This letter is being send to club members who are relatively new to the club.

What have you liked during your time with the club and what would you like for us to do differently?

When I demonstrated this past year I was very intimidated by the group. I did not think what I was doing was good enough. After the meeting many of the club members responded with some very nice comments, no one made fun or criticized my project. I realized many of us have different ways to create our projects and not everybody has a complete understanding of every aspect of our craft.

The club leadership is trying to gather information about your turning experience and what you would like to see being demonstrated at the club meetings or during the hands-on on the Friday before the meeting on Saturday. If 3 or 4 of us together took part of a Friday to showcase our projects and help other members with a hands on class I think we all would be amazed at the possibilities.

As I watch the Instant Gallery and see the wonderful variety of different projects and many different kinds of surface embellishments it boggles my mind. Each of us has a different way of creating the same thing.

I would encourage you to volunteer and participate in the activities of our club. By being active within the club you will gain insight to the numerous talented woodturners and be able to network with fellow members. Bring in a project you are working on and need advice. We are here to teach what we know and we are here to learn from each other. I also encourage you to bring in your finished work for the Instant Gallery as our club members benefit from this artwork. The Palmetto Woodturners (one of the largest in the country) have a lot of talented turners that will share their knowledge and experiences for the benefit of our club members.

The professionals that come to share their talents started out just like us. I have traveled though out the southeast attending classes and demonstrating my projects and I see what other clubs are missing with the skills we have. I am constantly amazed at the great talent and resources we have as a club. Much of it is not being passed on because we believe, just like I did it just wasn't good enough. I would like to see that attitude come to an end. All of us have something to contribute to the group.

Please take a minute to email Mike, Todd or myself with any comments you have.

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