



# WOODTURNERS OF ST. LOUIS

A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

stlturners.org

February 2014

## February Demo > Doug Thompson – [Thompson Lathe Tools](http://www.thompsonlathetools.com) ●



A lot of great businesses started in a garage – Amazon, Apple, Microsoft, Disney, and Thompson Lathe Tools. Doug Thompson, owner and fabricator, worked at Ford Motor Company for over 36 years in machine repair. As a woodturner he was always looking for a better tool. So in 2005 he decided to use his knowledge of materials and machinist experience to design and manufacture that better tool. He started in his 10' x 10' garage and gave his first tools away to friends. They liked the designs and asked for more. With the internet and web, the business has grown and Thompson Lathe tools are now used worldwide by many professionals – Johannes Michelsen, John Jordan, Al Stirt, Jimmy Clewes....to name a few.



Doug went thru the steps to keep his tools sharp. He provided a copy of his sharpening guide that shows his set up for the Oneway Wolverine grinding jig and Vari-grind attachment. (It is available for downloading at [www.thompsonlathetools.com](http://www.thompsonlathetools.com).) He recommends a 60° nose angle for bowl gouges and a 40° nose angle for spindle gouges. He sets the leg angle to match that on his sharpening guide and the extension of the gouge at 1 3/4" out from the jig. The nose angle is actually established by some trial and error – making a straight on grind; checking the angle with a protractor; then adjust the sliding arm in or out as needed to get the desired nose angle.



Next the flutes are placed on the stone and ground as shown. This shows where the wings will be ground to create a convex curve from the top to the centerline of the flute. The wings are then ground using the Vari-grind attachment. Doug recommends grinding wheels with a hardness of I or K as anything softer tends to develop grooves. His preferred wheels are a Norton 3X – K with a 46 grit for initial grinding or quick changes and an 80 grit for touch-up.



When dressing a wheel to true it up there is no need to remove all the embedded steel. You only need to make one pass to expose fresh grit. It is a problem to hold the dresser steady, reduce the bounce, and get a truly round wheel. Doug demonstrated three types of wheel dressers – the star-wheel which is very aggressive and hard to hold steady. He uses this on the 46 grit wheel where he is not as concerned about some bounce and out-of-roundness as that helps to remove material quicker. Use of this on any hardness below K is not recommended. The next dresser was the cluster diamond which must also be held firmly on a tool rest. The last dresser was the single point diamond which has less bounce and does a good job of truing the wheel.



Doug discussed what sets his tools apart from others. They are made of triple tempered CPM 10V steel (15V steel is also available). This is a powder metal that is manufactured by Crucible Materials Corporation with a 9.75% vanadium content to hold an edge longer. They are hardened to 62-64 Rockwell and triple tempered with a cryogenic treatment between the first and second temper to increase the durability and toughness of the steel. Thompson Lathe tools are heat treated the entire length of the tool.



After some discussion of the negative rake scraper Doug demonstrated how to make those grinds.

Thanks to Doug Thompson and Thompson Lathe Tools for providing an informative session on tool construction and sharpening.

(Editor' note: Both the club and Doug Thompson would like to thank Woodcraft for allowing Thompson Lathe Tools to be at their facility and conduct this demonstration. Although Woodcraft does not currently stock Thompson tools they are a supplier of other fine tools and turning accessories.)

### **Pre-Meeting Demo> Dave Endres – Beads and Coves●**



Mastering the turning of beads and coves will allow you to turn virtually any furniture spindle. Dave started his demo by showing the leg from a turn of the century table which was driven by a spur center and decorated with various beads and coves. Although fairly simple in principal they do require time and practice to master.

After placing the blank between centers Dave emphasized some safety principals – place the tool rest close to the stock right about the center point of the turning, rotate the stock by hand to make sure it clears the tool rest, start at a slow speed and then bring the speed up, and always follow the ABC's (anchor the tool, ride the bevel, raise the tool handle to start cutting). Using a spindle roughing gouge and an overhand grip Dave quickly turned a portion of the stock into a cylinder.

### **Coves** – Anchoring the gouge on one side of where you want the center to be with the flute



almost open (~90° to the floor), raise the handle and roll the gouge to the center making a “downhill” cut from the high point to the valley.

