



Flint Hills



WOODTURNERS

August 2026

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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



August Club Event

Turning a Three-Legged Stool *With Bob Holcombe*



At our August meeting, Bob Holcombe will demonstrate turning a three-legged stool.

Saturday, August 1st, 2026

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

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



Vista
DRIVE IN

Ya Gotta Eat!

Wednesday August 19th 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!***



July Meeting Minutes

Recorded by Ned Gatewood

Flint Hills Woodturners

Rock Creek High School, St. George, Kansas

The July 2026 meeting of the Flint Hills Woodturners was held on June 27 to avoid conflict with July 4th. Twenty-nine members were in attendance. The meeting was called to order by President Barb Drolet.

Officers' Reports:

President – Barb Drolet thanked those who helped set-up the audio visual equipment for today's meeting. The next skill enhancement opportunity is July 22 at Tom Boley's shop. Tom asked that people planning to attend call him first so he will know how many people to anticipate.

Vice President and Newsletter Editor – No report.

Secretary – No report.

Treasurer – Ross Hirst reported we have \$3,715.90 in the treasury and \$2.45 in cash. The only expense for the month was \$5 in bank fees.

Program Director – Ken Stitt reported the demonstration today will be Ross Hirst making Christmas ornaments. The August demonstration will be by Bob Holcombe demonstrating the making of a three-legged stool. The August demonstration is open; volunteers are needed. In September, Chris and MaKaden Gordon of Gordon Sawmill will demonstrate the operation of their sawmill. It was suggested we have a tips and tricks demonstration in one of the coming months.

Operations – No report.

Member-at-Large – No report.

Show and Tell – Victor Schwarz, Dennis Biggs, Robert Kloppenborg, MaKaden Gordon, Terry Schmidt, Tom Boley, Vaughn Graber, James Skees, Duane Fischer and Loren Wassenberg presented their recent work.



July Meeting Minutes

Demonstration – This month's demonstration was Ross Hirst turning a Christmas ornament. The design is similar to one found in the November 2017 edition of American Association of Woodturners magazine. Ross makes about 20 to 30 of these each Christmas, and they are in high demand by his family and friends.

Ross began by mounting a two-to-three-inch length of wood in the lathe. He uses ash wood from blanks sold at Woodcraft or Rockler's for making baseball bats. He turns the ash blank down to 2 inches in diameter, turns a tenon on one end, and remounts the piece in the chuck. Next, a 1 1/8" diameter hole was drilled about an inch into the piece's end. Ross prefers carbide tip Forstner bits, as they are a good investment when making multiple turnings. At the end of the blank, Ross shaped a 3/4" wide ring with a rounded outside surface. This ring is to be the central portion of the ornament, to which a finial will be attached. The ring was then parted off resulting in a 2" diameter by 3/4" wide ring with a 1 1/8" hole in its center.

The ring was then mounted onto the lathe using a shop made collet and shaped into the final form of the ornament's ring. He then applied a textured finish using a Sorbey texturing tool, and then he colored the ring using colored Sharpie markers. Next, Ross turned plugs of a contrasting wood species and color for each side of the ring's hole and glued them in place.

The finial was made next with a spindle gauge using more of the baseball bat stock. With the stock in the chuck, Ross first made a 1/4" tenon for mounting the finial on the central ring. A 1/4" open end wrench was used to size the tenon. The finial was then shaped and colored with a Sharpie marker.

