



San Diego Woodturners

Proud Founders of the Turn-Around-for-Vets (TAV) Program



Volume 2026 Number 02

Feb 2026

1220 Rosecrans St. #233, San Diego, CA, 92106

www.sdwt.org



This month at SDWT:

Larry Szafraniec

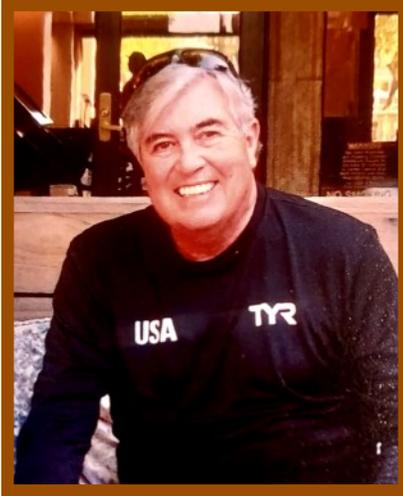
Saturday: 21 Feb, 2026

Time: 9 AM - 12

(In-Person & ZOOM)

“Thread Chasing for Woodturners”

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Larry Szafraniec

SHAVINGS

from the Prez . . .

Hi everyone,

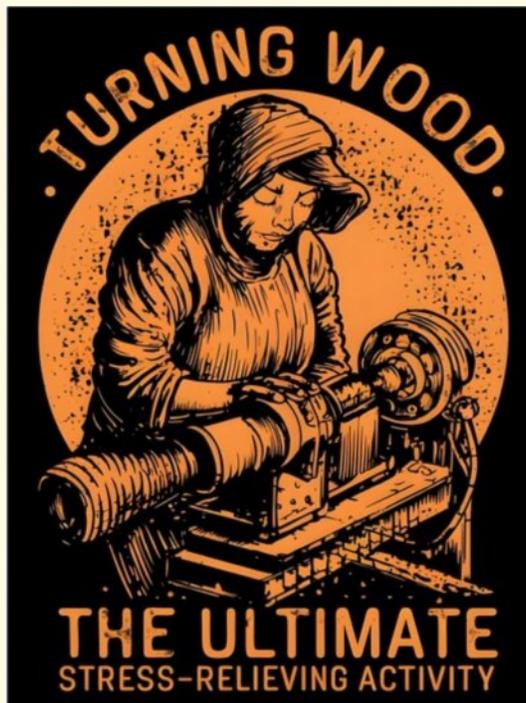
With my first message to the club, I would like to start off by saying that I am excited and honored to be your club, President. I will enjoy having the chance to help guide this organization forward in the coming years and I am thrilled to have a strong board to help do it. I encourage all members to take an active roll in supporting your club. It can be as simple as attending our monthly meetings, or volunteering at one of our club events. Your support means everything! If you have suggestions for club activities or our mission statement, please speak up and let me know.

The January demo by club member Oscar Kirsten showed us why He is a true master of the art. And His demo will be hard to follow. The February demo will discuss some of the misconceptions of threading wood. This is an ancient art form technique with many interpretations. I will do my best to break it all down for you. Until then, keep turning and bring something to share at the upcoming instant gallery. I hope that we can have a good showing for the upcoming fair. Many of you have not shown their work for many years and I would encourage you to enter to support our club. As you know, one of the biggest reasons people go to the fair is to check out the Design in Wood display. We need to keep that tradition alive.

Lastly, the club has been targeted by scammers. These people are asking for your money. I have been asked to pay vendor invoices and pay for services that I do not know about. My advice is that if something does not look right, it probably isn't. Always check the address the message came from. Stay safe and I hope to see you all at the next club meeting.

All the best,

Larry



SDWT Demonstration/Event Schedule for 2026



I hope you are all staying well. We are blessed to have such a wonderful pastime to keep us busy.

Our program schedule will continue to provide a variety of demonstrations to enhance your skills and maybe offer something you haven't tried before..

On the horizon for our schedule in 2026: **March:** Motoko Smith: Boxes with Weaving embellishment, **April:** Ernesto Aquino: Dublin Viking Bowl, **May:** Don Owen; All things Resin. **June:** Annual Picnic. And more demo's to follow and announce as we progress in the year to include a couple of notable demonstrators/classes that we will announce as we get closer.

