

The Burl

A monthly newsletter for the
Willamette Valley Woodturners
e-mail: vwturners@gmail.com
We are also on Facebook



Member chapter

Volume 29, Issue 8

A non-profit/501(c)(3) corporation

August, 2025



Next Meeting: 6:30-8:30 PM, August 14, 2025
Salem 50+ Center

August President's Message:

Another month gone by bringing both bad news and good.

As most of you know, we lost our Treasurer **Dick Powell** last week. Dick was a member of WVV for 23 years. He not only served as Treasurer but was also a past Vice President. We are all familiar with the great works that he often brought to the show and tell table. To say he will be missed is an understatement. I will let you know when memorial information is available.

On a more positive note, the Benton County Fair concluded this past weekend. It was very well attended by both fairgoers and turners alike. My thanks to all of the people who came out to help in the WVV booth. Special thanks to **Brian Skaar** for a great job of pulling this together and keeping things running smoothly.

This month our demonstrator is **Eric Lofstrom**. He will also be doing classes on Friday and Saturday at Darcy's shop in Turner. There are still a few slots open so if you are interested in attending the classes please contact **Kip Allen** or you can sign up at the meeting on Thursday. Remember you need to pay before the classes start.

The Sawdust session will be at Darcy's shop on Sunday.

Also, the State Fair is coming up the last week of this month in Salem. The sign up sheet will be at the back table at the meeting this month. Feel free to sign up to demonstrate for several sessions. It is always a good time.

We are currently putting together the ballot for the 2026 Board of Directors. If you are willing to run for one of the positions please contact any board member. WE DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO INSTITUTE A DRAFT!

See you next week.

Larry Curry

Year of Challenges from Chuck

Fell: 2025

January: Cereal Bowl or Porringer
February * Hollow Form
March * Plate or Bowl with 4 square edge
April * A turning which has a charred finish
May * 3 Legged Vessel
June * Redo an old turning
July * Something with live edge

August * For the kitchen (or grill or...cooking theme)

September * Candle stick holder off axis
Check out Carl Jacobson's video
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ftsz8DFXeQM>
October * Something way outside your comfort zone
November * Miniature form no larger than 2" x 2"
December * Christmas Ornament or Holiday decoration
Note: Enhance any project as you wish [ex. texturing, coloring, burning, piercing,?]

Upcoming Presenters and Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Presenter/Event</u>	<u>Topic</u>
August 14	Eric Loftstrom	Top turning and skew, gouge, and parting tool skills
August 15-16	Eric Loftstrom classes	Friday will focus on skew skills Saturday will be turning his Triple-Axis Raindrop from his "Resilience" Series

August 17	Sawdust Session	As needed: 9 AM-1 PM, Darcy Tataryn's Studio Wear your nametag and come learn or teach or practice or visit! <i>Eric is scheduled to be there to help folks. More info at the meeting.</i>
Aug 28-Sept 1	State Fair	These are the date WVV will have a big booth. Sign up to turn! It's always a good time!
Sept 11	Brett Williamson	TBA



August Presenter: Eric Loftstrom

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

From Eric's website: Working with wood has been a source of peaceful intrigue since my childhood. When creating, I try to practice "presence," or mindfulness, so I can stay safe and make the most of my time creatively. I strive to balance the seemingly opposite goals of absolute physical control and creative surrender. On my best days, I can zoom in on the finest material details, while also acknowledging how various elements might play to a piece's artistic message. Approaching studio time in this way may not be the most productive in terms of volume, but it allows me to explore and fully understand things in a more satisfying

way.

As an artist, I aim to create clean-lined forms with minimal distraction. I use grain, color, and texture to invite an intimate conversation with my work. I enjoy working within self-prescribed constraints, focusing my exploration to develop philosophical concepts into series. Currently, my work represents curiosities relating to water, energy, and the human spirit.

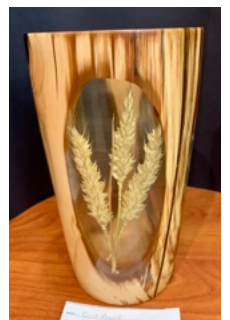
For this demo: Using basic spindle turning tools (skew, gouge, parting tool) this session showcases Eric's favorite techniques to create five styles of playful and artistic finger spinning tops. Attendees will learn simple sharpening techniques and tool application to create ultra-clean cuts and textures. While focused on creating playful pieces, this session is packed with information and techniques applicable to all spindle turning projects.



Pic above: example of project that will be done in Eric's Saturday class



From Brian: In my second year in the woodshop at Philomath Middle School, I was gobsmacked that **Dick Powell** continued to volunteer for about 2 hours a day, 4 days a week as he had my first year (which he continued for the next 5 years). I nominated him for a Samaritan school volunteer of the year award, which he was awarded and humbly received. While appreciative, to him it was no big deal. He wasn't there for the recognition, but for the students and over the years through Starker's outreach, Outdoor School, the PMS shop, and other events, he worked with thousands. He made a positive difference in the lives of so many and will be sorely missed.



