



Chapter of the Association of American Woodturners

January 2025

Newsletter

Issue No. 1

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: Woodcraft Knoxville (our sponsor) 8023 Kingston Pike in Knoxville, near Trader Joe's and one and one block from West Town



Board of Directors and Committees

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
Mike Johnston, 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
Pens for Troops:
Program Director: TBD
Safety Officer: Gordon Fowler
Video/Internet: Jim Vogelsang &
Andy Milligan, Video Trainee
Website: Jim Vogelsang & Colin Chalmers

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – JAN. 2025

Smoky Mountain Woodturners (SMWTS) general meeting. Forty-Three members were present with six attending on zoom, and four visitors. A pretty good turn-out for a cold January night. Dick Hoffmann was the main attraction, and he did not disappoint the crowd. How To Turn Beads-of Courage Boxes with unusual designs was the topic and Penguins, Minions, Chickens and other animals were the product. Thanks, Dick, for an informative and enjoyable demonstration. The Challenge for February is to make an unusual Beads-of-Courage box.

Introductions were made of our new Board members and this year's officers. If there is an issue or idea you would like to bring before the club be sure to talk to one of our Board members or better yet show up at one of our Quarterly Board meetings to discuss it yourself, all members are welcome at the Board meetings. We also have a new Newsletter Editor, Pauline Bayne, who has experience and will bring a refreshing new look to the club's information/gossip sheet. If you have an article or a new product, get hold of Pauline, and she will try to get the word out in the Newsletter. Good jokes and comics are especially needed. We are off to a good start in 2025 and will try to bring you new and exciting demonstrations, a Bandsaw training session, and hands-on workshops to hone your woodturning skills. Remember that the club is only as good as its members and that our focus is on woodturning, education, and having fun together.

Keep Turning - Gordon Sloane

Report: 2024 Fantasy of Trees - Don Adams

Last year SMWTS donated 227 items to the Fantasy of Trees (FOR). The ornaments were beautiful, with lots of carefully selected woods and finishes, complex designs, and a large number of artistic pieces and original work. Thank you so much for all your hard work. The club should be proud of what you've accomplished year after year. Since SMWTS is actually a significant contributor to FOT, the club will be named on the sponsors' banner near the entrance next year.

I've only gotten anecdotal feedback in the past, but this year the volunteers did an amazing job of tracking sales and providing some specific feedback. I was very pleasantly surprised and grateful when I received the information. In short, **total sales were \$3,958!**

This is a great time of year to make things for the 2025 benefit event. If you need ideas or techniques, Jake Niedling posted videos and instructions on our website. If you need wood, let me know. Our mentoring program stands ready to help with hands-

Arrowmont & J.C. Campbell Scholarship

- 1) 2 tuition only scholarships for 2026
- 2) 1 - J. C. Campbell Tuition scholarship for 2026
- 3) Raffle tickets on sale monthly - \$2.00/ea.
- 4) Winners will be picked in December.
- 5) Winners must commit to going in 2026 or pass.
- 6) Winners should present briefly what they learned.

January Visitors - Welcome!

Ken Godwin
Kirk Wenzel
Tom Borloglou
Mary Hoffman
Marie McClendon

Show and Tell Guidelines:

One item per person

Fill out the information card

Explain to members: What it is / Type of wood
/Kind of finish

Quarterly Challenge: Every member is encouraged to attempt to replicate each month's demonstration program idea and submit the project for 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.

Procedure – Become a Quarterly Challenge Winner ! - Gordon Sloane

BASIC CONCEPTS:

- If you bring in a Quarterly Challenge item, you put your name on one raffle ticket and it goes in the hat. Therefore, the number of raffle tickets per month equals the number of Quarterly-Challenge projects brought to Show and Tell.
- Time allowed to complete a quarterly-challenge project is 2 months from the 1st & 2nd demos, and 1 month from the 3rd demo of the quarter.

