



# WOODTURNERS OF ST. LOUIS

A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

WTSTL.com  
August 2023



**Ken Bald – Turning a pepper mill** • Ken used walnut for his pepper mill but any hardwood works well. Once turned round, cut tenons on both ends, mark the blank for future grain alignment; and separate into a top and bottom.



A hole is drilled completely through the bottom blank using a Forstner bit. Ken drilled half way from one end, rotated the blank and completed drilling through from the other end. Additional drilling was done to accept the bottom mechanism.



The top was mounted in the chuck, a recess cut to accept the top mechanism, and a hole drilled through the top for the mechanism rod. A tenon was then cut on the top to fit the hole in the bottom blank.



The top and bottom were then jam fit together to shape the mill.



Detail instructions that Ken got at a [Nick Cook seminar](#) are available on the club website under the demonstrations/members tab.

Thanks to Ken for a great demonstration on turning a pepper mill. Ken's demonstration is available on the [WTSTL Youtube Channel](#).

Nick Cook has an article on turning pepper mills on his website:  
<http://www.nickcookwoodturner.com/articles.htm>



Fred Kachelhofer has an article that covers some of the issues he found with alignment of the blank when remounted. His [article](#) is in our website under demonstrations/members tab. A DVD by Fred will be added to our library in the near term. Contact [Fred](#) if you would like to purchase his DVD for your personal library.

**Pre-Meeting Demonstrator/ Mentor●** Thanks to our members for stepping up to mentor others during the pre-meeting hands on turning . Tom Zeller demonstrated and gave instruction on sharpening.



Check out this article on bowl gouge sharpening techniques by Kent at [TurnAWoodBowl](https://turnawoodbowl.com).

Contact Tom Zeller to volunteer. Your help is needed and appreciated.

**WTSTL Tool Boxes and Turning Tools●** Each of our Comet lathes has a number and there is a tool box with tools with the same number in the movable/lockable cabinets. When setting up the pre-meeting area get the numbered box that goes with that Comet. This helps us identify any missing items and which box to replenish.

It is also very important to put the tools from a specific box back into that same box for inventory control. And, be sure that the tool boxes are taken back to the meeting room and stored in the locked mobile cabinets. The chuck and all loose items (spurs, knock out bar, ...) should be removed from the lathe and put back in the tool box for secure storage.

**Mentoring●** The Board recognizes the value of hands-on and one-on-one instruction. **Check the website for information on the mentoring program.** It will be one turner at a time; you must provide your project, tools, and face shield; a mask must also be worn. Make arrangements with the mentors to participate. Several of our members have taken advantage of this opportunity and provided very positive feedback on the mentors knowledge and instruction.

**WTSTL Hybrid Meetings●** Each meeting lets us improve and address new issues with our hybrid system. In person meetings will continue to be open to visitors (except when a paid demonstrator is scheduled); remote participation will be available via Zoom. We are discussing the possibility of exchanging Zoom demonstrations with other clubs around the world. More to follow as details are defined.

**Website●** Electronic membership to the WTSTL is available via the club website. After entering your contact information and selecting your plan, [log on to your PayPal account](#) to complete your application and enter the amount to pay. When PayPal asks for our

organization, enter **Woodturners of St. Louis**. You will receive a follow up email with your

**We need your help too.** Please give us feedback on the good and bad with the A/V system so we can make your online participation a great experience.

If you do not see video at the start of the meeting (~1pm CT) let us know via the Zoom Chat window.

If the video drops offline or there are other issues let us know via the Zoom Chat window

**Please mute yourself during the meeting as any background noise overpowers the demonstrator and puts you in the demo screen.**

Please send Rob and Charlie an email with any suggestions. We monitor the chat but texts, email, and voice feedback is difficult during the meeting as the AV team is quite occupied with operation of the equipment.



