



MAWt Milwaukee-Area Woodturners
American Association of Woodturners WI Chapter since January 2006

MAWt eNews

Volume 5, Issue 5

Check out our website at <http://mawturners.com>

Shavings from the President's Shop

Woody Allen once said "I'd never join a club that would allow a person like me to become a member", that saying seems a little cynical to me but I've never really been much of a joiner either. When I joined the Milwaukee Area Woodturners a few years ago I wasn't sure what to expect, I certainly didn't expect the warm welcome that I got much less being voted president a few short years later. I spent the first few years eagerly anticipating the next meeting to find out who would be doing the next demo and what interesting new skill there would be to learn about. I didn't really think about what was going on behind the scenes, didn't see what it took to make the club the successful learning experience that it is. I've always been the guy standing at the back of the room, letting someone else be up front and involved. Now I'm seeing this all in a different light and know that being a member is more than just showing up on meeting night and parking yourself in a chair with a good view. The success of this club depends on the membership as a whole; we are all integral parts necessary to the growth and future of this club.

We now have nearly one hundred members with a variety of back grounds and experience level; everyone brings something to the table. When you come to the next meeting and find yourself a good spot to sit, try to think about

what it might mean to come forward from the back of the room and take a larger role in making this club a success. What more could you, as a member, bring to the table?

This month I would like to take the time to recognize one of our members that consistently has gone above and beyond for our club and has made a major impact in the club. This member is hard at work before any of the rest of us even sits down, and he doesn't even turn. So, I'd like everyone to take a minute and thank Dennis Dee for the fine job he does taking care of video recording all our demos. These videos are a valuable addition to our library. A while back I did a demo on turning pendants, Dennis recorded the demo as he always does. At the next meeting he gave me a copy of the demo that he had edited. I wasn't sure I wanted to watch myself do the demo but I played the video to see how it turned out. I was thoroughly impressed with the job he did, ended up watching the whole thing. Dennis is truly a valuable member. Thanks Dennis.

Be safe,
Jon



Sandy Sheahan demonstrating "Make a Plate" at the April meeting

MAWt Meeting Information

MAWT club meetings are held the first Monday of each month, starting at 6:30 P.M., at Woodcraft / Rhino LLC, 14115 W. Greenfield Ave. New Berlin, WI 53151 Phone: 262-785-6770, Fax: 262-785-6771, or <http://www.woodcraft.com/stores/store.aspx?id=506>

Board meetings start at 5:00 P.M., the day of club meetings, at Culvers on Hwy 100, across from the former Woodcraft location.

Upcoming Club Meeting Dates (through 1H 2011)

April 4, 2011
May 2, 2011
June 6, 2011

Spotlight Turner



Ron Zima

Q. How young are you?

A. 52

Q. Where is your home?

A. Milwaukee

Q. Family Information?

A. Married with 3 children, 5 grandchildren, and our Chihuahua Luigi

Q. Vocation?

A. I learned to read a micrometer when I was 7 or 8 from my Dad and was machining engine parts shortly after. I have been working as a CNC Machinist at Triangle tool for 20+ years

Q. Lathes?

A. My only lathe is a 1/4 hp Hickory given to me by my friend Walt Grannen. When I am ready for a new one I hope to gift this to another new turner like he did for me.

I don't know what my new lathe will be, but I'm sure that Jeff Selchow will tell me what to get.

Q. How long have you been turning and what got you started?

A. Aside from from a project I did in High school, what got me interested in this hobby was Turning For The Troops. I made a pen 3-1/2 years ago and loved it. I also took a class and made a baseball bat.

When I got my lathe from Walt, the first pen I made was for my wife. The next one was for my Dad for Christmas. He will not let anybody use it, not even his wife. I have only been turning seriously for 2 or 3 months. So far I have turned pens and some of the trinkets they have at Woodcraft.

What I enjoy most is the reaction I got from my wife, dad, and everyone else I have turned things for.

Q. What do you not turn now that you would like to, or plan to, in the future?

A. After seeing Jason Swanson turn a Caravelle Bowl at the Wood Show, and some of the other projects displayed, it tells me the possibilities

are endless; and why can't it be me that makes the next really cool project that everybody talks about.

Q. Closing Thoughts?

A. A very special thank you to my Dad. He taught me my trade and the value of a good work ethic, among other things. I love you dad.

To my wife Linda, thank you for encouraging and supporting me in all I do. Because of her I am starting a business making signs, pens, and other trinkets called "Hand Made By Z". I love us, honey.

