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June 2025
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TWA Newsletter

Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 17, 6:00 pm

Location : Atria Senior Living Center, 7000 Regency Pkwy, Cary
Note: there is no Zoom option for this meeting

Topic: Annual Kick-off Meeting for Toys for Tots

The June meeting is the annual kick-off meeting for Toys for Tots. With everything going on this year, our toys may become a premium this fall. So, if you can, I'm sure the Marines and the needy children that receive these toys, would be forever grateful if you could produce a few more. The June meeting will be held at the Atria Senior Living Center, 7000 Regency Pkwy, Cary, from 6-8 pm. Heavy appetizers will be available at no cost, and beer and wine will be available for purchase (credit card only; beer $4, wine $6). Significant others are welcome to attend.

The theme of the meeting is to share information about the workshops and have the workshops show their new (and some of their old, favorite) toys. Attending workshop members will discuss their teams, their new toys and the amount of toys they are projecting to make this year.

Host: Joe Sabo, Toys for Tots Committee Chairman

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TWA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING—MAY 20, 2025

(meeting minutes: James Sapp)

The May meeting was held at Klingspor's Cary store, with seventeen members attending in person and seven joining via Zoom. There were no guests or new members in attendance this month.

The meeting began with a few brief announcements.

Planning is underway for a shop crawl scheduled for July that will feature approximately five to six shops located in western Wake and Chatham counties.

Thank you to Barton Meeks for providing snacks for the May meeting. Mark Hitchcock volunteered to bring snacks for the August meeting.

Judy Sanwald donated a variable speed grinder and table to the club for auction. Dick Raup won the auction with a bid of $80 and generously contributed an extra $20, which was donated to Toys for Tots. Thank you, Dick!

The monthly raffle was won by Mark Hatfield.

The June meeting, which serves as our annual kick-off for Toys for Tots, will be held at the Atria Senior Living Center, 7000 Regency Pkwy, Cary, from 6:00–8:00 PM. Heavy appetizers will be provided at no cost. Beer and wine will be available for purchase (credit card only; beer $4, wine $6). Significant others are welcome. The meeting theme is sharing information about workshops, with each workshop showing off their new and favorite toys. A sign-up sheet was circulated at the meeting; members may also sign up by emailing Joe Sabo at sabojc12@gmail.com . Please RSVP by Monday, June 9 so we can get an accurate headcount.

We look forward to seeing you there!

MAY SPECIAL RAFFLE

Special thanks to Judy Sanwald for donating a grinder/ sharpening station and to Dick Raup for becoming its new owner. The Toys for Tots fund also gained $100 in all the fun.

A photo of the donation is included…without the new owner.

Regards,

Roy

TREASURER'S REPORT (APRIL)

Beginning Balance:	$18,568.26
Income:	$568.00
Expense:	$322.58
Ending Balance:	$18,813.68

Does not include Petty Cash of $86.00.

Submitted by Jack Kite, Treasurer

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

Please send newsletter content for future newsletters to Karin Pihel (karin.pihel@ gmail.com).

Contributions for each newsletter are due by the last day of the previous month.

TWA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING—MAY 20, 2025

SHARPENING WITH JIM WALLACE

(meeting minutes: James Sapp)

For the featured presentation at the May meeting, Kerry Schoolfield introduced Jim Wallace, a professional woodturner and woodworker with over 50 years of experience. Jim's journey into sharpening began with his early days in woodturning, where he quickly recognized the importance of sharp tools for quality results. As his craftsmanship evolved, he found that properly sharpened chisels, planes, turning tools, and scrapers allowed him to complete projects with little to no sanding. He now regards sharpening as a fundamental woodworking skill, and encourages every woodworker to learn to sharpen by hand, without relying on jigs.

About Jim Wallace

- Holds a degree in French Literature from the University of South Carolina
- Studied with renowned woodturners Rude Osolnik, Dale Nish, and Peter Child
- Has taught woodturning at Alamance Community College since 1981 and at the NCSU Craft Center
- Work featured in American Craft Magazine and exhibited at the NC Museum of Art, NC Museum of History, and Cary Arts Center
- Built and works from his timber-frame home and studio in Wake Forest
- Member of TWA

Jim recommended three references that he has used to develop and apply his sharpening skills:

- "The Perfect Edge" by Ron Hock
- "The Complete Guide to Sharpening" by Leonard Lee (founder of Lee Valley)
- "Sharpen This" by Christopher Schwartz.

Sharpening is messy—Jim recommends a dedicated sharpening station away from the main workbench. Always clean your stones and hands thoroughly afterward.

