



San Diego Woodturners

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



Volume 2026 Number 08

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

August 2026

www.sdwat.org



This month at SDWT:

Jeff Neff

Saturday: 15 Aug, 2026

Time: 9 AM - 12 PM



Shavings...from the Prez	2	Membership Form	9	AAW	18
Program Notes	3	From the Webmaster	10	Board/Committee	
TAV Update	5	Instant Gallery	11	Members	19
Drop-In	7	Wood Resources	14	Cut-offs	20
Membership	8	Raffle	15		
		Mentor's	16		



Larry Szafraniec

SHAVINGS

from the Prez . . .

Hi everyone, and welcome to August:

How time just seems to fly by. It feels that just yesterday we were all planning the events for the June meeting and now we are planning for the holidays. I was at a store last Sunday and they already had their Halloween decorations up for sale. Speaking of planning, a group of us are planning to go to the SWAT symposium in late August. Always a great time and attended by some of the nicest people you would ever want to meet. If you have ever been to a turning symposium, you know what I am talking about.

Our July meeting was top notch. Vinny showed us why he is considered to be one of the best wood turning artists in the business. I was so proud of our club to host such a talented demonstrator. I hope that everyone walked away with new ideas and techniques. This month's meeting will feature our very own Jeff Neff. His demo will focus on making a "Copper Lidded Box". This is a very cool project to make and something that you do not see every day. So come out and join us and enjoy the demo. There will be a two-day class following the demo on Sunday and Monday. Please sign up if there is a spot left.

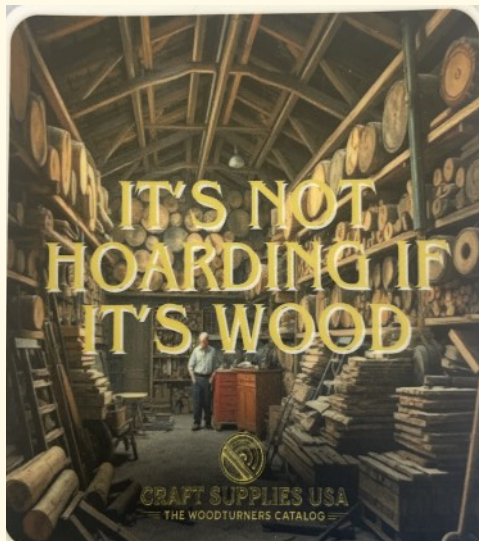
Our instant gallery challenge this month will be turning in color. This can be basket weave illusion, stains, dyes, acrylic paints or anything that adds color to your work. Please bring your best work that you are proud to share with everyone. A free raffle ticket for anyone who brings items.

And lastly, like I mentioned at the last meeting, I will be introducing new product lines to our membership. These will be trending items of value to us as well as established companies that we do not have access to. This month's products come from Clapman's Beeswax finishing products, a farm to tub single-origin product.

Hope to see you all at the meeting, Keep the wood shavings flying,

Be Safe.

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.

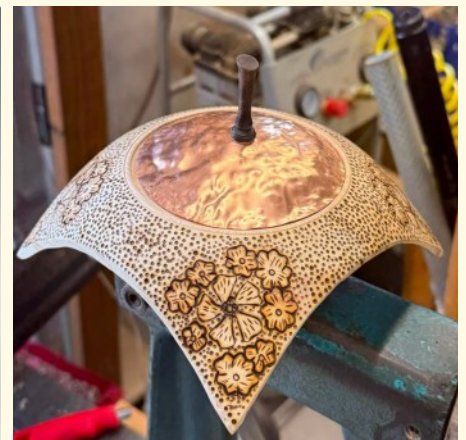
Our program schedule will continue to provide a variety of demonstrations to enhance your skills and maybe offer something you haven't tried before.

On the horizon for our schedule in 2026: **Sep: Hal Gorss, Oct: Tom Edwards, Nov: 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

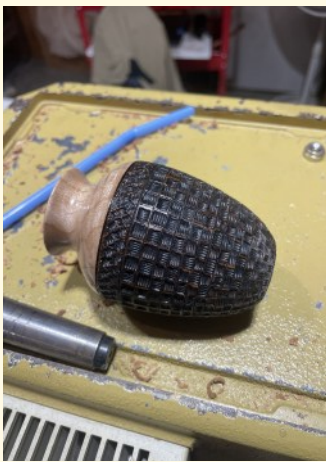


This month's demonstration is being provided by Jeff Neff. Lids on boxes, bowls, other vessels, typically will capture one's eye when first looking at the piece. Either plain or embellished it is an aspect to the piece that defines its form or adds to the eloquence in its presentation. Copper hammered lids as shown below, adds an artistic aspect to a vessel that attracts one's eye. At this month's demonstration, Jeff will show the technique and process on making these lids. Not to mention, he may have taken a page from our demonstrator from last month (Vinny) on other embellishment that compliments the copper lidded vessel. Join Jeff at this month's demonstration on **Copper Hammered Lids**.