I would also like to thank all of the people that have helped me along the way, especially the crew at Woodcraft.

See you in the workshop, Zima

AAW News

Educational Opportunity Grant Auction

Years ago when I was fairly new to the field of woodturning, I was at an AAW symposium and witnessed an amazing event at the Educational Opportunity Grant (EOG) auction. People were bidding on what had been written on a napkin! David Ellsworth had simply written, *I owe you a piece about six inches in diameter*, then signed it, *D.E.* I recall the high bid was around \$4,000. All I could think was, "Wow! Four grand for some writing on a napkin."

The following year, I was tempted to put one of my creations in the auction, but I was concerned that no one would bid on my donation because I wasn't a well-known artist. Nevertheless, I donated one of my works and it brought in \$250. I was tickled pink.

Each year the auction grows as more pieces are donated and the AAW often generates more money than the previous year. This is the beauty and the strength of the AAW and its members: It doesn't matter who we are or where we are with our skills, we all have a willingness to chip in and help the organization grow and prosper. That spirit has and will continue to build a strong foundation for the AAW.

The EOG auction is one of the highlights of the symposium; all the donated pieces are auctioned either silently or live. This year the live auction promises to be the most successful one ever because many major collectors will join us to celebrate our 25th anniversary as the Collectors of Wood Art forum is being held in conjunction with the AAW symposium. This is a great opportunity to get exposure for your work. Donations of quality work and enthusiastic bidding allow us to achieve a successful auction.

Many top turners and past demonstrators from all over the world will attend this event, joined by new demonstrators, many local to the Saint Paul area. To name a few who have already donated to the auction: David Ellsworth, Trent Bosch, Jacques Vesery, Tim Heil, John Jordan, John Wessel, Ray Key, Joey Richardson, Bill Pottorf, J Paul Fennell, and Michael Hosaluk.

Consider donating something to this year's EOG auction-it doesn't matter if you are a beginner or a professional-or bidding on a great piece of art. Tables in the Instant Gallery will be set up to accept your work and bidding sheets will be available.

Best wishes and see you in Saint Paul!
Binh Pho, EOG Auction Committee

AAW 25th Anniversary International Symposium
Win a Powermatic Lathe!
Custom painted by Binh Pho?

Walter Meier Inc. Powermatic/JET donated the lathe. Binh Pho painted it. You could be the lucky winner. Raffle tickets are \$10 and will be available through your local chapter as well at the symposium. Proceeds support activities of the American Association of Woodturners.

Bring Your Donated Beads of Courage Lidded Box to the May Meeting

Beads of Courage helps children RECORD, TELL and OWN their stories of courage during treatment for cancer and other serious illness.

Lidded boxes are needed for kids to store their beads. Boxes need to be 5-6" in diameter and 2-3" deep with a loose fitting lid and a knob that's easy to grasp. Finished boxes should be delivered to the May meeting. For more information log on to the Beads of Courage website at www.beadsofcourage.org/

Bring Your Crime Stoppers Donation to the May Meeting

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If you are making a turned object donation for Crime Stoppers, please deliver your piece to Gary Datka at the May meeting.

Embroidered Club Logo Available

The club now has a source to embroider shirts with the clubs logo. Members need to bring their own shirt(s) to have embroidered. Shirts will be sent when there is enough to ship. Cost will be \$12 per shirt. If

interested, please contact Carl Brust at cjbrust@wi.rr.com

Member Gallery

You are invited to bring up to two pieces that you have recently turned. This is a great opportunity to share the "lessons learned" during your turning sessions with other members. Your participation inspires and challenges other to grow in their knowledge and skill.

Wood Raffle

You are encouraged to donate wood and buy raffle tickets as often as you are able. Please bring wood that you would like to turn yourself. Your participation helps support the financial well-being of our club and is greatly appreciated.

Membership Process and Dues

Club membership is from January through December. New members that join after October 1 will not need to renew their membership until the end of the following year's membership period. Dues are as follows (this can change without notice): MAWt annual dues: \$20.00 and AAW annual dues: \$48.00 minimum (see AAW website (www.woodturner.org) for member options). All prospective MAWt club members must be a current AAW in order to join. A copy of a current AAW membership card, or copy of the front cover of your AAW magazine that displays membership information, or copy of your on-line AAW membership application payment is required at the time of joining the club.

AAW membership benefits are:

- AAW Journal: American Woodturner
- Published quarterly