

Works Courtesy of Members of NC Woodturners

# North Carolina Woodturners Association

Volume 27, No. 5

Website: [www.ncwoodturners.com](http://www.ncwoodturners.com)



## North Carolina WOODTURNERS

Journal of the North Carolina Woodturners Association

A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By *Tim Simmons*

Newsletter 5 of 24.

Wow time sure flies; seems I just wrote the last newsletter article last week.

If you missed the last club meeting, you missed several tips, tricks and ideas every turner can use at the last meeting. Just a reminder: when you are doing your spring cleaning in your shop to pull aside the tools, jigs, and or fixtures you don't use any more. Bring those items to our July club meeting to swap, trade or sell to other club members who may be able to reuse your old item.

See you all the second Saturday in May; stay safe and turn something wonderful. See you at The Woodworking Shop.

*Tim Simmons*

### CONTENTS

President's Message	1
Contents	1
Message from Editor	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
AAW New Member Special	2
AAW Video resource	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
Membership list to Klingspor	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
2017 Presenters/Topics	2
2017 Challenge Projects	3
April Presentation – Ric Erkes	3
Mentorship Information	4
March Presenter – Tom Denne	4
Membership / Newsletter /Library News	5
Challenge Project - Egg	9
Gallery Pictures	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
2017 Officers and Board of Directors	9
Tips	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>



The AAW is dedicated to the advancement of woodturning by providing education, information, organization, technical assistance, and publications relating to woodturning. The North Carolina Woodturners Association purpose is to promote an interest in woodturning for persons of all levels, and to encourage membership in, and give support to, the American Association of Woodturners.

## AAW NEW MEMBER SPECIAL

### 1) AAW 50% dues incentive for chapter members who are new AAW members:

- Local chapter members who have never been AAW members will have the exclusive opportunity to become AAW members for one year for just \$30, a 50% reduction on the \$60 rate. Only AAW chapter members who have never been AAW members are eligible, and the special rate is available only during the *exclusive sign up period from [APRIL 1](#) through [JUNE 30, 2017](#).*

### 2) New AAW learning tools to be introduced April 1:

- Woodturning FUNDamentals Online**, an easy-to-use integrated online learning experience designed for new turners and those who would like to build woodturning skills. The site complements the digital Woodturning FUNDamentals publication.
- Discover Woodturning Online**, a new web-based resource loaded with introductory and descriptive information about the art and craft of woodturning, designed to educate the public. This is your tool, for your chapter's new turners. Contact the AAW office to find out the options for your chapter! Call 877-595-9094 (toll free) or 651-484-9094 (M-F 8:30am to 4:30pm).

## 2017 PRESENTERS/TOPICS

	Presenter	Topic / Demonstration
January	Sam McDowell	Design and Structural Problems
February	Scarlette Rouse	Three-winged box
March	Tom Denne	Segmenting – the ‘mystery’ revealed (Tom’s method)
April	Ric Erkes	Tips and Tricks (should be very enlightening).
May	<b>Bob Moffett</b>	<b>Turning a wide rim bowl and using Lichtenberg Fractal woodburner on the rim. Will also show how to make the woodburner</b>
June	Jerry Measimer	Finishing and texturing
July	Learn ‘N Turn and “sell” of tools, etc.	Chance to help others improve their skills; everyone wanting to sell will pay \$10/table
August	Michael McNeilly	Finials (and spirals), segmented Christmas ornaments; bird house ornaments
September	Scott Caskey	AM – Turning/Sharpening – various methods
	Beth Parham	PM – Pyrography – beginning information and more
October	Bob Baucom	AM-Lantern ornament turning
		PM-turning small bowl with “Ride the Rainbow” cut and texturing in afternoon
November		
December		<b>CHRISTMAS PARTY @ Market on Main, Hickory, NC</b>

