

July 2016





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Skip and Dennis treated us with dueling Pepper mills. Two different ways to make pepper mills. See pages 8 - 13 for their notes.

# President's Corner



Hi everyone. The July meeting is coming up and I'm looking forward to seeing you all again. I hope you enjoyed our two person demonstration last month. I did. I thought it was very informative to see two people make the same item but use different techniques.

We have a good demonstration coming up with Mr. Bob Wolfe. He is showing us how to turn a three sided box that he learned from a demonstrator last year. I think it is great that the process continues. We learn from each other and then pass it on. I'm thinking it will be a good one. Speaking of demos Mr. Jim Tusan has volunteered to demonstrate for us in August. He will be showing how he does airbrushing. Thanks Jim for stepping up. Our September demonstration is going to be another multiple demonstrator demo. Sam Dawson, Joseph Voda, and Mike Maffitt will show us how to make items for Christmas gifts. October will be our Octoberfest at Joel Benson's compound in Rossville. Plans are coming together for demos and great food. Remember it will be later than the regular meeting. The date is October 29th. The November meeting is still open, so if anyone has something they would like to show the membership please let me or any of the other BOD members know. December is our wonderful Christmas party and auction. I know some of our members have never been to our Christmas event, and I have to tell you that you are missing a really great party and

wonderful fellowship event. See you there this year.

We have so many elements to our meetings. The demonstrations are probably the most popular for some. The instant gallery for me is special because it shows what people have been working on. It also shows us how people are progressing with their skills and talents. There is also the raffle that allows us to share with one another wood and woodturning items. Then, there is also what maybe the most valuable element of our club, and one that we may not even be aware of. That is the fellowship with our membership. People with like minded interest getting together to share techniques, processes, and experiences. It just doesn't get any better than that.

Thanks to each and every one of you for your participation in every meeting, this is what makes our club what it is.

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**By:**  
**Dennis Paullus**



# President's Challenge

## **Presidents Pepper Mill Challenge due September 24, 2016:**

We just had a two person demo on how to to turn pepper mills using two different techniques but using the same type of mechanism.

The challenge is to turn one of the types shown in recent demo (drilled hole or hollowed hole). The winner will be the submission receiving the most votes by members present at September meeting.

1st place \$50, second place \$25

Remember all participating entries will be donated to club for our Christmas auction.  
Happy turning , Dennis

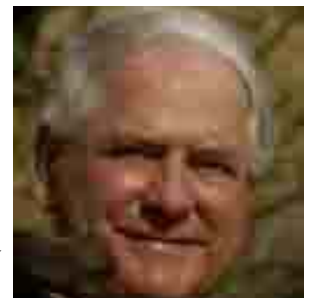
# Wood Spin

## Putting Beetles to work

In the past, the vast staff of Wood Spin has researched several situations in which natural processes have provided embellishment templates for woodturners. We have considered the wonderful world of spalting, in which spectacular coloration is added to many woods by the action of certain fungi under certain conditions. Yellow bellied sapsuckers have introduced features to various woods, especially hickories. Ambrosia beetles have provided gray streaks to various maples, even giving popular acclaim to a maple species that does not exist, the ambrosia maple. Therefore, it seemed appropriate to continue the topic of nature's embellishing tools by looking at other insects and what they can do to add more templates for the woodturner.

When I began thinking about this subject I anticipated writing about insects that attack native woods of interest to woodturners. Sorting out a few dozen insects would present a challenge, I knew, but it should be manageable. Then I was shocked to read that the number of American insect species could be 35,000 or more, so I

thought I had better just focus on beetles. That plan was destroyed when the following bombshell was encountered, "The beetle has the largest number of subspecies (worldwide) of all the insects, with 40% of all recognized insects being classed as beetles. There are more than 350,000 different species of noted beetle; however, scientists estimate the real number is between 4 million and 8 million beetle species." Obviously, I had two choices: give up on this insect topic or greatly narrow my attention. I chose the latter approach; plus, I will provide no detailed directions for working



By:  
Emmett Manley

## Wood Spin cont.

with insect infested wood, just information to stimulate woodturner thinking.

