

# **Chips & Bits**

**Inside This Edition**

April 2020



**Providing an environment that fosters the art and craft of woodturning**

**A Publication of the Peace River Woodturners**

# **Passing Time????**

**In our troubled times I hope everyone has found something productive to do to pass the time. Time doesn't stop so don't let it beat you. I am sure all of you have come up with things to do whether it's the "honey do" list, working out in the yard or getting down to some creativeness in finishing some of those shelved projects in the shop. Myself, I've had many a project that I started and then it took a backseat on the shelf while I pursued something different. This has been a great time for me to clean off the shelf and finish the many unfinished projects.**

**Since we have not had an April meeting this issue of the PRW newsletter will look somewhat different. Thanks to Cheri's help with a request to send her pictures of what you have been up to during the Virus Shutdown, I thought I'd post some pictures of interest and a few other items that you may also find interesting.**

**Keep busy and keep a daily list of items to do and our troubled times will pass faster. Stay safe and follow the guidelines and we will hopefully get back to our normal routines soon.**

**Best to everyone.....**

**Bob Roehrig  
Secretary**

## Dick Strudgeon

### Long time PRW Member

I first met Dick Studgeon back in 2010 while attending my first PRW meeting in a tiny little room at the Charlotte County Cultural Center. Talk about one very likeable fella....Being from the Flint Michigan area myself and finding out Dick grew up and went to school in Flint we hit it off right away. Lots of great story's and times discussed about our pasts. Well I also found out Dick is also a really great woodcarver who likes to throw in some woodturning on the side and combines the best of both worlds. Dick has always brought in some interesting projects that catch ones eye in combining turning and carving. Dick left the Southwest Florida turners in Fort Myers to come to the new Peace River Club in 2007. Below is a little Biography on Dick showing some of his combined talents.....hope you enjoy.



## The Prez

PRW President's Mid-Month Notes... At this time, we have no clear date for re-opening of the Cultural Center, so status of our May meeting is still in limbo... I am hopeful that you are all safe & healthy and we'll be able to meet on May 7th. I will send out periodic updates as the meeting date approaches.

Have you had a bit more time for turning in your woodshop, or for exploring more about woodturning from online sources & videos? I've shared information and links on a few interesting things that I have run across on the web, and have heard a few of our members were inspired to try something new as a result!

The President's Challenge (a skills building exercise, so to speak) for March and April was turning an egg – You can see a few results on the PRW website in the March meeting photos & the April Online Show & Tell, found towards the bottom of the EVENTS page.

May's Challenge is turning a beehive ornament. Instructions are listed on the Resources Page of the PRW website. Those of you who attended the March meeting will have seen Bob R's beehive during Show & Tell - It's a fun one, playing with spindle work & bead-turning skills.

Did you receive a catalog in the mail from Penn State Industries? As a member of the PRW, you will get an automatic 10% discount when you place any online order using your email address. We are teaming up with as many different vendors as we can to get members special pricing. Look for them at <https://www.pennstateind.com>

UPCOMING: CLUB DEMO REFRESHMENTS SHOWCASE MAY- POTENTIAL Bob Summers Bob Summers Paul Swanson JUNE Jesse Goodwin needed Jesse Goodwin JULY Bob Roehrig Bob Roehrig Norm Desjardins If you are unable to participate for the month that is listed on this schedule, please be courteous and give advance warning so we can find a replacement. I will send an reminder email to the month's volunteers, as things do have a way of sneaking up on us! You can always check online to see what month you are scheduled – check out Who's Up Next on our website. COMMITTEES: MEMBERS, YOUR HELP IS STILL NEEDED! Not to belabor a point, but - We still need 2 people to help on the A/V Team for the remainder of the year at every meeting. If Normand is unavailable, we are dead in the water without help, and you won't see the demos on-screen! We won't have the TV screen close ups for you to enjoy during demos if no one is there to setup & operate the system.

There are other Committees that still need your help – Look at the Get Involved page on our website.

