

Inside Out Turning

July 19—9am—Denis Falch Shop in Winona, Mn.



Denis Falch will demo “Inside Out Turning” to the club. This method of turning requires the turner to design and turn the inside of the turning first. Then turn the outside. Denis will explain each of the phases to this style of turning. He will have examples of the finished turnings for you to see. This style of turning produces very unusual and beautiful turnings. They can range from Christmas tree ornaments to vases. Handouts will be provided at the meeting. You will enjoy this demo !

[Remember to bring your chair to this meeting.](#)



PrezSez:

Dave Dunn’s demonstration was interesting and should be an encouragement for the people starting out. He could turn many different items with minimal equipment. He didn’t own a chuck for a long time and he didn’t have a whole assortment of turning tools. He mainly used gouges to do his projects. He is from the South-eastern Minnesota turning club, which we have members that also belong to that club and made some of the initial arrangements for him to do the demo.

Our next meeting will be at Denis Falch’s and it is a good thing that the Winona Bridge is now allowing smaller vehicles to cross the river. That would have caused some inconvenience for some of our members due to the possible increased distance to travel. It seems we have been having some tough luck lately from high gas prices, inflation, and Mother Nature seems to be hitting us hard with large amounts of rain. When it rains, it pours. A bright point of wood turning in this area is the abundance of cheap wood and maybe the good side of the foul weather is access to free wood from downed trees.

We have a good event coming up this August 23rd and 24th that could help exhibit our club’s works, the Great River Folk Festival to be held at the UW La Crosse campus. We have been asked to participate in demonstrating for this event along with some other crafts like Quilting and Caning. We have some demonstrators that have volunteered to help but we can always use more. We have needs to help set up and we could use people to speak and answer questions while the other person is demonstrating. We are also looking for people to bring pieces to display at the show. Please contact me at minnow1974@charter.net or call me at 526-4692 if interested in helping or displaying their works.

There is also a Woodturning Symposium in Chicago July 25th thru 27th. If anyone is interested, contact me and I can e-mail you with more information. —*John Fisher*—

June Meeting



Thanks to Duane Hill for providing the photos.



CRW was the winner of a Jet Mini-lathe in the AAW raffle to benefit Phil Brennon!!!

CRW Mission Statement: *To promote, to educate, and to inspire ourselves and others in the fine art of turned wood.*

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Some post-symposium reflections after a few days—Aaron Gesicki

- Facilities were good, but the location was poor. The convention center was more than big enough for our event but is in an old, seedy neighborhood with not much to offer for those of us who needed to walk or drive to the venue from somewhere besides the host hotel. The surrounding nearby parts of the city were not nearly as nice or convenient as was Portland [maybe the best venue ever]
 - All AAW aspects of the event were excellent with very few problems of any kind that were noticeable to the audience. Maybe the best ever in this regard. Attendance was good but not the highest ever – surprising given the eastern location.
 - Instant Gallery was large, diverse, and quite energizing. I have a few pictures in my Picasa album.
 - Instant Gallery Critique was well done. More and more, to get included, requires both top quality workmanship and a really creative and new idea. Although, it also included a few “simple” things that were perfect in form, proportion, and the use of the wood [like Dale Larson’s bowl].
 - First night special events were very popular. I attended the one on tool steels – finally, a scientifically valid treatise on which materials are best for tools has been researched and published [by a team from North Carolina State University]. A précis of this will be in the next issue of More Woodturning. Summary – almost all the advertising hype is bogus. Taking M2 as the minimum acceptable material [everything else, like O1, isn’t worth the effort], the best tools [from V15] are barely twice as good for edge retention. In addition, all the touted improvements from the cryogenic treatments are hype and little more than BS [a foundry term].
 - The two juried events – Turned for Use [on display at a local Gallery housed in an old firehouse] and Spheres [in a carefully guarded room in the convention center] – were wonderful. Both required at least an hour to view and then a lot more to digest.
 - Auctions of both the donated items and the juried Sphere show were well done and fun to watch. Turned wood art is becoming more popular and demand is increasing. The Sphere auction, in the aisle during lunchtime, was not only lucrative [many 4 and a few 5 figure items] but fun for all, even us non-bidders.
 - Highlights of my rotation attendance were the Drozda/Nittmann left brain right brain tag team match [yes, Cindy, I am an artist], Al Stirt on details [make the best piece, not the biggest], Ali Avisera [a whirlwind to watch – a great demonstrator], Dale Larson [respect the wood], and Richard Raffan, the woodturners’ replacement for George Carlin.
 - Trade show continues to have new things [like the Kobra hollower – a slick system] and a lot of everything else.
 - I bought some stuff – from Soren Berger [through Packard], so spheres and scoops can be done with more convenience in a lot less time [this would make for a good meeting demo], and some leg wood for the stools that Alan Leland showed me how to make [great grandchild gifts]
 - Again, unfortunately, the days are so long, and there is so much, that there isn’t enough time to do even the “important things” much less see it all.
- I’ve posted all my pictures on Picasa. Send me email if you want to look and need the link. There is very little explanation with these, so if you have questions, just ask. I’ll be happy to elaborate about any or all of these.

