

# TURNING

Threads

November 2025



**Bob Eberhardt demonstrated the making of snowmen of various designs.**

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**President  
Bob Eberhardt**

**Vice President  
vacant**

**Treasurer  
Sue Mohr**

**Secretary  
Tom Leonard**

**Program Director  
Dan Brandner**

**At Large Directors  
Joe Nycz  
Ron Bartz**

**Other Positions**

**Membership  
Director  
Henry Troost**

**Newsletter Editor  
Tom Leonard**

**Web Master  
Dan Brandner**

**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

Hi All,

Fall is here and the beautiful weather is still hanging on. Hope this finds everybody in good health and able to do some turning.

The demo was by Bob Eberhardt and was a Christmas theme making emerging Christmas trees and emerging Snowmen. I hope everyone was able to pick up some techniques that will enable better spindle turning.



There was a great turnout this month and several new members signed up for our beginning class which started on Tuesday November 11th. This class will run for the next 4 Tuesday nights.

I am planning to put on an advanced class on bowl turning. Showing how to make some more advanced cuts and options for mounting blanks and finishing the bottom of your bowls.

We had a large group for our Open House on Saturday all the lathes were getting a good workout. We had members waiting for a lathe to open up. One of our new members brought his Grandfather and they were both able to make a Pen. A great time was had by all. Don't forget if you need to have your tools sharpened you can bring them and we will get them sharpened.

The President's challenge for December is a Snowman.

December demo will be by Dan Brandner on the use of a skew

See you in December.

BE SAFE but have fun! **Bob**

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

## Part 2 of The Missing Neighbor

In their separate cars, the woodturners and the son-in-law proceeded to the Brubaker farm a few miles away. It was eerily quiet. No farm noises, but it was the time of the year that crops were growing and Brubaker also gave up cows for crops. As Brayden had related there was no sign of a disturbance and Brubaker's two vehicles were parked by the house which by itself was suspicious in A.G.'s mind and should have been to Barton if he had a brain to work with.

Inside, was no different. It was actually clean and orderly which Brayden confirmed Brubaker was indeed that way. A quick look around told them nothing they already didn't already know. A.G. picked up Brubaker's cell phone and turned it on. "E.G., see if you can find anything significant on the phone."

"Brayden, we know Brubaker liked a good practical joke. Sometimes going beyond the confines of social acceptability. Would it be possible that he may have disappeared just to see if anyone would come looking for him?"

"Uh, I don't know. It seems extreme for his usual antics."

"But it has been ten days and long enough to wait out being found. I have to think that if the reason might be the reappearance of the nephews, then he might do something like this. But I don't think he is stupid enough to not have left some clues just in case something happened to disable him. After all he is in his nineties. It has to be something unobvious that any of the snooping nephews would miss. Something consistent with his known way of doing things."

"Makes sense for a start," agreed E.G. "Not finding anything on the phone yet."

The four began looking from room to room hoping for some clue that Brubaker might have left. All four found nothing of interest.

A.G. looked around the room trying to get another

idea of possibly what to look for. "Brayden, would your wife know something that might help? I suppose Brubaker has always been like he is."

"I'll call her." He did and talked for a few minutes. "She said her father used to get scraps of paper and leave them on the floor with a note offering a reward that would be given for anyone finding it. There was a hitch to it. They must have picked up other things from the floor to accompany the note. The more things they picked up the higher the reward. I guess that way the floor was kept clean."

They all chuckled as well as Brayden. "Let's see if he has revived this little game. It's all we have to go on," urged A.G.

They spent about ten minutes searching the floors, counters and anyplace a note might be left with no results.

"Well, I guess we'll have to think of something else," a disappointed A.G. said.

E.G. thought a moment, "Should we go through drawers and closets?"

"I guess we better. Don't like looking into a man's personal things but it would be a next step."

It took an hour to go through all the drawers in the house. "Did anyone look under the furniture?" asked Snid.

They all said yes. There was set of dresser chest in the kitchen that had little floor clearance. Snid went over to the dresser chest and bent down. "Did anyone look under this one?"

