

Woodturning Design and Critiquing Your Work



What do the Fibonacci series from 13th century mathematics, the catenary curve from the 17th century, and the Golden Ratio from ancient Greece have to do with woodturning? Come to the August meeting and find out! Our program will focus on those and many other topics related to woodturning design. You will learn to critique your own work and that of others to make yourself a better woodturner. So, if the woodturning gifts you give to your friends and family tend to end up IN the fireplace and not on the mantle for display, the August program will help you learn how to improve your skills and cause your gift recipients to ask you for more! Read more about our program on page 5.

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The Call of the Lathe – August 2016

As I sit here at the computer contemplating what to write for this month's note, I am looking out the front window of the house and imagining the road filled with parked cars and trucks, left there by my many friends and woodturning colleagues who are here for our monthly meeting. I am so thankful for our success in starting and helping Flint Hills Woodturners to flourish. Look what we have all accomplished by working together toward the goal of developing a way to share our craft, further developing our own skills, and showcasing our craft to the community. As we continue to spread knowledge of and interest in woodturning to our friends and neighbors, FHW will be the centerpiece of woodturning in our area and will help us all to focus our energy on making life better.

We always are looking for opportunities to share our craft with the community. One recent event is a good example. When Independence Woodturners of Independence, MO, asked if we would like to join them in a pen-turning project at a church camp near Junction City, we quickly agreed. Now that Randy Zelenka, Nyle Larson, and I have been able to work with four of the Independence guys on that project, we have helped the campers turn 35 pens. They may not all go on to become famous woodturners, but we have planted the seeds of the craft in their minds.

Sure has been hot recently. For those of you who are turning in a garage shop, I know it can be pretty darn hot in there even with a fan. I would again invite you to come over to my shop if you wish. I have plenty of equipment for you and would welcome the company.

One of my goals as president has been to find a public service event of some kind to give back to the community. We have connected to The Homecare and Hospice Foundation (hcandh.org) and are hoping to donate a large number of turned wood pieces for their fund-raising efforts. I invite you all to participate by making a bowl, a hollow form, a pen, a bottle stopper, or something which may be set out in a silent auction for their upcoming auction in late August. Let's show them some of our talents, showcasing FHW and supporting their service to the community at the same time.

Safe turning, my friends. Be careful, watch what you are doing, reduce the speed of the lathe before you turn it on the first time with a new piece of wood, be mindful of those sharp edges, wear your face shield, and have a great time.

— Tom Boley



Planting seeds at Camp Tomah Shinga

You never know what may grow when you plant seeds sometimes and we may never know if the seeds we planted with the Independence Woodturners this summer grow into woodturners or not. But we sure gave it a good try. Mike McReynolds, the president of Independence Woodturners (IW) contacted me several months ago to ask if we would be interested in joining them to help some campers at Camp Tomah Shinga south of Junction City this summer. Of course I said yes. Mike has a personal relationship with one of the key people for that Lutheran church camp and he had been asked if they would do pen turning with their campers each week this summer. Mike wisely said they couldn't support something every week from three hours' drive away in Missouri but they worked out a plan to come for their two high school adventure camp weeks in June and July. Mike was asked to add one more day in early June so the camp counselors for the summer would be able to each turn a pen so they would know more about what the campers would be doing. Mike coordinated the three events with me and we were able to support their efforts on June 2nd with the counselors as well as June 22nd and July 13th with the adventure campers. All together, Mike McReynolds, Mel Bryan, Gary Ellsworth, Bill Baker, Randy Zelenka, Nyle Larson, and I helped 35 young people turn a pen, for nearly all their first exposure to a lathe and the craft of woodturning. They may not all become world famous woodturners but if they do, it was the Independence Woodturners and Flint Hills Woodturners who gave them their start. —Tom Boley



Nyle Larson teaching a camper how to turn a pen.



Tom Boley and camper concentrating on getting her pen just right.



Members of the Independence Woodturners. From left, Mike McReynolds, president, Gary Ellsworth, Mel Bryan, and Bill Baker.

