

# TURNING Threads

October 2025



Barry Grill demonstrated the art of making two piece bird houses.

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**AAW**

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION  
OF WOODTURNERS

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Hi All,

Fall is here with some beautiful weather. Hope this finds everybody in good health and able to do some turning.

We had a great demo by Barry Grill making 2 part bird house ornaments.

There will be an Open House at Robust Tools November 1st at Barnaveld WI. It is a great time to see how the lathes are made and all the accessories for them. It is open to everyone. We will be making a trip down to the Open House Saturday November 1st and will be leaving the club house at 6:00 am. I have a full vehicle, so if you don't mind driving, we may need another vehicle for more people.

We had a small group for our Open House on Saturday but the lathes were getting a good workout. Don't forget if you need to have your tools sharpened you can bring them and we will get them sharpened.

The President's challenge of a 4" to 5" bowl was won by Dan Wold. We had several really nice bowls entered.

The President's challenge for November is a 2 part bird house ornament.

Remember to be at the club house before 6:00 am. November 1st if you would like to car pool to Barnaveld.

See you in November.

BE SAFE but have fun

**Bob**



## Monthly Meetings

First Wednesday  
of the month

Board Meeting at  
6:00 pm

Social Hour at 6:00 pm

Meeting and  
Demonstration

7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

## Open House

Second Saturday  
of the month

8:00 am to 12:00 pm

**Members and interested persons may contact the  
Chippewa Valley Woodturners Guild by email at:  
[woodturnercvvg@gmail.com](mailto:woodturnercvvg@gmail.com)**

## The Missing Neighbor

### Cast of Characters

#### Eric Ahlgren

Known as A.G., he retired and returned to his family's non-working farm outside of Scanden, Wisconsin. A.G. fixed up the old machine shed to house woodturning equipment and formed an informal group of woodturners with some old high school buddies. The group sometimes inadvertently get involved in local mysteries and somehow manage to solve them much to the contempt of the local sheriff named Barton.

#### Myron Goodlove

Known as Goody, never left Scanden, Wisconsin. He took over the family farm but couldn't compete with the corporate farmers. He stayed in Scanden doing odd jobs and saving most of the money from the farm. He married a Scanden girl and is living with his wife in a small house in town.

#### Aras Egle

Known as E.G. He was adopted from Lithuania when he was three years old and lived in town. He left Scanden and became an engineer. He retired and came back to Scanden where the cost of living was cheaper.

#### Alfred Schneider

Known as Snid, he took over the family cattle business but wasn't good at it but retained the business at a lower level. After many years of struggling, Snid sold all the cattle and rented the land to a nearby corporate farm to retire but still lived on the farm.

#### Sheriff Jerome Barton

The two-time elected sheriff of the county, Barton was known for his lack of interest in investigations and minor mysteries in Scanden often fell to the woodturners. His strutting manner was a

source of humor amongst the woodturners and often compared him with Sheriff Buford T. Justice in the movie *Smokey and the Bandit*.

### Part One

After the so-called heist on the woodturner's wood and tools, A.G. decided to get a lock for the side shed door which they used to get in the shop. He put it on and studied it. It was the type of lock that had a neumatic key pad and not a key because it would mean multiple keys being available and capable of being mislaid. One concern was that his fellow turners would not remember the numbers. The numbers he picked seemed easy to him because of the sequence that he chose. E.G. would be delighted but Goody and Snid, not so much. Basically, the sequence formed two triangles – 1,9,3,7,1. All corner numbers on the pad.

There was something else bothering him. The machine shed still had the very large doors for machinery to come in and out. The large door was a large metal door on rollers at the top though the door was supported on the inside with a frame. These doors were meant for easy access and not meant to keep out anyone uninvited.

The inside of the large door was blocked by the renovation A.G. made when making the shed suitable for woodturning on the colder days. But there was a gap between the door and the wall that had been put up, but not wide enough for a person to traverse but with the door wide open, one could access the shed. The shop was basically a room in a room.

While pondering the security of the doors, a car drove up to the shed and A.G. turned to see who it was. It was E.G. He approached A.G. with his hands in his pockets. Something E.G. did when he was going to ask for something. He greeted A.G. and then noticed the numeric lock.

"Finally got a lock, I see." He commented.

"Yeah."

“Got a numeric pad I see.”

“Yeah.”

“What are the numbers?”

