NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN WOODTURNERS

newsletter

Volume 7, Number 11, November, 2023

We had 36 members and guests in the room. Norm Dill, Steve Alguire and Chuck Vernon joined us by Zoom. We also had 4 students join us from the Construction Trades Class, Evelyn Millican, Connor Mallow, Paul Rice, and Tucker Gilbreath.
AND, we also welcomed back long time member, John Sheets who we hadn't seen for quite a while.

Next Meeting: December 9, 8:30 for coffee and donuts. Career Tech Center Shop and Online.

The December demonstration will be by VP Pete Meyer, who will show us how he very, very recently learned to turn an inside out Christmas ornament.
We will also have a club Christmas ornament challenge for Show and Share.

Mike Ob will be turning a natural edged bowls for us in January.

Upcoming events: From the AAW Events Page –

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

December 2 – 3-5:30pm Eastern **– Live with Lyle – Nut Bowl Gift**
From blank to finished product.
Beginner Skill Level
Cost $14.95
Register on 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 38th 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

If you are an AAW member of 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 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.

Bring Back Raffle – As last month's winner, Dale Kukla brought back a triangular, oriental style, lidded box. It was won by student, Tucker Gilbreath. And yes, our student mentors will work with Tucker to bring back the December prize.

Business Meeting

We need club demonstrators for the coming year, beginning in February. Everyone in the club has the knowledge and ability to put on a demonstration for the club with a project you like to do. Contact any of our Board members and volunteer a little time. I have demonstrated several times, and have never had anyone laugh at, or criticize me for what I was showing. Our club is an extremely comforting place to try out demonstrating in front a group of people.

The library display was extremely well received, as usual. 18 of our members took part in this outstanding demonstration of our art. We took down the display on October 30th, and are invited back for next October, so start thinking about what you would like to show there.

The Oliver Center Gallery in Frankfort has offered to display pieces of our work in their gift shop for sale. The will be taking a 30% commission from each, leaving 70% of the sales to the turner. Their offer runs from now until December 31st. If you are interested in selling some Christmas ornaments or other turnings, contact President Gary IMMEDIATELY. garydperkins@gmail.com

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) to put in an order. Marv will be sending in an order in the near future.

Wig Stands – Dennis Ferguson is our coordinator, and says that we are getting a little low on our inventory. To correct this, we need you turners to make a few. If you need the plans for a standard wig stand, please contact Dennis at (**dennis45th@gmail.com**) and he will email it back to you.

Treasury Report – Jan reported to the Board that, with all bills paid, our club balance is $3,796.96.

Jan also wants club members to know that he is collecting 2024 dues at the December meeting, or by mail (Well, he will not be at the December meeting, but has asked Ty Gilliand to stand in for him, so see Ty there). He also proposed in the July Board meeting, and 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 Life and Honorary Life members fill out the this form, ***without attaching dues.***
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.

And one last piece of business 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 it 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 and Anchor Seal Wood Sealer.
CA Glue – Glue will be sold at meetings. See Jan. As a separate attachment to this newsletter, Jan is providing the warranty document for our new Mercury CA glue.

We will not be ordering another 55 gallon drum of Anchor Seal. There are still 3 gallons of Anchor Seal at the school, they are $10 each. After they are gone, we will be on our own. The Anchor Seal website, https://uccoatings.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. Joe suggests that you could get a 5 gallon pail of it and share it out with others. That option is by far the least expensive on a per gallon basis.

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.

Will Fagan, faganstwist@gmail.com , still has 2 items for sale, which he has now put on Craigs List. One is a Mayfield DustRight Vortes for $50, https://nmi.craigslist.org/tls/d/mayfield-dustright-vortex/7688359454.html. The other is a 14-inch multipurpose cutting chop saw for $125, https://nmi.craigslist.org/tls/d/mayfield-evolution-power-tools-fury2-14/7689383381.html

Technology Gremlins
This month, we seemed to oust the gremlins from our technology equipment. We are still tweaking our system and adding capabilities to it, as we can, to better serve the club. One thing that will be happening shortly is an upgrade in our speaker/PA system. We had hopes of funneling our in-room audio through the shop's new ceiling speakers along with our camera feed. It won't happen. The reason is "Mix-Minus". Zoom, and other programs ensure that we don't get garbled sound in the room, when streaming out our meeting, by canceling out our in-room

microphone feed to keep it from coming back at us from the Zoom streaming. If they didn't, you would know it in an instant. It's called "echo feed-back and squeal", and it is beyond annoying. I know, because I have the equipment at home (learning and practicing), and I set up a personal Zoom meeting with my desktop computer and speaker. The club's system was 15 feet away, but the microphones easily picked up and fed back what was coming from my computer. Most annoying!
So… Speaker upgrades are coming.

