



# As the Wood Turns

April, 2025

Volume 37, Issue 4

## Chicago Woodturners Newsletter

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A chapter of the American Association of Woodturners (AAW)

### Practice makes Perfect! *How much? What kind?*

As the dust settled at the March CWT meeting Demo with Matt Monaco, it was clear that we had just received a masterclass in the use of a skew and the swept back bowl gouge. Clint Stevens remarked to me on the rarity of such a demo in turning tools and turning skills.

Matt is turning 40 years old this year. In the room there were people close to twice his age who listened with rapt attention. As an interactive demo, it wasn't all just talk! He turned a top with a captive ring and then turned a bowl to pass around. I know there are members who now want to turn "like Matt"!

Matt comes out of a production environment, his past is similar to Mike Mahoney and Stuart Batty. If you've ever had a chance to sit in on their demos,

*Not mindless practice, but deliberate practice ...*

these are guys who wield their tools like expert swordsmen and carve out enviable turnings while they talk at full speed. They have spent thousands of hours turning. 40 hours a week for 20 years calculates to about 40,000 hours at a lathe. How many hours have you put in?

Jacques Vesery and David Ellsworth have said that to become a better turner, you should turn more often. In other words, practice! Deliberate practice. Not doing the same thing over and over, but doing the things you don't do well or perhaps not able to do at all. 40,000 hours later, you are an expert because you have practiced all the skills which would qualify you as an expert. In 40,000 hours you have learned what works, what doesn't work, and even developed your own theories, techniques and



Mark Monaco conducts a Hands-On Workshop  
Photo credit: Laura Rodriguez

your custom tools to deliver your vision.

Matt has done this. He turns a top with a captive ring using only a skew, one that is ground to his design. He turns a bowl with a custom swept back grind on a bowl gouge. He has developed his technique such that he can finish sand the bowl starting with 320 grit sandpaper. Cutting the bowl in half shows a cross section that is the envy of many a turner.

*Continued on Page 10*

### Special points of interest:

- Open Shop Days
- TOC 2026
- CWT Tool Library
- CWT Mentors
- AAW Symposium
- AAW Clubs

### CWT Monthly Meeting

Thursday Apr 10, 2025

6:00 pm Networking  
7:00 Meeting Kickoff



### AAW's NEW Newsletter: *Beyond the Bevel*

We're excited to welcome you to a fresh start for our newsletter, *Beyond the Bevel*! Thank you to the woodturning community for all your suggestions and creativity in your submissions for a new name.

Join AAW to get *Beyond the Bevel* !

## Editor's Corner | *Phil Moy*



*Phil Moy*

*Thanks to Andy Kuby for the assist!*

March weather was all over the place with 70 degree days to go along with a few thunderstorms, tornadoes, hail and snow. Was it the good weather that made the March meeting an attendance record breaker or the guest turner for the month, Matt Monaco from Kansas City?

With 70 people in attendance, there was plenty of interaction, great raffle items, door prizes and silent auction items.

Matt Monaco provided a masterclass in turning, with a memorable lesson in using a skew to turn a top with a captive ring and a bowl using his signature swept back gouge. All in one hour! Check out Clint Steven's review on Page 6, as well as Kodak moments from his Hands On-Workshop on Page 9.

April brings a lot of activities for woodturners. Pen turning at the Focus on the Arts will generate awareness of woodturning as a craft and art form for the Highland Park High School community.

Arnold Footle tells me how he and Roger Basrak initially took part in this event with CWT in 2011. Focus on the Arts is a biennial event for the

creative arts, including music, performance and crafts. It's grown over the 14 years, as the event has included celebrities like Ramsey Lewis.

There have been lots of the listing in the classifieds in the March issue of AWT. April and May brings us three garage/tool sales which have an extensive lists of items that can be found online at [chicagowoodturners.com](http://chicagowoodturners.com).

Kurt Wolff-Klammer will provide the fine details of making birdhouses at the April meeting, an in-depth discussion of his article in American Woodturner.

Right on the heels of the monthly meeting, Mark Dreyer, John Underhill and Ed Brown bring us The Midwest Penturners Gathering Hoffman Estates. It's not just pens, topics will include small turnings like ornaments and kitchenware. You could take home a JET lathe and even get a Dick Sing sighting in the lobby!

Thanks to Andy Kuby for the Tip of the Month on Page 18. See you in April at AHSC!

**Phil**



### 2025 PenMakers International Chicagoland MPG

**April 11 and 12, 2025**

**Chicago Marriott Northwest, Hoffman Estates, IL**

[midwestpenturnersgathering.com](http://midwestpenturnersgathering.com)

## Letters to the Editor

Comments or ideas? Even complaints! *Send them to the Editor!*  
Email them to: [editor@chicagowoodturners.com](mailto:editor@chicagowoodturners.com)



**As the Wood Turns** is a monthly publication of the Chicago Woodturners, a Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners.

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technology and tradition

## CWT MEETING

Thursday April 10, 2025

6:00 pm Networking

7:00 pm Meeting

Arlington Heights Senior  
Center



zoom.com

Meeting ID: 915 7899 5899

Passcode: 003359

## April Demo



**Kurt Wolff-Klammer**



**Birdhouses**

## President's Curls | *Rich Hall-Reppen*



Spring is here so it means we can get our lathes outside and make some shavings. Don't worry about that lawn maintenance. I did some tree trimming so I have some small pieces of green wood I can use on the lathe. A two-fer.

Matt Monaco did a great demo at our March meeting followed up by three days of classes at the CWT lathes studio at the Chicago School of Woodworking. Some of the pieces made by those in the class are going to be on the Instant Gallery table at our April meeting. Hopefully, we can see Matt back in Chicago area for Turn on Chicago 2026.

The Midwest Pen Gathering is happening on Friday April 11 and Saturday April 12 at the Hoffman Estates Marriot at Route 59 and the I-90 Tollway. Great value for the money.

Pat Carroll, Ireland, had to cancel for our May meeting and classes due to visa issues. We are hopeful that once Pat gets the visa issues straightened out, he can do a demo at a future meeting and teach Hands-On Classes. Rich Nye is working with Pat on re-scheduled dates for a meeting demo followed by three days of classes.

Simon Begg, AAW Demonstrator, from Australia is demoing German Ring turning at our June meeting which was moved to the third Thursday of June (June 19, 2025) due to the AAW Symposium in St. Paul, MN starting on the second Thursday of June. Simon will be teaching three days of classes on June 20-22. See Brenda at our meeting to sign up. There are only one or two spots remaining.