“1, 9, 3, 7, and 1.”

“Triangle sequence. Good choice.”

A.G. was getting annoyed with this small talk.

“E.G., I assume you are here for more than an admiration of a lock?”

E.G. tried to answer casually. “Actually I am. It occurred to me that we should mingle with some of our fellow woodturners to get some first-hand information on techniques to do better turns.”

“Think so. I take it you have something in mind?”

“Yeah, I do. Did you know that the AAW, American Association of Woodturners, is having their annual symposium in St. Paul next month?”

“No, why would I know that?” A.G. said slightly disinterestedly.

“A.G., you are such a recluse so it’s no wonder you didn’t know about the AAW. You need to get out of this town and see more of the world.”

“I did. Didn’t care for it.”

“Well, A.G.,” he said with slight annoyance, “If you don’t want to improve your turning, some of us would like to. Well, stay here you hermit. I’ll bet the others will want to go and we will have a good time in the big city.”

E.G. left in a huff and A.G. gave the lock one more look and then returned to the house but didn’t go inside. He sat on the porch and looked out over the farm buildings. Odd that E.G. got so riled up about a meeting of woodturners. But thinking about it, E.G. was right. He had become a sort of hermit. Being alone out in the country can isolate a man. He thought briefly about his wife that he had for twenty-seven years. There was only one child, a girl, Francine, who died in infancy. His wife Angela was never the same after Francine died and there were no more attempts to have children. An-

gella eventually had to be institutionalized and died after two years.

A.G. was never the same either. He never gave a thought about getting married or even dating again all these years. In many ways he had accepted what life had handed out to him and went on the best he could. So, he was back at the place he grew up. Not that he was overly excited about it but it put him in a different environment so the deaths didn’t weigh on him so much.

Well. He said to himself, I should get out of my funk and rub the edges of society. E.G., Goody and Snid did give him a new look on living and they were important to him. He decided to call E.G. tomorrow and join the trek to St. Paul.

The next day, A.G. called E.G. “E.G., are Goody and Snid going to the Symposium with you?”

E.G. didn’t answer at first. “I didn’t ask them. A.G. it wouldn’t be right if you were not with us.”

“Oh. Why is that?”

“You have a take command attitude and we usually follow you. I thought things would go smoother if all four of us went together.”

“I’m glad to hear that, E.G. I’ve thought about it and you are right. I have become a recluse. I changed my mind so see if you can get the others on board and we will do it.”

E.G. was elated and said he would call the other two right away.

Later E.G. called and said he had arranged a planning meeting at his house that night at 7:00. Details needed to be worked out for the trip.

A.G. agreed and showed up at 7:00 with the others.

E.G. sat them down at his computer and brought up the AAW web site. E.G. was the only one to have a laptop computer though all of them had a cell phone.

Even though a cell phone could be used to get the information, it was easier on the eyes on a computer.

“Let’s see what we got.” Said E.G.

“How much is it going to cost, E.G.?” Snid asked with concern.

“Depends on what you want to do, Snid. Do you want to see some demonstrations or just the trade show?”

“Well, how much is a demonstration?”

“The demonstrations are what will be costly. For one day, \$242.00. For more days it is more.”

“Gosh, I can’t afford that. Suppose I don’t want to see demonstrations?”

“General admission to the trade show is free.”

“What’s at a trade show?”

“Businesses that sell things for turning like lathes, tools and accessories. But you can get a lot of information about turning by talking to them.”

E.G. brought up a web page with the list of vendors. He perused them and spotted the lathe vendors, Robust, Powermatic and One Way. Something he was interested in seeing and talking to the vendors.

A.G. wanted to know where it was and how to get there.

The web site showed it was going to be at the St. Paul RiverCentre on Kellogg Boulevard. E.G. went to browser and entered the address and clicked on MAPS and put it in satellite mode.

“Well, would you look at that.” Snid said with amazement. Then he took a closer look and pointed to what looked like an odd tangled mess.

“What’s that E.G.?”

E.G. chuckled. “It’s several highways coming together with on and off ramps so you can switch

from one to another without stop signs. It looks confusing and it does take some quick thinking and knowing where you are going to traverse something like this. It’s often referred to as a spaghetti junction for obvious reasons.”

“Yeah, it does look like that.”

