

TURNING Threads

July 2025



Dan Brandner demonstrated how to make a honey dipper with a lid to fit on a Mason Jar.

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AAW

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
OF WOODTURNERS

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The summer heat and humidity is upon us and I hope this finds everyone doing well. Those that have shops that are in this heat, please stay hydrated!

There were quite a few items that were donated for sale at the upcoming event in Menomonie (Lets Paint The Town). We were able to get our booth assignment so we will be on 8th Street across from Wilson Park.

There has been offerings of wood for the club and an email was sent out to members that gave details of who, and what is available. You can check your email for more details.

The President's challenge of an end grain hollowing item had several beautiful entries. The progress and skills of the members in difficult challenges amaze me. We have a great bunch of turners that are willing to try new and challenging tasks.



Monthly Meetings

First Wednesday
of the month

Board Meeting at
6:00 pm

Social Hour at 6:00 pm

Meeting and
Demonstration

7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Open House

Second Saturday
of the month

8:00 am to 12:00 pm

Summer is a time for enjoying family, friends, and the wonderful Wisconsin outdoors. Therefore the Saturday open house only had a couple of people attending.

See you in August.

BE SAFE but have fun

Bob

**Members and interested persons may contact the
Chippewa Valley Woodturners Guild by email at:
woodturnercvvg@gmail.com**

Woodturners Wood Heist

By Tom Leonard

Foreword: Perhaps this amateur attempt at a fictional short story may be out of place for this publication (not newsletter). After all it suppose to have fact not fiction. But as the long-time editor I have come to realize that this publication is unique and since the AAW seems to chose announcements and shirt advertisements over content (i.e. articles), I offer this story as sort of a protest to the AAW, not that they would really care. I offer it in three parts. If the first part is found to be unacceptable to the membership I will not offer any further parts.

The original story had my usual detective characters, Eve and Floyd which take place in Madison and gets a bit involved with bad guys.

So, this is my rural version with four aging woodturning friends and a mystery.

Cast of Characters

Eric Ahlgren

Eric was tall and rangy of Scandinavian origin. He now had grey hair on a large head but he had a face that usually had a neutral expression, but he could be very grumpy at times. Especially when he was with his friends who were equally grumpy old men.

Eric was born and raised in Scanden, Wisconsin. He grew up on a farm which his father owned but it was never a successful farm and his father Olaf never worked that hard at it. Eric and his two brothers, when they came of age did most of the work. Eventually, the boys drifted away from the farm and farming, such as it was, discontinued.

Olaf then rented the acres he had for several years and eventually sold the land to expanding corporate farms but he kept the farmhouse, the barns and of course the outhouse.

Eric sought a life elsewhere and had little contact with his father or the farm. After his father died, Eric was surprised that he was left with the farm. A further surprise was an insurance policy with him as the beneficiary for a 250 thousand dollars. Eric was uneasy about that thinking how his father was able to get a policy for that amount.

His fathers 'off the farm' dealings were unknown. Even when Eric asked about what he was doing to feed himself, his response was always this and that. Eric worried that someday some law officer would show up and tell him that the insurance policy was paid for with stolen money. Not a nice thing to say about a father, but well, he was mysterious about his earning a living since it wasn't in farming or anything else identifiable.

Now at 75, Eric had retired to the farm. With the money he inherited, he fixed up the old farm house with new siding and indoor plumbing. The old machine shed was cleaned and sectioned off with heating for space to revive his woodturning and wood working hobby. He reunited with three old high school buddies and all four turned out a lot of sawdust. His nickname in high school was A.G.

Myron Goodlove

Like Eric, he grew up on the farm but he took over the family farm and did the best he could with it but couldn't compete with the corporate farms. He eventually sold out to the corporates. He lived sparingly, keeping his money from the sale of the farm and getting odd jobs here and there before retiring. At age 74 he was still fit but somewhat angry at having to sell the farm. He was of short stature with a balding round head but he always wore a cap with various farm machinery logos. In high school his nickname was Goody.

