

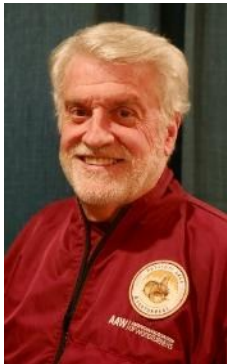


2026 Newsletter

Kathy Allen, Editor

Post Office Box 12346, Prescott, Arizona 86304
Meets the fourth Saturday of most months
See the calendar at the end of the newsletter

President's Message by Chuck Brown



Happy New Year and welcome to the Prescott Area Woodturners
— 2026 Edition!

I recently reread the President's letter I wrote at this time last year and decided to set a new goal for myself in 2026: my President's letters are going to be much shorter! (You may commence cheering now.)

We just wrapped up an amazing year. Rather than recap everything here, I encourage you to look back through our newsletters to get a sense of just how much we accomplished. It was truly a whirlwind year in many ways.

Last year, I shared that my President's goal was to increase member engagement in all club activities. I'm happy to report that we were very successful. Participation increased across the board—general meetings, social events, Tuesday breakfasts, Chips 'n' Grits, sales events, and more. Part of this growth came from a 20% increase in overall membership. Much of the credit for that goes to Dean Humphrey for his outstanding teaching and his efforts to broaden awareness of our art.

The rest of the credit belongs to you—the members. You consistently make everyone who considers joining feel welcome and valued. People enjoy learning new things, and when that learning happens in the friendly, supportive environment you create, it's no surprise that our Club continues to grow. It's clear that Prescott Area Woodturners is a warm, generous, and inclusive group. I'm very proud of the quality of what we offer to our members—and even prouder of the community we've built together.

It's going to be another great year. Let's keep learning, sharing what we know, and having fun.



Tuesday Workshops

The Board of Directors has decided to make PAW's workshop scheduling process more fluid. Historically they have only been held on the Tuesday morning following the General Meeting. This scheduling may have prevented some who would have liked to attend from doing so. We will now schedule demonstrations and workshops as topics arise. They may be on different days and different times. (There were a couple of well attended workshops this year that were scheduled outside of the Tuesday restriction.)

Be sure to let Steve Comstock know if you have an idea for a workshop. If you would like to conduct it, great! Or Steve can find someone to address your requested topic.

The calendar for 2026 may look less full because these workshops are not being scheduled on an annual basis. Be looking for emails and announcements regarding ad hoc workshops after they have been scheduled.

A Note from your Newsletter Editor

Recently, Ric Davis and I wrote letters recommending that Walt Spencer be given Lifetime Membership status in PAW as a result of his many contributions to the club over the years. The criteria for this honor include: a minimum of 10 years of consecutive club service, served on the Board of Directors, demonstrated leadership, is willing to help others, and is an outstanding team player. In order to find the facts about Spence's contributions, I spent a few hours browsing through the past PAW newsletters that were collected in some notebooks that were given to me when I became secretary and newsletter editor. I am very grateful to Marge Hunt for recording the activities of the club and the members who were involved in those events as well as members who served on the Board of Directors. Without those records, I couldn't have gathered an accurate account of Spence's involvement in the club through the years.

Chuck Brown often says that the newsletter is a record of the club's history. So, I think I'll add another title to my own contributions for the club: Club historian. There's no need to add more to my name tag though, I'll just know that it's the result of being newsletter editor.

Kathy Allen, Editor

Time to Renew Your Membership

Most of our members have already paid their annual dues. If so, thank you. If not, Treasurer Susan Murphy collects the dues for the club. Dues are \$50 for the year for individuals or \$60 for a family membership. If you have not paid and wish to continue in the club, please do so as soon as possible. Anyone **who has not paid by January 31st will be taken off all email lists** per the club Membership Policy. Susan accepts cash, checks, Zelle and credit cards or Venmo for an extra fee. Please contact her during a meeting if you want to learn how to use Zelle.

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Holiday Sale at the Grace Sparkes Center, November 8, 2025



John Paschal was the organizer for the annual Holiday Sale with the Spinners and Weavers. Fourteen members sold items at this event. On Friday, they and a few additional volunteers set up tables for the event. Then, early Saturday morning, the sellers set up their woodturned items on their tables and waited for the shoppers to arrive. A steady stream of people explored the many treasures and many left with items they decided to purchase during this popular sale. Every seller succeeded in taking fewer items home at the end of the day. It was another successful sales event for the members who participated.



