

WOODTURNERS OF ST. LOUIS

A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

WTSTL.com
September 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 October 28, 2025.



Moe Milstead – Off Center Vase • Turning an off-axis vase is an advanced woodturning technique that creates an asymmetrical effect by repositioning the axis during turning.



Moe used an off-center chuck which allows the user to “dial” in the off-center distance/axis. The same effect may be achieved by turning between centers and moving the contact point or by moving the piece “out of starting position” in a standard chuck.



The vase is started by turning on the true center. After it is rounded and the base shaped, new centers – slightly off from the main axis are marked. The effect can be achieved by offsetting either or both head and tail stock positions.



A small offset (1/4” or more) can achieve significant changes. Rotate the piece to ensure it clears the tool rest and the lathe ways and start at a slow RPM as the piece will be out of balance. When the shape is finalized with the new centers it is ready for drilling and opening the inside as desired. Note – drilling will need to be done off the lathe if you are turning between centers.



Sand and apply finish as desired.

Thanks to Moe for a great demonstration on off-axis turning. The demo will be available on the [WTSTL YouTube channel](#).



Pre Meeting • **Rob Conaway** instructed members on techniques of stave construction.

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● What a great way to jump into the fall! Beautiful weather and a great demonstration on using a multi-axis chuck to make an offset vase. Thank you Moe Milstead for a great demonstration on a cool new project idea. Whether or not you have a multi-axis chuck or turn between centers, this will be a fun project for the fall.

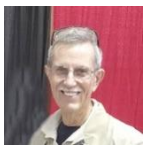
I would like to have people think about running for one of the board positions. It is a great way to give back to the club which gives each of us so much. The commitment is between 8-10 hours per month which is spread across the entire month. Please reach out to the current board if interested. If not interested, we can always ask for volunteers.

Thank you all for making this a fantastic club. 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 September PC winner: Jerry Rymarquis for his featured ring vessel.

President's Challenge for October 2025 – Turn an off axis item. Remember – items submitted for the President's Challenge are to be turned after the challenge is extended. Other turnings should be exhibited for Show and Tell.



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.



– **Charles Sapp**



Secretary Report ● Pre-meeting Demo was on stave construction by Rob Conaway. Meeting Demo's topic was creating an off axis vase by Moe Milstead. We had 28 members in attendance with 2 additional 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.

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 23, 2025 we have turned in 80 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● Tom Heusler had a booth at the Mosaic Fair in St. Charles, MO. The three-day festival includes over 100 juried artists from more than 15 states exhibiting and selling their artwork. Media categories include clay, drawing, glass, leather, metal, pastel, oil/acrylic, photography, printmaking, sculpture, watercolor, and wood.



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
Oct 28, 2025	TBD	Keith Baizer – Green wood turning
Nov 18, 2025	NO Pre Meeting	Wine & Cheese Social / Election

September Show and Tell



Art Staden



Art Staden





Jerry Rymarquis

**September President's Challenger
Winner**



Art Staden





Charles Sapp



Moe Milstead





Ray Hinkle



Ray Hinkle



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.

President:	Rob Conaway	314.378.2514	riconaway@yahoo.com
Vice President:	Tom Zeller	314.484.6499	zellertom83@gmail.com
Secretary:	Valerie Botkin		valeriebotkin@gmail.com
Treasurer:	Charles Sapp	636.928.0149	cwsapp@charter.net
Newsletter:	Charles Sapp	636.928.0149	cwsapp@charter.net
Librarian:	Moe Milstead	501.286.5923	moe_milstead@msn.com
Audio Visual:	Steve Botkin	314.504.0684	Steve@Botkin.ws

Questions: webmaster@wtstl.com