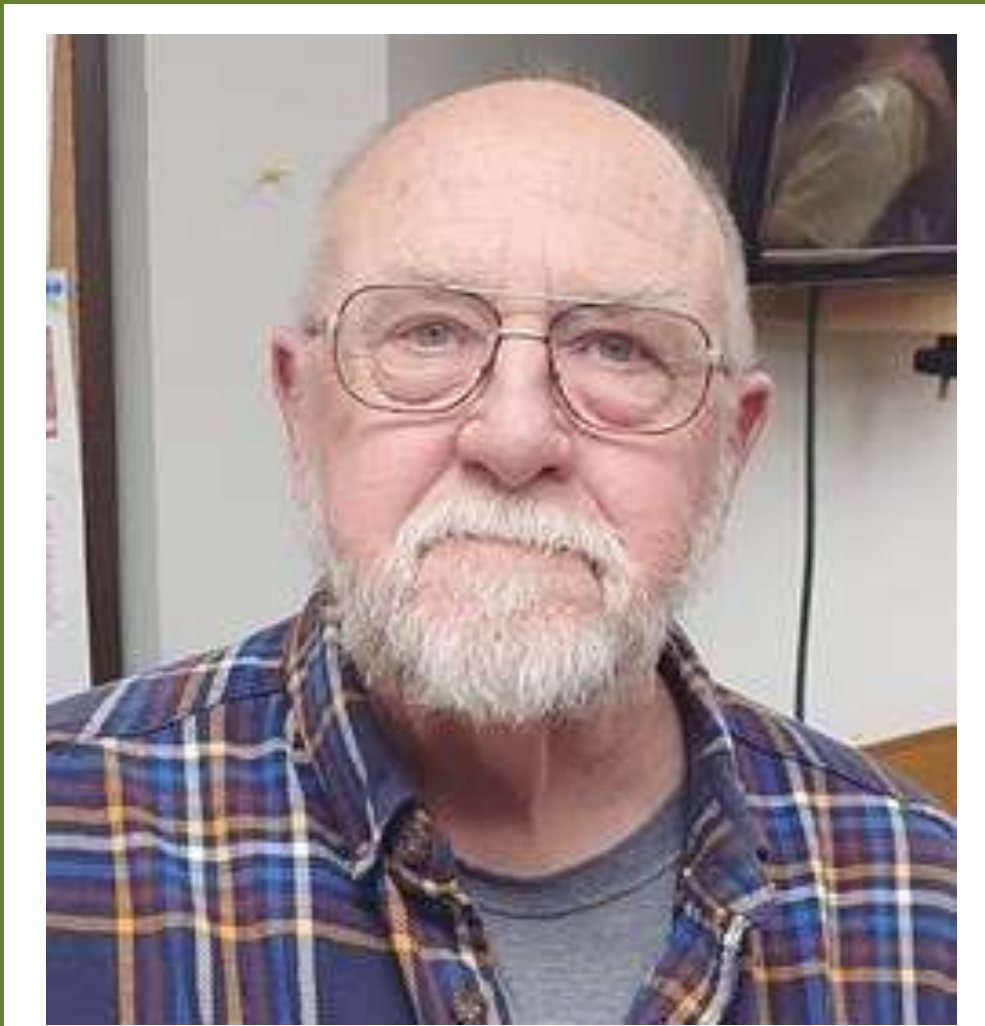


# TURNING Threads

May 2026



**Henry 'Chip' Troost demonstrated turning a dibbler for making precise holes for seed and bulbs.**

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**President  
Dan Brandner**

**Vice President  
Bob Wilcox**

**Treasurer  
Sue Mohr**

**Secretary  
Jayne Kulberg**

**At Large Directors  
Bob Eberhardt  
Mary Weider  
Joe Nycz  
Ron Bartz**

**Other Positions**

**Membership  
Scribe  
Henry Troost**

**Newsletter Editor  
Tom Leonard**

**Web Master  
Dan Brandner  
David Kulberg**

**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,**

I hope those with unheated shops are getting to do some spring turning.