If you haven't registered for the AAW Symposium, the early registration discount ends on April 11. Combined with the Chapter Group Discount code (AAW25GROUP) it's a great value for three full days of demonstrations, Instant Gallery, huge Vendor Showcase, two auctions and multiple Special Exhibitions. Based on a show of hands at our March meeting, over 25 CWT members plan on attending.

We have been holding silent auctions at each of our 2025 meetings to empty the shelves of donated tools, wood, books, and project materials. So far, we have raised over \$2,000.



We thank everybody for bidding and some great deals have been found for our members. We will have more items at our April meeting including another mini lathe plus some more, must-have wood and tools. Bid early and often!

If you weren't able to make the March meeting, Dave (Big Country) Strand volunteered to be our Club's Secretary allowing Frank Pagura to retire from the Secretary position. Frank will help Big Country for the first couple of months of his term. The CWT Board and Members present at the March meeting approved Big Country's appointment as Secretary until our bi-annual election in November 2026. We all want to thank Dave for volunteering for this important Club position.

**Rich**



## Membership

A record breaking meeting? The trend is up!  
61 in person, 9 on Zoom. \$308 raffle proceeds!

New Members: Ronald Aponi, Keith Strauss,  
Bill Berry, Tony Dussel Guest: Lorrie Flint





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## March Minutes | “Big Country” Strand

Tonight’s meeting featured guest demonstrator Matt Monaco showcasing top & bowl turning utilizing the skew chisel. He brought along some sample pieces to show & also did our gallery review.

**AAW NEWS:** Symposium registration is ongoing and group registration code of AAW25GROUP will get you a discount. Multiple regional symposiums in 2025 as well with details on the AAW website (woodturner.org) with the Midwest Penturners Gathering happening in our backyard in April. AAW is also searching for a new Executive Director

**CWT-Silent Auction:** Another silent auction this meeting with more to come in April featuring excess CWT tools. Still looking for additional volunteers

**CWT-Volunteer Opportunities:** Highland Park HS Focus on the Arts in April is still looking for a few volunteers to assist with turning a pen with students, reach out to Brenda if interested.

-Requesting assistance assembling & turning **Beads of Courage** boxes (contact Al or Andy) and continuing to take pen donations for **Pens for Troops** & bowl donations for **Empty Bowls**. Phil also spearheading a Cue Stick Pen Turning project for anyone interested.

**CWT-Open Shop:** Weekdays are generally the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays (6p-9p) with Steve Glass and final Sunday of the month (9a-3p) with Andy Kuby. Newsletter will have details for ongoing Open Shop & meeting days.

**CWT Classes:** Matt Monaco hosting a weekend class after his demo with additional classes listed (most are full or very close to full)

**CWT Board-Secretary:** Big Country volunteered to fulfill the Secretary position that Frank Pagura has continued to fill. Board approved the change.

**CWT Membership:** New PO Box address for sending membership renewal to Brenda (had 61 members in attendance & 7 on Zoom). Intro of 3 new members.

**Turn-On Chicago (TOC) Updates:** Al & Kurt will be presenting contract for board approval if membership votes to host the event in 2026. Membership approved event & purchase of event insurance.

**Newsletter:** Phil requesting members email any “Tip of the Month” they might have for their shop on turning.

**Pens for Troops:** 380 pens donated in 2024 (200 MPG, 180 CWT)

**Safety:** Frank presented some great safety tips for beginning turners to focus on & experienced turners to remember to check.

**Meeting Raffle:** Paul announced that we raised \$303 this week.

Submitted by “**Big Country**”

Secretary







## Safety Report | *Frank Pagura*

Welcome to woodturning by CWT safety.

We begin by assuming you have learned all there is to learn about your lathe by reading your manual!

Having established that, let's divide actions at the lathe by consequences.

Type A: Actions which can have an immediate, drastic, and unwanted result.

Type B: Actions which can have negative consequences over time.



### Type A Actions

- 1) Is your work piece properly secured to be safely turned?
- 2) Do you have your lathe speed under control? Always check your speed before turning lathe on.
- 3) Have you removed all chuck keys, adjusted your tool rest, brought up your tail stock (when possible) and cleared your work piece by rotating it by hand before starting your lathe?
- 4) Wear eye and face protection
- 5) Tie back long hair, avoid loose clothing, dangling laces or jewelry which can catch on rotating parts.
- 6) Learn to take a position at the lathe which stays clear of the red zone. The area directly in front of the work piece. This is the most likely path of travel by a work piece flying off the lathe.
- 7) Learn and practice the A-B-C rule of turning. Anchor Bevel Cut

### Type B Actions

- 1) Always wear breathing protection,! At a minimum, an adequate dust mask. Wood dust, especially when sanding at the lathe, may not have immediate consequences, but can become very hazardous to your lungs over time. Also be aware that many exotic woods, and spalted wood can cause respiratory reactions.
- 2) Wear hearing protection when at the lathe for extended periods.
- 3) Be alert and hold your concentration. If you hear strange noises, or notice excessive vibrations, stop the lathe and investigate.
- 4) Running your lathe in reverse without securing the chuck could add excitement to your day.
- 5) Use sharp tools. A little effort in learning how to sharpen your tools will make you safer and more productive.
- 6) If you have experienced turners around you ask questions. Remember the only dumb question is the one you did not ask before you got into trouble.
- 7) Also, be aware that many accidents to woodturners occur while using saws, especially table saws, band saws and chain saws.

Finally, ***SAFETY IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY!***

# Interactive Demo | Clint Stevens



So, just between you and me, are you the type of woodturner who owns a skew chisel but uses it just to open paint cans? If you attended our March meeting, you got deep insight into our most challenging tool.

Matt Monaco began by discussing the skew chisel and his preferences about it.

He is a firm believer in keeping it sharp. He uses a 60 grit wheel to grind a 20-25 degree cutting bevel. Grinding the skew leaves a burr on the top of the tool. Matt leaves the burr and uses it on the top of the next cuts. The burr is very small and turns off quickly without interfering with the cut.

Speaking of skews, you may know that there is more than one type. Matt uses flat sided skews about 5/8 inch and 1 3/8 wide. Oval skews have a convex surface which are difficult to control when making long flat (planing) cuts.



The cutting edge profile is important. A straight edge is a very common grind from manufacturers. Unfortunately, they don't provide much flexibility when making beading cuts. Matt uses a soft sweep in the cutting edge. The apex of the curve is midway between the long and short points of the skew. This shape provides flexibility when making planing and beading cuts.

When using the skew, knowing what not to do is as important as knowing the correct techniques. The skew is a finesse tool that you can use to get a finished surface that requires little or no sanding. Forcing the skew or improper positioning results in torn grain and rough surfaces. Finesse is in the hands of the turner.

