

WOODTURNERS OF ST. LOUIS

A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

WTSTL.com
August 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 September 22, 2026.



Lantern • **Keith Buxton** demonstrated the lantern ornament that the Show Me Turners are distributing to nursing homes in the holiday season. The blank is predrilled (while square) with three or four holes; typically, 7/8 to 1" using a Forstner bit. The undrilled side serves as the back of the lantern. It is very important to get the holes in the center of the blank so that the webs between the light holes are uniform when it is turned.



The blank is mounted between centers and turned round with a tenon on the top of the blank for mounting in the chuck. The center hole is then drilled through the bottom. A small step is made on the inside with the different size drill bits so that the light stops just below the side holes.



The blank is then reversed and held with either a jam chuck or expanding jaws so that the top can be shaped. A small eyelet can be screwed into the top for mounting. Or 12 gage copper wire can be formed to fit into a hole drilled in the top.



Thanks to Keith for a creative way of making a lighted ornament. The description below provides typical dimensions. Since the battery powered lights may have different dimensions, you may need to adjust the holes drilled in the bottom.

Editor's Note: If you make the project from a blank that is not rectangular it can be difficult to center the side holes accurately. In this case, turn the blank to a



cylinder and mark lines using your index wheel and tool rest at the desired positions (0, 90, 180 degrees....) along the length of the blank. Then draw a line around the blank by spinning it and marking at the desired length. The side holes are

drilled normal to the blank using a jig mounted in the tool rest to position the drill



bit. In this case, the jig is a piece of hard maple with hole to fit the shank of the drill bit. The jig is raised/lowered to align with the centerline of the lathe using the tool rest post. See AAW Woodturning FUNDamentals Nov 2022 issue.

Lantern

4 1/2" square block min 2"

Drill your 1" holes through each side (I prefer 3 sides so you have a place for logo)

Mount in your chuck top to the chuck

Drill 1 1/4" hole through bottom and past the top of the light holes

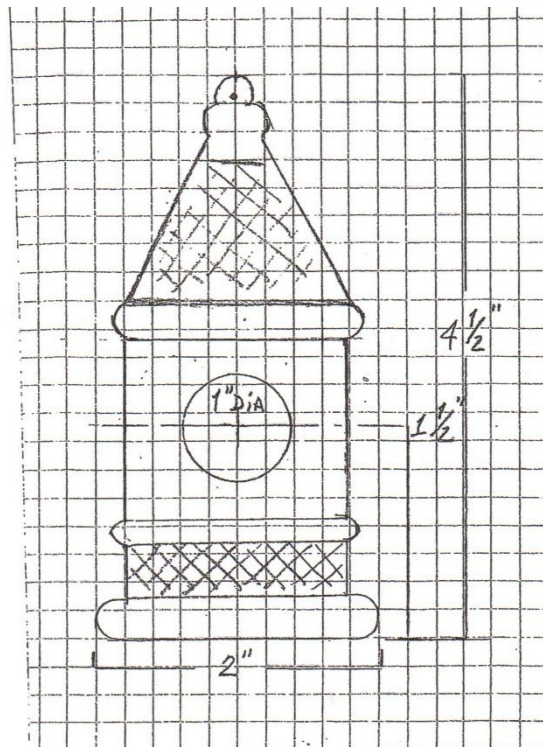
Drill 1 3/8" hole. In the bottom almost to the bottom of the light holes (check for tea light fitness)

Shape light except for top

Sand and finish

Turn over and mount using a plug or jaws

Finish top and drill hole for hanger



A recording of this demonstration is available on our YouTube channel. [Search YouTube for Woodturners of St. Louis.](#)



Pre-Meeting● Thanks to Tom Zeller for his demonstration and instruction on how to enhance a turning with the use of texturing. Tom covered how to use a beading tool, wire and formica burning techniques (inside of surfaces where a wire will not work), pyramid tools for beading, and knurling/spiral tools.



