



WOODTURNERS OF ST. LOUIS

stlturners.org

June 2013

A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

June Demo > Dan Burleson – Turning a platter• Dan Burleson is known for his decorative platters with their pyro graphics and paintings. His work is displayed at several galleries including The Plank Road in downtown St. Charles. After shaping the decorative platter, Dan uses a [D-Way](#) beading tool to cut the beads, then an index wheel with 144 divisions to draw each radial line, making sure that the markings are through the center of the turning. He then uses burning tips that he has designed and burns each radial before applying the artist dyes using coloring pens. In this demonstration Dan used the same techniques but limited the decoration so that he had a functional platter when finished.



After inspecting his platter blank Dan decides which side will be the top and which will be the bottom. This may be dictated by the grain of the wood or by a flaw that needs to be turned away as it is shaped. Dan uses a One Way chuck with a screw to mount the blank. As he tightens the chuck against the screw, he pulls the screw outward so that it is tight.



That way when the platter blank is threaded on to the screw and it hits the chuck it will not have any play as it pulls tight against the chuck face. Dan is a production turner and he wants to minimize his set up time. So he puts a hose clamp around the tool rest post to position it at the same height as he moves it around during the turning process. He positions the tool rest so that the bottom of the gouge flute is at the centerline of the work piece.



Dan rounds up the blank using a pull cut across the edge then switches to a push cut to get a clean finish. All the time he is watches the edge to get a clean cut knowing that it is difficult or impossible to get a good finish when the fibers are damaged.

The bottom of the platter is then faced off to get a smooth surface. Using the guideline of making the foot of the platter 2/3 of the overall diameter he marks, then cuts, a bead to establish the foot. Once again he is concerned with getting a clean cut for and up to the foot because of the difficulty in finishing that area and wanting to maintain a clean, crisp design. He then marks and cuts a tenon that will be used when he reverse chucks the platter. (Note that Dan wears a tight fitting leather glove with the fingers removed. This provides protection from the hot maple cuttings and still gives him a sense of feel.)



He moves on to shape the lower rim of the platter with a slight flare. The shape is important here because it needs to feel comfortable when picked up. Dan uses his hand to feel for any ridges or bumps around the edge of the platter that he may not be able to see and sands as needed - "Sanding is a tool. It is nice to start with 220 grit but sometimes 40 grit may be more appropriate." Just remember to step through each grit as you progress to finer and finer grits.



To reduce his set up time, Dan uses sliders from One Way. They are inserts for the chuck body and you can simply open up the jaws until one set comes out and replace them with another that has a different set of jaws. This does require removing the safety pin on one set of the jaws and should be used with care. Sliders do have a set order for installation and must be reinstalled in the correct order. (Notice in the picture above that Dan color codes each jaw.)



After the platter is reversed chucked, the inside is hollowed to match the outside shape. Dan leaves the mass of wood in the center for stability, removing it as the inside is deepened. The bottom is left slightly thicker than one would with a bowl. When it comes to the very center of the turning, Dan suggests that you pull out and leave a nub rather than cut in and possibly tear the wood. The nub can be easily removed. Dan aligns the tool rest with the front of the platter and then makes his final cut across the bottom using the tool rest as a guide. He then uses a random orbital sander to flatten the bottom, staying away from the rim.

For finishing he uses Tung oil or a mixture of boiled linseed oil and 20% orange oil, or polyurethane.



Pre-Meeting Demo> Charles Sapp – New Turner Hands On● The pre-meeting demonstration was an opportunity for new turners to get some instructions and hands-on turning experience using a gouge. Charlie covered some of the basic safety rules – equipment, stance, and the ABC's (anchor, bevel contact, cut) and then did a brief demo before having new turners give it a try. A steb center was used to mount the turning piece and Charlie showed how the pressure from the tail stock could be used to take away the “fear” of getting a catch. He demonstrated how the work piece would slip on the steb center when a catch occurred typically doing minimal damage to the work piece. Several new turners participated. Each one was given the opportunity to shape the outside of a bowl. Then a tenon was turned on the piece and it was remounted in a chuck so they could turn the inside of a bowl. It was emphasized that a [spindle roughing gouge](#) should never be used for bowl turning.



Library News > Rich Hinkebein● Last month the following items were added:



- The latest issue of American Woodturner magazine which includes articles on drying wood and turning spindles.
- Two DVD's on challenging projects by Terry Scott – Manta Ray bowl and Midas Bowl

Our library is only open on Sunday at our club meetings and is open to all our members for checking out books, videos, and DVD's.

