



This organization is supported by a grant from the Grassroots Arts Program of the North Carolina Arts Council, a state agency, and the Cabarrus Arts Council.



*Southern Piedmont
Woodturners*



Hello woodturners. Before getting to the business of SPW and the April meeting, a sad note must be passed along. Longtime member Bob Temple passed away a few days after our April meeting, on the evening of Tuesday, April 28 at 7:15 PM. Bob taught many classes, helped set up and operate our AV system for many years, assisted with our Zoom presentations, supported the arts council on an annual basis, attended all the Christmas parties and was just a very loving, caring and intelligent man. Bob's last participation in SPW was at the County Fair in 2023. Bob was struggling with health issues at the time but still made his way to the fair and contributed on several evenings that year. Please keep his wife, Lani and his daughter Barbara in your prayers. Rest In Peace, Bob.

The April meeting was held at our studio in the ClearWater Arts Center on April 25, 2026, with 23 members and one guest present. It appears that the move to Saturday morning meetings has proven to be a popular choice, as our meeting attendance is up appreciably from the numbers we attracted to the evening meetings. We had a great demo at the April meeting presented by John Jordan, an experienced and prolific woodturner, exceptional instructor, and just an interesting guy with whom to spend time and exchange woodturning experiences. John also led the afternoon workshop, during which the session evolved into additional presentations and discussions, and the participants actually did not turn. Based on the feedback received from those who attended, the absence of actual turning time was more than compensated for by the breadth and depth of the discussions and demos that took the place of turning. Thanks again for a great day John.

Club Business

2026 Dues

Before addressing anything else --- The period for paying 2026 dues to remain on the active membership list ended on March 28, so any member who has not paid dues is now moved to the inactive list until such time as they catch up. The dues amount for 2026 remains the same as the past couple of years at \$55.00 for regular annual membership. Dues can be paid using PayPal at our website or see Gina or Larry if you wish to pay by cash or check at a meeting. Or you can mail a check to Southern Piedmont Woodturners, 223 Crowell Drive NW, Concord, NC 28025.

Cabarrus County Fair 2026

It is never too soon to start turning items for the fair. As of this writing, it is only 3 months away. We have almost completely depleted our inventory of tops to give to the children, so we need to start building the supply back up. We currently have, maybe 50 tops in reserve, probably a few less. That is a scant start to filling one of our two containers that we use for tops. At the fair last year, we started with both containers full and gave away almost all of them in addition to the tops that we turned during the fair. The point of this is that we are woefully low on inventory of tops and need everyone to step up and turn tops for the fair. This is our bread and butter, and we need everyone to participate. The standing challenge is for every member to produce 3 tops per month, 36 for the year. Let's get going boys and girls - we need tops!!!! Additionally, we will need 7 or 8 relatively high-end items for the raffles, which were a big success at the 2025 fair, and we will need many other turned items for our fundraising efforts at the fair.

Cannon School Arts Jam

SPW once again participated in the Arts Jam at Cannon School. Vince Keipper, Gina Brown and Larry Nottingham were there turning tops for the kids and interacting with the parents. This is a fun event that features a student theater production, guest artists, student markets and food trucks, hands-on art experiences, and live performances by student musicians, choirs, and bands, and, of course, SPW turners making tops for the kids.

Open Turning

This month we again had two well-attended open turning sessions with several members participating in each. For new turners, we tend to concentrate on teaching the skills that have been presented in recent demonstrations and workshops as a method of advancing those skills. For other folks, some work on pet projects while others just concentrate on honing a skill of interest to them. We are always in need of additional support from our experienced turners to

support the less experienced members. Come on out and join the fun and share some of the skills, knowledge, and expertise that you have built over the years.

