

NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN WOODTURNERS

newsletter

Volume 7, Number 2, February, 2023

30 members and guest in person, plus 6 attending by Zoom; Norm Dill, Marv Slee, Chuck Vernon, Steve Alguire, Vern Stienfort, George Golesic, plus 1 other who declined to identify.

Guests:

Bob Batistoni, Lone Lake TWP, Traverse City
Mike Hill, Suttons Bay
Ty Gilliland, Honor
Paul Sawin, Manton

Next Meeting: March 11th, 8:30 for coffee and donuts. Career Tech Center Shop or Online.

Our demonstrator will be Rich Foa, demonstrating the turning of a square winged bowl.

Our April demonstrator will be Jim Scarsella, turning a small box, hopefully with embellishment (?)

In May we will be hosting an IRD by Dr. Seri Robinson from Oregon State University, an expert on spalting in wood, and an accomplished turner.

June through December are all open at this point, so please step up and demonstrate to the club something that you like to do.

Contact Gary and find a month that will work for you.

Upcoming events: From the AAW Events Page –

Please go to <https://woodturner.org> for more information and to register for these events. You will need to be an AAW member, or new affiliate member to access the information.

[Free 3 month AAW Affiliate Membership for first time non-members.](#) It will give you a chance to see all the things that full membership can give you.

February 24-26, 10AM to 10PM – Woodturners Worldwide Virtual Symposium. Fee is \$79 with Code “Michigan” 34 Demonstrators, 2 panels, and 5 or more vendors.

March 4th, 4pm EST – WIT Presents – Nicole McDonald and Elizabeth Weber. Free – Watch the AAW Events Page for registration information.

2023 AAW International Woodturning Symposium, June 1-4, Louisville, Kentucky.

Kentucky Exposition Center

Watch for registration and hotel blocks to open soon on the AAW Events page.

Professional Outreach Program Exhibition contest open from December 1, 2022 to January 15, 2023. See details on the page or in American Woodturner Magazine.

Turning to the Future – is sponsored by the AAW to encourage and support students and instructors in reaching for and attaining the highest levels of skill in the use of the lathe. The contest is open to eligible students across North America. This event will be held in 2023, and offers 4 cash prizes.

Watch the AAW Events Page, Turning to the future for details and entry forms.

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

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.

The February issue of Woodturning Fundamentals is out. Find it at www.woodturner.org Member or affiliate.

Business Meeting:

Introducing your new Training Coordinator, Kieran Goodman. If you need a little help on some aspect of turning, or are an experienced turner willing to reach out to folks who need a little help learning how to turn, please contact Kieran Goodman. He will put you in contact with the right folks who are close to you. Give him a call, (812)298-5747 or drop him a line, musicfalls@yahoo.com



Club Historian – Pete Meyer has agreed to be our club historian. If you have old club photos, documents, anecdotes, memories of members or projects past, please get in touch with Pete. (231)499-7935, or hammergrips@gmail.com

Treasurer's report by Jan Bachman. Our account stands at \$6,440, with all current expenses paid. Dues of \$40/year are due. If you are a year or 2 in arrears, you need only pay the current 2023 dues to maintain your membership, as per Board action.

Empty Bowls Fundraiser – For those of you who haven't been involved in past years, Empty Bowls, now sponsored by the NW Food Coalition, helps fund Food Rescue, which was formerly supported by Goodwill of Northern Michigan. Food Rescue collects foods nearing their store expiration date, and delivers it to food pantries in a 5-county area of Northern Lower Michigan. We have donated turned bowls and other hand-made items to the Empty Bowls Fundraiser for all the years I have been a member except during COVID. President Gary challenged the club to have 20 turners turn 20 bowls each for Empty Bowls this year. That's 400 bowls or similar items. As of this meeting, we were at 282 bowls, either completed or pledged. If you want to donate items to the cause, contact Gary and let him know how many you will be doing. All bowls must be complete and delivered to the April 8 meeting, or before.

Student Mentoring – Ken Hunter, our student mentoring coordinator, needs a few more turners to rotate in the Thursday mentoring sessions at the school. Remember, no matter how little you think you know about turning, it is massively more than what the student who hasn't ever turned knows. Introducing a student to the lathe, lathe safety, and very basic turning skill is very rewarding. There are 2 sessions each Thursday; morning, afternoon. You can do one or both. Give Ken a call **(231-499-9474)** and get in the rotation. The school now has 2 lathes for students to use, and Instructor Tom has asked if we could step up and handle 2 students in each morning and afternoon session, so we really need turners

who can volunteer a little time guiding students into the craft/art we like so much.

