

Meet The Turner

Name:

Jeff Braunscheidel



Tell us about your family:

My wife Tammy is also a craftsperson. She weaves baskets, coils pine needles, does gourd art, and mixtures of these. We do joint booths at several art/craft shows each year. She also teaches classes in weaving and gourd art occasionally. We have 4 children (3 girls and 1 boy) who are no longer really children (except to their mother of course!) and 3 grandchildren. All have moved out now leaving lots of time for our crafts (NOT!).

Tell us about your job:

I am still working as one of the 2 Fisheries Biologists responsible for surveying and managing the fish in the public lakes and streams in Southeastern Michigan for the Fisheries Division of the Dept of Natural Resources. Now that's a mouthful! So if anyone needs advice on fishing in the area let me know. Work telephone is 248-666-7445 or email "Braunscheidelj@michigan.gov".

How long have you been a woodworker?

I've been woodworking for over 30 years, but only started turning wood about 7 years ago. And boy do the tools accumulate fast!

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How did you get started turning?

About 3 years before I started turning I happened to buy a really cheap, chinese lathe, that sat propped up in the corner of my wood shop for those 3 years. I finally pulled it out thinking I wanted to do some bowls and mounted it on a homemade wooden bench, but before I started playing with it looked around and found a 1 week, beginning woodturning class at Washtenaw Community College. After that there was no stopping me! Especially when I finally hooked up with this club and saw what could really be done if you worked at it.

What do you enjoy most about turning?

What I enjoy the most about woodturning is bringing out the natural beauty in each individual piece of wood. I rarely start out knowing exactly what I want to do other than some vague idea of a bowl or hollow form or some general concept, but sometimes that gets all turned around too! It sounds kind of corny, but sometimes the wood really does talk to me and say STOP HERE. Or GO THERE. Or maybe, "Just a Little off the Sides Please." I guess what I'm proud of, if I have to pick something, is that usually when I finish a piece that I'm happy with, lots of other people say it looks great too. I must be doing something right!