We had good attendance for May's meeting.

We had a small turnout for Open House, but two attended who saw the event posting in Volume One. They got to see some bowls being made on the lathe which hopefully inspired some interest in the club.

The May demo was by Chip Troost on making a planting dibbler, and his demo being short, he also made a simple wooden whistle.

The raffle for a 3/8" detail spindle gouge continues until the July drawing.

John Layde picked up the bowls for Feed My People. I asked him if he could get a count of the bowls donated. The Feed My People event is May 28, 2026 from 11am - 7pm at 2610 Alpine Rd, Eau Claire.

There were no entries for the President's challenge of turning two small duplicated items.

Looking forward to seeing all who can make it to our June 3rd meeting.

**Dan**



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

# MAY MEETING NOTES

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We now have an event listed in Volume One for our Saturday Open House. We had two people attend who saw the posting and got introduced to wood turning. Hopefully this will give our club/guild more visibility in lieu of not having the Chainsaw Carving event any longer.

Bob Eberhardt made new handles for the used tools we purchased from Phil Holtan. They are all scrapers and needed longer handles. They will be stored in the new tool rack Bob also made that is on the wall holding the other Powermatic Lathe tools.



Pencil in Saturday, August 29 for the club picnic at Eberhardt's cabin. More details to come later.

There is another offer of Walnut wood blanks. Call Victor at 715-703-8835.



A signup sheet will be posted for the Skew Advanced course with some tentative dates. See signup sheet at the clubhouse. Pick your preferred date. Also specify if a Saturday or a weekday night is preferred?

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## **Past and Upcoming Demos (Note June and July have been swapped!!!)**

January: Using a screw chuck for small bowls, & Bowl Bottoms - Bob Eberhardt

February: Bowl from a board - Ron Bartz

March: Cutting screw threads with bit in lathe - Joe Nyce.

April: Turning Chess Pieces, manual duplication - Dan Brandner

May: Turning a Dibbler - Chip Troost

*June: Turning Gizmos - John Lyde*

*July: Turning Bowl rims, techniques and styles - Bob Eberhardt*

*August: Turning a Pepper Mill - Joe Nycz*

*September: Turning a Rolling Pin with a bearing - Bob Eberhardt*

*October: Fancy spindle turned icicle ornament - Dan Brandner*

*November: A lamp base with long-drilled hole - Bob Eberhardt*

*December: Turning Tiny Things, - Snowman corncob pipe, nose - Dan Brandner*

## A Woodturner Mystery #4

### The Devil Key and the Purloined Portrait

#### Cast of Characters

**A.G.:** *A retired private detective who can't retire due to local investigations which he is called upon. This time by the deputy sheriff while the not a clue Sheriff Barton is out of town.*

**E.G.:** *A retired engineer and computer expert joins A.G. to solve the Purloined Portrait Mystery.*

**Goody:** *Busy's himself with arranging for the high school woodturners class in the spring but was unable to go to Madison to help with the Purloined Portrait Mystery.*

**Snid:** *Joins Goody to prepare for the turning classes and goes with A.G. to Madison.*

**Deputy Morris:** *Deputy Morris finally gets to investigate a robbery but is perplexed by the clues left behind.*

### The Devil Key

Scanden and most of Wisconsin got hit by an unusually fierce storm with heavy snow in February. Previous recent winters have been on the mild side and this storm was one that might remind folks of winters of 100 years ago. Imagine back that far of how snow was removed or especially in the isolated country farms, snow wasn't moved for several days.

A.G. being an experienced Wisconsinite in winter had an old tractor with a plow attached. A.G. went at plowing when the storm abated but like some snow storms which ride in on a warm front and are followed by a frigid high pressure from Canada. Ah yes, the good old days. Some old timers would find below zero refreshing but then they endured a lot of those days. Below zero days were not as common as previously. That would be the good old days for the present generation.

