


<http://www.zvwoodturners.org>


A Southeastern Minnesota Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

Presidential Jottings



Most of you, Zumbro Valley Woodturners members, are of an age when it was a common thing to make New Year Resolutions. Some of us are merely happy if we are able to stay awake to see the New Year arrive. Whether you make resolutions you attempt to keep for a while or rigidly adhere to them throughout the coming year, most of you try to think ahead for ways to better what you do or how you live, how you relate to family or friends. This is true in how you attack your "turning."

We are at the end of what has been a "good" year. Good in many ways. We have seen many demonstrations which showed us the way through problems we have faced in our turning. We have been inspired to attempt projects we perhaps wouldn't have tried without insight given in one of our meetings or in chatting to a fellow member. We have been fortunate in being able to meet in Harmon's or Lyle's well-equipped shops or at the Covenant Church (and we thank them for allowing that).

We are addicted to a hobby that's hard to beat. We have the chance to interest others, students and adults, in the beauty of wood and what they might do with it. We soon have the chance to help Mayo High School students with their turning. Lyle Solem will explain this for you in this newsletter. We have the chances to interest many through our involvement in the March woodcarvers' show and the Festival of Trees next fall; all this along with word-of-mouth chitchat about your hobby.

At our last meeting in November we were treated to insight into choosing the lathe that fits our needs; this with the help of Mel and Harmon. I'm sure they will be happy to help you in your decision in choosing a lathe. Thanks Mel and Harmon. We also discussed programming for January in place of our regular meeting night. We have the chance to host Luke Mann in a Saturday learning session, January 6th. Harmon will tell you about this session in this newsletter. Be alert to the time deadline he will mention.

My term as your president is at a close. Thank you for all your help, your interest in club affairs. In the November 30th meeting you elected Mel Turcanik, Harmon Pierce, Claire Ewert and Tom Paska to be on board. In our board meeting December 11 the following officers were elected: Lyle Solem- President, Todd VanDeWalker- Vice President, Tom Paska- Treasurer, Mel Turcanik- Secretary. Jim Liberko has kindly accepted staying on as our Librarian though he is now off the board. And a special "thank you" to Irv Miller for his work in shaping up this newsletter.

May you each have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Dennis Holt, now retired President, Zumbro Valley Woodturners

ZVW Meetings

January 6, 9am to 3pm.
Special Saturday session with accomplished woodturner Luke Mann (<http://www.lukemann.us>) from Vermont on Hollow Turning with Simple Tools, \$30. Bring a bag lunch.
No last-Thursday-of-the-month meeting in January.

February 22, 6:30-9:30pm, Lyle Solem and Jim Liberko on Sanding and Finishing Using Russ Fairfield's Techniques. Meet at the Rochester Covenant Church.

March 29, 6:30-9:30, Irv Miller on Spindle Turning for Furniture. Meet at Harmon's shop.

April 26

May 31

June 28

July 26

August 30

September 6, x:xx pm: Club Annual Family Picnic. Meet at Oxbow Park.
No last-Thursday-of-the-month meeting in September.

October 25

November 29

From the Editor

Here's What Happened at the November 30th Meeting and at the ZVW Board Meeting on November 11th



We started the November 30th meeting with our new format. First a half-hour of socializing, looking leisurely at the show and tell items, and checking in/out library books and media. Next came the business portion: introductions and announce-

ments by our president, and our treasurer; an inquiry of members on their interest in a four or more hour session on the first Saturday in January presented by a professional woodturner for a very reasonable fee of \$30 per attendee; a showing of the progress in our logo artwork; and the election of members to the board of directors. This was followed by a brief show and tell, and finally the feature presentation on lathe selection conducted by Mel and Harmon. Details of all of the above are presented elsewhere in this newsletter.

On December 11th we had a ZVW Board of Directors meeting in which officers for the calendar year 2007 were elected. Lyle Solem is our new president and the board is sure that he will do as good a job as president

as he did as our treasurer for several years. He already has organized a woodturning mentors activity with Rochester Mayo High School. Please see "Wanted" below.

Todd VanDeWalker is vice president and will continue as chairman of the program committee. Jim Garrett and Clair Ewert have volunteered to serve on this committee.

