



WOODTURNERS OF ST. LOUIS

stlturners.org

July 2014

A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

July Demo > James Payne & Jon Spelbring – Photographing Your Work●



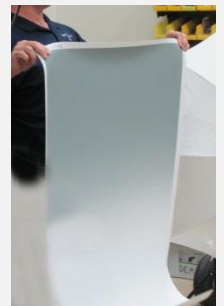
Photography has changed over the years – from the days of black and white film to digital, SLRs to point and shoot cameras. James and Jon covered the basics of photography and demonstrated that you do not need an expensive camera or fancy photo studio to get quality pictures and provided tips on how to improve the quality of your photos. Their focus was on photographing still, 3-dimensional objects.



The basics for photography are the camera, background, and lights. James covered several features on the camera that are important to getting a properly exposed picture – aperture, shutter speed, and ISO. The aperture controls the amount of light being captured and sets the depth of field. A large number (f/16) is a small opening and gives a large depth of field or how much of your shot will be in focus. A small number (f/2.8) captures more light but has a reduced depth of field. Unless you are photographing several items at once the depth of field is not a driver as you can focus on the object being photographed. ISO, with today's digital cameras is just a setting that can be adjusted from a menu. Increasing the camera ISO from 200 to 400 will make it twice as sensitive to light and let you photograph in a lower light situation. However, as you boost the ISO, the more noise you introduce into your image. James related the effect to sandpaper grit – shooting with an ISO of 200 is like using 220 grit sandpaper and an ISO of 400 is like 120 grit. Finally, the shutter speed works in combination with the aperture and the ISO to capture the proper brightness. With a still object, the shutter speed is not as important provided the camera is not hand held.

Direct sunlight is the best light source. But it is not always available and other light sources have their qualities too. Make certain that only one color of light illuminates the object. Cameras have a hard time adjusting to a mixture of light sources. CFLs and a reflector can be used to illuminate your object. They come in a range of “temperatures” from a cool white to a warm yellow. The [Daylight fluorescent](#) (5000-6500 Kelvin) is recommended for photography but almost any source can be used provided the white balance is adjusted.

If it is not part of the story, then the background is unimportant. [Backgrounds](#) should be simple and compliment the object being photographed. They may be white, gray, brown, black, or cropped off entirely. Bob Goulding uses a roll of brown paper for his background; Jon showed a gray one that he uses. [Adorma](#) is a source for photographic backgrounds. The background can be held up in various ways – clips, pins, tape,... Bright colors are not recommended.



Tips on improving your photography –

- Focus and fill the frame. Move the camera forward and back to fill the frame versus using the zoom.
- Lighting is very important – use a source on each side to illuminate and fill. Additional sources may be used in the front, back, top or bottom to create shadows for affect.
- Light box, umbrellas, or reflective fixtures can be used to soften the light source.

- A [simple light box](#) can be built of white cloth and PVC tubes (see pictures below of Bob Goulding's light box) or even from a [cardboard box](#) and some simple materials for about \$2. Check out the [YouTube](#) video on building a light box on the cheap.
- Tripods are needed to hold the camera steady and in the same place for multiple shots. More [expensive ones](#) provide more options such as pistol grip, pivoting head, and a more stable platform.
- Use a self-timer or remote trigger to take the picture versus manual activation of the shutter.
- Nothing can save a picture if the image is not in focus. If your camera will let you, magnify the image on your LCD to 3x or 5x to check it. Another option is to tether the camera to a PC and display the image on an even larger screen for review.
- Basic settings – set camera aperture at 8 to 11 to start; no flash; and let the camera set the shutter speed (shooting a still object so motion is not an issue provided you use a tripod).
- Don't rely on Photoshop to "fix" an image. If the shot is bad, then do it again.
- On line source for cameras and equipment: [Adorama](#)
- Other sites with great information on image photography:
 - [AAW article August 2012](#)
 - [AAW article January 2014 on photos at the lathe](#)

These articles have information not only on lighting but also on cameras, lens, flash, and preparing your photos for publication.

Thanks to James and Jon for a great demonstration on the basics of photography and tips on how to improve the quality of our images.

Pre-Meeting Photo Shoot > Bob Goulding ●



Thanks to Bob Goulding for setting up his photo gear to take pictures of member's work prior to our regular meeting. Bob built his tent from PVC pipe, a sheet, and some brown paper. With the addition of a couple of umbrella lights he is able to get professional looking pictures. Several members took advantage of this



opportunity and we hope to see their work posted on their club gallery in the near term.

