



AWA Newsletter

August 2016

A member of the American Association of Woodturners
 Location-Homewood Senior Center; 816 Oak Grove Road; Homewood, Alabama 35209

Coming Events

August 13-**Keith Rueckert**~
 High Gloss Lacquer
 Finishing

September 10-**Jim
 Sebastian/Jean Cline**

October 8-**Dean
 Black**~Turning Large'

November 12-TBD

2016 Officers of AWA

President-John Sowell

Vice President-Carl
 Cummins

Treasurer-Jennifer Smith

Secretary-Amy

Benefield/Jean Cline

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Bruce Gibson, Dwight

Hostetter, Michael

Malinconico, Richard Serviss,

Staten Tate, Gary Hales

Webmaster-Carl Cummins

Newsletter Editors-Jean

Cline, Amy Benefield

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Christmas Is Coming!

How many ornaments have you made and turned in?

August~Keith Rueckert "High Gloss Lacquer Finishing"



R. Keith Rueckert was born in the dairy county of Clear Lake, WI. He later settled in Michigan. While visiting a friend in Atlanta, GA in 1964, the contract in weather extremes persuaded him to relocate and make it his home. He met his wife there, marrying her in 1969. Both his father and step-father had been building contractors. Thus it was natural that he would migrate into that field as a builder of single family homes.

During his tears in Atlanta, Keith developed an appreciation for the works of Ed and Philip Moulthrop-well-known father and son woodturners from the Atlanta area. His admiration of the beauty of the wood in the bowls they created grew into a desire to, on day, try his hand at woodturning.

Keith retired to Gilmer County in the North Carolina Mountains in 1998. With time on his hands and a need to 'supervise' something or someone, his wife gently reminded him that it was time to pursue that wish. After taking a one day lesson from a fellow turner, purchasing a lathe and a few tools, he was on his way to a very satisfying hobby. Keith's long experience working with wood in his business gave him a deep appreciation for the various grains, textures and colors. Most all of his creation come from trees on his own acreage that have dies or been felled by nature's will. Other wood is obtained from friends in the tree removal business who watch for trees that have distinctive color and/or grain with unusual knots or burls. Fungus growth-known as spalting- will cause unique flaws, cracks or patterns in the wood as will the insects that commonly inhabit the trees. What may appear to be a rotting log to one is a challenge and inspiration to the turner. The defects of nature give him an opportunity to make each vessel truly one of a kind.

When Keith is asked to duplicate a certain piece, he responds: 'No two pieces of wood are alike. Each one offers to me its unique character which I attempt to define through form and expression. While some ventures wind up as fuel for the fireplace, I find deep satisfaction in the process. The end result may differ from what I envisioned at the beginning.'



July Demonstrator-Peg Schmid



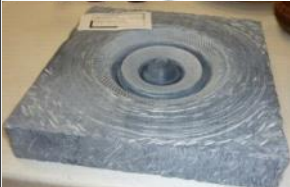
July Turn and Tell



Dwight Hostetter~Red Oak Candle Stand; Mesquite Brandy Snifter; Poplar and Padauk Stool
 John Sowell~Spalted Hickory (?) Vessel; Leyland Cypress Lidded Jar; Cherry Oval Bowl; Elm 'Design Opportunity'; Oak Lady;
 Wisteria Vessel
 Gary Hales~Spalted Maple Bowl
 Howard King~Mesquite Winged Bowl; Cherry Burl Winged Bowl; Maple Hollow Form
 John Taylor~Walnut Goblet; Various Wood Pens
 Phil Duffy~Maple, Cherry and Walnut Wall Hanging, Platter and Candle Sticks
 Carl Cummins~Cedar and Dogwood & Cherry and Dogwood Eccentric Boxes; Cherry and Dogwood Boxes; Maple and Dogwood
 Trembleur; Pear, Holly and Walnut Lamp
 Pete Marken
 Maurice Clabaugh
 Myra Harper



How'd They Do That?



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

AWA owns lathes, chucks and tools necessary to use in classes but you may also bring your own tools. Training is held in the Craft Room at the Homewood Senior Center.

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.

Myra Harper designed and turned the June piece for the Karl Harper Perpetual Challenge from Spanish Cedar. Maurice Clabaugh's name was drawn as the recipient of Myra's piece and will design and turn the next piece.



Who will take home the August birthday prize of a piece of Red Mallee?

Check out the list of contenders below.



Clyde Hoover-August 11
Bill West-August 15
Paul Genereux-August 16
Tom Corbett-August 22
Lee Beadles-August 26
Sandy Bishop August 28

Raffle Prize News

We're changing the raffle once again!

Bring an item to donate and buy raffle tickets. We'll raffle the items donated but the last ticket drawn will split the pot 50/50! Needless to say, you have to be there to win!

So-o-o-o, what do you donate? How about a tool, jig, turned item, wood blank etc. If you've been to any of the meetings since November, you probably saw some of the items that were donated for the AAW Symposium ticket 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 an additional raffle ticket!