When woodturners encounter damage to wood done by insects many may react by tossing the item in the firewood pile. Some, however, look at the insect damage and see opportunity to incorporate the holes, channels, and even frass into their woodturning.



Persimmon Bowl

Frass? What's that? We need to devote some attention to defining the word. I have heard several woodturners define frass as "insect poop," or related descriptive terms. That definition is somewhat correct but restrictive and misleading. Broadly speaking, frass can refer to any fine material produced by insect action and that would include the residue of carpenter bees and similar insects that only chew wood to remove wood. Frass would also include excretory materials from caterpillars, tomato hornworms, and other insects that leave deposits below the area where they are eating leaves. The powder post beetle is an example of an insect that may generate frass both by consuming the starch in wood as well as by the process of making exit tunnels.

My introduction to powder post beetles came in 1966 when we contracted for a custom built



Powder post beetle frass

house near Fox Meadows Country Club in then east Memphis. I selected solid ash paneling for the two bathrooms in our \$24,750 mansion (which included the lot) and the paneling was beautiful. However, a few months after moving in, I spotted frass on the paneling in one bathroom and this evidence of insect activity became more and more evident. I injected scores of pin holes with malathion insecticide administered via a long hypodermic needle and a syringe. My plan worked as the frass disappeared never to appear again.

So, the take away point is that "frass" can refer to EITHER debris OR excrement produced by insects, and some excrement is basically nothing but fine sawdust.



Wormy hickory bowl

## Wood Spin cont.

Let me focus a bit more before this topic wanders off into rambling. The two native woods I encounter which often present major "worm" channels and frass residue are hickory and, especially, persimmon. The initial decision is whether a woodturner wishes to invest the time and effort to "rehabilitate" a piece of wood which includes bug damage. For many people, the answer is "no," and they discard the marginal wood. For others, however, a messed up piece of wood is either a challenge or a template. Woodturners can clean the channels and leave them open, or fill them with a variety of substances from colored epoxy to sawdust or coffee grounds mixed with CA glue, to commercial products as inLace. Crushed stones can be glued in position then turned -- the possibilities are endless, and the insects have done the heavy lifting by making the channel designs. Imagine how long it would take a person to carve those intricate channels by hand or even using power tools. These channels and holes may provide another benefit not always appreciated -- these voids reduce wood stress and, in effect, serve as anti-crack and anti-warp measures. I have never seen a "wormy" bowl that demonstrated significant warping.

Another embellishing approach is simply to flood the frass filled channels with thin CA glue in order to stabilize and fill the areas. Stabilized frass will sand and finish like the wood from which it derived. Often, working with bug damage is complicated by the presence of soft areas reflecting fungal action, but these areas may add color to the kaleidoscope developing and are worth salvaging. Recall that spalting is a term which refers to the addition of color in wood as the result of various fungi. Also, in the case of persimmon, streaks of ebony heartwood may be present. The combination of spalting, ebony streaks, insect channels, and frass can provide the

opportunity for dramatic embellishments with persimmon.

Don't be too quick to toss that "wormy" piece of wood; once again, damage of natural origin can become a design opportunity.



