



Chips & Chatter

Newsletter for the Silicon Valley Woodturners

April 2025

Table of Contents

[President's Turn](#)

[Announcements](#)

[Events Recap](#)

[April Meeting Demo - Coring](#)

[Professional Guest Demo](#)

[President's Challenge](#)

[Show and Tell](#)

[Mark Your Calendar!](#)

[2025 Ironman Tracker](#)

[About Us](#)

President's Turn

I've heard it said that if you ask a question of three woodturners you'll get at least five different answers. :-)

I imagine the same is true for any endeavor that is as much a mix of art and science as our woodturning pursuit is. When there is not one 'right way' to do something, one of the nice things about having multiple answers is the opportunity to learn from each other, and then experiment in our own shops. I think that is no small part of why a club such as SVW is still enjoyable after many years. Many of us have seen similar demos many times, and yet there is still always something new to learn.

We had a great example of that this month with George Mathew's unique approach to coring bowl blanks. He took what is often an inexact, poorly understood process, and by applying some basic mathematics turned it into an understandable, predictable, and maybe even semi-repeatable process. Perhaps more importantly, his scientific approach introduced a whole new way of thinking about the coring process. I'm excited to get into my own shop and try something similar. Thanks again George for a great bowl coring demo.

On the more artistic side, our professional demo with Scott Hampton this month saw four (maybe five) projects that were more about artistic style and embellishments than the technical aspects of woodturning techniques. In fact there were several times during the day when Scott, having created a bowl or a platter that many of us would have been proud of, turned and attacked it with his carving tools. And while it was momentarily disappointing to see such beautiful works 'modified', in the end the finished pieces were equally stunning. In fact, the four pieces Scott produced were raffled off at the end of the day, and now reside with our four luckiest participants.

And speaking of participation, Angela mentioned how proud she is of this club, and the number of wig stands we produced for a good cause. I want to amplify and echo that sentiment! I'm proud of the dynamic club we have, and the multitude of ways you all participate. The wig stands, Beads of Courage boxes, pens for the troops, and our donations in support of Maker Nexus, are all ways we can support a community larger than ourselves. Thanks for being part of SVW.

An additional note of thanks this month is also due to Jerry Pruitt, who generously donated a CBN wheel to the club for our tool sharpening needs. Thank you very much Jerry!

On a more somber note, this last month also saw the passing of our long time friend and club member Jim Gott. Jim was a long time SVW demonstrator, mentor and club photographer at least as far back as 2002. He was an excellent turner, very precise, very artistic, and his finishes were immaculate. He was well known in the club for eliciting a smile as he took your picture, as well as for the beautiful ornaments he turned. Even after moving away a few years ago Jim remained active in the club. He usually attended our meetings via Zoom, and when he had any business in the Bay Area, he would schedule it for a first Wednesday so he could join us in person while he was in town. In fact, he was scheduled to do a demo here for us later this year. I am saddened that the demo won't be happening. Jim will be missed.

Kevin

Announcements

The May 10 Sawdust Session will cover urethane finishes. Location will be Dennis' workshop in Saratoga from 10am to 1pm. Please sign up at the May general meeting.

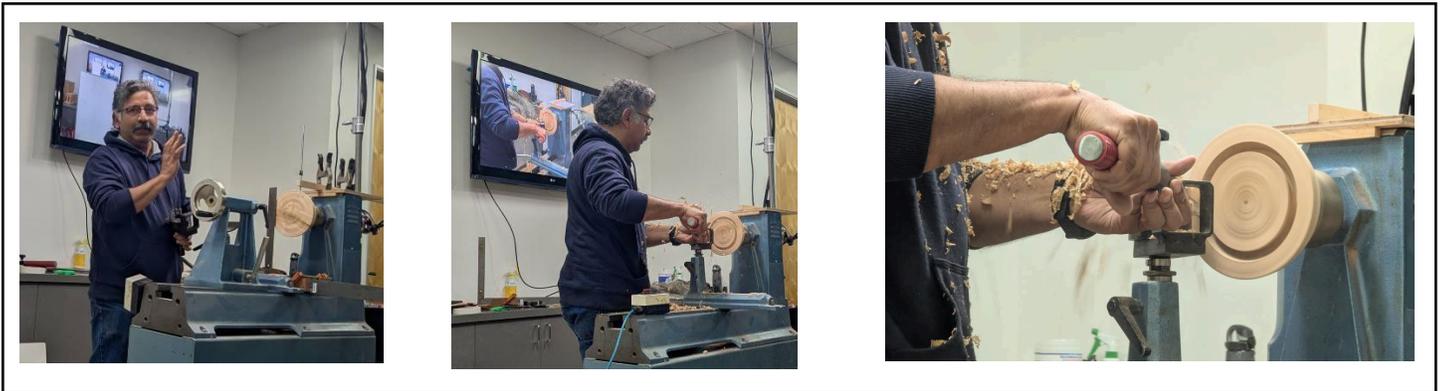
Starting in May, raffle tickets will be handed out only for President's Challenge submissions. No raffle tickets will be given for Show and Tell submissions.