\$1 each ~~~~~ \$5 for 6 tickets ~~~~~ \$10 for 13 tickets.
Ask Amy for ticket numbers for higher dollar amounts!

The success of this raffle and the amount of the final prize will depend on your willingness to donate nice items and also to buy raffle tickets.

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

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 probably *ARE* 'good enough'.

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 2016 as they stand now:

- 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 birthdate. No fair changing your birthdate in the middle of the year! You're stuck with the one they originally gave you!

President's Challenge-July 2016

Matched or complimentary pair of candle sticks, one at least 6" high



President's Challenges For 2016

February-Done!

Tops

March-Done!

Jigs, Tools and Contraptions you have made

April-Done!

Square Bowl-7" x 7" x 2" or larger

May-Done!

A natural edge piece incorporating a major flaw in the wood

June

No Challenge due to the AAW Symposium

July-Done!

Matched or complimentary pair of candle sticks, one at least 6" high

August

Pepper mill in memory of Karl's Harper's birthday

September

Thin-walled bowl-4" or more in diameter by 1/8" or less thick

October

Christmas Ornaments

November

Lidded box with 'pop' top-1" or more in diameter

Make a Walking Stick

by Fred Holder

When I was younger and my wife and I did a lot of camping and hiking in the woods, I used to pick up a suitable stick around 5 to 6 feet long and about 1-1/2 inches in diameter at the largest end and use it for stability along the trail. It helped to push you up hill when you were climbing and it helped to put a brake on when you were descending a slope. I generally adopted this stick for the duration of the camping trip if it was a good one. I then discarded it when we went home.

Well we don't go camping anymore and I don't hike on hillsides, but I do still walk along side of the road and sometimes the uneven ground makes one a bit unsteady. I had thought of making a walking stick for several years. A couple of months ago, the bug got even stronger.

I selected some dogwood square stock that I had and began to work on my walking stick. I wanted it to be about 5 feet long and about 1-1/2 inch in diameter at the hand hold area, but I also wanted to be able to take it in the car should I wish to go hiking in the hills. This meant at least one join.

I didn't think that the brass joins available for canes would be heavy enough for my walking stick. Initially, I made up a join out of lignum vitae, but it didn't work out because as I got the female portion down to size, it was too thin to stand up to the pressure and cracked. It was redesign time! I decided that a 3/4" pipe coupling should be about the right size. I made up two male threaded pieces out of lignum vitae with 3/4" tapered pipe threads on one end and a tenon on the other to join to the walking stick. I had an insert out of a pipe threading machine, so I clamped this into a pair of vice grips and used it as a thread chaser to chase the threads. The iron coupling looked ghastly, according to my wife. So a visit to the hardware store turned up a brass coupling with a hex exterior shape. She didn't like that either.

I mounted a piece of Osage Orange in one of my Nova chucks and chased a thread for the coupling. Using a 1/8" parting tool, I faced off the end of the coupling until it was square with the threads, reversed it so the faced off end was against the shoulder on my holding chuck. Now, both ends were square to the threads. Using the 1/8" parting tool, I then turned away the hex shape of the coupling, sanded and polished. It looked great on the walking stick and my wife was happy with it too.



My join worked well and looked good and was strong. The only weak part was the glue and lignum vitae. It finally took epoxy to hold. I made two more walking sticks with somewhat improved joints using lignum, but I believe that I would settle for boxwood if I make anymore.

Because a lot of my walking is done on pavement, I chose to use a rubber crutch tip on the ground end. They come in black and blond--the blond looked better on the dogwood walking stick, black might look better on a different wood.

Rather than try to make the wood of the stick blend in perfectly with the brass coupling, I placed a bead on either side of the coupling. This gave the coupling a shoulder to butt against and gave a perfect fit. The wood above and below the beads was turned to look like a continuation right through the coupling. I also felt the stick should have some form of texturing for a better grip in the grip area. I toyed with a couple of different ideas, but finally settled on a section about 9-1/2" long made up of 1/4" beads. I have a Robert Sorby beading tool that made this job fairly easy. This worked very well and I've used it to good effect on the other two walking sticks that I've made.



Even though these pieces were only about 29-30 inches long, I had to use a steady rest to stabilize the wood for turning. On small things like lace bobbins and treen, one can normally stabilize it with their fingers. I simply couldn't do so on something this size.

The top part of the walking stick has no function other than decoration. However, the beaded section between the two large beads serves a very useful purpose of providing an excellent hand hold area. I made this section about 9-1/2" long because that was about right for my tool rest. I could bead the whole area without moving the tool rest. The join was made with two threaded pieces of lignum vitae and a 3/4" brass pipe coupling. The threads are 14 tpi chased with a die insert held with vice grips.

This information is provided by *More Woodturning Magazine*. Please visit their web site: www.morewoodturningmagazine.com

