

NEWSLETTER EDITOR
TOM HUBER

SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

- **Holiday Party**
- **President's
Message**

INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:

About CAW	2
2024 Schedule	3
Cookies	5
Trees we Turn - Black Sassafras	6
Holiday Party Cookie cutter	8 10
Gallery	11
Contact CAW	21



VOL I ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2024



December— CAW Holiday Party

CAW's last event of the year 2024 is our annual Holiday Party. We will continue our tradition of a holiday potluck dinner. The entrée of the meal will be roast ham and fried chicken. CAW will also provide an assortment of soft drinks. (Unfortunately, alcoholic beverages can't be served at this venue. Our party will be held Saturday December 14 between 5:00 to 8:00 at the Oaks Community Center on 5708 Oak Leather Drive. If anyone would like to come between 4:00 and 4:30 to help set up the venue, all are welcome.

In addition to our meal and a chance to socialize, members are encouraged to bring turned pieces with a holiday theme. There will also be a raffle, trivia contest. And prizes for the events and the best holiday pieces.

More information is on pages 8-9 including a suggestion for bringing a dish to share. This is always a fun event, but in order to ensure we have enough food and seating we are requesting our members RSVP. Mark your calendar and enjoy a pleasant evening of food, friends and fun.

President's Message for December

At the November meeting we had Steven Barnard demonstrating the different techniques he uses to turn ornaments. The demonstration was excellent! Steven has a way of thinking and creating designs that are outside of the box. I enjoyed the demonstration and look forward to seeing his future work.

The ACE Workshop topic in November was a Tea Light. This class was a was both a fun and educational experience for all who attended. Thank you to everyone who participated and helped make it such a success.

The ACE Workshops already scheduled for 2025 are Pen Turning on February 19th, Turn a Platter on March 19th and Turning for the Kitchen April 16th. To register call 703-658-1201 or visit <https://aceclasses.fcps.edu/default.aspx>.

Looking ahead, our **annual Holiday Party** is set for **Thursday, December 14th** at the **Oaks Community Center in Burke Center**. The festivities will run from **5:00 to 8:00 PM**, and we'll need volunteers to help with setup beforehand. This is a great opportunity to connect with fellow members and their families while enjoying food, raffles, trivia, and prizes. Don't forget to bring an ornament for the contest and join in the fun! Please RSVP by emailing [\[er@capwoodturners.org\]\(mailto:er@capwoodturners.org\).](mailto:treasur-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

As a reminder, there will be no regular meeting or Open Turning at Pimmit in December.

Looking toward 2025, we're seeking members interested in demonstrating at one of our meetings or instructing an ACE Workshop. If you'd like to share your skills, let us know—we have spots to fill in next year's schedule. Tips and Tricks is scheduled for February please reach out if you have something to share.

Our tool collection at Pimmit is coming together, but we still need a few items to complete our six sets: bowl gouges, spindle gouges, and spindle roughing gouges. If you have any extras that are gathering dust, consider donating them to the club to support our shared work.

CAW Monthly Meetings

CAW's monthly meeting are held the second Saturday of each month (except August and December) at the Pimmit Center. The doors open about 8:00 with a social time. Our meeting begins at 8:30 with show and tell, followed by a quick business meeting. Demonstrations begin at 9:30. Until further notice, our meetings will be limited to a one half day demonstration.

Due to our relationship with The Fairfax County Adult Education Program, members are requested to sign up for the monthly meeting. This allows us to use the facility without charge. To sign up for a meeting, click on the following link:

<https://aceclasses.fcps.edu/Search.aspx?SearchKeyword=caw&hdnType=Search>

This link can also be used to sign up for CAW sponsored woodturning classes.



Pimmit Center
Falls Church, Virginia

CAW's Online Look

CAW's web page contains excellent information about CAW programs. It's very attractive and user friendly. You can also use it to pay your dues. It's an great resource for all things woodturning. Check them out:

Website: <https://capwoodturners.org>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Artist/Capital-Area-Woodturners-310034189708779/>

Flickr: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/capwoodturners/albums/with/72157711559707478>



More Ways to Support CAW

CAW now accepts donations, \$10 and up, on our website from anyone who wishes to contribute. Anyone donating \$100 or more gets a free CAW Polo from the color choices. The donations are through PayPal, however, you don't need to

have a PayPal account or be a member of CAW as anyone can checkout as a guest using a credit card.