Aras Egle

Aras wasn't a farmer but lived in town with a family that adopted him from Lithuania when he was 3 years old. The family name was Augustus but Aras decided to retain his Lithuanian name. He was known in high school by his nickname of E.G. He left Scanden after high school and became an engineer. When he retired, he decided to go back to Scanden because it would be cheaper to live. He was a solidly built man with bushy white hair and a gaunt oval face.

Alfred Schneider

Alfred's father raised cattle and was very successful at it. Alfred took over the business but didn't have the business acumen of his father. The ups and downs of the cattle business was beyond his abilities to keep up although he did maintain the business at a lower level than his father. Reaching an old age, he decided to sell all the cattle and rent out the land and sort of retired. Alfred was as tall as Eric but skinnier. He had always been on the frail side and often walked with a limp. His nickname in high school was Snid.

Part I

Monday Afternoon

This group of old high school buddies all took up woodturning. They varied in their interests and abilities. A.G. was a so-so turner who turned out a variety of bowls, lidded boxes and other easy type turnings. Goody was more or less there for the social aspect and his turnings never seemed to get finished. E.G. approached turning from an engineer's point of view and every turning had to be precise and pre drawn. Snid was the adventurous type who was always bringing in odd ball chunks of wood and trying to turn them because he saw a You tube video of something similar.

All the equipment and wood were kept in A.G.'s old machine shed. There were two Deltas and two Jets. Older models that were obtained used. There was a bandsaw, a drill press and a grinder. All gouges were bought used and of different types of

steel from different manufacturers and the grinder was kept busy a lot of days. The gouges, though of varied quality did have many of top quality especially for EG the engineer. The shed was never locked so any of the group could come in and turn or prepare something. The farm was several miles out of town and A.G. had no fear of anything being stolen. The group often got together Monday every two weeks. More for the after turning when they went to town to Gino's Pizza and got a pizza and beer. It was on one of those Mondays when things altered their day for a change of routine.

A.G. came from his house to the machine shed which was about one hundred yards away. The house was a typical old farmhouse in this area with a central open room and rooms surrounding the central area. It was very old and after A.G. had the siding redone and a new roof it looked more modern. He did remodel the inside and that included running water and a toilet.

The land was slightly sloped from the house to the old barn and machine shed. There was a wooded area behind the shed that sloped at a gentle angle to a county highway about a 1/4 mile down. The barn was also typical of the area with a rounded roof to keep the snow from accumulating and the wood board siding was a faint red. These old barns used to have milking parlors in the lower level and hay storage in the upper level. There was also an aging silo that was showing its age.

A.G.'s father didn't continue his father's dairy herd because he didn't like cows having learned to dislike cows growing up around them. The farm grew food crops which did well enough but the selling of the hay crop was more profitable.

A.G. came out from the house after seeing E.G. and Goody pull up to the shed. They did their usual greetings.

"Where's Snid?", A.G. inquired.

"He went to get something special", he said.

"You know Snid. Always something that likely will spin off the lathe and almost put one of us in the hospital.", said E.G.

“Well, let’s not wait for him.”

They went into the shed. A.G. looked around and commented, “Looks like E.G. has been here planning something.”

“Yes,” he answered enthusiastically. “I have been looking into hollow turning. I’ll need a lot of jigs for it but I know of a metal fabricator that can make the jigs. I was just measuring things on my lathe to make sure they will fit and I concluded that I need a bigger lathe. My Jet is too small and the Deltas are also too small. I been thinking. Why don’t we combine our resources to get one of those big Robust Lathes?”

A.G. and Goody gave him a look of , Are you out of your mind!

“E.G., those things cost more than \$5000. And exactly how do you think we could even get it in the shed and assemble it. That thing must weight a couple of tons. We don’t have the backs for that.”

“We could hire it done. Beside A.G. you have the money to buy it.”

“Don’t talk to me about the money. You know how I feel about it”, he said angrily. “Never was comfortable with it.”

“Yeah, but why not get rid of it if it sticks in your craw”, E.G. snapped back.

“Because, that’s why”, A.G. said grumpily.