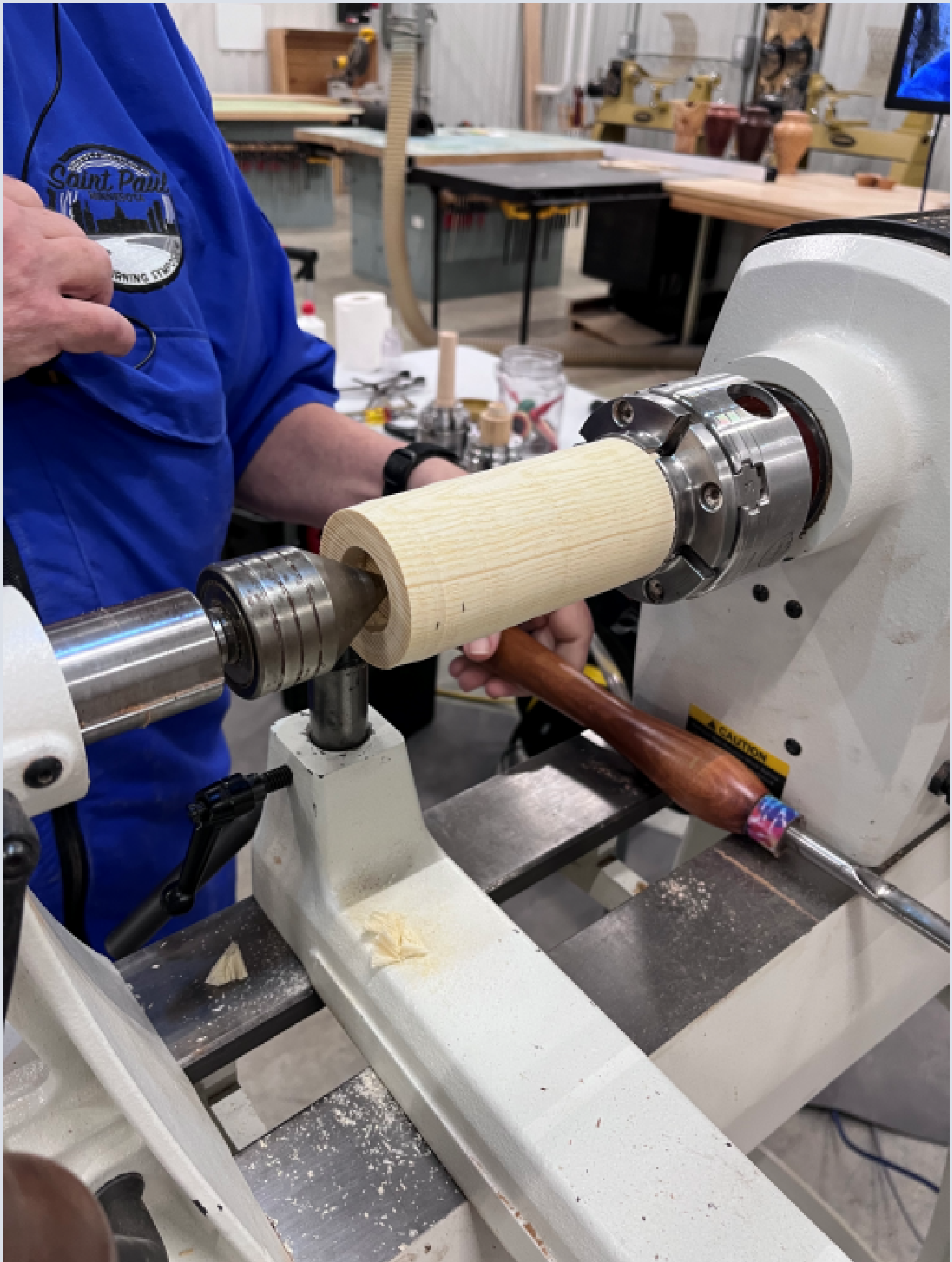
To complete the ornament, a 1/4" hole was bored in the ring for mounting the finial using another shop made jig to hold the ring securely in the drill press. Lastly, Ross uses a water based polyurethane finish for his ornaments.

The next meeting is August 1.

July Demonstration Making a Christmas Ornament

































July Show & Tell

Photos courtesy of Bob Holcombe







Robert Kloppenborg



Dennis Biggs



Tom Boley



Tom Boley



Tom Boley



Terry Schmidt



Terry Schmidt



Victor Schwarz



MaKaden Gordon



Vaughn Graber



Loren Wassenberg



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](#)

Featured Article: Spruce up Gardening Tools!

Gardening tools are appreciated by anyone with a green thumb, so why not create a matching set with custom-turned handles? Check out Rick Rich's Kit Corner article, "Spruce up Gardening Tools," in Woodturning Fundamentals.



Woodturning Fundamentals is Your Place to Learn

Our Woodturning Fundamentals pages include a range of projects to help you turn items that are fun or practical or simply whimsical. And with several of these projects, you can download PDFs to easily take these guides to your woodshop. We're adding more PDFs regularly.

