



MAWt Milwaukee-Area Woodturners

American Association of Woodturners WI Chapter since January 2006

MAWt eNews

Volume 7, Issue 4

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

Shavings from the President's Shop

First off I need to apologize to Scott for not getting this article to him on time, I wanted to wait until after the Jamieson demo...that's the excuse I'm using. Next I'd like to thank a few of our members that were instrumental in helping put the demo together. Dave Drickhamer not only took care of all the registrations but also helped coordinate the lunches. Carl Brust and Mel Mickey took care of getting the all the wood prepared for the weekend and also the hands on demos. Gary Datka and his wife gave Lyle a place to stay while he was here. Char made sure that we had bakery and coffee each morning. Dennis Dee, who is one of our biggest unsung heroes, was kept on his toes the whole weekend doing the video work. Thanks to you all, your efforts were greatly appreciated.

We must also remember that without Chris and Dena providing us with a place to hold our meetings, have these demos and even gave us the use of 4 lathes for the hands on demos we would never even get this off the ground. They also opened the store extra hours so we could have a little more time so let's make sure to show them our appreciation.

For those of you who were able to attend, I hope you got at least as much out of the demo as I did. No matter how much we know, we can always pick up some new information or ways to improve our skills. This was my first demo of this kind and I was also able to attend the hands on demo on Monday. I knew there would be a lot of good information and wasn't disappointed but the icing on the cake was the hands on demo. We can watch somebody turn all day long but picking up the tool and trying the technique with an expert at your elbow makes

all the difference in the world. Demos like these are our best opportunity to make great strides in our skills.

The whole purpose of our club is education. We gather each month to talk with other turners, see demos on turning and learn what we can to improve our own turning but bringing in a professional turner like Lyle can be a game changer.

This is the first time I've put together an event like this and I must admit that I was a touch stressed over it but I think it all went well. There is, of course, some things I would do different but all in all I'm satisfied with the result and I hope that those that attended appreciated the effort. I will say that I'm somewhat glad it's over and I can again focus a little more attention to actually making some square wood round. Today I cut up a bunch of flame Box Elder; maybe I'll even have time to turn some!

Be safe,
Jon

2012 Club Meeting Dates

April 2
May 7
Jun 4
July 2
August 6
September 10
October 1
November 5
December 3

Demonstrations

March Presenter, Floyd Timm, turned bracelets using a home-made hook tool between homemade centers.

April Presenter, Jason Swanson will turn Easter Eggs. Egg shapes are not the easiest shape to turn and make look realistic. Jason will show his technique for turning these challenging shapes.

Spotlight Turner

Jason Swanson

Q. How young are you?

A. I'm 40 years old and still acting like I'm 21 or so.

Q. Where is home?

A. I live in Racine. Feels good to be back - I grew up in Racine. I lived here until 1990 when I graduated high school. I moved to Florida for two years but decided it was a nice place to visit and moved back to Racine.

Tell us about your Family

A. I'm single! My wife of 15 years threw me out about 2 years ago. My 16-year old daughter, Holley, lives with her mom. She drives now, has a job, a boyfriend but still makes time to see dad whenever possible. She is a straight "A" student, competitive figure skater, loves shooting guns with dad, and has plans to be a Pastry Chef and possibly her own bakery someday.

Q. What is your vocation?

A. I'm a professional Woodgeek. If my eyes are open, I'm doing something with wood. During the week I sell hardwood for Kettle Moraine Hardwoods in Caledonia, WI. I was teaching woodworking and woodturning classes at Woodcraft in Milwaukee for a few years but haven't had a class in a few months. I teach woodturning classes out of my own shop or I'll travel to an individual's house to teach him/her on their own equipment. I consult with professional woodworkers and/or cabinet shops on machine setup and material/process control, as well as

employee training. I am a Woodturning Instructor at John C. Campbell Folk Art School in Brasstown, NC where I conduct 6-day hands-on workshops on Segmented Woodturning. I am a woodturning demonstrator. I've demonstrated all over the country at local clubs (just like MAWT), at Ohio River Valley Woodturning Symposium in 2009 and 2011, at Turn-On Chicago Woodturning Symposium in 2008 and 2010, and for local charity groups. I am a Velvet oil dealer - nothing better than selling a product that you truly believe in and use often. I'm a gallery furniture builder. I've built dozens of pieces of custom furniture for high-end clients and for Sawbridge Studios in Chicago and Winnetka, IL. I also take on 18-century, Shaker, Frank Lloyd Wright, and Greene and Greene reproduction work on a private commission basis and have won numerous awards over the years for my furniture. Whew! I'm a professional Wood geek. For anyone that's waited a week or more for an e-mail reply or a return phone-call from me, now you know why. I am constantly working but I will try to help anybody that asks for help.