Two day turning Class w/ Jeff (8/16 & 8/17) follows the Demo and one can sign up via our Members Only Page "Class Sign-up" Tab).

Class Pics with Vinny





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:

We continue to make progress updating equipment at the four TAV sites. The Aspire Center has completely transitioned to Jet 12-21 lathes. NMC Balboa has upgraded seven out of eight lathes. VA and Camp Pendleton are making steady progress. I expect all sites will have updated lathes by the end of the calendar year.

The transition to VICMARC VM-100 chucks at all four sites will be completed this week. This represents a step forward toward a safer turning environment. A big thank you to all the donors that make this equipment modernization possible.

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 greatly appreciated.

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 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 (8:30-12:15) 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. Volunteering is a wonderful experience, and we encourage you to join us.

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 have 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.

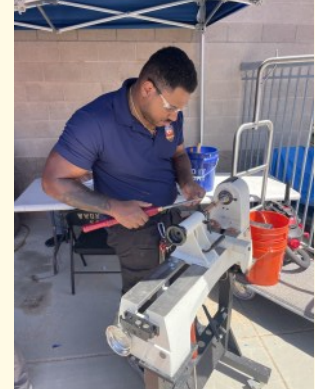
Torrey Pines Docent Society: Sally Ault has informed me that the Torrey Pines gift shop is rapidly selling the Torrey pine bowls. The shop sells these bowls and then makes a significant donation to SDWT. These donations contribute to SDWT operating expenses. There is plenty of Torrey pine wood at the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

(Continued next page)



Camp Pendleton: The site lead for Camp Pendleton is Jon Cher-now. Camp Pendleton has eight volunteers. Although the population of the Wounded Warriors (WW) barracks is currently 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

August 7th, 2026, CP TAV team participated in the WW battalion's back-to-school event for the Marines and their families. There were over 50 vendors, job counselors, plus back to school items for the children. The team participated with four 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. 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

“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.

No Drop-In scheduled for August.

Returning Sept 26th, 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: 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 (15 August) at Nottingham Arts Center in San Marcos.

Reminder:

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!

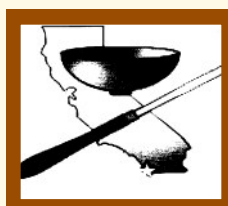
Please see Jim O'Grady or Don Wolfe to take care of your name badge needs.

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::

Vinny Luciani: Carving and Texturing (Paid Demo)

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



July Instant Gallery Items



July Instant Gallery Items



July Instant Gallery Items





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

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 **Aug** 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
619-20 7-4084 (sdurbantimber.com)

American Furniture Design

Ben MatteTung Oil can be
purchased here
2243 Mountain View Dr.
Escondido, CA
(760) 743-6923

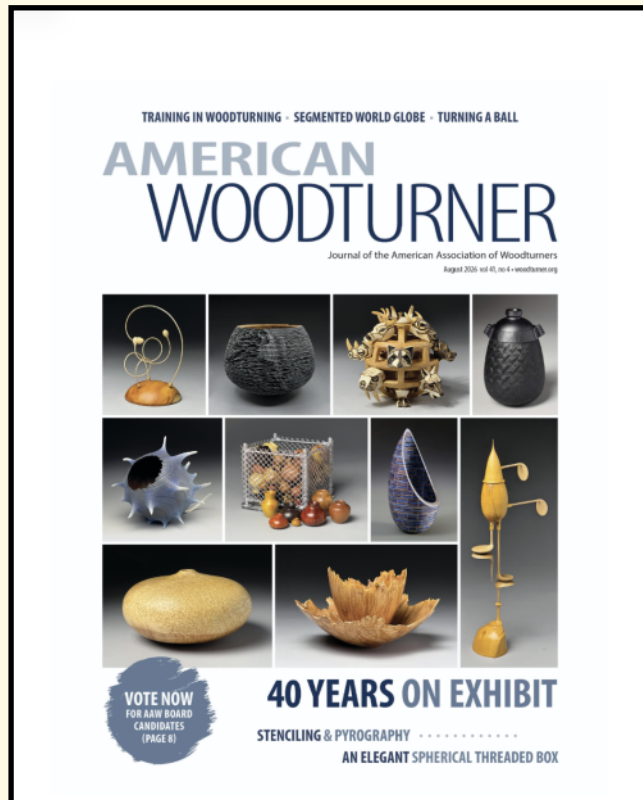
Bennett Crone Lumber and Ply-wood, Inc.

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



Vinny Luciani Pieces

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)

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



August, 2026

Next Event
August 15th, 2026

“Jeff Neff”

9:00 AM until 12 PM

Nottingham Arts Center, San Marcos