

WOODTURNERS OF ST. LOUIS

A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

WTSTL.com
February 2026

Meetings are on the 4th TUESDAY OF THE MONTH IN THE EVENING. Premeeting starts at 5pm and main meeting starts at 6:30PM. Meetings will continue to be hosted at CTF at 8300 Valcour Ave; Affton, MO. Next meeting will be March 24, 2026.



Making Tool Handles • Steve Reynolds covered aspects of making your own tool handle – size, wood grain, attachment techniques, styles, value and others. He then demonstrated how to turn a long handle and a doorknob style that is handy for (1) finding the tool when you drop it in your sawdust and (2) adding more torque. The document below summarizes the points that Steve covered and includes a sample tool shape.

There are several reasons to make tool handles for your lathe tools.

- **Cost** - The cost of commercial handles runs from 60 – 120 dollars each. Plus buying unhandled tools is less expensive and HSS blanks are available from tool makers and even Amazon.
- **Customization** – By designing handles for your hands and the way you work you are more comfortable and secure at the lathe. You are also able to address specific, or unique, needs.

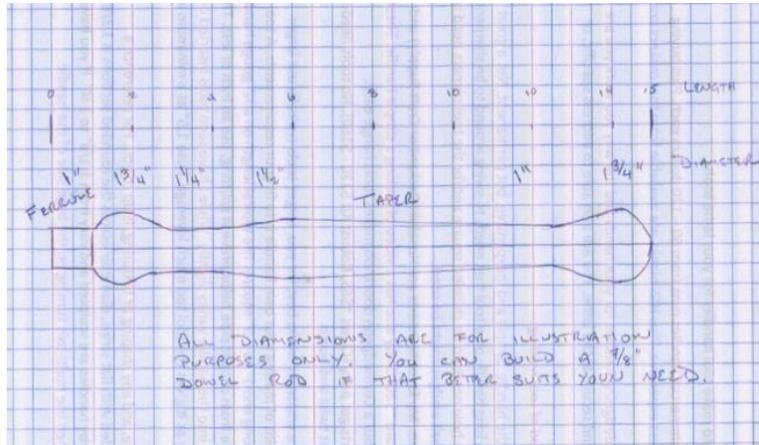
Styles of handles by method of tool holding:

- **Epoxy the tool into the handle.** Simple and inexpensive, but permanent. Not a great choice if you want a long handle on a tool that needs to swing around to be sharpened. For square tools the hole needs to be chiseled square and/or the tool corners need to be ground down, small wedges might be used.
- **Insert with set screws.** My favorite inserts are Hosaluk (Packard or Craft Supply) and Cindy Drozda, both are ~\$20. Cindy also has a video of making a simple handle. These do take a hex wrench, but a Curmudgeon doorknob makes tool change easy.
- **Twist lock.** The inserts get pricy (Clews ~\$65, Robust Kit \$120 - \$160). No tools needed to release a tool, just twist and bump.



Tool handle dimensions are whatever works best for you. Larger tools typically use larger handles, but the whole point of making your own handle is to fit your requirements. A tool

blank would be 5" to 24" long and 1" to 2.5" square. The typical length on a ½" gouge handle is 12" to 16". A simple ferrule from copper pipe helps prevent splitting, use an inch or less. The depth of the tool inserted into the handle varies slightly. While I have seen tools inserted only 1" I feel that is inadequate as it gives the tool too much leverage. I use 1.5" as a minimum and up to a bit over 2". The diameter of the handle, and any shaping or texturing, is up to you. For reference a Thompson handle is rounded with flat strips, diameter across the rounded sections is 1 3/8" and the flats are 1 ¼". Sorby handles are sculpted and vary from 1 1/8" to 1 ¾". If you have issues with rolling tools, then use multi-axis turning on the base side of the handle



Thanks to Steve for an informative demonstration on making our personalized tool handles.

Editor: We apologize for the issues with the sound system. We continue to work on it to provide a good experience for members both in the audience and on-line. If you have expertise in the AV arena, please offer your help to the team.



Pre-Meeting ● Rob Conaway had examples of our community projects: Beads of Courage boxes, pens for the troops, and wig stands. Rob discussed the techniques for the projects and offered free blanks for each one to members provided they complete the projects and return them to the club. The projects are described in more detail in the newsletter.



Phishing / Scams ● *It happens all the time, but is more prevalent when we have an election and bring in new officers – scam emails. In the past, scammers would send emails saying we were in a meeting and asking you to buy some gift cards for a bogus organization and you would be reimbursed. Currently they are sending emails that just ask you to call a board member – if you “reply” to the email it takes you to a bogus site. We'll never ask for your personal information such as SSN or ATM PIN in email messages. If you get an email that looks suspicious or you are not the intended recipient of this email, don't click on any links. Be aware, if you receive a questionable email that indicates it is from a Board member (or other member), don't “reply” to the email but send a new email specifically addressed to the*

*individual. (Note: **we do send emails** but they should not be questionable. And if we ask for money, make sure it is valid. 😊)*

Join me in welcoming our new members ●

Steve Reynolds of Cottage Hills, IL
Dan Williams of Ballwin, MO
Bruce McGlasson of Kirkwood, MO
Jaron Asher of St. Louis, MO
Mark Levine of St. Louis, MO
Joel Balestra of Bridgeton, MO
Jerry Allen of Washington, MO

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.

