



*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. February certainly went by with the speed of light, and I suppose that is because we have been very busy since the January meeting. The February meeting was held at our studio in the ClearWater Arts Center on February 28, 2026, with 25 members and guests present. I am encouraged by the turnout for the meetings. Where we typically had around 16-18 max for the Tuesday meetings, we are seeing about half again as many at the Saturday morning meetings. I'll hold judgement for a while yet, but so far so good. We have also seen good participation in the workshops and in open turning sessions, typically having 8 or more for each event. Hopefully we can continue to offer opportunities that will attract new members and support existing members in their woodturning journeys.

## *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. **Members who have not paid their dues by the end of March will be moved to the inactive list,** a designation that brings with it restrictions on activities that are reserved for members.

## Cabarrus County Fair 2026

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 similar fundraising opportunities.

## Tops, Tops, and More Tops

For those unaware, we have an ongoing turning challenge for each member to make 3 tops per month, 36 for the year, to support our community outreach efforts. If you don't know exactly what the tops are, a picture of several tops is provided. We participate in several community events during the year, the upcoming Art Walk on Union, for example. The big event of the year, and the fundraiser that supports most of our rent for the year, is the Cabarrus County Fair. At these events, we have members demonstrating the art and craft of woodturning, and we have found no better way to draw people in and hold their attention than to turn tops like these and, when complete, hand



them to the kids. We actually have grownups who have been collecting our tops since they were kids, and they come back every year to continue their collections. Turning tops at the fair is very rewarding. When you hand a top that you just made to a small child, you'd think you gave them a million bucks. At the fair, we give away, literally, hundreds of tops. So many in fact that five turners cannot typically keep up with demand. So, the purpose of the tops challenge is to build an inventory over the course of the year so that we have tops to hand out even in the busiest times at the fair. One of the demonstrations for the March meeting will be turning tops, so if you need a little help getting started, stick around for the afternoon workshop and we'll teach you how to make tops. It's fun, it's easy, and the efforts really bring smiles to a lot of faces.

## Open Turning

We had two very spirited open turning sessions in February with several members participating in each. For the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday open turning, we had 11 members participating, some working on the Ikebana flower bowls that they started during the January workshop, others honing their bowl-turning skills, and one turning pens. Come on out and join the fun.

## February Workshop

A workshop was held following the February meeting on the same topic as the demonstration presented at the morning meeting, the Canoe Cup x2. Lan Brady provided the morning demonstration and stayed for the afternoon workshop to guide the participants through the project of making Canoe Cups. Not only is Lan a



great demonstrator, but he also was able to guide all participants through the entire

process, and everyone went home with two cups with handles. These are the two that I made, and as you can see, the inside still needs some work. But you get the idea – it was a fun workshop and a fun project. Thanks, Lan.



## Upcoming Events – Mark Your Calendar

- March 28 – March regular meeting, 9:00 – 11:30 am – We will try something new at this meeting and during the workshop to follow in the afternoon. Multiple demonstrations will be provided by SPW members, each turning a relatively simple form of the type that can be turned quickly yet is attractive, functional, and sells well at craft fairs. One of the demonstrations will be on making bud vases, and another on making tops. So, if you need support to get started on the top challenge, this should really be of interest to you. 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 and for the results to be used for our fundraising tables at the county fair and other community events. And for those new to making tops, here's your chance to learn and master top-turning. 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. You can get details on the event itself at the Cabarrus Arts Council website, [cabarrusartscouncil.org](http://cabarrusartscouncil.org). Rather than burden the Newsletter with all the details, a separate description of this event is being prepared and will be distributed shortly.

That said, we will need volunteers to support this effort, which is primarily intended to boost public exposure for SPW and to support our fundraising efforts.

- 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 details become available.
- One update on the Symposium. AAW offers a discount for AAW members who are members of an affiliated club (e.g., SPW) that has 5 or more club members registered for the event. At this point that I know of, SPW has four AAW members registered for the Symposium. So, if you are attending, and you are an AAW member, please let me know so that I can apply for the refunds for everyone. This will be the best chance you likely will ever have to attend an AAW Symposium. It is right in your backyard.

## ***Website***

The website has received a lot of attention over the past few months and is now better able 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 off 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. During the meeting, at least one member indicated that he had attempted to create his gallery but could not make it work, and I will admit it can be a bit tricky. If you want to enter your gallery, please just drop a text or email note to Larry Nottingham requesting support in setting it up. If there is enough interest, we could have a workshop devoted to creating galleries and do this as a fun team effort. Just drop a note and let me know how you would like to proceed.
- We have started adding links to YouTube creators that we feel provide value in terms of instructional videos. These can be found on the website under Resources.
- Effective in May, we will be losing our website creator and maintenance person, who will no longer be available to support us. Thanks to Ric Erkes, Wayne Egli, and Michael Martens who have volunteered to locate and engage a replacement. We have identified 3 candidates and will begin interviews shortly, with the intent of having a replacement in place well before May.