Meeting Minutes — July 2, 2016

The monthly meeting of the Flint Hills Woodturners began at 9:00 a.m., July 2, 2016 at Red Oak Hollow Lathe Works; 4025 Walnut Creek Driver, Wamego, Kansas. Vice President Ray Case called the meeting to order.

The meeting began with members Randy Zelenka, Bob Holcombe, Nyle Larson, Dan Baker and David Delker presenting their responses to the Program Director's June challenge, to make a project using last month's program topic of finishing an object using fuming, ebonizing, dying, metalizing, or milk painting. Each participant received a piece of purple heart wood donated by Vic Vinson.

Two guests were in attendance, Lentz and Isiah Upshaw.

There was no raffle this month as Tom, who usually gathers items for the raffle, was away teaching at the J. C. Campbell Folk School.

Secretary Dan Zeller is stepping down as secretary due to work commitments, and Ned Gatewood was elected to replace him.

Vice President Ray Case is starting a Facebook page for the club. To view the club's page, go to Facebook.com/Flint-Hills-Woodturners, and to post items on the page you must first ask to be friended.

Club offices reported:

Newsletter: Bob Holcombe had nothing to report.

Operations: Randy Zelenka lead discussions about the club's participation in the upcoming Mini Makers Fair (September 10) and the Pumpkin Patch (September 30 and October 1). Ray offered to bring blanks to the next meeting so members could make spinning tops to give away at the Fair, as last year it was hard to make tops fast enough to satisfy requests by children for tops. At the Pumpkin Patch, where more adults than children attend, making bowls will be the focus. Also, we have been asked again to provide a pen making demonstration at Camp Tomah Shinga. Tom Boley will attend.

Program: Ray thanked David Delker, Program Coordinator, for last month's director's challenge. Woodturning Design and Critiquing Your Work will be

next month's program. David asked members to give him ideas for future programs.

Secretary: Ned Gatewood had nothing to report.

Treasurer: Tom Shields reminded the membership that to keep Ya Gotta Eat and Skill Enhancement well attended, we have to periodically remind the membership when they are to occur. The board is working on a FHW website, and volunteers are needed. Paying a website provider is an option. Some members voiced a preference for communication to and amongst the membership by email, rather than social media. A membership directory, with photos, is being worked on by the board. Randy offered to bring to next month's meeting a list of members names and email addresses. Randy reminded members of the mentoring program. Recent treasury activity: disbursements: \$126.46 for raffle material and material for a lathe stand; \$305.98 Hurricane chucks for club's mini lathes; \$107 lathe stand for club's mini lathe; income: \$277 from dues (2) and silent auction proceeds; current funds in treasury: \$2,298.82. It was suggested we save our funds to one day move into our own, larger facility. Another suggestion was to save for a demonstration by a nationally recognized wood turner. Bob noted we have a webpage with American Association of Woodturners.

This month's demonstration was Tips and Tricks presented by nine club members: Tom Shields; Randy Zelenka; Lowell Regehr; Shawn Wilcox; Bob Holcombe; Joe Beck; Ned Gatewood; Dennis Biggs; and David Delker.

The next Ya Gotta Eat is Friday, July 22 at the Pizza Ranch.

Tom Boley will host the Kansas Area Woodturners, Topeka's woodturning club, on Saturday, August 13 at 9:00 a.m. in the Red Oak Hollow Lathe Works. Tom invites all FHW members attend and welcomes help from FHW members in hosting this club.

The next FHW meeting will be Saturday, August 6, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. in the Red Oak Hollow Lathe Works.

— Ned Gatewood

From the Program Director:

Our August program will focus on woodturning design and how to critique our own work and that of others. You will learn that a quality turned item must be esthetically pleasing, which means it must have more going for it than just a smooth surface with no tool marks and a finish free of defects. While workmanship certainly is important, the design of the piece will determine whether your woodturning is truly successful. You will see several design criteria examples that you can put into practice by critiquing your woodturning and that of others.