Shop overview:

Q. How many lathes do you own?

A. Currently, I only have two lathes. A Jet 2hp 16-42 and a Jet 12-20VS. I have 2 Oneway Talon chucks with 1x8 adaptors for the 12-20 and 3 Oneway Talons with 1-1/4x8 adaptors for the 16-42 (I hate taking the time to change jaws). I have a Oneway Bowl Steady and Spindle Steady for the 16-42. I built my own Bonnie Klein style threading jig for the 16-42. I also have a Sphere Turning Jig for the 16-42. The 16-42 is what I turn on every day while my little 12-20 is nice for taking on the road. Just unbolt that little guy from the stand and throw it in the back of the car.

Q. If you could upgrade to another lathe, what would it be and why?

A. I really like my Jet 16-42. It truly does everything I've ever needed it to do, however, I've really wanted a Robust American Beauty for some time now. I believe in keeping the money I make as local as possible and Brent English has one of the best mousetraps I've seen in a long time. A close second choice would be the old standby - a Powermatic 3520b. Nick Cook (the other skew guy),

demonstrator for Powermatic, had a heavy hand in the design of the 3520 and it shows. The 3520b has just about all the features a turner could want in a professional lathe, it's just not made in Wisconsin like the Robust is.

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

A. I got my first lathe (a Delta midi) for Christmas back in 2004. I had so many furniture commissions that year that the lathe stayed in the box until July of 2005. I didn't think I'd even like woodturning but it had become a necessity for me. I had a personal problem having to clarify to my customers that I had farmed out the turning work on furniture pieces. In some cases I had even sawed the tree down from a client's property, had the log(s) sawed into boards, dried the boards myself, built the piece(s) of furniture, applied the finish, BUT didn't do the woodturning(s). It wasn't completely off my hand - so I had to teach myself how to turn wood.

Q. What do you enjoy most about turning?

A. This one is simple - teaching others. There is nothing more enjoyable for me than to "watch the light turn on" in a new turner. It's almost magical the first time a person cuts wood on a wood lathe. Remember your first time? Remember the smile you had on your face? Remember how addictive it was and how you couldn't wait to get home from work so that you could turn? Now imagine yourself teaching others to turn wood. If woodturning is addictive, teaching woodturning is even more addictive. I honestly get bummed out between teaching gigs and wish I had more opportunities to teach.

Q. What do you enjoy least about turning?

A. This one is kinda tough and I might just ruffle a few feathers here. The easy answer would be - when it's time to turn off the lathe for the night and go to bed. But let's get a little more in depth. I very much dislike the notion that the lathe makes the turner. I've seen it in just about every club I've been to. So and so spent thousands of dollars on his lathe and therefore, somehow, he's a better turner. I've actually been chuckled at and gotten looks of disbelief when I tell people my daily lathe is a Jet 16-42. I wonder if anyone has ever laughed

at the work Bonnie Klein does on her Jet 10-14. Her boxes and tops sell for hundreds, if not thousands of dollars and she's made a lifetime of money teaching and demonstrating all over the world. How about Ron Nelson of the Milwaukee Woodturners? Some of the most beautiful hollow forms I've ever seen came off his Jet 16-42. Folks, make the best of what you have. You're the talent behind your lathe. The lathe is just a tool that enables you to get your work done.

Q. What was your first completed turned project?

A. The first completed piece off my lathe was actually a semi-closed hollow form. It was a piece of Walnut (firewood) with about a 1/2" wall thickness. I worked on that piece for hours and when I was finally done I was exhausted. It was the ugliest form I've ever seen. I had numerous catches trying to hollow it and the interior showed that fact. I had never seen anyone turn and was using dull tools and poor tool techniques but I somehow hacked my way through it. I had even had a well-known woodturning instructor offer me free woodturning lessons when he learned that I was taking up woodturning. I respectfully declined because I wanted to be able to tell people that I was completely self-taught in woodturning as I was in woodworking.

Q. What is your favorite individual piece that you have turned and why?

A. My all-time favorite piece has to be the Safari Vase. It is a 5-1/2" diameter x 5" high segmented made from Black Palm, Honduras Mahogany, and Hard Maple. The Palm and Mahogany segments were all assembled and turned "end-grain" to show off the beauty of the Black Palm. I turned this vase back in 2007 and it is still my favorite. It's been to numerous art shows and was a Blue Ribbon winner at the Kenosha County fair in 2007. When I used to take it to art shows, I'd place a huge price tag on it and hope it wouldn't sell. It never did. Today it sits proudly in one of the curio cabinets in my dining room.

