

WOODTURNERS OF ST. LOUIS

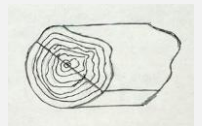
stlturners.org
October 2013

A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

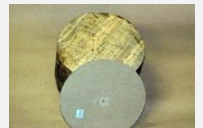
October Demo > Bob Goulding – Turning a Natural Edge Bowl • Natural-edge bowls are a good conversation piece and their design lends itself to any home style, from traditional to modern. The turning can result in an item that is both useful and decorative. Once the basic skills for turning natural-edge bowls have been mastered, any number of shapes and styles can be made.



Needless to say for a natural edge you start with a log and cut a section slightly longer than the diameter. Try to split the log section through the pith (the center of the growth rings). Since logs are seldom perfectly round, make your cut so that the cross section of the bowl blank is symmetrical. That is, if you were to outline the cut end of your split log on paper and folded it in half, the two sides would be close to the same. In a regular bowl, it doesn't matter if your blank is lumpy as you will just keep cutting away wood until it is round and uniform. In a natural edged bowl, you can't do that and if your bowl blank is lumpy, your bowl will be lumpy.



Nail an appropriately sized disc of cardboard to the center of the outside of your bowl blank opposite the flat side, to serve as a guide for cutting the blank round on a band saw. It will then sit stable on the flat side while cutting. Use the same disc to locate the center of the flat bottom, after cutting.



Drill a seat for your spur drive with an appropriate sized forstner bit on the rounded side of the bowl blank. It is important to center it between the edges if your bowl is to be symmetrical and be sure to drill past the bark and into solid wood.

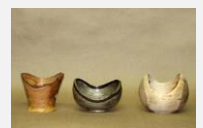


Before mounting your bowl blank on the lathe, remove the pointed spike from your tailstock live center. Mount the bowl blank between the spur drive and the tail stock center. Check and correct the alignment of the bowl blank so that the bark edge dips down toward the bottom of the bowl equally on both sides. Without the spike in the tailstock, it is easier to adjust the alignment without tearing up the bottom. Face off the bottom and turn a tenon on the bottom for your chuck.



Before shaping the outside of the bowl, let's think about the design.

- If the outside surface of the bowl goes straight up to the highest point, the saddleback will be relatively shallow. If the outside surface rolls slightly inward at its highest point, the saddleback will be more pronounced. If the outside surface curves sharply inward at the highest point, the saddleback will be most dramatic, but the inside surface will be more challenging to cut and sand.
- Will your bowl have a bark edge or not? Without a bark edge is, of course, the simplest and will be the most durable. Without bark, the edge can be made more dramatic by being darkened. A stain pen works



well for that. Wood with a smooth, thin bark is easy to work with and requires only a little CA (super glue) to bond it. Heavy, rough bark, such as walnut, is a real challenge and requires delicate cutting and a lot of CA to stabilize. Be sure to stand to the side when turning on the lathe after applying CA. You don't want it to be slung into your eyes or onto your glasses. The fumes from the CA are dangerous and require lots of ventilation. Bob wears a respirator and runs his dust collector with a hood close behind the piece when soaking the bark in CA. He uses inexpensive CA from Wal-Mart in small tubes so it stays fresh. Bark on a finished bowl is very fragile. Don't let the kids play with it.



Start shaping the outside of the bowl with a bowl gouge. As you progress toward the top of the bowl, you will be taking an interrupted cut. A light piece of paper on the lathe bed below your piece will help you see the "shadows". Work slowly and take shallow cuts, particularly into the bark. Once the outside is shaped, if you have the bark on, give the outside a spray of lacquer to keep the CA from staining the wood. Soak the outside of the bark in CA, particularly the seam between the bark and the wood. This will help stabilize the bark and keep it attached to the wood.



