



North East Florida Woodturners

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Let me start off by wishing you and those you love all the very best for the New Year! I also want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve the club as President in the upcoming year. I

will do my best to continue the great work done by Mark in his term and guide our club's growth over the next couple of years. I know my job will be made easier with the assistance of all the board members and the many great volunteers who give their time and expertise so willingly to the club. Thank you for all that you do!

The last time we all met was at the annual Christmas Party. What a great evening it was! Thank you to all who worked to make the event such a success. Along with the good food and great companionship, I think one of the highlights of the evening was the Secret Santa exchange of gifts. It was so nice to see all the talent and creativity everyone put into their gifts and how well received they were. I have a small collection of turned objects on display at my home, and while there are no pieces with "big names" attached to them, each one of them is special to me as it reminds me of a friend who I know and have enjoyed good times with over the years. It was wonderful to be able to add a piece to my collection.

Along with the duties of club President, I realized that through this "President's message" in the monthly newsletter, as well as a forum to share club news and events, and to acknowledge the accomplishments of our club members, you have given me a soapbox to talk from. Hopefully, neither of us will come to regret that and I can keep my message informative, motivational and inspirational!

I'd like to share parts of a discussion I had recently with one of our members Barbara Hahn. Barbara has volunteered to take over the video duties and will be filming the demonstrations at the monthly meetings. She wanted to familiarize herself with the equipment and practice filming, so we arranged for her to travel to my workshop and film me turning a bowl. Woodturning can be such a solitary pursuit it is always a pleasure to welcome someone to my workshop, and as well as going over the video equipment, we spent a very pleasant couple of hours chatting about woodturning, touching not just on the how's of woodturning but the why's.

During our discussion she asked me what were some of the pivotal moments in my woodturning journey. I replied there were two. The first was when I finally got to the point where I was not having to constantly think about how to use the tool in my hand. Having the tool as an extension of my hand and being able to present and guide it without any thought allowed me to free up so much of my effort and focus and devote that attention to what I was creating. To be honest, there are still times when I have catches or need to think about how to present the tool to the wood, but with practice tool

control is slowly becoming as natural and instinctive as walking and I have seen an improvement in my pieces as a result.

The second moment was when I finally decided what I wanted to be when I grew up, or more specifically, what area of turning I wanted to focus on. As a beginner woodturner I wanted to do it all. Now there's nothing wrong with that and as well as being a lot of fun, it is also a great way to learn and practice a variety of skills. However, when I started to focus on one or two disciplines within the vast range of disciplines that fall under the woodturning umbrella, I started to see an improvement in my pieces. Part of it is repetition. Your twentieth-round bottomed bowl is going to be better than your first, but nowhere near as good as your hundredth! However, much of it is skill building blocks. As your turning skills improve along with the repetition, so too will your design skills, and looking at each piece with a critical eye you will see how subtle changes and variations can both improve your pieces and/or take you off on a tangent that you did not envision when you first started the journey.

So, I'd like to encourage each of you to spend time practicing with the tool of your choice. Whether it is the bowl gouge or a pyrography pen, set a goal for it to become an extension of your hand and mind. Along with that, think about which areas of woodturning ignite your creative spark and start to work towards those.

With that said, I'll get off my soapbox and once again wish everyone all the very best for the upcoming New Year.

COMMITTEE NOTES

Monthly Demonstrations – Tina Minahan, Daniel Callahan - Please contact Tina Minahan or Daniel Callahan to volunteer to do a demo for either our March, April, or May meetings. If you have any suggestions for topics you would like to see presented, please email us as well. Your participation and ideas are welcome and needed so our club can

continue to serve our members interests. Thanks

Library – Elizabeth Jenson Forbell (Liz) –
No new information

Treasurer – Kathy McCall –

1. Remember dues are due and they are now \$35 per year.
2. Please make sure I get your Safe Harbor contributions from ZooLights!

National Demonstrations – Ed Malesky -

Thanks to all those that participated in ZooLights; Bob Hunt, Kat McCall, Don Penny, Ricky Crews, Tina Minahan, Gill Harding, John Catches, Paul Rushton, Ray Smith, Loretta Lombard, Daniel Callahan and Ed Malesky. Together we turned hundreds of ornaments for the kids. Cold nights couldn't stop us, and the people seemed really pleased we were there. For many this was their first ZooLights and were surprised that there were a bunch of woodturners making ornaments to order and for free. We collected near \$1,000 for our Safe Harbor program, so other than exhaustion at the end of the night, it was a real win-win proposition.

Safe Harbor – Kay Seivert - No new information

New Member Coordinator – Paul Rushton –

2017 was a terrific year for our club. You did a fantastic job of promoting the club and our craft. Club membership is at an all-time high and we had 20 new members sign up last year. Here's the numbers. Our survey information says that most new members learn about the club from existing members so - you are the best recruiters we have. Keep up the good work in 2018!!