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 September 8, 2026; project is a slim line pen.**



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 [Moe Milstead](#) before the class so pen kits and material will be available. Please bring your face shield and spindle/bowl gouges/ parting tool/skew for 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 great events. During our Tuesday night turning session, Ray Hinkle led seven students suffering the heat, to make a garden dribble. We continue to have productive sessions that teach people fundamental turning skills. During our monthly meeting Keith Buxton from the Show Me Woodturners club came out to demonstrate how to make a lantern. Keith did a great job showing us how to make a cool item that is a good gift idea. He also shared some good tips on how he sharpens his Forstner bits with a diamond sharpening card. I suspect a lot of people carry one, but just in case here is a link to Amazon where you can buy it, <https://a.co/d/06j2z7Lx> . Living in the St Louis area we are lucky enough to have 2 clubs within an hour of each other. Believe it or not there are a lot of people, including myself, that are members of both clubs. The Show Me Woodturners meet on the second Thursday of the month in Festus. There are some similarities to our club, one being that there are a bunch of great people that show to the meetings. If you attend both club meetings you will be able to hang out with woodturners every two weeks! Thanks to Keith for coming out it was great demo.

The August President's Challenge was a natural/ live edge bowl. The club was not disappointed. There were a lot of really great examples of live edge bowls, if you could not attend the meeting, go to <https://wtstl.com/> to see what members brought in. One of Art Staden's pieces was voted as the best. He had never done a live edge bowl; he made four for the meeting. It is a great example of how to make a few practice pieces and then go big at the end. Great job Art!

In September we have some more good events planned. On the second Tuesday, 08 Sept, we have our Turning Tuesday. Steve Botkin will be teaching pen turning. For those of you that do not know, Steve does a significant number of Pens for the Troops pens. His standard operation is to batch out around 20 pens at a time. There is no better person to lead this class. If you are planning on coming out please shoot me an e-mail at moe_milstead@msn.com, if e-mail is not your thing you can text me at 501-286-5923. Our next meeting is on 22 September; I just realized that I have the wrong date listed on our meeting Power Point presentation. During the premeeting we are going to pull out all five lathes and make some Pens for the Troops pens. Space will be limited so first come first served on the lathes. During the main meeting Jeff Hornung will be doing a demonstration of a square plate with coloring. Many of you know Jeff as he has been a member for a good number of years. If you do not know him, check out his website, <https://www.jeffhornung.com/>. He does some great stuff with colors. Jeff also runs a woodturning supplies and education website check it out <https://thewalnutlog.com/>. I really look forward to our September events.

One of the things that our club struggles with is ideas for pre-meeting subjects and meeting demonstrators. We have demonstrators lined up for the rest of the year thanks to the hard work of Tom Zeller and Rob Conway. With that said, 2027 is just around the corner and we need to set up demonstrators for the coming year. This is where the club needs your help. If you are interested in doing a demo in any upcoming meetings, please reach out to Rob or Tom. If you have demonstrated something in past few years, it may be a good opportunity for some of our new members to see it in 2027. We can also use ideas for pre-meetings and Turning Tuesday projects. Do not be afraid to get involved, we have great club that will be even better with more people contributing. - **Moe Milstead**

President's Challenge • Members select their choice of winner for the PC. During the break between the business meeting and the demonstration, 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; entry must be turned following the challenge.

Congratulations to the August PC winner: Art Staden for his walnut natural edge bowl.

President's Challenge for September 2026 – Turn a lantern (see Keith Buxton's August demo).



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**





Secretary's Report • Hands On Turning Meeting, August 11, 2026

Students turned a garden dibbler gardening tool. Attendance: 9

Monthly Meeting, August 25, 2026

Pre-meeting- Tom Zeller demonstrated various methods for embellishing turned items.

Main meeting- Keith Buxton, from the Show Me Woodturner's group, demonstrated how to turn a small lantern.

Attendance: 30, plus 2 guests. In addition, there were 3 members watching via Zoom.

- **Valerie Botkin**



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 complete listing content on the club website. Please take advantage of this wonderful club benefit and return items in a timely manner.

Please contact one of the officers if you are willing to serve or assist in 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.



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 ●

- 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 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

Turning Tuesday 530pm – 830pm at 8300 Valcour. Sept 8th project is a slimline pen. Contact Moe Milstead before Sept 8th if you plan to participate so pen kits and materials are available.

Date

Pre-Meeting 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Meeting 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

September 22, 2026

TBD

Jeff Hornung – Square bowl

October 27, 2026

TBD

Michael Blankenship - Ornament

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.





Ken Bald



Dan Williams



Ken Bald



Charles Sapp





Diana Votaw



Tom Reel



Toothpick dispenser



Steve Nagy



Richard Grossman



August President's Challenge – Natural Edge Winner



Art Staden



Art Staden





Art Staden



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