Alabama Woodturners Association

AWA Newsletter

A member of the American Association of Woodturners

December 2014

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

Coming Events

December 13-Party/Potluck
January 10-???
February 14-???
March 14-???
April 11-???
May 9-???

Officers of AWA

President-Richard Serviss
Vice President-Tommy Hartline
Treasurer-Jennifer Smith
Secretary-Laura Reder
Directors-Staten Tate, Bill West, John Sowell, Dwight Hostetter
Webmaster-Michael Malinconico
Newsletter Editors-Jean Cline, Amy Benefield

Inside This Issue:

Notice

How many Christmas ornaments have you made and turned in? As of our October meeting, there are only 377 days until next Christmas but, more importantly, 323 days until we decorate the Christmas tree at Children's Hospital.

Do you have a **January** birthday? If so, please see Jean or Amy at the sign in table or email us at cline-clan1@gmail.com or leo-benefield@gmail.com.

December Program-Party!

The annual Christmas party will be held December 13. AWA will furnish meat and drinks. Members (spouses are invited, too!) provide side dishes and desserts to make this a real Christmas feast!

Come between 10:00 and 10:30 to socialize and maybe sample the desserts (if Jennifer isn't watching closely!). We'll eat about 11:00 as soon as everything is ready.

If you wish to participate in the gift exchange, bring a gift or two or three or…..

William Marvin Little
November 17, 1937—November 11, 2014

Bobby Grant Bryant
December 6, 1947—November 19, 2014

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

There will not be a Saturday afternoon class after the December 13 meeting because of the Christmas Party in December. 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.

Turning a Light Bulb Ornament

This Christmas Light Bulb Ornament is a quick and easy project that you can make with figured scrap pieces of wood lying around your shop. It makes a great gift to family and friends during the holidays.

PREPARING THE BLANK

Select a blank 1-3/4″ x 1-3/4″ x 3-1/2″. Use a center finder to mark the center on each end of the blank. Mount the blank on the lathe between centers using a cone center and drive center.

TURNING THE BLANK

Rough down the blank to round using a roughing gouge. Turn a tenon on one end of the blank to fit in the jaws of your chuck. Mount the tenon in a chuck, support the opposite end with a revolving center.

Using a spindle gouge turn the blank to the desired shape. Remove the tailstock and carefully turn away the waste material.

SANDING AND SEALING

Sand the ornament through 320 grit or higher. Finish the ornament with your choice of finish. We recommend using Deft Clear Wood Finish to seal and finish the blank. Apply the Deft to the ornament with the lathe stopped using a brush or rag. Apply liberally to the blank and wipe off the excess. Once dry, use a paste wax and Steel Wool while the lathe is running to smooth the deft, to leave a sealed and streak-free surface.

DECORATING THE LIGHT BULB ORNAMENT

With the lathe running around 500 rpm, color the body of the bulb using a Tombow Marker with the brush tip held in a trailing position below center. You can also use a traditional dye for coloring the ornament body if you choose.

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.

Turning a Light Bulb Ornament (Continued)

(Continued from Page 2)

To make the ornament look genuine, use our Rub-n-Buff Was and completely cover the "threaded" portion of the ornament keeping the wax as even and consistent as possible. Let the wax dry for 5-10 minutes, use a clean rag and softly buff the wax. *Hint: Wrap masking tape around the bulb section to prevent the Rub-n-Buff Wax from coloring the bulb.*

FINISHING THE LIGHT BULB ORNAMENT

Finish the ornament using a spray lacquer.

With the lathe running, use a parting tool or the long point of a screw and part the ornament from the remaining blank, Sand and finish the blank.

Drill a 1/16" diameter hole in the end of the ornament and screw in the eye screw.

