



Flint Hills

WOODTURNERS

September 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

September Club Event

Turning a Trivet *With Tom Boley*



At our September meeting, Tom Boley will demonstrate turning a trivet .

Saturday, September 5th, 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!

Thursday September 17th 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!***



August Meeting Minutes

Recorded by Ned Gatewood

Flint Hills Woodturners

Rock Creek High School, St. George, Kansas

The August 1st, 2026 meeting of the Flint Hills Woodturners was called to order by President Barbara Drolet. Thirty-eight members were in attendance.

Officers' Reports:

President – Barbara Drolet said some members have expressed an interest in having a membership directory. She circulated a list to indicate if you want to be in the directory. Nyle Larson announced he has some walnut wood available to members on Saturday, August 8, from 8am to noon at 2616 Eureka Terrace. Funds raised will be donated to Speedy PD, a worthy cause serving those in Manhattan with Parkinson Disease. He also will be selling soon a variety of tools. Terry Goddard announced he has some cedar logs for sale at \$25 each. Lowell Regehr said he has a vacuum pump and other similar pumps for sale.

Vice President and Newsletter Editor – Dave Davis asked if everybody is getting the emailed newsletters. He also asked the membership to submit ideas and articles for the newsletter. And if anybody has turning tools for sale, he'd be happy to list them in the newsletter.

Secretary – No report.

Treasurer – Ross Hirst reported a treasury balance of \$3,838.81. Expenses last month were for the bank fee, coffee, the auction, and for name tags.

Program Director – Ken Stitt reported today's demonstration will be Bob Holcombe making a three-legged stool. In September, Tom Boley will be demonstrating a topic to be determined. The October demonstration will be Chris and MaKaden Gordon of Gordon Sawmill demonstrating the operation of their sawmill. A volunteer is needed for the November demonstration.

Operations – No report.

Member-at-Large – No report.

Show and Tell:

Dennis Biggs; Robert Kloppenborg; Chris and MaKaden Gordon and Jaxon Stum; Tom Boley; Barabara Drolet; Don Baker; Dave Davis; Dan Zeller; and Dennis Waite presented their recent work.



August Meeting Minutes

Demonstration:

This month's demonstration was Bob Holcombe making a three-legged stool. Bob began with a blank of 12"x13" x 8/4 soft maple, and he laid-out the twelve inch diameter of the stool top (his lathe has a twelve-inch diameter capacity) and three 7/8" leg holes 120 degrees apart. The holes are placed two inches from the top's edge. The holes, and later the legs and stretchers, are numbered to keep them organized. He then cut out the stool top on the bandsaw.

The three holes for the legs were drilled on a drill press using a shop made jig holding the stool top at an angle of fifteen degrees while the holes are drilled. Stool and chair makers generally angle their legs between twelve and fifteen degrees.

Bob next used a spike plate to mount the stool's top on the lathe. The spike plate is a wood disk mounted on a screw chuck, and in the disk are numerous sheetrock screw extending through the disk's other side about 1/8", and these screws hold the workpiece in the lathe with pressure from the tail stock. The stool's top surface faces the spike plate. The bottom surface of the stool's top and the top's edge were shaped, and a tenon formed for later mounting.

Next, the stool's top was mounted on the lathe with the tenon formed on the underside of the stool top. The stool's top surface and edge were shaped. Bob stools are 17" to 18" tall, and he prefers a flat-top stool instead of a concave one. He finds flat tops more comfortable to sit on and often his stools are used as tables.

Bob remounted the top using a Glenn Lucas style jamb chuck and the tailstock to hold the top in place. The tenon was reshaped into a decorative element.

Next, the three legs were turned with a spindle roughing gouge from the same 8/4 soft maple used to make the top. Straight grained wood makes stronger legs. A story stick helps lay-out features along the three legs. Preset calipers were set to measure several diameters along the length and to size a 7/8" tenon at the legs' ends. Legs were numbered to match the holes. Using a handheld drill guided and a digital angle device and a laser beam, Bob drilled half inch holes in the legs for the stretchers.

When the legs are formed and the legs tenons fit well into the seat holes, the stretchers were made from ash or hickory. Two stretchers in a t-shape configuration were made. Pinch sticks aid in measuring the stretchers' lengths. The stretchers were turned with a 1/2" tenon on each end.

With the top, legs, and stretchers made, saw kerfs were cut in the legs tenons to receive wedges made of a contrasting wood color. Wedges were placed parallel to the grain of the legs.



