



The Smoky Mountain Woodturners Chapter of AAW meets each month of the year on the 3rd Tuesday of the month starting at 5:00 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



December 2025

Newsletter, Issue No. 12

Pauline Bayne, Editor

### President's Message – December 16, 2025

Wow! Now this is what I call a great turnout for a Christmas Party. Lots of people, lots of food, lots of presents, and lots of fun with Dirty Santa gifts. Throw in a great Silent Auction. and what more could you ask for – oh yeah, Christmas Music (save that thought for 2026). Thanks to all the members who contributed to the Silent Auction, the set-up/take down, and the Woodcraft Employees who provided help and the meeting space. Calhoun's did a great job of preparing the delicious food and bringing it to us hot. Pauline's choice of cupcakes was a perfect ending to Christmas Dinner.

It's the end of a very successful year for the SMWTS. Lots of great demonstrations, workshops, guest speakers. If you feel like you want to be part of the planning for the coming year, be sure to attend our Board of Directors meeting on Jan. 6, 2026 at 5 pm here at WoodCraft. We will be electing new officers, setting up our annual budget, and putting the year's programs together. We will try to bring the By-Laws up to date. We encourage all members to help us build the club stronger and more interesting each year.

We will start January 2026 off with an Interactive Remote Demonstration by Cindy Drozda. Cindy is a nationally known woodturner, who specializes in projects in beautiful finials. This is a new experience for the club, and I hope all members take advantage of this opportunity.

This should be my last President's message since we will be breaking in new officers in January. Thanks for a great year and all your help. **Keep those chips flying, Gordon Sloane**



### December Christmas Party

**Attendees: At least 35 members & spouses attended the festivities**

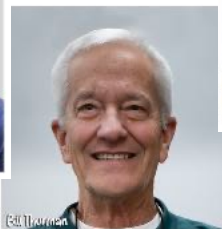
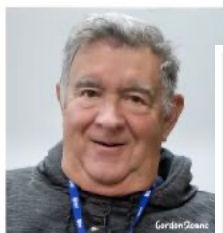
### From Treasurer, Jack Harrison - Silent Auction Results:

The tally is in and we collected **\$613!** Last year we collected \$825. Both of these are very good results from donations by the members.



**2025 Club Calendar:** General Meetings, 2nd Tuesday, 6 pm,  
Location: Woodcraft Knoxville  
Next Board of Directors, January 6, 2026, 5 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 — <i>Catered food from Calhoun's &amp; Magpies Bakery (paid by club)</i>



#### 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



And a Good Time was had by ALL  
—Good Food  
—Good Conversation  
—Good Dirty Santa Exchange



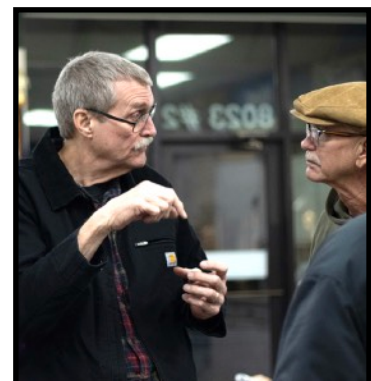
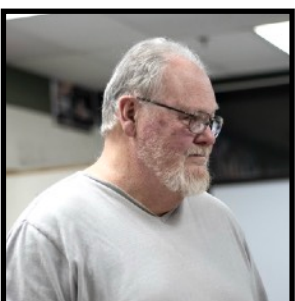




We owe a BIG THANK YOU to our President, Gordon Sloane for an outstanding job this year. We had efficient meetings, an informed membership, and really masterful demonstrations. To top it off, he planned an upgraded Christmas party with excellent catering, sit-down tables, and the usual fun cheeky gift exchange. CUDOS to you, Gordon.



Thanks as well to the members of his Program Committee, Colin Chambers & Jake Niedling. He and we couldn't have done it without you. And we extend our appreciation to Officers, Board & Committee members.







Photos by Randy & Terry Fritchman & Pauline Bayne





*Wass Valley Ranch*  
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 December?

It's hard to believe that 2025 is nearly in the history books. December has been a busy month for us as well as for the Kids at the Ranch. Our normal workshop schedule is sidelined each December as the students are able to sign up for "Mini Courses" in a large number of topics, not usually offered as part of the curriculum. We use it as an opportunity to expose new students to our program or to provide an open workshop environment for current students who have time available. This year, we introduced 3 new students to woodturning (they hope to enroll for the regular workshops next semester). We also provided two students with open shop time for the first 3 Thursday afternoons in December. Our team did an outstanding job of supporting the mini course program.

Our thanks again to all our members for supporting this program and especially to Scott, John K & others for their generous donations this year..

**Merry Christmas & Happy New Year**



One of our Staff Members joined in for the last 2 "mini's" to learn to turn a pen for her dad's Christmas gift. Way to go Mrs. Grace!