FROM THE TREASURER:

Quarterly Financial Statement – ending 6/30/08	
Balance as of 1/1/08	\$3,443.22
Income:	
Net from John Jordan demo	\$579.71
Dues	\$70.00
Raffles	\$61.00
Total Income	\$710.71
Expenditures:	
Annual Woodturning Magazine subscription, liability insurance premium	\$349.50
Host fees, demonstrator fees, porta-potty	\$100.00
AAW/Brennion lathe raffle	\$100.00
Total Expenses	\$549.50
Balance as of 6/30/08	\$3,604.43

RAFFLES AND SALES: We had a number of sales and a raffle at the last meeting which benefited the club due to the generosity of the contributors. Many thanks to Clyde Cassell, Bill Gautsch and Roger Meyer. Together, they raised \$29 for the club!

Tip for July: When grinding, often you don't know if your angle is set correctly on your tool rest. Use a black Sharpie and color the entire bevel of the tool. Turn the grinder on then off. Place the tool on the rest and touch it to the grinder. You will see where it is grinding. Adjust your rest, if needed.

Make your reservations early for the Mike Stafford special event October 19&20

Aaron spent some time with Mike at the Symposium in Richmond – getting to know him better as a person [his day job is split between US FDA and NC Health Dept] and learning more about his woodturning. One thing is certain – when Richard Raffan told Mike that his work is top quality and that he could do this professionally, [which is what happened at the Friday night box turners special interest night] – you know that we will be seeing a master of this area of the craft. Here is a picture of Mike's display from that event. As you can see, his boxes are diverse in style, yet all are attractive and beg to be handled and opened.

We need to have at least 30 members commit to attendance by August 16 – so this event can happen. **If we do not have the required minimum of 30 people by August 16th, the demonstration will be cancelled.** The cost for the October demonstration is \$55 for the two days. This does not include lunch. Lunch details will be worked out at a later date. Payment may be made by cash or check payable to "CRW". You may pay Pam (treasurer) or any board member.



Pro Turner: Jimmy Clewes

The Minnesota Woodturners Club (Minneapolis/St. Paul) will be having Jimmy Clewes July 18-22 for a demo and Hands on workshops. The fees are \$75 per day for the workshops. There are 7 openings for Friday (18th) and 5 openings for Sunday (20th), as well as one opening for the two day class on Monday and Tuesday (21st and 22nd-\$150). The last time Jimmy was at their club, Bob Patros and others from our club attended the demo. Duane attended a hands on workshop. Everyone really enjoyed it. We have several of Jimmy's DVD's in our Library. If you want an outstanding experience with turning time with one of the best. Sign up.