A.G. got the old tractor running and cleared out snow as far away as possible to have room for any visitor who might come by. Seems to be either a neighborly thing to do or just because it has always been done. Unplowed snow just piles up and doesn't melt quick and only leaves mud and ice in its wake.

A couple of days later the weather had moderated to a tolerable 10 degrees above. Swim weather some old timers would joke. Wisconsin people have a weird sense of humor when it comes to comments about the weather. Course, A.G. had never seen anyone actually in swim wear at 10 degrees but there is always the possibility that someone might take it seriously if it became a You Tube challenge.

A.G. slept late and got up to see the area by the woodturning shop had three cars that he recognized as belonging to his woodturning friends. He wondered what they were up to on a Wednesday morning. Well, he decided to find out after some breakfast of muffins with Rhubarb jelly and coffee. Unlike a lot of people who complain that Norwegians make weak coffee because they drink so much and have to stretch out the grounds, A.G. made it stout with some Chicory. It required two teaspoons of sugar while the weak northern coffee only needed one teaspoon.

A.G. put some hot coffee in a container with a top and after donning a mid-weight coat since he wasn't going far and went out to the shop. Upon entering, the three woodturners were busy moving the old lathes up by the new lathes. "What's going on guys?"

They all turned and looked at him. Goody spoke up. "A.G., no food or drink in the shop."

A.G. looked at his coffee cup was trying to decide what to do with it and decided to put it outside by the door. So much for a hot cup of coffee.

"A.G., you need to keep the heat on in the shop. It has taken over a half hour to warm the place up.

What are you heating the shop with?” complained E.G.

“There’s a furnace behind that door in the corner. Uses Propane. Tank is on the side of the shed. Surprised any of you haven’t noticed.”

“To be honest, we have yet to get used to this place and all it’s nooks and crannies. Been too busy chasing ghosts.”

That got a laugh from E.G. and Goody but not Snid.

“Back to my original question. What are you guys doing moving the old lathes in with the new ones.”

“You must have forgot that we discussed giving woodturning lessons to high school students. I went down to the high school and talked to the principal to set up a program where the students would get some sort of credit for attending.” Goody related.

“No, I remember it and said I was not thrilled but I would go along with it. I take it there will be four students attending?”

“Yep. Four and they have already signed up. You will never guess who was the first to sign up?”

“Well, if you know and I would never guess, then just tell me who it is.”

“Bronson Nordby. The wood thief.”

“You were right, I never would have guessed. So, when do the classes begin?”

“In the spring, probably April. The parents will probably be here for some or all. They had to give their permission. They may even get interested in woodturning also.”

A.G. groaned. “Well, we will have to encourage them to get their own lathes and not be here too often.”

“There you go being a hermit again, A.G. We will control it.”

“Okay. Just what is the training going to consist of?”

“Of course, safety first. We’ll have to get some signs to remind them of the rules. Then we will do a demonstration of using the basic tools and what each can do. Next will be projects, like pens, and honey dippers, and handles and later bowls.”

“Did you included spindle turning?”

“Good idea.”

“Are we charging for the kits they will use?”

“Hadn’t thought of that.”

“To do spindle work you need long turning squares at least 2 inches square. Where are you going to get those?”

“You see, A.G., this is how you can contribute to this teaching students. We need to work out a lot of details.”

“You got that right. E.G., use your computer to access what is needed and the costs.”

“As long as we are here, let’s make some saw-dust.” Snid said enthusiastically.

It was near noon when a car pulled up and two men went to A.G.’s house and knocked. Getting no response, they called A.G. several times. The woodturners finally became aware of the visitors and A.G. opened the door and shouted, “Over here.”

As they got closer, A.G. recognized one of the men as one he knew and worked with years ago. “Well, look what the wind blew in. Dirk Schwartz. You still on the force. Last I heard about you, you were in a bit of hot water.”

“A.G. you old goat. Hot water. Naw, it was only tepid. Meet Lt. Keith Mayberry with the Illinois Department of Investigation.”

“Glad to meet you, Keith. You don’t care who you hang around with do you?”

