



Flint Hills



WOODTURNERS

October 2026

In this newsletter:

October Club Event...	3
Ya Gotta Eat ...	4
September Meeting Minutes..	5
September Demo Photos....	7
September Show & Tell ...	20
Share Your Knowledge ...	24
Woodturning Media.....	26
Skill Enhancement.....	27
Women in Turning...	28
Club Information ...	31
Upcoming Events ..	32
Meeting Location Map ...	33



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



October Club Event

Sawmill Demo ***With Chris & MaKaden Gordon***

At this meeting, Chris and Makaden will discuss and show the stress that is in every log and how they work with it to make flat lumber. This information should help people learn the best place to grab turning blanks or flat stock from a log.

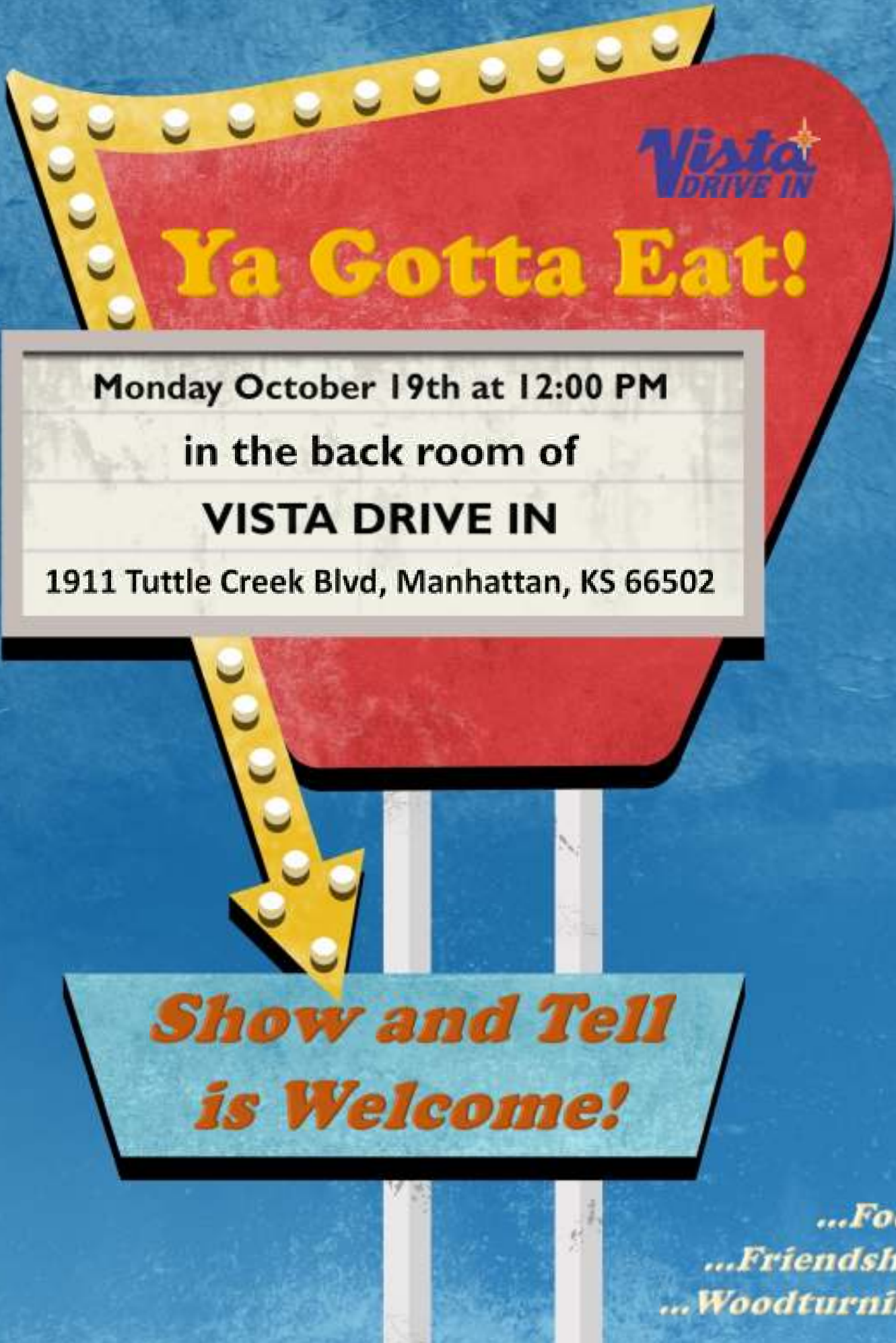
Anyone attending this meeting should dress for the weather and bring hearing protection for the outdoor portion of the meeting, as the sawmill can be quite loud.



