

WOODTURNERS OF ST. LOUIS

A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

WTSTL.com
February 2024



Jerry Rymarquis, WTSTL member, discussed how he turns what is called a melted box and faux fractal (high voltage) burning embellishment.

The melted box starts as a segmented glue up or solid piece of wood. A glue block is attached to one end. Four holes are drilled through the block from one end to the other for placement of dowels that will later register the pieces. The holes are located toward the inside and will be turned away when the box is hollowed.



Once the blank is turned into a cylinder, a jig is used to hold it while cutting artistic slices with a band saw. The slices are then rounded on the ends about $\frac{3}{4}$ inch back using burrs and smoothed with a sander. Then, using the registering dowels, the pieces are reassembled and glued together using a press. Once



the glue is dry the interior can be drilled and opened up by turning taking care to not cut into the recesses. Depending on the number of slices and height of the blank the interior may be hollowed as they are glued together.

The faux fractal burning is done by first sketching on a pattern. Then the lines are cut using small bits with a rotary cutter (Foredom or Dremel). A wood burner with a ball, skew, and spear tips are used to burn in the lines.



Thanks to Jerry for a great demonstration on turning a melted box and embellishing turnings with a faux fractal burn.

The [video](#) is available on the WTSTL Youtube Channel.





Pre – Meeting Demo ● Thanks to Jeff Nasser for his tips on finishes for turnings. Jeff covered polyurethanes, water based varnish (not as durable as oil based), lacquer (spray & brush; quick drying), shellac (spray and alcohol mix), CA (superglue-hard and will give a glass like finish), tung and Danish oil (drying times can be an issue). If dust is an issue, Jeff suggested wetting the shop floor (but use caution when walking on a wet floor). Jeff also discussed sanding techniques and buffing with a cotton cloth, paper towel, and brown paper bags. He recommends a book by Bob Flexner and Jewitt on finishing.



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 membership card. If you are not contacted within a couple of weeks, email the club Treasurer.

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



President's Spin● 2024 continues to go well. It was great to see everyone at the meeting and engaged. Thank you Jeff and Jerry for the great presentations. The Show-and-Tell continues to amaze me with the creativity of the club members. I would encourage everyone to ask about how others make their pieces to learn something new. I found my earlier club positions gave me a unique way to learn about new techniques for turning. I encourage everyone to watch the recorded demos on the club's YouTube channel or read synopsis of demos in the newsletters. Then ask the presenters questions about how and why. Learning makes all of us a little better. I would also like to ask for a few of the club members to offer up their skills and experience to do a pre-meeting demo. This is a great way to dip ones toe into presenting. It also shares those skills and experience with all of us. Thank you all for sharing every meeting. Until next month, keep turning! - **Rob Conaway**

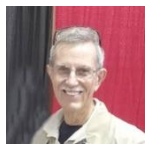
President's Challenge ● Members select their choice of winner for the PC. During the break, review the items on the challenge table. Separate your ticket and write your selection (the number in front of each entry) on the back of the one marked "TICKET". Place it in the PC bowl. Your voting ticket will 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 February PC winner: Jerry Rymarquis for his pagoda box. See pictures of the winner and all the great entries in the Show and Tell section of the newsletter and on our website.

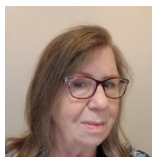
President's Challenge for March - Turn a melted box, box with faux fractal burning, or any style lidded box.



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 Charlie. Bring your boxes (or bags) to the meeting and give them to Becky. – **Becky Blankenship**



Treasurer Report • Dues are due for 2024 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 • Welcome to the second meeting of 2024! In spite of the beautiful weather, we had a great turnout. We had 38 people attend in person and 3 online. It's great to see people willing to share experiences and tips with other turners.

Rob Conaway opened the meeting by welcoming new members and visitors. It's great to see new faces each month even if I have to make new nametags. I hope that I can get the new name tags made in time for the next meeting.

The President's Challenge for February was to turn a pagoda box or a small, lidded box. The pagoda boxes made by our talented turners were original and fantastic. Be sure to check them out in this newsletter.

Jerry Rymarquis did a great presentation/discussion for us this month. Jerry is a very accomplished turner and has experimented in a variety of the “tangent crafts” as well including turning resin/hybrid projects, wood burning, and wood carving. He’s a great resource for our club.

