



Alabama Woodturners Association

April 2013

AWA Newsletter



A member of the American Association of Woodturners

Location: Homewood Senior Center at 816 Oak Grove Road, Homewood, AL 35209
Web Site: www.alabamawoodturners.com

Coming Events

- April** – Jess Walls
- May** – Round Robin
- June** – Sean Mc Curley
- July** – Roger Smith
- August** – Pat Johnson
- September** – Cynthia & Michael Gibson
- October** – Staten Tate
- November** – Round Robin
- December** – Party

Officers of AWA

- President** – Richard Serviss
- Vice President** – Open
- Program** – Will Pate
- Treasurer** – Jennifer Smith
- Secretary** – Laura Reder
- Directors:** Staten Tate, Bill West, Sean McCurley, Jeff Hicks
- Web Master** – Michael Malinconico,
- Training** – Phil Fortmeyer
- Newsletter Editor** – Dave Chanslor

Inside this issue:

Show & Tell
Southern States
Symposium info

How to Photograph
your work P. 4

****Notice****

***Dues are Due!
Wear your
Name Tag!***



Pot N' Vine from Crab Wood Root

The March Program - Maurice Clabaugh:

Maurice entertained the AWA meeting attendees in March with a demo of how to turn a “Blossom Bowl” from iron wood. Maurice is a great story teller and wood artist. He is pictured here with one of his more remarkable pieces which was both turned and carved.

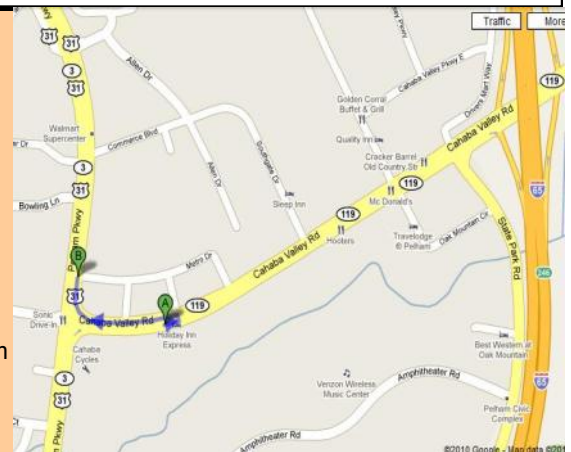
More on the program on Page 3 along with pictures of how to turn the blossom. Maurice entertained with telling us what he likes to turn, why he does it and how he does it.

AWA president Richard Serviss presided as usual with the sale of ebony dowels which have proved to be extremely popular! 800 ebony dowels are sold and 400 more on the way! If you missed it, the dowels source came from our February demonstrator, Mark Sillay who told us about his “tooth pick technology” in making ornaments and told us of his source for the ebony dowels at a bargain price for making finials. At the March meeting Richard held a raffle for a \$100 gift certificate to Woodcraft which was won by Johnny Carpenter.

April Program: Jess Walls—Turning Bird Houses for REAL birds. See p. 3



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 Manager: Jay MacDougall
 Store Hours:
 Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday: 9 am – 7 pm
 Thursday: 9 am – 9 pm
 Saturday: 9 am – 6 pm
 Sunday: noon – 5 pm



SHOW AND TELL TIME



Sean McCurley



Will Pate



Roger Smith



John Sowell



Bill Hubbard



Jack Capps

In Other News...



...and then the dog found it.



I got this hat a Wal-Mart and only washed it once...