A.G. looked at the dresser chest and was doubtful it would be there. Why would he put it under there?" He asked.

Snid got down on his knees and was trying to look under the furniture but couldn't see anything. "Anyone got a flashlight?" Snid asked.

Brayden went and got one out of a nearby drawer and gave it to Snid.

“There’s something under here, A.G.”

“What is it?”

“Looks like a piece of paper. Anyone got any ideas how to get it out?”

“We could move the dresser.” Said A.G.

A.G. and E.G. grappled with the dresser chest. It was old and heavy meant to last a lifetime plus. With much effort it was slid forward and the paper was exposed. Snid grabbed it.

“Wouldn’t think he would put it there?” commented Brayden.

“Considering that the idea is for someone to find it for a reward it would have to be in sight but probably got blown under when the door was opened,” commented E.G.

Snid looked at the note and it didn’t enlighten him any about where Brubaker had gone.

It read ‘Secret Haven.’

“Does that ring a bell, Brayden?”

“No. I’ll call my wife.” He called and she didn’t know.

While they were pondering the note, a car pulled up. It was the sheriff.

Barton strode into the house with his usual swagger and took a look at the occupants he shook his head. “Now what is the gang of four up to now?” Not noticing that there was only three.

“Sheriff Barton. We are investigating what you are not investigating. The disappearance of a valued member of this community.”

“What’s there to investigate. Brubaker left and doesn’t want to be found. He’ll show up one way or another.”

“Like in a body bag?”

“He is old. Old people do eventually die. Odds are better if they are out there alone or whatever he is up to,” Barton said snidely.

“Barton, your empathy is really overwhelming. I think I might shed a tear.”

“Don’t hold back on my account. By the way, did you over the hill meddlers find out anything useful for law enforcement?”

A.G. looked at E.G. and Snid with a mischievous grin. “Hear that. We just got promoted from a gang of four to over the hill meddlers.” Even Braydon had to chuckle over that. “Matter of fact, we did find something. We don’t know what it means but we think it is a clue left by Brubaker.”

He showed the note to Barton. “Huh. Means nothing unless you know what it means.”

“That sounded like a Yogi Berra witticism.” E.G. said a little bit of amusement.

A.G. gave Barton a hard look. “It may mean nothing now, but we are not going to dismiss it. Would you care to use your public duty to this community to help find Brubaker?”

“Don’t be so sarcastic A.G. Nothing to investigate. Bust your buns over it if it pleases you. Don’t forget I should be involved if you do.”

“I believe we already have tried to involve you.”

“Smart asses.” Barton left in a spray of gravel.

“Next county budget to come up, I’ll object to a tire replacement entry for squad cars driven by Barton,” quipped E.G.

Lacking anymore ideas the renamed gang of four decided to go for pizza instead of going back to the shop. They invited Brayden to join them, which he did.

The conversation continued with what the note meant. Was it a secret place or maybe a hide-away? And when did Brubaker acquire this secret haven? No one knew much about Brubaker’s past activities or acquisitions or even any recent

acquisitions. A.G. wondered if his father would know about this secret haven. If they were business partners, perhaps there would be something among his effects that would clarify the secret haven.

Goody came in and joined them. They were all interested in the results of his medical trip.

“I was having a pain here.” Goody indicated a spot just below his right-side ribs.” Dr. Strable was concerned that it might be the start of a gall bladder issue but I would have to have an ultrasound to determine if it was a problem. They did find that I had a stone in the gall bladder but it wasn’t causing any problems. The doctor concluded that it is probably a pulled muscle in the abdomen which can be common in older gentlemen like me.”

“Great Goody. We were concerned about you,” said Snid.

“So, who is our guest?”

“This is Brayden Brewer, Brubaker’s son-in-law. It seems that Brubaker has disappeared and has been missing around ten days.”

“Really. That’s awful. What do you think happened to him?”

A.G. explained what they knew or surmised at this point. “Does ‘secret haven’ mean anything to you, Goody?”

“Hmm. No. Nothing. So, are we investigating further?”