SUPPLIES USED:

Roughing Gouge
Spindle Gouge
Deft Clear Wood Finish
Tombow Marker
Rub-n-Buff Gold
Spray Lacquer

Copied from Craft Supplies USA website http://blog.woodturnerscatalog.com/2012/12/turning-a-light-bulb-ornament/

As Chuck Smith was only one person who owned up to being a November Turkey, that is having a November birthday, he was the recipient of AWA's birthday gift. His gift was a set of accessory 'attachments' for a Dremel-like tool. If you have an January birthday, don't forget to let Amy or Jean know when you sign in!

Happy birthday to AWA's December Ornaments:

Ronny Perkins-December 1
Jennifer Smith-December 1
Maurice Clabaugh-December 9
Amy Benefield-December 13
James Armstrong-December 16
Lester Daw-December 20
Carl Cummins-December 28
Jim Johnson-December 28
James Gilbert-December 30

Tree Talk (Continued from next page)

Major pests include the Western Spruce dwarf Mistletoe, Spruce Bark Beetle and the Spruce Budworm.

The Navaho and Keres Native Americans used this tree as a traditional medicinal plant and a ceremonial item, and twigs are given as gifts to bring good fortune, In traditional medicine, an infusion of the needles is used to treat colds and settle the stomach. This liquid is also used externally for rheumatic pains.

In the mountains of western Sweden, scientists have found a Norway Spruce tree (cousin to the Blue Spruce), nicknamed Old Tjikko, which by reproducing through layering has reached an age of 9,550 years and is claimed to be the oldest known living tree.

Bibliography for Spruce articles:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blue_spruce
http://www.realchristmas trees.org/dnn/Education/TreeVarieties/ColoradoBlueSpruce.aspx
http://www.nps.gov/brca/naturescience/bluespruce.htm
http://bellarmine.edu/faculty/drobinson/BluSpruce.asp
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spruce

Tree Talk: A Christmas Tree!

Colorado Blue Spruce

Christmas is about family. So, keeping that in mind, here is some information about the Colorado Blue Spruce and its 'family'.

The Colorado Blue Spruce (Picea pungens) is a member of the pine tree family that is native to the Rocky Mountain regions of North America. The tree has a mature height of 65-115 feet and a diameter of 2-3 feet with a narrow, pyramidal shape and a cone-shaped crown. While blue spruce grows relatively slowly, it is long-lived and may reach ages of 600-800 years. This tree was first discovered in Colorado on top of Pikes Peak in 1862. It was named by botanist C.C. Parry because of its silver-blue color. This unique color is attributed to the white powder that forms on new young needles. These needles are 4-sided and have a very sharp point. It is this point that gives the species its name 'pungens', which is Latin means sharp.

The Blue Spruce is finding increasing popularity as a Christmas tree as a result of its symmetrical form and attractive blue foliage. The species has an excellent natural shape and requires little shearing. Additionally, needle retention is among the best for the spruces. It's popularity as an ornamental leads many consumers to use the Blue Spruce as a living Christmas tree, to be planted after the holiday season. The Blue Spruce makes good winter cover for wildlife. And is used as food plants by the larvae of some speciaes of moths and butterflies.

This species can overlap with Englemann Spruce, *Picea englemannii*, but the orange coloration of mature Englemann Spruce bark is a dead giveaway. The other sure comparison is to grab both species' boughs. If you jerk your hand back exclaiming "Ouch!" then it was probably an Englemann Spruce. If, however, you exclaim "Ouch!..." followed by a string of expletives, then it was probably a Blue Spruce. Blue Spruce needles are rigid, sharply pointed, and diamond shaped in cross-section. Like real needles, they can easily break the skin. Blue Spruce needles are bluish green with silvery undersides.

The Blue Spruce was adopted as the official state tree of Colorado by vote of the state's school children on April 15, 1892. It is also the state tree of Utah and is moderately shade tolerant and grows best in deep, rich, gravely soils, often along stream banks and other sites with high moisture levels and full sunlight. It so happens that this tree requires almost the same amount of water as Kentucky Blue Grass, so if you can maintain a lawn, you can takes care of a Blue Spruce. A deep penetrating root system makes the species resistant to being blown over.

