



Chapter of the Association of American Woodturners

February 2025

Newsletter

Issue No. 2

The Smoky Mountain Woodturners Chapter of AAW meets each month of the year on the 3rd Tuesday of the month starting at 6:30 pm. Our meetings are in-person and on ZOOM. To attend zoom, visitors should send their email to jevogelsang@charter.net. Guests are always welcome. Location: 8023 Kingston Pike in Knoxville. *Woodcraft Knoxville* (our sponsor) is near Trader Joe's and one block from West Town Mall.



President's Message

Forty-Four members were present at our February meeting, with eight attending on zoom, and four visitors. A pretty good turn-out for a cold February night. Jake Niedling presented another informative demonstration focusing on how to turn a hollow shape easily with the tools you already have. After a quick slide presentation of the steps he would take, he got right to the lathe for hands-on work. Not only did Jake take the audience through the project step-by-step, he slowed down many times to demonstrate a particular cut and answer questions from the audience. No one was left behind and many who participated were rewarded with poplar blanks to take back to their shops to try their own hand at turning a hollow form.

Jake tends to make wood turning look easy. With his demonstration of one-handed bowl gouge turning, it looked like magic cutting the wood. Wood turning is not magic! Lots and lots of time at the lathe correcting bad habits, learning from professionals, going to classes and practicing those techniques, helped make those cuts look easy. For many of us who started turning late, we have a long way to go. I know that I will always try to make the perfect wood bowl – it hasn't happened yet, but I keep on trying. It also means that I am still looking for that one shiny tool that will make me a better turner. At the end – "He who has the most shiny tools WINS!"

Last month I introduced you to our officers and committee chairs. These are the people who keep our monthly meetings going strong. One individual who doesn't get much attention is our secretary – Bill Thurman. Bill does the recording of our general and board meetings and is the collective memory of what we say we're going to do and when we do it. It may not be very glamorous, but is a big help for all the rest of us. This month a big THANK YOU to Bill Thurman for being our club Secretary.

We are off to a good start in 2025 and will be bringing you new and exciting demonstrations. Next month John Lucas, a nationally known wood turner, will be demonstrating inside/outside turning. We also have the Spring Workshop on May 3 & 4. Be sure to see me if you want to sign up for some special instruction from a Master Production Turner, Nick Cook. A bandsaw training session is in the works, and we always have hands-on mentoring to hone your woodturning skills. Remember that the club is only as good as its members and that our focus is on woodturning,

—Keep those Chips Flying — **Gordon Sloane**

\$\$\$ DUES are DUE \$\$\$
—January to March

Checks to:
SMWTS, PO Box 50141
Knoxville, TN 37950-0141

February Wood Donations

Pauline Bayne
Dick Hammet
Seth Simmermann

February Visitors Welcome!

Marie McClendon
Bob Holtz
Christa Greenlee
Tom Borloglou

Treasurer's Report - Jack Harrison

—While Jack has been receiving dues, he hasn't reached last year's number of paid members. Please send in your dues NOW. The Membership Committee will reach out to those who haven't paid

Fantasy of Trees - Don Adams

—It is not too early to be turning and submitting ornaments for November's Fantasy of Trees. Let's get started to achieve a record number of

Beads of Courage - Bill Thurman

—Bill reported that he delivered boxes from three clubs to the Children's Hospital. Our club had the fewest boxes (sigh). Bill received a nice thank-you note from the hospital.

A Thank You Letter...

To the Smoky Mountain Woodturners:
Thank you so much for the awesome
Beads-of-Courage Boxes that you made
for our patients.

We appreciate your support to East
Tennessee Children's Hospital.

Thanks So Much!
Volunteer Services

Educational Project –Wear's Valley Ranch

Jake Niedling reported for Bob Law

—Currently they have 24 students. In January, Pauline Bayne donated a lot of equipment including 2 lathes, turning tools, and supplies.

Wood Auction - John Jordan

John was not present, but Gordon reported that John was talking with Woodcraft to set a date for him to teach a band saw class.

