

WOODTURNERS OF ST. LOUIS

A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

WTSTL.com
April 2024



Jeff Hornung, member and owner of The Walnut Log, demonstrated how to turn a sphere from the back of his pick-up truck.



Jeff turns a blank to a cylinder of the diameter needed for



the sphere. Then measures the diameter and marks that on the length of the cylinder. He then scribes the diameter with a parting tool and parts off the blank to just a little more length than the diameter of the finished sphere.



The blank is then mounted between centers using cup jaws. Commercial cups can be purchased or you can turn your own. Depending on the size of the sphere the small cup jaws work well for smaller spheres – especially when a worm screw is used with the Nova live center (Jeff is a Nova dealer).



The extra material is turned away down to the scribed cut, the sphere rotated and more material removed, and repeated until the shape is achieved. Sandpaper makes a great finishing tool with this project.



Thanks to Jeff a great demonstration on turning a sphere.



Pre – Meeting Demo • Thanks to Doug Eilermann and Becky Blankenship for their pre-meeting demonstrations.



Doug covered the technique of stabilizing wood using a heat curing resin, Cactus Juice. Stabilizing will let you use blanks that are too punky to turn. It can also help stabilize blanks with burls. Blanks may be soaked in the resin but that can take days for it to penetrate (see article on club website under demonstrations/members by MesquiteMan). Doug constructed a vacuum chamber from a mason jar. Pulling a vacuum on the container, where the blank and resin have been placed, pulls the air out and sucks the resin into the blank. Once the resin penetrates, the blank is removed, wrapped in aluminum foil and heated (toaster oven works well). After cooling, the blank is ready for turning. Turntex website has a wealth of information on how to use the resin: <https://turntex.com/product/cactus-juice-resin-and-dyes>. (Editor's note – the AAW publication has an article in the Feb 2014 issue on stabilization.



Check it out on the AAW website or in our library.



Doug also discussed the use of casting resins to fill voids and cracks in a blank. An article by Curtis O. Seebeck on resins is available on the club website. Doug displayed a pen turned by Jeff Nasser using a combined resin/wood blank.

Depending on the resin, a pressure pot may be needed to reduce entrapped air bubbles. An article by Curtis O. Seebeck is available on the club website under demonstrations that addresses casting resins.



Polymer clay can be formed into a pen blank and then cured with heat. Becky showed several pens made with the clay. Multiple colors of clay can be molded into an artwork and various designs are available that have flowers, flags, pre-embedded in the clay. The media is rolled out and formed around the pen tube, cured, and then turned.



(Editor's note – polymer clay can be used for more than pen blanks. The AAW publication has an article in the Oct 2016 issue on turning polymer clay tops. Check it out on the AAW website or in our library.)

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● Thank you Becky, Doug and Jeff for continuing your presentations today. The April meeting was unorthodox. I appreciate everyone being patient with this month's meeting and interacting with all our presenters. We were still able to make something of an abbreviated meeting. Next Month we will have 3 options for the president's challenge. We will first honor last month's challenge, off-center bowl turning. We will also offer people to do a sphere, a polymer clay piece, or

stabilized piece. I will be reaching out to our CJAP people to ensure all future meetings do not have any communication issues. 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.)**

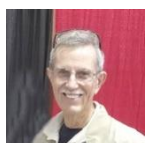
Congratulations to the April PC winner: On hold. Bring your April challenge turning to the May meeting!

President's Challenge for May – Turn a winged off center bowl – or a bowl of your style choice (carry over from April), a polymer clay, stabilized, or sphere turning.



Vice President's Report ● Thanks to all of our previous demonstrators for their excellent presentations. We still need people for pre-meeting demos at the May and July meetings. Please consider doing a pre-meeting demo if you have done anything new such as tried something from YouTube, used a new tool, or used a new finishing technique.

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 ● We had a great turnout of about 30 members for the April meeting. Since the building and parking lot were not available at CTF due to a scheduling glitch we met in the business parking lot next door. Becky, Doug, and Jeff presented their demonstrations to members in the parking lot. The meeting also gave us a lot of time to interact, exchange ideas and wood, and communicate in a manner not possible at our regular meeting. Side discussions on tools, problems and solutions, and many subjects took place in the lot.

Thanks to all the members for their understanding and adapting to the change in agenda! We will be back in the CTF next month.

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:

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 and search on *Woodturner St Louis*. <https://www.youtube.com/@woodturnersstlouis2950/videos>

- Introduction to making polymer clay pens:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jrgZcaY4Fug> and
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NYhmgPVePt4>

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](#).

Tech Tip ●

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 47.*

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
May 19, 2024	Note that the May meeting is on the 3rd Sunday! Steve Botkin – Turning Pens for the Troops	Tom Heusler will demonstrate the turning of an inside out ornament (or maybe something else).
June 23, 2024	Charles Sapp – Threading	Ellen Williams - TBD
July 28, 2024	Scott Eiswirth – Easy Wood Tools	Jeff Nasser – Baby rattle

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.

April Hybrid Show and Tell

**Show and Tell from April's
Meeting will be included in the
May NL.**

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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