Repeat on the opposite side. The cuts are repeated to deepen and widen the cove until the width and depth desired are reached. Sharp



corners at the outside make for good definition. Watch the profile develop at the top of the cylinder instead of where the tool is cutting and learn to turn with either hand to make this operation easier when the head or tail stock interferes with the gouge.

### **Straight cut (ski slope)** – The straight is similar to a cove but does not have the curvature.

The cut is started with the flutes open and the handle rotated so that the bevel is pointed into the cylinder (otherwise the gouge will tend to skate on the cylinder). As soon as the entry is made, the handle is brought around, the gouge rotated, and the cut follows the bevel angle as it is pushed forward.



**Pommel** – This is the transition from a square edge to a turned section. It is very important that the stock is mounted in the center, otherwise the depth of cut will vary from corner to corner. Tools should be sharp to minimize tear out and keep the transition crisp.



**Beads** – You do not have to define the edges of your bead but it can be beneficial in giving you a stopping point at each end so that you don't accidentally over cut. Dave demonstrated several techniques to cut a bead. Using a gouge with the flute parallel to the floor, start at the center (high point) of the bead and roll the gouge downwards from the centerline to the outside edge so that the flutes end up at 90°. Then repeat on the other side of the bead. Beads are typically



symmetrical but may be short and fat or tall and thin. There are no rules. A parting tool that is grooved can also be used to turn small beads. Multiple beads can be turned by placing the edge of the tool in the previously cut bead edge. Larger beads can also be cut with similar tools designed for that purpose. Dave showed one of his homemade bead cutting tools. Several manufacturers also make bead cutting tools ([Sorby](#), [D-Way](#)). Skews can also be used to roll a bead. Bill Farny demonstrated a bead turning tool that he made from the handle turned at the last meeting that is similar to one made by [Stuart Batty](#).



Thanks Dave for demonstrating the basics of spindle turning.

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



- *American Woodturner* magazine – It includes articles on oil finishes and making finials.
- DVD "Kitchen Utensils" by Ron Brown. It contains several projects that are intended to be used. He does cover alternate methods of doing some steps. We also have another DVD on the same type projects by Nick Cook for use in the home – "Turning for Food".
- A video from D-Way tools. It can also be reviewed on Dave's website- [d-waytools.com](http://d-waytools.com). It describes and explains the tools, handles, and CBN grinding wheels that have been developed by or sold by D-Way Tools.
- 2 videos from One-Way manufacturing that are also available for viewing on their website - <http://www.oneway.ca/>. They review the One-Way Wolverine sharpening system and the Easy-Core coring system.
- An updated list of materials in the library has been posted to the members-only link on the web site.

A reminder to all members: *"We still have several library items that have not been 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.*

*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 •** When storing/transporting your tools, protect the cutting edge (and yourself) by slipping a piece of plastic tubing over the end. — Bill Farny

Use a vertical belt sander to sharpen your drill bits. It is much easier to align the tip angle when you look straight down at the bit and twist it. Use worn 80 grit or 120 grit for sharpening. — Steve White



**President's Spin > Bob Goulding •** It was great to see a large turnout for our meeting and several visitors and new members. Welcome to everyone and please give us your feedback and suggestions to help the club serve your needs.

It is sad to let you know that long time member, John Mulholland died on Jan 13, 2014. I have expressed the club's condolences to his widow.

Thanks to all the volunteers who staffed our booth at the 2014 Woodworkers Show in Collinsville: Jon Spelbring for organizing and managing the booth and the 15 volunteers who worked the booth for the 3 days: Jon Spelbring, Walt Ahlgrim, Charles Sapp, Ken Magill, Bob Egilsrud, Dan Schmoker, John Moore, John Buehrer, Dan Burleson, Dave Ackmann, Bill Lutz, Steve Geho, Don Dylewski, Chris Weiler, and Bob Goulding. See the article below for some pictures from the show.

I think you will enjoy our demonstration next month. We will have a short demonstration on using the skew and then break up into groups and practice on several lathes – turning vegetables. Please bring your skew and be sure that it is sharp. We need some volunteers to monitor the lathe stations, so let me know if you would help with that (636.745.2333 or [bobisturner@yahoo.com](mailto:bobisturner@yahoo.com)). We could also use some additional mini lathes. If you have one we could use for the hands-on, let me know that too.