Reciprocating-articulating-swivel-routerator—
(see Roger Smith for details)

~~~Notice~~~

Southern States XIII Woodturning Symposium April 26-28, 2013 Cartersville GA

Pat Johnson reminded us of the thirteenth annual symposium will be held at the Clarence Brown Conference Center in Cartersville, GA. The featured turners are Keith Gotshall of Colorado, Jacques Versery of Damariscotta, Maine, Al Stirt, and Dick Sing. Also featured are Turk Allison, Nick Cook, Michael Peace and Leon Thomas. Registration before March 31 is \$150. Brochures are available at the meeting or contact Marsha Barnes at 828-837-6532 for more information. Please let Pat Johnson know if you plan to attend by email at wturn@bellsouth.net



Tulip Demo step by step



The Tulip

Round it

Shape it

Final Shape



Reverse it



Bore it



Hollow it



Repeat 20 times

Maurice Clabaugh engaged the AWA members in a conversation about wood turning, analyzing a piece of wood to determine what to do with it and how to handle it in the lathe, especially those difficult and crazy pieces he turns into beautiful wood art. He showed us in detail how to make one of his specialty items, the tulip shape as show pictorially above. Thanks Maurice, for a fascinating and entertaining demonstration.

April Program: Jess Walls Turning a Bird House

Jess Walls, founder and president of the North Alabama Woodturners, AWA and AAW member, veteran of many John Campbell sessions and Southern States Symposiums, will demonstrate how to turn a REAL bird house at the April meeting. Don't miss it!



May Round-Robin Demos:

- Will Pate—Bottle Stoppers & Holder
- Jerry Hanchey—Ornaments
- Jean Cline—Football
- Dwight Hostetter—TBA
- Jack Capps—TBA



A video of each AWA meeting is provided on DVD for your benefit for only \$10 postage paid. You can log on to www.alabamawoodturners.com/ then click on Club Videos or www.melbrown4u.org/video.htm or call Mel Brown at 687-1247

Meeting Location—816 Oak Grove Rd. Homewood AL

From I-65 N, exit 256B (From I-65 S, exit 256A). Turn West on Oxmoor Rd. go about .5 mi – halfway there take the left fork at the traffic light (means you'll go straight ahead) – Turn left onto Oak Grove Road and go about .2 mi. Homewood Senior Center is on the right. Check out our Web Site at www.alabamawoodturners.com for much more about our club.

Photographing Your Work - The Basics by Neal Addy Fort Worth, TX

Let's say you've just completed your latest masterpiece. You'd like to shoot some photos and email them to friends and family, or perhaps post them to an on-line forum. Do you simply grab your camera and head for the kitchen counter?

Why not?

Most cameras sold today are more than capable of delivering a perfectly good image regardless of where it was shot. But a few simple tips will help get the most out of each photo.

Let's start with some basics:

1) Eliminate the clutter - The background you choose makes a profound difference to the eye of the viewer. Keep in mind that the purpose of your shot is to show off your newly turned masterpiece, not that stack of magazines in the background! Anything else placed in the frame of your shot only draws attention away from where it belongs: your work!

Let's compare a side-by-side example. The two shots below were taken from the same spot on my kitchen counter. The shot on the right has a simple piece of artist's paper placed under the bowl and curved up the back to isolate the subject.



You can see how eliminating the clutter (and getting a bit closer) creates a much better photo. Unless you are a fan of corn-shaped sugar bowls you probably enjoy looking at the second shot best.

2) Go Macro - In photography terms this means "get close!" Most cameras have a Macro or Close-up mode (usually designated by a flower symbol). Use it!

Macro lets you move in closer (as we did in the second shot above) and does a good job of handling things like depth-of-field. Position the camera so that your masterpiece fills at least 50% or more of the viewer. Be careful not to get too close as this can make it difficult for the camera to focus correctly.

Back away a bit if you find your auto-focus "hunting".

3) A top-down approach - Don't shoot bowls or larger objects from a straight-on profile view. Whenever possible, compose your shot so that it presents your subject from a just-over-the-top perspective. This doesn't mean shoot down on the piece.

Angle your shot so that it just peeks over the top edge.

4) Eliminate the shakes - Always use a tripod. Even a cheap tripod will usually yield better images than hand-held. Any zoom that might be used only results in magnifying the shakes.

Who wants to look at this? Compare it to our shot on the right above.



And yes, I know your camera has "Image Stabilization" or "Vibration Reduction"! That's very nice. Turn it off and use a tripod anyway. Your shots will only be as steady as the platform from which they are taken.

5) Fingers off - As implied in number 4 above, anything that jiggles the camera (or tripod) even by a tiny amount should be avoided. This includes your finger pressing the shutter.

"Hmmm, so how am I supposed to take the shot", you ask?

Your camera has a built-in delay feature. Use it! Some cameras refer to this as a "self timer". Check your camera's manual if you are unsure how to use this.

6) Don't over-do the color - Background color can have a profound effect on the viewer's color perception of your piece. Compare the three shots below. Notice how the piece loses some color as the background gets darker? Yet highlights (i.e. bright areas) become more pronounced.



As a general rule, white is always a safe color to use (more on this later). Light gray also works well in most situations. Red, greens, blues, etc. should generally be avoided unless you have a specific reason for choosing them. Colors other than white or gray tend to have the unwanted effect of tinting our color perception of the subject in their favor.

7) Get this straight - Don't make your audience tilt their head! Always be aware of the horizontal alignment of your image and make sure your subject is level. Unless your subject is sliding downhill it should not look like this.



Many cameras provide a viewscreen grid option to assist you in aligning your shot. If you have such an option available you should leave it turned on as a reminder to check alignment each time you shoot. Most photo editing software has a "rotate" or

"straighten" function should you find an image that needs adjusting.

8) It's only electrons - Always use the highest resolution your camera is capable of (more on this later). Unlike the days when film was king, taking a shot in digital costs you nothing but a bit of space on your memory card. Disk is cheap. Your photos are priceless!



9) Train the eye - Learn from each image you shoot. Take a critical look at each photo and evaluate what you did well and what needs improvement. This can (and should) be done at the on-camera LCD after each shot and again after uploading the images to your PC.

10) Spice it up - Learning a few basic tricks with your photo editing software can make the difference between a drab photo and

a great photo. If this step intimidates you don't worry; there's no reason it should. Photo editing software has come a long way in the past few years. Anyone with a few tricks up his or her sleeve can edit like a pro with a few simple clicks of the mouse.

How much difference can software make, you ask? Let's compare an "unprocessed" photo (taken directly from the camera) with its spiced up counterpart. Remember our kitchen counter shot? Here it is before and after a bit of software processing.

So how did this magic happen? Let's move to the [next section](#) and find out!

Visit Neal Addy's web site at nealaddy.org to read the rest of this interesting article and more good information on woodturning!

(Editor's note: This extract for Neal's article has been compressed by the editor to save space.)