

Des Moines WoodTurners Chapter Meeting Announcement & Newsletter

October 2026

a 501(C)(3) Non-profit Organization

Bulletin 2026-10

October 10th

Phil Holtan

Turning Ring Trees with a Story

Phil Holtan has been a woodturner for 45 years, leading workshops, selling at art shows and galleries, and demonstrating at many turning clubs. This demonstration, similar to one he did at the St. Paul Symposium in 2025, is turning a ring tree, based on the Norwegian wedding cake, the Kransekake. His design grew out of a persistent family story of the cake, and he adapted the old turners trick of captive rings to turn multiple rings on a tapered cone. He will work up to the tree by first turning a baby rattle to concentrate on turning the rings and showing a project that most woodturners can accomplish. Then he will turn the ring tree in several stages, and finally, show a step beyond with a "crooked tree" turned on 7 different centers to give a "Seusical" spin to the story.

Located at the New location on Bell Ave.



About Phil Holtan

Phil Holtan is proud to have introduced thousands of people to the joy of woodturning. Phil grew up as a Forest City, Iowa farm kid and learned to be a maker. He became a Lutheran pastor and storyteller, but found he still needed to be a maker, to work with his hands as well as his head. In 1979, 45 years ago, he met his first woodturner and immediately knew this was it. In North Dakota, turners were scarce, so in 1984 Phil spent two days in a workshop with Russ Zimmerman, one of America's first bowl turning teachers, in Putney, Vermont. After the class, Russ graciously told Phil he should be teaching his own workshops. So, for the last 40 years, Phil has hosted two-day turning workshops for over 1800 turners, 2-5 at a time. He has demonstrated at hundreds of art shows and dozens of club meetings. His students are everywhere in this region. Phil helped start two clubs, Minn-Dak Turners in Moorhead, Minn., and Minnesota Lakes Turners in NW Minnesota. Even as a busy pastor, Phil turned every day, selling his turnings at increasingly prestigious art shows and raising the visibility of turning in the region. He won best of show several times and gained a regional reputation which has generated commissions, media articles, a cable TV series, gallery exhibitions and strong sales. His signature turnings, natural-edged, thin-walled burl bowls from local woods, and spindleturned ringed items, both have strong Scandinavian connections. He designed and has turned thousands of what he calls "kranskekake," an evergreen-tree shape of multiple loose rings based on the Norwegian wedding cake of that name.



Membership News From Dan Carlson

We have 200 members as of the end of September
Please welcome these new members who joined in September
Merlin Bishop of Urbandale
Steve Bush of West Des Moines

I will start collecting dues at the beginning of November for the 2027 year. I will let those of you who are paid in advance know that you will not need to pay anything this year. The board will be deciding soon how much dues will be for 2027. As in past years, you can pay your dues by cash, card or check. We will be posting a QR code for you to scan if you want to pay your dues online. If you are a snowbird and want to pay your dues before you leave town, let me know so we can take care of that and you avoid a late fee.

Notes From the President Dennis Anderson

Club Updates & 2027 Election Nominees

A Heartfelt Thank You to Our Volunteers!

A huge thank you to everyone who stepped up to help move our items from the Mall to the new Bell Avenue location and get the room arranged. We are incredibly fortunate to have a club filled with so many dedicated volunteers!

We also want to extend a special thank you to Stan Merrill and Tara Kinder, who will both be finishing their board terms at the end of 2026. Thank you, Stan, for your dedicated service as Treasurer, and thank you, Tara, for your outstanding leadership as Program Director. We deeply appreciate everything you have done for our club!

2027 Election Notice & Nominees

Our annual election of Club Officers and Board Members will take place at the November Chapter meeting. Per our bylaws, our leadership structure consists of four officer positions and four director positions.

The Board has also made an operational update moving forward: the Program Chair position will no longer double as a director position. **We currently have an open position for a Program Chair.** If you are interested in stepping into this vital role to help plan our upcoming activities, please reach out to a current board member!

