

## NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN WOODTURNERS

# newsletter

### Volume 7, Number 12, December, 2023

We had around 25 members and guests in the room. Norm Dill, Steve Bujalski, Paul Berger, Paul Johnson, Jim McKimmy, Chuck Vernon and somebody identified as H29FJLT joined us by Zoom. We also had 7 students join us from the Construction Trades Class, Connor, Michael, Ryan, Peter, Noah, and 2 Tuckers, if I got that right.

**Next Meeting: January 13, 2024; 8:30 for coffee and donuts. Career Tech Center Shop and Online.**

**The January demonstration will be by Mike Ob, maybe turning a natural edge bowl.**

In February, Gary says Jim McKimmy is going to be turning a pepper mill. March is going to see Jim Scarsella turn finials.

### Upcoming events: From the AAW Events Page –

Please go to <https://woodturner.org> for more information and to register for sponsored events.

**January 6, 3-5:30pm EST, Live with Lyle, Turning a Pet Burial Urn, with Guest Carl Jacobson, owner of Niles Bottle Stoppers.** Lyle will be showing hollow form turning, sharing challenges of hollowing through the bottom to utilize threaded brass inserts. Carl

will join Lyle to offer information on using the Niles threaded inserts.

Any skill level. Cost **\$14.95**. Register through the AAW Events page.

### January 12-13, 2024, SW Florida Wood Art Exposition.

<https://swflwoodartexpo.org/>

Charlotte Harbor Events Center, Punta Gorda, Florida

### January 26-27, 2024, Tennessee Assoc. Of Woodturners Symposium

<https://tnwoodturners.org>

Franklin, TN

### February 15-18, 2024

[Florida Woodturning Symposium](#)

RP Funding Center, Lakeland, FL

### March 23-24, 2024, Totally Turning

<https://woodworker.org/about-totally-turning/>

Saratoga Springs city Center, Saratoga Springs, NY

### The 38<sup>th</sup> AAW International Woodturning Symposium

is open for registration. It will be held in Portland, Oregon from May 23-26, 2024. Register before April 5, 2024, and save \$50. Register at the AAW website Events Page [www.woodturner.org](http://www.woodturner.org)

If you are an AAW member or affiliate member, watch your email for the weekly "Toolbox E-Newsletter: and the bimonthly "Keep Turning E-Newsletter. Or go to the AAW website, Resources Page

[www.woodturner.org](http://www.woodturner.org) If there are other events, they will be listed there.

And don't miss the AAW Member-Moderated Forum on the same page. This page also guides you to the other resources, including all issues of American Woodturner magazine, Woodturning Fundamentals and others. AAW is making available to all clubs an article a month from the AAW magazine (not the most current issue, mind you) for clubs to distribute to members, or to incorporate into the newsletters. Given the digital file size of the newsletters we have been sending out monthly, our club secretary will most likely send this article along close to, but separately from the newsletter. Size matters to Googlegroups emailing service. 😊

## **Business Meeting**

**Treasury Report** – Jan reported to the Board that, with all bills paid, and some of our members already having paid 2024 dues, our club balance is \$4,570.33. And Ty, standing in for Jan this month, was taking dues and selling CA glue and Anchor Seal. Jan and the Board are working hard to put together a doable budget for 2024. As a proposal, it will be brought to the January club meeting for discussion and ratification, or changes brought up from our membership. The Board is still planning on 3 interactive remote demonstration (IRDs) for 2024, but those costs have increased, along with everything else.

**Meeting Demos:** There is just a flood of volunteers to do demonstrations for our club meetings, **NOT!!!** Is it just that thinking about getting up in front of our club for 90 minutes (*Shudder*) is so intimidating? Is it just too much work to prepare for the demonstration? We don't know. But since we do plan on having some sort of demonstration every month, and we, as a club can't afford to hire an outside

demonstrator that often, we are looking to our members for other options. So..... One of the things the Board is considering, is having 2 to 3 members doing shorter 20-30 minute demonstrations or lectures/reports of interest to the club members. Please think about this and be ready to discuss the idea at the January meeting. Mini demos could be "tool talk" (*like Gary Newman did at the meeting*), new methods, new materials, new and old finishes, and/or just a short turning project that you like to do, or want to learn. **In case you missed the introduction this month, VP Pete had never turned an inside-out project. He learned how and presented it just for us.**

President Gary, and one or two other members have accepted the invitation of The Oliver Center Gallery's Gift Shop, in Frankfort to display and sell pieces of our work through December 31. As is only fair, they will get a 70% commission from each piece sold. In January, we will get a report from Gary on how it went, and whether we should consider more participation in 2024 for 2 gallery exhibitions currently in planning. Thank you Rich Foa.

