

# The South Central Penn Turner

Newsletter of the South Central Pennsylvania Woodturners, January-February 2005



Maple vase, left, (9 inches high x 8 inches wide) and jarrah burl closed form, right, (7 inches high by 8 inches wide), both turned by Dave Barkby.

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## Future Meeting:

**January: No meeting**

**February:** February 1, 2005

**Time:** 6:00 p.m.

**Place:** Elmer Absher's shop

**Directions.** 2530 Pin Oak Drive, York PA  
(717) 843-1627

**Directions.** Going east on US 30, turn left onto Toronita Street at the first traffic light east of the I-83 overpass (AT ROUND THE CLOCK DINER). Travel about 3/4 mile to North Point Drive on left (AT SIGN TO WHITE OAK MANOR CONDO'S). After turning left on North Point Drive make the first right on Shadbark and immediately take a left and Elmer's Condo

will be the first on the right. There is parking as you make the left and also up at Elmer's condo on the right. You can also park in Elmer's drive way and Elmer will have permission to park in his neighbor's drive and also the two condo's across the street, but **please** don't park on the grass. **That's a No No.** For those who know the way off North George Street, that's an OK route also. Elmer's shop is in the basement level at the rear of the building.

**Program:** Show & Tell, view highlights of some of the videos in the Club's library, and discuss ideas for group turning projects. Elmer's shop is a very comfortable meeting place and a good place to set and "shoot the breeze" with other woodturners. Hope to see you there.

## About Our Members

Todd White recently participated in two furniture shows in the Philadelphia area, Germantown in November and Phoenixville in December. He said that his hand-made stools sold well at these shows.

Tell others about your activities in the newsletter by sending the information to Glenn Zepp, 1160 Old Harrisburg Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325, (717-337-9571) or email him at [zeppga@blazenet.net](mailto:zeppga@blazenet.net)

## November Notes

Jerry Kopenhaver, Dave Barkby, and Todd White presented a lively and informative program on marketing our crafts. Jerry brought expertise gained from a professional career in marketing. Dave and Todd shared their expertise gained from selling woodturnings and other crafted items at art shows and craft fairs. Dave participates in juried art shows throughout the eastern U.S. as far away as Florida and Colorado. Todd sells handmade furniture at shows in Pennsylvania.

Jerry emphasized the difference between a commodity and a specialty product. A specialty product is a one-of-a-kind item such as a unique, hand turned bowl. A commodity, on the other hand, is an item in which there are many other nearly identical copies available. Most of our turnings are one-of-a-kind specialty products. Each turning differs from others due to things such as the reputation of the turner, the quality of the work, the design of the object, and the attributes of the wood.

When pricing a commodity you need to set your prices comparable with what other sellers are charging for nearly identical articles. If your price is higher than the competition, customers will purchase from a competitor who is selling the same item at a lower price rather than from you. If you are pricing a

## SCPA Woodturners Information

President:  
Vice-Pres.: Dave Barkby 717/292-0173  
Secretary/newsletter:  
Glenn Zepp 717/337-9571  
Treasurer: Jerry Kopenhaver 717/432-2753  
Librarian: Mike Galloway 717/757-2907

The South Central Pennsylvania Woodturners is a Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners (AAW). Membership dues are \$20/year. For membership, send a check, payable to "SCPA Woodturners", to the treasurer, Jerry Kopenhaver at 50 Warrington Ways, Wellsville, PA. 17365. AAW membership information can be found at [www.woodturner.org](http://www.woodturner.org).

## Treasurers Report

Jerry Kopenhaver

Balance on 12/23/2004:  
\$2,498.29

specialty item, however, you have more flexibility in setting price. And, the more different your item is from the competition, the more flexibility you have in setting price.

If selling through a gallery, never undersell the gallery price with your direct sales. That is a sure way to get dropped by the gallery.

The presentation of your turnings affect how well they sell. Items displayed at eye level sell better than those displayed below or above eye level. Also, you don't want your booth to look empty. A well-stocked, but uncluttered display helps promote sales.

Try to get the same booth location each time you participate in a show so that people know where to look for your display.

It helps in selling your work to do a good job of selling yourself. One suggestion was to dress and look like an authentic craftsman. Buyers like the idea that they are helping to

support an old-time craft by buying from an authentic craftsman.