Wig Stands – Our project coordinator, Dennis Ferguson, says that we are in need of more wig stands for the cancer centers in TC and Kalkaska. If you don't have the plans for them, reach out to Dennis Ferguson, dennis45th@gmail.com. This is our continuing community action project, and we need to keep it going. Contact Dennis with your completed wig stands. (231)492-6475 or dennis45th@gmail.com. Dennis even brought in 3 wig stand kits, ready to turn. They were rapidly claimed.

Club Demonstrators – Please step up and do a demonstration for the club. We need demonstrators for 2023, starting in June. Club demonstrations are always about projects that the demonstrator chooses. We never ask you to demonstrate something that you don't know how to do. You know that you have some turning project you enjoy doing, so please step up and volunteer to show how to do that project at a club meeting. Talk to Gary, Pete, Kris, or Jan, and choose a month to show us what you enjoy doing.

President's Challenge – Our next challenge competition is during the April 8th meeting. The theme is Easter. Turned items with an Easter theme. The club will vote on multiple categories, and the overall winner will receive a \$50 gift card.

Shop Tours – President Gary is setting up tours to member shops, after a meeting. **A tour of Gary Newman's shop has been set up to follow the June meeting.** Would you be willing to have club members come to your shop after a meeting? Get with Gary and set up a date.

Board of Directors – Your Board of Directors for 2023 are:

President – Gary Perkins - 231-640-0377
Vice-President – Pete Meyer - 231-499-7935
Treasurer – Jan Bachman - 734-730-7038
Secretary – Kris Roberts - 701-400-9160

Other Board members:

Past President Jim McKimmy - 231-631-0425
Dennis Ferguson - 231-492-6475
Kieran Goodman - 812-298-5747
Mike Lynskey - 313-220-5077
Marv Slee - 231-499-1719
Weldon Rutledge - 517-775-8973

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 7:00pm 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.

Bring Back Raffle:

\$1 per ticket. If you win, you "bring back" a prize for the next month.

For Sale:

Supplies: CA Glue and Anchor Seal Wood Sealer.

Joe Breech is the keeper of the 55 gallon drum of Anchor Seal. If you need some, please call him at 231-218-1021. Either make arrangements to pick it up from him, or have him bring what you need to the next meeting. Cost is \$10.00/gallon.

CA Glue – Glue will now be stored at the Career Tech Center, Club storage box. If you need glue between meetings, please call President Gary 231-640-0377 or Treasurer Jan 734-730-7038.

Wanted:

If there is something you are looking for send an email or text to me and I will post it here.

Show and Share:

Last month, a brand new student turner, **Abigail Olszewski**, showed us 2 excellent pens she had turned. Unfortunately, she and her father came after I had taken photos, and was working with the AV equipment, and I missed getting photos of her and the pens she turned. She was at the meeting this month with her mother, and her mother had those pens with her; so a little late, here is Abigail and the excellent pens she made.



President Gary showed 2 shallow, spalted maple bowls and a 3rd maple burl bowl with grain exploding in all directions as Gary thinks that it comes from a crotch with limbs going in at least 3 directions.



All were finished with Danish Oil and buffed.



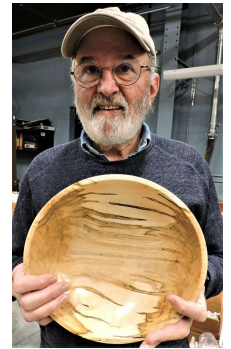
Pete Meyer was experimenting with his Laser Pecker system again. This time he combined the laser with his indexing system to burn a pattern around the rim of a small maple bowl. He and Dennis Ferguson turned the two natural edge bowls. The birds eye



maple bowl in the upper left of the photo was, shudder, purchased at a fundraiser by Pete. It was for charity, and Pete couldn't pass up this beautiful bowl.



Jan Bachman talked about the bowl he turned out of Ambrosia Maple.



The tree that produced this fantastic bowl fell in the Maplehurst Conservancy in Antrim County.

Steve Bujalski, a fairly new turner, brought in some bowls he has been turning to, as he says, "learn to use the tools". Unfortunately, Steve didn't tell us what the wood was, and it looks like several different ones to me. Good job, Steve.

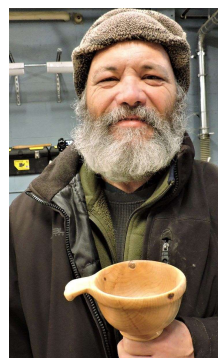


Dan Wasson

showed us a travel cup kit that he finished out with maple staves, separated by bloodwood and walnut to provide accents. For the bottom, he used corian. Glue-ups took the majority of the time, Dan said. Only one screenshot from the recording, as like Gary, I thought someone had inadvertently left their full travel cup on the table. Wish I had have gotten a better look at it. Been thinking in those lines too, and staves looks like a better fit for me than full segmenting.



