



WOODTURNERS OF ST. LOUIS

A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

stlturners.org

August 2014

August Demo > Michael Blankenship – Turning Blind: Lidded Box



Michael is a completely blind woodturner. He became blind from a very rare disease in 2003 called [AZOORS](#). He was a woodworker all his life but never turned until he became blind. He only had one rule for the audience – “If you have a question, don’t raise your hand. You have to shout it out.” He is one of the featured turners at the 15th [Annual Rocky Mountain Woodturning Symposium](#) in Loveland, CO on Sept 12-14. His talent and



sense of humor made for a great demonstration on turning a lidded box from a cherry blank.

Michael turns his boxes twice – first to rough them out and then to finish turn. He first mounted the box on an expanding chuck, trued up the sides, and removed the bottom tenon from the rough turning. Using a go-no go template he cut a recess in the bottom so the box so it could be reverse



chucked. Using his sense of feel, the bottom was then flattened and power sanded to finish grit (320). The figure shows the gage that Michael uses to tell if the recess will fit his chuck and the extended sanding tool that lets him hold it for better control.

The box was then remounted to start work on the inside. A drill bit was mounted in the tail stock and a hole drill to the desired depth for the bottom of the box. A threaded rod through a piece of flat stock that registered on the sides of the bowl was used to determine the depth of the hole he wanted to drill. He then proceeded to remove the stock from inside the bowl, checking the depth with both the drilled hole and with a gage built from an AAW article as shown in the picture. It was a two part gage that showed the thickness of the bottom as a gap between the jig and another board on the lathe bed. Once the depth was achieved, the inside and outside were finished sanded.



The lid was then mounted on a smaller chuck using the tenon that would become the knob and a bedan was used to cut the lip in the lid to fit the bottom of the box. Material was then removed from the inside of the lid for both shape and to hold on to an expanding chuck so the lid could be remounted to finish the



outside.

The lid was then remounted, the outside was shaped, and the knob was turned from the tenon.



The completed lidded box would then be finished with multiple coats of polyurethane. Thanks for a great demonstration Michael. And good luck at the symposium in September.



Pre-Meeting Demonstration> Steve Reynolds – An ordinary, plain turning can be transformed into the extraordinary with the addition of an inlay. A wide selection of woods, acrylics, epoxies, stones, metals, and fillers are available for inlaying. Steve Reynolds presented several examples, stepped through the process, and answered member's questions about inlaying at the pre-meeting demonstration.



You want to start with a dry blank in a wood species and color that will complement the type of inlay that you intend to use. Planning the location is important since you will need some mass to cut into and the area cannot be vertical if you intend to flow the epoxy into the groves. Steve cuts his groves along the axis of rotation rather than perpendicular to the surface. This provides a deeper groove that will hold the material. This is important for a good bond since the surface will need to be cut down after the inlay is applied to eliminate dye that bleeds into the surrounding wood.

The inner ring on the vessel labeled "2" is red dyed epoxy with aluminum powder that was well mixed. The middle ring is red dyed epoxy with the aluminum powder stirred in after the epoxy was applied. The outer ring is [Inlace](#) (Beek) with an aluminum ring in the center. Inlace is a [thick liquid inlay](#) that is poured in and hardens in about 15-20 minutes. Kits are available in pre-mixed colors or items may be purchased separately for a custom pour. All of the rings were sanded and polished with the Hut plastic polish.



In the vessel labeled "3" the inner ring is black epoxy with "extinguisher copper" from the club that was stirred in after filling. The middle ring is black epoxy with aluminum well blended into the epoxy. The outer ring is black epoxy with aluminum stirred in after filling an almost too late as the epoxy was setting up.



The maple bowl has Inlace (Scott) and bands of [Craft Supply](#) copper on either side. The smaller maple bowl has Inlace (Turquoise) in the bottom with aluminum in the plain epoxy on the top of the rim. You can also drill holes in your turning and fill with epoxy/material to accent them.

The examples that Steve showed used a two part epoxy, [T-88](#). It is a non-brittle, two-part epoxy that dries over-night. He uses a popsicle stick and plastic spoon to apply the inlay. Toothpicks can be used to eliminate bubbles. He finds that CA glues set up too quickly especially when fillers or dyes are added.



Thanks Steve for a great demonstration on how to enhance our turnings with inlays.

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



- DVD on “Finishing and Colouring” by English turner Mark Raby. It covers a variety of finishes, processes, and coloring using mostly Myland products or equivalent.

The library cards and possibly the DVDs will be available at the picnic for any returns or DVD checkout.

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.