Library News > Rich Hinkebein ●



- *American Woodturner* magazine – good articles on candle holders and using wedge assemblies to create a tangential twist design.

A reminder to all members: *"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.*

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.

Club Newsletter Wins 3rd Place in AAW National Competition



Our club newsletter won 3rd place in the AAW 2014 Best Chapter Newsletter competition. Bob is shown presenting the AAW plaque for the award to our newsletter editor. Thanks to all of you for your contributions in the way of demonstrations, tech tips, show and share turnings, and suggestions for the newsletter. – Charles Sapp, Editor



Tech Tips of the Month ● Ron Andracsek uses electrical shrink tubing to protect the ends of his tools. Put it over the tip, heat it, and pinch with pliers to close the end.



Steve Reynolds uses the plastic corks from wine bottles as an eraser for his layout lines. They are also a good backing for sandpaper in corners and curves.

Jon Spelbring recommends putting a little paste wax on your pen bushing when using a CA finish. The wax will keep them from sticking to the pen material and chipping out the ends.



President's Spin > Bob Goulding ● The Important and “Powerful Inner Circle” of Our Club.

I know, from experience, that it's easy to sit in the audience of a club like ours and observe the elected officials, up front. Sometimes we think that they must be “The Important and Powerful Inner Circle of Our Club.”

Actually, it is YOU who are “The Important and Powerful Inner Circle.” We are just the hired help. Our only job is to make the club what YOU want it to be. We're not there for power, prestige or privilege.

That's why I try to greet you and shake your hand at each meeting. I hope the other officers do also. It is YOU that are important. I want you to tell us what you like and dislike and how we can better make the club meet your needs and desires.

If I haven't had a chance to talk to you during the meeting, please grab me on the way out and say, “Can we talk for a moment?” Or, e-mail me or call me on the phone.

It's YOUR club.

Warmest Regards,
Bob Goulding

Club News>

Membership dues ● Dues are \$30 individual; \$40 family. An [application](#) is available on the club web site.

Attendance/Treasurers Report ● Thirty six members/guests attended the July meeting. – Walt Ahlgrim

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.

Nick Agar Raffle ● When Nick Agar did his demonstration for the club he left the pieces he turned. We are raffling off the airbrushed plate. Chances are 2 for \$5 and there is a limit of 21 entries. Once the sheet is completely sold, the raffle will be held.



Coffee and Cookies ● Complementary coffee is available at the meetings. Due to rising supplier costs, the price for cookies will be 75 cents each. Purchases are on the honor system.

President's Challenge> July – Functional Holiday Favor ● Dave Ackmann was selected by the members as the winner of the July President's Challenge to turn a holiday favor. Dave turned this Halloween caldron and filled it with M&Ms. (Editor's note – this picture was taken early in the meeting. I believe it was empty by the end of the meeting.) The other entries in the July President's Challenge are shown in the picture section of the newsletter. Congratulations Dave.



August President's Challenge ● The President's Challenge for August is to turn a wooden bracelet. It can be for the lady of your choice or for yourself. Google "turned wood bracelets" for a wealth of information on design and techniques of turning a bracelet. One entry per member; entry must be turned within the last three months for the competition.

Members in the news ● WTSTL club member, [Michael Blankenship](#), is one of the featured demonstrators at the [15th Annual Rocky Mountain Woodturning Symposium](#), Sept 12-14, 2014 in Loveland CO. (Editor's note – Michael will be demonstrating his material for the symposium at the August WTSTL club meeting.)

● Jon and Laura Spelbring are opening a gallery in Belleville, IL for wood turned art and utility items. The grand opening is Sept 18th. Contact [Jon](#) or [Laura](#) if you are interested in selling your work on a consignment basis.

Annual Picnic ● **September 28 is the date** for our club picnic. It will be at Spencer Creek Park, 200 Sutters Mill Road, St. Peters. A map to the picnic can be found at: <http://goo.gl/maps/p8rWT>. Bring a side dish to share. Laura is routing a sign-up sheet for the side dishes. Plan to arrive around noon and lunch will start around 12:30 pm. The club will be providing paper products, utensils, coffee, and the meat. We will be grilling brats/hot dogs/ and burgers. You are responsible for your drinks if you want something other than coffee.

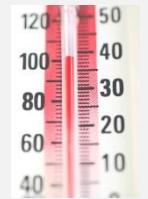
The President's Challenge for the picnic is to turn a baseball bat – and then demonstrate its capability (or yours). Prizes will be awarded. More information will be provided at the August meeting.

