



WOODTURNERS OF ST. LOUIS

stlturners.org
May 2015

A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

May Meeting Demo > Bob Goulding : Closed Form Lidded Box ● Bob provided a step by step demonstration for turning a lidded box for the Beads of Courage program along with turning tips.



Cardboard discs make it easy to lay out and rough saw the turning blank.

Preference or features of the blank can determine how it will be held for initial turning – faceplate, screw, or spur drive. Once mounted, it is turned to a smooth cylinder with a spindle roughing gouge, spindle gouge, or bowl gouge. The bottom is then faced off and a tenon marked. Bob's chuck is sized such that laying his pencil on the live center will give him the proper tenon size for his chuck. If the box will have a foot larger than the tenon, shape it at this time.



For box design, Bob prefers to have the widest point about 1/3 up or down rather than in the center of the height. The outside of the box is shaped with a bowl gouge and smoothed with shear scraping cuts while doing the “turners dance” aka swaying your whole body to make the cut. Feeling the surface will often reveal bumps that may not be visible. At this point the outside would be finished sanded.



It is then reversed with the tenon being put into the chuck's jaws. Turning at a low speed, the surface is blended to take out anomalies resulting from the re-mounting. The top of the blank is cleaned up, and the opening is started with a cutoff tool and bowl gouge. The tailstock is removed for better access and hollowing is started. The rim is undercut and formed with a scraper. Hollowing continues, checking the wall thickness as each section is turned and smoothed. After a section is turned to a



“thin wall” it is not recommended that any additional work be done on it because it is unsupported by a bulk of material.



Once the final depth is achieved a scraper is used to finish the inside and the inside is sanded. An extension for a sanding pad is needed for vessels of significant depth.



A jam chuck is then formed to fit inside the box and the tail stock is moved up for support and to provide a friction fit. This allows the bottom of the box to be shaped, the nubbin removed, and sanding to be completed.

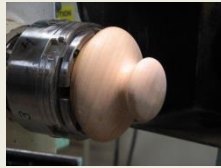




A lid blank is then mounted between a spur drive and the tailstock, smoothed to a cylinder, faced off, and marked for a tenon. Once the tenon is turned, the blank is reversed and mounted in the chuck. You must then decide on whether to fit the lid inside or outside of the box opening, and transfer the measurements to the lid blank.



The mating surfaces are cut with a parting tool or Bedan and test fit to the box. Hollowing of the underside of the lid can be done with a bowl gouge and the outside of the lid shaped to match the box. A jam chuck or chuck jaws are used to hold the lid while the top is shaped. It is less likely to split if a jam chuck is used.



To inlay the bead, a small parting tool cuts the recess slightly undersize and then is gradually enlarged to fit.

Sand and finish and you have your box for the Beads of Courage.



Thanks Bob for a great demonstration on turning a closed form lidded box.

Editor's note: Special thanks to Bob for providing step by step instructions and numerous photographs of his process for this article.

Demonstrators are encouraged to provide the Editor with documentation and pictures of their demonstration material to supplement those taken at the meeting.



May Pre-Meeting Demo > Bill Farny – Part 5 Turning a Bowl

Bill continued the basics of turning training with a demonstration of bowl turning. After removing all jewelry, putting on safety glasses and a turner's smock, he started with a log, showed it split into slabs, laid out the blank, discussed how to bandsaw a blank, mounted the blank, and turned a couple of pieces.



Bill showed a log that had been split. It was cut several inches longer than its diameter to allow for drying and cracking at the ends. He showed that by mounting the bark side of the blank at the head stock he could turn a natural edge bowl or by mounting the bark side of the blank at the tail stock he would turn a conventional bowl. Bill uses a jig that is mounted on the bandsaw table to cut out bowl blanks.



The blank can be held between centers with several types of drives (step, 2 prong, 4 prong, screw, or faceplate). He chose a screw drive for the demonstration. The blank is stabilized using some of the cut off pieces and a hole drilled to take the screw drive. A plywood disk is often used behind the screw to



adjust the depth of penetration. The screw is put into the chuck, pulled forward as the jaws are tightened and the bowl blank attached.

Before turning, the piece is again inspected for checks or cracks that would make it unsafe. Noting any small flaws you can often modify the outside shape and turn them away. Bill used a bundle of straws to show how the blank is mounted with the grain going perpendicular to the spindle axis. By shaping the outside of the bowl with cuts from the center towards the outside the cuts are supported by the grain and tear out is reduced.