Here is a link to the "workshops" page for Jimmy Clewes' visit. At the bottom of the page is Dan Rominski's email (drominski@comcast.net). You need to contact him to reserve the spot and so he has an accurate count. <http://www.mnwoodturners.com/Summer2008WorkShopsJuly.shtml>

Open Shop Night

Open Shop Nights will be Tuesday, July 22 and August 5. Open Shop Night is open for all turners who have questions about woodturning, want to try something new or just want to talk woodturning. The place is Duane Hill's shop (808 Quincy in Onalaska). Time is 7 PM to 9 PM.

Upcoming CRW Meetings:

Aug 16 – Program: Turned Door Stops by Greg Haugen. Location: Shorty's in Alma.

Meeting Leader: Duane Hill

Sept 20 – Program: Xmas Ornaments by Duane Hill. Location: Onalaska.

Meeting Leader: Lyle Solem

Oct 18&19 – Program: Pro Demo—Boxes by Mike Stafford. Location Onalaska.

Meeting Leader: Aaron Gesicki

Nov 15 – Program: Specialty Tools by Aaron Gesicki & Greg Haugen. Location: Onalaska.

Meeting Leader: TBD

Dec 13 – Program: Complex Segmented with Veneer by Aaron Gesicki & Ansel Heram. Location: Onalaska.

Meeting Leader: Duane Hill

Jan 17 – Program: Pepper Mills by TBD. Location: Onalaska.

Workshops and Other Venues: Why Bother?

By Anthony Napoli, AAW, CMW

Why bother with workshops, seminars, demonstrations, or other types of educational venues? These venues are offered on a variety of subjects, some at no charge, some for small fees, and others that some may consider expensive. The sharing of information is the primary purpose, but what do you get out of it? Why should you take the time out of your busy schedule? Why attend when you can rent videos, DVD's, or read books for a whole lot less? Let's explore this and see if it is worth your while.

I have been turning for a little over three years. But, eight years ago I decided to purchase the best woodturning lathe that Harbor Freight sold for \$299.00. It was a 12" x 36" cast iron bed with a half horsepower motor, and all the attachments including the stand. One of the features I liked was the swing out attachment for the tool rest that would allow more freedom for positioning around a piece. The other feature I liked was that it had a Reeves Pulley that allowed for variable speeds by swinging a lever handle while the lathe was running. I am rather impatient when it comes to converting tools for other purposes and this feature was a definite plus to not have to change belt positions for the desired speed. I also purchased the eight piece set of high speed steel turning tools available from Harbor Freight that were made in China. It included a couple of roughing gouges, a couple of skewers, a spindle gouge, a couple of scrapers, and a parting tool for about \$35.00. A pretty cheap investment that I felt would solve some of the woodworking problems that I have had over the years.

For my first project I decided to try something small and useful, a handle for my files. I figured that a handle should not be too difficult. As it turned out I would have been better off buying a one inch dowel, cut it to length, sand the edges, and drilling a hole to accept the file ends. The finished turning had torn grain and chop-outs. I tried another piece of wood figuring that I either had the wrong speed or the wood I selected was not appropriate for turning. The results were pretty much the same. I decided to try again after I did some further research. What made me get around to finding the necessary resources? After five years, my motivator to learn how to turn came down to the opening of a Woodcraft store in a nearby city.

I took some classes related to joinery and found that their staff had the knowledge and that the hands on really helped me grasp the procedures and other aspects of the subject. The first woodturning class I took was a basic course where we turned a garden dibble. First of all, I had no clue what a garden dibble was! I normally design my own woodworking project and do not usually follow a plan. I felt that I had one advantage over the other students, due to the fact that I have worked with all types of tools for most of my life, and I normally pick-up how to use them fairly quickly. The instructor asked for 1) some background information from the students about their experience with woodturning and, 2) to rate their skill level from one to ten, with ten being the best. I stated that I had tried woodturning a few years earlier with less than desirable results and graded myself a five because of my tool experience. But my hope for a successful

project was somewhat diminished when one of the other students said that he had been turning pens for some time and rated himself lower than I had rated myself. I specifically remember after this student's statement, thinking that this must be a lot harder than I originally thought. Well, by the time the class ended, I had a stubby representation of a garden dibble, but it had a good finish without sanding and no chop out or torn grain. My spirits were built back up by the end of the class.

