



Chips & Chatter

Newsletter for the Silicon Valley Woodturners

March 2025

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President's Turn

Some of you have heard me mention that there's an elementary school down at the end of my street. And in the afternoons when I'm working in my garage shop, and the kids are walking home from school, I often enjoy giving them little tops or magic wands, weed pots, whistles or other little toys that I've turned while puttering at the lathe. (Their parents usually prefer the tops to the whistles.) ;-) The giving is gratifying, it makes me feel like I've made something more than just sawdust. It also often ends up starting conversations about woodshop, or tree varieties, or other educational topics. And usually both the kids, and I end up happier for the interaction.

Well this month we at SVW have two opportunities for giving to the community at large. As was mentioned in Angela and Mark's demos this month, cancer and other diseases have or will affect all of us at some point. It's nice that we can leverage our hobby into some small measure of comfort for people experiencing tough times.

A wig stand is something that many cancer patients will suddenly find themselves in need of. And they are a relatively simple item to make on a wood lathe. A spindle, a couple of crossgrain discs, shape one like the outside of a bowl and you've just refreshed your basic woodturning skills. Drill a couple of tenon holes, and you're ready to practice your polyurethane finishing skills. Of course there are endless opportunities for embellishment if you wish, or just let the natural grain show through. In any case this gift to somebody at a rough time in their life is guaranteed to be appreciated.

Or a Beads of Courage box. With the method Mark demoed, using a pipe as the main body, this again becomes a relatively simple wood turning project. Three rounded boards and a knob are the turned components. Of course you're also welcome to go all out on a fully turned solid wood, segmented, or staved box. In any case, the gift will enrich a child's life during a time when positivity is needed. It will certainly be appreciated by the parents and family even if the child is too young to fully understand.

So this month's President's challenge is to derive a little extra satisfaction out of our hobby by giving back to the community at large through a donation. A Wig Stand, a Beads of Courage box, or Pens for the Troops, are not just excuses for turning wood, they are also ways that we at SVW can give to others.

Thank You!

Kevin

Announcements

Professional Demo by Scott Hampton

April 12 from 10am to 5pm (Lunch included)

Location: Maker Nexus - 1330 Orleans Dr, Sunnyvale

Fee: \$40 General / \$30 Member

Reservation [Link](#)

Also see the poster below.

Furniture Makers Woodshop Liquidation Sale

April 26 from 9am to 2pm

505 Mayock, Gilroy

Storage Unit 86

A Day With



SCOTT HAMPTON PROFESSIONAL WOODTURNER

At Maker Nexus

Saturday

April 12, 2025

10am - 5pm

\$40 General

\$30 Members

Lunch Included

Experience the artistry of woodturning with Scott Hampton, a nationally recognized teacher and content creator known as a Renaissance turner by his peers. This all-day workshop offers an unparalleled opportunity to learn from Scott's decades of wide ranging experience. Focus will target his signature erosion bowl, deep textured platters, tri-corner box, and spindle design using classical elements. Register today!

RSVP



Scott Hampton
Reservation Link



Oregon Symposium

Thanks to **Jim Koren** for writing up a summary of his trip to the Oregon Woodturning Symposium on March 14 thru 16.

I attended the Oregon Woodturners Symposium in Albany, OR last weekend. We drove and stopped at many wood suppliers along the way. The drive home on Sunday was brutal. Six hours of heavy rain from Albany to Reading; so heavy we couldn't see and often hydroplaned.

But the symposium went well. There was a good turnout, 200-300 people. I talked to people from Oregon, Washington, Arizona and Montana and saw name tags for people from all over the west. I got the impression that this is the largest woodturning symposium on the west coast other than the AWW.

I attended ten different demonstrations mainly on basic woodturning. Laurent Niclot and Rudy Lopez gave the best talks. Laurent did a great job of categorizing grinding bits usages for embellishment. And he gave a quick tutorial on the French bedan. Trent Bosch gave a very smooth basic bowl turning demo but I wouldn't think his tools for hollowing are "basic". Kurt Hertzog gave a great demo on turning miniatures like finials. (I think his photo in the symposium booklet was at least 30 years ago.)

The instant gallery was well attended. Photos of first and second place winners are attached. Very impressive work by many turners here on the west coast.



Gold Medal



Silver Medal

Events Recap

For March, we had two demos. **Angela** presented on Wig Stands and **Mark** presented on Beads of Courage. Here is a [PDF copy of their demo presentations](#).

March Demo - Wig Stand

Presented by Angela Gunn on March 5, 2025

Many people in cancer treatment end up losing their hair. For some people losing their hair and finding a wig can be just as hard as the treatment itself. AAW and WIT have an [open project to donate wig stands](#) to organizations that help women in this time of need. Wig stands are both functional and decorative to celebrate and inspire individual recipients.



