



Chapter of the Association of American Woodturners

September 2025

Newsletter, Issue No. 9

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 6:00 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 from West Town Mall.



September Birth Flowers: Aster & Morning Glory - September's has two birth flowers. Also known as starworts or frost flowers, asters are a symbol of all-powerful love, affection and wisdom. Like the aster, the morning glory also symbolizes unrequited love. They flowers petals open in the morning, hence the name morning glory, to show off their beautiful, star-like centers.

President's Message – September 16, 2025

Apologies for the confusion about our meeting starting time. Since we changed recently, we have not updated the web site or the By-Laws to reflect the changes. Hopefully we will have that corrected by our next meeting. We have also cancelled the upcoming Hands-on turner's help session, for Sept. 27, 2025. Lack of mentors and enthusiasm from the club is the reason. Seems like September-December is a busy time for everyone. We will try to get this rescheduled for early in 2026.

John K. Jordan gave an outstanding demonstration on ornamental handbells. With a 24 page, color document explaining the process and numerous tips, it should encourage all our members to bring at least one example of a hand bell to our October meeting. With that kind of effort, we will double the number of ornaments for Fantasy of Trees this year and make Ron Comtois a happy coordinator. John is one of our Lifetime members who always has time to lend a helping hand. If you ever have a question about turning, or life in general, give John a call, and he will help you out. Thanks again for a truly great demonstration, John.

October's meeting demonstrator is Michael Anderson, who will be showing us how to turn a calabash bowl. Michael is like a young John K. Jordan, and his techniques and turning abilities are something you do not want to miss. New Board members will be voted on at our October Board meeting (October 8, 2025). All club members are welcome to attend.

Keep Those Chips Flying – Gordon Sloane

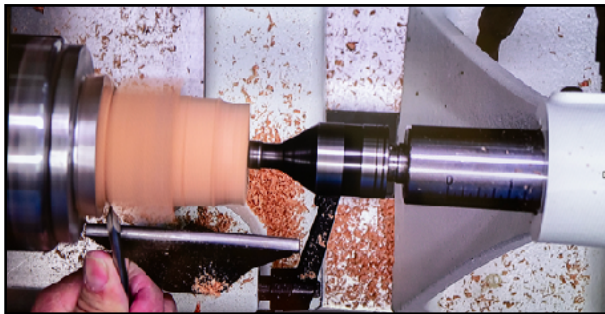
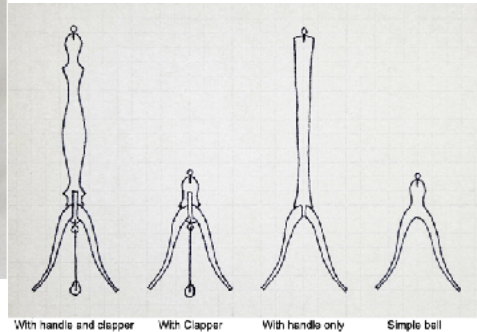
DEMONSTRATION: John K. Jordan Turning Handbells

John Jordan gave an excellent demonstration of turning a handbell ornament. Go to SMWTS website, SMWTS.org to view his 24-page handout, which provides detailed instructions and photos. Now we should all be able to turn handbell ornaments for the Fantasy of Trees. Bring them in next month for Show and Tell to share and get a lottery ticket for the December drawing for \$100 prize in the Quarterly Challenge.

Size of tonight's bell: The total height of the ornament including the handle is about 4-3/4". The bell section is approximately 1-3/4" diameter and 1-3/4" high. The handle is about 3" long. Along the way he gave many helpful tips: how to use a small knock-out bar in collet in the tail stock to keep the bell from flying off when parting it and using a block top eraser as a sanding block.



THANKS, JOHN — for all your preparation, lots of good advise, & a super DEMO !



