# TURNING Threads

November 2026

## Chippewa Valley Woodturners Guild



Bob Eberhardt demonstrated how to make a lamp base using a long drill bit and a pass through tail center.

AAW | AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS

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Hi All,



We had a good attendance for our November meeting.

Bob Eberhardt demonstrated making a lamp base with a long drilled through hole. His method utilized a pass-through live center in the tail stock that he could drill through.

We also had about 10 turnout for the Open House, including some visitors that may join and some that came for the demo after seeing us in the Volume One listing. Bob demonstrated making a Christmas tree.

At our December meeting, Dan Brandner will be demonstrating turning some very small items for the snowmen he sells. This includes the nose, corncob pipe and a hat.

Hope everyone can make it.

Dan

**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

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

# NOTES FROM NOVEMBER MEETING

## Raffles

The raffle continues for a Robust 5/8" bowl gouge. This is a nice one for roughing large blanks. See Sue, our treasurer for tickets.

## Classes

Beginning turning class has started. It will next meet on Nov 19th, then continue in December.

## President's challenge

Fred Steffens won the president's challenge on making a spindle icicle ornament.
For December the president's challenge is a Christmas Ornament or Christmas themed item.

## Gift Exchange

A Christmas gift exchange was announced for the December meeting. If you bring a gift, you exchange for a gift. You do not have to participate. Items do not need to be expensive, and can be hand made or wood blanks, etc.

## Demos for 2027

We are still seeking ideas for demos in 2027, and others willing to share their experiences.

Demos established so far for 2027 are…

| | |
|---|---|
| Jan | Wine goblet base – Doug Danen |
| Mar | McNaughton Coring nested bowls – Dan Brandner |
| Feb | Some kind of door stop – Chip Troost |

We will do something on safety and accident stories.

‘

**Dan Brandner**

# The Vandalized House

## Part 3 A.G. Gets Suspicious

All four made their way from a living room through a dining room and a kitchen to get to the garage. Even the refrigerator was turned over and torn apart. Goody looked at the torn-up refrigerator with a perplexed look and said, "Wonder how that was done. I had tried to fix our refrigerator once and couldn't figure out how to get into it. Not that it would have done any good. Didn't know what I was looking for."

Beyond the kitchen on the left was a small room that had a bed, in which the mattress was ripped apart and a desk whose drawers were taken out and destroyed, probably with a hammer or something similar. The wall by the desk looked like there was something had been hung. A.G. spent sometime staring at it to consider what this room was used for.

"You in a trance, A.G.?" Asked E.G.

"Something really odd here." He squatted down and looked in the corner. "Would one of you get my flashlight from the car?"

"I'll get it." Replied Snid.

"What are you seeing A.G.?" Queried E.G.

"Not sure. Just want to get a clearer view of what I am thinking."

E.G. squatted down next to A.G. "You haven't told us much about your investigation days. I wondered if it came naturally to you or did you take years to learn your craft. You seem to be very observant and even come to conclusions that escape the rest of us."

A.G. chuckled. "My craft. Never heard it called that. I learned a lot from many investigators that were better than me. I made my mistakes but learned from them. One thing was that an investigator should always keep in the back of his mind that given the nature of humans, everything should be considered odd and possibly pertinent until proven not pertinent. And that is what I am seeing in this house. My experience is telling me that everything about this house is out of kilter."

Snid returned with the flashlight and A.G. shined it in the corner of the room by the desk. "Just what I thought. These large drilled holes must have had cables coming up from the basement perhaps indicates there was some electronic equipment in the room." A.G. stood up. "There could have been a monitor of some sort hung on the wall."

"Must have used it as an office. I have a small room with my computers." Said E.G.

A.G. pointed to the bed. "I doubt that you had a bed in the room."

"Well, you got a point. I don't. No reason."

A.G. looked across the hallway and pointed out a bathroom. "I'm guessing that the master bathrooms are on the other side of the house."

"And your point is?" Asked E.G.

"Again, I am guessing that whoever occupied this room did so to monitor something and going to the other side of the house was either not permissible or would be gone from monitoring too long."

"I think you are reading too many detective novels, A.G. I get it that it is odd, but there could be other explanations like the person was an avid game player to the point where he would have to keep online to win a game. The kitchen was next door and the bathroom nearby, so life was good." Opined E.G.