Please remember to bring a piece or two every month for the donation box, and fill out the member listing so we can track the donations for the Center when we negotiate our annual rent.. Small birdhouse ornaments are great, and any turnings that you might feel are imperfect are welcome, too! Don't put those Flawed Gems in the dustbin, bring them to donate at the meeting!

Thank you all for your continuing support and involvement in the PRW, Cheri Bauer, President  
send email to: [peacriverwoodturners@comcast.net](mailto:peacriverwoodturners@comcast.net)

Continued:

## **The Silver Fox Tips from Past Experience...**

TO MICROWAVE YOUR GREEN WOOD TURNINGS, PLACE YOUR PIECE IN A PLASTIC BAG AND HEAT ON DEFROST FOR FIVE MINUTES. REMOVE THE PIECE FROM THE BAG AND MAKE SURE TO LET IT COOL. TURN THAT BAG INSIDE OUT, AND REPEAT THE MICROWAVE PROCESS. THIS LEAVES CONDENSATION ON THE OUTSIDE OF THE BAG. CONTINUE THIS PROCESS UNTIL NO MORE CONDENSATION APPEARS INSIDE THE BAG. THIS WAY, YOU ELIMINATE THE NEED TO WEIGH AND RECORD TO KNOW WHEN YOUR TURNING IS DRIED!

YOU CAN'T CHANGE THE PAST, BUT YOU CAN RUIN A PERFECTLY GOOD TODAY BY WORRYING ABOUT TOMORROW.

THE HUMAN RACE IS FACED WITH A CRUEL CHOICE RIGHT NOW – WORK FROM HOME OR WATCH DAYTIME TV.

SHARE YOUR HARD-EARNED KNOWLEDGE WITH THOSE WHO WILL LISTEN. IT IS THE BEST FORM OF IMMORTALITY.

JUST HEARD FROM MY SPOUSE THAT THERE IS A VERY FINE LINE BETWEEN “FUN HOBBY” AND “TOTAL OBSESSION”. GONNA WEAR MY HEARING PROTECTION WHEN WOODTURNING FROM NOW ON...

IF YOU'RE GONNA CRITICIZE SOMEONE, FIRST WALK A MILE IN THEIR SHOES. THAT WAY, IF THEY GET ANGRY WITH YOU, THEY'LL BE A MILE AWAY AND BAREFOOT!

CREATIVITY IS ALLOWING YOURSELF TO MAKE MISTAKES. ART IS KNOWING WHICH ONES ARE KEEPERS.

KNOWLEDGE IS KNOWING A TOMATO IS A FRUIT; WISDOM IS NOT USING THAT TOMATO IN YOUR FRUIT SALAD.

WHAT DID SHE MEAN BY “WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO FINISH IT?” IT IS FINISHED!

Happy turning





# A DOZEN TRUTHS *for New Woodturners*

Kurt Hertzog

When learning the ins and outs of woodturning (or any new skill, for that matter), you might find yourself limited by preconceived notions, half-truths, myths, or misconceptions. I've compiled twelve truths that I think every new turner should understand to get started on sound footing.

*Photos by Kurt Hertzog, unless otherwise noted.*

## 1 SAFETY IS ALWAYS A WORTHWHILE ROUTINE.

Never forego safety practices for the sake of convenience, image, or complacency.

Woodturning is unique among the woodworking crafts in that the cutting edge isn't under power—the work is under power, being rotated, and

you present the cutting edge, which is pointing away from you, to it. But don't let that make you complacent about safety; any powered machine can become dangerous in an instant. A stray piece of clothing or hair can become the mechanism to drag you into danger without notice. Of course, lathe tools are sharp and always capable of causing injury.

Inhaling dust and debris from turning and sanding may not seem detrimental, but the cumulative effect can be debilitating. Consider both the immediate dangers and the long-term ones.

