



# South Central PA WoodTurners

## July/August 2014 Newsletter

**President**  
 Don Wilson  
 (717) 741-1226  
 wilson.don@verizon.net

**Vice-President**  
 Tom Deneen  
 (717) 927-9004  
 Tomdeneen@  
 emailaccount.com

**Treasurer**  
 John Stewart  
 (717) 757-2212  
 JRWS3088@aol.com

**Secretary**  
 Carol Woodbury

**Newsletter**  
 Bryan Sword  
 (717) 225 6807  
 Bryansword@gmail.com

**Club Web Site**  
 www.PAwoodturners.com

**Dates to Note**

**Club Meetings**  
**Tuesday Sept. 2, 2014**  
**Social 6:00– 6:30 PM**  
**Fabulous Finials**  
 Presented by the Fabulous  
**Barb Fordney**

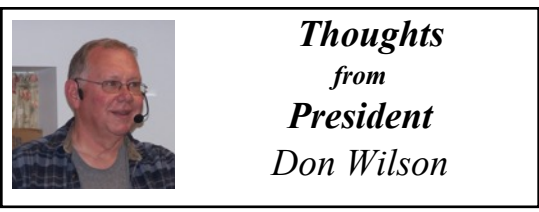
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Tuesday Oct. 7, 2014  
**Ornaments**  
 By Bill Fordney

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Tuesday Nov. 4, 2014  
**Snap Fit Box**  
 by Tom Deneen

**November 11, 2014**  
 Tuesday,  
**Jimmy Clewes**  
 All day demo



The woodturning community is comprised of an older population with many of the newer members joining after retirement. Woodturning and "shop" is dying out in schools, and a large number of people have not encountered wood turning on a lathe. The wood bowl and other wood items are not considered a necessity and have been replaced by more durable materials that are easier to mass manufacture. All of this contributes to a decline in woodturning and a loss of knowledge of the craft. You all know this, but we still enjoy making things from wood.

I mention this because we had the lowest attendance in a very long time at the last month's meeting. There was a concern that we were not advertising in the paper. The ads were in that particular month, and a number on you told me you had seen them. In years past the ads brought new interested people to a meeting. This did not work this year. Newspaper reading and circulation has dropped dramatically over recent years with many newspapers going out of business. The people who read newspapers are of an older generation that may not be interested in starting a new hobby.

This year most of the new people that have attended a meeting came because of interest from meeting one us of doing a public demonstration in woodturning.



**SCPWT's Donation to Access-York**

August 15, 2014  
 Recently a donation of \$639.25 was made to Access-York by the South Central Pennsylvania Woodturners. Members donate handmade wood turnings to raise funds. SCPWT has donated several thousand dollars to local charities. Presenting the check to Jennifer Brillhart, Access Chief Development Officer and Heather Keller, Legal Advocacy Director, is John R.W. Stewart, treasurer of SCPWT, and Joan Brownell Stewart.  
*News release by John Stewart, Treasurer*

*Thoughts Continued* - There have been a number of people that I have met while working at the Woodcraft store that I have directed to our meetings. I believe our strongest way to grow is through direct contact with people we meet and promotion of the club.

I know of one couple who comes through a contact with a relative who is an AAW member and looked up our club through AAW. Internet access works. The younger generations get their news online and seek information through the Internet rather than using books or newspapers. Email, facebook and other social media provides them with current affairs, upcoming events and changes in things they are interested in. While we do have a web page, there is little we are doing to direct people to view it. I venture that most of the club does not view the web page on a regular basis.

If you have visited our the web page before the September meeting and the publication of this newsletter I ask that you drop me an email at [wilson.don@verizon.net](mailto:wilson.don@verizon.net) and let me know. I would like to hear ideas from the members on how we might better communicate with you and how we can better communicate with potential new people to keep the club more active.  
 Don

## Club Picnic & July Meeting



This year's summer picnic was again held at **John and Joan Stewart's** banquet room. We are very fortunate to have them as hosts for these social events. So once again **we thank you both for your generosity and kindness**, plus John does a great job on the chicken. (Do you do take out John?)

**Tips and Tricks** - Barry Stump showed us a magic elixir of bees wax, mineral oil and vegetable oil that he uses to keep the dust down while sanding. Of course it does clog the sand paper. He also uses it for "punky" wood to get a clean cut.



The **Raffle Prize** was won by **Betty Deneen**, thus giving Tom, finally, the chance he has been waiting for. He has been itching to make a raffle prize for the next meeting. As you can see Tom is really excited about the prospect of the challenge.



**Show and Tell: - David Neuburger** shows off his creation - a dip and chip server. Dave was in the running all the way through the night and did receive end up with 1<sup>st</sup> runner up for functional wood ware.



**Leo Deller** shows off his cedar bowl. Leo won 2nd runner up to first place for the best presentation of cedar made that night. Leo was runner up to 2nd place in the over all competition.



**Bryan Sword** made an excellent presentation on how to make a rustic oak bowl even more rustic by inserting wood biscuits with a plate joiner across cracks. Bryan was runner up to first place for a bowl made of "crappy wood" in the "**Cracks add Character**" category judged by **Phil Reed**.

**Tom Deneen** showed off another artistic, rustic, nesting bowl set made from his stash of mesquite burls. Tom smiles thinking he has the top prize in hand but unfortunately he was 3rd runner up to 2nd place in the "**I paid HOW MUCH for this wood?**" category.