WIG STAND REQUIREMENTS

- Each wig stand **MUST be finished with polyurethane** to protect the wig cap from transferring anything to the wig stand and vice versa.
 - Do not use non curing oils like Mineral or Walnut Oil
 - Pure Tung oil takes too long to fully cure and may leave unwanted aroma on wigs
 - Shellac finishes can be damaged by compounds used in making wigs, and are not totally waterproof.
 - Wax finishes can contaminate the wig
 - No finish is difficult to clean.
- Surfaces should be smooth. Avoid sharp shapes that can snag on the delicate wigs.
- Dimensions
 - Top: 4 ~ 5 in wide
 - Base: 5 ~ 6 in wide
 - Height: 13 ~ 15 in

STEPS

Top

1. Between centers, turn top outside shape, creating a tenon on the top
2. Mount with newly created tenon, flatten, drill 1" hole $\frac{3}{4}$ " deep
3. Turn the inside of the top; hollowing it makes the top lighter and prevents cracking
4. Reverse chuck with 1" jaws or jam chuck
5. Finish turning the top

Bottom

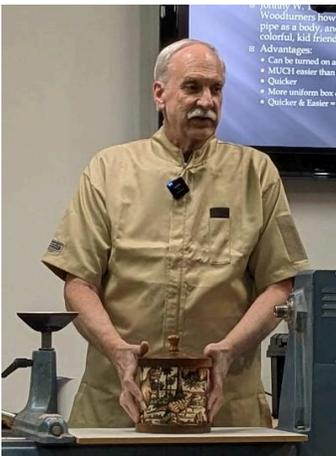
6. Mount between centers, turn preliminary shape, include large tenon
7. Reverse, mounting using new tenon, flatten base and address
8. Reverse, mounting in recess
9. Complete the top of the base. Drill a 1" hole $\frac{3}{4}$ " deep for the spindle
10. Reverse chuck with 1" jaws or jam chuck; finish the bottom

Spindle and assembly

11. Mount between centers. Turn tenons on both ends to fit the top and base, just less than $\frac{3}{4}$ " long
12. Turn the spindle. Leave tenon shoulders crisp so the joint "disappears" after gluing.
13. Assemble

March Demo - Beads of Courage

Presented by Mark on March 5, 2025



Beads of Courage (<http://www.beadsofcourage.org>) provides supportive care programs for children coping with serious illness. 14 million colorful beads were given annually for to mark treatments for cancer, blood disorders, burn injuries, neonatal ICU, and chronic illness. [Information is also available through AAW.](#)

Mark demonstrated the steps to make a box to help kids organize their beads. Sadly, some kids may have thousands. A thin 6" PVC pipe section is used as the box wall so that boxes can be made more quickly and easily.



MATERIAL LIST

- 6 in PVC pipe cylinder, 5~6 in height **
- Fabric to cover cylinder **
- Beads of Courage logo bead for lid knob **
- Wood for top ring and base - 7 in x 7 in x 0.5 ~ 0.75 in (Qty 2)
- Wood for lid - 6 in x 6 in x 0.5 ~ 0.75 in
- Wood for knob - 1.5 in x 1.5 in x 1 ~ 1.25 in
- Rivet nut to attach knob to lid
- Glue to attach top and bottom to cylinder (RTV silicone adhesive)
- Spray adhesive to apply fabric to PVC cylinder (options: 3M, Scotch, Super 77, Krylon Spray Adhesive)
- Sealer to protect fabric (Scotch Guard or Mod Podge Acrylic Sealer)

** First three items will be provided by the club for those that want to make and donate a box

LID MOUNTING JIG

Mark devised a jig to hold the lid and top ring. The jig is a flat round wood plate attached to a faceplate on one side and a rivet nut centered on the other side.



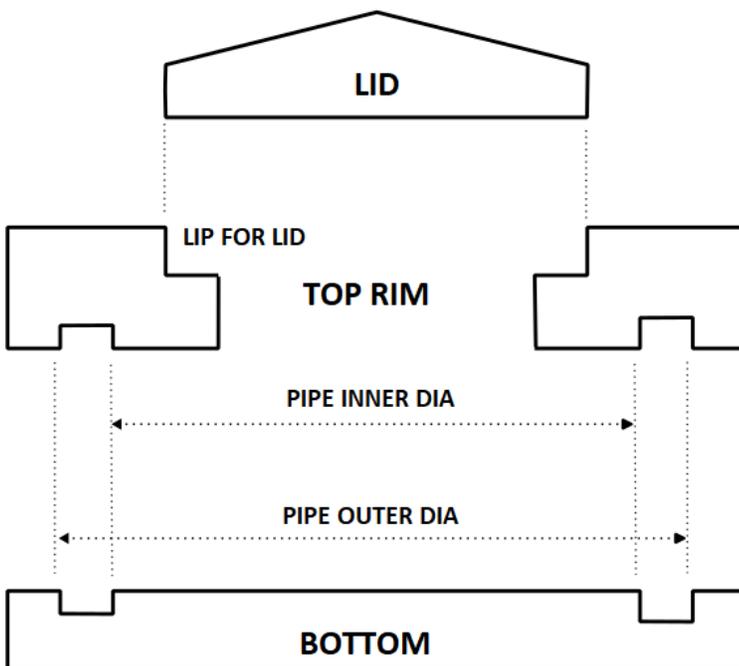
Once the faceplate is mounted on the lathe, the 7x7 lid plate can be mounted on the jig using a bolt screwed into the rivet nut.