Show and Share

Dave Almeter has gotten bitten by the segmenting bug. He brought in a beautiful footed bowls of swirled segmenting. He has 12 different woods involved, and has finished the bowl with Watco oil finish.

A masterpiece, Dave, from a very long time member of our club.

Bob Batistoni brought in 5 Christmas ornaments, which he is donating to the club, to go to the Oliver Center Gift Shop. Thank you, Bob.

Jan Bachman brought in a couple of items to share. One is a vase of red oak, finished in wipe-on poly. The other is a walnut "something". It started as a left over of a series of charcuterie boards, and he saw grain structure, color, and contour he liked so onto the lathe it went, and we have a four sided, off center, small platter. A lesson to all of us wood burners. Good eye, Jan.

Mark Andrus showed a small Christmas ornament. Globe is maple and top and icicle are cherry. Unfortunately, I did not get a good photo of just the ornament, so in its maker's hand it will stay.

Dale Kukla. Not only did Dale bring in that neat Bring Back prize (above), he also brought in 3 completed wig stands for our community support project. All three of the stands are cherry, and finished with a "shine juice".

Rick Kurtz showed the first bowl he had turned in a class in Arizona. The bottom of the bowl is pastrami, with a mahogany ring, and

segmented oak rim. It also has a turquoise inlay in the bottom.

Chuck McLaughlin brought in 4 wonderful pieces. He is holding a large vase of maple burl with resin in-filled rim voids, and it is finished with resin while slowly spinning on (if I remember correctly) an apparatus he made from a grill rotisserie. Next he showed us

a cherry bowl with rim inlaid with pieces of abalone, overlaid with resin. Then, another cherry bowl with rim inlaid this time with mother-of-pearl and again overlaid with resin.

Lastly, Chuck showed us a hollow form of spalted maple with a walnut finial.

Pete Meyer. Pete decided to try some twice turning. His first piece is a shallow bowl of beech that warped quite a bit in a couple of weeks. Second turning took most of the warp

out, and has stayed fairly stable since. He next showed us a small walnut bowl that he also twice turned. His 3rd exhibit is a semi-rectangular platter of walnut with a wormy edge that he wanted to keep. Next was another shallow bowl shape of walnut with a bit of spalting. Lastly, he showed us the top of a wig stand that he has used his signature inlay work on, maple and walnut.

Ty Gilliand has turned another excellent flower in a bud vase. This time, a calla lily, with a Monarch butterfly in attendance. To make the

blossom, Ty wanted only 1 point/petal, so he cut away the rest, and as he says, did a lot of sanding. For the butterfly, he took advantage of his wife's purchase of resin molds for earrings, which were butterfly wings. That left turning only the body, and used wire wrapping to create the legs and the antennae. The bud vase he turned out of a piece of pallet wood that turned out to be ash, and will be finished.

Marv Slee showed us 2 candy bowls of monkey pod, one with Mahoney's oil, and the other with wipe-on poly.

Jim Scarsella. Jim brought in a lidded box of oak burl, which he bleached, with African Blackwood finial. He then showed us 3 Christmas ornaments made with sea urchin globes and African Blackwood finials. Jim told us that he makes his finials in two parts, which makes it easier to fit and scale. And lastly, he showed a hollow form vessel out of bleached cherry, with a Blackwood foot, collar and finial.

Rich Foa brought back 3 of the spheres he demonstrated with last month, continuing with the embellishing he started on the turned sphere. By just rotating

the axis, using sphere chucking devices, he was able to make a stylized pumpkin, a contemporary candle holder, and an owl head. He wanted to show us some of what we can do with the sphere shape besides making various sizes of balls.

Jo Jaczkowski. Jo has been busy turning a series of maple bowls, some with speckle spalting, and is now developing his techniques for turning mortar and pestle. Mortar out of maple and pestle out of oak.

Norm Dill, in virtual presence by Zoom. Norm showed us 2 pieces he has completed lately. One is a hollow form vase of birch in a classical style. The other is a hollow form vessel turned in 2 parts. The join is the center burn line. That technique allows the turner to have a very small appearing hollowing hole, yet have really good access to hollow out both top and bottom. Think of it as a faux box. I've been dying to try the technique to see if I can pull off the look without giving the technique away.

And last, but very much not least, our President, **Gary Perkins**.

Gary first showed us a natural edge vase of cherry burl. This was dry wood he was given by a friend, and it gave him a new appreciation for the ease of turning green wood. Gary has also been bitten by the Christmas bug.

