



Southern Piedmont Woodturners



October 23, 2024

H

ello woodturners. SPW has been very, very busy over the past several weeks, and there is a lot to report. We have had three meetings with very good attendance, outstanding demonstrations, and exceptional Show and Share turnings. Open turning has been successful in getting some new members involved and turning. And we have had great participation in the Cabarrus County Fair. So, find a comfortable chair and settle in to hopefully enjoy the SPW Newsletter.

Club Business

Election of officers

- As reported in the prior newsletter, elections were held at the July meeting. You can refer back to that newsletter for details. However, some related items are still open. Specifically, we are still in need of some members to step up and get involved. Cindy Boehrns decided to step down as Treasurer, and Gina Brown has volunteered to take on the job and was elected to that role. Similarly, Ric Erkes stepped down as Vice President, but, unfortunately, nobody has volunteered to take his place. So that you are aware, the primary duties of this office are twofold. First, the Vice President conducts the meeting(s) if/when the President is absent. The second duty of the VP is to coordinate the demonstration program. November and January demonstrations are already scheduled. With the August, September, and October meetings behind us, December set for the Christmas get together, and July typically not having a demonstration because that is the election meeting, it leaves only 5 demos to arrange for the remainder of the first year in that role. In addition, others are also working on arranging demonstrations and, in fact, I (Larry N) am working on two at this time. So, there is a lot of support to be had. For the good of the club, can someone please bite the bullet and step up. We need you. Additionally, Phil is looking to step aside, as he has now served as President for 7 years. His term will expire in 2025, at which point he has decided not to continue as President. So, we will be in search of a new President over the course of the next few months. In related activity, Darrell Rader has resigned from the board and Ric Erkes has agreed to stay on the board as an at-large member.

Other Club Business

- Club dues are \$55 annually and are now payable for 2024 – if you have not paid your dues yet, please do so ASAP.
- Raffles – items are needed for the monthly raffles.

Tops for Kids Challenge

Even though the County Fair is now behind us, we are continuing the tops-for-kids challenge over the course of the year to support school events and next year's fair. Everyone is requested to make and deliver a minimum three (3) tops each month so that we don't get caught short and have to scramble when they are needed. The members that manned the lathes at the County Fair turned and gave away a significant number of tops during the fair. However, there were times when they couldn't keep up with demand and tops from the inventory were used, so the inventory has been depleted. Please keep 'em coming.

A/V Operators Needed

As you should have noted by now, Bill Joyce's wife, Debra, volunteered to learn how to operate the A/V equipment and conduct the remote meetings. She has pretty much been the full time operator ever since. Thanks so much Debra. That said, we would still like to have a couple additional operators trained so that we have some backups available when the currently trained operators are unavailable. Volunteers will be appreciated.

Coming Events

- Holiday Market – Sarah Gay, Coordinator for

ClearWater Art Center and Studios, requested inclusion of a reminder on the holiday market to be held at the Center, 10:00–4:00 on December 7, 2024. The Center hopes that all studios will get involved. They will additionally have food trucks present and other makers present to stimulate interest. As of the October 15 meeting, Sarah indicated that 12 non-ClearWater vendors are already onboard. This will provide a great opportunity to gain exposure for the club and, for those interested, to sell some of your turnings. A suggestion has been made that we try to sell club items left over from the County Fair, and this is under consideration. For any club member wishing to participate through SPW and using the SPW studio, there is no fee and registration is not required. If you want a space otherwise, registration is required, along with a \$15 fee. More of this to follow as the time approaches.

- Sarah Gay also coordinated and has curated displays of members' works at Atrium Health Cabarrus Hospital. The loaned turnings will be on display in showcases distributed throughout the hospital over the course of the next 6 months to 1 year. Turned forms were provided by Phil Goodman, John Bartles, and Larry Nottingham.

Meeting Attendance

August 20, 2024– We had 20 in attendance in person and 4 viewing remotely via Zoom. For the September 17 meeting, there were 27 in attendance, with no Zoom coverage. And for the October meeting, we had 13 in attendance at the studio and 9 via remote viewing.

Demonstrations

The demonstration for the August meeting was provided by Chip Scholz, who is currently the president of the North Carolina Woodturners club in Hickory. He has been turning for 10 years making a variety of turned objects and has studied with Mike Mahoney, Marty Libman, Kirk DeHeer and others. His demonstration was entitled "Everybody likes a nice platter!". In addition to providing instructions on turning the platter, Chip provided valuable insight on tool selection, proper tool use, wood selection, and safety.

