



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 January 2026 edition of the SPW Newsletter. The January meeting was held at our studio in the ClearWater Arts Center on January 24, 2026, with 26 members and guests present. It sure seems like it has been a long time, and for good reason. Other than the Christmas gathering, we have not had a meeting since November. A lot has happened since that meeting, so there is a lot to report.

Club Business

2026 Dues

Before addressing anything else --- **Dues for 2026 are now payable.** The dues amount for 2026 remains the same as the past couple of years at \$55.00 for regular annual membership. Dues can be paid using PayPal at our website or see Gina or Larry if you wish to pay by cash or check at a meeting. Or you can mail a check to Southern Piedmont Woodturners, 223 Crowell Drive NW, Concord, NC 28025.

NC Grass Roots Arts Grant

We have been awarded a Grant from the North Carolina Grassroots Arts Program in the amount of \$4132, with the funds now having been released and deposited.

Club Financials

SPW closed the books for 2025 with an end-of-year balance exceeding the balance at the beginning of the year. In addition to the 2025 grant that we received, much of the solid financial performance was due to the outstanding results from the 2025 County Fair.

Cabarrus County Fair 2026

Speaking of the county fair, it is never too soon to start turning items for the fair. We almost completely depleted our inventory of tops to give to the children, so we need to start building the supply back up. Additionally, we will need 7 or 8 relatively high-end items for the raffles, which were a big success at the 2025 fair, and we will need many other turned items for our fundraising efforts at the fair and other opportunities.

Recent Events

A Christmas Ornament Workshop, led by Ric Erkes and Steve Lusk, was held at the studio on November 1, with 8 members turning. Everyone had a good time turning and socializing and went home with a nice sea urchin Christmas ornament.



On December 6, SPW held a pen making workshop with 7 turning. One additional member couldn't attend due to illness, but was able to make it up during open turning the following Saturday.



SPW also opened its doors to the public and participated in the ClearWater Arts Center and Studios Holiday Market that same day. The Center was full to capacity with artists and vendors, along with a steady flow of traffic viewing and purchasing their wares. SPW raised \$260 through donations at the Holiday Market.

And on January 24, in the afternoon following the January meeting, we supported another workshop, this one on turning an Ikebana Spikey Flower Bowl. Because of the weather prediction for later in the day, some members who had intended to be there decided against it, but we still had 3 new members go through the safety training and 3 other members turning their Ikebana Spikey Bowls. This was also the topic for the demonstration presented by Jim Duxbury during the meeting that morning (more to follow).



Upcoming Events

- February 28 – Monthly regular meeting, 9:00 am – 11:30 am – The demonstration for this meeting will be on making Canoe Cups x2, provided by Lan Brady. A canoe cup is a traditional birch burl drinking cup carried by Native Americans, attached to their waist with a leather strap. This goes back hundreds of years and later was adapted by the US Army in the 19th century. In the afternoon, we will have a free workshop during which participants will make the same canoe cups, 2 from a single piece of wood. Lan will be there for the workshop to provide support.
- March 28 – March regular meeting, 9:00 – 11:30 am – We will try something new at this meeting and during the workshop that will follow in the afternoon. The demonstration will be provided by several SPW members, each turning a relatively simple form of the type that typically can be turned quickly yet is attractive, functional, and sells well at craft fairs. In the afternoon we will have a Turn for the Fair Turnathon, the idea being to concentrate on making the items demonstrated in the morning to be used for our fundraising tables at the county fair. This should be a lot of fun, so sign up early to save your spot.
- March 28 – Also, on that same day, SPW will participate in Cabarrus Arts Council’s Art Walk on Union – more to follow later on our participation, but you can get details on the event itself at the Cabarrus Arts Council website, cabarrusartscouncil.org.
- American Association of Woodturners (AAW) International Symposium 2026 – Raleigh, NC, June 4–7, 2006, Raleigh Convention and Performing Arts Center – We have received a request from AAW to provide support for the symposium, same as or similar to the support provided for the NC symposium last November – more on this to follow as information becomes available.

Website

The website has received a lot of attention over the past few months and is now better suited to support the members. A couple of things you might want to look at:

- You can now make reservations for workshops and other events for which there is limited availability so that we can keep track of the number of attendees registered and cut of registration when full.
- You can pay your dues and pay for fee-based events at the website.
- You can now build you own individual gallery of up to 10 of your favorite turnings. If you have questions or try it and experience problems creating the gallery, contact Larry Nottingham and he can help.
- We have started adding links to YouTube creators that we feel provide value in terms of instructional videos. These can be found at the website under Resources.

Bylaws Revision

A revision to the SPW Bylaws was presented to the membership at large, with brief descriptions of the changes involved. This had previously been reviewed by the board of directors and recommended for ratification. After president Larry Nottingham recognized that a quorum was present, a motion for approval was made by Ric Erkes, seconded by Michael Martens, and the revision was unanimously approved by the membership. The new Bylaws became effective upon passage. Anyone wishing a copy please contact Larry and he will see that you get one. Otherwise, the revised Bylaws will be posted at the website as has been done in the past.