**Club Swag**, as Gary calls it – Marv Slee is taking orders for club hats, T-shirts (long and short sleeve), and sweat shirts. See or email Marv ([marv1253@sbcglobal.net](mailto:marv1253@sbcglobal.net)) to put in an order. Marv will be sending in an order in the near future.

**Wig Stands** – The Wig Stand "Turn-in" at Pete's shop never really got off the ground. Scheduling the workshop time just didn't work out. Dennis Ferguson, our Wig Stand Community Support Project coordinator, however, says that we are getting a little low on our inventory. We are supporting the Cowell Cancer Center in Traverse City, the Cancer Center in Kalkaska, and now are getting interest from the Cancer Center in

Cadillac. To serve and support cancer patients that have hair loss due to treatments, we need all you turners to make a few wig stands. If you need the plans for a standard wig stand, please contact Dennis at ([dennis45th@gmail.com](mailto:dennis45th@gmail.com)) and he will email it back to you. Dennis also brings several kits, already cut to size for turning, to meetings, and will have more at future meetings.

### **2024 Club Dues are due in January.**

Jan will be collecting our \$40.00 dues at the January meeting, or you can send them to him by mail. Your secretary will be sending out invoices shortly, with Jan's address, to all who have not already paid their 2024 dues, so look for the email.

In the July Board meeting the Board accepted to institute a membership information form. This form is for new **and existing** members to submit to Jan with dues payment. Its intent is to help us keep membership information up-to-date. The form is also for students seeking membership in our club, and providing for parental authorization.

*Jan is also asking that non-dues paying Life and Honorary Life members send in this form as well, to help us stay on top of your contact information.*

The form will be an additional attachment to the email that you receive with this newsletter. **Jan asks that you print it out and return it with your 2024 dues payment.**

**Student Mentoring** – Our student mentoring coordinator, Ken Hunter would very much like to have some more flexibility in scheduling, so we need more of you to step up in this school year. Give Ken a call (**231-499-9474**) to get more information, and get in the rotation.

**Empty Bowls** – President Gary recently spoke with Rachel Couger of the NW Food Coalition. The Empty Bowls fundraiser event is being planned for April 28, 2024. Our turned bowls/items have been a long time favorite for the donors that attend this event. In 2023, Gary challenged 20 members to turn 20 bowls (400 total). We didn't stop there. We donated 502 bowls to the event.

This year, we think we can do better. President Gary's goal is to present 520 bowls to the event. His thoughts are that 26 or more of our members, turning 5 bowls, to donate, each month between now and the April 13<sup>th</sup> meeting would easily meet that goal. Hear more about it in the January meeting.

For those of you who don't have winter heat in your shop, Pete, Lyle, and probably others are going to organize bowl turning parties in their **HEATED** shops. *Stay tuned. Your secretary will send out details and schedules as they become available.*

**Gallery Exhibition in Charlevoix** – In March, we are scheduled to put on a gallery exhibition in Charlevoix. Start looking at your fine pieces to include in that showing. Club members will be jurying the pieces to include. More details in January.

**And one last piece of business** – A suggestion. Bring some extra cash or a checkbook to the January meeting. Gary will be auctioning off the platter that Matt Monaco turned for us in the September meeting, and donated to our club as a fund raiser.

### **Board of Directors – Your Board of Directors for 2024 are:**

Gary Perkins - 231-640-0377

Pete Meyer - 231-499-7935

Jan Bachman - 734-730-7038

Kris Roberts - 701-400-9160

Dennis Ferguson - 231-492-6475

Kieran Goodman - 812-298-5747

Marv Slee - 231-499-1719  
Chuck McLaughlin - 231-668-1901  
Jim Scarsella - 313-220-5077

Our Board members are here to serve the club. If you have a need, concern, or suggestion, please get in touch with one of us. The Board meets the first Thursday of the month at 7:30pm virtually by Zoom. All members are welcome to attend by contacting me, your secretary, before a meeting so I can send you the Zoom invitation.

### For Sale:

**Supplies: CA Glue**

**CA Glue – Glue will be sold at meetings.**

**See Jan.** Jan provided the warranty document for our new Mercury CA glue with the last newsletter. If you did not save it, and find you need it, contact Jan.

**We will not be ordering another 55 gallon drum of Anchor Seal.** The Anchor Seal website,

<https://ucoatings.com/shop/product/anchorseal/> lists their product for sale either online, or the nearest retailer, which is Woodcraft of Grand Rapids. It is offered in sizes quart, gallon, or 5 gallon.

