

South Central Pennsylvania Wood Turners



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Club Web Site

www.PAwoodturners.com

SCPWT is a group of wood turning enthusiasts with differing abilities, but likeminded in our attraction to spinning wood. We meet on the first Tuesday of most months of the year at 6:30 PM at The York Town Craft Guild at 639 N. Franklin St., York, PA 17403 (parking on street or in grass lot across the street).



April guest demonstrator Craig Abel speaks about his large hollow form prior to his demo of miniature hollow forms

March 4th 2025 Meeting Notes

22 members in attendance

President Joel Persing opened the meeting at 6:30 PM. He welcomed 2 new members and 2 guests.

Financial: Treasurer Barry Stump reported that the club has \$1,937.75 in the primary checking account. There is \$70 in petty cash. He reported that the club received \$177 from donation sales at the home and Garden club. The club purchased AAW insurance for \$225 for the year. The trailer hitch was replaced for a cost of \$40 and keys were purchased at a cost of six dollars each. There is approximately \$40 in glue assets. Today 26 members have paid their dues for the year. Barry brought in several containers of Titebond III glue from the estate of Leo Deller, asking for donations from whomever took the glue. It is traditional to make a donation to the scholarship fund after being invited to the home and Garden show. It was determined by the club that \$200 will be offered for that charity event.

Joel reported that the club had excellent visibility at the home and Garden club and a full color picture of Tom Deneen appeared in the York Sunday paper. We had numerous people come and pick up literature about the club and indicated an interest in attending. Under other announcements, Rich Conley kindly offered ambrosia maple available on his property at 9 AM on Saturday, March 10. He advised that people will need to wear boots that can get muddy.

David Hunter announced that he will be dispensing with all of his wood turning and woodworking equipment. He will be offering everything at a very reasonable price - Anyone interested should contact him.

Show and tell

Joel presented a segmented maple, cherry, padauk and black walnut bowl with a walnut oil finish. He also brought in some objects made by a neighbor, Craig Abel, who is a very successful turner and vendor online. Items included were a red maple and walnut faced piece that was incredibly thin. Also black walnut and cherry hollow forms. Joel said that Craig turns all projects with green wood, and then covers them with a towel and does a second turning in a few weeks. Joel's tip for the week was to be sure to turn off lathe before adjusting the tool rest, or risk getting four stitches in your hand.

Tom Deneen showed a box and weed pot made of cherry Burl. He also passed around jigs he created to make the scoops which would be demonstrated later in the meeting.

Phil Reed made a calabash bowl from maple obtained at Bryan Sword's house.

Barry Stump made a hollow form of spalted maple and an elaborately colored lidded hollow form also of maple.



Tom Deneen demonstrating the turning of a scoop at March meeting



Elric Jenkins showing his segmented, covered bowl

March 4th 2025 Meeting Notes (continued)

David Neuberger presented a walnut bowl he had made for his mother 15 years ago and has been well used.

Elric Jenkins made an acrylic and cherry bowl. He also made a large segmented covered bowl of four different kinds of wood. The inside and the outside of the lid have different patterns.

Don Wilson made a claro walnut square bowl. He said this wood comes from the Sacramento River Valley in California and is often used for gun stocks because of its beautiful grain.

Mark Coons made a spalted maple bowl from a tree that had fallen on his daughter's camper. He finished it with Briwax hard wax oil, recommended by Don Wilson.

Monroe Busch showed a small Black Walnut plate.

John Stough brought in a partially turned hollow form made from a walnut crotch.

Evening program:

Tom Deneen presented a demonstration on making scoops. He began the project using a piece of oak from a 300 year old tree starting with a 2½ x 4" long rectangular piece. The roughing gouge is used to round the form. He reminded new members that roughing gouges should only be used on a piece of wood being turned as a spindle. Using a roughing gouge to hollow a bowl would be disastrous because of the grain patterns. He showed how he tests for relative roundness of the turning object by placing the roughing gouge on top of the piece as it's turning. He uses a caliper to measure diameter and then uses the diameter measurement with the caliper to mark off the length. He uses a pencil or pen to mark that length and then uses that to begin forming the end of the piece.

Tom used a flat square scraper to form the ball on the end of the piece. He likes to leave a small ring at the base of the ball as an ornamental feature for the handle. Next, he uses a round nose scraper and then the flat scraper to form the handle. Tom says he is a production turner and usually turns at a very high revolution rate. He will often make many pieces before getting to the saw to do the next step.

Tom created a jig to hold the ball form still while cutting on the bandsaw. Once bisected, he trims the handle slightly, then cuts an arc across the opening of the scoop. Tom has created a jig from PVC that holds the base of the scoop in the chuck. This allows the chuck to hold the piece without being damaged or slipping while turning. He places the tool rest slightly below center and hollows out the bowl of the scoop with a round nosed scraper. He measures the depth of the new bowl by inserting an existing metal measuring spoon to fit. He said he listens for the change of pitch with the tool to determine when the wood is becoming too thin.



PVC jig Tom Deneen made to hold his small scoops in a 4 jaw chuck for hollowing



March 4th 2025 Meeting Notes (continued)

He then turns off the lathe and does a measurement with the caliper. He sands using the sponge sanding block from Harbor freight with sandpaper wrapped around it. He uses mixture of beeswax and mineral oil for a finish. Cautioned new members to always use paper towels when applying finish because cloth towels can be caught in the motion of the lathe and do serious damage to one's hands. Paper towels will tear away if caught. He uses a belt sander at home to finish edges.