There is no reason *not* to practice safe turning at all times. Protective equipment for your skin, eyes, face, and lungs is *always* in order. Protecting not only yourself, but anyone else in close proximity isn't being chicken or overly cautious—it is being smart and responsible.

## JOURNAL ARCHIVE CONNECTION

The AAW's online archives offer plenty of safety resources included in your AAW membership. See, for example, the *Safety Guidebook for Woodturners* (a special digital publication); Hilda V. Carpenter's 2012 *AAW* article, "On the Edge of Disaster: Safety in Woodturning" (vol 27, no 4, page 16); and John Kelsey's 2013 *AAW* article, "Woodturning Safely: Internalize a Safety Point of View" (vol 28, no 1, page 20). Find these resources and more at [woodturner.org](http://woodturner.org).



## 2 ABILITY IS NOT DEFINED OR LIMITED BY AGE OR GENDER.

One of the joys of woodturning is that it is open to all.



Sally Ault instructs a blind turner during the 2017 AAW Symposium, Kansas City, Missouri. Woodturning has no age or gender favorites. Everyone is capable of learning and enjoying.

Regardless of whether you start as a youngster or a retiree, you'll have the same opportunities to learn and grow your skills in woodturning. Recently, manufacturers have offered lathes that are more suitable to turners with physical limitations. Tool-handling can be accomplished in various creative ways. There are turners with vision problems, missing limbs, or other challenges.

In prior decades, high school education was slanted, steering most boys to woodshop and most girls to home economics. Given cultural expectations, more men gravitated to woodturning than women. But traditional gender roles are constantly being challenged, and as people are drawn to woodturning, there are many new turners, both men and women. Capabilities are ultimately defined by training and practice—not by gender expectations.

Regardless of your background, starting point, gender, or existing challenges, you can succeed. Woodturning skills and abilities have never been predetermined by age or gender.

### 3 SANDPAPER IS A CUTTING TOOL.

Even the best turners use abrasives, so don't get hung up on the false stigma of "needing to use" sandpaper.

Sandpaper is indeed a cutting tool—not one that will cover up poor turning or perform significant shaping, but one that is meant to transition curves together smoothly and prepare the surface for applying a finish. Start as coarse as necessary. Don't be tempted to brag about starting at some finer grit. When sanding, slow the lathe down. If your fingers get hot, you are turning too fast. Think of the cabinetmaker, sanding with the wood not moving. Once the starting grit is completed, use a paper towel to clean off the debris. This insures that any abrasive that may have separated from the paper is gone before you start the next finer grit.

As a cutting tool, sandpaper can be sharp or dull (new or worn). Since you cannot sharpen sandpaper like you can a steel tool, throw it away as soon as it is spent. Loaded and/or worn sandpaper doesn't cut wood, it burnishes it. Follow Vic Wood's advice: "Use sandpaper like someone else is paying for it."



If your hand becomes uncomfortably warm from applying sanding pressure, you are turning too fast and not letting the abrasive do the work. Light pressure and slow speeds are the way to go.

### 4 NOBODY WILL KNOW IF YOU USED A SKEW.

Properly turned and well-finished turnings tell no secrets.

When you think of your end audience, or customer, is he or she buying the knowledge of which tool you used to get to the finished turning? Do they really care? If you use a spindle gouge to roll beads or make pommel cuts, nobody will know if you don't tell them.

The skew is a wonderful tool and well worth mastering. It excels at some cuts and performs many that other tools do, too. That said, the skew is a higher-risk tool in certain applications. Skew catches are usually ruinous for the work, with spiraling lines and ugly gouges on the surface. Many times, the work is not recoverable. If you are in business, you may have lost valuable stock and the time you have invested.

I am not suggesting you shouldn't learn the skew, but on projects that count, use the tool best suited to the task and which you can handle successfully. Don't be tempted to use a tool with which you are not proficient just for bragging rights. »

### JOURNAL ARCHIVE CONNECTION

Learn more about the skew chisel by checking out these AAW resources online: Jim Scarsella's and Keith Tompkin's 2015 AAW articles, "Build Your Skills by Understanding the Skew" and "Skew Chisel Primer: Learn the Basic Cuts" (vol 38, no 2, pages 28 and 32, respectively).





