



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.



July 2026

Pauline Bayne, Newsletter editor



**President
Bill Thurman**

A big thanks to Ted Pelfrey for a great demo on embellishing techniques. Ted brought several examples of his works, which all looked great. He makes it look so simple, and you can see and hear in his voice his love and enthusiasm for embellishing. One of the take-aways I had was that you have to have patience.

We had a good attendance this month, even with the hot room. One of the air conditioning systems serving the Woodcraft store is not malfunctioning. I understand that Woodcraft and the landlord are trying to determine the path to get things up and running. Several members brought fans in to help but that added an additional noise level. Thanks for your patience.

I want to apologize for confusion with the agenda. I didn't skip over Show and Tell on purpose but had in my mind that I needed to move things along quickly because of the room temperature. Again, sorry if someone had an item they wanted to show but didn't get the chance. Please bring it back for our September meeting. We will be having our wood auction at the August meeting and will not have Show and Tell then.

We have several board members who will be ending their term this year. Now is the time to step up and get more involved in your club. If you have an interest, you can reach out to any of the existing board members.

We hope to see a good turnout for the August meeting for our annual WOOD AUCTION !

Remember, *Life is Good* when we are making shavings so keep them coming. See you in August, Bill.

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: <i>Finial Box —an IRD, Interactive Remote Demo</i>
February 17	- Jack Harris & Colin Chambers: <i>Carving your Turnings</i>
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	- Open Shop: 9 am - noon, Woodcraft. Bring a project; get some help.
May 19	- Jake Niedling: Christmas Tree Topper
June 16	- Ron Comtois: 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: <i>Embellishing Hollow Forms</i>
August 18	- ANNUAL WOOD AUCTION
August 22	- Open Shop Saturday, Sat, 9 am - noon, Woodcraft. Bring questions & projects. Woodcraft
September 15	- John Lucas - <i>Using a Router at the Lathe</i>
October 6	- 4th Quarter Board of Directors meeting, 5 pm, Woodcraft
October 20	- Cindy Drozda: TBD
October 24-25	- Fall (demo & workshop, Sat & Sun, 9 - 3, Woodcraft
November 17	- John Jordan - TBD
December 15	- Christmas Party

2026 Officers, Board, & Committees



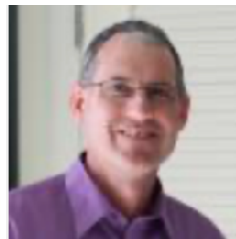
President
Bill Thurman



Vice President
Gordon 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
Al Mathewson, 2026-2027

Committees:

Beads of Courage / Wig Stands: Bill Thurman
Education/Wears Valley Ranch: Robert Law
Fantasy of Trees: Ron Comtois & Maria D'Elio
Membership: Maria D'Elio & Jerry DeLaurentis
Mentoring: Ron Comtois
Newsletter Editor, 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

WOOD AUCTION - AUGUST 18

John Jordan & Jake Niedling, auctioneers
Bring good wood, preferably cut on 2-4 sides or
as prepared blanks—marking checks or cracks
with red marker.

ANNOUNCEMENT: Open Shop #2

Saturday, August 22 from 9 am - noon
Woodcraft
Bring your project, questions, problems
Help & assistance available

VISITORS

*Eric Winkler, Tom Nepatol, Rod Smith,
all from the Crossville Cub*
REPORTS

Treasurer - Jack Harris

There is \$10,600 in the bank with the only
outstanding expense as \$500 AAW donation.
Membership is up to 54 members; 10-12 members
from last year will be contacted about rejoining.

Fantasy of Trees - Ron Comtois & Maria D'Elio

Ron and Maria are ready to accept donations. Please
start turning ornaments.

Pens for Troops - Bill reporting for Randy Fritchman

Randy is seeking your newly-made pens!!!