E.G. persisted, “Well, how about a used Powermatic. Those aren’t number one any more and there are lots of turners selling theirs to get a Robust lathe. It would be all assembled and we could hire movers to pick it up and bring it in the barn.”

Before A.G. could answer, Snid came in grinning from ear to ear.

“What is that, Snid?” asked A.G.

“It’s a root!”

“Yeah, well that’s obvious. What are you going to do with it?”

“What do you mean? I’m going to turn it.”

“You are going to turn that? Just how are you going to do that?” A.G. asked skeptically.

“Well, I saw this You tube video of a guy that got a large root with little roots sprouting out. He turned a beautiful vase out of it.”

“Yeah, but he was a professional. This is a bit out of your league. Beside remember that crooked branch you brought in two months ago? It went flying off the lathe and nearly decapitated Goody and then it continued flying and bent the siding on the shed.”

“Well, it didn’t nearly decapitate Goody and you know it. And you have to expect an accident now and then. You did turn my lathe around so that anymore flying wood would not hit anyone but me.” Snid responded angrily.

“Snid, you know that’s not true. It’s just safer for everyone. Just let someone else check how the blank is secured next time.”

“Well, I need the chainsaw to saw off these small roots. Can’t turn it with all these roots.”

“Snid, that piece is too small for a chainsaw. We need to help you and hand saw off the roots.”

“Yeah, well, Okay.”

One person held the root down on a table while one sawed off the ends and then the small roots. Snid then took it to his lathe and put it between centers.

While that was being done, A.G. asked Snid, “Where did you get this thing, anyway?”

“Over at Brubakers place. He was digging out a stump.”

“Brubaker? I thought he was dead? There was even a funeral.”

“Yeah.” Snid laughed. “Fooled everyone didn’t he.”

“Now why in the name of Jamison’s cow, did he do that?”

“Just who is Jamison and what does a cow have to do with it?”

“Never mind. What about Brubaker?”

“Well, you see, he faked his death to smoke out his greedy relatives. The funeral director, Barney Volkman, was a friend of his and both liked to play jokes. This one appealed to Volkman as the best joke ever. Well, there was an announcement in the paper that told of his death.”

“Wasn’t there an investigation of this fake death?”

“Yeah, but the previous sheriff, Peters, liked a good joke too, so he went along with it. Well, Brubaker actually lay in the coffin after being sedated. After the memorial service, Volkman switched coffins that was weighted down to fool the pall bearers.

“At the cemetery, the service took place and after the attendees left. Volkman then put the coffin back in the hearse and took it back to the funeral home and put it back on display.”

“What about the burial vault?”

“They closed it and covered it up with dirt. A plaque was also put in to mark the person supposedly in the grave. There is nothing in it.” Snid began laughing.”

E.G. and Goody had gathered around A.G. to hear the story. They were undecided whether to laugh or groan.

“Anyway, the relatives who were nephews, went crazy looking for his will and all the time Brubaker was laughing his head off. In the middle of this frantic searching for the will he suddenly appeared and quite alive. Scared the bejesus out of them. Haven’t heard from them since.”

“Greedy relatives? Brubaker didn’t have any money.”

“Oh, I guess you didn’t know.”

“Know what?” A.G. was getting irritated by this.

“You knew that Brubaker was friends with your father.”

“Yeah.”

“They were also business partners. Whatever they did they split fifty-fifty. So, if your father could have afforded a 250 thousand policy so could Brubaker. Insurance would keep the greedy relatives from getting anything.”

A.G. shook his head. “Then who is the beneficiary?”

“Don’t know.”

A.G. frowned. “You mean you led us up to this point just to tell us that you don’t know who inherits?”

“Well, how would I know. I’m just telling you the rumor.”

They all threw up their hands in disgust.

“Let’s do something so we will have a good excuse to get a beer and a pizza.”

A.G. went over to the wood shelf with Goody to get a blank to turn.

A.G. looked at the wood stock and scratched his head. “Now where are those Cherry Burls? This is really peculiar.”

“What’s that?” asked Goody.