“Yep. Just trying to figure out the next step. By the way, Goody, Barton has rebranded us from the gang of four to over-the hill meddlers.”

“I think I like that better, A.G. What about the rest of you?”

They all agreed.

Later, Brayden left for home in Madison and asked to be informed of any progress. The woodturners called it a day and went home.

A.G. began wondering more about his father’s relationship with Brubaker. If they were business partners, then maybe they were partners in other ways. He contemplated going into the basement to see if there might be a clue among his father’s effects. Not that there was much. Just odds and ends. There actually wasn’t much left behind. Secret to the end his father was.

He opened the door to the basement still undecided whether to go down. But since this was about a neighbor, he finally went down the steps. There were several boxes on a shelf and since none were labelled, he pulled them off one by one and checked them.

One was effects of his mother. He stared inside the box but had no intention of looking through. He mumbled that she deserved better than what she got from her husband and even her children could have done better.

The box of his father’s effects was the fourth he took off the shelf. He put it on a table and pulled out each item. There were some pictures of the farm, of the grandparents, some papers about the farm and a few items of no interest. There was another set of pictures that were under a flap of the bottom of the box like they wanted to hide. A.G. was surprised that it was of his father and Brubaker. Fishing somewhere.

There was some writing in the background. A.G. rushed upstairs with the picture to get a magnifying glass. He looked at it for several minutes trying to make out the blurred letters.

Maybe he was hoping for a clue and imagining what he thought he was seeing. It looked like the word Haven. Was the secret haven a lake resort?

A.G. called Brayden even knowing he would be still traveling to Madison. “Brayden, this is A.G. Would you or your wife know anything about Brubaker going fishing at a resort?”

“Not that I know of. I’ll call my wife.”

Brayden called back and said she was not aware of his fishing at a resort. She thought it must be something he did after she left home.

A.G. looked at the picture again and concluded he was a much older man than he would have been when his family was around. He felt he was on to something and wanted to do something more today. He sent a text to E.G., Goody and Snid and ask them to meet him at the Brubaker farm. He had another clue to follow up.

Goody was unable to come, but E.G. and Snid joined A.G. at the Brubaker farm.

“What’s this about a clue to follow up on?” asked E.G.

A.G. showed them the picture.

“Just what are you thinking? Brubaker and your father fishing somewhere. Could be anywhere,” questioned E.G.

“Look closely in the background. See the white letters?”

“Yeah. So.”

“Now look at it with a magnifying glass.”

They did and were not sure what it said.

“I made it out as ‘Haven.’”

“You did? Well, maybe. That’s really a leap of faith. Maybe just a hope.”

“I thought so too, that’s why I wanted us to do a search outside the house.”

“Looking for what?”

“Fishing gear. There was none in the house or the basement. Where did Brubaker keep it? Brubaker was also a deer hunter. Where are his guns kept?”

They all looked around the area. And focused on one of several machine sheds.

“We didn’t look in them,” observed Snid.

“No, we didn’t. Let’s go.”

Just then a car pulled up. It was the Crowley brothers who did most of the farm work for Brubaker.

“What you guys doing here? Private property.”

A.G. introduced the group and said they were looking for clues as to where Brubaker had gone.

“What makes you think he went anywhere. His cars are here.”

“His brother-in-law and daughter say so.”

“Huh. Why ain’t the sheriff here?”

“He was but couldn’t be bothered.”

“Sounds like him. Well, go ahead. We just came over to discuss some things that needed to be ordered. If Brubaker ain’t here, then no need for us to stay.”

After the Crowley brothers left, they headed for the nearest machine shed. Entering they were met with an array of huge farm machinery.

Looking up, Snid commented with awe, “Never seen these things this close. Bigger than I thought. Wouldn’t want to get in the way of these monsters.”

“Me neither. Let’s fan out and see if there is something of interest.”

The shed was large and they didn’t find anything.

“Just what are we looking for A.G.?”

“A room that Brubaker kept his fishing gear and probably a lot more. Let’s try another shed.”