Tom secondly demonstrated the creation of a larger scoop that might be used for something like dog food. He uses a pre-rounded piece of stock and takes the tail stock off the machine so as not to be injured. He uses a bowl gouge to hollow out what will become the scoop. Because it's difficult to see inside a narrow opening he pre-measures the intended depth of the scoop and often uses a piece of tape on the tool that will allow him to know when he is deep enough. He says that he stays at between the one and 2 o'clock position working close to his side of the form. If one contacts the outside it can damage the project. He uses a round scraper to finish the interior. Explains that you use the tool that is working best for you there are no absolutes in these processes. Example he said you can do the coring by the application of a Jacobs truck and Forstner bit.

As with the smaller ladle, Tom uses beeswax and mineral oil for the finish. He noted that he gets large blocks of beeswax from a local beekeeper and melts them down into small bricks. He formed the handle with the scrapers and removes using a parting tool. As with the first example he cuts the project on a bandsaw yielding two ladles. He trims the scoop on the bandsaw to decrease the angle.

Tom received a round of applause, concluding the meeting. Joel reminded members the next meeting would be April 1.

The meeting ended at 7:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Craig Zumbrun, Secretary
notes taken by Sandy Rushton



Don Wilson's Claro Walnut Burl square bowl



Phil Reed's Maple calabash bowl

We're on the Web!
www.PAwoodturners.com

March 2025 Show & Tell



Joel Persing's segmented bowl



Craig Abel's Walnut hollow form



Mark Coons' natural edged Cherry Burl bowl



Mark Coons' natural edged Cherry Burl bowl

March 2025 Show & Tell (continued)



Barry Stump's Spalted Maple vase



Barry Stump's Dyed lidded vase



Craig Zumbrun's bowl made with club members



David Neuberger's Walnut bowl gifted to his mother years ago

We're on the Web!

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March 2025 Show & Tell (continued)



Don Wilson's square Claro Walnut Burl bowl



Mark Coons' Spalted Maple bowl



Elric Jenkins' Cherry & acrylic
"bowl from a board"



Elric Jenkins' covered, segmented bowl (with
different pattern on inside vs outside of lid)

March 2025 Show & Tell (continued)



Monroe Busch's Black Walnut plate



April 1st 2025 Meeting Notes

Joel Persing, club president opened the meeting at 6:30pm. There were 21 members and three guests present.

Barry Stump provided the Treasurer's report. There were expenditures of \$42.30 for a new hitch lock for the trailer. There are 2 new paid members, Monroe Busch and Bob McMaster. The club received \$177 as donations during and Garden show. Treasury balance stands at \$1954. Barry urged members who have not paid their dues to please do so.

Joel reported that a new Facebook group has been created. He urged members to take a look at it.

Show and Tell

Monroe Busch made his first two bowls from cherry and a third bowl of oak, and he acknowledged some tutelage by Don Wilson.

Phil Reed turned a large deep Maple bowl with wood from Bryan Sword.

Tom Deneen showed a tool he created of PVC to assist in turning coffee measures. He also made a pair of bowls from spalted oak.

Joel Persing made a segmented bowl of maple and walnut. Also a cherry goblet from wood he got from Bill Fordney's estate.

Don Wilson brought in an oak chair spindle he duplicated from a broken original.

Dave Hunter showed a large bowl he made of cherry with pyrographic incising.

Barry Stump made an urn with a lid based on something requested by his neighbor from a previous piece.

April 1st 2025 Meeting Notes (continued)

Guest presenter for the evening:

Craig Abel turning miniature hollow forms.

Craig brought in a number of different objects he created including very hollow forms, goblets, and vases. He also brought in an extremely large hollow form he had turned beginning with a piece of wood that had weighed 163 pounds at the start and when finished was only 7 pounds with ¼ side walls.

Craig discussed the methods he uses to successfully work with wet wood and then successively dry it. He rough turns, then wraps the object with towels and places in paper bag and cardboard box. He usually waits a week or so between turnings until the wood is measurably more dry. He maintains a record charting the rate of the loss of moisture content, determined by the weight at each measurement. This process is repeated numbers of times until he is ready to finish sanding and apply tongue oil as the finish.

He uses high speed bits. He likes to work with burls, making miniature objects. He turns at a high speed approximately 1440 revolutions per minute, and usually begins with using a scraper. He epoxies his subject wood onto a base to grip in a chuck. For our demo, he used canned air with a small nozzle to continually remove wood chips and dust from the form he was hollowing.

Craig said for these miniature forms he often uses tools he creates out of Allen wrenches. He sometimes uses a Forstner bit when making deeper objects. He uses 220 grit sandpaper, turning the object at about 600 rpm for small pieces, and 300 rpm for large pieces. He finishes with 400 grit paper and uses carnauba wax with mineral oil as a sealer. He sometimes uses diatomaceous earth for sanding the final steps before carnauba wax.

Craig cautioned members to always use paper towel for applying finishes and not cloth. Paper will tear away while cloth can cause binding and hand injuries. For large items such as the 7 pound huge bowl he brought, he uses "shine juice". Following the presentation members came to the demonstration table to look at all the objects he brought

Joel reminded the members that the next meeting will be May 6, and the topic is to be announced. The meeting ended at 7:40 PM

Notes by Sandy Rushton and Craig Zumbrun



Don Wilson's duplicate oak chair spindle



Craig Abel turning miniature hollow form at April meeting



Craig Abel turnings from his April Demo

April 2025 Show & Tell (continued)



Phil Reed's Maple Calabash bowl



Dave Hunter's Cherry bowl



Tom Deneen's two Spalted Oak bowl

April 2025 Show & Tell (continued)



Joel Persing's segmented Walnut and Maple bowl (L) and vase form (R)



Joel Persing's Cherry cup



Barry Stump's lidded Walnut vase