



# Alabama Woodturners Association

February 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](http://www.alabamawoodturners.com)

## Coming Events 2013

- February** -Mark Sillay
- March**-Maurice Clabaugh
- April** –Jess Walls
- May**-Round Robin
- June** - Jim Greenwood\*
- July** -Joe Wujcik\*
- August**-Staten Tate\*
- September** -Cynthia & Michael Gibson
- October** - Pat Johnson\*
- \* Not confirmed

## 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

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- Mark Sillay Workshop**  
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## \*\*Notice\*\*

*Dues are Due!  
Wear your  
Name Tag!*

The January meeting was well attended with 60 plus signed in and more who forgot to sign in. The meeting began with the election of officers which didn't happen in December conducted by our out-going president, Phil Duffy . The slate announced in the January newsletter was elected UNANAMOUSLY.

Richard Serviss took charge of the meeting as new president, after wrestling the microphone away from Phil Duffy. Will Pate is lining up some great programs for the rest of the year. We had "leftovers" from the Christmas party at the end of the meeting, thanks to Jennifer Smith, our treasurer.

The program for January by Mike Peace was interesting and well done. Mike's bio was in last months newsletter. Mike made hand chasing threads look easy. Mike demonstrated a mechanical threading jig he made patterned after a commercial one that worked very well. Mike does a very professional job in his work and in his presentation. Pictures of his demo are on page 5 of the newsletter.

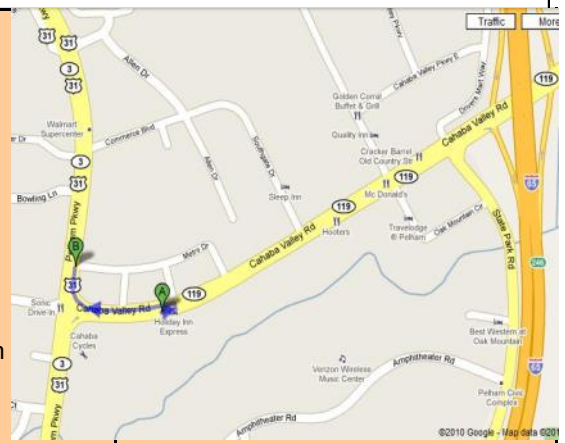
Our **February demo** will be Mark Sillay from Tucker, GA. Mark will have a **Saturday afternoon training class** at the Homewood Senior Center. We have spaces available. The cost will be \$25.00. Got to Mark's website [www.marksillay.com](http://www.marksillay.com) to view his work. There are two video's and several photos on the site that show you the quality of his work. See Mark's bio on page 2 of this newsletter and a detailed description of his demo and the Saturday workshop on the last page.

Contact Phil Fortmeyer 205-612-7496, Will Pate 205-907-0638 or Richard Serviss 205-914-2620 to reserve your place in the afternoon session.

We are planning two **round-robin** programs this year as they are among the most popular programs. You get up close and personal with the six demos going on at once and even get some hands on in some cases. **Johnny Carpenter** is organizing the round robin this year so please sign up to demo in May or November. We need six demonstrators for each date. Contact Johnny at [carpwdtrn@bellsouth.net](mailto:carpwdtrn@bellsouth.net).



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



## Mark Sillay Demo – February 2013



### Bio:

When I was about six years old, my father gave me a set of hand tools, an old packing box with a vise mounted on it for a workbench and scrap wood. With his loving instruction and patience throughout my youthful years, I grew to appreciate tool skills, freedom of design and superior quality finish work.

Now I enjoy recycling native Georgia woods. I love using the lathe to transform recycled woods into useful items and artistic objects. Being basically self-taught on the lathe, over the years I have advanced my woodturning skills. After turning many basic bowls, etc., I found a desire to create smaller and finer turned objects. I had the privilege of meeting Cindy Drozda ([www.cindydrozda.com](http://www.cindydrozda.com)). She inspired me with her unmatched skills and I thank her for helping me transform my woodturning life into a joyful journey.

I find satisfaction in both the creative process and in overcoming the challenges to complete fine quality finished work. I especially enjoy using a razor sharp spindle gouge and watching the shapes evolve while I'm creating intricate turnings. Donating to charities, teaching and demonstrating fulfill my giving spirit. I continue to be awed by what nature has created in wood and am proud of my efforts to preserve and recycle. At schools and art and craft shows, I take a mini lathe on which I turn wood as an educational experience for children. I make simple toys and ornaments for them to paint and decorate. I see the wonderment in their eyes as I reveal the toy from the wood. Doing this continues to fascinate me and bring me joy.

One of my new artistic directions is combining my woodturning with objects from the sea. It evolved from helping one of my students, Jennifer Jones, with her joinery skills. During the process of helping her I discovered a new way to join irregular objects. Exploring and refining this technique has brought much joy to me and helped to advance my artistic expression.

I am a member of the American Association of Woodturners and the Georgia Association of Woodturners. I consider myself a very blessed man with a supportive wife, family and many wonderful woodturning friends.

