



# Revolutions

The Newsletter of the South Plains Woodturners



Vol. 11, No. 1

**AAW** | AMERICAN ASSOCIATION  
OF WOODTURNERS

January, 2017



## President's Letter

2017 is going to be a pivotal year in the life of SPW. We are going to be moving to a different location later on in the spring. The Board of Directors is working to determine our future location. Any input you might have about possible locations should be directed to one of the board members. One of the challenges we face during this process is we do not have enough in our building fund to buy a property outright. Due to this fact we are looking for creative solutions to solve this problem. Being a 501(C)3 entity should give us a few more options.

Speaking of our tax exempt status, **Gordon Graves** has prepared letters for donors contributing \$200 or more for tax deduction verification. These will be available to pick up at the February meeting. If you are unable to attend, they will be mailed. Growing our building fund needs to be an on-going effort. Personally, I am unable to make a single large contribution. My efforts to assist consist of smaller donations throughout the year. If you will join in this effort, we can grow our building fund substantially throughout this calendar year.

We are once again participating in the Lubbock Arts Festival coming up in April. Our sales booth brought in over \$1000 last year at this event. Most of the items we sell are less than \$20. Consider turning some items to donate to our inventory. Ideas for items can be found at [woodturningonline.com](http://woodturningonline.com) and it's a free resource. Another resource for ideas can be found in our library, manned by **Pete Piatak**.

Speaking of our library, many individuals have overdue materials. If you are one of the forgetful, you should be receiving a call to remind you to bring the resources back! **Pete** has worked long and hard to make these resources accessible. A link to our library materials is available on our website [southplainswoodturners.com](http://southplainswoodturners.com).

The time is drawing near when we will be looking for individuals to join our leadership team. Harry Hamilton, our Past President, chairs our nominating committee. Adding new individuals to our Board of Directors keeps our organization from becoming stagnant. You don't have to be a super turner to be a part of our Board! All it takes is the desire to grow our group!

–Jim Bob Burgoon

**Next Meeting: February 4, 2017, 10AM-12Noon, at Target Sheet Metal (see map, p. 8)**



Our presentation will be *Lathe-Powered Sanding*, and our presenter will be SPW member Tom Ferrell, a highly accomplished woodturner, mentor, and teacher.

*The demo coordinator is Bob "Buddy" Chesser—talk to him at the meeting if you would like to be a presenter and you have an idea for a topic.*

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[southplainswoodturners.com](http://southplainswoodturners.com)

Revolutions © is the newsletter for the South Plains Woodturners, Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the craft and art of woodturning. Revolutions © is published monthly at Lubbock, TX. Mailing Address:

P. O. Box 65428, Lubbock, TX 79464

The South Plains Woodturners is affiliated with the [American Association of Woodturners](#), the [Southwest Association of Turners](#), and the [Lubbock Arts Alliance](#).

Please direct any questions or comments to the editor:

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**Club Calendar**

February Club Meeting 2/4/17  
**Demo: Tom Ferrell, Lathe Powered Sanding**

BOD Meeting 2/6/17  
7 PM, Target Sheet Metal—all members welcome

March Club Meeting 3/4/17  
**Demo: Jim Bob Burgoon, Lucky Bamboo**  
(no, not *Lucky Bamboozle*)

Beginner's Class, Garden & Arts Ctr  
2/2, 2/9, 2/16, 2/23, 3/9, 6-9PM

Intermediate Class, Garden & Arts Ctr  
3/30, 4/6, 4/13, 5/4 6-9PM

Apr 22-23 Lubbock Arts Festival, Civic Center—**start working NOW on your items for sale in the SPW booth!**

**Vicki Oglesby Wins AAW Scholarship**

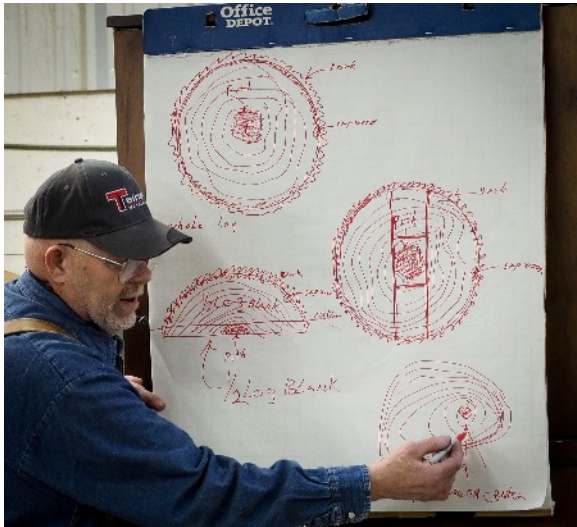
Our own Vicki Oglesby was selected to attend a week-long program of woodturning classes at the Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. Our club nominated her for the award, and an AAW committee selected her out of candidates from clubs nationwide. She elected not to attend and turned the scholarship back to AAW for awarding to another deserving candidate. We're proud of Vicki!

