

APRIL
2024

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 19 * ISSUE 4

President's Ponderings

I've noticed that I have started looking at trees differently the last couple of years. And I have a feeling some of you do to. Whether I'm driving down the road or going for a walk, I catch myself looking at them and NOT thinking "oh, that's pretty" or "I wonder what kind of tree that is" or "wow, I've never seen one like that". Nope, now I look at them and think, "Hmmm, I wonder how many bowls I could get out of that thing"!!! I'll size up the branches, the trunk, the limbs and picture what a finished product may look like just coming off the lathe. I sort of feel bad looking at something so tall and pretty that provides safety and shade to birds and animals, and wondering how long it will be before that sucker dies and I can perhaps get piece of it. Notice, I didn't say I wanted to kill it, I'm not that desperate for a woodturning project, I just wonder how old some of them are and if they're on their last leg....or limb....or whatever. My father-in Law, Dale King, recently did something that is pretty rare. He actually turned a bowl out of a sycamore tree he planted in his yard over 30 years ago. Not many people stay in a house long enough to cut down a tree they planted back in the 1980's and get to turn a bowl out of it in 2024. He had two acres at that time and could sit and watch his own trees and picture his next 'bowl turning branch'. But for me, I don't have that ability. Like I said, I would never kill a tree just to turn it, so if you see me driving by your property real slow and looking at your trees, don't worry, I'm just...umm...admiring how big and pretty they are!!!

Be blessed,
Brian

UPCOMING EVENTS



April

- 6th - 7th - Training: Beginners
- 11th - Club Meeting
- 13th - Open Shop
- 19th - 28th - Hunt County Fair

May

- 4th - 5th - Training: Carving
- 9th - Club Meeting
- 11th - Open Shop

June

- 13th - Club Meeting
- 15th - Open Shop

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS

MAY

BOARD MEETING -

Thursday, 2nd 5:30pm
Wesley United Methodist
Church, Greenville

TRAINING CLASS - Carving

Saturday / Sunday 4th-5th
Tom & Stacey Nehl's
118 RS County Rd. 4269, Emory

CLUB MEETING -

Thursday, 9th 7-9pm
Wesley United Methodist
Church, Greenville
Demonstration by Sharon Ayres
Cars & Toys

OPEN SHOP -

Saturday, 11th 8am-Noon
Brian Livingston's shop
100 Margaret St., Fate
Mini-Class: Tom Nehl,
Between Centers

Just For Fun Let's Get Together

Many visitors to our club, as well as many of our own members, have often commented on how friendly and fun our club is to be around. With that in mind, we wanted to be sure that everyone is aware of some of the "unofficial" club get-togethers that take place on a regular basis outside of our sanctioned monthly Club Meeting and Workshops and Trainings, etc.

⇒ **Every THURSDAY - Lunch**

Several club members, spouses and friends gather for lunch at Burgers and Fries 5360 State Highway 276 W in Royse City.

No reservation needed but be there before 12:00 as that's when we order lunch. Come spend an hour or so with friends as we visit, catch up with each other and then return to our daily activities.

⇒ **Once a MONTH - Pre-Club Meeting Meal**

Every month on the Thursday of the Club Meeting, a group of club members, spouses and friends meet to eat at 5:30pm at TaMolly's Restaurant, 6929 I-30 in Greenville.

⇒ **Once/ Twice Yearly - Work Party & Lumberjacking**

We meet at George Freeman's house to cut up and process trees into blanks for turning. These are not scheduled but you will be notified by email when a date / time is set. Come join the fun and also learn some of the many steps and processes that are needed to produce your own turning blanks. And of course, you can't make blanks without trees, so several times a year, George goes out and cuts down trees to bring back for our Club's use. If you are interested in going on one of these lumberjack excursions, email George woodchipper2011@hotmail.com and he will send you an email notification of when the next trip is planned.

