

WOODCHIPS

January 2026

Volume 32 Number 1



OFFICIAL CHAPTER
AAW
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
OF WOODTURNERS

KCWT Website: kcwoodturners.org

KCWT Address: 1717 Washington St., KCMO 64108

Don't Forget to Renew Your 2026 Membership!

January Demonstration

The challenge for February
is to turn a whimsical/off-
center object/tree.

Whimsical Trees
presented by KCWT
member:
**Anthony
Harris**



During this month's demo, Anthony
walked the group through the steps
in creating a Whimsical Tree.

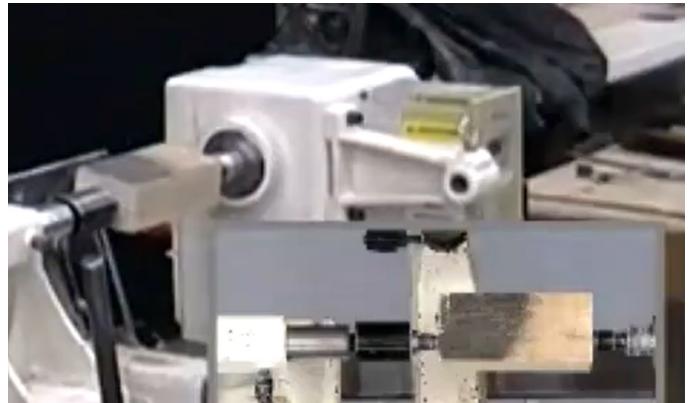


Turning a Whimsical Tree

There are multiple steps to creating a successful off-center or whimsical tree. Watch the video of the demo to learn more. The video can be found on the website.

The basic steps are below and on the following pages.

- Use a rectangular block of wood and mount between center. It should be mounted off center as seen in the top picture
- Turn a tenon in a doughnut shape
- Mount the tenon in a chuck.
- Put the live center on the opposite side of the center of the tenon
- Turn the top bough of the tree



Turning Whimsical Tree

- After the top bough is turned, back the live center off but leave close for a reference point
- Move the center point of the top bough a short distance (around 1/8-1/4 inch) from the live center.
- Turn the next bough.
- Continue this process down the tree then part the tree off at the bottom
- Sand the bottom to finish



Notes:

Anthony used a multi-step process to turn each bough. This included the use of a spindle gouge, skew, and parting tool. watch the video for a detailed step by step explanation.

Alter the pattern of the tree by the distance and direction of the off-center move between each bough.



Turning a Whimsical Tree

Here are some pictures for inspiration

*Give it a try and bring your turned whimsical piece to the Feb. meeting!



January Challenge

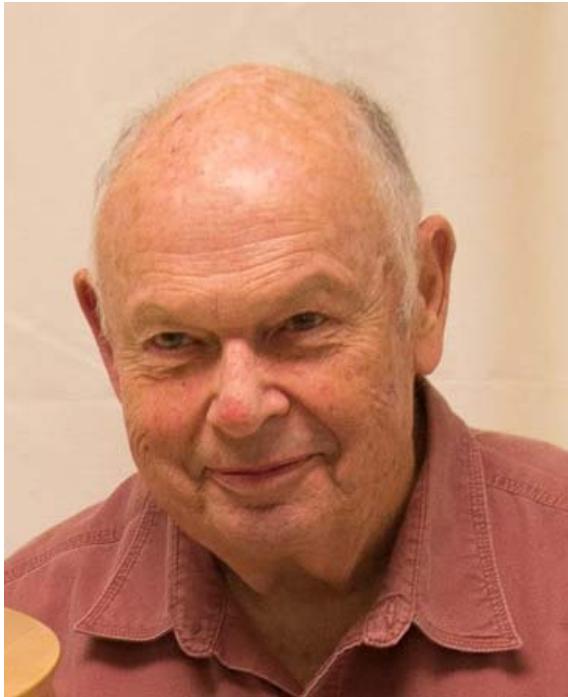
The challenge this month was turn something that is “emerging”



January Show 'N Tell

Several impressive pieces presented during the Show 'N Tell portion of the meeting.





Don Gruis

Longtime KC Woodturners member and friend Don Gruis passed away on Sunday, January 11th at the age of 93. Don joined our club in February 1997, just a couple years after the club was formed.

Some of Don's favorite turning projects were making wood and recycled glass canisters and glasses on the lathe. He demonstrated this for our club a few times over the years. Don was very frugal and didn't like to waste useable things if possible. He would mount a recycled glass container on the lathe, a wine bottle or something nicely shaped, and cut glass apart using a glass cutter. Then he would turn a wooden lid and pair it to the cutoff glass to make a storage canister or maybe turn a wooden stem to create a goblet.

Don Gruis enjoyed being a KC Woodturners member for nearly 30 years. He had a great sense of humor and enjoyed sharing his knowledge with others.

