

WOODTURNERS OF ST. LOUIS

A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

WTSTL.com
August 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 September 23, 2025.

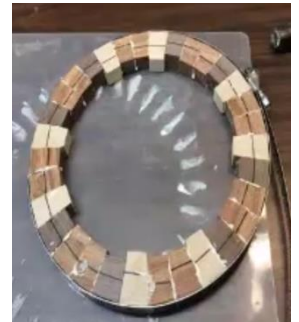


Steve Nagy – Featured Ring ● The “featured ring (FR)” is part of the bowl or vase. They are typically in the center of the piece but may be in the upper or lower 1/3 for balance. A FR can be as simple as a band of different wood color, burned lines, or as complicated as your imagination takes you. You can also make it a segmented ring with a range of designs possible.



Steve covered the four things you need to know to make a segmented ring (applies to both the standard and featured ring).

- Number of segments
- Diameter of ring
- Circumference of ring
- Segment length



Given the number of segments, calculate the angle of cut ($360/(2 \times \text{\#segments})$) and the segment length ($3.14 \times \text{Diameter} / \text{\#segments}$). Multiple rings are then glued up and assembled. The segments can be cut on a table saw, band saw, or chop saw. A sliding support is recommended to improve the accuracy of the angle.

Steve has more documentation on segmented turning on our website under the [demonstration tab](#).

Thanks to Steve for a great demonstration on segmented turning and featured rings. The demo will be available on the [WTSTL YouTube channel](#).





Pre Meeting● Tom Zeller instructed several members on techniques of tool sharpening.

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. 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● Welcome a cooler summer. Thank you to Tom for doing some hands on tool sharpening. Thank you Steve Nagy for a great demonstration on feature rings. We appreciate everyone who demos for the meeting.

I would like to ask everyone to think about skills or techniques you love to do. Now think how to bring those to our club to share. Everyone in the club has something to share.

We are thinking of trying something new. Steve Reynolds started the series with a spindle gouge. We would like to continue this, but with a new tool every month or every other month. We have 3 club lathes. What could we do for more hands on? Please let me know.

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; PC entry must be turned following the challenge.

Congratulations to the August PC winner: Ken Bald for his threaded box.

President's Challenge for September 2025 – Turn an item with a featured ring or community service item.



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 90 members for 2025. – **Charles Sapp**



Secretary Report ● Pre-meeting Demo was on Tool Sharpening by Tom Zeller. Meeting Demo's topic was creating a Feature Ring in vessels. Demonstrator was Steve Nagy.

We had 29 members in attendance. There were 4 visitors one of whom joined the membership. We had 2 additional members attending via Zoom.

On August 12th, the Board of Directors met via Zoom. Board members attending: Rob Conaway, Charlie Sapp, & Valerie Botkin. Also attending were Moe Milstead, Librarian & Steve Botkin, member in charge of videos and technology.

WTSTL was given a \$700 grant from AAW to use for Technology upgrades. The Board voted to purchase:

\$224.99- Mobile TV stand
\$26.99 each- 2 stands for cameras
\$299 Obsbot Camera
\$279.99 Refurbished Television
Totaling \$857.96 *

*(This amount was amended in a later board meeting to ~\$400 for a new television.)

The Board voted to spend the additional amount over the grant. - **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.

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. As of Sept 2, 2025 we have turned in 40 pens to Woodcraft for this program.



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](#)

Festival Shows • Michael and Jackie Blankenship had a booth at the St. Charles Festival of the Little Hills. Every year in August since 1971, the Festival of the Little Hills has been celebrating the rich history of St. Charles, Missouri and now showcases more than 300 [arts and crafts vendors](#). Michael is a member of the WTSTL and has demonstrated nationally and internationally.



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.)



Consider making the WTSTL part of your legacy by including us in your estate planning.

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
Sept 23, 2025	Stave Construction – Rob Conaway	Moe Milstead – Offset vases
Oct 28, 2025	TBD	Keith Baizer – Green wood turning

August Show and Tell



Charles Sapp



Steve Nagy



Tom Zeller



Ken Bald





Ken Bald

August PC Winner
- Threading



Bob Goulding



Charles Sapp



Charles Sapp





Moe Milstead



Ray Hinkle





Ray Hinkle



Tom Heusler



Stuart Shanker



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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Audio Visual:	Steve Botkin	314.504.0684	Steve@Botkin.ws

Questions: 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