# SHOW AND TELL TIME



Sally Street



Pete Marken



Ronnie Perkins



Nested Bowls



Segmented Bowls



Nice Work



Dwight Hostetter



Burned Wood



Delbert Freeman

## ~~~~~**Notice**~~~~~

International Association of Penturners has created a forum for the Central Alabama Penturners. Woodcraft has agreed to allow a meeting place there. We are looking at a once a quarter meeting, the first has not been set at this time. If you are interested you can respond to me directly at [firewhatfire@bellsouth.net](mailto:firewhatfire@bellsouth.net) with contact information. Name, Address, Phone Number, IAP screen name if you have one, email address.

If you are not a member of the IAP [www.penturners.org](http://www.penturners.org) I highly recommend joining as its free and has a tremendous amount of information available to pen turners.

Phil Morris

## I DID IT MY WAY by Maurice Clabaugh

Maurice Clabaugh, while attending an outdoor art fair in Georgia in 1991, remarked, “I think I could do that”, referring to wood turning being demonstrated by Knute Oland. A career academician, Maurice had no background in “shop arts”. He took a high school wood shop class (no lathe turning included) and was exposed to minimal “observation training” in carpentry from his father and grandfather. His “primitive furniture” projects proved to be less than satisfying. By his own definition, they were “wood butchering” projects that he concluded were not even good enough for furniture polish!

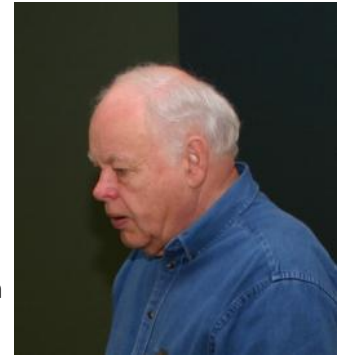
Before he caught the dream of becoming a wood turner, Maurice always loved art made from wood. Admiring all forms and imagining himself capable of producing wooden art were two different things. After watching others, whom he believed were gifted in producing wooden art, he dared to begin to ask some serious questions. Can just anyone do it? What tools will be needed and how much money must be invested in equipment just to begin the process? How much training does it require? He found the answers to those questions and more at the Georgia crafts fair while interviewing the “grandfather of wood turning” Knute Oland. This seasoned artist seemed to recognize a “diamond in the rough” and showed extraordinary patience and graciousness while sharing his knowledge of the basics to someone who just happened by his demonstration that fall day. Coincidentally, Maurice was engaged in the fourth rewrite of a 10-year textbook writing challenge and was desperately searching for something to motivate him to complete the project for his upcoming deadline. He found it at that Georgia fair. Upon returning to Alabama, he immediately ordered his first lathe. Knowing he must make his writing deadline, he simply left the lathe in the shipping crate and set it aside in the garage. He told himself that once the book was “put to bed” he would engage himself in learning how to turn wooden objects.

There are many ways to learn skills: books and videos, lectures, symposium demonstrations, “hands on” workshops, classes and by simply putting ones hands on a project and working at it. Many people seek the advice of others with a hope of shortening their “learning curve”, and others just try various techniques until they have a successful outcome. Whichever approach one takes, motivation and self-confidence are needed. Maurice had both and became totally engrossed in teaching himself to turn objects on his new lathe.

As the adventure began, he found very few lathe turning artists in his locale. He became his own teacher by reading all he could and practicing each technique repeatedly until he had perfected his skills. In the early days, he practiced eight hours a day, four days a week, He was limited in the amount of time he could devote to his challenge until he retired from his teaching post in 2000. Never having taken a class, he missed the opportunity to compare his work with other beginning turners, and comparing his work to those pieces he saw in magazines and books only served to motivate him more to strive for better quality workmanship. He persisted in trying to perfect his techniques via maximum hours of practice. The number of attempts did not matter. Many were unsuccessful because they either “exploded” (40-50% of them) or they ended up having holes in the bottom where he cut through them. Each mistake was never cast aside until he had discovered what he had done incorrectly and how he could avoid making that mistake again on the next piece.

In 1994 he made a decision to shorten his learning curve by attending a symposium at Arrowmont School For The Arts in Gatlinburg, TN. It was not simply a learning occasion but a special symposium to honor Daphne Osolnik (Rude Osolnik’s wife). Artist turners, from across the U.S. and from overseas gathered and donated their pieces of art to be auctioned. The monies collected were to go towards a scholarship fund in Mrs. Osolnik’s name. Maurice joined the others and donated a piece of his work. It was his first association with world-class artists and he was cautious and a little uncomfortable to put his work beside those who had already made their reputations as professional wood turners. He was spared the largest of humiliations because his amateur piece sold for \$285.00 and he was affirmed for his work and generosity. With newfound courage, he then attended the Georgia Wood Turners Symposium that same year. He entered three art pieces in the “instant gallery” and his closed vessel entitled “Turned through the Knothole” won for him the “best of show” award for its uniqueness and workmanship.