"A valid optional hypothesis. Good thinking. Let's look at the garage."

The garage was large and in itself not unusual but something got A.G.'s attention. Instead of steps there was a four-foot-wide platform and a

ramp up to the platform. The house was only two steps higher than the garage. Why were steps replaced with a platform and ramp?

"A.G., you got that look again." Commented E.G.

A.G. stepped out on the platform and went down the ramp. He inspected it from all sides. It was apparently constructed of concrete. He tapped on the platform and listened. The sound was not the thud one would expect from concrete but it didn't tell him anything.

There was a railing and all three leaned on it and looked at A.G.'s actions. "A.G., you are like a dog with a scent and you are trying to figure out what you just smelled." Quipped Goody.

A.G. looked at the three and replied, "As much as I would like to tell you I was called the 'hound dog', I wasn't. But I feel like one. The smell is getting worse and worse. Let's see what's in the basement."

The stairs were wood and the stairwell was narrow. Typical of older houses that preferred less room taken up by a stairwells. There was a light switch at the top of the stairs but no electricity so A.G. turned on his flashlight and all four carefully went down the stairs.

Snid was getting nervous and a little unsettled at the remarks by A.G. As they were descending, Snid asked, "A.G. Do you think this place might be booby trapped?"

"If it is, the vandals would have found it and maybe we'll find their bodies."

Snid stopped. "I hope you're kidding A.G."

"Sort of. We would have found evidence of it already."

At the bottom of the stairs. A.G. moved the flashlight slowly back and forth from one end to another. The basement extended from the garage to under the addition which solved the question of whether the new addition had a basement or not. There was nothing of real interest there, but the vandals had made a thorough search.

A.G. was most interested in what was below the small room that he considered very odd and he went to that end and flashed the light in that corner. Lots of cables on the floor and nothing to indicate what they were connected to. "Must have been some in interesting electronic equipment down here. Could explain the little room." He observed.

"A.G., let me see if I can catch up with you. We are learning a lot by watching the way you work. Okay, this house was bought and searched by the owner and is blaming a vandal for the damage. Even though he did the damage in search of something that is related to a dead mobster from Milwaukee. Searching for loot that the mobster might have left behind because I presume was killed unexpectedly in Chicago. Okay, but why couldn't his buddies have taken the loot when he was killed?"

"Good question. I could be that his buddies didn't know where the loot was stashed because Maxie might have been very secretive about its location. Or this cache of loot doesn't exist or maybe Maxie took it with him to Chicago. However, Kopinski seems to have gotten reliable information and decided to give it a try."

A.G. shined the flashlight on an area that was opposite of the odd platform in the garage. There was a foot wide protrusion into the basement. He shined the light all around and above the protrusion. There was a crack in the middle of an eight foot wide wall of concrete. A.G. looked carefully at the crack..

The three moved behind A.G. and peered at what he was examining. "Um, that's just a retaining wall, isn't it?" Asked Snid.

"Don't know. Seems to be." A.G. turned and said he had seen enough and headed upstairs.

"You saw something didn't you A.G.?" Goody said excitedly.

"Maybe. Maybe not."

E.G. got a bit irritated at A.G. "How about sharing with your team, A.G.?"

"I'm sorry E.G., but for now I need to see the rest of the house and check the history of it."

Upstairs little attention was paid to the living room and dining room. They proceeded through to the addition. It was a large room with a walk-in closet, a large bathroom and another room that contained a broken hot tub.

"You reckon Polinski did this to the hot tub?" Asked E.G.

"Probably. He apparently wasn't leaving anything uncovered." Answered A.G.

They all wandered around the bed room and bathrooms. As usual, A.G. was attracted to something he thought odd. Again, he turned on the flashlight and was examining the walk-in closet. He stooped down and seemed especially interested in the cracks at the entrance. The others saw A.G.'s interest and went over to where he was at.

"Entertain us, A.G. with what you are seeing or even imagining?" Said E.G. said sarcastically.

"Just curious about this closet. Usually, a closet like this would have various methods of hanging or storing clothes from the door to the back. There are none in the first three feet."

A.G. stood up and began to feel around above all the door frames. He came up with a small narrow piece of metal and showed it to the others.

"What is that?" They all seemed to say at once.

"Might be a key. Not the usual kind but one that when put it in between a narrow space it will unlatch a door." He then pointed to the closet entrance.