## 2017 CHALLENGE PROJECTS

Project		Description & references
Jan	<i>Trembleur</i>	<a href="http://www.woodturningonline.com/Turning/Turning_projects.php?catid=63">http://www.woodturningonline.com/Turning/Turning_projects.php?catid=63</a>
Feb	<i>Spheres</i>	<a href="http://www.woodturningonline.com/Turning/Turning_projects.php?catid=71">http://www.woodturningonline.com/Turning/Turning_projects.php?catid=71</a>
Mar	<i>Eggs</i>	<a href="http://www.woodturningonline.com/Turning/Turning_projects.php?catid=35">http://www.woodturningonline.com/Turning/Turning_projects.php?catid=35</a>
April	<i>Natural edge Mushrooms</i>	<a href="http://www.woodturningonline.com/Turning/Turning_projects.php?catid=54">http://www.woodturningonline.com/Turning/Turning_projects.php?catid=54</a>
May	<b>Square edged bowls/platters</b>	<a href="http://www.instructables.com/id/A-Square-Bowl/">http://www.instructables.com/id/A-Square-Bowl/</a> <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eXBTzDr3yIU">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eXBTzDr3yIU</a>
June	Non-kit Letter openers	<a href="http://www.woodturningonline.com/Turning/Turning_projects.php?catid=92">http://www.woodturningonline.com/Turning/Turning_projects.php?catid=92</a>
July	Acrylics	Turn something out of acrylic/or use Acrylics with your turning <a href="http://www.alumilite.com/">http://www.alumilite.com/</a>
Aug	Copy it. (no bowls)	Copy an object you have around the house or shop; bring both objects
Sept	Miniatures	<a href="http://www.woodturningonline.com/Turning/Turning_projects.php?catid=52">http://www.woodturningonline.com/Turning/Turning_projects.php?catid=52</a>
Oct	Boxes	<a href="http://www.woodturningonline.com/Turning/Turning_projects.php?catid=13">http://www.woodturningonline.com/Turning/Turning_projects.php?catid=13</a>
Nov	Fruit	<a href="http://www.woodturningonline.com/Turning/Turning_projects.php?catid=39">http://www.woodturningonline.com/Turning/Turning_projects.php?catid=39</a>
Dec	Ornament Sway	Bring one to party if your spouse wants to participate in the annual swap.

## APRIL PRESENTATION – RIC ERKES

Ric Erkes, a longtime member of the club was the presenter for our April meeting. His presentation was on tips and tricks for Woodturners. Ric lives in Mooresville and has recently returned to the club after 3-4 years' absence because of conflicts created by his work. Now that he is retired as an airline pilot, he is able to be with us on a regular basis. We are glad to have him back.

His first tip was using a shower curtain to keep wood chips from flying everywhere. He puts plastic on his wall because he turns wet wood and this protects his wall and keeps from needing to be repainted. He showed us pictures on his iPad of his cardboard box used as a spray booth and then one for his photo booth.

He showed us his hollowing tool with his jig for measuring the wall thickness using a laser light which was a kitten toy from CVS. Then he showed an upgrade from a laser to a camera which shows the cutter head size on a small TV screen using a backup camera. He uses paraffin on the bed, the tool rest and the captured part of the hollowing tool to keep the surface lubricated. He uses PVC pipe collar to keep his tool rest at the center height. He uses a 2 1/2 inch Forstner bit to begin the drilling for hollowing. When he gets to the bottom, he uses a 1/2-inch bit with the point ground off so that when he reaches the bottom he can feel this with his hollowing tool.

He uses MDF to create faceplates using a 1-1/4 x 8 nut to attach to the headstock. He drills a 2-1/8-inch hole for the nut to fit in and uses a Dremel tool to enlarge it for the nut, then epoxies it in. He then demonstrated using a wrench which has one side cut former and then sharpened to cut tenons at specific size - 7/16 in this instance. He also used a drill bit measuring tool to reduce the size of a tenon. He demonstrated thickness and depth gauges; some were homemade and others bought. He puts tape on his lathe to mark the bottom and the top of the jaws of his chuck.

