

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 another great month of Show and Share. The July meeting was held at our studio in the ClearWater Arts Center on July 25, 2026, with 23 members and guests in attendance. This was a very important meeting, as it was not only our regular monthly meeting but also the Annual Membership Meeting, which includes the election of Officers and At-large Directors among other important aspects of the meeting. The demonstration this month was presented by Ric Erkes on the topic of Turning and Decorating Weed Pots. And, following the meeting and a lunch break, Ric led an afternoon workshop on the same topic. Six members participated in the workshop.



Annual Membership Meeting

Per the Southern Piedmont Woodturners' Bylaws, the club is to hold an Annual Membership Meeting each July, typically in conjunction with the regular July monthly meeting, with 4 main purposes:

- Present and vote on any proposed change in Board composition,
- present an annual report,
- elect Officers and At-large Directors,
- and provide an opportunity for members to bring matters of their choosing before the membership for resolution.

Additionally, the Bylaws require that a quorum of 25% of the active membership be present at the meeting to proceed with the meeting. SPW currently has 51 active members, therefore 13 are required to form a quorum. With 20 active members present, and therefore having established a quorum, President Larry Nottingham proceeded to conduct the Annual Membership Meeting.

Board Composition

The Board of Directors has been composed of the 4 Officers, President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer, plus 4 At-large Directors. Half of the Officers and half of the At-large Directors are elected each year for a 2-year term, thereby maintaining continuity year to year. No change to the composition has been proposed, therefore no action in this regard was required.

Annual Report

Finances

The club financial position continues to be stable. SPW was once again able to secure a grant from the North Carolina Grassroots Arts Program through the Cabarrus Arts Council this year in the amount of \$4132. This accounts for 27% of the 2026 annual budget of approximately \$15,000. Other primary sources include Membership Dues (22%), Cabarrus County Fair (30%), and all other various sources (21%). Main expenses include rent (41%), demonstrator fees and expenses (22%), Website maintenance and related (10%), liability insurance (6%), and all other miscellaneous expenses (21%). As of June 30 (end Q2) the club is a bit ahead of budget and on schedule to meet budget at year end. The club has built a reserve intended to cover emergencies and, at some point, to go toward the purchase of new lathes. Much of the reserve was moved into CDs this year to promote increased growth.

Membership

Membership has remained stable with a small growth of 4 to a current level of 51 active members over the 2025 level of 47 active members.

Board Initiatives and Decisions

The Board of Directors has been active over the course of the past year:

- Revised Bylaws – redefined active and inactive members, added Board policies, added provisions to establish committees, changed dues treatment for new members
- Established Board Committee structure to spread responsibilities and increase involvement
- Moved meetings from Tuesday evening to Saturday morning, with average 50% increase in attendance.
- Moved reserve funds to CD's
- Initiated monthly workshops
- Initiated a vendor discount program

- Initiated effort to populate and promote use of the website
- Initiated study on purchasing new lathes

Election of Officers and Directors

Officers and Directors elected in 2025 and therefore having a year remaining of their 2-year term include:

- Larry Nottingham – President
- Beth Bjerregaard – Secretary
- Vince Keipper – At-large Director
- Bill Joyce – At-large Director

Officers and Directors elected at this meeting to a 2-year term include:

- Steve Lusk – Vice President
- Gina Brown – Treasurer
- Michael Martens – At-large Director
- Harold Kemplen – At-large Director

With the exception on Harold Kemplen, all were re-elected to the same positions as held previously. Harold replaces Ric Erkes on the Board. Ric stepped aside as a prior At-large Director and prior to that, as an Officer. In retiring from the Board, Ric expressed that his objective in doing so is to provide the opportunity to engage other members in governance of the organization. Ric also indicated that it is his intention to otherwise remain deeply involved in the ongoing operations of the club. Thank you, Ric, for years of service to the club as an Officer and At-large Director and for your prior and ongoing commitment to the club.

Matters Introduced by Members

Several matters were introduced for discussion, none of which required a vote. One topic that appeared to spark significant interest is SAFETY. This will be taken under consideration for a possible meeting discussion topic. A recommendation was also made to have a SAFETY MINUTE at each meeting, which will also be considered.

This concluded the Annual Membership portion of the meeting.

Club Business

Sign up for events

Please, please sign up for open turning and workshops at the website. It is really easy – just go to the calendar, pick the event, and click on View Details. This will give you a description of the event and provide the path to follow for registration. For open turning, all you need do is click Reserve My Spot at the bottom of the page and then fill in the requested information. For other events, the link at the bottom of the page will take you to the appropriate page to make the payment (if there is a fee) and complete the registration.

Website Galleries

If you will pull together up to 10 pictures of your favorite turnings and then contact Larry Nottingham, he will walk you through the process to set up your own personal gallery. Or you can send him the photos, and he'll set up the gallery. It only takes a few minutes.