“I had two nice Cherry Burls sitting here.” He turned to the group and asked if any of them had taken the burls.”

E.G. spoke up. “They were there last Friday.”

Snid said, “Not me. I wouldn’t touch A.G.’s blanks.”

“Not me either.” Added Goody.

“Maybe someone stole them?”, asked Snid.

Well, you don't lock the barn and anyone could come in like us.", interjected E.G.

A.G. rubbed the back of his neck. "Let's look around and see if we can get a clue to something."

"You want us to be detectives now?", asked Goody surprisingly.

"Sort of. Problem I am having is that the door to this shed has a very bright light over it at night. Always has had one. Could have come in the escape door that leads to the shed back door but it hasn't been opened in years. Let's take a look."

They went to the back of the shed. The back door was blocked by a variety of things.

However, the door opened outward not inward so someone still could have come in that way, but there was no evidence that anything had been disturbed. A.G. went out to the back of the shed to look for foot prints but found none.

"Whoever it was had to come in using the front door. Kind of cheeky of 'em.", concluded Goody.

"Maybe they knew when you would be gone?", asked E.G.

"Yeah maybe. I'm going to call the sheriff and get his opinion."

To be continued

THIS MONTH IN 2016



Club member Bob Eberhardt demonstrates the art and manufacture of knitting needles. By using various home made jigs he was able to speed up the process of making the estimated 15,000 knitting needles that he and his wife made.





FUTURE DEMONSTRATIONS

Meetings are the first Wednesday of the month at 7 pm.
 Open house is the second Saturday of the month from
 8 am to 12 pm

Meeting Dates and Demonstrations

August 6—Ron Bartz—Chatter Tools

September 3 —Mark Palma —What I Wish I Would Have
 Known About Turning 20 Years Ago

October 1—Not Yet Determined

November 5— Bob Eberhardt—Make that Snowman

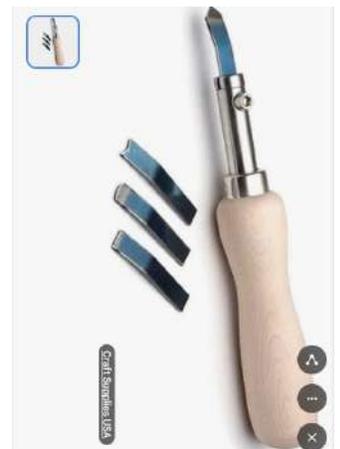
December 3—Dan Brandner—Learning the Skew

August Open House Date

August 9 from 8:00 am to 12:00pm. If coming after
 10:00, please inform us through the web site the night
 before at: woodturnercvvg@gmail.com. Meetings and
 Open House are held in the Eau Claire Insulation build-
 ing at 1125 Starr Ave on the northeast side of Eau Claire,
 WI. Look for the meeting sign. No sign—No meeting.



Next Month
Chatter Tools
Ron Bartz





[Banksia With the Holes](#)

Woodturning in Ancient Times

Woodturning began in ancient times; there is some evidence that the ancient Egyptians used a kind of bow or strap lathe to turn wooden objects as far back as 1300 BC. While this evidence is sparse, most historians agree that there is enough evidence from a few preserved wood-turned pieces and depictions in ancient drawings, as well as references in other ancient literature, to agree that woodturning has been practiced since at least the sixth or seventh century BC.

According to the [Woodturner's Workshop](#), the Etruscan people (who lived in modern-day Italy) had mastery of the lathe and various woodturning techniques by 700 BC. Researchers recovered a fragment of a bowl from an Etruscan site that had "clear evidence of rounding and polishing on its outer surface and of hollow turning..." (Woodbury). Excavations in modern-day Turkey and Germany show similar artifacts, which indicates that this technology was widespread in the known world by several centuries BC.

By several centuries AD, this technology was the primary method used for creating wooden vessels like bowls, plates, and cups in Europe, and there were woodturning guilds as early as 1300 AD. After the industrial revolution, woodturning by hand was not as widely practiced, but there has been a resurgence in the United States during the last fifty years of hobbyists who are revisiting techniques of old. So, what were our ancestors using to turn their wood blanks into rather impressive bowls and goblets? They had lathes, but they were much more primitive than the ones we use today.