Over the last two years, I have taken nine woodturning classes from Woodcraft with the majority taught by two of their staff (John and Mike) who are both from the British Isles and who have become my mentors. Shortly after getting to know John, he invited me to the Carolina Mountain Woodturners (CMW) meeting in Asheville, North Carolina. The first meeting we attended featured a local turner, Talmadge Murphey, and he presented "Balanced Multi-axis Pieces." When he completed the piece it had four handles. My first impression was that there was a lot more to woodturning than I first anticipated. It took almost eight months for me to get up the nerve to take a class from a professional Woodturner. Don Derry was presenting "Romancing the Curve," and that seemed like as good a place to start as any. His demonstration concentrated on the way lines are incorporated into woodturning and how to visualize how a curve will look.

In my professional life, I regularly attend seminars and listen to someone discuss a topic. My basic philosophy is that as long as I leave a seminar with one thing that I can use, I consider the time and money well spent. I have always taken notes at seminars because there is so much information that I would not remember most of it in a very short time. As a result, I do the same at the CMW monthly meetings and workshops. By taking good notes that include drawings, I have found that it makes it a lot easier to remember what was demonstrated at some point in the future. As I complete each page of notes I tear it from the pad. So that notes will not be easily mixed up, I date my notes and use unique page numbers (i.e. DD1, DD2, etc.). This allows me to place them in a loose-leaf binder in the correct order after I return home.

There are several reasons for going to club meetings or attending workshops. Let me discuss meetings first. What I found was that I left each meeting with several things that I could practice and apply to the way that I turn wood. For me, the benefits of attending a CMW meeting include: 1) watching professionals perform their techniques, their use of tools, and other practices, 2) seeing the actual tools that they use with any modifications, 3) being able to ask questions and/or hear the professional answers to someone else's questions, and 4) talking with other club members about their turned project or discussing what you brought to show. This brings up another point. If your club has an "Instant Gallery" where members can bring their latest project, bring yours. This is one of the best ways to gauge your project's quality against the other pieces on display. If there is something there that interests you, it allows you to ask the creator questions about it. I found that I improved at a lot faster pace than if I had learned in a vacuum or basically taught myself. By seeing other woodturner's projects, the quality of my projects increased (i.e. better tool use, better finishing techniques,

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But one of the greatest benefits has been in taking a hands-on class with a professional Woodturner. The professional Woodturner brings their skills and opinions to each demonstration. Since they also meet other professional woodturners in their travels, they exchange and discuss procedures, techniques, and other knowledge, which can be passed on to other Woodturners, like you and me. In many cases the fees are relatively inexpensive. I have found that by trying to duplicate what they have just demonstrated, this allows them to assist you personally. This hands-on approach allows the professional to answer any questions or concerns or just alleviate any fears that you may have before the workshop ends. This lack of interaction is the main reason why books, DVD's, and/or videos do not offer the same level of education. Since these formats cannot allow for the hands-on or personal interaction it is often harder to duplicate the shown task resulting in both; frustration and poor results. It can occur because something was not presented clearly, steps may have been glossed over, it was read wrong, or it was missed. The physical presence of the professional can alleviate any of these and others that might exist.

In conclusion:

As you consider where you want to spend your time, you need to decide if being a member of a club will offer you the following items:

- 1) Are the people in the club personable?
- 2) Are they willing to share their ideas and knowledge with others?
- 3) Does the club offer educational opportunities?
- 4) Do you want to learn new things?

The last one is probably the most important because if you only go when you have spare time or you do not feel that there is any benefit, then it will be a waste of time. Also, if you go sporadically, you will miss most of the benefits that come from being a consistently attending member.

I make every effort not to miss a club meeting. I still review workshops based on the topic and what I can apply to the way I turn wood. Ultimately, what you put into a meeting or workshop will equal or exceed what you get out of participating. One of the best ways of getting more out of attending is by getting involved by volunteering your time. This can be by assisting with set-up, during the meeting, or with clean-up after the meeting ends. But the best way to learn and understand about a club or organization is by joining the Board of Directors. You will better understand the club or organization and if necessary be in a better position to effect change. So I urge you to participate and get involved. Good luck with expanding your woodturning knowledge and horizons.

