



San Diego Woodturners

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



Volume 2026 Number 07

July 2026

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

www.sdwt.org



This month at SDWT:

Vinny Luciani

Saturday: 18 July, 2026

Time: 9 AM - 3:30 PM

\$25 In-Person/\$20 Zoom

(Includes Lunch for In-Person)

**Preregister on-Line - Members Only
Tab or Pay at Nottingham**

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Larry Szafranec

SHAVINGS

from the Prez . . .

Hi everyone, and welcome to July.

WOW! What a June meeting that was. If you missed it, you missed a really great time. I have had members email me telling me that the June meeting (Turnfest 2026) was one of the best meetings they have been to in a long time. A big thanks goes out to Jeff and Roy, who worked tirelessly to set this all up and make it happen. We plan on making this an annual event, and next year it will be bigger and better. Stay tuned for updates.

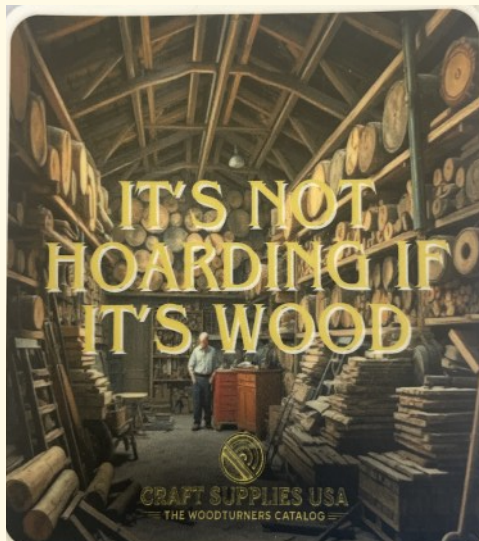
This year's event had something for everyone, but the highlight was the competition between Pete Campbell and Don Owen. They both used unconventional turning tools to turn their boxes, which included an axe, screwdriver, and a putty knife. We all had a fun time watching that.

At the meeting, I also announced that Terry, our long-time landlord at Nottingham, had passed away. There had been a lot of discussion if this ever happened, we would lose our meeting place. I am happy to tell you that in his will, his last wish was that Nottingham continue as an art center for everyone. This secures our future for us and for future generations. Thank you, Terry.

The July meeting introduces us to Vinny Luciani, woodturner artist. He is nationally recognized for his unique approach to woodturning and sought after by art collectors all over the country. We are so fortunate to have him demonstrate his techniques for us at the July meeting. Come out to the meeting and meet Vinny and watch this world-class woodturner/artist at work. If there are spots still available, sign up for his 2-day class. Until next time, Keep the chips flying,

Be Safe.

Larry



Turnfest-2026



Turnfest 2026 - It's a wrap for this year and summarized by saying it was a great event to highlight the mid-year point of our activities with SDWT. Kicking off early in the day with a swap meet and free wood (bonus) along with some wood that could be purchased. We look forward to seeing some of that wood stock turned and items displayed at our monthly Instant Gallery. The Cereal Bowl challenge had quite a few entries of some fine bowls, all of which will be donated to *Empty Bowls*. A big thanks to all who contributed. Top turning under the small canopy, provided some hands-on, turning a few tops and adding to the SD Fair inventory at our fair booth. A wood turned item exchange was well received with those who brought items to exchange with fellow members (see next page) for some of the items & participants. Always interesting to see what items are turned and shared with fellow members.

Highlighting Turnfest 2026 and capping the event, our own Don/Pete at center stage turning a Box and Acrylic Top box. Two different approaches to a turned box and with different technique. All in all a fun event that will only get better the next time. Thanks to Roy and Jeff who coordinated the event.



Turnfest-2026

Turned Item Exchange



SDWT Demonstration/Event Schedule for 2026

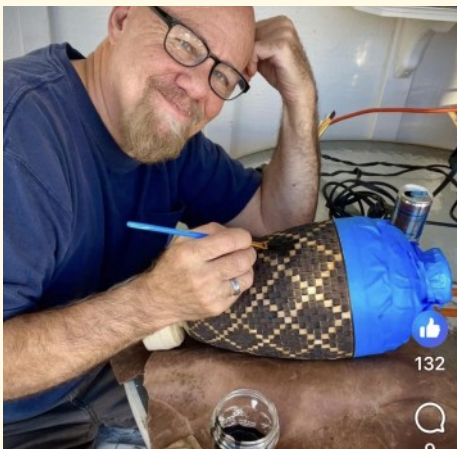


I hope you are all staying well. We are blessed to have such a wonderful pastime to keep us busy.

