



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:



March 2026

Newsletter

Pauline Bayne, editor

President's Message — Bill Thurman

What's your March been like? We had a tease of warm weather then we were reminded with a few cold days and some snow that spring hasn't arrived just yet. As we approach the end of winter wasn't it nice to have Pauline present us how she approaches wood burning when enhancing her wood turnings. It was obvious to me she has a love for wood burning and adding color to her projects. Thanks, Pauline, for a great demonstration.

We had a good attendance at our meeting, and we need to give a big welcome to Harvey Halcott, our newest member. If anyone hasn't paid their dues for 2026 you are encouraged to pay by March 31st. Jack did report that we are behind on member registration for 2026.

In April, we will be have Michael Anderson demonstrating. Michael will demonstrate how to turn a Neil Turner urchin-style box where the lid and body connect via a stem that is inserted through a hole in the lid. This involves end grain hollowing, precision turning, drilling on the lathe, and is a fun project for turners of all levels. If time allows, Michael will also demonstrate how to embellish the surface of the box after the turning is complete.

Thanks to everyone for accepting the revised By-Laws I want to give a big shout out to Gordon Fowler for all his hard work and time that was required to make this revision reality.

The club had a full weekend at Arrowmont this month. We had some great projects to work on. I want to give thanks to Ron for organizing and for Harry, Ron, Dave, for taking the time to demonstrate their selected projects. In the evenings we had some great fellowship and heard stories about some members life experiences. I think a good time was had by all.

Our next board meeting will be April 7 at 5 pm at Woodcraft all members are welcome to attend.

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



ANNUAL DUES of \$30 are due — by March 31
Please Pay at a Meeting or Send \$30 annual dues to:
SMWTS Treasurer
P. O. Box 50141,
Knoxville,
Tennessee
37950-0141

Failure to pay dues will result in no access to the Members Only section of our website.

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**



Preview: Michael Anderson's turning & embellishment of a Neil Turner Urchin-Style Box—lid and body connect via a stem inserted through a hole in the lid.

- May 19 - TBD
- 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 21 - **Christmas Party**

2026 Officers, Board, & Committees



Board of Directors:

- Randy Fritchman, 2024-26
- Pauline Bayne, 2025-26
- Maria D'Elío, 2026-27
- Colin Chambers, 2026-2027

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| President Bill Thurman | Vice President Gordan Sloane | Treasurer Jack Harris | Secretary Gordon Fowler |
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Committees:

- Beads of Courage / Wig Stands:* Bill Thurman
- Education/Wears Valley:* Robert Law
- Fantasy of Trees:* Ron Comptois
- Membership:* Maria D'Elío & 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, \$11,000 in the bank, less about \$800 due to Arrowmont. Dues are due by March 31.

Fantasy of Trees - Ron Comtois & Maria D'Elio

It is not too early to start making ornaments or other wood donations.

Pens for Troops - Randy Fritchman

Please start making pens.

Beads of Courage & Wig Stands - Bill Thurman

Bill delivered 4 boxes from the Tellico Village Club to the hospital and is looking for more wigstands.

Wears Valley Ranch - Bill Thurman reporting

Spring classes have started on the third Thursday of the month. There are 2 classes with about 8 students. In March, the beginners class will be making trivets and the more advanced class will

NEW OPPORTUNITY - DRAWING

Colin Chalmers is offering a free two-day class (plus material fee) at his woodturning studio (in Kingston) per quarter to any member chosen by raffle. Email was sent asking those with interest to respond. The drawing for his April 18-19 class was won by Roy A. Cuff.

By-law Revisions:

Gordon Fowler gave a summary of how the board of directors revised and now presented these revisions for a vote. Results: The vote by members resulted in passage of the motion : 31 yes votes, 1 no vote.

WINNERS

March Drawings:

Arrowmont: Larry Gardener

Colin Chalmers Woodturning School: Roy A. Cuff

Business - Bill Thurman

Arrowmont Weekend, March 20-22:

Attendees were asked to bring their own tools & finishes. If they have peppermill blanks, they could bring them or purchase at the event.

Announcement: Larry Gardener announced that Tellico Village Club has a sawmill and is looking for wood. They saw up lumber, kiln dry it, and sell it. Minimum length is 5 feet long. If you have downed wood, please consider letting him know.

Wood Raffle Contributors

Andy Milligan, Gordon Sloane, Tom Knight, Larry Gardener, Dick Hoffman

March Attendance
31 present, plus 1 on ZOOM
New Members: Harvey Halcott and
Christa Greenlee

DEMO: Pauline Bayne: *Pyrography Techniques for your Woodturnings*

Demo Part 1

Pauline Bayne demonstrated pyrography, the art of "writing with fire" which can be done on wood but also leather, gourds, and paper. She usually just calls it woodturning. She gave a brief history of the craft—from cavemen, to ancient Egypt, China, and tribes of Africa.. In Medieval Netherlands, it was called fire-poking because they used portable iron stoves and stuck pokers through holes in the top.

