



Chapter of the Association of American Woodturners

October 2025

Newsletter, Issue No. 10

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.



October has two flowers of the month: COSMOS and MARIGOLDS. The marigold symbolizes passion, creativity, and success, while the cosmos symbolizes peace, harmony, and order.

President's Message —

Wow, what a great October meeting! We had a great turnout of 45 members, 2 visitors, and 5 members on zoom. Gordon Fowler gave a useful safety message on the evils or dangers of CA glue with 79 things you need to know about this wonderful stuff. Jack Harris' Treasurer's report again showed we are in good financial condition. Randy Fritchman already has more pens turned in than ever but still will not let the President out of his commitment for 20 pens. Ron Comtois is starting to get ornaments turned in for Fantasy of Trees, with several members donating hand bell ornaments inspired by last month's demonstration by John K. Jordan.

What a great demonstration by our special guest, Michael Anderson, from the Tri-State Woodturners Chapter out of Chattanooga. Michael turned a Calabash bowl with a lid and shared history of the bowl originating from the Hawaiian Islands. Michael kept a running dialogue going the entire time he was making chips fly. The finished product was a small Calabash Bowl with a lid, or was it a small Calabash box with a lid? When does a bowl with a lid become a box with a lid? Nevertheless, it was a great demo to round out a great meeting.

Keep Those Chips Flying – Gordon Sloane

GUEST DEMONSTRATOR

**Michael Anderson, Tristate Woodturners Chattanooga
Covered Calabash Bowl (or Box)**



Not only did Michael show us how to turn a Calabash bowl, but he talked about how to achieve fine cuts, to use specific tools, and told us about the history of Calabash bowls in Hawaii and how they repaired cracks with Pewa (butterfly) repairs. **For detailed descriptions and photos, please go to our website, [smwts.org](https://www.smwts.org) and look for Handouts and Videos.** Michael has given us details on his Covered Calabash bowl and the Pewa (butterfly) Repair Process.



For final cuts on the inside bottom, he used a straight "hook" tool made by Wiedemann & passed around the bent tool. <https://www.dictum.com/en/search?search=wiedemann> — "Not cheap, but very high quality."

About our demonstrator

Michael is a family man who has a passion for rock climbing, but in 2022 he learned to turn wood—a new and exciting passion. At the **2024 Best of Tennessee Craft Biennial Exhibition**, he was **honored to be awarded Best of Show for his wood piece, "Winter Days"**. The juried exhibition, presented by Tennessee Craft and held at the Arrowmont School of Arts & Crafts, showcased a range of contemporary and traditional craft art from across the state from October 14 to December 13, 2024. So his talent has been noticed in just 2 years! For his profession, Michael teaches Anatomy & Physiology (and other biology courses) at Chattanooga State Community College.



Other examples of Michael's sculptural turning.



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 —free catered food! —Let Gordon Sloane know if you will bring your tools for the SILENT AUCTION, to benefit the club, & a wrapped gift to participate in Dirty Santa.



Officers:

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

Current Board of Directors:

Maria D'Elio, 2024-26*
 Colin Chambers, 2024-26*
 Jerry DeLaurentis, 2024-26*
 Gordon Fowler, 2025-2026,
 Pauline Bayne, 2025-2026

2026 Board of Directors:

Gordon Sloane, 2024-26
 Randy Fritchman, 2024-26
 Jack Harris, 2024-26
 Gordon Fowler, 2024-26
 Pauline Bayne, 2025-26
 Bill Thurman, 2026-27
 Maria D'Elio, 2026-27
 Colin Chambers, 2026-27
 Leslie (Al) Mathewson, 2026-27

Committees:

Beads of Courage / Wig Stands: Bill Thurman
Education/Wears Valley: Robert Law
Fantasy of Trees: Ron Comptois
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, *Video Trainee*

COMITTEE REPORTS

Treasurer's Report - Jack Harris

Jack gave a report indicating a balance of \$13,020, and that there will be some expenses for the upcoming turners weekend.

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

Ron has received about 50 ornaments. The last day to turn them is at the Nov. 18 meeting. He must deliver them on November 23 to the event site.

Beads of Courage - Bill Thurman

We still need BOC boxes and wig stands. You can find guidelines online or contact Bill to help you. The ladies who received the last wig stands were thrilled.

