



July 2025 Newsletter



Happy Summer - hope everyone is getting some vacation time and Turning time!

Upcoming Events at the Workshop

- Club Meeting Wednesday, July 16th - 6:00-8:00pm
 - The joy of figuring things out: Jigs, kludges, hacks, and doodads
- August Sawdust session, Wednesday, August 6th, 6:00-8:00pm
- Workshop - Shakers, Thursday August 7th, 6:00-8:00pm

Steve Johns from the Sarasota, Florida club will be joining us for both the Sawdust session and leading a workshop on the 7th. His workshop on Shakers promises to be very interesting. Sign up to shaker things up :)

Turning to Baseball!



For you sports fans out there, the Baseball All-Star Game is this week. This year's game is in Atlanta, Georgia Tuesday Night. This is the 93rd All-Star game with the American League having won 44 games to the National League's 42 with two ties!

Historically and on the professional level Baseball is played with a wooden bat. The bats are mostly made (turned on a lathe) from Birch, Maple, or Ash; there are other types of wood but those three are the standard types.

Baseball has been around for over 150 years with wood turned bats being the tool of the trade for MLB players.

Louisville Slugger is one of the primary makers of wooden bats and you guessed it; they are made on a **lathe!**

Exact numbers are difficult to come by but there appears to be over 2 million wooden bats turned each year. That's a lot of turning!; it's likely that these days most are made on CNC machines.

Here's a couple of links about the history of wooden bats and how they were originally made:

How Wooden Baseball Bats are Made:

<https://sportsdaynow.com/how-wooden-baseball-bats-are-made/>

Youtube video on bats made at the Louisville Slugger factory

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d_3zPj3HQnA

Have you ever turned a bat? Here's some links on how to turn a bat if you are interested:

- <https://www.instructables.com/Turning-a-baseball-bat/>
- <https://sportslawblogger.com/how-to-create-a-handmade-wooden-baseball-bat.html>
- <https://woodturningonline.com/tips-for-turning-baseball-bats/>
- <https://woodarchivist.com/515-turning-baseball-bat/>

Club Spinning Top Challenge

Barry Genzlinger did a demo on turning spinning tops at the May club meeting. At the June club meeting we had the competition. Over 20 people submitted their tops to be tested to see how long they could spin for. The Top Spinner for the club was Brad Vietje; his top spun for 3 minutes and 4 seconds! Next was Barry Genzinger at 2 minutes and 22 seconds. Third place was Jim Holzschuh at 2 minutes and 13 seconds.

There was also a contest for the best looking Top. Here's the TOP 3 tops:

1. Bob Martin
2. Elsa Oppenheimer
3. Jay Brunault

Here's a bunch of pictures that don't do it justice. Fun was had by all and perhaps we will do it again next year.





George 55s

Ted 1:15²⁵

ADM 1:29

Janet - 55seconds

GARY 1:18

Bill 0:16

BRAD 3:04 |

Kathy 0:42

Marilyn :43

BARRY 2:22

Jeff 1:01

Jane
From Johnson 1:03

Elsa 1:08

Kip 56

Jim H. 2:13 S

Jay 45
Barre

Mary 1:01

Hem 36

Randy 1:13

Andy 1:28

Marc (ro) 1:20

Fred :56

Judges Judgingly Judging



Candid's from the meeting







Show and Tell



Al Stirt Workshop on Platters

Al Stirt,, <https://www.alstirt.com/>, a former and now honorary member of our club taught a workshop on Platters recently. Here are some of the pictures. Be sure to ask some of his students about it.



June Treasurer's Report

Bank Balance forward 12,918.08

INCOME

Dues	375.00
Raffle	123.00
Class fees	20.00
<u>Lathe sale</u>	<u>1,200.00</u>
	1,718.00

EXPENSES

Website Hosting 491.64

Bank Balance ending 14,144.44

As a result of ongoing expenses to support the Russ Fellows Woodturning Shop, it was necessary to increase the annual dues to \$45 for 2025.

The Board of Directors of the Vermont Woodturners Guild gratefully acknowledges the payment of dues from the following members for **2025**:

Ellen Arapakos, Jay Bailey, George Bakos, Al Barber, Wayne Beauchemin, Dale Bergdahl, Chris Bishop, Jason Brunault, Tom Brunault, Dave Buchholz, James Bushey, George Cacchio, Sara Campbell, Steve Chamberlin, Charles Cieri, Janet Collins, Glenn Cummings, Bill Currier, George Disney, Karen Drennen, Andy Duling, Bruce Dumelin, Donna Dumelin, Michael Dunbar, Jim Dunn, Tom Dunne, Walter Elander, Cheryl Ferry, David Ferry, Joe Fortin, Joe Gaines, Marc Gamble, Barry Genzlinger, Jim Goodwin, Hugh Griffiths, Hel Hamilton, Rick Hamilton, Damon Hartman, Mike Hemond, Linda Hollingdale, Jim Holzschuh, Brad Jackson, Kevin Jenness, Donna LaPerle, Pat Larkin, Luc Lefebvre, David Lhowe, Kevin Liddiard, Chris Lumbra, Bob Martin, James Metz, Ross Mitchel, Elsa Oppenheimer, Mickey Palmer, Harvey Porter, Randy Ramsden, Brian Reed, David Robistow, Kip Sabens, Michael Sarvak, Kathy Sarvak, David Scrase, David Sears, Dave Smith, Edwards Smith, Melissa Southwick, Mary Stanley, Temir Strier, Marilyn Stolberg, Andrew Vogelmann, Adam Wager, Fred Walters, Gary Walz (72)

If you have paid your dues for the 2025 year but do not see your name listed above, please contact me at BradJackson234@gmail.com to correct that error of omission. Dues for 2025 are \$45. Checks should be made out to "VWG" and sent to: Brad Jackson, 14 Rustic Drive, Essex, VT 05452

Please note: The following privileges are only available to dues-paying members:

Video library use, mentoring program, bulk purchase discounts for CA glue and Anchor Seal.

10% discount on purchases from Klingspor, Penn State Industries, Rare Woods USA, WoodTurnersWonders, and Craft Supplies.

Klingspor requests you login **before** you order.

PSI requests you mention the club.

Rare Woods USA requests you order using coupon code WOODCHUCKSROCK or mention the club.

Woodturnerswonders requires the individual member to create an account

at woodturnerswonders.com and then send an email

to members@woodturnerswonders.com. They should include their name as well as the name of the club in which they are a member. Woodturnerswonders will then add the discount to their account and send them an email explaining the next steps. This will give them a 10% discount on Lamps, Sandpaper, and Sanding Accessories.

Craft Supplies gives Club members 10% off abrasive discs and finishes when ordering as an individual. They just need to call in the order and mention their membership when ordering those products.

Brad Jackson/Treasurer

Vermont Woodturners Guild

Skunk Hollow Studios, 05482, Shelburne