

ARROWMONT

SCHOOL OF ARTS AND CRAFTS

Medium: Woodturning

Instructor: Donna Zils Banfield

Dates: October 11-16, 2026

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This intermediate to advanced woodturning workshop focuses on the specialized techniques required to turn thin-walled bowls and end-grain vessels from green wood. Students will learn how to turn to the final thickness in one session, aiming for a finished wall between 3/16" and 1/16". Students are required to have a few years of experience turning bowls and vessels, and have an understanding of how to safely use bowl and spindle gouges. The second half of the workshop will focus on detailed embellishment - students will learn how to see negative space and create intricate patterns using high-speed pneumatic handpieces and dental piercing bits. Students will practice piercing on thin plywood before applying the technique to their turned forms.

WHAT TO BRING

- ½" bowl gouge with fingernail, or swept back grind
- 3/8" bowl gouge with fingernail, or swept back grind
- Small Negative Rake (NR) round nose scraper or half round scraper. Strongly recommend D-Way ½" curved negative rake scraper with 8" handle, from the Boxmaster Tool Line. 1/2" Curved Negative Rake Scraper. Double-ended, left & right curve.
- Pneumatic High-Speed Dental Lab Handpiece, with regulator. Arrowmont has two available for student use. Students may not use the instructor's, even if it is not currently being used by the instructor. If several students take this workshop and need to share one of Arrowmont's NSK dental lab handpiece, you may be waiting a while for your turn. It is strongly recommended that students bring their own. This is the kit you will need, from Treeline USA NSK Presto II Kit
- 5 - 699L Long Cross Cut Taper Fissure. These are the piercing bits. You need several because you will break them as you learn how to use them. They are available from Treeline USA 699L - 699 Long Cross Cut Taper Fissure - TreelineUSA
- Number Two Ball Tip. This is used for creating texture. No 2 BALL - TreelineUSA
- Over-the-head Magnifier, 2.5 magnification, 8" focal length. I use this one: Amazon.com: Donegan DA-5 OptiVisor Headband Magnifier, 2.5x Magnification, 8" Focal Length : Health & Household
- Small sandbag, to support work while texturing and carving. I use this one from Amazon: Amazon.com: The Beadsmith Suede Sandbag – Anvil/Bench Block Jewelry Pad – 5.5" Square – Use for Jewelry Metal Stamping, Chasing, Engraving and Wire Forming – Slip Resistant, Protect Surfaces and Alleviate Rebound
- Bowl Stabilizer, to use with small sandbag, to support work while texturing and piercing. I use this one from Amazon: Amazon.com: Chef'n Prep Mixing Bowl Stand, Flip Smaller or Larger Diameter, Light Blue, flip the stand over for a smaller or larger diameter bowl: Home & Kitchen

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- Not required, but very useful. A box tool rest. This is highly useful for getting your scraper close to the area you're turning. Virtually zero catches when using, especially at the bottom of boxes and end grain vessels. I use this one, from Robust: Search Results for "box rest" – Robust Tools

MATERIALS FEES | **\$120.00-\$200.00**

Fees are assessed on an individual class basis and may vary from class to class depending on the amount of materials used and the number of students in the class, this keeps your out-of-pocket costs lower than a typical flat fee. Fees include all provided studio materials as assigned by the Instructor. Material fees are to be paid in the Supply Store no later than midday on the last day of workshop instruction.

Please be advised that the above course description and materials list has been written and approved by the instructor.

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Instructor Contact
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