Matt set the lathe starting speed to zero rpm then placed the tool rest slightly high, perhaps 3/4 in. The working speed was then set to about 2,000 rpm. As with other tools, cuts were made downhill to avoid



feeding into endgrain and getting a catch. The term "rubbing the bevel" is not one Matt uses. It implies pressing the skew into the wood which would foul the cut. "Floating the bevel" is a better description of what is needed to create a clean, finished surfaces.



Matt's technique includes burnishing the surface with the skew, using a very light touch such that the skew is creating dust rather than shavings. The resulting surface only needs 320 grit sanding or even going to Yorkshire grit immediately.

Cuts can be made with either the long point or short point of the skew. If the long point leads, it has to be lower than the short point and below the developing cut. The advantage of this long point forward is that it allows for greater cutting edge contact and is an efficient cut.

The leading edge of the skew must be fully supported on the tool rest and the wood. Failure to do so will lead to a catch and probably unsavory language from the turner.



Fortunately, catches are also great learning opportunities. As mentioned before, learning what not to do is important. Matt used a peeling cut to quickly reduce the diameter of the blank and make a tenon. A slight radius on the skew makes a little bevel to the small tenon. Once the tenon was made, Matt placed the blank into a chuck and continued the demonstration by making a spinning top.



Peeling cuts were used to reduce the radius of the blank. Peeling cuts can create tearout but are easily cleaned up using the long point of the skew. The bottom of the spinning top was defined by making a bead using the short point of the skew.

Matt emphasized that the long point of the skew is best for



## Interactive Demo | *Clint Stevens cont.*



making “V” cuts, but is not so good at smooth planed or rounded surfaces. The edge near the short point is good at smooth convex cuts. Using both will yield smooth convex beads with crisp bottoms. Small skew cuts with the long point make “V” grooves to define the boundaries of the bead. The short point of the skew was then used to shear slice a bead in a pleasing

outflow convex shape. When close to the bottom of the bead, the long point was used once more to create a clean surface at the bottom of the bead.

Once the bottom of the top was turned, Matt finished the handle. The top had some decorative beads, one of which he turned into a captive ring, using only the skew chisel!

Matt launched the top on a platter as a final flourish.

As we all can personally attest to, the skew is a challenging tool to master. To watch Matt effortlessly turn a top with a captive ring, and speaking to the audience at the same time, we were witnessing a truly unique demo.



With time running out for the evening, Matt’s last 15 minutes was used to turn a bowl. He talked about his custom grind for a swept back bowl gouge. Similar to other swept back designs, like the Irish grind, the Ellsworth grind, he creates wings on his bowl gouge. Matt’s, however, is longer than the others.



The “Monaco Grind”

In recognition of his mastery at turning, we’ll calling it the “Monaco Grind.” Matt feels the extra length on the wings gives him more touch in producing a better finish on the bowl, similar to what he achieves with the skew.

During the Hands-on Workshop he cut the bowl in half on a bandsaw. There’s no better way to see the quality of the turning! It’s in the CWT archive of demo pieces.

Matt Monaco gave us a challenge as well as a demonstration. Undoubtedly the inspiration from Matt’s demo will send us to go to Open Shop or out to their own shop and pickup a skew, sharpen it, and aspire to duplicate what they witnessed Thursday.

We hope to see you again soon, Matt!

**Clint**

### Editor’s Note:

Learn a little bit more about Matt in a one-on-one interview, Page 8



Spear (front)



Spear (back)



## An Interview with Matt Monaco | *Phil Moy*



*Matt Monaco*



I was able to catch Matt Monaco for a few minutes during his Hands-On Workshop.

Perhaps most notable during the Thursday evening demo, other than the mastery of his tool control, was that Matt was very much below the average age of the folks in the room.

Matt said he was turning 40 shortly. So where does all the turning expertise come from?

Matt said he started early, going from trade school into production at the Shackleton Thomas Furniture & Pottery company. He was a full time turner where he had plenty of time on a lathe, from knobs to bowls, he honed his skills.

He currently has his own woodturning studio in Missouri, and is a Fine Woodworking Contributor and Ambassador as well. He's also part of the team of elite instructors at Craft Supplies which includes turners like Mike Mahoney, Kirk DeHeer and Kip Christensen.

Where do you go from here, since there's a good forty years more to Matt's career?

Matt says he wants to do smaller workshops where he can interact with the students. He doesn't like doing Zoom demos even though he realizes the reach is farther with the technology. Even his decision to live in Kansas City is based on being able to drive to many clubs and symposiums rather than fly and limit the amount of equipment he can bring with for a demonstration. This is from a guy who brought his own grinder to the Thursday demo!

Matt is well aware of the need to spread the woodturning story to more people, and create an interest in younger generations. A move to increase the exposure in the inner city would be a great interest to Matt. After all, AAW has a grant program for women and underrepresented populations (and we have someone in our club that administers that program). His interest in supporting that movement is something we should take advantage of given the growth potential for CWT as we look towards the future!

Another area he thinks should be explored further is the hosting of the AAW Annual Symposium in "Class A" cities. Not that Chattanooga, Louisville, Portland and Raleigh aren't nice places to visit, but there are other synergies in doing a national symposium in a bigger city, like Chicago.

Certainly it's not easy to run a symposium in a major city. There's the issue of cost of the venues and the need for overwhelming support from the local woodturning clubs. On the other hand, the exposure, marketing and financial potential in a bigger pool of resources can only be tapped by being present in the area.

Matt is already looking ahead to filling in his 2026 calendar. He won't be demonstrating in St. Paul this year, but expects to be in the 2026 Symposium, likely to be in Raleigh, North Carolina (assuming no hurricanes, floods or forest fires). Matt is also in discussion to participate in Turn-On! Chicago in 2026.

Matt is definitely one of the influential turners in the woodturning community, and we were fortunate to be able to land him for a few days in Chicago! If you missed him at Thursday's demo, that may be your next chance to catch him in person. Of course you can sign up for one of his classes at Craft Supplies!

Do visit his web site, [monacobowls.com](http://monacobowls.com), and don't miss the Gallery section because it's full of closeups and video clips.





## Hands On Workshop with Matt Monaco



Matt had a full class for his workshop, continuing with the techniques covered on the Thursday demo. More emphasis was placed on sharpening. The use of a micro bevel grind was added to the range of useful gouge grinds. A variety of

bowls, lidded boxes and goblets were turned. Matt had a bout with food poisoning on Saturday but finished off the three days with plenty of information to absorb, practice and reflect upon.





## Practice makes Perfect! *How much Practice? What kind?*



How does deliberate practice work else where?

I had a golf instructor once tell me during a lesson: "Your swing is

perfect, stop practicing and go home!" Muscle memory plays a part in turning . . . the feel, rhythm, the touch.

