



WOODTURNERS OF ST. LOUIS

A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

stlturners.org

March 2013

March Demo > John Buehrer – Taming of the Skew●



Although probably considered to be the most dangerous and intimidating of woodturning tools it can be used to make cuts that are not possible with other tools. A skew chisel is a long, flat, bevel-edged chisel with an angled tip. The long point of the cutting edge is called the toe; the shortest point the heel. They are great for making smoothing cuts, roughing out spindles, cleaning up ends, making beads and many more cuts. The skew will leave the smoothest surface of any turning tool.



John used a turnip and a carrot for demonstrating the proper and safe techniques to



presenting the skew to the material. Using a vegetable allows you to become comfortable with positioning the tool with the lathe turned off or operating at a very slow speed (100-200 rpm). Skews come in an assortment of thicknesses, lengths, profiles (round, oval, rectangular shank), and tip shapes (straight or curved) but all are based on the same techniques. If you

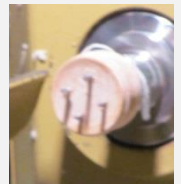


have square edges on the shank of your skew, John recommends that you grind the edges round to allow for easier movement along the tool rest and for rolling beads. And that you make sure the top of your tool rest is smooth and nick free. John compared the skew to using a knife to carve wood or peel a carrot – slicing through the medium.

With the plastic in place, John mounted first a turnip and then a carrot



between centers. For turning vegetables a spur drive may not be adequate. You may want to build a spud drive like John's (Morris taper shaft with a drive end that has screws or nails to go into the vegetable.)



With the lathe off you can practice the flat cut. The skew is anchored on the tool rest, the bevel is rubbed on the carrot, and the handle is raised until the cut begins. Practice cutting in both directions. Once you feel comfortable with the lathe off, do



the same cuts with the lathe at a slow speed (100-200 rpm). The same flat cut was demonstrated on the turnip - cutting downhill by starting at the larger diameter. The important thing to remember is that the "safe zone" is the lower half of the cutting edge. A catch may occur if you start to cut with the upper portion of the cutting edge and get a dig in with the tip.



John then demonstrated the peeling cut. It is a very efficient, fast way to rough out a cylinder for spindle turning or to establish a tenon. It is like a parting cut and made at the end of the piece or where the diameter varies.



The tool is anchored on the tool rest and the material is peeled away by lifting the handle to engage the cut. Tool motion should be in an arch towards the center of the piece.

John then showed the V cut which is a groove created by slicing off material first on one side and then the other until the depth and width you want is reached.

Another tool that is similar to the skew is the beading and parting tool. It is similar in that it forms a wedge for a cutting edge; however, the tip is typically straight across. It can be used for rolling beads or like a parting tool for peeling away material. As you roll a bead you will be moving your arm/hand through 90 degrees of motion, so start with a grip on the tool that will allow you to rotate it.



The skew must be sharp, wicked sharp, to work effectively. John uses a diamond stone for honing.



As you practice, remember to lock the tool to your body and shift your weight to maintain a good cut.

Thanks to John for presenting some of the cuts that can be made with a skew and showing how with proper techniques and some practice the skew can become a useful tool for the turner.

Editor's note: The AAW had an article in the October 2010 issues of American Woodturner on "Humanizing the Skew Chisel". This was the basis for the demonstration and the article has many more tips and techniques that you may want to review. Members of the AAW can find the article on line at the [AAW](#) site. The AAW magazine is also available to club members in our library and may be checked out. Al Mather also has an article on-line entitled, [The Skew, Spindle Turning and other Things](#). It covers skew techniques and turning vegetables also and references articles by Russ Fairfield, the author of the AAW article. Want to turn some curly fries – check out this [youtube video](#) by Rex & Kip.

Pre-Meeting Demo> Brandon Harris – Pen Turning and CA Finishes● Pen turning is fun, can be done on virtually any size lathe, they make great gifts and are popular sale items at shows. Everything from the material used to the shape of the pen is up to the turner and it requires a small investment to get started.



Brandon led the club through the turning and CA finishing of a snake wood pen at the pre-meeting demonstration. He started with a blank that he had drilled, glued in the copper tube from the kit, and trimmed. Brandon uses epoxy or CA for securing the tubes in the wood blank.



He mounted the blank on a mandrel with bushings that are used as a guide to the final diameter of the wooden barrel. The bushings may not be exact so it is good practice to measure the kit parts when doing final sizing of the ends of the barrel. A common problem with mounting pens on a mandrel is

that it bows as holding pressure is applied from the tail stock. Brandon uses a spindle saver on the tail stock which put all the pressure on the stock and eliminates the flexing (see the WTSTL Feb NL for more on a spindle saver).