Here is the official list of nominees for 2027:

- **President:** Dennis Anderson
- **Vice President:** Mark Hayes
- **Secretary:** Will Zitterich
- **Treasurer:** Vern Kinderknecht
- **Director of Membership:** Dan Carlson
- **Director of Education:** Tad Tadlock
- **Director at Large:** Duane Groenenboom
- **Director at Large:** Mike Hamilton

Please join us at the **November** meeting to cast your vote and support our club's future leadership!

Turning Challenge for October 10th Turn a Box, and turn a Magic Salt Shaker

The October turning challenge is a lidded box!
For a bonus ticket for the prize drawing turn a magic Salt shaker, plans on our website.



Embellished Christmas Tree Ornaments with Greg Ellyson

Greg Ellyson is offering a class on his technique for making colorful and embellished Christmas Tree Ornaments. The Class will be held on Thursday, November 19th.

The class will begin at 8:15 and end no later than 5pm (Probably earlier). Class is \$20.
In order to take the class you must have completed Basic Woodturning (or have been Qualified).
The Class is limited to 5 individuals and will be held at the Training Center in West Des Moines.

To enroll: Email John Amberg (johnaamberg@yahoo.com)



Fancy Trees
Nov 19, 2026
Dana Oredson
Mike Kruse
Steve Mumford
Tad Tadlock
1

DWMT Board Meeting

++All are Invited++

Board meetings are open to all members.
The next board meeting is October 28th

Decoupage Wooden Bowls demonstration Sept. 12th 2026, Mall venue.

Richard (Swede) Mandt and his daughter **Gayle Borst** demonstrated a process to decoupage decorative napkins on the inside surface of Wooden Bowls. They apply a 2- part epoxy resin over the decoupage napkin to make the bowl waterproof. They made 21 bowls to be sold for DM woodturners at the state fair. First, they apply white paint to the inside of the bowl to make the napkin design more visible. Use oil-based paint as it does not react to the resin as water-based paint. Shallow bowls with little noticeable grain seem to work the best to keep the resin from ponding in the bowl bottom when it is applied with a brush.

The bowl should be sanded to a 220-grit surface. Only the very top surface layer of the napkin is used. Slits were cut in the napkin to make the napkin lay flat in the bowl. They centered the napkin in the center of the bowl and applied the first layer of decoupage with a sponge dabbler. They worked on each half of the bowl at a time to prevent the decoupage from drying out. They wrapped the top of the napkin over the top edge of the bowl to make it easier to make a finished edge when the bowl is finished.

When the decoupage is dry the first coat of the epoxy resin is applied over the napkin. They used an epoxy resin that is measured out by the number of pumps on the dispenser to avoid having to measure the 1:1 ratio of part A and part B in a cup. The resin is applied with a brush to cover the napkin but not so much that it ponds in the bottom of the bowl.

