



A Southeastern Minnesota Chapter of the American Association of Wood Turners



## From the President



ZVW Members,

All this beautiful weather we've been having has probably inspired you to search out a perfect piece of wood so you could make it more "perfect." Your shops are all naturally heated giving the best working conditions. Right? Good luck in finding the unique wood! Bring the finished product to our next meeting May 20th.

Many of you were able to enjoy an excellent demonstration last month. Jim Garrett, we thank you for a job well done. You have added immeasurably to the path of knowledge Tim McCaleb started us on some months ago. For all the neophyte-segmented-bowl-turners, you're on your way to better bowls.

I am aware of two people from our club who are headed to Louisville, KY for the AAW National Symposium, June 22 thru 24th. This is your chance to see some pro-turners in action. Whatever your interests, I'm sure there will be a demo closely related. You have until May 15th to register at the reduced rate. You can do this online if you like:

The address is <http://www.woodturner.org/sym/sym2006/> .

I still have programs available if you would like to see more and go that route but going online is perhaps easier.

Our next meeting is May 20, a Saturday, with the start at 9:00 a.m. at Harmon's. Harmon and Mel will be masters of the day. The club will supply sloppy-joes and drinks but the rest is "potluck"--you bring the salads, desserts or whatever else is appropriate for the noon luncheon. **In order to know how much to supply we need to know who is coming. We had sign-up at our last meeting. If you missed that and wish to be part of that day please let Irv Miller or me know before the 20th.**

I know a few of you have been working on a club Logo. At our last two meetings you have been alerted to May 20th being that day when you will present whatever logo you have designed. At May 20th meeting you will vote on the design you wish to represent our club.

This is one reason it is important that more of you attend that Saturday meeting. Express your opinion. I am an optimist and look for some good designs to be shown.

It's hard for us to get away from the subject of inflated gas prices and how to deal with them.

I have discussed with a few of you the need for car-pooling where possible. From a personal standpoint it helps being able to car-pool. For me it's almost 25 miles if I drive alone. If I come in to town and share the rides, it

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## ZVW Meetings

**May 20, 9 AM to 2PM:**  
Harmon Pierce, with the help of Mel Turcanik and others, will conduct a Saturday session on green bowl turning. Potluck lunch. Meet at Harmon's shop.  
**No Thursday meeting in May.**

June 29, 6:30 to 8:30 pm: Making a Chatter Tool. Meet at Harmon's shop.

July 27, 6:30 to 8:30 pm: Panel on Tool Selection. Meet at the Rochester Covenant Church.

August 31, 6:30 to 8:30 pm:  
Hands on Turning of Tops and Use of the Chatter Tool.  
Meet at Harmon's shop

September 7, 6:30 pm: Club Annual Family Picnic. Meet at Oxbow Park.

October 26, 6:30 to 8:30: Dave Dunn on Bird House Christmas Ornaments. Meet at Harmon's shop.

November 30, 6:30 to 8:30 pm:  
Panel on How to Choose a Lathe. Meet at the Rochester Covenant Church.

From the President (Continued from page 1)

helps. I know the general areas where most of you live. If you would like to share rides with someone let me know and I'll help get you together.

You're all interested in bits of trivia? I'm in the process of making the MDF based slow speed tool sharpener as presented in Woodturning Design Magazine's Spring issue. So this bit caught my eye off the internet: If you wish to reduce a 1750 rpm motor using a 2" drive pulley pulling a 4" pulley you have a speed of 875 rpm. With the 2" pulley driving a 6" pulley you have a 583 rpm. With a 2" pulley driving an 8" pulley the speed becomes 437.5 rpm. Now, all you engineers will correct this I hope, if the figures are wrong.

See you all on the 20th for a fun day.

Dennis L. Holt - President, Zumbro Valley Woodturners

## From the Editor



I was unable to attend the May 27th meeting, so not only did I miss an excellent and entertaining presentation, so I am told, but also the opportunity to capture some of the meeting's color with my camera. I heard that Jim Garrett had members rolling in the shavings from his humorous comments. Jim presented his method of turning segmented bows. He succinctly describes this method starting on page 6.