Demonstration

The demonstration for our January meeting was presented by Mr. Jim Duxbury, who is no stranger to Southern Piedmont Woodturners. For this meeting on the topic of making an Ikebana Spikey Flower Bowl. Jim Duxbury, woodturner and inventor, is the kind of guy who thinks and creates "out of the box." His turnings are unique and he seldom turns the same thing twice. Creativity abounds – Jim makes all sorts of fine turnings – small bottle stoppers, bowls, bud vases, trays, furniture, kaleidoscopes, turned wooden hats, pens, and even a working Foucault Pendulum. Jim's kaleidoscopes are a signature item, custom designed and the recipient of numerous awards. Elegant Creations, his gallery of fine wooden objects, including Kaleidoscope Plans, Kaleidoscope Building DVD, and custom wooden Kaleidoscopes. Details can be seen at www.duxterity.com/ec. Jim demonstrates to woodturning clubs and symposiums all over the country in addition to writing for numerous wood magazines and journals.

Jim's demonstration for this meeting was on making the Ikebana Spikey Flower Bowl, photo provided earlier. Jim's wife, Rita, explained that Ikebana is the Japanese art of flower arranging that emphasizes balance, simplicity, and harmony between nature and humanity. Ikebana often utilizes a low profile "vase", or bowl, to impart the natural appearance of flowers growing from natural surroundings rather than a tall, conventional vase. However, without the height of the

vase, it is difficult to hold long flowers upright. This is where the spikey cup, called a kenzan or flower frog, comes into the picture. It is a low-profile cup with spikes inside onto which the flowers are anchored. In the photo to the right, Rita provides a discussion on traditional Japanese Ikebana flower arranging.



As you can see in the picture that was shown earlier, Jim makes his with the kenzan off center, although for less experienced turners, he recommends first making one or more with the kenzan centered. The process that Jim follows starts with defining and marking the turning centers on top and bottom surfaces. He then mounts the blank with the bottom against the chuck and the tail stock live center at the marked turning center on the



top surface and using the chuck as a jam chuck. He makes a recessed dovetail in the top surface, reverses the blank, and uses the recess to mount to the chuck in expansion. Next, he makes a similar dovetail in the bottom surface, then rolls the edges and finishes the bottom. Once the bottom is finished, turn the blank and expansion mount in the bottom dovetail, cut the recess for the kenzan, roll the edges, and add any embellishments to the top, removing the dovetail in the process. The kenzans that were purchased for the workshop to follow were tapered, and Jim spent some time making sure the recess was

made accordingly such that it fit precisely.

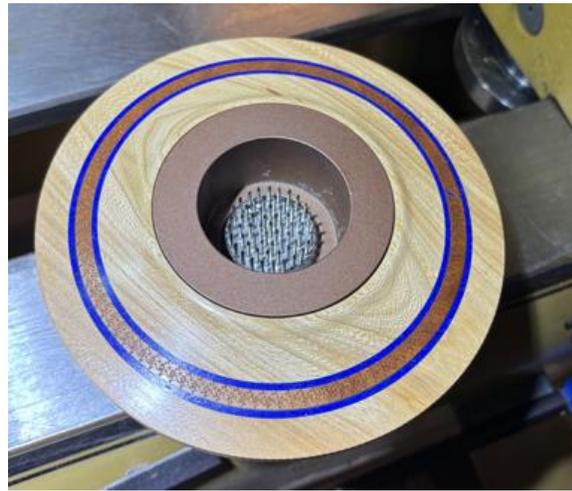
You will recall the Jim provided a demonstration in early 2025 on making and using his DuxChuck, which is a wooden device that he designed to quickly and effectively hold blanks for off-center turning. At the completion of the Ikebana demo, Jim showed and demonstrated his new, improved version of the DuxChuck, shown to the right. As usual, Jim provided a very informative and entertaining demo, supported as usual by Rita, as his straight woman. Thanks, Jim and Rita.



Show and Share



Walt Hazelrigg beat us to the punch and came to the meeting with his own Ikebana flower bowl. The bowl is made of sycamore, with an inlay ring of walnut and a filler made of blue crushed stone and C.A. glue mix.



Bill Truitt brought a nice, natural edge bowl made of mystery wood and asked who could name it. Rita Duxbury actually named it and got it correct – the wood is White Mulberry.



Ric Erkes made a nice little bowl with a burnt basket weave pattern made from Norfolk Island Pine. He also brought a nice, lidded box with a carved, maple leaf lid with finial. The box is bloodwood and the top is maple. Ric also made and donated his 36 tops for the year.



Harold Kemplen brought along two items to share with the group. The first (right picture) was a whimsical bird feeding from a cedar cup, and the second was a light house, shown to the left.



John Yarbrough brought a very interesting checkered, lidded box that he made from a checker board that he had made earlier and decided to scrap in its original form.

We missed getting pictures of a few others – sorry.



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 the next meeting on February 28.

Best and keep 'em turning,

Larry Nottingham