President's Spin● The Presidents challenge for September is to turn, A. a peppermill or B. a mortar and pestle or C. a plate. I hope we have enough entries to have both a novice and experienced categories. If you have questions about making any of the items please contact me.

I recently took a refresher class on spindle turning with a professional turner in Kansas City. We reviewed the four basic shapes found in spindle turning. The bead, cove, vee and plane or straight cut. Learning to control these cuts is key to improving your turning skills. The class was taught using a spindle gouge however a skew chisel will make the same cuts probably even better if you have mastered the skew. No matter how complex every spindle consists of a bead, cove, vee or straight used in different combinations. When working on a spindle blank always work/turn from the larger diameter to the smaller diameter. Generally, the larger diameter is near the head stock. Divide each shape in half and cut each section with a downhill motion. This will help eliminate torn grain and catches. Use a story stick with dividing lines for different shapes. Paul Krautmann demonstrated this technique to our club in our March 2022 meeting. Transfer the lines to the spindle blank. You can use a parting tool and calipers to turn diameters. The key to getting better at spindle turning is to practice making beads and coves and vee on a piece of scrap wood. The practice helps you develop tool control so that you can turn the same bead or cove consistently over and over again. Now that doesn't sound like fun but, it will help develop skills that will be carried over into other areas of wood turning. My goal is to offer a spindle turning demonstration at a pre-meeting in the future.

One of the keys to improved turning skills is sharp tools. Are you keeping your tools sharp enough? Or are you continuing to turn with dull tools. If you are turning and you're not sure about the shape of your tools please ask for help. The club has a grinder in the storage room and I generally bring a slow speed grinder to the pre-meeting. So if you're not sure about your cutting tools bring them to the pre-meeting.

Woodcraft is conducting a bandsaw tune-up demo September 9 at 1:00pm Maryland Heights Saint Louis. If you haven't checked your bandsaw recently this could be a good refresher course. In addition they have Nova chucks on sale this month. Rockler has Titebond glue and a three piece divider, caliper, compass set on sale this month.

Always wear safety glasses/face shield, a dust mask, and remember to stop, stretch, and take a break. Protecting your lungs is important; wear a mask. Shop safety should be important to all of us, please stay focused on safety.

The novice category is for those woodturners that are still developing their woodturning skills. Gift certificates will be awarded to both categories providing we have at least three entries for each category. I will leave it up to the honor system for choosing the category for placing your Presidents Challenge item. See you at the September meeting. - **Tom Zeller**

**President's Challenge** • Members select their choice of winner for the PC. During the break, review the items on the challenge table. Separate your ticket and write your selection (the number in front of each entry) on the back of the one marked "TICKET". Place it in the PC bowl. Your voting ticket will enter you in the door prize drawing. **One PC entry per member; must be turned following the challenge. There are NOW TWO categories for the President's Challenge – Novice and Open. Individuals decide which category to place their entry depending on the challenge. An experienced turner may never have done the challenge and feels like a novice. The category selected is done on the honor system. When voting – vote for one entry in the open category and one entry in the novice category. (Note – if there are insufficient entries for either category they may be combined.)**

Congratulations to the August PC winner: Tom Heusler for his gnome home with hot air balloon carrying a gnome. See pictures of the winner and all the great entries in the Show and Tell section of the newsletter and on our website.

**President's Challenge for September** – Turners choice of: (a) Pepper mill, (b) mortar and pestle, or (c) a plate / platter.