July Meeting Notes:

President Larry gavelled the meeting to order at 6:30 followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. 44 folks were in attendance.



Announcements:

*2 new members were welcomed and introduced themselves

*I described the Benton County Fair and invited folks to sign up to demo and passed around a sign up sheet

***Kip** announced the State Fair dates and encouraged folks to sign up to demo there as well

*Larry shared the news of legendary turner David Ellsworth's passing and a collaborative project that will involve his estate and turners around the world. Brochures on the project were made available.

*Larry spent some time on our biannual struggle to get folks involved in club leadership, this time for the '26 and '27 years:

Kip Allen will run for President

Terry Gerros will run for Secretary

Jeff Wimer will continue as Membership Director

Three positions have at this time no nominees: **Vice President, Treasurer, and Board Member at Large**

Please consider taking on a role as the club doesn't

function without participation. Know that former office holders and others will be there to help along the way.

*Larry announced the **Turner of the Quarter: Terry Gerros**

*A request for a set up team was made. Roger Dirkx and Marc Vickery generally arrive at the meeting venue at about 4:30 to set up as they do not have a team that consistently shows to help set up. With 2 more folk, less than an hour is needed. Please contact Marc if you're willing to be part of this team.

***Larry** shared a goal he made after a conversation with Terry G which is to **Turn Every Day for 30 Days.**

(I asked how it was going when Larry was doing a stint at the Benton Co Fair and we laughed. With his health appointments and such, kinda impossible. But he was very much in "yet" mode and will start his 30 days again and again until he gets it! Inspiring!)

(Another aside: There were a ton of items in the raffle this month! Well done WVVW!)



Gallery: **Chuck Fell** took us through the pieces brought in. The challenge was a live edge piece and we got a few of those as well as many other excellent works!

Right: Basket Illusion set by Kip Allen





Above: Rick Jarosz, Gary Anderson
Below right: Carl Jacobson



Above: Mark Choitz (this is the “rescued” piece written up last month)

Below: Mark Choitz (the “Turmkreisel” top that doesn’t fall off its tower), George Long, Mark Vickery





Above: Mark Choitz
Below: Mark, Jim Devorss





Above: George Long, Marc Vickery
Below: Tom Huhn



Presenter Carl Jacobson



Carl demonstrated how to use the Joyner Off-Center Jig (<https://nilesbottlestoppers.com/product-category/off-center-jig/>).

Examples can be found at his site under Galleries

(<https://nilesbottlestoppers.com/off-set-turning/>)

You can find basically Carl's entire demo on his YouTube channel at

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VYZqMKMvFm4>)

as well as other videos of pieces he's done with the jig.

His video is way more comprehensive than any description I could write so I'll just list some notes that may or may not be in the video:

- *Carl said the jig is not designed for large items; 3-4" max

- *A waste block is a must

- *Double sided tape is plenty strong; some has been holding a waste block for multiple years

- *Carl likes to use baseball bat blanks which he slices into thin pieces (I didn't get the name of the company he uses but a quick search of "bat blank seconds" found a lot of suppliers)

- *He turned a great deal of time at about 3K rpm...

- *Carl used the #2 hole to mark a big arc and then the #4 hole for more arcs

- *He marks the piece with a pencil to easily see the pattern saying it's easy to erase if not liked

- *Carl then cut the arcs with a carbide cutter

- *He then reversed and retaped the piece to do the other side (to make a pendant)

- *Another pattern was made by marking lines on tape applied to the tool rest and making circles using the indexing

wheel (whew...)

*Carl showed making the hole with a spear point, using chatter tools, making very small pieces for earrings

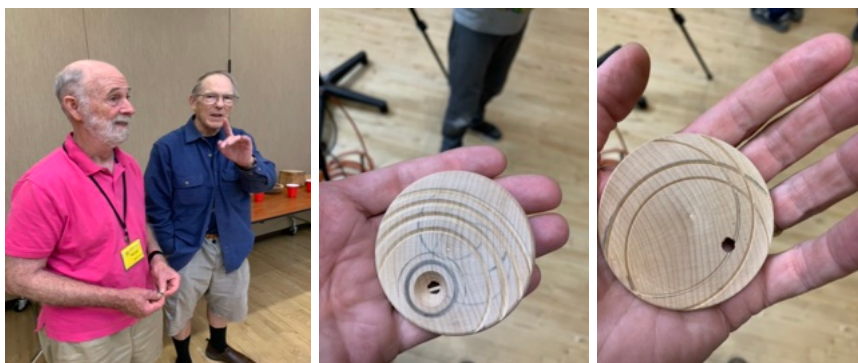
*He also showed making offset bottle stoppers with a waste block holding the stopper part

*Carl showed how casual you can be moving parts around and discovering new patterns and having fun with the jig. Eventually, he recommended, you will want to write down the settings used that made patterns you especially liked.