Donations in Kind

Donations to CAW don't have to be money. If you would like to donate tools,

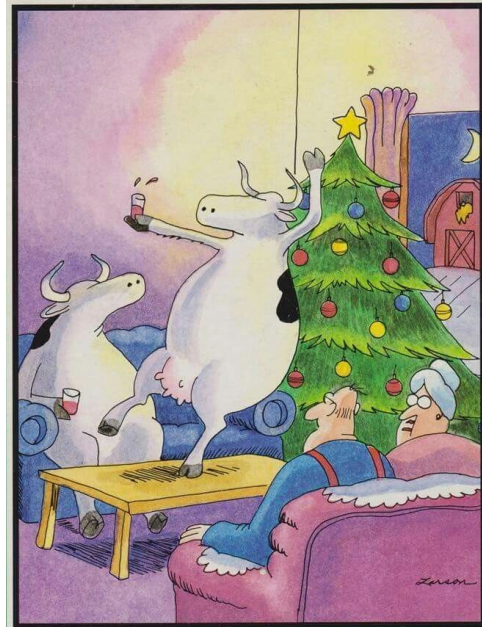
equipment or materials. These items can be sold to our members and the funds used to support CAW. So, the next time you're in the shop and see items you don't need anymore, bring them in. Bring in pieces of wood you have harvested. Someone will want it and you'll help CAW.

President's Message (continued)

Lastly, there's no better time than the present to create some shavings, try your hand at texturing, or embark on a new turning project. I look forward to seeing you all at the Holiday Party!

Happy and Safe Turning,

Ben Johnson



"Satisfied? ... I warned you not to invite the cows in for a few drinks."

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM CAW

2024 Demonstration and Workshop

January 13 – Steve Schwartz
Using computer graphics to embellish



Jan 17 SEW

February 10
Tips and Tricks (topics TBD)
Feb 14 SEW

March 9– IRD
Mar 13 SEW

April 13– Dion Fralick
Apr 17 SEW

May 11– Bob Pezold
May 15 SEW

June 8– CAW Picnic
June 12 SEW

July 13– Keith Tompkins
July 11-12 Workshop
July 17 SEW

August– Colwin Way IRD

September 14— Ann Ogg
No SEW

October 12– George Jones
– natural edge bowls

Oct 16 SEW (Pimmit)

November 16- Steve Ornaments

Nov 13—Open Turning Pimmit

December 14– CAW Holiday Party
(No SEW)

Cookies

Humans have a sweet tooth. Blame it on our hominid ancestors. Our human forebears had metabolisms that were greater than their hominid brethren. As a result humans use more calories and are much more active than our closest relatives— chimpanzees and gorillas. To satisfy the need for more calories, our ancestors sought out foods with high calorie contents such as fruits, honey, and sweet grasses. One of these sweet grasses from Southeast Asia is the ancestor of modern sugar cane. By the 4th century eastern people had learn to extract the sweet liquid from sugar cane and turn it into solid sugar. By the 7th century . the Persians had brought sugar cane into Central Asia. The Arabs brought the sugar making technology into the Mediterranean and by the 14th Century, sugar was being cultivated in Italy.

Solid sugar revolutionized baking. Before the introduction of sugar there were very few sweet breads or cakes, and they were only made for special occasions like holy days. Once sugar was readily available, it created a host of new baked goods. By the 14th century, they were common in all levels of society throughout Europe, from royal cuisine to street vendors. The first documented instance of the figure-shaped gingerbread man was at the court of Elizabeth I of England in the 16th century. She had the gingerbread figures made and presented in the likeness of some of her important guests.