Don's name has been added to the list of passed members that were recognized for their impact on the club. The KC Woodturners Members Memorial Scholarship Fund was created to recognize these passed members and was created for two reasons. The first reason was to recognize some of the KCWT members, our woodturning friends, that have passed away. The second reason was to provide an educational fund to give a free woodturning class to one deserving KC Woodturner member each year in remembrance of past members. Please see the club website for more details.

Local Sponsors

One of your KC Woodturners member benefits is a 10% discount with these local sponsors. You will need to show your KCWT Membership Card. No discount on electrical (plug-in) items.



Woodcraft Supply
8645 Bluejacket Rd, Lenexa



Metro Hardwoods
4243 S Noland Rd, Independence



Schutte Lumber
3001 Southwest Blvd, Kansas City



Rockler Woodworking Store
15340 W 119th St, Olathe

Catalog Sponsors

You also get a 10% discount from these catalog sponsors. Please refer to the website for instructions on how to order from these sponsors.



Klingspor's Woodworking Shop
Fine Selection of Abrasives

Penn State Industries

Penn State Industries
Pen Kits and Supplies



January 2026 Monthly Meeting

- Welcome to all Members and Guests!

Tonight's Agenda:

- Club Announcements
- Demonstration: Anthony Harris – Turning an Eccentric Tree
- Refreshment break / fellowship
- January Challenge –“Turn something emerging”
based on Brian Bartelli’s November demo
- Show-n-Tell project presentations by members.



January Announcements:

- As of last Monday's Board meeting, we had 43 paid members for 2026. If you have not already paid your 2026 dues, please do so now. 2026 club membership payment is available on the website, *kcwoodturners.org*.
- This past Sunday, nine KCWT members gathered at the shop and finished turning 30 batons for the KCKPD. Thanks to all that helped fulfill our 2026 commitment!

January Announcements:

- This month's Challenge drawing winner will win a (2) \$10 Craft Supply Gift Certificates
- Does your name tag have an Emergency Contact label on the back? If not, see Kris Coyan during our break and I will get you one.
- Are you looking for an opportunity to sell your turned items? Consider participating in one of the First Fridays events that will start in April.

January Announcements:

- Over 530 toy trucks were constructed at this years Santa's Workshop. Each truck included a KCWT turned spinning top!
- We had about 60 participants at the December Holiday Party. Plenty of good food and lots of good conversation!
- This month's Dollar Sweepstakes winner will choose from several great prize options, including some very nice tools and a tool rest, get your tickets now!. Don't miss your chance!

KCWT Social Media:

- If you'd like your work featured on the KCWT Instagram and/or Facebook social media pages, email photos and description to Phill Sikes (phillsikes@gmail.com).
- You can also tag or mention our account (@kc_woodturners) or invite us to be a collaborator on your post. If you have questions, reach out to Phill.
- Social media is great exposure for our club!

KCWT - Open Shop:

- Available every Saturday morning from 8:30AM-12PM or later, Wed and Thursday evenings 6PM – 9PM (except for 3rd Wed each month, due to Guild meeting).
 - Please help keep it clean, wear your badge, sign in.
 - Use the doorbell at the back door if the front door is locked.
 - Please report any equipment problems to a Board member.
 - Watch for the next shop clean-up date!



The 2026 KCWT Officers:

- KCWT Slate of Officers for 2026:
 - President: Kris Coyan
 - Vice President: Mike Thomas
 - Treasurer: Kevin Neelley
 - Secretary: Elizabeth (and Calvin) Wright



President

Kris Coyan



Vice President

Mike Thomas



Treasurer

Kevin Neelley



Secretary

Elizabeth Wright

- Are there any nominations from the floor?

KCWT 2026 Participating Members:

- 2026 At Large Board Members:



Sue Bergstrand



Anthony Harris



Ed Jaszcak



Bill Paolo



Ann Mellina

- Refreshments



Dan Carlson &
Linda Carlson



Phill Sikes



Rob Platt



Brian Bartelli

- Safety

- Audio\Video

- Newsletter

KCWT 2026 Member Participation:

- The Board would like to encourage more At Large Board members in 2026. If you are interested, please see Kris Coyan or Mike Thomas.
- New board members bring new ideas, regardless of their age or skill level!
- The Board meets on the 1st Monday of each month at 7PM.
- Come join us!

Upcoming Events:

- If you use the shop, watch for an announcement about the next shop clean-up date coming soon!
- February Demonstration: Kurtis Cowman - *Innovative Utilization of Common Tools in Woodturning*

Phill's January Safety Minute:

Presented by KCWT Member / AAW Symposium Demonstrator,
Phill Sikes



Phill wants all of our members to always think about safety!
Thank you, Phill.

January KCWT Demo:

Tonight's Demonstration:
Turning an Eccentric Tree

presented by KCWT member:

Anthony Harris



Thank you for sharing, Anthony!