Above: truing, marking arcs

Below: cutting arcs, marking circle on other side for pendant hole, cutting arcs on backside



Above: Paul and Jim have thoughts, two sides of pendant



Above: marking circles for basket illusion pattern (sorta...) using indexing wheel, lots of interest in the Niles products!
Below: turning offset bottle stopper handle, examples of patterns he's created, explaining the kit parts



Thanks for the demo, Carl! Great info on a cool tool that I look forward to giving a try!

June Sawdust Session: 15 hearty folk were in and out of Darcy's shop on a fine day. Spindles, bowls, platters, and a large beam were the various works that went down. When I returned the lathes after the BCF, I was impressed to find Darcy's new lift system in place and thankful to hear of no Peter Pan action during the install of said system...







Benton County Fair *by Brian Skaar*

Well, it was an excellent four days of making sawdust at the fair. As the days went on, it got busier and busier which mirrored the fair attendance. I think Marc V had the longest walk to his vehicle on Saturday...

We had a great collection of first timers and experienced turners and each seemed to have a good time and did an excellent job interacting with the visitors. I would not be surprised if we got a significant number of new members thanks to those interactions.

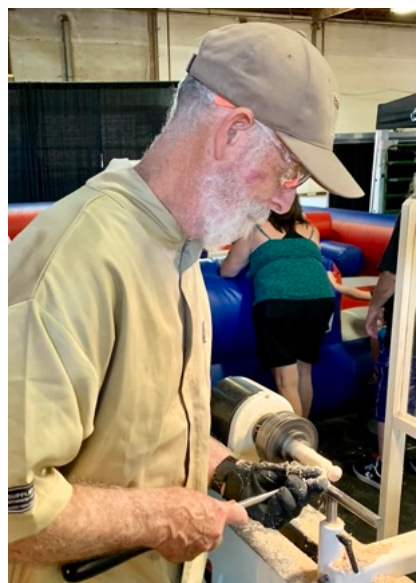
Thank you so much and well done!



Above: Ron, Randy, and Mark got things going in excellent fashion, though Mark grumbled a bit about my lathe height saying something like "Shoulder level is a tad too high..." JJ joined a bit later to regale the visitors with his wisdom.

Below: Mark, Pete, Roy, and Nate joined the fray; Nate gave this couple a beautiful little piece.





*Above: Pete, Jeff W (who made a ton of whistles!), and Paul
Below: Larry, Mark, and Roy (who was serious about being able to see)*



*Above: Mark getting after it while being filmed by an influencer...
Below: Choosing colors with Mark, a lidded box for a HS kid from Roy, a MS turner from PMS getting after a small goblet.*



Above: Thank you Mark for catching me in action; one of my MS students did a stint and cranked out a nice little honey dipper.

Below: Loved the visits with grandparents!





Above: Family from England and yes, the top went directly into his mouth when he got it. Ha!



All ages! Toddlers to high schoolers to college to revered senior citizens! Great variety!





*It got pretty funny when the ball and cup games got going all at once!
Extra thanks to Mark Choitz for help with tear down. A guy from the model train group said he wanted our sawdust to use in the hopper cars. We said okay and gave him about 60 pounds. Should fill a lot of HO scale train cars...
My 36 year old little Toyota was about maxed out!*



What's on my lathe!



From Mark Choitz: I won't be at this month's meeting, but I wanted to pass along a quick update. I still have a good supply of dry blanks and green-turned bowls generously donated by a former club member. If you're looking for some wood to turn, it's free — just give me a call or send an email!

Lately, I've been having fun making LEGO heads (*pic to right*), inspired by a recent Craft Supplies USA YouTube video. They sell the little vinyl faces to stick on your turned heads — perfect for holiday gifts for kids.



One last note: I recently moved my outdoor wood pile and discovered how much stuff I was never going to turn (*pic above left*). It felt great to clear it out and actually see what I've got. If you haven't done some shop or woodpile spring cleaning lately, I highly recommend it.

Now if I could just get my turning "studio" (*pic to left*) organized... well, that's a project for another day!

From Brian Skaar: Nate G works with an arborist and every once in a while he says he has some wood for me to which I always say no thanks as I've got plenty in the works (see Mark's note above...).

And then I go get some. Sickness.

This time it was ash and meant lots of wet turning which on those hot days made my garage a steam room. Beautiful stuff though. My 12½" lathe was maxed out for sure. And in about a year there will be a

dozen dry blanks to, well, store for a while

probably... Ha! Maybe Darcy has room?