Q. What is your favorite form that you turn?

A. Kind of a tough question because I'm one of the oddballs that like spindle work, bowls, and hollow forms, almost equally. I guess if I had to pick one I'd say I like turning vases the best. Under hung

rims are still challenging (especially when they're segmented), you can show off wood patterns and let the wood really scream, and not that many people are turning vases these days. I like to be somewhat different than most folks and vases let me do that.

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

I'd really like to get into coring. There is a certain magic in a set of nested bowls that I'd like to explore.

Q. What is your favorite piece someone else has turned and why?

A. I have a few:

Seggy: A segmented vase turned in 2007 by Malcolm Tibbetts which he donated all proceeds to The American Cancer Society for Breast Cancer awareness. Google "Seggy's Dream" and watch the YouTube video on the making of this vase. The video will make you laugh all the way through and if you're not crying in the end you're just not human. Malcolm could've sold this piece for thousands rather than giving the money to charity. It speaks volumes of his giving character. If you have ever the chance to meet him, ask him anything - he's always willing to teach and give a helping hand.

The Trembler: A trembler made by Fred Culbert. Fred was one of these guys that would give you the shirt off his back if you needed it. He had every tool known to man and was willing to not only teach you how to use them, but he'd actually let you take them home and borrow them. It's really irritating that God needed a woodturning buddy more than we did. Since first seeing The Trembler I wanted it but never had the nerve to ask.

Q. Are there any turners, well known or not, that have influenced your turning?

A. I am influenced by just about every woodturner I come across in one way or another. The first demonstrator I ever saw stands behind a lathe and demonstrate live woodturning is my buddy Kirk DeHeer from Craft Supplies USA. At the woodworking show in Milwaukee I stood there with my daughter Holley in utter disbelief watching him demo not even knowing what he was making.

When he got done turning he asked her if she had ever lost any teeth and if the Tooth Fairy had ever been to her house. She said yes. He then handed her a Tooth Fairy Box to put her missing tooth into before placing it under her pillow because it would be easier for the Tooth Fairy to find her tooth if it were in a box rather than just under her pillow. I damn near cried! From that moment on I wanted to demonstrate. Now, many years later Kirk tells this story to people and almost gets choked up telling it saying that Jason Swanson is his success story. The second live woodturning demo I ever saw was Cliff Mitchell. I can't remember what he was turning, however, I remember how he could keep the crowds absolute attention - comedy. Not only is he a great turner, he's a great showman. There was never anyone in the back rows talking amongst themselves during a Cliff Mitchell demo. Why? Because he was that good.

You just wanted to give him your attention. Speaking of showman, how about the great Jimmy Clewes? If you ever get the opportunity to see Jimmy live, do it. Pay whatever you have to pay to see him. He really is that good. You might not be inclined to go home and try any of his projects but you will go home with a sore jaw from laughing so much being glad you took time from your day to go see him. I've been greatly influenced by Dick Sing and his rock-steady hands, tool control, and precision. He's also a great teacher and willing to help anyone that asks for it. Believe it or not, Dick was my assistant back in 2010 at John C. Campbell Folk Art School. The students I had couldn't believe it when the internationally known Master was helping out the newbie.

Q. What is your favorite wood to work with and why?

A. I'm kind of partial to Cherry. When it's figured it can be curly, mottled, cat's paw, gum pocket, or even burl. It turns easily, smells good, and is relatively inexpensive. It takes a decent polish and looks great with just about any finish. Best of all, its surface oxidizes with age and just keeps looking better the older it gets. Wish I could say the same for me...

Q. Got any nicknames? How did you get it?

A. Wood geek or wiwoodguy are two nicknames I made up and gave to myself. Some people have probably given me nicknames that cannot be put into print here.

Q. Any words of wisdom for your fellow turners?

Believe in yourself and you will be great. You can do anything you put your mind to. Help others achieve their goals. Praise God for the talents He has given you.

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.

