

## **KCWT Year-End Review**

### **Kris Coyan – President**

Another productive year has passed for the Kansas City Woodturners Association, and I am pleased to share a summary of our 2025 activities and accomplishments.

## **Programming & Demonstrations**

We hosted numerous open shop opportunities and eleven high-quality demonstrations throughout the year. Winter programs featured photography techniques for woodturners (Kurtis Cowman and Kevin Neeley) and a wood-stabilization session by Bill Paullo. Seasonal challenges encouraged members to explore new techniques, refine their turning skills, and showcase their work.

Spring demonstrations included a Top Roulette game, an impromptu second-turning of a bowl session by Kris Coyan, and Mike McReynolds' "Turning a Bowl on the Bias."

Summer highlights featured Gary Mundhenke's rotary CNC demo, Jim Garner's woven basket texturing techniques, and Don Frank's "Turning Outside the Box."

Fall programs included an ornamental birdhouse demonstration by Larry Randolph and a presentation on Green Wood Turning by Phill Sikes.

Winter concluded with an "Emerging Bowl and Sphere" demonstration by Brian Bartelli.

## **Club Projects & Special Events**

February's Bowl-a-Palooza saw members roughing and preparing about 60 green Silver Maple bowl blanks, all contributing to future fundraising efforts.

In May, the club produced nearly 60 engraved police batons for the KCKPD. With coordination by Mike Thomas and production support from Gary Mundhenke, this project resulted in a generous \$5,000 donation. KCWT is now the official baton provider for the department.

Our annual KCWT Picnic at Shawnee Mission Park drew strong participation, great food, and excellent weather. Later in the year, members gathered for a couple Top Turning Saturdays to support sales events and the Santa's Workshop program.

## **Community Outreach & Sales**

This year included extensive outreach, with club tents at First Fridays (April–October) and additional events such as the Lake Quivira Bazaar, Lenexa Spinach Festival, Bingham-Wagner Antique & Crafts Show, and Kaw Valley Farm Tour. These events supported both club fundraising and member sales while helping us connect with prospective new members. Special thanks to Ed Jaszczak for leading setup, sales/recruitment, and teardown at every First Friday event.

We also assisted in the sale of woodworking tools belonging to late member Tony Giordano, coordinated by Anthony Harris and Kevin Neeley, providing meaningful support to his family.

The club once again joined the KC Irish Festival, with many members donating their time. The event continues to be one of our best opportunities for public visibility and gross sales.

At this year's Santa's Workshop with the Woodworkers Guild, more than 530 wooden trucks were built by children and paired with KCWT spinning tops. The event brought in many visitors and plenty of smiles.

## Member Contributions

Our successes this year were made possible by outstanding volunteer efforts. Notable contributions include:

- Don Frank's wide variety of bowl turning blanks
- Mike Erickson's hard plastic mallets
- Rick Bywater's donated sourdough bread, always a hit at the meetings
- Phill Sikes' ongoing safety leadership and AAW Symposium demonstration
- Rob Platt's dependable AV support at monthly meetings
- Brian Bartelli's excellent work producing the *Woodchips* newsletter
- Linda and Dan Carlson hosting refreshments for our monthly meetings

Many more members gave their time and skills throughout the year, and the Board extends our sincere thanks to all of you.

## Awards

Every year the club presents awards to members for recognizing their outstanding achievements in supporting the club and in woodturning.

The KC Woodturners **Hall of Fame Award** goes to David Alexander. David opens the lathe room every Saturday morning and has been personally responsible for maintaining our equipment and keeping the shop tools running. David has his own projects to turn on Saturdays but he always has time to spend helping novice woodturners get started.

The KC Woodturners Board watches the progress of new woodturners that come into the shop to turn and bring projects to share at the regular meeting's Show 'N Tell and Challenge. The Board picks one member that has shown exceptional woodturning progress and enthusiasm during the year. **The Most Improved Turner Award** goes to Terry Johnston. Terry started learning woodturning this year as a novice and, by the end of this year, has improved her woodturning to a great degree.

The 2025 **Iron Turner Awards** went to seven KC Woodturners. Each recipient received an IT sticker for their name badges to show their recognition. An Iron Turner consistently brings work

to each regular meeting's Woodturning Challenge. The 2025 Iron Turners were Sue Bergstrand, Linda Carlson, Dan Carlson, Kris Coyan, Anthony Harris, Terry Johnston, and Rick Turner.

## **Looking Ahead**

2025 was an exceptionally active year, marked by growth in membership, community engagement, and opportunities for fundraising. In 2026, we will continue focusing on membership growth, member skill development, public outreach, and strengthening the club's financial stability.

Please keep pushing your creativity—experiment, practice, learn new techniques, and most importantly: **Keep turning!**

Respectfully,

**Kris Coyan**

President, Kansas City Woodturners Association