Source: [Types of Lathes](#)

Paint the Town Event



Several members of CVWG manned the tent at the 2025 Paint the Town event in Menomonie WI on Saturday July 19th. The event showcases crafts, business and clubs in the Chippewa Valley.

Our positions had been changed at the last minute and we were off on a side street rather than on the main loop around Wilson Park. We had two spots, but our tent was larger than a single spot so we only setup one tent and figured we had enough space, even if we had to dodge any rain. Fortunately we only had a few sprinkles.

We didn't have a ton of traffic, but it picked up a little in the afternoon and we were able to make some sales. It was educational to have Joe Nycz show us how the professionals interact with the browsers and turn them into sales. Proceeds will be discussed at the August meeting.

Volunteers helping included Jerry Brown, Jerry Lilly, Brooke Erickson, Bob Wilcox, Joe Nycz, Tony Dull, David and Jayne Kulberg, Dan Wold and Dan Brandner. Regrets if any names are missed.





Ever wondered where cork came from. From trees of course.

[Cork Oak Facts](#)

[Cork Oak Species](#)

[Cork Oak Harvest](#)

[Cork Oak Harvest Video](#)



Asking Microsoft CoPilot,

What are the pros and cons of Carbide, HSS, M2, M42 and Cryo as regards wood turning tools?

Sure! Here's a comparison of the pros and cons of Carbide, HSS (High-Speed Steel), M2, M42, and Cryo wood turning tools:

Carbide Wood Turning Tools

Pros:

- Longevity: Carbide tips are extremely durable and can last much longer than traditional tools.
- Low Maintenance: Replaceable carbide inserts eliminate the need for frequent sharpening.
- Consistency: Provides a consistent cut over time.
- Ease of Use: Ideal for beginners due to minimal maintenance.

Cons:

- Higher Initial Cost: Carbide tools are generally more expensive upfront.
- Rougher Finish: Can tear wood fibers, especially on end grain, requiring more sanding.
- Limited Flexibility: Not as versatile for fine detail work.

HSS (High-Speed Steel) Wood Turning Tools

Pros:

- Versatility: Available in various shapes and sizes for different cuts.
- Control and Precision: Skilled turners can achieve intricate details and smoother finishes.
- Lower Initial Cost: Typically, less expensive upfront compared to carbide tools.

Cons:

- Maintenance: Requires regular sharpening, which can be time-consuming.
- Learning Curve: Takes time and practice to master.

M2 High-Speed Steel Wood Turning Tools

Pros:

- Sharpness: M2 steel is known for its ability to hold a sharp edge.
- Durability: Good resistance to wear and tear.

Cons:

- Maintenance: Requires regular sharpening.
- Cost: Can be more expensive than standard HSS tools.

M42 High-Speed Steel Wood Turning Tools

Pros:

- Superior Edge Retention: M42 steel holds an edge longer than M2 steel.
- Durability: Excellent resistance to wear and tear.

Cons:

- Cost: Generally, more expensive than M2 and standard HSS tools.
- Maintenance: Still requires regular sharpening.

Cryo Wood Turning Tools

Pros:

- Enhanced Hardness: Cryogenic treatment increases the hardness and wear resistance of the steel.
- Longer Edge Life: Tools maintain a sharp edge for a longer period.

Cons:

- Cost: Cryo-treated tools can be significantly more expensive.
- Availability: Not as widely available as other types of wood turning tools.

Each type of tool has its own strengths and weaknesses, so the best choice depends on your specific needs, skill level, and budget.

Honey Dipper in a Jar

by Dan Brandner

7/2/25 DB

Made in three pieces. These are the dipper itself, a cover and a handle.

I turned this using different collet chucks ($5/8"$ and $1/4"$), but you could use suitable jamb chucks or jawed chucks too.

For the dipper, I chose a closed grain wood such as maple square stock cut from a $4/4$ board.

