



The Smoky Mountain Woodturners Chapter of AAW meets each month of the year on the 3rd Tuesday of the month starting at 6:00 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. MEETING Location: 8023 Kingston Pike in Knoxville. *Woodcraft Knoxville* (our sponsor) is near Trader Joe's and one block west from West Town Mall.



April 2026

Newsletter

Pauline Bayne, editor

April's meeting was great; we had 34 people in attendance. Michael Anderson did a demo on a Neil Turner Urchin-style Box, where the lid and body connect via a stem that is inserted through a hole in the lid. He did an excellent job explaining the steps he was taking. Unfortunately, he had the dreaded catch but then showed us this was just an opportunity for creativity. Let's have a good participation in the challenge of making and urchin-style box.



Jack reported that we are down on total membership for the year. If you haven't gotten around to paying your dues, please consider paying. Dues and the wood auction are our main stream of income. Speaking of the wood auction this is coming up in August if you want to donate some wood, please contact Jake or John.

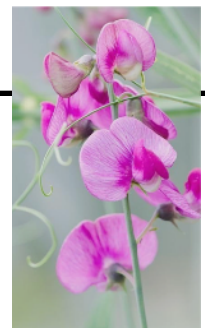
We are having a mentor day on May 16, at woodcraft. If you have a project and you want some help or you have an idea for a project and you just don't know the best way to approach it, come to Woodcraft between the 9am-12 on the 16th. Also, Pauline will be there ready to help you with pyrography. One of the benefits of our club is access to our mentors, so consider taking advantage of this program.

If you missed our weekend at Arrowmont, read about it in this newsletter issue and stay tuned. We are in the early stages of planning another weekend in 2027.

Remember, Life is Good when we are making shavings so keep them coming. —Bill



The primary birth flowers for April are the Daisy and the Sweet Pea, representing innocence, loyal love, and the renewal of spring.



2025 Club Calendar

General Meetings 3rd Tuesday: 6 pm, Location: Woodcraft Knoxville
 Board Meetings, 2nd Tuesday, 5 pm, Location: Woodcraft Knoxville - open to all

- January 6 - 1st Quarter Board of Directors meeting, 3rd Wed of Jan, April, July, Oct, 5 pm, Woodcraft
- January 20 - Cindy Drozda: *Finial Box –an IRD, Interactive Remote Demo*
- February 17 - Jack Harris & Colin Chambers: *Carving your Turnings*
- March 17 - Pauline Bayne: *Pyrography Techniques for your Woodturning*
- March 20-22 - Arrowmont Turning Workshop
- April 7 - 2nd Quarter Board of Directors meeting, 3rd Wed of Jan, April, July, Oct, 5 pm, Woodcraft
- April 21 - Michael Anderson: *How to Turn a Neil Turner Urchin-style Box*
- May 16 - Members Workshop: 9 am - noon, Wood Craft. Bring a project; get some help.**
- May 19 - Jake Niedling: Christmas Tree Topper**
- June 16 - Ron Comptois: *Offset Napkin Holder*
- July 7 - 3rd Quarter Board of Directors meeting, 3rd Wed of Jan, April, July, Oct, 5 pm, Woodcraft
- July 21 - Ted Pelfrey: *Embellishing Hollow Forms*
- August 18 - TBD
- September 15 - John Lucas - *Using a Router at the Lathe*
- October 6 - 4th Quarter Board of Directors meeting, 3rd Wed of Jan, April, July, Oct, 5 pm, Woodcraft
- October 20 - Cindy Drozda: TBD
- October 24-25 - **Fall (demo & workshop, Sat & Sun, 9 - 3**
- November 17 - John Jordan - TBD
- December 15 - **Christmas Party**



President
Bill Thurman



Vice President
Gordan Sloane



Treasurer
Jack Harris



Secretary
Gordon Fowler

Board of Directors:

- Randy Fritchman, 2024-26
- Pauline Bayne, 2025-26
- Maria D’Elio, 2026-27
- Colin Chalmers, 2026-2027

Committees:

- Beads of Courage / Wig Stands:* Bill Thurman
- Education/Wears Valley:* Robert Law
- Fantasy of Trees:* Ron Comptois
- Membership:* Maria D’Elio & JerryDeLaurentis
- Mentoring:* Ron Comtois
- Newsletter:* Pauline Bayne
- Pens for Troops:* Randy Fritchman

- Photographer:* Randy Fritchman,
Assisted by Terry Fritchman
- Program:* Gordon Sloane, Colin Chalmers,
& Jake Niedling
- Safety Officer:* John Jordan
- Video/Internet:* Jim Vogelsang, Website
Andy Milligan, Video

BUSINESS Meeting

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Treasurer's Report - Jack Harris

Jack reported there is a balance of \$10,700 in the bank. Membership numbers are lower than last year. Maria will make calls to past members to encourage renewals.

Fantasy of Trees - Ron Comtois & Maria D'Elio

Ron and Maria are ready to accept donations. Jake has donated "kits" for making 2 ornaments- make one for yourself, donate one to FOT – Thank you Jake!

Pens for Troops - Randy Fritchman

Randy has blanks and kits for you to turn. He has received 8 pens on the way to reaching last year's total of 1,005.

Beads of Courage & Wig Stands - Bill Thurman

Bill is also ready to accept your donations of both products. He has in hand 21 donated wig stands.