**Vice President's Report** • [Beads of Courage](#): The Beads of Courage is a program for kids in need. BOC is a not-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for children and teens coping with serious illness. The program integrates the use of beads as visible, tangible symbols of their experiences and treatment. Children receive a bead for every test, procedure, or treatment they undergo. Woodturners donate boxes to hold the beads they earn. Details on requirements for the boxes can be found on the club web site. Suggestions for BOC bags can





be found [here](#). Ceramic beads to attach to the boxes are \$1.25 (13/16" in diameter) and available from Ken. Bring your boxes (or bags) to the meeting and give them to Ken Bald. – **Ken Bald**



**Treasurer Report • Dues are due for 2023 membership.** Electronic membership applications and payments can be made on the website. If you prefer to complete and mail a paper [application](#), it is available and can be down loaded from the club website. Renewing and new members are asked to complete the new application form. Club patches are available from the Treasurer for \$5. – **Charles Sapp**



**Secretary Report •** 31 people attended in person and 4 online.

Prior to the meeting, Tom Zeller gave a demonstration and answered many questions about tool sharpening. These pre-meeting demos are becoming more popular each month. Next month we will be starting the meeting with our parking lot picnic. The club will provide the meat and each member is asked to bring something to share. See the newsletter article for more information.

During and just after the picnic, the club's lathes will be in the workroom for those that would like to turn pens for the troops. Pen kits (complete with blanks) will be provided for those interested. Feel free to bring your face mask and tools. The main meeting at 1pm will have a demonstration on resin casting and turning.

Tom opened the meeting by talking about safety and tips. Many of our members joined in and offered some really great tips to help make our turning experiences better.

Be sure to check out the pictures of our Show and Tell as well as the President's Challenge. We had some very clever and well-crafted submissions.

Our demo this month was given by Ken Bald, our Vice President. Ken provided several samples of Pepper Grinders he has made, and gave us many great tips on how to turn one.

Michael Blankenship will join us for our October meeting. We haven't heard what he's going to demo yet, but Michael never lets us down – his demos are not to be missed.

Be safe, be well, and enjoy turning. - **Linda Osterwise, Secretary WTSTL**



**Library News** • 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.

Our library is a great source of inspiration and knowledge. We typically have around 50 items checked out by members at each meeting. Members can access a complete listing content on the club website. 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.

New for this month:  
Woodturning magazine #385  
American Woodturner magazine Aug 2023

**-Rich Hinkebein**

### Club News:

- **WTSTL September meeting** • Ken Bald will be our brat and hot dog chef at our “picnic meeting”. Weather permitting we will have social time in the parking lot and then have free time turning on the Comets in the building – pens for the troops before our regular meeting at 1pm. Brats, condiments, plates, and utensils will be provided. Bring a dish to share, a drink, and a lawn chair. Set up will start at 1115am and serving at 1145am. Pen turning can start whenever you finish eating and want to turn. All supplies for the troop pen turning will be provided. Our regular meeting with a demonstration will start at 1pm.



- Your Board of Directors is looking for nominations to serve on the Board in 2024. All positions are open. Please contact Tom Zeller if you are interested and willing to serve.



- **Members in the Show** -
  - Michael and Jackie Blankenship staffed their booth, Turning Blind, at the Festival of the Little Hills in St. Charles in September. Several contacts were made with other turners looking for a club!



- **Old Capitol in St. Charles –**

- Becky Blankenship, Tom Heusler, and Rich Hinkebein hosted the carpenter's shop during Statehood Days. They demonstrated how a pole lathe and treadle lathe operate and showed visitors several turned items. Our next event at the Old Capitol is Seniors Day on Oct 12<sup>th</sup>. Contact Rich H if you are interested in helping and for more information.



**Sponsor●** A new sponsor has been added to the website – Exotic Blanks. Gift certificates and door prizes will be donated to the club depending on purchases. So be sure to mention Woodturners of St. Louis in the “memo/notes” section of your order.