Use a piece of a 1/4 in dowel to plug the screw hole when done turning.

PROFILE DRAWING OF LID, RIM and BOTTOM PARTS

The drawing below is not annotated with dimensions since that depends on the pipe. However, the drawing should help you visualize how the parts should fit together. You can build and use Mark's jig design to make the parts:

- Bottom: make a circle groove to fit the pipe. Mark recommends leaving a slight gap on the inside to direct the glue to squeeze out on the inside.
- Top Rim: requires a small lip to hold up the lid. If using Mark's jig, use double sided tape to hold the rim in place as you cut through the inner hollow.
- Lid: Keep the fit snug but loose enough for a child to remove the lid. Make the lid thin enough to allow a bolt to secure a knob handle
- Knob Handle: It is not pictured, but it should be shaped to allow a child - possibly a child in a hospital bed - to easily handle it. Also embed a bead into the top of the knob.



President's Challenge

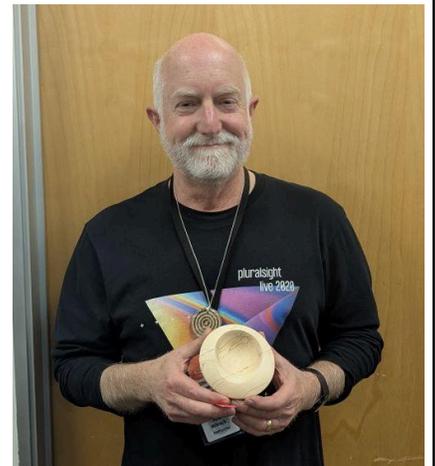
Last month, Brad demonstrated how he makes offset bowls. Members display their own offset bowls.



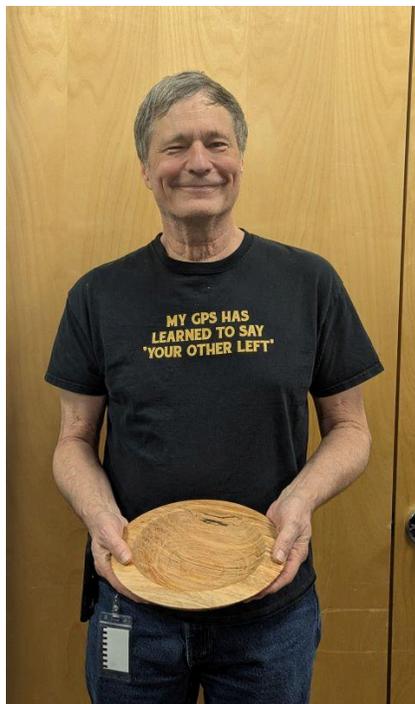
Kevin



Kat



Vic



Dave



Jerry



Jim



George



Angela



James



Steve



Sang



Brian



Felicia



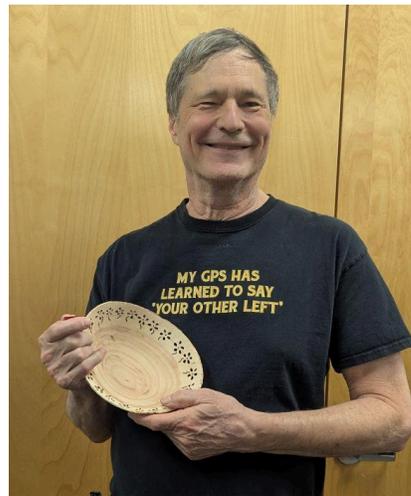
Jim

Show and Tell

Member show and tell submissions from the March Meeting



Vic
A few odd things



Dave
Pierced Bowl



George
Ladles and spoons



Calvin
Apple/Pear



Steve
*Eccentric Chucks
(Axminster and Vicmarc)*



Milton
Pens and Natural bowl



Felicia
Whistle and bowl



Dylan
Hollow form



John
Wine glasses



Scott
Footstool



Edy
Dolls

Gallery style photos may be posted to the website later.

Mark Your Calendar!

Date	Event
April 2	General Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Challenge: Wig Stand or Beads of Courage or Pens for the Troops- Demo: Coring - George Mathew
April 12	Pro Demo: Scott Hampton
April 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 (TBC)	Sawdust Session: Finishing (polyurethane)
June 4	General Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Challenge: No Sandpaper- Demo: TBD

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

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