"Wait a minute, A.G. Let me have the flashlight. I want to see what you are seeing." Demanded E.G.

E.G. got the flashlight and peered into the cracks at at the entrance of the closet. "You must have better eyes. I don't see anything. "

A.G. took the flashlight and aimed the light at a spot to the left of center. "Do you see a glint?"

"Yeah, I see it."

A.G. moved the light to the right of center. "Do you see a glint?"

"Yeah, I do."

"Those are the key holes so to speak. There are two latches so both must be pressed to open whatever is covered."

"Um, A.G. Are you prescient?" Asked E.G.

A.G. chuckled. "It would be handy if I were but I've seen this before. This type of hiding place came in handy for a lot of people hiding things whether money or drugs or whatever."

"Is this it? Where the loot is stashed?" Said an excited Snid. "Open it, A.G.! Open it!"

A.G. put the thin metal piece in the left and pushed it down. There was a faint click. He then did the same on the right side and there was a faint click and the floor opened up. A.G. shined the light in it. There was nothing there. It was empty.

All but A.G. was stunned. Their mouths opened and their facial expressions was disappointment. A.G. was examining the space carefully. Feeling it's sides and wondering whether this was it or a secondary hiding place not meant to be secret.

"Well, gentlemen, our work is done here. Now let's find out some history." Said A.G. off handedly.

"Wait - a – minute, A.G. Is this it or not?" Demanded E.G.

"No."

A.G. was leaving the room with the three behind him demanding to know what he meant. While still moving to the front of the house and he said he would tell them later.

The group drove to town to the Register of Deeds.

The person attending the department greeted them and asked what was wanted.

"I need the deed history of the house on Starlite Road, fire number 14567."

"Who owns it now? He asked.

"Harold Kopinski."

"Just a moment." He left and returned ten minutes later. "Here it is." He handed it to A.G.

A.G. started reading. "Previous to Kopinski, the owner was listed as Spurling & Sons Realty of Milwaukee. First owner was Brian and Mary Johnson. The Johnsons realty company twenty five years ago.

"Do you have building permits for the house?" Asked A.G."

"That would be the Land Use / Zoning Department down the hall to the right."

"Thanks."

At the Land Use / Zoning Department, A.G. asked for the building permits and the blueprints for the Starlite Road, Fire Number 14567.

After a fifteen minute wait the clerk came with the information. A.G. mulled over it for a few minutes. "Don't keep us in suspense, A.G." E.G. said with irritation.

"The building permit was issued to a Gorman Construction Company of Milwaukee and the blue print was made by Milwaukee Designs also of Milwaukee. That secret place we found is not on the blueprint nor is the platform in the garage."

"So, this isn't the blueprint showing some of the alterations that were made on the house?" Queried Goody.

"That's right. There is a second blue print that was never submitted."

A.G. gave the permits and blue prints back to the clerk and the four left.

"What now, A.G.?" asked Goody.

"I have some phone calls to make and make arrangements for tomorrow. All of you be here at 10:30 for the finale of this if interested."

"We're interested, A.G." E.G. nearly shouted.

"Good then go home and get a good night sleep and I will see all of you tomorrow."

"You sure are being secretive A.G." Commented Goody.

"Maybe I'm protecting my prescient reputation."

They all shook their heads and gave a good laugh.

**Next: What was found and the aftermath of what was found.**

# Readership Survey

**Do you read the newsletter regularly or occasionally?**

**What part of the newsletter do you find most interesting?**

***Email Tom Leonard at woodturner@gmail.com***

# FOR WOODWORKERS AND CERAMICISTS

Do you make vessels? Honor & Kin is an online home for handcrafted cremation urns and memorial vessels, made by independent makers. If you turn, carve, throw or build vessels, we'd like to see your work.

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There was a Q code in this pdf information sheet and Publisher which creates the newsletter was unable to bring in a pdf file. Nor was a conversion web site able to convert the pdf into a Word document that wasn't full of errors.