Cookies came to America through the Dutch in New Amsterdam in the late 1620s. The Dutch word "*koekje*" was Anglicized to "cookie" or cooky. Despite its descent from cakes and other sweetened breads, the cookie in almost all its forms has abandoned water as a medium for cohesion. Water in cakes serves to make the batter as thin as possible, the better to allow bubbles—responsible for a cake's fluffiness—to form. In the cookie the agent of cohesion has become some form of oil. Oils, whether in the form of butter, vegetable oils, or lard, are much more viscous than water and evaporate freely at a far higher temperature .

The modern form of cookies, which is based on creaming butter and sugar together, did not appear commonly until the 18th century. The Industrial Revolution in Britain and the consumers it created saw cookies (biscuits) become products for the masses, and firms such as Huntley & Palmers (formed in 1822), McVitie's (formed in 1830) and Carr's (formed in 1831) were all established. The decorative biscuit tin, invented by Huntley & Palmers in 1831, saw British cookies exported around the world .

Cookies have taken the place of special baked goods for the holidays. During the Christmas season , cookies are baked for gifts and for parties. One of the modern customs is leaving cookies for Santa Claus. There is not bad time for cookies.

Anise Cookies

My grandmother made these cookies every year. This is a Central European recipe

½ pound salted butter

1 pound of flour (about 4 cups)

4 eggs

½ pound powdered sugar

4 Tablespoons anise seeds

Mix flour and butter together until they form crumbs in the bowl. Add sugar and mix well. Make a well in the center of the flour mixture and pour in the beaten eggs. Add the anise seeds and blend all the ingredients together. Knead the dough until it is smooth. Let stand one hour in the refrigerator. Pinch off small pieces and roll them into a small roll. Shape the cookies into a horseshoe shape. Place on a baking sheet and glaze with beaten egg. Bake at 350 degrees until lightly browned- about 12 to 15 minutes.

Starbuck's Oatmeal Cookies

1 1/2 cups of old fashioned rolled oats 1/2 cup all purpose flour

1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder 1/4 teaspoon baking soda 1/2 teaspoon salt

6 tablespoons unsalted butter 1/2 cup packed brown sugar

1/2 cup granulated sugar 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon 1 teaspoon vanilla

1/4 cup raisins 1/4 cup golden raisins 1/4 cup dried cranberries

Set oven to 350. Blend together the oats, flour, spices, salt and soda. Beat the butter and sugar together then add the egg and vanilla. Beat until smooth. Gradually add the dry ingredients until you create a smooth dough. Add in the raisins and cranberries. Drop tablespoons of dough onto a baking sheet 3 inches apart. Bake until golden brown but still soft- 12-16 minutes.

Trees we Turn— Australia—

Black sassafras (*Atherosperma moschatum*) is an evergreen tree native to cool, temperate southern Australian rainforests. This ancient species is part of the magnolid family, some of the first flowering trees. It is not related to true sassafras (*Sassafras Albidum*) which comes from North America, and is a member of the laurel family. Fossil records shows this species grew in South America, and Antarctica as well as what is now Australia. First described by French naturalist Jacques Labillardière in 1806, it was named for the unusual dark streaks that often run through the golden-grey wood. These streaks are the hallmark feature of this unique and beautiful wood. Tasmanian sassafras is the only species in its genus and is one of only a few members of the family Atherospermataceae, which also contains yellow sassafras (*Doryphora sassafras*) and several other Australian rainforest trees.

Black sassafras is one of the most abundant species in Tasmania's native rainforests, particularly throughout the eastern and western mountain ranges, as it thrives in cool, damp, well-drained soil. It also occurs less frequently throughout Victoria and New South Wales, extending as far north as the Tia River, west of Port Macquarie. Sassafras prefers gullies and creek beds in higher altitudes of up to 2500 feet, but also grows at sea level. These trees are often found in areas that are inaccessible to animals, such as on mounds or trunks of other plants, since native animals often eat young seedlings.

