



San Diego Woodturners

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



Volume 2026 Number 03

Mar 2026

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

www.sdwt.org



This month at SDWT:

Motoko Smith

Saturday: 21 Mar, 2026

Time: 9 AM - 12

(In-Person & ZOOM)

Turned Box Lid Embelishment

“The Nantucket Weave”

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Larry Szafraniec

SHAVINGS

from the Prez . . .

Hi everyone,

At our last meeting I discussed skill development for our members. This includes focused drop-in sessions with one of our instructors demonstrating a needed technique and having monthly meeting demos that show us all what can be done when we get out of our comfort zone and try something new. These are not secret techniques only known by the few master turners, but skills that can be learned. Our goal should be to experience demos that click on that internal light bulb and make you think, why didn't I think about that.

I hope everyone got something of value from last months demo and went home to dust off those wood threading tools. This month's demo will be with member Motoko Smith demonstrating her work with turned boxes with weaving embellishment. We are very fortunate to have her showcase her work at our March meeting. Motoko sells her work at shows and craft all over. I for one am very excited to see her work and the process she uses to create these works of art.

I would like to showcase members work with finials at the instant gallery this month. I will bring some examples of my stuff, and hope that many of you will join me. These are good skill development exercises that are fun to make and a great use of scrap wood. Hope to see you all at the meeting.

Keep the chips flying,

Larry.

Finial:

- 1) Architecture. A relatively small ornamental, terminal feature at the top of a gable, pinnacle, etc
- 2) an ornament termination at the top of a piece of furniture, or of one part of a piece



Observation/Comment - Deserves Repeating

Volunteer's in SDWT

(Editorial Observation/Comment)

1. As in many non-profit organizations such as San Diego Woodturners, we rely on volunteers to pursue our craft and passion for woodturning. We do this by providing education, information, organization, technical assistance, and publications relating to woodturning. This is part of our mission statement. The various events such as the annual fair and festivals we support as an organization, educate the public about our craft, share our skills within and with others (such as in our TAV program), provide turnings, and share pursuits with organizations such as the Torrey Pine Gift shop and others. Accomplishing all this requires volunteers.
2. Internally, we have members who chair our committees and are officers and board members of SDWT. All giving of their time and effort collectively towards accomplishing our mission. However, in some cases, our committees are one person deep. That said, we need to provide some depth in order to carry out the tasks required, and not become a burden on any one person.
3. Consider volunteering to help in any one of the committees of SDWT in 2026. Ask one of the committee chairs: "where can I help." I am sure they would more than welcome your help and support. Wood Resources, Audio/Visual, Membership, Refreshments, TAV, Mentors, and Library committees to name areas where you can make a contribution. Even help after demonstrations with clean-up/putting away equipment. In addition, support for some of our events such as the forthcoming Torrey Pines Reserve Earth Day event or Strawberry Festival in May. And of course sign up for a spot in our SDWT booth at this years Fair.
4. For a rewarding and challenging opportunity, consider stepping up to volunteer to take on the TAV program. It is a banner program for the Club and we have four sites that TAV provides a turning program with some great volunteers and site managers making the task less cumbersome. If interested speak with Dan Walburger on details.
5. Within SDWT there is a position where you can step forward to help. It is not just the adage of only the "10 percent" that make an organization run, it is a collective effort and contribution by all that makes us better.
6. To all our current volunteers in SDWT: A Salute and **Thank You from one member to another**. Your continued contribution is much appreciated. If you're new and want to step forward to help out, make inquiry with some of the long time members. You will be glad you did and make SDWT that much better.

Have a Great Day

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: **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 our March demonstration we pose a question: Looking at the photo's below, what does the basket picture on the left have in common with the box lids pictured on the right? Member Motoko Smith will be showing us how the two relate in a technique called the "Nantucket Weave" that she uses with making her baskets and applies the technique as a lid embellishment on a a turned box. She will be showing how she prepares the weave material and use of a small jig to hold the material while doing the weave. An interesting embellishment that adds to an otherwise just plain box. Join us at this month's demo with Motoko on **Turned Box Embellishment - The Nantucket Weave.**



Thread Chasing Class Candid Pics



Thread Chasing Class Feb 22 & 23, 2026 w/Larry Szafranec





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:

General: The Penn State Ind. order was delivered and distribution of goods is underway. If any of the site leads need supplies please contact TAV Dan. Steve Frick has an assortment of "upscale" pen kits for members to turn these pens for the SD Fair. Contact Steve if interested.

Print Material: Leonard Badour has all the artwork for current and past print material. Any leads/coordinators that have input regarding type and quantity of printed material please coordinate with Leonard.

VA La Jolla: Steady customer base, all six lathes are often occupied. Getting good patient participation. No relocation to the new building site for at least one year.

Camp Pendleton: New volunteer Dave Barnhart joins the team at Camp Pendleton. Welcome Dave and thanks for your time!

VA Aspire: Congratulations to Glenn Hyzak, our latest graduate from Aspire. Glenn was given a lathe and accessories for him to continue his pursuit of woodturning.

NMC - Balboa: Business as usual at NMC. The team of volunteers stays active and busy with the many patients and staff participation there. Thank you everyone who volunteers.

