

NEWSLETTER EDITOR
TOM HUBER

SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

- Top Box
- President's Message

INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:

About CAW 2

2025 Schedule 3

Short month
shortbread 4

Trees we Turn
Tasmanian
Myrtle beech 6

Member's Gal-
lery 8

Contact CAW 19



VOL 1 ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2025



February— Short but busy

.While February may be the shortest month of the year, CAW still has lots going on. There's a meeting Saturday February 8. Open turning is February 12, and there is an ACE class on pen turning February 19. In addition, there are lots of opportunities to be involved with CAW.as

a volunteer. Running a club takes effort. That effort comes from our members., and we are only as successful as the help we get from our fellow turners. So, make sure you are a member in good standing and consider helping out the club that gives so much to our craft.

President's Message for February

Welcome to February 2025!

Due to weather, our January meeting was canceled, but we've re-scheduled Frank Jessup's **Spin Top Box** demonstration for this month. The **Tips and Tricks** session will be slotted into an open month later in the year.

We're excited about some upgrades to our meeting space at Pimmit! **ACE** has installed multiple 110v and 220v outlets, allowing us to run all three full-size lathes, three Powermatic midi lathes, mini lathes, the band saw, grinder, and dust collec-

tion system simultaneously during **Open Turning**. Additionally, we've purchased a **Jet air filtration system**, which, alongside our dust collection system, ensures a cleaner, dust-free environment.

Events & Workshops

Monthly Meetings

February Meeting: *Spin Top Box – Frank Jessup*

March Meeting: *Platter Turning – Tom Huber*
ACE Workshops

Pen Turning – Feb 19

Turn a Platter – Mar 19

Turning for the Kitchen
– April 16

Remember to **sign up for Monthly Meetings** with ACE. Please register for all meetings you plan to attend in advance. If something comes up, no need to cancel—just come when you can! To register, call **703-658-1201** or visit **ACE Classes**.

Open Turning is held on the third Wednesday of each month from 9 AM – 2 PM.

There is a \$10 shop fee unless you are a **premium membership (\$100 or more)**. Bring a project, grab a sandwich, and enjoy some shop talk with fellow members

Membership Renewal

Don't forget to **renew your 2025 membership!** Visit <https://capwoodturners.org> to join or renew today. (cont. p. 3)

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 a 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)

Membership Renewal

Don’t forget to **renew your 2025 membership!** Visit <https://capwoodturners.org> .

Final Thoughts

Now is the perfect time to make some shavings, experiment with texturing, or start a brand-new turning project. I look forward to seeing you all at our **February** meeting!

Reminder: If **Fairfax County Schools** close or delay due to weather, our activities will also be canceled.

Thank you for your continued passion and support—here’s to a **safe, creative, and inspiring**

Ben Johnson

President, **Capital Area Woodturners**

- SAY IT WITH FLOWERS
- SAY IT WITH DIAMONDS
- SAY IT WITH CHOCOLATES
- JUST SAY IT.!



“nuff said...

2024 Demonstration and Workshop Schedule



February 8 Frank Jessup-
Turning a Top Box

Feb 12 Open Turning—Pimmit
Center

March 8– Tom Huber Turn-
ing a Platter

Mar 12 Open Turning—
Pimmit Center

April 12– TBD

Apr 16 Open Turning—
Pimmit Center

May 10– TBD

May 14 Open Turning—
Pimmit Center

June 14– CAW Picnic

June 18 Open Turning—
Pimmit Center

July 12– TBD

July 16 Open Turning—Pimmit
Center

August 9– TBD

August 13 Open Turning—
Pimmit Center

September 13— TBD

September 17 -Open Turn-
ing—Pimmit Center

October 11– `TBD

Oct 15 Open Turning—
Pimmit Center

November 8- TBD

Nov 12—Open Turning
Pimmit

December 13– CAW Holi-
day Party

(No Open Turning)

The Shortest Month of the Year

February is the second month of the year in the Julian and Gregorian calendars. The month has 28 days in common years and 29 in leap years, with the 29th day being called the *leap day*. February is the third and last month of meteorological winter in the Northern Hemisphere. It is the shortest month of the year. Curiously, it has been this way for more than 2000 years.

The Roman month *Februarius* was named after the Latin term *februum*, which means "purification", via the purification ritual *Februa* held on February. Originally February was the last month of the year under the ancient Roman calendar. Until 450 BCE when it was changed into the second month of the year. It has kept this place ever since.