Photos by Randy & Terry Fritchman & John Jordan

Club Calendar: General Meetings, 2nd Tuesday, 6 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 K. 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 - 3)
 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 Comtois, *Past President*

Board of Directors:

Maria D'Elio, 2024-25
 Colin Chambers, 2024-25
 Jerry DeLaurentis, 2024-25
 Gordon Fowler, 2025-2026,
 Mike Johnston, 2025-2026
 Pauline Bayne, 2025-2026

Committees:

Beads of Courage / Wig Stands: Bill Thurman
Education/Wears Valley: Robert Law
Fantasy of Trees: Ron Comtois
Membership: Maria D'Elio & Jerry DeLaurentis
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: Gordon Fowler
Video/Internet: Jim Vogelsang & Andy Milligan



UPCOMING EVENTS! Fall Woodturners Weekend October 25-26 with Mark Gardner (Members' free demo on Sat. & pay workshop on Sun, both 9 am - 3 pm at Woodcraft.

COMITTEE REPORTS

Treasurer's Report - Jack Harris

Jack reported a balance of \$13, 075, including a deposit of about \$2000 from the Wood Auction last month with only one outstanding one outstanding payment.

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

Ron has only received about 30 ornaments. Let's get turning. He must deliver them on November 23 to the event site.

Beads of Courage - Bill Thurman

A total of 13 Beads of Courage boxes have been received for the year.

Pens for Troops - Randy Fritchman

Randy has about 200 kits out for turning. Please finish and turn them in. He will follow up on a Pen-Turning Saturday. It is usually the Saturday before Veterans Day.

General Announcements

— *Pecan Wood still available until Friday, September 19. Website has details.*

— Maria announced that the Smoky Mountain Woodcarvers are having a festival on Oct 4-5 at My People Senior Center, 1220 W. Main St., Sevierville, TN. See *brochure below—show, sales, demos, supplies, & classes!*

Visitors:

Natalie Rodrigues

—invited by John Jordan

&

Michael Anderson

— from Chattanooga Club & our October demonstrator.

WINNERS

Bring Back Box — Colin Chambers

Scholarships (for Dec. draw)

Arrowmont: Ron Comtois

JC Campbell: Jerry DeLaurentus

Business - Gordon Sloane

— *****Remember NEW Meeting TiME*** We now start our meetings at 6 pm with social time at 5:30. We'll be checking our website and documents to be sure the start time is correct.***

— ***Gordon reminded everyone that the next Board meeting is on October 8 here at Woodcraft. If you want to get more involved in the club, come to the meeting. All are welcome.***

— ***Fall Woodturning Workshop: There are only 6 signed up for the Saturday demonstration day, which is free. At the moment only 6 are signed up for Sunday's hands-on workshop. Without more registrants, the cost per participant will be over \$100. Members wanted turning weekends and we want to keep the price down so please consider coming to this event.***

— Discussion about the Problem-Solving Workshop. It appears that the potential date doesn't work for mentors or participants so it will be postponed until the beginning of 2026.

— John Jordan suggested that the club buy a tensioning gauge for setting a saw blade; then members could check it out. The membership agreed on the purchase and John said he would help find a good one at a reasonable price. Logistics will be worked out.

ATTENDANCE: 28 members present, 2 visitors, and 6 members on ZOOM.

Wood Auction Contributors:

Andy Milligan

&

Gordon Sloan

All who bought tickets were winners !!!

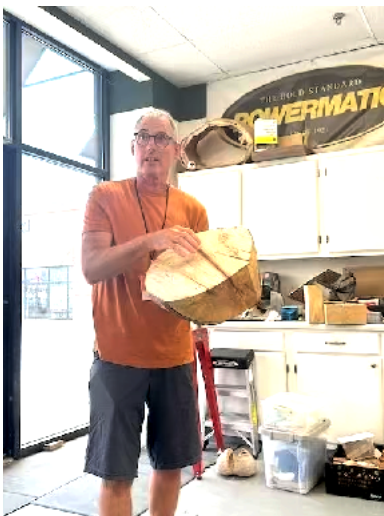
SAFETY MESSAGE - Gordon Fowler



Look what happens to a **ring shank**—a **knot or ring pattern in hardwood**! It is common in walnut, Bradford pear, and others.