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
 - High quality full-color publication
- Large circulation
- Variety of articles
 - Current trends
 - Techniques
 - Critiques
 - Galleries
 - Upcoming events
- Local AAW Chapters - Parent organization of more than 300 local chapters in North America and around the world
- AAW Resource Directory
- AAW Symposium – discounted fees for members
- AAW Website (www.woodturner.org)
- AAW Forum (www.aawforum.org/vbforum)
- Educational Opportunity Grants
- Liability Insurance for Chapters – U.S. and Canada
- Business insurance available for U.S. members

Questions about MAWt and AAW membership? Please contact Carl Brust at: cjbrust@wi.rr.com

Club Library

We offer our members a growing list of topical resources that can be checked out and returned at the following month's meeting. Our library includes DVD's, books, and magazines that address many aspects of woodturning. This is a popular member benefit and the lending rules should be respected and honored. For the benefit and enjoyment of all club members, it is important that you return all MAWt videos and other educational materials at the following month's club meeting. To inquire about titles and check availability, please contact: Gary Datka, Club librarian at mawtlibrary@hotmail.com



New titles are added regularly to the club Library

MAWt Membership

Our membership consists of both novice and experienced woodturners. We place a high priority on teaching and expanding each member's turning skills and knowledge of the craft. We encourage each member to freely share ideas, insights, and lessons learned as a result of their experience. Having fun and good fellowship is required at all club functions.

MAWt Demonstrators Wanted

We are seeking demonstrators that have an interesting theme or approach to turning, and have demonstrated sound technique and skill level. Please forward your suggestions to Charlene Dee at: charsden@wi.rr.com

Member Services

Name tag or membership card requests or Contact information changes, such as: address, phone, email address, please send an email with your request to Carl Brust at cjbrust@wi.rr.com

For Sale

If you have equipment or tools for sale, please submit a detailed description and prices by the 15th of each month and we will include it in the following month's eNewsletter. Please email your information to Scott Kosteretz at skoz@wi.rr.com

For Sale



Delta Planer model 22-540. 15 Amp Motor. 12" x 5.9" capacity. Like new, hardly used, still has some of the protective plastic on the inner bed. Price includes stand and extra set of new knives. Asking \$300. Call 262 224 8578.

Member Supplier Discount Program

We are continually researching new woodturning resources that may offer our club members special discounts. If you have any suggestions, please contact Jon Behnke at [Jon Behnke <fetchitup@live.com](mailto:Jon.Behnke@fetchitup.com)
Current Supplier Discounts:

- Woodcraft (Requires AAW or MAWt membership card to receive 10% discount)

- Rockler (Requires AAW or MAWt membership card to receive 10% discount)
- Klingspor's Woodworking Shop (Club members receive 10% discount on all non-powered merchandise)
- Craft Supplies (Club members receive 10% discount when mentioning Promotional Code- Clubmem)

Suppliers and Resources

We are looking to add new woodturning websites to our "Member Resources" newsletter section. If you have discovered interesting and informative websites related to woodturning, please send an email to: Scott Kosteretz (skoz@wi.rr.com)

Note: The editor has the right to include or exclude suggested websites based on space, relevancy, and club standards.

Manzanita Turning Burls

www.nativemanzanitaburl.com

CHOICE WOODS

Contact: Clay Johnson at 2801 Floyd Street, Louisville, KY 40209, 502-587-0777, 888/895-7779, www.choice-woods.com

"I only ship what I would want to receive"

Steve Russell's Lathe Talk

Free Monthly e-Zine: Steve Russell's Lathe Talk, a free monthly newsletter (e-zine) for subscribers of Steve Russell's "Woodturning Videos Plus" woodturning website. This newsletter will be delivered on or about the first of each month to the email address you indicated on your sign-up form. All back issues of this newsletter are available to subscribers.

Lathe Talk will offer tips and tricks to make your woodturning easier and more productive. I'll also show you ways to save money in your studio, so you can stretch your hard earned money. In addition, we will periodically offer subscribers only specials on our videos and e-books. To subscribe:

Steven Russell
steverussell@woodturningvideosplus.com

The Woodworking Channel

If you haven't check this out, you will discover many woodworking video resources (Free to view) on this site including: A Wood working experience, AAW, Fine Woodworking, Intarsia and Marquetry, IWF, The American Woodshop, The Great British Woodshop and more! You can find this at: www.woodworkingchannel.com

American Association of Woodturners (AAW)

International, non-profit society dedicated to the advancement of woodturning by providing education, information, and organization.

www.woodturner.org

Woodturners Resource

This site includes: message boards, woodturning galleries, on-line video's, featured artists, websites, tutorials, projects and tips, event calendar, vendors and resources, and chat.

www.woodturnersresource.com

Woodcentral

Woodworking information, discussions, chats, articles and sources for everything the woodworker needs. www.woodcentral.com

Woodturning Online

Woodturning Online offers turning projects, plans and articles for woodturners including information on bowl, pen and segmented turning using the lathe and more. www.woodturningonline.com

Around the Woods

Wood turning lathe instruction, tips and techniques for the beginner or experienced turner. Wood turning lathe tips, techniques and projects to add to your joy in turning. www.aroundthewoods.com

Woodturns

The Online Woodturning Community Woodturning articles, woodturning directory, woodturning artists, woodturning projects, woodturning tools, etc. www.woodturns.com

Mystic Burls

530-917-9642

mysticburls8@yahoo.com

<http://www.mysticburlwood.com>

Exotic Blanks

Ed Brown is now carrying Jason Swanson's segmented pen blanks under the brand name "Stripe Tease". For anybody who has admired Jason's segmented pens and would like to turn one of their own, please check out Ed's website www.exoticblanks.com.