Front row, L-R: Kathy Allen, Dick Kelly, Mark Oglesby

Middle: Heidi DeFazio, John Armstrong, Donna Richardson, Susan Murphy, Savannah Murphy, Gary Frank, Ginnie O'Brien, Larry O'Brien

Back: Steve Dudar, Denis Lueders, Ray Schmelter, Phil Brown, Dan Hall, Ken Allen, Dave Henderson

Photos of the sellers and the items on their tables are on the following pages.





Ginnie O'Brien once again made chili, cornbread and brownies for the sellers and volunteers to enjoy during lunch. It was greatly appreciated by the PAW members so they could enjoy a quick lunch and conversations with friends before returning to sell more items.

It was an enjoyable sales event for everyone involved. The sellers all did well and conversations with friends during the lulls was an added highlight to the day.



A Note of Appreciation from the Holiday Sale

I attended the Weaver's/Woodturner's Show on Saturday, November 8th, 2025. I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the kindness and thoughtfulness of one of your members, Steve Dudar.

I stopped at his table and talked to his wife and explained that I was looking for a gift for a friend who was in Hospice care. She helped me select a light-colored wood heart that I could write a message on. She gave me a ticket and about an hour later I went back to pick up my purchase. A gentleman gave me a bag with a dark colored wood heart. I explained that it was not the one I selected. Just then Mr. Dudar arrived and he said that the bag was mine, the light-colored heart was also in the bag. He said that his wife mentioned that I was giving it to a friend in Hospice care and he added another heart for me.

His compassion and kindness were so heartwarming it touched me deeply. It uplifted my spirits, and since then brought joy to many others to whom I shared this experience with.

Kind Regards,
Sheila Black



PAW General Meeting: November 15, 2025

President Chuck Brown called the meeting to order at noon to a record number in the audience with 63 attending in person and seven on Zoom. There was great interest to watch the IRD by Stuart Batty, an internationally known professional woodturner.

Bruce Butler represented the Nominating Committee in presenting the slate of officers that were suggested at the October meeting. There were no additional nominations so the vote resulted in unanimously electing Chuck Brown as President, Bob Scaboo as Vice President, Susan Murphy as Treasurer, Kathy Allen as Secretary, Dave Henderson as Membership Director and Steve Comstock as Program Director.

Program Director Ken Allen then introduced Stuart Batty who gave an IRD on Modern Spindle Turning. Stuart gave his first demonstration at a symposium at the age of 18 and has since given over 5,000 demos. He became a third-generation spindle turner at age ten when he worked with his dad to produce spindles for balustrades and furniture. He's known for his outstanding work and his innovations in the art of woodturning.



Stuart introduced seven keys to turning spindles ergonomically and efficiently: grain, chucking, sharpness of tools, tool rest, lathe speed, stance and technique. Throughout his demonstration he referred to those keys to success. He'd prepared several blanks of green honey locust and elm to use for demonstrating cuts, peels, slices and scrapes with a variety of tools. He showed the differences in the tools and their best applications when turning. As he turned, he frequently pointed out his hand position and his stance and why they were efficient and effective. He demonstrated how to make a pommel and compared the benefits and problems with using a skew or a bowl gouge. Stuart stressed the importance of gliding the tool rather than riding the bevel.





Stuart uses a 40/40 grind on his tools so he doesn't have to frequently readjust the tool rest height. He illustrated how those angles are measured and explained that the flat wings of a bowl gouge are used to cut side grain, and also serve as a parting tool, while the point cuts into end grain.

He developed the negative rake scraper and explained how much safer it is than a conventional scraper when hollowing. He demonstrated how to make beads and coves with a perfect shape. During the question time period, he mentioned a recent bowl turning race that he and Mike Mahoney had presented at the Texas SWAT meeting. (See that at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Jw3CDYAqmE>) He gave an outstanding IRD with many woodturning techniques and tips.

