

WOODCHIPS

April 2026

Volume 32 Number 4



OFFICIAL CHAPTER
AAW
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
OF WOODTURNERS

KCWT Website: kcwoodturners.org

KCWT Address: 1717 Washington St., KCMO 64108

April Demonstration

Spurtles, & Mallets, & Dibbers, Oh My

*presented by KCWT
Member: Kris Coyan*



The challenge next month is to turn a spurtle, mallet, or dibber.



Spurtles, & Mallets, & Dibbers, Oh My

At our most recent club meeting, the shop was filled with the hum of a lathe as Kris led the evening's demonstration, guiding members through the process of turning three deceptively simple but highly functional pieces: spurtles, mallets, and dibbers.

For some, the spurtle was a new discovery—a traditional Scottish kitchen tool designed for stirring everything from oatmeal to soups. Under Kris's explanation, members learned about different shapes for elegant tapered forms that felt as good in the hand as they looked on the bench. He continued with mallets, refining balance and durability while showing different shapes to achieve the perfect combination of weight and whacking power. Then Kris took to the lathe to demonstrate turning dibbers. A simple tool used for planting, yet offer a chance to focus on clean lines and ergonomic design, proving that even the most straightforward objects benefit from thoughtful craftsmanship. The process of marking the depth lines also showed how to burn lines with a wire.



If Kris inspired you to turn some of these projects, don't forget, you can donate these to the club. Turned spurtles, mallets, and dibbers can be donated to the club to be sold at local events or through partner stores on the East Coast. The proceeds will go toward supporting the club.



We gather to learn techniques, share ideas, and enjoy the process of making. Through the skillful turning of a spurtle or the careful shaping of a mallet, our members can continue honing their craft.

Kris's demonstration may have started with tools, but it ended with inspiration. Check out the following pages to learn more about making these projects.

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Spurtles, & Mallets, & Dibbers, Oh My

Porridge Spurtles:

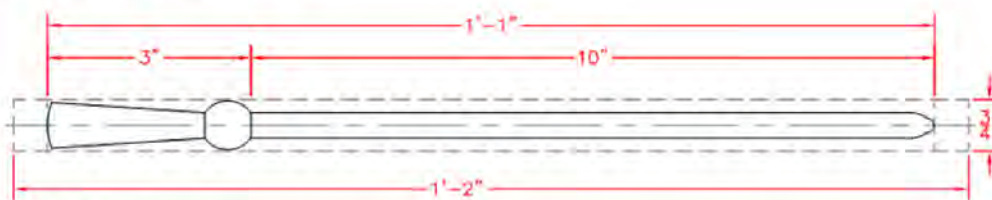
The **spurtle** (or "spurtel", "spurtil", "spirtle", or "spartle")^[1] is a wooden **Scottish** kitchen tool, dating from the **15th century**, that is used to stir **porridge**, **soups**, **stews**, and **broths**.^[2]

The rod-like shape means that porridge can be stirred without congealing and forming lumps,^{[2][3]} unlike a spoon, which would have a dragging effect during stirring. The low surface area reduces the chances of porridge sticking to the instrument.^[2]

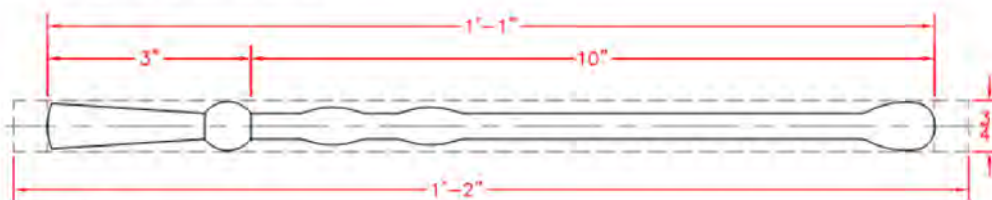
Spurtles are made from wood, typically **beech**, **cherry wood**, or **maple**. They come in a range of sizes. Traditional spurtles have stylised **thistles** at the top, while modern ones often have a smooth taper.^[2]