Woodcraft Classes

If you are interested in developing or expanding your woodworking skills, including woodturning, Woodcraft has classes for all skill levels. Please refer to your monthly Woodcraft flyer or request a class schedule during your next visit to Woodcraft.

Regional Classes and Events

May 13, 2012 Crime Stoppers Fundraiser

10th anniversary Crime Stoppers Mother's Day "Pancakes with Mom" fundraiser on Sunday May 13, 2012. If interested, please donate a turned item (or 2) for our fundraiser raffle table. Items can be brought in at or before the May MAWt meeting. For more information, please visit our website <http://www.tosacrimestoppers.com/> or call Gary Datka at (414) 443-0027.

MAWt Board Meeting Minutes

Board meeting minutes of **Milwaukee Area Woodturners** March 5, 2012 at HWY 100 Culver's at 5pm

In attendance: Jon Behnke, Dave Drickhamer, Sandy Sheahan, Jerry Tackes, Char Dee

Jamison Demo:

- Lathes will be taken downstairs on Friday.
- Doors will open at 9am each day for the demo.
- The club will purchase a Wolverine for the grinder. Jerry will setup the Wolverine and grinder.
- Lunch will be provided each day.
- Dave will order food for Saturday and Tuesday. Jon will order food for Sunday and Monday.

- Mel Mickey will provide the wood. Carl will assist.
- Al Herling will provide an air compressor.
- Each person doing the hands on is responsible for providing their own safety equipment.
- We will order a new mic for demos. Cost will be split between MAWt, Wisconsin Wood Turners and Woodworkers Guild.
- Registration for Turn-on-Chicago is open.

General Meeting minutes of **Milwaukee Area Woodturners** March 5, 2012

The Jamison demo is March 17 and 18. Hands on is March 19 and 20th.

- There are still openings for the Hands on and demo
- Each person doing the hands on is responsible for providing their own safety equipment and tools.
- Our website, <http://www.mawturners.com/> has a *Members Only* section. Attend a meeting to get the password for this new section.
- Please support the Wood Raffle by buying tickets and bringing in wood.
- We will order a new mic for demos. Cost will be split between MAWt, Wisconsin Wood Turners and Woodworkers Guild.
- Registration for Turn-on-Chicago is open.
- Our demo this month was Floyd Timm on making wooden bracelets.

MAWt e-News Submissions

MAWt welcomes the submission of news stories, photos, calendar items, letters, announcements, or any other information that would be of interest to woodturners and relevant to woodturning. Below are guidelines for various submissions:

Please include your name and contact information (either a telephone number or e-mail address). Please send the information in a timely manner. Remember to include as much pertinent

information, including the following:

WHO was involved?

WHAT was the event?

WHEN did the event occur?

WHERE did the event occur?

WHY was the event important?

Please send your e-News submissions no later than the 15th of each month. The editor has the right to edit or not to include the request based on space limitations or topics not relevant to woodturning. Please contact Scott Kosteretz at 414-852-3853 or skoz@wi.rr.com

David Drickhamer, Secretary (2009-2011)

Sandy Sheahan, Treasurer (2011-2013)

Char Dee (2012-2014)

Jim Andersen (2012-2014)

Past Presidents / Board Member Advisory

Jason Swanson, Past President (2008-2010)

Scott Kosteretz, Past President (2005-2007)

MAWt Committees

If you aren't on a committee, you are encouraged to volunteer.

- ❖ **Member/Guest Registration:**
Tom Palaubecki and Jim Swank
- ❖ **Meeting Set-up/Clean-up:**
Dennis Dee, Jason Swanson, and Sandy Sheahan
- ❖ **Library:**
Gary Datka
- ❖ **Photography:**
Don Boeck and Ron Nelson
- ❖ **Demonstrator Scheduling:**
Char Dee
- ❖ **Member Gallery Facilitator:**
Jon Behnke
- ❖ **Wood Raffle Ticket Sales:**
Char Dee
- ❖ **E-Newsletter Editor:**
Scott Kosteretz
- ❖ **Membership:**
Carl Brust
- ❖ **Audio/Video:**
Dennis Dee



MAWt Board members

Jon Behnke, President (2011-2013)

Jerry Tackes, Vice President (2011-2013)