Thanks to Woodcraft for the samples of Doctor's Woodshop turning finishes. Rich Hinkebein tried them on three bowls that are in the Show and Tell. Let us and Woodcraft know your thoughts after you try them.

Dale Nish published a couple of excellent books on woodturning: *Creative Woodturning* and *Artistic Woodturning*. They cover not only the basics but also some interesting and unusual procedures such as: segmented ring construction, laminated bowls, stave construction, .... These procedures would make great club demonstration topics. The books are in our library so let me know which techniques you would like to try and show us how to do them. We need your help and participation in scheduling our demos for each month.

I would like to encourage you to bring examples of your work to the meetings. We had a great response for the President's Challenge for turning bottle stoppers and we are getting more artistic and variety in our show and share projects. We are just as thrilled to see the progressing work of a new turner as the fine work of those who are more accomplished. Please bring your turnings to the meeting and share with others.



**NOTE** – our May meeting will be on May 18<sup>th</sup> due to the conflict with Memorial Day weekend. Please note this on your calendars! – 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**● Fifty members/guests attended the February meeting. We have ~\$4200 in the bank. 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 12<sup>th</sup>) 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](#).

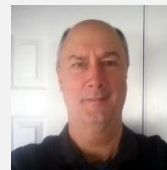


[Dave Endres](#) has offered to provide free one-on-one **pre-seminar** instruction at his shop on bowl turning and airbrush operation for anyone that has signed up and paid for the seminar. Contact Bob Goulding if you are interested. Airbrush equipment will be provided for the class or you can bring your own. 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 **Steve Nagy** from O'Fallon, MO

and **Tom Zeller** from Lake St. Louis, MO.



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

**Collinsville Woodworking Show**● The show was a great venue to meet other turners and woodworkers. In addition to demonstrating, show attendees actually got to do some hands on work. Rose turned a pen with Don Dylewski and was so impressed that she then went to the laser engravers and had her name etched into it with a laser! Clare did a great job in turning her first top!



**President's Challenge> February – Bottle Stopper●** The President's Challenge for February was to turn a bottle stopper. The response was outstanding with 12 entries. The winning entry, selected by the members, was a stopper turned and enhanced with a Rose Engine by John Buehrer. Congratulations to John. The other entries in the President's Challenge are shown in the picture section of the newsletter.



**March's Presidents Challenge – Turn a candle stick holder●** 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 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 hosted the first planning meeting at his home on Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>. The next meeting is March 22<sup>nd</sup>. 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 lunch. All levels of turning are needed and everyone is encouraged to participate.

## Community Service●

**Dan Burleson>** Dan has been doing turning demonstrations at local high schools. The kids range from freshmen to seniors with up to 60 kids in some of the sessions. He has found it challenging, but interesting to the kids. Only three of the kids had ever seen anyone making something on a lathe. Click [here](#) to view a slide show of the Wentzville event (pictures go off line on May 20<sup>th</sup>). Click [here](#) to view a slide show of the Timberland and Liberty high school demos (pictures go off line on May 14<sup>th</sup>).



**Dixon Springs Stewardship Week>** Several of our members are also members of the Lincoln Land Woodturning Club. They demonstrate at the Dixon Springs event annually during the week that contains Arbor Day (April 22-25, 2014). There are classes from Kindergarten to 6<sup>th</sup> grade based on conservation, forestry, nature, and use of natural resources. Their presentation is to show fun uses of wood to kids in grades K – 3<sup>rd</sup>. They do demonstrations and like to give each child a top. In the past they have donated about 300 tops during the event. They would appreciate any tops that you can make and donate for this event. A diameter of greater than 1 5/8" is required (choking hazard). Please bring your donations to the March meeting. – John Anderson, Tom Brock, Dan Schmoker



## Symposiums>

● **AAW** > The American Association of Woodturners Symposium is June 13-15, 2014 in Phoenix, AZ. Register today. Click on the graphic for more information.




**What is it?>** It is a mandrel saver. It keeps your pen mandrel from bending, eliminates the need for the knurled nut, and increases accuracy by placing pressure directly on the bushings and pen stock. You can buy them commercially made or make your own.



