



Southern Piedmont Woodturners



December 6, 2024

H

ello woodturners, and welcome to the SPW Newsletter. This issue of the newsletter covers the November regular meeting held on November 19, 2024. If you read nothing else, please make sure you see the announcement of and details for the annual SPW Christmas party and gift exchange on page 3 of this newsletter. Club President, Phil Goodman, presided over the November meeting, which started at 6:30 sharp. The meeting was attended in person by 16 members and 3 guests, with others attending remotely. Phil kicked off the meeting by providing health updates on members Marlene Beltrane and Steve Lusk, on Darryl Rader's wife, Marlene, and on fellow turner Nick Agar, who is well-known to some members and is a nationally-renowned turner. Phil also noted the passing of long-time member Walt Keifer and provided information on his memorial service.

Club Business

Election of officers

- Phil made yet another plea for someone to step up and assume the duties of club Vice President. Enough said – the position has been open since the last election, held in July, and we are still in need. For more information on the duties of the VP, please refer to the last prior newsletter, issued on October 23, 2024.

Other Club Business

- We are also in need of a club photographer and mentors for the open turning sessions.
- Club dues are \$55 annually, and we will begin collecting dues for 2025 in January.
- Raffles – items are needed for the monthly raffles.
- Western Carolina Storm Impact – Larry Nottingham provided an update on the Western Carolina folks hit so hard by Hurricane Helene based on information provided to him by Christine Smith, a member of the Carolina Mountain Woodturners. Christine, you will remember, is the lady that escorted Pat Carroll, the Irish turner who provided our September demonstration, around to various clubs including SPW. As anticipated, the influx of donations that was so extreme soon after Helene struck is now diminishing as time

and the immediacy pass. Consequently, we are renewing the solicitation for donations that was distributed earlier and then postponed. Donations in the form of any of the following items will be well-appreciated: nonperishable foods, i.e., canned goods and dry goods; bottled water; personal hygiene items (like toilet paper), feminine hygiene products, etc.; first aid supplies; waterless shower products (shower wipes) and waterless shampoo; new or gently used clothing (particularly winter clothing at this time); baby needs including diapers, formula, and baby food; propane, cook stoves and coolers; cleaning products including soap and shampoo, detergents, neoprene gloves, disinfectants, paper towels, brooms, bleach, and trash bags; shovels, other clean-up tools, and work gloves. Also cash – there are a variety of charities that can accept funds including, for example, the American Red Cross.

Additionally, two members of the Southern Highland Craft Guild, of which Carolina Mountain Turners is a member, lost everything – homes and all of their possessions. A third had extreme damage, and none had flood insurance. A go-fund-me has been established by the Guild in attempting to help offset at least some of the costs of starting over. So, this provides another way that we can help out.

Insofar as making donations – no pressure from here as this is a very personal and private matter. For those wishing to make a donation, however, we ask that you bring all donated items to the studio on December 14, 10:00 – 2:00. Note there will be no open turning for the month of December, but the studio will be open on that day and during those hours and someone will be there to accept donations. We ask that cash donations, whether design-

nated to go to a notable charity such as The American Red Cross or to the Guild's Go-Fund-Me, be made to the account of SPW, along with a designation of where it is to go if you have a preference, and we can then make the donations in the name of the club. And thank you so much.

One last thing on this topic. If you are a member of AAW and receive the AAW magazine, *American Woodturner*, you will note on page 6 of the most recent addition that just came out this week (December 2024, vol. 39, No. 6) that Christine Smith provided an article that gives additional information on the damage suffered by the Carolina Mountain Turners. This provides an additional option for designating a destination for any cash contributions. Again, thanks for your support.

Tops for Kids Challenge

Even though the County Fair is now well 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. In addition, we just send a number of tops to the Honduras to support missionary work there. Please keep 'em coming.

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.

- 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.
- **SPW Christmas Party**, dinner, and gift exchange – the annual SPW Christmas gathering, dinner, and gift exchange will be held on December 17, 6:30 pm, at Captain Steve's Family Seafood Restaurant, 5645 State Highway 49, Harrisburg, NC 28075. Dinner can be ordered from the menu, and each person is responsible for the cost of his/her meal. For those that wish to participate (participation is not mandatory), we will have a Gift Exchange following dinner. The gift ex-

change involves bringing a gift you have turned or otherwise made of wood!! This is not limited to members but also extends to guests that wish to participate. If you have recently joined SPW and have no turning experience or otherwise do not wish to participate in the exchange, please join us anyway!! It is really a fun evening.

PLEASE EMAIL, TEXT OR CALL PHIL TO CONFIRM YOUR PLANS TO ATTEND AND HOW MANY IN YOUR PARTY, NO LATER THAN TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12!

TEXT, CALL OR EMAIL PHIL WITH ANY QUESTIONS. 704-796-0803 pmggoodman1951@gmail.com

Lathe Cabinet Refurbishment

You may have noticed, particularly if you have participated in the County Fair or the open turning sessions, that the side tables on many of the lathe cabinets are no longer functional, mostly due to damaged hinges. So, Ric Erkes undertook the design of upgrades, and on Wednesday, November 20, Ric,



Phil Goodman, Bill Truit, Vince Keiper, and Larry Nottingham met at the club to implement the repairs.

