

Alabama Woodturners Association



Newsletter

April 2018

A member of the American Association of Woodturners
Meeting location: Homewood Senior Center, 816 Oak Grove Rd., Homewood, AL 35209
Meeting time: The second Saturday of each month at 9 am
www.alabamawoodturners.com

April Demo ~ Jess Walls - From Log to Bowl



Jess Walls will be the demonstrator for our monthly meeting. He will be turning relatively fresh cut Bradford Pear, so it will be wet turning and deal with all the issues involved therein to get a natural edge bowl or regular bowl.

He has agreed to lead the follow up training session for the afternoon class. Those wishing to join the class should call or text Doc Phil at (205) 612-7496. This is a great class for beginner and intermediate level turners. Familiarity with bowl gauges, parting tools, perhaps spindle gauges, or the carbide tipped turning tools is helpful, but not necessary. We will use drive spurs and Tennon's for these bowls. Participants should bring their individual safety equipment (eye/face protection) and probably a smock or apron because of the wet wood. Standard \$25 fee for the class.

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PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE

What is a Calabash bowl? Put simply, it is a bowl with a curved bottom and no foot. The curve should be broad so that when set on a table it may rock gently but come to rest upright, not leaning over. Often they are curved inward at the rim ("closed form"). Beyond that the design is up to you, whatever you think looks right. The advantage to this is that you don't have to worry if the foot is too large or too small for the bowl. I'm not an authority on where the name came from, so I did a quick search on the internet and found that Calabash is the name of a tree that produces a gourd, and you can imagine cutting off the top of the gourd to make a bowl with a curved bottom.

For this challenge you are not required to make a bowl. Instead you could make anything else with a curved bottom so that it rocks gently when set on a table. I look forward to seeing what you come up with.

– Carl

UPCOMING PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGES

April - Calabash bowl or other curved bottom, no foot

May - Hollow form, any size

June - Salad bowl, small or large

July - Art, non-functional piece

August - Scoop

September - Ornaments, two or more in different styles

October - TBA

November - TBA

PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE—MARCH

Platter, plate, etc.



March Meeting Recap

Thank you Jared Bruckner for providing the Emerging Bowl turning demo!



April Turn and Tell Highlights



Hey! Wanna learn more about turning? Or help someone else learn more about turning?

Mentoring is available Saturday afternoons in the Craft Room at the Homewood Senior Center. Sessions start one hour after the demonstration ends or 1 pm.

AWA owns lathes, chucks and tools to use in class, but you may also bring your own.

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

April Turn and Tell Highlights, cont.



VULCAN FORGE BLACKSMITHING CLASS

Vulcan Forge would be happy to conduct a special class for our members on **May 5**, from 9 am to 4 pm at Tannehill Iron Works State Park near Bessemer. We will cover steel selection, heat treating, forging techniques and how to have an affordable forge and tools. This course is designed for wood workers to be able to make tools at a fraction of the cost with readily available tools and materials. Cost will include a one year membership in Vulcan Forge, additional classes at no charge, materials and tools furnished for the class, membership in Alabama Forge Council, newsletter (very good) and wood working tools you will have made. Lunch will be provided for an additional small charge. The charge should be around \$25 for the class and \$6 for lunch, plus the cost of admission to the park. Students will need to wear clothing made of natural material (cotton, linen, wool, leather) and have safety glasses. This class will be smaller than our last class to insure better personal instructions and more anvil time. Space is limited to 12 - that is two students per anvil, per instructor. Women are welcome and one of our smiths is a woman. Just as at our turning meetings, people may have items for sale. To register or if you have any questions, contact James Vaughn at (205) 608-0022 or email cahabatrad-ers@hotmail.com.



AWA Treasurer's Report February 27, 2018

Balance on hand 01/29/18	\$8,969.56
(Checking account plus \$250 cash on hand with Jennifer)	
Expenditures since 01/29/18:	
Food for January meeting	\$161.59
Gift Certificate for Ornament drawing	\$100.00
Lathe	\$756.01
Year end drawings-President's Challenge	\$337.59
Year end grand prize (Arrowmont)	\$595.00
Coffee Supplies	\$24.38
Total	\$1,974.57
Income	
Dues	\$2,120.00*
Coffee contributions-January	\$29.00
Coffee contributions-February	\$5.00
Raffle-January	\$213.00
Raffle-February	\$160.00
Total	\$2,527.00
Balance on hand 02/27/18	\$9,521.99**

*Dues comprised of 44 individual and 8 family memberships paid thus far for 2018.

**Balance reflects checking account and cash on hand with Jennifer of \$250.00 to be used for change those paying dues. Additional cash on hand held by Jean and Amy for change at their table is not included in the balance.

AWA April Birthdays

Wayne Bagwell - 4/4

Susan McCalla - 4/6

Jack Capps - 4/13

Tom Cromer - 4/4

Brian Edwards - 4/9

John Taylor - 4/25

Doc Phil - 4/6

Bob Henry - 4/9

Larry Hicks - 4/27

Greg Dobbs - 4/10

Congratulations to **Johnny Carpenter** for winning the birthday door prize for the month of March, a block of maple!