Let's take the game of chess. A chess player could take 25 years to become a grandmaster. He'll run circles around lower level players.

Yet another player reached grandmaster level at the age of 7. It wasn't the sheer amount of practice hours that made the difference. He learned the right strategies and has the talent.



Musicians put in countless hours rehearsing. How many people can play a cello like YoYo Ma? Practice alone won't make you a YoYo Ma. Deliberate practice might. For YoYo, starting at an early age helped, but also his personality, intelligence, and something else entirely, like talent.

So where does that put us, those who didn't start 20 years ago, aren't able to log in 40,000 turning hours, and perhaps short on talent?

We can look at a table tennis player who is coached by an Olympic level coach. He (or she) learns good foot work, good technique, good strategy and can win many matches. He may never get to the Olympics, but the journey to get there is just as rewarding. Along the way he'll play some great matches and have some memorable moments for a lifetime!



In woodturning, there are many parallels.

***Learn from those who have invested hours in turning and apply that knowledge to speed up your journey. Infuse it with your own personality so no matter when you start turning you'll find out for yourself what talent you bring to the table!***

## People Are Calling Out The Overrated Things They're Tired Of Being Told Are Amazing

This comment was found on the Web. It was part of a list of things that people think are overrated.

***"Trying to turn my hobby into a business. I crochet for fun because it relaxes me. If you add in trying to figure out how much to charge for a project, dealing with people being unhappy with a high price, and then having to finish projects in a certain amount of time, it is no longer fun. A blanket might take me two weeks or five years. A small stuffed animal may take me 24 hours or a month. I do it for me, not to make money or hustle."***

So replace the word "crochet" with "woodturning" and does it trigger any thoughts?

There are many possible sides to this story.

We don't know how proficient this person is at her craft. A bowl can be turned in less than the two weeks to crochet a blanket.

We don't know how this person was selling her products. A craft show, on-line, word-of-mouth?

We don't know how she was marketing her product.

We don't know if she did a business plan.

We don't know if she's doing a side hustle or if she's retired.

Actually we don't know if the person is a she or he, but that shouldn't make a difference, assuming a competence with crocheting.

If you replaced "crochet" with "woodturning" what's the difference?

***Sound off with a comment to editor@chicagowoodturning.com***



# Instant Gallery | *Matt Monaco*

Matt Monaco conducted this month's Instant Gallery with his insight as a professional turner.

As always, previous Instant Galleries are available to review on the website

[chicagowoodturners.com](http://chicagowoodturners.com)

Photos by Al Miotke



*Bob Gordon*



*Derek Cadmus*



*Ed Thomas*



*Kurt Wolff-Klammer*



*Paul Pyrcik*



*Phil Moy*



*Al Miotke*



*Roy Lindley*



*Marty Knapp*





*Dawn Herndon-Charles*



*Big Country*



*Rich Nye*



*Rich Nye*



*Roberto Ferrer*



*Mark Jundanian*



*Paul Pyrcik*



*Steve Glass*



*Keith Strauss*



*Keith Rose*



*Nathan Ward*



*Frank Pagura*



*Nathan Ward*

Last month's Instant Gallery page had a few names and pictures mixed up, here they are again!

## A Discussion about Bowl Gouges | *Phil Moy*

Andy Kuby recently handed me a gouge with a swept back grind to turn a bowl. The experience was enlightening. Then Matt Monaco did a CWT demo turning a bowl with his special grind.

It raises the question of “when is one ready to grind his factory bowl gouge grind into something special?”

On the Axminster site, you can buy a standard bowl gouge or choose a gouge with a David Ellsworth signature grind.

The product description says a 3/8” Ellsworth gouge could be the only tool you ever need to buy to turn a bowl. With it you can do curves and shapes that would be hard to do with a standard bowl gouge.

Well, then why not buy the Ellsworth gouge? It does cost double the standard gouge. The grind is not a single pass on your Wolverine jig either.

Does using an expert grind make you an expert? You just have to learn how to use it?

This triggered an exploration about bowl gouges. You can uniquely grind your bowl gouge to match your tuning style. Somewhere along your woodturning journey you’ll be ready to do that!

The following text offers great insight into different ways a bowl gouge can be used. (*See the Editor’s note below*)

In the world of woodturning, the tools you choose can significantly impact the quality of your work and the ease with which you achieve your desired results. Among the essential tools for turning wooden bowls are the traditional bowl gouge and the fingernail bowl gouge. Although they serve similar purposes in shaping and hollowing bowls,

these two tools possess distinct characteristics that make each one suitable for different tasks and techniques. Understanding the differences between a bowl gouge and a fingernail bowl gouge is crucial for both novice and experienced woodturners, as it can lead to improved craftsmanship and more refined projects.



Factory Bowl gouge grind



Ellsworth grind

The traditional bowl gouge features a relatively broad, rounded blade with a deep flute that enables efficient material removal. Its design allows woodturners to create smooth, flowing cuts when hollowing out bowls. The blade typically has a moderate bevel angle, generally between 40 to 60 degrees, which provides a balance between aggressive cutting capability and control.

This versatility makes the traditional bowl gouge suitable for a wide range of turning tasks, from roughing out the shape of a bowl to performing finishing cuts that enhance the overall aesthetic.

One of the primary strengths of the traditional bowl gouge lies in its ability to remove significant

amounts of material quickly. This

makes it an ideal tool for the initial stages of bowl turning when the goal is to shape a rough blank into a more refined form. The flat surface of the gouge enables woodturners to engage in push cuts effectively, allowing for the swift transformation of wood. However, while the traditional bowl gouge excels at material removal, it may not provide the precision required for intricate detailing work, which is where the fingernail bowl gouge shines.

The fingernail bowl gouge, as its name suggests, has a unique profile resembling the shape of a fingernail. This design features a longer and more tapered blade, allowing for greater control when making fine cuts and

### Editor’s note:

I apologize for not being able to give credit to the writer for a portion of this article. It was so informative that I provide it here in its entirety. Images are added from other sources to illustrate the story.



## A Discussion about Bowl Gouges | *cont.*

intricate shapes. The fingernail gouge is especially effective for creating detailed work within the bowl, including beads, coves, and other decorative elements. One of its standout features is its steeper bevel angle, typically ranging from 50 to 70 degrees, which facilitates cleaner, more precise cuts and the ability to navigate complex curves.



Irish grind

The deeper flute of the fingernail bowl gouge allows for additional clearance, making it easier for woodturners to make deeper cuts without the tool binding.

