

The Southern Utah Woodturners Chapter was formed eight plus years ago with a membership of 25 mostly senior wood turners, which meant many years of experience amongst us. We welcome men and women woodturners of all ages and levels of expertise. We originally met at an individual member's home, but out grew it immediately. We were invited to hold our meetings at Cedar High School in their woodshop and classroom. By membership agreement, it was decided to seek and mentor younger woodturners and that meeting at the high school presented a "target rich" environment.

When we surveyed the turning equipment at the Cedar High School shop, we determined that the students were in need of a variable speed lathe, a sharpening system, some new gouges and a four jaw chuck to enhance the turning experience. Since our total income stream was from yearly dues, we submitted to the American Woodturners Association (AAW) for an educational grant to assist in our plan.

In partnership with the Cedar City High School District and the Cedar High School woodshop, we contributed the entire \$1,000 grant from AAW received towards purchasing some needed equipment and turning tools, including a jet 1220 variable speed lathe, a four jaw chuck, a Beall spindle tap 2"X8", a Beall buffing system, a 1/2" bowl gouge and a sharpening system consisting of a Wolverine jig and a Tru-grind tool holder.

We also sponsor membership for each high school student

into the club with no dues required. We demonstrate at the high school shop during regular woodshop classes, and invite all students to attend the professional demonstrations at club meetings, which have included demos by Kip Christiansen, Kirk DeHeer, Lloyd Johnson, Alan Stratton, Lane Phillips and others.

The club wanted to be more involved in the community and committed to support the local hospitals and their foundations. Over the past 8 years the Southern Utah Woodturners have turned and contributed over 700 Christmas ornaments, bowls, pens, bottle stoppers and other small turnings to the annual fundraiser auction, benefiting the Dixie Regional Medical Center in St. George, Utah and the Hospital Foundation of the Valley View Medical Center (now renamed Cedar City Hospital) in Cedar City, Utah. These donations have been determined by the charitable organizations to have brought in over \$20,000.00.

As an added benefit, our turnings have raised the awareness of turning in general for many of the residents of our club's coverage area, mostly Cedar City and St. George Utah. We do draw members from as far away as Provo, UT and Boulder City, NV.

This past year we have started a new program for our members to have access to a shop twice a week for assistance. In that shop we have 5 lathes plus our newest addition a 12 X 20 laser for enhancing our turnings.