Dave Rife brought some more of his small fairy jar series, this time with not only carving



and color, but gilding on the interior that just seems to glow with its own light. Dave also reached back to the Keith Gotschall IRD, I think, and made a kuksa cup.



He also showed a little ring box he made in the style of his bee hive series, although I somehow missed taking a photo of it, and the rings he had made to show it off.

Chuck McLaughlin

found a huge maple burl that he has been able to take pieces of and turn. The travel cup size goblet in his right hand is part of that burl that needed a bit of resin help to stabilize and fill voids. Chuck says that he used reddish dye in the resin and some



purple mica flakes. In his left hand is a lidded box he turned of bloodwood. The polish is excellent with bloodwood. Chuck also turned the bowl from that maple burl, in the photo of the 3 pieces together. What

you only get a hint of in the bowl is the outer rim. Chuck

sliced walnuts on his band saw and inlaid them with resin with green and yellow highlights. Awesome, Chuck.



Ty Gilliland a fairly new turner, and friend of Gary Perkins, showed us a paper birch hollow form vessel



and fruit cherry bowl with a couple of eye catching bark inclusions.



Dennis Ferguson maple hollow form bowl with a through and through void. He turned two natural edge, sans bark, of butternut. Dennis also found a wonderful piece of spalted/ambrosia maple to turn into a bowl (pun intended). The figuring is wonderful. The last one he showed, in the bottom left, is mulberry, with an outside bead.



Kieran Goodman used techniques we previously saw in this Show and Share on the pieces he brought, namely, gilding, casting, and beading. He went farther too, ebonizing the outside of the ash bowl he gilded with gold leaf, lower left. The middle bowl is a burl with resin casting. He



told us a bit about the trials involved, and named the piece, "What Not To Do Next Time". *I wonder how many of us have*

some of those sitting around our shops? The last piece, at the bottom right is a straight sided ash bowl that Kieran applied the faux basket weave technique to, using colored india ink, as the colors do not run or bleed.

Rich Foa brought in an ash bowl to show us how a very inexpensive wire brushing wheel can make a great embellishing tool which will give a nice effect on its own, and will nicely disguise tool marks and wood defects such as worm holes. \$5 at the



hardware store will get you one of these steel brush wheels. Hold it in a pair of vice grips and

hold it against your problem child piece while the lathe is running (slowly, I'll bet) The effect on his bowl is pleasing, and disguised the worm holes quite nicely.

Corey Humphrey and Pierson showed a cherry bowls from a tree he cut down. He claims it is just a basic bowl, but it is really nice Corey.



Joe Breech brought in some rough turned bowls from our clean out of Dave Allen's shop some years back. These he challenged club members, who are shying away from turning bowls for Empty bowls, to finish one out and donate.



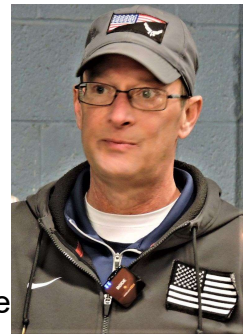
For you newer members, Dave Allen was a long time member who passed away some years ago. His daughter asked the club to clear out his shop, leaving all the wood content to us. Three trailer loads were brought back to the club and distributed (for donations) to club members. Other members purchased various pieces of the equipment in the shop as well. And as you can see, pieces of Dave's wood are still making their way to our lathes.

Bring Back Raffle

Last month's winner, Chuck McLaughlin, provided the prize for this month, a small cherry bowl. It was won by Amedee DeCruydt.



Club Demo – Mike Ob (that's Obuchowski, shortened to something we can pronounce 😊), says Mike)



Collars and Pedestals

Mike brought the lessons he learned at Arrowmont with Avelino Samuel to us. Mike's class made a carved hollow form with pedestal foot and finial.

One of the first things they were taught was that the hollow form, standing on it's own, is nice, but lacking. As Avelino said, "it's like putting lipstick on a pig". It needs something else. Mike showed the body piece he has completed for the demonstration, and pointed out that too much detail and beauty of the grain pattern is lost when it sits directly on its bottom, and shadow blots out the



beauty. If the body is elevated, however, a better viewing, and aesthetic emerges.



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Here is what Mike's piece looked like after he finished it once he got back home.

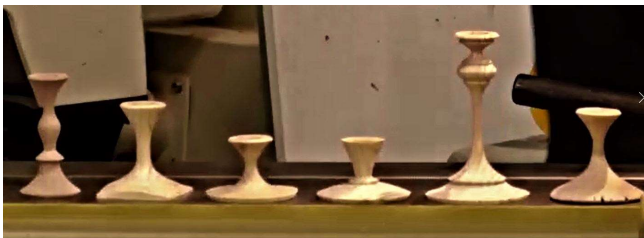
Mike started out by doing a physical outline of the steps to create the carved hollow form that Samuel taught.