Keith laughed. "Yeah, Dirk is not the most esteemed detective, but one can't be choosy in this business."

"You got that right." Answered Dirk.

The two came in from the cold and the woodturners were staring at the two men and the chatter they had heard. A.G. noticed the confusion and introduced everyone.

Dirk was the first to address the woodturners. "Maybe you don't know that A.G. was the best P.I. in Milwaukee. A real ace. I was always a bit jealous because he got the clients with the big bucks."

The three woodturners were quiet. Then E.G. asked. "You were a P.I. You never told us that. No wonder you are so good at investigations."

"You never asked."

"We did so! You said you did this and that."

"Investigations are just that. This and that. Right Dirk?"

"That's about it. Keith and I are on our way to Minneapolis to a seminar on the usual new methods of law enforcement. If you can believe that."

"There are no new methods. Just old ones with new rules to hamper investigations."

"Yep. That's about it but it gets us out of the big cities and a little relaxation paid for by the state. Why we stopped is because we wanted to thank you for the information you gathered on Gerald "Mikey" Jordan. We'd been trying to get him for years. He's just a fence but it did lead to the actual robbers that stole that gold key."

"Glad to have helped. It was really dumb for him to come to Scanden and think he could come into a hick town and get a hick investigator to do his dirty work."

"It will be a while before he does it again."

"Where did the robbery actually take place?"

"A collector of various items in Springfield."

"Yeah. Get as far away from the scene."

"Well, A.G., we need to be on our way. Snow is coming through Minnesota tonight and we want to beat it."

"Thanks for dropping by. I think. These guys are going to pump me unmercifully about my past."

"You can handle it. Perhaps we can stop on the way back and relive those days of yesterday when we were young and over confident."

"I'll be around."

After the visitors left, the woodturners surrounded A.G. "Are you going to let us in on what these guys were talking about?"

"It was just a quick investigation. Only took a day."

"Where were we?"

"It was the middle of the week and I didn't want to bother you guys. Beside it involved a bad guy and I didn't want any of you to be a part of bad guys."

"A.G. Are you still a P.I.?" Asked E.G.

"If you mean whether I have kept up with my license. Yes. I also have a gun permit."

"Geez A.G." Exclaimed Goody.

"I want to hear about this case you went on alone." E.G. urged.

"Not much to tell. A guy came to my house a couple of weeks ago looking for an investigator. Said he was Leonard James. He was a salesman for a medical instrument company and was on the way from St. Paul to Chicago to attend a convention.

"Said he stopped in Scanden to spend the night. And he liked to browse thrift stores. He had asked the people at Mable's Café if there was a thrift store in town. They told him of Jenny Maes Consignment Store at the edge of town. He went there and found something interesting. It had no price tag and he asked the clerk if he knew what it was

and was told no. Ask for a price and the clerk said \$20 so he took it.

“He showed me the item and I agreed it was unusual. It appeared to be a key of some sort. Asking around about someone in town that could identify the item, he was directed to me because I was an investigator.

“Right away, I knew something was not kosher with this guy. Mel’s Pawn Shop probably could have answered his question but he insisted the investigation be more thorough. For some reason my P.I. experience came to the fore and I decided to investigate because I thought the item was stolen. I told him I would look into it. He said he would stop by in a few days to retrieve the item.

“Now, if you can imagine this item. It appeared to be gold. It was the shape of a key but it had two things against being usable as a key. First of all, if it was made of gold, it would be useless as a key. Secondly it had three bits not just one. Can you imagine a lock with three key cylinders. It also was very ornate which is not all that unusual but this one was overly ornate. It impressed me as being more of a symbol for something.

“Well, the next day I took it to Mel’s Pawn Shop and asked Mel what was this key for. Mel looked at it and said he hadn’t seen one of these in years and that was in New York. He said it was a Devil’s Key. That got my attention. He went on to explain that the Devil’s Key is an amulet not a key to unlock something. It was to ward off the devil. It’s worn around the neck or hung over a door. The gold is too soft to withstand the pressure of a lock. Then he turned it over and explained the symbolism of the key. The bow of the key had a Pentagram with an upside down cross. The Pentagram is a symbol of the devil but the cross cancels out the influence of the devil.

