



Southern Piedmont Woodturners



March 17, 2025

H

ello woodturners, and welcome to the SPW Newsletter. Well, I guess we'll have to call this issue a quarterly newsletter since this one covers the December 2024 Christmas gathering and the January and February 2025 regular meetings. Suffice it to say that my life has been sort of complicated for the past several months and I just have not been able to find the time to prepare the newsletters – sorry. The annual Christmas gathering was held on December 17 and once again was at Captain Steve's Family Seafood Restaurant in Harrisburg, with 30 members and guests in attendance. Club President, Phil Goodman, presided over the event, which included a delicious meal and the traditional Secret Santa gift exchange. A photo collage follows on page 2 of this newsletter.

January 2025 Regular Meeting

The meeting was held at our home in the Clearwater Arts Center and Studio on January 21, 2025 and was attended by 24 members and guests in person, with 5 others attending remotely. Club President, Phil Goodman called the meeting to order at 6:30.

Club Business

- Phil made yet another plea for someone to step up and assume the duties of club Vice President. We are also in need of a club photographer and mentors for the open turning sessions.
- Club dues are \$55 annually, and collection for 2025 is underway.
- Raffles – items are needed for the monthly raffles.
- Western Carolina Storm Impact – Larry Nottingham provided an update on the food and clothing collection for the Western Carolina Hurricane Helene victims and set the February meeting as the cutoff for donations.
- Having no new business, Phil moved directly to the demonstration for this meeting, presented by Christine Smith, a member of the Carolina Mountain Woodturners and Southern Highlands Craft Guild.

SPW 2024 Christmas Gathering



January Demonstration

The January demonstration was provided by Christine Smith. Christine lives in Murphy, NC and is a member of the Carolina Mountain Woodturners and the Southern Highlands Craft Guild. Her demonstration was on making a Peach Box, which was inspired by the Hurricane Helene victims. As a side note on the peach boxes, Christine sells them for \$95 each, of which \$25 is donated to the Craft Guild in support of two staff members who lost their homes and everything in them during the hurricane. And they didn't have flood insurance. If anyone is interested in purchasing one, please see Larry Nottingham and he will hook you up.

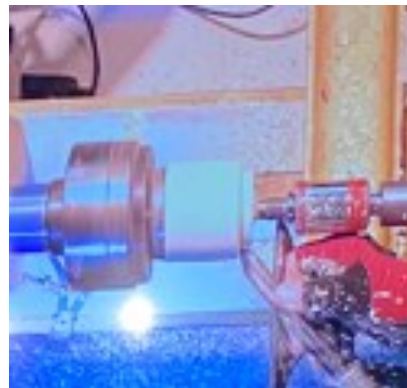
Christine is not only an accomplished turner but also a skilled carver, and she is additionally demonstrating some significant painting skills as well, as can be seen in the peach boxes. A couple of her works are shown here, including one of her peach box-



es.

Christine first explained that she uses holly to make the boxes because holly has attributes that made it uniquely suitable for the boxes. Holly is a good turning wood, great for carving, and accepts color well. She turns from a solid block, having a square cross section and mounted in the spindle orientation with the grain parallel to the turning axis. She starts turning at about 800 RPM and then increases

to approximately 1400 RPM after achieving the round cross section. She puts tenons on both ends, the first turning between centers and the second



while mounted in a chuck using the first tenon, as shown here. She uses the following in various parts of the process, as indicated:

- To hollow the inside, she first drills a pilot hole and then uses a Forsner bit big enough to provide access to start turning on the wall.
- A rubber chuckie on the tail stock for support when turning the outside
- A round carbide hand tool and carbide negative rake scraper for the inside, finishing with the negative rake
- Rubber chuckie on the drive, as shown here, when finishing the bottom