This part of our website also includes a Learning Portal that shares stories of woodturning beyond just projects. It includes guides for safe operation, skill building and more. Check it out.

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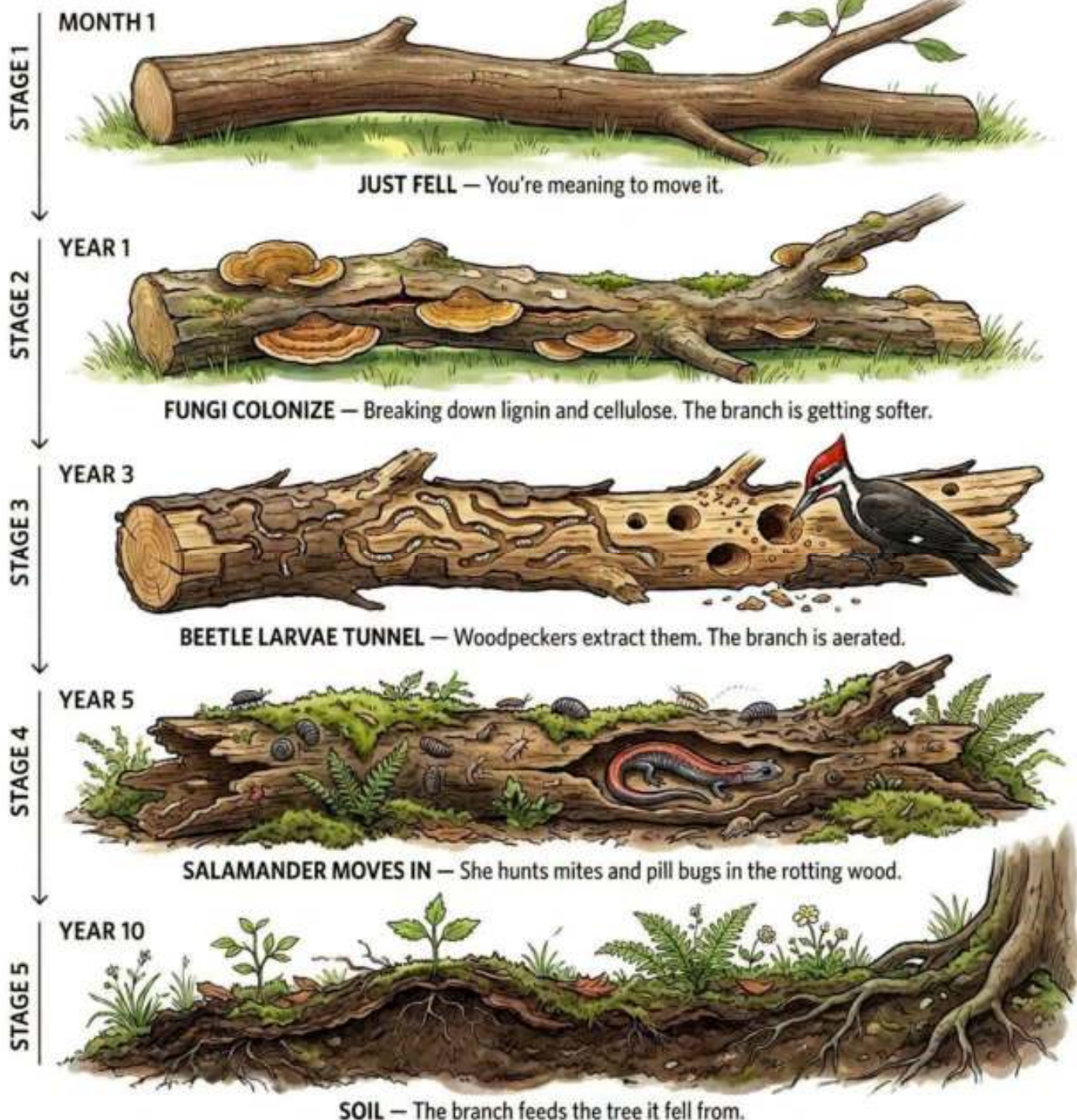
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Woodturning Fundamentals

For newer and seasoned woodturners

YOU ALMOST HAULED IT TO THE CURB.