Beads of Courage & Wig Stands - Bill Thurman

Bill says "bring 'em in.". Amy turned a tall wig stand for

Special Note - Bill Thurman

Gordon Fowler, our secretary, had a serious water
skiing accident that resulted in hospitalization,
including a couple of nights in intensive care. He
is home now, and we send him wishes for a quick
recovery. He joined the meeting on Zoom.
Bill reminded us that there will not be a vote on a
new logo until a later meeting.

Wood Raffle Contributors

Roy A. Cuff, Gordon Sloane, & John Jordan

And the WINNERS are...

ARROWMONT - Maria D'Elio

COLIN'S AUGUST TURNING CLASS

GIVE AWAYS

Hood, AAW issues, Medium-density rubber pieces

JULY Attendance

36 present, plus 7 on ZOOM



And Don't Forget...
...the DETAILS for the
AUGUST Meeting:

Annual Wood Auction Smoky Mountain Woodturners

- PLACE: Woodcraft
- DATE: August 20
- TIME: 6:00 PM
- • Please bring wood donations between 4:00 to 5:30.
- • Do not drop off donations at Woodcraft ahead of time.
- • Other items/tools will be accepted as well for auction.
- Wood Donation Guidelines:
 - No firewood
 - Wood must have at least one side flat (chainsaw surface is ok) ←
 - Green wood: seal end grain.
 - Wood processed into blanks is always in demand
- Roughed out bowls are appreciated, wet or dry.
- No logs or full round tree blanks
- No wood that has active bug infestation.
- No wood with significant cracking. Some end checking is ok.
- • NOTE: We will not have our monthly Show-N-Tell at this meeting.

John Jordan and Jake Niedling concluded the Wood Auction information with an impromptu "Firecracker Sale Auction" selling mixed wood lots and pin blanks with competitive bidding. What fun!

DEMO: Ted Palfrey
Embellishing Hollow Forms
Member of SMWTS & Crossville Clubs



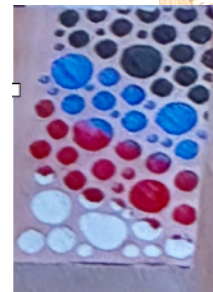
Last November, Ted gave us a fine presentation on turning hollow forms so this was a follow-up demo on techniques of embellishing them with power carving. In the first demo, he stressed the importance of form in the turning. He re-emphasized that tonight.

He encouraged patience because embellishing is simple but easy to get wrong and takes a long time. He always twice-turns work that will be embellished to get the right thickness and turns it end-grain for strength.

Ted uses a micrometer with 2 handheld holders for tips. He discussed cutter selection, RPM ranges, surface preparation. He recommended acrylics or gesso for colored undercoats and oil topcoats for cherry, warned against Indian ink, and described sanding methods—keeping registration marks, sanding by hand or with a soft disc sander up to 320 grit, and targeting flat spots to reveal wood color beneath paint.

Stippling

Ted described stippling as a large-scale technique using specific bit sizes (3/8", 1/2", and smaller bits, especially the stump cutter) and explained how to sequence bits to fill gaps and maintain consistency. Make your stipples join together (most typical) or separate them.



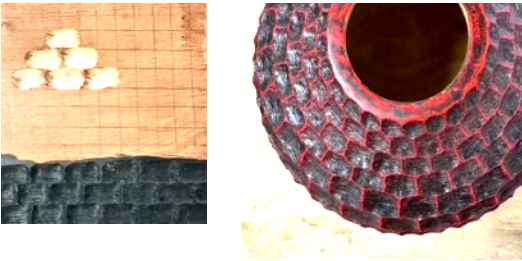
Breaking the Joints: Good & Bad Examples

This is a foundational concept for many patterns. The terminology comes from Ted's experience in masonry but just means offsetting or staggering successive rows—to improve strength and appearance—as in the pattern when laying bricks.