“Further. And this is really interesting. Mel said he had seen a picture of one with the three bits. The three bits represented the Holy Trinity, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost. This one is not the same one. It was smaller than in the one

in the picture and it was in a museum. Then he asked me where I got it and I told him the guy said it came from Jenny Maes Consignment Store. Mel said it was probably hot and got put there to establish a source because it was probably stolen. I agreed with Mel.

“Wow. Did you get a picture of it, A.G.?” Asked Snid.

A.G. pulled out his cell phone and showed them the pictures he had taken. E.G. and Goody said it was really beautiful. Snid said it looked spooky.

“My next step was to go to Jenny Maes Consignment Store. I told Jenny Mae the situation and showed her the key. Her response was if it was here, she definitely would have noticed. I also asked if she had security cameras. She said she did but said the cameras and the recorder were older models. I asked if she considered updating the cameras and recorder. She said she had someone in and give an estimate for replacing all the cameras and the recorder and it was over \$4000. Too rich for her.

“Even though the system was old, it was good enough to review the previous days recordings. When it got to the place where the person of interest was in the store, he stopped by Percy Stubbins consignment table, Jenny Mae said it definitely was not Percy’s.

“The video was not high definition but while I viewed the video I noticed a slight sleight of hand. He turned with his back to the camera and moved his left arm slightly and when he turned back to the camera, the key was on the table. I got a copy of that part of the recording.

“My next step was to ask Bertha if her daughter Annika was at the UW-Madison. You remember she was the town electronic genius. Bertha said she was but had a different cell number. I called Annika and asked if there was a videography lab and whether we could get access to it.

“Annika said she would check and called back a half hour later that she knew someone from the

video lab and we could use it at 7:00pm. I said, fine and got the address and met Annika at that address at the UW. She introduced me to a friend who ran the video lab. I gave him the video and told him I needed to get an enhanced picture as well as a close up on a particular spot.

“It only took a few minutes for the guy to show what I wanted.”

“What was that?” asked Goody.

“A close up of the guy putting the key on Percy’s consignment table and then picking it up again proving that it was a setup. Pictures were made of the close-up switch. I stayed overnight and the next day I took it to the Wisconsin Division of Criminal Investigation. I knew a couple of agents and talked to them and there was no problem of convincing them that this James person was a fence for stolen articles. A search was made and I identified the man as Gerald “Mikey” Jorden, a well-known fence.

“Arrangements were made for me to call the DCI when Jorden was going to be back to pick up the key. Jorden called on Saturday and said he would be through on Sunday to get the item. When he

came, I told him what I had learned about the key. And then I told him about his mistakes coming to Scanden. First, Scanden is off the beaten path on the Minneapolis to Chicago interstate. Secondly, his misconception that Scanden is a bunch of hicks that he could fool. I gave the key to him to prove he had accepted stolen property and then showed him my P.I. license and introduced the DCI agents. He was speechless.”

“Then what?” Asked Snid.

“They took him into custody. What else.”

“Good thing Barton didn’t know. I’ll bet he would have had a fit not being let in on a major bust. I wonder how he will react when he finds out that you are a real detective. Probably would tell you that is no reason to interfere with law enforcement.” Commented Goody.

“Okay, P.I. A.G. What’s your next caper?” Goody said jokingly.

That got a round of laughs.