Jeff & Roy

For February **2026**, Larry Szafraniec presents a Thread Chasing demonstration for woodturners. For instance, a small detail in turning a box is adding threads to the lid and body. It makes the box special. Thread chasing is a skill on to itself when mastered. Larry will explore and discuss the different methods used in threading wood. This will include the different tools and jigs used for various projects and applications. The discussion will also include species of wood that can be threaded and those that should be avoided. Featured will be the Carter and Sons wood threading tool. A couple of examples:



Threading Class following the demo: One class seat still available. Sign-up today via Class sign-ups in the Members Only Tab of the SDWT website.



Turn Around for Vets (TAV) is a critical program of the San Diego Woodturners Club. All TAV activities are carried out by a dedicated, unpaid group of volunteers so that 100% of donated funds, designated for TAV, are used to purchase supplies and equipment and to support the program.



Dan Waldburger

This Month's TAV Update:

VA La Jolla: 2025 Summary: ● Active Volunteers: 25 average per month for a total of 300 engagements. ● Volunteer hours: 100 per month for a total of 1200 annual hours. ● VA Participants (staff and patients): 34 per month for a total of 400 engagements. Because the VA site does not have space or power for pen blank making tools, we rely on our generous donors for pen blanks. Pen blanks are not overly difficult to make and if you would like to contribute please let Dan know. We will supply you with wood and acrylic blanks and tubes for you to cut, drill and glue in the comfort of your shop. We have two lathe stands that are lower to the ground. This allows easier wheelchair access and the lathe is presented in a more comfortable and safe configuration.



Site lead and newly elected SDWT President, Larry Szafraniec, demonstrating the new lathe stand.

Camp Pendleton: 2025 Summary: The volunteer team at WWB-West were in session approximately 50 weeks. During that time

- We had over 400 Marines as students.
- They turned approximately 1300 pens, bowls and assorted other items.
- The volunteer TAV workers logged close to 1300 hours in total.
- We are the only volunteer organization that offers a weekly, hands-on experience to the Marines and Sailors stationed at the Wounded Warriors Battalion, Camp Pendleton.



VA Aspire: Brian is putting a Penn State Industries order together for all TAV sites. We will be turning some high-end pens (Gatsby style) for use at the San Diego Fair this summer. These nicer pens should command a larger donation.

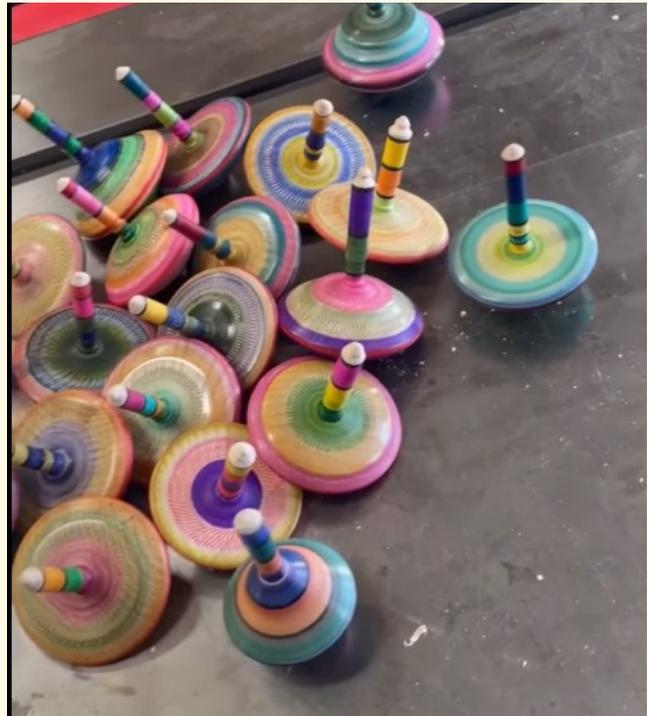
NMC - Balboa: 2025 Summary from our on-site sponsor Tasha Castro of Armed Services YMCA. We had a total of 900 volunteer hours and 356 participants! Thank you to all our volunteers and please be patient while the Balboa Park parking debacle gets resolved. **Torrey Pines Gift Shop:** The gift shop will reopen March 1. We have a small assortment of bowls to deliver and will need more with summer coming with increased visitors. Please consider turning a bowl or two to donate to this great site. Small (3-6 inch) bowls are great movers because they are reasonably priced and easy to pack into a suitcase. If you need guidance, please ask.

Torrey Pines Gift Shop is hosting an open house on Saturday, April 25th in celebration of Earth Day. We have been asked to demo our turning skills that day! This is a great opportunity to promote our club. We need one person to “champion” this effort and a few volunteers to demonstrate turning skills and talk about the great partnership we have with TPGS. Please contact Dan if you are able to help.