Saturday, October 3rd, 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!

Monday October 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!***



September Meeting Minutes

Recorded by Ned Gatewood

Flint Hills Woodturners

Rock Creek High School, St. George, Kansas

The September 2026 meeting of the Flint Hills Woodturners was called to order by President Barbara Drolet. Thirty-three members were in attendance.

Officers' Reports:

President – Barbara Drolet welcomed guests Ed, Emma, and Mike to the meeting. A sign-up sheet for those wishing to have their contact information distributed to the membership was circulated. Nyle Larson thanked members who took some of the walnut wood he recently gave away and for their donations to the Meadowlark Parkinson's program, which totaled \$400. He also offered to members some tools for sale. You Gotta Eat is September 17, and Skill Enhancement is September 15.

Vice President and Newsletter Editor – Absent, No report.

Secretary – No report.

Treasurer – Ross Hirst reported a treasury balance of \$4,180.81. He also reported we are no longer required by the bank to pay a monthly fee for our checking account.

Program Director – Ken Stitt reported today's demonstration will be Tom Boley making trivets. The October demonstration will be Chris and MaKaden Gordon of Gordon Sawmill demonstrating the operation of their sawmill. Volunteers are needed for the November and December demonstrations. Barbara Drolet reminded members of the available budget and requested members contact Ken with suggestions for in person or remote demonstrators.

Operations – No report.

Member-at-Large – No report.



September Meeting Minutes

Show and Tell - Dennis Biggs, Akeem Waite, Ross Hurst, and Tom Shields presented their recent work.

Demonstration - This month's demonstration was Tom Boley making a trivet. Tom began with what he said is the most important part of making trivets: making a jig to mount the wood blank on the lathe in which two separate axes can be turned. The jig consists of two pieces of half inch plywood fashioned as described in the handout Tom prepared and distributed. A round, half inch thick, blank was mounted in the jig, and one quarter inch deep concentric grooves were cut into the blank. The grooves were first laid out using a bead cutting tool, then cut to final width and depth with a thin parting tool. With the grooves cut on one side of the trivet, the blank is turned around in the jig for making grooves on the other side. A removable half-moon section of the jig facilitates the grooves on this reverse side being cut off center from the grooves on the first side of the trivet. Three groups of small, concentric circles are cut one quarter of an inch deep. The quarter inch deep circles on each side of the trivet results in an interesting, see-through pattern. General Finishes Wood Bowl Finish is typically used on Tom's trivets.