They didn’t exactly run, but their pace picked up. The three were feeling anticipation of finding the mother lode which they hoped would find Brubaker.

Inside the second shed, there were other farm machines but smaller ones. It gave them more room to move around between them. At the back of the shed, they found what they were looking for. A locked room about 12X12.

“Must have a lot of secrets in there,” noted Snid.

“I guess Brubaker won’t mind if we break in. We need a crow bar or something.”

One was found but before A.G. could break open the door, he noticed that the lock wasn’t fully secure. It came off the latch with no problem.

“Now why would he do that. Leave the lock loose?” Asked E.G.

“Maybe there is a clue inside and locking the door would be counter-productive in searching for him. Well, let’s go in and see.”

One wall was lined with fishing rods and there were shelves with fishing gear. Another wall had a large gun rack and lots of pictures showing Brubaker with some unknown person and some with A.G.’s father. There was one picture that was a duplicate of the one A.G. found among his father’s effects. He looked closely at the picture

and noted that one of the fishing rods was the same one in the picture. He took it off the wall and turned it over.

A.G. read it and called the others over. The back read ‘Segret Haven Fishing Resort’.

“Well, the old goat, deliberately misspelled Segret just in case the nephews searched his house,” commented Snid.

“Seems we should have come in here earlier. Would have saved a step.” A.G. was a little upset by his lack of diligence. “Now what do we do with it? E.G. we need to gather at your house and use your computer to look up this resort.”

“Sounds good. Let’s go.”

A.G. locked the room not wanting anyone else to go wandering in.

**Part Three Next Month.**

## VIDEO OF THE MONTH

### An Interesting Enhancement



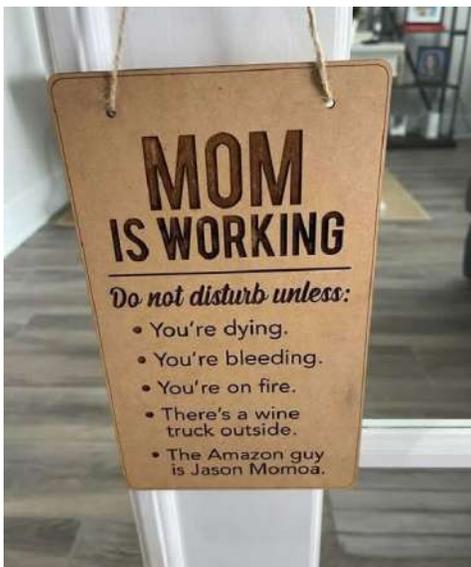


**Bob Eberhardt demonstrates how to make a popcorn bowl.**



**Amanda from Feed My People helps the group's kick off for Bowls for Hunger event next March.**

## On The Humorous Side



## 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

December 3—Dan Brandner—Learning the Skew

January 7—Not Yet Determined

February 4—Not Yet Determined

March 4—Not Yet Determined

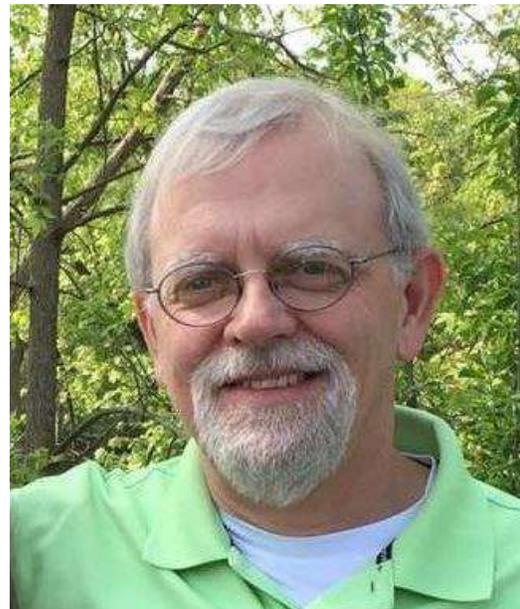
April 1—Not Yet Determined

May 6 Not Yet Determined

### November Open House Date

November 8 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](mailto:woodturnercvvg@gmail.com). Meetings and Open House are held in the Eau Claire Insulation building at 1125 Starr Ave on the northeast side of Eau Claire, WI. Look for the meeting sign. No sign—No meeting.

