Smoky Mountain Woodturners

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.

November 2026 Pauline Bayne, Newsletter Editor



President
Bill Thurman

Our November meeting was great. We had 39 in attendance and 11 on zoom. I am looking forward to good attendance for our December 15th Christmas party. The evening will start out with a catered dinner starting at 6 pm. Menu items include grilled steak and chicken along with sides and a salad. And, of course, we can't forget the desserts. You will be receiving an email from the club asking you to RSVP by replying to the email. Please be sure and reply because this will determine our final head count. After we eat, we will have our Dirty Santa gift exchange, and the limit for the cost of the gift is $25.00. Come join the fellowship, and have some fun with the gift exchange.

Thank you, John, for a great demo, the project being a Squarish Plate. A couple of things that he really likes to use are the Articulated Carving and Finishing Post, which you can hold a project on the chuck and then mount in the banjo. The other is using card scrapers to start the finishing process. There were many other highlights during the demo.

The members present voted and approved the names presented for the 2027 Board of Directors. January 5th will be their first board meeting and officers for the 2027 will be elected.

Remember this is your club. I feel that the more you put into something the more you get out of it. So, when you participate in the challenge, you're not only taking part of the program but you have the opportunity to improve or learn new skills. I'm looking forward to seeing a lot of squarish plates at our January Show & Tell.

Happy Thanksgiving, and remember *Life is Good when we are making shavings so keep them coming.*

Bill

2026 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
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
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
July 21	- Ted Pelfrey: *Embellishing Hollow Forms*
August 18	- Annual Wood Auction
August 22	- Open Shop Saturday, Sat, 9 am - noon, Woodcraft. Bring questions & projects. Woodcraft
September 15	- John Lucas - Embellishing Woodturning with a Lathe
October 6	- 4th Quarter Board of Directors meeting
October 20	- Cindy Drozda: Multi-axis Triangular Box
November 7	- Pen Turning Workshop for Pens for Troops
November 17	- John Jordan - Turning a Square Platter
December 15	**- Christmas Party, Bring a Naughty Santa gift (cost limit of $25) but no food. The party will be catered. Come and join the party!**

2026 Officers, Board, & Committees



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
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

November Election

We elected the following slate of Board members:

Bill Thurman, Jack Harris, Gordon Fowler,
Randy Fritchman, Pauline Bayne, Maria D'Elio,
Colin Chalmers, Al Matheson, Ron Comtois

Announcement: The Board has decided that there will be no Arrowmont weekend in 2027, returning to the pattern of every 2 years for the event.

Wood Raffle Contributors

Andy Milligan, Gordon Sloane, Gordon Fowler,
Roy A Cuff, Kirk Wenzel, Ken Godwin, Steve Kozick

Safety Message

We watched a video of a turner being struck by the workpiece, which was thrown off the lathe, demonstrating many lessons to learn: appropriate speed of lathe; wear eye/head protection; fastening a faceplate into end-grain material may not be strong enough to be safe.

November Attendance:
39 present and 11 on ZOOM.

Visitor: Rebecca

REPORTS

Treasurer - Jack Harris

The current balance is $10,615.

Fantasy of Trees - This week, Ron Comtois & Maria D'Elio will price and prepare all ornaments for delivery to the Fantasy of Trees. Maria has compiled a list of contributions:

Fantasy of Trees Donations 2026:

3 Bowls - 1 large, 2 small
2 Plates - small
2 Rolling Pins
1 Chess Board
3 Boxes:
Covered shrink box -1
Urchin box, Decorated -1
Triangle box -1
37 Ornaments:
Hollow Ornaments with Finials - 5 small, 1 large, & 1 hand decorated
Lantern Ornaments with tea lights - 4
Ornaments, Painted & Embellished - 4
Scroll Saw Ornaments- 21
1 Gnome, hand-carved and painted









John K. Jordan
Turning Small Squarish Dished Platters



See John's detailed handout on SMWTS.org under "Handouts & Videos"

And in a way, his "Safety Message" was included in the demo. Since the piece has "wings", he addressed "turning air".

- Be sure the blank is well seated and the chuck is tight.
- Before switching the lathe on, ALWAYS rotate the piece by hand to make sure a corner will not hit the banjo or rest.
- Some people make a mark on the tool rest to show the extent of the corners. Bright tape is good for that.
- Use a BRIGHT task light to help see the corners.
- Stand clear when turning the lathe on.
- When adjusting the tool rest, let the lathe first come to a complete stop. ⍰ Always be aware of the rotating corners – they may be invisible. Keep hands and fingers away.
- Make very deliberate motions. Pay attention!

The style of his platters includes a thicker base to lift the piece off the table, create a shadow, and add visual interest. His platter design has edges that are curved all the way across with no flats rather than square sides with rounded corners.



John starts with dry wood, 1.5-2" thick, usually up to 9" but as small as 5.5-6" square. Hardwood boards of 2x8 to 2x12 are perfect.



THE BASIC STEPS

- Prepare a template
- Trace the outline onto a board and cut out the blank with a bandsaw or jigsaw.
- Optionally sand the outer curve of the blank with a disk sander.
- Prepare a way to hold the blank first by the TOP, such as a recess, tenon, screw chuck, faceplate, or glue block.
- Mount the blank and make a recess in the bottom to use later.
- Turn the entire bottom.
- Smooth and sand the bottom, perhaps apply finish.
- Reverse to hold by the bottom recess and turn the top.
- Smooth and sand the top.
- Shape and smooth the rim.
- Apply finish.



He uses a bandsaw to cut the stock and brought in his planning plexiglass templates and tracing supplies for members to copy, if they wished.

John had many suggestions for us during his demo, especially tools he uses, such as rake scrapers for smoothing at the lathe and hand scrapers used off the lathe.


John K. Jordan
Platters




Titebond

Show & Tell - November 2026

























