



# Flint Hills

## WOODTURNERS

May 2026

### In this newsletter:

- May Club Event... 3
- Ya Gotta Eat ... 4
- April Meeting Minutes ...5
- April Demo Photos.... 7
- April Show & Tell ... 25
- Share Your Knowledge ... 31
- Woodturning Media.....32
- Skill Enhancement.....33
- AAW Bulletin ... 35
- Women in Turning... 37
- Club Information ... 39
- Upcoming Events ..40
- Meeting Location Map ...41



**Are you interested in learning about WOODTURNING?**

**Whether you are a seasoned pro or have never touched a lathe tool,  
You are welcome here.**

**Come to a meeting and check us out.**



**Scan the QR code to visit our Website:**

**[flinthillswoodturners.org](http://flinthillswoodturners.org)**



# May Club Event

## Turning a Live Edge Vase

*With Dennis Biggs*



At our May meeting, Dennis Biggs will demonstrate turning a live edge vase.

**Saturday, May 2nd, 2026**

**Rock Creek High School, 9355 Flush Rd, St George (Flush), KS  
66535**

**8:30 AM Social Time, 9:00 AM Meeting Begins**

**Vista**  
DRIVE IN

**Ya Gotta Eat!**

**Wednesday May 20 at 12:00 PM**

**in the back room of**

**VISTA DRIVE IN**

**1911 Tuttle Creek Blvd, Manhattan, KS 66502**

***Show and Tell  
is Welcome!***

***...Food!  
...Friendship!  
...Woodturning!***



# April Meeting Minutes

*Recorded by Ned Gatewood*

## **April Meeting Minutes**

Flint Hills Woodturners

Rock Creek High School, St. George, Kansas

April 4, 2026

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Dave Davis. A total of 31 people were in attendance.

Tom Boley offered a club challenge to members to turn from a 2x4 (he provided six for members use) any form using only a 2x4 and to bring it to the next meeting.

Officers' Reports:

President – absent.

Vice President and Newsletter Editor – Dave Davis asked if anybody is not receiving the newsletter to please let him know, as some recipients' messages are bouncing back.

Secretary – No report.

- Treasurer – Ross Hirst reported we have \$3,767.71 in the treasury, one new member, and 53 members.

Program Director – Ken Stitt reported Tom Shields will be demonstrating today the making of an Inside Out Christmas angel. The May demonstration will be Dennis Biggs turning a natural edge bowl. The June and July demonstrations are open, and volunteers are needed. In August, Bob Holcombe will provide the demonstration; topic to be announced.

Operations – Randy Zelenka reported we participated in the Flint Hills Discovery Center's Meet the Makers in March, and that it was successful, especially with the kids. We will also be participating in the Discovery Center's Flint Hills Festival on Saturday, May 2. Its date and time, 10 am to 5 pm, will not interfere with our FHW May 2 meeting. Volunteers are needed for both events.

Member-at-Large – No report.

Show and Tell – Ross Hirst, Dave Davis, Vaughn Grabber, Aaron Boyer, Dennis Biggs, and Bob Kloppenborg presented their recent work.



# April Meeting Minutes

Demonstration – Tom Shields demonstrated making an Inside Out Christmas angel. He emphasized the importance of starting with accurately sized wood stock. He began with four pieces 6" long by 1" by 1". Each piece needs to be square, otherwise there will be gaps in the resulting glued joints.

Tom temporarily CA glued and taped the four pieces together, mounted the glued-p piece on the lathe, then turned them to form the inside of the angel's body (1  $\frac{3}{4}$ " long), the skirt (2  $\frac{1}{2}$ " long), and the angel's head (1" long). He then broke the four pieces apart and glued them back together with Tightbond glue so the outside of the angel was now exposed. He squared-up the ends (so the angel will sit flat on a surface), then rounded the now square piece with a roughing gouge. Next, Tom marked the lengths of the skirt, body, and head, and then reduced the diameter between each to a particular depth with a parting tool. He turned the shape of the skirt, being careful not to reduce its thickness too much. The body and head were turned, basically into spheres, their diameters determined with a caliper. Lastly, a foot was turned and the form was sanded.