**Next Month**  
**Learning the Skew**  
**Dan Brandner**



## **Annual Dues**

**Dues for 2026 are due. It is important to pay your dues in order to get the continuing quality woodturning demonstrations and mentoring. Only \$25. A bargain for the return for the money.**

## **Future Demonstrations**

**What are members wanting to know more about or see demopnstrated?**

Suggestions are needed for future demonstrations. One suggestion so far was how to use a screw chuck. More suggestions are needed.

As much of importance is the need for more demonstrators. The number of demonstrators is small and it calls upon the same people time after time. Consider giving a demonstration.

Advanced courses are being planned. One is "Advanced cuts with a bowl gouge." What are the members no matter what their level of experience wanting to know more about?

Another Beginning Class is now underway. There are 5 attendees.

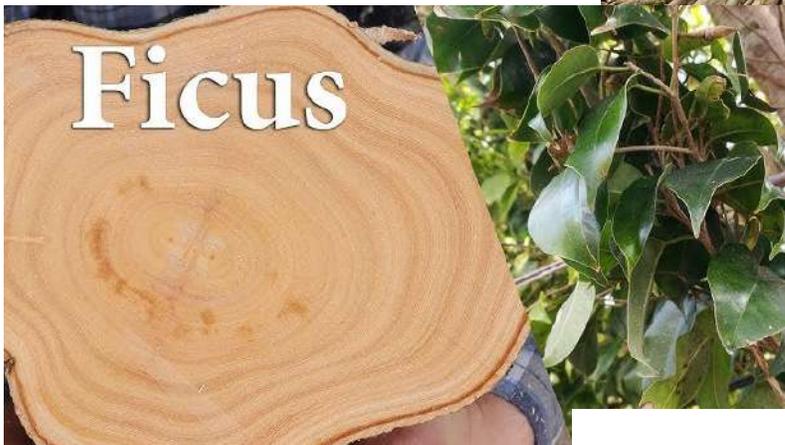
## **Raffle**

December is the last month for the raffle for the Robust bowl gouge. Tickets can still be purchased at the December meeting. Tickets are five dollars each or five for twenty dollars.

Drawing will be at the January meeting. You do not need to be present to win. We have your name and number on the ticket.

## **Christmas Gift Swap**

**There will be a gift swap at the December Meeting. Bring a gift and get a gift. Gifts should be woodturning / woodworking related.**



[Ficus Data](#)

[More Ficus Data](#)

[Ficus plant Genus](#)



**Bob Eberhardt Demo****November 2025****Youthful Snowman emerging from stump with Beanie hat**

Bob started out with a small Christmas tree from a stump, then transitioned to his Snowman demonstration. He used a Golden Ratio caliper to divide the two balls of his snowman, but basically it gives a ratio of 1 to 1.6, for the head to body dimension.

He said don't undermine the body ball too much so it looks like a snowman would on the ground. Also, make the neck a little wider, so a scarf can easily be added that doesn't look too scrunched up.

Once he had the two balls formed, he went to the bandsaw and sawed the head in half, at an angle that was natural for the body and head of the snowman laying on the bed of the bandsaw. This created a good angle for the hat. He had the hat slung low, almost covering where the eyes would be, typical of all juvenile snowmen.

After that he turned a beanie hat in contrasting wood, sized so that the rolled brim projected beyond the head, so it looked like a real hat. The hat was attached with a dowel and holes in both the hat and snowman head and glued together. He also turned a tassel with a tenon for the beanie hat, that could be glued in a drilled hole in the hat, although on smaller snowman, he turned it along with the hat as one piece.

Following that demo, he showed another snowman option where a black putty like slow-setting epoxy (Milliput) is filled into pre-drilled holes. Once set, like the next day, you can finish turn and sand it and the black epoxy makes nice buttons, eyes and mouth.