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: **Aug: Jeff Neff, Sep: Kirk Deheer, Oct: Rudy Lopez;** 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



This month's demonstration is being provided by **Vinny Luciani (L)**, a respected woodturning artist based in Colorado Springs, Colorado, known for combining traditional turning with carving, texturing, and pyrography (wood burning).

His work typically features: turned hollow forms and vases with elegant, flowing shapes. Relief carving and texturing are applied after turning to create depth and visual interest. Pyrography enhancements are used to add intricate patterns, shading, and contrast with nature-inspired motifs, including leaves, feathers, flowers, wildlife, and organic forms.

Also you will find in his pieces with colored embellishments, sometimes incorporating dyes, paints, metallic accents, or other surface treatments, to highlight carved details.

His work is frequently admired by woodturners interested in surface enhancement beyond basic turning. Integrating carving and pyrography into vessel design creating gallery-quality art pieces rather than purely functional turnings.

As a fellow woodturner, you may find his approach especially relevant if you're interested in expanding your design embellishment technique into more elaborate carved and burned designs. His work is a good example of how a simple turned vessel can become a highly detailed sculptural canvas.

Two day turning Class w/ Vinny (7/19 & 7/20) follows the Demo and one can sign up via our Members Only Page "Class Sign-up" Tab).





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.



Frank Clark

This Month's TAV Update:

I have finally visited all the TAV locations. I am impressed by the work being done by all the volunteers and the impact it has on the mental health of our veterans. The mental health of the volunteers is much improved as well.

My priority is to provide a safe, sustainable, and reliable environment to conduct the mission of Turn a Round for Vets. We are phasing in several changes to improve safety. The first change is to provide standardized chuck to all the locations. The presence of righty-tighty and lefty-tighty chucks presents an unnecessary hazard to students and volunteers. By the middle of July, each site will have a new set of Vicmarc VM-100 chucks. The old chucks will be collected and donated to graduates of Aspire and other recipients of the Laguna lathes.

The upgrading of the lathes from Laguna's to the new Jet 12-21 continues to make progress. I expect that all TAV lathes will be updated by the end of the calendar year. Rockler has indicated the possibility of a discount on our bulk lathe purchases. This is great news so we don't have to wait for a sale to get a good deal on the equipment. More to follow as that situation develops.

This program would not be possible without volunteers and donors. Please consider volunteering at one of the TAV sites, you will find it quite rewarding. If you can't volunteer, donations are also appreciated. Recently we received several donations in memory of Fred Thompson.

ASPIRE Center: The ASPIRE Center site lead is Brian Saunders and has been very busy in April. The ASPIRE Center is a residential facility where residents stay for several months. We make a lot of pens! We make mostly Slimlines and the designs are very creative. Participants are also making weed pots, bowls, ice cream scoops and other products. Aspire produces a steady stream of graduates with very good wood turning skills.

TAV at ASPIRE occurs every Wednesday morning and is staffed by a small, but very dedicated group of SDWT volunteers. In addition to mentoring participants, we are working to improve the experience. We have agreed to standardize the sharpening process using Glenn Lucas recommendations for the Wolverine System. Sharp tools are a fundamental component of wood turning. This sharpening strategy will be implemented at the other sites in the coming months. We are looking forward to a productive and successful year!

(Continued next page)

Camp Pendleton: The site lead for Camp Pendleton is Jon Chernow. Camp Pendleton has eight volunteers. Although the population of the Wounded Warriors barracks is low, the average attendance at the wood-turning session on Wednesdays (9:30-1:30) is approximately twelve, ranging from privates to senior officers. Most attendees turn 1-3 pens. Others are turning everything from pepper mills to bowls to key chains. One of the major successes during the past year has been the Turn Five pens for sale at the fair and receive a specialty blank prepared by the volunteers. Over 150 pens have been donated by this program. Kudos to volunteer, Dan Lyle for taking the lead in this program.

At Pendleton we're preparing our participation in the battalion's back-to-school event on August 7th for the Marines and their families. There will be over 50 vendors, job counselors plus back to school items for the children. We'll participate with five lathes offering pen turning to all comers.

NMC Balboa (Navy Medical Center): The site lead for NMC Balboa is Howard Katz and they meet every Thursday from 10:30 to 1:30. NMC Balboa took delivery of a new drill press last week. Sally was thrilled that the chuck has sufficient travel for pen blanks and that it drills very straight.

The lathe upgrades are nearly complete. Students are making lots of pens and ice cream scoop handles. Soon they will be making belaying pins and small bowls thanks to a donation of wood blanks from Rob Eckhoff.

VA La Jolla: Derell Finefrock is the site lead for TAV at the VA in June. TAV takes place at the VA on Tuesdays from 10:00-1:30. Derell is also the lead logistician for TAV. He makes sure that the right equipment gets to the right place on time. Thank you Derell for all your hard work.

