



Southern Piedmont Woodturners



June 17, 2025

H

ello woodturners, and welcome to another addition of the SPW Newsletter. We will again have to call this issue a quarterly newsletter since this one covers the March, April, and May 2025 regular meetings. Hopefully, I can get back to a monthly newsletter soon.

March 2025 Regular Meeting

The meeting was held at our home in the Clearwater Arts Center and Studio on March 18, 2025 and was attended by 17 members and guests. 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 well underway. If you have not paid your dues for 2025, this is to remind you that we are, as of the March meeting, nearly 3 months into the year. Please take care of this ASAP.
- Raffles – items are needed for the monthly raffles.
- Having no additional business, Phil moved directly to the demonstration for this meeting.

March Demonstration

The demonstration for this meeting was presented by Jim Duxbury and was on the topic of how to make and use the “Dux Chuck”, which was invented by the presenter. A Dux Chuck is a device that is used for eccentric, or off-center turning. It can be used, for example, to make eccentric and off-center decorations on necklace pendants, maker’s mark discs, medallions, flat, disc-shaped turnings, as shown here.



It can also be used to make eccentric objects, i.e., those that are of regular geometry other than perfectly round. Shown to the right is an eccentrically turned lidded box.



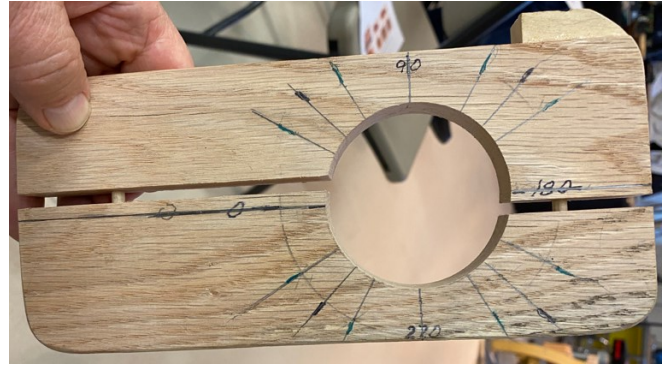
And it can be used to turn multi-axis



objects by merely adjusting the chuck for the various sections rather than remounting the turning each time.

There are alternative versions of eccentric chucks available commercially, but the Dux Chuck is unique in a couple of regards. First, it is made of wood and is relatively simple to construct. And, moreover, Jim makes the plans available at no cost. Additionally, by Jim's description of the use of the Dux Chuck, it is more intuitive and easier to use than most other eccentric chucks. Jim provided drawings for constructing the Dux Chuck, so if anyone wants to give it a try, we have the plans.

Jim explained that the chuck has three different mandrels to attach the workpiece to the chuck: a flat center that can be glued to the workpiece or attached using double-sided tape, a screw center, and a 3/16"-16 TPI bottle stopper chuck. Others are possible. Here is a photo of the three noted mandrels.



Above is a photo of the chuck itself. The mandrel is mounted in the circular cutout in the chuck and the chuck is mounted between two opposing jaws in a regular 4-jaw lathe chuck but with only those two jaws assembled, as shown below, such that the Dux



Chuck can be slid sideways within the chuck to offset the mandrel center from lathe's rotational center.



Then the mandrel can be rotated within the Dux Chuck to create the desired pattern. Here, Jim is shown making an offset 3-candle stand during his demonstration.

Jim is a very funny guy and provided a very entertaining demonstration. Following the demo, we discussed having Jim provide a training course for

building and using the Dux Chuck. A date has yet to be set. Thanks so much for a very informative and entertaining demo, Jim.

March Show and Share

Bill Truitt was first up for show and share, showing natural edge b owl mad from redbud. Bill reported that it is finished with Danish oil and lacquer. Nice work, Bill. Next up was Vince Keipper with a



vey nice conic bowl made from walnut (he thinks) and finished with friction polish. Darrell Reder has been busy turning his quota



of tops for the year. Darrell brought in a bag full of very elabo-

rately decorated tops to add to the jug for any upcoming events. Thanks for the effort, Darrell.

April 2025 Regular Meeting

This meeting was also held at our home in the Clearwater Arts Center and Studio on April 15, 2025 and was chaired by President Phil Goodman.