Discounts from Vendors

The Board has been working on obtaining discounts from vendors as a benefit to active members. Some rules apply:

- The club cannot distribute members' personal information (contact info) without authorization, so you must sign up to be on the discount list.
- Must be an active member (dues paid for the current year)
- Currently, Klingspor and Rockler are participating and have our current list of participating active members. Both offer 10% discount with some excluded items.
- Will add more vendors as we can meet with them and obtain their decision on discounted pricing.
- We can add SPW active members to the list at any time. If you would like your name added, please send an email to Larry to let him know and provide the contact information as you want it to be listed. Larry's email address can be found at the end of this newsletter.

Membership Dues Clarification

There appears to be some confusion about membership dues, so we would like to clarify our policy. The previous prorated dues structure for new members was removed from the Bylaws because it created issues with online membership registration. To simplify the joining process and enable online registration, the Bylaws were modified so that all new members pay the full annual dues, regardless of when they join. However, to avoid discouraging new applicants from joining later in the year to avoid paying twice within a short period, new members who join between October 1 and December 31 receive membership for the remainder of that year and the following year. This exception applies only to new members and only during their first year of membership. Current members should continue to renew their dues annually to maintain active membership.

Cabarrus County Fair 2026

Phil Goodman is once again heading up our participation in the county fair, which he discussed briefly at the meeting:

- The County Fair runs from September 11 through the 19th which means that 2 months from now it will be history.
- Phil reviewed the information provided in the June Newsletter regarding the types of items we need for fundraising at the fair. To summarize:
 - We need many items to sell – last year we sold nearly 400 individual items.

- The types of items that sell well at the fair are small, typically utilitarian items: bowls, candle sticks and holders, Christmas ornaments, lidded boxes, pens, small twig or weed pots, etc. Think small enough to carry around at the fair for the day. Think souvenirs. Think things that are useful. Think price points under \$20 or so. Some higher-end items sell, but the bulk of the items needed are as described. Last year the average price of items sold was about \$10.
- We also need 8 higher-end items for the 8 raffles – we have 2, so we need 6 more.
- We will need a lot of support from members to help stage, load, and deliver equipment, operate 5 lathes during most hours that the fair is open, support the sales and raffle tables, and then pack and move the equipment back to the studio when the fair ends. In total, we will need about 600 hours of support from our members. Phil will start working up a schedule soon and will then start filling in names.



for and at the fair?

- And, of course, we still need more tops to pass out to the kids. Production of tops has picked up over the past couple of meetings, and we are now about halfway to our goal of filling two of the large plastic containers. How could you look at the face on this child and not be excited about turning spinning tops



July Demonstration

The July demonstration on Turning and Decorating Weed Pots was provided by Ric Erkes. Whether you call them weed pots, bud vases, or miniature vessels, these small projects are simple, fun to turn, and a great way to sharpen your skills. Ric demonstrated not just one way to turn a weed pot, but several different approaches – with or without a chuck, pre-drilled or drilled on the lathe, using different tools to do the same job, and multiple ways to part/turn off



the bottom. He also demonstrated a few texturing ideas, wire burning, adding color dyes, and using liming wax to dress up 'boring' Oak. Though the demo item was a





provided, along with Oak and Maple blanks.

In addition to leading the workshop, Ric also threw up a challenge. For every weed pot made and donated for the Fair, Ric will match one for one up to 20. So, if we get 20 donated by members, that would be 40 ready to go for the Fair! Folks, this is truly a win-win – a great demo, a workshop led by one of the best, and a way to support the club by making a matched-gift weed pot for the good of the club. The challenge is still open, so make a couple of weed pots for fundraising at the fair, and Ric will still match up to 20 donated by members.

This was not only a great skill-building session, but also a fantastic opportunity to hang out and support our club!

weed pot, these techniques are effective at dressing up other turned objects, not just weed pots, and can be used on many other projects as well.

In the afternoon, Ric led a workshop attended by 6 active members on the same topic, Turning and Decorating Weed Pots. Texturing tools, dyes, burning wires, and liming wax were



Show and Share

It is encouraging that members are becoming involved and participating in Show and Share, which, once again, enjoyed increased participation this month as it did last month. At this meeting, 10 members participated and brought well over 30 items to share with those in attendance. And look at the variety – bowls, lidded boxes, spinning tops, cutting boards, rolling pins, Harry Potter wand, three-legged stool, a variety of weed pots, and even a miniature cowboy hat.

Darrel Huskey stepped up first. Darrel is a new member and a new turner. But he is not new to woodworking. Darrell showed three beautiful cutting boards that he



made. Some will be provided to the club for fundraising efforts. Darrel explained how the process that he follows in making the cutting boards has evolved. Thanks, Darrel.