August Meeting Minutes

The parts are now complete. Gluing the top, legs, and stretchers can be stressful. Numbering the parts is helpful. Tightbond Type III glue is applied to all the parts and are assembled at once. Before the glue dries, the wedges are hammered into the kerfs in the legs. Bob uses a wipe-on polyurethane or milk paint finish.

The next meeting is September 5.

August Demonstration Making a Three Legged Stool





























August Show and Tell



Dennis Waite

Don Baker



Dennis Biggs

Tom Boley



Dave Davis



Dan Zeller



Barbara Drolet

Jaxon Stum



Makaden Gordon

Chris Gordon



Robert Kloppenborg



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

A quick index for sanding pad grits



I got tired of trying to order my Micro-Mesh pads by grit using the color chart on the packaging, especially once the pads start drifting around in the water while I wet sand. My fix: stack the pads in the correct order once, then draw a registration V down one side with a permanent marker, the same way you'd mark parts for a glue-up. Now I can tell at a glance which pad comes next, even underwater. I've seen other methods, like marking each pad with a number of dots for its grit, but for me, a V is simpler and quicker. The ink holds up well in water—just keep the pads away from alcohol, which will dissolve it.

—Richard Slosky, Arizona, AAW member since 2016



Thank you for making our 40th Anniversary
AAW International Woodturning Symposium a
success!!

[Join us in Oklahoma City, OK next June
24-27, 2027 details to come!](#)

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.

Woodturning Fundamentals

For newer and seasoned woodturners

Woodturning Safety

Safe, effective use of a wood lathe requires study and knowledge of procedures for using this tool. Read, thoroughly understand, and follow the label warnings on the lathe and in the owner/operator's manual. Safety guidelines from an experienced instructor, video, or book are a good source of important safety procedures. Please work safely.

AAW Safety Recommendations

- Use a full face shield whenever the lathe is turned on.
- Tie back long hair, do not wear gloves, and avoid loose clothing or objects that may catch on rotating parts or accessories.
- Always check the speed of the lathe before turning it on. Use slower speeds for larger diameter or rough pieces, and higher speeds for smaller diameter and pieces that are balanced. Always start a piece at a slower speed until the work piece is balanced. If the lathe is shaking or vibrating, lower the speed. If the work piece vibrates, always stop the machine to check the reason.
- Check that all locking devices on the tailstock and tool rest assembly (rest and base) are tight before operating the lathe.
- Position the tool rest close to work, almost touching the wood. Check tool rest position often and as wood is removed, turn off the lathe and re-position the rest.
- Rotate your work piece by hand to make sure it clears the tool rest and bed before turning on the lathe. Be certain the work piece turns freely and is firmly mounted. A handwheel on the outboard side of the headstock simplifies this process of spinning the lathe by hand before turning on the switch.
- Be aware of what the turners call the "red zone" or "firing zone." This is the area directly behind and in front of the work piece - the areas most likely for a piece to travel as it comes off the lathe. A good safety habit is to step out of this zone when switching the lathe to the "on" position. When observing others turn stay out of the area.
- Hold turning tools securely on the tool rest, holding the tool in a controlled and comfortable manner. Always contact the tool rest with the tool before contacting the wood.
- It is safest to turn the lathe "off" before adjusting the tool rest or tool rest base (banjo).
- Remove the tool rest before sanding or polishing operations.
- Never leave the lathe running unattended. Turn the power off. Do not leave the lathe until it comes to a complete stop.

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 Tuesday, September 15, 7-9 pm 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