### **Video Resources ●**

- The Woodturners of St. Louis have a YouTube channel. On it you will find many of our demonstrations. To find the videos – go to [YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com/@woodturnersstlouis2950/videos) and search on *Woodturner St Louis*. <https://www.youtube.com/@woodturnersstlouis2950/videos>
  - Past demonstrations are also available on DVD in our library and listed on the website demonstration tab.
  - Here is a link to several [videos on turning a lidded box](#). Experiment and see what method works best for you.
  - First State Woodturners had a lidded box demonstration with a couple of handouts and a YouTube video that are very well done.
- \* [Turning a Lidded Box](#) - General Background Info
  - \* [Step-by-Step Instructions](#) to Turn a Lidded Box
  - \* [YouTube FSW](#)

## Turning Tips ●

- Watch out cleaning the shaft of your carbide tools with your finger. The carbide cutting edge may slice your finger.
- Be cautious of sanding disks that extend past the surface they are mounted on. When rotating at high speed they will slice you.
- Read this [article](#) from Fine Woodworking by Paul Axelsen to better understand sand paper.



Note – Not a member of the AAW. They have a guest membership that provides FREE sixty day access to AAW resources and full online access to all published content. Check out their website: [AAW Guest Member](#).

## Community Programs ●

Please continue to work on these items and bring them to the meeting. For more information on these programs check the club web site.

**Nursing Home Turnings – small boxes or bowls, ornaments, bird houses, feathered creatures – all are great items for this program – give your items to Charles Sapp.**

**Beads of Courage – boxes for storage of the patient's beads (see article in the NL) – give your items to Ken Bald.**

**Pens for the Troops – Kits are available from the club Treasurer for a \$3 deposit which is returned to you when a completed pen is returned for the program – get your kits and return completed pens to Charles Sapp. *Our goal for 2023 is ~~50~~ 120 pens and we are currently at 97.***

## Positions to Fill ●

- Candidates for 2024 officer slate.
- Newsletter Editor – The editor is responsible for collecting articles, editing, and assembling the club newsletter.
- Demonstrators– Your help is needed to provide a demonstration at each of our meetings. The demo subject is your choice, whatever you enjoy doing – bowls, hollow forms, plates, boxes, pyrography, resins, stabilizing, tips and tricks, tops, ..... Contact Tom Zeller to volunteer.
- Audio / Visual Team – Additional support is needed to help set up, monitor and understand the system for backup. Talk to Rob Conaway to volunteer.
- Mentor Coordinator – Coordinate with members looking to improve their skills
- Pre-Meeting Mentor – Set up the Comets and be available to mentor members and visitors
- We appreciate all the help with set up and clean up. Contact Tom Zeller for more opportunities.



**Tax Deductions** • The Woodturners of St. Louis is a 501 (c)(3) charitable organization. Donations may be tax deductible. Donate up to \$100,000 annually from your IRA directly to a qualified charity through a [qualified charitable distribution](#). (As long as certain rules are met-such as you're at least 70½ when making the gift, and the check is payable directly to the qualified charity-then the distribution shouldn't be taxable income.)



**Newsletter Pictures of Show and Tell / President's Challenge Items** • For better pictures and appreciation of your work, please submit pictures of your turnings to [cwsapp@charter.net](mailto:cwsapp@charter.net) **by the Friday prior to the next meeting**. Include the species of wood, finish, size, and any comments.



*But please, continue to bring your turning for Show and Tell and the President's Challenge to the meeting for display and judging by the members. A form will be provided for you to provide information on your turning, please complete it as information will be used by the editor for the newsletter.*

**ZOOM Streaming Links** • Our meetings will be streamed via ZOOM unless noted in the meeting information on the web page. All members should receive a reminder and the ZOOM link during the week prior to the meeting. If you do not receive the link by the Thursday prior to the meeting, **send an email to [CWSAPP@CHARTER.NET](mailto:CWSAPP@CHARTER.NET) requesting the link.**

**Vendor / Sponsor Discounts** • Check the website for vendors that offer discounts to club members. ***When shopping at Rockler in Bridgeton, ask them to register your purchase with the WTSTL as they provide gift cards to the club for door prizes after a number of purchases.***



## Calendar of Upcoming Events

Date	Pre-Meeting 11:30 am – 12:30 pm	Meeting 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Sept 24, 2023	Picnic in the Park(ing lot) and open turning ; set up 1115am; serving at 1145am; bring a dish to share/a drink/lawn chair	John Ferreira, Casting a small item with epoxy