Jim reviewed oil stones, India stones, water stones, ceramic stones, and diamond stones, and prefers water stones for most work. Water stones need to be flattened regularly, which can be done with a coarse diamond stone.

The sharpening process consists of three steps: Grind, Hone, and Polish, using progressively finer grits. Spending more time in the grinding stage helps expedite the rest of the process. Start with a grinding wheel, then move to stones.

As sharpening progresses, a straight edge forms where the bevel and back meet. This edge should cleanly slice paper. Throughout, check for squareness, bevel angle, and scratch pattern using tools like a square, protractor, marker, bright light, or loupe.

Jim Wallace demonstrating sharpening (photo: Roy Brookhart)

Jim demonstrated sharpening a mortising chisel, highlighting changes in the edge at each step and underscoring the importance of technique.

Next, Jim demonstrated sharpening a card scraper. He started by squaring the edge to the sides with a bastard-cut hand file. Jim recommend Artcotools.com as a source for files. Once the edge is square and without defects, the edge is burnished, first square, and then at an angle of 7 to 15 degrees to generate a hook edge. When using the scraper, Jim emphasized the position of the thumbs that are to be placed at the center bottom of the card. The thumbs should actually rest on the wood surface as the scraper engages the wood.

The presentation was captured on video and is available on the TWA website. Additional sharpening tips are shown on the next page.

Sharpening tips shared by Jim Wallace during the May meeting:

Jim's Sharpening Guidelines

Make your sharpening protocol quick and easy.

Do it often.

1. Maintain sharpening medium: keep it clean and properly shaped for the task.
2. Start coarse enough: use a grinder where appropriate to correct the shape of the tool before sharpening.
3. Use the grinder to establish the primary bevel angle and create the zero-radius edge.
4. When sharpening, don't skip any steps (grits): grind, hone, polish.
5. Look carefully at what you are doing: learn to read reflected light and scratch patterns. Use a square, protractor, bright light, marker or Dykem, and loupe.
6. Test for sharpness: a sharp edge should not reflect light. It should easily cut (not tear) paper and will cut end grain easily and cleanly.
7. The last step in sharpening is to clean the tool you have sharpened, the sharpening medium, and your hands before returning to work.

The perfect edge is our ever-elusive goal.

Qualities that constitute sharpness

1. A sharp edge is formed when two surfaces meet in a zero-radius intersection.
2. Steel that has a uniformly fine crystalline structure can be polished to a finer edge than an alloy that includes a mix of large and small crystals.
3. A more refined edge is stronger and will not dull as quickly as an edge created by coarse grinding.
4. In general, softer steel sharpens more easily but has reduced edge retention, harder steel stays sharp longer, but is more difficult to sharpen.
5. Steel that is harder can be brittle resulting in an edge that may fracture and degrade more easily when cutting hard material, but more malleable steel may wear quickly or deform under heavy use.
6. Corrosion will degrade the entire tool, especially the cutting edge.
7. The bevel angle must be appropriate to the work being done: a lower bevel angle (smaller included angle) offers less resistance while cutting, but is weaker, whereas a higher bevel angle (larger included angle) is stronger, but harder to push through the cut.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

TWA had a table at Woodcraft's Cinco de Mayo event, and several folks signed up for trial memberships: Mark Straubel, Peta Hearn, Spank McCoy, Jamie Fagel, Paul Hilchey, Bobby Hutller, Naveen Sampath, Daniel Moody, Kyle Kaplan, Jim Van Verth, Mark Freeze, and Raymond Colon. Please welcome them to TWA when you meet them in person or online.

Barton Meeks, Membership Committee

UPCOMING EVENT

Date: Saturday, July 26

Topic: Shop Crawl

Location: 5 shops

Mark your calendar for a very special July regular monthly meeting. On Saturday the 26th of July we will be back to good old in -person shop crawls. We will have the opportunity to visit five of our friend's shops, have some lunch together, and catch up on our latest woodworking stories. There will not be a meeting on the third Tuesday. Watch for more information in the near future to help you plan for the shop crawl.

Host: Roy Brookhart

BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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COMMITTEE	CHAIRPERSON / MEMBERS
Program Committee	**Kerry Schoolfield /** Roy Brookhart, Bob Gabor, Cecil Raynor, Alex Harp, Jeff Leimberger
Toys-for-Tots Committee	**Joe Sabo** Material Procurement: Bob Andrews Workshop Hosts: Joe Sabo, Pete Hodges, Roy Brookhart, Bob Andrews and Judy Sanwald, Jim Rhodes, Les Hall, Alex Knittel, Ray Essington, Bob Guenther, Tom Hegele, Bill Watkins, Alex Harp, Gary Brookhart
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