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY

APRIL

James Joyce - 1st

Terry Smith - 1st

Alan Baxter - 16th

Jill Joyce - 17th

Mark Spencer - 17th

Tim White - 29th



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SWAT2024 is coming AUGUST 23, 24, 25

[Register NOW!!!](#)



Registration is open! It opened March 4th, so if you haven't already done so, register NOW. Click on the SWAT website link below to register. The date is set for the weekend of August 23-25th. Set up will be on Thursday the 22nd and any club members who want to go a day early and help set up just need talk with Lee Craft. The early registration cost for the weekend will be \$190 for the 3-day ticket package. The Saturday night dinner cost is \$35. SWAT is held in Waco at the Convention Center, 100 Washington Ave.

Demonstrators: The lead demonstrators will be: Beth Irland, Sammy Long, Jason Breech, Kurt Hirtzon, Stewart Batty, Laurant Nicolot, and Kirk DeHeer. We encourage you to search YouTube for their videos.

There will be Ornamental Turners represented this year (Rose Engine Lathe)

Raffle: The 3-for-1 Raffle this year will offer an American Beauty lathe as the grand prize as well as three Jet 12-21's along with other good prizes.

Hotels: SWAT has coordinated special rates of \$170/night for a block of rooms at two hotels adjacent to the convention center: Hilton and Courtyard by Marriott. Breakfast is included at both of these hotels. These hotels book up fast! Registration at these hotels is already open. Click the SWAT link below for links to these hotels.

Get all the information and registration details at SWATS website. www.swaturners.org

Prayer Requests and Praise

John Blattman

George Littlefield

Kay Shrode



PHILIPPIANS 4: 6



Dale King, father-in-law of Brian Livingston, mentioned in the "President's Ponderings". Dale is holding the bowl recently made from the sycamore tree he planted in 1985.

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MEMBERS' HIGHLIGHT

Donna Frazier

Cheers! I'm Donna Frazier. What do I want you to know about me? I dream big and I am a bit of a dichotomy. Outgoing/introverted, forgetful/organized, distracted/focused, impulsive/planned out... a roller coaster of sorts. Life is unscripted and I just try to improv my way through, running towards the lion's roar as it is "all part of the act!"

I was born in Michigan. I was raised to have an appreciation for living history and arts/crafts. My great grandfather was a woodturner and craftsman, my grandparents were both artists, my father was an engineer and hobbyist woodworker, my mom was a kindergarten teacher, artist and vintage doll collector. Our home was like a museum. In addition, we went on numerous antique car tours to historical places with our 1958 Rambler and 1948 Henny Packard Flower car.

When I was 12yrs old my grandmother died, and my parents were worried about me, so they introduced me to a friend who was a clown. He taught me clowning and together we visited nursing homes, churches and were in parades. This led to my obsession with the circus. I joined a unicycle club and the International Brotherhood of magicians. I operated my own entertainment business during high school performing for birthday parties and corporate picnics. As a senior in high-school, I told my friends that I was going to join a circus and was praying to find a guy with blond hair, blue eyes, who drives a red truck and loves the circus more than me and then marry him. I also planned to live in Texas! After high school, I went to Central Michigan University for a year but eventually sent resumes to various circuses. Carson & Barnes 5 ring circus called me and next thing I knew I was hopping on a plane and flying to Dallas Texas. In Paris I met my husband of 28yrs, John, (who was a lion trainer and elephant boss at the time). My husband remembers the first time he saw me, saying "Look what God sent me!" So, two weeks later we were engaged to be married! (Was that planned out or impulsive? Lol) After some time in the circus, I eventually went back to college. My husband got a Bachelor of Computer Science, and I received a Bachelor of Business Administration from Southeastern

Oklahoma. With the sawdust still in my veins, I opened my own show, Cole's International Circus, and took it on tour.

Eventually, deciding to have a family, we settled down. I became a full-time homeschooling mom with 6 children. Ranging now in ages from 23 to 11, I feel I could write a book filled with beautiful stories of raising my family. I am blessed! But I'll jokingly say that when the kids were really little, and I had to fill out forms at the doctor's office... under occupation I would think to myself "firefighter". Because "stay at home mom" certainly didn't describe the high-pressure urgency and chaos coordination of what I did every day to keep the kids happy and alive, Lol.