That involved the layout tools and tools used in the carving. The basic shape and hollowing were pretty standard, except it had to be much thicker walled to allow the carving. Here is a profile drawing of Samuel's that they worked from.



Next, Mike talked about deciding what the pedestal would look like, and how Samuel went about deciding what design to use. As you can see from the final product, the design that Mike chose for both the pedestal and finial (actually, the finial isn't in the drawing, only the collar) is much different from the drawing. Samuel showed them that he always has a number (25 Mike remembers) each of different style pedestals and finials to try with his creation before beginning their construction. Yes, he had turned them all just to use as examples.

Mike tried turning a dozen different pedestal designs of scrap wood. He soon found out that he had to use wood with a good straight grain, or the thinner designs would break. He resorted to pine (on the advise of Samuel), and says he will never work with that wood again, but he was able to turn out the styles below. These +1 are the ones he showed us.



At the foot of his body piece, Samuel recommended that a short tenon be left to fit into a shallow mortise in the top of the sample pedestals, such that it will be stable enough so you can step back and view it from a few feet away to see if the pedestal enhances the piece. Mike left a 5/8" tenon

on the foot of his hollow form, which let's him use a 5/8" forstner bit to make the a mortise in the top of his examples, and in the top of the final pedestal construction.

To demonstrate the process, Mike mounted up a blank on a glue block screwed to a face plate. Anybody not know where that habit developed? 😊. Then Mike started running into problems, as the faceplate didn't fit directly to the Powermatic 1.25" spindle, so he had to use 2 other adapters between the



faceplate and the drive spindle. And of course, with what he was showing us, the tail stock could not be used to stabilize.

When you start adding additional parts between your work piece and the drive, you introduce vibration and wobble. Even with sharp tools, this vibration and wobble caused problems for Mike, but he continued to show us the steps and how you would go about turning the final pedestal a bit at a time.

Why a little at a time? It really depends on the style you think is right. As you start turning it, the first thing you do is drill that mortise into the end grain. This is for inserting the tenon on the body foot to see how the junction between the body and the pedestal will fit. After that, as you turn, you pause and fit again to see if your design is conforming to your vision. If not, now is the time to change the design. How many times? As many as it takes. He also showed us that Samuel makes a slight chamfer at the junction with the body and pedestal and between the collar and the body. This gives

a defined line that adds just a little something, and if you fit isn't perfect, the chamfer disguises it.

Mike then moved on to explaining the 3 part collar and finial. He said many of the students were confused as to the need for 3 pieces. Samuel explained it this way: He found out the hard way that too many people would try to pick up the vessel by the finial, and his fragile finials would break. So one collar to set the finial down into. He then found that if he had too tight a fit, the same thing would happen, and if it was loose enough, the finial would fall out when the customer tipped the vessel over to look at the side or bottom. Broken finial again. So a longer collar seat in the finial collar. And people liked to stick their finger down into the vessel to see how smooth, because the hollowing hole he uses is quite large enough. So, the third collar, glued in to the opening with the other collars fitting into it in a reverse telescoping manner. For shipping, the finial can be taken out and packaged separately but will slide right back in securely at the destination. Samuel explained that his hollowing is only for weight reduction, and never to be used as a container, so no interior sanding.

Using contrasting wood also allows the collars to build in more elegance to the final product.

Mike gave us a good demonstration, and a full discussion of what he was trying to do and why. However, those 2 additional connections between the faceplate and the drive caused just too much instability to make the 3 pieces of the collar.

Thank you Mike for pushing on as far as you could, and did.

Very late breaking news

Gary Perkins and Dennis Ferguson have news to share with the club.

Here are Gary's words.

"Dennis Ferguson and I had a very nice development today. About 5 weeks ago I posted a brief comment about our club being involved with Empty Bowls on a different turning FB group page. Shortly thereafter I was contacted by a gentleman from Louisiana asking what Empty Bowls was and could they help. I provided him with the information and told him Dennis was our point of contact and didn't think any more about it.

John Guess from Covington, LA contacted Dennis, introduced himself as being with Bayou Woodturners and got Dennis's mailing address. Like me, Dennis forgot all about the conversation. Monday, a box showed up at Dennis's house, with these 12 bowls. Turners are an incredible group of people and I never cease to be amazed."



Folks, I really hope you can take in the Woodturners World Wide Online Symposium this weekend.

Until the March 11th meeting, keep the wood spinning.

Kris Roberts, Secretary.