For the cover, I chose a scrap piece of maple door trim from our house. For the handle I chose an exotic, but you could use any wood, though I think a contrasting color looked good. I chose a suitably sized jar such as a 12 oz. mason jar.

Mount and turn the dipper blank between centers, and turn a tenon on the right end.



Unmount it and mount the tenon in a collet chuck. Determine length of dipper portion based on the jar chosen and mark appropriately.



Form the dipper ridges on the left, by the headstock. Form a $1/4"$ tenon on the other end that will go in the handle. Rough out and finish the shape of the dipper, working from the right to the driving headstock on the left.



Add any desired style elements, then form beads on the ridges and clean up all cuts before sanding.



Then, part off the 1/4" tenon end. Turn it around and mount it in a 1/4" collet chuck. Continue using the tail stock live center until parting off on that end. Smooth end of ridged dipper and shoulder by cover before sanding.



For the Cover, I mounted a square cover blank with Titebond II onto a cylinder I had shaped to be held in my jawed chuck. I have reused this cylinder multiple times, so they are handy to have around.





I marked and turned the blank round to fit inside the mason jar cover. I first rough rounded it with my parting tool, then cleaned it up with a bowl gouge. Next, I drilled a hole through it for the handle with a 1/4" drill.

Next, I turned a shoulder on the cover to fit in the mason ring, then slightly domed the exposed part for a nice look. I finished this before parting it off with Kirk's friction paste, then Kirk's G.O.A.T finish. It will be more difficult to finish it later.



I parted it off with my thin parting tool. Not going too fast, and making a kerf wider than the tool. Near the end, I slowed down the lathe so the piece wouldn't go flying. Remember, there is a 1/4" hole down the center.

The last step is to hold it with a 1/4" jamb tenon in the hole, and sand the bottom of the cover with a sanding disk or belt. You want it thin so the mason ring can still grab the threads on the jar. Sand it nice and smooth, by hand on a flat surface if you have to. This honey facing surface never gets a finish put on it. The handle should fit in the cover smoothly. Adjust as needed.





For the Handle, I selected a piece of a contrasting wood.



Between centers, put a tenon on one end of your selected wood blank, which will be the handle end for the collet. Flip and put in collet. Center with tailstock live center. Square off end, then drill for the dipper handle depth. Then use cone center to finish.



Then turn it around and put it on a 1/4" jamb chuck to nicely finish the handle end. Keep in mind how deep the hole was drilled.



Finalize surface, then apply finish. Again, I used Kirk's, friction polish and Kirk's GOAT wax.

All the final pieces should look like this. You may need to flatten one side of the 1/4" tenon, so that there is room for air to escape when this is all glued together with epoxy.

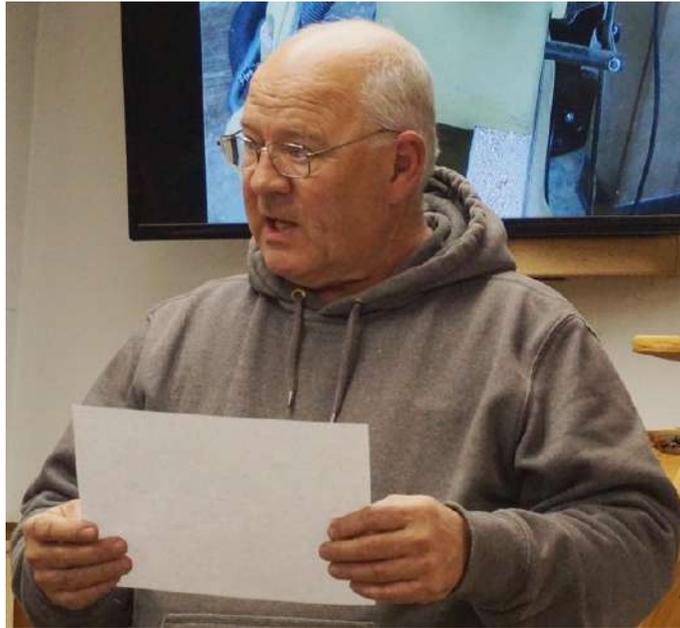


JULY DEMONSTRATION

Let the epoxy dry and enjoy your new honey dipper, or make someone smile by gifting it to them.



