



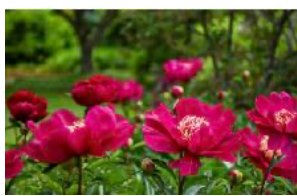
Chapter of the Association of American Woodturners

June 2025

Newsletter, Issue No. 6

Pauline Bayne, Editor

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 –June 17, 2025

Stabilizing wood may not be a very exciting subject, but seeing the interaction from our club members, everyone was listening to Roy Cuff's presentation. While we all like to see chips, sometimes we must do our homework to get the results we want. This is especially true if you are turning punky or burl wood. Roy did a great job of showing us how to perform this exercise, and I am sure everyone appreciated his demo.



Not many things surprise me anymore, but Jake Niedling's presentation to me — of a giant Baby Rattle— caught me unawares. I am not sure what Jake was saying, but I will cherish the rattle always. This is a short message because I am going in for Back Surgery on June 23 and will be out of pocket for a couple of weeks. If I do not get back in time for July, the members can rest assured that our able Vice President, Randy Fritchman, will handle the duties, and Colin Chambers will give a great demonstration on turning a platter.



—Keep Those Chips Flying, Gordon Sloane



AND—Best Wishes for a speedy recovery, Gordon!!!!!!

\$30 DUES are DUE \$\$\$

Checks to:
**SMWTS, PO Box 50141
Knoxville, TN 37950-0141**

June Wood Donations

**Supplied by
Tom Knight, Ken Godwin,
Gordon Sloane &
Jake Niedling**

Visitors:

**Jerry Wolf &
Sue Mahoney**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Treasurer's Report - Jack Harris

In Jack's absence, Gordon shared the club balance of \$10,872.00. Bill handled the raffle ticket sales for Jack.

Fantasy of Trees - Don Adams

Don has asked to be replaced as FOT chairman. If you are interested, please contact Gordon. Don will help a new chairman, introduce him/her to Children's Hospital contacts, and ease the way.

Beads of Courage - Bill Thurman

More beads of courage boxes are still needed as are wig stands. He will be delivering 9 wig stands in the next week.

Pens for Troops - Randy Fritchman

Randy's goal is for our club to exceed last year's pen count (500 pens). He has pen kits for the asking.

Educational Project — Wear's Valley Ranch

Jake reported that, while the school year has ended, there will be summer classes on a different schedule.

Wood Auction - John Jordan

Jake reported that we will have the auction in August and that they have received many nice pieces of wood.

***Remember to mark wood with the species and

WINNERS

Bring Back Box — Al Mathewson

Scholarships (for Dec. draw) —

Arrowmont: Dan Peters

JC Campbell: Paul Freeman

Safety Talk - Gordon Fowler

Gordon reminded us about several safety issues: wear appropriate gear: no sandals, no jewelry; stay focused; keep work area uncluttered.... Let's DO IT !

Quarterly Challenge - Randy Fritchman

Bring in your projects made for the quarterly challenge anytime this year. Put them on the Show & Tell table, get a challenge ticket & place it in the basket. The annual winner will be drawn from all submissions at the December Christmas Party.

SMWTS Information :

- SMWTS Web site:
- SMWTS Monthly Newsletter
- General Meetings
- Want to get involved: attend quarterly BOD meetings.

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 - Roy Acuff - Stabilizing Wood
 July 9 - 3rd Quarter Board of Directors meeting, 3rd Wed of Jan, April, July, Oct, 6 pm, Woodcraft
 July 15 - **General Meeting - Colin Chalmers - Turning a Platter**
 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 Bowl
 October 25-26 - **Fall Woodturners Weekend - Mark Gardner**
 (demo & workshop, Sat & Sun, 9 am - 3 pm)
 November 18 - General Meeting - Ted Palfrey - Hollowings
 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: Bill Thurman
 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: Gordon Sloane,
 Colin Chalmers, & Jake Niedling
 Safety Officer: Gordon Fowler
 Video/Internet: Jim Vogelsang &
 Andy Milligan, Video Trainee
 Website: Jim Vogelsang & Colin Chalmers

Business

Gordon encouraged anyone wanting to get involved more in the workings of the club to come to BOD meeting. BOD meetings are open to all. Next BOD meeting July 9th at Woodcraft.