## Turning Scoops



## Turning Small Boxes







[Witchhazel Tree]

[More Witchhazel Data]

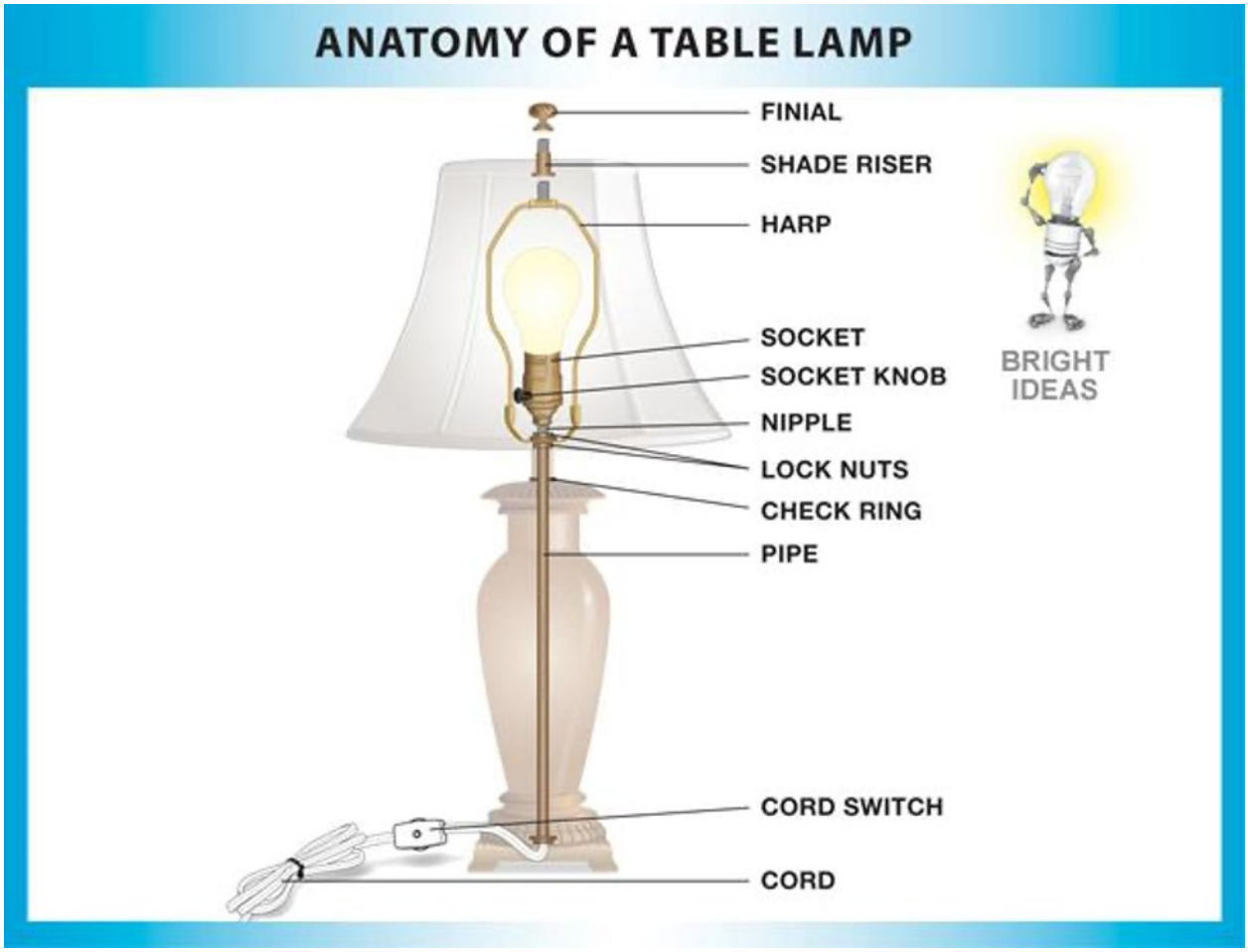
# Traditional lamp proportions

A good starting rule is to choose a harp that allows the shade to cover the socket and leave approximately 1–2 inches of harp visible above the shade's top opening, depending on the shade style.