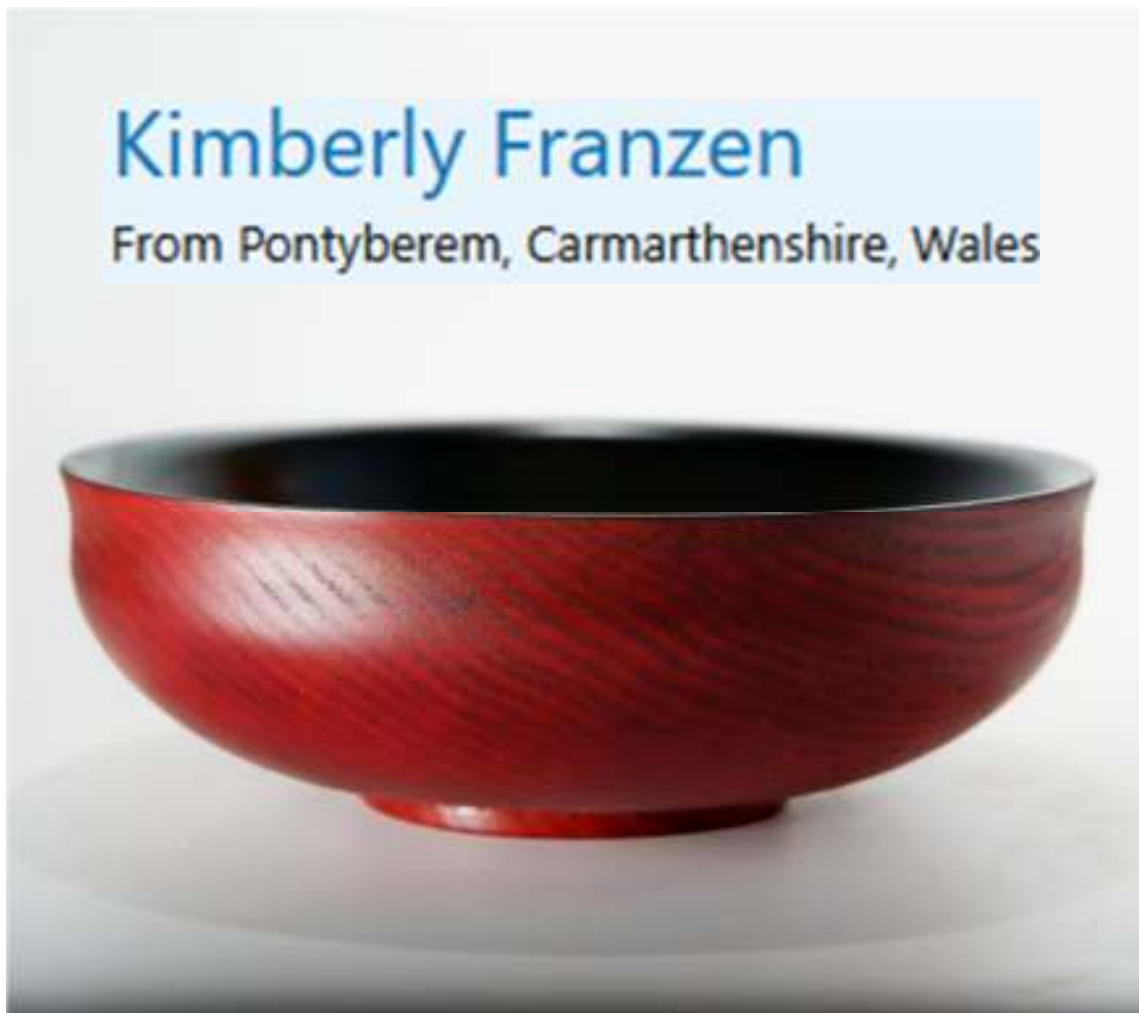
•WIT/Other Under-represented Populations Events & Exhibitions Grant: The purpose of this grant is to help fund activities that promote diversity in woodturning and to encourage participation in the AAW by traditionally under-represented populations. Audiences include but are not limited to Black, indigenous, 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.

Kimberly Franzen

From Pontyberem, Carmarthenshire, Wales



I saw another turner challenge himself to complete a bowl in under ten minutes, and I decided to have a go, myself. I really surprised myself! I stopped the timer as soon as I finished turning, sanding, and applying a first coat of tung oil. Video here: <https://youtu.be/XHo9fXSi8WI>

I started from a 6-inch, (15 cm) by 2½ inch (5.x cm) round ash blank. The finished bowl is about 5 inches, (12.5 cm) diameter, 2 inches, (5 cm) high.

Off camera, and after the timer was stopped, I decided to sand back the oil I'd applied and wipe it with isopropyl alcohol to give it a receptive surface again so I could add some spirit stain to improve the look of what turned out to be a rather nice shape. Final finish is acrylic satin lacquer. The wood is Ash.
(Used with permission from Kimberly)



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 September meeting, RCHS September 4, 3:30pm

Flint Hills Woodturners September meeting September 5, 8:30 to Noon

Skill Enhancement, Tom Boley's shop.....September 15th, 7 to 9pm

Ya Gotta Eat..... Thursday, September 17th..... Vista Drive In.. Noon

Flint Hills Woodturners October meeting.....Oct. 3rd, 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.