Up next was Michael Martens, who brought in 5 small, turned, lidded boxes to share with everyone. The



lids for some of the boxes had inlays, and Michael explained that these are his first experiments with inlays. Well done. We have not had a demonstration on making lidded boxes, at least in recent years, so perhaps we can talk Michael into providing a demo on this topic, and a workshop as well.



Once again, Darrell Rader managed to provide something that most of us had never seen before, in this case a miniature cowboy hat turned on a lathe from wood. He explained that the hat was made from the material removed from inside a full-size cowboy hat, so evidently a coring



system was involved. The amazing thing about this little hat is the thickness. There is no place in the hat that is thicker than 1/16-inch, actually it is a bit less.



Bill Joyce has been busy making spinning tops and brought a number of his products to add to the collection for use at the county fair.



Larry Nottingham provided a presentation at the June meeting on making the blanks for turning Celtic knot French rolling pins, but forgot to bring the finished pins with him to that meeting. So, here are 3 examples. The one to the left is made of cherry with a 4-ring Celtic knot made of padauk. This was the example turning blank that he used in his presentation last month. As you can see, it has since been turned and finished.

Steve Lusk followed up

with a three-legged stool he made as a gift. This was made as a follow on to the demonstration provided by Bill Stricker at the May SPW meeting. Nice job, Steve.



Justin Fowler showed a small bowl that he turned during one of the open

turning sessions, which he attends regularly. Justin explained that the bowl was originally to be a bit bigger, but he learned a lot in salvaging a nice, smaller bowl after a catch on the rim forced the removal of some additional material. Justin also made a Harry Potter wand and several tops.



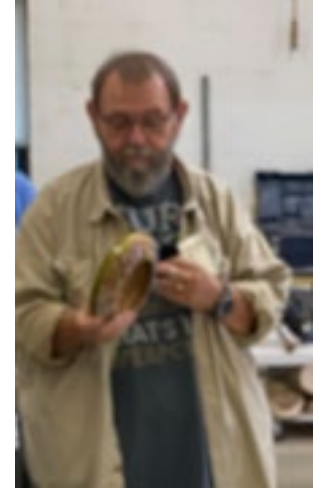
Harold Kempen brought in several bowls to show,



along with some pens he made without using pen kits. He simply removes a cartridge from an inexpensive pen, hollows the pen to suit, and adds a custom tip. This method provides a lot more flexibility in his pen design because his approach does not involve fixed-size elements



such as the tubes required for assembly. He also showed us a new carbide tool that he made himself (left) and then used to hollow under the rim of the bowl shown to the right. Quite impressive. And thanks, Harold, for joining our Board of Directors.



Martin Mindlin brought a nice little bowl that he turned and then



experimented with paints and dyes to decorate it. He reported that there were some real surprised encountered in terms of which cover others better or worse, and he learned a lot from doing it.

And finally, we come to Ric Erkes, who brought in nearly 2 dozen weed pots to use as examples for his demo and for the workshop, but they were also, by definition, shared with all in attendance. Some of these were decorated using one or multiple of the embellishing



methods he employs, other were left plain, and a variety of shapes were represented in the collection. From this, it looks like Ric has already met his challenge commitment, so it is up to the rest of us to catch up.

Open Turning



People are turning out for open turning and we are having a lot of fun, learning new turning skills, experimenting a bit, and just enjoying getting together. Counting those who attend to learn and turn plus those who are there to support, we now typically have anywhere from 6 to 12 people involved. One new turner, Nicholas Alley, has been attending open turning sessions and to this point has only turned spinning tops for the fair – and he has become pretty proficient at turning tops. At the July workshop, Nicholas went headlong into turning weed pots and by the end of the workshop had completed 3. I think that is quite an accomplishment. All of the newer turners attending open turning sessions are moving along in building their turning skills, which is very rewarding for those who show up to assist them. If you haven't attended an open turning for a while, you should give it a try – it is a great experience and we can always use experienced turners to help the new and less experienced folks in their turning adventures.

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 – Harold Kemplen
- 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. This was a GREAT meeting. We squeezed a lot into a 3-hour meeting, and we accomplished all we set out to do. And we had another absolutely terrific workshop in the afternoon. I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting on August 22 or at one of the open turning sessions. The August meeting will be our last meeting prior to the Cabarrus County Fair, so last chance to bring those tops that you turned for the kids and to donate other turnings for our fundraising efforts. Once the schedule is available, you can volunteer to fill any open spot/time.

I want to close by again recognizing outgoing Board member Ric Erkes for his dedicated service to SPW as a member, a past Officer and Board member, and someone you can always count on to go above and beyond to the benefit of the club. Your efforts and dedication are truly appreciated.

Best and keep 'em turning.

Larry Nottingham