



This organization is supported by a grant from the Grassroots Arts Program of the North Carolina Arts Council, a state agency, and the Cabarrus Arts Council.



*Southern Piedmont
Woodturners*



*H*ello woodturners, and welcome to the November edition of the SPW Newsletter.

The November meeting was held at our studio in the ClearWater Arts Center on November 18, 2025, with 25 members present and others participating via the web. After briefly covering club business, the meeting moved directly to the demonstration presented by Walt Hazelrigg on Pen Turning Tips and Finishes.

Club Business

New Meeting Day and Time

Starting in January we will meet on the 4th Saturday, 9:00 am – noon. For January, this means we will meet on January 24 at 9:00 am. The demonstration for that meeting will be presented by Jim Duxbury on making his Ikebana Spikey Flower Bowl, pictured on the next page.

NC Grass Roots Arts Grant

Nothing new to report at the time of the meeting. However, as of this writing, we have received confirmation that we have been awarded a Grant from the North Carolina Grassroots Arts Program in the amount of \$4132. We are in the process now of preparing final documentation that is required prior to release of the funds.

Upcoming Events

- December 6 – Pen Making workshop – at the studio – 9:00 am. You can register and reserve a spot by visiting the calendar at the web site and then following the links to the registration page. We still have openings, so sign up and join the fun.
- Also on the 6th – ClearWater Arts Center and Studios Holiday Market – 10:00 am to 4:00 pm – 45 vendors, artists, food truck, etc. We will have a sales table in the studio for this event and still need volunteers to staff it.
- **MARK YOUR CALENDAR** – December 16 – Annual Christmas Party/Dinner at Captain Steve's in Harrisburg – 6:30 pm. Please call, text or Email Larry Nottingham with the number attending in your group.
- January 24 – Following the meeting and a break for lunch, we will hold a workshop on making the same form as that presented in the demonstration, the Ikebana Spikey Flower Bowl. We have some exceptional wood for this event – some Ambrosia maple, Padauk, and a few pieces of black walnut for the participants to choose from. This event is now posted on the calendar at our website so that participants can register and hold a spot for this workshop. This day, we believe, will provide an exceptional meeting, demonstration, and follow-on workshop.



Demonstration

The demonstration for our November meeting was presented by Walt Hazelrigg entitled Pen Turning Tips and Finishes. Walt is an experienced woodturner and a member of SPW, and the demo for this meeting is linked directly to the workshop on pen making to be held on December 6. Walt describes his wood turning experience as follows: I did my first woodturning back in high school and college, but then life took me in other directions for a while. It wasn't until 2012 that I started turning again. For me, woodturning is a kind of freedom – freedom to create based on the unique character of each piece of wood. I often adjust my design as I turn, uncovering beautiful grains hidden beneath the surface. I actually love working with wood that has imperfections, because those "flaws" can be turned into features that enhance the final piece. Over the years, I've taken several classes with well-known artists to learn more about tool control, surface enhancements, texturing, carving, and even the use of airbrushes. I really enjoy the limitless opportunities that woodturning offers.

Much information on turning pens is available through any number of sources, including many, many YouTube videos, and there are many differing opinions on the best tools, materials, and approaches to use in the crafts. So, Walt's presentation concentrated on providing his take on how to approach pen making based on his many years of experience. The list of Walt's tips is lengthy and will be distributed as a handout for the upcoming pen making workshop, with only a sample provided here:

- Keep all the bits and pieces well organized, particularly if making up different pen designs and kits – it is very easy to get parts mixed.
- Use the lathe to sand the tubes to provide a rough surface for glue adhesion and also drill the pen blanks at the lathe. Good headstock to tailstock alignment is important, particularly for drilling.
- Use a 5-minute epoxy to bond the tubes into the blanks. With glue applied to the tube, partially insert it into one end of the blank, then retract it, turn the blank, and fully insert the tube from the opposite end. This distributes the glue properly.
- Flush trim the barrels using a carbide trimmer and the lathe, stopping at the first indication of reaching the end of the tube.
- A mandrel-saver type mandrel that puts the axial load on the wood rather than on the mandrel itself is preferred for turning.
- Turn at high RPM, which results in a smoother surface finish and is acceptable because of the small diameter.
- Smooth transitions at adjacent parts, i.e., same diameter, make the most attractive pens.
- Sand at lower lathe speed sequentially to 800 grit. Stop and sand axially after turn sanding with each grit before proceeding to the next.
- CA glue is preferred over friction polish for the finish because it is more durable. Apply 1 or 2 coats of thin or super thin and then 10–15 coats of medium, all at a lathe speed of about 200 RPM.



- Wet sanding the CA finish takes too long. Dry sand starting at 400 grit until all shiny spots have been removed, then progress to 600 and 800 grits, then polish using Hut ultra gloss plastic polish.
- Before assembling the pen, polish the ends of the blanks by hand using 400 grit paper on a flat surface and a circular sanding motion.

And here is a photograph of the two pens Walt made during his demonstration, one made of wood and the other made from acrylic

material. This demonstration provides a great introduction prior to the pen-making workshop to be held December 6. Thanks, Walt.

Show and Share

Bill Truitt brought two forms to share with the group. The first is a tri-point bowl and the second a cell phone amplifier, both made from cedar. Bill finished the bowl with wax and the amplifier with oil. He demonstrated the cell phone amplifier, and it does work. Very cool, Bill.



Harold Kempler made a beautiful split bowl (photo above) of the type demonstrated by John Johnson at our October meeting. It is difficult to see in the picture, but Harold is holding the tip section of a 2-part finial. This tiny tip section is turned and formed to the shape of a bowl gouge, complete with flute. Harold also laser engraved the club logo onto the side of the vessel and donated it to the club for our showcase. Thanks, Harold. He also brought in a nice bowl with an epoxy inlay around the rim (photo to the right) and explained how he accomplished the inlay, which was a pretty complicated process. He poured epoxy tinted two different colors from two locations around the bowl, and you can see the transition from blue to more of an aqua color in the picture. In this same photo, you also get a little better look at the laser engraved logo on the split bowl.



Darrell Rader brought a small Christmas bell to share. It is made of Bubinga, includes a clapper, and actually rings.



And Phillip Cooley finished the split bowl that he won at the prior meeting. This is the split bowl that John Johnson produced but didn't finish during last month's demo. Phillip won it and finished it very nicely.



Walt Hazelrigg and Vern Cockayne both brought pens finished with CA glue, but there is only one picture. So, not sure who these belong to, but very nice pens nonetheless.



Lan Brady brought in 3 really nice candlesticks to show. These are made from Spectraply and finished with polish. Lan weighted the bottoms with embedded pennies to make them more stable. He donated these to the club for the Holiday Market on December 6.





Last but not least, here is a photo of 4 of the Christmas ornaments made during the Christmas ornament workshop held at the studio on November 1. These are all made with a bowl that is sea urchin shell. From left to right, these were

made by Vince Keipper, Terry McIntyre, Larry Nottingham, and Jean Detterer. Missing are ornaments made by other turners Gina Brown, Michael Martens, Summer Eubanks, and Wayne Egli.

General club info just so you have it:

SPW Board of Directors:

President – Larry Nottingham

Vice President – Steve Lusk

Secretary – Beth Bjerregaard

Treasurer – Gina Brown

Board Member – Vince Keipper

Board Member – Michael Martens

Board Member – Bill Joyce

Board Member – Ric Erkes

Board Advisor – Cindy Boehrns (nonelected, nonvoting)

Board Advisor – Phil Goodman (nonelected, nonvoting)

In case anyone wants/needs to contact the President about anything club-related, here is his contact information:

Larry Nottingham – Lnottingham@structint.com

Cell phone – (704) 236-1412

That's it, folks. I look forward to seeing you at Captain Steve's for the Christmas Dinner.

Best and keep 'em turning,

Larry Nottingham