

BEST PRACTICES

Best Practices #010: A Chapter Library with a Twist to Benefit the Community

Heading: Member Services

Emerald Coast Woodturning Guild formed in June of 2003. We soon found that the majority of the members were beginning woodturners, all of whom could readily benefit from a library of woodturning books, videos, and other educational materials.

Being really strapped for resources, as a beginning organization, we began looking for alternative ways to provide loaner educational materials.

We contacted the local public library and made arrangements for our members to become library members and further arranged for the public library to become the custodian of our books and videos, most of which were donated by a few generous members. Not only are the materials available for checkout during normal library hours, the materials are also available to others in the community. We have a number of members today that learned of our woodturning chapter through the library. Our members can take advantage of the library anytime really, rather than waiting until the next monthly chapter meeting.

The library handles the usual custodial aspects of maintaining the materials, assuring checkouts and returns, shelf space and display, and even adds to the collection as opportunities arise.

We feel this collaborative approach to providing library materials to our membership, and the community, is a better way to operate. Our limited resources can then be applied toward other matters of priority to a beginning chapter of AAW.

~ Bill Stephenson
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