## 5 THERE IS NO SHAME IN JUST PRACTICING.

Every endeavor has a learning curve—practice, practice, practice.

No one starts out being an expert at what he/she does. Learning requires an understanding of the basics and then practicing them until they become second nature. At the lathe, the ability to think of the curve you want and have the muscle memory to execute it without worrying about the minute details is the goal. Like practicing the scales on a musical instrument, practicing the various lathe cuts with each of the tools in your kit will pay dividends. Not only will you become more proficient and confident, you will also speed your throughput, reduce sanding, and probably enjoy turning more.

So spend time at the lathe just practicing and not necessarily striving for a finished, presentable product. Each and every tool you use has an application. It performs one or more cuts superbly or it wouldn't exist. The kit in its entirety will let you do almost anything, once you master the tools. If you try to practice while you are creating something, you tend to focus on being successful, rather than on skill-building.

## 6 SHARPENING IS WORTH EVERY MOMENT YOU SPEND ON IT.

Sharp tools provide better results more quickly and more safely.

Like tuning a guitar before playing it, you must “tune,” or prepare, your cutting tools for optimal performance in order to master their use. From the retailer, lathe tools are rarely at the correct grind angle or sharp. You immediately need to get to the grinder to create the proper angle and shape. Without a sharp tool, newcomers will tend to make every tool a scraper. They'll lift the tool handle and increase the clearance angle until something happens. It makes every cutter a scraper and generates dust rather than curls.

A functional sharpening system is required on day one. If you have a lathe and tools without a sharpening system available, you aren't ready to turn yet.

Sharpening, like turning skills, isn't a natural trait. It will take learning and practice. The time you spend perfecting your sharpening skills will be time well spent. Eventually, you'll be able to sharpen your tools quickly and efficiently. Once sharpening becomes easy, you'll do it often and never wait for a tool to become very dull. Touching up a tool edge is far easier and quicker than fully sharpening a dull tool.

## 7 PROJECTS NEEDN'T BE COMPLETED IN ONE SESSION.

Always expecting a finished project after just one turning session can shortchange results.

Woodturners are unique in the world of woodworking. Rarely can a woodworking project like a piece of furniture or cabinetry be completed in one session. For the woodturner, it is often expected. Perhaps the immediate gratification is what draws people to our craft, but this expediency can also leave creativity on the back burner.

Consider that woodworkers often divide their project time into thirds: one-third for project creation, one-third for sanding/prep for finish, and one-third for finishing and final touches. Losing the need to finish everything in one go, you won't need to hurry sanding and skimp on finishing prep. You'll also be able to inspect the work carefully and go back to fix problems. Removing the impulse to hurry, you can also evolve from quick finishes, such as friction polish, to the wider spectrum of slower-curing but more durable finishes, like varnish. You can also revisit form and creative ideas.

### JOURNAL ARCHIVE CONNECTION

Learn how to practice at the lathe effectively. See Kip Christensen's 2017 AW article and accompanying video, “The Scales and Chords of Spindle Turning” (vol 32, no 1, page 14). Visit [woodturner.org](http://woodturner.org)



Sharpening skills will make your turning far more effective and enjoyable. It only takes moments to perform. Develop the skills in sharpening along with your turning.





## 8

ATTENTION TO DETAIL  
PAYS DIVIDENDS.

Attention to detail doesn't always take long—just a few extra moments to get a better fit and finish, for example.

Paying attention to detail will raise the level of your work.

Whether you are a hobby turner or a professional, your turning projects are likely to be judged in some manner—if not in a competition, then maybe as a measure of your competence or as a comparison of asking price to perceived value. A surefire way to improve overall results is to spend the extra time and care on the finer details. This can be as simple as grain orientation in a bowl to achieve the best visual end result. One detail always worth considering is preparation for finish; that errant scratch you missed during the sanding process will certainly get highlighted under the final finish.