Colored epoxy-filled insect channels



Open insect channels



Filling cracks and channels with crushed stone

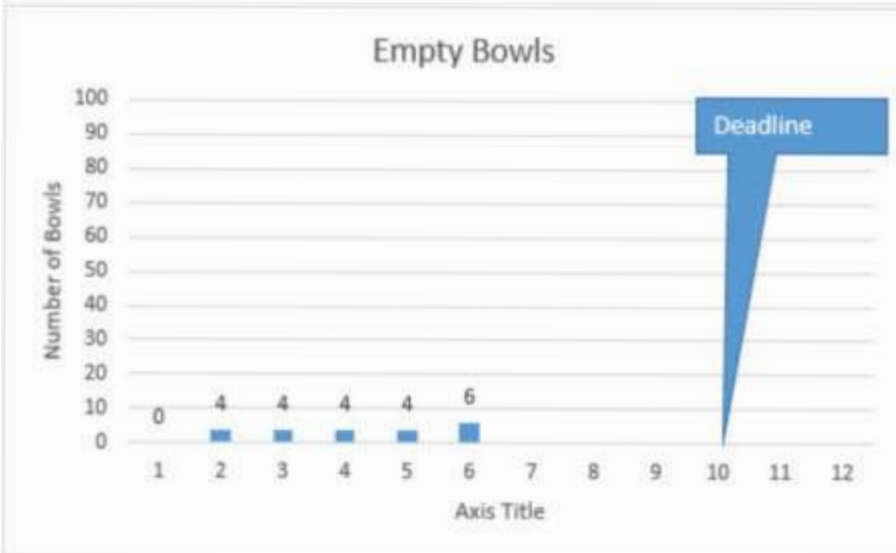
# Club Supported Charities for 2016

## Running Total of Turned Items



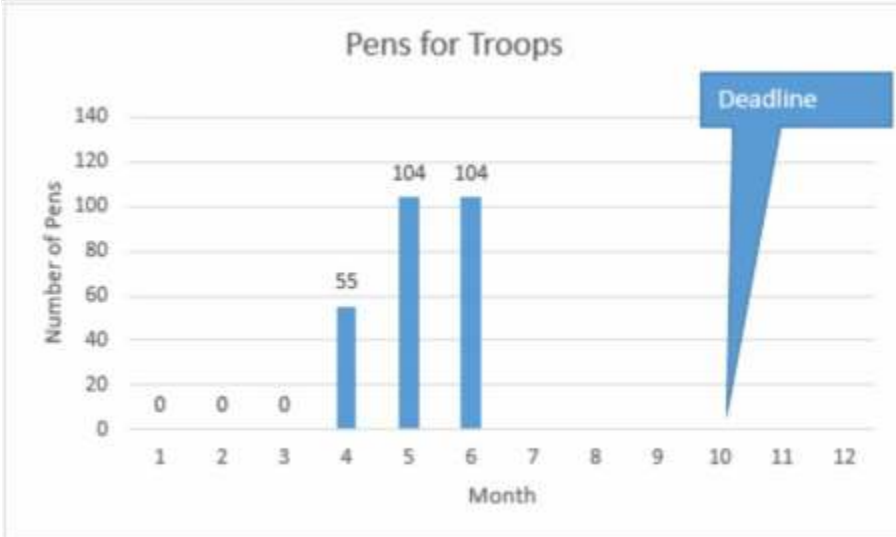
**Beads of Courage:**

Our deadline for submission to this year's Beads of Courage drive has ended for this year. We are resetting the clock on this Charity effort. Starting now, we will start accepting submissions for next year's drive.



**Empty Bowls**

We are not making progress on our Empty Bowls charity donations. Please make an effort to bring in a bowl.



