



# WOODTURNERS OF ST. LOUIS

A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

stlturners.org  
July 2015

**WELCOME:** We continued to our second meeting at the new location. Again this is great space with plenty of room for our club meetings. As a reminder, about the monthly meeting agenda. The pre-meeting is from 11:30-12:30 and usually covers topics related to basic woodturning skills. The main meeting then follows after a 30 minute break, from 1:00-4:00.



## July Pre-Meeting Demo > Sharpening Basics ●



**Bill Rubinstein** came to discuss the basics of sharpening. Bill uses a One-way Wolverine Jig with 36 grit and 80 grit grinding wheels. He uses high speed to reduce the time spent grinding the tool. The 36 grit wheel is used to remove material quickly without the heat. The 80 grit wheel is used to put the final grind on the tool. He feels that it is very important that your

bowl gouge have a removable handle – you want long and heavy while turning but light and without a handle in the way while you are grinding.



6 important things to keep in mind when sharpening turning tools.

1. The only way to get good at sharpening is to practice
2. The only sharp edge is when it is just sharpened
3. You must sharpen your tool(s) right before you make your final cut
4. Must grind on round wheels
  - a. True wheel with either a commercial device or an inexpensive diamond dresser and a homemade jig.
5. Ideally, the wheels on a grinder should be selected depending on your grinding speed.
6. Wheels need to be balanced
  - a. One-Way makes a balancing kit to ensure proper balance

Grinding tools is all about a repeatable process.

1. Make marks on the jig or devise some system of your own
2. Create settings to make the effort repeatable
3. Drill/tap the jig, such as a One-Way Wolverine for instance, to assist with making the settings repeatable

As an example of more than one way to skin a cat, there's the Johannes Michelsen Signature Gouge Grinding Jig

1. Jig fits into the Wolverine base
2. Signature Grind
  - a. Left set point – Grind center to left
  - b. Right set point – Grind center to right
  - c. Center mid set point – Grind secondary bevel all the way around
  - d. Center near point – grind tertiary bevel all the way around

#### Tool Specific Sharpening

1. Scraper
  - a. Needs to be sharp on top of the tool
  - b. Using the platform assembly
    - i. Match the tool to the wheel and begin
  - c. Grind to ensure it is how you like to use the tool
2. Parting Tool – a normal one rather than a diamond shaped one
  - a. Using a the platform assembly
  - b. Grind each side
3. Skew
  - a. Using the normal jig
  - b. Adjust jig arm length to position tool handle and match the bevel you want
4. Roughing Gouge
  - a. Using the normal jig, adjust arm length to position tool handle and match the bevel
  - b. Rotate tool.

Practice, Practice, Practice!



### July Meeting Demo > Casting and Turning Plastic Pen Blanks●

**David Ackmann** began the demonstration with a few questions. What do plastics offer us that wood does not? Color, Texture (Physical and Visual), Creativity, use your imagination. Why am I here? Nobody else casts and turns plastics. What do I hope to Accomplish: Pique your interest, teach techniques, pitfalls and get someone else interested?

The 4 “Ms” of Plastics: Material, Molds, Methods and Modifications

Material: Polyester Resin – inexpensive, readily available, longer casting time, smelly

Polyurethane Resin – more costly, mail order, short casting time, pressure pot, odor free

Molds: PVC Pipe, UHMW single blanks, Multi blanks

Modifications: Adding color, inclusions

Methods: Catalyst versus A/B, casting time, Pressure Pot, Cure time, colors, stirring versus blending



Casting Tools: Scale, Cups, Stir Sticks

Inclusions: Pine Cones, Sweet Gum Balls, Pasta, Sprinkles, Golf Tees, Wood Bits, Worthless Wood Legos, Nut Shells, Yarn, Coffee Beans, Cherry Pits, Cloth, you name it.



Links:

[Second-Path Woodworking](#)



Plastics for Pen Turning.pdf

### What is a “Pressure Pot”?

A Pressure Pot is a vessel customarily designed to contain a gallon of paint for a spray gun, but also has application when casting polyurethane resin into turning blanks. Typically they resemble a 2 1/2 gallon metal cookie jar with a metal lid and various valves on the top; wing nuts hold the lid on the body of the pot when under pressure. An input valve is connected to an air compressor, like one uses to inflate tires or drive pneumatic tools. A regulator and pressure gauge control how much air pressure is accepted from the compressor into the pressure pot (all pressure pots have a working pressure limit which must not be exceeded for safety). An exhaust valve allows compressed air to be exhausted when desired (never loosen the wing nuts unless pressure in the pot is released). Since polyurethane generates bubbles when curing, a pressure pot is a convenient way to compress the freshly poured plastic and eliminate the bubbles.

Pressure pots can be purchased at paint stores or Harbor Freight, starting at about \$80. The valves and regulator often need to be upgraded to perform at an acceptable level.

### Library News > Rich Hinkebein



#### New items this month:

- Understanding Wood Finishing, copyright 2005, by Bob Flexner
- Wood Finishing 101, copyright 2010, by Bob Flexner
  - This one is directed towards people new to finishing wood
- New DVD : Focus on Starting out Woodturning by Robert Sorby
  - He covers a range of tools, how to grind, how to use and other useful information for the beginning woodturner

The Bob Flexner books are also available in the St. Charles Public Library system. They have an additional book, Flexner on Finishing (copyright 2010), which is a collection of articles he has written over the years.