**Prizes** were rewarded based on how **much hair** each participant had and the amount of **light reflected** from their domes.



Finally **Jean-Lois Jugeau** explained a unique string instrument he is repairing. Can't recall what it is but it was interesting. Jean was not entered in the over all judging as he was disqualified for having too much hair to even be in the running.

Due to operator error no gift certificate drawing was done for the few of us who brought our most critically acclaimed works of art. But never the less we who brought items for S&T were gratified to receive standing applause for their work.

## Club Minutes August 2014

*Submitted by Carol Woodbury*

*(It sure is nice to have Carol back doing the notes. Thank you, Carol!)*



**Pres. Wilson** called the meeting to order at 6:30.

**Guests: Cookie and Sam McCurry**, guests of the **Kersts**, were introduced.

**Treasurer's Report: John Stewart** reported directly from the book that the treasury contains \$2,775.00 after all charitable gifts have dispersed.



**Glue:** A new batch of CA glue is available for purchase.



**Monthly Raffle:** The raffle was won by Bryan Sword who takes home a cylinder box turned by **Tom Deneen**.

(Bryan did remark to Tom earlier that if he won it he would sell it, but then recanted.)

**Show & Tell Gift Certificate:** Dave Hunter shows surprise after winning the gift certificate for Show and Tell.



**Fox Chapel 2015 Open House:** The Club has received a letter from Fox Chapel with an application to demonstrate at the May 2015 show. There were 8 volunteers for the 2015 show. Don will complete the application and return it to Fox Chapel.

### Rudy Collective Art Group:

Don announced that he is now working with the Rudy Collective on East Philadelphia St. The Rudy Collective consists of 12 different artists sharing space. He has set up several lathes there and hopes to have a full woodworking workshop available to the public. Eventually he will teach as well.

### Festival of Trees:

Nothing has been heard about the Festival of Trees. Karen Holway will ask Joan Mummert if the York County Heritage Trust has any information about it.

### Tips and Tricks:



**Dave Hunter** showed a small bearing chuck used for supporting delicate work.

A small bearing is pressed into a block of nylon. The tail stock chuck is then screwed into the nylon. Small finials and other fragile work can be supported at both ends without marring.



## August Demo

### Phil's Phabulous Phinials "turned" out to be Don's Delightful Demonstration (Great alliteration, Carol!)

Don demonstrated turning the two possible versions of a spiral finial. Both are started with a rounded blank and should have a graceful curve from bulbous bottom to the tip.



Both are laid out the same way, by roughing it out, then indexing the form with a carpenter's flat pencil.

Don has a 12 position indexing head and showed how he holds the pencil steady in the same position while hand turning the piece to create the index line running from bottom to tip. Again using the pencil, he draws equal horizontal lines to create a graph of squares. He then connects the intersections of the grid to create a spiral line. It's also possible to use tape as a guide for the last step.



At this point, you can use a back saw to make the initial cuts. Amazingly, the cut is a straight cut, yet appears to swirl. Next, you have the option to use a set of Rifler files or rotary carving system with a flexible shaft.



There was discussion about the rotary carving. Don prefers a free-hanging, flexible shaft such as Foredom over a hand-held motor grinder combo such as Dremel. He always hangs the motor *above* the lathe so that the flexible shaft doesn't kink and allows more movement in carving. (Foredom parts are interchangeable with Weeher parts.)

He uses a wide rest, creating a tripod effect with lathe, arm and tool. He suggests using about 1/4 or 1/3 speed because a carbide burr at a high speed gets filled with dust and burns.



To finish, he showed spring-loaded sanding sticks, 80 and 120 grit, which enable getting down into the grooves for a nice finish.



Version 1 demonstrated a Spiral Finial. The main design element is the raised spirals around a solid interior.

Version 2 demonstrated a Flame. The technique is the same, but the wider grooves are the main design element of the finished product. This shape produces a "flame" appearance.



For the open spiral variety, Don hollows the wood blank on the lathe first. Then he lays out the grid and files through the wood to leave only the round spirals. Finishing is done with a strip of 120 or 220 to smooth the inside and a buffing wheel to smooth the outside. This takes much patience and perseverance.

As usual, Don held everyone's attention captive with an instructive demonstration.

Thanks, Don.

## August Show and Tell

Photos by Phil Reed



### Dave Hunter

Cherry hollow form with finial stopper & Carol's pyrography. Dave admitted that his darling wife spent more time in the artistic creation than he did. So club members questioned why her name was not on the bottom also and if, in fact, it should had been first.



### Leo Deller

End-grain cedar petal bowl. Leo did say that Don helped with the carving of the petals.



### Tom Deneen

Two flat oak bowls

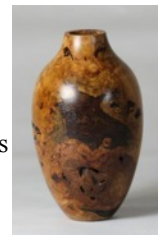
Tom pointed out the curl in the grain that make these bowls special. Tom also made some bowls out of grape vine.



### Phil Reed

Cherry burl bottle

Phil didn't have much to say about the bottle but once again his work is spectacular!



### Charles Stuhre

Black and white ebony pencil, using a Pentel pencil mechanism minus the plastic with 5 coats of new medium CA glue, wet sanding, and blue rouge buffing.