Because of the small diameter of a pen blank the lathe can be run reasonably fast, 1800-2000 rpm, for turning. Brandon has found that making the upper portion of a pen slightly proud and the bottom contoured for comfort is most popular. Using a [Spindlemaster](#) he quickly shaped the blank to match the guide bushings, checking his surface finish for any bumps or dips with his sense of touch/feel. He sands to the final diameter using grits from 80-600 grit; wiping the turning with a paper towel between each one to remove any of the previous grit. In place of micro mesh sanding pads, he then sands with [Abranet](#). It has an open surface which eliminates the issue of overheating the wood. Although more expensive it is washable and has a long life. Abranet is also available through [Penn State Industries](#).



Brandon applies 6 coats of CA glue to the bare wood surface for a finish. Using a paper towel for application he quickly moves it back on forth over the barrel, sprays an aerosol accelerator (bubbles are a problem with a pump sprayer), and repeats the process. He does not sand between finishes. After 6 coats are applied, he then wet sands using acrylic finishing pads sold by [Barry Gross](#) that have fine polishing particles in them.



A parting tool is then used to cut the bearings off the barrel (due to the CA), sands the end of the tube on a flat surface with 220 grit to remove any hanging CA, buffs the blank (lengthwise) with



blue rouge, and cleans it up with a clean buffing wheel.

Referring to the instructions that come with each kit, Brandon uses a press to assemble the parts.

Beautiful pen and great demonstration, thanks Brandon.



For additional information on pen turning: [newwoodworker.com](#) & [woodturningonline.com](#). Woodcraft and Rockler have pen turning tools and material. You can also find supplies on line at [Arizona Silhouette](#), [Craft Supplies](#), and [Penn State](#).

Library News > Rich Hinkebein

● Last month the following items were added:



- *Woodturning Design* magazine - a variety of articles covering spindle turning, segmented bowls, and a decorated platter.
- *Decorative Techniques* - a DVD by Robert Sorby on how to use some tools for decorating turned objects.
- *Turning Toys* - a recently published book by Richard Raffan. He has included projects for skill building and focuses on use of the skew. Some good instruction on use and preparation of this tool.

The library cards will be at the April 12 Nick Agar demonstration so items can be returned. No check outs at the demo.

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.*

We will be sending bills for long overdue items. 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.

Tips of the Month ● Cooking oil may be used to remove dried superglue from your glasses and face shield
— Bob Goulding

After sharpening your pencil, flatten one side on sandpaper to achieve a very precise edge for marking. Use a gum eraser to remove pencil marks. — Bill Farny

For very thin CA glue, check the beading department at Michaels or Hobby Lobby. — Ernie Guhl

IKEA lamp base — the Lincoln Land Turners have defined the steps to turning a lamp base for the IKEA LED flex lamp. They are posted on our club web site under [projects](#). — Lincoln Land Turners



President's Spin > Bob Goulding • Welcome to all our members, new members and visitors. The club has several new members so be sure to introduce yourself.

We are excited about the Nick Agar demonstration and hands on workshops in April. We would like to have you pre-register for the demonstration but walk-ins will be allowed. Nick is an excellent instructor of turning techniques in addition to his flair for decorative styles. We will have door prizes at the demonstration including a gift certificate from St. Charles Hardwoods. We will not have a Presidents' Challenge in April, but we will have an Instant Gallery table at the Agar demo, so please bring a nice piece of your work to display. Remember that we will NOT have our regular meeting at Woodcraft in April. The Agar demonstration is in lieu of our regular meeting.

If you picked up some of the free samples of Doctor's Woodshop turning finishes last month, please share your feedback with Woodcraft about them. They are trying to decide whether to stock those products.

We would like to have more of you involved with the club collaborative. The next meeting is April 26 at Bill Farny's house. Please let me or Bill know if you are coming so we can have enough food. See the article in the newsletter for more information on the collaborative and see the web site for pictures of past club entries.

Thanks to Steve Geho for helping with the video at the March meeting and to Jerry Goodson who has volunteered to become our backup videographer. Dave Endres is going to provide on-the-job training with tips and techniques that he was taught as videographer for the AAW symposiums.

With feedback from our members and work by Jon Spelbring and Charlie Sapp our [web site](#) is looking really good and has a nice flow. Newsletters from 1993-1998 have been uploaded, a member instant gallery page has been added, a list of [club demonstrations](#) is available so you can easily find the newsletter that has information on that subject, and links to many resources have been added. Please check it out and let us know of other changes that you would like to see. I encourage you to fill out your profile and upload your avatar and pictures of your work. We will have a program on photographing your work at an upcoming meeting. Contact Jon or Charlie if you have any questions about using the site. Our web site has been submitted to the AAW competition for "best web site".