EXAMPLE for first quarter of the year::

1. **For the first meeting of the quarter (January)** pick your project from the last project demonstrated. Example: for Jan 2025 the project was Dublin Viking Bowls – demonstrated in Nov. 2024 because we had no Show and Tell at the December Christmas party. Call these *Randy Projects*; each was awarded one raffle ticket and placed in the hat. For example, 3 projects done by 3 people = **3 raffle tickets**.

2. **During the second month of 2025 (February)** pick those projects demonstrated in Jan. 2025; call these *Dick Projects*. Place one raffle ticket for each project in the hat along with projects done for Jan. 2025 (Randy Projects). (For example, 2 Dick projects + 2 Randy projects submitted in Feb. = **4 raffle tickets** in the hat + 3 raffle tickets from the Jan. meeting, now equals a cumulative total of **7 raffle tickets**.)

3. **During the third month of the quarter (March)** pick those projects demonstrated in Feb. 2025 (call these *Jake Projects*), plus those late ones done for Randy and Dick Projects, and place one raffle ticket in the hat for each project. (2 Jake projects + 1 Dick project, + 0 Randy Projects = **3 raffle tickets**. Total tickets in the hat = Jan. raffle tickets = 3, Feb. raffle tickets = 4, March raffle tickets = 3, for a total of **10 raffle tickets**.)

4. **At the end of the March meeting**, our Quarterly Challenge Program Coordinator (Randy Fritchman) will ask someone to pick out the winning raffle ticket from the total (10) in the hat, and award that ticket holder with the \$50.00 Woodcraft Gift Card.

- Then the whole process repeats for each quarter of the year.

Chapter Projects:

Wears Valley Ranch woodturning classes
Fantasy of Trees: \$100 gift card
Pens for Troops: \$100 gift card
Quarterly Challenge: \$50 gift card each quarter
Mentoring
Bring Back Box — turned item, no size limit
Monthly Wood Raffle

Safety Message - Gordon Fowler

Ever hear of a children's book called *The Dancing Bear*? Apparently Papa bear gets hurt and says, "This is what you should never do!" Well, Gordon didn't follow Papa Bear's instructions. In woodturning, you should never wear a lanyard, jewelry, or loose clothing. Gordon was wearing loose coveralls to keep warm in his shop, when his cuff was ripped off at the lathe. It was an accident waiting to happen.

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 the Easy Way
March 18 - General Meeting - TBD
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



January meeting attendees

Happy Turning

Wears 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 January?

Our regular workshops are back in full swing! We welcomed two new students this month but lost two so we're still running at near full capacity. Our thanks to the SMWTS Board for their continued support of this program in 2025. Our beginner students started turning a mortar & pestle. They'll finish the project (pestle) with Pat during the weekly shop sessions this month. The intermediate to advanced students worked on a 5 point bowl. Both days fell within one week this month so we were able to escape the snow!





Dick Hoffmann: Unusual Beads Dick Hoffmann

What an inspiring demonstration, Dick! We enjoyed seeing and hearing your creative ideas of boxes that our Children's Hospital kids will enjoy. Dick showed us how to make two boxes: a penguin and a minion. Along the way he used several of his shop-made tools, including a long boring tool and a tear-drop scraper for deep smoothing. Then he presented a whole slew of ideas for more boxes.

Be sure to consult his Handout & the video of his presentation on our Website, SMWTS.org. The Challenge for February is to make an unusual Beads of Courage Box.

Don't Let Round Restrict You

- ▶ We've seen many creative BOC Boxes
- ▶ Most are round with a knob for the lid..
- ▶ Or inserters



Ideas: Minion



REPORTS: Treasurer, Jack Harris - Club balance of \$11,684 will allow more club activities. **All dues should be paid by March.** If not paid you will probably receive a call from the Membership Committee. **SEND TO:**

Beads of Courage boxes — Delivered in December: SMWTS - 1, Crossville - 2, and Tellico Village - 17

Randy Fritchman - Goal for Pens for Troops is 1,000 this year!

Ron Comtois - We encourage members to use the Mentoring Program to improve your skills.

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January Show and Tell Photos by Randy & Terry Fritchman