Reverse the bowl on the lathe, with the tenon clamped in the chuck. True up the outside of the bowl. Keep looking for high spots by sighting at the far side and stopping the lathe and feeling for ridges with your fingers. Shear scrape it and sand it smooth. It's much easier to sand the outside now, with the center of the bowl solid than once you've hollowed it out. To sand the "wings" of the bowl, lock it in place with the indexing screw and sand it, rotating it a section at a time. Sand it with a sanding block or disc sander. When you're satisfied with the outside, you can begin to hollow out the inside of the bowl.

Bob likes to pierce the bark at the outside, before clearing it toward the center. Adjust your light source to give you the best possible view of the "wings" of the bowl as they swing past your tool rest. He uses a thin cutoff tool to pierce the bark and "wings" down to about $\frac{1}{2}$ " and about $\frac{3}{8}$ " wide, before using a bowl gouge to start clearing away bark and wood toward the center. (David Ellsworth goes right in at the edge with his bowl gouge, but he does it full time and never leaves the bark on. Bob feels more comfortable making that first cut with a very sharp, thin cutoff tool.)



Bob likes to stabilize the bark with CA every $\frac{1}{2}$ " to 1" as he cuts down into the bowl, particularly when working with walnut. With a thin smooth bark it's not as critical. Hollow out the center of the bowl no more than 1" at a time so that the shell remains supported. Check to maintain a constant thickness and a smooth inside surface. If you have not maintained a smooth surface, you will have to sand it smooth because those unsupported "wings" will chatter like crazy if you try to go back and cut them smooth. Once you get down past the "wings", the cutting will become much easier. A heavy, round-nose scraper works well to cut and smooth the bottom of the bowl. Note the curved tool rest that lets the tool stay close to the wings of the bowl.



To sand the inside of the bowl Bob uses a 2" sanding disc on a soft pad attached to a long drill extension driven by an electric hand drill. The extension is so smooth that he can hold it between his fingers, even at high speed, and control the sanding cut into the inside of the "wings". Of course, the "wings" must be sanded with the lathe turned off and the chuck locked with the index screw. Move the piece about 30 degrees at a time, when sanding the inside of the "wings." The bottom, below the "wings" can, of course, be sanded with the lathe turning very slowly. Once you are satisfied with the surface on the inside of the bowl, check the thickness of the bottom before reversing it again, to cut the outside of the foot of the bowl. This will tell you how much



material you can remove for the foot.



If you have a vacuum chuck, shaping and finishing the outside of the bottom will be straight forward. If not, you will have to clamp the bowl between a jam chuck and the tail stock center. A piece of thin foam plastic between the bowl and the jam chuck will protect the surface and provide additional grip. Even though the bottom will still have an impression of the tailstock center that will help align the bowl, registration will probably not be perfect. (Note, since you removed the center pin in the live center you do not have to turn away wood to remove that puncture mark.) Keeping in mind the thickness left in the center of the bowl bottom (you measured it, right), turn the foot to whatever shape you desire. To blend the newly cut bottom with the sides of the bowl, if they are not registered perfectly, slow the lathe down to a crawl and blend them together, letting the tool float on the uneven surface.



Sand the newly cut surfaces. As you cut the foot of your bowl to the center, you will be left with a little stump at the tailstock center. You can cut it off later with a knife or chisel and sand it smooth. Bob chucks a 2" disc pad in the drill press and holds the bowl in his hands at an angle to the sanding disc. This allows him to smooth the foot, nicely. Apply whatever finish you like, to your completed natural edged bowl.



Editor's note – A special thanks go to Bob Goulding on this article. Bob supplied a very detail, step by step outline along with several pictures that were used for this article. Thanks Bob.



