

Apple Valley Woodturners

AAW Chapter in Winchester, Virginia



<http://www.applevalleywoodturners.org>

<http://www.woodturner.org/>

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President's Message:

Greetings to all Apple Valley Woodturners club members and Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a healthy, relaxing and memorable holiday season with their families and friends, even as a portion of those gatherings were virtual in nature. It's been a while since our last newsletter, so I'd like to catch us up on some items and plans for the new year.

In the months following our April 2020 transition to virtual monthly meetings, the club's board and regular members have discussed how we can update our plans and approach to keep all members engaged to the greatest extent possible. Referring to AAW President Greg Schramek's recent comments on plans for the in-person July 2021 Symposium, we continue to work at the local club level to keep members "entertained, educated, and get that big dose of social interaction we all need" through our virtual meetings while planning for our return to in-person meetings and events. At this writing in early January, 2021, we expect to continue virtual monthly club meetings while pandemic-

driven state and local restrictions limit in-person gatherings, and we've discovered there's interest in a regular virtual discussion of hands-on projects and shop tips with the obvious social benefits. We invite your suggestions to inform and supplement the club's recent progress and current activities.

We've completed some longstanding tasks in recent months while exploring ideas for how we can leverage local and regional resources to build out our 2021 program. We're remain focused on identifying and hosting reputable sources and collaborative opportunities to enable our members' interests and woodturning journey. One of our newer members, Walt Weidman, recently took on the newsletter editor role and is already putting new energy into its layout, structure and frequency. Jeff Schumaker has updated our Facebook pages to help members post their projects, questions and suggestions while maintaining our social presence for current and potential new members alike.

Throughout 2020 Terry Fox, our Treasurer, finalized our club's non-profit and tax-exempt status, and he continues to update our web-based financial transaction options. This may also be a good time to remind members to please submit your 2021 annual dues if you've not done so already. Lastly, Dennis Dantro has compiled an extensive resource list for most all of your woodturning needs, and he amassed some valuable items for monthly give-away events and two awesome power tool kits for loan to members (see related article on pg 12)!

We're continuing to work with other area clubs to arrange more virtual demonstrations from professionals and local club members alike. In recent months we've hosted several excellent demonstrations from AVW members including Scott Schlosser, Chris Renteria, Mike Fraser and Tony DeMasi, each of whom

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eagerly and generously shared their skills and expertise. We're continuing to balance our program to include basic and intermediate skill development while also seeking professional demonstrators to give us additional challenges and insights. We need your help toward identifying the woodturning topics and professionals you desire to see most.

We also need your feedback and suggestions to guide our plans for 2021 and as we continue to adapt and work through this period. Many thanks to all who have contributed to keeping our monthly meetings informative, often times insightful and always just plain fun. Don't forget to join us on Facebook if you haven't already, and hopefully we'll see you at our next virtual monthly meeting. Until then I wish you much health, happiness and success in the New Year, and safe and happy turning along the way!

Sincerely,

Gene Lockhart

President, AVW

Editor's Notes:

My wife and I moved to West Virginia from southeastern Virginia in March 2020. We now live in a log cabin that is in a hardwood forest and has very little flat land. And yes, our property is on a dirt road.

I have been a member of the Apple Valley Woodturners since June, 2020. Because of the COVID-19 virus I have never physically been to an AVW meeting, but I have attended all of the virtual meetings since joining. My time spent in our zoom meetings has provided proof to me that this is a great group and something

that I want to be a part of. I have been made to feel welcome from the start.

I volunteered to edit the newsletter because I felt I could make an impact and well, face it, the position was open. My goal is to provide a document that is entertaining, informative, and professional looking. The newsletter will be quarterly with additional club business communication each month for a total of 12 communications each year. I hope you find the quarterly newsletter as well as other communications very useful.

Walt Weidman

Newsletter Editor, AVW

Club Business:

Dues – Dues for 2021 are due. \$30 per individual and \$35 per family. Send dues to Terry Fox.

Covid-19 - Until further notice, the AVW club meetings will be held via Zoom platform. Each month, the meeting information will be provided through email to all paying members of the club. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our president or vice-president. Their information is provided at the top.

For recent new members who have not previously joined us in person, our monthly meetings are normally scheduled for the third Saturday of each month at the Welltown United Methodist Church, 1444 Welltown Road, Clearbrook, VA. It is located about 5 miles from the intersection of VA 7 and I 81. Go North on I 81 to Exit #317 (Martinsburg Pike, Rte 11/37. Go LEFT on Rte 11/37 then RIGHT on Rte. 661 (Welltown Road) for 2.6 miles, the Church is on your right.