The bark is thin becoming moderately thick with age. It is somewhat pale gray in flattened scales when young, then turns reddish brown and furrowed with age.

Both male and female flowers occur in the same tree, although in different locations. Pollination occurs in late spring and cones mature in one season. In the fall, cones are 2-4 inches long and turn chestnut brown with stiff, flattened scales that are thin and papery, and hang downward from upper branches. Seeds are dispersed by the wind prior to the cones being dropped.

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Pest of a Different Kind: Western Spruce Dwarf Mistletoe

Dwarf mistletoes (*Arceuthobium* species) are leafless parasitic plants that infect several species of conifers in Colorado forests. Dwarf mistletoes produce root-like structures that grow in the living tissue just under the bark (phloem) and in the wood (xylem), where they extract both nutrients and water from their host plants. Germinating seeds of mistletoes produce specialized structures called holdfasts that allow newly emerged parasitic plants to penetrate the tissues of host plants, thus infecting the host plant.

The first symptom of dwarf mistletoe infection is a slight swelling of the bark at the infection site. The parasite is identifiable when shoots protrude two to three years after infection. Dwarf mistletoe shoots are 0.7 to 15 cm (1/2 to 6 inches) long and 2-4mm in diameter (Figures 4 and 5). Douglas-fir dwarf mistletoe shoots are hard to see because they are only about 7 mm (1/2 inch) long. When shoots have fallen off, look for the remnants of basal cups on branches.

After initial infection, mistletoes can cause distorted branching or witches' brooms in the host tree (Figure 2). When dwarf mistletoes infect occasional hosts – hosts other than the primary host – different and unique symptoms may occur. For example, lodgepole pine dwarf mistletoe causes very large and dense witches' brooms when it infects ponderosa pine (Figure 7). Lodgepole pine dwarf mistletoe also induces on limber pine, large elongate galls with rarely any shoots present.

Dwarf mistletoe witches' brooms extract nutrients from uninfected parts of the tree, gradually reducing host tree vigor and eventually causing premature death. Dwarf mistletoe infested trees decline and die from the top down as witches' brooms on lower branches extract more nutrients and water (Figures 1 and 3). Death of the host tree occurs slowly in most cases and depends on the severity of infection and on the vigor and size of the tree.

Dwarf mistletoes spread slowly from tree to tree. In closely spaced trees of about the same height, this spread is 0.3 to 0.6 m per year. The spread from large to small trees can extend 19 m (60 ft), but the average usually is less than 9 m.

The sticky seeds of *Arceuthobium* species are explosively discharged from the fruit at almost 60 miles per hour, adhering to any surface they strike. Seeds that adhere to young branches of susceptible trees germinate, and the mistletoe rootlet penetrates the bark. Dwarf mistletoe seeds generally are dispersed in August and early September. Birds and other animals can occasionally spread the seeds some distance to uninfected trees. Dwarf mistletoes have a relatively long life cycle between infection and seed production (six to eight years). The long life cycle allows for long-term disease management. Mistletoes are not common in nursery and ornamental plantings, but the parasites can be introduced into an area by planting trees unknowingly infected with mistletoe. Dwarf mistletoes can greatly impact the forest structure and appearance. Areas of expanding numbers of infected trees can be found in the forest where the center of the area or "donut hole" has no large trees left since they were infected years ago and died, and there might be some heavily infected understory trees in the center and a ring of heavily infected trees at the margin

The fruits and seeds of *Phoradendron juniperinum* are spread by birds and consequently can be spread a great distance in a single season. A number of bird species feed on the juniper mistletoe fruits and disperse the seeds by excreting or regurgitating them. Seeds are deposited on the top side of branches of juniper hosts. Germinating seeds produce a holdfast that penetrates the host plant.