This design is particularly advantageous when working on bowls with tight curves or when employing advanced techniques like shear cutting. The fingernail profile provides exceptional control, enabling woodturners to produce smooth, flowing shapes and intricate details that might be challenging to achieve with a traditional bowl gouge.

In terms of cutting techniques, the differences between the two gouges become apparent. While the traditional bowl gouge is often used with a push cut method, which works well for roughing and shaping, the fingernail bowl gouge excels with pull cuts and shear cuts.

This approach allows for more finesse and precision, making it an excellent choice for woodturners looking to create refined finishes and intricate designs. The different cutting techniques highlight the strengths of each tool, emphasizing the importance of selecting the right gouge for the specific task at hand.

Another key distinction is the learning curve associated with each gouge. For beginners, the traditional bowl gouge may be more approachable due to its versatility and effectiveness in a variety of turning scenarios. It allows novice woodturners to practice essential skills and gain confidence in their abilities. Conversely, the fingernail bowl gouge may require more practice and

technique to master, making it better suited for those who have some experience and wish to explore more advanced turning projects.

Proper maintenance and sharpening techniques also differ between the two gouges. Traditional bowl gouges can be sharpened at various angles, allowing woodturners to customize the tool based on their preferences and cutting style.



Monaco grind

In contrast, fingernail bowl gouges require more precise sharpening to maintain their distinctive profile. The steeper bevel angle necessitates careful attention during sharpening to ensure optimal cutting performance.

Ultimately, both the bowl gouge and the fingernail bowl gouge are invaluable tools in a woodturner's toolkit, each serving its unique purpose in the turning process.

The Ellsworth grind, Irish grind, or Monaco grind are extensions of the fingernail grind, also called a swept back grind. The wings are swept back further and further. One will probably end up with more than one bowl gouge in his tool rack.

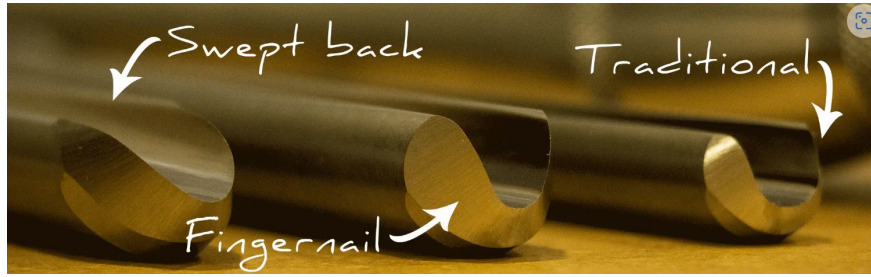
Matt Monaco grinds his bowl gouge (and his other



tools) freehand. I've seen other demos too where the turner prefers to grind and sharpen their tools freehand.

There's one more grind to bring up, and that is the micro bevel.

But that's a story for another day!



Carter & Sons Toolworks

**Traditional Grind**

With a nearly straight across grind, similar to a spindle roughing gouge, this profile is simplest to sharpen. It excels at handling end-grain fiber and other difficult grains, and can be used to finish the interior bottom of a bowl. A u-shaped flute takes well to this grind.

**Fingernail Grind**

While a slightly more difficult profile to grind than the traditional, mastering the fingernail profile is worthwhile simply because it's very versatile. From roughing to detailing the fingernail grind can do it all. The tool on the right has a "v" shaped flute, which takes well to a fingernail profile.

**Swept Back Grind**

Although this profile is challenging to grind, it's recognized as the most versatile. Excellent for roughing, scraping and finishing - it's used by many professional and production turners. Grinding the long wings first and finishing with the nose is a helpful technique. A parabolic flute takes well to the swept back grind.

Credit: CarterandSonsToolworks.com

**Bowl Gouge vs Spindle Gouge Comparison Table**

Details	Bowl Gouge	Spindle Gouge
Flute Shape	U & V-Shaped	Wide and Flat
Sharpening	Frequently	Less Frequently
Cutting Wings	Yes	No
Tight Coves	No	Yes
Tool Rest Reach	Yes	No
Bowl Exterior	Yes	Yes [Limited]
Bowl Interior	Yes	No
Bowl Details	Yes [Limited]	Yes
Spindle Turning	Yes [limited]	Yes

Credit: Toolsvoice.com

# Spindle Terminology

The term spindle is not an easy one to relate to. The miller’s daughter in Rumpelstiltskin who could spin gold from straw guessed that his name might be “Spindleshank”

If one’s mother didn’t do anything with spinning cotton into yarn then the term spindle was not a dinner topic conversation.

Ask a Gen Z or Millennial what a spindle is. Even people who own a house with a staircase probably don’t know that they have spindles.

Fortunately, turners have to buy a spindle gouge so we learn that a spindle is thin and round. You can make more than just spindles for spinning yarn.

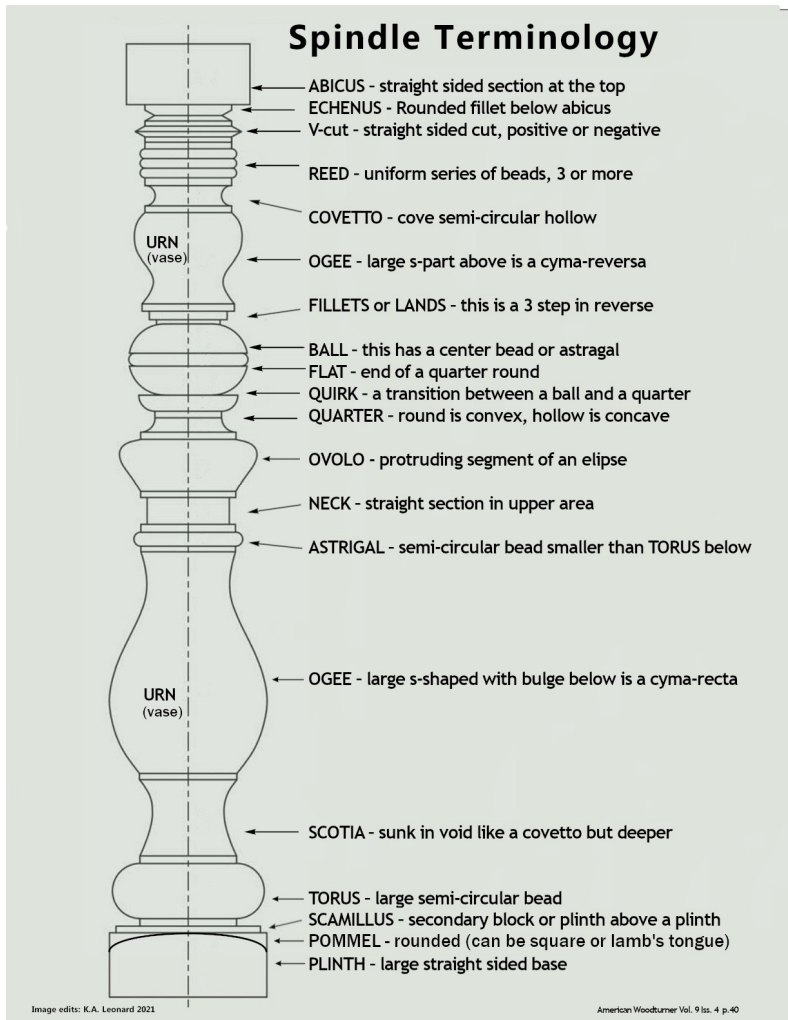
Yes, you can turn a spindle with a bowl gouge, but don’t turn a bowl with a spindle gouge. I’ve never seen a spindle gouge snap, I hear it’s not pretty