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Facebook Group –Apple Valley Woodturners has opened a Facebook Group that all in the club are eligible to join. The following link will take you to the group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/947204865752570>



Or you can search in Facebook for Apple Valley Woodturners.

We currently have 9 members and have had discussions on moisture content, controlling cracking in cedar, and other wood turning issues. This is also a great venue for introducing pictures of latest projects.

AVW Club Participation in the September 2020 Shenandoah Valley Apple Harvest Festival

Apple Valley Woodturners participated in the Apple Harvest Festival September 19-20, 2020, at the Frederick County Fairgrounds in Clear Brook, Virginia. Program Director Chris Renteria coordinated our participation in the event where we operated three lathes and displayed a variety of members' turned items for sale. Six AVW club members demonstrated woodturning techniques to produce pens, bowls, rain sticks, spinning tops and other items according to customers' interests. Local health and safety precautions in effect at the time limited the turnout for the event, but we managed to sell some items and promote our woodturning interests to the community while practicing the required COVID precautions. "Thank you" again to the members who gave their time to demonstrate, donate items for display or sale, and to those who stopped by just to catch up and chat.



Above - Terry Fox demonstrating a technique at the Apple Harvest Festival.

Below - Turned items on display at the Apple Harvest Festival, Chris Renteria demonstrating.



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Apple Valley Woodturner's club would like to introduce the officers and members of the board for 2021.

Apple Valley Woodturners - President

Bio for Gene Lockhart



Gene recently retired from federal civilian service following 36 years of progressively responsible positions in engineering, program management and cybersecurity across a variety of defense and civilian

programs. His lifelong interests in wood-working include building cabinets and personal watercraft. His recent woodturning projects include writing instruments, sewing tools for fiber arts and holiday ornaments.

He also continues to serve in his longstanding roles in Scouting and enjoys sharing his passion for woodworking through teaching and mentoring. He especially appreciates the woodturning community's friendship and willingness to share project ideas, tips and techniques for advancing the craft.

Gene serves as AVW's president and he is a member of the AAW.

Apple Valley Woodturners -Vice President

Bio for Dennis J. Dantro

Dennis and his family moved to Winchester in 1993 from Virginia Beach. He and his wife raised three boys who are now responsible adults.



Dennis retired from the plastics industry as a Manufacturing Engineer after working more than 44 years. He holds a BA in Business Leadership and Development from Wheeling Jesuit University. His interests and hobbies include wood working, wood turning, playing music and martial arts. He holds a 3rd degree black belt in Okinawan karate with 34 years of continuous training.

During his career he mentored apprentices, managed an injection molding company, was VP of an HOA and served as scout master for 200 scouts. As a semi-skilled turner he likes to turn platters, spindles and objects of art. Dennis is a member of AVW, CAT and AAW. He currently serves as AVW's vice president.

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Apple Valley Woodturners -Treasurer

Apple Valley Woodturners - Secretary

Bio for Terry Fox

Terry is a retired aircraft engineer who emigrated to the U.S. from England in 1966. He learned do-it-yourself skills from his father who would do everything necessary around the house. It was only later in life that he dabbled in woodturning.

Terry bought his first lathe in 2006 and had his first lessons from an unknown to him, turner named David Ellsworth, co-founder and member #1 of the AAW.

After retirement Terry moved to Front Royal where he converted half of his basement into his workshop. That's where he spends a lot of time when he is not on the golf course.

He does not specialize in any particular area of woodturning. He is willing to try anything new but has never made a pen yet.

He is a member of AVW, CAT and AAW. Terry currently serves as AVW's treasurer.

Bio for Michael Fraser

L. Michael Fraser, PhD (aka Mike). This Clarke county resident is a native of southern Kentucky. His path to artistic woodturning has been varied: student, farmer, machinist, chemist, retired Naval Officer and computer system architect. He is a self-taught wood turner of almost 60 years of experience with eclectic turning interests.

Some specialties and current interests include natural edge vessels and hollow forms, segmented turning of varied forms, platters & bowls, off-axis forms and pieces from salvaged or reclaimed wood. He especially enjoys turning bespoke pieces from wood of sentimental value to the customer. His love of wood leads to the production of many small pieces from the scraps of larger projects.

His love of teaching leads to classes at various venues, sessions and workshops at local guild meetings. He is a member of the American Association of Woodturners and the Artisans Center of Virginia and is the proprietor of Sylvan Treasures. His works are on display at several Northern Virginia locations.

Mike previously served as AVW's treasurer for 4 years and VP for 2 years. Mike currently serves as AVW's secretary.