## ***Demonstration***

The demonstration for this meeting was provided by Lan Brady on making the Canoe Cup x2. Lan first introduced the topic by explaining the origin of the cups. Going back many, many years, Native Americans made drinking cups with handles by carving and hollowing them out of



a piece of wood, typically a piece of Birch burl. These cups were attached to their waists with a leather strap and used as a daily drinking cup. The U.S. Army adapted this cup idea during the American Revolution and made “ration cups” which were standard issue for all soldiers. The ration cup offered a way for soldiers to all receive an equal ration when meals were being served. Today, we don’t need to carve the cups but can turn them, two

at a time, by first turning the outside section, then splitting it, and then turning each half to remove the interior of the cups. Here Lan is shown working on the exterior of the cups while still a single piece of wood. After completing the exterior the piece is cut in half along its axis, creating two identical sections each having a cup and handle. Below is a close up of the final turned



exterior shape as Lan begins to part it off. Lan built and uses a custom sled to hold the piece and cut it



using the bandsaw. He also customized a chuck, as shown to the right, to hold the cups in the correct position to enable hollowing of the interior. I gotta say that Lan is exceptional at what he does. Not only is he an awesome turner, but he is obviously very comfortable in his demonstrator shoes – informative, clear, concise, and humorous – all the key ingredients for a great presentation. Thanks again, Lan.



## *Show and Share*



Claude. These will make some unique Christmas gifts.

Claude Shealy started things off with a couple of unique snowmen with lighted lower sections. Those who attended the Christmas gathering will remember that Harold Kemplen brought a similar snowman for his exchange gift. Very nice,



Justin Fowler was up next to show us several pens that he made. Justin is a new member and had not turned pens prior to the February 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday open turning. He turned three pens that day and did a really nice job on them. We will look for more good work from Justin in the future.





Ric Erkes made 5 honey dippers and donated them to the club for our fundraising inventory. He explained that he needed three and made 8 to get 3 that he really liked. While these may not have passed Ric's critical eye, they look exceptional nonetheless. Thanks for the donation.

Next, Reid Castrodale came to the front to show



us a relatively large cherry bowl that he turned. Reid recently rejoined the club after an extended absence. He was one of the early members in the club and actually was an officer at one time and is just now getting back to turning after an extended sabbatical. Welcome home Reid. Good to have you back.



Darrell Rader brought two items to

show: a very small segmented bowl and a carving. Darrell explained that he didn't make the bowl but was very impressed by it (as well he should be), so he purchased it.

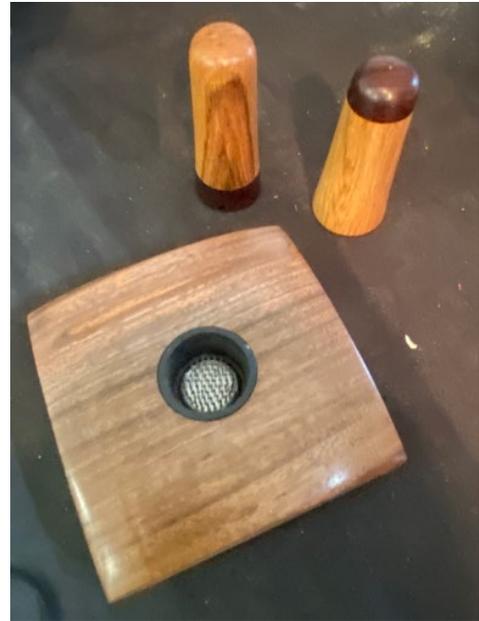
This little bowl is only about 4" diameter x 4" tall and contains hundreds of very small segments on the order of 1/8"

each. Darrell also explained that he is not doing much turning these days but is

concentrating on carving. And he is doing very well at it. The wood he uses is bass. Thanks for sharing.



Larry Nottingham showed his interpretation of the Ikebana flower bowl that he made during the January workshop. It is made of walnut. He also brought in a salt and pepper shaker set that he made from oak and bubinga. The salt and pepper shakers were an experiment to figure out an efficient process for making them. If time allows, this could be one of the demonstrations at the March meeting and a subject for the workshop that afternoon. The salt and pepper shakers were donate to the club to add to our inventory of products for fundraising events.



Summer Eubanks has been busy at the lathe and brought two of her turnings to show. The first is an outstanding natural edge platter.



The type of wood was not noted, but it appears to be maple. Regardless, it is an outstanding piece of wood. Summer really took advantage of the wood's features and made a great looking platter. She also brought a very nice bowl that she



made for a friend who had requested a cereal bowl. Again, although the type of wood was not noted, Summer found a really nice piece of wood to work with and made a very nice bowl. Great work, Summer. Thanks for sharing.

Last, but certainly not least, is a trumpet lamp that Harold Kemplen made. The primary wood for the base is walnut and the light post is mahogany. Harold is a relatively new member of



SPW but is fast gaining a reputation for his creativity as well as his skills at the lathe. Considering only the visual effects of this lamp, it is outstanding. Now add to that the fact that the trumpet bell contains a speaker, and there is a receiver on board as well. Harold demonstrated that he can remotely play music on it using his cell phone. This really added the WOW factor, especially when he palyed a trumpet solo.

That about it for this Show and Share. Everyone is encouraged to join in and let us see some of you turnings as well.

### ***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 March 28 or in the meantime at one of the open turning sessions.

Best and keep 'em turning,

Larry Nottingham