Torrey Pines Gift Shop: We're set to deliver a nice assortment of bowls, bird houses and miscellaneous items turned from Torrey Pine. We are running low (we're out) of Torrey Pine wood, so keep your eyes and ears open if you see one being trimmed or removed. Torrey Pines Gift Shop is hosting an open house on Saturday, April 25th (9-1) in celebration of Earth Day. Deanna Samillo has graciously volunteered to lead and coordinate this event. She will need 2-3 volunteers to demo and talk to the crowd about our relationship with TPGS and woodturning in general

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.



TAV at Wounded Warrior BN, Camp Pendletonm CA.



TAV at NMC, Balboa Naval Hospital,
San Diego, CA



TAV at WW BN, Camp Pendleton, CA



A Big **Thank You!** to all the Volunteers that showed up to help with Top Prep at the 28 Feb Drop-In. The team of volunteer members assembled over 893 top blanks in little over an hour.

I'm tallying up our total tops prepped and turned and will advise on remaining dowels and blanks yet to assemble later. To date, I think we are in pretty good shape as far as blanks prepared for the Fair at this time. Next objective is for those that have picked up top blanks to turn them.

I will not be available at the March meeting but will be available in April. So hold onto your turned tops until then and bring to our April meeting for collection.

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.

Need help in turning a Top, we may have a couple of members at our next meeting demonstrating on how to turn a top with an opportunity for some hands on to learn. For sure, assistance in turning a Top at the March Drop-In. Break out those spindle gouges and turn a few for practice to get back in the swing on turning a top and adding some embellishment.

Reminder that our Fair Booth sign-up (2026) is available at our SDWT members website. In the members only Tab go to Fair Sign-up Schedule tab or contact me for signing up.

Lastly, I too encourage many of our members to enter a turned item into this years Design In Wood event. See page 8 for details. We have some excellent turners in SDWT. Show off your work and lets show off what SDWT is all about and having on display various turned items.

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 March 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: **2026 Annual Membership Renewal Reminder.....**

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 has changed.** Those that have renewed for 2026 will receive the new password. 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 recv the new password 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:

Larry Szafraniec: Thread Chasing

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



February SDWT Instant Gallery



February SDWT Instant Gallery



February 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 March 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 **March** 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 Matte Tung 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
(Bennetcrone.com)

A Thought to Ponder



M. Saban-Smith Woodturning ✓
39m · 🌐

The Accumulation of Hours

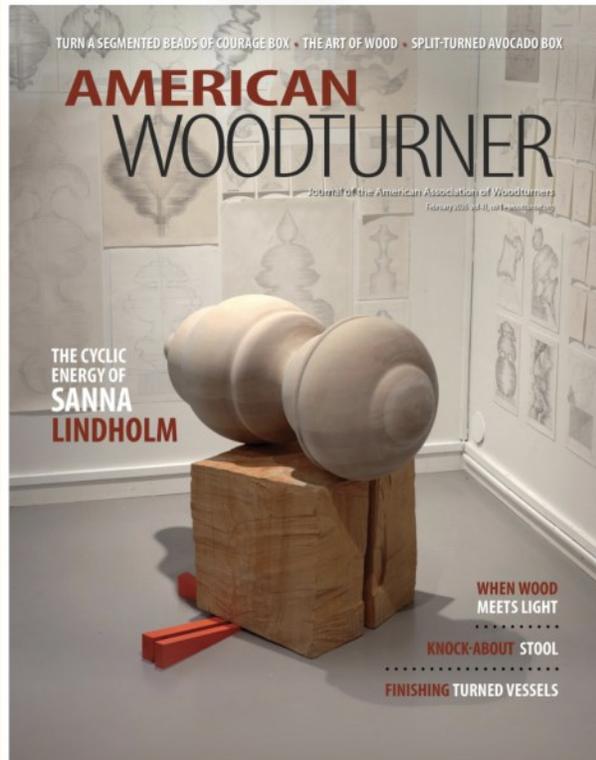
Someone asked me recently how long it takes to get "good" at woodturning.

I don't have a number. But I do know this: it's about accumulating hours at the lathe. Not reading about turning, not watching videos about turning, but actually turning. Hands on tools, eyes on wood, body learning what the brain can't teach.

Malcolm Gladwell's 10,000 hours theory has been debated endlessly. But the principle holds: sustained, deliberate practice over time produces competence. There are no shortcuts.

The good news? Every hour counts.
Keep showing up. Keep making shavings.

AAW



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

For non-members: Consider joining AAW and recv your copy of the Journal. Published approx 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

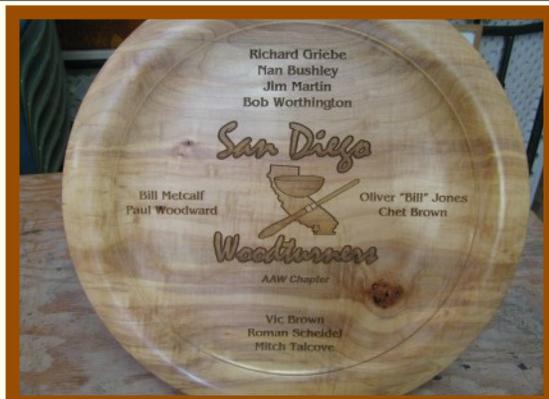
VA: La Jolla: Larry Szafraniec

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



17 March, 2026

Next Event

March 21st, 2026

“Motoko Smith”

9 AM until 12 (Approx)

Nottingham Arts Center, San Marcos