This month's newsletter contains, in addition to the regular contribution from our President Dennis, also contributions from Jim Garrett and Harmon Pierce. Contributions from several members helps make for a better newsletter with more to read and perhaps a variety of points of view on how to turn and also how to write. I welcome contributions from all members. The newsletter mailing date is the 12th of the month, so anything that gets to me by the 10th will probably make it into the current month's newsletter.

The ZVW board of directors met on May 3 to discuss several items of business. Here are some of the most pertinent items.

### Membership Extended to Households

A member with children interested in turning had asked about junior or family memberships. After a brief discussion, the board voted to extend the current \$20/year ZVW membership to include all members of a household. One of the objectives of our club is educating future woodturners. Our meetings are always open to the public. Why not open them to our children and spouses etc. in this very special way?

### A Reminder of Our Relationship to the AAW

ZVW by-laws (see last months newsletter) state that members of ZVW also be members of the American Association of Woodturners. Part of the reason for this is for the insurance provided by AAW to its member clubs. This insurance covers non-member incidents of liability. For example, if a visitor is injured during a demonstration, the member at the lathe, and the club,

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## How to Become a ZVW Member

I have put this section into the newsletter because I sometimes send a complementary copy to persons who have expressed an interest in woodturning. I have been asked: "How does a person become a member of ZVW?" Here is how I reply:

Attend a meeting or two to see who our members are and how they interact with each other. Watch the demonstrations, and ask questions. View turnings that members have brought to show and tell about or to ask other members about for constructive criticism, tips, and techniques.

Take a look at our web site <http://www.zvwoodturners.org/>. Meeting schedules, locations, and demonstrations are always listed on the home page, and maps of the meeting locations are just a click away, not to mention a gallery of some of the members turnings.

Although visitors are always welcome, if you feel you want to be a regular part of ZVW, a ZVW Household Membership is \$20 per year payable each January. ZVW bylaws also require that you be a member of the American Association of Woodturners (AAW), our parent organizations.

<http://www.woodturner.org/>  
This cost is an addition \$40 per year payable directly to the AAW. Please read the short paragraph about our relationship to the AAW to the left of this column.

Lyle Solem is our Membership Chairman and Treasurer. He is usually present at meetings and will be happy to sign you up as a member. If he is not present, any of the club officers or I will be glad to get you started.

Irv

*(From the Editor Continued from page 2)*

would be covered by this insurance, as I understand it. The insurance does not cover injuries to members, only to third parties. The AAW, among other things, provides, to each of its members, a quarterly journal, "American Woodturner;" a world wide directory of clubs and members; and this year, a well done DVD on tool sharpening. Annual dues is \$40 and applies to our now Household membership.

### Car Pooling

Interested in carpooling? Some members already have gotten together to ride out to Harmon's. Others have expressed an interest. Dennis has volunteered to help people get together that are interested. Let Dennis know who you are and where you live and he will do his best to match you with other members. Call 507-288-6026 or email [HoltDM@aol.com](mailto:HoltDM@aol.com)

### Our May 20th 'Log-to-Bowl' Meeting

This May's meeting is a special meeting that is scheduled to run from 9 am until 2 pm on Saturday, May 20. The club will provide sloppy joes and drinks, but the lunch is sort of a potluck affair, so attendees are encouraged to bring hot dishes, chips, salads, fruit, vegetables, deserts, or anything that looks appropriate to a mid-day lunch. Lyle has been authorized to pick up paper plates, napkins, and small plastic utensils, but please bring a serving utensil if you are bringing something that requires it.

Because the club needs to know the quantity of sloppy joes and drinks etc. that it is providing, if you plan to attend, and did not sign up at the April meeting, please call (507-288-6026) or email ( [HoltDM@aol.com](mailto:HoltDM@aol.com) ) Dennis and let him know that you are coming.