### For Sale or Wanted:

**If there is something you are looking for, or want to sell, send an email or text to me and it will be sent out to the club.**

**Bring Back Raffle –** Student Tucker Gilbreath, our winner from last month turned the prize for this month. His current turning goal is to make a turned chess set. To get started, his bring back prize is the first piece toward that goal, a queen. It was won by another Peter, another student. Sorry, I didn't get his last name, and more importantly, we did not get a photo of the with the winner. We look forward, however, to



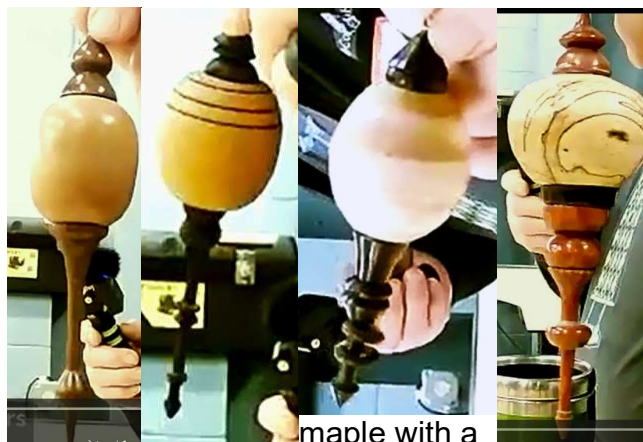
next month, when Peter will bring back the next turned raffle prize.

**Show and Share –** The Christmas Ornament Challenge. *And to inform you of the proper terminology, for ornaments, the bottom finial is properly called icicles.*

**Mike Ob –** A globe and icicle ornament and 7 ornament globes waiting for the icicles.



**Joe Breech –** Lft to Rt - Maple and walnut,



maple with a died icicle, maple and finial with 2 captured rings, and spalted maple with redwood icicle and blackwood collar.

**Mark Andrus –** Maple and cherry icicle with tiny decorations.



**Dale Kukla –** Cut out maple globe with bloodwood icicle and tiny Christmas tree, another cut-out maple globe with a tiny snowman; icicle is a Brazilian wood.



**Kris Roberts** – Green fungi-stained poplar with leopardwood icicle. Chlorociboria aeruginascens, the green stain fungus is very likely the source of this nearly neon color. I refer you to this very interesting web page on the subject from the University of Wisconsin.



[https://botit.botany.wisc.edu/toms\\_fungi/jul2008.html](https://botit.botany.wisc.edu/toms_fungi/jul2008.html)

**Chuck McLaughlin** – Maple globe with a natural void that Chuck decided to use. He finished the inside with gold glitter, then added a tiny Christmas tree finished with green glitter. The top of the ornament is maple burl, and the icicle is, he believes, cherry. This photo is provided, by request, from Chuck, as the school lighting did the piece no favors.



**Marv Slee** – Although Marv couldn't be with us this time, he sent a couple of inside-out ornaments that he asked Pete to bring. No information on the kind of wood, and the little guy in the ornament on the left is probably a snowman, but I'm not sure. Let us know the details please, Marv.



**Dennis Ferguson** – After seeing one at the Christmas Party, Dennis ordered some Sea Urchins. This is his first ornament. He says he needs a lot of work on his icicles, which are Eucalyptus. He also mentioned some advice he got; to coat the inside of the shell with a white glue or similar to give the shell more strength.



**Gary Perkins** - All of Gary's ornaments for this year are at the Oliver Center Gift Shop, so these two are from past years. On the left is from 2017. On the right is his 2022 Christmas Challenge entry; resin pour and manzanita root burl, with cherry icicle.



**Ty Gilliland** –

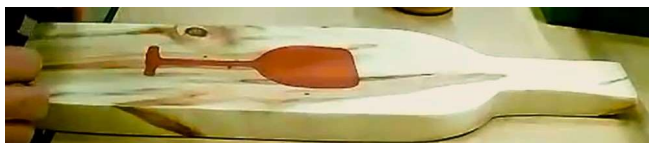


Small cherry Christmas tree, turned with a skewer. Turned drums and drum sticks with resin drum skin. Each is approximately 1.5" diameter. More complicated projects are already in his plan.

**Bob Batistoni** – Drilled through maple globe with mini turned snowman and oak icicle. And a traditional ornament of cherry and black walnut. Bob drills up through the globe to install the little snowman, and set the top and icicle.