It was in 2016 that Hunt County Woodturners came into my life by complete accident or perhaps it was God's will. We had been attending St. Williams Catholic church in Greenville when a friend told me how the club had a booth at the Knight of Columbus Spring festival. Thinking that a woodworking club sounded neat, I made plans to attend. Imagine my surprise when I stumbled into a meeting and had no idea what a lathe or woodturning was. Everyone was so friendly though and encouraged me to come to the open shop. It was at Tim White's shop, and it was there that I turned my first and most expensive bowl ever because afterwards I was hooked! My husband is super supportive of my passion for woodturning. He does make me laugh... he thinks that I need a hobby, so he recently signed me up for guitar lessons!

As a club, it is our desire to build connectivity between members. This **Members' Highlight** section is one way to learn about each other. Each month we hope to highlight 2 members. If you would like to volunteer your bio info for future editions, let Brian Livingston know and he will email you with the details. Brian's email is bdliving@yahoo.com, or talk to him next time you see him.

Let's read a little about the life of
Tom Nehl
on the next page. (page 6)

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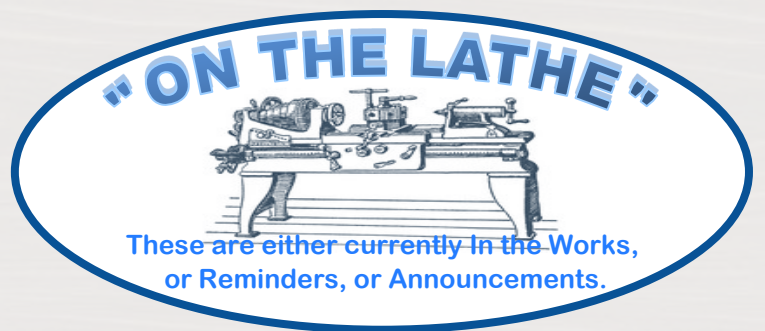
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Member's Highlight continued

Tom Nehl

I was raised on a farm in Eastern Iowa, along with 3 sisters. After high school, I attended Iowa Automotive & Diesel Institute in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. After finishing school, I started working at Freese Motors, a Ford dealership in Monticello, Iowa, as a mechanic. I worked there full & part time for a total of 50 years. Stacy and I have been married for 12 years and combined have 5 children (4 living), and 5 grandchildren. My love of woodworking must be genetic as I have many cousins who work with wood. I have been an avid woodworker for over 30 years; my turning adventure started about 13 years ago. After I met Stacy, I purchased a segmented bowl at a local gift shop for her birthday, and she wanted to know how it was made. I (with no experience, and little knowledge) attempted to explain. A trip to Acme Tools open house in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, a few weeks later exposed us to the Corridor Woodturners, who were doing demos at the store. This led to the purchase of a Steel City Lathe, and the beginning of our woodturning journey. After purchasing our first lathe, we joined the Corridor Woodturners. Joining a club was the single most rewarding thing that improved my turning. There is always something new to try in woodturning. We now have advanced to 2 full-size lathes, and a lot of wood. Working with different woods, trying new ideas, or finding that "hidden gem," in a piece of firewood, or tree that's come down are some of the things I find most rewarding about wood turning. Woodworking & woodturning have led to me being called a, "wood hoarder," by several people. There is no such thing as too much wood, or too many tools.



QUARTERLY CHALLENGE:

Make something out of
ANY SCRAP WOOD

Bring your creation to the
JUNE Club Meeting for Show-and-Tell.
The members will vote on their favorite item
and the winner will get a \$50 gift card!

TRAINING COORDINATOR

Please consider becoming the Club
Training Coordinator. Trust us when we say, you will
not have this responsibility completely on your own.

The board and members are here to support.

TC duties typically relate to these activities:
Beginner Trainings, Mini-Classes held at the Open
Shops, and Training Classes covering specific methods
or projects. Responsibilities of the TC will include
scheduling and securing locations for these events,
monitoring sign-up lists, and arranging instructors.