For those who want to learn a little bit more about spindles, the accompanying chart will help you converse in spindlespeak with the best of spindle turners!



Fingernail Spindle Gouge

Carter & Sons Toolworks



## SKILL-BUILDING PROJECT

# Small-Scale BIRD FEEDER ORNAMENT

Kurt Wolff-Klammer

**April Chicago Woodturner Monthly Meeting**

**April 10, Arlington Heights Senior Center**



# WIT

Women in Turning



Marie Anderson

## WIT Happenings

The next WIT event will take place on April 13th from 10-2 at the Chicago School of Woodworking. All are welcome to attend but in the event we have more participants than lathes, priority will be given to Women. Please contact Marie to reserve a lathe.

The Spring WIT newsletter has just been published and will be available for download on the WIT page of the AAW website shortly.

You can find it here: <https://woodturner.org/Woodturner/WIT/WIT-Home-Page.aspx?WebsiteKey=c9100f02-c77e-4177-a9bc-7d3eb0216238&hkey=7f6a65b2-ec98-472f-a7b6-2ac573f7258d&100134f70e4f=2#100134f70e4f>

This issue focus' on History in the making talking about the RMWS happening in September, 2025 with a look at the history of women in the AAW including an early all women seminar from 2009. There are also several articles from local WIT groups across the country about the Wig Stand Initiative celebrating the 2 year milestone of this campaign. As of this writing, 2,382 Wig Stands have been delivered nation-wide in the past 2 years.

Speaking of Wig Stands, the challenge between CWT and WCWT has been a huge success with WCWT just ahead. However, I have been informed that there were several wig stands picked up at the last CWT meeting.

Since I was out of town, I could not be there to pick them up so I will save the final until the meeting. I would like to thank everyone from the bottom of my heart for their contributions for this project. I have found a source of wood to make more wig stand kits which I am picking up the first load tomorrow. If the wood is appropriate, I intend to have kits available at the next meeting.

Hope to see you on the 13th!

**Marie**



## Open Shop at the Chicago School of Woodworking

As part of our partnership with the Chicago School of Woodworking, no fee Open Shop Days will continue to be available to the members of the Chicago Woodturners on **the last Sunday of the month, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm**. Open Shop Days provide our members with access to all our shared equipment and tools as well as incidental (or prearranged) mentoring. Each of the Shop Days has a facilitator/mentor on site.

The Chicago Woodturners has six JET 1642s, two JET 1224 mini's and three Powermatic 3520's in a dedicated turning area at the Chicago School of Woodworking. Turning tools are available, both from the school stock and the Chicago Woodturners lending library.

Of course, all members are free to bring whatever tools and wood blanks they choose. Two slow-speed grinders, with a variety of aluminum oxide/CBN wheels and Wolverine Jigs, are available.

To avoid overcrowding, members who intend to attend should contact Andy Kuby [studio@riverwoodsturner.com](mailto:studio@riverwoodsturner.com) for Sunday Open Shop. The first and third Thursday of every month, 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Thursday evening shop time is \$5 per hour, to cover the school's insurance and maintenance costs. Steve Glass is the coordinator for these sessions. E-mail Steve at [steve\\_glass@comcast.net](mailto:steve_glass@comcast.net) to reserve a lathe.

**Open Shop: Thursday, Apr 3 & 17 and Sunday, Apr 27**

## Tip of the Month | *Andy Kuby*



### Tool Rack From Dairy Crates

There are all manner of tips that describe various ways to hold

turning tools safely and conveniently at the lathe. Many of these involve attachment directly to the lathe or resting on the ways.

I have more than one lathe and often remove the tailstock for safety or access, so these did not work for me. My solution was to screw a dairy crate to a small dolly (I got one from Harbor Freight for less than \$10) and stack on two more crates for height.

I added a pine tool board with cleats that fit into the top crate to prevent the board from sliding. To create recesses for the tools, I drilled a row of 1½"-diameter holes in a maple board, and then cut the board in half lengthwise.

I attached these to either side of the pine board and connected them with wood strips to keep smaller items from rolling off the rack. Obviously, the dimensions are not critical. Now I can roll the rack from lathe to lathe and position it in a convenient location.

As a bonus, the storage space in the crates is easily accessible and can be used to store cutoffs, spring clamps, or other turning supplies.



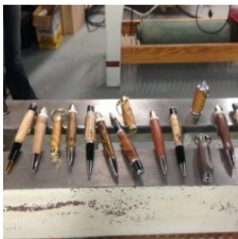
**Editor's note:** Be the first to send in May's **Tip of the Month!**



## Woodturning Classes at The Chicago School of Woodworking

Learn the fundamentals of woodturning along with several special techniques while making both spindle and cross grain projects. Instructors Clint Stevens, Andy Kuby and Al Miotke are experienced woodturners and instructors who emphasize a hassle free, safe and fun learning atmosphere in their classes.

- These carefully designed classes are perfect for inexperienced turners. You will learn about the lathe, its accessories and the tools used to shape wood. Students will be given access to all tools needed for this course and all materials will be provided.
- Students will watch demonstrations, then apply what they have learned to independent work overseen and guided by the instructors.
- These classes are provided through the Chicago School of Woodworking.
- **Go to [www.chicagowoodworking.com](http://www.chicagowoodworking.com) to register**



The Chicago School of Woodworking was established in 2007 to train students in the art of furniture making. Since then, our program has expanded to include the arts of turning, scroll saw, marquetry, Chip Carving, speaker making and cabinet making.

We are committed to providing students the knowledge and skills to create functional and beautiful furniture that can be enjoyed for generations.

We have chosen machinery and tools that are safe, up-to-date, and well maintained, so students can focus on learning and enjoy the varied aspects of building a quality piece of furniture or crafting wood art.

Find out more about our offerings and class schedules on our website!