Porridge Spurtle



Option-1
Straight with rounded end



Option-2
Straight with swells



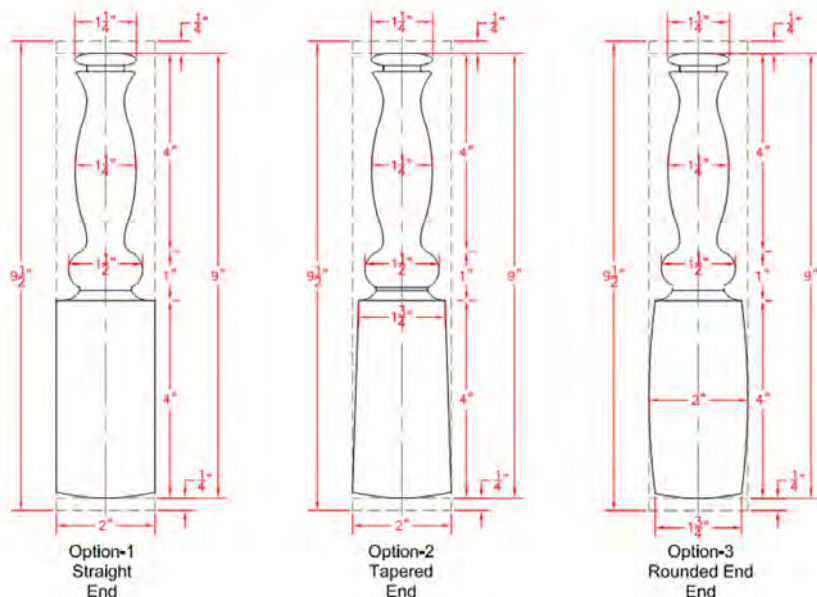
Spurtles, & Mallets, & Dibbers, Oh My

Kitchen Mallets:

A **mallet** is a tool used for imparting force on another object, often made of **rubber** or sometimes **wood**, that is smaller than a **maul** or beetle, and usually has a relatively large head.



Kitchen Mallet (Crab Smasher)



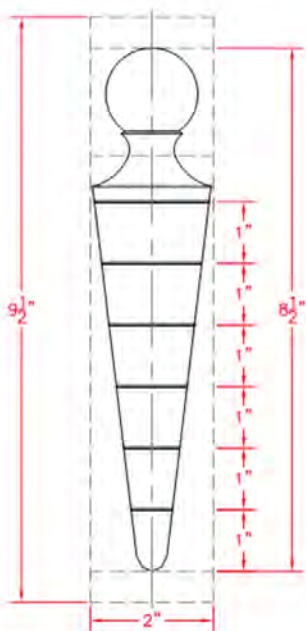
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Garden Dibbers:

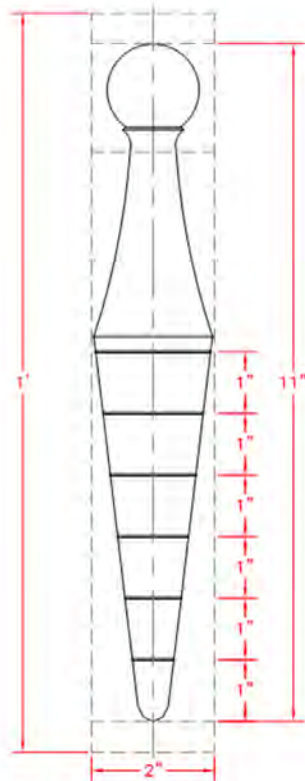
A **dibber** or **dibble** or **dibbler** is a pointed wooden stick for making holes in the ground so that seeds, seedlings or small bulbs can be planted. Dibbers come in a variety of designs including the straight dibber, T-handled dibber, trowel dibber, and L-shaped dibber.