Black sassafras is an important part of the rainforest ecosystem, as it is the pri-

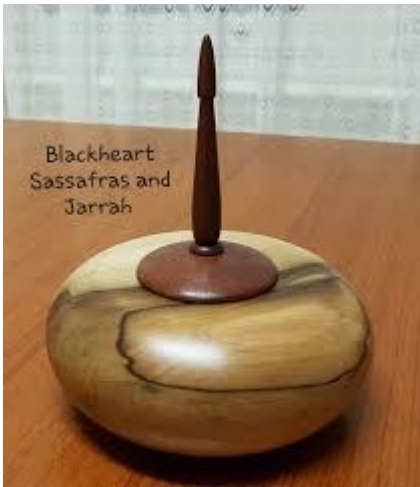
mary host for over 50 lichen species. The trees are critical for the survival of many of these lichen species, particularly in fire-prone Tasmanian eucalyptus woodland.

Black sassafras has traditionally been used in clothes pegs due to its low tannin content, which means that it does not stain fabrics. The cinnamon-scented bark has also been used to create a flavored drink by infusing it in water. However, today it is mostly used in decorative items and furniture.

Black sassafras is naturally a golden-grey color, but its common name, blackheart sassafras, refers to the characteristic brown, black, or even sometimes purple or green streaks that form through the heart of the wood. These streaks occur when a living tree suffers some sort of trauma, such as storm damage, that allows fungus to enter into the wood and stain it. Far from being a problem, this is actually what makes blackheart sassafras so recognizable – and so sought after.

Black sassafras wood is solid yet light and does not tend to split. While it has poor in-ground and external durability, it is great for internal applications. It is quite soft and easily worked both by hand and with tools, lending itself to use in furniture, panelling, joinery, veneers and wood turning.

The wood is also often used in musical instruments and decorative pieces such as bowls and carvings, as its dynamic dark brown and black streaks along with interspersed knots create a unique and distinctive appearance. And unlike most other woods, blackheart sassafras comes with a guarantee that no two pieces will ever look quite alike.