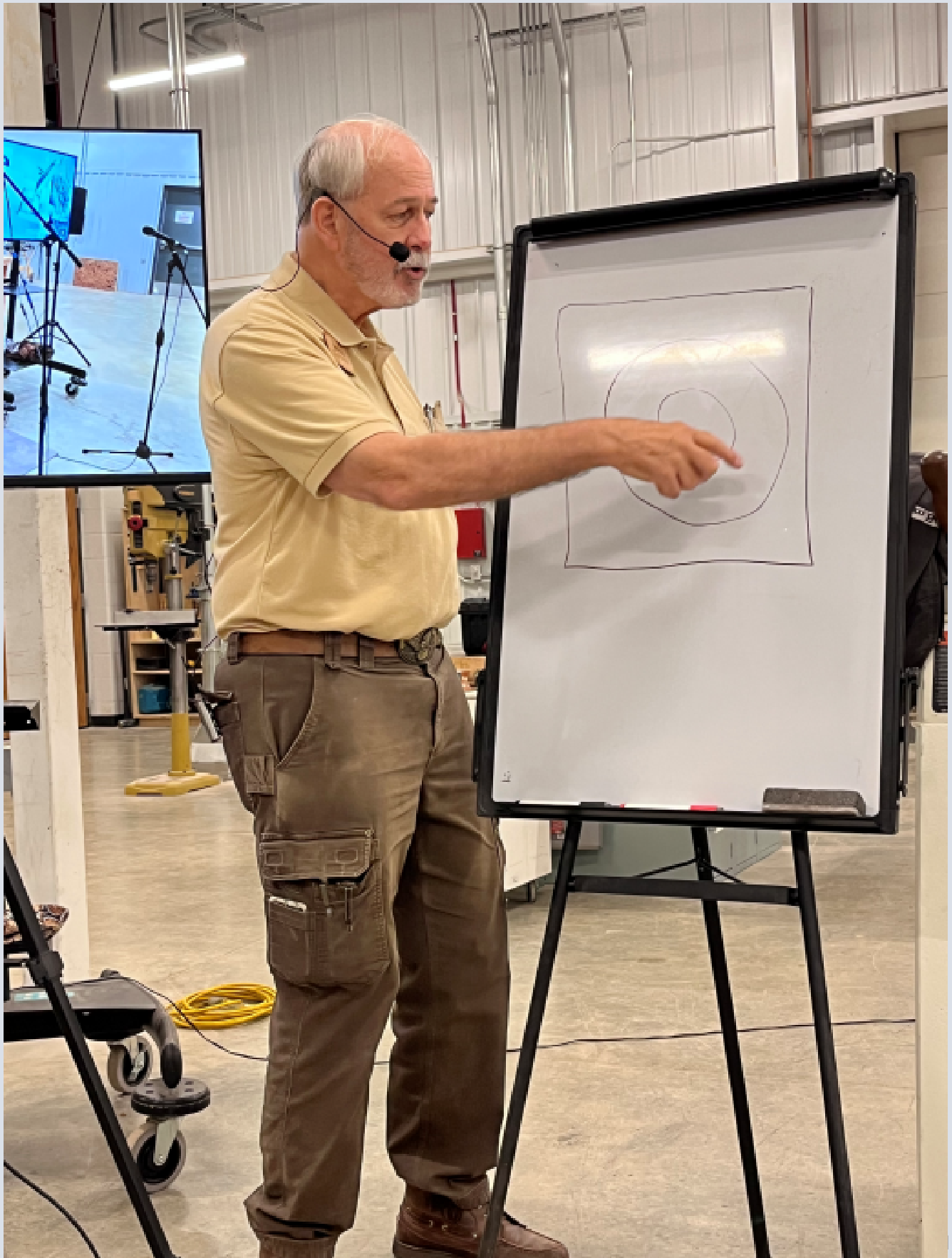
The next meeting is October 3.