Some of the items donated to the January raffle.



January Presentation: *Turning Wet Wood* by Mike Oglesby

Turning wet wood is no easy task, but Mike, as in every type of woodturning he does, makes it look easy. This was a comprehensive overview of working with wood that has not been dried—choosing the woods, anticipating changes in shape, which turning tools to use, turning speeds, tool sharpness, and many other facets. We are really fortunate to have turners like Mike to bring us along. And it's FREE!



Guests for January included: David Hoehns's son and Matt's uncle, David (above); Ron Petersen (left), friend of Willard Ellis; and Mickey Kelly (right), friend of Kent Crowell.





Who was that lucky, safety-conscious masked man?





Bradley Baker handled the raffle duties in Glenn's absence at the January meeting. Thanks, Brad!

Show and Tell, SPW Meeting, January 7, 2017



Larry Morgan showed bracelets of various woods and a small dish of maple and walnut. He also brought a purple-heart bottle stopper and a segmented bowl of pine and oak, which he donated to the raffle. Larry made the bracelet in the front especially large because the intended recipient was a Hawaiian woman, he said.\*



Lee Roberts brought two bowls, one of locust and one of walnut, and a vase of English walnut.



Harry Hamilton with his bowl of pallet wood.



Jim Burt explains: "During an online search, I learned about a pattern maker's fence for a table saw. I had recently made an index plate from a 60-tooth saw blade; a simple way to make accurate patterns. Well, a truncated icosahedron (a soccer ball) consists of 20 hexagons (138.2 dihedral angle) and 12 pentagons (142.6 dihedral angle). This was a perfect object to test the accuracy of the fence and index plate. The particle board soccer ball is the result of this test. Now I want to use these tools to explore new segmented turning opportunities."



Truncated icosahedron

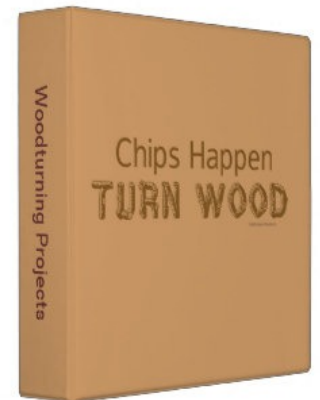


Jim's white pine cookie jar

\*Please don't write in.

*January Show and Tell, cont'd.*

Dick Markham shows one of his two vases of poplar. He was somewhat fatigued after having chased a Swiss fashion model down the street to steal his hat.



Randy Thorne holds a longstem goblet of hackberry, which he donated to the raffle. He also showed a natural-edge vase of mesquite.

## *January Show and Tell, cont'd.*



Shown at left is Mike Oglesby's large dyed bowl of boxelder. Above, top, is Mike's platter of ash, which he titled "Mr. Heavy," and immediately above are a bowl of cottonwood and a vase of mesquite.



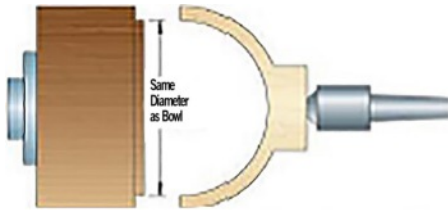
Robert Marsh brought a bowl and a ring holder of highly-figured woods.

***January Show and Tell cont'd. on p. 8.***

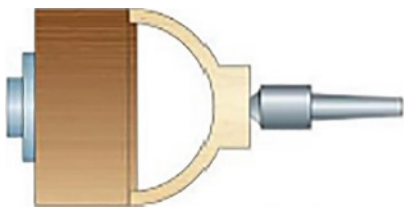
## AAW SHOP TIP

### Better Success with Jam-Chucking

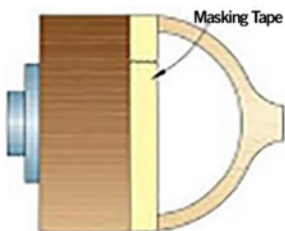
I've helped a few woodworkers who have had problems when turning with a jam chuck. This three-step process might help you be more successful.



**Step 1:** Turn a jam chuck with a small tenon that fits inside the bowl. Turn the outside diameter of the jam chuck so the diameter matches the outside diameter of the bowl.



**Step 2:** Fit the bowl over the tenon and apply pressure with the tailstock. For added security and anti-slip protection, wrap the joint between the bowl and jam chuck with masking tape.



**Step 3:** With the foot turned, leave the masking tape in place but back off the tailstock. Slow the lathe speed and turn away the nub. When removing the nub, use light cuts that apply pressure toward the center of the form and toward the headstock. Then sand the bottom.