October 22, 2023	Easy Wood tools demo by Scott Eiswirth	Michel Blankenship, Ornament
November 19, 2023	No premeeting	Wine and Cheese social / election of officers

**Upcoming Events** • *The dates for the November meeting will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month due to conflict with Thanksgiving holiday.*

**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. You can also post your pictures on this site.

**Facebook Group** • Our club has a Facebook group that is a great way to post pictures of your work, provide tech tips, and share ideas. When you go to the site:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1157348070957128/?fref=nf> click on “Join” and your request will be processed by our Facebook administrator. It is a closed group and only seen by members.

**ZOOM** • The club purchased a Pro Level account with Zoom so that we can host our meetings and other off-meeting events. Provided it does not conflict with any of our club events, the account can be used by members. If you would like to schedule a remote meeting send an email to [webmaster@wtstl.com](mailto:webmaster@wtstl.com). Club events take priority.



# August Hybrid Show and Tell



Tom Heusler

Wood: Gnome home is redbud with pine roof and red stained door; balloon is holly; basket is cherry; gnome and hat are maple; ropes are embroidery thread

Finish: Lacquer

**President's Challenge  
Winner August 2023**



Charles Sapp

Wood: Ash and walnut

Finish: Deft lacquer

Comments: Airbrushing on balloon





Tom Reel

Wood: Pecan and Walnut

Finish: Wax

Comments: Air tight box  
for storing tea



Tom Reel

Wood: Walnut and Maple

Finish: Walbe's Friction





Wayne lehl

Wood: Maple, walnut, red cedar, mulberry, mahogany, holly, sycamore

Finish: Shellac

Comments: 8" x 16"; stand – turned a circle, cut it in half, turned two spindles to connect and make oval mount.



Jerry Rymarquis

Wood: Variety

Comments: Finished pieces from July demonstration.





Keith Baizer

Wood: Cherry

Finish: Linseed oil

Comments: Thin wall  
turned green/ integral foot



Ken Bald

Wood: Walnut

Finish: Poly



Steve Botkin



Wood: Mahogany

Comments: First boxes turned. Washington dollar in #1 and Missouri dollar in #2



Ken Bald



Wood: Walnut

Finish: Watco

Comments: Urn. Multiple interlocking pieces – top /bottom lid / bottom. Angel to be placed on top.



Bob Goulding

Wood: Palo Verde

Finish: Lacquer

Comments: 8" x 3"



Bob Goulding

Wood: Pepper wood and  
Spruce

Size: 8" x 3" and 8" x 6"

Finish: Lacquer

Comments: Closed form  
natural edge bowls







Karl Ernst

Wood: Oak

Comments: Turned from widow maker oak branch from 2023 storms. Captive ring pen; can cozie; spoon rest (failed bowl design change)



Joe Farrell



Wood: Spalted maple

Finish: General



Tom Zeller

Wood: Ash and Walnut

Comments: Laminated



Tom Heusler

Wood: Poplar root for  
balloon; holly base; basket  
and gnome are walnut

Finish: Lacquer

**Show and Tell items are featured on a slide show on the club website home page. Check it out!**

**[www.WTSTL.com](http://www.WTSTL.com)**

Our URL is WTSTL.com. If you have issues or questions, contact the web master. **Items submitted for the Show and Tell are now being displayed on the home page of the web.** Provide Charlie Sapp with good quality pictures (640 x 480) of your turnings for Show and Tell!

If you enjoy turning wood, making things on your lathe or want to learn more about woodturning then join the [Woodturners of St. Louis](http://www.woodturnersofstlouis.org). 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 Valcour Avenue, St. Louis, MO.

**American Association of Woodturners•** WTSTL is one of 350+ worldwide chapters of the American Association of Woodturners. We encourage you to join this 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 have or ideas on your next project.

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