



# South Central PA WoodTurners

## July 2011 Newsletter

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### Dates to Note

July 5  
Keith Holt  
Multi-axis turning

August 2  
Summer Picnic  
John & Joan Stewart's

Sept. 2 AND Oct. 4 Finishes

November 1  
Ruth Niles  
Off-center turning.

December 7  
Christmas party  
John & Joan Stewart's



### Thoughts from the President Don Wilson

### July 2011

When you get this the annual meeting of the AAW will be over. Last year there were a number of changes at the national level. I believe the AAW will better serve the wood turning community and has the vision to take the organization to a higher level. One of the ways this is accomplished is having a joint meeting with the Wood Art Collectors and the AAW. This will give the wood turners a great opportunity to learn more about the market place.

I encourage you to take part in the "challenge" turning that we may have through out the year and the Christmas ornaments for the Festival of Trees. This will give you ideas to turn something different from what you may have been turning. It is also a good way to pick up new turning techniques.

The July meeting features Keith Holt presenting a demonstration on multi-axis turning. Keith has taken multi-axis turning to a high level and I believe you will find his work very interesting. It will definitely give you a different perspective on what one can do with wood. Keep July 5<sup>th</sup> open so you can attend his demo.

Summer is vacation time and I just got back from a trip to Oregon to my daughters wedding. While there I had time to hike through woods with huge trees and see lots of wildlife. The forests are very different from what we have here in Pennsylvania. I had an opportunity to visit Mt. Saint Helens and see the remains of trees blown over by the volcano eruption of 1980 that leveled miles of trees and changed the landscape of the immediate area. It was interesting to see huge tree stumps where the trees were snapped off from the blast.

Don



### Minutes of Meeting

June 7, 2011

Submitted by  
Our dedicated Secretary  
Carol Woodbury

President Don Wilson called the meeting to order and introduced guest, Carol Hunter, member Dave's wife.

**Announcements:** Martin Stolpe has gone to Red Lodge, Montana, to aid in the recovery from floods.

**Winterthur Museum, Delaware** is holding a Bowl Turning Demonstration on June 18th from 11 until 2.

**Fred Holder's magazine "Woodturning"** is offering subscriptions at \$25 if received electronically/\$35 if mailed.

### Discussions:

Don asked for discussion on how far the club wants to get into the retail business. There is still CA glue and Anchor Seal available. Elmer's 2 shirts were sold to Joyce and Jon @\$20 each. Some sea urchins remain to be sold at 50 cents and \$1.

The discussion was precipitated by correspondence from **NWFiguredWood.com**. This is a mom & pop business in Oregon dealing in local figured woods. Brochures and samples were passed around. Our members could get a 15% discount using the password "woodturners" or a 25% discount on consolidated orders of over \$1,000.

### Raffle

Carol Hunter won the raffle and received 2 small bowls made by Leo Deller from Elmer's maple blanks.

### 2 Riobi cabinet-maker's saws for sale

On a related topic, John Stewart informed us that Nancy Absher still has 2 Riobi cabinet-maker's saws and more rough turned blanks.

### Hands-on session a success!

There was positive response to the question of whether to have another hands-on session in the fall. "Great! Best couple of hours I've spent turning yet." – Bob Namowitz.

## Festival of Trees

Bill Fordney reported that the interim director of the Council of Churches confirms that there WILL be a Festival of Trees again this November. Therefore, we are all to make and bring in several turned ornaments – hopefully we'll have about 75 total to place on our tree. Don noted that this is a chance for us to “give back” to the community. He urged us to make many different sorts/designs.

## Upcoming 2011 Demonstrations:

**July 5** – Keith Holt on multi-axis turning

**August 2** - Picnic at Stewarts'

Sept. 2 AND Oct.4 – Finishes

**November 1** – Ruth Niles on off-center turning. Ruth makes jewelry and bottle-stoppers using a special mandrel

**December 7** – Christmas party.



### Mushroom Challenge

Jon Amos had brought in several pails of juniper, challenging each member to take a piece and make it into a mushroom (any type) to show at the next meeting.

## Tips and Tricks:

Gary Vreeland told of a Kevin Brady jig to resaw logs on a bandsaw; he has copies of the plans to make the jig.

Dennis Heller warns that **bowling balls** have metal interiors and the color is only on the outside, in case anyone is thinking of using a bandsaw to cut a ball for pen blanks.

Bob Namowitz has found larger 3 oz. tubes of epoxy at Harbor Freight.



**Don Wilson** showed his bowl to discuss spraying aniline dye, creating a gradient from yellowish at the bottom to bright red at the top. After sanding, he sprayed the dye mixed with alcohol, then used sealant, sanded, and multiple finishing coats on the item at the end.