**Next Time: The Purloined Portrait. The solving of eleven riddles begins that investigation.**

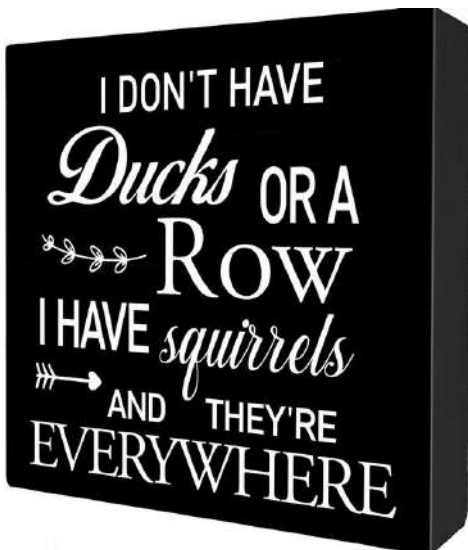
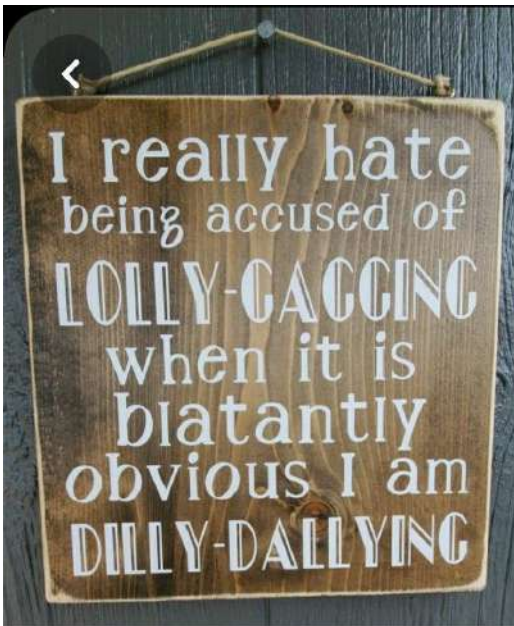
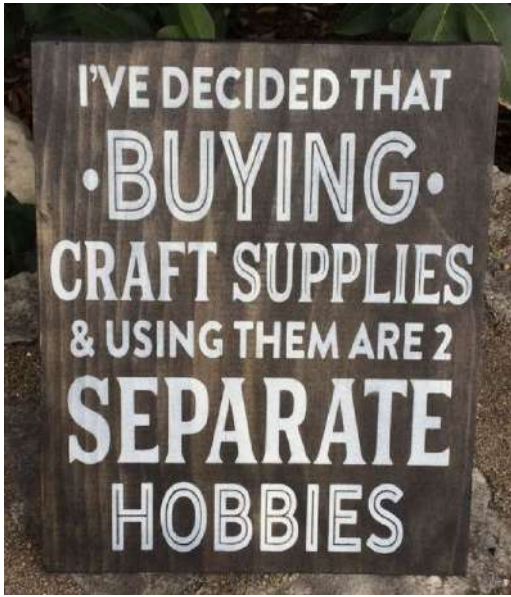




**Club member Bob Eberhardt demonstrates the art and manufacture of knitting needles. By using various home made jigs he was able to speed up the process of making the estimated 15,000 knitting needles that he and his wife made.**



## On The Humorous Side of Life



## 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

- 2026 Jun 3 - John Layde - Turning Gizmos
- 2026 Jul 1 - Bob Eberhardt—Turning Bowl rims
- 2026 Aug 5 - Joe Nycz—Turning a Pepper Mill
- 2026 Sep 2 - Bob Eberhardt - Rolling pin with bearing
- 2026 Oct 7 - Dan Brandner - Fancy spindle turned icicle ornament
- 2026 Nov 4 - Bob Eberhardt - Lamp base with long drilled hole
- 2026 Dec 2 - Dan Brandner - Turning tiny things

