



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.



September 2026

Pauline Bayne, Newsletter



**President
Bill Thurman**

Well, after our August meeting being a successful Wood Auction, it was nice to see a great demonstration with John Lucas from Cookeville. By the way our auction brought in \$2232.00, and this profit is a couple hundred more than last year. A big thank you to those who made it such a successful night.

The demonstration was on how to use a router with the lathe to embellish your turnings. John Lucas shared various type of jigs that he has made to hold and position the router for the ideal cut. The demo ended with a great discussion on tool sharpening and using different grits to sharpen your tools.

Do you have ideas to improve our club or have the desire to be part of the leadership? Well now is the time to step up and become a member of the board. The board meets once a quarter so it's no a big time commitment. We need to replace our out-going members. We will vote in November on the two new board members, who will take office in January.

Cindy Drozda will doing our demonstration in October. She will demonstrate a Triangle Box. She is great turner with a good eye for the details. Her presentation is an interactive remote so it will also be available on zoom.

Remember, *Life is Good when we are making shavings so keep them coming.*
See you in October, 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, 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 - Embellishing Woodturning with a Lathe
October 6	- 4th Quarter Board of Directors meeting, 5 pm, Woodcraft
October 20	- Cindy Drozda: TBD
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 - RESULTS

John Jordan & Jake Niedling, auctioneers

We raised \$2232 !

VISITORS

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

REPORTS

Treasurer - Jack Harris

Jack reported that we have \$11,151 in the bank with outstanding payment to cindy Drozda for the October demo and whatever we spend on a Christmas party.

Fantasy of Trees - Ron Comtois & Maria D'Elio

Ron and Maria are ready to accept donations. Please keep turning ornaments and bring them to the next meeting.

Pens for Troops - Bill reporting for Randy Fritchman

Randy is wants newly-made pens!!!

Beads of Courage & Wig Stands - Bill Thurman

We need both types, said Bill.

SAFTY MESSAGE:

John Jordan reminded us that burned embellishments can be accomplished by holding a wire in the v-groove of your spinning work to burn lines. Here's the safety part: never hold the wire by wrapping the ends around your fingers, instead, tie the ends to small handles. Then you can safely hold it and easily let go if need be. John also gave away dozens of wires that can be used for such burning.

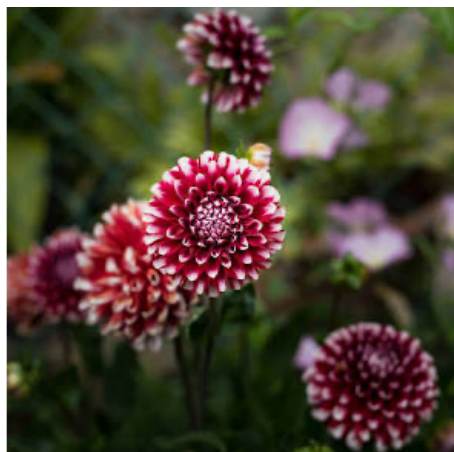
Wood Raffle Contributors

Roy A. Cuff, Andy Milligan, Jake Niedling,
Harry Ford, & Larry Green

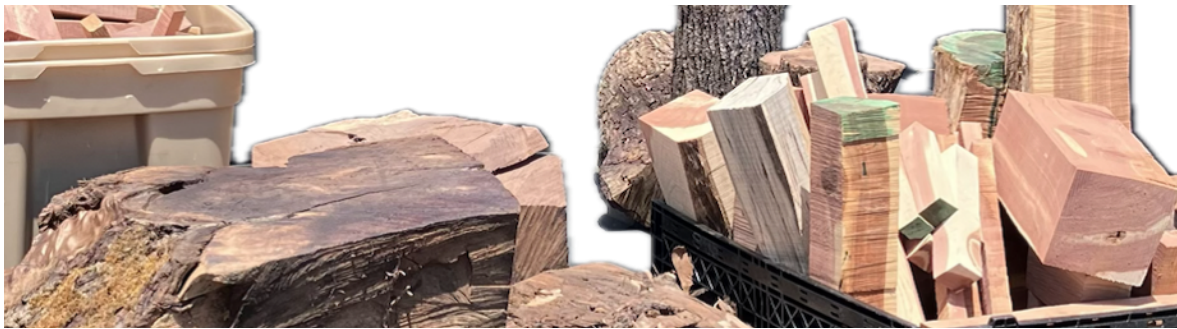
And the WINNERS are...