## Vice- President Suspiciously Suspected!

After Show and Tell, **suspiciously Tom Deneen**, yet again, won the Craft Supplies gift certificate for \$10 ! He says they recognize his phone number by now !



**Under Suspicion for Excessive Luck**

## Craft Supplies Club Discount

Along with the supply of new gift certificates came an offer to give the club a 15% discount on any consolidated orders. Don asked that we inform him if planning to place any orders so he can try to take advantage of that discount for the club.

## ORNAMENTS

### **Multiple Demonstrations from our Talented Members !**

#### Barbara Palastak on Spindle Ornaments:

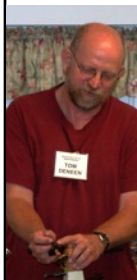
Mary Diehl suggested that Barb paint her spindle ornaments and she has done so ever since. With very fine, stubby brushes and acrylic craft paint from Moore's or other craft store.



Barb showed how she rests her forearm on the tool rest so that she can come at the turning piece from the far side. This keeps her hand from blocking her view as she touches the brush to the wood. (Some like to use very fine markers) "Less is more", says Barb. She uses only a sanding sealer (never wax, which makes paint smear) after turning the wood and doesn't apply anything after painting, although polyurethane might be possible.

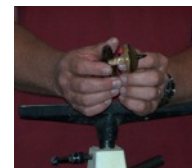


**Phil Reed on Bird Houses:** With a 1" diameter head stock, cut 1 1/2" square blanks (many at once) Start by drilling a hole to put onto the stock. Turn. Drill a 1/4" hole and hollow the piece a bit to lighten the weight of the ornament if it's for hanging on a tree. Use crystal coat on body of bird house then friction polish.



#### Tom Deneen on Bird Feeders:

Tom's bird feeders outsell his bird houses 10 to 1. There are 4 parts to his feeder. Use a 1/2" Forstner bit on the inside of the top finial. One African Blackwood pen blank produces 20 finials bandsawn, and the wood holds detail well.



#### Bee Hives

Tom also showed his latest experiment – bee hives for sale. He used an old parting tool ground by his dremel to make equal beads, then hollowed it to lighten it, and plugged the bottom with a turned tenon.

President Don demonstrated the turning of a finial. He emphasized using straight grain wood or else the finial will break. He likes maple as it is a moderately hard wood with straight grain and takes stain and paint nicely.



Don encourages us to try our own adaptations and designs over the summer.

**Looking forward to our Christmas tree, guys !**



### Bill Fordney on Inside Out Ornaments:

As an 18-year veteran of ornament making, a new one every year as gifts, Bill was able to show several methods.

1.) a glue-up of 1/4" squares, turned to round, from which he gets about 3 globes turned and to which he adds the finial and drop icicle.



2.) 60-30 angles glued like a star which it turns into an interesting design at the curve of the globe.

3.) "Woodturning Design" pattern adapted which requires 65 pieces of wood glued together plus 2 pieces for the finial and drop; he showed both the glue-up and finished ornament.

### 4.) Inside out ornaments

Inside out ornaments in various stages and turning a sample for us. He suggests not gluing right away; instead he holds the lengths by gluing flat wood at both ends for turning. He also suggested cutting grooves and gluing only at the ends beyond the grooves; then you can cut at the groove for loose pieces to reverse. **ALWAYS make your X** at the ends for aligning when reversed after first turning and finish the exterior before reversing it to become the interior ! Glue the ends. The shadow of the interior cut helps turn the true exterior to the proper shape and thinness. This produces either a globe or an ornament when finials and icicle are added.



### Bandsaw Method

Alternatively, you can skip the first gluing and grooving and just turn the blank as is, being sure to come straight in with your tool. Sand and finish what will be the inside. Use bandsaw to cut into 4 quarters, reverse and glue. Tighten jaws of chuck snugly and bring tail stock in; as you hand-turn the tail stock you will drive the wood into the jaws and you can tighten the chuck



Use the shadow to determine the final turning – **how brave you are determines how thin you make it !** This can be a globe or with added finial and icicle an ornament. Finish by sanding and sealer of your preference.

