Knotty Professor Newsletter

Spring 2025

Upcoming Shows

April 12-13

Santa Fe College, Gainesville



Find me online at

Knottyprofessor.com and on Facebook

Website upgrades coming soon!

Happy New Year!



Happy New Year (yeah, I know, it's late for that). Unfortunately, I had to withdraw from the first two shows I was going to attend this Spring because I injured myself early in the year. I was out for just about a month with pain from sciatica caused by spinal stenosis (ruptured lumbar disc), and spent much of the month being grumpy (well, grumpier than usual), and hobbling around like Gollum from Lord of the Rings. This led me to the idea that the reason Gollum was so ornery was because he had been suffering from sciatica pain for decades.



Fortunately, I am on the mend, and I'm looking forward to the remaining Spring show, and to making new items on the lathe.

Now that the pain is under control (mostly), I have managed to complete three commissions, as well as make two new platters that include epoxy. The wood in the green one is cedar, and in the blue one it is olive wood.



Spinnin' In The Mornin' Sun
(with apologies to Otis Redding)

At recent shows, I have had a number of bowls and dragons' eggs on rotating display stands. On sunny days, the sunlight makes these items sparkle. The photo (taken at one of the Fall 2024 shows) shows some of those items, and clicking on the photo will take you to a short Facebook reel.

Turning: The Corner
(What a difference a punctuation mark makes!)

I bought a second lathe last spring. The photo shows both lathes, arranged in a corner of the shop. On the old lathe, the largest diameter that I could turn was 12 inches, with difficulty. The new lathe allows me to make item sup to 22 inches in diameter. More precisely, it allows me to mount turning blanks with a maximum diameter of 22 inches. By the time I make things round, that will probably be down to 20 inches.



So far, I have made one item with a diameter of 14 inches. I'll have to work my way up to larger items, slowly, and carefully. One of the great things about the new lathe is that it is very quiet, almost silent. In comparison, the old lathe, which I still use is very loud and requires ear protection, even if I am only polishing an item.