And, oh yes, if you have not paid AAW dues, you are welcome to attend and participate in all except hands-on activities at the machinery.

Here is a short syllabus, written by Harmon, on what to expect.

May 20th, Harmon and friends will demonstrate woodturning from tree to bowl, we'll talk about wood selection, local plentiful woods, positioning the bowl in the wood, what to look for outside to identify what is inside, and what patterns to expect from different cuts. We'll talk about how to use the chainsaw and various aspects of tree dissection. We will then move to various ways of preparing and mounting the blank, of course we'll discuss bowl gouges and tools throughout, their choice and application. I will actually turn at least one complete bowl. We will discuss sanding techniques, and the first application of finish. I'll talk about finish selection and properties to look for, as well as what the outcome will be with different finishes. Design will be discussed and demonstrated, as well as the execution of that design. We'll talk about what can go wrong throughout, as well as safe turning practices. Lastly, drying and final sanding. Perhaps some pricing and marketing information depending on questions people ask.

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Do you know how much free woodturning information is available on the internet? Just key a word or phrase into a search box and click on Search. I use Google, perhaps the most used search engine, and have its tool bar always there in my browser, but there are several others. Go ahead and key in "segmented bowls" or "spalted wood" and see what you get. You will be overloaded with sites trying to get your attention and tell you much more than you ever wanted to know. Of course, no information is better presented than by a demonstration given by someone you know and is there to ask questions of right as they come to mind. But if you missed a point, or want to get an alternative method, or find out where to buy something that was mentioned at a meeting, the web is the fastest and easiest place to get the answer. In fact, I spend so much time on the web that I don't have time to do any woodturning. So be careful. It is addicting. Irv

### Please Bring Spare Wood for Our Raffles

If you have any wood that you can contribute, and it can be almost anything that is turnable, bring it along and throw it onto the prize pile. The prize pile will be different at each meeting. If there aren't enough contributions, we will hold off until the next meeting.

Tickets will be sold at the beginning of the meeting for one dollar each.

The drawing will be held, and when your name is called, you get your pick from the prize pile. We keep drawing names until the wood is gone.

The money is used to purchase educational materials for our library.

## Getting to Know Our Members



**Jim Garrett, ZVW Director**

Jim has been a woodworker most of his adult life, but didn't begin woodturning until late 2000. He turns strictly as a hobby but has been known to sell an item or two. His greatest enjoyment of late has been seeing an interest in woodturning develop in his two kids, Conner and Allison.

Jim is a member of the AAW and has been a member of the ZVW since it's inception.

### Editors Comments:

Jim took his kids with him to the AAW Symposium in Kansas City last summer where they had a chance to improve their skills in special kids learning sessions. To the right is Allison, a very determined woodturner, as can be seen by the serious expression on her face. Below, Conner is really whipping up some fantastic shavings. Guess which of them is creating the professional looking ring holder below to the right. With the ZVW Board's action to expand ZVW membership to include households, Allison and Conner are now two of the newest members of ZVW. Welcome Allison and Conner.

Irv



## Getting to Know Our Members



**Harmon Pierce,  
Woodturner**



Wood has always been a part of Harmon's life, from early memories in his grandfather's shop, his many years making fine furniture, to his current love of wood turning.



Harmon believes in functional turning, although he has turned many art objects. His desire is to turn something which will be used for generations to come. His main specialty is large functional bowls.

**Harmon Pierce, ZVW Director, Vice President, and  
Past President**



His inspiration comes from nature and art. He loves to turn local, plentiful, and renewable hardwoods. Most of the wood is carefully culled from cut-offs or off casts from lumbering. His many friends often provide the coolest pieces of wood, as they are aware of his love of a great find.

Harmon turns the wood green, and after careful shaping and sanding, the first coats of botanical tung oil are applied. The turned objects are carefully slow-dried, and continually hand rubbed with finish. The bowls will typically change shape and distort as they dry, making each one more unique.