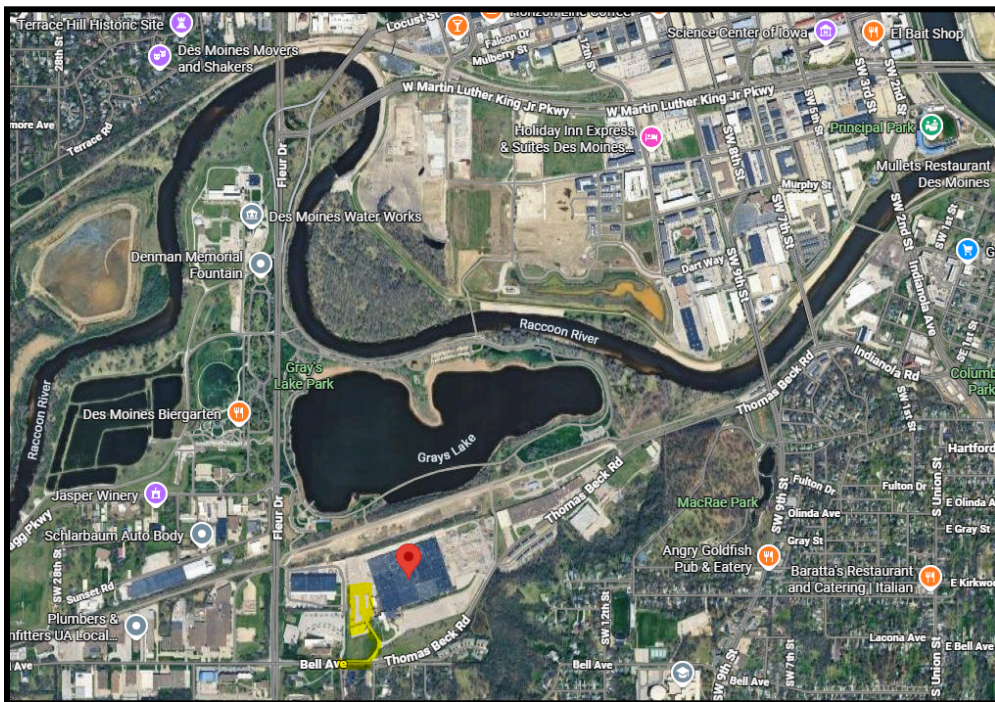
They used a heat gun to take out some of the bubbles in the resin layer. Three coats of resin are necessary to get a smooth waterproof shiny surface. It can be sanded when cured and the top edge can be turned off by using the lathe. They brought several bowls in different stages of the process with many different napkin surfaces. They used a napkin, but Gayle has used stamps to get a unique design. They discussed some of the problems that can occur and described how to address them. Their presentation was detailed enough to show someone how to begin and manage the process and explained the enjoyment they got from using their artistic talents to create many different designs.

Review by Will Zitterich



Directions to the New Club Location

Des Moines Woodturners: 1901 Bell Avenue. Enter at Bell Avenue Business Center sign and turn left to park on the west side. Enter door 101 and turn left and then right two times and follow the hallway to our room.



DMWT You Tube Channel

Our dedicated club videographer, Tom Baker, has been working tirelessly to create a YouTube channel for our club videos. Currently, there are a handful of videos available, and Tom will continue to add more, starting with the most recent recordings and working back to older ones.

Please note that not all videos from our meetings may be uploaded, primarily because many professional turners monetize their demos and may not grant us permission to share those recordings on our channel.

We encourage you to subscribe to our YouTube channel, as this will not only keep you updated on the latest content but will also enhance our visibility on the platform.

Here's the link to our channel:

[**Des Moines Woodturners YouTube Channel.**](#)

We believe you will appreciate the effort **Tom** is putting into this project.

Be sure to subscribe and enjoy the videos!

Tool Exchange and Sale

Each Wednesday Morning Networking Meeting

Do you have extra woodworking tools sitting unused in your shop?

Want to trade them for something new or clear some space?

The Rules:

- **Members Only:** Participation is restricted to current club members.
- **Private Sales:** All money or trade negotiations are strictly between the buyer and seller.
- **Woodworking Focused:** Items must be related to wood-related tools or accessories.
- **Size Limits:** Items must be small enough to carry in.

For larger machinery, please leave it in your vehicle and bring a photo to display.

- **Setup:** Tables will be provided in the meeting room for your items.
- **Labeling:** Please clearly mark each item with the seller's name and asking price.
- **Clean Up:** All unsold items must be taken home at the end of the meeting.

Woodturning Classes

General Information: You will receive an information packet by email approximately 1 month before the class. It contains a list of required accessories, location and safety information. A reminder will arrive about 1 week before the class. The fee is collected on the day of the class. There is no penalty for cancellation, but please let us know ASAP if you have to cancel.

Basic Woodturning: If you have not taken Basic Woodturning you will find it useful if you're new to turning, been away from the lathe for a while or would just like a refresher. Enhance your spindle turning skills. It is a fun day and a confidence builder. In addition, it is the prerequisite for the other courses. DWMT provides the tools and wood. Homework is assigned between classes so you will need access to a lathe. Basic Woodturning is two consecutive Mondays, 8:30 to 5. Cost: \$40.