In the afternoon, he demonstrated making sand paper for inflatable sanding balls and tubes made by King Arthur. On green wood turnings, he uses a paper towel to dry the wood with the project turning and then he uses Abranet sanding sheets to sand the piece



after drying the form. He also demonstrated a homemade chatter tool on end grain. Then he used a wire to ebonize lines on a turning. He recommends doing them in 3 and 5 lines and that they be more random than evenly spaced. For texturing, instead of getting Sorby wheels, he suggested using wheels from a printer that has died. He uses a carpenter pencil that he holds on his One-way tailstock to mark the bottom of a blank to mark the minimum for the tenon. He also has jigs to be able to use the pencil to mark other sizes for the tenons for the jaws of a chuck and does not have to measure otherwise.

He showed us jigs for reverse turning the bottoms of large vases and hollow forms. Sometimes he paints the inside of a vase or hollow form black which provides a good contrast and one does not see how well it is or is not sanded. His finish is 4 parts polyurethane, 2 parts boiled linseed oil and 1 part mineral spirits. He rubs it on with a paper towel and he puts the finish on the outside only immediately after turning and sanding and then he lets it dry. He suggests putting clear polyurethane on for several coats and if one wants a satin finish using it only for the final coat.

The bowl gouge is the primary tool that he uses most of the time. He demonstrated how riding the bevel is not just the point of the tool but also the sides of the grind. With the tool on its side, he gets almost a skew like cut that is so smooth that it hardly needs sanding. With the handle held really low and riding the bevel, he got a really smooth sheer cut. In a crack, he puts finish around the crack to keep the CA glue from staining the wood. Then he uses bark, walnut, persimmon, etc., dust or coffee grounds in the crack and then applies CA glue.

Being a long-time member, he was subject to lots of unmerciful, good-natured heckling and ribbing. The worst of the hecklers was also the camera man. However, most of the hecklers left at lunch and the afternoon session lacked the good-natured banter of the morning. He offered many more tips and tricks than I was able to capture for this article. Because he is so ingenious and spends so much time thinking of and creating different things to help, one person behind me muttered, "When does he have time for turning?" Thanks Ric for a great presentation.

## MAY PRESENTER – BOB MOFFETT

Bob Moffett is returning to our club (yes, we have not scared him off!!) to share turning a wide-rimmed bowl and then using Lichtenberg Fractal woodburner to embellish the piece. He is even going to show how to make on of these burners (for those 'daring' [aka "crazy"] enough) if you are interested.



Bob became interested in woodturning in about 2002 when he took a turning course at Alamance Community College under Bill and Jim Wallace. He has since taken many workshops and classes under turners such as Allan Batty, Chris Stott, Alan Leland, Frank Penta, Gary Sanders, Mike Stafford, and many others. Bob is past president of the Piedmont Triad Woodturners Association, current treasurer of Chapel Hill Woodturners, and a member of the AAW. His works are in many private collections and have been sold at galleries and craft shows throughout North Carolina.



## MENTORSHIP INFORMATION

If you are interested in learning new skills, or improving the skills you have, contact one of these NCW members:

Scott Caskey (Iron Station, NC)	704-735-2382	Edgar Ingram (Statesville, NC)	704-876-4576
Don Olsen (Morganton, NC)	704-530-6055	John Melius (Mooresville, NC)	704-995-7257

Additionally, if you are wanting to mentor and help new turners learn this art form we all love and are addicted to, please let me know if you want to be added to this Mentorship Information.

## MEMBERSHIP/NEWSLETTER/LIBRARY NEWS

By Beth Parham

### LIBRARY

I want to give a HUGE “Thanks” to Guy Scronce who approached me at April meeting and volunteered to take on the library. He and I will be working to get it reorganized to the point we can check out materials. May not have the library “computerized” but back in working order which is the most important thing. I will be working with Coleman at Klingspor to get a Saturday/Sunday timeframe when the library materials will not be buried behind inventory so that this can be accomplished. Hope to have this done in the next month if possible.

### MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

*Types of Membership and annual pricing.* See me at meetings if you want to join or have questions regarding membership. Also, remember that membership entitles you to a 10% discount from Klingspor on all purchases (except wood and things with a plug).

- ❖ Regular
  - \$50/year –
  - The following prorated price for yearly membership applies to *new* members.
    - After April 1st - \$45.00;
    - After July 1st - \$40.00;
    - After October 1st - \$55.00, which includes the following year.
  - *If you do not renew by March 1st of any year, you must pay the full \$50 membership to ‘rejoin’ in the calendar year per the by-laws.* This has not been done the last year but we will be enforcing this bylaw regulation going forward.
- ❖ Centurion \$100/year (paid to NCW Education Fund. Includes special nametag.)
- ❖ Lifetime \$600 one time paid to NCW Education Fund. Includes membership for life and special name tag
- ❖ Benefactor \$1,000 one-time paid to NCW Education Fund. Includes honorary membership in NCW (designed for businesses)

### WEBSITE/ON-LINE

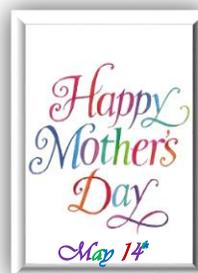
Will be updating Facebook page with picture albums for Challenge and Gallery for all 2017 meetings. Website is still “a work in progress. Over the next few months, I will be updating and adding to our website – <http://www.ncwoodturners.com/>. Any suggestions of things you’d like included in our website would be welcomed.

### NEWSLETTER

If you are currently getting the newsletter via mail and have an email, be sure to let me know of the email address. You will get the newsletter sooner and in full color; the mailed issues are in black and white and are always several days later getting to you than the online version.

### MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

I will start working on an updated directory April 30 (since I originally gave that date as a “deadline” to provide me with updated information). Klingspor has the updated membership list for store discount purposes. I am also working on getting “membership cards” that can be shown in the event new or renewed memberships don’t get “officially” sent to KWS before you are ready to purchase.



## SOFT DISCS FOR POWER-SANDING

A Shop-made system works better and reduces costs

By Larry Genender [AAW website "Resources"](#)

Sanding disc systems are stiff and do not easily conform to the curved surfaces I turn. Because of the inflexibility of the discs and backing foam pads, I sometimes cut a groove in my piece when I tilt the disc on edge to get into a tight spot. In addition, the adhesive holding the sandpaper to the hook and loop tape deteriorates with both age and heat. If that's not enough, the discs are expensive if you use as many as I do—and that tends to make you sand with worn paper. Life's too short for that!

About five years ago, James Johnson of Kerrville, Texas, showed me his shop-made system using soft foam, leather, and lightweight paper to make a disc that eliminates these problems. Since adopting James' system, I've obtained far better results at a fraction of my previous costs.

Don't be deterred by the effort it may take to shop for materials—the results will be well worth it.

## MATERIALS NEEDED

1. **Power Lock Disc Holders.** Sizes 1", 2", and 3". Available from machine shop suppliers and some woodturning suppliers.
2. **Power Lock Sanding Discs.** Order sizes corresponding to the disc holders. Note that the sanding discs are NOT used to sand anything, they simply act as the means to connect the foam to the drill. I've found that contact cement adheres best to the 320- grit discs. The 1" disc is used to make 2" pads, the 2" disc to make 3" pads, and the 3" disc to make 5" pads. I recently found some 4" discs, and I'm using them for some of the 5" pads that I use to sand broad surfaces, like platters. In my shop, the 3" pads work best for about 75

percent of my sanding. I suggest that you make and use these first.