Membership Rewards

Chain Sharpening Service from Jeff Zens: I have an electric chain sharpener and can accurately sharpen your chains and adjust depth stops for your saw chains. This service will restore the chain to “factory-new” condition. Most chains for 18" and shorter bars can be sharpened for \$10.00. Longer chains (up to 30" bars) are \$20.00. Badly damaged chains might be a little bit more. I will also tell you if the chain has reached the end of its useful life, and will not sharpen a chain beyond that point. This price is only available for club members.

Supplies-See Jerry Lelack at club meetings

The club purchases a few supplies in bulk and sells them to members at club cost.

*CA superglue (\$8), black or brown superglue (\$10) accelerator (\$16).

*Half round protractors (\$6) used to measure the angle ground on a tool

*Depth gauges (\$5)

*HSS 1/4" x 8" Round Tool Bits rods

*Anchorseal (\$9/gal) and walnut oil (\$20/gal) are available through **Jeff Zens**. You will need to bring your own gallon containers; contact [Jeff](#) to make arrangements.

Wood Gathering

Anyone who learns of a tree or log that is available to the club should notify **Randy Nichols**.

From Terry Gerros

I am a distributor for Stick Fast CA glue, Sharpfast Sharpening systems, the Holdfast vacuum chucking system and Saburrtooth Carving bits. If you have an interest in these products, give me a call or send me an [email](#) for details.

Club Member Discounts

- **Club Member Discounts at Craft Supply:** The club's order is processed the Monday following our Club meeting if it equals or exceeds \$1,000. Craft Supplies offers us a 10% discount **plus** free shipping on almost all items (lathes and other heavy items are excluded) and occasional additional discounts on certain other items and quantity purchases. If you order from Craft Supplies current sale items, you will receive the club discount in addition to the sale discount, making many items available at very attractive prices. For detailed instructions for ordering, see the article accessed by clicking on “*read this document first*” which is linked to on the Place Group Order page in the Members Only part of our website. Questions? See [Jeff Zens](#).
- Club members are registered with **Klingspor's Woodworking Shop** at www.woodworkingshop.com or 800-228-0000. They have your name and will give you a 10% discount.
- **Exotic Wood** is offering a discount of 15% off any orders placed at: www.exoticwoodsusa.com. (This includes sale items and free shipping on orders over \$300). Use promo code ewusaAAW
- **Gilmer Wood** now offers our club a 10% discount on purchases made there. If you haven't been to Gilmer's, it is well worth the trip to Portland, if only to make your mouth water and make you cry if you leave empty handed.
- **Taylor Woodworks** offers 10% off your online order. Enter **Guild10** in the “Discount code or gift card” window when checking out.
- **Rockler** offers 10% off with a mention of membership to WVVW as well.

Club happenings in our area

(Please visit the club's website listed below for additional information)

Northwest Woodturners (Beaverton, OR)

www.northwestwoodturners.com

Cascade Woodturners (Portland, OR)

www.cascadewoodturners.com

Beaver State Woodturners (Eugene, OR)

<https://beaverstatewoodturners.org/>

Oregon Coast Woodturners (Newport, OR)

www.oregoncoastwoodturners.com

Southwest Washington Woodturners (Vancouver, WA)

www.southwestwashingtonwoodturners.com

South Coast Woodturners (Coos Bay, OR)

www.southcoastwoodturners.com

The Burl is a monthly newsletter publication of the **Willamette Valley Woodturners**.

<u>Executive Board</u>		<u>Non-Executive Positions</u>	
President	Larry Curry	Webmaster	Jeff Zens
Vice President	Kip Allen	Newsletter Editor	Brian Skaar
Membership Director	Jeff Wimer	Wood Gathering	<u>OPEN</u>
Secretary	Terry Gerros	Librarian	Roger Dirkx
Treasurer	Dick Powell	Glue/Supply Sales	Jerry Lelack
Past President	Mark Vickery	Steam-Up Coordinator	<u>OPEN</u>
Board At-Large	Mark Choitz	Mentor Coordinator	Paul Hirt
		State Fair Coordinator	Kip Allen
		Empty Bowls Coordinator	Darcy Tataryn
		Facilities Coordinator	<u>OPEN</u>
		Video Coordinator	Marc Vickery
		CraftSupplies Order	Jeff Zens
		Beads of Courage	Mark Choitz
		Benton Co Fair	Brian Skaar
		OWS	Mark Choitz

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Checks payable to: Willamette Valley Woodturners

Send changes to roster information (address, e-mail, phone#) to Dick Powell (rlpowellsaf@gmail.com)

Send all other club correspondence to the club's official address via Dick Powell:

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