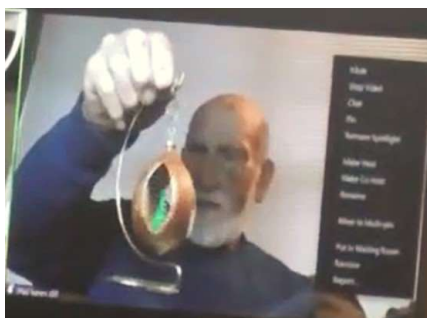


**Kieran Goodman** – A table top lantern ornament with leaf window and mini light inside. Also, cartulary board with inlaid wine glass of resin.



*With Weldon's Christmas tree, that concludes the Ornament Challenge. And, since this newsletter is already 6 pages long and Pete's demo only been mentioned yet, I am going to omit further pictures of the remaining pieces from the Show and Share. Instead, I am just going to list the turner and what was shown. If you weren't present and want to see them, please go to the member only page of our website ([www.tcturner.com](http://www.tcturner.com)), log in, and watch the recording.*

**Norm Dill** – Two Matt Monaco inspired hollow form bowls, turned green. One 5 inch diameter and the other 11 inch diameter. Norm also showed a very nice inside-out Christmas ornament with a Christmas tree inside. Unfortunately, I was unable to get him spotlighted in time, so the image from the recording is pretty poor.



**Mike Ob** – An undercut rim bowl of sycamore, and a poplar natural edge oval bowl, both done at Arrowmont. Three pens, which are new projects to Mike and it has just hit his hot button. He also showed a vase turned for a glass insert. Mike will be demonstrating a natural edge bowl or one with an undercut rim, in January.

**Jim McKimmy** – Jim is riding out a Covid attack, but showed us a hollowed out, lidded box ornament.



**Dave Rife** – Dave has turned into a very prolific turner, even streaming from 8 to 11 pm every Tuesday night on Switch TV. His first piece is a Halloween piece that started as an ornament globe that got too thin in the center, so the design changed. Next was 2 natural edge bowls, both originally turned in 2017. The thicker one he said took hours of sanding. The second he reworked recently to show what can be done with just tool work and **NO** sanding. After that, a cherry burl lidded box, 2 cherry bowl boxes, a 3-corner cherry sphere box with carved feet, a beaded box of wenge, birdseye maple and cedar, a hollow form with voids on a 3 legged turned stand, 2 gilded hollow forms, a beaded honey pot, a design change goblet, and finally a hollow form on a 3 legged stand.

**Weldon Rutledge** – Christmas tree turned from an ash burl. Sorry, it is the best image I could get off the recording.



**Dennis Ferguson** – Two French rolling pins of spalted maple and a walnut natural edge hollow form vessel.

**Chuck McLaughlin** – Resin and burl fragments water tumbler. Sanded to 320 grit and then a final coat of resin to finish. Chuck

uses “Liquid Glass” from Amazon, which he says has a lot less bubbles when casting. He does put it under pressure to cure and set.

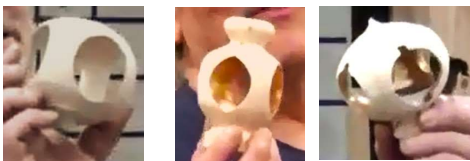
**Pete Meyer** – Ash bowl that is in process, waiting for some carving. He also turned a ‘back scratcher’ for his wife, and a birds eye maple bottle opener.

**Gary Perkins** – A twice turned, very shallow bowl (platter?) of spalted maple.

## Inside-out Ornament Demonstration by Pete Meyer

For any of you who weren’t attending the November club meeting, let me tell you that until that meeting, Pete had no idea that he was going to be demonstrating this month, and he had never turned an inside-out project of any kind. President Gary drafted him into doing this demo. To Pete’s ever appreciated good humor, and willingness to step up, he accepted the challenge, and today he showed what you can learn (with a little help from Marv Slee) in one month’s time.

Pete first showed us 3 of his early attempts, which, in my eyes, were pretty darn good.



The two on the right were sanded and glow with gilders paste applied before turning the blanks inside out.



So, today, Pete demonstrated how to turn an inside-out Christmas Tree. The first thing you have to know when making and inside-out project is that the 4 pieces

of the blank have to be **perfectly** square in cross section. If the pieces are not square, then your planned shape will not materialize when you take the pieces apart, rotate them, and put them back together with the profile (negative space) on the inside. The next thing you have to remember is that your 4 pieces have to come apart in order to rotate the turned image to the inside. No brainer right? It is, **after** you have forgotten that, turned a wonderful shape and realize you glued the pieces together too well. Making your blank much longer than your planned shape, gluing just the ends of the pieces, or gluing in a paper joint, using a large hose clamp, making jigs to hold each end secure, taping tightly with strapping tape, are just a few ways to secure your blank while turning. Pete chose initially to use wire, cinched down tight around the 4 pieces with a tool he made out of 2 bolts.