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.

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.**

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. Recorded demonstrations are posted on the club YouTube channel.

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 to the first Newsletter of 2026, I want to welcome all of our new and returning members to the club. Not having a meeting in December and having to cancel our January meeting due to bad weather made our February meeting a welcome event for me. Probably like your family, my family gets tired of me talking to them about turning all the time. It was great to be back amongst fellow woodturners, if you missed the meeting go check out the newsletter or our [website](#) to see what your fellow woodturners brought in for show and tell, all of it was amazing. February's President's Challenge was to add embellishment to any turned item. I was impressed at the results of that challenge, I think everyone was amazed by the piece that Jerry Rymarquis brought it. You will have to go check it out. I am looking forward to the coming year of Woodturners of St Louis meetings and events, I hope you are too.

If you have searched YouTube for a woodturning video in the last ten years, you have probably come across a channel called Phil Anderson-Shady Acres Woodshop. This channel has more than 500 videos, most of them are about woodturning. This past week it was announced that Phil Anderson Passed away; it was well known that he had been sick in recent years and months. Even while ill Phil put out a video most weeks. As I thought about my article this month, my thoughts turned to Phil and the impact that he had on the world of woodturning. He was not your typical woodturner, and he certainly was not your typical YouTube "Influencer." You rarely saw him throw a simple clean bowl blank on the lathe and turn it. Most of the wood he turned was sent to him by friends and fans. It seemed like he was sent the craziest pieces that people could find in their collection that they did not want to turn themselves. Phil was always up for a challenge and he never disappointed. His pieces almost never took the form of what we would consider traditional bowls, vases, or dishes. He endeavored to look at his work from a different perspective, and he was good at making the wood be what he thought it might want to be since it could not be a tree any longer. My wife and I would watch his videos every week, I remember on one occasion telling my wife that if she ever saw me putting a huge root ball on my lathe like Phil did to please stop me before I hurt myself. We refer to Phil as our second most favorite woodturner after my father-in-law. Phil's channel has almost 70,000 followers. Part of his success was the way he talked to his audience while he worked; you always felt like he was talking to you. He always answered

viewer questions during his videos and was keen to explain how or why he did what he did. Phil was a no nonsense woodturner, in most videos he just used bowl two gauges and a scraper. He was a master of using a flapper sanding wheel to sand bark and was always sure to tell you that he was putting on his mask and face shield. As I reflected on Phil today, I thought about the impact he had on woodturning. I wonder how many people took up the hobby because they saw his videos. Or even better, how many woodturners strayed away from a "standard" bowl shape in favor of taking a creative risk like Phil would. There is no telling, I do know that I am a better woodturner because of him. I encourage you to take a trip over to his channel and watch some of his videos. [\(1657\) Phil Anderson - Shady Acres Woodshop - YouTube](#) When you are done see if you can make something Phil Anderson inspired. In memory of Phil, that will be March's President's challenge. Rest in Peace Phil.. - **Moe Milstead**

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 February PC winner: Jerry Rymarquis for his embellished turning.

President's Challenge for Marh 2026 – Turn an item inspired by a Phil Anderson's YouTube videos (see the President's Spin article for more information)



Treasurer Report ● Dues are due for 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 down loaded from the club website. New members are asked to complete the application form. Club patches are available from the Treasurer for \$5. – **Charles Sapp**



February Secretary's Report● On Tuesday, February 24th the WTSTL held their monthly meeting. Rob Conaway led the premeeting with a discussion of our community programs. For the main meeting, Steve Reynolds presented how to make tool handles.

Dates for discounts to the AAW symposium were discussed. Anyone wanting a discount code for the AAW virtual symposium should contact Charles Sapp. The deadline for that discount is the end of March.

Tom Zeller provided information on an upcoming demonstration and hands on class that would be taught by that demonstrator. More information on that opportunity can be found in the newsletter. Questions should be directed to [Tom Zeller](#).

We had 31 people present with three visitors. Two of those visitors signed up to be members during the meeting. There was no one attending via Zoom.

Due to technical difficulties, the demonstration was not recorded. - **Valerie Botkin**



Hands on Turning Classes for all levels of experience June 26 & 27th ● I have scheduled Paul Krautmann to teach two classes - June 26 and June 27. Paul is a professional turner specializing in antique/reproductions of out of productions

spindles and associated parts. In addition, Paul turns extremely large wood bowls that he has shipped to locations in the United States and overseas. Some of Paul's work is displayed in a gallery in Columbia MO. The cost of the class is \$95. Class starts at 9:00am and continues to 3:00pm. Paul will be the main demonstrator at the June 23rd WTSTL meeting.