Black sassafras box



Black sassafras bowl



Black sassafras plate



Black sassafras bowl with distinctive markings

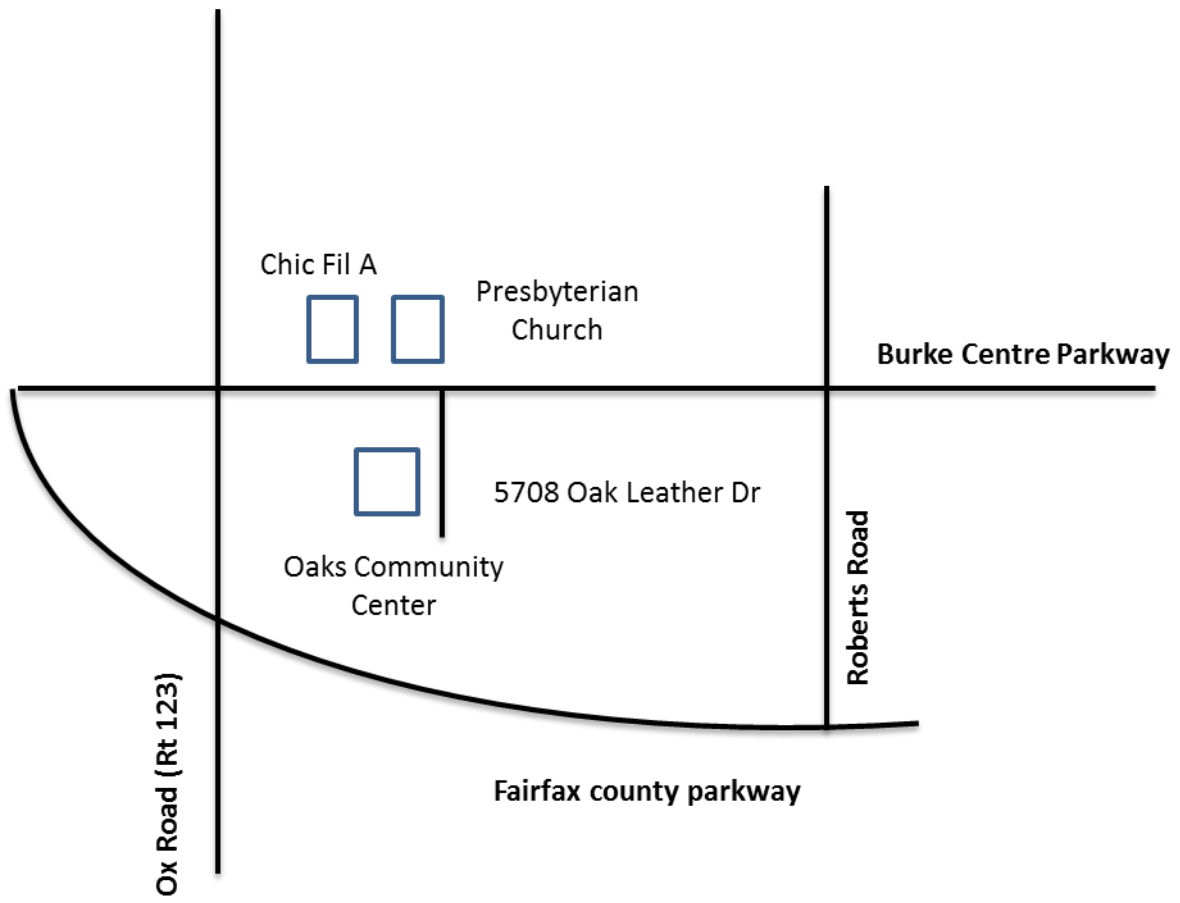


Capital Area Woodturners Holiday Party

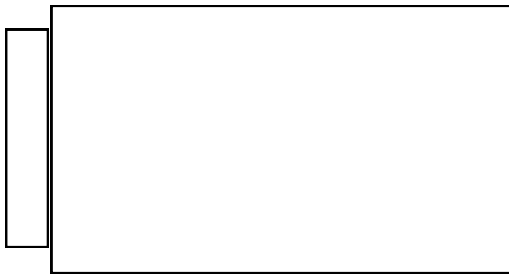
Everyone is invited to attend the CAW Holiday party on Saturday December 14 from 5:00 to 8:00 PM. The party will be held in the Oaks Community Center on 5708 Oak Leather Drive in Burke. (A map is attached below .) Members are encouraged to bring spouses, family members, and friends. CAW will provide a entrees of roast ham and fried chicken as well as beverages, but attendees are asked to bring a dish to share. To make matters easy, members with names starting with A-F- appetizers, G-L- salads, M-R- side dishes, and S-Z-desserts. If you have a favorite dish or you need a special menu item, please bring it. Treasurer@capwoodturners.org

In addition to a meal. We'll have an ornament contest, a trivia contest, a raffle, and a gallery of our members' work. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to John Clements at :

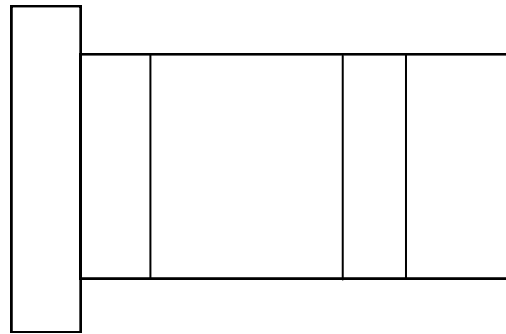
This is always a fun event and it gives everyone a chance to meet and socialize in a relaxed and festive setting. Please mark your calendars and save the date for CAW's last event of 2024.



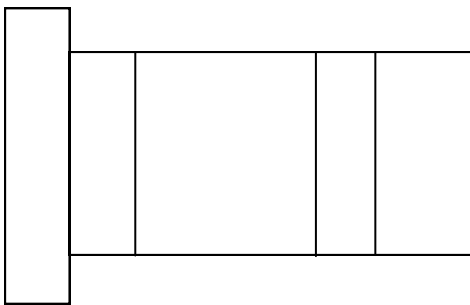
Turning a cookie cutter



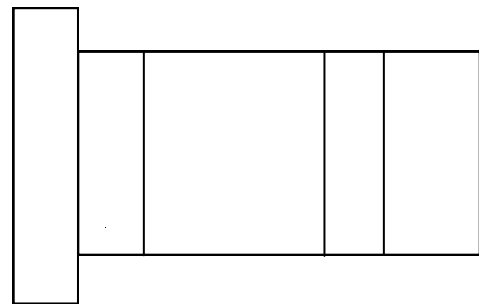
- Mount a 3x3x5 piece between centers
- Turn round; create a 1/2 in tenon
- Mount in a chuck



