



# WOODTURNERS OF ST. LOUIS

A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

WTSTL.com  
May 2026

**Meetings are on the 4<sup>th</sup> 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 June 23, 2026.**



**Nested Clocks** ● Moe transformed two small blanks (~6x6x2) into a desk clock. Clock inserts can be found on Amazon - (<https://a.co/d/05tESG01>).



Thanks to Moe for an informative demonstration on turning nested clocks. A recording of his [demonstration is available on our YouTube channel](#). Search YouTube for Woodturners of St. Louis.

**Pre-Meeting** ● Parking lot swap and sell flea market with bargains found in tools, wood, and assorted turning items.

**Join me in welcoming our new members ●**



Diana Votaw of Chesterfield MO

Jim DeBois of St. Louis MO



Phil Von Feldt of Barnhart MO

Mark & Susan Killmer of St. Peters MO



**Open Turning / Training on the Second Tuesday of the month**● The club is now offering open turning and training on the second Tuesday of the month. **Next class is July 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.**

Please bring your face shield and spindle/bowl gouges for the class.

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 Zoom 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**● Woodturners of St. Louis has a mentoring program for members. On our mentoring page, you'll find a list of members who have graciously agreed to invite other members into their home workshops for mentoring sessions. In some cases, mentors can visit your home to give instruction there instead. And some mentors offer consultations via Zoom or email.

We have several mentors available now, and we'd love to add more. If you're an experienced WTSTL member and would like to be a mentor, contact our President.

If you're a WTSTL member and would like to arrange a mentoring session, please go to our mentoring page. The locations of our current mentors are listed there, so you can choose the one closest to you. The topics they're willing to give instruction on are listed there as well.

We hope this program will bring members together to share our skills, spark fresh creativity and learning, and strengthen our sense of community.

**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**● This month we had the second training session for beginner wood turners. Our team of instructors guided eight participants to make small platters. It was great to watch people learn to use tools that they were not as familiar with. During that session, Steve & Val Botkin teamed up with Collin Cox to solve the sound issues that have been nagging our meetings for the past few months. I want to extend my gratitude for their efforts. Working the audio visual for our meetings is a tedious task that goes under recognized. I truly appreciate their efforts. For the June training session, we will be doing tea light holders. Please reach out to Ray Hinkle if you plan on attending. This month's President's Challenge was a gnome; we had a few great examples. There was a tie this month, congratulations to Tom Reel and Jerry Rymarquis for their winning entries. I really liked the gnome that Charlie Sapp made, he carved some feet onto his gnome. Cool addition Charlie!

At this month's meeting I did a demo on how to make a nested clock. It is an easy beginner's project that is a great item for gifts. I am by no means as accomplished turner as many of you are. For me doing a demo is an opportunity to learn. It seemed like the demo went as good as

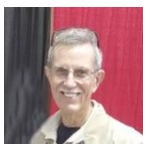
it could have, I forgot a couple of items at the house. That situation caused me to adjust my demonstration a little. The most beneficial thing that happened for me happened after the meeting. Steve Reynolds came up to me after and was kind enough to offer some technique feedback. It turns out that I was not on the bevel of my tool when I was turning from left to right. That is really good information to know, and I want to be able to improve. Steve said that if we did not have the camera view from above the lathe, he would not have seen my issue. In case you do not know Steve is one of our club's five mentors, our mentors are a valuable resource that the entire club has access to. One of the interesting things that Steve pointed out is that turning is kind of a solitary hobby, I very rarely have someone observing me while I turn and miss the opportunity for feedback on my technique. That is a situation that I need to resolve for myself. When you talk to any of our mentors you will notice that most of them are still going to one class or another to improve or learn a new skill. Even our most experienced wood turners still find ways to learn. What a great example! If you are interested in having some hands-on mentorship, reach out to Ken Bald, Walt Ahlgrim, Steve Reynolds, Tom Zeller or Ellen Williams. Their contact information is on the WTSTL mentor tab.

- **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 May PC winners:** Co-winners Jerry Rymarquis and Tom Reel for their gnomes.

**President's Challenge for June 2026** – Turn a clock. (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**



**Secretary's Report ● Hands On Meeting Tuesday, May 12, 2026** - Mentors: Ray Hinkle, Tom Zeller, Don Eskridge & Moe Milstead There were 9 students learning how to turn.

There were also 3 members ironing out technical issues with AV equipment.

## Tuesday, May 26, 2026

No pre-meeting demo. There was a Swap & Sell held in the parking lot.

Meeting demonstration was done by Moe Milstead on turning a nested clock.

There were 31 members present and 1 person viewing via Zoom. - **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-production

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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 they 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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@gmail.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 ●

### Children's Historical Days at the Old Capitol in St. Charles ●

Tom Heusler, Dale Sapp, and Charles Sapp demonstrated the pole and treadle lathes and other antique tools to kids and adults during the historical day event. Lots of future turners gave it a try and left with a smile – and chips. We have been asked to open the shop during the Festival of the Little Hills and possibly more events that draw a crowd to the downtown area. Check with CharlieSapp if you are interested; we can use your help.



See the note below from the Missouri Dept of Natural Resources Site Specialist, Sue Love: *I just wanted to send a short note to really let you and the other woodworker volunteers know how much we greatly appreciate your time and energy to come to demonstrate your talents at the Historical Children's Festival. You all really add a lot to the event, and I appreciate you getting the signs printed too! You all help to create memories that last a lifetime! These types of events and skills are getting harder to find. I think it is a very important thing to show the kids. Please know your participation and skills are recognized and appreciated more than you know! Thank you again.*



**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.



**Wig Stands** – 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
June 23, 2026	Skew and parting tools	Paul Krautmann - 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.

# May Show and Tell



Ken Bald



Ken Bald



Charles Sapp



Charles Sapp



Ray Hinkle



Tom Reel

Co-winner of May President's  
Challenge



Moe Milstead



Jeff Nasser



Jerry Rymarquis

Co-winner of May President's  
Challenge



Diana Votaw

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	<a href="mailto:moe_milstead@msn.com">moe_milstead@msn.com</a>
Vice President:	Rob Conaway	314.378.2514	<a href="mailto:rjconaway@yahoo.com">rjconaway@yahoo.com</a>
Secretary:	Valerie Botkin		<a href="mailto:valeriebotkin@gmail.com">valeriebotkin@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer:	Charles Sapp	636.928.0149	<a href="mailto:cwsapp@charter.net">cwsapp@charter.net</a>
Newsletter:	Charles Sapp	636.928.0149	<a href="mailto:cwsapp@charter.net">cwsapp@charter.net</a>
Librarian:	Moe Milstead	501.286.5923	<a href="mailto:moe_milstead@msn.com">moe_milstead@msn.com</a>
Audio Visual:	Steve Botkin	314.504.0684	<a href="mailto:Steve@Botkin.ws">Steve@Botkin.ws</a>
Director:	Tom Zeller	314.484.6499	<a href="mailto:zellertom83@gmail.com">zellertom83@gmail.com</a>

Questions: [webmaster@wtstl.com](mailto: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](http://www.WTSTL.com)**