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

- "Small Woodturning Projects-12 skill building projects" by Bonnie Klein. It is an updated version of her previous book and includes some different projects.
- Woodturning Design Magazine - includes articles on segmenting, reverse turning jig options, square bowls, and bottle stoppers.
- American Woodturning Magazine - Includes articles on Binh Pho and on natural edge bowls.
- A donated DVD - "Sharpening Woodturning tools" by Ron Brown
- A donated DVD - "inlaid and novelty boxes" by Chris Stott
- D-Way tools has some excellent videos on their web site. They include: turning a hollow form, sharpening, using their beading tool, and many more. They are free and you can view them at: <http://d-waytools.com/>
- One Way also has videos of their products and how to use them on their web site: http://oneway.ca/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=12&Itemid=15

Due to space limitations as the library expands, all VHS tapes have been put into storage at my home and are available upon request. They will still be listed in the library index which is available on the [club website](#).

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. Please take advantage of this wonderful club benefit.

Tip of the Month> Use a hose clamp on your tool post to set the desired height. This will reduce your set up time when you are moving the tool rest as your turning progresses. – Bob Goulding

Club News>



November Ornament Exchange● At the November meeting members will have the opportunity to exchange ornaments that they have made. If you would like to participate, just bring one of your ornaments to the November meeting. The ornament can be simple or complex. Participants will then draw a number to pick an ornament made by another club member. Hope to have your ornament in the event.

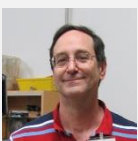
November Wine & Cheese Social● There will not be a demonstration at the November meeting. Instead we will have a few hours of socializing. Bring your spouse/significant other, favorite wine (or other drink you enjoy) and an appetizer to share. The social will start following a short business meeting.



November Election of Board Members● The annual election will be held at the regular November meeting. The positions of President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer will be up for election. If you are interested in serving the club as a Board Member, please contact any of the current officers. Bob Goulding, Walt Ahlgrim and Charles Sapp have indicated they would be willing to serve as President, Treasurer, and Secretary respectively. A candidate is needed to fill the position of Vice President. Nominations will be accepted from the floor at the November meeting.

Collaborative● The AAW sponsors a competition for clubs to turn a collaborative. What is a collaborative? It is a project that is completed by as many club members as possible, with a minimum of six participants working as a team. All team members must belong to the AAW. There are size restrictions on the project but the work can be any turned object, functional or not. Pieces are judged in three categories: artistic, mechanical/technical, and fantasy. Rules are provided on the [AAW site](#). Judging will take place at the AAW's 28 international symposium in Phoenix, AZ June 13-15, 2014.

The Club has participated in several collaboratives in the past and several members expressed interest at the meeting in doing an entry for 2014 (Bill Farny, Bill Rubenstein, Jon Spelbring, Charles Sapp, Ray Koeneman, Dixi Smith). All levels of turning will be involved – novice to experienced, so contact Jon Spelbring if you would like to be involved. Once the group is formed, they will decide on the category and piece to be submitted. You can see some of the past entries in our old newsletters: [April 2007](#) and [Jan 2008](#).



Membership dues are due● Dues for 2014 become payable at the end of December (but you can always pay ahead of time and beat the rush). An [application](#) is available on the club web site. Dues are \$30 individual; \$40 family. If you are renewing, you don't need to complete a new application just pay your dues to Walt and make sure that the [contact information](#) we have on file

is correct.

Attendance/Treasurers Report● Forty two members/guests attended the October meeting.

Free Sandpaper● Dan Burleson brought in two large boxes of sandpaper that was distributed to the members with no charge. Dan would like to present the sandpaper donor with some tokens of our appreciation. Dan gave the donor one of his turnings as a gesture of our appreciation this time and is asking club members to donate one of their turnings (bowl, pen, top,...) to be given to the donor in May and for future pickups when he gets more sandpaper. Bring your turning to the meeting and give it to Dan. Thanks.



Web site● If you would like your work featured on the front page, just send Jon a note, along with 4 pictures that are composed, lit, and have a neutral background - 640x480 pixels. If you are a club member and registered on the site you can load pictures to your profile at any time. If you have any issues logging onto the site or becoming a registered member, contact [Jon Spelbring](#) or [Brandon Harris](#). If they do not respond within 48 hours, please contact them again via email.