After a short break, Gary Frank asked for donations and help during the upcoming Stocking Stuffer sale. The proceeds benefit the club and its programs.

Dean Humphrey informed the members that he plans to apply for the AAW Educational Opportunity Grant and purchase a grinding station and hollowing tools for his classroom. Before the meeting he surveyed members and learned that, of those members, 52 had taken a class at Yavapai College and 33 members are AAW members. He asked members who'd attended classes at the college to write a short testimonial of how the class was beneficial to them.

Mark Oglesby gave a safety minute about cactus juice, a large piece of log with bark attached, and his toaster oven. While he was processing and stabilizing it, it caused a lot of smoke and, after he took it outside, it caught fire. He was able to put out the fire but learned a lot of things not to do in the future.

Show and Tell followed with many examples of members' work. The meeting ended at 3:33 p.m. after Spin the Wheel.



Tuesday Demo: November 18, 2025

Dean Humphrey presented an excellent demonstration on safety in the workshop to eighteen members at his shop. He started by showing a few ‘stupid operator’ things to consider like not letting go of a tape measure while it’s pulled out. He also showed how to start a dry wall screw with a driver by starting a hole with an awl or holding a nail with needle nosed pliers. He suggested removing glue from a hammer with 71% vinegar available at hardware stores.

He then demonstrated how to cut a straight line with a Skilsaw. He’d made a jig with plywood that had a straight edge. He secured the piece being cut and the jig acted as a straight guide for the saw to follow.

He suggested that everyone paint the bottom step of their ladder red so it’s easier to see where it is when stepping down.

Dean had several safety tips that concerned band saw use. The blade should be sharp and of high enough quality to be durable. He uses Timberwood blades. He showed examples of how to safely cut thin pieces from a popsicle stick and a piece thin enough for a veneer. He showed several push sticks and showed how to cut his favorite one from a piece of Baltic birch by starting with a relief cut and cautiously following the curve with the blade. Dean had made a jig with teeth for cutting logs that’s a lot safer than a simpler V-shaped jig. The band saw teeth face into the direction of the log to hold it in place. He used 5-minute epoxy to hold the inserted blades into slots on the jig. See photo. He also suggested



push sticks with nails on the end for round cuts. He cautioned that wet wood causes sap to collect on the blade. CMT spray on the blade and wheels can clean off that resin. Alex Snodgrass has videos on how to properly set up a band saw.



Dean progressed to the table saw where he again stressed the use of push sticks. He talked about the stance when cutting and safe hand positions. He explained the benefits of the riving knife or a splitter and how they separate the wood as it travels through the blade. When he is cutting segments with a jig, he uses the air compressor to blow pieces away from the saw.

The drill press was his last tool to address during this demo. He showed the difference between drills, bits and multispur (Forstner bit) bits. The favorite tip of the day for some observers was that Dean bevels his multispur bits with the belt sander so that angle when drilling doesn't burn the grain of the wood. He showed how important it is to hold the piece of wood by clamping it down rather than just holding it by hand.

It's important to label the location of the first aid kit in the shop so anyone who might assist someone who is hurt can find it. Keep your cell phone on you to call for help if needed. The biggest danger in the shop can be someone, such as a spouse or a friend, coming in to the shop while you are turning and surprising you. Several members gave ideas for signals that someone has walked into the shop, such as flashing a light, waiting until the noise stops or turning off the noisy dust collector.

Many safety ideas were shared and questions were asked during Dean's presentation and demonstrations. Hopefully, another similar demo can occur in the future to keep safety in everyone's minds.



PAW Holiday Party: December 7, 2026

The annual party was held at the Prescott Resort for the second time. This event was organized by Ginnie O'Brien, Susan Kissel and Janet Humphrey. The ninety members and their guests began arriving an hour before the dinner to enjoy conversations with friends. Once again, Kathy Allen took pictures of guests near the Christmas tree which she later sent to them. Members who were participating in the gift exchange left their mystery objects at the gift table as they arrived.



President Chuck Brown greeted everyone at 1:30 p.m. and asked them to move to their tables since the meal would begin soon. Everyone continued their conversations while enjoying the salad and rolls that had been placed at the tables, which were later followed by the entrees and desserts.

