San Diego Woodturners

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

Volume 2026 Number 11 November 2026



This month at SDWT

Rudy Lopez

Saturday: 21 Nov, 2026

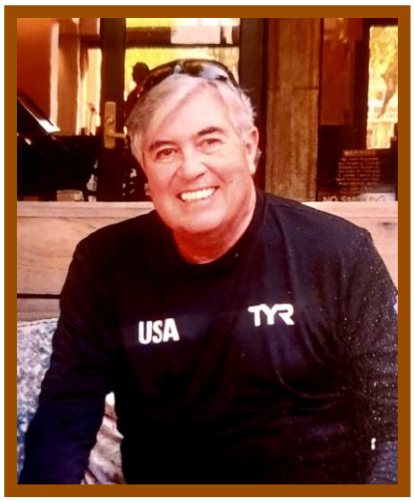
Time: 9 AM – 3:30 PM

($25 In Person/$20 Zoom)

SDWT Mission Statement: "To foster a wider understanding and appreciation of woodturning as a traditional and contemporary craft and a form of art among the general public, hobbyist, turners, part-time turners, and professional turners. This will be accomplished by providing education, information, organization, technical assistance, and publications relating to woodturning."

November 2026, Newsletter

"Keeping you updated on highlights of club activities and events of the San Diego Woodturners."



Larry Szafraniec

Shavings: From the Prez

Hi everyone,



Well, if you haven't started making your hand-crafted gifts for the holidays, you are running out of time. And speaking of gifts, those of you that are coming to our annual Christmas/Holiday party in December, have you finished your item for the gift exchange? This IS the most wonderful time of the year. The Holidays just seem to bring out the best in us and bring us all together to celebrate life, family, friends and of course the reason for the season.

I would like to thank Tom Edwards for a great demo. His demo has lit a fire under many of us to turn some holiday related gifts and decorations. Great job, Tom! Hope to see those items at the next meetings instant gallery. The theme for the instant gallery this month is holiday decorations. Amazing how that that worked out. Let's make a good effort to bring these items to share with everyone.

This month's demo will be with Rudy Lopez. If you have known of his work and unique teaching style, then you know that this is a demo not to be missed. This will be an all-day event with lunch provided. For the small nominal fee, this demo is truly worth the price. There will also be a two day class following this months demo. Sign-up via “Class sign-ups in the members only Tab of our web site.

The Mission Trails Holiday Fair is rapidly approaching. This is a big fund raiser for the club. Please contact Ray Brooks and see what else he needs in the way of turned items and volunteers to set up take down and man the club booth.

I would also like to Thania the Jeff for helping me pick up a full truck load of Torrey Pine and getting it to Nottingham. Various sizes are available including smaller branch stock for trees and mushrooms.

I hope to see you all at the November meeting.



Keep the shavings flying! **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: **Dec: XMAS Party,** and more demo's to follow in the new year with notable demonstrators & classes.

Jeff & Roy



Two Day class Following the Demo. Sign-up via our SDWT website "Class Sign-ups"

This month's demonstration by Rudy Lopez where he will be turning a calabash style closed form shaped bowl. He will explain why we need different bowl gouge angles to turn certain types of bowls, and will demonstrate the use of the different gouges at different angles and how they are used in certain areas of the bowl to maintain a safe efficient bevel supported cut throughout the entire bowl shape. Which would give you a ripple free plane cut surface. He will also discuss how to sharpen the different angles. Beginning with the 40 & 60 degree gouges and also 70 and 80 degree bottom feeder type gouges.





“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.

Returns January 23rd, 2027

Happy Holidays to All

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



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 and salute to Veterans:







A TAV salute to all Veterans on 11 November 2026. Never Forget our POW/MIA's, and salute to all the Marines we serve at our TAV site's on your 251st, - 10 November (1775-2026). Ooh Rah!!

We continue to make progress updating equipment at the four TAV sites. I expect all sites will have updated lathes by the end of the calendar year. The TAV 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,brianneo858@gmail.com ,and has been very busy in September. TAV at ASPIRE occurs every Wednesday morning (8:30-12:15). TAV has been active at the ASPIRE Center for more than 10 years. Staff and participants are very welcoming and consider the program to be very beneficial. The ASPIRE Center is an inpatient facility and participants frequently stay at the center for 6 to 9 months. During this time several participants have become very accomplished wood turners. Recently TAV at Aspire Center experienced a Navy Facilities inspection for hazardous materials. As a result of the inspection, we will post Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) information on the SDWT page. MSDS sheets provide physical and chemical properties of materials being used as well as health and safety

hazards, protective equipment needs, and emergency spill or first-aid procedures. This information will be available readily accessible to all club members. Aspire participants who demonstrate interest and skill, who will reside in the area after discharge, who have space for a lathe and tools are offered a year of membership in SDWT and may be eligible to receive a mini lathe and basic tools from the club.

Recently 4 participants have received lathes and tools from this program. Volunteering is a wonderful experience and helps to make us better turners. TAV can use volunteers at all sites so there will be a site convenient to where you live. Please consider volunteering, you won't regret it! Please contact TAV Chair, Frank Clark, franx.sdwt@gmail.com, or one of the TAV site leaders.