The final coats of oil are smoothed and buffed, leaving a very durable satin finish.



Besides turning, Harmon enjoys free form carving and shaping wooden implements for his bowls.

Harmon recently won a jurist award in the Contemporary American Woodturning Exhibit in Rochester and Minneapolis.

Harmon is also one of the founding members and officer in the Zumbro Valley Woodturners, a club of the American Association of Woodturners. He enjoys teach-



ing and presenting various techniques to the membership.

Contact:  
Harmon@piercel.net  
Thanks!

## Turning a Segmented-Rim Bowl by Jim Garrett

I never wanted to do any type of segmented turning. When I look at those exquisite assemblies that have literally hundreds of segments painstakingly cut, sanded, and glued before the turning even began, I decided that wasn't for me. In my mind, turning should be closer to instant gratification than that.

Then I saw a beautiful dish that Dave Dapkus had made which incorporated a segmented rim of walnut on a small oak blank forming the base. This looked like something that I needed to explore. It would allow me to take a nice piece of wood for a base and add a rim constructed from dimensional lumber. This expands the dimension of the finished piece both in terms of size, as well as design possibilities.



Please note that the method that I describe is certainly not the only way, or even the best way, to turn one of these bowls. It is simply the way that I have settled on . . . for now.

### Materials/Equipment list:

- Stable, dry wood
  1. Base of bowl
  2. Dimensional lumber for segmented rim
  3. Contrasting veneer for spacers, if desired
- Means for cutting reproducible angled segments e.g. table saw sled, chop saw, disk sander
- Protractor for creating cutting or sanding jig(s)
- Glue (I prefer Titebond III)
- Flat and true surface for gluing segments
- Disk sander or lathe-mounted equivalent
- Metal straightedge
- Faceplate
- Hot glue gun or double-sided tape
- Small bar clamps or 'C' clamps

### Preparation of turning blank:

Determine number of segments that will be used for the rim of the turned piece. This number will dictate the angle of the segments. The desired shape of the piece (open form vs. closed form) will dictate the overall length, width, and thickness of the segments.

I use a software application called "Woodturner Pro" to calculate segment dimensions and angles. It allows me to simulate what a segmented ring will look like in relation to the base, or other segments. This is available online at <http://www.woodturnerpro.com/> for around \$40 or \$50.

Be certain that the pieces are all cut to the same dimension and that the saw blade or sanding disk used is set as close to 90° as possible.

**Note:** An even number of segments is required for the method described here. This allows for a slight margin of error in cutting the angled segments.

Place a reference mark along one edge of the dimensional lumber used for segments. This will help maintain consistent grain orientation in the rim. This can also be used to alternate grain orientation for a striking effect in woods with bold grain patterns. I number the pieces as they are cut so that they can be reassembled in order later.

<u>Number of Segments</u>	<u>Cutting Angle</u>
6	30
8	22.5
10	18
12	15
14	12.86
16	11.25

Using a flat work surface, such as a piece of melamine shelving, glue adjacent segments together in pairs (1 to 2, 3 to 4, 5 to 6, 7 to 8). Clamps are not necessary for this process. Sandwich pre-cut pieces of contrasting veneer at this time if desired. If veneers are used be careful to hold them down so that they don't migrate out of the joint under pressure.

After first segments are glued and dry, join adjacent pieces in like manner (1-2 to 3-4, 5-6 to 7-8).

When these segments are completely dry, true the remaining faces with a sanding disk that is large enough to sand both faces simultaneously. Sand one assembly face up and the other assembly face down. This will ensure that the mating faces join to form a flat assembly. Glue the two assemblies together to form the final ring.

**Note:** If you are better than I am at cutting angles, you might be able to glue all of the segments simultaneously using one of the many types of band clamps available. I find, however, that by gluing two segments at a time, I am able to ensure that I have a nearly seamless glue joint between each segment. I rely on being able to true the last faces (as described in the previous paragraph) to ensure a good fit in the last two glue joints.