When checking out material, sign/date the card and put it BEHIND the letter of your last name in the box. When you return material make sure you put the card back in the item and that the card goes with that item.

Watch that you do not put multiple cards in one item. And please sign legibly so you can be tracked down if something is amiss.

Our library is a great source of inspiration and knowledge. A complete listing of our library will soon be on our club web site. Please take advantage of this wonderful club benefit.

Tip of the Month • Check your local Army surplus store for used (and some new) jackets worn by our soldiers in desert climates. They offer the style and protection of commercial turning smocks with Velcro neck flaps, zipper fronts, and multiple pockets for pencils and other items. Prices for used jackets typically run about \$20-\$30.



President's Spin > Jon Spelbring • First off, I want to thank Walt for stepping up for the May Meeting. Summer meetings can be a problem - especially when some of the other officers are not available!

As I write this, the AAW Symposium is in full swing. Hopefully, Dave Endres, and whoever else is attending will bring back stories for us. For those members who have never attended, I recommend it highly. I've only been able to attend two so far, but they were both wonderful experiences. I learned a lot. Not just from the demos - the galleries and just talking with other turners was amazing.

In club news, we (finally) have our shield and we're in the process of updating our audio-video setup for the meetings and demos. We're still looking for a primary AV person. If you are interested, please contact me or any of the officers.

I'm also obligated to remind everyone that our picnic coordinator (SWMBO) needs more turned vases. Unless the turner wants them back, they'll be auctioned off at the end of the picnic with the proceeds going to the club.

For those who have been using the new website, thanks! Keep the suggestions coming. We've have the tools to make our club site as awesome as our library.

Call to arms! Ok, how about Call for demos? We still have some slots to fill. Specifically, we need a main demo for July and October. If you have a project that you would like to do a demo on, or even if you just have a project that you would like to see demoed, please let us know! Speaking of demos, would anyone be interested in doing a demo on the Japanese ball and cup toy, Kendama? If so, please step forward for the August demo! If not, you may be stuck watching me (again).

That's it for this issue. I hope everyone is having a great summer! -Jon

Club News>

Scholarships / Training● Dave Endres spent a week at the John C. Campbell Folk School in Brasstown, North Carolina assisting Trent Bosch and Nick Cook. The school has week long classes year-round in traditional and contemporary arts, including blacksmithing, nature studies, basket weaving, woodturning and many more crafts and arts. Students can stay on or off campus. The accommodations and food are good and cost is nominal. Dave encouraged the club to consider sponsoring a scholarship (full or partial) to a club member provided the individual would come back and demo/teach what they learned. More information and an e-catalog are available at: <https://www.folkschool.org/>. Individuals can also apply for a scholarship from the School that covers the cost of the class.



It was also brought up that the AAW also offers scholarships/grants for training. For 2013 the AAW Education Opportunity Grants (EOG) had 117 applications and 27 were approved in the amount of \$35,723. Applications must be submitted by December 31 annually. More information on the EOG can be found at: <https://www.woodturner.org/resources/eog/>.

Membership dues are due● Dues for 2013 became payable at the end of last year. An [application](#) is available on the club web site. Dues are \$30 individual; \$40 family. If you are renewing, please make sure that the [contact information](#) we have on file is correct.

Attendance/Treasurers Report● Fifty members/guests attended the June meeting.

Web site● The new site is open: <http://turnedtreasuresllc.com/wstl2/> or www.stlturners.org and development continues. Let Jon know of any issues or suggestions. He is working on moving the “firewall” forward so that non-members will not have access to any member information. Other items discussed in the May newsletter are also being worked.

Each member can load pictures to their profile. If you would like to be featured on the home page, provide Jon with 4 to 6 good quality pictures (640 x 480) of your turnings with the same background.

We are in the process of taking over the old URL so in the future www.stlturners.org will still be our official URL

New Members● Please join me in welcoming Dave Ackmann from Florissant.

Lathe safety shield● *It's here!* Jon purchased the material and had the assembled safety shield ready for the meeting demonstrations. The design allows for lighting, video, and speakers to be on the same mounting system as the protective shield. Dave Endres is securing additional cameras and discussed using a HD flat panel in place of the projection system that we currently use for

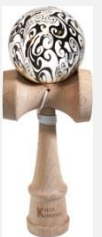


demonstrators. Thanks to the Mid-South Woodturner' Guild for their initial grant of \$100 in memory of [Joan Kelly](#) who died from a lathe accident to help pay for the shield. The remaining funds were paid by our club. Jon is procuring a plaque for the shield to recognize Joan Kelly.

