



WOODTURNERS OF ST. LOUIS

A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

WTSTL.com
March 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 April 28, 2026.



Vortex Bowl • Keith Baizer covered the process for turning a vortex bowl. During the turning Keith showed the difference in turning with various grind angles – 55, 40/40,... As he progressed with the thin lip he showed how to use a piece of leather to support the thin edge while doing final cuts and sanding if needed.

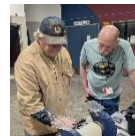


Thanks to Keith for an informative demonstration on turning a unique bowl. A recording of his demonstration is available on our YouTube channel. Search YouTube for Woodturners of St. Louis.

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. The sound worked fine on the recording so be sure to check it out for all of Keith's tips and tricks.



Pre-Meeting • Ray Hinkle and Tom Zeller lead the pre-meeting with hands on turning of bead and coves and sharpening. Several members got to turn a practice stick and sharpen their tools.



Join me in welcoming our new member •

Wesley Gibbs of Black Jack, MO

New!

Open Turning / Training on the Second Tuesday of the month • With several new turners joining the WTSTL, the club decided to offer open turning and training on the second Tuesday of the month – starting April 14, 2026.

The time will be to offer hands on turning, to cover techniques, and to answer questions regarding turning. It will be at the Carpenter's Training Facility, 8300 Valcour Ave, Affton, MO starting at 530pm and wrapping up by 830pm.

Members are asked to contact [Ray Hinkle](#) before the class so material will be available. The club does have limited face shields and tools, but members are asked to bring their own if possible.

Watch your email for more information prior to the class.

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.

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.

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● At this month's meeting we had people from several different clubs from around our country. It turns out that Charlie Sapp put an invite out for people to tune into our meeting on Zoom. Holy cow, that was a great idea! Keith Baizer did a demo on how to make a vortex bowl. If you have never seen Keith do a demonstration, he does a great job of giving all kinds of tips and tricks while he's demonstrating. I really enjoy listening to his insight on everything from the grind angles of bowl gouges to glued cracks or the value of being an AAW member. I can't wait to make my vortex bowl and really look forward to seeing what everybody else makes. Thanks again to Keith for coming out and to Charlie for getting the word out about our meetings.

Last month I talked about Phil Anderson and imagined how his YouTube videos impacted the world of woodturning. I was glad to hear a couple of people in the club tuned into a few of his videos and enjoyed his contributions. This month I have turned my thoughts a little closer to home. It is an exciting time to be a part of the Woodturners of St Louis. We are bringing in new members that are ready to learn and share. Our returning members are back with fresh ideas on how to improve the club. We have the opportunity to make an impact on the world of woodturning.

After the February meeting Ray Hinkle and Tom Zeller proposed a change to our meeting night that would allow hands-on instruction during the meetings. A second option was to request an additional night for turning instruction each month. To be honest, we thought it was a little bit of a long shot that they would allow us to use the facility for an additional night for free. On the way out of the building, we ran into Jim Clarkin. Jim is the person that runs the facility at night and is kind enough to allow us in the building on our meeting nights. He was open to the idea, especially if we opened that second night to the student of the Carpenters Training Center. So, I am happy to announce that starting in April we will be meeting on the second Tuesday of each month for hands-on instruction sessions. These sessions are open to anyone that wants to learn any skills or new tools. We will be coming out with more details over the coming weeks. You can see why I said we have an opportunity to make an impact on the world of woodturning. Not only do we have the opportunity to meet and collaborate a second night of each month, but we have also opened it up to a training center full of students that are already interested in working with their hands. It seems like a match made in

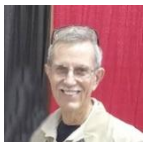
heaven. Admittedly I might be a little more optimistic than I should be, but there is some great potential to share our passion and pass on knowledge. The bonus part about this situation is that the director of the facility has waived our rent if there are CTF students involved in the training. With all that said, please come out on the second Tuesday of each month, get some hands-on instruction or maybe give some hands-on instruction. Also, encourage anybody that you might know that wants some additional instruction to come out. Lastly, I want to thank Ray Hinkle, Tom Zeller and Charlie Sapp for the roles that they played in making this idea to come to fruition, I really feel like we will have a great impact.

- **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 March PC winner: Richard Grissom bowl turning inspired by another turner.

President's Challenge for April 2026 – Turn a vortex bowl. (See the club YouTube video 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 downloaded 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● The pre-meeting demonstration was on doing beads and coves and sharpening by Ray Hinkle and Tom Zeller.

The presentation for the meeting was on turning a vortex bowl by Keith Baizer.

31 members were present along with 2 visitors and 24 people on the Zoom call. We had so many participants via Zoom because Charlie had invited another club to join the meeting via Zoom. - **Valerie Botkin**

AAW Symposium● Anyone wanting a discount code for the AAW virtual symposium should contact Charles Sapp. Registration for the virtual symposium opens on April 1st on the AAW website.



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.

Contact Tom with any questions and to register for the class. It is on a first come basis with names taken for a waiting list. 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.

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
April 28, 2026	TBD Check website for updates	TBD Check website for updates
May 26, 2026		

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.

March Show and Tell



Ken Bald



Don Eskridge



Charles Sapp



Charles Sapp



Tom Zeller



Steve Nagy

2112 pieces



Keith Baizer



Moe Milstead



Dan Williams



Randy Dicken



Richard Grossman

March President's
Challenge Winner

For 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