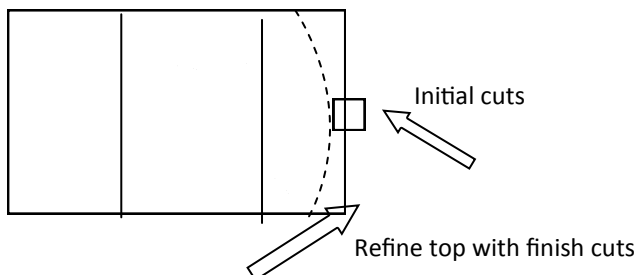
- Face off the right side of the piece
- Measure 1 inch, 1 1/2 in, and 3 1/2 inches from the end with a pencil
- Use a skew to scribe a line at the 1 1/2 in and 3 1/2 in marks; they will be stop cuts



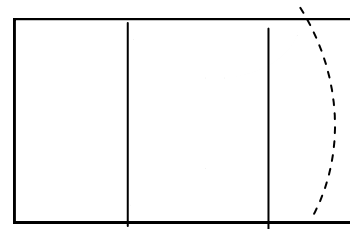
- Using a spindle gouge at a 45 degree angle, hollow out to the depth of 1 inch; make sure to measure
- Use a box scraper or skew to cut wall thickness to 1/8 in; refine leading edge to 3/32 with sandpaper; sand interior



- Mark off 1/2 in from the edge; drill a 1/4 in hole to a depth of 3/4 on an inch
- Using a spindle gouge refine a handle and top shape; sand
- Part off 1/4 above the top



- Mount on the chuck in expansion
- Cut the nub away from the center
- Refine the top with finish cuts toward the center,



- Embellish with texture or concentric circles
- Sand to 220/320; use an oil finish

Member's Showcase



Pen assortment
Jeff Schoolcraft



Holiday ornaments– Ben Johnson



Ambrosia maple and cherry bowls
John Clements



Finial lidded box in sycamore,
cherry, and holly
Gary Guenther



Segmented candlesticks
John Clements



Peppermill from a broken baseball bat
Pete Greene



Ambrosia maple birdhouse
Sid Edelman



Large chestnut bowl
John Clements



Carved cherry bowls with milk paint
Tom Huber



Elm crotch bowl
Jim Gerding



Snowman and lighthouse ornaments
Patrick O'Brian



Winged bowls in yew and boxwood
Patrick O'Brian



Spalted ash bowl
John Clements



Pictures from CAW's tealight class



Natural edge cherry burl bowl
Steve Schwartz

Student with the
Completed project



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Monthly Meeting Information -
Bryant Adult Education Center
2709 Popkins Lane,
Alexandria, VA 22306

Map with driving directions here:

[www.fcps.edu/maps/
bryant.htm](http://www.fcps.edu/maps/bryant.htm)



CAW's QR Code

*Capitol Area Woodturners is
a chapter of the American
Association of Woodturners*

Directions To Bryant High School

From VA or MD, take I-495/I-95
towards the Wilson Bridge over
the Potomac River.

Take Exit 177A to Route 1 South
on the VA side.

Drive approximately 1.9 miles on Rt. 1 South
and you will pass the Beacon mall complex
with Lowe's on your right. Drive past the
main entrance to Beacon mall and go 4 more
stop lights (about 1/2 mile).

The 4th stop light is Popkins Lane. Turn left
and go two blocks.

Bryant Center entry is on the right. Drive to

Contact CAW

President@capwoodturners.org - for all things President

VP@capwoodturners.org - for all things VP

Treasurer@capwoodturners.org - AR/AP for our organization

Secretary@capwoodturners.org - Membership Lists/Update for personal info, Newsletter distribution, vendor discounts

Programs@capwoodturners.org - Organization of yearly meeting schedule for topics, artists, IRD's, etc.

SEW@capwoodturners.org - Organizer for SEW's and Mentor program

Info@capwoodturners.org - default/catch-all for general questions, all things Website, Emails about general items & offers