Events Recap

For April, George demonstrated mathematical coring and Scott Hampton was the guest demonstrator.

April Meeting Demo - Coring

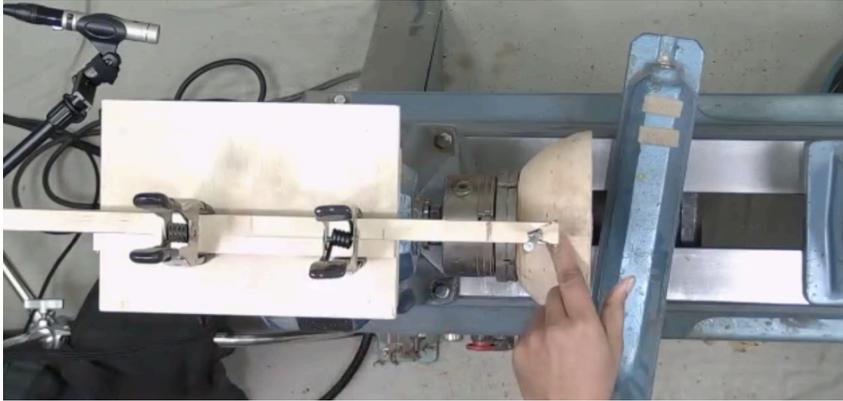
Presented by George Mathew on April 2, 2025



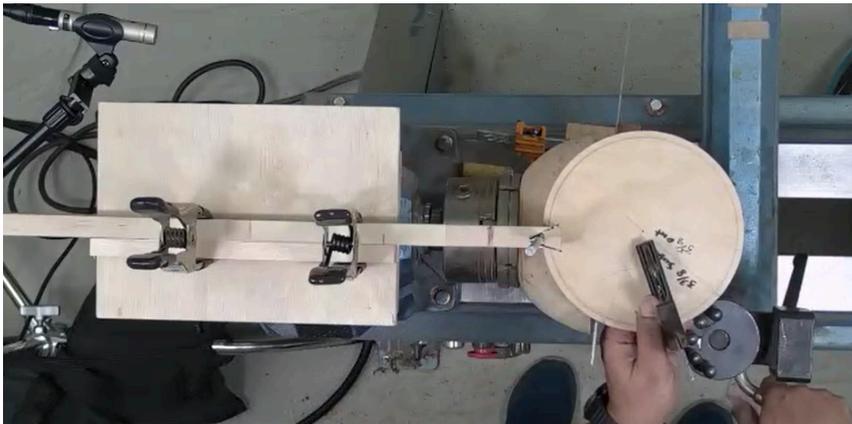
George presented a mathematical approach to using the McNaughton coring system for woodturning. He explained how to determine the correct positioning of the cutting tool using high school geometry principles. By identifying three points on the circle formed by the cutter's path, George can accurately set up the tool for coring bowls of different sizes. He demonstrated this technique on a lathe, showing how to use jigs and measurements to ensure precise cuts. The method allows for more flexibility and control compared to other coring systems, though care must be taken when working with larger pieces.

1. A (wooden) circle template matching the radius of the McNaughton cutter will be used to trace the path of the tool.
2. Taking into account the kerf width of the cutter, mark the face of the bowl where the cutter needs to enter. This will be one of the three points of the circle.