After lunch, Chuck asked Ric Davis and Kathy Allen to come to the podium and present an award to someone in the audience. They had written letters to the Board of Directors to nominate a member for Lifetime Membership. Kathy read her letter and invited Walt Spencer to come forward to accept this award in honor of his many contributions to PAW. It was a complete surprise for Spence.



Chuck expressed his appreciation to the many people who contribute to the success of the club. He announced the upcoming elected Board members and thanked those who were leaving the Board for their contributions.

An annual highlight of the party is the gift exchange. This year, a screen and projector were available to show the items to the audience. The following photos show the gifts and the happy recipients.









Several vendors had sent gifts for the party. Chuck specifically mentioned Woodworkers Source for their generous donation of a gift certificate, which was given to Ginnie O'Brien in appreciation for the many snacks she brings to club meetings, and for their donation of many wood blanks. He also mentioned Backburner's contributions and support. Recently, club members donated turned objects for Backburner's holiday party. Chuck then drew names for prizes to be given to members from those vendors.

Those who participated in the gift exchange set out their new treasures so others could wander around and see them closer. Although the event came to a close, many attendees stayed to visit a bit longer or wandered through the gingerbread display at the Resort.

Appreciation plaques for some of the vendors



Christmas at YEI

Bob Scaboo, Ric Davis and Chuck Brown were invited to Yavapai Exceptional Industries (YEI) for their annual Holiday Party on December 19. The reindeer were being rested for their busy December 24th night, so Santa came by helicopter. The YEI folks were thrilled. (This has been a YEI tradition for at least 15 years!)

We again extended our sincerest appreciation to Bill and Cody, YEI leaders, for PAW's use of their facility for our monthly meetings. They expressed how happy they are to have us. It's a wonderful relationship we have with YEI. (Don't forget that YEI is a QCO - Qualified Charitable Organization - when you are filing your Arizona tax return each year.)



Stocking Stuffer Sale: December 20, 2025

This popular sales event is held annually and is sponsored by the Yavapai County Jeep Posse. Gary Frank was the organizer of PAW's booth at this event which is held at the Grace Sparkes Center in Prescott. The proceeds benefit club programs for the upcoming year. PAW members are generous and the donations from club members to this event filled three tables. It is always a delight to talk to the many customers and browsers who look through the many items members have contributed. Many return each year to buy another bowl or ornament for themselves or as a gift. Despite the fact that it was only a few days before Christmas, the club earned around \$1,200 during this sale.



Back, L-R: Chuck Van Demark, Susan Kissel, Ken Allen, Mark Oglesby, Ric Davis, Gary Frank, Ken Kissel, Savannah Murphy, Susan Murphy

Front, L-R: Dan Hall, Kathy Allen, Chuck Brown

Below: Todd and Sharon Lyons gave away snowmen made by Yavapai College students to children at the sale. Big smiles!



Partnership with Yavapai College

Yavapai College Students Make Snowmen for Pre-School Children

As part of a holiday initiative, Yavapai College Woodturning students honed their craftsmanship by creating dozens of snowmen as special gifts for preschool children at the Del E. Webb Family Enrichment Center which is located on the Yavapai College Prescott Campus. Through this project, students in the woodturning program not only improved their lathe skills with precise cutting but also contributed to fostering a sense of community and creativity.

Women in Turning (WIT) members of the Prescott Area Woodturners jumped in to help by spending a day in the Yavapai College woodturning lab creating their versions of the perfect snowman. (See photo in the WIT article on page 21.)

Preschool children were then invited and given a tour of the woodturning lab where the snowmen were made. Children met several of the creators of the snowmen and concluded their tour by choosing their own snowman. While the preschoolers were thrilled with their gift, adult creators were observed smiling, and enjoying the many comments made by the children.





Chips 'n Grits Discussions

Moderated by Bruce Butler

(Wood chips, not potato chips and sanding grits, not hominy grits!)



November 13, 2025

Bruce chose the topic "NASA Turnings:" What were the events that led you to "launching" a piece off your lathe? Fifteen members shared a variety of ways their projects gave new challenges when they came off the lathe. When one member was turning a piece that had been cored, he had the belt at a high torque setting that was too slow for turning the object. He changed the belt but didn't turn down the speed. At 3000 rpm, the piece attacked his ceiling, dust collector and face shield. Always turn it down when making changes, and always wear a face shield.