Volunteers: Thanks go to all our volunteers for your selfless dedication in supporting our cause and giving back to those that have dedicated their lives to protecting our shores.



Marines turning Pen's at WW BN Camp Pendleton



It's Top Prep time again in preparation for this years San Diego County Fair. Top Blanks are in need of assembly (glue in dowels) and turned tops are needed. Pick up a bag of Top blanks at our next meeting (Feb 21st) or stop by at our next "Drop-In" event (28th Feb at Nottingham) to help glue up some top blanks and pick up a bag for turning.

Having Tops prepped and turned prior to the Fair helps in having plenty of tops on hand for donation and other events the guild supports during the year. See Steve for Tops at our next meeting.

Need help in turning a Top, Ray and others will be on hand at our next meeting demonstrating on how to turn a top with an opportunity for some hands on to learn. Ray is also leading the way again with number of Tops turned. His tops pictured above.

Fair Booth sign-up (2026) will be available soon on our SDWT members website. In the members only Tab go to Fair Sign-up Schedule tab or contact me for signing up. Be on the look out.

Steve Frick (SDWT Fair Coordinator)



Entry Deadline:

May 4, 2026, 8:00 PM PDT

Set Up:

May 5 Staff only

Layout Floor Plan, Start Chair Shop Setup
Deliver Scissor Lift, Install lights.

Unload Fairground storage trucks into south side of building

May 6, Fair Laborers (7 AM ?), Volunteers

Setup Turners, Mariners, Carvers Demonstration Booths.
Place Platforms, install Walls, install Display Cabinets

May 7, Staff & Volunteers, Fair Laborers.

Finish walls display cabinets. Set up Scrollers booth

May 8 - Split the building

Booth Schedules

May 8, 2026, all booth schedules due

Delivery of Entries:

May 20, 2026: 12:00 noon – 8:00PM

Judging:

May 22, State Judging, starting at 9:00AM

May 23, Sponsors Judging, starting at 9:00AM

Photography

May 24, Photography & Videography Photo Shoot 8:00am

Show Dinner/Open House

June 6, at Fairgrounds Turf Club – 6:00PM-9:00PM

Dinner 6:30PM

Open House to follow

Fine Tune Show

May 30 – June 9, 2026

Award Ceremony

Awards ceremony – June 3, 7-9 pm Members Shop

Fair Dates: June 10 – July 5

June 10th, 2026, Fair opens; 11:00AM-Closes -10:00PM.

July 5th, 2026, DIW may close at 10:00 PM

Fair is closed on all Mondays and Tuesdays.

Take Back Day

July 7th, 2026, Take Back Day- 12PM – 8:00PM

Take Down Exhibits & Pick Up Entries:

July 6, 2026 - Set up take-back tables, Empty Cabinets, Remove Ropes and Stanchions,

July 8, 2026 Start Shop Tear Down, Pack up chairs and tools. Take Down Scrollers Booth, Pack-up mail-ins, hang tarp, Pick up lathes.

July 9-Complete Teardown – Pack up Platforms, walls, shadow boxes and Display Cases. (Fair Laborers)

Load rental truck & take to storage. 3PM -Load Trailers. Mariner's and Carver's booth pack-up



San Diego County Fair - Del Mar, CA

June 10th to July 5th, 2026 (Key date for on-line Entry Registration is 4 May, 2026. Entry Delivery is 20 May.

Time to be working on/creating your annual entry's for the up coming SD County Fair - Design in Wood competition!

You are invited and encouraged to participate in this years (2026) Design in Wood competition.

Monetary awards and ribbons for each category awarded. **And** you are able to sell your turnings if you so desire.

There are 4 categories for you to consider (also sample pics below):

Woodturning - **Facework** - grain perpendicular to the ways of the lathe

Woodturning - **Center work** - grain parallel to the ways of the lathe

Woodturning - **Embellished / mixed media**

Woodturning - **Laminated/Segmented**

For details, please check out the website @ sandiegofinewoodworkers.com/design-in-wood

When executing your special turned object for entry, please keep in mind the following areas of judging criteria:

Overall craftsmanship – including difficulty, special techniques, size, details, etc.

Understanding and use of materials – including wood figure, grain, etc.

Appearance and quality of finish – appropriate for type of wood, intended use, etc.

Design integrity – proportions, intended use, etc.

Use of form and color – eye appeal, etc.

Wishing you good luck.