Tom Paska is our new treasurer and will receive the check book from Lyle and maintain the members list. If you have not paid your 2007 dues, please send your check to Tom (2415 22nd St NW, Rochester, MN 55901). Tom is a relatively new ZVW member, but has jumped right in to actively partake in some of the administrative activities that it takes to keep the club going. Thank you Tom.

Mel Turcanik will continue as the Secretary. Jim Liberko, although he declined to be on the board for another 2 years, will continue as librarian. I will continue with the newsletter and the web site.

An of course Dennis and Harmon will continue on the board; always offering their ideas, constructive criticism, and their many other contributions.

Irv Miler

Wanted -- Woodturners to be Mentors at Rochester Mayo High School



One of the missions of a Woodturning Chapter like ours (the Zumbro Valley Woodturners) is to mentor young and not so young individuals. We now have that opportunity for you.

We need two people per class session to mentor young boys and girls that will be working on a wood lathe. These students are

presently taking a wood working shop class at Rochester Mayo High School.

If you can help, it is not required that you work every day. Whatever day you would be available would be appreciated.

At the present time the students are making furniture and their next project is doing wood turning on a lathe. They have five lathes, the instructor will teach

safety and tool handling/usage. As the mentor; our job, will to be to assist and/or answer any questions the students may have while they are doing their project.

The project they will be turning is a small 10 inch wooden bat using the Gouge, Skew and Parting Tool.

When are you needed? You can be a mentor on any of the following days.

December 19, 20 and 21

January 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, 17 & 18.

Time: 8:30 AM to 9:30 AM each day.

Where: Rochester Mayo High School.

If you need more information or you can help, please contact Lyle Solem to answer your questions and get you scheduled.

Phone 507-289-7501

e-mail ldsolem@aol.com

Editor's Note: The current issue (Winter, 2006) of the American Woodturner, the Journal of the AAW, has two articles on AAW chapters coaching and introducing turning in local high schools. In particular, the sidebar on page 51, "Dan's story," tells about the difference one AAW member made in one student's life.

I brought an itty-bitty olive wood half-turned bowl to the November meeting and asked some members how to secure it in my General 160 12" gap-bed lathe (not ideal for miniature stuff) for hollowing. I had tried a friction-fit jam chuck made from a scrap block mounted on a screw center, but the foot was just too small. If I had turned a deeper foot, I would have had a saucer rather than a bowl. Mel Turcanik suggested hot-melt glue.

The next day I tried Mel's hot-melt glue suggestion. I first turned a very shallow recess in a flat blank on a screw center to center the bowl foot. I then applied a moderate amount of hot-melt glue to the foot and pressed it into the recess. This centered the bowl very securely. After hollowing, sanding, and waxing the bowl, I was faced with the challenge of removing the finished bowl without breaking its thin wall. I revved up my heat gun (a hair dryer would work fine) and aimed it at the recessed blank near the base of the bowl. In less than a minute I was able to pop the bowl out of its recess with very little force. It took a bit of picking with my fingernail to remove the remnants of the cold glue from the bottom of the bowl. I removed the last traces when I reversed the bowl in the lathe to touch up the foot. The olive wood was turned dry. I'm not sure what the heat gun would have done to it if it were turned wet. Later, Mel sent me this email:

I forgot to mention the removal process I use for hot melt. This time of year, put it outside for about 20 minutes and it will pop right off. Cold diminishes the holding power considerably. I don't remember ever using it on a wet piece so I can't guess what the results might be. Mel

After turning another miniature bowl using my hot-melt mounting technique, I thought I would try Mel's suggestion for removing the bowl from the blank that it was mounted on. I put the assembly in my freezer (0 degrees F) for a half-hour, removed it, and tried to pop the small bowl "right off" by pulling. The bowl was in a tight, shallow recess, so I could not easily get a tool behind it. Instead of using considerable finger force, I went back to my heat gun method. Maybe I have a better quality hot-melt glue than you do, Mel.



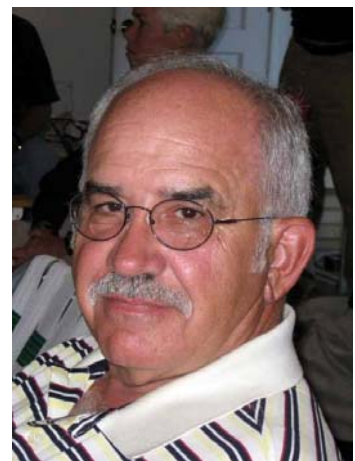
Visitors are Always Welcome

Ken Brown visited our chapter meeting on November 30. Thanks for dropping by Ken. Hope to see you back.

