



## Chapter of the Association of American Woodturners

November 2025

Newsletter, Issue No. 11

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](mailto: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 from West Town Mall.



### President's Message —

When we set up the Club demonstrations we try to find people with passion, energy, and a commitment to providing woodturning information that will help everyone and have some fun interacting with the audience. Ted Pelfrey hit the mark on all these characteristics in demonstrating hollowing techniques. Ted is natural when it comes to hollowing techniques and makes it look easy. He emphasized the importance of good form and practicing tool techniques to master hollowing. Ted has taken his hollow forms to the next level and added carving, texturing, piercing, and pyrography to his hollow pieces to truly bring new dimensions to his turnings. We will try to get Ted back again soon to show us his other creative talents. Thanks again for a great demonstration, Ted.

It's the end of the year and yet we still have a lot going on in club business. Our Board meeting on Jan. 6, 2026, will elect new officers, set up our annual budget, seek potential demonstrators for the year, and try to bring the By-Laws up to date. We already have a new Band-aw tensioning jig for club use, and we will be acquiring 3 new Robust tool rests for the lathe we now use. Wears Valley is going strong and will continue the club's support for teaching woodturning to young people.

The National AAW Symposium is in Raleigh, NC, occurs in early June, and I encourage everyone to try to attend – it is an opportunity that woodturners of all calibers do not want to miss. All this work is done by the Board of Directors, with the knowledge and approval of the membership. If you feel the need to be involved with these happenings, please attend our Board meetings. The SMWTS is only as strong as each of our members.

December is right around the corner, and our annual Christmas Party should be a great one. Calhoun's will be catering for the party this year. The menu will include: brisket, chicken, ribs, garden salad, Smoky Mountain baked beans, creamy country slaw, plus mac and cheese. Pauline has cupcakes for dessert that she says are to die for. Add to the food a silent auction, and Dirty Santa present exchange (up to \$20) and it will be a truly fun night. I hope to see everyone there!

Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas,  
**Gordon Sloane**



## GUEST DEMONSTRATOR

### Ted Palfrey, Hollowing Thanks for an outstanding demo!



Ted Palfrey is a member of Cookville Woodturners and also SMWTS—watching on ZOOM. His specialty is hollowed forms embellished by piercing, carving, and pyrography. He is an expert at all of these!

Ted emphasized that for turned and hollowed forms, **“form is everything”**.. The Rule of Thirds is vital for attractive form. For instance, a pleasing size might be 6” diameter & 6” high with a 2” foot and a 2” top opening turning a continuous curve from the widest diameter to the foot.

Green wood is his preference for hollowing because it is easier to work. It may or may not require reshaping when it dries. He turns end grain, and emphasized that the tenon is very important in hollowing since there is a lot of stress on the work. He makes it about 10% larger and will re-turn it when dry. Ted keeps the work between centers until he starts to hollow. He shapes the outside to it's finished state because he needs the outside shape to guide the hollowing. **Tips:** —Use air pressure to clean out shavings frequently. —Turn the cutter to negative rake by twisting a little to the left. —To avoid flat spots, he checks the curve by holding a glue stick to it. —When turned, the vessel will have a 1/2” wall at the opening. —Check the shaping by taking it off the lathe to get a vertical view.



**Demo Vase (to be dried, re-turned & embellished.)**



**His drying procedure:** Dry the vessel for 2-3 months (he uses an old refrigerator with a fan and weighs the piece every 2 weeks. When it is not losing weight, it is dry. He may use a moisture meter as well.

**Re-shaping wall thickness when dry:** 3/8” wall for piercing or carving & 1/4” wall if left plain.

Samples for Form: **DO's**

and

**DON't's**

Outstanding Embellishment



**Club Calendar:** General Meetings, 2nd Tuesday, 6 pm, Location: Woodcraft Knoxville  
Next Board of Directors, January 6, 2026., 65pm, 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.**  
*asdlfkjaeifh*



**Officers:**

Gordon Sloane, *President*  
Randy Fritchman, *Vice President*  
Bill Thurman, *Secretary*  
Jack Harris, *Treasurer*  
Ron Comptois, *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*  
*Website:* Jim Vogelsang & Colin Chalmers



## COMITTEE REPORTS

### *Treasurer's Report - Jack Harris*

We have \$11,797 after paying for the last presenter. Jack also told us that Cindy Droza will be presenting in January, and he has put October 26 with her also.

