



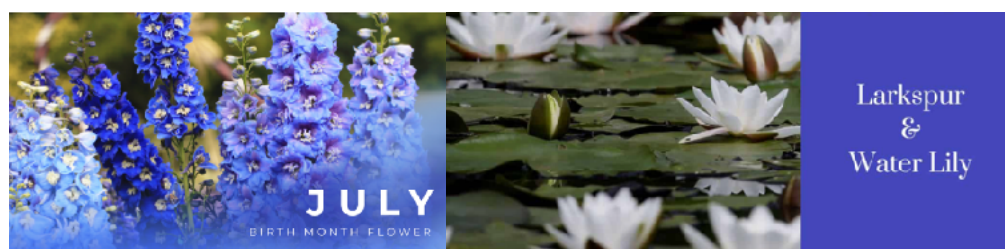
Chapter of the Association of American Woodturners

June 2025

Newsletter, Issue No. 7

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



President's Message – July 15, 2025

The place to be on a Tuesday night – SMWTS General Meeting. I want to thank all the members for the get well wishes after my recent back surgery. Things are progressing nicely, and I should be back at full power by September. Colin Chalmers was our guest demonstrator, turning a beautiful designer platter with leather inlay. Colin has a gentle touch with the turning tools and answered all questions put to him from the group. We look forward to many more demos from Colin in the future.

We have a great line-up for the rest of the year. Next month is our Annual Wood Auction. If you were in attendance last year there was no shortage of wood then, and I am sure it will be the same for this year. We will be starting the Auction at 6:00 pm to get done in a timely manner. This will be a permanent change (reflected in the By-Laws) for all future general meetings so we do not run late. There will be no other business done during the Auction. Raffles, show-and-tell, and business will resume at our September meeting. Michael Anderson will be our October demonstrator, turning a Calabash Bowl. Then Ted Pelfrey will be up in November showing us how to hollow wood.

Our new Fantasy of Trees coordinator, Ron Comtois, has asked everyone to start turning ornaments for this year. John Jordan will be demonstrating Christmas Hand Bells at our September meeting, which should generate many ornaments for Ron and his FOT program.

It was with great pleasure that I announced our newest Lifetime Member, Randy Fritchman, like our other lifetime members Randy has gone above and beyond in helping do the club's business. Without this kind of energy our monthly meetings would surely be lacking. He also takes great pride in his show-and-tell pictures. Thanks again for all you do Randy – your Lifetime Membership is well deserved.

We will be voting on four new Board members at our October board meeting. Again, we are looking for those people who want to put some energy into making the club the best it can be. If you would like to join for a two-year commitment, please see me or any other Board member, and we will get you on the ballot. *Keep those chips flying, Gordon Sloane*

UPCOMING EVENTS !

****Annual Wood Auction (Aug. 19 at 6 pm—note time change)**

****Fall Turning Weekend, Mark Gardner (Oct. 25-26, 9am- 3pm)** Sunday Workshop projected to cost \$80-\$85.

Contact Gordon Sloane to register. Attending so far: 6 on Sat. & 5 on Sun.

COMITTEE REPORTS

Treasurer's Report - Jack Harris

Jack reported a balance of \$10, 872, stating that the club is in good shape since we started with about \$11,600 and have paid a couple of outside demonstrators.

Fantasy of Trees - Ron Comtois, new chair, to be aided by Maria D'Elio & Don Adams

Turn in ornaments through the October meeting, but please make & bring them in sooner rather than later. There will be lots of final preparations before delivery in November.

Program Committee - Jack Harris

Cindy Drozda will be our guest demonstrator in an IRD (Interactive Remote Demo) in January 2026. The membership approved a taped session which can still allow questions & answers in real time. This option is less expensive than a total live demo. We also approved the topic to be a box with finial. Cindy is well-known for turning fine finials.

NOTE: Every other Friday she does a free online demo via Zoom. Look for it!

Beads of Courage - Bill Thurman

Six wig stands were brought to the meeting, bringing this year's total to 15. Boxes are still needed at Children's Hospital; the total so far is 11.

Pens for Troops - Randy Fritchman

Randy has received 5460 pens and given out 750. Keep them coming to get over 1000 pens!

Educational Project – Wear's Valley Ranch

Bob Law —see next page for his review of the 10-year program.

*** Next Meeting: August 19 ***

ANNUAL WOOD AUCTION

Auctioneers: John Jordan & Jake Niedling

Jake asked that we bring our good wood contributions to the next meeting because there is no advanced storage available. We need wood that is ready to turn, not a log with the ends cut & sealed. There will be some good pre-cut bowl blanks on offer.

WINNERS

Bring Back Box — Sam Delozier

Scholarships (for Dec. draw) —

Arrowmont: Gordon Sloan

JC Campbell: Jerry DeLaurentis

Safety Talk - Gordon Fowler

In this month's talk, Gordon reminded us that if you get a cut while turning, treat it! Cleansing, an antibiotic ointment, and bandage can prevent infection or worse, surgery.

He also referred to a mistake he made while demonstrating his platter from crotch wood. Be careful with the grain direction for strength of the piece, and remember that a cone live center can puncture a piece of wood.