Mount base of turning on faceplate with hot glue or DS tape. True top surface of blank to create a clean gluing surface for segmented rim. I use a standard metal faceplate with a 12" diameter melamine disk attached.

Mount segmented ring to faceplate with hot glue or DS tape. True surface of ring to create a clean gluing surface to mate to the base.

Glue segmented ring to base. Take steps to ensure that the ring is as close to centered on the base as possible. If this is off center, you will end up with one side of the blank having more glue area while the opposite side of the blank will have less glue area. Carefully centering the ring will give you the maximum area of contact around the entire perimeter of the blank.

Turn blank using conventional techniques to produce an open or closed hollow form (bowl or vase).

The steps that I follow are:

1. With the blank mounted using a screw center, turn the outer profile of the bowl. I first turn the outer-

most rim of the blank down to true round. This will define the widest rim that you can create. I use a 9/16 M2 bowl gouge for the majority of the outer shaping and interior hollowing. Check your progress frequently as you turn through the joint between the segmented ring and the base. You are looking for a continuous line around the entire circumference with no steps. If you see an unfinished area, you need to continue turning. Do not go too far into the joint, as that will leave a smaller margin for error when turning the interior of the bowl.

If I undercut the rim of the bowl, I use a 1" M2 radius scraper. This tool has a very long radius ground on the left side, which wraps around slightly to the right so that there are no sharp corners. With a keen edge, you will produce very long ribbon shavings that are thin enough to read through. Be careful, this part is so satisfying that you might turn the entire rim away as the mounds of shavings build at your feet!

Sand the majority of the bowl's outer surface at this time. Depending on the thickness of your base, you may want to glue a waste block to the base for mounting in a chuck to hollow. I usually turn either a tenon or a dovetailed recess for mounting.

2. Reverse the blank for hollowing. I drill a depth hole in the center to warn me of the upcoming base as I am hogging out the center mass of the bowl. I only hollow out about a third of the bowl at a time. This leaves enough support to make clean finishing cuts as I progress. If I were to hog out the entire bowl and then try to make light finishing cuts out on the rim, there would not be enough support, and I would get too much chatter. I sometimes use the same radius scraper held at an angle to make a shearing cut for my final pass around the bottom 2/3 of the bowl. If I haven't had too much coffee that day, my sanding will be held to a minimum.
3. Reverse the blank a third and final time to finish the foot. There are as many ways to do this, as there are turners. Vacuum chucks, accessory plates for chucks, padded jam chucks, etc. I sometimes use a chuck which sandwiches the bowl between a pair of padded melamine disks allowing complete access to the foot.

Jim Garrett

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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.

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

**ZVW Board of Directors**

**President: Dennis Holt** [HoltDM@aol.com](mailto:HoltDM@aol.com)

**Vice President: Harmon Pierce** [harmon@pierce1.net](mailto:harmon@pierce1.net)

**Secretary: Mel Turcanik** [turcanik@yahoo.com](mailto:turcanik@yahoo.com)

**Treasurer: Lyle Solem** [ldsolem@aol.com](mailto:ldsolem@aol.com)

**Librarian: Jim Liberko** [jmliberko@charter.net](mailto:jmliberko@charter.net)

**Newsletter and Website Editor: Irv Miller** [ilmiller@kmwb.net](mailto:ilmiller@kmwb.net)

**At Large: Jim Garrett** garrett.james at mayo.edu

**At Large: Todd VanDeWalker** vandewalker.todd at mayo.edu

Mail hyperlinks with a dot in the text preceding the @ sign are not rendered correctly by the Adobe Reader, so I have disabled the hyperlinks for the addresses of Jim G and Todd. Irv.

**Questions? Comments? News? Email them to Irv, your editor, [ilmiller@kmwb.net](mailto:ilmiller@kmwb.net)**