Basic Bowl Turning: This class touches on basics of wood harvesting, differences from spindle turning, and introduces the bowl gouge. You will practice on a Poplar blank before turning your Hard Maple bowl. The class is one full day. DWMT provides the tools and blanks, you provide the accessories and face shield. This is a one day class. Cost: \$20.

Basic Segmenting: This class will cover the basics of making segmented projects, from calculating segment angles and sizes, ring diameters needed, segment wood prep, gluing and clamping, to accurate cutting fixtures. You'll glue together furnished pre-cut segments and clamp them. Turning will be demonstrated but students won't be using the lathe in the class. Pre-cut segments for glue-up practice will be furnished. Bring paper and pencil to take notes. This is a one day class. Cost: \$20.

Basic Skew Chisel: This class will introduce students to the proper techniques and use of the tool as well as sharpening. Students will furnish their own skew chisel(s) (3/4 inch and up preferred). We will use the same accessories as in the Basic Woodturning Class. This is a one day class. Cost: \$20.

Basic Sharpening: The sharpening class will use lathe mounted sandpaper sharpening wheels and wooden dowels to teach the techniques of sharpening. This class is primarily for gouges but will also touch on a variety of other common traditional turning tools such as parting tools, skew, bedan and scrapers. In addition, sharpening hollowing tools, thread chasers, hook tools and common flat carbide cutters will be discussed. After practice, students will have the opportunity to sharpen their own tools using the Oneway Wolverine Sharpening system and CBN wheels. This is a one day class. Cost: \$20.

Please contact John Amberg at johnaamberg@yahoo.com for further information or to sign up.

Basic Woodturning	Basic woodturning
Sep 14 & 21, 2026	Oct 19 & 26, 2026
Kevin Roozeboom	Tim Devine
Larry Bailiff	Sharon Squibb
Gary Reed	Dan Dutcher
Kepler Johnson	Marvin Cole
Philip Blobaum	1

Basic Segmenting	Basic Skew
Sep 28, 2026	Nov 2, 2026
Herman Riva	Brent Heuer
Dustin Smith	Curt Barclay
Dave Dvorsky	Herman Riva
2	Scott Core
1	Jamie Retzinger

Basic Bowl	Basic Bowl
Oct 5, 2026	Nov 9th, 2026
Larry Bailiff	Philip Blobaum
Gary Reed	John Carman
Kepler Johnson	Tim Devine
Gene Davis	Dustin Smith
Rod Putney	1

Basic Sharpening	Basic Sharpening
Oct 12, 2026	Nov 16, 2026
Herman Riva	Larry Bailiff
John Carman	Gary Reed
Kepler Johnson	Philip Blobaum
2	2
1	1

Basic Woodturning	Basic Woodturning
Mar 8 & 15, 2027	Apr 19 & 26, 2027
Jacob Blobaum	5
4	4
3	3
2	2
1	1

Basic Skew	Basic Segmenting
Mar 22, 2027	May 3, 2027
Dana Oredson	5
4	4
3	3
2	2
1	1

Basic Bowl	Basic Bowl
Apr 5, 2027	Apr 10th, 2027
Jacob Blobaum	5
Kevin Roozeboom	4
3	3
2	2
1	1

Basic Sharpening	Basic Sharpening
Apr 12, 2027	May 17, 2027
Jacob Blobaum	5
4	4
3	3
2	2
1	1

Training Class Graduates



Basic Woodturning, September 14th and 21st

Kevin Roozeboom, Larry Bailiff, Marvin Cole, Kepler Johnson, Philip Blobaum



Basic Segmenting, September 28th

Herman Riva, Dustin Smith, Dave Dvorsky

Mentoring Program

The Des Moines Woodturners Inc. (DMWT) invites members to use the Mentor Program. Below is a list of volunteers, members in good standing, who are willing to share their experience and answer specific questions to help you with a particular problem. Each mentor's strengths are noted along with their name and city location. Select who might be best to contact, based on your questions and how far they are from you. As volunteers, it will be up to the mentor to decide if they can help, whose shop will be used and what mentoring will look like based on the need.