A few stories were shared about pieces making holes in the ceiling due to similar speed issues or due to catches. There were several discussions about the jaws being too tight or not tight enough. It's also helpful to be sure the jaws' screws are tightly screwed into the chuck.

One member learned the hard way that it's important to turn off the lathe before turning off the vacuum chuck. Jam chucks can be more helpful with a bit of added tape at times. Grain direction can affect the success of a mortise or a tenon.

One of the amazing lessons was that glue sticks have a shelf life of one to two years once they are out of the package. One member had a glue block separate when using glue sticks that were about a decade old. He now uses professional construction glue sticks, but even they may have a shelf life. Most of the members admitted that their glue sticks may be extinct.

One member showed a piece from a radial shake that had separated while he was turning and could have taken out his eye if he hadn't been wearing his face shield. When holding a piece in place with the tailstock against it to register it on the chuck, it's important to finish tightening the jaws before turning on the lathe.

A shared video about tenons was

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3uDMxqWboxA> . To watch Chips 'n Grits, go to <https://youtu.be/53KloMvtPKw> .

In 2026, Bruce Peek will be the moderator of this discussion group.



Workshop November 14, 2025

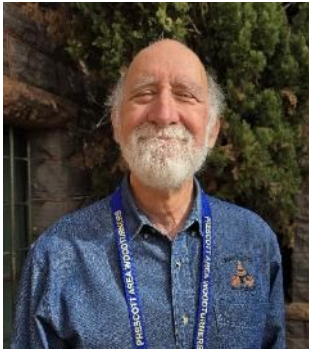
Six members of the WIT group met at the Yavapai College woodturning shop to make holiday items as well as work on other projects. Dean Humphrey was working on a project with his classes to make fifty snowmen for the college preschool program. The preschoolers would be able to paint them as part of their December activities. The WIT group decided to contribute to that project by making several more. They also made some icicle snowmen to sell at the Stocking Stuffer sale later in the month. It was a day to practice spindle turning techniques. Savannah was able to finish painting her eccentric wig stand.



Left to right: Dean Humphrey, Sally Kasner, Barbara Roberts-Hartman, Kathy Allen, Susan Murphy, Savannah Murphy, Donna Richardson



Member Profiles



Gary Frank, Member since July 2010

What has been your Wood Turning journey?

I started out as a flat boarder making bookcases etc. Once we moved to Prescott, I met Jim Muehleisen while we were taking a hiking class at the college. He was president of the club at that time. He told me about the club and the classes at Yavapai College. I started taking the wood turning class and met Ed Jones, Walt (Spence) Spencer, Jerry Shugars and Ken Flinn. After the first year of classes, we decided that we needed to do something during the summer. We started the Tuesday Breakfasts and started making woodturning accessories and doing demos at Ed's shop after breakfast. We joined the club in 2010 and it wasn't long before I was asked to help out on the May and August sales on the square. I spent seven and half years on the board, 6 months as a member at large, three years as treasurer, three years as president, and one year as past president. Since then, I have performed special assignments for the Board and have done many demonstrations for the club and at the college.

What aspect of the Prescott Area Woodturners club do you value the most?

What I really like about the Prescott Area Woodturners is how great the people are. Always ready to give a helping hand or the use of their equipment. Also, the depth of knowledge and expertise is outstanding. You can get help with almost anything. The Tuesday breakfasts are a great way to see what people are turning, get help on a project or just spend the time BSing (mostly about woodturning).

What was your career journey?

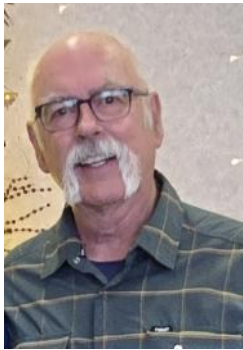
Before we moved to Prescott, I worked on the Space Shuttle for 30 years, seven at the Kennedy Space Center and 23 years in Southern California with Rockwell International and then Boeing after they bought Rockwell Space Division.

Can you share with us an interesting fact about you that most don't know?

I worked in the Main Propulsion System for 10 years and the rest of the time on integration payloads to fly on the shuttle.