DEMO: Roy Cuff on Stabilizing Wood



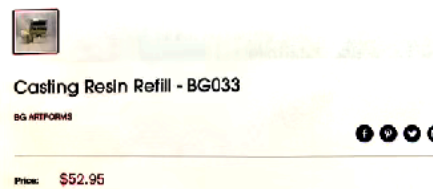
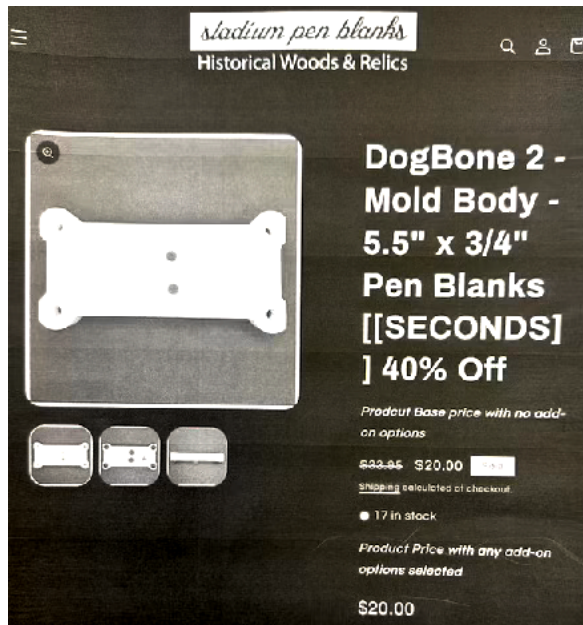
Our Demonstrator for the month was by Roy Cuff.

Part 1 - He talked us through the process of stabilizing wood using Cactus Juice [brand name] stabilizing resin.

He discussed two methods of using Cactus Juice: 1) a vacuum chamber or 2) soaking the wood (ask Roy for details on this method). Either way, the wood needs to be bone dry before treatment. Roy prefers and recommends that you use a clear vacuum chamber so you can see the bubbles and determine when the wood is saturated. This can take up to 6 hours; when the bubbles stop, the impregnation process should be complete. The process removes air from the wood, replacing it with resin. Then you cure it by heating in a toaster oven and allow it to cool. The result is increased density and hardness reducing the chance of warping or cracking—stable wood. *Roy's recommended vacuum chamber and Cactus Juice are available from TurnTex.com—see brochures below.*

Cactus Juice has a shelf life of 3 years, unactivated and 1 year, activated. However, it must be stored at under 85 degrees Fahrenheit. It can be reused multiple times. You can also add dye to Cactus Juice to dye and stabilize wood at the same time.

Part 2 - Roy showed us how to add postage stamps or playing cards to resin pen blanks. He recommends Dog Bone brand of resin pen mold for this process & BG ARTFORM pen blank casting resin.



Thanks, Roy, for sharing your expertise, on stabilizing wood and preparing unusual resin pen blanks, with our club members. We appreciate it !




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 June?

Summer Schedule is in full swing as the students choose from a number of elective classes to provide some diversification from the regular school year. Core classes continue for students years round. This summer we have 15 of our students who elected to continue Woodturning for the summer. That led to morning only workshops on our days at the Ranch through August.

This month our students who are transitioning to the intermediate level in the fall made dead blow mallets for the woodturning shop. Each student included their own embellishments. There will now be one of these handy tools for each workstation. On alternate weeks, Mr. Pat continues to provide skill practice & fun projects.



*****IMPORTANT NOTICE*****

Mr. Pat Brown, our WVR Staff Member who has provided the "open shop" opportunities for the students each week on Tuesdays & Thursdays is retiring in August. The Ranch is seeking a special individual to continue his work on campus. The part time position of employment is an excellent opportunity for a person of faith who is perhaps retired, loves children & enjoys woodworking (we can teach them to turn) to put those qualities to good use. There is compensation available & it requires two days per week travel to Wears Valley. Interested or know someone? Contact Bob Law (865-283-9501 or BLaw@WVR.Org).

SHOW & TELL — JUNE 17, 2025