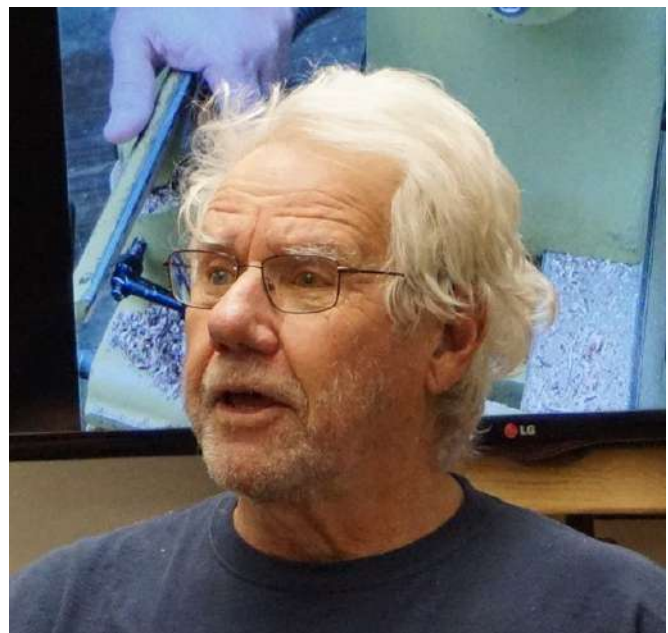
### June Open House Date

June 13 from 8:00 am to 12:00pm. If coming after 10:00, please inform us through the web site the night before at: [woodturnercvbwg@gmail.com](mailto:woodturnercvbwg@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

John Layde

Turning Gizmos



Turning a Crotch



"Looks like you've got carpenter ants."

# FOCUS ON MONKEY PUZZLE

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[Monkey Puzzle Tree Video](#)

[Turning a Monkey Puzzle Blank](#)

[Monkey Puzzle Turning with Large Limb Ends](#)

## Making a Garden Dibbler

May 2026 demo by Chip Troost

Garden Dibblers (also known as dibbers or dibbles) are used to create holes for seeds and seedlings. This multi-purpose garden tool can be used to dig holes for planting seeds and bulbs, as well as cultivating and breaking up clods. Historically, they have been recorded as being used in Roman times.

In England and the US, they usually have marking on them at one-inch gradations, making it easy to gauge bulb planting depth. The digging part is 6" long, and the comfortable handle fits the hand, for a total of about 12". The diameter is about an inch.



Dibblers come in a variety of designs including the straight dibbler, T-handled dibbler, trowel dibbler, and L-shaped dibbler.



Chip started out by roughing a spindle blank round then tapering it.

He then marked off gradations at about an inch with  $\frac{1}{4}$ " and  $\frac{1}{2}$ " marks also at the tip.



After that he shaped the handle and would normally sand and apply finish which he didn't at the demo.

Even with the short demo, he created a handy dibbler and showed us a few others that he had made.





Knowing the demo would be a short one, he also demoed making a simple whistle, by turning round another blank, drilling a hole through the center, cutting a mouth plug to allow for a windway, then cutting an edge for the windway to blow against and finally a plug for the far end.



Dan Brandner said he has been researching the geometry of what makes a whistle, whistle and is planning an informative presentation of key elements for sometime next year.

## Barry Grill

**Barry made a donut from burl wood.**



## Henry 'Chip' Troost

**These two dibblers are the result of Chip's demonstration on making dibblers.**



## Doug Dannen



**Upper Left:: Doug made a Trivet Tree**

**Upper Right: Doug made a wooden stemmed wine glass.**

**Lower Left: Picture demonstrated a Trivet in use.**



## Fred Steffens

**Fred made fourteen wooden pens.**



## Ron Bratz

**Ron made a highly curved lidded box with cover.**



## Scott Burkart

**Scott made a Cherry Burl bowl. It was made thick by design to support a vase.**



## Dan Brandner



**Dan made four bowls that he donated to the Feed My People Bowl Event.**



**Photos for Show and Tell and Demonstration  
provided by Dan Brandner**

## 40th Anniversary Symposium News



**The Countdown is ON!**

## **In-Person & Virtual Symposium Tickets Still Available!**

We are officially less than one month away from the 40th Anniversary AAW International Woodturning Symposium!

From June 4-7, 2026, the woodturning world comes together in Raleigh, North Carolina for the biggest woodturning gathering in the world —and there's still time for you to be part of this milestone event



**SWAT**

August 28 - 30, 2026  
Waco, TX



## **Segmented Woodturners Symposium**

September 18 - 20, 2026  
Northbrook, IL