



WOODTURNERS OF ST. LOUIS

stlturners.org

January 2014

A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

January Demo > John Buehrer – Turning a box● John Buehrer turns beautiful thin wall vessels and decorative boxes that are enhanced with his Rose Engine. At the January meeting John demonstrated the turning of a basic lidded box for the club.



Starting with a rough cut blank mounted between steb centers on both the head and tail stock he quickly turned it to a cylinder. He then squared up the ends and turned a tenon for future chucking. By using a steb center on both ends he could rotate the piece end-for-end and use the dimples made by the steb teeth to get good alignment. The spring loaded center pin in the steb center made a minimal depression in the blank.



The blank was then mounted into a chuck. (It may be necessary to do some re-turning to true up the other tenon and sides after remounting in the chuck.) The piece is then marked for parting into a top and bottom (minimal wood is removed so that the grain pattern will align when the box is fit together). The lines indicate the top, the parting cut, and where a tenon will be cut on the bottom to allow it to fit up into the lid. When parting off the top, release the pressure from the tail stock so that it does not cause the piece to bind. You can also finish the parting with a saw.



After the top is parted off, it is remounted into the chuck and a hole drilled to the depth that you want to hollow it. A spindle tool is very effective in hollowing the end grain – cutting from the drilled hole to the outside wall. Final clean up cuts for the inside wall were made with a scraper that had a very small radius on the tip. The scraper should cut on the centerline of the turning and be held with the handle high giving a negative rake to the cutting edge. It should not be allowed to cut on both the side and the top at the same time as the different speeds of the wood (from outside edge to the center of the turning) will typically cause a catch and a dangerous situation. The inside of the lid should be finished at this time – sand and apply the finish of your choice. John cuts a radius on the end of his sand paper strips to reduce the grabbing when sanding the inside.



The bottom of the box was then mounted in the chuck, a hole drilled to the depth that it was to be hollowed and turned using the techniques described above for the lid. A tenon was then cut to fit into the lid. You can use calipers, but John likes to turn the tenon down in small steps until the lid has a snug fit. He turns a tapered tenon until the lid just starts to fit and then he finishes the cut using the mark made by the lid as a guide. Once the lid fits, the bottom is used as a jam chuck to hold the lid for final turning and finishing. The two pieces can be taped together or sprayed with water to expand the tenon, but John likes to just put chalk on the tenon for a friction hold. This allows him to true up the cylinder (top to bottom) and finish the lid. He likes a tool made by Ray Kei which has a long cutting edge that makes a good shear cut and it is also good for hollowing.



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The lid is then final turned. In this case John is making a recess that will get a decorative insert. The bottom is then reversed, jam chucked and finished. Thanks John for great demonstration on how to turn a lidded box.



Pre-Meeting Demo> Bill Farny – Turning tool handles● The pre-meeting demonstration by Bill Farny was on turning tool handles – not just for lathe but for any tool you may be using or want to build. Bill showed handles that he had turned for files, screw drivers, awls, and lathe tools with each one shaped to serve the purpose of the tool. He show the shape used by Sorby for their lathe tools and patterns many of his on their shape. Handles are typically made from a hard wood like maple, cherry, ash or walnut to “handle” the impact of use.



Bill turned a handle from start to finish illustrating the steps. He starts with a blank slightly longer than the finished handle to allow for tenons. After marking centers, he drills a hole for the tool shank about 2.5 to 3” deep. A fixture mounted in the banjo keeps the square blank from rotating and allows him to slide it onto the drill bit.