“Now, how do we get there from here is the next consideration.” E.G. typed in Scanden as the starting point and the street address of the St. Paul RiverCentre. It came back 255 miles with approximate time at 3 hours and 50 minutes. “Now, that is approximate not actual. Looks like we should get on Interstate 90 at Portage then switch to Interstate 94 which will bring us into St. Paul and a Kellogg Blvd exit.

“We have to figure in stopping from time to time for senior breaks and having breakfast. We will have to leave no later than 5:00am to get there by 9:30am or so to take in as much as we can. It is a big event. It opens at 8:30 until 6:00.”

“So, we should plan on coming back no later than 6:00 so we can be back by dark?” Asked A.G.

“It would give us more than enough time.” Added E.G.

“Do we have to buy something?” asked Goody.

“Not unless you want to.”

“Don’t know what I would buy anyway.”

E.G. then added, “I’ll do the driving since I have been in large city traffic before.”

“Good enough, E.G.”, added A.G. “We will go about our business until then.”

A few days before the AAW trip, three of the group were in the shop for their biweekly turning get together. Goody was absent due to a medical appointment in Portage. Nothing serious but he was told to check it out at Aspirus Health.

A.G. was cleaning his Jet lathe bed. It had been humid in the last couple of days and he wanted to prevent any rust that might form. E.G. was also cleaning off his Jet lathe down to the smallest part. Snid always thought that was amazing that E.G. could take the lathe apart and put it back together. When Snid commented on it, E.G. always replied that there were not all that many parts. The motor was the complicated part and when it was gone, it was gone.

Snid decided to sharpen his gouges and went to the bench grinder that was in the far corner of the shop. It was a Rikon and was bought used like all their tools. As he was sharpening his half inch bowl gouge, E.G. looked at what Snid was doing. Snid was not the best sharpener of the group but what caught his eye was the bowl gouge seemed to be getting shorter.

“Snid, you need to get another bowl gouge. That one is getting too short to turn safely with.”

Snid stopped and looked at the bowl gouge then looked at E.G. “Never had a problem with it. Not a bowl person anyway. Huh. Getting harder to sharpen it though.”

E.G. came over to the grinder looked at the grinder wheels. They were Aluminum Oxide which were the less expensive wheels. “Say, guys.”

A.G. turned his head toward E.G. and looked down and over his glasses. “Yeah.”

“We should consider getting CBN grinder wheels. They are a lot better for quicker sharpening with less heat amongst other things.”

“Can’t use them on any tools except yours E.G. You have HSS tools and some hardened carbons. The others are just carbon-based metals.”

Snid was listening to this and went over to his tool rack and looked at the tools. “A.G. How do you know if the tool is hardened or not?”

“Get a file and scrap the metal. If it makes a scratch, it is not hardened.”

“Oh.” Snid got a file from the tool box and scraped the bowl gouge. “Huh. It left a scratch.”

E.G. sighed. “I have to admit that CBN wheels are expensive, but the price has come down since it was first introduced. They are about the same as diamond wheels. Around \$125. How about having one-wheel CBN and the other non CBN?”

Before A.G. could answer, there was a knock on the door of the shed. The door was open and A.G. said to come in. In came a stranger to A.G. and E.G. but Snid knew him. He was Brayden Brewer, Brubaker’s son-in-law. He was a small man with an egg-like head and a somewhat permanent expression that seemed like he was intensely listening or looking.

Neighbor Brubaker was in his nineties and still farming. Well, sort of. He hired it done but the farm was sufficiently automated that it presented no problem to the Crowley boys who actually did the farming and subsequently didn’t interfere with attending their own farm. It did bring in needed income for the Crowley’s small farm and they enjoyed the big GPS guided machines.

Brubaker was a bit short and a bit bow legged. A head full of white hair and a rugged face indicative of being outdoors a lot. Most of all he could be a bit long winded, especially when he had a good story to tell. And he loved playing practical jokes.

Brayden had a pained and worried look. “Hello, um, I’m looking for Snid.”

“Here.” Snid called out. “You’re Brubaker’s son-in-law.”

“Yes. Um. Have you seen him lately?”

“No. Not for so many days.”

A.G. spoke up. “What’s the problem?”

Brayden spoke in a soft voice which must have irritated Brubaker who was just the opposite. “I haven’t been able to reach him in over a week and his daughter and I are concerned. We can usually

reach him most of the time but this has been the longest time since the last time.”