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Apple Valley Woodturners -Program Director

Bio for Chris Renteria

Chris first learned to turn in high school. That was back in the 70s. After high school he spent 20 years with the military visiting 6 countries. He enjoyed using the wood hobby shops whenever he could. He turned at every chance and everywhere he went. On his return to the U.S. he settled in Utah. This is how he developed his skills, first as a hobbyist then the transition to a talented turner. Chris retired from military service in 1993 and relocated to Virginia in 2000.

After his military retirement his wood working skills landed him a job as a carpenter. About four years ago he met Dave Robinson from Blue Ridge Turnery located in Round Hill, VA. He admits turning was at first a hobby. Then when it became a job it wasn't fun anymore. After meeting Dave turning became fun again.

He is a member of AVW and CAT. Chris currently serves as AVW's program director.

Apple Valley Woodturners -Newsletter Editor

Bio for Walter A. Weidman

Walt grew up in Cedarburg, Wisconsin and went to College at Louisiana Tech University where he majored in Construction Engineering. Upon graduation he worked as an engineer for six years at Avondale



Shipyards on New Orleans and then moved to the Tidewater area in Virginia. In Virginia he worked for Newport News Shipbuilding (NNS) and retired after 33 ½ years of service in 2017. Shortly after retirement he bought a used Craftsman lathe and started turning. At that time he joined the Tidewater Turners in Virginia Beach and is still a member of the club.

In 2019 he and his wife Carol bought a log cabin near Bloomery, West Virginia and moved there full time in March 2020.

He has experience producing various newsletters for process improvement at NNS and assisting with newsletter development in his community's Property Owners Association. He has also co-written and published technical articles while working at Avondale Shipyards and at NNS.

He is a member of AVW and Tidewater Turners of VA. Walt currently serves as AVW's newsletter editor and AVW's Facebook co-administrator.

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December 2020 Show and Tell

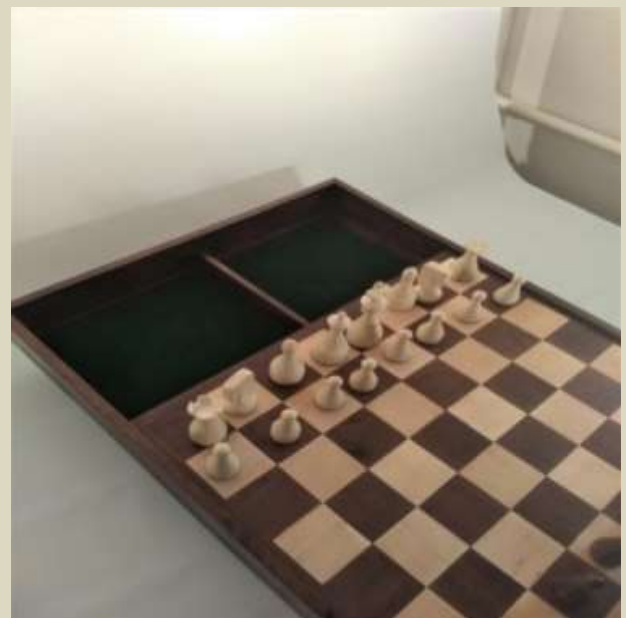
Terry Fox: Redheart and dyed Box Elder Ornament with CA glue finish.



Terry Fox: Chess Set, pieces are walnut and bleached box elder. The Chess Board is walnut and basswood and the Box for storage of the pieces is made from walnut and lined with green felt. All parts are finished with multiple coats of spray lacquer.



Walt Weidman: Cedar "bean pot" finished with spray lacquer. The wood was friction burned which created the dark ring around the rim.



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Gene Lockhart: Turned Ornament, the main body is hollowed out of curly maple and both finials are mahogany. The finish is brushed and sprayed satin polyurethane.



Stephan Allenson: Inside-Out Ornaments, the lighter color one is red oak with yellow acrylic paint on the inside. Both are finished on the outside with Shellac. I do not know the wood type of the darker ornament. The wood came from a grab bag of wood I bought online. For the inside turnings, I cut the four square blanks on my bandsaw and glued them together with a low melt hot glue. After turning and painting, I easily split the four turned blanks, reversed them and glued the turned blanks with regular wood glue. After drying overnight I turned the ornaments and finished.



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Have You Turned American Chestnut?

By Dennis J. Dantro, November 2020

A little history: More than a century ago approximately four billion American Chestnut trees were growing throughout the eastern United States. The tree was among the largest, tallest and fastest growing trees in the country. The wood was rot-resistant and straight grained. It was suitable for building, fencing and furniture.

The fruit of the tree fed billions of animals, wildlife, people and their livestock. It was almost the perfect tree – until a blight fungus decimated the species more than 100 years ago. The chestnut blight has been called one of the greatest ecological disasters to strike the world's forest industry. The chestnut survived all adversaries for 40 million years. But it only took roughly 40 years to disappear.