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

Ron reported that he has over 100 ornaments for FOT. He has to deliver them on Nov. 23 to the event. He and Maria will be tagging and pricing Friday to deliver next week. Ron also stated the phone number listed is not his but Don Adams previous chair.

### *Beads of Courage - Bill Thurman*

Bill reported that the club has made a total of 20 BOC boxes.

### *Pens for Troops - Randy Fritchman*

il has been a good year he has collected 1049 pens and about 100 kits still out. He encouraged members to get them turned in. He also reported on the pen

## SAFETY MESSAGE

### Gordon Fowler -

#### The 6 laws of Woodturning.

1. Adjust lathe speed to match work
  2. Tool on tool rest before touch the wood
  3. ABC - Anchor, Bevel, Contact
  4. Support tool on the rest before contacting wood
  5. Always cut with the grain, therefore downhill. Outside bowl, cut from small diameter to large; Inside bowl, cut from large to small
  6. Scraper: Don't rub the bevel; keep handle up & flat on tool rest
- Plus his #7. Never use a spindle roughing gouge on face grain

### Visitors:

Steven Hill (who joined the club) & Eric Winkler

## WINNERS

### *Bring Back Box — Lucy Babb*

### *Scholarships (for Dec. draw)*

Arrowmont: Gordon Sloane

JC Campbell: Jerry de Laurentis

### **Business - Gordon Sloane**

1. Gordon shared board members for 2026. The board will elect officers during the January meeting. January 6 at 5pm. He invited anyone with interest to attend.
2. The club has purchased a tension gauge for bandsaws. John Jordan will be the keeper and has offered to help anyone use it.
3. Gordon encouraged club members to attend National AAW Symposium will be in June at Raliegh, NC.. If 10 members sign up there is reduced price.
4. The proposed Arrowmont Workshop is still being coordinated with other groups. This has always been a shared event to help hold down costs.
5. John Jordan recommended the club purchase three Robust tool rests. He will coordinate the purchase to be sure they are sized correctly for the club lathe.
6. Gordon is working on the final menu for the

### **Wears Valley Ranch - Randy Fritchman**

At the Ranch, some of our members are in the process of training Pat's replacement (after his retirement). There are classes one day a month, but hopefully this will change in January and go back to two days. Students will be making a paper towel holder this month, and open wood shops are being scheduled for December.

**Drawing for Pens Turned** ( for every 10 pens, turner's name was put in the drawing). **Bill Penicks won**, having turned over 400 pens this year! Thanks for all that work!

### **Wood Raffle Contributors:**

Roy Cuff & Gordon Sloane

**UPCOMING EVENTS! CHRISTMAS PARTY! — DECEMBER 16th at 6 pm at Woodcraft**

\*\*\*CONVERSATIONS WITH WOODTURNING FRIENDS

\*\*\*SILENT AUCTION

\*\*\*CATERED FOOD—YUM & FREE

\*\*\*DIRTY SANTA GAME (Bring wrapped gift <\$20



## What's Happening at the Ranch in November?

November provided an opportunity to accomplish a number of projects at the Ranch. Our students began work on a great project. Paper Towel Holders. They were able to complete the base, turned out of Ranch Poplar and will work on the top and assembly during Open Shop with Mr. Tommy in the new year. This week's Workshop was the last one for the calendar year. Instead, during December, we will be hosting new (to Woodturning) students in three "mini" courses. "Introduction to Woodturning". We do this each December to attract new students for our regular curriculum.

During the year, we have opportunities to support the other programs at the Ranch. This month, our Instructors made Shepherd's Sticks (Crooks) for the upcoming Drive Through Live Nativity the Ranch is presenting December 5, 6 & 7. <https://wvr.org/nativity/>

We'd like to thank John K. Jordan for his generous gift to the Ranch of a Jet Variable Speed Lathe along with accessories including several chucks for the lathe. John has been a great supporter of our Educational Program at the Ranch from its inception.



## SHOW & TELL

*Scott Morrow*



*Roy A. Cuff*



*Roy A. Cuff*



*Kirk Wenzel*

*Gordon Sloane*



*Gordon Fowler*



*Jake Niedling*

*Jake Niedling*



*Jake Niedling*



Here is a QR code for our website:



Photos by Randy & Terry Fritchman