A listing of the magazines is on the website.

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.

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 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. The large meeting space allows me to spread out the material so you can review and check it out. Please let me know if you have any suggestions to improve our library. All of the magazines have been moved into storage, due to space limitations, with the exception of American Woodturner. Magazines are available upon request. – Rich Hinkebein



**President's Spin > Bob Goulding** • Welcome to our new members and visitors. As we adjust to our new surroundings, we are trying some different things. If you have any suggestions for room arrangement, location of items around the room or how we conduct the meetings, please let me know.

As mentioned in a recent email, I plan to place more emphasis on our Show and Tell. It has been a very important part of our meetings and I think it has often gotten short shift. I will be devoting enough time and attention to do justice to each piece brought. As you see, I have moved the Show and Tell table to the front of the room and provided cards to identify the turner and tell a bit about each piece. Please fill them out. Passing each piece around is nice, but it distracts from the next piece shown. Instead, we will hold up each piece and ask the turner to tell us about it – kind of wood, finish, challenges, what was learned, etc. I have always found that if I discuss problems I had making a piece, I can get valuable suggestions from the audience. As I said before, we're as interested in a beginner's simple pieces and in turner's failures as we are gallery worthy work.

The club now has its own mounted tool sharpening grinder complete with Wolverine sharpening system. Thanks to Rob Conaway and Bill Bales.

Our new mentoring program is coming together. We have 8 mentors signed up and would like more. The program will function through a **Mentoring Coordinator, Bob Greenwood**. If you would like to have a mentor or be a mentor, contact Bob and he will match you up with a member near you that has experience in your needed area. Thanks Bob, for taking this role with the club.



The President's Challenge for August is to see how many things you can turn from a 3" x 3" x 3" cube of wood.

We have great demonstrations on yo-yo's and turn a wave form bowl at the August meeting. If you have a topic that you would like to demonstrate in the future, please contact me. I am looking forward to seeing you in August. – Bob Goulding

## Club News>



**Membership**● 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 50 members/guests attended the July meeting. - Walt Ahlgrim

**Beads of Courage**> Thanks to all of the members that turned the 25 boxes for the Beads of Courage program. We are making arrangements to distribute them to Children's Hospital. We will be delivering them on 8/10 mid-morning at St. Louis Children's Hospital by Barnes Jewish.



This will be an ongoing project. They will be needing about 75 new Beads of Courage boxes each year.



— Steve Reynolds

**New members** ● Please join me in welcoming

- DJ Callahan of High Ridge, MO.
- Jason Hill of Fenton, MO
- Jeff Hornung of Florissant, MO

**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.

**President's Challenge> Turn Something from a 3' long 2"x4"**● Pictures of all of the entrants will be on the club website.

1. John Buehrer – Walking Sculpture
2. Walter Ahlgrim – Beads of Courage
3. Charlie Sapp – Hot Plate



**August President's Challenge** ● How many things can you turn from a 3"x3"x3" cube of wood? – Bob Goulding

# Calendar of Upcoming Events

August 23, 2015	John Spelbring will be turning yo-yos for the pre-meeting	Steve Reynolds will be demonstrating how to turn a wave form bowl
September	Picnic	Everyone will demonstrate how to turn their own plate

## July Show and Share



Holly Bowl with Prickly Pear Cactus inlay. Lacquer finish  
- Bob Goulding



Weaved wooden baskets and platters. Buffalos done in white acrylic paint.  
- Dan Burleson



Silver Maple plates  
Walt Ahlgrim



Sassafras bowl finished with walnut oil. The walnut oil to several months to fully dry.  
John



Square offset bowl is White Oak finished with walnut oil  
Dave Endres



Hackberry Greek fisherman's hat  
Gary Hinegardner



Segmented pepper mill finished with lacquer  
Jeff Nasser



Walnut natural edge vase finished with lacquer.  
Zane Keylor



Rock sphere display stand. Glue up of maple, oak, poplar and mahogany finished with wipon poly.  
Rob Conaway



Oak and Walnut burl acorn boxes. Finished with lacquer.  
Sassafras bowl with acorn box finished with salad bowl finish.  
John Buehrer



Corn cob Kaleidoscope with a CA glue finish  
Paul Detricic



Weeping cherry and cherry small bowls finished with walnut oil  
Bill Farney

# Entries for the July President's Challenges – 2" x 4" x 3'

Charlie Sapp – Hot Plate  
- Third Place

John Buehrer – Walking  
Sculpture  
- First Place

Bill Farney – Small Bowl

Dick Maes – Square Rolling  
Pin

Jon Spelbring – Artwork

Laura Spelbring – Porcupine

Beads of Courage – Walter  
Ahlgrim

- Second Place

Bob Goulding – Candle Stick





**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

President:	Bob Goulding	636.745.2333	<a href="mailto:bobisturner@yahoo.com">bobisturner@yahoo.com</a>
Vice President:	Steve Reynolds	636.938.5366	<a href="mailto:stephen-reynolds@sbcglobal.net">stephen-reynolds@sbcglobal.net</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:jpayne.2011@gmail.com">jpayne.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:	<a href="mailto:info@stlturners.org">info@stlturners.org</a>		