**Pens for Troops**

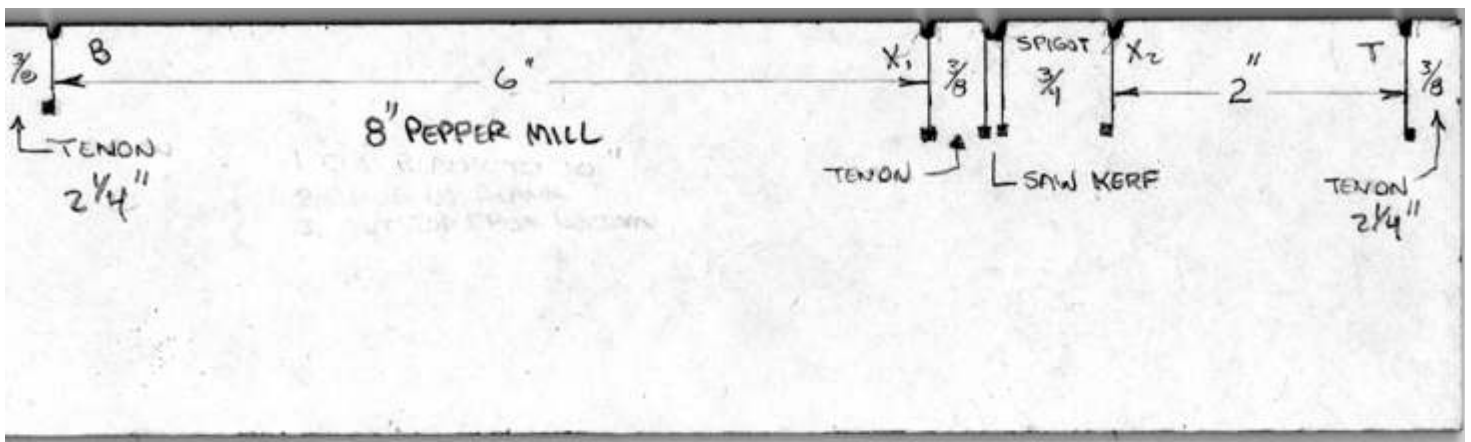
The Pens for Troops effort is doing great. We have some very generous pen turners in our club, so we are well on our way to our goal of 140 pens. We ran out of pen kits last month, but the supply has been infused with 140 more kits. Pick some up and turn a pen.



# Pepper Mill Handouts

By: Skip Wilbur

These instructions are for the Chef Specialties pepper mills. These instructions can be used for the Artisan as well, only difference is that the plate that attaches to the bottom of the spigot on the Artisan can be countersunk slightly with a  $7/8$ " bit to give it a flush look. I personally now lean towards the Chef Specialties as they seem a little heftier. The most popular sizes seem to be 8" and 10". If making more than a few it's easier to make a story stick for marking the blank.



Story Stick (not to scale)

I make the story stick from thin plywood and glue on a piece of paper then with the bandsaw cut some slots in it where I want to mark the blank. I only have to hold the story stick against the spinning blank and position a pencil into the slots to make the markings on the blank.

## Step by Step

- Cut the blank about 2" longer than the length of the mechanism (if your mechanism is 8" then cut the blank to 10" etc.)
- Mount between centers and round to about  $2\frac{3}{4}$ ".
- Draw lines on blank with story stick.
- Make tenons on either end  $3/8$ " long but the bottom tenon no smaller than  $2\frac{1}{4}$ " diameter (will be drilling a  $1\frac{5}{8}$ " hole at the bottom so want a thick wall for chuck to grab).
- Cut between the two lines marked "saw kerf" on the bandsaw
- Re-mark the centers where you just cut the piece apart.
- Back to the lathe to turn another tenon on the long blank (X1).

# Pepper Mill Handout cont.

## Skip Wilbur Pepper Mill Handout cont.

- Drill a 1 5/8" hole in the very bottom with a forstner bit 7/8" deep (remember you have a tenon 3/8" long which will be cut off making the hole 1/2" deep to house the bottom of the mechanism).
- Drill a 1 1/16" hole half way through, now is a good time to sand the bottom inside.
- Reverse the bottom in the chuck and turn down the existing tenon to something less than 1 1/16". Now drill the 1 1/16" hole in to meet the other hole you drilled half way. Doing it this way removes the tenon and also has a place for the point of the forstner bit to go.
- Chuck up the top.
- Turn the spigot – 3/4" long by 1 1/16" in diameter. Rough turn to something larger than the 1 1/16" and sneak up on a good tight fit checking frequently with the bottom piece.
- The shoulder of the spigot should be flat or slightly concave. Now is a good time to finish cut across the end grain on the shoulder and sand.
- Drill completely through with a 9/32 drill bit.
- Take off the lathe. Screw on the plate with the square hole in it at the end of the spigot ( I use a 5/64 drill bit to make the pilot hole).
- Assemble the mechanism (do not need to attach spring at this time, it's just a dry fit). Hold the top against the bottom and mark on the top where the half way part of the threaded portion of the rod would be.
- Both pieces to the band saw – cut the top where you just marked it and cut the tenon off from the very bottom.
- Back to the lathe and sand the very bottom.
- Jam chuck the bottom and top together on the lathe.
- True up and turn your favorite pepper mill shape and sand.
- Make a collet chuck to hold the top to finish out and hold for sanding.
- Finish of your choice and install the assembly.