Camp Pendleton: The site lead for Camp Pendleton is Jon Chernow, ald1943@yahoo.com. Camp Pendleton has eight volunteers. Although the population of the Wounded Warriors 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. Jon Chernow and his volunteers participated in the Camp Pendleton's battalion's back-to-school event on August 7th for the marines and their families. There were over 50 vendors, job counselors plus back to school items for the children TAV participated by providing five lathes, tools and instruction to offer pen turning to all comers. Camp Pendleton has changed the force protection rating for the base. This means extra hoops to jump through to retain base access. We are hoping to reduce the red tape to get on base but this in itself is a long process. Please be patient.

NMC Balboa (Navy Medical Center): The site lead for NMC Balboa is Howard Katz, Howard.hak50@gmail.com, and they meet every Thursday from 10:30 to 1:30. The lathe upgrades are nearly complete. Balboa has been experiencing heavy traffic with waiting lines and soldiers waiting for us to open. Our volunteers have been busy teaching with little time for maintenance. Because of our unique facility we make most of the pen and bowl blanks on site. Thankfully we have produced a good inventory on slow days.

VA La Jolla: Derell Finefrock, dfinefrock@sbcglobal.net, 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.

Torrey Pines Docent Society: Sally Ault has informed me that the Torrey Pines gift shop is is currently closed for renovations. This gives us a chance to build a bowl inventory. 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.

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:

Tom Edwards: Holiday Ornaments

Hal Gorss: Segmenting

Jeff Neff: Copper Lidded Boxes

Don Owen: Resin

Jeff Neff: Natural Edge Bowls

Karen Freitas: Snowmen

Dave John: Star Bowl

Chad LaVoi: Bowl Coring

Don Owen: Chuck Maintenance

Doug Buddinhagen: Wave Bowls

Sally Ault: Pewa's (Bowtie's/Butterflies) Crack Repair

Laurent Nichols: Tea Pot and Drop (Paid Demo-Access Code Required)

Tom Edwards: Fixes and Fixtures

Derek Weidman (Paid Demo-Access Code Required)

Karen Freitas: Mushroom Box

Membership

Hello San Diego Woodturners

To All: Membership currently stands at 234 members.

Reminder:



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).

Heads Up- Annual Dues forthcoming ahead. Preferred on-line renewal via our SDWT web site members only tab.

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

October Instant Gallery





















October Instant Gallery















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



STARBOND CA product will be available at our **Nov** 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).

Abranet will no longer be sold at our meetings as our stock has dwindled and prices have increased that the club is no longer purchasing. However, there is a small quantity remaining of 80 (12), 180 (48), 400 (10), and 600 grit sheets. While remaining supply lasts, send an email to abranet@sdwt.org and leave your name, grit and quantity should you desire any of the remaining abranet. **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 and make 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









Newest Edition of American Woodturner Oct 2026

AAW
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS

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.

For more info and membership sign-up at woodturner.org.



Women in Turning Presents

An Artist Talk With

Cindy Drozda

November 18, 7 - 8PM ET

Online, Free for all to attend

Join us for an online, free, hour long artist talk with Cindy Drozda. A highly-accomplished and internationally-recognized woodturner and instructor, Cindy has been a self-employed studio turner since 1995. She is known for her signature boxes with exquisitely turned finials.

WIT Presents features conversations with inspiring women woodturners and artists. The series explores their creativity, influences, histories, and ideas, with a focus on the stories behind the work.

All WIT Presents programs are free and open to all to attend.

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

Annette St Hilaire

Andy Boyer, Steve Frick,

, Ray Brooks, Jim O'Grady, Hal Gorss,

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

(GotWood@sdwt.org) ,

Refreshments

Steve Frick

Instant Gallery

Steve and Ruth Cook

TAV

Frank Clark TAVchairman@sdwt.org

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

WWBN CPEN: Jon Chernow / Dan Lyle

VA: La Jolla: Derell Finefrock

Webmaster

Roy Ulrich webmaster@sdwt.org

The Last Page - “Cutoffs”

(Odds and Ends)

OREGON
WOODTURNING
SYMPOSIUM

March 19-21, 2027

Albany, Oregon

Editorial Note: If you read the SDWT Newsletter thus far you would have noticed a change in layout and design of the NL pages to some degree. Previous newsletters were put together using Microsoft Publisher software that was very accommodating in layout design, type font, and artistic latitude with its page design layout tools when putting together our NL.

Microsoft, as of 1 October, has discontinued the “Publisher” software support and deleted the program from its Microsoft software suite. They have required its users to convert any Publisher files and reestablish respective formats by other MS program or third party programs that may be available.

Accordingly, an opportunity to do some refinements and page adjustments. The layout of our NL in the near term will be using MS word and going thru a learning curve as to refinements and nuances in the layout, page design, and just coming up to speed on using MS Word for out NL. Also trying to avoid having to spend $$$$ for some other software program to do our NL and cost to the club. So a few page layout changes and refresh . FYI.

P.S.: Suggestions always welcome for any improvements for your NL

San Diego Woodturners (SDWT)

A Nonprofit Corporation

A Chapter of the AAW

1220 Rosecrans St. #233

San Diego, CA, 92106



26 November, 2026

Next Event

November 21st, 2026

"Rudy Lopez"

9 AM until 3:30 PM

Paid Demo: In-Person-$25/Lunch Included, $20 Zoom

Pre-Register by going to Members Only Tab

Nottingham Arts Center, San Marcos