Another snowman he showed was a snowman turned on a pen tube with a screwed on Top hat. He had some kits for sale of them.

There are some dimension sheets at the end of this article.

A very nice Demo Bob, Thank you.

# NOVEMBER DEMONSTRATION

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**Bob demonstrating.**



**Bob's Tree on a stump.**

# NOVEMBER DEMONSTRATION

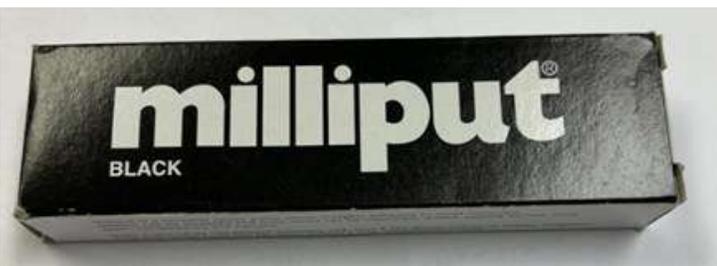
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**Bob's Golden Ratio Caliper ( 1 – 1.6 ).**



**Turning Snowman body.**



**Milliput, a slow setting putty like epoxy.**

# NOVEMBER DEMONSTRATION



**Ornament Hat kit for Snowman on a pen tube.**



**Laying out the Snowman for drilling and filling with black milliput epoxy.**



**Turning a Top Hat.**

# NOVEMBER DEMONSTRATION

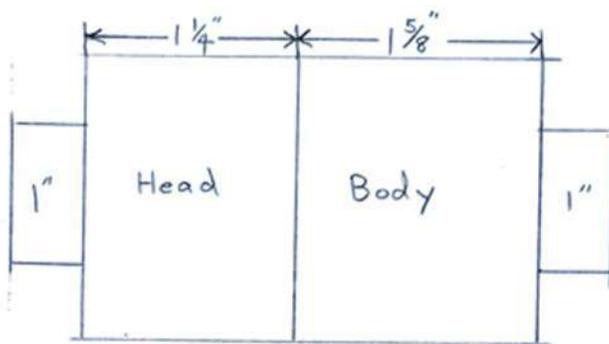
Snowman on a stump



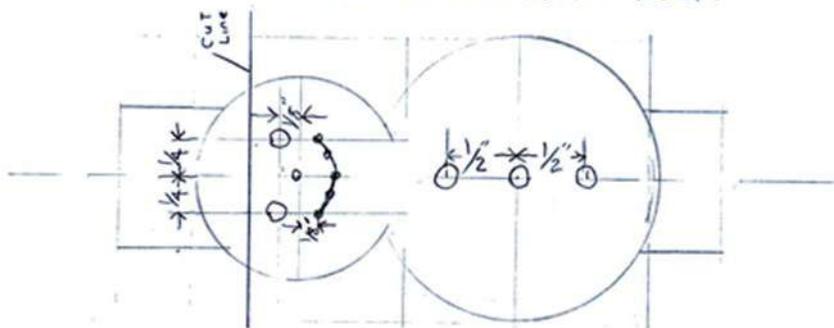
# NOVEMBER DEMONSTRATION

## Milliput Snowman

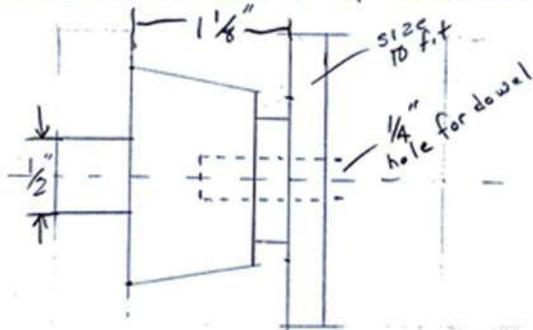
2" x 2" x 3 3/4" Hard Maple



Drill 3/16" holes for eyes + buttons  
Drill 3/32" holes for nose + mouth



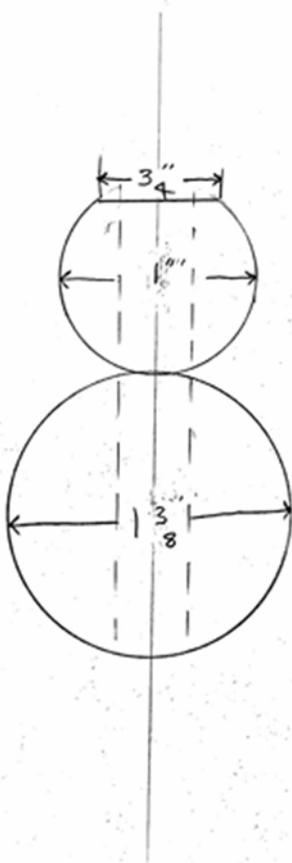
## Hat 2 x 2 x 2 3/4 Walnut



# NOVEMBER DEMONSTRATION

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Pen Tube Snowman