# Pepper Mill Handout cont.

## Mike Mahoney Pepper Mill Notes

By Dennis Paullus

Note: I created these notes from the video "Woodturning Basics" by Mike Mahoney. I used these notes during the demonstration. I recommend viewing the video while referencing these notes.

### Make the Bottom Piece

- Start with a blank the same length of mechanism plus 1/2" Example 10 1/2 " for a 10" mechanism.
- Mount blank to lathe using spur drive and live center.
- Make a cylinder using roughing gouge
- Cut tenon on both ends using diamond parting tool
- Measure 2" from tail stock end and mark blank. This 2" section will become the top
- Separate top from bottom on a band saw. Remount bottom piece in using a chuck
- Put new tenon on bottom piece, then reverse the bottom piece in chuck so top of bottom piece is now in the chuck
- Remove tenon on bottom of bottom piece and cut a 2 3/8" diameter recess approximately 3/8" to 1/2" deep for expansion chuck mounting later (slight dovetail profile)
- Drill 3/8" hole all the way through bottom piece
- Make small recess for grinder mechanism the depth of grinder mechanism
- Bring up tail stock live center for support and shape bottom piece to approximate finished size and shape
- Start hollowing bottom piece from bottom approximately 4" deep
- Reverse bottom piece in chuck. Refine shape and finish hollowing from top of bottom piece. Make recess in top of bottom piece big enough to work through. Top piece will have a tenon to fit this recess
- Finish hollowing and sand to desired finish

# Pepper Mill Handout cont.

## Make Top

- Put top piece in chuck and bore 1/4" hole all the way through
- True up bottom of top piece
- Make tenon that fits the recess in the top of the bottom piece approximately 1/8" to 1/4" high
- Cut recess for grinder washer in bottom of tenon 1/8" deep
- Refine size of top piece for comfortable grip. No bigger than 3"
- Reverse-chuck top piece in to a jam chuck made from scrap wood. Use tail stock for support.
- Shape and finish top, leaving small flat at top to mate with mechanism screw top.
- Fit the mechanism to finished mill. Cut shaft to proper length and peen bottom of shaft.

## Cover metal knob with wood (optional)

- Turn down metal knob to 7mm
- Bore 7mm hole in small piece of wood
- Super glue small piece of wood over the knob.
- Finish turn, and sand encapsulated knob