As a very special treat, our May 18th meeting will feature [Jim Adkins](#) who will be turning a [beaded platter](#). We expect to start the meeting at 11:30am and Jim will start his demonstration around noon with a short break sometime in the afternoon. Google the above links to see examples of his exciting work. You will want to be there for this demonstration. — 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 five members/guests attended the March meeting. We have ~\$5200 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 (9am – 4pm) is April 13 & 14 at Woodcraft; 2077 Congressional Drive; Maryland Ht., MO. The cost is \$40 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](#). Box lunches will be available on Saturday for an extra charge of \$13. Lunch is on your own at the hands on sessions. It is suggested that you bring a sack lunch so you can meet with the other turners and Nick during the break.



[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

Dale Schneider from Dardenne Prairie.

Tracey Grzegorzczuk from St. Louis, MO.

Mark Voeatle from Fairview Heights, MO.

Bruce Lattimore from Troy, MO

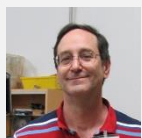
Cate Dolan from St. Louis, MO.

Argo Leon from Ballwin, MO.



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

President's Challenge> March – Candle stick holder● The President's Challenge for March was to turn a candle stick holder. The response was outstanding with 11 entries. The winning entry, selected by the members, was a candle stick turned by Walt Ahlgrim. Congratulations to Walt. The other entries in the President's Challenge are shown in the picture section of the newsletter.



April's President's Challenge – There will not be a President's Challenge in April due to the Nick Agar demonstration taking the place of the regular meeting. However, you are encouraged to bring one of your turnings to the Nick Agar demonstration for display on the Instant Gallery table.

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. The next meeting is April 26th at Bill Farny's place. 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.

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.



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		
April 12, 13, & 14	Nick Agar demonstration at the Kirkwood High School and hands-on turning at Woodcraft.	The demonstration and hands on workshops will start at 9am and end ~4pm. See the article above for more information.
April 27	NO Meeting at Woodcraft	The regular meeting is cancelled due to the Nick Agar demonstration on April 12th.
May 18	Meeting at Woodcraft – NOTE THE DATE CHANGE DUE TO MEMORIAL WEEKEND	<u>Business meeting will start at 11:30am</u> and then Jim Adkins will be turning a beaded platter for both the pre-meeting and meeting demos.

March Show and Share



Thin wall segmented bowl by Michael Blankenship.



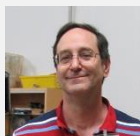
Osage orange bowl by Jerry Goodson that was finished with shellac and buffed.



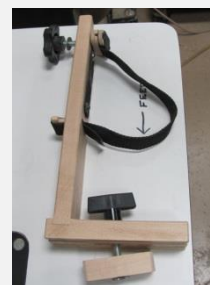
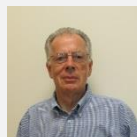
Tom Brock's platter turned in one of the exotic hellifiknow woods.



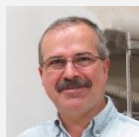
Bowls turned by Dan Bureson. His large [waterfall](#) bowl is 29" in diameter/9" deep and took over 100 hours to finish. A Copic marker was used to dye each of the segments. The other [bowls](#) feature a variety of texturing techniques using [Serious tools](#). The cross hatch pattern is made by texturing one cut, changing angle of the tool, and doing the second texture.



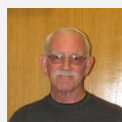
Walt Ahlgrim made a yarn bowl for his wife.



Dixie Smith made a fixture to attach to the lathe bed to hold bowls and vessels while power sanding the inside.



Jon Spelbring used various texturing tools to enhance this bowl and then finished it with lacquer and a colored wax. A Sorby tool was used for the texturing.



Very detailed beaded and colored platter by Rick Madden.



Steve Geho shows his natural edge bowls turned in ash and pecan.

Spalted river birch bowl by Charles Sapp that was finished with walnut oil and buffed.



Twisted axis and candelabra candle holders turned by Rich Hinkebein.



Steve Reynolds enhanced one of his bowls with an inlay of copper and inlaid material. The other bowl is turned from ambrosia maple.



Dan Schmoker showed two baby rattles that he turned based on a design from Nick Cook. One is from ash and weighs about 3.6 oz.; the other is from walnut and is only 2.7 oz. He found that using glass beads vs beans provides much more sound when shook. Dan also talked about the benefits of using lapping oil on a diamond hone.



Laura Spelbring displayed several of her pen turnings done with a variety of materials and kits.

Additional Entries for the President's Challenge – March Candle Stick Holder



Twisted candle stick holder by John Buehrer.



Bob Conaway turned this candle stick holder from a cherry branch retrieved from the yard waste dump.



Barley twist candle stick from catalpa and walnut by Charles Sapp.



Split turning by Laura Spelbring.



Steve Geho displayed a thin stemmed candle holder.



Segmented candle stick holder by Jeff Nasser.



Bob Goulding followed the theme of the meeting by turning this candle stick from a carrot.



Candelabra by Rich Hinkebein.



Candle stick with carved and inlaid feature by Jon Spelbring.



Candle stick by Brandon Harris turned in SpectraPly wood.

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	bobisturner@yahoo.com
Vice President:	James Payne		ipayne.2011@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