Either that, or he wants bragging rights at the Christmas Ornament Challenge, and I think he might just get it. Most of these ornaments are going to the Oliver Center, but the ornament stand he has made almost makes those fine Christmas ornaments look like an afterthought.

Every one of the turning tools on the stands are hand made by Gary. Here is a closer look. Pretty awesome.

IRD Demonstration by Carl Jacobson.

[Interactive Remote Demonstration]

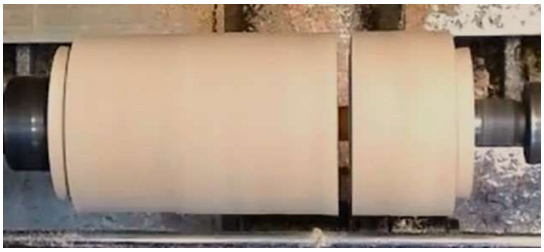
Carl and his wife own the Niles Bottle Stopper Company. Anticipating a bunch of sales at our outside demonstrations at Left Foot Charlies, the club bought a bunch of Niles bottle stopper kits. As a thank you, Carl offered to put on this IRD for our club. Many thanks go to Board Member Kieran Goodman for negotiating our purchase, and coordinating this IRD.

Carl also sells threaded bronze inserts (male and female pairs) for woodturning boxes and vessels. We have seen demonstrations of thread turning directly into the wood boxes and lids in a couple of ways. That works well in a lot of woods, but now all. And of course, wood, even dry wood, tends to move seasonally. Using these threaded bronze inserts minimizes the chance of wood movement locking up the wooden threads.

Niles Bottle Stoppers carries these bronze inserts in 3 sizes. 1½, 2½, and 3½ inch diameters. They are grooved on the outside for better glue holding in the turned piece. Carl's demonstration was in how to turn, fit, and attach an insert into a turned box.

Carl decided to use the 1½" inserts for this one that he made out of Big Leaf Maple.

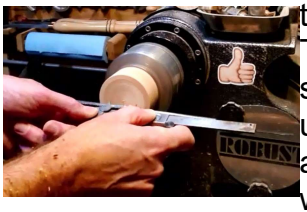
As most of us who make boxes are familiar, Carl rounds the blank and cuts a tenon at both ends for chucking, and then parts off the lid section. An interesting point here is that Carl, is using a ½ or 5/8" spindle gouge for the rounding to a cylinder. The tenons are cut



with a parting tool. Parting off the lid, he stops the parting tool cut with a little left, and then used a pull saw to finish cutting off the lid section.

The next step is to mount the lid in a chuck, and start cutting the recess. First, cleans/cuts the face to remove torn grain from the parting tool, and to give an even surface for marking, which comes next. For most boxes, you align the grain of the wood with the bed of the lathe. This means that all the turning and hollowing will be in end grain.

Use calipers to measure the outside diameter of the insert. Carl then closes the calipers very slightly and transfers that measurement to the spinning wood by touching only one tooth of the caliper on the side of the axis which is turning toward you, and scoring a line. Rest the caliper on the tool rest for stability. The idea is to keep scoring lines like this until one of the lines appears to match up with the other tooth of the caliper (without touching it). You have now marked the diameter of the recess you need to set the insert into. So why close the calipers to slightly less than the insert diameter? To give a little forgiveness in cutting the recess, allowing us to sneak up on the correct diameter of the recess by very small cuts, and trying the fit.



Using a parting tool again, start cutting well inside the scored diameter line, and then, as Carl says, sneak up on the line with a series of small cuts. The depth of the cut needs to be a bit more than half the height of the insert so that when it is done, the lid screws on to a wood to wood contact. Otherwise the insert will show.

Carl then hollowed out the center somewhat to give room, and he then deepened the insert diameter cut to his final depth, leaving a shelf. He stressed that you need to leave a small “shelf” at the final depth of the insert so the insert can seat.

Now he continued his tiny step cuts on the insert diameter until his insert just nicely slid into the recess. He used a skew to get the sides square. Carl says that a “slightly” loose fit is okay, as the glue will fill the space.

If you didn’t before, clean off the face to remove any remaining torn grain, and **then** adjust the depth of the recess with additional cuts of the parting tool as necessary. If you don’t, you will bind later that your insert will sit too proud. With half the insert off, you want to have the joint just slightly counter sunk. If too flush, you may not get a good wood to wood contact later.