As your skills improve and your audience changes, the scrutiny of results increases and attention to detail will only become more important. Turning structural chair parts without care as to straightness of grain and orientation is a future failure. Overheating a sensitive species during sanding is a future crack development. Lack of

care during sanding erases crisp details. Selection of species for a project is an important factor, as is the actual selection of the blank. All of the materials may look the same, but paying attention to the differences in stock can lead to better results.

Make paying attention to detail a habit. It costs nothing and yields huge results.

## 9

PROBLEM-SOLVING IS  
REWARDING IN AND OF ITSELF.

Often satisfaction comes not from the finished product, but from problems solved along the way.

Don't let problems that arise derail your woodturning. You'll experience challenges at every stage of your woodturning career, and they are best seen as learning opportunities. These can be as simple as a wood species that doesn't turn well, even when you follow the "rules." Sometimes, breaking with convention can solve the problem of a troublesome workpiece. Every species can have some peculiarity that you'll need to address, and when you do,



Work-holding challenges often require creative solutions. Through experience, you'll develop a useful bag of tricks, like custom jam-chucking, friction-fitting, taping, hot-melt gluing, vacuum-chucking, etc. Problem-solving brings enjoyment to the journey.

you'll know a little more for next time.

Work-holding will always offer chances to solve problems. There is a way to safely hold just about anything on the lathe. The keyword is *safely*. Sometimes it takes special jigs, chucks, adapters, fasteners, adhesives, and more. Get creative. Solving the problem shouldn't be viewed as an obstacle, but rather as the fun of learning. Much of your growth as a turner is how you embrace these challenges and add skills to your repertoire by doing so.

Challenges are not only at the lathe. The workshop can present problems needing attention. For example, dust extraction and compressed air routing for availability in the shop can be rewarding puzzles to solve. Of course, storage for tools, equipment, finishes, and wood is always in need of some creativity. As your woodturning skills progress and the woodturning portions of a project become easier, ancillary problem-solving tasks will be a refreshing departure from chip-making.

## 10

YOU'LL NEVER KNOW IT ALL,  
SO KEEP AN OPEN MIND.

One of the joys of woodturning is that the learning never ends.

Regardless of how long you've been at it or how proficient you've become, there is always something else to learn or explore. Many people specialize by turning mainly bowls or pens or lidded boxes. Every type of woodturning has its own techniques and tricks. If you ever get to the point where you feel bored because you've "mastered" woodturning, branch out >



One of the most rewarding aspects of woodturning is sharing it with others. In doing so, you'll continue to learn, too.

into a different facet of turning. Try your hand at various embellishing techniques or a completely different form.

Part of the joy of woodturning is the continual learning process, made easy with books, videos, live demonstrations, and classes. Video in particular is a rapidly expanding medium on the Internet. But be certain to verify the quality and safety being conveyed in online videos, many of which blatantly show unsafe practices. AAW's VideoSource vets online videos for you, so you can trust the content of videos included there. Visit [tiny.cc/AAWVideoSource](http://tiny.cc/AAWVideoSource) to check it out.

Another way to keep learning is to teach, a rewarding challenge that will expand your own skills as well as those of your students.

## 11 MISTAKES AND FAILURES CAN TEACH YOU WELL.

Embrace your mistakes and fumbles—determine what went wrong.

As you progress in woodturning, you will likely take on new challenges that require more time and skill. With complexity comes the greater likelihood of complications, mistakes, and mishaps. Multi-piece assemblies, inserted and friction-fit parts, complicated base material glue-ups, and more will present occasional failure, sometimes due to an error on your part and sometimes not.

Wood, a natural and organic material, is fraught with potential issues. Material flaws that become evident or problematic during a project can be design opportunities. Everyone makes mistakes, and things happen—accept this fact and live with the vagaries of working with something that grows rather than is manufactured.

