

WOODTURNERS OF ST. LOUIS

A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

WTSTL.com
October 2025

The November meeting will start at 6:30PM. It will be our annual Wine & Cheese Social along with a limited business meeting. Meetings continue to be hosted at CTF at 8300 Valcour Ave; Affton, MO. Next meeting will be Nov 18, 2025.

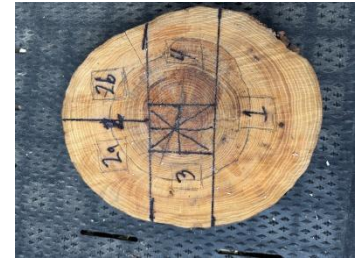


Keith Baizer – Slicing up a tree / off center bowls • Keith was recently appointed to the AAW Board of Directors and covered some of the benefits of joining the AAW before starting his demo. The WTSTL is a chapter of the AAW.

Keith explained that there are many ways to get the maximum use from a tree trunk. He



showed a couple of examples noting that both were from the same trunk but at different heights above the ground. Removing the pith (center of the tree as shown by the cross hatched area in the picture) is key to reducing the chance of your blank cracking as it dries.



Then taking into account any cracks that may

exist in the blank, it can be sliced to get more than just a couple of bowl blanks. Although some sections may be good for bowls, even natural edge bowls, there can also be sections of quarter sawn that is good for platters. Each section will have unique ring patterns in the final turning.

After showing how the various sections would look when turned – rings, heart wood, sap wood,...Keith turned a couple of unique off center tilted bowls. He likes to turn smaller items

and focuses on unique designs in green wood. Turning between centers, a tenon is formed on one end. The piece is then moved off axis and the bottom/side shaped. This puts them at an “off angle” to the initial axis. Then mounting the piece in a chuck the top/inside of the bowl is formed. And then the piece is jam chucked to finish up the bottom. The result is



an off center tilted product.

Thanks to Keith for an interesting project and information on how to better use a tree trunk. The demo will be available on the [WTSTL YouTube channel](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...).





Pre Meeting Filling Cracks and Repairing Blanks • John Ferreria

instructed members on techniques to use baking soda, alcohol dye, and alcohol to fill cracks/holes/ and repair broken blanks. A small amount of dye is added to baking soda and rubbing alcohol added to get the desired color. After mixing, the alcohol is either “flashed off” with a flame or left to dry by evaporation. Once dry, the mixture resumes the consistency/powder of baking soda.



The mixture can then be added to a turning and set with super glue. The baking soda will activate the CA. John emphasized that if using Starbond CA you want the Original Super Thin not the new thin. The Original has a set time of ~15 seconds and is needed for penetration of the baking soda and the blank. The new thin sets in ~5

seconds and does not give time for it to penetrate. You will have to experiment with other brands of CA.

The CA/baking soda mixture is very hard. So do not leave more above your blank than necessary. You may also want to consider sanding the repair to level it out before finish turning.



November Meeting – Wine and Cheese Social, Ornament Exchange & Election •

At the November meeting members will have the opportunity to exchange ornaments that they have made. If you would like to participate, just bring one of your ornaments to the November meeting. The ornament can be simple or complex. Participants will then draw a number to pick an ornament made by another club member. Hope to have your ornament in the event. Ornaments can also be entered into the President’s Challenge!



There will not be a demonstration at the November meeting. Instead we will have a few hours of socializing. Bring your spouse/significant other, favorite wine (or other drink you enjoy) and an appetizer to share. The social will start following a short business meeting. The meeting will begin at 6:30 pm.



The annual election will be held at the November meeting. The positions of President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer will be up for election. The Board does have a slate of nominees: Moe Milstead, President; Rob Conaway, VP; Linda Osterwise, Sec; Charles Sapp, Treasurer; Tom Zeller, Director. If you are interested in serving the club as a Board Member, please contact Rob Conaway. Nominations will be accepted from the floor at the November meeting. Roles and responsibilities of the board members can be found in our bylaws on the club web site.

On behalf of the Board and members, our thanks to everyone that has served as an officer or on a committee for the WTSTL or been a demonstrator. Your contributions to the club are appreciated.

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● A big thank you to this month's presenters! We appreciate the course in how to use CA to fill or fix, John. Knowing how to look at, section out and cut a log is a valuable skill from Keith. Speaking of useful skills. Do you have something you have been thinking about demonstrating? We are looking forward to getting the 2026 meeting and pre-meeting demonstration schedule filled in.

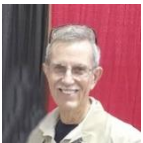
The main meeting demonstration will allow for more time to talk through a specific project or method. The presenter will have about 75 minutes to demonstrate the topic. Those looking to dip their toes into demonstrating can try the pre-meeting demonstration. This is a shorter demonstration of about 30-45 minutes. It is usually focused on a specific portion of a topic or overview of an entire topic. It can also be direct hands on turning with one of our 4 lathes.

This organization offers so much to everyone. We appreciate the engagement in club activities and demonstrations! 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 October PC winner: Randy Dicken for his off center vase.

President's Challenge for November 2025 – Turn an ornament. 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.** Dues paid now are valid for remaining 2025 meetings and 2026 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 baking soda repairs by John Ferreria. Meeting Demo's topic was getting the most out of a tree trunk and small off center bowls Keith Baizer.

We had 31 members in attendance with 1 additional member 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 411 & 412 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. **As of October 28, 2025 we have turned in 123 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](#)

New Members● Join me in welcoming new members:

Bob Ryan of St. Charles, MO

Michael Womble of St. Charles, MO

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
Nov 18, 2025	NO Pre Meeting	Wine & Cheese Social / Election
December 2025	NO MEETING. Enjoy the time with family and friends. See you in January 2026!	

October Show and Tell



Charles Sapp



Charles Sapp



Tom Reel



Don Eskridge



Steve Nagy



Glenn Boland



Randy Dicken

October President's
Challenge Winner



Joe Farell



Ken Bald



Moe Milstead





Moe Milstead



Wayne Iehl





Tom Zeller



Tom Zeller

Ray Hinkle



Wayne Iehl



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.

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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