



August 17, 2023

Introduction

Welcome to the first edition of the newly restarted Newsletter of the Southern Piedmont Woodturners. The Southern Piedmont Woodturners came together on Tuesday, August 15 at our home in the ClearWater Arts Center and Studio for the August general meeting. We had (as best I could count) 27 people in attendance, including 2 guests.

Club President, Phil Goodman, called the meeting to order at approximately 6:35. Phil then enthusiastically demonstrated that the new dust collection system is, as of the morning of the meeting, up and running. Several good-hearted jabs were distributed to members about not getting too close – might lose your wig, or shoes, etc., etc. And don't count your money while the system is on. Thanks to the City of Concord for the grant that enabled the purchase and installation of the dust collection system – outstanding.

Additionally, Phil reported that a worker was having issues in the club room because of allergies to wood. Phil switched on a couple of the overhead air circulation / filter systems, and that alleviated the problem. So, everything is working.

Phil also briefly went over the upcoming Cabarrus County Fair and SPV involvement. Briefly, it runs from September 8 through the 16th. Equipment prep will be done at the Center on 9/6, with setup at the fairgrounds on 9/7. We need volunteers for any number of activities including prepping equipment, loading and transport to the fairgrounds, setup, sales, turning, breakdown and transport back to the Center, plus other activities. Be on the lookout over the next few days for the Fair sign-up roster, needs for the Fair and other important information about the Fair. Please respond with your availability to work the Fair as soon as possible to Phil.

Demo time:

The demo for this meeting was on equipment maintenance and covered chain saw, band saw, and lathe. First up to provide expert advice on chainsaw maintenance and operation was Hunter Priest, an arborist from Recon Tree Service. It was easy to see that Hunter knows what he is talking about. Hunter started out with some safety rules on the chain saw and appropriate clothing and personal protective equipment (PPE) recommended for chain saw use. He covered different types of chain saws and the pluses and minuses of each, be it weight,

safety, or easy of starting when suspended in a tree. He covered maintenance of blades, oilers, spark arrestors, mufflers, bars, and other key saw components. Hunter described the different blade types and the applications for each, how to adjust the blade tension, and the tension that should be set.



Hunter explained how to clean a chain saw and how often to clean it and perform other maintenance tasks. Since so many in the room own and operate chain saws, whether for clearing trees, gathering firewood, or cutting up logs to make turning blanks, the session was very interactive, with many of the club members asking questions and interjecting lessons learned through their own use of a chain saw. All in all, Hunter provided a very interesting and informative presentation on a very important subject. Thanks, Hunter and well done.

Next up was Claude Shealey, providing insight on setup, and effective use of a bandsaw. Claude said he was very nervous about presenting, but he did not come over that way. He presented the material as if

he has been presenting all his life. The first thing Claude indicated should be done when preparing to use the bandsaw is to clean it – vacuum all saw dust out of the saw, particularly the guides, and make sure the tires are clean. And he explained the advantages of removing the table to provide direct viewing of the lower guides to make adjustment easier. Claude covered different blade sizes, different tooth types, and different numbers of teeth per inch, and the advantages of each in terms of cut speed, smoothness of the cut, cut radius capability, etc. He discussed setup of the guides – contact and then move back a “smidge”.



And, Claude discussed how to change the tires, how to properly center the blade on the tires, and how to tension the blade. Another excellent presentation and discussion.

Last, but certainly not least, Lan Brady broke down the lathe to show all the areas that need attention to keep it running smoothly. Like the other presenters, Lan started his talk by first mentioning the importance of safety glasses and then donned his.



Lan started out using a chisel to remove any hard debris from the ways. He then used ScotchBrite™ to final clean, followed by application of a light coat of white lithium grease in spray form to prevent rusting. He mentioned that other products can also be used and another member mentioned coating with a paste wax such as Johnson or similar. Lan agreed this would also work. Next, he removed the banjo and did the same to the bottom surfaces that slide on the ways. Lan also indicated that these can pick up burrs along the edges because of steel riding on steel and that these can be removed with a small file. While working with the banjo, he also lubricated the engagement mechanism, again using the white lithium grease, and adjusted the mechanism such that it fell just below the plane of the ways when fully engaged – to prevent banging your knuckles on them if the handle is above the ways.

On to the tail stock – same procedure as the sliding surfaces on the ways and banjo. Additionally, the quill was removed, cleaned and lightly greased. Lan explained the importance of loosening the head stock, tilting to the degree possible, and cleaning any debris from between the head stock and the ways.

For the tool rest, Lan suggested removing it from the banjo, cleaning the post and inside the mating surface and greasing lightly. On the rest itself, a file should be used to remove any burrs that could affect smooth movement of the turning tools along it. And, finally, Lan showed where the drive belt is located and how to properly tighten it.

Another great job – thanks.

