

WOODTURNERS OF ST. LOUIS

A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

WTSTL.com

July 2025

Meetings are now on THE 4th TUESDAY OF THE MONTH IN THE EVENING. Premeeting starts at 5pm and main meeting starts at 6:30PM. Meetings continue to be hosted at CTF at 8300 Valcour Ave; Affton, MO. Next meeting will be August 26, 2025.



Jeff Hornung – Thread Chasing ● Jeff demonstrated how to hand chase threads. Straight grain, dense, even stabilized wood works well. Acrylics are also a good material to use.

Lathe speed is important for hand and eye coordination – 250- 300 is typical. Finer threads per inch are easier to chase but fewer materials will accept the higher tpi.



Start with a cylinder; cut a tenon on each end; mount it in a chuck and part off a section that will become the nut (female thread). Do the female threading first as it is easier to downsize the male than vice versa.



Use a Forstner bit to cut a straight hole and make a chamfer on the entry hole. Position the tool rest so the cutter is at centerline. With the chasing tool at about 45 deg start the thread. Once you get a full thread continue “chasing the tool.” Across, out, and around motion. Use a pencil on the inside threads to check the



straightness of the work. Leave the tenon on at this time so adjustments can be made later if necessary. (Note a relief cut is not needed on the nut since the chasing tool goes all the way through. If this were a lid to a box then a relief gap would be needed between the threads and the lid inner surface so the tool can be removed without damaging the threads.)

Measure the inside of the female and add 1/16 to 1/8” for the male diameter. Take the blank down to that diameter and cut a chamfer on the end until it just starts to enter the female nut.



Cut a parting/stop gap at the top of the shaft for disengaging the tool. Start at an angle and bring the tool around and chase. Lift the handle as the thread progresses. Check with the nut and continue cutting until the fit is achieved.



Wax can be used to lube the cutting; superglue to stabilize wood threads.

Part the tenon off the nut. WORD can be used to create a hexagon shape that can be drawn on the cylinder and material ground away to shape the “nut”. Cuts can be made on the screw shape as desired.



Thanks to Jeff for a great demonstration on chasing threads. The demo will be available on the [WTSTL YouTube channel](#).



Pre Meeting● Steve Reynolds instructed several members on spindle turning – tools/mechanics/beads/coves....A summary of the instructions is under the demonstrator tab on the WTSTL website. [Spindle turning.](#)



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 mentor’s knowledge and instruction.

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.

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.

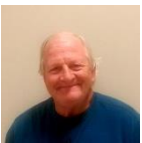


President's Spin● Rob is on vacation this month. **Until next month, keep turning! - Rob Conaway**

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 July PC winner: Charles Sapp for his angel.

President's Challenge for August 2025 – Turn an item with threading or community service item.



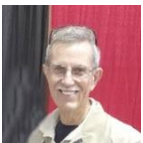
VP Safety Tips● Use a full face shield when turning on the lathe.

- Do not wear gloves, and avoid loose clothing or objects that may catch on rotating parts or accessories and tie back long hair. I know some of you wear gloves when operating the lathe BE CAREFUL.
- Always check the speed of the lathe before turning it on. Use slower speeds for larger diameter or rough pieces, and higher speeds for smaller diameter and pieces that are balanced. Always start a piece at a slower speed until the work piece is balanced. If the lathe is shaking or vibrating, you are going to fast, slow the speed down. If the workpiece vibrates, stop the machine to check out what is causing the vibration.
- Check that all locking devices on the tailstock and tool rest assembly (rest and base) are tight before operating the lathe.
- Position the tool rest close to work, almost touching the wood. Check tool rest position often and as wood is removed, turn off the lathe and re-position the rest.
- Rotate your work piece by hand to make sure it clears the tool rest and bed before turning the lathe "on, and is firmly mounted.
- Be aware of what the turners call the "red zone" or "firing zone." This is the area directly behind and in front of the workpiece - the areas most likely for a piece to travel as it comes off the lathe. A good safety habit is to step out of this zone when switching the

lathe to the “on” position. When observing or watching others turn wood or materials stay out of the danger zone.

- Always contact the tool rest with the tool before contacting the wood.
- Turn the lathe power “off” before adjusting the tool rest or tool rest base (banjo).
- Remove the tool rest before sanding or polishing operations.
- Turn the power off when done and never leave the lathe running unattended.
- If somebody is turning on a lathe or misusing the lathe in an unsafe manner say something/speak up, safety is everybody's business.

Things to think about. - **Tom Zeller**



Treasurer Report • Dues are due for 2025 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 downloaded 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.



We are currently at 89 members for 2025. – **Charles Sapp**



Secretary Report • Tom Zeller led the meeting in Rob Conaway's absence.

The pre-meeting demo topic was using a spindle gouge. The presenter was Steve Reynolds. The main meeting demonstration was how to hand chase threads. It was demonstrated by Jeff Hornung.

There were 24 members present and 1 visitor. There were also 4 members attending via Zoom. - **Valerie Botkin**



Library News • The library is only open on Tuesday evening at our club meetings and is open to all our paid members for checking out books, videos, and DVD's.

Woodturning Magazine issues 407, 408, 409, 410 have been added to the library.

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. – **Moe Milstead**

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.**

Community Programs ●



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 Rob. Bring your boxes (or bags) to the meeting and give them to Tom Reel.

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 2025 is 275 pens.



Wig Stands – This is a new project for the club. Wig stands will be collected and delivered to a hospital in the fall. A video is available on our YouTube channel and article links included in the March 2025 newsletter on how to turn a wig stand.



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. Check out their website: [AAW](#)

Welcome to our new members●

Tara Primeaux of Shiloh, IL

Christiana Crane of Shiloh, IL

Tom Millis of St. Louis

Positions to Fill ●

- Newsletter Editor / Assistant – 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. Additional support would really help. 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.)

Contributions accepted at any time of the year!



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 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Meeting 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm
Aug 26, 2025	Tom Zeller - Sharpening 	Steve Nagy – Featured Rings
Sept 23, 2025	TBD	We need a demonstrator for Sept. Contact Tom Zeller.

WHAT SUBJECTS WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE DEMONSTRATED AT OUR MEETING? SEND YOUR SUGGESTIONS TO CWSAPP@CHARTER.NET

July Show and Tell



Charles Sapp



July President's Challenge
Winner



Jerry Rymarquis





Steve Reynolds



Steve Nagy



Over 1600 pieces.



Dan Schmoker



Dan Schmoker





Tom Reel





Tom Zeller



Ken Bald



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.

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.**

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 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm on the fourth Tuesday of every month at 8300 Valcour Avenue, St. Louis, MO with a pre-meeting at 5:00 pm.

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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