Safety Shield & Videographer Assistance Needed● Thanks to those that helped in getting the safety shield and video equipment set up prior to the meeting and put away. This will be needed at all the Woodcraft meetings when we have a demo scheduled so please continue to help with the set up and put away.

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

President's Challenge> October Turn a Lidded Box● The President's Challenge for October was to turn a lidded box – any size, any shape. The winning entry, selected by the members, was this box by our Librarian, Rich Hinkebein. Rich turned the box for a church auction and expected the recognition would greatly increase the box's value and commanded sale price. Congratulations to Rich. The other entries in the President's Challenge are shown in the President's Challenge section of the newsletter.



November President's Challenge - Goblet● Turn a goblet for the wine and cheese social at the November meeting. Functionality is encouraged but not required. Entries will be judged by the members. 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).



Professional Turner Seminar● The club has scheduled [Nick Agar](#) for a seminar and hands on turning event on 12-14 April 2014. The demo will be at Kirkwood High School and the hands on turning will be at Woodcraft. Dave Endres recently spent a week with Nick at Craft Supply in Provo, UT and discussed projects. Nick's Norwegian sunset bowl and wall art are candidates for the demonstration. Cost and sign up will be available soon. Contact James Payne, Conference Administrator, with any questions.



Dan Burleson Demo and Workshop● The Land of Lincoln Woodturners in Springfield, IL are hosting a demo and workshop on December 14, 15, and 16. The demonstration will be held on Dec 14th with hands-on workshops on Dec 15th and 16th. They are offering our club the same price as their members: \$10 for the demo and \$40 for the workshop. Dan will be demonstrating his platters and workshops will also include the making of yoyos, tops, and scoops. If you are interested, contact [Dan Schmoker](#).

Club Membership Roster● The club roster is available on our web site to members that have registered on-line.

For Sale●

- Contact [Bill Rubenstein](#) if you are interested in a bandsaw, chucks, or dust collectors.
- Contact Dan Bechtold at DNC Resources for wood. They are a sawmill with a variety of species, sizes, burls, and both green and kiln dried wood. Located in Dow, IL their phone number is 618.786.3029.

Editor's Note - You can post your for sale items on the club web site. That part of the web site is open to the public and your posting will get to more than just our members.

Symposiums>

Tennessee Association of Woodturners (TAW) ● 26th Annual Symposium on Friday, January 31st and Saturday, February 1st, 2014. The Symposium will be held at the Franklin Marriott Cool Springs, 700 Cool Springs Boulevard in Franklin, TN. Featured demonstrators will be Trent Bosch, Barbara Dill, Doug Fisher, and Kurt Hertzog. Check out their symposium webpage - www.tnwoodturners.org/symposium.

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 and discounts on AAW merchandise. Our club is a chapter of the AAW.

AAW has a new initiative entitled Woodturning Beyond Barriers. This is an educational mission to encourage the practice of woodturning and to provide specific resources needed by those limited by disabilities. A curriculum and instructional videos can be found at:

http://woodturner.org/accessibility/index.htm?utm_source=Newsletter+%2317&utm_campaign=newsletter+%2317&utm_medium=email

Please take a few moments to renew your [AAW membership](#)!

Upcoming Events:

Coming Events Calendar		
Nov 24	Meeting at Woodcraft	Annual Wine & Cheese Social, Ornament exchange, Officer Election. No pre-meeting or meeting demo. Bring an appetizer and drink to share.
Dec 22	No meeting	Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
Jan 2014	Meeting at Woodcraft	TBD

Member Interests● The Board needs your feedback/input on demonstrations for next year. What would you like to see turned – functional items (rollings pins, salt shakers, bowls, tools,..) or would you like to create art (wall decorations, jewelry, air brushing, surface decorating,..) or would you like to see pens (wood, plastic, nuts, ...). WE NEED YOUR FEEDBACK to better serve you. Please send an email to [Charlie](#) or contact any of the officers with your thoughts.

