW** a new centerline (the blue line) when you're finished turning.

(Continued on page 7)
Figure 9: CONTINUE TURNING with the blue line positioned parallel to the lathe's axis. The grain is again as we started (indicated by the red line), so work from larger to smaller diameter in order to work with the grain. Gently turn away the waste that was held in the holding chucks. Again, use the ghost ball as a guide.

Figure 10: SAND to further refine the shape and remove minor imperfections. Randomly reposition the ball five or six times, sanding lightly between each change of position.

Figure 11: CUT narrow grooves on the larger balls with the long point (toe) of the skew chisel. Create a crisscross pattern by changing the axis of the ball. With the lathe spinning, color the grooves with unthinned acrylic paint applied with a stiff brush. Light sanding removes excess paint.

The single pallino (smaller ball) is usually not grooved and can be dyed a bright color for high visibility.

For more articles written by Alan Lacer check out his website: (www.alanlacer.com)

This is a dining room set with peppermill, salt mill, vase, tray, napkin rings and candle holders. The candle holders hold two types of candles, either a taper or globe type. The wood is walnut, it came from a tree in New Richmond, WI about four years ago. I bounded 1x4s to make cube, drilled my holes, turned my patterns, and finished with tung oil. By Bob Hansen
MWA ANNUAL CLUB PICNIC

Sunday August 19, 2007
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Location: Roseville Central Park
– Lion’s Shelter
2545 Victoria Street North
Roseville, MN, 55113
Directions: Located North of Highway 36, East of Lexington and South of County Road C. http://maps.google.com/maps?q=2545 Victoria St. N+Roseville+MN+55113

● Games with prizes for the spouse/guests
● We’ll have the regular show and tell
● No library
● No wood raffle

Bring the whole family! This is a beautiful park in Roseville. The octagonal Lion’s Shelter sits atop a hill overlooking Lake Bennett and is a short walk from the lakeside waterfall.

***Please bring small turnings to be donated as spouse prizes.***

Bring your own meat for grilling as well as buns or bread AND a dish to share.
Last names A-O bring salad or main dish
Last names P-Z bring dessert
Also suggest lawn chairs, lawn games, bug spray, etc.

The following will be provided:
Grills, beverages, condiments, plates, napkins, eating utensils and sweet corn!

Please bring small turnings to be donated as spouse prizes.

Turning Challenge!
This year’s challenge is turning a Bocce Ball. At the July Club meeting, we had a demonstration by Alan Lacer on how to turn a ball for the ancient game of bocce ball.

You may turn and decorate as many balls as you like. We will judge our Bocce Balls at the MWA Club Picnic. Craft Supplies gift certificates will be awarded to for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place.

The Rules Of Bocce Ball

Official bocce ball is played on a court of fixed dimensions, often with walls and backstops. What most of us play is an informal version or "lawn bowling." Here are the basic rules:

There are two teams, played with two, four, or eight players. In games of two or four players, you can get by with only four bocce balls. The game is a bit more interesting, though, if you play with a full set of eight balls.

By a flip of a coin or some other means, choose one side to roll the small ball (pallino) out into the playing area. All throws must be made behind a real or imaginary foul line.

The side that placed the pallino rolls one bocce ball as close to the pallino as possible (even touching it). This becomes the "point ball."

The opposing side rolls all of its bocce balls to see if it can come closer to the pallino than the "point ball."

The starting team rolls the remainder of its bocce balls to see if can come closer to the pallino than any of their opponents' balls.

Points are awarded after all bocce balls have been thrown. A point is awarded for each ball closer than any of the opponents' to the pallino. Games are played to 12, 16, or 21. Often the winner must win by at least two points.

Yes, you may hit the pallino, your own team's previously thrown bocce or the bocce of the opposing team!
COMING SOON !!!
MWA Professional Demonstration: Stuart Batty

Saturday September 29, 2007
(9:00 AM to 4:00 PM)
Fee: $30
Location: TBD

The Minnesota Woodturners Association is pleased to announce that British woodturner, Stuart Batty, will do a club demonstration and three days of hands-on sessions. You won’t want to miss this demonstration!

Stuart is an amazing woodturner. A second generation woodturner who began at the age of 10 doing production turning for his father, Allan Batty, he developed his tool technique and then began to teach and explore the artistic possibilities of the lathe. He currently demonstrates in many countries and shows his work in galleries in England. His British wit and creative mind are only a couple of the attributes that make him popular in the wood-turning demonstration circuit. Stuart is a master of the incredibly long stemmed, very thin walled and delicate goblet. I watched him make one at the AAW Symposium in Portland, and you will be thoroughly impressed at the incredible technique and tool control Stuart employs. He also turns a deep small footed bowl/vase shape, a sphere, and will demonstrate using a spindle gouge in lieu of a skew to make pommel cuts, beads and coves in spindle work, and a spectacular off-center square winged bowl. Many items and topics will be covered in his demonstration.

Demonstration will be held at: Unisys Corp. 2276 Highcrest Rd. Roseville, MN 55113

Hands-on sessions will be from 9 AM – 4 PM on Thursday September 27th, Friday September 28th, and Sunday September 30th. Fees for the hands-on sessions will be $100 each, including pizza. To reserve a space for a hands-on session, please mail a check for $100 to:

Dan Rominski
2301 River Road South
Lakeland, MN 55043

Please indicate your choice of day – 1st choice, 2nd choice, 3rd choice. Your postmark and receipt of deposit will determine which session you are placed in.

Stay tuned to your MWA Website for updated information!