# CHICAGO SCHOOL OF WOODWORKING

EDUCATING THE QUALITY MINDED HOBBYIST IN THE ART OF WOODWORKING

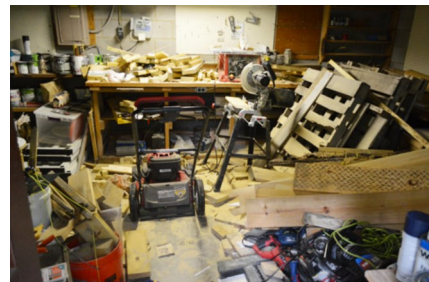
5680 N. Northwest Hwy, Chicago, IL 60646 | Phone: 773.275.1170  
[chicagowoodworking.com](http://chicagowoodworking.com)

## Classifieds

### Decluttering your Shop? Got something to sell? Looking for something?

Send an email with details and pictures and we'll post it in the Classifieds!

E-mail to: [editor@chicagowoodturners.com](mailto:editor@chicagowoodturners.com)



Date	Time	Name	Address	City
April 5-6	9AM to 4 PM	Kuhn Tool Sale	1510 Dale Drive	Elgin, IL
April 26	12 Noon to 4 PM	Troutman Tool Sale	679 N. Hidden Prairie Court	Palatine, IL
May 3-4	10 AM -4 PM	Ernst Tool Sale	28 Lynn Drive	Hawthorn Woods, IL

Sale items are posted online at [chicagowoodturners.com](http://chicagowoodturners.com)

## 2025 Hands-On Workshops

Rich Nye has been busy setting up the 2025 Demo calendar. These turners will be doing the demo at the monthly meeting as well as a three day session at CSW.

If you are searching for inspiration, check out the websites for these fantastic turners, and reserve your spot for hands on with them!

Spots are limited, so sign up early with Brenda or Rich!  
[bkmiotke@comcast.net](mailto:bkmiotke@comcast.net)

**Matt Monaco** Mar 14-16

[monacobowls.com](http://monacobowls.com)

**Pat Carroll** Rescheduled

[patcarrollwoodturning.com](http://patcarrollwoodturning.com)

**Simon Begg** June 20-22

[simonbeggswoodturning.com](http://simonbeggswoodturning.com)

**Donna Zils Banfield** Sept 11-14

[livealifelessordinary.com](http://livealifelessordinary.com)



Simon Begg



Matt Monaco



Donna Zils Banfield



Pat Carroll



SAVE THE DATE!

## Turn On! Chicago 2026 Volunteers Needed!

As a member of the Chicago Woodturners you should be proud that we have a history of offering one of the best regional symposiums in the country. It's not only my opinion, we also hear that regularly from both attendees and demonstrators.

We have also been very fortunate to have had a core group of committee chairpersons who have been involved for over 10 years and were instrumental in making TOC the success it has been.

This is a rebuilding year, and we need talented and energetic members who are willing to take over many of the critical organizational roles. Detailed planning for the next symposium will remain on hold until we have a new team in place.

Contact Al Miotke at [abmiotke@comcast.net](mailto:abmiotke@comcast.net) or Kurt Wolff-Klammer at [blhkgkurt@yahoo.com](mailto:blhkgkurt@yahoo.com) to discuss and learn more.

Thanks, Al & Kurt, TOC 2025 Co-Chairs



**Segmented Woodturning Symposium**  
**September 26-28, 2025**  
**Crowne Plaza Hotel**  
**Northbrook, Illinois**




**Demonstrators**  
**Featured Demonstrators:**  
 Robin Costelle, Tom Lohman  
 Malcolm Tibbetts, Curt Theobald

**Additional Segmenting Talent:**  
 Steve Bonny, Martha Collins, Doug Drury, Reid Gilmore, Jeff Hornung, Gerald Jensen, Lloyd Johnson, Kip Lockhart, Al Miotke





[Segmentedwoodturners.org](http://Segmentedwoodturners.org)



**Segmenting Chicago**  
**September 26-28, 2025**

- ◆ 5 large classrooms doing 48–90 minute classes over 2.5 days.
- ◆ Tradeshow.
- ◆ Instant Gallery.
- ◆ Hotel attached to the conference center.
- ◆ Raffle full of vendor provided Products.
- ◆ People's Choice award.
- ◆ Lifetime Achievement award.
- ◆ Saturday banquet with entertainment by the Johnson Brothers.
- ◆ Discounted symposium room rate.
- ◆ Spouse/companion activity.
- ◆ Pleasant suburban location close to the interstate highway.

The Segmented Woodturners are a 501 (c)(3) Organization and a chapter of:



**AAW** AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS  
 WE ARE TEACHING THE WORLD TO TURN.



## 2025 PenMakers International Chicagoland MPG

April 11 and 12, 2025

Chicago Marriott Northwest, Hoffman Estates, IL

### Register Early For Better Odds To Winning

If you came to an event in the past, you know that we give away a lathe and many more big and small prizes. Tickets for the big prizes are based on how early you sign up. For every month in advance, you'll get an extra ticket. You know you are coming, sign up NOW and get extra tickets!

[midwestpenturnersgathering.com](http://midwestpenturnersgathering.com)

## Last Cut | *Phil Moy*



### *Beware the Internet!*

Unfortunately,  
*Buyer  
Beware!*  
holds true  
even on the

Web. In fact, we can add *Reader Beware!* and *Viewer Beware!* to the list.

The Digital Revolution brought easy media creation to the world. It gave us desktop publishing, web sites, email and video on smartphones and laptops. Easy media meant that it was easy to say anything you want, print anything you want by anybody, the well meaning, the honest and the not so honest.

Everything is on the Internet, accurate information, inaccurate information and outright lies.

A good web developer can make any company look good, even ones that don't exist. What you read on the Web should be seen with open eyes and the desire to compare and contrast. That was true since Gutenberg created the printing press, but the firehose of information coming to us makes it hard to read everything.

Writing a new article by researching it on the Web is also dangerous. What if you are basing your writing on inaccurate information? As well intentioned you may be, someone else may use your article to write their article and the things get hazier and hazier.

The same is true with the flood of videos that are online. Whether it's YouTube or TikTok or even the video on someone's website, it's easy to disseminate information, techniques and procedures that are not really safe.

And Buyer Beware? Be careful of web sites that offer amazing deals (Looking at you, Temu) where things that you order aren't the same as what you ordered or are of such poor quality that you wish you hadn't ordered it. At least Amazon will let you send it back, or sometimes they'll just credit your card because they don't want it back.

E-mail scams are getting better too! Bank logos and company logos are easy to copy and there are people looking to steal your information and use it for no good.