Wears Valley Ranch - Bill Thurman reporting

Our club has supported their woodturning classes for 10 years. The ranch hosted a luncheon to honor and recognize Bob and other club members for their service to the students.

1st Quarterly Colin Chambers Turning Class

The first winner, Roy A. Cuff, completed the 2-day class and gave a glowing review (as did Tracey Hill). Be on the lookout for next quarter's raffle donated by Colin.

Mentoring

Bill recapped the history of the mentoring program and encouraged members to take advantage of it.

ARROWMONT APRIL WINNER

Lucy Bobb

Business Meeting - Bill Thurman:

Reminders:

- Read our newsletter, written by Pauline, always superb!
- The club's bandsaw-blade tightening tool is available to all members
- Please join AAW; the national symposium will meet in Raleigh, NC on June 4-7
- Jack needs feedback about the free sandpaper's performance
- Please let Jack know what topics interest you for Cindy Drozda's October demo
- Send or call Gordon Sloane with suggestions for general meeting demos

Colin announced that the city of Knoxville sent out a survey. You should have received notification with a link. The city manages, cuts down, removes, prunes trees all the time, and if there is enough interest, they will provide a place to pick up wood for free. Please find and fill out the survey in order to be notified of the details.

Wood Raffle Contributors

Gordon Sloane, Roy A. Cuff, Jake Niedling

Safety Message

Gordon Sloane reminded us about the importance of using a face shield (get a good one). He retold a story of a horrific accident suffered by an experienced turner.

April Attendance
34 present, plus 6 on ZOOM



DEMO: Michael Anderson Demo: How to Turn a Neil Turner Urchin-style Box

WHAT IS IT? The base of the box is not completely hollowed out; instead, a stem rises from the body that fits into a hole in the top of the top, and that friction fit is what holds the box together.

Michael's 3 "rules" for woodturning: Have fun. Be safe. Do your best.

The base of the box is not completely hollowed out; instead, a stem rises from the body that fits into a hole in the top of the top, and it is that friction fit which holds the box together.

Use a hard maple blank, 6"x3". You need a blank with straight grain because you will remove about 2" of wood between the base and the top. If the grain is squirrely, then it won't line up well when you put the box together between centers. Turn a tenon on each end. Mark uses a Steve Sinner off-center tool rest. Lay out the base and top, part the blank, then set aside the base.



Part off the lid from the waste tenon. (During the second part of the demo, Michael said that he should not have parted off the lid – if you leave the tenon on, then you have more wood to work with to make sure the top of the lid is thick enough; more wood to shape the lid).

Chuck up the base. Determine length of the stem and begin shaping the stem—5/16" diameter to match the hole in the lid.

Continue to shape the stem in the base. The rim of the base needs to be flat. Fit the lid onto the base, using the tailstock; fine tune the shape of the overall box. Use painters' tape to the two together, and then finish the top of the lid. Remove the lid.



The LID

Chuck up the lid with the top of lid on the headstock side. True up the face. Rough out the outside curve and rough hollow the inside; the rim needs to be flat. Drill 5/16" hole through lid. Finish hollowing the lid. The top of the lid needs to be about 1/4" thick to secure the stem, that is, to "seat" the stem properly, as this is what holds the box together



The BASE

Fine tune the inside of the base—the hollowing and the stem—similar to a ring box, sand, and finish.

Part off the base. Reverse chuck it using a silicone bracelet wristband to avoid marks from the chuck jaws.

Tip: Bottom out the rim of the base into the chuck to “register” the base. Then shape, sand, and finish the bottom of the base.

Neil Turner frequently embellishes his boxes with texture, woodburning, and color.

****A special thanks goes to Gordon Fowler for excellent notes on this demonstration! [— Editor]*

MICHAEL’S FINISHED PRODUCT:



SMWTS Arrowmont Weekend
March 20-22, 2026
Friday noon until Sunday noon

Roll Call: 9 Students, 3 Instructors, & 5 Mentors

Students: Maria Elio, Andy Milligan, Randy Glecker, Steven Painter, Barry Brandt, Don Adams, Bob Kohle, John Reiver, Bob Hewgley

Instructors: David Stricker, Harry Ford, Ron Comptois

Floating Mentors: Jim Vogelsang, Gordon Sloane, Jake Niedling, Bill Thurman, Colin Chalmers

Demos / Projects:

Friday afternoon: Harry Ford - *Tea Cup with Embellishments*

Saturday morning: Ron Comptois - *Traditional Peppermill, Shapes & Techniques*

Saturday afternoon: Dave Stricker - *Hollow Ornaments*

Saturday Fellowship 8 pm - around the fire pit or screened porch at Bill May Building

Sunday morning: Jake Niedling - *Wig Stand*



Show & Tell - April 2026

T. Hill - Colin Chalmers



T. Hill - Colin Chalmers



Seth Simmerman



Roy A. Cuff



Ron Comtois



Neil Smith



Ken Godwin



Bill Thurman

Bill Penicks



Wear 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 April

April's Workshop found the students making Votive Candle Holders (our original workshop with Pauline Bayne had to be rescheduled due to illness) . Also, on the weeks when we have an open shop the students are making beads for a necklace. It's a great way to practice skills (Thanks Jake).