Once Maurice mastered the basics, he became inspired to focus on looking at the raw materials for his artwork just as he had once looked at his academic students. What was extraordinary in each one? What was nature’s handiwork that he could, enhance through his skills? How could he bring attention to i.e. knotholes, bark inclusions, colorations, and figures? Ultimately he discovered an area that satisfied his need to express himself—a way to “spotlight” the beauty within each piece. Again there was no way to shorten his learning curve. His confidence was growing, but he found no classes on the types of turnings he was now hoping to attempt. His earlier experiences, motivation and learning style were once again brought “into play”. (cont. next page)



He began to observe that his personal turning style was in contrast to other “nouveau” wood turnings that “spotlighted” manipulated and artificially adjusted pieces. Unsatisfied with this new “slice and dice, paint, enhance” style, he resolved to try a different approach. He used only wood in its natural raw form including and enhancing all the blemishes that were present. He believed that wood remains a “living” object even after it is cut, so his goal was to become attuned to the “spirit” he found in the wood. He dedicated vast amounts of time to studying the “spirit of the wood” and he visualized the basic form of each piece before he even mounted them onto his lathe. He did not demand that the wood become what he “patterned” it to be, but rather allowed it to evolve as he worked with it. This “metamorphosis” enabled him to reveal the natural beauty that was always there but hidden to the naked eye. He became passionate to highlight the “blemishes” rather than make them disappear. The opportunity to reveal the beauty in each piece and to preserve it so others might enjoy it, had become for him, ---a sacred and contemplative experience. Through preserving the beauty of nature in his art form, he renewed himself. His techniques, philosophy and keen observations have evolved into something he has taken pride in and now shares with his wood turning students. His skills are still evolving. He is still learning and mastering techniques. As he closes his shop each day, he continues to use his artwork as a motivation. He leaves a “work in progress” mounted upon his lathe so that the next day he will begin again to challenge himself to strive for the next piece of artwork to be even better than those he has already accomplished.



**The March Program -Maurice Clabaugh:**

Iron Wood Blossom which won First Place in the Friends of Hurricane Creek "Creekstravaganza and Creek Wood Art Show" September 2012. Maurice has turned several "Turned under edges" on vessels but his favorite is the "Blossom" shape. Additionally, he will have a hands-on training session for members in the afternoon the same day. Sign up at the January meeting for the limited space and make a "Blossom vessel" of your own.

**Mike Peace** demoed thread chasing and making treaded top vessels in the January program. He also demonstrated a device he designed to automate threading.



**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/](http://www.alabamawoodturners.com/) then click on Club Videos or [www.melbrown4u.org/video.htm](http://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](http://www.alabamawoodturners.com) for much more about our club.

## DEMONSTRATION FOR ALABAMA WOODTURNER CLUB

by  
Mark Sillay

TOOTHPICK TECHNOLOGY - A quick demonstration of how to make tenonless joinery for attaching finials to solid, hollow, and irregularly surfaced objects. Finials now become interchangeable from object to object with the elimination of gaps on irregular surfaces and glue points are never on the surface for an unprofessional look.

### WOOD SLICING - Spindle Gouge

- A. THE CONVEX GRIND - How to grind a spindle gouge with a parabolic shape and a convex bevel profile using a Wolverine Jig and freehand spark trail drawing.
- B. WOOD SLICING BASICS - Review of basic safety rules and rules for technical tool application to achieve slicing of spinning wood that requires little or no sanding. I will cover the east west rule, proper entry, tool tilts, arcing and the basic V Cut to remove material. I will also cover hand, tool rest and body positions that will enhance your turning abilities
- C. 5 BASIC SHAPES - How to apply slicing techniques to form BEADS, COVES, FLATS, DISCS AND POINTS

### WOOD SLICING - Final Cuts

- A. END GRAIN - Rules, tools and tips. B. SIDE GRAIN - Rules, tools and tips.

Audience participation will prove that anyone can make these no tear out cuts.

- C. TWO SANDING SECRETS - These will change your finishing attitude forever. One I learned in high school drafting class and the other I learned looking at moonlight on the beach.

### HANDS ON WORKSHOP

- A. I will assist each individual in learning to sharpen their own spindle gouge with a parabolic shape and a convex bevel. For advanced turners doing extra fine finials, I will instruct them in the fabrication and use of a one sided parabolic and convex knife tool.
- B. Individual assistance with proper tool, hand and body motions to slice wood and form beads, coves, flats, discs and points.
- C. Each person can then choose to have me assist them completing a toothpick technology project or have me assist them in perfecting side grain and end grain final inside and outside slicing cuts on bowls or hollow forms.
- D. TOOLS REQUIRED - Grinder with Wolverine Jig, Chuck with #1 small step jaws, 3/8" spindle gouge, bowl gouge, spindle roughing gouge, and thin parting tool. Eye and dust safety equipment is required. I will furnish all other materials.