Pens for Troops - Randy Fritchman

Randy reports a good year for pen turning. He has collected 928 pens and has about 200 kits out. He encouraged members to turn them in by the November meeting deadline. There will be a Pen-Turning Saturday, date to be announced, usually the Saturday before Veterans Day.

Wears Valley Ranch - Randy reported for Bob Law

The Ranch received a great donation of pen kits from Scott Duncan. Let Randy, Jake, Bill T, or Bill P. or Bob know if you have any cabinets for storage of the kits, ect.



SAFETY MESSAGE Gordon Fowler -

- Protect your eyes
- Don't use a power ventilator while using glue or an accelerator
- Wear gloves
- Acetone or fingernail polish remover will help clean it up and remove it from surfaces
- Wash your hands after using accelerator

Wood Raffle Contributors:
Bill Thurman, Gordon Sloane,
Dick Hammet, Tom Knight,
and Steve Kozick

WINNERS

Bring Back Box — Al Matthewson

Scholarships (for Dec. draw)

Arrowmont: Andy Milligan

JC Campbell: Gordon Sloane

Business - Gordon Sloane

— Fall Woodturning Weekend -

Oct 25-26, 9 am - 3 pm at Wood Craft

Mark Gardner of Saluta, SC

Saturday's free demo will cover a winged bowl and shrink box.

Sunday's Workshop will challenge attendees to turn the shrink box. Attendees will pay for the workshop and materials.

— A Saturday morning **Problem-Solving Workshop** will be scheduled for 2026.

— At the last meeting, 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. John found a gauge for about \$300. Most members have band saws, and it will be purchased for loan.

— CHRISTMAS PARTY, Dec. 16 at 6 pm

***The annual Christmas party will be CATERED !

—no one has to bring any food

***There will be a **SILENT AUCTION** —Plan to bring tools or other items to raise money for the chapter, and please let Gordon know for preparation. Sign up sheet at Nov. meeting.

***The **DIRTY SANTA** game will be a feature as usual. Bring a wrapped gift (up to \$20 value) to join in the fun.

ATTENDANCE: 45 members present, 2 visitors, and 5 members on ZOOM.

Visitors:

Harvey Hallcou & Michael Anderson

UPCOMING EVENTS!

- **Fall Woodturners Weekend Oct. 25-26, Mark Gardner**, demonstrator - see pp. x-y
- **Southern Woodworkers Show, Nov .7-8** at the Emporium, 100 S. Gay Street
- **Cynthia Drozda**, Jan. 26, 2026 meeting - An Interactive Remote **Demo [IRD]** —We can ask questions with live! responses!

ANNOUNCEMENT - from Jack Harris

OFFER: 10% return to the CLUB when members purchase a Power Carving Depot carving machine or other accessories, including a dust collector, handpicks, collets/adapters, burs, sanding/finishing supplies, etc. One of the carvers is even a rechargeable model. Go to their website to examine the products.

<https://powercarvingdepot.com>



Mighty Marathon

\$140.00



Wood Whittler

\$199.00



Power Pro

\$275.00



Big Blue

\$595.00

Jack Harris informed us of this opportunity for the club to get back 10% of your purchase price by using this procedure:

When ordering one of these power carvers, members (and any of your friends) should use the following link:

<https://powercarvingdepot.com/smokymountainwoodturners>

When reviewing the technical capability and price, the products are competitive to other brands. Let Jack know of any questions.

February's DEMO will be Jack Harris & Colin Chalmers presenting the work of many professional woodturners who are incorporating power carving techniques into their pieces. They will have these power carvers to show us as well.

What's Happening at the Ranch in October?

What a great project! Our students completed their stained glass ornaments, thanks to Randy & Terry Fritchman! In October they utilized the frames they turned last month and added the pieces of cut colored glass to produce their ornaments or sun catchers. Those who completed the project early were able to turn pens to use as gifts this holiday season. Our on-staff mentor, Tommy Upp has made exceptional progress and will soon be hosting open shop sessions on his own.



Woodturners Weekend, October 25-26
MARK GARDNER, GUEST WOODTURNER

Saturday Demonstration

About Mark —information from his website

Mark is from Cincinnati, Ohio and learned woodworking as a teenager from his father. In 1996, after a 2-week turning class at Arrowmont, he was “hooked on the turning process. Since 2000, he and his family have lived in Saluda, NC, where he has his studio. Mark teaches and demonstrates woodturning around the country. He calls himself a production turner—primarily of bowls—but the embellishment techniques for his products is exceptional. Frequently, his designs combine hand-drawn patterns combined with wood burning or engraving and layers of one or more colors of milk paint along with sanding some paint away showing paint in the design cuts. We thank Mark for a wonderful and productive weekend learning experience. He’s a thoroughly nice guy, too.

