

WOODTURNERS OF ST. LOUIS

A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

WTSTL.com
September 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 October 27, 2026.



Square Bowl (with color) • Jeff Hornung is a woodturner from St. Louis with 15 years of experience. Jeff is the first and only American woodturner accepted into the Register of Professional Turners. His demonstration was creating a square bowl (with color) using cross-grain maple wood.

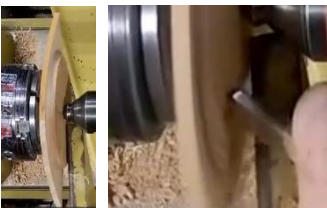
The demonstration covered important safety precautions, including using blue painter's tape as a visual safety marker from the corners of the plate and proper tool rest positioning, with specific attention to tenon construction to ensure a perfect hold in the chuck jaws.



Jeff demonstrated lathe techniques for cutting a tenon, explaining his approach of using higher speed (around 1760 RPM) to maintain corner integrity and control tool pressure. He showed how to true up the outside surface and rough in the

holding point, emphasizing the importance of exaggerated movements when

disengaging from the wood and maintaining even pressure to the edge. Jeff also discussed the proper use of tool rests and calipers, and mentioned that he would typically refine the surface with a negative rake scraper, though he noted that a round nose skew could serve as an alternative tool.



Jeff demonstrated techniques for sanding and finishing the wooden plate, emphasizing the importance of maintaining clean corners and using manual sanding methods rather than power sanding to avoid rounding over edges. He explained the process of creating a tenon with a detailed spindle gouge and discussed the importance of proper chuck jaw geometry for secure holding. Jeff also demonstrated using a bowl gouge to shape the interior of the plate, starting with gentle pushing cuts to preserve the corners and maintain control over the thin-walled structure.

He explained methods for finishing pieces, including using hand sanding and power sanding techniques while accounting for wood flexibility. He showed how to apply acrylic cloud paint using an airbrush to create decorative effects on wooden pieces, emphasizing the importance of a black base coat and proper paint manipulation. Jeff, aka The Walnut Log, offers a 10% discount to members of the WTSTL.



Thanks to Jeff for creating a square (optionally diamond) shaped bowl with color.

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

Pre-Meeting● Thanks to Steve Botkin for preparing the blanks for members to turn Pens for the Troops at the meeting. And thanks to the member mentors that assisted with the hands on turning.



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 October 13, 2026; project is an ornament.**

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 October 6th so material will be available. Please bring your face shield and spindle/bowl gouges/ parting tool/skew for the class.

- **Statehood Day at the Old Capitol** – Thanks to our members, Tom Heusler, Tom Reel, and Charles Sapp for hosting the carpenter's shop tour at the Old Capitol, discussing the antique tools and demonstrating the pole and treadle lathes. Future woodturners were excited to make some chips fly as they turned a spindle.



If you are interested in working other events like Festival of the Little Hills and others downtown St. Charles, contact Charles Sapp. The Park Department would like to have the shop open more to the public but it needs to be staffed.

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 (~6:30pm 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.



Vice President's Spin● I am reminded this month how much fun the club meetings can be. The weather was great, so the temperature was good in the room. Then there were the people. Thank you, Don, Jeff, and Charlie, for mentoring people through the Pens for our Troops pre-meeting event. A huge THANK YOU to Steve Botkin for bringing the blanks (all ready to go), sandpaper, special formula grit, and friction polish to finish!

Jeff Hornung showed us how to turn a square bowl. It is always good to watch and learn from Jeff. His technique for mounting, turning, creating a tenon, and then finishing. He showed us all a new technique for painting. Each step in the process he made sure of the do's and don'ts along with a few tips he has learned through trial and error.

Lastly, I would like to thank the members of the club. I have learned from the conversations and demos throughout the 15+ years I have been with the club. I appreciate hearing the tips, tricks, and failures. We learn from everything. Thank you! Until next month, keep turning! -

Rob Conaway

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: Charles Sapp for his light house lantern.

President's Challenge for October 2026 – Turn a square bowl (with or without color).



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 Meeting Tuesday, September 8

Attendees learned how to turn ink pens. 15 people in attendance.

September Monthly Meeting Tuesday, September 22

Pre-meeting: Turning Pens for the Troops.

Meeting Demonstration was "Turning a Square Plate" by Jeff Hornung.

Attendance: 27 members, 1 visitor and 3 people viewing 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**

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](#) .

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.



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 70% 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. Oct 13th project is an ornament. Contact Ray Hinkle before Oct 6th if you plan to participate so materials are available.

Date

Pre-Meeting 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Meeting 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

October 27, 2026

TBD

Michael Blankenship - Ornament

November 17, 2026 (note date change) No pre meeting. Wine and Cheese social, ornament exchange, and election of officers.

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.





Sept Show and Tell



Dan Williams



Art Staden



Charles Sapp

September President's Challenge – Lantern Winner



Art Staden





Art Staden



Dan Williams



Ken Bald



Rob Conaway



Ken Bald

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.

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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