3. **Foam.** Request 4-pound ester foam—accept no substitutes. James researched many kinds of foam and found only one that is soft enough to conform to shapes yet strong enough to withstand the torque forces of the power drill. I ordered a 60×54" sheet of 3/4" thick foam from Kirkland Sales in Garland, Texas (phone 972-864-1424). A sheet costs about \$75 but will give you a lifetime supply (or you can share an order with members of your chapter).
4. **Leather.** Use 2- to 3-ounce leather, available from Tandy Leather stores and other sources. Make sure the leather is supple, not stiff. I've found that a pigskin finished leather, which has a slightly bumpy surface, holds the adhesive longer than smooth leather.
5. **Contact Cement.** Buy the 3M spray contact adhesive no. 77, which is widely available. This is a solvent-based adhesive recommended by the foam supplier
6. **3M Spray Disc Adhesive.** 3M product no. 051135-08054, about \$8 per can. The adhesive only needs to be applied after four or five changes of sandpaper. You must order this product (developed for the automotive finishing trade) from a 3M distributor. The adhesive you get from home centers is not suitable.
7. **Sandpaper.** Use the lightest, cheapest paper you can find. I use A weight for all the grits except 80 grit, where D weight works better. The paper costs only about 20 cents

per 9×11" sheet, which



encourages frequent paper changes and working with sharp abrasive. Make the pads Once you've gathered the materials, the rest is easy. See the illustrations at right for details. Apply the contact cement to both the Power Lock Sanding Disc and one side of the foam (you only have to cover the foam in the center where the disc will adhere). The solvent in the cement will degrade the foam if it is in excess, so spray a light coat on the foam side. Let dry as directed on the can; it should be tacky, not moist to the touch. Then press the disc and the foam together. Allow the cement to harden—overnight is best.

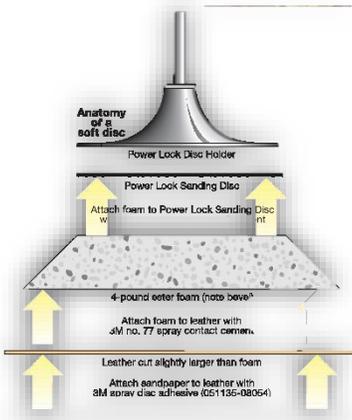
Now tack a piece of 80-grit sandpaper to the workbench. Attach the foam/power disc piece to the disc holder and mount in the drill. Hold the drill at a 45-degree angle, start the drill and bevel the foam to that 45-degree angle. Be gentle and run the drill slowly to prevent the foam from grabbing onto the sandpaper. You want the foam to be thinner at the edges so it will conform easily to your turning surface.



To bevel the foam, run the drill slowly against the sandpaper. Complete this step before attaching the leather.

Finally, apply contact cement to the other side of the foam and to the leather—light application on the foam side, heavier on the leather. When dry, carefully center the pad on the leather and press together. Note that the

diameter of the leather is cut about 1/4" larger than the foam diameter.



**ATTACH THE SANDPAPER**

On a new pad, clean the surface of the leather with naphtha and then spray on a coat of the spray disc adhesive. After the adhesive dries for 30 seconds, stick the pad to the back of the sandpaper and trim the excess sandpaper with a utility knife or scissors. To change paper, simply peel off the old paper and apply the disc to the new paper and trim. You generally can make four or five changes before you need to add spray disc adhesive. Some smooth-finished leathers leave most of the adhesive on the paper, so you have to spray more frequently. I have a mask of plywood with the appropriate holes cut in so that I can spray this very sticky adhesive without making a mess.

**TIME TO SAND**

I find it easiest to use a right-angle drill (Milwaukee, Sioux, or an inexpensive import), but you can use a regular shop drill. Although it's okay to sand with the lathe running, you do a lot of unnecessary sanding that way. I turn off the lathe and keep the drill moving to avoid swirl marks. You can tilt the drill up to 90 degrees to get into close quarters (up to the edges of a bead, for example). Also, don't run the drill continuously at high speed—the heat melts the adhesive and makes heat cracks across the piece.