After rough shaping the outside, a tenon is cut to match the chuck jaws that will be used. A diameter just slightly larger than with the jaws completely closed will provide the largest contact surface between the jaws and the tenon. A skew is used to cut a dove tail shape on the tenon to match the chuck jaws. A foot is then cut and the final shape put on the outside. For a rough turning nothing further would be done to the outside. For a finished piece, the outside would be sanded.



The bowl is then reversed with the tenon mounted in the chuck. The face is cleaned off and cut down to remove the pith (reduces the chance of cracking) and a hole drilled in the center to indicate the depth of the inside. Hollowing continues (making "mini bowls") until the drilled hole-bottom appears while shaping the inside to mimic the outside shape.



A scraper was used to refine and smooth the bowl wall. (Editor's note: see pictures further down in the newsletter that shows proper scraper technique to reduce catches.) The bowl would then be reversed and a jam chuck and tail center used to remove the tenon and clean up the foot. Bill also showed how he would use a jam chuck and tail center to re-true a tenon on a blank that was turned green and left to dry before final turning.

Bill recommends two books on bowl turning by Richard Raffan – [Turning Wood](#) and [Turned-Bowl Design](#). Both are available in our library.

Great job in discussing safe turning and demonstrating the basics of bowl turning. Thanks Bill.

(Editor's note: The Aug 2014 Vol 29 No. 4 AAW magazine, [American Woodturner](#) has a detail article on "Turning Your Very First Bowl" by John Kelsey. The magazine is available on line for AAW members and a copy is available in our library.)



Library News > Rich Hinkebein • New items this month:

- DVD by Mike Mahoney – "Woodturning Basics". It has some very good lessons on how to do some basic projects.
- Book "Woodturning Projects and Techniques". It is a series of articles written by Mahoney in the past and geared to people interested in starting woodturning or recently started turning. But it has something to learn for most of us.
- Book "Woodturning Miniatures". Great practice with a small amount of material.

Several of our DVDs have developed problems from fingerprints, dust, dirt, scratches, and other issues. Please handle all DVDs with care and by their edges or center hubs. Let me know of any problems with them that

cleaning does not fix.

A reminder to all members: *"If you can't get to a meeting:*

- *You can ask another member to return it.*
- *You can mail it to me.*

Our library is only open on Sunday at our club meetings and is open to all our paid members for checking out books, videos, and DVD's.

When checking out material:

- Sign and 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 make sure that the card goes with that item.
- Watch that you do not put multiple cards in one item.
- Remember to sign legibly so if something is amiss we can contact the correct person.

Our library is a great source of inspiration and knowledge. We typically have around 90 items checked out by members at each meeting. A complete listing content is on the club web site. Please take advantage of this wonderful club benefit and return items in a timely manner.

Tech Tips of the Month >

- Round edges of your rough out to reduce cracking while drying – Rich Hinkebein
- A slotted bolt can be used to cut wood threads– Bob Goulding
- A [right angle bit driver](#) can be purchased on Ebay for a few dollars and it makes an excellent inertia driven sander that will hold ¼" hex shafts – Gail Elble



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

Last month I thanked you for all your patience with our crowded meeting conditions. I said that we were working on the problem and that we hoped to have some exciting news soon. Well we do. And I want to thank the membership for its unanimous support of those at the meeting on May 17th for moving to the new facility. For those that were not at the meeting - a facility has been located that will meet our needs and provides tremendous opportunities for future growth. The St. Louis Carpenters Joint Apprenticeship Program has graciously invited us to hold our meetings in their facility. The building was once a cardboard box factory. The front contains offices and the factory floor has been divided into classrooms and shop areas. It is located at 8300 Valcour Avenue, Affton, MO 63123 and is close to the center of where our members live. There is a huge, free parking lot and the room where we will meet is a very large open area. It is used during the week to construct and disassemble scaffolding and not used at all on weekends.

We are working on the details and getting our equipment moved. The June meeting will be at the new location. We will try to arrange a tour of the facility from 12 to 12:30pm in lieu of the regular pre-meeting demo. A snail mail letter with a map will be sent to all of our members. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact me. We thank Woodcraft for their gracious support over the years. They will continue to be one of our sponsors and offer a discount to our club members.

The President's Challenge for June is to turn a box for donation to the Beads of Courage program. There will be *NO limit* to the number you can enter. Each entry will get a ticket for a drawing for a \$10 gift certificate

and there will be 3 winners. Thanks to Steve Reynolds for coordinating this community program. Details for the box design are provided in a separate article in the newsletter.

As I mentioned last month [Hartfield Tool Company](#) (800-345-2396) offers a 15% discount, free shipping, and no tax to club members. To get the discounts they require a list of members for verification. We will provide them a list of paid members by June 1st so be sure to have your membership paid for 2015.