From a more philosophical perspective, if you are succeeding at your turning projects 100 percent of the time, you probably aren't stretching your abilities. Taking risks in the form of new processes and techniques (always done safely) will expand your skillset. You can also take risks in the form of project design, which might ultimately fail but show you what's next.



When you've had an unrecoverable error, pitch the flawed materials. Don't throw good money after bad.

## 12 THE MAGIC ISN'T IN THE TOOL.

Contrary to the woodturners' joke that you are only "one tool away from greatness," acquiring that brand new tool will probably not solve your turning challenges.

You'll ultimately accept the fact that the magic isn't in the tool—it's in the turner. I know that having the latest and greatest offering in your kit can be part of the fun of woodturning. There is plenty to choose from in the way of tools and equipment, some of which is quite impressive. Manufacturers strive to offer what will sell, with continual improvement in design and materials. Those innovations can certainly help but won't replace solid learning and practice on your part.

Mostly, sharp tools, good technique, and creative ideas are behind the best woodturning. No one ever played Carnegie Hall by buying a fancy piano. They got there by mastering their skills and being able to exhibit their mastery using any piano. ■

*Kurt Hertzog is a past president of the AAW, past chairman of the Rochester Woodworkers Society, and a council member of the Pen Makers Guild. He has written about woodturning and woodworking extensively for various publications, including Woodturning and Woodturning Design, where he published a long-running penmaking column. You can find all of these and many additional unpublished articles at [kurthertzog.com](http://kurthertzog.com).*



# SHOW & TELL

The following are pictures of what our membership has been doing during the Virus lock-in.