Tech Tips of the Month • To repair cracks or flaws in a piece, you can mix appropriate saw dust with epoxy or alcohol and fill the crack. If using alcohol, when it dries, saturate it with CA. In any case, if you give the surrounding surface a spray of lacquer or acrylic beforehand, the surrounding wood will not be stained by the CA. To build up a library of fine saw dust of various woods, collect them from your band saw table after cutting blanks. Put them in small containers and label them. Powdered lamp black or bone black pigment is available from art supply stores and may be mixed with epoxy for a dramatic crack filler. — Bob Goulding

Fabric can be saturated with latex paint and used for a veneer. — Dixi Smith

India ink may be mixed with clear epoxy to create black for a crack filler. — Dixi Smith

Editor's note: The AAW does read our newsletter. Last month they picked up on Steve Reynolds' tip and it will be included in their publications. Congratulations Steve.



President's Spin > Bob Goulding • Welcome to all of our new members. Please let us know how we can make your turning experiences and our meetings more productive for you.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the picnic next month. As you probably know the President's Challenge is to turn a baseball bat (we'll be using Whiffle balls) and to demonstrate its capability (or yours) at the picnic. That along with the good food and the creative event using our turning discards are always a lot of fun and entertainment. The directions to the picnic and other information are in the newsletter. Here is a link for [turning a baseball bat](#) that you may enjoy.

Our club is a chapter member of the AAW and we encourage all club members to join the AAW. They have been publishing a great series of on-line woodturning training articles for members that are worth the price of membership by themselves. They have also indexed all of the past AAW magazine articles so you can search and find help with most any issue you may have or ideas on your next project.

We received an invitation from the Girl Scouts to provide turning demonstrations for a couple of events in October. They will be on Oct 4th at Camp Tuckaho in Troy, MO and on Oct 11th in Pevely, both from 10am – 4pm. If any of you would be interested in participating, please let me know.

Thanks to Dave Ackmann for picking up and sharing the Corian with our members. And thanks to K & D Countertops for providing the Corian at no cost to the club. Thanks also to our sponsors and members for their donations of door prizes. They appreciate hearing thanks and knowing that their donations are appreciated. So please let them know when you shop there.

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 • Fifty two members/guests attended the August meeting. We have ~\$3700 in the bank. – Walt Ahlgrim

Web site • Each member can up-load pictures to their profile by following these steps:

- Know the location of the pictures you want to upload on your computer.
- Log in to the club web site.
- Go to your home page (click on your name in the upper right of the screen)
- Click on "Album" then click on "Upload picture" below all the tabs in the middle of the page
- Click "Browse" then click on the picture that you want to upload
- Click on who you want to be able to view the pictures (public is recommended)
- Click "Upload picture" in the gray box
- On Edit Picture – give the picture a name and a description
- Click on "Save"

The picture is now in your album. Click on "my pictures" to see all that you have uploaded. Repeat for other pictures you want to load to your album.

Want to upload a picture on the web site for your avatar? Follow these steps:

- Log in to the Club web site.
- Click on your name in the upper right corner to go to your home page.
- Select "Profile"
- Select "Change Avatar"
- Select "Browse" and select the image
- Move the crop corners and the box with your mouse to get the biggest image possible
- Select "Crop Image" and then Select "Upload"

You should be set. Let me know if there are any issues. – Charles Sapp

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. If you would like to use your membership picture for your web avatar or any of the newsletter pictures for your gallery – contact the NL editor, Charles Sapp.

Nick Agar Raffle ● John Bouchillon won the airbrushed plate turned by Nick Agar at our recent demonstration. We will start selling chances (2 for \$5 with a limit of 21 entries) at the picnic in September for the wall art work turned by Nick. 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 > August – Bracelet ● Dave Ackmann was selected by the members as the winner of the August President's Challenge to turn a bracelet. Dave turned this beautiful walnut, copper, and Corian bracelet. The other entries in the August President's Challenge are shown in the picture section of the newsletter. Congratulations Dave.



Corian ● Thanks to K & D Countertops for providing at no charge and to Dave Ackmann for picking up about 50 sq ft of Corian from their store in Trenton, IL. Dave cut it up into squares and made it available to the club members at the August meeting. Dave has been working with the Corian and used it for his entry in the August President's challenge. The article below provides some of his lessons learned.

Working With Corian – Dave Ackmann

Corian is an acrylic material primarily used in counter tops. Working Corian is extremely dusty, along the lines of MDF. Dust collection and dust protection is imperative. YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED.

