

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***



*H*ello woodturners. The May meeting was held at our studio in the ClearWater Arts Center on May 23, 2026, with 25 members and 2 guests in attendance. Once again, an SPW member provided an outstanding demonstration for the monthly meeting. This time it was Bill Stricker who gave a demonstration on making a Three-Legged Stool. In keeping with the theme of our recent demonstrations and workshops, this demonstration highlighted the use of a skew chisel. Bill is an expert at using the skew chisel and used it to make the stool legs and stretcher during his demo. Bill also presented a tutorial on the use of the skew chisel later in the day during our afternoon workshop. He provided several exercises and assisted the participants in completing them as a part of the process of learning the proper use of a skew. Following the tutorial, those of the participating SPW members who cared to proceed turned a Harry Potter wand of the form that John Jordan made during the demo at the April meeting.

Club Business

2026 Dues

We know you're tired of hearing it, but it must be said regardless. If you have not yet paid your dues for 2026 – please read this fully. 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

Another topic that you are probably growing tired of hearing – tops, tops, and more tops. It is never too soon to start turning items for the fair, which, as of this writing, 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 – and that was in addition to the many 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 each 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.

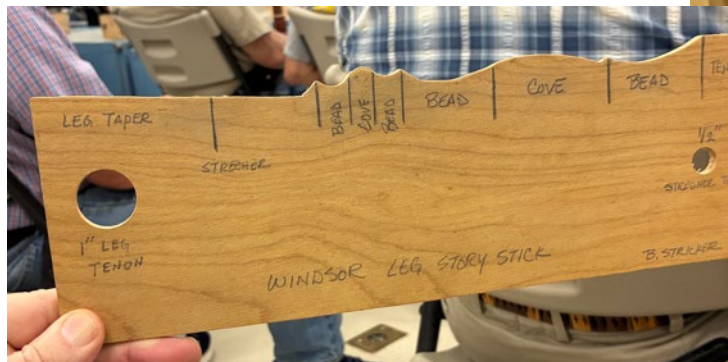
Cabarrus Arts Council Breakfast

Each year, the Cabarrus Arts Council (CAC) invites friends of the arts to join them for their Breakfast for the Arts, which is one of their main fundraising events. As legacy recipients of an operational grant each year from the North Carolina Grass Roots Arts Program, administered locally through CAC, SPW has traditionally supported the event, and this year was no exception. SPW hosted a table of 10 members, some of whom are shown in the photograph at this year's event, which was held on May 7. In addition to breakfast, the event features performances by youth groups that receive support through CAC. Since 2002, Breakfast for the Arts has been one of the CAC's premier fundraisers, dedicated to championing local artists through the generosity of their patrons. This year's breakfast was attended by over 850 friends.



May Demonstration

Bill Stricker, as most of you know, is a longtime member of SPW, going way back to the time prior to the move to our current studio in the ClearWater Arts Center and Studios. At one time, Bill was making stools professionally, along possibly with other turned forms. We have been stressing the use of skew chisels recently through our demonstrations and workshops, so Bill's demonstration was timely in that regard. Bill is an expert skew turner and turned legs and stretchers for his three-legged stool using a skew chisel for much of the turning. Here Bill is discussing the use of the skew chisel and the importance of keeping it sharp. During the demo, in addition to turning the legs and explaining the process along the way, bill additionally provided interesting details of the history of the Windsor design and other designs as well, bamboo for example.



Bill uses a story stick, shown above, matching the contour of each leg as he turns it to the story stick to assure that the legs are all as close to identical as is achievable. And from the picture to the right, it sure looks like the use of the story stick really works. After turning the stretchers, Bill is shown (next page) assembling the stool. And in the last photograph (also next page), the fully assembled stool can be seen.

Great project, Bill, and a truly great presentation. Thanks.





Workshop

After lunch Bill provided the tutorial on the use of a skew chisel to 8 members, showing them how to turn beads and coves, the latter with a spindle gouge, and how to avoid catches when using the skew. Following the tutorial, those who cared to continue turned attention to making a Harry Potter wand, of the style that John Jordan demonstrated at the April meeting – see photograph of some of John Jordan’s wands.



In the photographs on the next page, new member Ashwin Maurya is shown working on his Harry Potter wand (left) and member Charles Stapleton (right) is shown with his completed wand. It was a long day, but a lot of fun and very rewarding for those who participated.



Interest Survey Results

The results of the interest survey that was conducted earlier are in, but with only 16 members responding. Regardless, it does give us an idea of what the membership would like to see in the way of demonstrations and workshops. Three questions were raised as follows:

- Would you like your name and contact information included in a list that will go to turning oriented businesses willing to provide discounts to registered members? Yes – 14. We have more responses to this question that came other than through the survey.
- Is there interest in another workshop on making pens? Yes – 11
- Would you be willing to pay a fee of between \$100 and \$150 for a demonstration followed by a full day workshop by Mike Sorge on Big Air Turning (a description was also provided)? Yes – 9

Members were then asked to pick ten topics from a long list of topics that would be of interest to them. The following provides the top vote getters:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| • Sharpening systems and sharpening | 9 |
| • Basic Skew | 7 |
| • Thread chasing | 7 |

• Pyrography	7
• Pepper Mills	6
• Jigs, sharpening, bowl, lathe, bandsaw	6
• Segmented turning including staved construction	6
• Texturing and spiraling tool use	6
• Platters	6
• Hollowing System	5
• Multi-axis spindle and goblet turning	5
• Green Log to Bowl	5
• Lidded boxes	5
• Kaleidoscopes	5

We will attempt to factor these into the planning for future demonstrations and workshops.

Upcoming Events – Mark Your Calendar

- June 27 Meeting – The June regular membership meeting will be held on June 27. 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 sign up for open turning and it is important that you do. If nobody signs up for a specific open turning session, we will not have people there to open the studio and provide support.
- 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. If you want to enter your gallery and run into trouble, 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

Only one person brought items for Show and Share – Nancy Fox. And, unfortunately, we didn't get a picture. Nancy brought in a number of her golf club pens to share with the mambership. That said, we know that members are turning nice art and craft items, so please bring them to share with the other members. Everyone loves seeing and hearing about your latest mastepieces.

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