Rob reminded everyone that the May meeting will be on the third Sunday due to a conflict with Memorial Day weekend.

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. -**Rich Hinkebein**

Club News:

- **Please join me in welcoming our newest members:**

Scott Armstrong from Wildwood, MO

Gabriel Lema from Dardenne Prairie, MO



- **New mentoring option – if you would like hands on mentoring at CTF during the premeeting contact Steve Reynolds to make arrangements.**

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) 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.
- Alan Stratton – [Turning an Oval bowl](#) with standard tools

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 Becky Blankenship.

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 2024 is 150 pens and we are currently at 34.*

Old Capitol Historic Children's Day – Save the date, June 1st, from 10am – 3pm. We will be demonstrating the pole and treadle lathes in the carpenter's shop at the old capitol building in St. Charles. Volunteers are needed. See Rich Hinkebein.



Positions to Fill ●

- 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 Becky Blankenship to volunteer.
- Audio / Visual Team – Additional support is needed to help set up, monitor and understand the system for backup. Talk to Steve Botkin 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 Rob Conaway 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.)



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 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
March 24, 2024	Ken Bald – Discussion on tool steels. If you would like hands on mentoring at CTF during this time, contact Steve Reynolds to make arrangements.	Tom Dolan – off center bowl
April 28, 2024	Doug Eilermann –Stabilization of pen blanks and other small objects & Becky Blankenship – polymer clay blanks	Jeff Hornung - TBD

Upcoming Events • *The dates for the May meeting will be the 3rd Sunday of the month due to conflict with Memorial Day weekend.*

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.

February Hybrid Show and Tell



Wayne Iehl

Wood: Cherry & Red Cedar

Size: 5 x 9

Finish: Shellac

Comments: Oriental box – large and mini box



Charles Sapp

Wood: Cherry

Size: 4 x 8

Finish: Deft Lacquer

Comments:





Becky Blankenship

Wood: Honey Locust



Tom Reel

Wood: Walnut, Purple Heart, Blackwood, & Cherry

Size: 8

Finish: Wax

Comment: Segmented bowl





Ellen Williams

Wood: Mulberry

Size:

Finish: Tung oil

Comments:



Walt Ahlgrim

Wood: Maple

Size:

Finish: Lacquer & wax

Comments:



Jerry Rymarquis

Wood: Maple & Shedue

Size: 3 x 7

Finish: Danish oil

Comments:

Winner Feb 2024
President's Challenge



Ellen Williams

Wood: Apple

Size:

Finish: Tung oil

Comments: Off center opening



Bob Goulding

Wood: Mesquite crotch

Size: 9 x 7

Finish: Spray Deft lacquer

Comments: Interesting grain pattern; challenge to turn



Karl Ernst

Wood: Maple with Walnut finial

Size:

Finish: Deft lacquer

Comments:



Art Staden

Wood: Elm

Size: 3 x 4

Finish: Mylands friction

Comments: Epoxy inlay; 1st box, 6th turning



Tom Reel

Wood: Maple

Size: 3 x 7

Finish: Friction polish

Comments: Design change after the square pagoda wings flew off



Karl Ernst

Wood: Unknown

Size:

Finish:

Comments: 1st attempt at turning a sphere



Don Eskridge

Wood: Maple and Fir

Size:

Finish: Wipe on poly

Comments:



John Coburn

Wood: Walnut

Size:

Finish: Danish oil

Comments: Used table saw to even out the square sides



Joe Farrell



Wood: Walnut

Size: 13 x 4.5

Finish: General Finish Wood Bowl

Comments: Carved bowl; turned then facets cut with angle grinder and wood rasp and sanded



Richard Grossman

Wood: Cherry

Size:

Finish: Waterlox

Comments: End table



Bill Eggers

Wood: Padauk & Maple

Size:

Finish: Poly

Comments: 5 pieces of veneer between large pieces; used camera and tv to turn thin



Steve Reynolds

Wood: Maple and Walnut

Size:

Finish:

Comments: Based on SWAT
demo; Japanese open segmented
with tea light inside

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

www.WTSTL.com

Our URL is [WTSTL.com](http://www.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.WTSTL.com). 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 with a pre-meeting at 1130am.

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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