**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.

## Upcoming Events:

Calendar of Events		
March 23 	Pre-meeting at Woodcraft: 11:30am Meeting at Woodcraft: 1pm	Pre-meeting demo on pen turning and CA finishes by Brandon Harris. Then a <u>hands-on</u> skew turning experience based on an American Woodturner article using vegetables - "Humanizing the Skew Chisel". You will want to be at this meeting. <b>Bring your skew; vegetables will be provided.</b>
April 27	Meeting at Woodcraft	TBD
<b>May 18</b>	Meeting at Woodcraft – <b>NOTE THE DATE CHANGE DUE TO MEMORIAL WEEKEND</b>	TBD



**Did you know?** If you want to enlarge the pictures or font of the electronic version of the newsletter, hold down the Ctrl key and rolling the scroll wheel on your mouse or change the enlargement setting on your PDF display.

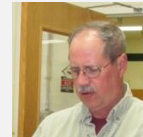
## February Show and Share



Bottle stoppers turned by John Buehrer.



Acrylic and burl pens turned by Jan Hoffman.



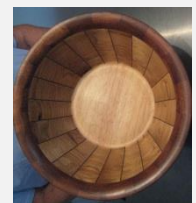
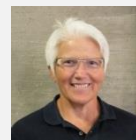
Inspired by one of his wife's plates, Tom Brock turned a wooden one.



Rich Hinkebein turned the three natural edge bowls and tried a different finish from Doctor's Woodshop on each one. Check with Rich on his opinions of the finish. Rich also turned this three sided tea light based on [Barbara Dill's](#) web site of multi-axis spindle turnings.



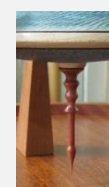
Brad Bernhard combined his wood working and woodturning skills to make this Queen Anne table. Brad shared several of his lessons learned with club members on glue blocks and coloring with wood dyes.



Gail Elble turned a 14" segmented bowl made from butternut, maple, walnut and black veneer and the green-turned rose wood bowl.





Jon Spelbring used various texturing tools to enhance this platter. The large spirals were done with the Sorby and the small spirals with the [Decorating Elf tool](#).




Tea light with finial and textured bowl turned by Bill Farny.



 <p>Dan Burleson's beaded basket weaving illusions, tops and textured bowls.</p>	 <p>Bottle stoppers turned by Ken Magill.</p>
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### Additional Entries for the President's Challenge – February Bottle Stopper

 	 	 	 
Dave Ackmann's barrel shape stopper.	Rich Hinkebein's twisted axes stopper.	Charles Sapp's beaded and acrylic painted stopper.	Segmented stopper by Michael Blankenship.
 	 	 	 
Stopper with a cabochon by Laura Spelbring.	Ken Magill's maple stopper.	Walnut stopper turned by Chris Weiler.	Mushroom stopper by Bob Goulding.
 	  	 	
Bottle stopper turned by Bob Greenwood.	Turned and textured stopper by Jon Spelbring.	Stopper turned by James Otto.	

If you like turning wood, making things on your lathe or 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:	Bob Goulding	636.745.2333	<a href="mailto:bobisturner@yahoo.com">bobisturner@yahoo.com</a>
Vice President:	James Payne		<a href="mailto:ipayne.2011@gmail.com">ipayne.2011@gmail.com</a>
Secretary:	Charles Sapp	636.928.0149	<a href="mailto:cwsapp@charter.net">cwsapp@charter.net</a>
Treasurer:	Walt Ahlgrim	314.567.5268	<a href="mailto:stlwoodturner@sbcglobal.net">stlwoodturner@sbcglobal.net</a>
Conf. Admin.	James Payne		<a href="mailto:ipayne.2011@gmail.com">ipayne.2011@gmail.com</a>
Newsletter:	Charles Sapp	636.928.0149	<a href="mailto:cwsapp@charter.net">cwsapp@charter.net</a>
Librarian:	Rich Hinkebein	636.332.2396	<a href="mailto:kathryna1945@yahoo.com">kathryna1945@yahoo.com</a>

Questions: [info@stlturners.org](mailto:info@stlturners.org)