The 1st Class offered on Friday June 26 will be an advanced/intermediate class (Note: recent woodturner experience is strongly suggested). If a novice turner wants to take this class we won't say no but we will caution them that may fall behind during the class. In the class the students will turn a lidded box with an onion top or a mushroom top. The second item is a bowl with a spiral bottom (carving tools will be required). The third item is a large serving spoon or a potpourri bowl. Paul has suggested if you have a project that you are having trouble with, please bring it, and you can discuss potential solutions with him. The class starts at 9:00am and runs until 3:00pm. A 30 min lunch break is scheduled for noon. Wood will be provided; students should bring their own food and water for breaks. Cost of the class is \$95. I have asked Paul to be prepared to stay there until 4:00 pm to help students that have questions or run have run behind on their project. This class will take place at Barry Boeckstiegers' shop/home 3601 highway 61 Festus MO.

The 2nd Class offered on Saturday June 27 will be a novice/new turner class (Note: woodturner experience is not required). If an advanced woodturner wants to take this class we won't say no but we will caution that it may be a slower paced class. In the class the students will turn a large mallet, a wood spatula and a penny plate. The class starts at 9:00am and runs until 3:00pm. A 30 min lunch break is scheduled for noon. Wood will be provided; students should bring their own food and water for breaks. Cost of the class is \$95. I have asked Paul to be prepared to stay there until 4:00 pm to help students that have questions or run have run behind on their project. This class will take place at Barry Boeckstiegers' shop/home 3601 highway 61 Festus MO.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN TAKING EITHER CLASS PLEASE CONTACT TOM ZELLER BY MARCH 17. AFTER THAT DATE I WILL CONTACT SHOW-ME WOODTURNER ABOUT FILLING ANY OPEN SPOTS.

Tom Zeller 314-484-6499, <mailto:zellertom83@gamil.com>



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.

Four issues of Woodturning were added to the library: 411-414

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.

Since Moe will be serving as President the club needs a club librarian. Please contact one of the officers if you are willing to serve or assist this needed position. – **Moe Milstead**

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. In 2025, our club delivered over 350 pens to Woodcraft for distribution to the troops. WTSTL member, Steve Botkin, is our major turner. Steve is shown with Woodcraft manager, Adrian Hall, taking delivery of Steve's 300th pen. Thanks to everyone that helped make this a successful 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](#) .

Positions to Fill ●

- 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 Rob Conaway 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 Moe Milstead 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!

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 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Meeting 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm
March 24, 2026	TBD Check website for updates	Keith Baizer – project tbd
April 28, 2026	TBD Check website for updates	Paul Krautman – project tbd

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.

February Show and Tell



Ken Bald



Don Eskridge



Joe Farrell



Ray Hinkle





Steve Reynolds



Jerry Rymarquis

President's Challenge Winner



Steve Reynolds



Joe Farrell





Paul Smith

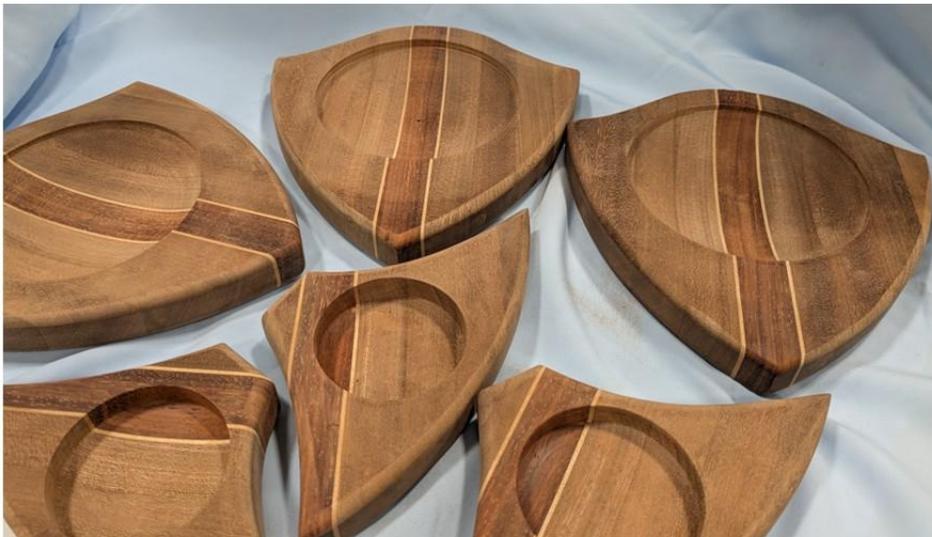


Paul Smith





Charles Sapp



Tom Zeller



Vinny Pagano



Jerry Allen





Steve Nagy



Jerry Allen



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.** 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. 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:	Moe Milstead	501.286.5923	moe_milstead@msn.com
Vice President:	Rob Conaway	314.378.2514	rjconaway@yahoo.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
Director:	Tom Zeller	314.484.6499	zellertom83@gmail.com

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