Chip brought a platter of the same design to provide an example of the final form. This platter, made from ambrosia maple, is shown below.



Chip started his demo with a nice piece of maple provided for the demo by Ric Erkes. In the photo at the top of the next column, Chip is shown working the top side of the platter. You can see the finished bottom side on the lathe and the inside being worked on the monitor. Chip uses an inside mortise on the bottom rather than a tenon and said that he finds a mortise depth a bit over 1/8" to be sufficient. In this platter design, you can see an ogee curve applied on the bottom side. Chip stressed the



use of shear cutting to minimize sanding. Thanks for a very interesting demo, Chip.

As a means of perhaps showing a bit more of the platter design concept, here are pictures of the top and bottom of a platter that I turned following the demonstration.



The demo for the September 17 meeting was provided by Pat Carroll, a professional woodturner from Ireland. Pat is well known for his humor and technical expertise, as well demonstrated during the presentation. He has done demonstrations for international audiences and has authored several articles for Woodturning Magazine. Pat has a wide repertoire of demonstrations, and for us he provided his TRIPOD DEMONSTRATION. Below is a picture of one of Pat's tripods, shown after completing the turning and having started on carving to complete the form.



Pat indicated that he does not consider this to be multi-axis turning even though it has multiple turning axes,

the distinction being that here the axes are all parallel, whereas in multi-axis turning, the axes are not parallel to each other.

Suffice it to say that turning a chunk of wood with the turning axis far removed from the mass center makes for a pretty exciting demo. The picture below shows the blank mounted on one of the three axes, ready to begin turning. You can see the mortise in the blank that was used to turn it round before laying out the locations of the three tripod axes. Pat pointed out early in the demo that observers would likely clear from the area that might be in the line of fire were it to become liberated from the



lathe – and people did move around accordingly to some degree.

The idea in the design is to create three parallel turning axes arranged in an equilateral triangle with each axis at equal distance from the outer edge of a cylindrical turning blank. The blank is then sequentially turned on each axis to form three small hollow forms with an uncut ligament connecting them. The next picture shows the demo piece with the top half of one bowl complete and the blank mounted to start turning the next bowl.

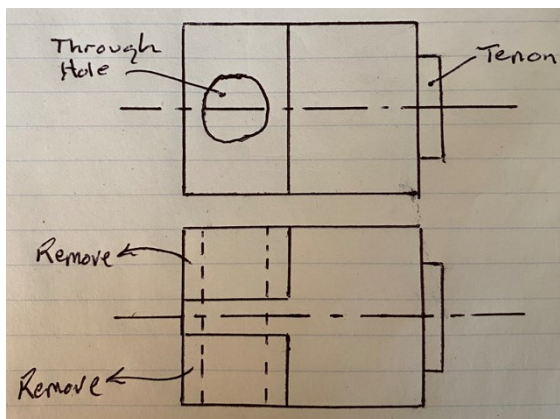


Looking at this picture, it is not hard to imagine that the turning speed would be low. In fact, Pat was unable to turn beyond 420 RPM during the entire demo; otherwise, vibration was excessive.

I'm pretty sure I will not try this, but it is a very interesting approach that made for a very interesting demonstration by Pat Carroll. Thanks, Pat.

The demonstration for the October meeting was provided by Crystal Earley on the topic of "Spinning Ring Top". Crystal comes to us from the Piedmont Triad Woodturners Association in Greensboro, NC and has been turning for about 10 years. Crystal explained that she first tried carving bowls, but found that too labor intensive and so decided to give turning a try. She now turns bowls, platters, boxes and ornamental turnings and designed the

subject wearable spinning top ring herself. It is, literally a ring that can be worn on your finger, but which is also a workable spinning top. Here, Crystal explains that she first puts a tenon on a turning blank that otherwise has a square cross section. She then drills a through hole, on the axis of the blank and near the end opposite the tenon, sized appropriately to fit on a finger. This is the ID of the ring. Two corners are then removed at the bandsaw to reduce the ring end of the blank to the desired thickness of the ring. See sketch below:



The ring is then carefully turned, followed by turning the spinning top section. The photos below show the ring being turned (left) and the top section partially turn (right). Crystal also turned and deco-



rated a spinning Christmas tree. The spinning ring

top and the spinning Christmas tree are shown in the following photograph.