Club Business

Several announcements were made, as follows:

- Sad News—SPW member Ron Briggs passed away in March—just found out about his passing recently. Prayers for Ron's family.
- The Cabarrus Arts Council annual breakfast will be held May 16m 7:30–9:00. As in years past, SPW would like to fill a table of 10. Currently we have 8 members committed, so need 2 more.
- Saturday, April 26, 1:00– 5:00 – SPW will provide a demo at the Cannon School using school lathes – volunteer turners needed.
- Ongoing effort to make tops, 3 each month, per member to support the county fair and other civic events.
- The Cabarrus Art Guild spring show registration deadline is April 30.
- The election of officers and members of the board of directors will be held in July.

Demonstration

Our own super-turner, Ric Erkes, provided the demonstration for the April meeting. The topic was "From Collar to Finial". Ric has been turning since 1998 and is well-known for his innovative tips, techniques, and jigs. A finial is designed to literally take a vessel to another level, to add that eye-catching detail needed to make a statement. And what better to set off a finial, than a coordinated collar? First, Ric covered some of his approaches to making vases, hollow vessels, etc. using finials and



collars, and explained that the same approaches can be used whether turning end grain or side grain. Very often, Ric uses a 2 inch drill to create the opening at the top of the object, and then adds a collar, not only to reduce the size of the opening, but also as an interesting design feature and often to accommodate a finial lid, as shown in these two fine examples. Another advantage comes to mind as well. Ric further explained that he makes a tenon on the collar to fit the opening in the vase, both in diameter and in thickness, the latter done so that only a small cleanup cut or only sanding is needed



to smooth the transition between the inner surfaces of the vase and collar. What is the first thing everyone does when they pick up one of these vessels? Yes, they put a finger inside to feel the surface and we wouldn't want them to feel a step, would we? Additionally, the underside of the collar is made to either fit the outer contour of the top of the vase or, more likely, undercut a bit so that there is no gap at



the outer edge of the collar. Here are three collars with the outer surface and drilled holes finished. Ric

explained that you can turn either the vase/vessel first and then fit the collar to it or you can do it op-

posite, i.e., fit the vase/vessel opening to a collar that is made first, as in this picture. Typically, though, the collar is fit to the larger turned vessel.

Ric also covered finials and brought several example finials to



show the variety that is possible aside from the solid, circular cross-

section finials that are pretty standard. The same methods can also be used to turn other objects, for example the candle sticks shown above. For the spiral finials (or other objects), once the blank is turned to its final, general shape, a grid is then drawn on the piece using equally spaced axial and circumferential lines and then connecting the intersection points using diagonal lines, corner to corner of each grid box, as shown on the top finial in the picture to the right.

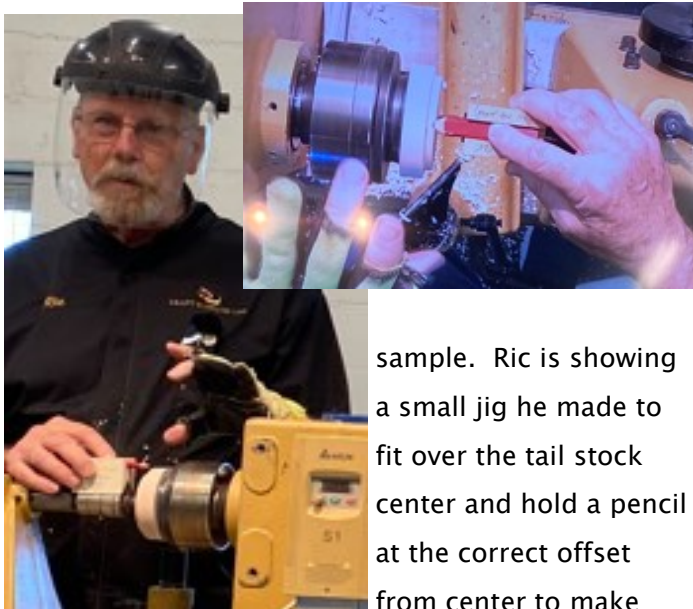
The number and spacing of the grid lines controls the number and degree of twist of the spirals. A ball grinder is used to remove material between the spiral lines. For the case shown, in which the finial body is still solid, the



grinding is shallow but extends fully to the spiral lines. In the case of a hollow fluted finial, as shown earlier, the grinding does not extend fully to the spiral lines so that some width of material is left, but the grinding goes deeper such that all ground sections meet at the middle to create the hollow center. This demonstration covered a lot of territory. Thanks for a great demo, Ric.