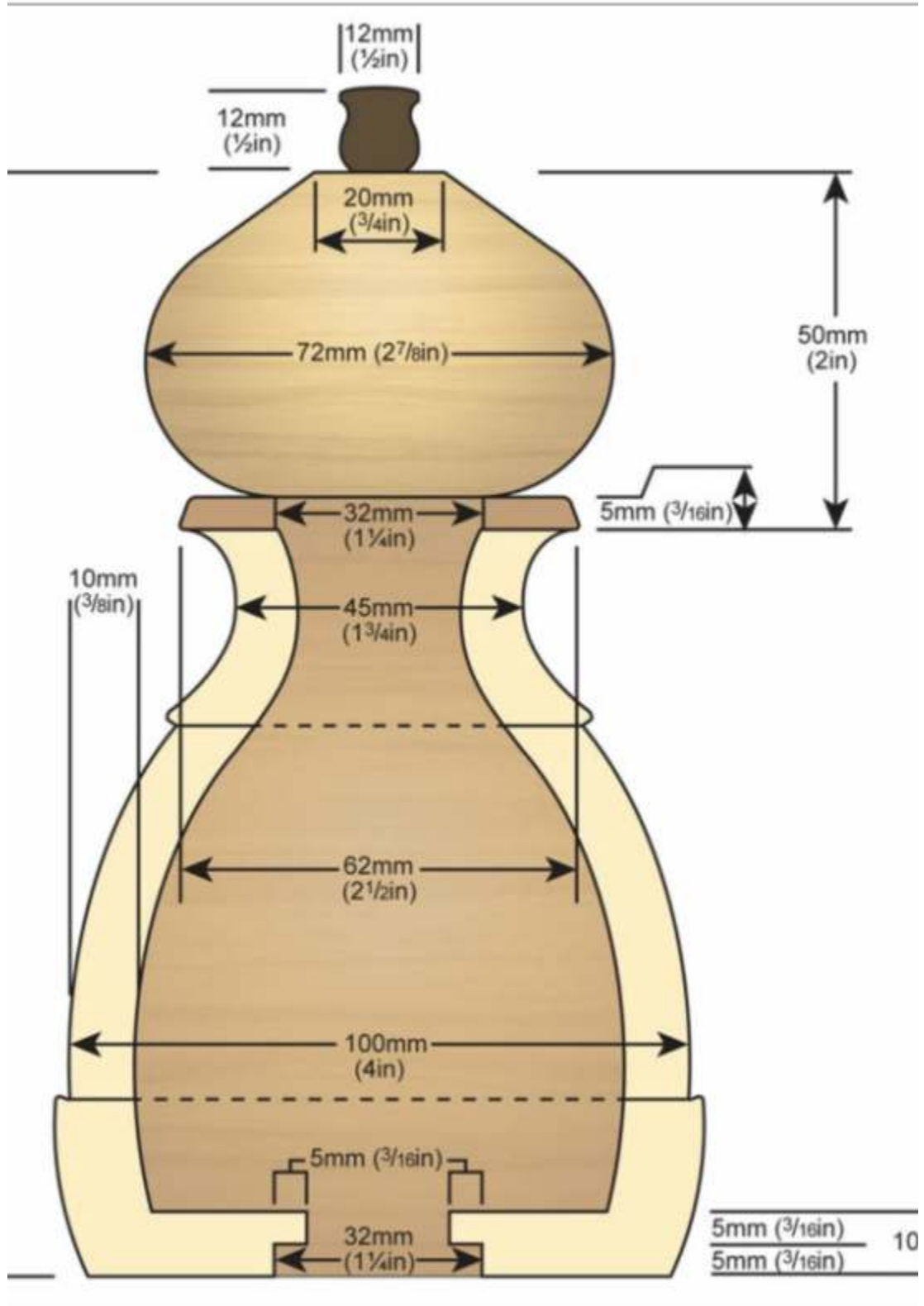
## Tools used

- 3/8" spindle gouge
- Spindle roughing gouge
- Diamond parting tool

## Finish

- Gloss polyurethane finish

## Mike Mahoney Inspired Pepper Mill Dimensions



# AAW, Atlanta\_2016 Part 2

**From: Joseph Voda**

So, as I told my wife, going to a symposium is all about the demonstrations, the Instant Gallery, the special displays of known artists, and getting to meet demonstrators and hopefully other AAW members I know from other chapters. I maaaay not have said much about the vendor booths. (Damn, I knew I was forgetting something.) But, it's not like she hasn't been to the TAW Symposium. I mean she shares my room and I usually always make at least two trips up there to drop off some new item(s). Therefore, be it resolved that Atlanta was no exception to the rule.

So, I might as well tell you about one of my new toys. I have watched demonstrators use the Sorby Texture tool and felt I should add one to my arsenal. Actually, I lucked upon a used one recently and that got me half way to my goal for specialty tools. Then, Nick Cook demonstrated the other one, The Elf texture tool. It went on my acquisition list for Atlanta.

