

Flint Hills WOODTURNERS

November 2026

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Flint Hills WOODTURNERS

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

November Club Event

Making a Canteen
With Tom Shields



Saturday, November 7th, 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!
Friday November 20th 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!

October Meeting Minutes

Recorded by Ned Gatewood

Flint Hills Woodturners

Rock Creek High School, St. George, Kansas

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

Officers' Reports:

President – Barbara Drolet welcomed guests Jerry Richards and Mark Brown to the meeting. A membership list has been completed and distributed. It includes only those wishing to be listed on the club's roster. It is not for distribution outside of the club. You Gotta Eat is scheduled for October 19, and Skill Enhancement is October 14. Board members will be nominated and elected at the November meeting. Anybody wishing to serve on the board is welcomed. The existing board members have expressed a willingness to serve again.

Vice President and Newsletter Editor – Dave Davis reported he will be sending in the future the newsletter to members via a link, Flinthillswoodturners.org.

Secretary – No report.

Treasurer – Ross Hirst reported a treasury balance of $4,019.46. We will be collecting dues in November and December; the dues will remain at $40 per year.

Program Director – Ken Stitt reported today's demonstration will be Chris and MaKaden Gordon of Gordon Sawmill demonstrating the operation of their sawmill. The November demonstration will be the making of a canteen. The December demonstration may be a demonstration of tips and tricks.

October Meeting Minutes

Operations – No report.

Member-at-Large – No report.

Show and Tell – Dave Davis, Dennis Biggs, Dennis Waite, Victor Schwarz, and Robert Kloppenborg presented their recent work.

Raffle: Several lucky winners won wood turning tools in this month's raffle.

Demonstration - Chris and MaKaden Gordon of Gordons Custom Sawmill demonstrated the operation of their sawmill and discussed how trees and lumber respond to various environmental stresses and how a sawyer interprets these signs of stress and cuts the log accordingly.

They discussed the art of evaluating standing timber; they accept only high-quality timber for milling and resale. They discussed how a log is broken down at the mill into board to obtain in the best and most stable boards. Trees encounter stresses during their entire life, and they respond to these stresses as they grow. Logs, once they are milled, continue to respond to stresses by splitting, checking, and warping. The sawyer has to understand these stresses, and know how to evaluate each tree, and how to mill them to get the best timber from a tree. Cracks at the end of a log often determines how the sawing is approached.

The value of a tree is often determined by the placement of the pith. An off-center pith will often develop cracks radiating from the pith. The wood on the large side of the pith has less value, as the large side grows faster and experiences more stress.

October Meeting Minutes

Compression within a tree has many causes and is a major cause of a tree's stress. But also, compression can result in some of the characteristics desired by woodworkers, such as feathering and figuring in wood. After milling, checking in boards is often caused by differential moisture loss, which is a result of air flow and sunlight.

We also viewed the operation of Chris and MaKaden's portable sawmill. As they milled several logs, they explained how each log is evaluated. They are able to predict how each log will respond to milling, and how to avoid warping and cupping in order to get the best board from each log.

The next meeting is November 7.

October Demonstration
Gordons Custom Sawmill







Flint Hills Woodturners





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October Show and Tell



Robert Kloppenborg



Dennis Biggs



Dave Davis



Victor Schwarz



Dennis 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



For newer and seasoned woodturners

Credit to AAW Beyond the Bevel

Building a Mouse Doorstop

by John Lucas



Doorstops are a practical gift and a popular craft show item. John Lucas shows us how to make the ultimate beguiling version with his article in *Woodturning Fundamentals*, "Building a Mouse Doorstop."


TURN A PUMPKIN

John Beaver

Turn a Pumpkin

by John Beaver

John Beaver shares the steps for turning and carving this fun, seasonal accent.

Published in *American Woodturner* October 2022

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

GORDONS
CUSTOM SAWMILL

Gordons Custom Sawmill
4410 102nd Rd
Delia, KS 66418
Chris Gordon, owner 785.554.2918
Gordonsmill.com

Flint Hills WOODTURNERS

Skill enhancement

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

Our next Skill Enhancement will be Thursday, November 12, 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.

AAW
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS

WIT
Women in Turning



REBECCA DEGROOT'S

CREEPY CRAWLERS

D Wood

SYNPOSIUM DEMONSTRATOR IN SAINT PAUL!

Rebecca DeGroot's Creepy Crawlers

by D Wood

"The story of a remarkable artist able to equally envision and bring to life her often quirky but always engaging visions," by D Wood.

Published in *American Woodturner*
February 2025

Rebecca DeGroot on Good Morning America!

Watch Rebecca DeGroot featured on Good Morning America for her vegetable turning on Food Network's "Halloween Wars" - such a treat!

Advance to minute 2:51 to check out the segment featuring Rebecca - clip here!

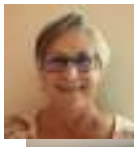


Women in Turning

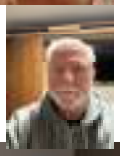


Women in Turning meeting at the 2026 AAW International Woodturning Symposium in Raleigh, NC

2026 Board Members



President
Barbara Drolet



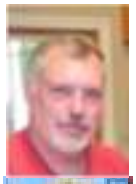
Vice President
Dave Davis



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

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.

Flint Hills Woodturners Upcoming Events

Set up for November monthly meeting, Nov. 6th 3:30 @RCHS

Flint Hills Woodturners November meeting November 7, 8:30 to Noon

Tom Shields will be demonstrating turning a flask

Skill Enhancement, Tom Boley's shop……November 12th, 7 to 9pm

There is a $5 fee that goes to the club

Ya Gotta Eat…… Friday, November20th……. Vista Drive In.. Noon

Show and tell items are welcome and encouraged

Flint Hills Woodturners December meeting…..Dec 5th, 8:30 to noon

Daniel Dubois will be demonstrating basic bowl turning.

Flint Hills Woodturners January 2027meeting…..Jan 2nd, 8:30 to noon

The plan is to have members bring their Tips and Tricks.

2027 is just around the corner

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.