Webpage: [DMWT Mentoring Program](#)

Dan Carlson, Clive Phone: 515-720-0637 dano1466@yahoo.com Dan will mentor in these areas: 1. Getting started with pen turning 2. Turning small ornaments 3. Turning small lidded boxes 4. Turning seam rippers, letter openers 5. Turning bottle stoppers	Tad Tadlock, Winterset Phone: 515-201-7403 tad4tahoe@aol.com Tad will mentor in these areas: 1. Natural & naked edge bowls 2. Large & small bowls 3. Platters 4. Boxes 5. Open void vessels 6. Sharpening
Glen Farmer, Ogden Phone 517-395-0317 gfarmeriii@yahoo.com Glen will mentor in these areas: 1. Bowl turning 2. Ornaments 3. Hollow forms 4. Coloring 5. Platters 6. Spindle work 7. Boxes 8. Harvesting wood/Blank cutting	Jack Kennedy, Winterset Phone: 515-462-3141 jkennedywinterset@att.net Jack will mentor in these areas: 1. Closed Segment Bowls 2. Open Segment Bowls
LeRoy Monson, Waukee Home Phone: 515-987-1655 Cell phone: 515-745-9098 monsonlg@aol.com LeRoy will mentor in these areas: 1. Spindle (including duplicating) 2. Bowls 3. Platters 4. Lidded Box 5. One-way sharpening and set-up 6. Tool Control 7. Bandsaw and lathe maintenance	Jack Rolison, Ottumwa Phone: 641-683-5647 jd.rolison@outlook.com Jack will mentor in these areas: 1. Bowl turning 2. Finishing 3. Coloring 4. Sharpening

Educational Opportunities

DMWT Woodturning Scholarship

The Des Moines Woodturners offer a scholarship program for the benefit of chapter members. Woodturning can be an expensive endeavor. The cost of equipment such as a lathe, bandsaw, chainsaw, sharpening system, buffing system and the myriad of items like drive centers, scroll chucks, live centers, adapters, jaws, and faceplates can mount rapidly. In addition is the cost of turning tools, embellishing tools, specialty tools and a host of accessories, supplies and finishing products, not to mention the cost of wood if you don't have the capacity to harvest your own.

By the same token, three and five day woodturning educational events are also expensive when located out-of-state. Travel costs, lodging and tuition can easily run \$1,000 to \$1,700 per event.

This scholarship is not intended as a source of financial aid for those who might otherwise not be able to afford the educational experience. Instead, it is offered as an incentive to those serious about woodturning who are willing to expand their skills and knowledge and bring those skill-sets back to share with our members in a variety of ways. The scholarship can provide recipients a 25% to 50% discount toward the overall cost of their attendance expenses.

The purpose of the scholarship is to expand personal woodturning skills and knowledge and share their experience with fellow members by:

- Attending Chapter events and sharing their learning experience.
- Showing examples of their work as a result of their learning experience.
- Demonstrating what they learned at a chapter meeting, event, or class.
- Sharing their overall learning experience and confidence building experience.
- Encouraging members to expand their woodturning skills via similar educational experiences. -Volunteering for Chapter leadership positions (wide variety of opportunities).

American Association of Woodturners (AAW)

We recommend an AAW membership because it offers many woodturning resources:

- ** Six issues of American Woodturner magazine each year.
- ** On-line access to all previous issues of American Woodturner and FUNdamentals.
- ** On-line access to videos and many other learning resources.

AAW Membership Join or Renew
American Association of Woodturners
222 Landmark Center,
75 5th Street
W St. Paul, MN 55102

Phone: (651) 484-9094 direct or toll free US (877) 595-9094

Email: memberservices@woodturner.org Website: <https://www.woodturner.org/>