The demonstration featured turning two items:

Winged Bowl, maple

Shrink Box, cherry with bottom insert of maple



Mark cutting the bowl wings on a bandsaw & trimming them by hand

Shrink box mounted on special wooden chuck.

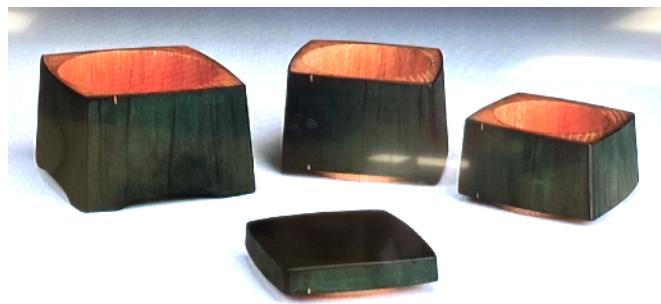
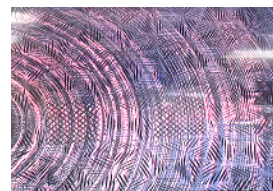
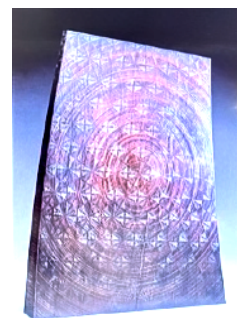
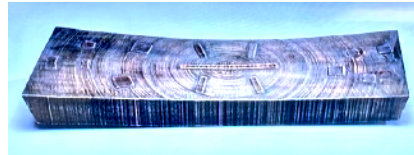
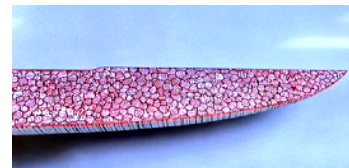
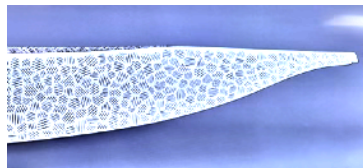
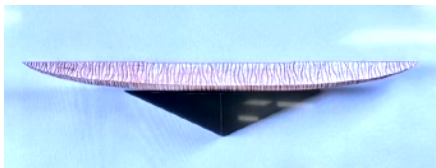
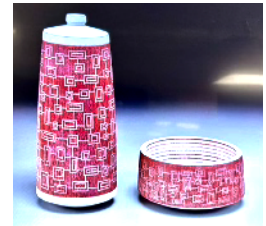
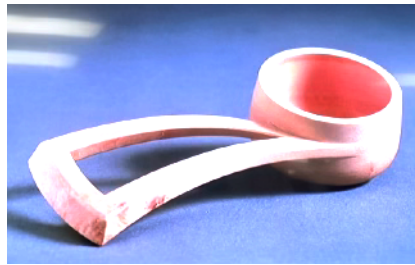


Mark Gardner - Samples of his Work



Photos by Randy Fritchman

Most of Mark's Slide Show—What exquisite decoration on his turnings!



Original Photos by Mark Gardner,
taken from screen

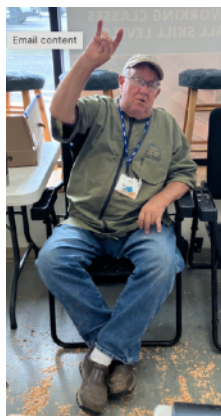
You might be interested in his published articles on these two topics:

For Handled Bowls: Mark Gardner. "Turn a Handled Bowl" in *American Woodturner*, June 2025, available at woodturner.org.

For Shrink Boxes: Mark Gardner. "Pretty Lidded Boxes on the Lather" in *Fine Woodworking*, July-August 2023, available at www.Finewoodworking.com.



Sunday Hands-on Workshop Mark was assisted by Gordon Sloane & Jake Niedling



Photos by Jake Niedling

SHOW & TELL - A Record Display of 45 items by 13 members !



October Meeting Attendees



What a great meeting with 45 attendees !



Photos by Randy & Terry Fritchman