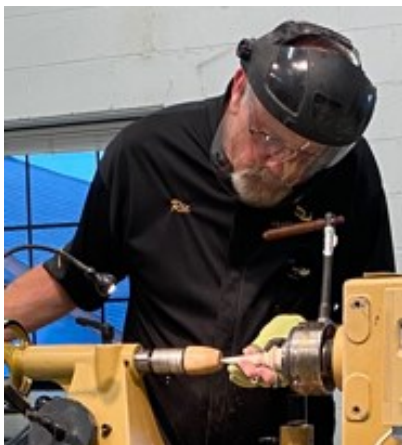
Rics Tips, Techniques, and Jigs

The demonstration presented by Ric Erkes was packed full of tips, techniques, and jigs. Here is a



sample. Ric is showing a small jig he made to fit over the tail stock center and hold a pencil at the correct offset from center to make

the initial cut of the tenon on the collars. Remember, he typically drills a 2-inch diameter hole into



the vessel/vase, so the tenon size is always roughly the same. And if you ever need to remount a finial or other thin object, for example to part off a tenon, and need to support the tip, simply make

a form of a jam chuck that fits your tail stock live center.

Another tip that Ric provided: In turning collars, it is best to drill the final diameter hole through the center with it mounted with the outer surface away from the drill and before final machining of the outer surface such that any tear-out at the exit surface will be removed during final turning of the outside surface. Thanks again, Ric for a great demo.

April Show and Share

Eugene Schlaman brought a couple of his inlaid segmented bowls to share with the membership.

Here Eugene is shown with Bob Moffett, who presented Show and Share for the evening. Also



shown are the 2 walnut and maple bowls, both finished with tung oil –

very nice work Eugene.

Larry Nottingham brought in a small bowl that he made from East Indian Rosewood and finished with Doctors Walnut Oil.



Bob Moffett brought along some of his recent work to share with us. Here he is shown with one of two spalted maple bowls that he turned. These were also finished with tung oil. Great looking bowls.



Darrell Rader brought three of his turnings: a spiral ornament made using the same technique that Ric explained during his demo, and two lidded boxes with finial lids. One box is made from walnut, the second from maple and the ornament is



made from big leaf maple. As al-



ways, very nice work from Darrell.

Claude Shealy showed off a really nice walking stick that he made and one of his signature clocks, both of which were exceptionally well done. Does anyone know how many walking sticks Claude



has? Does Claude even know?

Bill Truitt brought in a nice little table to show everyone. Sorry, but I missed all the details on the table so really have nothing else to add, but a nice table nonetheless.



May 2025 Regular Meeting

This meeting was also held at our home in the Clearwater Arts Center and Studio on May 20, 2025 and was chaired by President Phil Goodman.

Club Business

Website: Everyone is encouraged to visit and use our web site. It has been upgraded recently and is very well done, functional, and useful. Please take advantage.

Dues: Please pay if not already paid. We are now half way through the year!!

County Fair: The application has been submitted, so it is time to start thinking about items that you can make to sell and for the raffles, all for the good of the club. More info will be forthcoming shortly on the fair and our participation.

May Demonstration

The May demonstration, "What Time is it?", was presented by club member Claude Shealy. Claude is our clock-smith. Looking at a clock to see what time it is, well that is one thing. However, when one is checking the time on a beautiful, custom



designed, handmade, wooden clock, that is entirely different. Most, if not all, of us have seen Claude's signature clocks – at meetings during Show and

Share, at the Christmas party, or at the County Fair. They



are incredibly beautiful, always conversation pieces, and well sought after.

Claude is shown here turning one of the spindles for a clock



and in the second photograph with one of the assembled clocks, yet to have any finish applied.

Note from the writer: Sorry, but I was unable to attend this meeting, so have no additional details on Claude's demonstration to share.

Show and Share

Similarly, I have little information on show and share. The meeting had only two Show and Share participants. Ric Erkes brought a lamp with a hand-turned shade which, I will guess, is made from Norwalk Island Pine. I'm not sure how thick the wall is to enable light to pass through, but I'm guessing it is pretty thin.



And Darrell Rader brought this 3-legged stool. Again guessing, the wood could be oak for the legs and stretchers and cherry for the seat???



Tops and More Tops

As noted above, we are only a couple of months away from the next county fair and will again need many tops to meet the heavy demand.

Announcements

- There is an art walks scheduled for September 6 of this year on the newly renovated Union St. We will need to decide soon if/how we will participate.

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 Martens – 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 future meetings.

Best and keep 'em turning,

Larry Nottingham

Club Secretary