A Hearty Welcome to ZVW New Members



Nancy Brewer and Wayne Van-Every



Ron Pew

Show and Tell on November 30th



To the left, Tom Paska's bowl of letter openers. To the right, Dave Dunn's burly walnut vase and Clair Ewert's segmented rolling pin. Lower left, Harmon Pierce's spalted maple platter and Dennis Holt's tree ornaments. Lower right, Lyle Solem's grandma's bowl, Irv Miler's Israeli olive log, and Tom Paska's mini grandfather's clock.



November Featured Presentation Mel Turcanik and Harmon Pierce on Lathe Selection



Comments by Irv Miller

Mel kicked off the presentation by handing out an outline of the main criteria for selecting a lathe and pretty much followed the outline while Harmon injected his knowledge and preferences at appropriate times. Club members had several questions that were well answered by either Mel, Harmon, or other club members. Two points stood out: 1) Before shopping for a lathe, decide what you want to do with it, and 2) Members have a variety of different lathes and most are more than willing to show them to other members who would like to see one or check one out before making a purchase.

Questions and comments from the floor included controlling speed with a DC motor and with a 3 phase converting system. I asked a question on using a foot switch to stop and start a lathe frequently for caliper measurements on duplicate turnings. Mel said that he uses one on his mini-lathe and is a great convenience. The next day I got an email from him expounding on foot switch systems. The following is an addendum to the meeting discussion and also is an example of club members helping other club members. Most of us are

willing to share our knowledge with others, so if you have a question, just ask at a meeting, by phone, or by email.

Hi Irv,

It just occurred to me that there are a couple of other switches that should be added to a lathe with a foot switch for safety and convenience. The first is a foot switch enable switch. When off, the foot switch is inoperative. This is important because it's kind of scary to have the lathe suddenly start when you are adjusting the tool rest or tightening a chuck because you have stepped on the foot switch unawares. The second is a foot switch bypass that lets you turn the lathe on and off like normal so that if you are doing cuts that require you to move around so it can be done without having to use the foot switch.

Let me know if you need a wiring diagram, I've done these on my small lathe. It's also very easy to build a foot switch from a standard micro switch and standard hardware (110v). Mine is a home made one made from old copier parts and aluminum window frame.

Mel

From the Librarian, Jim Liberko

The following materials have been ordered for our library and should be available in January

Video Tape: A Course on Spindle Turning

3 Video Tape Set: Russ Fairfield

3 DVD Set: Boxes

Book: Wood Turning, A Foundation Course by Keith Rowley

Book: Wood Turning, Forms and Materials by John Hunnex

Book: Decorating Turned Wood by Liz and Michael O'Donnell

ZVW Board of Directors November 30 Election Results

Elected for a 2-year term starting January 1, 2007

Clair Ewert

Tom Paska

Harmon Pierce

Mel Turcanik

Continuing to serve for the second year of their 2-year term

Jim Garrett

Dennis Holt

Irv Miller

Lyle Solem

Todd VanDeWalker

A printable copy of directions to our meetings is available on our website at

<http://www.zvwoodturners.org/Printable%20Map.html>

The Zumbro Valley Woodturners, established in 2001, is a chapter of the American Association of Woodturners. Its mission is to provide a means for woodturners to get together, share ideas and techniques, and educate each other and the public about the wonder and complexity of woodturning.

2007 ZVW Board of Directors

President: Lyle Solem ldsolem@aol.com

Clair Ewert ewert@us.ibm.com

VP: Todd VanDeWalker vandewalker.todd@mayo.edu

Jim Garrett garrett.james@mayo.edu

Secretary: Mel Turcanik turcanik@yahoo.com

Dennis Holt HoltDM@aol.com

Treasurer: Tom Paska tmpaska@charter.net

Harmon Pierce harmon@us.ibm.com

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ZVW Website <http://www.zvwoodturners.org/>

Questions? Comments? News? Email them to Irv, your editor, ilmiller@kmwb.net