When you are not wood turning, what do you like to do?

In my spare time I volunteer at the Hospital and help with the Central Arizona Concert Band concerts. Of course, the major thing we do in our spare time is travel. I have been to 49 of the states and have been to 64 Countries and counting. Hopefully we will add two more next year. We really like the small groups with Overseas Adventure Travel, especially their River Boats and small ships (50 to 90 people).



Doug Greene, Member since September 2025

What has been your Wood Turning journey?

I retired in 2006, a year ahead of a good friend. He already was a wood turner and he agreed to teach me wood turning if I taught him how to retire. I've been hooked ever since. Probably the one aspect I enjoy about wood turning is the creativity and endless possibilities it offers. And of course, wood is like that box of chocolates. You never know what you're going to get until you open it. I like turning locally sourced woods as much as possible. When I lived in California it was redwood, maple, bay, walnut and buckeye. Now that I'm in Arizona it's been turning juniper, cottonwood and some mesquite.

I've learned that in wood turning patience is important. Whether it's safety or the wood itself. You just can't rush into a project. Secondly, you need to let the wood tell you what to do, whether it's cracks, voids or the grain of the wood, it will tell you what you can and can't do with it. Thirdly, don't be scared of trying something new. There are so many avenues available to wood turners today. Give it a try.

What aspect of the Prescott Area Woodturners club do you value the most?

I was in a turning club in Fresno Ca. and the Central Coast Woodturners of San Luis Obispo. I've attended several AAW symposiums, attended workshops with

David Ellsworth, David Marks and Jimmy Clews. Probably the thing I enjoy the most about the Prescott Area Woodturners is how active they are in the community. I've also found that everyone is so open to sharing ideas, and receptive to questions or concerns I might have, but most importantly everyone is so welcoming.

What was your career journey?

I taught biology in Calif. at the high school and middle school levels for 38 years. I also coached water polo and swimming for about 25 years. I was very active in Lions International as well as the National Swim Coaches Association.

Can you share with us an interesting fact about you that most don't know?

One thing that most people don't know about me is that I used to collect road kills and dissect them in my biology classes. I've collected everything from snakes, eagles, skunks to larger animals like deer and even a badger.

When you are not wood turning, what do you like to do?

In my spare time I love to hunt and fish. I'm also learning wild life photography and of course having five grand kids and one great grandchild occupies a lot of time.

Website News

Jay Loden makes changes to the PAW website every month. Each month he features a Member/Artist and shows some of their work. Denis Lueders was the Artist of the Month for November. Chuck Brown was the Artist of the Month for December.

Each month Jay selects a variety of online videos for members to view if they are interested. The most recent ones concerned an ogee platter with beautiful grain and an entertaining video about workshop tips that Boomers know. To find some of the videos he's found, look at the choices at <https://prescottareawoodturners.com/previous-news-and-information/>.

In addition, there has been a page added to the Classified section listing items members would like to have. Check it out to see if you can help someone get one more tool that you no longer want. <https://prescottareawoodturners.com/classified-ads-for-members/>

LIBRARY NEWS

Happy New Year, Woodturners!

As we welcome the start of a brand-new year, it's a perfect opportunity to reflect, reset, and set a goal to try something new at the lathe. Whether you're looking to learn a new technique, explore a different style, or simply spark some fresh creativity, the new year is a great time to challenge yourself and grow your skills.

Be sure to stop by the library at our next meeting and take advantage of our wide selection of books and DVDs. From beginner-friendly guides to advanced projects and inspiring demonstrations, there's something for everyone to enjoy and learn from. You never know—your next great idea might be waiting in our books!

Let's make this year one of creativity, learning, and turning something amazing together.

Heidi DeFazio, Librarian

Tuesday Breakfasts at Backburner

Tuesday Breakfasts are informal gatherings of PAW members who chat over good food. Topics range from current projects to problems or new-found solutions. Breakfast goers can be found at the Backburner Restaurant in Prescott Valley at 7:00 a.m. on Tuesday mornings. If you want to learn more about these gatherings, contact President Chuck Brown.

The conversations, shared projects, friendships and common interests in woodturning make Tuesday breakfasts a valuable part of the PAW community events. Chuck encourages more members to join the group at Backburner each week. Bring your projects and ideas to share with other turners and friends.

