

Apple Valley Woodturners

Banking on Banksia

The September meeting of the Apple Valley Woodturners featured a demonstration by AVW member Gene Gillespie on turning Banksia seedpods. Gillespie, a woodturner by profession, sells his work at numerous art galleries and craft shows in a multi-state area. Banksia is an Australian evergreen tree. The seedpod is so hard that the aborigines use it in place of coal. Because of that hardness, Gillespie recommends using a face shield while turning Banksia. He mostly uses a roughing gouge. He favors a brad point drill bit to open a hole in the pod, warning that it is difficult to get a hole in the true center, since the hardness of the material makes the bit wander. Despite the drawbacks hardness causes in turning, Banksia sands very easily. Gillespie said he likes to leave some of the fuzzy exterior of the seedpod on at his cost.

when sanding, to contrast with the seedpod material.

Gillespie likes the seedpods because their interesting shape sells well at craft fairs. Removing the many seeds and hollowing the center of the pod creates a great potpourri bowl.

He often slices the Banksia into disks and creates coasters.

Banksia pods come in a variety of sizes too.

Gillespie also makes weed pots from Banksia, but added that the glass tubes many people like to insert in them for flowers don't come in the same diameters as fractional or numbered drill bit sizes.

Gillespie rapidly turned three Banksia pods into weed pots.

A knowledgeable demonstrator, with a good sense of humor, he brought handouts on turning Banksia and a supply of pods which he offered to sell to members





Show and Tell

Above, left, Gene Gillespie brought a number of his Banksia Pod pieces to the show and tell portion of our September meeting

Club News

The October meeting will be held at Dick Krehling's home, 142 McClure Way, Winchester, on Saturday, Oct. 5, at 9 a.m. Member Robert Van Meter will give a demonstration of off-center turning.

Arborfest Demonstration

The annual Arborfest at the state Arboretum at Blandy Farm will be noon to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 12 and 13. The Apple Valley Woodturners have been invited to do demonstrations and we can sell our work at the event with a 15% commission to the arboretum. AVW members who are American Association of Woodturner members can demonstrate, as they will be covered by insurance. Anyone who is interested in doing a demonstration should contact President Krehling, 542-6716, to arrange a time.

Election Committee

We need two volunteers who are not officers to serve on the Election Committee to seek nominations for officers for the coming year. Call President Krehling, 542-6716, to offer your services.

Christmas Party

Ken Darr, Tim Michaels and Don Mort are the planning department for the Christmas Party. The date has been set for Saturday, Dec. 14. This will be a family event, so if you don't have a family, you have time to draft some people to pretend they are related to you.

Supplies for You

The club is going to start to inventory some supplies, to take advantage of purchasing in bulk. Items on our list at the present are CA glue, sandpaper and anchor seal.

**Remember to support
those who support us**

McFarland's Saw Mill

587 round Hill Rd
Winchester Va. 667-2272

**The woodchuck hibernated
this month**

The Cutting Edge

7123 Southwest Fwy
Houston, Texas 77074
800-790-7980

Craft Supply USA

1287 E. 1120S.
Provo, Utah
84606

The Woodworking Shop

Hickory N.C.
1-800-228-0000