I didn't find one in any of the booths, but Peachtree Woodworkers Supply, Inc. of Atlanta, had a very nice and sizable display (with lots of inventory, and good discounts). Clever little buggers! Ron Brown was demonstrating various items including his copy of the Elf, called the Rotary Texture Tool. I pondered a while, left, came back, watched him demonstrate it to a few other individuals, with money burning a hole in their pockets, too. Left again, came back, watched another demo of it and asked a few questions. By then, I felt I had properly pondered the item, so I bought it.

The tool comes with three cutters, and operates the same way as the Elf. It retails for about \$20 less and I saved another \$10 in cash-n-carry. (With a wife and two daughters, I have learned a little bit about bargain hunting.) The cutters simply slip into the shaft and a magnet holds them in place. There is, also a combo plastic and brass-bristle brush included to remove the splinters, that one's fingers would otherwise clean off. The tool does work well, although it takes some time to really get proficient, in producing the nuances (word of the day) of details. And of course, this is a detail tool, so it is only designed for use on dry wood.

Ok, I'm sure I have bored you enough; and all this writing about the tool has whetted my appetite to texture some wood, so I must run. To quote one my grandsons, after 30 seconds on a phone call, "Good talking to ya. Okay, love ya, bye!"



# Instant Gallery

**Skip Wilbur**



**Dennis Paullus**



# Instant Gallery



**Skip Wilbur**





# Instant Gallery

**Ray Tanner**



**John Johnson**



Chip Carved box with turned knob

# Instant Gallery

**Jerry Burch**



Crepe Myrtle

**Dan Farge**



**Jim Tusan**



**Skip Hayes**



**Jonas Nemanis**



Ash



Ash

# Upcoming Events 2016

- July 23** Bob Wolfe - Triangular box
- August 27** Jim Tusan - Airbrush techniques
- September 24** Joseph Voda, Mike Maffitt, Sam Dawson - Christmas gifts  
**President's Challenge turn in date - Pepper Mill**
- October 14 - 16** Pink Palace Craft Fair- club booth
- October 29** Oktoberfest *(Note: this is a week later than our normal date. This change was made to reduce conflicts with competing events at this time of year.)*  
**"Empty Bowls" project final turn in date**  
**Annual Pens for Troops pen turn in deadline**
- November 8** Empty Bowls event
- November 26** To be announced  
**President's Challenge turn in date - Christmas Ornaments**
- December** Christmas Party (date to be determined)  
 Annual Club auction

# Mentor Program

All members of MSWG are invited to contact the following mentors to learn a new technique, improve their turning skills or turn something different. Mentors are volunteers and do not charge.

Contact information is on our website under Members Only and the Roster. Sessions should last no longer than 3 hours and be scheduled at the convenience of the mentor.

Benson, Joel	Wood Selection, Turning Green Wood, McNaughton Coring, Chain Saw Sharpening/Maintenance, Chain Saw Use/Safety
Cannon, Rick	Segmented Bowls
Hosier, Jerry	Basic Stone and Wire Inlay, Woodturning Basics (Beads & Coves), Use of Spindle & Bowl Gouges
Maffitt, Mike	Trembleurs, Offset Turning
Manley, Emmett	Basic Woodturning, Small Bowls, Tool Handles, Hand Mirrors, Stick Pens, Eggs, Wine Bottles, Miniature Birdhouses, many other small items
Paullus, Dennis	Tool Use, Turning Safety, Hollow Vessels, Bowls, Boxes (Friction Fit or Threaded), Spindle Turning
Pillow, Wright	Inlaying: Marketry, Inlace, Epoxy
Sefton, Larry	Milk Paint, Make Your Own Pyrography Unit, Hollow Forms
Stone, Rick	Finials, Bowls (incl. Natural Rim), Boxes, Spindles, Carving, Finishes, Pyrography, Making Tools, Turning Tool Basics (incl. Sharpening)
Tusant, Jim	Bowls, Hollow Forms, Pyrography, Carving, Dyeing, Tool Use
Voda, Joseph	Spindle Turning (e.g. Ornaments)
Wilbur, Skip	Bowls, Hollow Forms, Goblets, Finials

# Sponsors and Suppliers

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