



# Piedmont Triad Woodturners Association



Newsletter  
February 2015

## Calendar

**Feb 10 - Willie Simmons, Turned Stool with Woven Seat**  
**Mar 10 - Home Made Tools, Jigs & Fixtures**  
**Apr 14 - Charles Farrar**  
**May 12 - Dean Hutchins, Piercing & Texturing**  
**June 9 - Morris Schlesinger, Turned Hollow Spheres**

## Message from the President:

Well, Super Bowl XLIX is in the books and like last year, Punxsutawney Phil again saw his shadow and is predicting 6 more weeks of winter. Let's hope that the weather holds off for Tuesday's meeting at least! For those of you who were ready to see Dean's piercing demo, I am pleased to announce that it has been rescheduled for June. The chances of winter weather disrupting it then should be much less likely.



If you travel up US 220 past Roanoke, Virginia you will come to a town called Fincastle. It is there where you will find our featured demonstrator for February. Willie Simmons is a member of the Blue Ridge Woodturners in Southwest Virginia. Willie has been turning for over 30 years and this month will be demonstrating a turned wooden stool with a woven seat for us.

I was the Turner of the Month for January and as fate would have it have become the Turner of the Month for February. A sign-up sheet for volunteers for the remainder of the year will be passed around at the meeting. If you would like to volunteer to turn a piece and donate it to our monthly raffle, please sign up for the month that you would like.

The President's Challenge for February is to turn candlesticks or some type of candle holder. Since we just had football's biggest game of the season, I think the President's Challenge for March will be to turn a Super Bowl! Let's see what you can do.

While I am thinking of it, I wanted to mention one other thing before I remind you to bring in items for our gallery presentation and monthly raffle. Last fall I took a position on the Board of Directors for my kid's school. They had an opening that they were looking to fill at the end of the summer and I felt that they could benefit from my assistance. At the end of November, I was voted onto the Board. All of our regularly scheduled Board meetings are set in advance and the next three (Feb, Mar & Apr) happen to fall on the second Tuesday of the month at 4pm. Beyond that, the May and June board meetings are the first Tuesday of the month and the June meeting is the one where we will set the monthly meeting dates for the next year. I have already requested that they not fall on the second Tuesday of the month going forward and I believe that request will be honored but there is nothing I can do about the next 3 meetings. Our Board meetings start at 4pm and vary in length depending on how much is on the agenda, but usually run until at least 7pm but have gone later than 10pm on occasion. This was the reason that I was so fashionably late for our Christmas Party in December. Most of you know that I am not one to miss meetings and I do not like to arrive late to them, but despite all of the extra work that comes with it, I feel this opportunity to help out my kid's school is too big to pass up. I will still be putting together the agenda's as well as compiling the list of announcements for our club meetings, but will most likely not be there to get the meetings under way for the next three months. I will make arrangements with someone (most likely Jim Duxbury if he is available) to do this in my absence. I am planning on attending the club meetings as soon as our Board meetings adjourn, provided they do so before our club meetings do. I apologize for any inconveniences this may cause but I wanted to let you all know that this is the reason you may not see me at the beginning of our club meetings until May. If anyone has any questions about this, please feel free to contact me with them.

Finally, here is your official reminder to make sure to bring in items for our instant gallery presentation and monthly raffle.

I do hope to see all of you on February 10<sup>th</sup>!

Scot Conklin  
President

## A Safety Note:

*Why does Muir's lathe have a new spindle?*

About a week or two before Christmas I was operating in a "production mode" to turn about 12 handles for ice cream scoops and pizza cutters. These were to be Christmas gifts. So I cut the blanks, bored holes for the shanks, and began rough turning. After about 10 or so pieces, I became careless and suddenly my heavy roughing gouge was caught between the tool rest and the blank. The about 2" diameter oak blank was broken and the spindle was bent.

What were my mistakes? I let myself fall into a routine that resulted in lack of attention to detail that resulted in too large a distance between the tool rest and the surface of the wood. If I had not started with blanks that were much larger than the diameter of the final shape maybe I would not have had the accident. Recommendations: try to be aware of loss of attention to detail while turning

and start with blanks that do not require the removal of large amounts of wood to reach the final size.

After the loss of a few weeks of turning time and about \$110 my lathe has a new spindle and bearings and it runs better than ever!

Bob Muir

## 2015 Delayed Start:

We got off to a slow start for 2015 thanks to the weatherman but things are looking better for next week. With no meeting last month, no minutes and no gallery of photos, we have a short newsletter this time. The gallery next week should be great since you have had two months to work on it. I hope everyone has had more time to turn than I have. See you next Tuesday.

Jim Terry

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