Her first experience was in a 2014 weekend class at Arrowmont with Cynthia and Michael Gibson. They made and decorated plates, using some of her burning patterns to decorate the rims for sampler plates. She showed pictures of the work of known artists—Sue Waters (Australian), Cynthia Gibson with woodturning collaborators Dale Larson and Chris Ramsey, Simon Easton, Graeme Piddle, Mark Gardner, and Michael Anderson— as well as her own work.

She suggested beginning the process by looking at the grain of the wood – is there anything about the grain that lends itself to what you want to burn? Using examples of her work, Pauline discussed some of her design principles included:

- Get inspired by patterns, grain, spalting in the wood to define your burning
- Use simple backgrounds for realistic object images
- Put patterns/designs on the central object
- Choose realism or abstraction for you images
- Consider whether you want one or more borders, on the rim or inside the bowl of the plate or other turned object. Or no border at all. You might break the border with parts of the image as well.
- Depending on how busy the nature of the wood, you might turn an image only on the center or even have part of the image escape the center to the rim.



Wood Choice

- Woods to avoid: treated, finished, toxic, exotic oily, reclaimed wood that might contain imbedded metal, and synthetic materials. Will burning it release toxins?
- Best woods for burning: light colored wood with tight grain is good – maple, poplar, basswood.



Preparing the Wood

- Turn your piece
- Sand to 400-600 grit. You are seeking a smooth surface that allows the woodturning tip to travel across the surface easily for a more consistent burn
- For a plate, finish the back only
- Draw or transfer your designs
- Burn your designs
- Color, if you wish.
 - For color she uses Prismacolor pens (acrylic ink). These have 2 coloring points—a fine point and a brush point. There are other brands to choose from, usually from art stores or online.
 - Acrylic paint
 - Colored pencils
- She then sprays it with Krylon Workable Fixative to protect the burning and coloring pigments.

Finishing the piece

- Avoid oil based finishes – they will darken the wood too much.
- Spray lacquer, acrylic varnish. are popular choices for burned/colored wood
- Pauline's favorite is friction polish, and her experience has shown that it does not spread the color

Practicalities

Safety:

- need an extraction fan to remove smoke, good lighting, a bean bag makes a good base for holding work, take frequent breaks to stretch and rest your eyes.
- Always put burn pens back in their rest to avoid accidental burns.

Work Habits:

- Keep tips clean; use scrap wood or a tea strainer to wipe away built up carbon
- Heat control
 - Adjust temperature (Best practice: choose the lowest temperature that gives desired results) and test on scrap wood
 - Don't have a fan blowing directly on the tip

Drawing or Tracing an image:

- Draw lightly with a pencil; erase with a kneaded eraser or white art eraser (from an art store)
 - Graphite paper is better than carbon paper. Graphite can be rubbed out or wiped out.
 - Internet image sources: seek royalty-free photos or drawings; Pinterest.
 - Use a stencil (Internet search: Look for 2, 3, 4" stencils (animals, trees, plants, flowers, mountains, abstract designs) There are also transferable images available.
 - Suggested by Tom Fowler: Stick 'n Burn paper can be printed (computer to printer) or draw your own on the removable paper
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- **Equipment: Base units - power supply**
 - Check reviews when considering a burner. The most important considerations are:
 - One pen or dual pen to be able to switch heating & pen quickly
 - Temperature range (low & high enough, easy adjustment)
 - Ease of changing tips or pens with permanent tips
 - Pauline uses Razertip SS-D10, the double-pen model; separately purchased pens have permanent tips. Cost: \$160, a one-pen model is also available. Some kits include pens at various prices.
 - Other brands include:
 - Colwood: double-pen about \$205, comes with 2 handles & 3 tips
 - Yihua, Budget/beginner model: dual pen with 20 tips; cost: about \$60
 - Burnmaster / Hawk Eagle, Professional model: comes with 2 pens & several tips; cost: about 4250-\$350
 - **Equipment: Tips or Nibs.** Pauline owns 9 pens, 4 of which she uses the most.
 - Her Most frequently used tips:
 - Small and Large Ball — for stamp or straight or curving lines, dots, stippling, signature
 - Writer tip — stamp or very smooth lines but a bit wider than small ball; good for signature
 - Small Knife or Skew — finest lines

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|  | Small Ball Stylus 1/32" (I use this for writing) / stamp or line |
|  | Large Ball Stylus 1/16" / stamp or line |
|  | Small Knife (Round Skew) / line |
|  | Writing Tip / stamp or line |

Sue Walters



Shaders:

- Small Spoon Shader — different degrees of shading
- Long Bump Shader — a flat surface with different degrees of shading

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|  | Small Spoon Shader / different degrees of shading |
|  | Long Extra Round Bump (round, flat) Shader / different degrees of shading |

Part 2: Let's Do Some Burning — Methods

- Guidelines
 - Temperature Regulation: Cool
 - Stroke Speed: Slow & Keep Moving
 - Remember the Airplane motion—land, pull, & lift
- Process
 - Outline an Object—Usually, the first step making lines with a ball tip, small knife/skew for thinner lines, or a writing tip
 - Fill the Object, using tips for lines, dots (stippling), or a shader
 - Fill the Background, using any of the tips for lines, cross-hatching, dots/stippling, etc.