Garden Dibber



Option-1
Basic

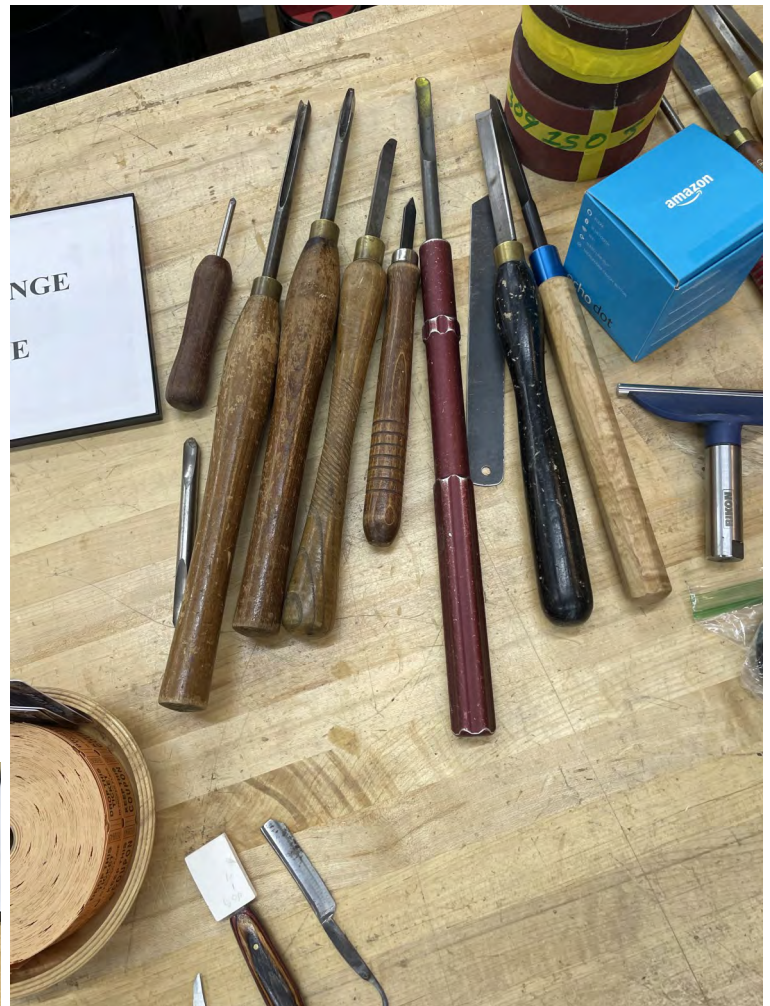


Option-2
Elongated



April Challenge

The challenge next month is to turn a spurtle, mallet, or dibber.



The challenge was to “sharpen something.”

Members showed tools they have sharpened while explaining the techniques used to get the best edge and function. Some members also showed some unique tools that they use for specific functions on the lathe.

April Show 'N Tell Cont.

There was a lot of "showing off" this month!
Keep turning and plan to show off next month!



April Show 'N Tell Cont.



KCWT April 2026 – Monthly Meeting Announcements:

Meeting Agenda:

- Welcome to all Members and Guests! (In-Person and via Zoom!)
- Tonight's Agenda:
 - Club Announcements
 - Demonstration: *Spurtles, Kitchen Mallets and Dibbers*, presented by Kris Coyan
 - Short refreshment break / fellowship and Dollar Sweepstakes winner selection
 - Challenge – "*Sharpen Something*" based on presentation by Mike Thomas.
 - Show-n-Tell project presentations from our members.

Club Announcements:

- Thank you to all the members that participated and attended the *Tool Sharpening Skill Builder* event a few Saturdays ago. Hopefully, you learned something!
- Membership has grown to 89 paid members at beginning of this month, and we are always looking for more! Tell your family, friends and coworkers about your club.
- The Board voted to recognize longtime member, E. David Burkes as our 2025 Legends recipient. David's name will be added to the Legends Award plaque in the shop, and he will have a lifetime membership. Congratulations, David!
- This month's Challenge drawing winner will win (3) \$10 Craft Supply Gift Certificates
- Don't miss your chance at this month's Dollar Sweepstakes! Winners will choose from great prize options, including nice tools and a quality tool rest. Winning ticket will be announced during the refreshment break, following the demonstration.
- The April First Friday's event was canceled due to forecasted severe weather, however, the club will try again in May. We are looking for some small donated member turned projects to sell on the clubs behalf at these events. The club will have a tent and tables to sell items during these events. Participating members can also sell personal items. (20% of the personal sales will go to the club.)

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 when you are there.
 - If you use the shop, please make sure you sign a waiver form.
 - Use the doorbell at the back door if the front door is locked.
 - Please report any equipment problems to a Board member.
 - Thanks to Darrell Agee for building a new 'chain-saw horse' for the shop!

Continued on next page

KCWT April 2026 – Monthly Meeting Announcements: Cont.

KCWT Help Wanted (contact a Board Member if you can help):

- KCWT will be participating in the First Friday's events again this year.
 - We are looking for members that would be interested in helping with these events. Set-up, Sales and Break Down all in one evening.
 - Sell your personal treasures along with other club donated items.
 - Visit with the community about woodturning and try to attract new members.
 - Let Kris Coyan, Ed Jaszczak or Kevin Neelley know if you would like to help with any of these FF events.
- Phill Sikes is looking for a member to assist or take over the KCWT Instagram and/or Facebook social media pages, please let Phill Sikes (phillsikes@gmail.com) know if you would be interested in knowing more. If you have any questions, reach out to Phill.
- Do you have a project demonstration idea? Mike Thomas is looking for ideas to fill out the 2026 monthly demonstration calendar. See Mike if you can help?