30 Species Are Using It Now.



• 30+ species — Over one branch's lifetime • Fungi → beetles → woodpecker → salamander → soil • You almost threw this away.

A fallen branch isn't debris. It's a building under construction.

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 Duglinski
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 102nd Rd
Delia, KS 66418

Chris Gordon, owner

785.554.2918

Gordonsmill.com



Skill enhancement

Any number of turning related skills are available to be worked on at Skill Enhancement.

Our next Skill Enhancement will be Thursday, August 13 , 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
- Dennis Biggs, Abilene, (785) 479-6601, dbiggsgolf@yahoo.com
- Tom Boley, near Wamego, (785) 456-7890, tboley10@gmail.com
- Ross Hirst (penturning), Topeka, (785) 249-7936, ross.i.hirst@cox.net
- Robert Kloppenborg, Marysville, (785) 713-0658, bjklop@sbcglobal.net
- Tom Shields, Central Manhattan, (785) 341-9969, 5tommyshields@gmail.com
- Randy Zelenka, West Manhattan, (785) 477-4587, vzelenka@cox.net



The mission of WIT is to encourage and retain women in woodturning. Here are some suggestions of how you can help:

- 1) Introduce a friend or neighbor to woodturning by bringing her to a chapter meeting,
- 2) Accompany her to an open shop session,
- 3) Teach her in your own shop, and/or
- 4) Offer to be her mentor for a year.

If there is a new member in your chapter who is not yet a member of AAW, tell her about AAW's 90-day guest membership:

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

Pay it forward. Instead of telling a new member about the guest membership, buy her a membership. In return, she can pay it forward by bringing another new member into the AAW. This generous gift may be the beginning of a lifetime of enjoyment for many new woodturners.

Grants

•WIT/Other Under-represented Populations Events & Exhibitions Grant: The purpose of this grant is to help fund activities that promote diversity in woodturning and to encourage participation in the AAW by traditionally under-represented populations. Audiences include but are not limited to Black, indigenous, other peoples of color, women, and members of the LGBTQIA+ and disabilities communities. [Click here for details and to apply.](#)

AAW Membership Grant: The AAW's Women in Turning (WIT) Committee is "dedicated to encouraging and assisting women in their pursuit of turning, sharing ideas and processes to further member's skills and creativity, and increasing participation of women in the field of woodturning." Currently, women comprise less than 9% of AAW membership. To encourage women to join AAW, the WIT Committee offers a limited number of WIT-sponsored AAW memberships to women for a one-year AAW General membership. [Click here for details and to apply.](#)

For more information contact Melissa McIntyre, our FHW WIT representative.

Women in Turning - Sharing Experiences

Arizona Woodturners by Sarah Slocum

The Arizona Woodturners WIT group has been busy exploring new techniques or ideas during each of the last 6 months. During the last days of the Arizona State Fair many of the women turned tops for kids and other items during their shifts.

In the workshop we explored making kitchen tools, spoons, French rolling pins and biscuit cutters. We also made ring boxes with Sputnik shells (idea from Sally Ault) and delved into captive rings while making baby rattles. Another month we worked on off-center turning, making groovy mushrooms with the option of a dirty pour on top. Last month one of the men from our club led us in making barrel staves for the Beads of Courage boxes.

Our group is expanding in size, confidence, and abilities. We have so much talent to tap into. It makes it all worthwhile when I go to the monthly meeting and see WIT member's completed items on the table and know that they continued to work on projects at home after our class!

There are so many ideas left to tackle.



First State Woodturners by Marge Sloan

Naomi Michelle, a First State Woodturner WIT member, won the Novice Award at the Mid-Atlantic Woodturning Symposium. She has been turning for only a few months.





2026 Board Members



President
Barbara 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

Set up for August meeting, RCHS July 31, 3:30pm

Flint Hills Woodturners August meeting..... August 1, 8:30 to Noon

Skill Enhancement, Tom Boley's shop, Wednesday, August 13th, 7to9pm

Ya Gotta Eat..... Wednesday August 19, Vista Drive In.. Noon

Flint Hills Woodturners September meeting.....Sept. 5th, 8:30 to noon

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to submit articles or information related to woodturning for the newsletter



**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.

