



Alabama Woodturners Association

AWA Newsletter

January 2015



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

January 10-Harvey Meyer
February 14-???
March 14-???
April 11-???
May 9-???
June 13-???

January 2015-Harvey Meyer



I'm retired from a 43+ year career as a telecommunications engineer. I've been a woodworker for most of my life. After building furniture for many years, I started woodturning in 2000. As it is with most woodworkers who attempt woodturning, I stopped building furniture and now exclusively turn wood. Most of the wood I turn is from the Atlanta area. This wood generally comes from trees downed in storms or from tree removals and would otherwise be headed to landfills or chippers. I also like to turn exotic woods and burls. No two pieces of wood are alike and it's not until I start turning a piece when the wood reveals its hidden beauty. I turn many types of forms and objects including bowls, platters, hollow forms, goblets, boxes, pepper mills, wine bottle stoppers, pens, etc., but my main focus is on hollow forms. I also like to embellish my turnings by piercing, burning, coloring, carving, and texturing. Lately, I've been focused on the "basket illusion" where a turned piece attempts to resemble woven basketry. I enjoy demonstrating at woodturning clubs and teaching. All in all, I'm just having fun. I work in my studio located in the basement of my home in Dunwoody, GA. I'm an active member of the Georgia Association of Woodturners, Atlanta Woodturners Guild, and the American Association of Woodturners.

Biographical information and pictures copied from www.harveymeyer.com.



Inside This Issue:

Saturday Afternoon Mentoring Class information-Page 2
Raffle News-Page 2
Birthdays-Page 2
Tree Talk-Tung Oil and Tree-Page 3

Notice

How many Christmas ornaments have you made and turned in? As of our January meeting, there are only 349 days until next Christmas but, more importantly, 295 days until we decorate the Christmas tree at Children's Hospital!

Do you have a **January or February** birthday? If so, please see Jean or Amy at the sign in table or email us at clineclan1@gmail.com or leobenefield@gmail.com.



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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



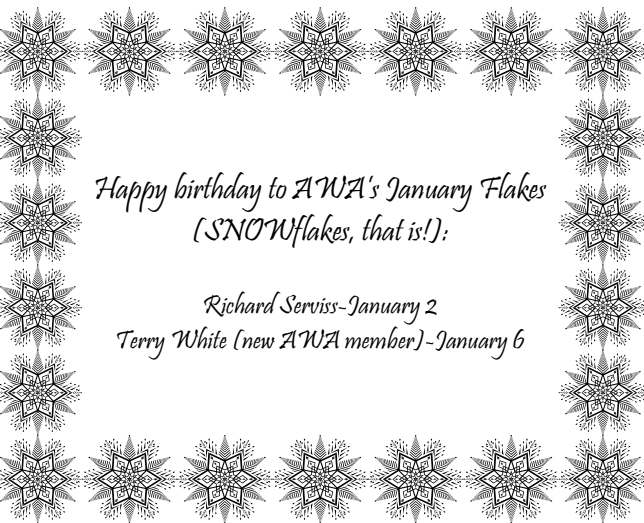
Saturday Afternoon Mentoring (Starts about 1 hour after the morning session ends or about 1:00)

If you are interested in participating either as a student or a mentor, Phil would love to talk to you and sign you up! Phil Fortmeyer-(205) 612-7496.

Phil Fortmeyer is our mentor chairman. Classes are scheduled that are of interest to a wide range of experience with preference being given to turners with limited experience. There is a nominal fee for these classes to cover the cost of the material used in the class. Bring your own tools or use the tools provided by the club. The club owns six Rikon Lathes, chucks and tools necessary to use in the classes. The training is held in the Craft Room at the Homewood Senior Center.

Things were so crazy at the December Christmas party that we didn't draw a name for the December birthday prize (and besides, I forgot to bring the gift!). We'll draw for December and January at the January meeting.

If you have an January or February birthday, don't forget to let Amy or Jean know when you sign in! You can't win if you don't tell us!



Raffle/

Birthday Gift Door Prize News

The 'regular' raffle for January will be a \$100 gift certificate to Woodcraft.

If you've been to the meetings for the last few months or actually read the newsletter, you've noticed that the AWA has been giving a birthday gift door prize to a turner who has a birthday during the month of that meeting.