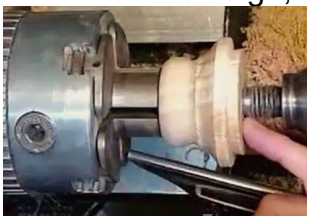
Now he hollowed out the lid to remove weight, leaving just a narrow shelf for the insert. It doesn't need much of a shelf, he says, just enough to ground the insert, and the insert will cover that shelf so it will not be seen. The recess and shelf is important for another reason. You will be remounting on the chuck, into the recess in expansion mode to finish the other side of the lid.

As we all know, a little planning here is needed in the hollowing. The lid is in a chuck, and not yet shaped. So think about the amount of hollowing you want to do so you still have enough thickness when the lid is finished.

While still in the chuck, start shaping the lid as much as possible, and sand inside and out what can be reached. More about Carl's sanding protocol later.

Reverse and remount the lid for finish turning. Since the center points are still in

both lid and body from mounting between centers, Carl likes to bring the tail stock up when remounting to get as precise an alignment as possible. He also likes to keep the tail stock up as long as possible for stability, less vibration and safety. He switched out to pin jaws on the chuck for the remount. If your jaws contract enough, you may be able to mount on the same jaws. However, pin jaws do give extra space for sanding and finishing on the lathe.



Sanding and finishing. Carl uses Abranet sanding medium. First 2 lower grits are done dry, and then he goes through the rest, up to 600, with walnut oil, wiping between grits. This gives a nice soft, satin feel, and helps the oil penetrate better. Besides, when

you're done sanding, you are also done finishing, if you are just going to use an oil finish.

Setting the finished (w/o the insert) lid aside, Carl remounted the box body for setting the other half of the insert (male), shaping, and hollowing.

Since he made a much smaller diameter lid than the cylinder, he began shaping the body to compliment the lid. He cautions onto to go too far doing this, as you need enough room for the insert.

Which brings up the question of wall thickness, which was asked. Carl said that the wall thickness is generally more than what we would normally do for a box, because the bronze insert has a substantial weight, and can tend to make a thin-walled box top heavy, and feel awkward when you pick it up. So a bit thicker wall just works better. He didn't come up with a thickness measure though, leaving that up to the turner. If you are turning a burial urn, however, he did recommend a wall thickness of about ¼ inch.

This was going to be a tapered box, so the profile was begun, but didn't proceed too far

in order to leave strength/mass for stability and vibration damping while hollowing.

Now set up for cutting the insert recess. It is the same procedure as used in the lid. Make enough room to form the insert support shelf, then sneak up on the insert recess diameter with small cuts. Once the diameter is correct, and the insert fits, deepen the recess if necessary to accommodate a very slight counter sink of the insert.

From here, it is hollowing and finishing the exterior. Carl uses a forstner bit for the initial hollowing, using a bit diameter that will leave the support shelf intact. Once the depth is achieved, hollowing out to the desired wall thickness is done with standard hollowing tools, including that area under the shelf.

Carl cautioned using the forstner bit to keep the tailstock quill as short a possible to help minimize the wander of the bit. Do this by rewinding the quill and moving the tailstock up each time you come out to eject chips. He said the same applies when drilling for bottle stoppers. It seems kind of unnecessary considering the diameter of the tailstock quill, but he says that there is just enough flex as the quill extends to allow for bit wander. So keep the distance between the tailstock and the work piece as short as possible. **And don't forget to hold on to the drill chuck to keep it from pulling out of the tailstock when you back it off.** More than one turner, myself included, has found out the hard way what happens when the drill chuck comes free while the bit is still in the spinning work.

When your hollowing is done, and sanded as much as you are going to on the inside, and the finish is applied, reverse chuck, expanding into the recess and shelf. Bring the tailstock up to help center, stabilize, and damp vibration. Now you can finish shaping the outside, base or foot as you want it, depending what you are planning. Sand and finish as you did the lid.

Now, **after** the finishing is done, it's time to epoxy the inserts in. Carl uses 5 minute epoxy, and just enough to do the job. Less is more. The epoxy will get into the grooves on the outside of the insert, and when it dries, it is locked in tight. Again, less is more. Just enough, you don't want the epoxy to squeeze out under the insert and off the shelf onto the interior. Any that squeezes out on the top you can easily clean off. Glue in one side of the insert at a time, Carl glued the insert into the lid first

Before the epoxy sets, with the lid screwed on, align the grain in your piece by turning the lid and the insert

until the grain matches. While he didn't say this specifically, after grain matching, and as or just before the epoxy sets, screw the lid off and make sure no epoxy got between the inserts, or on the threads. Then set it aside and let the epoxy cure.

Many thanks again to Carl for a great demonstration of using inserted threaded bronze rings into our turnings. You can see more at their website, www.nilesbottlestoppers.com

Respectfully Submitted,
Kris Roberts, Secretary