October Show and Share



Michael Blankenship added to his open segmented turnings with these well-crafted cherry bowls. The flared top bowl has spalted maple segments. The other bowl has Baltic birch plywood segments. There are 16 segments in each bowl.

Tom Brock shared ornaments that he had turned. The light house is from the last AAW magazine and the angel is based a design by [Nick Cook](#).



Inspired by turning a sphere for his Kendama last month, Dixi Smith took it a step further and turned this bowling ball size sphere. He designed a jam chuck, shown above, that was used for both the head and tail stock to hold the piece. Dixi also showed his Missouri micrometers that can be used for determining the thickness of a turning. He has multiple sizes to handle most turnings.



Bill Farny showed two maple bowls that were enhanced with texturing. One was made with the Sorby tool and the other with a knurling tool. The features were then highlighted with coloring.



Steve Geho showed his walnut natural edge bowls. After turning the larger one, Steve made the second which was about 3 inches in diameter.



Charles Sapp turned this open segmented vase based on the book reviewed in the last newsletter. There are 122 pieces in the maple and walnut turning. It won a third place ribbon at the Belleville Midwestern Woodcarvers Show.



Rich Hinkebein shared this open segmented bowl.



Gail Elbe displays some of the pens she turned for the troops. She encouraged other members to participate in the upcoming [Turn for Troops](#) drive at Woodcraft on Nov 9th and 10th.



Jeff Nasser shows his lidded box that was turned in lignum vitae, an exotic, dense, hard wood with a holly insert.



Jan Hoffman proudly displays her first bowl that she completed during her class at [Craft Alliance](#).



Hook tool made by Dan Schmoker. The tool is introduced to the turning slightly below center and then raised.



Dan Burleson displayed his turned bowls and platters. He is holding one of Dixi's measuring tools that he uses to determine the thickness of the rim and foot as he turns. The device is also shown inside the bowl.



Dave Ackmann shared this bowl of lidded boxes that he turned. He used them as table favors at Thanksgiving last year. Each one contained a joke, riddle, or request for some memory of Thanksgivings past. The technique also works well as an "ice breaker" if the guests were not all that familiar with each other. The guests all took their acorns home as a "desk toy". It's all simple turning in a chuck (he uses red oak for the base and mahogany for the cap), with the knurling done using a 12 tooth per inch knurling tool from [Craft Supply](#). The cap is bored out with a 1 1/8" Forstner bit, and the base with a 7/8" router bit, making the job quite simple.

Additional Entries for the President's Challenge – October Lidded Box

 	 	 
<p>Textured box by Jon Spelbring.</p>	<p>Pear shaped turning by Bob Goulding.</p>	<p>Lidded box by Gail Elbe.</p>
 	 	 
<p>Textured and colored box by Bill Farny.</p>	<p>Open segmented box from cherry and maple by Michael Blankenship. Finished with teak oil.</p>	<p>Dixi Smith turned this lidded box with finial.</p>
  	 	
<p>Lidded boxes by Ray Koeneman.</p>	<p>Open segmented turning by Charles Sapp.</p>	<p>Bill Bales entry for the President's Challenge.</p>
 	 	 
<p>Spalted box by Ron Andracsek.</p>	<p>Lignum vitae box with holly insert by Jeff Nasser.</p>	<p>John Buehrer turned several lidded boxes for the competition.</p>
	 	
	<p>Lidded box turned by Walt Ahlgrim.</p>	

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

President:	Jon Spelbring	618.698.3626	jon@spelbring.net
Vice President:	Dan Burleson	636.299.6302	danburleson1@gmail.com
Secretary:	Charles Sapp	636.928.0149	cwsapp@charter.net
Treasurer:	Walt Ahlgrim	314.567.5268	stlwoodturner@sbcglobal.net
Conf. Admin.	James Payne		ipayne.2011@gmail.com
Newsletter:	Charles Sapp	636.928.0149	cwsapp@charter.net
Librarian:	Rich Hinkebein	636.332.2396	kathryna1945@yahoo.com

Questions: info@stlturners.org