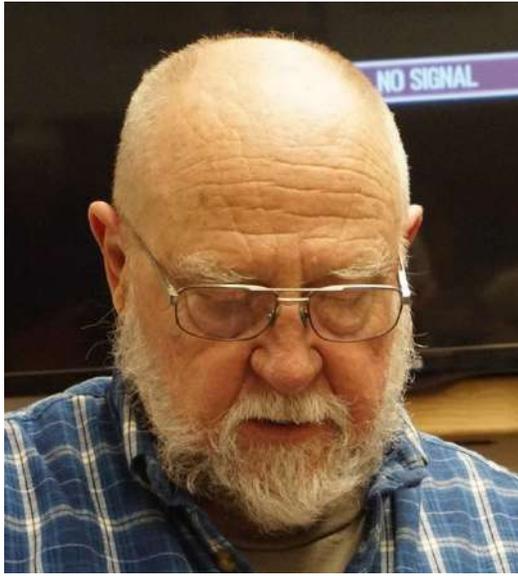
Bob Eberhardt



Bob made a shallow bowl from Avocado wood,



Chip Troost



Chip made a pencil pot and two bowls.
This was for the President's Challenge
for turning an end grain.



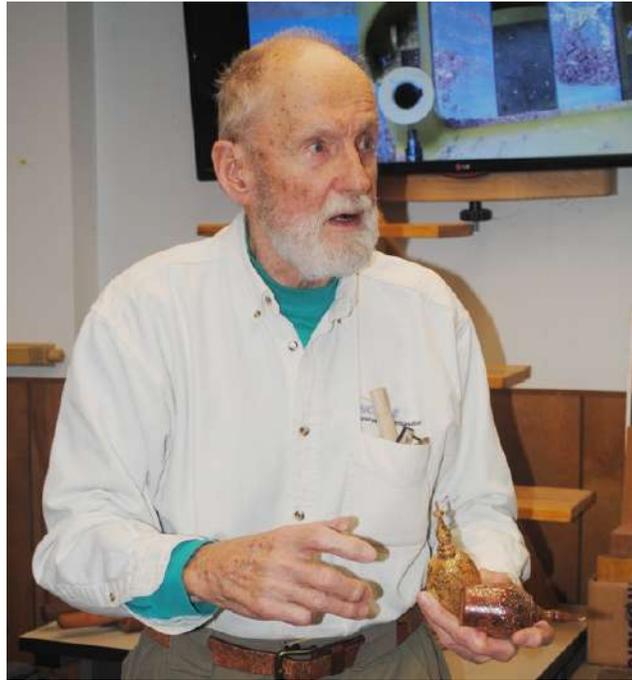
Joe Nycz



Joe Nycz made a vase with a glass insert.
This was for the President's Challenge
for turning an end grain.



Fred Steffens



Fred Steffens made two pencil pots.
This was for the President's
Challenge for turning an end grain.



Grayson Schultz



Grayson made two pencil pots and a chess pawn piece,. This was for the President's Challenge for turning an end grain.



Paul Meske



Paul made a unique pencil pot as well as three bowls and two plates. This was for the President's Challenge for turning an end grain.



Ron Bartz



Ron made two pencil pots. This was for the President's Challenge for turning an end grain. He also made four bowls.



Tony Dull

Tony made a pencil pot This was for the President's Challenge for turning an end grain.



**Photos for Show and Tell and Gallery provided by
Dan Brandner and Tom Leonard**

**Mid-Atlantic Woodturning
Symposium**

September 19-21, 2025
Lancaster, PA

**Ohio Valley Woodturners
Guild Symposium**

October 10-12, 2025
West Harrison, IN



**Rocky Mountain
Woodturning
Symposium**
September 19-21, 2025
Loveland, CO



**Segmented Woodturning
Symposium**
September 26-28, 2025
Crowne Plaza Hotel
Northbrook, IL