More Info at sdfair.com (Arts and Crafts Competition/ Woodworking tab that then takes you to the Design in Wood competition and entry info Tab). Follow the instructions there in.

“Drop-In Saturday”



The idea behind “Drop in Sessions” for Members is to set up a shop environment of collaboration and a place to receive assistance in answering your turning questions or help with a technique.

[Bring your own tools and project material along with your PPE.](#)

Our days are typically on a select **Saturday of the Month. 8:30 am to 12:00 pm**

San Marcos, Nottingham Arts Center.

Drop-In February 28th at Nottingham

Participants must be members of San Diego Woodturners Club (SDWT) in good standing. Members under the age of 18 years may participate with parental permission and a parent or guardian must be present.

Safety is ALWAYS a Priority!

Questions: Email at Dropin@sdwt.org



Membership

Hello San Diego Woodturners

To All: **It's Time for 2026 Annual Membership Renewal.....**

Membership: Checks for membership (made out SDWT (note annual Dues \$50) and mail to our address at **SDWT, 1220 Rosecrans St #233, San Diego, CA 92106** or provide your check at our next meeting.

Alternative and Preferred: Renew on-line in the SDWT website “Members Only” go to “Annual renewal.....link.

Quick Note: Many of you have renewed your membership for 2026. Thank You! The “Members Only” portion of the SDWT website is password protected. **The password will change on Sunday, February 15th.** Those that have renewed for 2026 will receive the new password on that date. If you have not renewed, you will be unable to access that portion of the website or obtain other membership benefits. So Please renew now, if you have not already done so. Although we try to be perfect, if you do not receive the new password by the end of the day on the 15th, and have renewed, please email our membership team at “Membership@sdwt.org and let us know when you renewed, and if possible, method of payment (e.g. paypal, check, cash).

Similarly, If you're already a member of AAW Great! If not, consider joining AAW, if you think our resources are great, you will no doubt benefit from their pool of knowledge. Check them out at www.woodturner.org

Remember that as a paid member, you have access to the [SDWT Members facebook group](#) I hope you decide to join the group, it's a very simple way of interacting with other members of the club.

If you have any questions or you think you might be missing club emails. Let us know either in [SDWT Members](#) or info@sdwt.org

Thank you,

Questions: Contact at Membership@sdwt.org or speak with Don Wolfe/Jim OGrady (new membership committee co-chairs).





San Diego
Woodturners

A chapter of the American Association of Wood Turners



Membership Form

SDWT membership is \$50.00 per calendar year. To become a member, complete this form and send a check to SDWT. Send to the address below or bring it to any SDWT meeting, go to (www.sdwt.org) for our meeting time and location. If you have any questions, please contact

us at (info@sdwt.org)

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____

Email _____

Our membership allows our club to hold monthly meetings, enjoy refreshments, watch expert demonstrations and participate in classes. As a member, you will have access to woodturning supplies, video library, wood resources and mentorship.

Check out our website at www.sdwt.org

San Diego Woodturners
1220 Rosecrans St #233
San Diego, CA. 92106

From the SDWT WEBMASTER

If you are short of time or looking for specific information, be sure to check out the "Timestamps" in the description area of all Zoom meeting videos. They allow you to quickly click and jump to the specific topics.: Plate

You will find all of this on the password required "[Members Only](#)" page under "Zoom Recordings" Latest Recordings as follows:

Oskar Kirsten: Bowl Coring

Tom Wirsing: Platters

Christian Brisepierre: Off-Center Scoops

Jeff Neff: Sphere Bowl

Doug Schneider: Basket Illusion

Joe Fleming: Air Brushing

Sally Ault: Bird Houses

Pete Campbell: Embellishment

Don Owen/Carolyn Jones: Flowers & Reindeer

Joe Fleming: Turning Chess Pieces

Mike Mahoney: Bowl, Pepper Mill & Platter

Jeff Neff: Natural Edge Bowls

Karen Freitas: Snowmen

Dave John: Star Bowl



January SDWT Instant Gallery



January SDWT Instant Gallery





As members of the San Diego Woodturners, you may come across an opportunity for us to add to our wood inventory and made available to our membership at nominal cost.

If you hear of anyone needing to move wood off their property please give me a call **Chad LaVoi** (see members only tab (membership directory for contact info or send an email to GotWood@sdwt.org) .



Wood Resource Update: .

. I am looking forward to new opportunities in 2026. It is the Club and its members who benefit in having wood resources available at a nominal cost. Always needed, but a need none the less towards help in this area for hauling wood when it becomes available and/or helping in the wood lot. Let me know if you can assist in this manner.