Corian can be cut and drilled using standard woodworking tools, but it dulls tools quickly. When cutting large amounts you may want to use a less valuable blade. When turning Corian use sharp tools and light cuts. I use carbide tools when working Corian. Remember "the band saw is your friend" especially when working Corian, so use it to knock off corners before turning; minimize roughing and you will be happier.

Corian is usually 1/2" thick. If thicker material is needed, DuPont recommends lamination with a specific adhesive that they make, but do not sell to anyone other than their distributors. Medium Cyanoacrylate (Super Glue) seems to work well. Prepare the material by scuffing the sides with 220 grit. Glue, clamp, and allow to set overnight.

Corian comes in over 100 patterns, primarily earth tones. Standard stock is 30" wide. K & D Countertops accumulates their off cuts, and periodically disposes of them. If you want to make the trip to their Trenton fabrication shop, first call them at 618/224-9635 and speak to Lacy to see if they have remnants in stock. If a particular pattern is desired, a full sheet can be ordered at about \$150. They will crosscut if it is necessary to fit in your vehicle, but take a van or truck, as this stuff is heavy.

Several YouTube videos are available on working Corian. Visit <http://www.YouTube.com> and search for "turning Corian". If you have yet to see [Eddie Casteline](#) videos, his are particularly educational and entertaining (a link to his website can be found in the LINKS section of our club web site).

Editor's note – Ernie Guhl has some smaller samples of Corian (~4" x 4") that he will bring to the picnic for members.

End Sealer Dealer Needed ● Thanks to Dave Endres for handling the end sealer shipping and sales for many years. Since he is not going to handle it in the future, the club needs a volunteer that is willing to take on this task if we are to continue to sell it at a greatly reduced price (\$20 for 2 gallons). The end sealer comes in 55 gallon drums so equipment is needed to unload it from the truck, store it, and dispense it into the 2 gallon jugs. Contact President Bob Goulding if you are interested.

September President's Challenge ● The President's Challenge for September is to turn a baseball bat. The length is up to you, but the maximum length is 23". One entry per member; entry must be turned within the last three months for the competition. Prizes will be awarded at the picnic for the best miniature Louisville Slugger and for the most unusual/oddball bat.



Check this article on the [history of bats](#) to get some ideas – the double handle, the harvest the field style, or the whip-o-warm-up bat. If you want to turn a traditional style, check the dimensions on this [Penn State Industries](#) site and scale them down to the length that you plan to turn. See the write up on the picnic for other competitions that will be done with the entries!

New members ● Please join me in welcoming our new members: Jeff and Paula Becker from St. Peters, Dick Maes from Cottleville, and Matt Davis from O'Fallon, MO.



Jeff Becker



Paula Becker



Dick Maes



Matt Davis

Members in the news● WTSTL club member, Dan Burleson, will be one of the featured vendors at the [Schlafly Art Outside show](#) on Sept 5-7, the 20th annual [Mosaic festival for the arts](#) show in St. Charles on Sept 19-21, and the [Best of Missouri](#) show at the Missouri Botanical Gardens on Oct 3-5.

Turned Treasurers Gallery - 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. 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 for the best miniature Louisville Slugger, most unusual/oddball bat, and the longest distance (whiffle ball) hit by the turner and the longest distance (whiffle ball) hit by their guest.

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,

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 collaborative meeting will be held on 27 Sept at Bill Farny' 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. All levels of turning are needed and everyone is encouraged to participate.

Symposiums>

● **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.

Reminder: AAW members should submit one paper ballot or one online vote for their [2015 AAW Board of Directors](#) by Oct 17, 2014.

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		
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>Spouses, significant others, kids,... are welcome to attend. Hope to see you at the picnic. See the newsletter article for more information.</p> 
Oct 26, 2014	<p>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 Burleson will be Jim's back-up if needed.) Demonstration will start at 11:30am.</p>	
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.

August Show and Share



Silver leaf maple bowl by Steve Reynolds.



Rolling pin with inserts by new member, Matt Davis. It was coated with a butcher block finish.



Rich Hinkebein really got in to turning a variety of bracelets. He also turned this spalted sycamore bowl from a tree pushed down when clearing land for a pond.



Maple bracelets that were textured and airbrushed or gilded by Charles Sapp.



Osage orange bowl turned by new member Jeff Becker from a blank won at the previous club meeting.



White oak chickapin burl bowl turned by Michael Blankenship.



Bottle stopper, bracelet with black veneer, and pen turned by Dave Ackmann from Corian.

Additional Entries for the August President's Challenge – Bracelets



Open segmented bracelet by Rich Hinkebein.



Walnut bracelet with texturing and silver gilt cream finish by Charles Sapp.

Board Members

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