

# SOUTHERN UTAH Woodturners



American Association of Woodturners Chapter Since May 2010

March 2025

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## **From the Office of the President--**

Woodworking generates a lot of wood dust which can be very dangerous for multiple reasons. Someone in the Beaver High School woodshop was using a torch to burn the surface of their wood as a finish. They were too close to the exhaust system and a flash fire occurred through out the shop. Spontaneous combustion fires in inclosed areas, like a grain silo, kill people. Wood dust is dangerous to breath and is a flash fire/explosion hazard.

While no one was injured, everything had to be removed from the shop to be cleaned by hazardous materials workers. Until that is done, the woodshop classes have to be held in another room with no equipment. Todd has loaned them three of his small lathes with some other equipment.

Wednesday of last week Jim Pope, Kim Christopherson, Lyman Abbott and myself went to Beaver High and taught students how to use the lathes in three classes. We will be going again in April. If you can come or have equipment they can use, let us know.

Last Friday I watched a live demo on egg turning by Cindy Drozda. It was an excellent demo and free. If you subscribe to her website, she will send you an email with a link to her free live sessions every other Friday. Not every session is a demo. During the demo she told us that she will be a remote demonstrator at a symposium in Australia and why she no longer travels to do demonstrations.

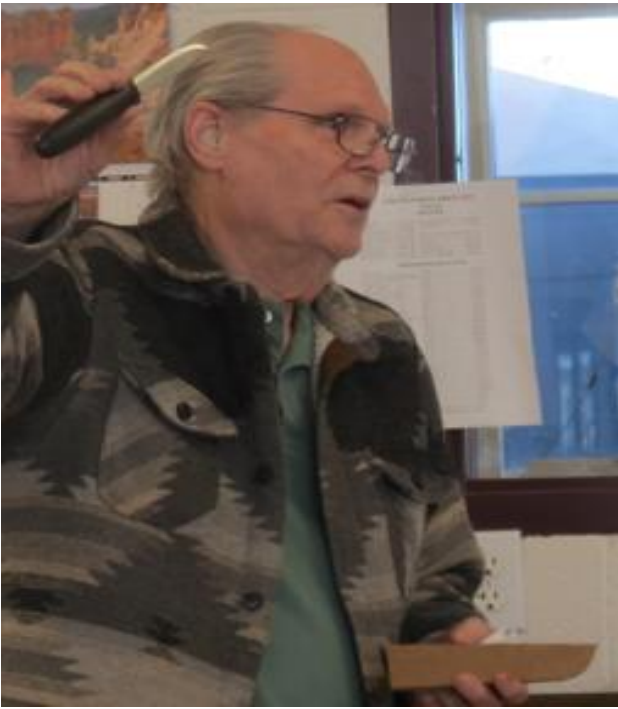
**We are making the application for membership to Southern Utah Woodturners available on our website as well as including with the newsletter mailing as a separate attachment. Please mail form, with dues check (\$30) for 2024, to Glenn Pearson at the address on the application so he may update our records for the membership roster.**

The demo of the month was: Jerry Keller turning a platter with beads. He started by turning the bottom of a platter blank. Then he passed that blank around and mounted another blank on the lathe and turned the top with rings and a bowl in the center. He showed us how to cut the rings to the same depth with a full radius. I look forward to watching the demo again on the club website. I have seen a lot of demonstrations. This was one of the best I have seen.





## Show & Tell



**Leon Olson with a Swedish craft knife blade with an ebony multi axis handle and leather sheath, a pink flower made from wet willow with the tool he made to form the flower and a tool handle with a steel insert for holding a bowl gouge which he made with Grant Johnson's lathe and mill**

**Joe Peacock with a dyed and decorated Valentine platter**



**Jerry Keller with multiple flowers made from various woods for our monthly challenge**





**Don Smith with multiple flowers made for our monthly challenge colored with acrylic paint wash**



**Karl Bradshaw with eight pens made from a variety of woods**



**Karl McMullin with two heart shaped bowls made in two parts and then glued together. The wood is mesquite.**





**Bruce Sharp with a vase made from a Chinese elm branch**

**Reiner Jakel with a large redwood bowl and a large live edge walnut bowl**



## GALLERY



**Leon Olson**

A Swedish craft knife blade with an ebony multi axis handle and leather sheath, a pink flower made from wet willow with the tool he made to form the flower and a tool handle with a steel insert for holding a bowl gouge. He made the steel insert with Grant Johnson's lathe and mill