**Tip: Automotive hose clamps will hold glued pieces without marking them.**

**So many variations ! Thanks to all.**

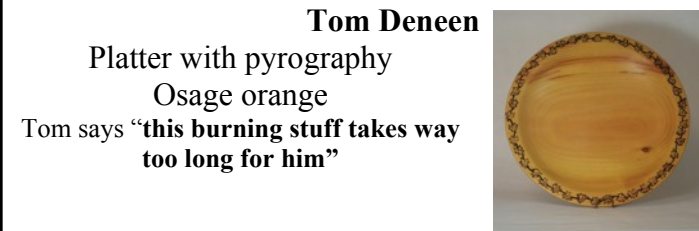
## Show & Tell

Show & Tell Photo taken by Phil Reed



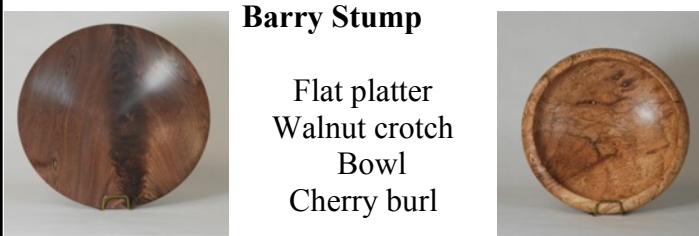
### Phil Reed

Round bottom bowl  
Weeping cherry  
darkened & aged with lye



### Tom Deneen

Platter with pyrography  
Osage orange  
Tom says "this burning stuff takes way too long for him"



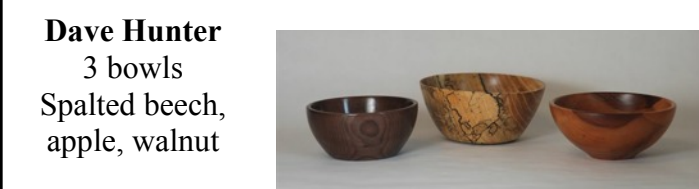
### Barry Stump

Flat platter  
Walnut crotch  
Bowl  
Cherry burl



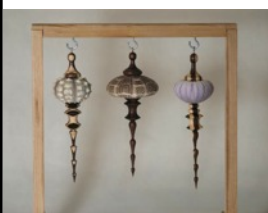
### Jon Amos

Mushroom  
Juniper



### Dave Hunter

3 bowls  
Spalted beech,  
apple, walnut



### Al Herner

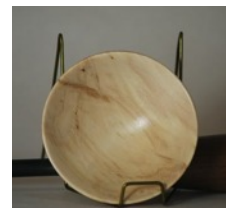
5 Ornaments  
Sea Urchin  
hollow one of walnut & maple



### Gary Vreeland

Lathe tool handle  
Walnut

Tiny bowl Maple



## Don Wilson

Bowl  
Red dye on maple



## Dean Swaggert

Pierced bowl  
Birch

Pierced by a dental drill, using only the air connection (drills can be purchased from OneGoodTurn.com)

(Jon mentioned throw-away hand drills)



Platter

Sassafras  
Used sander



## Jean-Louis

Vena, the great-granddaddy of the  
Indian Sitar.  
Bamboo & Gourds

Louis told us of the method of playing the instrument and that often Spanish cedar or mahogany or teak are used as the ends of the Bamboo. The gourds are specially grown to be large and flattish on the bottom. Jean-Louis is going to do some repair on this one.



## Bryan Sword

Hollow Form  
Olive



Hollow Form Blank

Bryan says "Yes, he is going to change the finial to something black and yes, he will finish sanding the inside somehow."

Or as Don says, "it's art don't put your fingers inside."

"The proof that I did some of the hollowing is right herein this picture", say me.



## Treasurer's Report

From John Stewart



John reports that as of June 10, 2011 the club treasury stands at \$ 2115.69.

Thank you John

From Bryan Sword- newsletter editor

The Following was taken from the Georgia Association of Woodturners newsletter. My brother is a member of the GAWoodturners and therefore we kind of have permission to share this safety information..

## Lathe Safety

Two lathe related deaths in as many months has raised the issue of safety from a background concern to the forefront for many woodturners. The first casualty was Michele Dufault, a Yale undergraduate majoring in astronomy and physics who was asphyxiated when her hair was caught in a lathe. The second was Joan Kelly, a member of the Mid-South Woodturners, who was struck by a bowl blank that came apart.

As woodturners, we have chosen a tool that is as dangerous as any in the workshop and we sometimes take it for granted.

One of the first things every new woodturner should be taught is that one should not wear long sleeves, or loose clothing of any kind and should tie back long hair. That is a pretty easy concept to grasp when one looks at a spinning piece of wood. However familiarity often causes us to forget the extreme forces at work each time we turn on our lathe. Most of us have heard of the guidelines for safe turning speed. RPM times the diameter of the piece should fall within the range of 6000 to 9000. Using that guideline, a 6" diameter piece should not be turned at more than 1,000 to 1,500 RPM, a 12" diameter piece should be turned at no more than 500 to 750 and a 20" piece, no more than 300 to 450. But why?