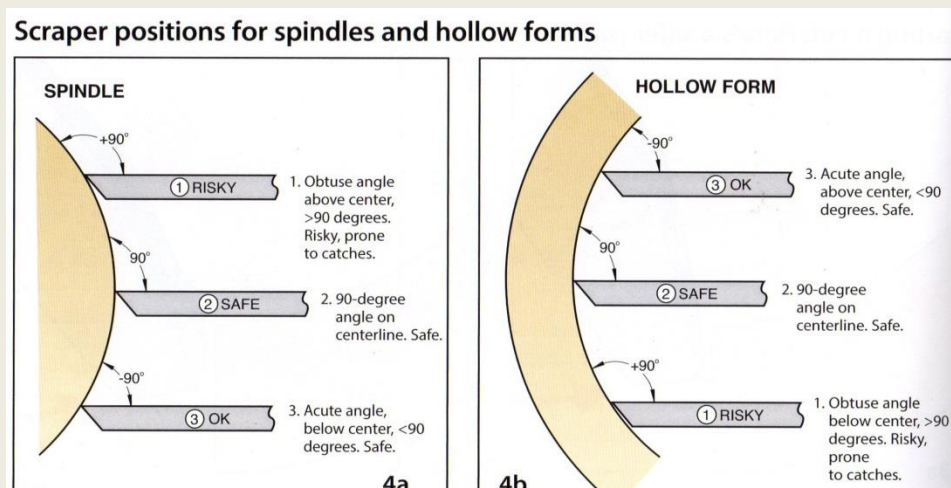
In the past, the Missouri Botanical Garden has donated wood to the club from a tree they removed. They have an exhibit coming to the Garden called the Lantern Festival. It is art by day and magic by night as larger than life sets in silk, steel, porcelain, and light are featured. This is an opportunity for us to show our support for the Garden. In 2012 it was a sold out event so get your tickets early.

Thanks to Paula Becker for handling the coffee and cookies at the meeting in Laura Spelbring's absence. And thanks to Rob Conaway for working the video system.

If you are a new turner (or even an experienced turner) looking for help or needing a question answered, contact me and we will get you to someone that can help. We would like to get a "formal" mentoring program started. To reduce confusion we want to have a single point of contact, a Mentor Coordinator. Members will be directed to the Mentor Coordinator and he/she will have the responsibility to direct the member to another member that can help. I will act as an interim Coordinator, but I would like to have another club member take that responsibility. Contact me if you would be willing to serve in that role.

We have a great demonstration on finishing techniques planned for the June meeting. If you have a special one that you would like to share, please contact me prior to the meeting. Looking forward to seeing you at our new location on June 28th! – Bob Goulding

>Use of the scraper● In most of the demonstrations the question comes up "how do I hold the scraper?" It usually boils down to saying – keep the angle less than 90 degrees. Hoping that a picture is worth a 1000 words, the picture below is from [Getting Started in Woodturning](#) in an article by Lyle Jamieson entitled "How to Avoid a Catch". The book is published by the AAW and is available in our library.



>Turning beads● Dave Ackmann made his own bushings and mandrel for turning beads. The bushings were made from 1/4"-20 bolts and the mandrel from a 1/8" brass rod. It is documented on: <http://www.second-path.com/quick%20and%20easy%20Necklace%20beads.pdf>. Dave also has a page with other [links](#) that you may want to check out. (Editor's note: Dave has suggested that you may want to use a 3/8" bolt instead of 1/4".)

Club News>



Membership dues are due ● Dues for 2015 are payable now. An [application](#) is available on the club web site. Dues are \$30 individual; \$40 family. If you are renewing, you don't need to complete a new application just pay your dues to Walt and make sure that the [contact information](#) we have on file is correct.

Attendance/Treasurers Report ● Approximately 40 members/guests attended the May meeting. - Walt Ahlgrim

Community Projects●

[Beads of Courage](#)>



This is an opportunity for members to **ReTurn** to the community. We are following the AAW program guidelines, but will distribute the boxes to Children's Hospital in St. Louis. The club has the official Beads of Courage "beads" that can be installed on your box. They are 13/16" in diameter and 19/64" tall. They are available from Bob Goulding (\$1.25 each). If you need a bead before our next meeting send your payment along with a self-addressed / stamped envelope to



Bob. See the April newsletter for how to turn a box from flat stock. Guidelines for boxes:

- ~6" in outside diameter; ~4" tall
- Loose fitting lid with knob or handle (no sharp finials)
- Food safe finish (wax, poly, lacquer); stay away from walnut and other oils that may produce an allergic reaction
- No plywood
- "Beads of Courage" must be on the lid. It can be an official bead or it can be burnt / carved... into the turning.
- Kid friendly design
- Put your name and our club name on the bottom (WTSTL) of the box

Contact Steve Reynolds with your turnings or to answer any questions. Thanks in advance for your support. Please bring your boxes to the June 28th meeting!