Now for the tough part: Critiquing our own work is challenging; having someone else critique it can be downright terrifying! We all have memories of having our work harshly criticized by teachers, peers, bosses, or even our closest friends and family. We can avoid those unpleasant feelings if we follow a few basic rules for critiquing the woodturning creations of others:

1. Break the ice by asking some questions about the piece, such as its intended use, the reason for the wood selection, challenges faced during the turning and finishing process, etc.
2. Consider the experience level of the creator and type of equipment used to make the piece.
3. Use the “sandwich” approach: Start with some positive feedback; provide the necessary constructive criticism, including plenty of praise for the good aspects of the piece; and end on a positive note about the piece and the progress made.
4. Never forget that we are here to learn from each other. Those offering critiques should be honest, but respectful of others. Give suggestions for how to improve the piece, don't just list everything that you believe is flawed.
5. Comments should be construed as suggestions. Critiquing woodturning or any form of art can be very subjective. Just because one person likes glossy finish and another prefers satin finish doesn't make one right and the other wrong. No two people have identical artistic tastes, and we need to respect that diversity!
6. Don't forget to end the critique with a positive comment. Oh, yeah, I already said that!

A panel of our experienced woodturners have been asked to critique items that other members bring to the meeting. I encourage each of you to participate in this exercise. **Bring two or three pieces that you wish to have critiqued, and come prepared to learn from each other!**

Upcoming Programs:

Based on the store aisles crammed with crayons, notebooks, and backpacks; it must be “back to school” time! In keeping with the season, the Flint Hills Woodturners will have its first Back to the Basics program at our September meeting.

Since our first meeting in early 2014, we've had 15 programs ranging from bowl and spindle turning to segmented turning, pen making, and finishing. We want to make sure that the many newcomers in our club learn the basic skills that many of us old-timers take for granted (or that we are too embarrassed to admit that we have forgotten)! Those fundamentals are important enough that even experienced turners need to re-visit them from time to time. With that in mind, here is the tentative schedule for the upcoming programs:

September: Back to the Basics: Spindle Turning and Sharpening Techniques

October: Back to the Basics: Bowl Turning and Chucking Methods

November: Holiday Ornaments, Part 1

December: Holiday Ornaments, Part 2

As always, feel free to let me know if you have program suggestions or if you have something you would like to demonstrate at a future meeting. I would be happy to visit with you and help you develop your idea into an excellent program!

— David Delker, Program Director.

Show&Tell

Members are invited to bring a piece that they have turned to show and to tell other members how they made it, what was difficult or easy, what is special about it, how they finished it or anything else that will be of interest to other members.



Nyle Larson



David Delker



Ray Case



Shawn Wilcox



Randy Zelenka



Ned Gatewood



Peter Dorhout



Don Baker



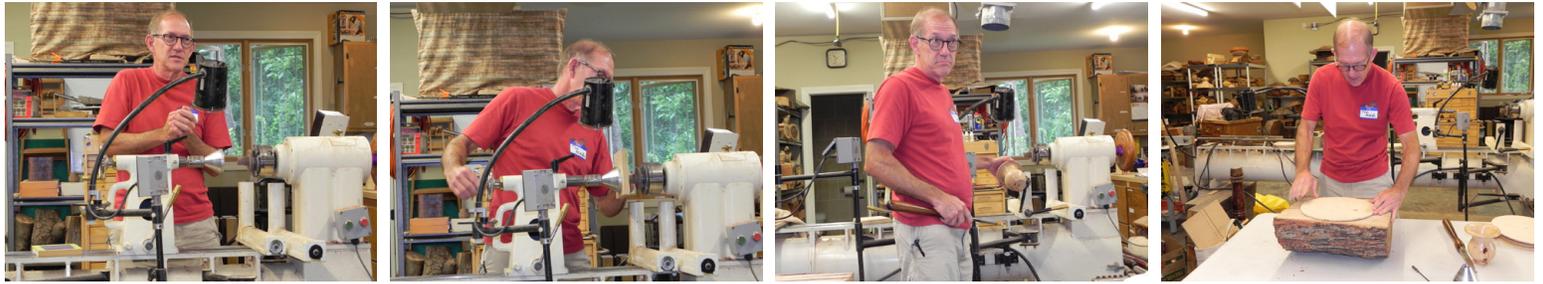
Tom Shields



Dennis Biggs

July Program — Tips and Tricks

The July program was a team effort, consisting of several beginner, intermediate, and advanced woodturners sharing their favorite tips and techniques for making time spent in the shop more productive and fun. This was our first “Tips and Tricks” program, in which anyone could share a favorite woodturning tip, trick, or technique. Below were our Tipsters and a brief look at their tips. Contact each for more information.