We will also have the creative event where everyone can assemble “whatever” from scrap wood pieces using hot glue and imagination. (Members, save those ends and cut offs and bring them to the picnic for this event.) There will also be the swap and sell table where you can trade or sell wood, tools, finishes,

Laura will be providing flower arrangements for the tables using the vases provided by club members last year (more are needed if you would like to turn one). She is also asking club members to turn wooden salt and paper shakers for the tables. Shaker hardware is provided. See the Show and Share pictures for some of the shakers that have been completed.



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 collaborative meeting **in August is CANCELLED** in anticipation of a heat wave. Bill's shop is closed off from the main house to prevent the spread of dust and does not have air-conditioning.



Symposiums>

- **Turn on! Chicago**> The [Chicago symposium](#) will be held from August 15-17th at the Conference Center of the University of St. Mary of the Lake in the northern suburbs of Chicago.
- **Turning Southern Style XX**> The [Georgia Association of Woodturners](#) will host their 20th symposium in Dalton, Georgia on Sept 19-21. Check their [web site](#) for more information.
- **15th Annual Rocky Mountain Woodturning Symposium**, Loveland CO on Sept 12-14. They will have over 42 rotations with something for everyone, from the beginner to the professional.

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.


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.



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>

Upcoming Events:

Calendar of Events		
August 24, 2014	Pre-meeting at 11:30am with Steve Reynolds demonstrating metal and stone inlays.	Meeting demonstration with Michael Blankenship turning a lidded bowl. Michael is totally blind, a great turner and entertainer. He will be doing this same demonstration at a symposium this fall in Colorado.
Sept 28, 2014	<p>Picnic - Spencer Creek Park 200 Sutters Mill Road, St. Peters, MO</p> <p>A map to the picnic can be found at: http://goo.gl/maps/p8rWT.</p> <p>Lunch will be served about 12:30pm.</p>	<p>Laura Spelbring would like for members to turn salt and pepper shakers for the picnic tables. She will provide the top and bottom hardware. You just need to turn the part in between. The vases turned last year will also be used on the tables. Contact Laura for the shaker hardware.</p> 
Oct 26, 2014	Both the pre-meeting and meeting time will be dedicated to a demonstration on turning native American basket weave platters. The demonstration will be hosted by Jim Adkins (Dan Burtleson will be Jim's back-up if needed.) Demonstration will start at 11:30am.	
Nov 23, 2014	No pre-meeting.	Christmas party, ornament exchange, and election of officers
Dec 2014	No meeting. Merry Christmas, Happy New Year. Have a great Holiday Season	
Jan 25, 2015		Meeting demonstration with Bill Rubenstein. Topic TBD.
Feb 22, 2015		Meeting demo with Walt Ahlgrim turning open spiral candle sticks.

June Show and Share



Red oak platter by Walt Ahlgrim.



Natural edge bowl and green turned bowl in pecan by Steve Geho.



Rich Hinkebein really got in to turning functional table decorations. These are in addition to the one submitted for the President's Challenge. The African Blackwood bottle stopper is to represent Abe Lincoln's top hat for president's day; a couple of Easter eggs; and a tall spirally thing with Twizzlers that his fourth grade grandson wanted for a table favor the next time he has dinner with Rich.



Native American basket weave wall hanging by Dan Bureson.



Tom Brock got this white oak from a cemetery for turning his plates.




Handle turned by John Buehrer using the wood he won as a door prize. John used the handle for a hollowing tool that he made.





Top turned from Osage Orange by Ernie Guhl.



Valentine Day table favor and Mahogany shakers for the picnic by Charles Sapp. The Valentine and box top are turned as one piece.

 	 	
<p>Salt and pepper shakers for the picnic by Bob Goulding.</p>	<p>Rich Hinkebein turned these shakers for the picnic.</p>	<p>Cecil Robertson is known for his Windsor chairs. He would like to make his own spindles and is looking for advice on using a duplicator to make them. Contact Cecil if you have experience with a duplicator.</p>

Additional Entries for the July President's Challenge – Functional Holiday Favors

 	 
<p>Twizzler powered rocket ship favor for July 4th by Rich Hinkebein.</p>	<p>Christmas tree favor by Charles Sapp.</p>

Board Members

President:	Bob Goulding	636.745.2333	bobisturner@yahoo.com
Vice President:	James Payne		jpayne.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		jpayne.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