**Bob Summers got a NEW Power Matic Lathe**



**Art Landry**



**Gary Sutton**



# SHOW & TELL



**Bob Marshall**  
**Lots of Bowls**



**Larry McClish**  
**Turtle Vase**



**Bob Roehrig**  
**Dragon Egg in nest**

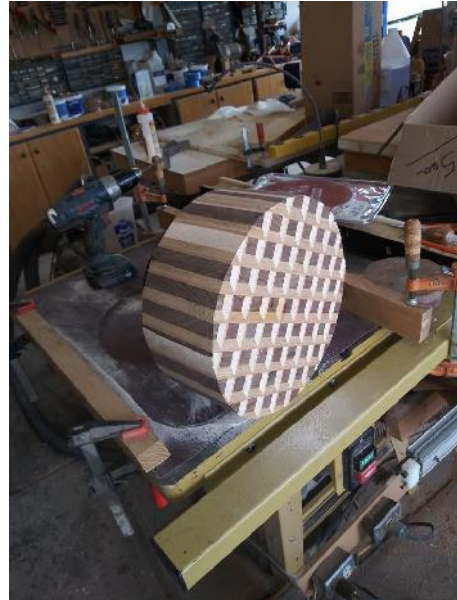


**Jesse Goodwin**  
**Florida Rosewood**

# SHOW & TELL



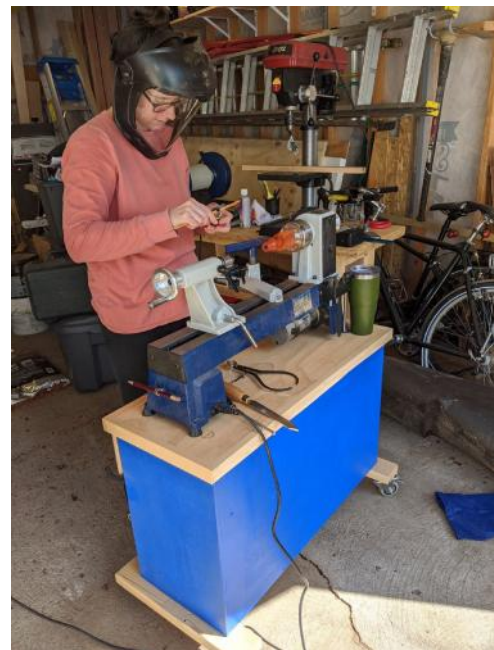
**Ray Fenton**  
**Dizzy Bowl**



**Paul Bartlett**  
**Segmenting in 3D**



**Bob Roehrig**  
**Gnomes**



**Doug Browns Niece**  
**Learning to turn**



# SHOW & TELL



**Frank Didomizio**  
**Maple Leaf Bowls**



**Dick Strudgeon**  
**Carved Bowl**



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## **Chapter Information**

Peace River Woodturners Inc. (PRW) is an organization formed for individuals interested in woodturning and was formed on Oct 1, 2007. The primary purposes of the PRW are consistent with the fundamental purposes of the American Association of Woodturners: To provide information, education and an organization for those interested in turning wood.



The PRW web site can be found at:  
[www.peaceriverwoodturners.org](http://www.peaceriverwoodturners.org)



AAW site can be found at:  
[www.woodturner.org](http://www.woodturner.org)

## **Photo's**

Photographs for this months "Chips & Bits" were provided by Bob Roehrig. If you have digital photo's that you would like to have considered for use in the newsletter, please send them along with any articles to the editor at:

[rjroehrig@gmail.com](mailto:rjroehrig@gmail.com)

## **Membership**

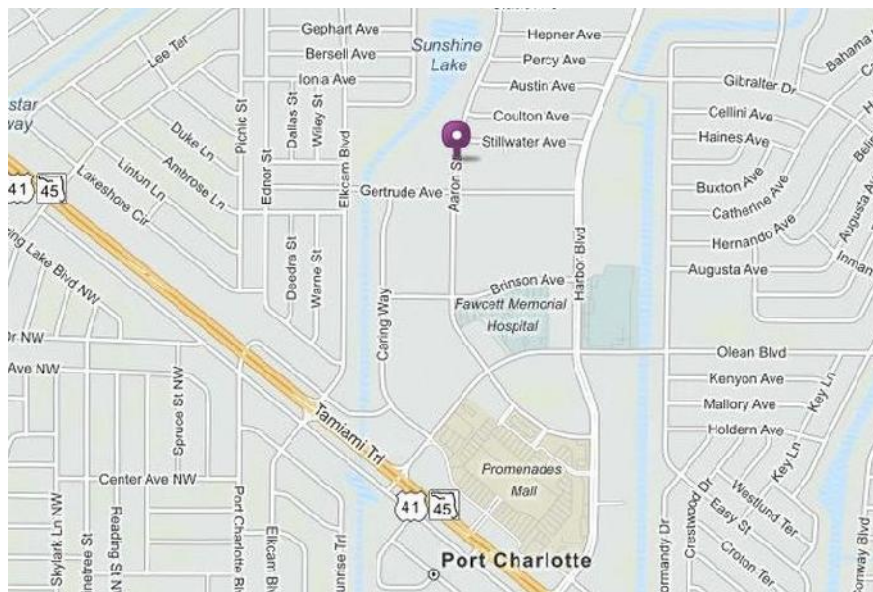
Yearly chapter dues are \$50 per individual or \$60 a family. Membership is for the calendar year. These dues help the club provide tools for our monthly demonstrations, bring in outside demonstrators, pay room rent, have a yearly picnic and other club related activities.

## Meeting Location

Our Meetings are on the first Thursday of the month starting at 6:30 pm and ending by 9:00 pm. We meet at the **Charlotte County Cultural Center** 2280 Aaron St. located in Port Charlotte, FL



**Our next meeting is:**  
**Pending**



## Upcoming Events

**PRW meeting: May 7, 2020**  
**To Be Announced**

**Demonstration:**

## Library

The Library is available for all current club members. The club library contains Books, magazines, and DVD's available to check out.. A list of materials is available on the PRW website:

[www.peaceriverwoodturners.org](http://www.peaceriverwoodturners.org)

Please help us maintain the library by returning checked out items promptly. The library is maintained by Mark Yates. New material can be ordered by request.