The largest group ever came to breakfast on November 11, 2025. There were 24 members covering the back section of the restaurant.



Left table, along the wall: L-R: Chuck Brown, Joel Brooks, Ken Nelson, Susan Murphy

Same table, right side: Dave Henderson, Bob Scaboo, (Kathy Allen taking photo), Blain Dalrymple

Right table, left side, front to back: Terry Starnes, Jack Benson, Gary Frank, Jerry Shugars, Mark Oglesby, Dan Hall, Bruce Potter, Steve Comstock

Same table, right side, front to back: Blair Butler, Bruce Butler, Bob Zimmerman, Walt Spencer, Ric Davis, Ken Allen, Dave Smith, Jerry Sappington

Woodettes Social Group

by Marge Hunt, Coordinator

November 13, 2025

We were a big group today - travelers are back home! We were at Augie's at the Pine Ridge Marketplace. They gave us a big space to ourselves, which helped with the noise level. It is not possible for 14 people to have one conversation, but all 14 of us chatted happily through our delicious lunches. Show and Tell provided several quilts, so beautiful that ladies at a table in the next room asked us to bring them over for a closer look!



Front row, L-R: Barbara Stierwalt, Mary Kelly, Suzanne Shirley, Linda Nelson, Patti Spencer

Back row: L-R: Kathy Allen, Sari Butler, Jamie Davis, Niki Gean, Elaine Smith, Karen Friedman, Patty Brown, Marge Hunt, Nancy Hall



As your Safety Chair for 2026, I felt it was important to begin the year with the basic safety tips for operating a lathe. They are crucial for beginners but should be revisited often by experienced turners.

- Wear safety glasses or a full-face mask every time you turn, no exceptions.
- Dust mask or respirator advisable normally but essential when sanding.
- Tie long hair back.
- No long sleeves.
- Take off rings, bangles, bracelets or a wristwatch.
- Remember to remove chuck keys or any other tools used to tighten any parts before turning on (hang them or use a magnetic holder near the on-off switch so you can't forget).
- Check clearance of stock from the tool rest by rotating the workpiece by hand before turning the motor on.
- Start at low speed.
- Turn off lathe if making adjustments.
- Check your turning tools are sharp before using.
- Try to have two hands on the turning tools at all times (not always possible but good general practice).
- Remove tool rest before sanding.
- If doing groove burning never hold wire, cord or string in the fingers. Always wrap around scrap wood handles
- Ensure the material is firmly clamped in the chuck or between centers, removing the chuck key immediately.
- Position the tool rest close to the workpiece (about 1/8" to 1/4") but not touching, and keep it adjusted as you work.
- Start at the lowest speed and increase gradually; use correct RPMs for material size and type.
- Remove clutter.
- Do not stand directly in front when starting the machine to avoid flying chips or parts.
- Never measure, adjust, or tighten anything while the lathe is running; stop the machine completely first.
- Keep hands and fingers away from rotating parts and the tool rest area
- Use a brush or blunt tool to remove chips; never use hands.
- Never leave a running lathe unattended.
- Don't take excessively heavy cuts on long, thin stock that could bend and fly out.

Bob Zimmerman, Safety Chair

PAW IS GENEROUS

Empty Bowls

Empty Bowls is a fundraiser for local food banks, for which local ceramic and wood artisans donate "empty" bowls for an event on the Plaza in Prescott in mid-September. Bruce Potter and Steve Comstock are the coordinators for this event for PAW. Bruce collects bowls throughout the year and Steve coordinates the PAW demonstration during the actual Empty Bowls event. Each January, the president of the club suggests a goal for the number of bowls to be contributed. Chuck Brown will be announcing that at the January general meeting.

Beads of Courage

I met with Jenni Davis, Child Life Specialist at Phoenix Children's Hospital, who had requested 15-20 bowls.

I had 19 bowls and delivered all of them to PCH on Friday Dec 12. This is a picture of all of the 19 bowls.

Thanks this time goes to Dan Hall, Gary Frank, Denis Lueders, Dick Kelly and John Paschal. I want to express a special recognition to Phil Bird who produced 9 of the 19 bowls.