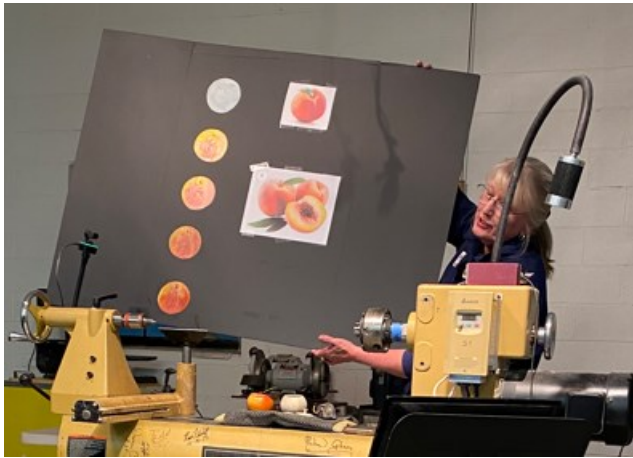
To finish the lid fit, she mounts the lid and turns the fit tenon to match the mortise on the bowl. She then goes back to the tenon on the bowl with the tail stock holding the lid in place to finish the top (outside) of the lid. The bottom of the bowl is completed by carving away the tenon to leave 3 feet. Christine casts her own metal peach pits, which are mounted inside the lid. She even makes the casting molds and explained the process for both. She used a real peach pit to make the casting mold so the resulting castings are as realistic as possible. A



photo taken from the monitor screen and showing a casting mold and some of the cast metal peach pits is shown here. She casts the pits using (I think) a tin/lead solder.

Christine also went through making the leaf and stem and how she bonds them in for a realistic look and for strength.

Christine performed a series of experiments to determine the best combination of colors and the order and methods of application that she uses to capture the true look of a ripe peach, similar to the water tower on 85 when heading to Spartanburg, SC. Here she shows a poster explaining the final painting process that evolved through her experi-



mentation.

Thank you for a great demo, Christine. You covered a lot of territory, not only turning but also carving, metal casting, and painting, and covered it in a manner that made it understandable. Well done.

January Show and Share

First up for Show and Share was Vince Keipper, who brought in several items to share with the members. He made a nice ice cream spoon from zebrawood and then finished with wax, and he showed an elm donut bowl fin-



ished with poly. Vince also made and showed a dogwood

bowl finished with friction polish and an elm hollow form finished with poly.

Very nice Vince – you've been busy.



Ric Erkes presented a very nice ambrosia maple bowl with cross hash embellishment around the rim made from the same tree as some



other items that Ric has presented at earlier meetings.

Up next was Walt Hazelrigg with a large bowl made from "Vince's oak burl". You will recall that Vince Keipper brought a pickup truck load of oak burl to a



meeting a few months ago - well, this is a piece of it. It is very unusual wood in that it has very dark, almost black, sections running through it, which

makes for some very interesting turnings.

Bill Joyce brought some pens that he turned to show to

the members. If I remember correctly, these represent Bill's first go at turning pens, and he told a very entertaining story about how his wife forced him into it. Thanks for sharing, Bill. Two of the pens are



made from Sapele and the other two from cocobolo, and all were finished with

friction polish.



Claude Shealy showed a set of four miniature bird houses made from maple with black walnut roofs. He also brought a walking stick that he made and one of his signature



nature clocks, which has a back story. Those who attended the Christmas gathering might recall that my granddaughter was with me and she fell in love with the clock Claude brought for the exchange. Unfortunately it was locked by the time she drew, so I had Claude make this one for her.

Last but not least was Darrell Rader with a beautiful lidded walnut and maple hollow form with finial lid and paint embellishment. Darrell explained a bit about the painting,



which almost appears to change color depending upon the viewing direc-

tion. He also brought along a hollow form made from California buckeye burl as another example of his craftsmanship. As always, nice work, Darrell.

That is it for show and share items presented by the members. We had a very good turnout for this meeting and quality items

brought by members to share with the others. Christine Smith also brought several of her art pieces to share with us in addition to performing the demonstration. Enough



said, as her work pretty well speaks for itself.



February 2025 Regular Meeting

The meeting was held at our home in the Clearwater Arts Center and Studio on February 18, 2025 and was chaired by Lan Brady.

Club Business

There being no new business, the meeting proceeded directly to the demonstration.

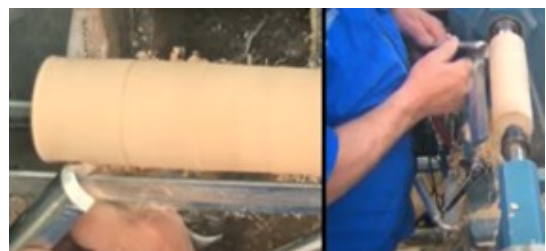
Demonstration

The demonstration for this meeting was a remote demonstration presented by Kirk DeHeer and was titled "Demystifying Cuts and Catches". Once you understand what a catch looks like you will be able to take action to correct it. Kirk is a well known turner whose love for the craft extends to his students, creating a nurturing environment where passion and skill intertwine. Kirk's sense of humor and limitless commitment to honoring the past is unsurpassed by his achievements in paying it forward.