Announcements:

Bring Back Box — Won by Gordon Fowler

Scholarships (for Dec. draw) —

Arrowmont: Dan Peters

JC Campbell: Gordon Sloane

Wood Donations for monthly auction —

Pauline Bayne, Dick Hammat, Seth Simmermann

Quarterly Challenge - Randy Fritchman

We encourage every member to attempt to replicate each month's demonstration program idea and bring the project to our monthly Show and Tell. A random drawing will be held at the end of each quarter. The winner will receive a \$50 Woodcraft gift card. DEMO CHALLENGE for MARCH: Anything that has been split in two, hollowed, & put together,.

Procedure: When you bring in a Quarterly Challenge item for Show & Tell, put your name on one raffle ticket and put it in the hat. Time allowed to complete a quarterly-challenge project is 2 months from the 1st & 2nd demos of the quarter and 1 month from the 3d demo.

Safety Talk - Gordon Rowley

Gordon discussed the speed of the lathe and recommended that we look at one of the charts available on the Internet for determining lathe speed. He also discussed the importance of anchoring the tool on the tool rest before engaging it in the wood. He concluded with thoughts about the position of the roughing gouge, see ABC below.

Spindle Turning Speeds

	Roughing	Shaping	Sanding
Up to 2"	950	1300	2050
2"-4"	850	1150	1900
4"-6"	750	1050	1600
6"	700	750	850

Internet example [Editor]

Other recommendations:

- The tool must lay on the tool rest before it contacts the wood
- ABC = Anchor, Bevel, Cut
 - **Anchor** yourself, get comfortable, feet about should width apart; don't overreach
 - **Bevel** - Put the tool on the tool rest, rub the bevel with the handle down so you're not cutting anything
 - **Cut** - Lift the handle so the cutting edge engages the wood

Club Calendar: General Meetings, 2nd Tuesday, 6:30 pm, Location: Woodcraft
 Board of Directors, 3rd Wed., 6 pm, Location: Woodcraft

- January 8 - 1st Quarter Board of Directors meeting, 3rd Wed of Jan, April, July, Oct, 6 pm, Woodcraft
- January 21 - General Meeting - Richard Hoffman - Unusual Beads of Courage Boxes
- February 18 - General Meeting - Jake Niedling - Hollowing Made Easy
- March 18 - **General Meeting - John Lucas, Cookeville turner - Inside / Outside Turning**



From his website: <https://www.johnlucaswoodturning.com>
...My woodworking journey began in my early twenties during my time in the Air Force, and over the years, it's evolved into a lifelong passion for woodturning. My career as a photographer at Tennessee Tech University spanned 27 years, and during that time, I devoted myself to exploring the art of woodturning. This dedication has brought my work into national exhibitions like the "Best of Tennessee" show in 2022 and 2024, and I'm honored to have won "Best of Show" at the 2023 Tennessee Association of Woodturners symposium.

- April 9 - 2nd Quarter Board of Directors meeting, 3rd Wed of Jan, April, July, Oct, 6 pm, Woodcraft
- April 15 - General Meeting - TBD
- May 3-4 - **Spring Woodturners Weekend - Nick Cook (demo & workshop, Sat & Sun, 9 am - 3 pm)**
- May 20 - General Meeting - TBD
- June 17 - General Meeting - TBD
- July 9 - 3rd Quarter Board of Directors meeting, 3rd Wed of Jan, April, July, Oct, 6 pm, Woodcraft
- July 15 - General Meeting - TBD
- August 19 - **Annual Wood Auction**
- September 16 - General Meeting - John Jordan - Handbell Ornaments
- October 8 - 4th Quarter Board of Directors meeting, 3rd Wed of Jan, April, July, Oct, 6 pm, Woodcraft
- October 21 - General Meeting - TBD
- October 25-26- **Fall Woodturners Weekend - Ornaments, Pens, etc.**
- November 18 - General Meeting - TBD
- December 16 - **Annual Christmas Party**



Officers

- President:** Gordon Sloane
- Vice President:** Randy Fritchman
- Secretary:** Bill Thurman
- Treasurer:** Jack Harris
- Past President:** Ron Comtois

Members, Board of Directors:

- Maria D'Elio, 2024-25
- Colin Chambers, 2024-25
- Jerry DeLaurentis, 2024-25
- Gordon Fowler, 2025-2026,

Committees:

- Beads of Courage / Wig Stands: TBD
- Education/Wears Valley: Robert Law
- Fantasy of Trees: Don Adams
- Membership: Maria D'Elio & Jerry DeLaurentis
- Mentoring: Ron Comtois
- Newsletter: Pauline Bayne
- Photographer: Randy Fritchman,
Assisted by Terry Fritchman
- Pens for Troops: Randy Fritchman
- Program Director: TBD
- Safety Officer: Gordon Fowler
- Video/Internet: Jim Vogelsang &
Andy Milligan, Video Trainee
- Website: Jim Vogelsang & Colin Chalmers

Coming Events — May 3-4, 2025
Spring Woodturners Weekend with
professional turner, Nick Cook
 9 am -3pm both days at Woodcraft
 Saturday demo is free / Sunday hands-on
 session \$65, limited to about 10 people
 * See Gordon Sloane *

Wissah Valley Ranch
The Woodturning Shop
At the Sawmill

Sponsored by



If you have questions about our SMWTS educational program at the Ranch or would like to participate as an instructor, contact Bob Law - rockytopbob1@gmail.com

What's Happening at the Ranch in February?

First of all, a big "thank you" to Pauline Bayne who donated her lathes & belt sander plus boxes of woodturning tools, supplies and more to our Educational Program at the Ranch this month. Her generosity will allow us to replace some of the older equipment & tools we've been working with over the years.

The students turned bangle bracelets this month! Even with the challenges the snow days & black ice presented, our team worked through rescheduling to give everyone a chance to turn. Looking forward to Spring weather!





Hollowing Made Easy Jake Niedling

Jake's subject was how to create a hollow object the easy way: by cutting the piece in two and hollowing both pieces. Therefore, removing the wood is easier and there is less sanding because no one will be able to feel the inside. When he put it back together, he decorated the join so that it became unnoticeable.

This demo encouraged all of us to follow this method. In fact, he stated at the beginning that everyone in the room—beginner or advanced—would be able to do this project. Jake asked that, for Show & Tell, we work to complete any turned object that has been cut in half, hollowed, and put back together—vases, boxes, or even Christmas ornaments. The result may be a Quarterly Challenge winner or lots of hollow ornaments for the Fantasy of Trees. Go to it !!!

Along the way, Jake, presented slides to introduce the entire process (see his handout on our SMWTS Website, listed under Handouts & Videos; the photos & detailed instructions will help you tremendously). Along the way, He demonstrated several tools for hollowing each portion.

Jake's process:

- 1) Mount the blank between centers
- 2) Turn it round & put tendons on both ends of the wood blank
- 3) Draw the general shape and mark the center of the piece
- 4) Turn it to the desired shape, leaving a 1/4' flat area where the piece will be cut
- 5) Use a thin parting tool & saw to part the two pieces
- 6) Mount the top & drill a 1/2' hole all the way through; mark the thickness of the wall before hollowing
- 7) Hollow out the top half
- 8) Prep for the glue joint, making it flat & cutting a 1/8' recess
- 9) Hollow the bottom half, mark the wall thickness, sand inside to 180 grit, & cut a 1/8" tenon to fit the top. Check flatness & test fit with top half.
- 10) Glue up: Jake uses *Titebond Original* wood glue, leaves it overnight (could be a few hours) & uses the tailstock as a clamp.
- 11) When dry, give it the final shape, texture the glue Joint, and sand to 320 grit.
- 12) Final shape check, apply finish (his is 2-3 coat of homemade sanding sealer), let it dry and re-sand to 400 grit; follow his instructions for finishing the bottom.

VOILA ! A finished hollowed creation that does not show it is really 2 pieces. Jake's sample pieces show the variety of turnings that may be created this way. — Thanks, Jake



February Show and Tell Photos by Randy Fritchman



Bill Thurman



Gordon Sloane



Gordon Sloane



Seth Simmerman



Roy Cuff



Mike Johnston



Dick Hoffman



Dick Hoffman



Jack Harris



Dennis Smith



Larry Bass



Harry Ford



Tellico Village Woodworkers



Tellico Village Woodworkers



Tellico Village Woodworkers



Tellico Village Woodworkers



Our February 18, 2025 meeting had 44 in-person and 8 Zoom attendees !



We want to thank our
Video / Internet whiz
guys

— Jim Vogelsang
& Andy Milligan —

What would we do
without them?