Once you've smoothed out the surface, and are rid of tool marks and tear-out, then you can run the lathe slowly as you progress through successively finer grits.

Make sure you blow or wash away the sanding dust before moving to the next higher grit. I use denatured alcohol to wet the wood between grits—it raises the grain, wipes away sanding dust, and evaporates quickly.

Turn with an attitude that sanding is part of the turning process. And with this soft pad, tool marks sand out easily. Just don't fall into the trap of starting to sand with too fine of a grit.

What you have to avoid is tearout. It requires a lot of sanding to remove the

entire surface down to the deepest torn-out level.

**FINAL NOTES**

My first set of pads lasted a couple of years. After a while you will see some shear tearing of the foam, depending on

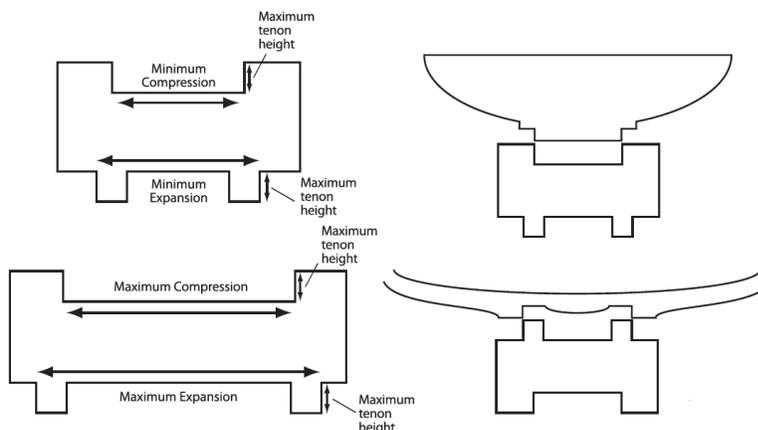


When sanding the inside of a bowl, the disc easily conforms to the interior curvatures.

how vigorously you twist when you sand. Note that after time and heavy use, the foam will start to separate. I used to glue the pieces back together, but I've learned that it's more trouble than it's worth. When a pad falls apart, I now replace it—you can reuse the leather (I don't) and the Power Lock Discs (I do), simply remove the adhesive with a little naphtha or other solvent. I make the pads in batches of 10 or so and always have spares.

*Larry Genender (Lgenender@aol.com) is a retired general surgeon who now spends most of his time turning wood in Dallas, Texas. He is a member of three AAW chapters in Texas.*

**Template guides for turning safe tenons and recesses**



QUESTION AND ANSWER: GRAIN ISSUES

---

By Lyle Jamieson courtesy of [MoreWoodturning Q&A](#)

How can I be sure that I am turning with the grain of the wood?

Lyle: Grain is at the top of all my turning priorities. It is easier to make a cut into the side of the tree than into the end of the tree. This seems to be a basic principle, but many turners continue to turn using the tools going the wrong way to the grain.

The first place we need this concept to work for us is in the roughing out or truing up process. The first question I ask myself when I pick up my gouge is, “Which way was the tree growing?” There are two basic ways to put a tree on the lathe: 1) with the tree grain running parallel to the bed, as we usually do when turning spindles or hollow forms; and 2) with the grain running perpendicular to the bed, as we usually do when turning bowls.

