

NEWSLETTER EDITOR
TOM HUBER

SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

- Platters
- President's Message

INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:

About CAW 2

2025 Schedule 3

Change Sabzi Polo 4 5

Trees we Turn 6
Australian Spotted Gum

Show Tell 8
Turning at ACL 14

Contact CAW 19



VOL 1 ISSUE 3

MARCH 2025



March— A Platter Technique

This month Tom Huber will demonstrate Tom Wirsing's technique for turning platters. This method gives excellent results and can be adapted to deal with wood in a variety of dimensions. The demonstration will start with a talk on recognizing grain orientation. It will

then discuss design considerations for bottoms, side walls, and tops.

Platters and plates are excellent pieces to make and make perfect gifts since they are both attractive and easily stored. Get there early for a good seat and bring some of your own pieces to share for Show and Tell.

President's Message for March

Welcome to March2025!

.As spring approaches, it's a great time to get motivated, explore new turning projects, refine your skills, and get active in our club!

February was a busy and exciting month for our club! Frank Jessup gave an outstanding demonstration of his Spin Top Box, sharing valuable insights in an informative and entertaining session. We also had a strong presence at the Arlington Public Library's open house, where our members turned and distributed dozens of tops to enthusiastic spectators.

Looking ahead, we have a fantastic lineup of events in March:

Mid-Atlantic Turners Expo –

March 15-16

We'll have a table at the expo and need members to help staff it. Volunteers receive free admission, making this a great opportunity to connect with fellow turners, showcase our club, and explore the latest tools and techniques. If you're available, please send Jeff a note at info@capwoodturners.org.

March Demonstration & ACE Workshop

This month, Tom Huber will demonstrate **Platter Turning** at our monthly meeting. He'll follow up with an **ACE Workshop: Turning a Platter** on March 19, right after Open Turning.

Upcoming Events & Workshops

Monthly Meetings

- **March Meeting:** Platter Turning – Tom Huber

April Meeting: Tips and Tricks
ACE Workshops

- **Turn a Platter** – March 19
- **Turning for the Kitchen** – April 16

Phil Manino Tool Sale

The timing is somewhat loose but will be a weekend in April. Lots of hand tools, chucks, specialty, wood turning and woodworking tools. Phil's wife Edith is counting on us to find new homes for Phil's stuff!

📅 **Reminder:** Please register in advance for Monthly Meetings and ACE Workshops. If plans change, no need to cancel—just show up when you can!

📞 Call **703-658-1201** or visit **ACE Classes** to sign up.

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)

Open Turning

Held on the **third Wednesday of each month (9 AM – 2 PM)**.

- **\$10 shop fee** unless you have a **premium membership (\$100 or more)**.

Bring a project, grab a sandwich, and enjoy shop talk with fellow members!

Membership Renewal

Don't forget to **renew your 2025 membership!** Your support keeps our club thriving and gives you access to meetings, demos, and workshops. Visit capwoodturners.org to join or renew today.

Final Thoughts

Now is the perfect time to make some shavings, experiment with texturing, or start a brand-new project. I look forward to seeing you all at our March meeting—let’s keep turning and learning together!

Ben Johnson

President, **Capital Area Woodturners**



That goes for the shop, too...

2024 Demonstration and Workshop Schedule

April 12– Tips and Tricks

Apr 16 Open Turning—
Pimmit Center

May 10– Dion Fralick

May 21 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– No Meeting

No Open Turning

September 13— TBD

September 17 -Open Turn-
ing—Pimmit Center

October 11– `TBD

Oct 15 Open Turning—
Pimmit Center

November 8- TBD

Nov 19—Open Turning
Pimmit

December 13– CAW Holi-
day Party

(No Open Turning)



A Month of Change

The old saying about the month of March is , “ In like a lion; out like a lamb.” This saying describes the weather in the month of March for much of the Northern Hemisphere. March is a transitional month, with February being the last month of winter. March is the beginning of Spring, but often the early part of the month can be cold and blustery.

The word March is derived from Mars, the Latin god of war. This month represented the beginning of the campaigning season in the ancient world. The month has other associations as well. March 21st is the date of the Vernal Equinox and the official first day of Spring. In ancient times this date held special significance. Even today observing the first day of Spring is important in many cultures. The Iranian festival of *Nowruz* is celebrated in Iran and throughout Central Asia. The roots of Nowruz lie in Zoroastrianism, and it has been celebrated by many peoples across West Asia, Central Asia, the Caucasus and the Black Sea Basin, the Balkans, and South Asia for over 3,000 years . Customs for the festival include various fire and water rituals, celebratory dances, gift exchanges, and poetry recitations, among others; these observances differ between the cultures of the diverse communities that celebrate it . Persian speaking Immigrant communities have been celebrating Nowruz for decades in the United States. Foods associated with this festival feature spring greens .

