



Chapter of the Association of American Woodturners

April 2025

Newsletter

Issue No. 4

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



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – April 20, 2025

Another great turnout for the fourth month in a row. You people are thirsty for woodturning knowledge, and you have come to the right place to get it. I know many of you were as impressed with Trent Bosch's **Woodturning Wisdomizer** as I was. I have already ordered mine and will show it off later this year. Thanks Jim V. for that inspiring video. Gordon Fowler (one of our new Board members) demonstrated "platters with a Crotch. Using a piece of dogwood, Gordon showed the members how to bring the beauty of this small platter to life and added a few beads to accent that beauty. It was a very nice job of turning that Gordon will finish in his shop and bring back to the club, in the future, for Show and Tell. Thanks, Gordon, for a great demonstration and sharing some of your crotch wood with the club. I am afraid to say anything about our monthly wood raffle in case we get run over again with some pretty species of wood. The Tellico Village group out did themselves this month with some beautiful green wood. If this is any sign of our upcoming wood auction in August, then I can hardly wait. I will be contacting those people who signed up for our Spring Woodturners weekend with Nick Cook to make sure they are still on board. Remember that the Saturday demonstration is free for all members. The Sunday hands-on workshop (10 people signed up) is \$65.00/person and a \$15.00 material fee that Nick Cook will collect. Students will go away with a lidded bowl, box, coffee scoop and tons of knowledge. The club will provide water and some drinks for both days, but lunch is on your own. I want to thank all our club members for voting for the By-Laws amendment. The Board tries to keep the business portion of our club at the Board meetings, but sometimes we need to vote on business that affects the whole club. Lastly, I want to congratulate our two new lifetime members, Jake Niedling and John Jordan. They join Jim Vogelsang, Bob Law, and Drue Hogland as distinguished members of our club. If you want to know some history of the club, ask any one of these guys and they will fill you in.

—Keep those Chips Flying — **Gordon Sloane**

Officers

Gordon Sloane, President
Randy Fritchman, Vice President
Bill Thurman, Secretary
Jack Harris, Treasurer
Ron Comtois, Past President

April Wood Donations

John Jordan
Gordon Sloane
Dick Hoffmann
Dennis Smith

April Visitors Welcome!

Gregory

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Treasurer's Report - Jack Harrison

Jack reported that the bank balance is \$11,540.06 and that as of the meeting we have 65 members. There are a few members, who normally pay dues, that haven't Jerry or Maria will reach out to them.

Fantasy of Trees - Don Adams

Don said it would be time for Fantasy before we know it. He said don't worry about always having that \$100.00 ornament. People like them all.

Beads of Courage - Bill Thurman

Bill reported that thanks to Randy we have an organization that is excited about receiving wig stands from our club—Cancer Support Community East TN. He explained that the Wig Stands incentive would be combined with Beads of Courage. For every box or stand a member submits, their name will be added and the drawing occurs in December.

Pens for Troops - Randy Fritchman

Randy has handed out 500 pen kits to be turned and has received back 180.

Educational Project —Wear's Valley Ranch

Randy Fritchman reported for Bob Law. Workdays are scheduled for April 25 & 26. Stay tuned because the 25th may be cancelled.

Announcements:

Wood Auction Wood

John Jordan gave a reminder of the type of wood that he is looking for at the auction. He has just a few of the rough turned bowls donated in the pas. It would be great to have some more to auction.

Quarterly Challenge - Randy Fritchman

The Demo Challenge for May is turning a platter from crotch wood [following the April demo by Gordon Fowler].

We encourage every member to attempt to replicate each month's demonstration program idea and bring the project to 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: When you bring in a Quarterly Challenge item for Show & Tell, put your name on one raffle ticket and put it in the hat. Time allowed to complete a quarterly-challenge project is 2 months from the 1st & 2nd demos of the quarter and 1 month from the 3d

New Business

Motion: Change the language in our by-laws regarding fees: "Annual membership fee for the Smoky Mountain Woodturners is \$30.00 per year. Dues are to be collected by **March 31st**. If a new member joins in the last quarter of the year their membership will be carried forward to the next year." The motion was passed by the membership and signed by the officers.

Motion: That Jake Niedling & John Jordan be named Lifetime Members for their contributions to the club. Members voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Bring Back Box — Won by Roy Cuff

Scholarships (for Dec. draw) —

Arrowmont: Randy Fritchman

JC Campbell: Gordon Sloane

Thanks to Jake Niedling, Professional Turner, MARK GARDNER will be doing a demo in fall.

Safety Message - Gordon Fowler

Gordon Fowler reminded us to use all of our senses while turning. If you hear something that doesn't sound right or an unusual vibration, always stop the lathe and investigate.