Gordon's safety talk dealt with **examining your wood before turning to make sure it is stable and will not come apart in the turning process**. He showed examples of a **ring shake** (above) and a **crotch** (below), where the join of two limbs were not solid. His wood samples of these problems were clear demon-strations of these two problems.

His warning was pretty simple: *If there are large cracks in your turning piece—don't turn it, don't cut it, don't hit it with a hammer.* Just put it in the burn pile. You might possibly cut it carefully into smaller turning blocks.



---DISCOUNT ! Information from John K. Jordan— Sept 16, 2025: HUNTER TOOL DISCOUNT---
Mike Hunter offered a 10% discount on Hunter Tools for anyone who watched John Jordan's demo.

- You can read about Mike's tools at <https://huntertoolsystems.com/>
- Send Mike an email mentioning the demo and include the 10% discount code "SMWTS". Mike's email address is: mike@huntertoolsystems.com
- Provide your name, phone number, and shipping address.
- Mike will contact you, take your order, and arrange for payment and shipping.
- Mike said this discount offer is good for one month after the demo [until October 15].

WOODCARVERS FESTIVAL COMING: OCT 4-5, 2025 IN SEVIERVILLE



Smoky Mountain Woodcarvers Festival



Oct 4th & 5th 10am-4pm
1220 W. Main Street, Sevierville
My People Senior Center
FREE ADMISSION

Wood carving show & sales, carving/pyrography classes,
carving demonstrations, carving supplies, whittling
contest, vendors, silent auction, raffle, food & more.
You can try to carve a project! (15 years & up)

<http://smkywcca.club>



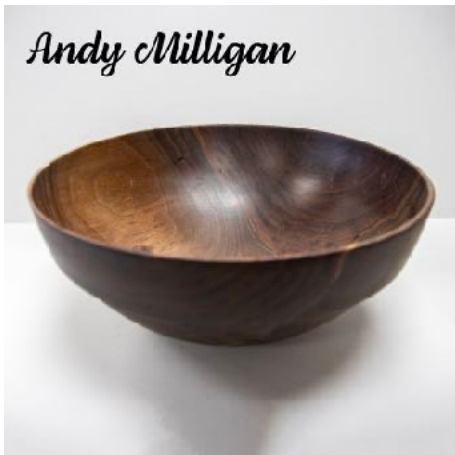
What's Happening at the Ranch in September?

What a busy month for our Instructor Team! We started the new school year with a bang! We have 8 students enrolled in the program so far this semester. Workshops this fall are scheduled for the 3rd Thursday of the month. We'll be expanding the program to add another class of 4 on Thursdays in November (New Students). Once we have support staffing at the Ranch we'll be able to add the second day per week back into our schedule. Our students (all 2nd year beginners & intermediates) turned the first part of a wood & stained glass ornament, Terry Fritchman will be our guest artist to help the kids complete the project in October. In addition, it's PEN TIME @ the Ranch.... One of the students' favorite projects. They work on pens for gifts along with the scheduled projects. Also, Tommy Upp, our on staff mentor is making great progress as he prepares to host the kids for Open Shop on the weeks we aren't on campus. Meanwhile our Team is supporting Tommy both in training sessions & on-site coaching.

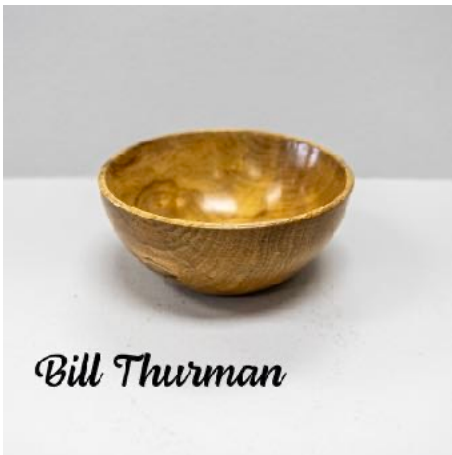


Show & Tell - September 2025

Andy Milligan



Bill Thurman



Gordon Sloane



Jake Niedling



Jake Niedling



Roy Cuff



John Jordan



John Jordan



Roy Cuff



Roy Cuff



Roy Cuff