Find more tips like this one on the AAW website in the tips library at <http://www.woodturner.org/default.asp?page=Tips>

*This tip was contributed by Chris Wright, Los Angeles, California*

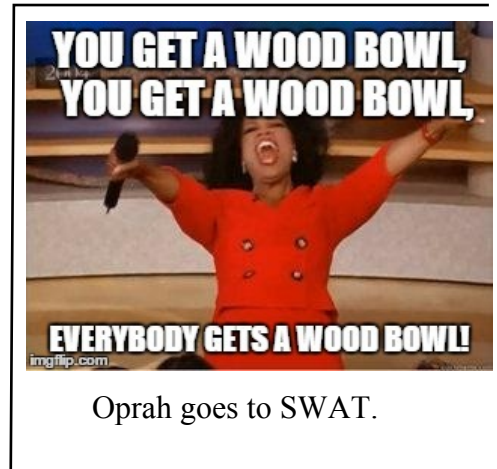
## January Show and Tell, cont'd from p. 6



Christian Jensen showed pens of various woods, including mulberry and boxelder. He also brought bushings he had made in order to turn the pens the way he wanted them.



Ed Spence brought segmented vessels. The smaller one will be topped by a lid and finial (for a future Show and Tell).



Oprah goes to SWAT.



*Boxelder Bug*  
(*boisea trivittatus*)





**AAW Tip: What to Do When You Get Tearout**

Tearout often happens when you're forced to turn up-hill against the grain. This happens frequently on sidegrain bowls, usually 180 degrees apart. It can also happen when turning segmented work if you're not careful in orienting the grain on all the pieces.

A freshly sharpened tool is essential as well as not forcing the cut. I find that it's very easy to push a tool too fast through the wood. You want to go at a rate that lets the tool cut. This can be a tricky thing to learn but well worth the effort. Speed up the lathe and slow down your feed rate and you may get rid of the tearout.

Tool presentation to the wood and the sharpening angle of the tool are also important.

I'll talk about sharpening angle first. My typical bowl gouge is ground at about 55 degrees. If I can, I'll switch to my 40-degree bowl gouge. If that doesn't work, then I will try my spindle gouge that I sharpen at about 35 degrees. Of course, you still need to rub the bevel for a clean cut and sometimes the 40 or 35 degree angle may be too acute. I am a big fan of the Hunter carbide tools for cleaning up torn grain. The reason is that the tool face is recessed so you get a cutting angle of about 30 degrees. The Hunter Osprey has the cutter tilted down at 30 degrees, so from the side the bevel appears to be the same as the 55-degree bowl gouge, which means it's easy to rub the bevel inside a bowl. However, you're still cutting with that very sharp 30-degree cutting edge.

Tool presentation to the wood can also help. You want the wood to go across the blade in a slicing angle. A very rough description is that you're using the skew as a paring tool. The wood comes across the blade at 90 degrees. This is a very fast cut but usually leaves a slightly torn surface. Swing the tool handle so the wood hits the blade at a 45-degree angle and you get a very clean cut. Spindle gouges and bowl gouges work exactly the same--it's just more complicated because of the curve. Watch how the wood comes across the cutting edge. A slicing cut will work better than a peeling cut. This can usually be accomplished by rotating the tool to change where and how the wood comes across the blade. The steeper the angle, the better the cut, usually. Really swirly wood grains or things like bird's-eye maple may not cut as cleanly with these severe angles.

Last but not least, use some sort of chemical to solidify the fibers. I use lacquer thinned about 50/50 with lacquer thinner. One or two coats usually works. It dries fast and is relatively inexpensive. For punky woods I may use five or six coats, letting it really soak in. I also use thin CA glue for smaller areas. The glue is too expensive to use on large areas but it works well. Be sure to let it dry. It's impossible to get off your glasses or face shield. Avoid the fumes, which can really burn your eyes. That's why I tend to use the lacquer.

I find most often on problem woods that it takes a little bit of all of these. I had a piece of green walnut that tested all of these procedures until I finally got it cut cleanly. It's worth the effort. I'm one of those strange people who don't mind sanding because I believe it's what brings the wood to the next level. That being said, I despise sanding torn grain. Two tricks I've learned to solve that problem. First trick is to stop the lathe and sand just the torn grain area. It's my belief that quite often these areas are mildly recessed so the sandpaper simply skips over them when you sand under power. Stop the lathe and sand just the area and it will reduce the time it takes to get rid of these marks tremendously. Second trick. Again with the lathe off, use a round cabinet scraper. It will remove tearout very quickly. It will leave a divot so you have to feather around the area with the same tool to sort of disguise the crater. It works very well and doesn't leave the lumpy summer/winter wood that you get with sandpaper.

—John Lucas

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