“Did you contact the sheriff?” Asked E.G.

“Yes. He came out to the farm and looked around. There didn’t seem to be anything disturbed. Even his car and truck were still there. There was no disturbance in the house or on the grounds. And his cell phone was on the kitchen table.”

“I take it the sheriff just told to wait for the body to show up?”

“Well, nothing that crude. But he said he would have to wait for events before he could do any more.”

“Sounds like Barton. He is not much of an investigator. What did you think we could do?”

“I knew that Snid is familiar with him and I thought maybe he or some others would have an idea what might have happened to him.”

“We didn’t know he had disappeared. Funny that his farm crew hadn’t noticed and said something?” Commented A.G. “Are you sure he isn’t doing a fake death and funeral again?”

“I doubt it. Volkmann, the funeral director is retired and Peters is also not sheriff any more. No one left to go to orchestrate that again.”

“E.G. and Snid. Heard anything about the nephews snooping around?”

They both said no.

“Loan me your phone E.G. I left mine in the house.”

“Uh, who you going to call?” Asked E.G.

“The town gossip and rumor mill. Bertha. Who else?”

That got a couple of chuckles.

A.G. dialed her number. “Bertha, this is A.G.”

Bertha was a widow with a lot of energy which was mostly centered on finding out the secrets of the town and spreading it around to her network. These little tidbits of interesting facts and scandal usually got around the entire town. Bertha was constantly being admonished for her gossip but she always claimed it was meant only for a few.

“Yeah. A.G. Got any good rumors to pass on. I’m a little short now.”

A.G. chuckled. “Maybe or maybe you all ready have one to give and don’t know it yet.”

“Not possible. I’m the ear of the town. What you got?”

“Heard anything about Brubaker disappearing?”

“Brubaker? Haven’t heard anything worth passing along since he faked that funeral. I milked that one for quite a while.” She said with a laugh.

“Now, Bertha. Any rumors about three scalawag brothers hanging around in town?”

“Hm. Matter of fact, but unconfirmed mind you, that there are three guys of scalawag description seen hanging around Mable’s Café every morning. They then seem to disappear after their breakfast and then show up the next morning for breakfast.”

“Can you get your network to finding out if they are Brubaker’s nephews returning to search for Brubaker’s will?”

“Think that’s why he disappeared?”

“Could be. Brubaker does some rather outlandish things when he’s in a playful mood.”

“I’ll get the scoop from Mable and get some info and get my network alerted.”

“Thanks, Bertha.”

A.G. gave Bertha the number on the cell phone and hung up.

“Now what A.G.?”

A.G. paced a little. “What do you think about us

doing the investigation? We know that the less than stellar job Barton did. Since Brubaker hasn't contacted anyone, he may be injured. I would not like to see Brubaker's real funeral in this circumstance."

E.G. and Snid gave A.G. a questionable look. E.G. spoke up. "A.G., we played detective once already. It turned out okay, but this really is a police matter."

A.G. replied passionately, "It should be but it is not turning out that way. I'm concerned about a neighbor, E.G. Not just anyone. I didn't know him

very well but I think anyone of us would hope others will be concerned over our welfare. We may be his only hope. And if he is okay, then we can say we did something."

"You're right. But A.G. You need to get a sign put up for our group."

"What's it going to say, Snid?"

"Woodturners' Detective Agency."

They all burst out laughing.

## Other News From the October Meeting

### Raffles

Our club has picked up 4 different turning tools (unhandled) that we will put up for a raffle, one each quarter. This gives at least 3 meeting times and multiple news-letters to let people know what is being raffled. For 2025 (Oct-Nov-Dec) raffle, we have a 5/8" bowl gouge in Nitrided HSS steel from Robust Tools. The Raffle tickets will be 1 ticket for \$5 and 5 tickets for \$20. Tickets will be available at each meeting and we will draw for the winner at the end of December's meeting. (See pix uploaded with photos)



There will be another similar tool up for raffle starting in January.

### Challenges

Bob Eberhardt picked up some \$10 Menards and Kwik Trip gift certificates to present to challenge winners.

### October Challenge

The winner of the small bowl challenge from the September meeting was Dan Wold with his Cherry Burl small bowl with some resin fill. Judging were Bob E. and Dan B.



### November Challenge

Barry Grill made the two piece bird houses for his demo at November meeting, so the challenge for everyone is to make a two piece bird house ornament. (Having the bird on it for the meeting is optional.)