**Shade height**: approximately ½ to ⅔ of the shade's bottom diameter.

**Shade bottom diameter**: approximately equal to the lamp base height.

Shade should conceal the socket and harp hardware when viewed from normal standing height.



| **Shade height** | Suggested harp size |
|---|---|
| 7 inches | 6–7 inches |
| 8 inches | 7–8 inches |
| 9 inches | 8–9 inches |
| 10 inches | 9–10 inches |
| 11 inches | 10–11 inches |
| 12 inches | 11–12 inches |

| **Part** | Typical size |
|---|---|
| Lamp base | 5–7 inches diameter |
| Turned body | 2½–4 inches diameter |
| Overall wooden body height | 10–16 inches |
| Lamp stem hole | 3/8 inch diameter |
| Threaded lamp rod | 1/8 IP (3/8 inch outside diameter) |
| Lamp socket | Standard E26 medium-base |
| Socket shell | Approximately 1½ inches tall |
| Harp | 7–10 inches tall |
| Lampshade | 10–14 inches bottom diameter |
| Finial | 1–2 inches tall |
| Felt bottom | 1/8 inch thick |

**Finial Nut:** The threads on the top of the harp are 1/4” 28 threads per inch ( 1/4” fine thread ) A standard 1/4” fine thread nut will work as an insert glued into the bottom of a turned finial.




**Above: Mounting the wood without tenon.**

**Below: Mounting wood with a turned tenon.**






**Above: Drill bottom cavity.**

**Below: The drilled bottom cavity.**






**Above: Squaring the bottom.**

**Below: Shaping the lamp base.**





**Above: Attach  pass through tail center.**

**Below: Using long drill to  pass through base for the electric wire.**

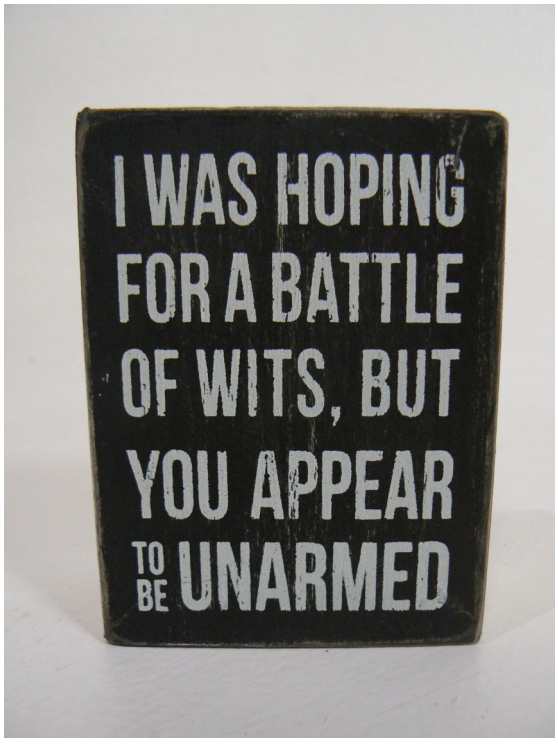


# Humorous Signs










## 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 Dec 2 - Dan Brandner - Turning tiny things
2027 Jan 6—Doug Dannen—Wine Goblet Base
2027 Feb 3—Chip Troost—Door Stop
2027 Mar 3—Dan Brandner - McNaughton Coring Nested Bowls
2027 Apr 7—To Be announced
2027 May 5—To Be Announced

***May Open House Date***

**May 10 from 8:00 am to 12:00pm. If coming after 10:00, please inform us through the web site the night before at: woodturnercvwg@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

## Dan Brandner

**Turning Tiny Things**






# Barry Grill

**Barry made an icicle from Buckthorn wood and a hollow form from Maple wood.**







# Barry Grill

**Barry also made a lidded box with Pecan and Walnut woods.**







# Doug Dannen

**Doug made several rings of assorted woods.**





# Doug Dannen

**Doug also made earrings and necklaces of assorted woods.**






# Fred Steffens

**Fred made a variety of bird house Christmas ornaments from various woods.**



# John Layde




**John made a Walnut platter.**



# Paul Meske

**Paul made a couple of icicles from Maple wood and a figure of a lighthouse from a piece of spalted Maple wood.**







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

## Turn a Christmas Snowman: Create Fun & Festive Holiday Characters

Saturday, Nov 21, 2026, 3-5PM ET
Online, $29

## Turn a Christmas Keepsake: Beautiful Wooden Bells

Saturday, Nov 28, 2026, 3-5PM ET
Online, $29

## 2026 AAW Annual Membership Meeting

December 1, 2026 @ 6PM ET
Online, Free for All Members

## Bowl and Spindle Turning with Stuart Batty

December 7 - 11, 2026
Boulder, CO

## TAW Regional Symposium

January 29 - 30, 2027
Franklin, TN




## Oregon Woodturning Symposium

March 19 - 21, 2027
Albany, OR