Hands-on sessions will again be held at Jim and Nancy Sannerud’s.
Magazine sighting

MWA member Mike Hunter and his woodturning tool the “Hunter Carbide Hollowing Tool” were reviewed by Better Homes and Gardens’ WOOD magazine in the September 2007 issue, page 102. The magazine features a shop proven products section and does tool reviews. It only features tools that receive a minimum of three stars; the Hunter tool received five out of five stars.
Congratulations, Mike!

Club Craft Supplies Order Saves MWA Members $$
The Club’s April 2007 purchase saved participating members 16% off their individual Craft Supplies order.

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MWA Wood Sealer Program
The MWA is currently buying sealer in 55 gallon drums, enabling us to sell to our members at a fantastic price of only $8 per gallon. Our club could use a few clean, empty gallon jugs, such as windshield washer fluid jugs for bottling; bring some to our monthly meetings. This super bargain sealer is available at our monthly meetings, or contact the following for other special arrangements:

Bob Jensen– Fridley 763-572-0525
Jim Blare-Lakeville 952-469-3687
Ron Meilahn-Andover 763-862-2100
Bruce Arones 651-433-5364

Please welcome our newest members:

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Calendar of Events

August 2007

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August 1st-5th - MWA woodturning demos at the Washington County Fair.
19th Sunday - Club Picnic and bocce ball challenge. See page 10 for details. Please bring small woodturnings for spouse gifts and door prizes.

September 2007

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September 6th Thursday - Board meeting.
29th Saturday - Stuart Batty Professional Demonstration held at: Unisys Corp. 2276 Highcrest Rd. Roseville, MN 55113, $30 for Saturday session.
27th, 28th and 30th - Stuart Batty Professional small group sessions. Small group sessions at Jim Sannerud’s. Fees for the hands-on sessions will be $100 each, including pizza. To reserve a space for a hands-on session, please mail a check for $100 to:
Dan Rominski
2301 River Road South
Lakeland, MN 55043

October 2007

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October 16th Tuesday - T.B.D.

November 2007

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November 8th Thursday - Board meeting.
10th Saturday - Donald Derry Professional Demonstration. On Christmas ornaments. Two small group sessions.
Location for demo TBD. Small group sessions at Jim Sannerud’s.

December 2007

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December 8th Saturday - MWA Holiday Party. Saturday night party and new location at Hope Presbyterian Church in Richfield.
Email Alert !!!!
Our current MWA 'Email Blast' list shows approx. 30 members that do not have a valid email address; and, therefore, they are not receiving our numerous Blast messages each month. If you have an email address, but are not receiving our 'blasts' please contact me so we can update our data base. It may be that you currently do not have internet and email capabilities; if that changes and you want to be included please contact me.

thanks,
Ron Meilahn
763-862-2100
ronmeilahn@usfamily.net

Member helpline????
Do you have a woodturning question? Need help finding woodturning advice? Well, these members can help you! Contact for your woodturning related questions today!

Member lists
Any one member interested in a listing of current MWA members, please contact Pam Johnson, Treasurer at pam_doug.johnson@comcast.net or 651-430-1738. Please note, it is for personal use only. If any member prefers their name not be distributed, contact Pam.

Library
The MWA has an extensive library of video tapes and DVDs available for member checkout. The cost is $2.00 each rental and we request you return them at the next meeting. If you are unable to attend the following meeting please mail them back to:
Bob Jensen, 140 Rickard Rd., Fridley, Mn. 55432

Monthly Wood raffle
The wood raffle is a great tradition for our club. It acts as a fund raiser plus it allows all of us to experience a variety of woods. When you select wood to bring for the raffle bring only the best. If it is cracked, or “punky” put it in the fireplace. Bring the best wood you have and you can expect to get the best wood in return.
Classifieds

For sale:
Oliver Lathe - 12" swing-32" between centers- new 1 hp motor-variable speed-2 face plates
763/477/6294 or jimagnussen1@earthlink.net -- $450.00

For sale:
1 Jet Lathe 12 X 36 Model # JWL1236
Comes with face plate and 1 drive center
$400.00 or Best Offer
651.731.7527 Jackie Kogler

Sharp carbide hollowing tools.
No grinding and no lapping. The tool that Jimmy used at his demo. You saw the tool in action. For more information, take a look at hunterwoodturningtool.com or call Mike at 612-718-7926.

SUPPLIER DISCOUNTS to MWA MEMBERS

The following suppliers offer special discounts to MWA members. To receive a discount you must be a member in good standing, and show your current membership card to the merchant.

ABRASIVE RESOURCE
900 Lund Blvd #400, Anoka, MN
763-586-9595 or 1-800-814-7358
No showroom - Internet or catalog orders only.
Sandpaper, coated abrasives, rolls, clearance items - 20% discount
www.abrasiveresource.com

ROCKLER WOODWORKING
Mpls, 3025 Lyndale Ave S 612-822-3338
Burnsville, 2020 W Cty Rd 42, 952-892-7999
Maplewood, 1935 Beam Ave 651-773-5285
Minnetonka, 12995 Ridgedale Dr 952-542-0111
10% discount on all regularly priced items, except power tools.
Wholesale lumber prices to MWA members.
www.rockler.com

WOODCRAFT
9125 Lyndale Ave S, Bloomington 952-884-3634
10% discount on all items, except power tools.
www.woodcraft.com

YOUNGBLOOD LUMBER CO.
1335 Central AVE, MPLS.
612-789-3521
Wholesale prices to MWA members.
www.youngbloodlumber.com

Free turning-related ads for MWA members.
Commercial/non-member advertising $4.00/Issue per column inch. To place ad, contact Jeff Luedloff (jefflued@peoplepc.com) or (952) 496-1177

Ads will run for one issue unless you call to extend your ad for additional issues.

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