He used this method mainly for safety during the demo, as the lathe was pretty close to the front 2 rows of the audience.

A caution if you use a large hose clamp. Mount the clamp with the loose end pointing **AWAY** from the direction of rotation (on both ends), and tape the loose end down tight. Then be aware of where the clamp is so you don’t bark your knuckles on it when turning.

Mounting the prepared blank on the lathe properly is equally important. You must mount to the exact center point on each end to ensure the turned image will match up properly when reassembled.

Now the fun part begins. For this project, the first step is to turn the blank round between the clamped ends. Pete tried a number of methods to help visualize the shape/points

he needed to turn to, and settled on cutting a template into the outside of one of the pieces. That helped him see how far he needed to turn each tree bough. Without that, and it isn't absolutely necessary if you can visualize well in 3 dimensions, you have no real guide on where to stop turning for each tree bough.



For this project Pete started rounding the blank, then clean cut the inside end on the right to give the rotated pieces a clean, sharp base to the tree. Bear with, you will see when the pieces are finished and rotated.



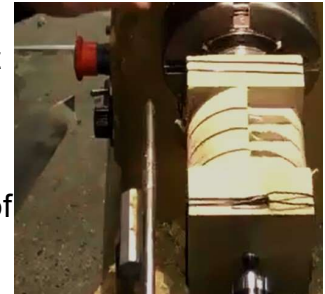
For those of you that haven't turned this type of project yet, you can really see in this photo the "air wood", that part of the blank where the excess wood hasn't been turned away, but is barely visible, and what can and will become real knuckle busters if you get your fingers between the tool rest and the spinning wood.

At this point, it is good to point out in any inside-out turning that is taller than it is wide, or has a shape like Christmas tree, when turning it initially, you have to visualize it is upside down. That is what Pete was doing with the template he cut into one side of the blank. To state the obvious, what



looked like he was cutting the very bottom of the tree, is actually the very top of the tree, and what will be the tiniest point. What he was cutting deeply into, was as you can now probably visualize, the very bottom of the tree. Remember, we are creating a negative space shape.

To help him, and us, see where to cut next and how deep, Pete used a thin parting tool to make a cut at the flat of each step of the template.



Can you see the negative shape of the tree



now? Think about it as the pieces are separated, the turned area rotated to the inside and the pieces reassembled. Here is the negative space shape revealed.

At this point, quite a few questions were raised, and some hard learned philosophy shared. You have to visualize what shape you want to end up with, and what you might want to add in to the center of your piece, such as the snowman, or the tiny Christmas tree, or a tea light. Pete related one lesson,

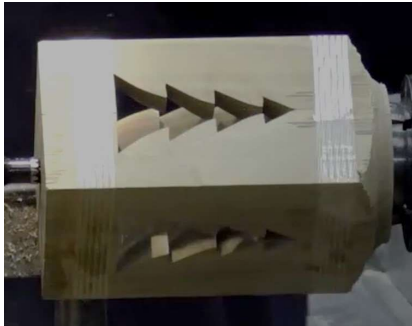


and showed us the piece he had to glue back together because it was too delicate when he tried to bore with a forstner bit, and ended up chasing down all the pieces. If you are planning to add something into the negative space, you need to plan so that you have enough room and still have enough wood left to shape the outside shape. Also, how the grain structure of the wood is oriented is very important when it comes to achieving the most aesthetic outcome.

Now, when you rotate all 4 pieces into the center, comes the tricky part. Gluing the 4 pieces together accurately so all the points and edges line up perfectly. Longer open time glue really becomes your friend.

When the glue is set and cured (good practice to give it plenty of time), mount it back on the lathe between centers, mount it to a glue block, or a face plate, and shape the outside.

And here is a great safety tip. Don't trust the glue joint. Use strapping tape around each end while shaping the outside. When



it is all done, sanded, and finished as far as possible, then take off the tape and turn away the rest of the waste wood to the finished product.

There was a lot more discussion, questions, and suggestions from the club, as well as some ideas for future work that Pete floated out there. The most important part of this whole demonstration is how interesting, challenging, and fun, inside-out turning is, and how many ways it can be done.

Until next month, and next year,  
Respectfully submitted,  
Kris Roberts, Secretary