	2015	2016	2017
Total Paid members	61	61	73
New members (included in total)	14	14	20

Wood Raffle – Barbara Hahn – Take a minute and gather up a log or two to bring to the raffle! It cleans up your pile and makes a few dollars for the club!

Secretary – Don Penny – Well for this month anyway! Thank you for allowing me the opportunity of sharing with you monthly for the last four years. But change is inevitable, so I will be handing over my office to Paul Rushton at the next meeting. I wish Paul good luck and ask you guys to be kind to him. The recent elections have opened up some opportunities for those of you who wish to get more with the club. Those are now the Wood Raffle and New Member Coordinator. So if you are interested see one of us to express your interest.

ZOOLIGHTS

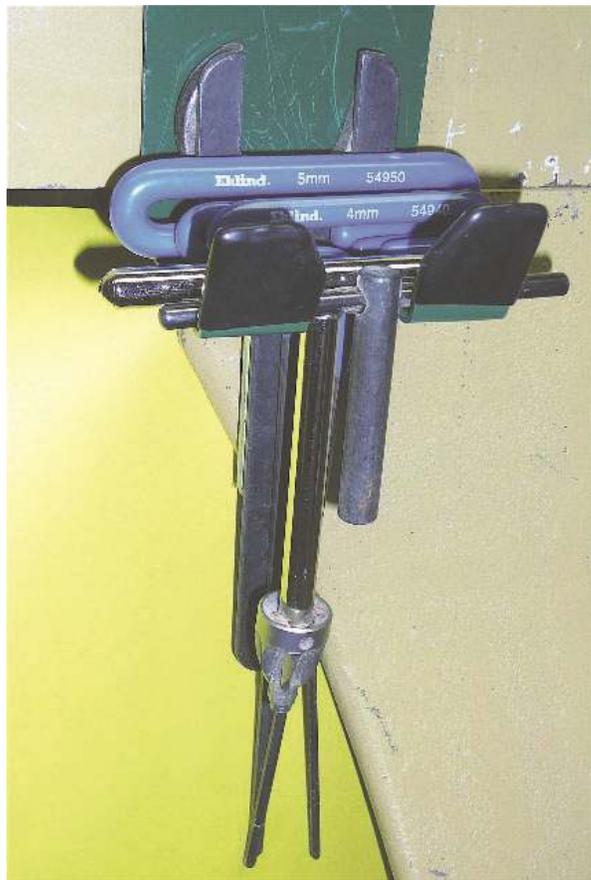


TURNING TIPS

Easy-Access Tool Storage

A miter gauge grabber/holder is handy for storing various common tools that I use while I am turning. I attached the grabber with three strong magnets, which allows me to hang faceplate wrenches, Allen wrenches, and chuck keys within easy reach. An Internet search of miter gauge grabber will reveal several sources at about \$13 each.

~ Loel Gnadt
Lincoln Park, Michigan



Lathe Wheels

Our club is fortunate to have a permanent meeting space with a classroom. We do, however, need to move the lathes around. I



discovered this solution at the AAW 2009 symposium trade show. I made a few small revisions, but credit for the concept goes to Gene Colley at Canyon Studios.

The wheels are trailer jacks, originally designed to mount to the tongue of a boat or utility trailer, and swing up when the trailer is in use. I discarded the pivot mechanism and bolted the jacks to a hardwood board, which in turn bolts to the cast iron legs of the lathe. For mobility, the wheels are cranked down just enough to raise the foot pads of the lathe clear of the floor. A few turns of the crank raises the wheels, and the lathe sits solidly on the floor.

The two wheels on the head-stock end have been modified so they don't swivel, with a slot ground in the outer tube and a small bolt tapped into the inner tube. The wheel on the tailstock end is free to move. Jacks are available from many sources, including Northern Tool and Harbor Freight. The jacks shown are 1500 lb (680kg) capacity, which is overkill. For our other lathes, we used 750 lb (340kg) jacks, at approximately \$20 each. The only disadvantage is the crank protruding from the top of the jack, which can be a shin biter.

The Chicago Woodturners engineering team is working on a solution for this. For \$80 each, we have complete mobility and full stability for our classroom lathes. Paul Shotola, Chicago Woodturners



Magnetic Tools

I like to epoxy rare earth magnets to calipers. I can then attach them to my lathe to keep them from falling to the floor. Other non-magnetic tools are good candidates for this as well. Ferrous metal tools will, of course, stick to the magnets and do not need epoxy.

~ William R. McWhirter Fortson, GA

UPCOMING EVENTS

January Meeting

Monday January 8th 6PM

WoodCraft

11160 Beach Blvd #121, Jacksonville, FL
32246

Storage of Chuck Key



Are you always searching for the chuck key or toggle bar? Do you have to stoop or turn around to pick it up every time you need it? Wouldn't it be nice if it were always right on top of the headstock, inches from where you are going to use it? Help is at hand. Epoxy a rare-earth magnet to the top of the headstock and you are done. One magnet will hold several items at a time.

~ Dennis J. Gooding, Grants Pass, OR