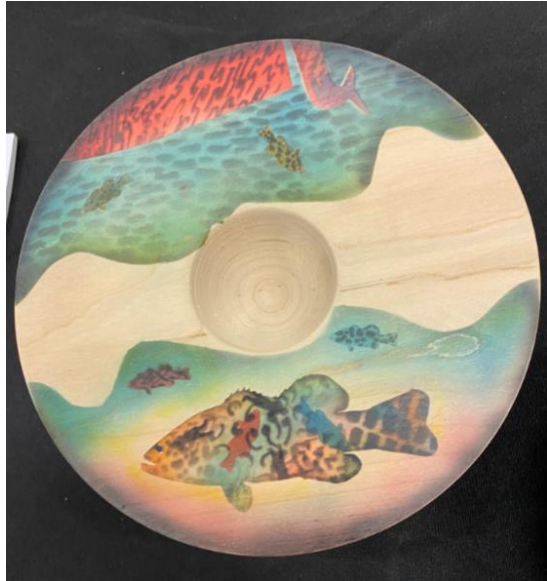
Show and Share

We had a very good turnout for show and share at this meeting with a number of participants and many projects to show.

Walt Hazelrigg started off the show with



several turned items. Shown on the previous page is a cherry burl bowl, and below is one of several embellished bowls he brought in.



Nice work, Walt.



Above is Steve Maieli, a guest from Long Island Woodturners Guild, NY, who was in

town visiting his brother. He even brought something to show, a lidded bowl with embellishment. He explained that he is a relatively new turner. Thanks for sharing.



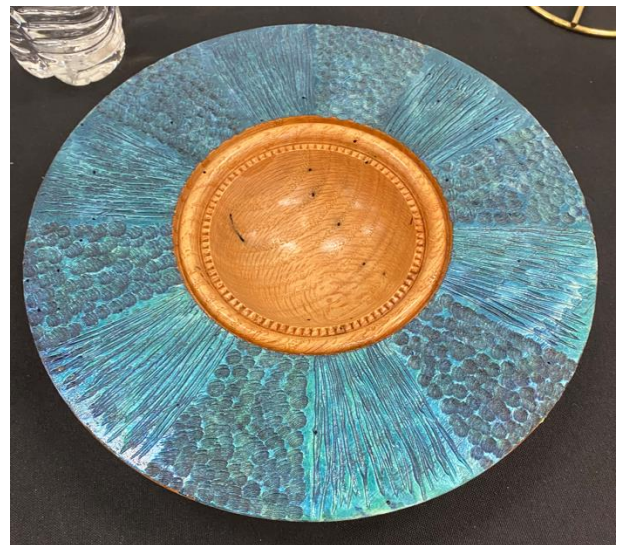
Above, Fred Connell shows a turkey call that he made and even demonstrated. He explained that the call was made to plans divulged to him under a promise that he would not pass it on to anyone. A unique turning that sounds pretty realistic.



Here, to the left, Darrell Rader is showing an invisible bowl he turned – just outstanding work, Darrell. Sorry, did not catch a picture with a project in hand. He did show several ornaments, one shown to the left, and explained the process he used in making them.



Here Bob Moffett is showing a bowl he turned, with outstanding embellishment, and below is a picture that better shows the bowl itself. Nice work, Bob.



Ric Erkes brought in several items, including the vase being shown here and the lidded vessel sitting on the table beside him. Both are very beautiful examples typical of Ric's turning prowess. It is pretty hard to see in the picture, but the lidded vessel has turquoise inlay in a number of defects in the wood.



Another lidded vessel and a couple of bowls that Ric brought in.



In addition to providing a fine discussion on maintenance of the bandsaw, Claude Shealey also brought in a variety of pens that he turned. One that caught everyone's eye was a lighthouse pen with a blinking lighthouse light. Nice work, Claude.



Our president, Phil Goodman, brought a kaleidoscope that he made early in his turning career. Seems like a pretty daunting undertaking for an inexperienced turner – very nice, Phil.



And finally, we come to Ric's Tips, Techniques, and Jigs – look for this in each newsletter. For this addition, Ric provides insight on a couple of ways to size tenons properly without a set of calipers. The pictures below show using a block of wood predrilled to a desired tenon size. To check the size of the tenon, just slide the block of wood over the tenon.



Another method utilizes an open-ended wrench ground down and sharpened on one side, as shown in the picture below. In this case, the tool not only measures the tenon, but also actually does the final cutting. Turn the tenon so it is close to the proper size and then, by putting the short side of the wrench on top of the tenon, it will cut the tenon to the size of the wrench.



Phil asked that his contact information be included in case anyone wants/needs to contact him about anything club-related, and particularly to volunteer to support the County Fair efforts. So here it is:

Phil Goodman -
pmgoodman1951@gmail.com
Cell phone – (704) 796-0803

That's it, folks. I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting.

Best,

Larry Nottingham