Next, the wings were made, starting with drawing their design on paper, then transferring it to cardboard, then tracing it on a wood disk. The top of the wings are round in shape, and the bottoms are v-shaped. Use a contrasting color of wood for the wings. The wings were mounted on the lathe to shape the curvature of the outside and inside surfaces. Don't make the wings too thick; the wings are more attractive the thinner they are. A  $\frac{3}{4}$ " tenon is formed on the back of the wings for mounting onto the body. Tom cut out the shape of the wings on a scroll saw, and then sanded the wings. A  $\frac{3}{4}$ " hole using a v- block was drilled into the body for mounting the wings.

To make the angel's halo, Tom started with a 1  $\frac{1}{4}$ " blank and turned a tenon on it for mounting it in a collet on the lathe. He turned the blank into a 1" diameter halo, turned it to a desired thickness and sanded it. He painted the halo with acrylic gold paint.

The Inside Out angel was now ready for a finish to the skirt, body, head, and wing. And finally, the angel is assembled.

Raffle – Pen blanks, CA glue, Tightbond glue, a purple heart wood blank, and a gallon of Anchor Seal were raffled.

The next meeting is May 2.

# April Demonstration Turning an Inside Out Angel

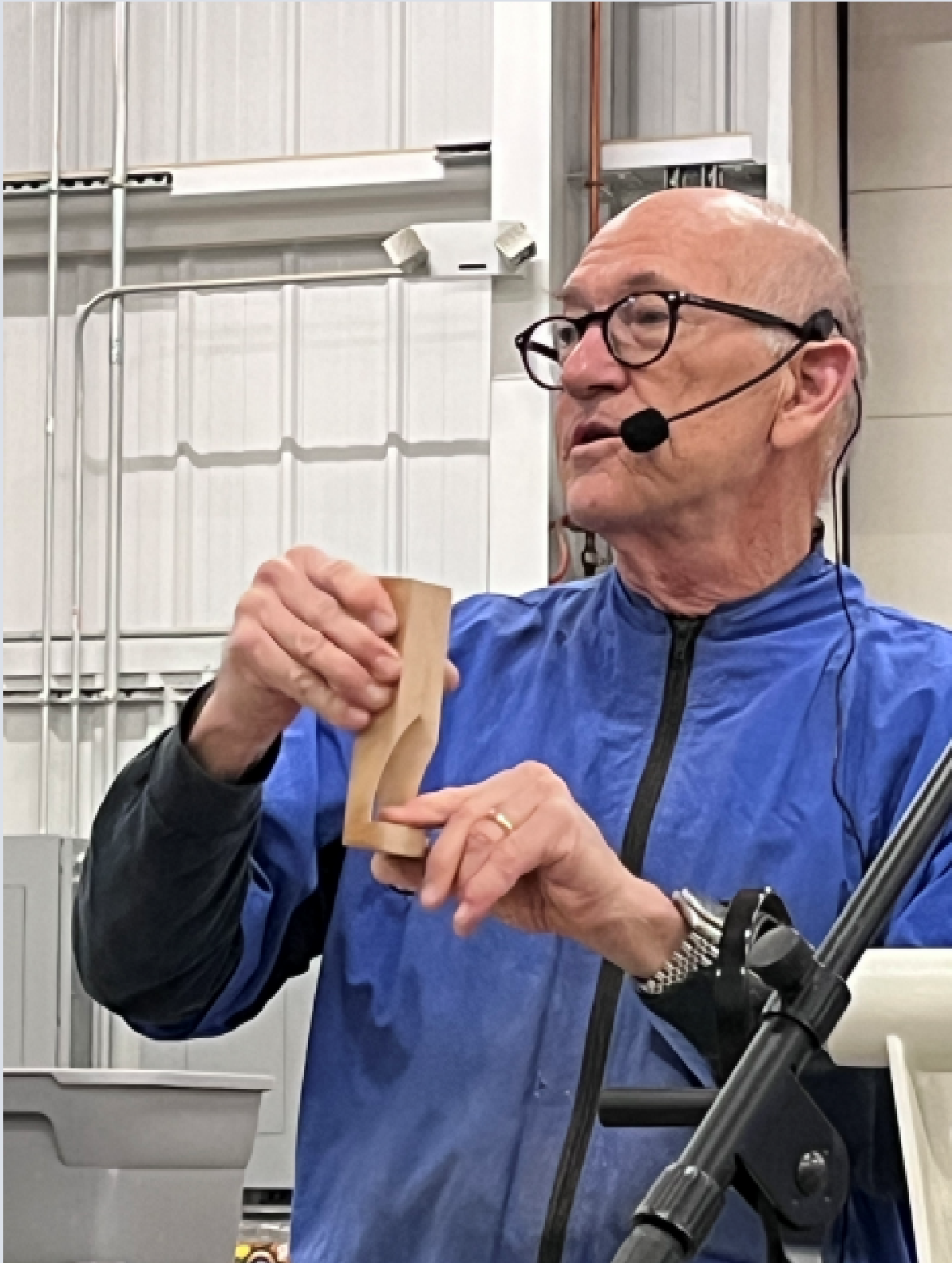






































# April Show & Tell

*Photos courtesy of Bob Holcombe*



Dave Davis



Aaron Boyer



Vaughn Graber



Ross Hirst



Robert Kloppenborg



Dennis Biggs



## Share your Knowledge

Share an idea or skill with us

Credit to AAW

AAW has many articles on their website for projects for all levels of turner

# Woodturning Fundamentals

Online Publication of the American Association of Woodturners

About

Latest Articles

Archives

Getting Published

Advertise

## Latest Articles:



### Turn a Spoon

Published on 3/23/2026

A turned kitchen spoon makes a memorable gift that the recipient can use daily. To learn how to complete this simple project, read Michael Hamilton-Clark's "Turn a Spoon" article in Woodturning Fundamentals.



