

2x4 softwood bowls challenge turning club

AAW member and FUNdamentals reader Carl Ford is program director for the Nutmeg Woodturners League, Brookfield, CT. Carl writes:

The Nutmeg 2x4 Challenge was based on your recent article on turning bowls out of softwood 2x4s (Explore! box, top right). We invited members to turn bowls and bring them to our January meeting. Everyone who brought in a bowl got a raffle ticket for a \$50 gift certificate.

Our club has done this once a year (or so) for a long time. It works well! We get lots of participation and it is fun to see what people create.

New people often don't have access to hardwood. Thus in the past our club has passed out wood to get the challenge started. But not this time — 2x4s are easy to get so everyone could supply their own.

People were encouraged to explore different rim options and bowl shapes, and to bring in multiple bowls. Each bowl got a ticket for the raffle, with a six-ticket limit per person.

We know our guys, we had to tell them, NO glue, except maybe a glue block for mounting on the lathe. Bowls must fit within a 4" x 4" x 2" (10 x 10 x 5cm) box, they could not glue up 2x4s into a bigger blank. But paint, stain, burning, and other surface enhancements were allowed.

We had really good club participation. Lots of people brought in bowls, often two or more. Some people brought in hollow forms and plates. I was blown away by the bright colors.



EXPLORE!

Click the blue box or scan the QR code to follow the link but it only works when you are also logged into the AAW website, woodturner.org



Nutmeg turning club members discuss their 2x4 challenge bowls, based on the softwood bowl in Woodturning FUNdamentals v7#3.



Club member

Carl Ford, who posed the challenge, blogs about his own challenging adventure: carlford.info/blog/2018/12/nutmeg-2x4-challenge.