Upcoming KCWT Activities/Events:

- Bowl-a-Palooza II rough bowl turning and coring at the club shop. Saturday, April 18, 12:30 – around 4PM.
 - Stop by and watch the process of coring and rough turning bowls. All members are welcome to stop by and watch the chips fly!
- Update: there is not going to be an Open House at the shop this summer with the Woodworkers Guild, however, we WILL have a 'Spring Cleaning' Shop Clean-up on Saturday, April 25th (10AM-???). If you use the shop, please plan on being there to help clean and organize!
- The annual KCWT Picnic is scheduled for Saturday, June 13th from 10AM-whenever.
 - The club will provide burgers and dogs, members to bring a side, salad or dessert.
- Anthony Harris is going to put together a Bowl Turning class in late May or June. If you have an interest in this type of class, let Anthony or Kevin know. The date is TBD right now.

KC Woodturners Association Board Of Directors



President

Kris Coyan

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Vice President

Mike Thomas

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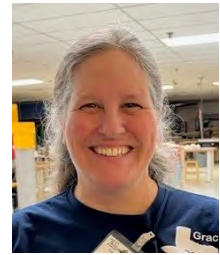


Treasurer

Kevin Neelley

treas@kcwoodturners.org

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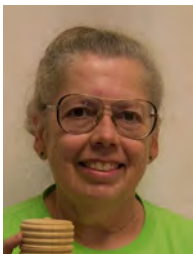
Secretary

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At Large Board Members



Sue Bergstrand



Anthony Harris



Ed Jaszczak



Bill Paolo

Refreshments



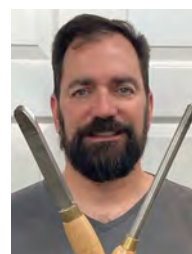
Dan Carlson &
Linda Carlson

Safety



Phill Sikes

AudioVideo



Rob Platt

Newsletter



Brian Bartelli

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.



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Woodturners



KCWT April 2026 Monthly Meeting



- Welcome to all Members and Guests!
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- Club Announcements
- Demonstration: *Spurtles, Kitchen Mallets and Dibbers*, presented by Kris Coyan
- Refreshment Break / Fellowship / Dollar Sweepstakes winner
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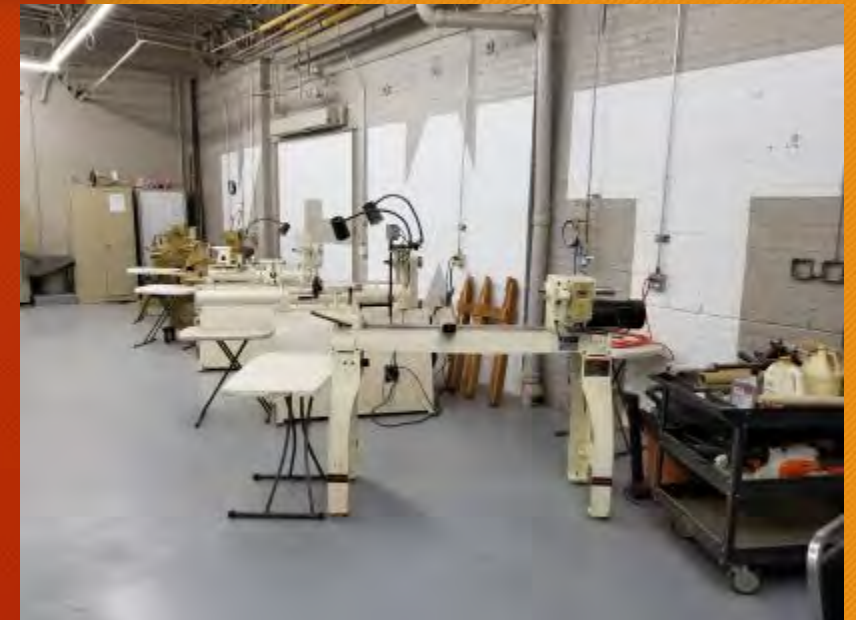
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Phill's Safety Minute:

KCWT Member, Phill Sikes, wants to remind all members to think about safety while you are turning.



April Demonstration: *Spurtles, Kitchen Mallets and Dibbers*

Presentation by KCWT Member, Kris Coyan