Cutting a roughing out cut when grain is parallel to the bed

The direction of the cut when the grain is parallel to the bed should be pushing the tool from the large diameter to the small. Another way to think about this is to cut in a direction toward the centerline. With the tool rest parallel to the bed, I push the tool forward into the wood. The bevel will follow behind the push cut on a line directly into the wood. The trick here is to know when to stop! Don't let the wing hit the waste wood from the last cut and stop before you get too far out (dangling over the tool rest.) I usually use an underhand grip on the gouge and push into the wood by moving my thumb away from me toward the wood. There is no need for a firm grip. If a push cut is done correctly, it is a finesse thing not a strength thing. Let the tools do all the work and just guide it gently. Each new cut has a new bevel support and will result in a notch or tool mark at the bottom of each cut. We work our way down the tool rest and across the tree, notch after notch. This makes the sharp edge go into the side grain fibers of the tree.

Cutting a roughing out cut when the grain is perpendicular to the bed

The direction of the cut when the tree grain is perpendicular to the bed is from right to left or left to right. With the tool rest parallel to the bed, and the bevel lined up parallel to the tool rest, we simply move along the tool rest left or right. This makes the sharp edge cut into the side grain fibers. The pass starts on one side of the tree and continues all the way to the other side of the tree all in one pass. Left-to-right or right-to-left, both will be the same. This cut direction must be used while roughing out--but also any other time where you want to get a lot of wood away in a hurry and very effortlessly.

What if we go the wrong way? We will make sawdust not shavings. The wrong direction produces torn out fibers and a surface that has torn out grain that's not fun to sand away. The correct way is easier on the wood, it is easier on the tool edge, it is easier on the lathe, and it is easier on the body.

When making shapes or cutting on a bias

The next place the grain direction is critical is when we start making shapes or cutting on a bias to the tree. We must separate the rules depending on whether the tree is positioned side grain or end grain. With a side grain orientation, to do a bowl we must cut from the bottom of the bowl to the rim on the outside, and the cut will have supported fibers and go downhill. The opposite direction is needed on the inside of a bowl, where we need to make the cut from the rim to the bottom--again, supported fibers and downhill. When we are in an end grain orientation, we must cut from the largest diameter to the smaller diameter (as we do with spindles or most hollow forms.)

Grain orientation is critical. The right way makes everything easy. The wrong way makes everything hard and has unpleasant, if not dangerous, consequences. It sometimes takes new thinking and new methods to stay in grain integrity—but it is worth the effort.

## CHALLENGE PROJECT – NATURAL-EDGE MUSHROOM

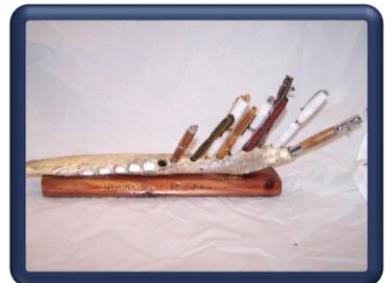
The purpose of the Challenge Project is to help us all try something new, possibly, and step out of our comfort zones.



## GALLERY

Didn't have cards to ID turnings.







## 2017 OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Officers of NC Woodturners – 2016

<b>President</b>	Tim Simmons	(828) 726-1599
<b>VP/Program Chair</b>	Jerry Long	(704) 437-2188
<b>Treasurer</b>	Bruce Whipple	(828) 584-0890
<b>Secretary/Journal &amp; Website Editor</b>	Beth Parham	(828) 439-9576

### Board of Directors / NC Woodturners

<b>Last year of 3-year term (thru 2017)</b>	Gene Parham	(828) 294-4001
	Dan Greaser	(704) 325-0222
<b>2nd year of 3-year term (thru 2018)</b>	Bob Tate	(704) 735-2382
	Dorothy Green	(704) 692-4278
<b>1st year of 3-year term: (thru 2019)</b>	Scott Caskey	(704) 735-2382
	Ralph Green	(704) 692-4278

## NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

May 13, 2017

WHEN: Second Saturday of each month

10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

### LOCATION Klingspor's Woodworking Shop

856 21<sup>st</sup> Street Drive SE

Hickory, NC 28602

North Carolina Woodturners  
c/o Beth Parham  
2154 Frye Avenue  
Hickory, NC 28602