Submitted by Lyle Solem

For Sale:

Porter Cable pancake air compressor. Would like to sell for \$50. Paul Woelper (507)895-1036



The Birch Tree

By Shannon Storkel

Birch is the name of any tree of the genus *Betula*. They are closely related to the beech/oak family. The common name birch is derived from an old Germanic root, *birka*, "white, bright; to shine." The birch is considered a national tree of Russia, where it used to be worshipped as a goddess during the Green Week in early June. Silver Birch is Finland's national tree. Birch trees are prized for their outstanding bark characteristics and their graceful delicate foliage. Numerous species and cultivars are used in landscapes, and almost all are distinctive in bark coloration, growth form, and susceptibility to certain insect pests. These are generally small to medium-size trees (46-60 feet) or shrubs, mostly of northern temperate climates.

Leaves - The simple leaves may be toothed or lobed. The leaves of the different species vary but little. All are alternate, doubly serrate, feather-veined, petiolate, and stipulate. Fall color is yellow.

Bark - The bark of all birches is characteristically marked with long horizontal lenticels, and often separates into thin papery plates, especially upon the Paper Birch. It is practically imperishable, due to the resinous oil which it contains. Its decided color gives the common names Red, White, Black, Silver and Yellow to different species.

Fruit - The fruit is a small samara, although the wings may be obscure in some species. They differ from the alders in that the female catkins are not woody and disintegrate at maturity, falling apart to release the seeds, unlike the woody cone-like female alder catkins. All the birches are easily grown from seed.

Wood - Birch wood is fine-grained and pale in color, often with an attractive satin-like sheen. Ripple figuring may occur, increasing the value of the timber for veneer and furniture-making. The highly-decorative Masur (or Karelian) birch has ripple texture combined with

attractive dark streaks and lines. Birch wood is suitable for veneer, and birch ply is among the strongest and most dimensionally-stable plywoods, although it is unsuitable for exterior use. Birch ply is used to make guitar amplifiers and speaker cabinets. They are good tonally and are also known for their sturdiness. Occasionally it is used for electric and acoustic guitar bodies. It is also used to make drums. Birch ply is used to make skateboards. It is also used (often in very thin grades with many laminations) for making model aircraft. Birch wood is also a common material used in mallets for keyboard percussion. The wood of all the species is close-grained with satiny texture and capable of taking a fine polish and its fuel value is fair.

Uses - Due to birch pulp's short-fiber qualities, this hardwood can be used to make printing paper. In India the thin bark coming off in winter was used as writing paper. This has excellent life. Extracts of birch are used for flavoring or leather oil, and in cosmetics such as soap or shampoo. In the past, commercial oil of wintergreen was made from the Sweet Birch. Birch tar or Russian Oil, extracted from birch bark, is thermoplastic and waterproof; it was used as a glue and also for medicinal purposes. Birch leaves make a diuretic tea. Ground birch bark, fermented in sea water, is used for seasoning the woolen, hemp or linen sails and hemp rope of traditional Norwegian boats. Birch twigs were bound in a bundle, also called birch, to be used for birching, a form of corporal punishment. Many of the First Nations of North America prized the birch for its bark, which due to its light weight, flexibility, and the ease with which it could be stripped from fallen trees, was often used for the construction of strong, waterproof but lightweight canoes, bowls, and tipis. Birch is prized by the Sami people as it burns well, without popping, even when frozen and freshly hewn. The bark is also used in starting fires. The bark will burn very well, even when wet, because of the oils it contains. With care, the bark can be split into very thin sheets that will ignite from even the smallest of sparks. Birch is used as a food plant by the larvae of a large number of Lepidoptera (butterflies and moths) species

