Southern Piedmont Woodturners

July 3, 2025

Hello woodturners, and welcome to another addition of the SPW Newsletter. This issue of the newsletter covers the June regular meeting held on June 17, 2025 at our studio in the Clearwater Arts Center. Club President, Phil Goodman, presided over the June meeting, which started at 6:30 sharp. The meeting was attended in person by 18 members and guests, with 4 others attending remotely. If you read nothing else in this newsletter, please make note that the election of officers will be held during our next meeting to be held on July 15, 2025, also at the Clearwater Arts Center studio. The proposed slate of officer can be found immediately below. Please note that we need a quorum in order to hold the election, so it is very important that everyone show up for this meeting.

Club Business

Election of officers – July 15, 2025

- The proposed slate of officers for the next year was announced, as follows:

  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)

Other Club Business

- We still need a club photographer and a backup – just need a camera to snap pics at events attended. In most cases the photos taken with a cell phone are more than adequate. And, we need to get some other people trained on the A/V and remote demonstration equipment.

- Raffles – items are needed for the monthly raffles.
- A meeting of the current officers and board members will be held before the next meeting – Phil to schedule.
- Studio Cleaning – will be scheduled for a Saturday morning – Phil to schedule.
- Equipment maintenance – Need about 10 people for a Saturday morning to perform general maintenance. Will schedule for a Saturday morning later in the year.

Tops for Kids Challenge

The County Fair, which is scheduled for September 5 – 13, is fast approaching, and we are continuing the tops-for-kids challenge over the course of the year to support school events and this 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 last year turned and gave away many tops during the 9-day fair. However, there were times when they couldn't keep up with demand and tops from the inventory were used, so the inventory was seriously depleted. In addition, we sent tops to the Honduras to support missionary work there and we participated in another Cannon School event. So please keep 'em coming. If you haven't made your 36 tops for this year, now is the time.

Coming Events

- County Fair – The Cabarrus County Fair for 2025 runs from Friday, September 5 through and including Saturday, September 13. As usual, we will have a large, indoor booth with a number of lathes set up for turning during all hours that the Fair is open. Hours are as follows:

Fridays, 5th and 12th – 4 pm through11 pm
Saturdays, 6th and 13th – 1 – 11 pm
Sunday, 7th – 1 – 10 pm
Monday through Thursday, 8th – 11th – 4 – 10 pm

As always, we will need volunteers to load up equipment on Thursday, September 4, take it to the fair grounds, and set up. We will need many turners—last year we had 5 lathes running, so we will need at least 5 turners for each shift. Generally we can do the week days with one shift, but will need 2 or 3 shifts for Fridays, Saturdays and Sunday. We will need volunteers to handle the sales and raffle tables, and we will need volunteers to tear down and move everything back to the studio. So, there are more than enough opportunities for everyone to support this effort in some way. More information on the Fair will be provided as it becomes available.

- Sarah Gay coordinates and curates displays of members' works at Atrium Health Cabarrus Hospital. The loaned turnings are on display in showcases located near the main entrance of the hospital and remain there for a period of 6 months to 1 year. Last September, turned art works were provided by 3 members, and all three have agreed to let theirs stay for another round. But we would like to augment these with a representative sample of other members' work. Anyone interested, please contact Larry Nottingham.

June Demonstration

The demonstration for this meeting, entitled "Hummingbirds Need a House Too!" was provided

by Jerry Measimer, who is actually a Lifetime Member of SPW. Jerry has turned an early hobby into a successful business, turning hats, bird houses, and other wooden art pieces in his professional woodturning shop behind his house in Richfield, North Carolina. One of Jerry's latest projects is setting up a woodturning shop in Matagalpa, Nicaragua, where he teaches the local people the art of woodturning. For those of you who missed this demo, you missed a great one.

Jerry provided a very detailed presentation on all the steps involved in making the hummingbird houses: the size of the blanks, the hole locations and sizes, production turning multiples in batches, the speed at which he turns, tool rest position, and the tools he uses. He also described and demonstrated the embellishments he applies using surface texturing tools, pyrography, paints, and dyes. Here, Jerry is shown drilling the primary hole into a 2" x 2" x 5" blank. And in the next photo, top of the next column, he is shown with a walnut blank mounted and divided into four lids.

But the stories that he wove into the presentation were what made the presentation so very interesting: how he got started in turning, how he got into making hummingbird houses, how many of these he has made and even the price he gets for them; and others. When he started talking about Nicaragua, though, you could tell that this venture is very near and dear to him, as he spoke with enthusiasm and passion.

And finally, here is a picture of the houses he produced during the demo, one with a maple body, walnut lid, and embellished using pyrography, wire burning, and texturing, and a second with textured surfaces followed by the application of paints and dyes. Beautiful work and a great demonstration. Thanks so much, Jerry.

Show and Share

First up for Show and Share was Ric Erkes, who brought in 2 of his works to share with the group. The first

was a square bowl or platter that Ric used texturing on the surface. He explained that he stopped the texturing before reaching the edge to make the edge better defined and more distinct.

Ric also showed a carryover from his presentation at the last prior meeting in which he demonstrated how to make spiral surfaces. During his demonstration last month he worked primarily with smaller items, but wanted to show here that the same techniques can also be applied to much larger forms.

Darrell Rader brought in a lovely, large hollow form for Show and Share. It is shown below. Very nice as usual, Darrell.

Last but not least, Bill Truitt made a very nice Sapele square bowl as shown here. Also a very nice art form. Bil is experimenting with harder waxes for

finishing, and this bowl features a paste was finish, accordingly.

Thanks to those who participated in Show and Share.

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 – board member

Ric Erkes – board member
Vince Keipper – board member
Bill Joyce – board member
Cindy Boehrns—Advisor

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 Christmas dinner party.

Best and keep 'em turning,

Larry Nottingham

Club Secretary