Chad

Stacking Wood. It's an Art form

Raffle



Thank You to all the members who participate in the monthly raffle.

The raffle program is **self-supporting** with your support and ALL of the proceeds from the raffle are reinvested in future raffles and never used for any other purpose.

If you would like to see some particular item(s) included in the raffle program, let me know and I will see if I can work them in.

Be safe.

Marshall Geller - Raffle Committee Chair.

From the DVD & Book Library

Hi All

Check out the listing on the SDWT web page of our vast DVD and Book library on various woodturning topics, techniques, and artistry. DVDs and Books will be available at our Feb meeting for checkout and return.

Until then,

Be Safe.



StarBond Products (with a Club Discount) at SDWT



STARBOND CA product will be available at our **Feb** meeting. STARBOND has offered guild **chapter** discount on their products whereby you the members of SDWT will reap the benefit of the discounted price (approx 30% discount). Thin, Med, Thick CA along with Aerosol, and Black & Brown Filler CA will be on hand.

Mentoring Program

Our mentoring program is one of the unique benefits of our club. Our mentors can help with basic to complex turning and teach safety along the way. This is a great way to start out or hone your skills with complex tasks taught by turners skilled in specific areas of turning. Our mentors are volunteers and are dedicated to sharing information on all facets of woodturning.

Rest assured however, that all of our mentors are easy to work with. Most often the mentor opens his/her shop to the applicant at a mutually agreed upon time and schedule.

A list of mentors and their specialties are listed within our Mentor Tab of our SDWT.org website (**go to About tab and pull down menu, go then to Mentors**). Phone numbers for the Mentor you have particular area of interest is listed in the (members only area of the web site).. Upon making contact, arrange a time and place. If you have any questions, email me at the below address..



Jeff Neff – Mentor Committee Chairman (MentorChairman@sdwt.org)

“Mentors do not give you a shortcut, but they streamline the process. They invariably had their own great mentors, giving them a richer and deeper knowledge of their field. Their ensuing years of experience taught them invaluable lessons and strategies for learning. Their knowledge and experience becomes yours; they can direct you from unnecessary side paths or errors. They observe you at work and provide real-time feedback, making your practice more time efficient. Their advice is tailored to your circumstances and your needs. Working closely with them, you absorb the essence of their creative spirit, which you can now adapt in your own way.” From the Book - *Mastery* by Robert Greene



Resources

Tropical Exotic Hardwoods

2270 Camino Vida Roble site "B"
 Carlsbad, CA 92008 (760-434-3030)

North County Tools

955-A Rancheros Drive
 San Marcos, CA 92069 (760-743-2004)

Enviro-Safety Products (No discount)

516 E. Modoc Ave.
 Visalia, CA 93292—7630
 (800) 637-6606

Rockler

8199 Claremont Mesa Blvd
 San Diego, CA 92111 (858 268-1005)

The Hardwood & Hardware Co

8849 Complex Dr
 San Diego, CA 92126
 (858 - 536-1800)

Woodworker West

PO Box 452058
 Los Angeles, CA 90045
 (310) 216 - 9265

Tool Depot

3464 Pickett St
 San Diego, CA (619) 220 - 7111
 1655 Broadway #13
 Chula Vista, CA (619) 585-800

SD Urban Timber

922 Industrial Blvd
 Chula Vista, CA 91911
 619-20 7-4084 (sdurbantimber.com)

American Furniture Design

Ben MatteTung Oil can be purchased here

2243 Mountain View Dr.
 Escondido, CA
 (760) 743-6923

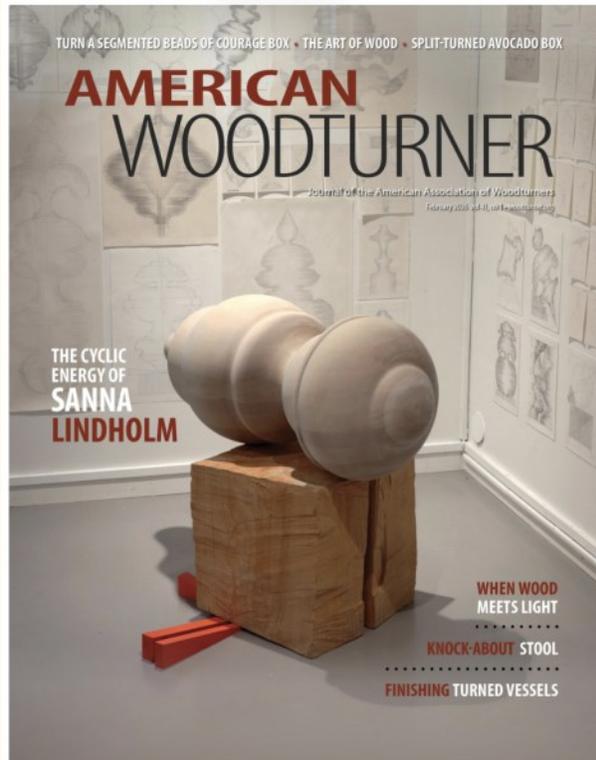
Bennett Crone Lumber and Plywood, Inc.