A jam chuck is then put on the head stock. It has a shaft to fit in the hole that was just drilled and a shoulder that is the size of the metal ferrule. The shoulder acts as a guide bushing for turning the tenon on the tool handle and with the ferrule in place on the jig you can quickly determine when you have the needed diameter turned by just sliding the ferrule down. Bill uses copper tubing for most of his ferrules, but

tightly wrapped wire or brass nuts also work fine. (The brass nuts may be turned round with your tools or a file.) The major dimensions are then transferred to the blank with a parting tool. Bill suggests that you use a pencil to mark the diameters so you can see them as you remove the wood during shaping. When the pencil lines start to disappear, you are at the diameter you wanted. After the handle is turned to final shape it is sanded with 120-150 grit or until it “feels good to you”. Bill lets most of his handles develop a natural patina, but an oil finish can be used.



The tool shank is secured to the handle with gel super glue or epoxy. To secure the ferrule, a bead of super glue is applied around the handle tip, the ferrule twisted on, and some thin super glue applied at the end.

For turning inside hollow forms, an elliptical handle will help with alignment of the cutting edge. His jig has sufficient tolerance to allow the blank to be turned on a second axis if desired. Thanks Bill, for a great lesson on making handles.

(Editor’s note: [Inventory Sales Company](#) at 9777 Reavis Road, St. Louis has an inventory of fasteners that will fit your lathe such as the nut on the fixture above.)

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



- Two magazines: American Woodturner, which includes articles on texturing and spiraling as well as other topics and Woodturning Design, which includes an article on our member Michael Blankenship.
- Books:
 - Segmented Bowls for the Beginning Turner by Don Jovag. This book gives a thorough explanation of the details involved in completion of both a simpler salad bowl and a more complicated decorator bowl, both with design rings.
 - Turning Natural Edge Bowls by Bernard Hohlfeld. He included a lot of good quality pictures explaining the process a from burl or bowl blanks to finishing including drying, coring, and surface treatments. Contrary to many turners, he double turns natural edge pieces.
 - Woodturning Evolution by Nick Agar and David Springett. They explain 14 unusual projects and include an 18 page gallery with descriptions.
 - 3 books from the AAW which are collections of articles from past American Woodturner Magazine on the following subjects: Turning Bowls and Platters; Turning Holiday Ornaments; and Making and Using Turning Tools. Per the AAW, these are also available as digital e-books readable on all your electronic devices.

A reminder to all members: *“This last year has shown a lot more library items that are not returned for 6 months or more. These items are intended for everyone to have access to but one person holding up an item for a long time means that someone else can't learn from that item. If you can't get to a meeting:*

- *You can return that item to the Woodcraft store at your convenience, just put your name and St. Louis Woodturners on the item and the store will get it to me.*
- *You can ask another member to return it.*
- *You can mail it to me or the store.*

I realize that you may miss a meeting or even two, but that is not the issue here. As of this last meeting there are a couple hundred dollars of club DVD's and books outstanding for 6 months or more. I send e-mail reminders if I have your e-mail address or call if I have your phone number. Your support would be appreciated.” - Rich

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 is on our club web site. Please take advantage of this wonderful club benefit and return items in a timely manner.

Tip of the Month • If your piece develops a crack while turning, spray it with water both inside and out and then place it in a bag for a time. With some luck the wood will expand and close the crack. Then apply thin super glue along the crack and you may be able to salvage your turning. – Bob Goulding



President's Spin > Bob Goulding ● I won't use my gavel to call the meeting to order most of the time. But since my father turned this one 95 years ago I wanted to use it at least once. We have an impressive history with all of the members that have served as an officer and/or done a demonstration for our club. Thanks to all of you for serving. There are also other notable members of the club that I would like to recognize. Michael Blankenship has an article on "Turning Blind" in the Feb 2014 issue of Woodturning Design and Dan Bureson will be a guest speaker at an upcoming meeting of the Greater St. Louis Art Association. Congratulations to both of you. Two of our members, Matt Keim and Bernard Voss also participated in the annual teapot show at the Craft Alliance gallery in the Delmar Loop with their turned wooden teapots and both sold on the opening night for about \$700.

As you know we have a drawing for door prizes at our meetings. If you have a nice piece of wood, tool, or something else that would make a good door prize, please bring it in. They are much appreciated.

