



# Timeless Turnings

TMBaker. Woodturner

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## Welcome to my Timeless Turnings Newsletter!

I'm hoping to provide some entertainment, education, and — most of all — a glimpse into the whys and wherefores of my creative woodturning journey. Join me...

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### Turning Back in Time

The turning of the calendar to a new year always triggers reflection, but it seems to be more acute for me this year. I've never been one for resolutions. What am I going to resolve...spend more time turning?? HA! Even Kathy might have something to say about that. She's super supportive of my artistic endeavors, but there are lines that should not be crossed.

Our artistic journey has been drawn out through the years. It all began with us playing with and creating from natural materials at our kitchen table. Those were awesomely simple days, with our daughters helping out where they could and creating their own art along the way. That led to our first shop, The Pickle Barrel (see OCT2024 issue), followed by having our work in a gift shop while we were at Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. The simple act of people buying — even seeking out our work was an uplifting, exhilarating experience, reinforcing our instinctive creativity. There were even a few commissions along the way, which is an entire other level of validation.

That was followed by an extended period of not selling in shops or galleries since our next park was in the heart of the community, and I was in an ethics quandary because of my position at Keweenaw National Historical Park. I didn't want there to be any appearance of using my position to spur sales of my art. The same went for Fort Laramie National Historic Site in southeast Wyoming, except in spades since I was the Park Superintendent. Not a good look. Through it all, I continued to turn wood, sharpening my skills and tools, building inventory for the day when I would be able to enter the art world the way I had always hoped: doing a few shows each year and perhaps being fortunate enough to have representation in a gallery.



Since retirement, all of this has become a reality for me! So here I am in the year 2025, 72 years nearly under my belt, and feeling like an emerging artist. Who would have guessed?

## Showtime!

In the past two issues, I recounted the harvest/holiday shows I participated in as a selling artist. As noted, they were both great shows in their own right, both for the successes and for valuable lessons learned. I was able to get my work and my name out in the community, and it resulted in a relatively large sale after the show. In the meantime, I also had my first sales at Art On First in Ashland, who is my gallery representative.



Next up for shows of another type are submissions for juried competitions in the annual American Association of Woodturning (AAW) Symposium. While I won't be able to attend this year, I have entered pieces for jurying in the Professional Outreach Program benefit auction — a prestigious event featuring international masters to emerging artists. I will also be submitting entries for an AAW gallery exhibition and for a two-year traveling museum exhibition. Exciting times!

I'm looking into doing several of the Lithia Artisans Market weekend shows this summer in downtown Ashland's beautiful Lithia Park. The juried process ensures high-quality artists, and the setting attracts throngs of casual shoppers and collectors alike. It's a fun, exhilarating time amid the heightened cultural experience that is Ashland!

I have, indeed, posted new pieces to my website, most of which can be found on pages 4 & 5 in the "Shop" section. And, of course, there are numerous pieces of my turned art at Art On First in Ashland. FYI: prices are identical, whether at a show, on the website, or in the gallery.

## Wood Words

Taking a cue from last month, have you figured out "figure" yet? Let's go visual this month. Using direct overhead shots, you see Figured Myrtle Burl (top) and Black Walnut Crotch Flame. These are just two examples of highly figured wood, meaning that the growing conditions have produced characteristics other than typical wood grain. These are dramatic representations of how "figure" can elevate the art forms that are intrinsic in the trees surrounding us. It's up to the artist to reveal them to the world, preserving the story of each tree. Fun with wood!

***Thanks for joining me — see you next month!***

In the meantime, please visit my website at <https://www.tmbaker-woodturner.me> — time to look for new products from Timeless Turnings, which always ship FREE. You can also find the archived newsletters on the site if you missed any or want to revisit old favorites!