Club Calendar: General Meetings, 2nd Tuesday, 6:30 pm, Location: Woodcraft Knoxville
Board of Directors, 3rd Wed., 6 pm, Location: Woodcraft Knoxville

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 Made Easy
March 18 - General Meeting - John Lucas, Cookeville turner - Inside / Outside Turning
April 9 - 2nd Quarter Board of Directors meeting, 3rd Wed of Jan, April, July, Oct, 6 pm, Woodcraft
April 15 - Gordon Fowler - Platter with a Crotch
May 3-4 - Spring Woodturners Weekend - Nick Cook (demo & workshop, Sat & Sun, 9 am - 3 pm)
May 20 - General Meeting - Ron Comtois - Baby Rattle
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 - Colin Chalmers - TBD
August 19 - General Meeting - 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 - Michael Anderson - Covered Calabash Bowls
October 25-26 - Fall Woodturners Weekend - Mark Gardner - (demo & workshop, Sat & Sun, 9 am - 3 pm)
November 18 - General Meeting - Ted Palfrey - Hollowing
December 16 - Annual Christmas Party



Officers:

Gordon Sloane, President
Randy Fritchman, Vice President
Bill Thurman, Secretary
Jack Harris, Treasurer,
Ron Comptois, Past President

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

Coming Events — May 3-4, 2025
Spring Woodturners Weekend with
professional turner, Nick Cook
9 am -3pm both days at Woodcraft
Saturday demo is free
Sunday hands-on session \$65
& limited to 10 people
* Gordon Sloane—**payment is due by**
May 3. Let him know if you will
attend either session.*

PLATTER WITH A DEMONSTRATOR – CROTCH



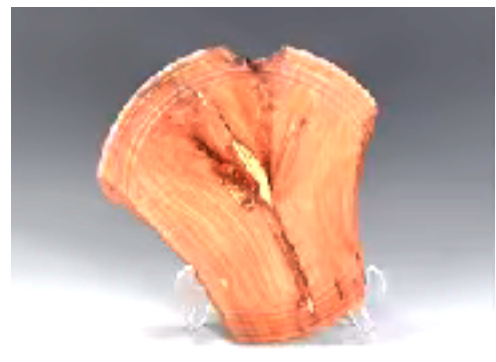
Gordon Fowler shared what he has learned from making bowls and platters from crotch wood. He usually cuts the log in two using a chainsaw down the center of the three piths. The best flame pattern is in the center of the log, so the top of the bowl or platter should be on the bark side of the log. As you remove wood from the bark side, you reveal more and more of the flame pattern.

Gordon began turning, between centers, a small dogwood crotch half log with the bark side towards the headstock. After flattening the center side of the log, he formed a tenon, using a 5/8" bowl gouge and a 3/8" spindle gouge. Then he turned the blank around and secured it in a scroll chuck, using the tailstock for support as long as possible.

Now the bark side (the top of the platter) is towards the tailstock. Using a bowl gouge, he removed a lot of material to reduce the blank to about 5/8" thick. He then rounded the edge and laid out with a pencil line where he thought the appropriate place for beads should be. Using a 5/16" beading tool (D-way tools), he cut a bead on the edge of the platter and another one about 1/2" away from the first one. Between the beads he formed a cove.

Gordon showed a homemade texturing tool and used it to add texture (an orange peel effect) to the cove. He then cut a shallow bowl from the inside bead to the center using a bowl gouge and cleaning it up with a large round scraper.

Normally he would sand the top and edges of the platter at this stage, but he did not want to create dust during the demo. Because removing the tenon during the demo would eliminate the ability to sand the top of the platter, he told how he would reverse the platter, jamming it between the headstock and the tailstock, using something soft on the headstock side that will drive the piece but not scratch it. Then he could finish the back side of the platter and remove the tenon and sand it. The final step would be to use a chisel to remove the little nub that you can't get to because of the tailstock and sand. Gordon finished the piece with Danish oil and buffed it with the Beall buffing wheels. Below: some of his platters made from crotch wood & on the right turned dogwood crotch wood similar to what he used in the demo. THANKS so much, Gordon!




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?

Our workshops this month provided our students with the opportunity to try NEW projects that were chosen to enhance their turning skills. Our beginners had a great time working with “really” green wood for the first time and as anticipated left the workshop with damp shavings everywhere! Their rough turned bowls were packed in shavings and stored in paper bags for months to come. Our intermediate students began work on necklace & bracelet holders. A three part turning project, they didn't complete them this month. They'll be working on the other pieces and have them completed by April.

Our Annual Service days (April 25th & 26th) are coming up soon and we'll have a recap of our contribution to the maintenance & improvement to the woodturning studio in next month's newsletter.



SHOW & TELL - APRIL 15, 2025



APRIL FOOLs

Trent Bosch's **Woodturner's Wisdomizer**

—The pack contains the knowledge of thousands of years of woodturning and information from thousands of years of woodturners. Get one now!

—released 1 April 2025



Compliments of Gordon Fowler

HAPPY SPRING !



We'll Say It Again—
THANKS

— Jim Vogelsang &
Andy Milligan —

Video / Internet
whiz guys



And to our
SUPERB
PHOTOGRAPHER
— Randy Fritchman



— Randy Fritchman