The VA site has several accomplished student turners that are looking for challenges beyond pens. They have developed a strategy to teach small bowl turning. We have purchased some equipment to facilitate this training. The students were very grateful for the opportunity of new wood-turning challenges.

Torrey Pines Docent Society: Sally Ault has informed me that the Torrey Pines gift shop is rapidly selling the torrey pine bowls. The shop sells these bowls and then makes a significant donation to SDWT. These donations contribute to SDWT operating expenses. There is plenty of Torrey pine wood at the club. Please consider making a bowl and donating it to the cause. Every bowl helps to generate revenue for SDWT that benefits all club members.

SD Fair: Steve Frick has done an amazing job with the SD Fair again this year. The fair got off to a slow start this year with overall attendance lagging last year. Fortunately, the pace has picked up significantly. Looks like we are on target to match the level of donations from last year. The fair is a great way to attract new members. My wood-turning journey started three years ago while chatting with Steve at the fair.





It's a Wrap!!

As this year's: "Once Upon a Time at the Fair" has come to an end, I want to thank everyone who helped make it such a success—especially all of the volunteers who worked in the booth and everyone who helped with the behind-the-scenes preparation. I also want to congratulate everyone who entered a project in the Design in Wood competition. Your talent and

creativity are what make the Design in Wood exhibit one of the fair's highlights year after year. I hope everyone had a chance to get out and enjoy some of the attractions the fair had to offer. I know I tried fried frog legs for the first time (they taste like... frog) and saw a seven-piece brass band whose trombone player performed a few songs with her feet. You don't get that kind of entertainment at the Shell.

San Diego Woodturners had a great showing at the fair, with our members earning 10 of the 16 awards in the Design in Wood competition's woodturning categories. Mike Jackofsky took home two first-place ribbons and a third-place ribbon. Bryon Thompson earned two first-place ribbons and a second-place ribbon. Pete Campbell received a second-place ribbon and an honorable mention. Sally Ault earned a third-place ribbon and an honorable mention. Antoine Fahd received a third-place ribbon, Surf Johnson took home a fourth-place ribbon, and Frank Clark, Curt Yaws, Jeff Neff, Don Pratt, and Jerry Aarestad all received honorable mentions. In addition, Sally Ault, Antoine Fahd, Mike Jackofsky, and Pete Campbell each received an award donated by our club. Congratulations to all of our winners, and hats off to everyone who submitted an entry, whether or not they came home with a ribbon.

The Design in Wood competition is a great opportunity to showcase your skills and creativity. It's also a great way to sell your work and, possibly, win some cash. But we can't enjoy those benefits if we don't participate. So please make it a goal to submit an entry in the 2027 Design in Wood exhibition.

The San Diego Woodturners and our Turn-Around-for-Vets (TAV) program also had a great year at the Fair. Donations from our tops and pens exceeded **\$19,500**. Just as important, I think we presented our club and the art of woodturning in a positive light. Judging by the smiles on both sides of the counter, everyone had a good time.

I also want to give special recognition to those who went the extra mile this year. Jon Chernow worked 10 shifts. Ray Brooks, Gregg Hogan, and Sally Ault each worked eight shifts. Don Owen and Jerry Ela each worked six shifts, and Jim O'Grady worked five shifts. I also want to give special thanks to Jon Chernow for making reminder calls to all of our volunteers, Derrell Finefrock for designing/building the new dust shields, and Jim O'Grady for creating the new signage and pen displays. Finally, if we had an MVP award, it would have to go to Ray Brooks. In addition to the many shifts Ray worked this year, he made between 2,000 and 2,500 top blanks, and I'm guessing he also turned between 400 and 500 finished tops.

Thanks again to everyone for your time, hard work, and generosity. Your efforts helped make this year's fair another memorable success, and I'm looking forward to seeing you all in 2027!

Steve Frick-Fair Coordinator

“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.

Returning July 25th, 2026

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: Please welcome new member– Catherine Baray. Membership currently stands at **194** members.

New Membership: Checks for membership (made out to 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 (18 July) at Nottingham Arts Center in San Marcos.

Quick Note:

Badges



Badges

Everyone is encouraged to always wear their name badges at our meetings and when we are demonstrating at the San Diego County Fair, Vista Strawberry Festival, and other events. Our club provides a name badge to every new member of our club. Replacement name badges may be purchased for \$7.00. If you have lost the magnet for your badge we can give you a replacement for free. At every meeting we take a board with new name badges mounted on it, so be sure to get yours and wear it!

Please see Jim O’Grady or Don Wolfe to take care of your name badge needs.

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).