Doug Thompson of Thompson Lathe Tools will be demonstrating some of his fine tools and doing a demonstration of tool sharpening using the Wolverine grinding jig and attachments at our Feb 23rd meeting. (Bring cash or checks if you would like to buy any of his tools.)

Thanks to Chris for handling our videography and those who help set it up and take it down. I hope you like our new sound system with a mike for the demonstrator.

I would like to encourage you to bring examples of your work to the meetings. We are just as thrilled to see the progressing work of a new turner as the fine work of those who are more accomplished. I am also initiating a new feature, Tech Tips. As we are working on our lathes, we often find or try a new tool or technique that solves a problem and would be worthwhile to pass on to other turners. Please bring them to the meeting and share with others. – Bob Goulding

Club News>

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● Sixty two members/guests attended the January meeting. We have ~\$3700 in the bank after paying our insurance for 2014. Dues and payments for the Nick Agar seminar and hands on are being collected. – Walt Ahlgrim

Agar demonstration● The Woodturners of St. Louis are sponsoring a full day demonstration seminar and two days of hands-on workshop with internationally renowned Woodturner, [Nick Agar](#). The demonstration is April 12 from 9am to 4pm at the Kirkwood High School; 801 W. Essex Ave, Kirkwood, MO and the hands on workshop is April 13 & 14 at Woodcraft; 2077 Congressional Drive; Maryland Ht., MO. The cost is \$40 (\$5 discount if paid before March 12th) for the demonstration and \$100 for the hands on workshop.



See the [flyer](#) and application form on the club web site for more information on the [demonstration](#) and [hands on](#).



[Dave Endres](#) has offered to provide free one-on-one **pre-seminar** instruction at his shop on bowl turning and airbrush operation for anyone that has signed up and paid for the seminar. Contact him directly if you are interested. Airbrush equipment will be provided for the class; however, [Dick Blick](#) art supply is also offering a 10% discount on equipment if you would like to buy your own. Dave has turned with Nick Agar and was instrumental in getting him scheduled in St. Louis and brought in several of his turnings that were developed from his training. Contact [James Payne](#), Conference Coordinator, for more information on the Agar seminar.



Web site● Each member can up-load pictures to their profile. If you would like to be featured on the home page, provide Jon Spelbring with 4 to 6 good quality pictures (640 x 480) of your turnings with the same background. If you have any problems with web site operation, downloading, or general suggestions please contact the officers.

New Members● Please join me in welcoming –



Tom Brock from Springfield, IL. Tom is President of the [Lincoln Land Woodturners](#) in Springfield. Their club was designated as a “Star” Chapter with their achievement of 100% AAW membership. He was also one of the winners of an AAW scholarship to Arrowmont last year.



Bill Lutz from Troy IL.



Jon Onesty from Eureka, MO.

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

Got Wood● Bill Held does and he wants to deal. Bill is a former member and did a lot of segmented turning. He has a lot of ¾” material in a variety of species. Call him at 314.843.0264 for more information.

President’s Challenge> January – Children’s toys● The President’s Challenge for January was to turn a children’s toy. The winning entry, selected by the members, was a segmented pull toy turned by Jon Spelbring. Congratulations to Jon. The other entries in the President’s Challenge are shown in the picture section of the newsletter.



February's Presidents Challenge – Turn a bottle stopper● 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).

Please be sure to look at the entries and vote for your favorite during the break. A number is placed by each entry and voting slips of paper are on the President's Challenge table. Your vote should be put in the ballot box on the table. The votes will be tallied and the winner is announced during the second part of the meeting. Remember, one entry per member and entries must have been turned within the last 3 months.

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. Pieces are judged in three categories: artistic, mechanical/technical, and fantasy. Bill Farny will host a planning meeting at his home on Feb 22nd at 9am. Lunch will be between noon and 1pm and the meeting will break by 4pm. Please contact [Bill](#) for more information and let him know that you would like to participate. [RSVP](#) so that he and Charlene have a head count for the pot of Gumbo that they are making for lunch. All levels of turning are needed and everyone is encouraged to participate.