### Turning Wooden Jar Lids

Published on 3/4/2026

Looking for a quick and easy project that puts woodturning within easy reach? Check out Dustin Davis' article, "Turning Wooden Jar Lids," and personalize your canning jars.

Below are resources that the club has donated to Rock Creek's wood shop .If you have interest in checking one of these items out, they are available to members.

1	Turning Wood with Richard Raffan	21	Tips for Turners #3 by David Ellsworth, DVD
2	Turning Boxes with Richard Raffan	22	Turning Wood with Richard Raffan, DVD
3	Woodturning: A Foundation Course by Keith Rowley	23	Turning Boxes with Richard Raffan, DVD
4	Turning Projects by Richard Raffan	24	Turning Bowls with Richard Raffan, DVD
5	Turning Wood with Richard Raffan	25	The Art of Turned Bowls by Richard Raffan
6	Getting Started in Woodturning, from AAW	26	The Art of Segmented Turning by Malcolm Tibbetts
7	Understanding Wood Finishing by Bob Flexner	27	The Art of Segmented Turning by Malcolm Tibbetts
8	Turning Wood with Richard Raffan	28	Bandsaw Handbook by Mark Duginske
9	Turning for Food by Nick Cook, DVD	29	Create the Perfect Wood Finish by Joe L' Erario
10	Elegant Finials by Cindy Drozda, DVD	30	Lathe Fundamentals by Rick Peters
11	Turning It Up Vol. 1 with Jimmy Clewes, DVD	31	Woodturning Today from AAW
12	Turning it up Vol. 2 with Jimmy Clewes, DVD	32	Woodturning Tips and Techniques by Carol Rix
13	Turning it up Vol. 3 with Jimmy Clewes, DVD	33	Woodturning Techniques by Woodturning Magazine
14	Turn it on Vol. 1 with Jimmy Clewes, DVD	34	Creative Woodturning by Dale Nish
15	Turn it on Vol. 2 with Jimmy Clewes, DVD	35	Turned Chessmen by Mike Darlow
16	Turn it on Vol. 3 with Jimmy Clewes, DVD	36	A Sourcebook of Shapes by John Hunnex
17	The Art of Hosaluk in Woodturning by Michael Hosaluk, DVD	37	Foolproof Wood Finishing by Teri Masachi
18	Turn Around with Jimmy Clewes, DVD	38	The Skew by Alan Lacer, DVD
19	Back to Basics with Jimmy Clewes, DVD	39	Shopmade Woodturning Tools by Alan Lacer, DVD
20	Bowl Turning by John Jordan, DVD		