Despite being a short month, many observances around the world are held in the month of February. In the United States, it's Black History month and the Festival of St. Valentine's day is held on February 14. February 2 is known as Groundhog Day in the USA. The official groundhog, Punxsutawney Phil, lives near the city of Punxsutawney in Pennsylvania. When he emerges from his burrow on February 2, his behavior is said to predict the change of seasons: If he immediately returns to his burrow, six more weeks of winter will follow. Otherwise, spring is on the way.

The tradition goes back to German immigrants settling in Pennsylvania. In Germany, people spotted hedgehogs coming back to life from their winter hibernation and saw this as a sign that spring was about to start. Since hedgehogs are rare in Pennsylvania, this tradition was transferred to groundhogs.

Since February is the shortest month of the year, it's only appropriate that we should mention a dish that also has "short" in its description—shortbread. Shortbread is called short because of the traditional ratio of one part sugar to two parts butter that lends a high fat content to the dough. This yields a soft, buttery crumb that melts in your mouth, similar to short crust pastry. This ratio is also what makes shortbread so crave-worthy. Traditionally this is a Scottish biscuit through and through. Shortbread is eaten on special occasions and hasn't changed much from its original form in the Middle Ages. When you eat or bake traditional shortbread, you're essentially enjoying the same buttery treats that the Scots did many centuries ago.

Scottish Shortbread biscuits

- 10 tbsp unsalted butter unsalted butter, at room temperature 142g
- 1/2 cup confectioners' sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour 180g
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt optional

Allow your butter to become soft, then beat the butter and sugar together with a mixer. Add the vanilla and salt. Gradually add the flour until you have a stiff dough. Shape the dough into a rectangular prism, wrap in plastic and chill until firm. At least an hour. Set your oven to 350 degrees. Use a sharp knife to cut 1/2 inch thick slices. Place slices, spaced at least an inch apart onto a baking sheet lined with a silicone mat or parchment paper. Use a fork or skewer to indent a pattern onto the top. Bake for about 10 minutes, rotating baking sheet in the oven halfway through. Transfer to a wire sheet to cool.

The cookie dough can be made well in advance. It keeps for about a week in the fridge and a month in the freezer. Make sure to wrap very well and allow to warm up just enough to cut.



Trees we Turn— Tasmanian Myrtle Beech

Nothofagus cunninghamii, commonly known as **myrtle beech** or **Tasmanian myrtle**, is the dominant species of cool temperate rainforests in Tasmania and Southern Victoria. It has low fire resistance and grows best in partial shade conditions.

The beech or Fagaceae family includes nine genera. *Nothofagus* means “false beech”. Other species in the family Nothofagaceae are found throughout South America, New Zealand, Australia, and other relict Gondwanan rainforests. The fact that these trees are so far apart from each other shows us how the rain forest of the ancient super continent of Gondwana may have looked. Australia has been separated from all other continents for millions of years, and has developed unique plant life. The myrtle beech survives from an ancient time when Australia, Antarctica, South America, and Africa were all joined together.

The myrtle beech likely evolved from a Paleogene ancestor. Due to cooling since the Paleogene, leaves may have been pressured to evolve to smaller sizes in colder environments. This may explain the evolution toward smaller leaves than their ancestor as well as the northern boundary for these trees where they are replaced by the larger-leaved *versions* in warmer Northern environments.

Myrtle beeches grow to a height of 160 feet in protected rainforest valleys; maximum height is about 175 feet. It grows best in moist and well-drained soil.

Tasmanian Myrtle is not closely related to the lumber that’s considered Myrtle in the United States (*Umbellularia californica*)—technically, neither species is considered a true myrtle, which is restricted to the *Myrtus* genus. Tasmanian Myrtle is actually closer in relation to beech (*Fagus* genus), and is sometimes referred to as Myrtle Beech or Silver Beech. .

Myrtle beech is an excellent cabinetry timber which is hard with strong, tough, close grain. It is a soft pink to reddish brown, often figured and can be polished to a fine sheen.

The timber can have a wavy or curly grain which has a very satiny appearance. Much more uncommon, Tasmanian Myrtle can also have dark black streaks in the wood, sometimes referred to as “tiger myrtle.”

It is used for flooring, joinery, cogs of wheels, and furniture, and is good for steam bending, turnery and carving. With a Janka hardness of 1310- roughly the same hardness as white oak, myrtle beech turns superbly leaving a very fine finish. The wood is harvested from old growth forest so it is carefully harvested.