Members in the news●

Dan Burleson> Dan hosted a two day workshop for the Lincoln Land Woodturners in Springfield, Il in December. Click [here](#) to view a slide show of the event (pictures go off line on March 18th). Dan also set up a slide show of the steps to turning a 29.25" maple basket illusion piece. Click [here](#) to view the slide show (pictures go off line on April 18th).

Michael Blankenship> Michael is featured in an article in the Feb 2014 issue of Woodturning Design and will be a demonstrator at the 2014 Rocky Mountain Woodturning Symposium in Loveland, CO (www.rmwoodturningsymposium.com).

Symposiums>

●**Tennessee Association of Woodturners**> I just returned from the symposium in Franklin, TN and it was a great experience. There were over 350 woodturners from 22 states attending. Trent Bosch, Barbara Dill, Doug Fisher, and Kurt Hertzog were the demonstrators. We had 4 rotations each day with time in between sessions to shop at the show vendors. That's me in the picture with David Sapp, owner of the [Franklin Woodcraft store](#), and his son Aaron. Doug Thompson was there with his tools and he will be at our club meeting in February. I was very proud to be able to display my turnings in the Instant Galley along with some of the best – John Jordan, JoHannes Michelsen, John Lucas, and other outstanding turners.





What is it?> These jigs were used by the demonstrator in one of my rotations at the TAW symposium. Email me if you know or would like to guess what it is and how it is used. Answer next month.



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 • Editor's note: 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		
Feb 23	Pre-meeting at 11:30am & Meeting at 1pm - Woodcraft	Pre-meeting demo with Dave Endres teaching beads and coves on spindle work. Meeting demonstration by Doug Thompson of Thompson tools. Doug will show his tools, demonstrate how to use them and how to sharpen with the Wolverine system.
March 23	Meeting at Woodcraft: 1pm	"Humanizing the Skew Chisel", a hands on turning experience based on an American Woodturner article using vegetables! You will want to be at this meeting. More info to follow.
April 27	Meeting at Woodcraft	TBD

January Show and Tell



Bacote box with an African blackwood lid by Rich Hinkebein.



Charles York turned these bottle stoppers and beaded platter.



Light house ornaments (with colors for three different super heroes) by Tom Brock.



Artistic turnings by Bill Farny using a texturing wheel and ink colors applied with a foam brush.



Steve White with a fixture he made to sharpen a spindle tool made by [Cindy Drozda](#). The offset holes allow you to quickly grind a secondary bevel on the tool. Steve also showed the jig he made to cut thin slots in his Christmas ornaments which were then filled with a veneer before final turning. The other enhancements were added with his Rose Engine lathe.



Lloyd Richardson made this fixture to hold small HSS cutters for sharpening.



Bowls turned and enhanced with hand carved flutes by Brad Bernhard. Brad is also a member of the [Woodworking Guild](#) and has made some beautiful furniture pieces.



Walt Ahlgrim turned a yarn bowl for his wife and used a spiral cutting blade on a jig saw to cut the curve for the yarn. He is also shown in a hockey mask that he purchased to use for a face shield while turning.



Dan Burluson's beaded basket weaving illusions. He just purchased a Stubby lathe and wanted to see just how large a piece he could turn - the platter is over 29" in diameter.

Dixi Smith needed a "table riser" so he turned one. This is his first segmented turning.



Natural edge and open segmented bowls turned by Michael Blankenship.

Additional Entries for the President's Challenge – January Children's toy



Milk bottle and yogurt containers turned by Dave Ackmann.



[Skittles](#) (like a bowling game) turned and assembled by Laura Spelbring.



Multi tone train whistle by Charles Sapp.



Rich Hinkebein baby rattle and top.

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.



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