Here are the 'rules' for 2015 as they stand now:

- 1) This is a door prize so, yes, you need to be at the meeting to win.
- 2) You need to make sure Jean and/or Amy have your correct birthdate. No fair changing your birthdate in the middle of the year! You're stuck with the one they originally gave you!
- 3) We have prizes for the entire year that we have been numbered. The prize winner for the current month (i.e. January) will draw the prize number for the next month (i.e. February) so Amy and I don't have to bring all of the prizes to all of the meetings. (We sometimes have a hard time just getting us to the meetings!)

If you have raffle ideas, please see Jean or Amy at the raffle/sign in table.

Alabama Woodturners 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.

Tree Talk: Tung Oil and Tree

Tung Tree

The term 'Tung' refers to the large, dark green, heart shaped leaves of the Tung tree ('tung' is the Chinese word for 'heart'). This is a fast growing deciduous tree that reaches a height of about forty feet when mature. The life span of a Tung tree is about thirty years. Fruit bearing begins in the third year of tree growth. The Tung fruit occurs in clusters, each of which bear four or five nuts. When the nuts are dried and pressed they yield about twenty percent oil. Under favorable conditions, an acre of Tung trees will produce about two tons of nuts and eight hundred pounds (one hundred gallons of raw Tung oil. Successful cultivation of Tung trees requires exact climatic conditions, including the proper ratio of warm and cool days. The major growing areas include China, Argentina, Paraguay and parts of Africa.



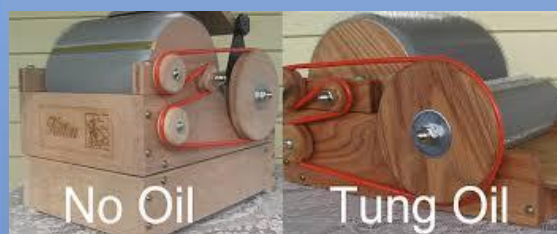
In 1912, the American Ambassador to China shipped Tung trees to California, but they died due to lack of proper growing conditions. Successful Tung plantations were established in the Gulf Coast states during the 1930s because of the perfect growing conditions. In 1969, Hurricane Camille destroyed the Tung plantations of the Gulf states and stopped the domestic production of Tung oil.

Tung Oil



Tung oil or China wood oil is a drying oil obtained by pressing the seed from the nut of the Tung tree. As a drying oil, Tung oil hardens (dries) upon exposure to air. The resulting coating is transparent and plastic-like; a property which is exploited in most applications such as wood finishing, as well as in the composition of oil paints and printing inks. Related drying oils include linseed, safflower, poppy and soybean. The oil and its use are believed to have originated in ancient China and appear in the writings of Confucius from about 400 B.C. Throughout their history,

the Chinese as used Tung oil to waterproof the masts, sails and wooden ships, to finish furniture of royal families and, according to legend, to seal the Great Wall! The name is often used by paint and varnish manufacturers as a generic name for any wood finishing product that contains the real Tung oil and/or provides a finish that resembles that obtained with it. Tung oil has become popular as an environmentally friendly wood finish, but it should be noted that many products labelled as "Tung oil finishes" are deceptively labelled: polymerized oils, wiping varnishes and oil/varnish blends have all been known to be sold as Tung oil finishes (sometimes containing no Tung oil at all), and all the above contain solvents and/or chemical dryers. Product packaging will usually clearly state if it is pure



Tung oil.

When applied in many fine coats over wood, Tung oil slowly cures to a satin "wetted wood" look with a slight golden tint. It resists liquid water better than any other pure oil finish, though it still provides little protection against water vapor exchange or scratches.

Tung oil does not darken noticeably with age and is claimed to be less susceptible to mold than linseed oil.

During WWII, the US Military began using Tung oil to prevent rust and reduce friction on engine parts. Soon Tung oil was used to coat the inside of cans, to insulate electric circuits and to make high-quality paints.

Other Uses



The oil-paper umbrella is the traditional umbrella used in China, Japan and other countries in the East Asian cultural sphere and was brought to western countries through the Silk Road. Tung oil is the “oil” used to protect the paper from getting wet and to make the umbrella waterproof.

As the penetrating power of Tung oil is excellent and it will adhere to porous minerals, it is often used by stonemasons on granite or marble installed in kitchens, bathrooms and other staining fluid environments. Applied at a 1:5 ratio (oil to naphtha), it seals the surfaces permanently, while also giving a finish like that of wet stone to the product. Often several thin layers are applied at the high solvent-to-oil ratio in order to build up the durability and permanence of the coating. The non-yellowing nature of Tung oil is vitally important for its satisfactory use in these applications.

Bibliography http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tung_oil
<http://www.sutherlandwells.com/what-is-tung-oil.html>