Lifetime Membership Award

At this meeting, Cindy Boehrns was awarded Lifetime Membership in Southern Piedmont Woodturners. Cindy has been a warrior on behalf of SPW over the years. She has been a long-time member of the Board of Directors, as well as club Treasurer, and is currently an advisor to the Board. Cindy has labored countless hours at the county fairs each year, being there early to open up every day and always the last one to leave to make sure all the associated finances have been handled and accounted properly. She has handled the applications for Cabarrus Arts Council grants over the years, and in that regard, has kept the club financially solvent. And on top of all of that, she is one heck of a turner. Her portfolio is exceptional. Because of issues with her back and recent surgeries, Cindy has not been able to be terribly active this year, but she says that she is now on the mend and, as you can see, was able to attend the April meeting. We look forward to seeing much more of her moving forward. Congratulations and well-earned and deserved, Cindy. Thank you for all your efforts on behalf of SPW.



April Demonstration and Workshop

The demonstration for the April meeting was provided by John Jordan, a well-known woodturner from the Knoxville, TN area. SPW members who attended the North Carolina Woodturning Symposium last November were lucky enough to see some of his art in the gallery there, and some were able to meet John and discuss his work. And, of course, those discussions led to discussing the possibility of him coming to Concord to provide a demonstration. John is a very detailed instructor and gives freely of any and all information available to him to help others improve their skills. The topic of John's demonstration was Turning a Harry Potter Spindle Wand, and he provided detailed instructions, some 30 pages of text and photographs, describing the process and providing tips on approaches and accessories that make the process easier and, in some cases, even possible. The photograph at the top of the next page shows several of John's wands and demonstrates the variety and interesting design features he incorporates. Different woods, different shapes, and a range of embellishments make each of his creations unique and add interest.



John also provided equally detailed instructions on turning what he calls a “Small, Squarish, Dished Platters” and on Texturing and Texturing Tools. These docs are available to members. If

you do not have, but would like to have copies, just drop a note to Larry Nottingham. Members had recently expressed interest in learning to use the skew chisel; consequently, this was a timely demonstration since John stressed the use of the skew chisel for this project.

John’s turning approach is also applicable to turning other long, slender, spindle-turned projects, including, for example, conductors’ batons, hook tools for pulling hot oven shelves from the oven, crochet hooks, and others.



During the afternoon workshop, discussions evolved to further demonstrations rather than actually spending time turning.

John discussed his other two favorite topics, Turning Small, Squarish, Dished Platters and Texturing and Texturing Tools, and the entire afternoon disappeared before a tool was put to a piece of wood. What a great day spent with an expert turner and teacher and just an interesting person. Thanks, John.

Upcoming Events – Mark Your Calendar

- May 23 Meeting – Because this Newsletter is late, and the May meeting is already history, it will not be mentioned here.
- June 25 Meeting – The June regular membership meeting will be held on June 25. The demonstration will be provided by Larry Nottingham on the topic of turning a Celtic Knot

French Rolling Pin. The workshop for the afternoon will be on turning pens. This is a repeat workshop, a result of significant interest expressed in the survey that was conducted recently.

- Date TBD – Working on a club visit to and tour of West Penn Hardwoods in Conover, NC.
- Date TBD – Tour of Kluttz Lumber in Concord
- County Fair – September 11–19 – It is sneaking up on us – we need products to sell and tops to give away.

Website

The website has received a lot of attention over the past few months and is now better able to support the members. A couple of things you might want to look at:

- You can now make reservations for workshops and other events for which there is limited availability so that we can keep track of the number of attendees registered and cut off registration when full.
- You can pay your dues and pay for fee-based events at the website.
- You can now build you own individual gallery of up to 10 of your favorite turnings. During the meeting, at least one member indicated that he had attempted to create his gallery but could not make it work, and it can be a bit tricky. If you want to enter your gallery, please just drop a text or email note to Larry Nottingham requesting support in setting it up. If there is enough interest, we could have a workshop devoted to creating galleries and do this as a fun team effort. Just drop a note and let me know how you would like to proceed.
- We have started adding links to YouTube creators that we feel provide value in terms of instructional videos. These can be found on the website under Resources.

Show and Share

Unfortunately, no records of show and share were made for this meeting.

General club info just so you have it:

SPW Board of Directors:

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)

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

Larry Nottingham – Lnottingham@structint.com

Cell phone – (704) 236-1412

That's it, folks. I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting on June 27 or in the meantime at one of the open turning sessions.

Best and keep 'em turning,

Larry Nottingham