September Demonstration Making a Trivet





























September Show and Tell



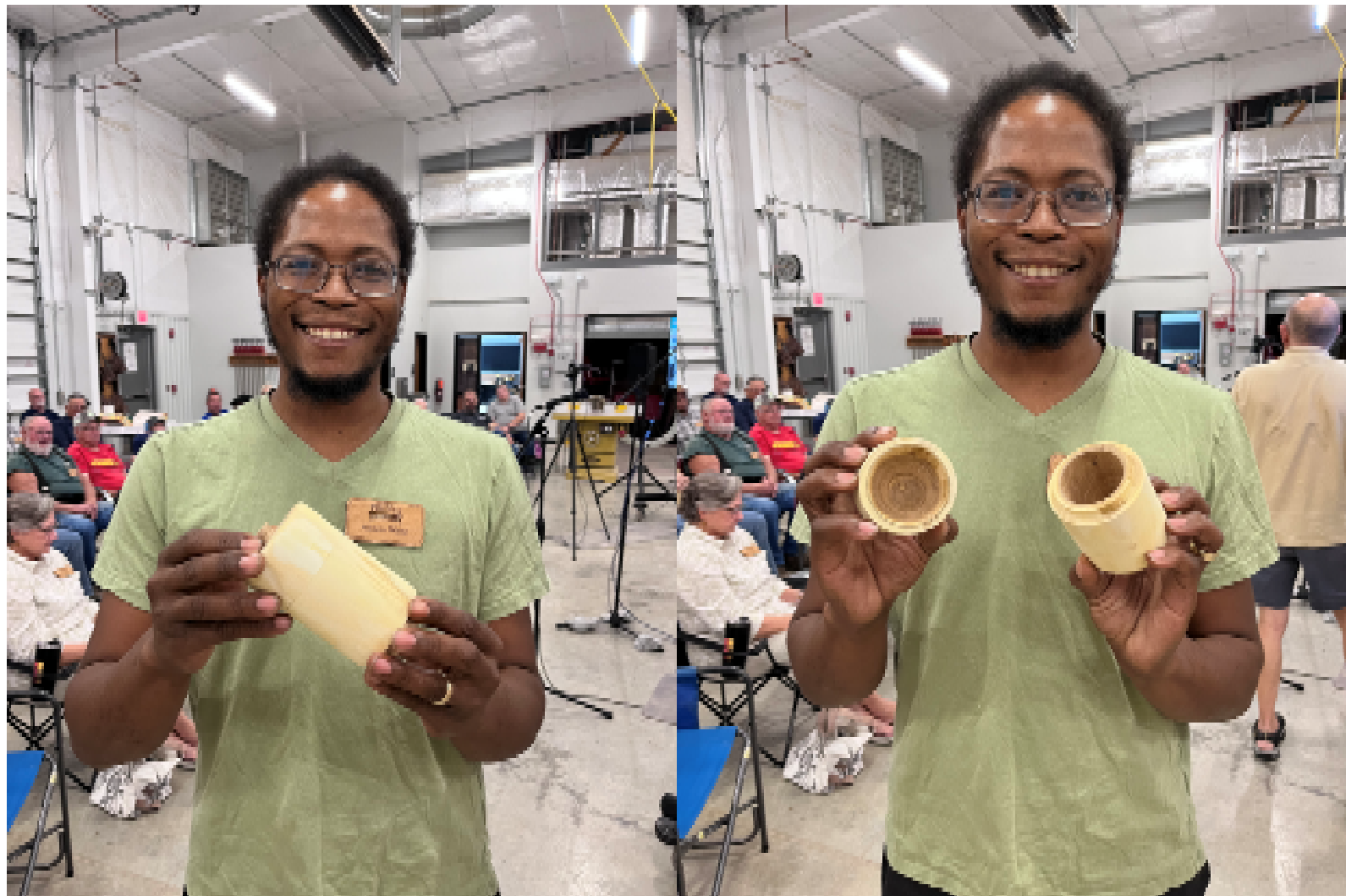
Tom Shields



Dennis Biggs



Ross Hirst



Akeem Waite

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

Captive Rings ON A GOBLET BOX

Rick Rich

Photos by Daniel Massie

Few woodturning techniques give rise to such admiration and wonder as rings of wood captured around a piece. People study them closely, then ask how the rings got there. Some decide the rings had to have been made, divided, then glued back together into their present place. How else could it have been done?

I don't recall when I turned my first captive-ring piece, but making them seems much easier now. Some of my first attempts, which were baby rattles, have been saved by family members, and they certainly inspire me to do better. As with most projects done repeatedly, the completion time decreases and the finished products get smoother and better proportioned.

My vases, boxes, and rattles with captive rings are quite simple and utilitarian in design. With proper tool control, this small goblet-style box made from a pruned branch (in this case, western big leaf maple) is well within the ability of most woodturners. It involves basic spindle turning and a touch of endgrain hollowing, with the added twist of rings about the stem and a natural-edge base. It's small, makes a nice gift, and is an excellent project for enhancing your skills.