### DJB

## A Bit of Humor



## FUTURE DEMONSTRATIONS

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Meetings are the first Wednesday of the month at 7 pm.  
Open house is the second Saturday of the month from  
8 am to 12 pm

### Meeting Dates and Demonstrations

November 5— Bob Eberhardt—Make that Snowman

December 3—Dan Brandner—Learning the Skew

January 7—Not Yet Determined

February 4—Not Yet Determined

March 4—Not Yet Determined

April 1—Not Yet determined

### November Open House Date

November 8 from 8:00 am to 12:00pm. If coming after 10:00, please inform us through the web site the night before at: [woodturnercvvg@gmail.com](mailto:woodturnercvvg@gmail.com). Meetings and Open House are held in the Eau Claire Insulation building at 1125 Starr Ave on the northeast side of Eau Claire, WI. Look for the meeting sign. No sign—No meeting.

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## Next Month

### Make That Snowman

### Bob Eberhardt



## Tool Rest Types



### **An Anecdote...**

#### **Did you ever wonder about the origin of the word/name "Chippewa"?**

The word "Chippewa" is an English exonym for the Ojibwe people, an Anishinaabe (Indigenous) group native to the Great Lakes region of North America. It derives from the Algonquian term otchipwa or ojibwa, meaning "to pucker," which refers to the distinctive puckered seam on traditional Ojibwe moccasins. The form "Chippewa" emerged in the mid-1700s as an anglicized version of the French pronunciation of Ojibwa, and it became the preferred term in the United States (while "Ojibway" or "Ojibwe" is more common in Canada). The Ojibwe themselves prefer Anishinaabe, meaning "original people" or "first men." The exact etymology of "Ojibwe" remains somewhat uncertain, but the puckering reference is the most widely accepted origin. -- Grok AI



[Musclewood Video](#)

[Muscle Tree Data](#)

[More Musclewood](#)

I was cutting up some Walnut I got from Bob that was a year old. You can see that at most it was dry from the outside to 2 inches. So a lot of moisture is still in it. Hopefully, now that I have downsized it, it can finish drying more quickly.

**DJB**



## Two Piece Birdhouse

### Barry Grill

It's always interesting to hear how our members got interested in wood-working and woodturning. Barry started out by making a dining room table without knowing anything about woodturning. His wife wanted to buy an expensive one (it probably was at the time) and Barry said he would make one commenting, "How hard can it be."

Being a farmer at the time, Barry was skilled at doing it himself. He even had the lumber for the table cut from his land (Birch and Cherry) and had someone saw the logs into usable boards. As a result, he has been making furniture for his home over the years and for his children.

Barry said he was the 13<sup>th</sup> member of the Chippewa Valley Woodturners guild in 2008 which started his years of turning and selling then items that he turns. Asked how many birdhouses he had made and he said thousands. He stated he sold them for \$20 but then raised it to \$25. He even has a customer that takes many of his birdhouses on consignment and usually sells them all.

The two-piece birdhouse is made from the same piece of wood. A denser wood is preferable like Walnut or Maple. Start off with a six inch or more turning square and round off with a roughing gouge. Barry then uses a skew for a smoother cut and lessens sanding.

The top of the birdhouse is turned conical at the foot end of the piece. Once turned, Barry hollows the top while still connected to the piece to lessen the weight. To hollow out the top, Barry uses a very small round bit carbide made by Hunter. In the process of hollowing out the top, a tenon is also created so it can fit into a hole in the body. He then drills a hole in the top for the hanger. Lightly sands the piece and finishes with spray lacquer. The top is then parted off.

The base is formed and a hole is drilled with two sizes of Forstner bits. Barry also hollows out the base to make it light weight. He also checks to make sure the top tenon fits in the hole created by in the base. He also drills two holes in the side of the base. One for the bird entrance and a smaller one for a perch for the bird. The hollowed-out base is then sanded using wrapped sand paper.

A last finish turning is made, sanding and the base sprayed with lacquer. The top is glued to the base. Next was making the perch. Barry turns down the remainder of the wood to make a small dowel to fit into the base to serve as the perch. Lastly the bird is added by gluing it to the perch. The bird was purchased from Factory Direct Craft. Item number is D211454. Sells in batches of 12.