Videographer Needed● We need a videographer to set up and run the video equipment at our meetings and for outside demonstrators. If you can help, please contact Jon. Anyone serving in this position for a year will receive a free membership for the next year and free attendance at the outside demonstrations.

Picnic Planning● September 29 is the date for our club picnic. Note that it is on the 5th Sunday versus the 4th Sunday of the month and will be at Spencer Creek Park in St. Peters. Lunch will start at 1 pm.

Jon announced that the challenge for the picnic is to turn a Kendama. The Kendama is like the traditional cup and ball game, except more complex. It is known in Japan like the yoyo is known in the Western world. It consists of a ball attached to a string, with three separate cups in which the ball can be caught. The ball also has a hole in it that can be caught on the tip of the stick. The internet has several videos that show multiple tricks firsthand. Kendamas come in many shapes and sizes so there are no official dimensions although the Japanese Kendama Association considers only certain ones "official". The August 2011 issue of the AAW American Woodturner has an article by Arnold Ward on building a Kendama and is available both on line for members of AAW and in our club library. Prizes will be awarded for two categories: Style/Appearance and Scoring/Playing the Game. Suggested dimensions from the AAW magazine will be posted on our club web site. For more information:



www.kendamakyokai.com/index_english.html , <http://sweetskendamas.com/videos/tips-tricks/> or the video at http://search.yahoo.com/search;_ylt=Aowzo16aQbVhztYb45uZy6ubvZx4?fr=yfp-t-900-1-s&toggle=1&cop=mss&ei=UTF-8&p=kendama%20tricks.

We will also have the creative event where everyone can assemble "whatever" from scrap wood pieces using hot glue and imagination. (Members, save those ends and cut off and bring them to the picnic for this event.) There will also be the swap and sell table where you can trade or sell wood, tools, finishes, Laura is asking members to turn a vase to be used for arrangements at each of the tables. They can be wet or dry and of just about any size (4" – 12"). There may be a "vase exchange" or awards and an auction of donated vases – TBD. Let her know ASAP that you will be turning one for the picnic.

More information on activities and a map will be available at the meetings and in future newsletters.

Coffee and Cookies● Complementary coffee is available at the meetings. Cookies are 50 cents each and purchased on the honor system.

President's Challenge> June Duplication Skill● The President's Challenge for June was to turn two or more of any item with the goal of duplicating the form. The winning entry, selected by the members, was a laminated set of bowls turned by Lloyd Richardson. Congratulations to Lloyd. The other entries in the President's Challenge are shown in the Show and Tell section of the newsletter.



July's Presidents Challenge – Turn an item using the style of your favorite woodturner●

Members will judge based on the item and being able to identify which turner is being “copied”. A gift certificate will be awarded the winning turning and all entrants will get credit toward the year end drawing (minimum of 6 entries during the year).

Got Wood● Alan Chin does and he wants to share. He has several logs in a variety of species that he is making available to club members. You must pick up the wood. Contact Alan for more information (see club directory).

Nomination of Board Members for 2014● If you are interested in serving the club as a Board Member, please contact any of the current officers. Jon is currently serving the second of his two year terms and we will need a member to step forward to serve as President. The other positions will also be up for election.

Symposiums>

●Southwest Association of Turners woodturning symposium will be held in Waco, TX Aug 23-25, 2013, visit www.SWATurners.org for more information.

American Association of Woodturners● The AAW is dedicated to providing education, information, and organization to those interested in woodturning. You can join the AAW at their site: <http://woodturner.org/member/MemberLogOn.asp>. Membership comes with access to on-line training information and includes a subscription to the *American Woodturner* magazine. Our club is a chapter of the AAW.

Book Review by Member Jon Spelbring> *Hogbin on Woodturning*● I picked up a copy of "Hogbin on Woodturning" by Stephen Hogbin last week. I bought it based on a review in the AAW Magazine. Truthfully, I'd never heard of him. This guy was doing things with wood in the 70s and 80s that were and are amazing! Our recent demo by Alan Carter looks to be heavily influenced by Hogbin's work. If you are looking for some projects and ideas to take you in a new direction, I highly recommend this book. He does quite a bit of sculptural work, as well as lots of turn-cut-reassemble projects. The projects range from the abstract to the very practical.

Mr. Hogbin's writing style is very readable and engaging. I felt like I was in his studio, maybe in a class. I know that there are at least three projects in the book that I now HAVE to make. His unique perspective has also sparked several derivative project ideas. Part of the fun, for me anyway, was looking at the finished project, and trying to figure out how the heck he did it before reading the details.