Stamps or Brands

- V-brand
- Small and Large Half Circle (Fish Scale)

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|  | V-Brand / stamp |
|  | Small Half-Circle (Fish Scale) / stamp |
|  | Large Half-Circle (Fish Scale) / stamp |

Basic Pyrography Techniques

- Pulling — Main technique for lines
 - Pull the tool toward you; don't push & don't stop (to avoid blobs)
- Sweeping — Technique where the pen starts slowly, speeds up, & lifts. Used to create a line that fades—for hair or grass
- Shading — Swing back & forth to fill, like a pendulum or use a shader in any motion
- Circular motion (Scumbling) — create tiny, overlapping circles or random movements
- Touching/Stippling — create dots to fill
- Hatching / Cross-hatching — use parallel lines for tonal contrast or shading

Practice Boards

- When learning, draw squares on a board and use it to practice with different pens, making a variety of patterns. Use the Internet and YouTube to learn patterns & pen technique.

Sample Boards

- Prepare a sanded board, perhaps 6x8", to make and save specific patterns.



Cynthia Gibson

TIPS & TRICKS — Jake Niedling Bead Making using Scrap Wood

If you want a simple project, try making some beads using your scrap cut offs. It will certainly help you learn how to make beads and coves. Here is how I suggest you do it. You will need a wood drive center and a cone tail center.

1. **Make a wood drive center on the lathe.** Any hard wood will work, and one end needs to be turned to a point. The point will need to be re-turned occasionally.
2. **Beads:** Wood for beads can vary in size, length, and type. Usually, 1" square by 1-1 1/2" long is a nice starting point. They can be bigger, smaller, or longer. Drill a 3/16" hole through the end grain of the bead blank. The hole doesn't need to be perfectly centered.
3. **Turn between centers.** Round and shape the bead, sand, add color, or burn lines and apply finish. If the blank slips, then gently tighten the tail live center. This may be required several times during turning.

I encourage you to explore different shapes and finishes. You can string the beads up for a necklace and give them away. The last picture is some I have made over the past year or so.



Mentoring the Next Generation — Gordon Fowler

Last month a lady contacted the club looking for a mentor for her 18 year old son.

So I invited Elias to my shop last Friday morning and guided him through the process of making a small bowl from ambrosia maple. He sanded the bowl and finished it with mineral oil and beeswax. Elias is a high school student from Lenoir City, and next month he is attending a school convention and competing in 12 events - sports, arts, performance arts, etc, and this bowl will be submitted in



Wheat 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 March

This month at the ranch, our students learned to turn trivets and plates. This is in preparation for April's workshops where our guest artist, Pauline Bayne, will demonstrate Pyrography & Coloring techniques. The students are really looking forward to working with her on this new addition to their woodturning skills. This month's project was designed & presented by Bill Thurman.



SHOW & TELL, March 2026



Bill Thurman



Randy Fritchman



Tom Knight



Steve Hill



Tom Knight



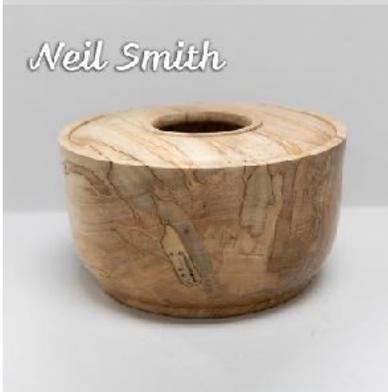
Ron Comtois



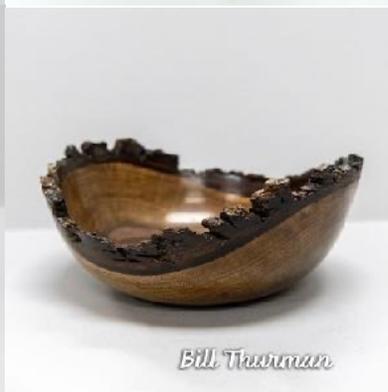
Ron Comtois



Pauline Bayne



Neil Smith



Bill Thurman



Gordon Sloane



Gordon Sloane



Dick Hoffman



Dick Hoffman