The American Chestnut tree once dominated the eastern half of the U.S. Because it could grow rapidly and attain huge sizes, the tree was often the outstanding visual feature in both urban and rural landscapes. The wood was used wherever strength and rot-resistance was needed.



Mature Chestnut Tree

In colonial America, chestnut was the preferred wood for log cabins. It was well liked for its resistance to bottom rot. Its edible fruit the chestnut, contributed to the local economies. Hogs and cattle were often fattened for market by allowing them to forage in forests dominated by chestnut trees. Chestnut ripening coincided with the holiday season. Turn-of-the-century newspaper articles often showed train cars overflowing with chestnuts rolling into major cities to be sold fresh or roasted. The American Chestnut was truly a heritage tree.



The Beloved Harvested Chestnut

Decimation: All of this began slightly before the turn of the 20th century. The blight was the introduction of a parasite that was thought to come from Asia. The disease reduced the chestnut tree from its dominant position of the eastern forest ecosystem to that of an early succession stage shrub. There has been no lumber sold in the U.S. for decades. The bulk of the annual 20 million pound crop of chestnuts now comes to the U.S. as imported nuts.

Despite its decimation as a nut crop tree and lumber species it has not gone extinct. It is only considered functionally extinct because the blight fungus does not kill the underground root system. It has survived by sending up sprouts from the roots that grow vigorously. But ultimately the



The chestnut blight fungus

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tree will succumb to the blight as it ages and dies back to the ground.



A dead chestnut tree in Virginia

An American comeback: The American Chestnut Foundation (TACF) has taken part in a painstaking effort that involved crossing the tall American chestnuts with the much shorter, blight-resistant Chinese chestnuts. The timeframe for planting them and waiting for the seedlings to grow is 6 to 7 years. TACF genetically crossed the two and then back-crossed for more than six generations. The first line of blight-resistant American Chestnuts was then planted in Virginia, Tennessee and North Carolina.

Experts will not know for certain if the trees are a success, or close to the original American Chestnuts, for roughly 50 years. That is the time it takes for a chestnut tree to grow to 100 feet. But TACF is encouraged by its progress.

Workability: Chestnut lumber is used today, though the material comes from fallen trees or reclaimed lumber. Typically damaged by insects, the affected lumber is sold in various grades as wormy chestnut for use as furniture, cabinetry, picture frames, flooring or lathe-turned items.



Turned from a chestnut fence post

The average height for the American Chestnut is 100 feet tall. The average dried weight is 30 lbs./cu ft. Wormy chestnut has a low bending strength and a medium crushing strength. The heartwood is durable however the sapwood is susceptible to attack by the powder post beetle and the common furniture beetle. The wood is easy to work using both hand tools and machine tools. It accepts nails but can split easily and it does glue well. It is liable to stain blue when in contact with metals.

Prices and availability: Because the blight wiped out nearly all the mature

American Chestnut trees its lumber is rare and valuable.

Wormy chestnut is salvaged from old barns and other structures. It is usually reprocessed

as reclaimed lumber. Cook Woods, a supplier, offers pen blanks $\frac{3}{4}$ " x $\frac{3}{4}$ " x 5" at \$3 each. Cook also offers slab lumber, $9\frac{7}{8}$ " x $15\frac{1}{16}$ " x 73" at \$234.



Cook Woods - chestnut pen blanks



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introduces the Dewalt tool kit loan program



DeWalt Corporation awarded AVW a wood working grant for 2 tool kits to be used by club members. Any member of the club may borrow a complete tool kit at any time for any wood working project.

The goal: There is an apparent danger in using power tools aka: high speeds, torque, rotating blades, sharp edges, etc. The goal of DeWalt Corp. and Apple Valley Woodturners is to improve and increase the knowledge, skills and confidence needed to use power tools. AVW's participation will help strengthen our local wood working community and members of the club.

Contents: Each 20 volt battery operated compact tool kit contains 8 pieces: one carrying case, one circular saw, one variable speed drill, one impact driver,

one flashlight, two 20 volt batteries and one battery charger.

Scope of the AVW program: The loan program is open to any AVW member. The tool kit may be borrowed for up to 30 days. Mentoring is available.

To borrow:

Contact any board member by email:

Dennis J. Dantro at

dennisjdantro@gmail.com

Gene Lockhart at

genelockhart16@gmail.com

Terry Fox at tfox1042@yahoo.com

Stipulations:

- The borrower must be a member of the club.
- A short project description and time frame is requested.
- The borrower must have personal liability insurance.