For the complete list of duties,
see the website or talk with a board member.

TENTATIVE TRAINING CLASSES

Looking to expand your knowledge and skill? Keep these
classes in mind and watch for more details to come!

July or August: Feature Rings

September: Pyrography

November: Beginners

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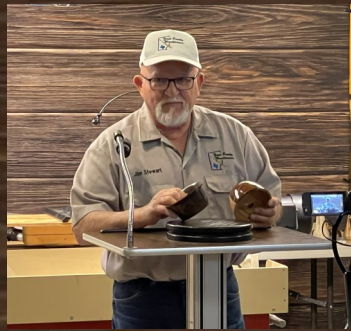
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On MARCH 14
there were a total of 58 at our
Club Meeting.
53 in person, 14 of those were visitors!
5 more joined in through Zoom.
The items brought for Show & Tell were all
individually interesting and creative.
We appreciate each person who brought
an item to show. And thanks to
Donna Frazier and Gary Sanders
for your demonstration.



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Thank you Lee Craft for hosting this past **OPEN SHOP** on MARCH 16th. We had 29 in attendance. Some were learning from the mini-class, (thank you Donna), and some were making pen blanks, and some were doing their own things. All the lathes were being used. Ruth was sharpening tools. There are still several months available this year to host an Open Shop. If you are willing to host one any time, please let Tom Nehl know.



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BECOME A MEMBER



Become a member of the
Hunt County Woodturners!

Membership is renewable annually for each calendar year and covers individual and family at the same address. The membership cost is \$48.00 per year.

Dues are prorated for new members at \$4 / month.

To get the application, download it [here](#) OR email Mark at [mspencer2112@gmail.com](mailto:m Spencer2112@gmail.com).

Turn in the completed application at the monthly club meeting or mail it to:

Hunt County Woodturners, Inc.

Attn. Mark Spencer

P.O. Box 8191

Greenville, Tx 75404

Membership in HCW, Inc. entitles you to discounts on selected items at these 3 fine businesses you see listed below. ↓

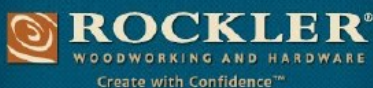


HCW members are encouraged to become a member of the
American Association of Woodturners!

Hunt County Woodturners Inc. is a Chapter of this National organization. Your membership not only supports AAW but HCW as well. Insurance Protection is one of the many benefits we gain by membership. Check out this excellent guide to their membership services and publications at <http://www.woodturner.org>

Rockler

584 West I-30,
Suite 403,
Garland, TX.
(469) 329-0971



Wood World

13650 TI Blvd.
Dallas, TX
(972) 669-9130



Wood World
of Texas LLC

Woodcraft

601 W. Plano Pkwy,
Suite 145,
Plano, TX
(972) 422-2732



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Who's on Board

Serving the Hunt County Woodturners for 2024 are:

Brian Livingston, President

Alain Schwarz, Vice-President

Burt Andrew, Secretary

Mark Spencer, Treasurer

Howard Wellspring, Technology Officer

vacant, Training Coordinator

Tom Nehl, Event Coordinator

HCW Board of Directors meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month at 5:30pm. Board meetings are open to all members & can be attended in person or remotely via Zoom. Board Meeting Minutes can be found on the website in the Members Only section.

OUR MISSION: Hunt County Woodturners, Inc. (a Texas non-profit corporation) also known as Hunt County Woodturners (HCW), is organized exclusively for educational purposes, and its mission is to educate woodturners and the public in and about the art and craft of woodturning. This mission is accomplished by encouraging and facilitating the establishment of training programs for woodturners; by disseminating information about sources of material and equipment; by exposing the art of woodturning to the public; and by serving as a center of information about woodturning for members, galleries, other interested groups, and the general public. Further, the Corporation is organized exclusively for educational purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Financial records are available for inspection upon request.

Hunt County Woodturners, Inc. is recognized by the United States Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

Gifts to Hunt County Woodturners, Inc. are fully deductible for U.S. Income Tax purposes.