



# Piedmont Triad Woodturners Association



## December 2020

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### Note From the Pres

#### Learn, Turn, Teach, Repeat!

I wanted to make sure everyone knows the motto of the club. A few of the members know that I have been teaching either full-time or part-time since 1982. Before that I was a tutor for visually impaired students while I was in college and graduate school at Appalachian. I tutored my entire college tenure in the math lab. I am a teacher. COVID and model changes have hurt my heart where my love of teaching and learning lives. I have been able to do some private lessons and returned to teaching at Sawtooth in January. I need to tell you about a recent bowl class. I must admit I was concerned at the first class. I was able to get 3 people into the class that was originally scheduled for two. Each gentleman had turned before but years had passed. Chuck got to see how to repair some bowls. His bowl that split the week before closed up from one Saturday to the next requiring no filler – just a little glue. The cherry bowl that almost lost its foot was saved by a little glue. Justin brought some natural edge pieces he had collected a few years ago. The first bowl was working its way to toothpick before I caught him. There was still room for a tenon and it became a nice vase. The first Saturday, Justin turned 1 bowl. Last Saturday he was able to do the vase and 2 more bowls. For those who turn you might think well that is not much. But for someone who has not turned since high school that is huge.

Then there was Ray. Ray was a disabled vet who was a retired Marine injured in Vietnam. His disability limited the use of his left hand. His fingers were curled into his palm. I had to make accommodations for him to be able to cut his blank on the bandsaw which he never

thought he could use. He had enough grip with his fingers steady and use the tool. During the first class, he was able to make a bowl that he gave to his wife for her anniversary. Last Saturday, he made a bowl he said he was going to keep for his wife's birthday. He was given a lathe by one of our members and really wants to be able to do some work on it. His wife was just happy that he was coming to class and getting out of the house. I know some of you might say why would you encourage someone with a disability like that to try to get back in to turning. I have to say why not. We are here to Learn, Turn, Teach and Repeat. I have to add Encourage. Even though we were trying to social distance, I had to shake this man's hand at the end of class. Not only for his service and sacrifice but for his dedication to trying and succeeding. If you ever teach a class at Sawtooth on a weekend and someone like Ray is in your class, call me if you would feel more comfortable having extra hands and eyes in the class. If you had seen the look on Ray's face at his bowls, you would understand. Please do not write off someone with a disability.

I look forward to seeing everyone on the Zoom meeting this Tuesday, at 7pm. Crystal has her video of turning with Lan who had done his awesome editing job. If anyone is interested in presenting, please let Crystal know. If you are interested in learning how to do something, send me an email. We will see if we can find something within the club or outside the club to demonstrate whatever it is that of interest of our members.

Louise

**PTWA is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting 7pm Feb 9th**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/93386205601>  
Meeting ID: 933 8620 5601  
Passcode: 348311  
One tap mobile 19292056099

**Minutes from the 1/12/21 ZOOM meeting:**

President Louise Butler convened the meeting at 7 pm and welcomed the participants. By my count, we had 52 people logged on at one point. Bob Schasse gave the Treasurer's report. He provided an extensive analysis of our insurance options, and we elected to go with the AAW. He also discussed various options for paying dues online, and a general discussion followed. Luke Shepherd will look into adding Paypal to the website. A discussion followed regarding 2021 dues. Motion to charge \$20/person and \$30/family was carried. Louise opened a discussion on the youth program and other possible classes at the Leonard Center, once it becomes available. There was a discussion about demonstrators for the coming months, and volunteers were solicited. Crystal announced forthcoming demonstrators as follows:  
February: Crystal Earley - RingTops  
March: Phil Hines - Egg on Stand  
April: Roy Carlson - Streptohedrons  
The evening's demonstration was by Mike Nathal, who was recommended by Jim Duxbury, and the topic was Turning Spheres. Mike began by explaining that he uses five different approaches in turning spheres. His first was a ten" diameter root ball! He likes to use highly figured wood when turning spheres, and frequently hollows them out.

The five approaches are as follows:

1. Using cup centers: After free-hand turning, move to cup centers. He uses three different sizes, depending on the diameter. Use leather or shelf liner material in the cups to avoid burning. When placing the work in the cup centers, pay attention to grain orientation. Use a water mist to help with cuts as necessary. Sand using progressively finer grits, and finish with walnut oil.
  2. Using sphere jigs: You can buy these for \$300 - 500 or make your own, which he did.
  3. Turn to a template: He uses three different kinds of templates. One is made from construction paper. Draw the circle and cut it out. Use it to check your work piece frequently. The second template involves using friction to melt a sheet of plastic on a rotating cylinder. The third template is a ring gauge made from sections of different size PVC pipe. You can check your work profile against the ID of the pipe.
  4. Use hole saws: Grind off the teeth of a hole saw, and create a burr on the ID. Use this to cut the sphere.
  5. Octagon method: Cut an octagon profile on the work, which will get you closer to a sphere.
- Mike's presentation was fascinating and provided lots of good ideas. He added that he tests the spheres by the "roll" test. If they roll smoothly in all directions on a flat surface, he's satisfied.

- Roy Carlson, Secretary

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