Kirk started off by demonstrating the use of the spindle roughing gouge and how a variety of different

cuts can affect the smoothness of the resulting surface. He started with a scraping cut in which the tool is not riding the bevel, then proceeded to bevel riding peeling cuts, and then to shear cuts at various angles. One interesting technique was using the roughing gouge upside down to function like a skew, as shown below.



He also showed how spindle catches occur and how to prevent them as he created coves and beads using skewers and spindle gouges. His teaching method is effective. He presents two views, as shown in photo on the previous page, so that the viewer can see exactly how the tool is manipulated and he describes the starting point and the finishing point in terms of hand positions for each. He then describes the motion used to get from start to finish, for example, start uncomfortable with the tool held in this position, anchor, ride the bevel, lift, twist, swing, move the body out of the way, finish neutral and comfortable. So you can really see how the maneuver is performed and how it avoids catches. Kirk made several



catches and cuts so that he could demonstrate what caused them and then how to correct or eliminate them. Kirk really stresses two fundamentals of turning, anchoring first and riding the bevel.

He also demonstrated making a small, lidded box using a spindle gouge and he made it in about 20 minutes, start to finish. There was a lot of information in this presentation. Thanks, Kirk.

February Show and Share

We didn't have a lot of participation this month, but the items presented were all well done and high quality. Bill Truitt brought a very nice bowl he turned from figured walnut shown top of next column. I suspect, but don't know for sure, that the wood came from a tree on his property – he gave me a piece and I think it is from the same

tree. This is some gorgeous wood!!

Ric Erkes presented several nice pieces



turned from Norwalk Island Pine and explained how to position and display the symmetrical branches to best take advantage of this relatively unique branching pattern.



And Darrell Rader brought in some beautifully decorated hollow forms to share with the

membership.

As always, you guys really inspire.



Tops and More Tops

Everyone is reminded to keep the tops coming. We are halfway to the next county fair and will again need many tops to meet the heavy demand. President Phil

Goodman has mentioned on several occasions the donation of some tops to a mission that annually goes to Honduras and carries some of our tops to the kids there and how much they appreciate these (as they have little else in the way of toys). Here are some pictures of the latest trip in which they carried about 60 of our tops to the kids. A pic-



ture is worth a thousand words.



Board of Directors' Meeting

The Board of Directors met on January 23 to discuss a number of topics. Board members present at the meeting included Phil Goodman, Gina Brown, Vincent Keipper, Ric Erkes, Bill Joyce, Michael Martens, and consultant Cindy Boehrs. Absent, Larry Nottingham. Topics discussed at the meeting follow:

- Phil has scheduled demonstrators for 2025.
- A 2024 Financial report will be presented to the

club soon.

- Discussion on increasing beginner and intermediate training
- Regional Symposium representative needed. Symposium is in November but meetings are being conducted now.
- Recommendation made to revisit our meeting days and times
- Studio cleaning and maintenance to be scheduled soon.
- Discussion for SPW to participate in Clearwater Christmas Market for 2025
- Name tags need to be updated
- Recommendation made to complete an updated inventory of SPW property
- Western North Carolina disaster donations update
- Working on organizing a Cannon School summer turning workshop at the studio and annual school day demonstration
- Search for a Vice President

Announcements

The ClearWater tenants meeting had lots of announcements.

- The Art Guild will be holding another judged show with cash prizes this year including 3-D art such as wood turning pieces. Their website has details and the set up is May 3, show starts May 4, and take down is a week later.
- The hospital will be looking for more items to display in about a month. There is remuneration for this and the objects can have price tags. The display will last 6 months.
- There are art walks scheduled April 12, and September 6 of this year on the newly renovated

Union St. It is too late to apply for a booth for the spring event downtown Concord, but there will be a shuttle to ClearWater and we could have displays set up in our studio like at the Christmas Market.

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 information:

Phil Goodman – pmgoodman1951@gmail.com

Cell phone – (704) 796-0803

That's it, folks. I look forward to seeing you at the upcoming meetings and other club events.

Best and keep 'em turning,

Larry Nottingham

Club Secretary