ARROWMONT - Lucy Bobb

AUGUST Attendance



Great Results: AUGUST Wood Auction:



Again this year, John K. Jordan and Jake Niedling were our capable and very active auctioneers. We thank them profusely!

But they are not the only members whom we praise for their participation.

- We had people who donated the wood.
- We had others who tried to keep wood sorted for Jake and John to grab and auction off.
- We had others who helped start piles for the different buyers.
- We had people keeping tabs for each buyer and collecting the money at the auction's close.
- And, of course, we had everyone who and bought wood!

Our thanks go to everyone who attended, bought wood, and assisted our actioneers!

The result was a profit of \$2232 ! That figure is about \$200 higher than what was raised in our 2025 auction. CONGRATS TO ALL !

Wood auction photos by Jake Niedling



John Lucas kept our membership attentive with his demonstration on using a router for embellishment.

Check out his YouTube channel:
[@johnlucaswoodturner205](#)



Embellishing Woodturning with a Lathe

John Lucas



DEMO Part I

John showed examples of his work, including embellished hand mirror, boxes, and tool handles. He gave a biography of his woodturning journey, about 50 years of industrial arts training, photography, machine lathe work, welding, woodturning, jig building, and problem solving.

In most cases you need an indexing wheel—either provided on the lathe, make your own, or after market product – John showed examples of all.

John showed his homemade platen, a platform that supports the router, which itself is held in a homemade jig. The platen is supported by a post that slips into the banjo.

John turned a 10" blank to round, to demonstrate cutting flutes onto a tool handle. The platen has stops to determine the depth of cut and left and right end points of the flutes on the handle. If the ends of the flutes are burned or fuzzy, you can cut a cove to dress it up. The jig holding the router has two screws that serve as contact points against the stop on the platen, which works for straight or convex cuts. He uses a jig with only one screw for concave cuts.

John talked about various router bits and jigs that hold the router at 45 degrees. He showed how he can position the platen at an angle to a platter, so that the v-grooves he is cutting will start deeper in the wood at the rim and run out of the wood near the center.

Spiraling designs can be accomplished by setting the end of the router just above or below the center of the platter, and interesting patterns occur by doing both.





DEMO Part 2

John demonstrated how to sand v-grooves if the router cuts are a little “fuzzy”.

More jigs:

- 90 degree jigs
- Jigs for Dremel tool
- Jigs for cutting arcs in platters, spiral flutes, and brick patterns.

Paul Howard is a resource for buying jigs.

John also gave his opinions on tool sharpening:

The grit of your grinding wheel has little to do with the performance of the tool, as in getting a clean cut. You might think that polishing your tool with a high number grit (600) will give you a better cut but it won't, and you might not even be taking enough metal off in the sharpening to get a sharp edge.

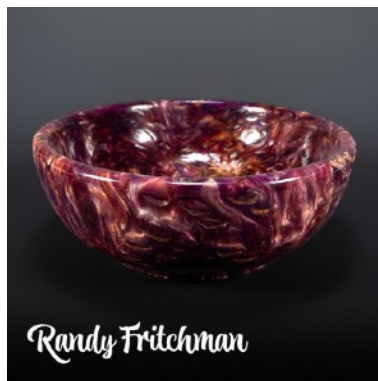
The speed of the lathe has less to do with a good cut than the speed of the tool traveling through the wood, or along the tool rest. If the cut is not clean, instead of speeding up the lathe, try slowing down the travel of the tool.

High speed steel cannot be damaged by the sharpening process so there is no need to buy a “slow” speed grinder (1725 rpm) as opposed to a hardware store grinder (3450 rpm)



—reported by Gordon Fowler

Show & Tell - August 2026

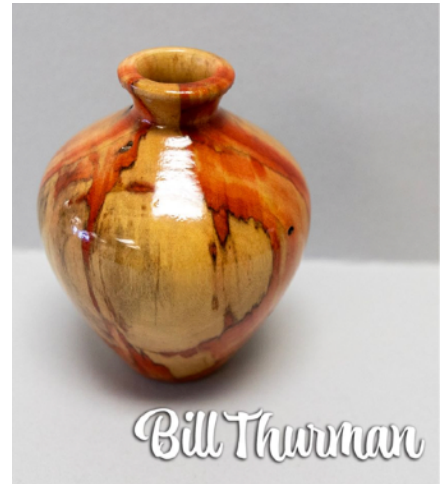




Bill Thurman



Bill Thurman



Bill Thurman

BRavo!



Barry Brandt



Colin Chalmers

HURRAH!

—As always, photos for Demo article and Show & Tell are by Randy & Terry Fritchman