Another important festival imported into the United States from its immigrant population is the celebration of St. Patrick’s Day. According to tradition, Patrick traveled to Ireland to convert the pagan Irish to Christianity. The *Declaration* says that he spent many years evangelizing in the northern half of Ireland and converted thousands. Patrick’s efforts were eventually turned into an allegory in which he drove "snakes", heathen practices, out of Ireland, despite the fact that actual snakes were not known to inhabit the region. Tradition holds that he died on 17 March and was buried at Downpatrick. Over the following centuries, many legends grew up around Patrick and he became Ireland’s foremost saint. On St. Patrick’s day, the Lenten restrictions on eating and drinking alcohol are lifted for the day. The Saint Patrick’s Day custom of "drowning the shamrock" or "wetting the shamrock" was historically popular. A shamrock is put into the bottom of a cup, which is then filled with whiskey, beer, or cider. It is then drunk as a toast to Saint Patrick, Ireland, or those present. The shamrock would either be swallowed with the drink or taken out and tossed over the shoulder for good luck.

So, however you choose to observe the month of March, it is the beginning of Spring— an end of winter and a harbinger of warm and pleasant days to come.

Sabzi Polo (Iranian herbed rice traditionally served to celebrate Nowruz)

3 cups basmati rice

1 and 1/2 cups finely chopped coriander (around one bunch)

1 cup finely chopped parsley (around one bunch)

1 cup finely chopped dill (around one bunch)

1/2 cup finely chopped chives (around half a bunch)

4 garlic cloves

Lavash bread large enough to cover the bottom of your pot

Vegetable oil Salt 1/6 tsp ground saffron (optional)

4 Tbsp melted butter (mix with 2 cloves crushed garlic)

1. Wash the rice under warm water and drain a few times until the water is no longer cloudy. Cover rice by 2" cold water and add 2 tbsps of salt. Let it soak for at least 1 hour and up to 4 hours.
2. Bring a large pot of water to boil with 2 tbsps salt. Drain the rice and add it to the pot. Allow the water to come to a boil again on high heat before reducing to medium-low heat.
3. Let the rice boil for 8-10 minutes until half cooked. The rice should be tender on the outside but still firm to the bite on the inside.
4. Drain the rice and wash quickly with cold water to stop the cooking process. Mix with the finely chopped green herbs and the 1/2 minced garlic.
5. Pour 3 tbsps oil into a large pot. Place the rice mixture into the pot, forming a mound. Use the handle of a spoon to poke several holes in rice (without hitting the bottom of pot) to let steam escape. Pour over 3-4 tablespoons of garlic butter evenly.
6. Cook over medium heat for 5-10 minutes until you start to see steam rising, then, covering the lid with a dishcloth; cover the pot with the lid.
7. Cook on low heat for 30– 40 minutes.
8. Serve the rice or invert the pot onto a platter.

This dish is normally served with fried fish, but it's just as good with other main meat dish.

Trees we Turn— Australian Spotted Gum

Up to 70percent of Australia’s trees are species of eucalyptus. For many years the Spotted Gum was considered to be part of the eucalyptus family. It was first described 1844 , and given the name *Eucalyptus maculata*. Maculata is the Latin word for spotted, hence spotted eucalyptus. Further study of this tree changed the designation to *Corymbia*, making it a part of the myrtle family, not the eucalyptus family.

Spotted gum is endemic to eastern Australia. It has smooth, mottled bark, lance-shaped to curved adult leaves, flower buds usually in groups of three, white flowers and urn-shaped or barrel-shaped fruit. The tree typically grows to height of 150 to 200 feet. It has smooth mottled pinkish grey or bluish grey, often dimpled bark that is shed in small, irregular flakes.

Corymbia maculata is a widespread species in open forest along the coast of New South Wales in Eastern Australia. Like many other Australian tree species, spotted gums were introduced into countries with similar climates. In the late 1800s and early 20th century spotted gums were introduced to California. Since they are fast growing species, the thought was to grow them and use them to make railroad ties since the wood is very dense and hard. Unfortunately, the timbers tend to twist and bend making them unsuitable for making straight railroad ties. San Diego still has many of these trees.

Despite the tendency of spotted gum wood to twist, it is used extensively in

Australia for flooring and decking. The wood has a Janka hardness of over 2300 making it very tough and resistant. It is also used to make tool handles due to its great strength.



Timber can be light to dark depending on the specimen. Spotted Gum has a quite wavy interlocked grain. Getting straight grain can be problematic. It was commonly used for quality, strong tool handles for tools such as shovels, picks and axes. The wood is quite waxy to the touch.

Although the wood is rarely imported into the U.S., there are domestic sources available from Southern California and Florida. While the grain may be interlocked , it turns well and takes a nice finish due to its inherent hardness.

n excel-
lent
sur-
face.



Spotted gum salad bowl



Figured spotted gum natural edge bowl



Spotted gum platter



Spotted gum
Honey dippers

Monthly Meeting Show and Tell



Frank Jessup demonstrating a top box



A holiday ornament selection

While we have pictures from our monthly meeting, regrettably we don't have the names of the artists of the pieces. In future, we'll try to rectify this oversight.



Spalted maple square plate



Maple bowl with inset



Spalted maple square plate # 2



A selection of seam rippers for Woodlawn's
Needlework Show



Beaded cherry bowl



Maple dragon box



Bowls with pyrographic designs
John Clements





A work in progress
John Clements

Silver maple burl sphere with ob-
sidian, leather, and turquoise
Gary Guehler



CAW demonstrating at the Arlington Central Library



John Clements and friend



Dick Stohr and helper





Turning tops always draws a crowd



Frank Jessup mentoring a future turner



Dion Fralick demonstrating
Coloring a top

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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