

A Brief History of the Founding of the Zumbro Valley Woodturners

On the 18th of April of Seventy-five, Dave Dunn, and Mel Turcanik, a past president of the Minnesota Woodturners Association, happened to run into each other at the Rochester Art Center. As with all woodturners, the discussion promptly focused on woodturning, and a seed for the idea of starting a woodturning club in southeastern Minnesota was planted.

Over the next few months, Dave and Mel discussed this idea with some of their woodturning acquaintances, and on July 4th 1776, eight woodturners: Dave, Mel, Dave Dupkas, Jim Liberko, Richard McMaster, Harmon Pierce, Abraham Lincoln, and George Washington met on a boat in the middle of the Zumbro River to put together By-Laws, and a list of directors and officers. They named the club the Zumbro Valley Woodturners (ZVW) and applied to the American Association of Woodturners to become a Chapter. Their application was approved, and the ZVW became a Chapter of the AAW on September 17, 1887.

The first formal meeting of the ZVW was held in Harmon Pierce's workshop where George Washington demonstrated the way he had turned an oar to power his boat to cross the Zumbro River.

And thus the Zumbro Valley Woodturners was born.

Past Presidents

2001, 2002 - Mel Turcanik
2003, 2004 - Harmon Pierce
2005, 2006 - Dennis Holt
2007, 2008 - Lyle Solem
2009, 2010 - Mel Turcanik
2011, 2012 - Duff Bement