As always, I can accept donations anytime they are available and I will store them until the facilities need them.

A link to information concerning bowl production specifics is <https://beadsofcourage.org/empty-bowls/>. Please adhere to these requirements. Bowls must be washable with a disinfectant. After that BE CREATIVE!!! --Bruce Peek



(Above by Phillip Bird)

Wig Stand Donations to YRMC

Recently, an article was posted in ‘Connections Fall 2025 Impact Report’ published by the YRMC Foundation that described PAW’s wig stand donations to the Breast Center. To quote the article:

“Women in Turning: The Ladies of Prescott Area Woodturners

All around Yavapai County are men and women fascinated with how to transform a chunk of discarded wood into a one-of-a-kind treasure. In addition to bowls, jewelry boxes, vases and much more, the Prescott Area Woodturners and Women in Turning recently found a new and wonderfully fulfilling purpose for their wood crafting talents, namely the creation of dozens of ornamental wig stands to benefit local women undergoing chemotherapy treatment with the Baskin Breast Care Center at YRMC who require wigs after losing their hair.

The more than 100 members of the organization find woodturning to be life-enriching, intellectually and physically stimulating, with a sense of purpose to contribute for the community good. As Walter Spencer, the organization’s vice president, puts it, “Every piece of wood is unique because of what nature has done to it. We are continually surprised with what we find.”

These unique and beautiful wood masterpieces represent the individuality of each of our patients undergoing treatments. We at the YRMC Foundation are constantly inspired by the creative ways our community comes forward to bring comfort and grace to our vulnerable patients.”

Kathy Allen recently delivered a dozen wig stands and has collected another one recently to contribute in January. She was told at that time that the YRMC coordinator at the Breast Center has enough for about two months. She appreciates all that have been given and hopes members continue making them.



At the January general meeting, the WIT group will again be selling wig stand kits to make it easier for members who wish to make them. More information will be sent to members in January.

Support and Thank Yous for Vendors



President Chuck Brown and Membership Director Dave Henderson presented a wooden 'thank you' plaque to Backburner waitresses Jamie and Tanya in appreciation for the support given to the club by that restaurant.

This year, many members made wooden items and donated them to Backburner for use in their holiday party. Around twenty-six PAW members contributed to that event due to their appreciation for the restaurant's weekly enthusiasm and care while serving Tuesday breakfasts to club members. Jamie asked Ken and Kathy Allen to stand near all of the gifts to represent the club in a photo.



Chuck and Dave also presented a Prescott Area Woodturners mug to Turners Warehouse in appreciation for their support for the club.

Supporting Vendors and Member Discounts

The vendors listed below supported us during our recent holiday party.

Please support the following vendors who support us:



A list of the vendors who give discounts to members and how to take advantage of the discounts can be found on our website at this link:

<https://prescottareawoodturners.com/discounts/> You will need to use the password that is provided at the beginning of each year. New members will be given the password after they join the club. To take advantage of these discounts, make sure your dues have been paid for the year.

Upcoming 2025 PAW Club General Meetings

Programs are subject to change as necessary. Notices will be sent by email prior to each meeting.

Monthly general meetings are held at Yavapai Exceptional Industries (YEI) located at 6708 Corsair Avenue in Prescott. The meetings begin at noon, but members often gather early for friendly chats and admiration of the Show and Tell table. Please bring a chair when you come to the meeting.

Date	General Meetings
January 24	Jay Loden & Mark Oglesby: Resin and Woodturning
February 28	IRD: Jeff Hornung: Morocco Blue Bowl
March 28	Gene Perryman: Enhancing with Copper and Other Items
April 18	IRD: Jim Echter: The Sensational Skew
May 16	John Armstrong: Offset Turning and Airbrush
June 27	Picnic
July 25	TBD
August 22	Tool Auction
September 26	TBD
October 24	IRD: Philip Greenwood: Natural Edge Bowl
November 21	TBD
December 6	Holiday Party

*IRD = Interactive Remote Demonstration

The online calendar for the Club can be found at
<https://prescottareawoodturners.com/calendar-test/>

Photo Gallery

This is a collection of some 'other photos' that weren't included in the previous newsletter events sections.