1202 Piper Ranch Rd
 San Diego, CA 92154
 619-661-0667
 (Bennettcrone.com)



A Woodturners Life by Glenn Lucas. Via YouTube. Some Great Info provided by Glenn and Free. Type in the YouTube search bar "Woodturners Life" and select the Episode.

AAW



For AAW members: You should be receiving in the mail your copy of the AAW American Woodturner Journal.

For non-members: Consider joining AAW and receive your copy of the Journal. Published approximately every other month with a wealth of information on turning events, symposium, and how-to articles along with pictures and stories on woodturning artisans and their work. It's a Great publication.

More info and membership sign-up at (woodturner.org)



June 4-7, 2026. More info at (woodturner.org).

2026 SDWT Board Members and Committees

SDWT BOARD MEMBERS

President

Larry Szafraniec pres@sdwt.org

Vice President

Jeff Neff/Roy Ulrich vp@sdwt.org

Secretary

Ruth Cook

secretary@sdwt.org

Treasurer

Frank Clark/Rob Irving

treasurer@sdwt.org

Members at Large

Chad LaVoi, Annette StHilaire

Andy Boyer, Steve Frick,

Dan Waldburger, Ray Brooks,

Jim O'Grady, Hal Gorss,

Contact Information for Club Officers, Board and Committee members is available on the SDWT.org website within the Members Only Area. (Membership Directory) and above email addresses.

COMMITTEES

Newsletter

Dave John NewsletterEditor@sdwt.org

Audio/Visual

Andy Boyer, Hal Gorss, Jerry Aarestad

Raffle

Marshall Geller

Mentors

Jeff Neff MentorChairman@sdwt.org

Del Mar Fair

Steve Frick, Jon Chernow

Programs/Classes

Jeff Neff/Roy Ulrich ProgramChair@sdwt.org

Membership

Don Wolfe/Jim O'Grady membership@sdwt.org

Wood Resources

Chad LaVoi (GotWood@sdwt.org),

Refreshments

Steve Frick

Instant Gallery

Steve and Ruth Cook

Host Facility

Terry Sullivan

TAV

Dan Waldburger TAVchairman@sdwt.org

Site Leads: **NMC:** Howard Katz, **Aspire** Brian Saunders

WWBN CPEN: Jon Chernow / Dan Lyle

VA: La Jolla: Larry Szafraniec

Sunshine Committee

Mavis Porter

Webmaster

Roy Ulrich webmaster@sdwt.org



The Last Page - “Cutoffs”

(Odds and Ends)



Get Ready! SWAT 2026 Aug 28 -30th

If there weren't already a million reasons to mark your calendars for the Best Woodturning Symposium ever, SWAT is ramping up the value with an additional rotation at 8 AM on Friday morning. That means you have more demos to choose from!

This year's lineup is made up of outstanding regional demonstrators and Lead Demonstrators of national and international renown.

This Years Lead Demonstrators are

John Beaver

Trent Bosch

Andy Chen

Jason Clark

Rebecca DeGroot

Mike Jackofsky

and Colwin Way

[More Info at swaturners.org](http://swaturners.org)

NOTTINGHAM ACCESS

For access to the Nottingham Arts Center contact Terry Sullivan via e-mail (go2tms@outlook.com). Include the day and time you wish to arrive as well as the purpose of your visit. Access must be cleared with Terry with email and on-site rep, Jessie Martin.

Do not enter the Nottingham facility or grounds without prior approval or without the project leader present.

San Diego Woodturners (SDWT)

A Nonprofit Corporation

A Chapter of the AAW

1220 Rosecrans St. #233

San Diego, CA, 92106



14 February, 2026

Next Event

February 21st, 2026

“Larry Szafraniec”

9 AM until 12 (Approx)

Nottingham Arts Center, San Marcos