Let's look at the forces that are acting on a piece under those three diameters. For those that may care, the formula I used to estimate G force is: force in g's =  $1.12 \times \text{radius\_in\_mm} \times (\text{speed\_in\_rpm} / 1000)^2$ . (This formula provided by a World of Woodturners member.)

When applied to a 6" piece, the guideline results in the surface traveling at approximately 18 to 27 miles an hour. That's not too bad right? Its surface is also exposed to between 76 and 171 G's. Every ounce of wood on the surface of the piece now has between 5 and 10 pounds of force attempting to pull it away from the rest of the piece.

The surface of a 12" piece is traveling at 18 to 27 miles an hour and is subjected to 38 to 87 G's. The 20" piece is traveling at 18 to 27 miles an hour and is subjected to 23 to 52 G's.

So we see a couple of patterns emerging. First of all, the surface of each piece is moving at the same speed when we stay within the guidelines. The bottom line is that if something comes off the piece, it will hit you at a maximum of 27 miles an hour. Will it hurt? Probably. Will it leave a mark? Probably. Will it kill you? Probably not, particularly if you are wearing a face shield.

The second pattern is that the G forces that the pieces are subjected to go down with the diameter. One could use a lot of math to explain why, but it boils down to the rate of change in the object's path and can be illustrated by something familiar to all of us: driving a car in a circle or around a turn. Try to turn your car in a small circle while holding your speed at 27 miles an hour. Then, at the same 27 miles an hour, try it in a medium circle and finally a large circle. As the circle gets larger, you will feel less force trying to move you to the outside of the circle. The same thing happens to the surface of your Piece.

It is good that the G forces decrease with the diameter. Since the volume of wood in a larger piece is greater, there is a greater amount of wood trying to pull the piece apart. There is twice the volume in a 12" piece than a 6" and the 20" piece is over three times the volume of the 6" piece. As size goes up, the G's exerted on the piece goes down in approximately the same ratio. So the total amount of force trying to pull the piece apart should be similar. Finally, let's take an extreme example. Recently a woodturner was injured (broken jaw, plates, screws and a liquid diet for six weeks) turning an 18" piece at 2050 RPM. That puts him way outside the 6000/9000 range. Let's see how far.

First of all, for an 18" piece, the guideline is 333 to 500 RPM which puts the surface speed and G loading right with the examples above. RPM of 2050 puts the surface speed at about 110 miles an hour and the G load at about 960! Each ounce of surface wood is being subjected to 60 pounds of force trying to pull it away from the rest of the piece. In this case it did. Did it hurt? I would bet on it! Did it leave a mark? Several. Did it kill him? No. He was lucky. A few ounces of wood at 110 miles an hour would be like getting hit with a croquet ball thrown by a major league pitcher. A heavier piece would be like getting hit by the bat swung by a home run leader. The guidelines below were developed to help woodturners judge safe speed limits. Can you turn safely outside those limits? Certainly. Should you? Possibly on occasion. Just be aware, that the further outside the guidelines you move, the smaller the safety margin is. A recent demonstrator said, in a nutshell, there are casualties in all hobbies. While that is true and, on the surface seems to make sense, if it was him that was one of those casualties I think his attitude would change.... Provided he survived. Turn safe.

Editors note: Next SCPWT newsletter the speed guideline table will be included.

## Tips from other club newsletters

### Coloring Tip

This tip was borrowed from the **Carolina Mountain Woodturners Newsletter**.

Add color with Easy Off Oven Cleaner. Doug Nesbitt saw this trick at the J. C. Campbell Folk School. Soren Burger had turned a small dipper from cherry. He sprayed Easy Off Oven Cleaner on the wood, waited a minute, then washed it off with water, let it dry, coated it with urethane oil, then dried and buffed. It developed a rich reddish brown color similar to cocobolo. I don't know if it works on all wood or just cherry, but its worth a try.

### Small Turning Tool

Turning Tips By Warren Carpenter

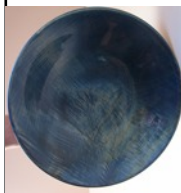
If you are looking for a small turning tool, use an old drill bit. Drill bits are made from a pretty good grade of steel. Grind the solid end to the shape you desire, insert it in a wooden handle that was drilled with a bit one size smaller than the one you just reshaped, and as simple as that you have a small tool. Best of all, the price is right!

## **Candid Photos of Various Notorious Members**

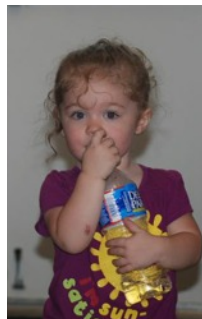


Whoever was doing the demo had us in rapt attention.

Some sea urchins ornaments by Don



Plus a dyed platter by Don



Our youngest visitor yet!



The proper way to hold the Vena when playing.