>New members ● Please join me in welcoming new members: Stan Boyle from Des Peres, MO and Richard Grossman from Clayton, MO



Richard Grossman

Coffee and Cookies ● Complementary coffee is available at the meetings. The price for cookies is posted. Purchases are on the honor system.

Web site ● If you have not signed on to the [club web site](#) but want to establish an account send your request to the President, Bob Goulding. Once your membership is verified, he will contact the web master and an account will be established for you with a temporary password. When you sign on for the first time you will be able to set your own password. 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. You can also establish your own gallery! If you have any problems with web site operation, downloading, or general suggestions please contact the officers.

Newsletter ● Did you know that by hovering your mouse over the "blue" text in the newsletter you can click and be taken to the web site that provides you with more information on the subject? Give it a try if you have not done so in the past. Want to make the text and pictures bigger – just Ctrl + Scroll on your mouse to increase or decrease your screen display.

Symposiums and Classes>

- [29th Annual AAW International Symposium](#) June 25-28, 2015 at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center in Pittsburgh, PA.

President's Challenge> May Turn Something Other Than a Pen from a Pen

Blank • Dave Ackmann's beaded necklace was selected by the members as the winner of the May President's Challenge. The other entries are shown in the picture section of the newsletter. Congratulations Dave.



June President's Challenge • Turn and donate boxes for the Beads of Courage program. There are NEW rules for this challenge. Submit as many entries as you want. A raffle ticket will be given for each box that is donated and a drawing held to determine three (3) gift certificate winners (one winner per member). Bring in the boxes that you have been turning and showing at the previous meetings for this challenge. We will collect them after the meeting. Please be sure to sign your name to the challenge sheet and get your tickets. — Bob Goulding



Calendar of Upcoming Events

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|-----------------|---|--|
| June 28, 2015 | Premeeting 1200-1230pm Tour of the CJAP facility. | Meeting 100pm at CJAP; demonstration on finishing techniques – John Anderson-shellac and Danish oil; Dan Schmoker – friction polish; Dixi Smith – Odie oil; Michael Blankenship – TBD; Rich Hinkebein- buffing; Bob Goulding – lacquer, Hut; Jan Hoffman – CA. If you have techniques to share, contact Bob Goulding to get on the agenda. |
| July 26, 2015 | TBD | TBD |
| August 23, 2015 | TBD | TBD |

May Show and Share



Dave Ackmann brought in a bowl of decorative beads. If possible, they will be used by the local Beads of Courage program or possibly another community program. See the newsletter for an article on how Dave made an arbor to turn the beads.

Beads of Courage "honey pot" box turned by Walt Ahlgrim for Beads of Courage.



While in Florida Gale Elble turned this mahogany platter. She also turned a couple of bowls from a Norfolk pine and made a platter from a thin slice of the tree.

Spalted box for Beads of Courage turned by Ray Koeneman.



Charles York turned this segmented bowl and a handle to fit on his spring loaded center punch.

Cherry box for Beads of Courage turned by James Otto.



Charles Sapp turned the tea pot and segmented box (using the instruction in the April newsletter) for Beads of Courage.

Maple bowl and art piece made of maple, pink ivory, and rosewood by Bill Farny.



New split turned vases from maple by Dan Burlison. He does the beading and burning of the design on the outside, dyes the inside to match and glues the top and bottom together. The red and black vase is very thin and weighs 5.7 oz. See more of his projects at [SkyDrive](https://www.skydrive.com). His segmented vessel is 9" tall and 30" in diameter with 26 pieces of hard maple. It will also be beaded.

Entries for the April President's Challenges – Turn something other than a pen from a pen blank



Rich Hinkebein turned this cheese pick from African Blackwood.



Oak business card holder and cake Charles Sapp.



Chess pawns by John Buehrer.



Winning necklace by Dave Ackmann.

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 enjoy 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 8300 Valcore Avenue, St. Louis, MO <http://www.stlturners.org>

American Association of Woodturners • WTSTL is proud to be one of 350+ worldwide chapters of the American Association of Woodturners. We encourage you to join this fine organization. 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 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.

Board Members

| | | | |
|-----------------|--|--------------|--|
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