The wood I prefer turning is freshly cut, usually a branch trimmed only a few hours prior. With correct tool use, green wood cuts nice and clean, including the interior, which I hollow with a scraper. Because sanding green wood seems to clog the abrasive quickly, I tend not to sand my work much. The upside

to limited sanding is that it forces me to maintain proper technique.

The captive-ring tool

Most of the captive rings I make are completed with a specialized commercial tool, but I know that many woodturners are quite capable of making such a tool themselves. In addition to cost savings, another benefit of making your own tool is having control of the ring size, as commercial tools determine and limit the ring size. I do have a somewhat rough looking ring tool I made myself, but it requires much more concentration to keep the rings round than the commercial tool, so I gravitate to the easier store-bought tool most often.

The ring tool I use has two bevels, one on each face of the blade, and makes scraping cuts on both sides to form the captive ring (*Photo 1*). When sharpening the tool, I've found that a quick honing of both bevels with a small diamond hone makes for quicker and cleaner cuts. My current tool is several years old and stays very sharp just with honing. A grinder isn't necessary and might change the tool's shape.

Remember, a captive-ring tool is only a scraper. The ring is made by first turning an appropriate sized bead and then using the ring tool to undercut the bottom of the bead. The most important part is keeping the bead shape on the bottom side, making a perfectly round ring. It's this undercutting with the ring tool

that can cause tearout, most notably on the sides of the ring at the endgrain and especially with a dull tool. When I use a freshly honed tool and moderate cutting speed and pressure, I usually get good results. It's when I'm hurrying and pushing the tool too hard that I get noticeable tearout.

Another consideration that deserves attention is tool clearance. The flat of the tool behind the bevel should stay flat on the toolrest. Having the toolrest too close can result in the long bevel itself resting on the toolrest and coming in at an angle. This leads to odd-shaped rings because the underside is not cut in a uniform bead. You must also remove enough material



For newer and seasoned woodturners

Credit to AAW Beyond the Bevel

Member Moderated Forum



**Turning of the Week -
September 14
Jim Hills
[Palms](#)**



**August Turning
Challenge
Small & Green: 1st
Place
[Kimberly Franzen](#)**



**August Turning
Challenge
Small & Green: 2nd
Place
[Todd Carris](#)**



**August Turning
Challenge
Small & Green: 3rd
Place
[Dave Potts](#)**

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 Wednesday, October 14, 7-9 pm in Tom Boley's shop. There a \$5 fee for incidentals that goes to the club.

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 (pen turning), 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 the 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.

Woodturning Featured at Denver International Airport by Debra Higley

An exhibition at Denver International Airport (DIA) that is entitled *A Cut Above*, showcases Colorado artists working in wood. Information that includes location, artist bios, and a photo gallery are at <https://www.flydenver.com/art-exhibits/a-cut-above-colorado-artists-working-in-wood/>.

Turners within Ladies of the Lathe (LOTL) are part of this twenty-artist art show at DIA. LOTL is part of Front Range Woodturners in the Denver metro area. Creations from Debra Higley, Robyn Herman, Marcee Morris, and Brenda Blaesing show part of the diverse world of woodturning. Other displays include art from Cindy Drozda, Trent and Kailee Bosch, Laurent Niclot, students from Red Rocks Community College, and others. Furniture and carvings are also featured. The exhibit will be on display through August 30. It's located on the walking bridge leading to the A Concourse past airport security. It is a wonderful display of woodworking art.



**YOU TOLD ME YOU
HAD ALOT OF
MONEY INVESTED**

**YEAH.... IN MY
WOODSHOP**





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

Flint Hills Woodturners October meeting October 3, 8:30 to Noon
This meeting includes an outdoor demonstration. Please dress appropriately for the weather and bring your hearing protection.

Skill Enhancement, Tom Boley's shop.....October 14th, 7 to 9pm
There is a \$5 fee that goes to the club

Ya Gotta Eat..... Monday, October 19th..... Vista Drive In.. Noon

Flint Hills Woodturners November meeting.....Nov 7th, 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.