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Food - In Belarus, Russia, the Baltic States, Finland, and parts of northern China, birch sap is consumed as a refreshing beverage, and is believed to have tonic qualities. It is watery and pale green in color, with a slightly sweet flavor, and is bottled commercially. The sap of particular birch species may also be rendered into birch syrup, vinegar, birch beer (a drink similar to root beer), and other foods. In contrast to maple syrup, birch syrup is very difficult to produce, making it more expensive than other food syrups. It is also considerably less sweet than maple syrup and the sap for syrup production is not available until a month later than maple's. The syrup is made mainly in Alaska (from Alaska Birch) and Russia (from several species), and more rarely elsewhere. Xylitol can also be extracted from birch, a sugar alcohol artificial sweetener, which has shown effectiveness in preventing, and in some cases repairing, tooth decay. Birch is a preferred wood for the manufacture of toothpicks.

Medicinal - In northern latitudes birch is considered to be the most important allergenic tree pollen, with an estimated 15-20% of hay fever sufferers sensitive to birch pollen grains. The chaga mushroom is an adaptogen that grows on white birch trees, extracting the birch constituents and is used as a remedy for cancer. The bark is high in Betulin and Betulinic acid, photo chemicals which have potential as pharmaceuticals, and other chemicals which show promise as industrial lubricants. Birch bark can be soaked until moist in hot water, and then formed into a cast for a broken arm. The inner bark of birch can be ingested safely.

Ecology - Birches often form even-aged stands on light, well-drained, particularly acidic soils. They are regarded as pioneer species, rapidly colonizing open ground. Birches are generally lowland species. Though homeowners often desire birch as an ornamental tree, they soon discover that birch can be very difficult to maintain as a healthy, long-lived specimen. In many landscapes, birch trees begin to decline within a few years, and many trees die well before reaching maturity. A healthy birch tree should be able to survive and thrive for 40-50 years. In many yards, however, it is not unusual for birch trees, especially the white-barked birches, to die well before reaching 20 years of age.

Growing a Birch tree - In many instances, homeowners have predisposed their birch trees to problems by planting and growing them under conditions that are not the best for their survival. If you are going to plant a birch tree, following these steps will greatly improve your chances of having a long living healthy tree:

- Step 1 - Select a proper location for your birch tree.
- Step 2 - Select the most appropriate species of birch.
- Step 3 - Maintain a healthy birch tree.
- Step 4 - Monitor and control insect pests.

Step 1 - Selecting the Proper Site - Plant in cool, moist soils. Their very shallow root system makes them sensitive to even short periods of drought or heating of the soil. Find a location where the soil will be shaded in the afternoon, cool, and moist. However, birch trees require full to partial sunshine on their leaves to grow well. The challenge is to select a growing site where the soil will remain cool and moist, but where the tree will also receive full sunshine on its leaves for much of the day. Excellent locations for placement of birch trees are found on the east and north sides of a home where the building provides afternoon shade. Existing trees and structures can often provide the necessary shading. Avoid areas where the soil is compacted or likely to become compacted. Birch trees have a very shallow root system that can be easily damaged by soil disturbance. Birch trees do best on slightly acidic soils (pH 5.0 - 6.5), though the white-barked birches especially our native paper birch-are

capable of growing well on alkaline soils. Most birch trees prefer moist but not wet soils. If your planting location is in an area that is poorly drained or that may occasionally flood for short periods of time, you should limit your selection to river or Heritage river birch, both of these can also be grown on drier soils.

Step 2 - Selecting the Right Birch Tree for Your Landscape - A number of different types of birch trees are available for landscape use. Most are medium size, often reaching 40-50 feet in height with yellow leaves in the fall and grow as single stemmed trees, but also as clumps having 3-5 stems.



Heritage River Birch



Yellow Birch



Paper Birch

Paper/White/Canoe Birch are good for hardiness zone 3 and farther south and will tolerate alkaline soils well.

River/Red/Heritage/Heritage River Birch are native to the south and along rivers and far north as St. Paul. They grow well in wet or dry soils but are sensitive to alkaline soils with a pH greater than 6.5.

Yellow Birch is native to the Great Lakes region and will grow in more shade than other Birches. They are more resistant to insect pests than other birches but difficult to find in a nursery.