**Don Smith**

multiple flowers made for our monthly challenge colored with acrylic paint wash





**Bruce Sharp**  
A vase made from a  
Chinese elm branch



**Jerry Keller**  
multiple flowers made from  
various woods for our  
monthly challenge



**Joe Peacock**  
A dyed and decorated  
Valentine platter



**Karl Bradshaw**  
Eight pens of various woods

**Karl McMullin**  
Two heart shaped bowls made from two  
turnings and then glued together. The  
wood is mesquite







**Reiner Jakel**

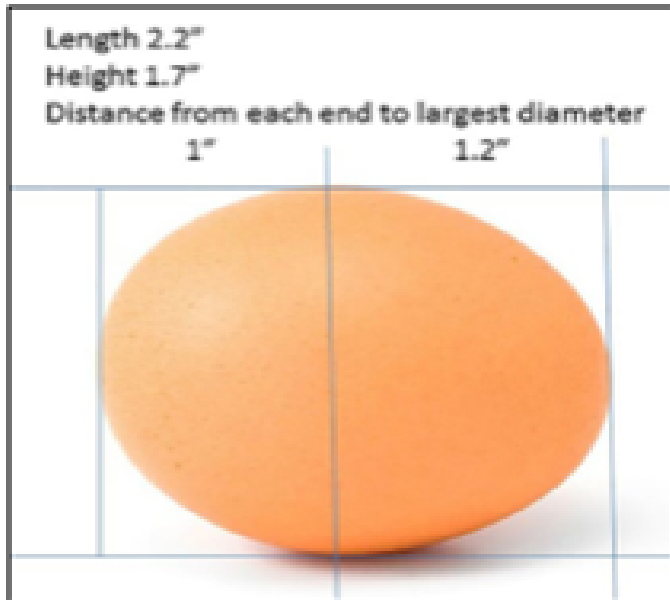
**A large redwood bowl and a large live edge walnut bowl**



**TIPS AND TRICKS**  
**Leon Olson**

**#Turning eggs**

When turning eggs, it is better to turn several. There are motions, procedures and tooling or patterns that make it a lot easier and help you get a good egg shape. The first few eggs should be for learning, so start with wood that you do not care about. Wood you would be willing to toss out.



This is from the August 2017 issue of Woodturning FUNDamentals, Vol 6.4, in the article "Turn A Perfect Egg" by Walt Wager. (AAW online magazine)

$$1.7 / 2.2 = 0.7727 \quad 1 / 1.2 = 0.8333 \quad 1 / 2.2 = 0.4545$$

Dia of blank / 0.7727 = total length of egg

Dia of blank X 0.4545 = length of short end

Dia of blank X 0.8333 = length of long end

Dia of blank X 1.2878 = total length of egg

The numbers above are ratios and will give you lengths for the diameter blank you have. The numbers will not be exact but are close enough.

Whatever size egg you choose to make, you can figure out the diameter of your blank and the length. For a 2.2 inch long egg I use a 3 inch long blank. One year I made 66 eggs for Christmas presents. Having uniform blanks really helped. A thin plywood "caliper" to measure the diameter allowed me to measure the blank diameter without stopping the lathe. There are also lines with the lengths on it. You can hold it next to the spinning blank and mark the length of each section. Having a little extra length in your blank allows you to look for any flaws and shift the egg to avoid the flaws. You need tenons on each end. Tenons keep you from having a ding in the end of your egg from the points of the drive center and live center.



Next, turn a tenon as small as you can on both ends. The drive center and live center determine those diameters. It is extremely important to have the center marks from your drive and live centers. This is also when you turn the egg blank to the correct length of the egg.

Turn the profile of the egg. Start at the ends and work toward the large diameter of the egg. You should be able to turn the diameter of the egg down to about 1/4<sup>th</sup> inch on both ends.

Now is the time to sand through all the grits. Since the eggs are relatively small, they sand quickly. Start with whatever grit you need and go to 400 grit. After sanding with each grit with the lathe on stop the lathe and sand parallel with the spindle with the same grit until the lines around the egg are gone. I use sandpaper that I have cut into small pieces. If you use a flat piece of wood to hold the first grit of sandpaper against the egg, you can remove bumps and lumps to get a fair curve more effectively.



After you have turned and sanded all the blanks, remove the drive center from the lathe and put on a chuck to hold a blank for a jam chuck. Mount the blank and drill a half inch hole through the jam chuck blank. Then drill a hole that is smaller than the diameter of your eggs about the length of your egg deep. Next turn a straight taper that your egg will fit into. I used a skew on its side as a negative rake scraper to cut the straight taper. Put the egg blank into the jam chuck with the center of the tenon on the point of the live center. Push the blank into the chuck. If you apply too much pressure with the tailstock, you can split the tenon on the end of the egg.

Next use a saw to cut off most of the tenon. You want to leave a little of the tenon so that you do not cut into your egg. Start cutting with the live center pushing on the tenon and then back the live center off before completing the cut. I tried turning the tenon off and had a catch. It is quicker and safer to cut it off with a small saw. I have a small pull saw but a fine-tooth hacksaw blade works.

Use a "pull cut" (scraping cut with the wing of a spindle gouge) to start removing the remains of the tenon. Use a firm grip on your spindle gouge. You want absolute control of the tool and take small light cuts. Yes, I have had the gouge grab and run up the side of the egg. With light pull cuts you can get a beautiful flowing arc that looks like the end of an egg. Sand, flip the ends and repeat.