Crystal proved to be a very entertaining presenter and was very well received. For anyone interested in new crafts to sell at craft fairs, you might want to consider these as products. Crystal reported that she sells the spinning ring tops for \$35 each. Thank you for a very entertaining demo, Crystal.

Show and Share

August 20, 2024 meeting

Here Bob Moffett shows a "seasonal" bowl made by Ric Erkes. The Halloween pumpkin decorative ornament on the short bowl handle can be exchanged for different ornaments, for example, the Christmas tree lying inside the bowl, shown on the next page, to celebrate the various seasons and holidays. Ric also brought in



some tops that he had turned. These are also shown inside the bowl.

Clause Shealy brought along the two clocks shown



to the left to share with the group. Look closely on the bottom stand plates, directly beneath the clocks themselves, and you will see small snowmen. Coincidentally, Claude had the same idea

as Ric. The snowman is interchangeable with other iconic decorative items representative of seasons, holidays, etc. Interesting coincidence!!

Ray Schwartz made a business card holder by cutting a segment from a turned cylinder and then adding knobs, one to support and orient the holder and a second to hold the cards.



Larry Nottingham brought 5 pens that he made to sell at the County Fair. From left to right, they are: Purpleheart, Black Palm (heart and sap), Tiger Maple, Oak, and Purpleheart.



September 17 meeting

Christine Smith, who is a member of the Carolina Mountain Woodturners attended our meeting, having volunteered to do the driving for Pat Carroll for his visits to provide demonstrations for various clubs within the region. She is shown in the photo below along side Pat Carroll.



Christine is a turner and a carver and will be doing a demo for SPW sometime after the first of the year,

possibly January.

As an introduction her work, Christine brought a couple of combination turned/carved forms, as shown here.



We had two new members, and also new turners, at this meeting, and they both brought turnings to show the group. Danny Seaman has been busy, and it shows. He brought in 6 turnings—not too shabby for a new turner!! There are two natural edge



bowls, one with and the other without the bark, a small platter, two cedar bowls, and a lidded box made from oak

burl. Nice work, Danny. If you can do this level work as a new turner, we'll be anxious to see what you bring to share once you get a little experience under your belt.

Our second new member and also a new turner, Ron Nunn, brought in some really nice pens that he turned (top of next column) – nice shapes, nice embel-



to

ishment, and nice finish. Also not too shabby for a new turner!! The pen to the left is acrylic and the other two are made from olive wood. Good job Ron – keep a-turnin'.



Next up for Show and Share was Eugene

Schlaman, with some more (he also brought some similar items a couple meetings back) fine examples of his segmented and inlaid bowls. These are made of sycamore,



cedar, oak and birch. Think, if you will folks, about the time involved in making something like this. Many precision cut parts must be made

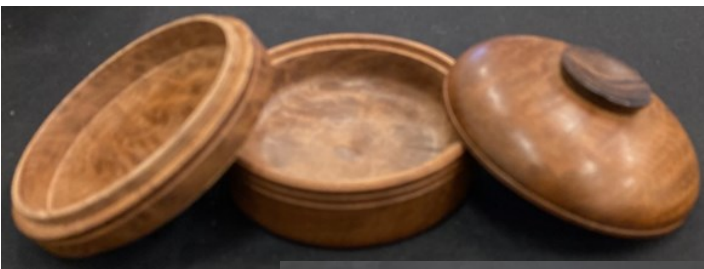
and many glue-ups are required just to get to the starting point for turning. Then you turn, sand, finish as you would a conventional, single-piece bowl, minus the roughing-out turning, which has been done essentially by assembling thin ring segments. This process

is pretty amazing and, to say the least, time consuming.

Darrell Rader provided two fine examples for Show and Share, a bowl that he indicated had been turned some time ago and a double lidded box (or is that a lidded double box?) that he turned just recently. The bowl is one of Darrell's signature bowl forms,



having a rim that swoops inward and is undercut to the sides, and a very thin wall. So it is very lightweight. Personally, I really like this bowl design – no wonder Darrell made it a signature turning. The wood is walnut, the finish – not sure.



Darrell also provided the double lidded box as shown here. Not sure the wood, but it looks like it could also be walnut. The detail work is impressive. Thanks for sharing, Darrell.



Last, but certainly not least, there is Ric Erkes. My motto has always been – "it's all about the wood". But here is a case, involving three examples, in which it is truly about the wood, but additionally exceptional design elements, and Ric's typically impeccable execution. Ric indicated that he got the wood from a downed tree close to his home. Wow—what a find!! Ambrosia maple in sizes that can be applied for large turnings with flexibility to incorporate some unique and interesting design features in the forms.