Step 3 - Maintaining Your Tree - Mulching - The best materials for mulching are wood chips, shredded bark, and leaf compost. Rock or stone mulch can also be used but there are drawbacks such as it will not add organic matter to the soil, nor will it reduce weed growth, some stone may increase soil pH level. Do not place plastic under any of the mulches since it can retard water movement and oxygen diffusion into the soil.

Watering - Sufficient water is probably the single most important factor in maintaining a healthy birch tree. If rainfall is insufficient, a slow (2-3 hours), deep (8-18 inches) watering once per week is recommended. Infrequent, light waterings are not recommended. Watering should be decreased by late August to allow for proper winterization of a tree.

Fertilizing - Fertilization is beneficial only when nutrients are lacking. Reasons to fertilize are to correct a nutrient deficiency, to accelerate growth when trying to establish a new planting quickly and to maintain health (usually to replenish nitrogen). Important points:

- Fertilize only when a soil test indicates a nutrient shortage or imbalance.
- Make sure adequate water is available following the application of fertilizers.
- Fertilize in late fall or early spring. Avoid fertilizing between mid-August and mid-September.
- Use slow-release fertilizers.

Pruning - Excessive pruning (greater than 25 percent of the live canopy) should always be avoided. Pruning of birch trees should NOT be done between May 1 and August 1. This is the flight period of the bronze birch borer, and it has been shown that female birch borers are attracted to fresh pruning wounds. If pruning must be done during this time period, treat the wound with an insecticide. Wound dressings should not be used since they are not effective at repelling borers and do not promote closing of wounds.

Step 4 - Monitoring and Controlling Insect Problems - Landscape birch trees are often attacked by two common insect pests, birch leaf miner and bronze birch borer. Leaf miner attacks do not kill trees; however, they can reduce the aesthetic appearance by turning the leaves brown. In addition, a heavy infestation can weaken a tree's ability to resist attack by the bronze birch borer. The birch borer is a tree killer. It is a small beetle that thrives on weakened trees. The first symptom of birch borer attack is sparse, stunted foliage in the upper crown. This will lead to twig dieback and then to branch dieback. The process of decline can take several years before a tree dies, though it can also occur very quickly during a single hot, dry year. The decline of a birch tree may be reversed in the early stages, but recovery is improbable after more than 50 percent of the crown is damaged.

Controlling Birch Leaf miner - Leaf miners on birch can be controlled by using insecticide.

Foliar Spray - A thorough application is necessary within 2-5 days after the first tiny yellow spots appear on the leaves, following egg laying. Generally, the spots show up a week or two after the leaves emerge. The spray should be applied before the spots expand to larger (dime to nickel size) brown blotches. At that point, it is too late to reduce the damage, and insecticides should no longer be used. Instead, attempt to maintain tree health by mulching and watering. The first treatment, in the very early spring, is the most critical. Additional sprays may be needed for later generations of leaf miners; however, these later attacks generally involve much lower numbers of insects and in most cases do not require control.



Spots that form on leaves following egg laying by leaf miners.

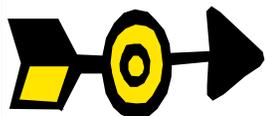


Advanced leaf miner damage. This is about the last point at which foliar insecticides can be successfully used.

Soil Application - Some insecticides can be applied to the soil where they are absorbed by the roots and transported to the leaves. These systemic insecticides can work very well. The key to being successful with a soil application is applying the material very early in spring, before bud break. Later applications will not have time to be absorbed by the roots and transported into the developing leaves.

Controlling Bronze Birch Borer - The white-barked birch trees are more susceptible to attacks by bronze birch borer than are the birch species without white bark (river birch, Heritage river birch, sweet birch, and yellow birch). Within the white-barked trees, our native species, paper birch and gray birch, show more resistance to bronze birch borer than do the many exotic species such as European white birch.