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:

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

Don Owen: Resin

Ernesto Aquino: Ogee Bowl

Motoko Smith: Nantucket Weave Box Lid Embelishment

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

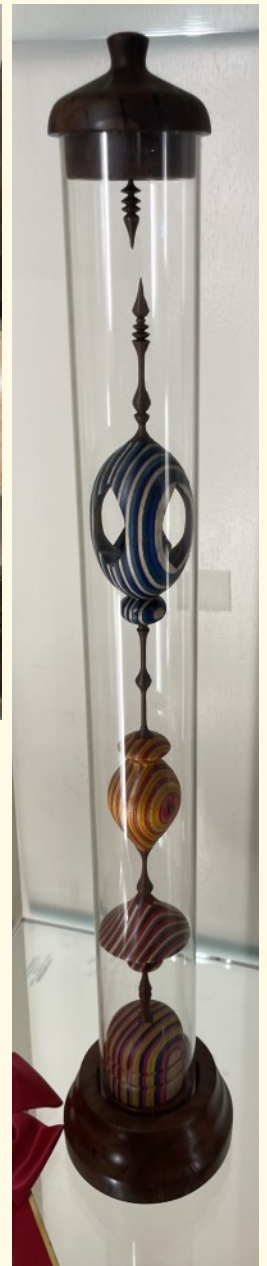
Pete Campbell: Embellishment

Don Owen/Carolyn Jones: Flowers & Reindeer

Joe Fleming: Turning Chess Pieces



Turned Item Sampling of 2026 - Design In Wood



Turned Item Sampling of 2026 - Design In Wood



Turned Item Sampling of 2026 - Design In Wood



Turned Item Sampling of 2026 - Design In Wood



Turned Item Sampling of 2026 - Design In Wood





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) .



Hi All,
Chad
here:



Get Your wood for your next project at the wood lot

Wood Resource Update: .

. 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.



Stacking Wood. It's an Art form

Club Members Assist w/Judging At Warrior Oak Woodturning Shop

Warrior Oak Woodturning shop, owned by SDWT member Ernesto Aquino, hosted a youth turning competition on June 30th at his shop in Fallbrook, CA. Youth categories from 1st-3rd graders, and 4th-12th graders participated in turning pens, tea lamp holders, and vases (weed pots). Judging at the competition was provided from SDWT club members Dave John, Brian Saunders, and Carolyn Jones.

It was quite the display to see the amazing work turned by these youth and the quality of turnings that was superb with attention to detail in craftsmanship, good design, and creativity in effort by these young new woodturners. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place, along with and Honorable mention awards were made within four turning categories and two age groups.



Ernesto (L) checking all entries before the judges arrived.



Questions on Ernesto's Youth Turning Program can contact him at:

Warrioroak.com or see him at our next club meeting.



One Best of Show ribbon was awarded in the pen category and one Best of Show award within the flower vases category.

Club Members Asst w/Judging At Warrior Oak Woodturning Shop



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.

StarBond Products (with a Club Discount) at SDWT



Price Changes: STARBOND CA product will continue to be available at our **July** meeting.

STARBOND provides our guild an AAW **chapter** discount price on products. Prices however have gone up slightly but members of SDWT will still reap a discounted price (approx 20-30% discount vs. retail).

Attention Members!!

Abranet prices have increased by 20% since my last order, along with purchases dropping at our meetings. With the combination of these two factors, I will not be restocking Abranet. With the remaining inventory, except for 240 grit, there should be enough supply for the next 4 to 6 months. Would welcome any leads on Abranet rolls at or below \$115 for 4 ½" x 25 yards. Hopefully, we'll see if prices come down.

- Roy

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

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
619-207-4084 (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 Ply-wood, Inc.

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



SDWT Fair
Booth Set Up-
Design-In-
Wood 2026

AAW



For AAW members: You should have received 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.

The 2027 American Association of Woodturners (AAW) International Symposium will be held in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, at the Oklahoma City Convention Center from June 24-27, 2027. Mark your calendars for this annual event with AAW.

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

TAV

Dan Waldburger TAVchairman@sdwt.org

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

WWBN CPEN: Jon Chernow / Dan Lyle

VA: La Jolla: Derell Finefrock

Sunshine Committee

Mavis Porter

Webmaster

Roy Ulrich webmaster@sdwt.org



The Last Page - “Cutoffs”

(Odds and Ends)



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

Rocky Mountain Woodturning Symposium



SEPTEMBER 18-20, 2026 **LOVELAND, COLORADO**

More info at rmwoodturningsymposium.com

San Diego Woodturners (SDWT)

A Nonprofit Corporation

A Chapter of the AAW

1220 Rosecrans St. #233

San Diego, CA, 92106



July, 2026

Next Event

July 18th, 2026

“Vinny Luciani”

9:00 AM until 3:30 PM (Approx)

Nottingham Arts Center, San Marcos

\$25 In-Person/\$20 Zoom