That's a danger with Artificial Intelligence (AI) too, since it's a bigger firehose for information and it's regurgitating information found on the Web. When computers get smarter than people (and arguably that has already happened) and can generate text and images that look and sound real, it will be harder for us humans to know who and what to believe. Wait for feature length films that feature non-existent actors, storylines and special effects. You heard it here first!

That goes true with everything you read in this newsletter! If you think you want to challenge something, or you think it's terribly wrong or misleading, holler out!

The email is [editor@chicagowoodturner.com](mailto:editor@chicagowoodturner.com). Look forward to hearing your feedback!

**Phil**





AAW is a nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing the art and craft of woodturning worldwide through education.

With more than 16,000 members and over 365 local chapters globally, AAW members include amateurs, hobbyists, professionals, gallery owners, collectors, tool and equipment suppliers, and others.

Join the AAW and have access to the largest portfolio of woodturning-related material in the world!

Hone your knowledge and skills using AAW's online learning portals, exclusive print and digital publications, curated educational videos, high-quality safety resources, and more.

## A Search for a New Executive Director for AAW

**Marie Anderson is on the search committee for a new Executive Director for AAW**

The Executive Director search is officially launched and live on Ballinger | Leafblad's website: <https://www.ballingerleafblad.com/current-searches> . The direct link to the position profile can also be accessed by using this link: [bit.ly/AAW\\_ED](https://bit.ly/AAW_ED)

Please share with any networks or potential applicants to help accelerate networking serendipity.

If any applicants reach out asking you questions about the process or show interest in applying, please send everyone directly to Jamie Millard, [jamie@ballingerleafblad.com](mailto:jamie@ballingerleafblad.com).



To: Rich Hall-Reppen

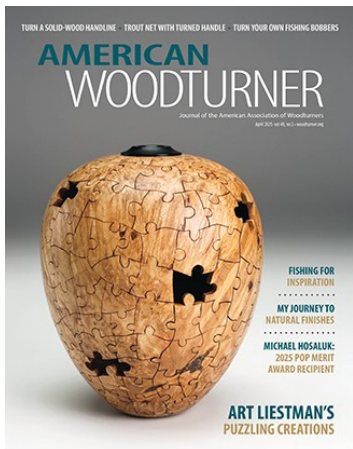
Thank you for requesting a **Chapter group discount** for the AAW International Woodturning Symposium. We are excited for you and your fellow chapter members to join us at the biggest woodturning event of the year!

To qualify to use this group discount, at least five people from your chapter must register for the symposium. You do not have to register together and you can register individually. **The discount code can only be used on a Member Registration or Non-Member Registration. It does not apply to any other registration option and cannot be combined with any other discount promotions.**

Please share this discount code with the other members of your chapter who will be attending the symposium.

Use this code at check-out to get \$40 off your registration:

**AAW25GROUP**



April, 2025

The *American Woodturner* journal is the premier source of woodturning inspiration and instruction since 1986. AAW members have free access to the entire archive of journals when they sign in. Individual issues may be purchased in our online store.

Looking for a special article? Specific topic?

Go to [www.woodturner.org](http://www.woodturner.org) Click tabs Resources, Publications, American Woodturner, Index to view or download the Index

An index entry such as this: "New lathes at AAW Trade Show, 34.3:61" means the information would be found in volume 34, issue 3, page 61.

Volume to Years

35:1 to Present > 2020 to Present

25:1 to 34:6 > 2010 to 2019

15:1 to 24:4 > 2000 to 2009

4:3 to 14:4 > 1990 to 1999

1:1 to 4:42 > 1986 to 1989



Visit AAW at [woodturner.org](http://woodturner.org)

## It's even more fun when you bring a friend!

### Reasons to join Chicago Woodturners

- Monthly meetings & newsletter
- Access to club member expertise and mentors
- Classes and hands-on sessions with named turners
- In-person demonstrations, product discounts, raffles
- and generally a good bunch of folks to hang out with!

### Membership Fees

- \$30 Individual membership
- \$40 Family membership.
- \$10 Under age of 25

Yearly membership fees for Chicago Woodturners are due at the beginning of the year. You can join at any time of the year!

Pay with cash or a check at the monthly meeting. (Make checks payable to 'Chicago Woodturners')

Application forms are found online! Contact Brenda Miotke for more information. By email: [bkmiotke@comcast.net](mailto:bkmiotke@comcast.net)

Or by snail mail

**Chicago Woodturners**  
c/o Brenda Miotke  
920 North Sumac Lane  
Mount Prospect, IL 60056



Est. 1988

Join the Movers and Shakers of Woodturning in Chicago!





Est. 1988

37 years of craft, art, technology and tradition

**Join us for our monthly meetings!  
Everyone is welcome!**

**Arlington Heights Senior Center**  
1801 W. Central Road  
Arlington Heights, IL 60005

**6:00 pm** Come early to network, get your raffle tickets and check out the silent auction!  
**7:00 pm to 10:00** CWT Meeting

*Can't come in person? Zoom!*

www.zoom.com  
Meeting ID: 915 7899 5899  
Passcode: 003359



## 2025 CWT Meeting Calendar\*

Jan 9	May 8	Sept 11
Feb 13	Jun 19**	Oct 9
Mar 13	July 10	Nov 13
<b>Apr 10</b>	Aug 14	Dec 18*

\*CWT meetings are generally scheduled for the second Thursday of the month. We'll post any changes online, in the newsletter and by e-mail!

\*\* June's meeting will not be on the second Thursday of June,



## Calendar of Events

April 2-3	Focus on the Arts	Highland Park High School	Highland Park, IL
April 3 & Apr 17	Open Shop—Thursday	Chicago School of Woodworking	Chicago, IL
Apr 5-6	Kuhn Tool Sale, 9AM to 4 PM	1510 Dale Drive	Elgin, IL
April 10	CWT Monthly Meeting	Arlington Heights Senior Center	Arlington Heights, IL
April 11-12	Midwest Penturners Gathering	Mariott Northwest	Hoffman Estates, IL
April 13	WIT @ CSW	Chicago School of Woodworking	Chicago, IL
Apr 26	Troutman Tool Sale, 12 Noon to 4 PM	679 N. Hidden Prairie Court	Palatine, IL
Apr 27	Open Shop—Sunday	Chicago School of Woodworking	Chicago, IL
May 3-4	Ernst Tool Sale, 10 AM –4 PM	28 Lynn Drive	Hawthorn Woods, IL
May 8	CWT Monthly Meeting	Arlington Heights Senior Center	Arlington Heights, IL

Visit the Chicago Woodturners at  
[chicagowoodturners.com](http://chicagowoodturners.com)

