



Between Turns

Michigan Association of Woodturners



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Chris Ramsey will demonstrate at MAW on

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Alan Lacer Demonstration

Alan Lacer will be demonstrating at the Detroit Area Woodturners on February 18th. You don't want to miss this one. To reserve your seat call Greg Smith at 248-649-3565.

You will have a great day for only \$30.

Alan Lacer:

Has been involved in the turning field for over twenty years as a turner, teacher, writer, exhibition coordinator, demonstrator and past president of the AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS. His work has appeared in a number of regional and national shows and he has been a regular instructor and demonstrator of the craft, having worked in over 35 states and 4 foreign countries. His writings have covered technical aspects of woodturning, historical commentaries and turning traditions in Japan and Germany.

- Chris Ramsey Demonstration

March 18th & 19th. Cost is \$45 for both days. Call Tom Mogford at 810-629-6176 if you haven't already signed up at the last meeting. Chris will demo his process to turn hats, mirror frames and various other forms.

- Cheryl Dow

Cheryl Dow will teach the finer points of wood burning on May 6th & 7th. Cost is \$80. There is ONE seat left.

- MEETING DEMO'S

Thanks goes out to Basil for his informative demonstration on sanding a bowl at our January meeting. Basil will also be demonstrating "the making of a pepper mill" at our March meeting.

Bill Magee will demonstrate pen turning

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techniques for our February meeting

- **NEW CLUB SECRETARY**

Bob Roehrig will be taking over the duties of Secretary (with a little arm-twisting from Tom) including the club's monthly Newsletter. I have decided to take over the reins of newsletter editor from Phil our past secretary. Phil has done such an outstanding job with the newsletter that I feel somewhat intimidated in trying to fill his shoes. Please bear with in the transition. I want to thank Gary Smith for helping in the template layout until I can obtain other software that is needed for the layout and printing.

- **Next Monthly Meeting**

Don't forget our next monthly meeting will be on Sunday February 5th at Dave Gordon's workshop in Holly, Mi.

- **Club Web Site**

Don't forget to visit the club web site at:

www.michiganwoodturner.org

Pictures of your turnings, articles of interest etc. are most welcome.

- **OF INTEREST**

A recent picture of John Becker was found in the club archives and added to the following article. Hope you enjoy.

An Overview of the Craft of Turning

Turning is the craft of using a lathe - the mother of all machine tools.

From the earliest days the work piece, usually wood, was held between two centres, one of which was driven to revolve the work piece. The rotational power coming from a long whippy branch driven down by the operator's foot, the pole lathe, as in the illustration, or from a bow pushed and pulled by the operator's arm, the bow lathe. Both types are still in use throughout the world today and there is a growing interest in the UK in the pole lathe as a country craft.



Over the years, these machines were improved and augmented by the use of metal and the cranked foot pedal, allowing continuous one way operation and, finally, the electric motor.

As the work piece revolves cutting tools, such as chisels and gouges, are pressed against the work piece to produce a rounded shape, which is varied to produce the finished article.

With the coming of the Industrial Revolution and the machine age lathes became bigger and more complex and the harder metal work pieces required the use of fixed cutting tools. These are advanced towards the work piece by screw threads often, themselves, power driven. Today, the screw cutting lathe is an essential item in every machine shop.

Today the ultimate lathe is computer controlled with the ability to self load work pieces, to turn the piece to complex shapes determined on the computer using a variety of cutters, before ejecting the finished component all without direct

handling.

From early in the 17th century the concept of ornamental, as opposed to plain, turning developed. Here the work piece is static, rotated slowly or in measured increments, either concentrically or eccentrically, whilst being shaped by a fast rotating cutting tool. The result is an ornamental finished shape unobtainable by simple rotation. In its simplicity, plain turning turns a square, or irregular, shape into something round.

Ornamental turning turns something round into something square (or many other complex shapes).

Ornamental lathes were much developed in the late 18th century by the Holtzappel family, who provided the Company with many generations of eminent members and their five volumes on all aspects of turning are often referred to by devotees of the craft as "The Bible". In the late 19th century, ornamental turning was much taken up by the nobility and the gentry as a hobby.

Examples of the different, and historical, lathes can be seen in the Science Museum in London. A great many turned articles are illustrated in the definitive book on things made of wood entitled Treen by the late Edward Pinto, a member of the Company for many years.



Posted By: [Gorst duPlessis](#)

Date Posted: [Jan 9, 2006](#)

Description: [Paul Fennell](#) suggested I post an Image of a rose engine lathe. Fred [Armbruster MD](#) measured and copied a 1836 Holtzappel lathe and made two and I am fortunate to have one