An easy project requiring a bit of skill. Thank you Barry for an interesting demonstration.

**Tom Leonard**



# OCTOBER DEMONSTRATION



Left: Top of birdhouse before making tenon and hollowing.

Above: Member Kevin Schwartz hold barrier when spray lacquer is applied.

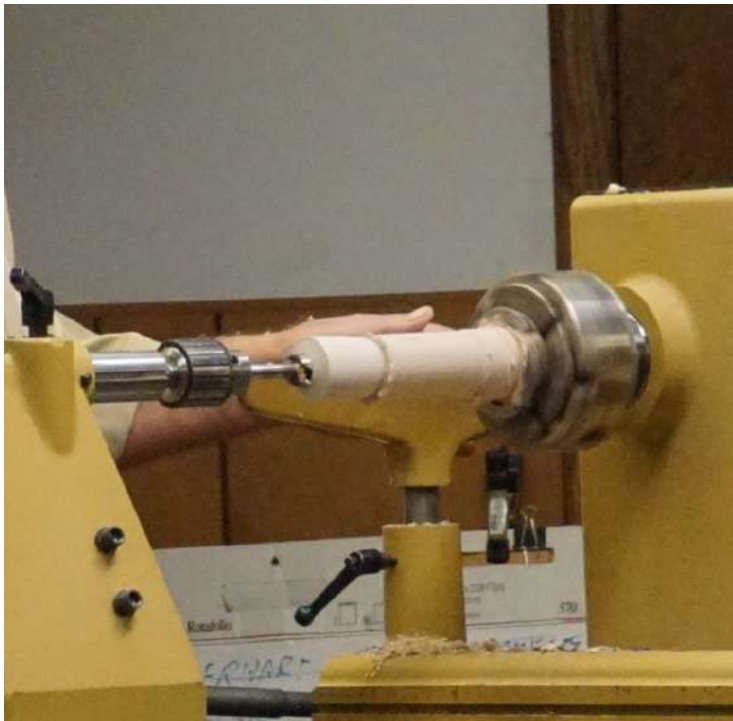


Above: The finished top from the side.

Above right: The tenon and hollowing around the tenon.

Right: The top of the top showing small hole for hanger.

# OCTOBER DEMONSTRATION



Above Left: Drilling the hole on the base piece.

Left Middle: Further sharpening of the base and using a foot center to hold the base.

Above: The small round carbide tool used to make the delicate hollowing of the top.

Right: Two two piece bird houses that were previously made by Barry. The demonstration was making similar birdhouses.



## Dan Wald



Dan Wald made a small bowl from a decidedly unturnable piece of beautiful wood. Dan added some resin to stabilize and the results were a fantastically stunning bowl which was the winner of the president's challenge.



## Paul Meske



Paul Meske brought two bowls for the president's challenge . One was made of spalted wood and the other of Walnut.



## Ron Bartz



Ron Bartz made a bowl for the president's challenge that has a beautiful grain.



## Brooke Erickson



Brooke Erickson made a mallet that demonstrated her skills at turning. Nicely done Brooke.



## Bruce Saatela



It's always interesting when a member turns something different. Bruce Saatela made a Captive Inverted top and cup. He also had to make a custom tool to make it. Surprises never end with this inventive group of woodturners.



## Fred Steffens



Fred Stephens obtained an empty cigar box and filled it with cigar pens. To hold the pens in place he had to make some small wood holders. Fred also made a bowl for the president's challenge.



## Joe Nycz



Joe Nycz made a natural edge bowl for the president's challenge. He also made 14 pens of various types.



**Photos for Show and Tell and Gallery provided by  
Dan Brandner and Tom Leonard**

**North Carolina**  
**Woodturning Symposium**

November 7-9, 2025  
Greensboro Coliseum  
Greensboro, NC

**Tennessee Association of**  
**Woodturners 2026**  
**Symposium**

January 30-31, 2026  
Franklin Marriott Hotel and  
Convention Center  
Franklin, TN

**Turn-On Chicago**  
**Woodturning Symposium**

July 30-August 2, 2026  
Hilton Hotel  
Northbrook, IL

**SW Florida Wood Art**  
**Expo**

January 9-10, 2026  
Charlotte Harbor Event Center  
Punta Gorda, FL

**Florida Woodturning**  
**Symposium**

February 20-22, 2026  
RP Funding Center  
Lakeland, FL

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