You should always have business cards available. Todd, however, said he only gives cards to those people to whom he makes a sale.

### December Notes

John and Joan Stewart hosted a Christmas party for the club's December meeting. There was a good turnout and lots of delicious food and fellowship.

Club members did a Show & Tell of turned objects and guests were honored with a gift from among turned objects provided by members.

Thanks John and Joan for an enjoyable evening.

### Woodshop Safety

By Lloyd Shelleman

**Never take shop safety for granted.** All of us, no matter how experienced, have at one time or another done things that puts us at risk of injury. Thus the more we talk about safety, the more likely we are to think about safety when turning wood and less likely we are to do something that causes injury to ourselves or others. In other words, safety must be foremost in our minds at all times when we are operating a machine.

**Safety is a learned skill.** We gain safety skill in numerous ways--experience, reading books and journals, listening to other woodworkers, watching videos of skilled turners, watching live demonstrations, sharing experiences, and most importantly, thinking and planning ahead. As machine operators, we must think for two—the machine and ourselves. The machine cannot think, but we can.

**The newsletter:** Published bi-monthly, material is actively solicited for the newsletter and every effort will be made to use appropriate material from the membership. Unsolicited material from non-members also will be considered. The editor reserves the right to edit for length and appropriateness. No placement of material is guaranteed. Ads will be accepted free from members and may run for two consecutive issues. Contact the editor for deadlines for ads and material to be placed in the newsletter.

**Plan.** Planning how a particular piece of stock is going to be turned is a very important safety skill. Planning does not need to stifle creativity. It just means that we should maintain a general idea of what we are creating and think about each step along the way to completion.

**Share your experience.** As for shared experiences and ideas, anyone that would like to share safety tips or concerns with the club may do so by relating the tip or concern to Lloyd Shelleman either in person at a meeting or by email at [leshelleman@pa.net](mailto:leshelleman@pa.net).

The following are some safety tips to keep in mind when turning wood:

1. Use goggles and/or a face shield.
2. Keep the tool rest as close to the stock as possible without touching the stock.
3. Always run stock at a slow speed until it is rounded.
4. Check all glue joints. A weak glue joint can come apart at high speeds.
5. Hold turning tools securely with both hands.
6. Remove the tool rest when sanding in order to keep your fingers from getting caught between the rest and the stock.
7. Always stop the lathe before making any adjustments such as changing the position of the tool rest.
8. Be sure the tail stock is locked before turning on the power.
9. Maintain a slow speed for stock 6" and larger in diameter.

## Meeting Schedule for 2005

Date	Topic	Place
January 4, 2005	No Meeting	
February 1, 2005	Show and Tell – Movie and discussion	Elmer Absher's shop
March 1, 2005	Staining/Finish/Inlays	Todd White's shop
April 5, 2005	Spindle Turning	Carol Frye's shop
May 3, 2005	To be determined	To be determined
June 7, 2005	Tool Making	Todd White's Shop
July 5, 2005	Tool Making	To be determined
Aug 2, 2005	Picnic	John Stewart's home
September 6, 2005	To be determined	To be determined
October 4, 2005	To be determined	To be determined
November 1, 2005	To be determined	Elmer Absher's shop
December 6, 2005	Christmas Party	To be determined

Show & Tell—November 2004



(Left) Spalted maple ornament by Phil Reed (6½ inches long)



(Right) Maple ornament with lace accents by Dave Smith (7½ inches long)



(Left) Stool by Todd White—cherry top with walnut legs (15 inches wide by 17 inches high)



(Right) Walnut and cherry bench by Todd White



(Left) Jig for holding segmented turning blanks by Mike Galloway



(Right) Jarrah burl bowl by Dave Barkby (7½ inches high by 14½ inches wide)



(Left) Coolabah burl vase by Dave Barkby (6½ inches wide by 7 inches high)



(Left) View 1 of Jarrah burl closed form by Dave Barkby (7 inches high by 8 inches wide)



(Right) View 2 of Jarrah burl closed form



(Left) View 1 of Maple vase by Dave Barkby (9 inches high x 8 inches wide)



(Right) View 2 of Maple vase by Dave Barkby



(Right) Finger top decorated with chatter tool and markers (2 inches diameter), turned by Glenn Zepp.



(Left) Plywood saw jig made by Elmer Absher. Note the interest shown by Elmer's pet eight-point buck.