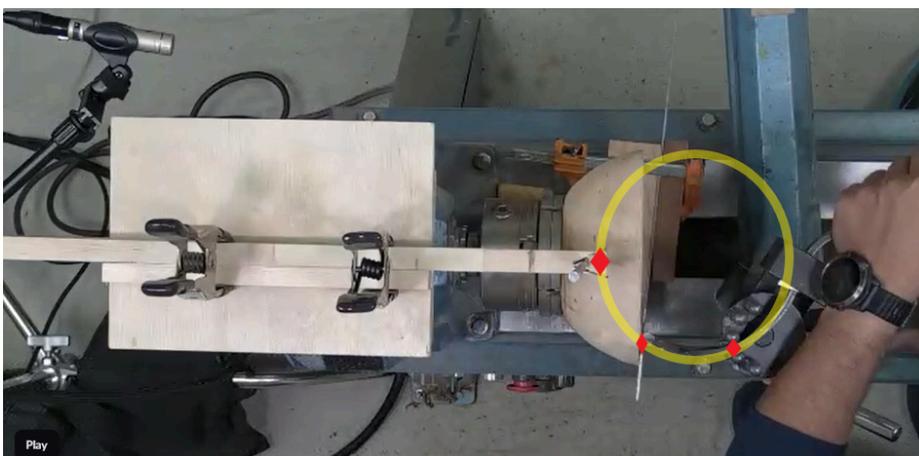
3. A reference stick and pointer mounted to the top of the headstock is used to visually position the second point of the circle. See image below.



4. Position the wooden template to align with the two points. Then align the gate, or turret, to match the circle template. In the image below, George is holding the wooden template while adjusting the position of the gate.



5. In the image below, the yellow circle (which represents the wooden template) is overlaid on top of the cutter which George is holding. This shows the path of the expected cut. The red stars show the three points of the circle: at the base of the bowl, on the face of the bowl, and at the gate.

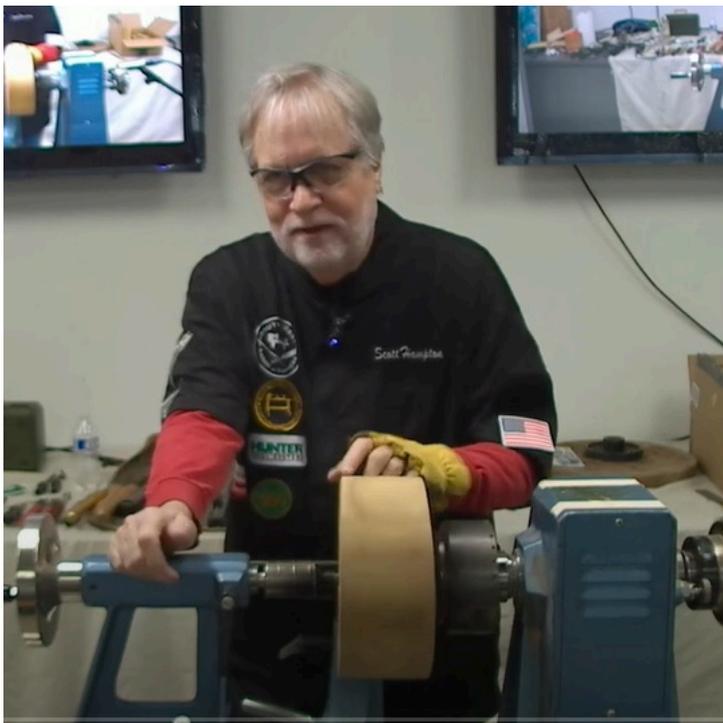


In the process of coring, you can move the gate to allow the cutter to reach deeper. **First stop the lathe.** Then leave the cutter in the bowl while adjusting the gate to a closer position. Because the cutter is in the bowl, this forces the gate position to be along the imaginary circle – preserving the original shape of the circle.

In summary, use a matching size template aligned with two points on your bowl to visualize where to position your gate or turret to make intentional cuts for coring.

Professional Guest Demo

Presented by Scott Hampton on April 12, 2025 at Maker Nexus



The guest demonstrator for April was Scott Hampton from Visalia. Scott is a studio woodturning craftsman/artist, demonstrator, Instructor, and mentor. He has been a full-time woodturner for over twenty years and has worked alongside many of the top woodturners from around the world.

For the event, Scott demonstrated four unique techniques for turning:

1. **Erosion Bowl.** Scott started by making a shallow hollow-form bowl. Then he used a Woodcut carving stand to hold the bowl in place while he made the erosion effects. An Arbortech Mini Grinder removed most of the material to make the main valley-like cuts. Then Scott used a Dremel with various bits to shape and detail the valleys and features. A drill was used to make two holes in the side.



Scott carving the mounted bowl with the mini grinder.



Top view. Scott using power drill



Finished demo version of erosion bowl.

2. Three Corner Box with a Finial Lid.



Three corner box starts from a cube-shaped blank mounted on its diagonal axis.