Bowl #1 – a truly amazing mix of great wood and great design of a natural edge bowl even retaining the bark – needs no further explanation, as it speaks for itself.



Bowl #2 (Above) – Another great hollow form presumed to be from the same tree.

Bowl #3 (Next page) – Yet another, also showing exceptional wood, form, and embellishment.



October 15, 2024 Meeting

The showing of turned forms produced by SPW members started with presentation of a large, square, ambrosia maple bowl turned by Ric Erkes.



The wood comes from the same neighborhood downed-tree find that Ric used in the turned items presented at the Sep-



tember meeting. A look at the underside

of the form reveals 4 legs which, as Ric explained, is not typical. Normally, legged turnings have 3 legs such that the piece does not rock due to unequal leg length or nonplanar resting surface. Ric explained that he tried various 3-leg layouts and none looked to be in harmony with the 4-sided bowl design. So, he used 4. Ric also brought two turnings made from Mimosa wood (top of next column). He

explained that he brought these more or less to show the membership a relatively unheard-of, yet very beautiful wood.

Additionally, Ric completed the tripod that Pat Carroll turned in his September demonstration and left with us incomplete.



The completed tripod turning started by Pat Carroll during his Tripod Demonstration at the September meeting is shown here.

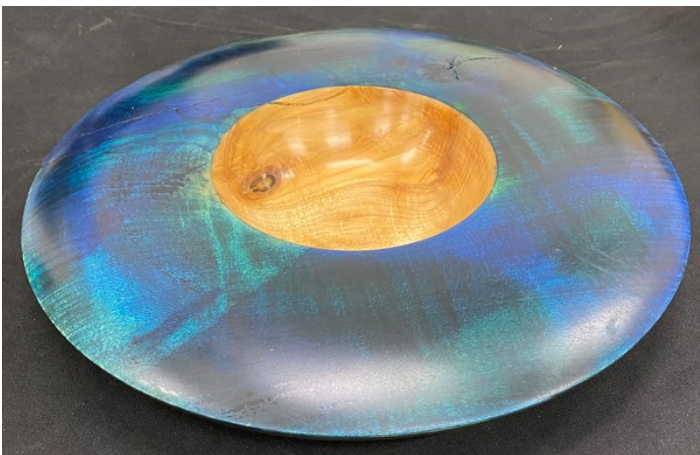


Ric said he didn't even attempt to sand it, but textured the surfaces after completing the carving. Well done.

Next up was Ron Briggs with two outstanding, large maple bowls. The first, which (without actually measuring) is about 15" in diameter and 6" deep, is a heavy bowl with some great character in the form of its grain, some inclusions, and embellishments.



For the second example, Ron applied coloration and, at the meeting, explained the process he went through in getting the color to where he wanted it. At one point it was too dark and he had to perform steps to tone it down a bit. In the final accounting, a beautiful turning to be proud of—great job, Ron.



County Fair

A report on the Cabarrus County Fair was provided by President Phil Goodman at the September meeting. Highlights include the following:

- Goal was to raise \$4000. Total revenue was \$4,004.27 !!
- Raffle ticket sales = \$790.00
- Pen sales = \$500.00
- \$1790.08 in “other” sales
- Donation/tip jars on lathes = \$924.19
- 5 turners exceeded \$100.00 in tips

By best estimates, we had:

- 17 members participated
- Support from 3 non-members (family)
- A total of 89 shifts worked

Overall, a great effort by all who participated.

Special thanks goes to Cindy Boehrns, Judy DeLisa, and Gina Brown. Cindy and Judy were there every day and Gina Brown was there 9 of the 10 days, all of them early to set up and late to close down and take care of the finances. Thank you.

Pictures taken at the fair follow on the next page.

Open Turning

A couple of new members have been showing up for Saturday open turning sessions and have been making real progress. The following picture was taken at the open turning events on August 24 and shows new turner Rola Dumarieh with her first ever turned bowl. Way to go Rola.





General club info just so you have it:

SPW Board of Directors:

Phil Goodman – President

Vice President – Open

Gina Brown – Treasurer

Larry Nottingham – Secretary

Michael Martins – at large

Ric Erkes – at large

Vince Keipper – at large

Bill Joyce – at large

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

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 and keep 'em turning,

Larry Nottingham

Club Secretary