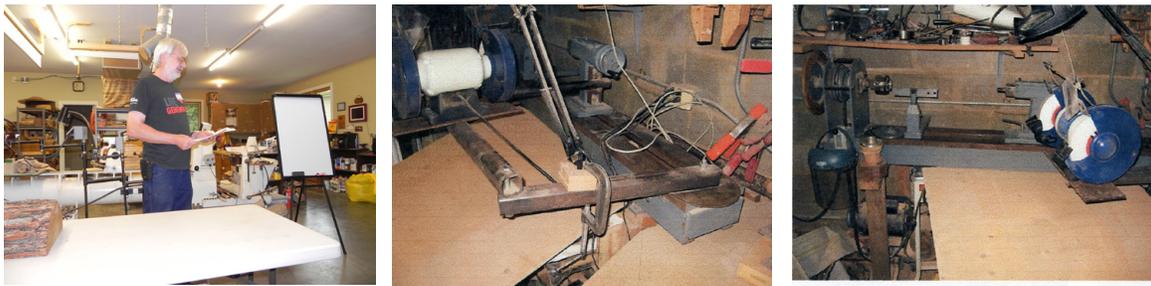
Tom Shields:

1-Undercutting an edge (stand on the other side of the lathe). 2-How to sand on the lathe to get a truly square edge. 3-Using a template to make round bowl blanks.



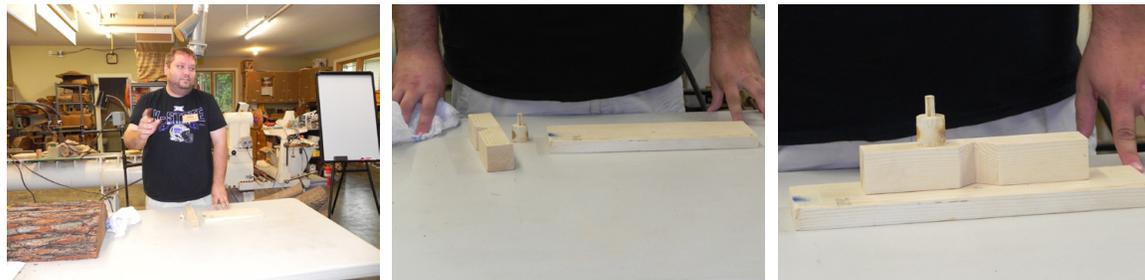
Randy Zelenka:

Sanding with sanding belts stretched over a Plexiglas plate.



Lowell Regehr:

Shop made grinder mount for a lathe bed.



Shawn Wilcox:

Homemade pen assembly jig for a drill press.

July Program — Tips and Tricks



Joe Beck:
Using a drill bit as a beading tool.

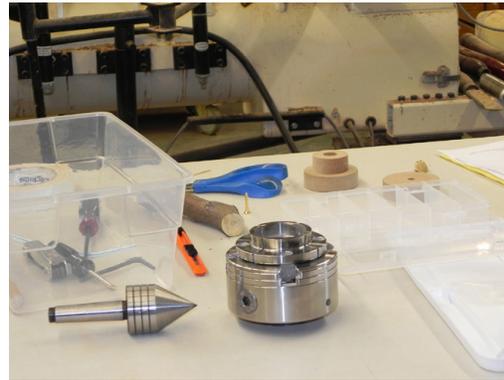
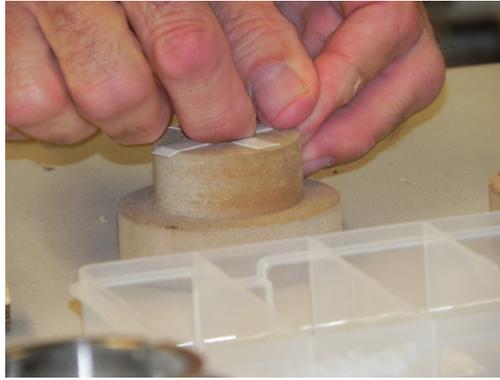


Ned Gatewood:
1-Bandsaw circle jig. 2-Make a sharpening jig from MDF.
3-Sanding pads for curved surfaces. 4-Using a diamond card for sharpening



Dennis Biggs:
1-Repurposing old tools by regrinding tips. 2-Jam chucks from scrap wood. 3- Power sanding using over-size sand pad.

July Program — Tips and Tricks



David Delker:

- 1- Cheapskate's steady rest.
- 2- Chucking a miniature natural edge bowl.
- 3-Using a drinking straw to blow out dust.
- 4-Using a rare earth magnet to magnetize tools.
- 5-Using rare earth magnets to hold tools to metal surfaces.



Tips and Tricks



At the lathe, collecting dust at the point of origin has many advantages. Less dust is put in the air thereby making a healthier environment and a shop that's easier to keep clean.

A shop vac with its hose right at the workpiece goes a long way in keeping dust out of the air.

Modern lathes have a means for mounting a cage over the work, and if this cage is not used, it can provide a means for mounting a shop vac hose. A three-quarter inch piece of EMT fits well into the cage mount on the lathe pictured above, a Jet 1642. EMT is electric metal tubing and can be found at Menards and other similar places. Three-quarter inch EMT works on this particular lathe, but for your lathe, you might need to make some adjustment, like wrapping the EMT with a little bit of tape to make a tight fit into the cage mount. The 2 1/2 inch shop vac hose has a 2 1/2 inch to 4 inch adapter that is screwed to a wood block which slides along with three-quarter inch piece of EMT. There's nothing fancy about this wood block; it can take on any shape you like. When mounted into the lathe's cage bracket, the three-quarter inch EMT is very secure, and could be made longer for spindle work.

Also notice in the picture the remote electrical switch (\$10 at Menards) hanging from the cage bracket that turns the shop vac on from the lathe. Very convenient. These remote switches have other applications in the shop as well. Also notice in the picture the \$6 plastic storage box under the lathe bed. This collects a surprising amount of wood chips and makes shop cleanup easier. Behind the lathe there is a \$16 box fan with a 20" x 20" HVAC filter that helps in dust collection as well.

— Ned Gatewood

Chainsaws: Vapor Lock and Boiling Gas, the Saw to Not Buy, and the One I'm Saving For

Dave Robinson, President,
Catoctin Area Turners, Leesburg, Virginia



I've learned a lot about Chainsaws recently and some of it may be helpful so I decided to tell on myself here with the hope of helping someone else.

Vapor lock and boiling Gas:

Three of us experienced this on the recent Black Locust Cutting Party. If you never have, the video below will show it happening near the end of the clip. In addition to hot gas being sprayed around, vapor lock makes a saw difficult or impossible to start until a full cool down. That put the two biggest saws that were really needed on that big black locust out of business. (When we arrived back home, both saws started right up). So I analyzed the situation and did a little more research:

1. It's fairly common problem, based on forestry forum posts. It happens in hot weather.
2. Usually after hard cutting and you turn the saw off. Have you done this followed by difficulty restarting? Don Maloney and my saws had 25 and 28 inch bars buried in black locust, which is about the hardest wood you're likely to encounter in our region. We had turned our saws off and let them set (in the sun) (hot day). The engine block was very hot which radiated additional heat to the fuel tank, causing fuel to boil and vapors to push on through the rest of the system.

Take aways regarding heat:

- a. Try to cut in the morning early before the heat.
 - b. Best to cut in the winter. Better bowl blanks then anyway, especially if you want the bark to stay on. Easier drying as the sap is down.
 - c. If you shut down your saw for a few minutes, park it in the shade.
 - d. Also park the fuel can in the shade.
 - e. Cover the cap with a rag when opening the tank for re-fueling on a hot day. Hold a hot saw away from you body when opening and wear protective clothing.
 - f. Don't open the cap to check your fuel level if your saw has a translucent plastic tank. Just look and see. Moving the saw will help you see the sloshing fuel.
3. Some fuels are more prone to vapor lock
 - a. Use non-ethanol fuel if you can get it. Scott Synott knows where some is available. Thanks Scott...Some recommend aviation fuel.
 - b. Use up "winter mix" fuel at the end of winter and use fresh summer fuel. Suppliers mix fuel differently to run better in cold weather. (But more prone to vapor lock).
 - c. Use higher octane fuels as they burn cooler.
 - d. Consider factory pre-mixed fuels. Expensive, but they are high octane, non ethanol, contain stabilizer and are properly mixed for sure.
 - e. Use stabilizer if the fuel will be sitting for more than a week. (more critical with ethanol based fuel)

f. Both the fuel container and the tank on the saw are best left completely full, or empty. Air allows condensation.

4. Other possible contributing factors
 - a. a fuel tank relief valve may be clogged.
 - b. the spark arrestor screen may be clogged, causing additional heat buildup.
 - c. the fuel mix may be adjusted too lean which will make the saw run hotter.
 - d. some saws have a heat shield between the block - muffler and the fuel tank. Check to see that this is in place and not loose or damaged.
5. If you get vapor lock
 - a. You can try carefully releasing the cap to release the pressure. This may be enough. Plan on a lot of pulls and a few short starts and dying. It may start.
 - b. If that doesn't work, your saw needs to cool off more completely, maybe 20 minutes. Set it in the shade and load what you had already cut OR
 - c. set it in the shade and grab your back up saw.

Which brings up our next subject. I have a second saw, a small limbing saw which I wish I hadn't bought. Speaking with Jeff Browning of Browning Equipment, about the saw and the cut I'd gotten from it, he confirmed, "We try never to sell those except to professional arborist tree climbers who need them" for the reason that they are so easy to get hurt with. (It's the same saw as in the video showing the boiling gas splash.)

So, I decided that I need a back up saw, smaller than my Stihl 460 with the 25 and 36 inch bars which I love, but not as small as the limbing saw. (The problem with the small limbing saw is that it can be used with one hand, either during or after the cut. And if you do that, where is your other hand? Tied behind your back would be safe. Hanging normally at your side or moving or reaching for the piece you just cut...not so safe.) I want a saw that I need to hold with two hands. Don Maloney has a logger contact from recently having his property logged that is able to get saws at an excellent discount. We are both looking at the Stihl 261 as backup and firewood saws. It's a "professional saw". One thing that means is that it can be more easily rebuilt than the homeowner or rancher grade. If you're looking for a new saw contact Don. If we buy as a group we'll get extra savings, at least on shipping.

Here's my thinking on the 261 as my back-up saw. (I really like the Stihl 460 or 461 as primary, so I can skip that "meet in the middle" problem on bigger logs). The 261, is light at 10 lbs but still powerful at 4 horsepower. This usable horsepower increases because of the "thin kerf". The typical 3/8" (.375) chain has been reduced to .325 so less energy is spent removing the wider cut. Anyway, that's what I'm saving for as my back up small saw. Your mileage may vary.

Here's a video showing boiling gas. Watch as he opens the cap near the end. This what we saw last week on two saws at the Black Locust cutting party.

https://youtu.be/Ja9t4PtJx_Q

Volunteers Wanted



For two days of turning, talking, and fun!

Friday and Saturday, September 30 — October 1.

Once again Flint Hills Woodturners will have a booth at the Annual Pumpkin Patch Arts and Crafts Fair at CICO Park, Manhattan. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Randy Zalenka at operations@flinthillswoodturners.org for more information.



Flint Hills Woodturners

Ya Gotta Eat!

Wednesday, August 17th

Join fellow FHW members for our next "Ya Gotta Eat" lunch at noon at **Little Apple Brewing Company**

1110 Westloop Place, West Loop Shopping Center

Please let me know if you will be able to come so I can get a table to accommodate all of us.

And bring something for Show and Tell.

Tom Boley <tboley10@gmail.com>

Events and Marketplace

We are now a preferred customer.
Order Oneway products through
CA Savoy will get a 25% discount
rather than the normal 20%.

ONEWAY
MANUFACTURING

Superior Design, Legendary Quality

PRODUCT SALE

25% discount

on most ONEWAY products,
except lathes, plus shipping.

Go to ONEWAY website

www.oneway.ca

to see products available.

Will provide quote upon request.

Happy and Safe Turning
and Keep Those Turning Tools Sharp!

Contact CA SAVOY cadjsavoy@cox.net



25th Anniversary
August 26-28, 2016
Waco, Texas
<http://www.swaturners.org/>



Fourteenth Ornamental Turners International Symposium
September 22, 23, 24 & 25 - 2016 in Denver, Colorado
<http://ornamentaltturners.info/main/otisymposium.html>



Basic Bowl Class

It used to be called University for Man but over the years, has evolved to just UFM Manhattan and their array of classes is terrific. Among the class selections are iCan with iPad, Sushi Rolling, Genealogy Essentials, Beekeeping, Archery for Adults, and Woodturning for Beginners. It is that last one which is now taught by Tom Boley at his shop, Red Oak Hollow Lathe Works. The class project is a small bowl and is suitable for never-before turners or for those who would like to add bowl turning to their repertoire of woodturning skills. Contact UFM at tryufm.org or e-mail them at info@tryufm.org. Their phone number is 785-539-8763. This is a great way to jump right into the craft of woodturning in a formal way with an excellent instructor in a comfortable woodshop setting. Come, learn to turn.



**Community
LearningCenter**
tryufm.org

Flint Hills Woodturners is a 501(c)(3) non-profit composed of individuals who are interested in learning and promoting the art of turning wood. Formed in March 2015 for hobbyists in the Flint Hill region of Northeast Kansas, the club welcomes all interested people to visit our meetings to get a sample of this inspiring hobby. You will find warm people from novice to expert willing to share with you. Flint Hills Woodturners is a chapter of the American Association of Woodturners.



President

Tom Boley

president@flintheillswoodturners.org

Vice President

Ray Case

vicepresident@flintheillswoodturners.org

Secretary

Ned Gatewood

secretary@flintheillswoodturners.org

Treasurer

Tom Shields

treasurer@flintheillswoodturners.org

Program Coordinator

David Delker

program@flintheillswoodturners.org

Operations

Randy Zelenka

operations@flintheillswoodturners.org

Webmaster

Don Eisele

webmaster@flintheillswoodturners.org

Newsletter

Bob Holcombe

newsletter@flintheillswoodturners.org

<http://flintheillswoodturners.org>



The American Association of Woodturners (AAW) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, dedicated to advancing the art and craft of woodturning worldwide by providing opportunities for education, information, and organization to those interested in turning wood. Established in 1986, AAW currently has more than 15,000 members and a network of more than 350 local chapters globally representing professionals, amateurs, gallery owners, collectors and wood/tool suppliers.

The mission of the American Association of Woodturners is to provide education, information and organization to those interested in turning wood.

Flint Hills Woodturners Program and Events

Date	Program/Event	Location
 June 4	Finishing, Part 2	Red Oak Hollow Lathe Works, Wamego
 July 2	Tips and Tricks Mini-Demos	Red Oak Hollow Lathe Works, Wamego
 August 6	Woodturning Design and Critiquing your Work	Red Oak Hollow Lathe Works, Wamego
August 9	Skill Enhancement 7:00 – 9:30 PM	Red Oak Hollow Lathe Works, Wamego
August 25	Skill Enhancement 7:00 – 9:30 PM	Red Oak Hollow Lathe Works, Wamego
 September 3	Back to the Basics: Spindle Turning and Sharpening Techniques	Red Oak Hollow Lathe Works, Wamego
 October 1	Back to the Basics: Bowl Turning and Chucking Methods	Red Oak Hollow Lathe Works, Wamego
 November 5	Holiday Ornaments, Part 1	Red Oak Hollow Lathe Works, Wamego
 December 3	Holiday Ornaments, Part 2	Red Oak Hollow Lathe Works, Wamego

Unless announced, meetings are held at

Red Oak Hollow Lathe Works,
4025 Walnut Creek Drive, Wamego, KS.

Meetings start at 9:00 a.m. but come any time after 8.