Forming the tenon.



Shaping the "bowl" part of the Three Corner Box. Note the pen marks on the tool rest to help reference the location of the corners. Similar in concept as live edge turning.



Finished piece



Making the finial.

3. Large Platter with Medallion and Texturing. Scott used a beautiful walnut blank to turn a large platter. He then demonstrated his texturing technique with a mini grinder. To finish, Scott made a small wood medallion to insert into the center of the platter.



Scott textured the platter face using a mini grinder with a 2-tooth circular blade. He used the tool rest as a guide to steady the grinder. Lathe speed was set at about 400 rpm, but it depends on material, tool and handling..



Texturing results

4. Candlestick/Spindle. This was Scott's final item, but we ran out of time so he didn't have a chance to finish.

Additional Info:

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/c/HamptonWoodturnings-ScottHampton>

Email: makerofwood@gmail.com

President's Challenge

Wig stands, beads of courage and pens for the troops



Vic



Dave



Steve



George



Dennis



Felicia



Don



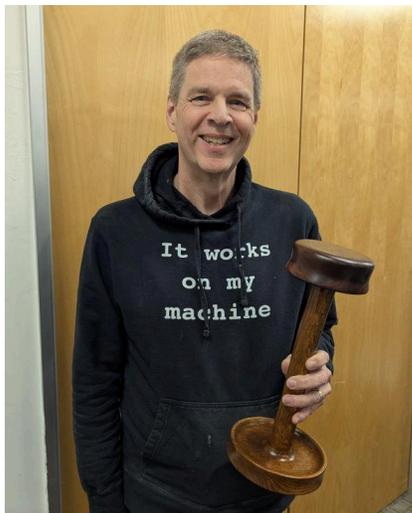
Kat



Sang



Edy



Scott



Jim



Angela

Show and Tell

Member show and tell submissions from the March Meeting



Dylan - Hollow Form



Dennis - Gold Leaf



Dennis - Boxes



Dean - Bowls



Felicia - Bowls



Don - Chair



Kat - Platter



Sang - Pens and Pencil



Jessica - Mallet

Mark Your Calendar!

Date	Event
Apr 30	Board Meeting
May 7	General Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Challenge: Twins: identical or fraternal (scaled)- Demo: Tool Presentation - Brian Havens
May 10	Sawdust Session: Finishing (polyurethane)
June 4	General Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Challenge: No Sandpaper- Demo: TBD
July 9	General Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Challenge: Thin Stem- Demo: TBD
July 19	Sawdust Session: TBD
July 30	Board Meeting

2025 Ironman Tracker

2025 Iron Man Status

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Joel Bauman	■											
Brad Bond			■									
Don Bonnett				■								
Edy Chung	■	■		■								
James Craig	■	■	■									
Steve Dahout	■	■	■	■								
Jerry Galli	■	■	■									
Angela Gunn		■	■	■								
Brian Havens	■	■	■									
Mark Koenig				■								
Jim Koren	■		■	■								
Kevin Lee	■	■	■	■								
Dennis Lillis	■	■	■	■								
Jim Loney	■											
Scott Lucas				■								
George Mathew	■	■	■	■								
Dylan McVoy		■										
Vic Mitnick	■	■	■	■								
Kat Napolitano		■	■	■								
Jim Ostrowski			■									
Sang Park	■	■	■	■								
Jessica Pineda	■											
Felicia Preston	■	■	■	■								
David Vannier			■	■								
John Whittier	■											
	Name Badge	Weed Pot	Offs et Bowl	Wig Stand or BoC Box	Twins (identical or fraternal)							

About Us

Silicon Valley Woodturners Inc. is a non-profit [501\(c\)\(3\)](#) organization dedicated to education and having fun. Every position in the organization is held by volunteers. The dues we collect and the donations we get go towards teaching the members the art and craft of wood turning.

We are a local chapter (in the Bay Area of California) of the [American Association of Woodturners \(AAW\)](#).

President: Kevin Lee

Vice President/Program Dir/ Pens For The Troops Coordinator: Jerry Galli

Treasurer: Tom Stutz

Secretary: Felicia Preston

Member at Large: Dennis Lillis

Newsletter:

Photos provided by Angela Gunn.

To submit announcements or articles for an upcoming newsletter, please contact [Sang Park](#). Newsletters will typically be published 2 weeks after each general meeting.

www.svwoodturners.com

(C) Copyright 2025 - Silicon Valley Woodturners Inc - All Rights Reserved