**Gordons Custom Sawmill**  
**4410 102<sup>nd</sup> Rd**  
**Delia, KS 66418**

Chris Gordon, owner

785.554.2918

Gordonsmill.com



## Skill enhancement

On April 7<sup>th</sup>, club members met at Tom Boley's shop to work on skills. Any number of turning related skills are available to be worked on at Skill Enhancement.

**Our next Skill Enhancement will be May 14, 7-9pm in Tom Boley's shop.**

Several of our members have volunteered to be available to those looking to practice, learn new techniques, and improve their woodturning skills. These mentors will lend their time and skill help. Just give one of the mentors listed below a call or e-mail so we can determine how best to help and to set up a time to meet. The club is very interested in this new skill building effort and we are looking forward to hearing from you.

- Steve Bietau, West Manhattan, (785) 317-3179, [sabietau@gmail.com](mailto:sabietau@gmail.com)
- Tom Shields, Central Manhattan, (785) 341-9969, [5tommyshields@gmail.com](mailto:5tommyshields@gmail.com)
- Dennis Biggs, Abilene, (785) 479-6601, [dbiggsgolf@yahoo.com](mailto:dbiggsgolf@yahoo.com)
- Randy Zelenka, West Manhattan, (785) 477-4587, [vzelenka@cox.net](mailto:vzelenka@cox.net)
- Tom Boley, near Wamego, (785) 456-7890, [tboley10@gmail.com](mailto:tboley10@gmail.com)
- Ross Hirst (penturning), Topeka, (785) 249-7936, [ross.i.hirst@cox.net](mailto:ross.i.hirst@cox.net)
- Robert Kloppenborg, Marysville, (785) 713-0658, [bjklop@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bjklop@sbcglobal.net)

## For newer and seasoned woodturners

AAW offers many online resources on their website to help with your woodturning journey.

From the AAW website



### Woodturning Tool Talk with Cindy Drozda

When: Apr 24, 2026 from 02:00 PM to 03:00 PM (ET)

Watch live online woodturning, and join the conversation, at my Free Friday Tool Talk! It's free and open to everyone. I share woodturning techniques, using or sharpening tools, and interesting Woodturning stuff. Learn about my upcoming events. Say Hello, comment, or ask a question. Win a prize in the raffle! Subscribe to my list and get the links to free events by email. Please share with your woodturning friends and club members!

<https://www.cindydrozda.com/>

## AAW Forum Highlights

### Fundamentals



Video: Seven Principles of  
Woodturning with Stuart Batty  
(TRT 1:33:03)

#### **Want to connect with other woodturners?**

Sign up for the AAW Forum, a member moderated online community ideal for sharing work, ideas, and obtaining feedback from other woodturning enthusiasts. You can upload photos, converse with other woodturners, and maybe even see your work as a "Turning of the Week."

[Click here to learn more](#)

## Don't Forget!

- The AAW member [Remote Demonstration Calendar](#) features online woodturning demonstrations presented by AAW members.
- To become an AAW member, or to renew your AAW membership, please visit: [AAW Membership Home](#).