## Brooke Erickson

**Brooke Erickson made a very nice birdhouse ornament.**



## Joe Nycz

**Joe Nycz made two bird house ornaments with Christmas tree roofs. He had cute birds on his.**



## Bob Eberhardt

**Bob Eberhardt was demonstrating making a snowman emerging from a stump with Beanie hat. Here are three of them that he brought in for show.**

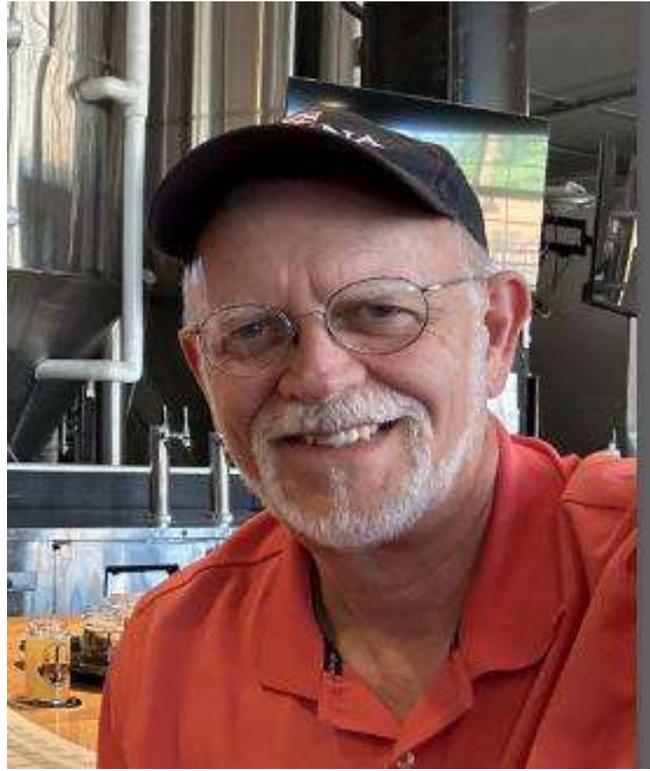


## Dan Brandner

**Left:** Dan Brandner made two birdhouse ornaments exactly like Barry Grills. He said, "When you make your first ones, you just follow another's plan or design." Thank you Barry. Many more are planned for Christmas gifts this year.

**Right:** Dan also brought in three snowman he had made, following a design he saw online. They have very detailed turned hats. He is getting many requests for them for Christmas this year.

Dan won the president's challenge with the birdhouse that had the spalted roof.



Photos for Show and Tell  
and Gallery provided by  
Dan Brandner

**SW Florida Wood Art  
Expo**

January 9-10, 2026

Charlotte Harbor Event Center  
Punta Gorda, FL

**Tennessee Association of  
Woodturners 2026  
Symposium**

January 30-31, 2026

Franklin Marriott Hotel and  
Convention Center  
Franklin, TN

**Florida Woodturning  
Symposium**

February 20-22, 2026

RP Funding Center  
Lakeland, FL

**Turn-On Chicago  
Woodturning Symposium**

July 30-August 2, 2026

Hilton Hotel  
Northbrook, IL