To prevent birch borer problems: (1) do not plant a birch tree if the site is not suitable for birch, (2) select a birch species that is less susceptible to birch borer, and (3) maintain tree health. Treatment 1: Begin a regular schedule of deep, heavy watering. Treatment 2: Insecticides can be applied. This will not kill insects already under the bark. However, it will help prevent new attacks. Pruning out the dead branches may improve the appearance of a declining tree, but it is unlikely to aid in recovery from a birch borer infestation. If pruning is done, it should be restricted to fall and winter, as spring and summer pruning can attract adult borers.



Wanted to buy

A 3 or 4-step v-belt pulley, with a 5/8" bore for my Craftsman lathe. Used is OK if it's in good condition. Lee Goehring (715) 284-1688 email: goeh@charter.net



Art Ustby, Secretary / Editor
1923 Wood St.
La Crosse, WI 54603
Phone: 608-781-0914
Email: ustby@charter.net

"A Turn For the Better"

Next Meeting -We will meet at the Denis Falch Shop.

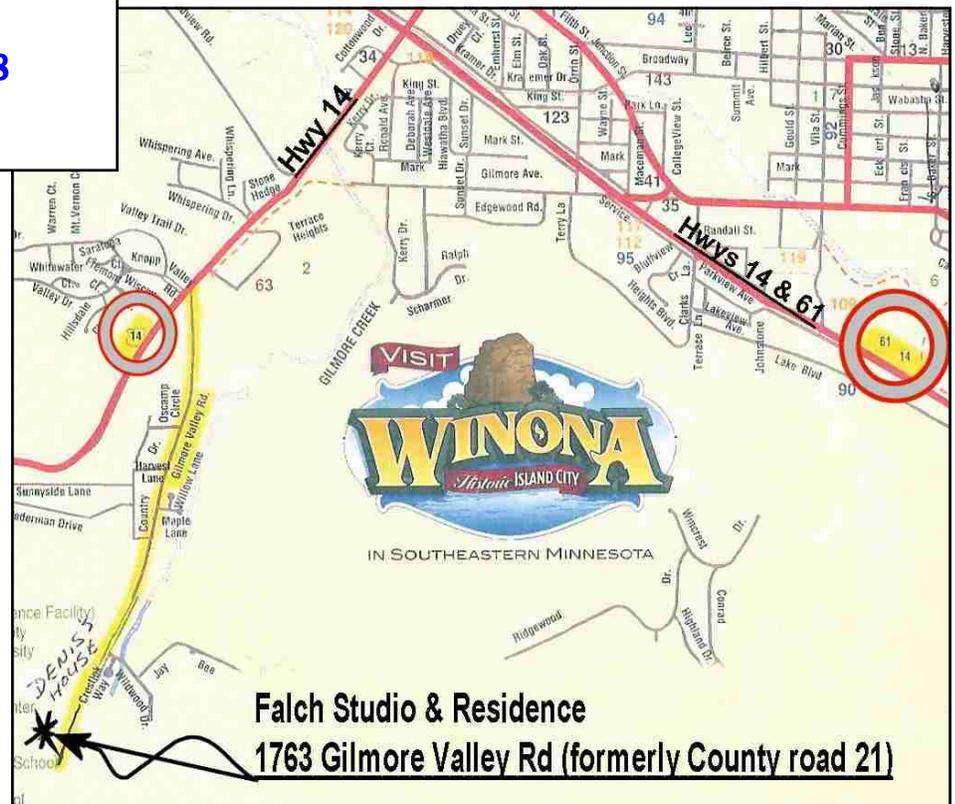
9:00 Saturday, July 19, 2008

Here's a map to help those who aren't sure where we will meet.>
There are two streets for the same location. 1763 Gilmore Valley Road (formerly County Road 21), in Winona, sort of.

We'll start the program promptly, so you'll need to be a little early just to get one of The Uecker Seats. **Remember—you have to bring your own chair to have a place to sit.**

If you get lost or delayed, call Denis at (507) 454-0403 before the meeting for help or commiseration.

We'll have coffee, so donuts are ALWAYS welcome. And maybe something chocolate for that special person.



Falch Studio & Residence
1763 Gilmore Valley Rd (formerly County road 21)