**Upcoming Woodturning Events**



**2026 AAW International Woodturning Symposium**  
June 4-7, 2026  
Raleigh Convention Center  
Raleigh, NC

You can register now for our annual symposium. And you should do it now to take advantage of early signup discounts!

**Register for the Symposium**



## **2026 WIT Virtual eXchange**

**Coming up! WIT Exchange online presentations! Each group created not only a collaborative artwork but a short video about their piece, their inspirations, and their eXchange experience.**

**Save the date! April 18th, via Zoom, 4-5:30PM Eastern. All welcome. Free. [Preregistration starts April 1.](#)**

### **AAW Membership**

- WIT offers a limited number of one-year AAW memberships to new women turners. [Click here to apply.](#)
- There is a 90-day AAW Affiliate membership that may be offered to new chapter members, [click here.](#)

<https://www.woodturner.org/Woodturner/2020%20Grants/WIT%20membership.aspx>

These Affiliate memberships are available to new members only and offer the benefits and resources of AAW membership for a full 90-days.

Gretchen Wilbrandt, AAW Executive Director  
Kimberly Winkle, AAW WIT Committee Chair



## **WIT Liaison**

### **Letter to Chapter Officers**

AAW is seeking a member of your chapter (either a woman or a man) to be your chapter's liaison with the AAW Women in Turning (WIT) committee. [Chapter WIT Liaison job description.](#)

<https://www.woodturner.org/Woodturner/Chapters/Chapter-Officers-Toolkit/Chapter-Job-Descriptions.aspx>

Our goal is to work with chapters to increase the number of women members in chapters and AAW. There is a large, untapped group of people that we can reach out to and spread the joy of woodturning.

There are several chapters that have already implemented programs to help mentor and teach women to turn in comfortable learning settings. We would like to see that number grow. By building these contacts with individual chapters and gathering information about ways chapters are organizing their efforts to expand outreach to women, we will be able to create a Best Practices document that all chapters can use in their outreach efforts.

### **WIT Liaison Communications**

When you become a Liaison, you become part of the Liaison Community. You will get emails about upcoming events, information, and questions through the online Community. There are discussions and resources on the Community site at [WIT Chapter Liaisons - American Association of Woodturners.](#)

<https://woodturner.org/Woodturner/WIT/WIT-Home-Page.aspx?100134f70e4f=11#100134f70e4f>



## 2026 Board Members



**President**  
Barbra Drolet



**Vice President**  
Dave Davis



**Secretary**  
Ned Gatewood



**Treasurer**  
Ross Hirst



**Operations**  
Randy Zelenka



**Program Director**  
Ken Stitt



**Member at Large**  
Bob Holcombe

**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.

**If you would like more information about our club, please visit our website:**  
<https://flinthillswoodturners.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.



## Flint Hills Woodturners Upcoming Events

**Flint Hills Woodturners monthly meeting..... May 2 8:30 to Noon**

**Flint Hills Festival, Blue Earth Plaza..... May 2 10am to 5pm**

**Skill Enhancement, Tom Boley's shop.....May 14, 7 to 9pm**

**Flint Hills Woodturners June meeting..... June 6 8:30 to Noon**

**Flint Hills Woodturners July meeting..... June 27, 8:30 to Noon  
(July meeting conflicts with 4<sup>th</sup> of July so, it will be a week early)**



**Rock Creek High School  
Home of the Flint Hills Woodturners  
9355 Flush Rd, St George (Flush), KS 66535**

**From Manhattan:**

Take HWY 24 East toward Wamego to Flush Road. Flush Road is 5.7 miles from the McCall/HWY 24 intersection and is flagged with a speed limit of 60 mph. Go left (North) on Flush Rd for 7.2 miles.

**From Wamego:**

Take HWY 24 West toward Manhattan to Flush Road. Flush Road is 7.3 miles from the KS-99/HWY 24 intersection and is flagged with a speed limit of 60 mph. Go right (North) on Flush Rd for 7.2 miles.

Please park and enter the building through the door by the greenhouse.