Tasmanian Myrtle is commonly available in Australia in the form of lumber and turning blanks. It is infrequently exported to the United States, expect prices to be in the mid to high range depending on the amount of figure in the wood.

n excel-
lent
sur-
face.



Myrtle beech hollow form



Myrtle beech figured bowl



Myrtle beech platter



Myrtle beech footed bowl
with lid

Member's Gallery



Cherry crotch bowl
Gary Guenther



Natural edge cherry bowl– Gary Guenther



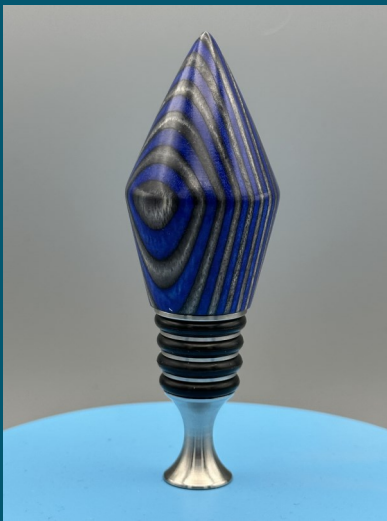
Spalted maple hollow form
George Jones



Painted hollow form with a pagoda top
John Clements



Spalted beech bowl
Justin Prevatte



A selection of pens and winestoppers
Jeff Schoolcraft



Small Maple– walnut, and walnut bowls
Pete Greene



Kitchen utensil holder in multiple woods
John Clements



Birdhouse ornaments
Sid Edelman



Pedestal bowl
John Clements



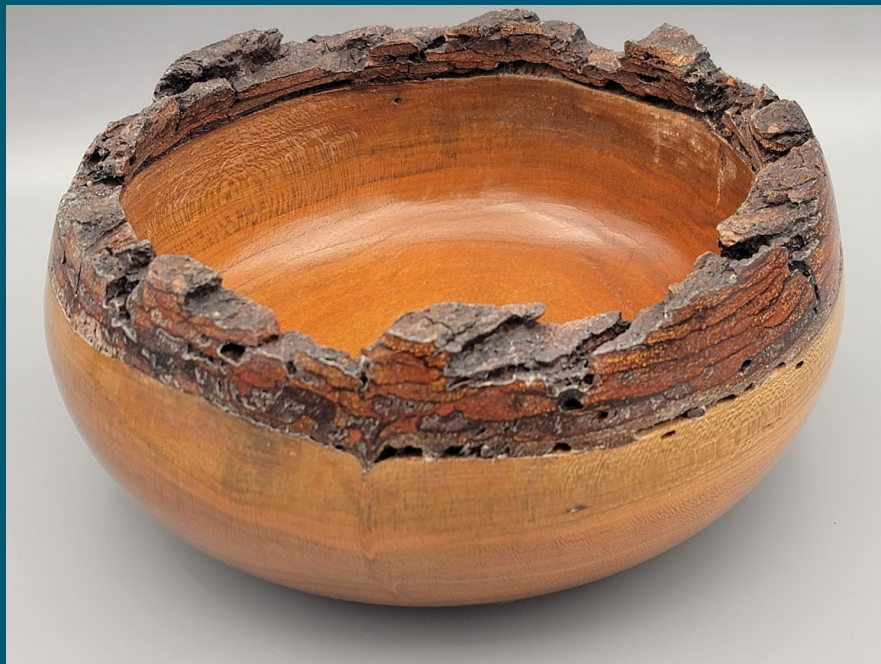
Oak box
John Clements



Ambrosia maple and natural edge cherry bowls

Patrick O'Brien

(Both bowls were selected for the Creative Craft Council biennial show)





Natural edge cherry bowls
Steve Jelinski





Spalted white oak with bronzed inserts
Tom Huber



Footed vase in Kentucky yellowwood
Tom Huber



Stenciled cherry box
Tom Huber

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Monthly Meeting Information –
Pimmit Adult Education Center
Map with driving directions here:

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



CAW's QR Code

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

Directions To Pimmit Adult School– 7510 Lisle Avenue, Falls Church

From VA or MD, take I-495 towards Tysons
Corner

Take Exit 147A to Route 7 South towards
Falls Church

Immediately get in the left lane and drive ap-
proximately 100 yards on Rt. 7

At the first stop light turn left onto Lisle Ave-
nue. Proceed for about 1 mile. Pimmit Cen-
ter entry is on the left. Turn right into the low-
er parking lot. The entrance to the meeting
rooms is off the back corner of the Pimmit
Center at door number 7.

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