



# WOODTURNERS OF ST. LOUIS

A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

WTSTL.com  
September 2024



Michael Blankenship was our September demonstrator on turning a bell ornament. He starts by laminating pieces of wood 16.5" long. Then cuts segments at 45 degrees and glues 2 sections together. The glue up will make two bells.



Rough out the handle – make it to the length you want. Cut a tenon on the handle to fit into the bell. Drill a hole in the end for an eyelet that will be inside the bell bottom.



Mount the bell body in the chuck and shape the top of the bell. Drill a hole to accept the tenon that was cut on the handle. (Michael drills a  $\frac{3}{4}$ " hole.)

The roughed out handle is remounted in a chuck and finish turned. Another hole is drilled in this end for an eyelet.



The bell is reversed chuck with an expansion grip in the hole that was previously drilled and final shaped on the outside. Then the inside is hollowed.

The handle is assembled to the bell bottom and a clapper installed if desired.

Three coats of wipe on poly and a couple coats of aerosol poly are applied for a finish.



Thanks to Michael for a great demonstration on turning a bell ornament.



A [video of this demonstration](https://www.youtube.com/@woodturnersstlouis2950/videos) is available on our YouTube channel. To find this and other WTSTL videos – go to YouTube.com and search on *Woodturner St Louis*.

<https://www.youtube.com/@woodturnersstlouis2950/videos>

**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.

**Pre – Meeting** ● Lathes and pen kits were made available and several turners made their FIRST pen for the troops!



**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.

**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.

**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.**

**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.



**President's Spin** ● President's Spin – Another summer has come to an end with our annual picnic. Thank you Ken Bald for preparing and organizing our food. We also had several people make a pen, prior to the meeting starting. Thank you all for a great picnic! We must thank Michael Blankenship for a great demo on making a turned bell. Special thanks to Jacki Blankenship as well! Only two more meetings before the end of 2024. I appreciate the support of the club in our community support efforts. Please try to create a small turning, pen, or Beads of Courage lidded box before the October meeting. Until next month, keep turning! - **Rob Conaway**

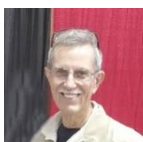
**President's Challenge** ● Members select their choice of winner for the PC. During the break, review the items on the challenge table. Separate your ticket and write your selection (the number in front of each entry) on the back of the one marked "TICKET". Place it in the PC bowl. Your voting ticket will enter you in the door prize drawing. One PC entry per member; must be turned following the challenge.

**Congratulations to the September PC winner:** Charles Sapp for his lidded box.

**President's Challenge for October** – Turn a bell ornament or any community service item (pen for the troops or nursing home item).



**Vice President** ● Many thanks to our September demonstrator Michael Blankenship for showing us how he and his apprentice make a bell. We turned 3 Pens for Troops at the open turning before our picnic. Seven Beads of Courage boxes were made by club members to be donated. Keep turning BOC boxes to be presented to the Donation Specialist at BJC after October meeting. We are now signing people up for next year's demonstrations, so please consider sharing your talents, interests, and specialties with the club. – **Becky Blankenship**



**Treasurer Report** ● **Dues are due for 2024 membership.** Electronic membership applications and payments can be made on the website. We are now at 97 members! 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 September:** We had a very nice turnout for the club picnic. A special thanks goes to Ken Bald for cooking the bratwurst and hotdogs.

While there was no pre-meeting demonstration, several members took the time to turn pens as a contribution to the “Pens for Troops” charity project.

Michael Blankenship demonstrated how to create a bell ornament.

We had 31 people in attendance for the meeting including several members’ spouses and a visitor, Rick Leber. There was also 1 person attending via Zoom.

Special Electronic Meeting Minutes 9/23/24: Charles Sapp made a motion to purchase an Obsbot PTZ camera for the club. The motion was seconded by Rob Conaway. All directors voted in favor. The camera was purchased from Amazon on 9/23/24. - **Valerie Botkin**



**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. 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 additions in September: Woodturning magazine #399.**

Rich needs assistance with the library. Consider serving as a club librarian or assistant. - **Rich Hinkebein**

● **Club News:**

**WTSTL September meeting**

- Thanks to our chef, Ken Bald, and members for bringing a dish to share at





our annual picnic. The break room kept us out of the rain.

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



## 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 ~~150-250~~ 275 pens and we are currently at 240!*



## 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>

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](#).

**Turning events ● Members** Michael Blankenship and Tom Heusler had a booth at the St. Charles, MO Mosaic Fair on Main Street on Sept 13-15, 2024.



## Positions to Fill ●

- **Elections are scheduled for November and a slate of officers is needed.** The positions of VP, Treasurer, and Secretary are up for election. Charles Sapp has indicated he is willing to serve again as treasurer and Valerie is willing to serve again as Secretary. Becky has indicated that she will not be able to serve as VP. As a chapter of the AAW all officers must be AAW members. Please contact Rob if you would like to be on the nomination 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 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.
- 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](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
October 27, 2024	Hook tool – Fred Groves	TBD – Tom Zeller
November 24, 2024	NO PREMEETING	Wine and Cheese Social; election of officers
December 2024	<b>NO Meeting. Enjoy time with family and friends.</b>	

**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.

# September Show and Tell



Charles Sapp

September President's Challenge Winner



Wayne lehl





Steve Reynolds



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Rob Conaway



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Tom Heusler



Don Eskridge



Don Eskridge



Ken Bald



Bob Goulding



Bob Goulding



Bob Goulding



Doug Grissom







Ken Bald



Joe Farrell





Art Staden



Our URL is [WTSTL.com](http://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://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 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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Questions: [webmaster@wtstl.com](mailto:webmaster@wtstl.com)

**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)**