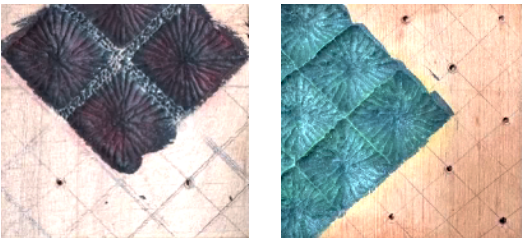


DO THIS — — — — — NOT THIS

BRICK Pattern: Using indexing on the lathe, you can produce vertical lines on the piece, then square the verticals, and use a two-long-by-one-tall arrangement for bricks



DIAMONDS: Diamonds, scallops, and coral patterns are conceptually similar. This pattern benefits from indexing on the lathe as well, and you can see the staggering in these photos.



SCALLOPS: "Breaking the joints" allows the pattern to read as separate scallops rather than continuous ridges. He pencils in the entire pattern, followed by ink or sharpie, and then works to achieve consistent depths by drilling a depth hole in each scallop.
Technique: Using a drill-bit depth gauge and forming the valley.
 With a converted drill-bit sleeve as a depth gauge, he chooses the drill depth (example: half of a 5/16" thickness), drilling depth holes at the deepest point, and using a 3/8" spherical burr to form uniform scallop valleys of consistent depths with clearly defined ridges. He recommended using the depth gauge routinely because it is inexpensive and effective.
Starburst pattern inside the scallop. He creates a radial starburst inside scallops by subdividing the area and working outward in matched segments to avoid drifting lines, then smoothes with a stump cutter before switching to a diamond burr for cleaner end-grain results.



- Finishing suggestions:**
- Indian ink
 - Dry-brushing
 - Stippling
 - Sanding back to reveal wood color for contrasting effects.

CORAL: This one is very much like the scallop pattern. After drawing the pattern over the piece, start by drilling a hole in the center of each coral but leave the edges proud. Use a Kutzal burr—that makes a ridge between the shapes.

☒		Kutzall Original - Sphere Burr, 1/4" ...	\$25.35
☒		Kutzall Original - Sphere Burr, 1/4" ...	\$25.35
☒		Kutzall Extreme - Sphere Burr, 1/4" ...	\$29.70
☒		Kutzall Original - Ball Nose Burr, 1/4" ...	\$21.85



Carving / Piercing

A **Manpa** is like a Hunter Tool for carvers. It has 3 cutters on a circle bit and runs at high speed to produce fine embellishments. While expensive, it is very useful. A practical way to set the RPMs is to increase the speed until a high-pitched sound, then back off.

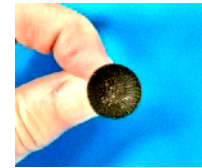
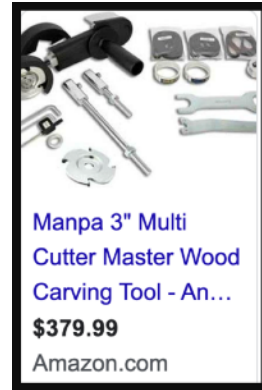
The NSK for Piercing

He uses a pneumatic dental tool, made by NSK America Corp., for piercing. Like the powercarver, it is a motor with a handpick bit holder. It runs at about 320,000 RPM. He referred us to Jay Paul Finnell and TreeLine USA for NSK units.

The NSK is held at 0=degrees when piercing to produce square, non-rounded holes. The higher RPMs (versus micromotor power carving at 50-95k) allows writing like a pencil for signatures and fine burn-style lines. The NSK actually cuts and burns at the same time. Never once the NSK; you can ruin the collet/turbine at a replacement cost of \$170-200.

Piercing Advice

- Best wood thickness for piercing is 1/16", but typical thickness for hollowed items is 1/4". Therefore, it takes several passes to pierce.
- Don't force the NSK
- Cup burrs need sharpening on a CBN wheel
- Tailor made designs for piercing:
 - Leaves
 - Butterflies
- Always do something at the rim and bottom
- Time to decorate a hollow form with leaves = 50+ hours
- Try combining piercing with other embellishments



Show & Tell - July 2026