I have sanded eggs up to 2,000 grit, but those eggs were made with very hard and fine grain wood that I wanted to polish. Woods with a coarse texture do not sand well past 400 grit. Normally you do not need to use a finish but an oil finish will make the color pop.

The biggest problem with using a jam chuck to hold your egg is getting the egg out of the jam chuck without damaging either the egg or the chuck. The hole you drilled through the jam chuck allows you to gently push the egg out with a knockout bar or dowel. I put a dowel through the spindle until it is touching the egg and then gently tapped the dowel with a block of wood.

In Woodturning Magazine, Issue 344 pages 39-43, Andy Coates had an article on Alternative chucking. It included a chuck made with a hose clamp that is safe to use because the hose clamp is in a deep groove.

If you knock the egg blank off center, you can recenter it in the jam chuck with a recentering tool. Put a blank that is almost as large in diameter as your egg between centers and turn a #2 Morse Taper on one end. Put the Morse Taper in the headstock and turn a 90-degree cone into the opposite end. The cone will recenter the egg in the jam chuck. I carefully sanded the Morse Taper until it fit the tailstock quill. When I put it into the quill it left a mark on the wood the entire length of the taper. It works best if you make the recentering tool before you use the jam chuck.

#2 Morse Taper fixture. You will need a flat piece of wood. I used Baltic Birch plywood and two square straight pieces of wood that are a little longer than the #2 Morse Taper I used as a pattern. You can use the Morse Taper arbor on a Jacobs chuck, a drive or live center to position the sticks. I glued one of the sticks onto the plywood. When it was dry enough I put the Morse Taper against the first stick and then glued the second stick onto the plywood positioned against the Morse Taper.

## WHY WE LIVE IN SOUTHERN UTAH



Cottonwood Road, Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument  
Glen Pearson Photos

### *Attendees to regular meeting March, 2025*

Lyman Abbott, Gayle Adams, Steve Ashworth, Roger Bender, Jeff Blonder, Karl Bradshaw, Elroy Bryant, Ken Carter, Locke Ettinger, Ross Henshaw, Wyatt Holm, Chad Humphries, Reiner Jakel, Jerry Keller, Ed McDonald, Karl McMullin, Leon Olson, Joe Peacock, Glenn Pearson, Jim Pope, Ken Ragsdale, Mike Russell, Bruce Sharp, Chip Sharp, Don Smith, John Spevak, Bill Vincent, Eric Walker, Susan Wells.

Guests: Jeff Flora, Kathryn Flora

Dedicated to promoting woodturning in Southern Utah through  
educational demos, classes & fellowship between members.

"Learning Through Turning"

**Turn Often & Turn Safe**



## Upcoming Woodturning Events

**Northeastern Oklahoma Woodturners Association** *presents* **Nick Cook**

NEOWTA is hosting Nick Cook for a woodturning demonstration and hands-on classes. The demonstration is Saturday, April 26, 2025. Classes are April 27, 28, 29.



**Alaska Woodturners  
Symposium**  
May 3-4, 2025  
Anchorage, AK



**2025 AAW International  
Woodturning  
Symposium**  
June 12-15, 2025  
Saint Paul RiverCentre  
St. Paul, MN



August 22-24, 2025  
Waco Convention Center  
Waco, TX



**Rocky Mountain  
Woodturning  
Symposium**  
September 19-21, 2025  
Loveland, CO



**September 26-28, 2025**

September 26-28, 2025  
Crowne Plaza Hotel  
Northbrook, IL

Visit our website at :

<https://www.southernutahwoodturners.com>

Email-- [suwtclub@gmail.com](mailto:suwtclub@gmail.com)

### ITEMS FOR SALE BY MEMBERS

Please submit items for sale to Leon Olson ([leonolson@aol.com](mailto:leonolson@aol.com)) before the 15th of the month to be included in the newsletter. Include SUWT Newsletter in the title of the email

### FOR SALE

**Fishlake Lumber Co.**  
 Rough Sawn Lumber Specialists  
 Full Line of Building Supplies  
 Ace Hardware & IFA Dealer



435-438-5454  
 800-304-5454  
 Fax 435-438-5477  
 1627 N. Hwy. 357  
 P.O. Box L  
 Beaver, UT 84713

Lynn Anderson  
<http://fishlakesawmill.com>  
[fishlakelumber@infowest.com](mailto:fishlakelumber@infowest.com)



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 of Valley View Medical Center

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CANYON CREEK SERVICES




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Mike's  
**TOOL & NAIL LLC**  
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[www.mikestool.com](http://www.mikestool.com)

Motion Industries is near Costco. They sell belts and bearings among other things. This location is a sales office but they gets things quickly.

Mike's repair is not far from Canyon View High School but it is on the north side of the freeway. There is a road under the freeway from the school. The website is [mikestool.com](http://mikestool.com) You need to be careful to get it exact. There is another website that is one letter different.