Birthday Door Prize News

AWA gives a birthday gift door prize to a turner who has a birthday during the month of that meeting. Here are the 'rules' for this year:

- 1) This is a door prize so, yes, you need to be at the meeting and stay for the drawing to win.
- 2) You need to make sure Jean and/or Amy have your correct birth date. No fair changing your birth date in the middle of the year! You're stuck with the one they originally gave you!

Congratulations to our raffle and door prize winners for the March meeting!
Howard King (x2), Brent Clayton (x2), Gregg Oliver (x2), Terry Tingle, James Vaughn, Clyde Hoover, Ron Herbster (x3), David Duncan (x2), Alan Stanton, David Fancher, Mike Devers, Debbie Lazenby, Gary Hales, Jack Capps, John Jackman and Myra Harper!

Raffle Ticket Prize News

Bring an item to donate and buy raffle tickets. We'll raffle the items donated and all of the tickets will go into the pot for a **BIG** prize to be given away at the Christmas party in December! The **BIG** prize for 2017 was a Scholarship to attend a class at Arrowmont! Smaller prizes were a set of tools and a chuck.

Soooo...what do you donate? How about a tool, jig, turned item, wood blank, etc. If you've been to the last several meetings, you probably saw some of the items that were donated for the raffle. That should give you a pretty good idea. Use your imagination ...within reason, of course! As a bonus, if you bring donations, you'll get one additional raffle ticket for each item!

The success of this raffle depends on your willingness to donate nice items and also to buy raffle tickets.

\$1 each~~~~~\$5 for 6 tickets~~~~~\$10 for 13 tickets

More money = more tickets!!! See Amy for details!

If you don't think you are an expert turner, look at any of the newsletters from other clubs. You will see that your turnings are equal to anything out there. Your turned items **ARE** 'good enough'.

The Karl Harper Perpetual Challenge

AWA has established a perpetual turning challenge in memory of Karl Harper. This challenge is an excellent remembrance of Karl as he continuously expressed a 'try anything' spirit and was an inspiration to us all.

This is how it works: A piece will be turned by a member to be presented at the next meeting. A name will be drawn from the sign-in sheet at that meeting. If the person whose name is drawn accepts, they will take that piece to keep and will bring a piece the following month. If they decline, then another name will be drawn until someone accepts the challenge.

If you question your skill level, don't! Karl never did! You are good enough at whatever level you are! Karl would want us to put a bag over our heads before we turned because he thought 'Lights are for people with disabilities!'

At right is the piece brought by the March challenger, Dwight Hostetter. Our April challenger is Gregg Oliver.



May Demo - Howard King

June Demo - Carl Cummins

**July Demo - Christmas in July
(Round Robin showcasing Christmas ornaments)
Please join us after the meeting for a cookout!**

A Note from the President

by Carl Cummins

First let me say “Thanks again” to Jared Bruckner for the very interesting demo on the “Emerging Bowl”. I must say he has thoroughly explored the subject, providing four different methods for doing the project (see handout on our web site under “Tips...”). In addition to the basic project, he showed his creativity in several variations on the theme. Already impressed with his work, I decided to drive up to Boaz for the North Alabama Woodturners meeting to see him demonstrate his coin-puzzle box. Since several of the NAW members are also members of our club, it was easy to feel at home among friends.

Speaking of handouts... Do you remember the demo that Pete Marken did for us last year showing his fabulous high-gloss finish? He gave me a new handout covering the subject, and I put it on our website, also under “Tips...”

Johnny Carpenter and Michelle Marken are handling the Turn for Troops project where we turn pens for U. S. Service personnel. Johnny told me at our last meeting we had 60 pens promised. Adding those already donated we are off to a good start. If you have pens to donate please bring them to our next meeting.

Ron Herbster is heading our Empty Bowls project, but unfortunately Ron found that the local sponsor has cancelled the event for this year. We'll put this project on hold until we know of a local sponsor.

I keep busy with woodturning. First, I started with projects for the next President's Challenge (see other message on page 2). Then I watched a Richard Raffan video “Making a Box with a Fitted Lid”, so I was motivated to try his technique. Upon requests from friends I've made more eccentric spoons. Also thinking about helping with Turn for Troops (pens) and the blind veterans, I hope to have more projects done for those in time for our April meeting.

I hope you will feel motivated by the many opportunities around us, make time to get to your studio, and show us what you have worked on this past month.

- *Carl*

P.S. If you have items of interest on woodturning please do let us know. You can write an article and send it directly to our newsletter editors, Jean Cline at clineclan1@gmail.com or Amy Benefield at leobenefield@gmail.com. If you just have thoughts or ideas to share you can send them to Jean or to me at cjcummins@gmail.com.