This involved removal of the old hinges, modifying

the cabinets to accept the new hardware, adding spacer adaptors, and then adding new hardware to allow the tables to be lowered for storage and raised



when in use.

This is a major upgrade – next will be replacement of the locks, many of which are in poor condition.

November Demonstration

The demonstration for the November meeting was provided by SPW's John LaChance, our only active member now living in the state of Tennessee. John is a prolific wood turner and carver and combines these skill to make some very unique carved turnings, as shown in the photo that follows.



John's presentation covered various aspects of preparing for carving and, with time remaining, he also covered some of the basics of carving. For his spherical turned objects, rather than turning a hollow globe that typically requires a hollowing system, John makes his globes in two sections and joins them to form the globe. In this way, he avoids the hollowing system and essentially turns two identical, half spherical bowls. It is much easier to achieve a uniform shape and uniform wall thickness this way, which makes the turning easier and less time consuming. Additionally, this makes the carving easier, as it provides access for carving from the inside prior to the glue up of the two halves. A thin wall thickness is very desirable – less material removal is therefore involved during the carving phase, and by turning in the two halves, it is much easier to achieve a thin, uniform wall thickness. John power carves using a Mastercarver, which operates at up to 45,000 RPM. Compared to a Dremel, the Mastercarver provides higher speed, more control, and no vibration.

John demonstrated the use of the Mastercarver us-



ing a stencil to outline a butterfly on the wall of a turned vessel.

He uses rubber stamps that he purchases from craft stores to transfer the outlines of various figures that he will then carve.

Having yet a bit of time left, John demonstrated the making of one of his star Christmas ornaments. He wasn't able to finish it, but left the piece, in its unfinished state, to be added to our gallery.



John gave one heck-of-a fun and entertaining

demonstration. He is an accomplished speaker and added a lot of interest and humor to the presentation. Thanks a bunch, John – hope to see you at the Christmas party and back for another demo soon.

Show and Share

First up for Show and Share was Bob Moffett, who made a gorgeous hollow form made of ash. The vessel was dyed in red, and Bob used Minwax Antique Oil to finish it. Very nice, Bob and thanks for sharing.



Next up was Vince Keipper. Vince brought three items to share with the membership. First was an oak burl bowl made from the burl material that he

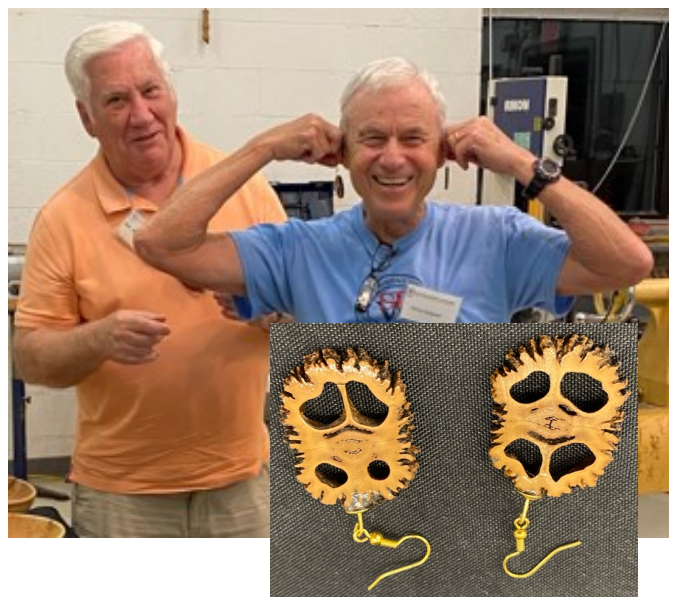
brought to a recent meeting (an entire pickup load) to share with everyone. This material has some unusual black sections that make for very interesting turnings. The finish on this one was oil of an unspecified variety. The second item Vince brought to show was an ash



bowl that he embellished with a blow torch and finished in lacquer. Last but not least, Vince brought a



pair of earrings made of walnut shells – very interesting. Vince even modeled them for those present.



Steve Martin presented a butter mold made of spalted maple and finished with walnut oil.

Steve provided an explanation on the origin of the design,



which dates way back into the mid 1800's.



Steve also brought in 4 hand-carved spoons of unknown wood species. Two of the spoons were "regular" and the other two were "tasting" spoons,



the difference being that the tasting spoons have a channel from the bowl all the way down the handle such that you can dip some hot liquid and funnel it

to the mouth for tasting without contaminating the dipping end.

Lastly Steve brought a bunch (11) of his signature turned mushrooms made of oak and without any



applied finish. Thanks for the insightful presentation, Steve.

Nancy Fox followed with the last show and share items for the evening. Nancy followed up on Crystal Earley's demonstration at the October meeting by making some turned Christmas trees.

It is nice to see members making objects in the style of recent



demonstrations – kinda adds to the significance of the demonstration.

Nancy also brought a bunch of tops that she made to add to the club inventory. Thanks, Nancy.

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 Christmas dinner party.

Best and keep 'em turning,

Larry Nottingham

Club Secretary