I admire and respect many of our more advanced and well known turners, but to me it has always seemed that they found their niche/style, perfected it, and stuck with it. Hogbin doesn't seem to sit still. Every project is quite different - he never stops growing and evolving as an artist.

(Editor's note – this is a new feature in the newsletter. If you would like to do a review of a book, video, tool, gadget, or other item, please send/email it to me for publication in future newsletters.)

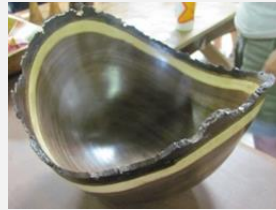
Upcoming Events:

Calendar of Events		
July 28	Meeting at Woodcraft	Pre-meeting demo by Bill Farny on “how to hold your wood turning piece”. Meeting demo TBD President’s Challenge – turn a piece in the style of your favored turner
Aug 25	Meeting at Woodcraft	Demo – How to turn a Kendamas
Sept 29	Annual Picnic	Meeting will be held at Spencer Creek park. Challenge – turn Kendama for judging and competition. Turn a vase for table decoration! See article in the newsletter for more information.

June Show and Tell



Bowl turned from Scotch Pine by Alan Chin. The branches form a ring around the trunk and provide fantastic accents and the wood has great color. See note in NL about logs that Alan is making available to club members.



Natural edge walnut bowl by Bob Goulding. He used a lot of super glue to keep the bark attached – adding more as the turning progressed. Wood harvested in the winter is best when doing a natural edge when you want the bark to stay attached. It is finished with lacquer (Deft). Bob uses a gloss finish and rubs it out with steel wool to give it a satin look.



When the EF3 tornado struck St. Charles at the end of May a lot of trees were downed. This and a similar bowl were turned in green ash from a neighbor's tree. A similar bowl was given to the neighbor that lost his tree. Turning by Charles Sapp.



Bill Farny turned these Alan Carter style items. The close up shows the finial that is hidden when the plug is inserted into the suspended vessel.



Bowl turned by Dave Endres from a yellow pine that was cut down while he was at the John C. Campbell Folk School. The garden tool was made by Dave from a ball peen hammer and he turned a new handle.



Gary Hinegardner, founder of Wood Hat Spirits, wanted a unique wash bowl so he turned his own (actually a couple) from hackberry and will mount them on top of a whiskey barrel. He used a two part epoxy and multiple coats of lacquer to seal the surface.



Herb Bilgram is known for his segmented turning but wanted to do some "quick" turning so he created tea lights and decorated them with pyrography and paint.



Jeff Nasser turned this segmented pepper mill.



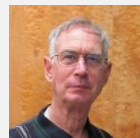
Box and bowl turned and then decorated with a Rose Engine by John Buehrer. Decorating the inside was a real challenge.



Dan Burselson created some very unique yoyos and tops. He combines his turning skills with painting, using his airbrush system to generate a spiral design on the chatter surfaces of the tops. The unfinished turning shows the way Dan turns his yoyos. The blue ribbon was won with his display of decorated platters at a recent show.



Michael Blankenship created this walnut bowl and finished it with 10 coats of polyurethane and a final coating of buffed wax.



Natural edge bowl and box/vessel turned by Rich Hinkebein.

Additional Entries for the President's Challenge – June Duplication Duplication Turning Turning



Salt and pepper shakers turned by Michael Blankenship. Since Michael is blind you may think that he did not notice that there are NO holes in the top. These are actually designed with an insert in the bottom that has a tube and funnel shape to catch the salt or pepper when they are shaken so it comes out the bottom. Notice also the grooves in the one to indicate it is the pepper shaker.



John Buehrer turned his first set of salt and pepper shakers in 7th grade. At that time they had to first draw and then turn what they drew. John found it was easier to turn and then modify the drawing to match the result. However, they inspired him to turn this set in mahogany for the June challenge (without a drawing).



Cherry candle sticks by Charles Sapp.



Rich Hinkebein salt and pepper shakers.



Martini glass stems turned by Laura Spelbring.

Woodturners of STL
771 Meadow Cliff Drive
St. Charles, MO 63303

Join the Woodturners of St. Louis: If you like turning wood, making things on your lathe and want to learn more about woodturning then join the Woodturners of St. Louis. Learn and share ideas with like-minded Woodturners of St. Louis. Our chapter normally meets from 1:00pm to 4:00 pm on the fourth Sunday of every month at Woodcraft Supply; 2077 Congressional Drive (Westport area), St. Louis, MO 63146.

<http://www.stlturners.org>

Facebook site • Check out the club Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Woodturners-of-St-Louis/292734664135601> and “Like” the page (click on the “Like” icon) to receive updates.



Board Members

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