Business - Gordon Sloane

— *****NEW Meeting TIME***** The membership agreed to ***start our meetings at 6 pm with social time at 5:30 starting with the August wood auction.*** *

— ***Mike Johnson asked to leave the Board of Directors; Pauline Bayne has agreed to serve the remainder of his term 2025-26 term.***

— ***Cindy Drozda***, well-known demonstrator both in person and online, will do an Interactive Remote Demo (IRD) at our January 2026 meeting. Members present agreed to a taped session with interactive questions rather than the more expensive fully live demo. We also approved the topic to be a box with finial. She is famous for superb finials. Zoom will be available to our members.

— Gordon reminded the club that the AAW National Symposium is in Raleigh, NC in 2026. If we have 10 members attending, there is a price break.

The Board has agreed to install ***Randy Fritchman as a Life Member for all of his contributions to our club. Among these activities are: current Vice-President, Chapter Photographer, chairman for Pens for Troops & Quarterly Challenge, long-term commitment as a teacher in our Wears Valley Ranch woodturning classes.

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 - Exceptional 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

\$30 DUES are DUE \$\$\$
 Checks to:
SMWTS, PO Box 50141
Knoxville, TN
37950-0141

July Wood Donations
Supplied by Roy Cuff
& Gordon Sloane

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

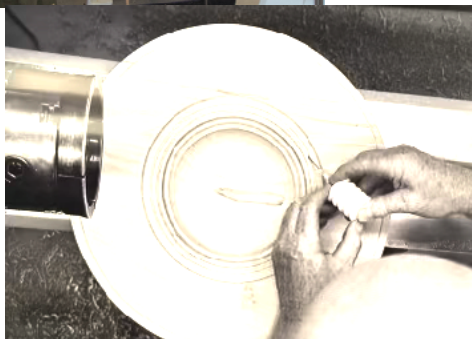
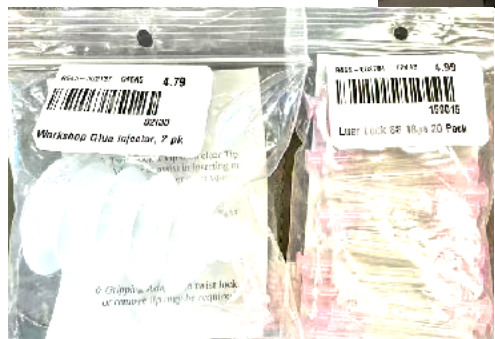
DEMO: COLIN CHALMERS AN EXCEPTIONAL PLATTER



Colin's demonstrated his approach to making a 15" platter from silver maple and how to insert leather cord inlays as decoration.

Colin grinds his bowl gouges free hand with a 40/40 grind. He told us negative scrapers don't work well on silver maple, so he uses a shear cut instead. He did some sanding because it cannot be done after inserting the leather cording. He slap recommended using an inertia sander (doesn't need a drill).

Handy glue bottles with small replaceable tips are available at Woodcraft. The leather cords—2 sizes with the larger one braided—are available at Hobby Lobby.



BOB LAW: 10 Years of Woodturning Instruction at Wears Valley Ranch



Our Woodturning program teaches students and mentors valuable life skills they will keep forever. Circa 2015



One of our first students - 2015



2025 Member's Day of Service



Time to Fast Forward to the Future....

2020 - 2025



NOTE: SMWTS wood-turners teach at WVR two days a week. **Pat Brown** has been the resource person at St. Andrews School, providing guidance and instruction to wood-turning students on a regular basis during the school year. Pat is retiring soon. *If you know anyone to fill his position, let Bob Law know.*



THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME TODAY

Our objective is to find volunteers who are interested in helping young people learn the art/craft of WOODWORKING. We have a very successful “wood-turning” program with a large fully-equipped shop.



The Ranch is a very Special Place

Wears Valley Ranch (in Sevierville, Tennessee) provides Christian homes, education and counseling to children in crisis situations. Our vision is to see each child inspired to follow Christ, healed from the past, and equipped to reach their potential.

*Part time employment opportunities? Ask Bob if you have interest.

For information regarding the Woodworking program at Wears Valley Ranch or an opportunity to visit the Shop in the Woodshed at the Ranch, please contact :

Bob Law

Blaw@WVR.org

865-283-9501 (Cell or Text)




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 July?

Our Summer Workshops continue as the students who stayed with us, as their summer elective, practiced their skills & enjoyed different projects. This month, they turned "bottle toppers". We used the "Nick Cook" method of design & assembly that introduced the kids to a collet chuck & dowel rods. They had a lot of fun & one of our students turned into quite a "production turner" with three completed during the workshop time period. (At the Ranch they'll be used for vinegar, olive oil and other kitchen ingredients).



SHOW & TELL, July 15, 2025

Bill Hochmuth



Bill Hochmuth



Bill Thurman



Colin Chalmers



Gordon Sloane



Harvy Ford



Harvy Ford



Harvy Ford



Jake Niedling





Again,
CONGRATULATIONS to our newest
HONORARY MEMBER:

