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Upcoming 2022 Club Events

- **June 18th**
 - In-person
 - Creative Woodturning
 - Our Own Member - Heather Marusiak
- **July 9th (Second Saturday)**
 - In Person
 - Pen Turning
 - Our Own Member—Ross Hirst



Submissions, suggestions or questions please email to: fhwpresident@gmail.com



June 18th

by: Heather Marusiak



Creative Woodturning: A Brief History and Strategies to Spark Your Creativity

Join us as we discuss the evolution of woodturning, from its roots in trade to its emergence as an art form. What led to this transition and who were the key players? What makes a woodturned object good or bad? Is it ever acceptable to copy someone's work? What exactly is creativity, and how may we incorporate creativity into our work? Be prepared for thoughtful group discussion, fun activities, and some laughter.





President's Report

It was great to see so many of you last month at our first in-person club meeting in over two years! The renewal of friendships and meeting new members were among the highlights for me and many others. The pizza was a great finale, as well!

Many aspects of the May meeting went smoothly, despite the new location. We had an excellent demonstration by Dr. Charles Barden on tree identification was very informative and well done. We also had a great array of Show and Tell items on display.

That reminds me of one point we need to improve for future meetings: the acoustics in the meeting space are very poor, so speaking into the microphone during Show and Tell time is essential for your voices to be heard. Similarly, questions from the audience during the demonstration did not have the benefit of the sound system. While Dr. Barden's answers were clear, the questions often were inaudible. Future presenters will be reminded to repeat the questions so the audience can clearly understand them.

We continue to seek ways to connect our virtual members to our meetings, despite the inadequate connectivity (no wi-fi and inadequate cellular signal coverage) in the Armory

building. Cellular signal boosters and wi-fi hotspots typically need an antenna outside the building, which isn't a good option for us. Potential solutions cost hundreds of dollars, which would only make sense if we have assurance that approach definitely would work. Please let me know if you have expertise in that area or know of local companies who have overcome those problems.

Thanks again for your patience as we work through these technical challenges together!

Skill Enhancement sessions to resume

Skill Enhancement sessions will resume soon! Tom Boley has graciously offered his shop space, and he and other experienced woodturners will be available to help members refine their woodturning skills. Regardless of your skill level, you will find help in bringing your woodturning to the next level. Tentatively, Monday evening, June 20 will be the first session and Tuesday evening, June 28 will be the second one. See Tom's article on page 6 for more information.

Continued on Page 4.

President's State-of-the-Club Report Continued

Continued from page 3.

AAW memo regarding fractal burning

AAW issued an important reminder recently about the health risks associated with the "fractal burning" technique (sometimes known as the Lichtenberg process) to embellish wood turnings. The memo from AAW on page 5 goes into detail about the AAW stance on this topic. The recent tragic deaths of two more woodworkers prompted AAW leaders to reiterate this message. Please read it and heed the advice given!

An important point is that we could lose our club liability insurance if we violate the policy on demonstrating and/or showing projects in which fractal burning is used. Please do NOT bring any pieces on which fractal burning was used to Show and Tell or other club events. Failure to comply with this policy will result (as a minimum) in the artwork in question being removed from the exhibit.

Please stay safe in all you do as you enjoy woodturning and encourage others to do the

same! Thanks for helping to spread the word about the risks of using the dangerous fractal burning technique.

Conclusion

I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming meeting! As always, I invite your feedback, questions, and suggestions. I may be reached at fhwpresident@gmail.com. In the meantime, enjoy some time in your shop and stay safe in all you do!

David Delker

*A Round Up of News and Information from the
American Association of Woodturners*



From the AAW Safety Committee: Fractal Burning Kills & AAW Reiterates the Dangers

The AAW Board, through its Safety Committee, wants to re-emphasize the dangers associated with the process known as Lichtenberg, or “fractal,” burning, an embellishing technique that uses high-voltage electrical current to burn patterns on wood. This often unsafe, life-threatening practice has once again surfaced in the news and on social media, following a two-victim incident in April 2022.

In 2017, the AAW Board of Directors voted to ban any fractal-burning demonstrations and equipment sales at AAW-sponsored events. The ban prohibits displaying fractal-burned pieces at any AAW-sponsored event and promoting the practice via articles in AAW publications. Sadly, since the AAW Board adopted its policy on fractal burning in 2017, there have been thirty-three reported deaths directly attributed to fractal burning, and an unknown number of injuries and close calls.

Learn About the Hidden Dangers

Fractal burning poses a significant hidden risk of electrocution. It speaks volumes that there are no UL-rated fractal burning units commercially available. Many of the YouTube videos that show how to build these devices at home do not adequately

ly address the inherent safety concerns. Many users think they are being safe, but the number of serious injuries and deaths says otherwise.

To learn more about what makes fractal burning dangerous, [visit the AAW website](#). This webpage lists known deaths, the AAW’s official position on fractal burning, as well as other resources.

AAW Chapters Take Note

The AAW Board’s 2017 policy explicitly extends its position to its chapters: **“AAW-chartered chapters are strongly urged to refrain from demonstrating or featuring the process in chapter events.”** Yet the practice persists at the chapter level. The AAW Safety Committee, with endorsement from the Board of Directors, requests once again that its members and chapter leaders join in the AAW’s efforts to discourage the use of fractal burning. Do not promote the practice via newsletter articles or social media posts, and do not allow fractal-burned pieces to be displayed in instant galleries, exhibitions, at chapter meetings, or on chapter websites.

Further, due to liability concerns, **the AAW Board has decided to disallow chapters that promote, demonstrate, or allow the use of fractal burning to be eligible to obtain, or renew, insurance through the AAW for their chapter.**

Skill Enhancement



It has been a long time since we have been able to have a Skill Enhancement session but now that we have restarted our in-person meetings, we will also restart Skill Enhancement. For those of you who may not know what that means, I will give you some information.

I am Tom Boley and have a shop just off Hwy 24 over toward Wamego. When we started Flint Hills Woodturners, we met in my shop until we outgrew it. However, we still have the two club Delta midi lathes set up there. Since I have three lathes myself, that gives us five lathes we can use for Skill Enhancement. We try to have Skill Enhancement one or two nights a month for members to come work on whatever you wish and we have three or four other members who are able to come to assist. Occasionally we have a focused Skill Enhancement session but they are mostly an opportunity to come work on whatever you wish and we will do our best to help you improve your skills. An example of a focused session would be one or two Skill Enhancement evenings of spindle turning following a demo of spindle turning at a regular club meeting. It is generally better for you to bring your own tools as those are the ones you will use at home and we can help ensure they are shaped correctly and sharpened well. We may even make sharpening one of the key instructional features of our first couple of sessions.

I try to send out an e-mail reminder a few days ahead of each session to ask those who wish to come to let me know you are coming with some idea of what you wish to work on. That way I can better coordinate instructors as well as plan for which lathe you should use. If everyone wants to work on turning large bowls, using the

mini lathes may not work. Skill Enhancement is open to all our club members but we do ask for a \$5 shop fee if you are going to use the equipment. The club collects that fee to pay for things like glue, band saw blades, and other supplies which we may use in enhancing those skills. All are welcome but we can only accommodate five turners at a time on the five lathes. Others are welcome to come and just hang out with us to socialize as well as to absorb whatever lessons you may learn from being around other woodturners. You incur the fee only if you use the equipment. A couple times members have come just to use the band saw to cut their wood into rounds for later use on their own lathes at home and that incurs that \$5 fee. Our sessions normally run from 7pm to about 9:30 and are usually on a weekday evening, Mon through Thurs.

If you have any questions about Skill Enhancement, you are welcome to contact me at tboley10@gmail.com, call me at 785-456-7890, or ask around for a member who has been here before and can tell you more about it. I will include the address and directions when I send out the invitational e-mail for each session. I think you will find this opportunity one which will be of value.

Tom Boley





Safety Corner Revisited

With Peter Dorhout

Air Compressor Safety

Last month, our past president, Tom Boley, shared a photo of an air compressor tank that belonged to one of our recent demonstrators, Alan Lacer, which suffered a catastrophic failure after 35 years. I've included that photo for your consideration. From the looks of things, he was very lucky, having suffered only a few minor cuts. One of the most important observations for you to make is the level of corrosion inside the tank. After years of use, the water build-up in the tank finally won out.



But what can you do to help prevent this unfortunate accident? Every time you compress air, you compress a little condensation out of it too. When that air leaves your tank, it takes some, but not all of the water with it in the form of water vapor (or humidity). If you are a stalwart air brush painter for furniture or cars, one of your worst contaminants for paint can be the water in the air from your compressor, so you may have invested in an air filter system to clean the air from your compressor, which contains not only water vapor but also oil and dust or metal particles.

A typical 20 gal shop compressor, with a 2 HP electric motor, will deliver about 5 cubic feet per minute (CFM) at 90 PSI. One cubic foot is about 7.5 gallons, so in one minute, the motor will essentially fill the tank nearly twice, while delivering 90 PSI air pressure for whatever you are working on in your shop. If you studied gas laws in school, you may remember Boyle's Law that states the pressure of a gas is inversely proportional to its volume at a constant temperature (squeeze a balloon and it expands).

Peter Dorhout

Ya Gotta Eat



Wednesday

June 28th

Noon

Back room of

Vista

Show and Tell

Welcome

Flint Hills Woodturners YouTube Channel



Flint Hills Woodturners

90 subscribers

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2HZn0FA9r5EwcoRbubFArQ>



FHW 2021 June Demonstration - Sharpening

Flint Hills Woodturners

1:37:20

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QPBA9LwGgsA&list=PLAQEQuvfg2CgmLNkcJfBZK0n13ePKWbQE&index=9>



FHW 2021 Aug. Demonstration Christmas Ornament

Flint Hills Woodturners

1:39:54

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0k8KZGiZ73s&list=PLAQEQuvfg2CgmLNkcJfBZK0n13ePKWbQE&index=10>



FHW 2021 Sept. Demonstration - Once turned green bowl

Flint Hills Woodturners

1:36:09

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GKrDI1ebzpU&list=PLAQEQuvfg2CgmLNkcJfBZK0n13ePKWbQE&index=11>



FHW 2021 November Demonstration - Segmented turning

Flint Hills Woodturners

1:24:16

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xp5JD61kyeo&list=PLAQEQuvfg2CgmLNkcJfBZK0n13ePKWbQE&index=12>



FHW December 2021 Demonstration - Photography for Woodturners

Flint Hills Woodturners

2:09:34

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1ZHLkdsBmg4&list=PLAQEQuvfg2CgmLNkcJfBZK0n13ePKWbQE&index=13&t=10s>



FHW 2022 February Demonstration - Natural edge bowl.

Flint Hills Woodturners

1:33:43

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MMVi5S9Qcck&list=PLAQEQuvfg2CgmLNkcJfBZK0n13ePKWbQE&index=14>

It was great to get back together again. Here are a few pictures from our first in-person meeting of 2022.



Show and Tell

May 2022



Show and Tell

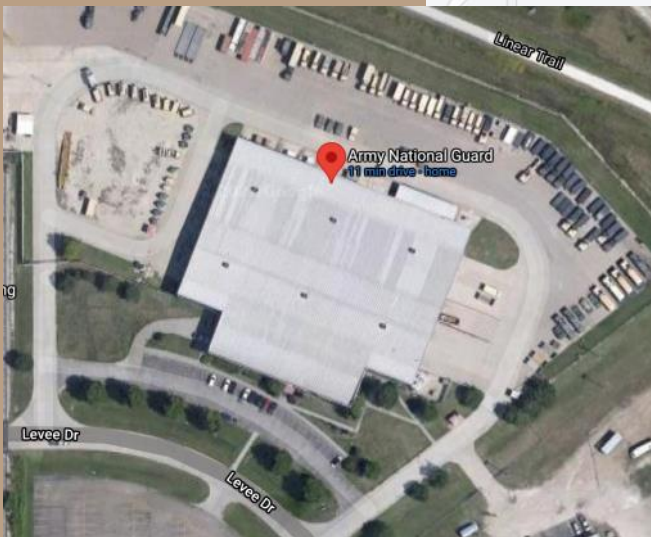
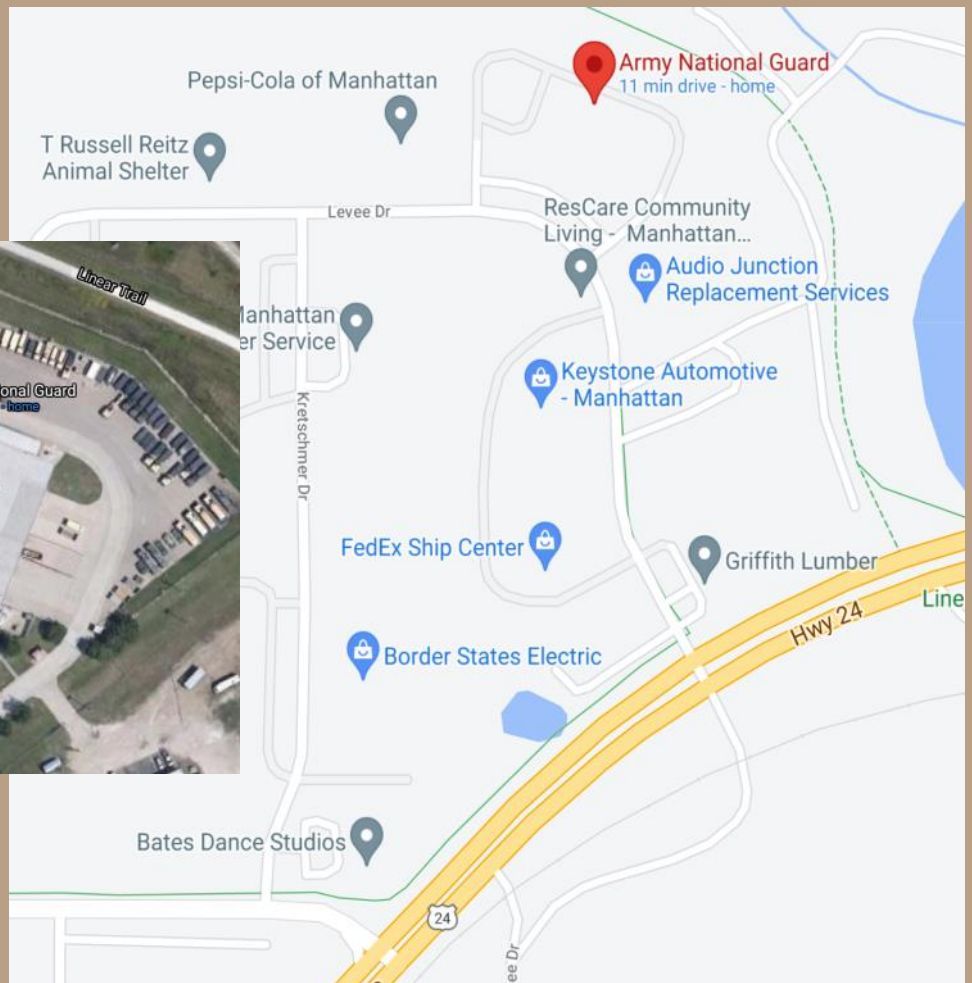
May 2022



Home of the Flint Hills Woodturners club



Army National Guard Armory, 721 Levee Dr, Manhattan, KS 66502



2022 Board Members



President

David Delker

fhwpresident@gmail.com



Vice President

Joe Beck



Secretary

Barbara Drolet



Treasurer

Ross Hirst



Programs

Steve Bietau



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Tom Shields



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Heather Marusiak



Newsletter

Editor

Ray Case



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 Hills 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. (AAW).

If you would like more information about our club and its activities please visit our website <https://flinthillswoodturners.org> or by email: fhwpresident@gmail.com

AAW

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS

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.