Alabama Woodturners Association

AWA Newsletter

A member of the American Association of Woodturners

December 2015

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

Coming Events

December 12-**Christmas Party/Luncheon**

January 9-**Karl Harper**

February 13-**Maurice Clabaugh**~McNaughton Coring System

March 12-**Charles Jennings** ~Epoxy Inlay

April 9-TBD

May 14-TBD

June 11-TBD

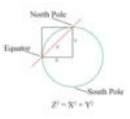
2015 Officers of AWA

President-John Sowell
Vice President-Carl Cummins
Treasurer-Jennifer Smith
Secretary-Laura Reder
Directors-Staten Tate, Bill West, John Sowell, Dwight Hostetter
Webmaster-
Newsletter Editors-Jean Cline, Amy Benefield

Inside This Issue:

Cubes In A Sphere

By Fred Holder



December-Christmas PARTY!

The annual Christmas party will be held December 12. AWA will furnish meat and drinks. Members (Spouses and significant others are invited, too!) provide side dishes and desserts to make this a real Christmas feast!

Come at regular time, 9:00, to socialize and, maybe, sample some desserts, if Jennifer isn't watching too 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….. And consider bringing an ornament as a head start for next year's tree.

We will also be holding Officer and Board of Directors elections for 2016. This is your chance to be heard!

Election 2015!

Proposed Slate of Officers for 2016

President~John Sowell
Vice President~Carl Cummins
Secretary~Amy Benefield/Jean Cline
Treasurer~Jennifer Smith

Proposed Board of Directors for 2016

Maurice Clabaugh
Bruce Gibson
Dwight Hostetter
Michael Malinconico
Richard Serviss
Staten Tate
1 Open Position

Decorating the Christmas Tree at Children's Hospital

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

No Saturday mentoring class in December due to the Christmas party!

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.

November Raffle Results

Cherry Log donated by Lee Michaels~Lester Daw
Natural Edge Dish donated by Maurice Clabaugh~Royal Ritchey
Bowl Gouge donor unknown~Jack Capps
Pipe Clamp donated by Howard King~Lester Daw
Hollower donor unknown~Royal Ritchey
Natural Edge Vase donated by Maurice Clabaugh~Buddy Finch
Steady Rest donated by Staten Tate~Bruce Gibson
Baseball Bat donor unknown~Howard King

The November, December and January prizes will be drawn at the January meeting.

Who will take home the November birthday prize? Or December? Or January?

Check out the list of December contenders below.

Happy Birthday to AWA's December Birthdays!

Ronnie 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

Raffle Prize News

We're changing the raffle beginning with November! As most of you know by now, the AAW Symposium for 2016 (June 9-12) will be held in Atlanta! We're trying a new type of raffle with the ultimate outcome being to generate enough money to provide one or more scholarships to the Symposium!

If you have a turning tool, wood blank, item that you have turned, etc. that you would like to donate for the raffle, please bring it to the meeting. We will select some of the items for the current month's raffle and retain some for later. You will get a ticket for bringing an item. Among the items to be raffled will be some of the pieces that past demonstrators have turned and finished.

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

Cups will be placed in front of each item to be raffled and you will place your raffle tickets in the cup of the item you are interested in. A winner will be drawn from each cup.

All tickets will then be placed in a pool for the scholarship drawing.

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

Because of the value of some of the items, we feel that we should generate at least $125 or more in ticket sales before drawing for the items. As you can see, the success of this effort will depend on your willingness to donate nice items and also to buy raffle tickets each month.

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'.

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

President's Challenge-November

Mushrooms




Participants

Jack Capps
Maurice Clabaugh
Carl Cummins
Bill Hubbard
Royal Ritchey
John Sowell




President's Challenges For 2015

February-Done!
Something you'd use or find in the kitchen

March-Done!
Worst blowout or break you kept as a reminder

April-Done!
Spindle work turned +80% with a skew

May-Done!
Ball-Round as round can be but without using a jig!

June-Done!
Hollow form

July-Done!
Turning between centers on 3 or more axis but no eccentric chuck!

August-Done!
Turning from 3 or more pieces glued together

September-Done!
Christmas ornament

October-Done!
Natural edge bowl (bark or not)

November-Done!
Mushrooms



How'd They Do That?



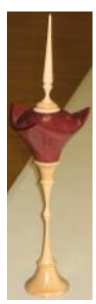




















More How'd They Do That?

November Turn and Tell

Maurice Clabaugh-Hackberry Winged Bowl
David Tucker-Mimosa Pyrographed Bowl; Bradford Pear Pyrographed Vessel
John Sowell-Leland Cypress Vessel; Persimmon Bowl
Justin Miller-2 Box Elder Bowls; Maple and Walnut Winged Bowl and Box; Cherry Natural Edge Goblet; Sourwood Natural Edge Bowl
Howard King-Walnut Platter; Madrone and Ebony Hollow Form; Purpleheart and Maple Suspended Hollow Form; Dogwood Hollow Form
Staten Tate-Cherry Bowl; Spalted Cherry Laurel Bowl; Old Poplar Bowl
Bill Hubbard-Scrp Necklace
Sally Street-Walnut Bowl; Magnolia Bowl
Pete Marken-Baltic Birch Bowl; Maagnolia and Bloodwood Vessel
Jean Cline-Cherry Winged Dish; River Birch Bowl; Pecan Platter and Bowl
Jerry Hanchey-3 Christmas Ornaments
Karl Harper-Bowl
Myra Harper-Salt Shakers and Pepper Mills
Richard Frazier-Pen

Finishing Pens

by Don Ward, Red River Pens (www.redriverpens.com)

Note: Please be aware that some, if not all, finishes can cause reactions to those who are sensitive to them.

The topic of finishing pens comes up at least once a week on the pen forums with subjects such as these:

- *What is the best finish?*
- *What is a quick and durable finish?*
- *What is the most durable finish?*
- *Which finish is the easiest to apply?*
- *Is a sanding sealer necessary?*

Which finish is quick, easy, and durable? While those three qualities don't go together, I would say that none of the finishes I've tried are especially difficult. Some take more time than others and some are more durable than others, but I've not come across a finish that is especially problematic.

The quality of the final finish will be directly proportional to the surface preparation under that finish. A quality finish on a pen starts with sanding. Sanding should start with as fine a grit as possible. I turn pens with a skew leaving a very smooth surface on which to begin sanding. I often start with 320 grit sandpaper when possible. After sanding with the first grit, stop the lathe then clean the blank and apply a sanding sealer. Then, continue sanding through finer grits. I stop sanding at 600 grit. Stopping the lathe and sanding length-wise after each grit of sandpaper is also a good practice, as is cleaning the sanding dust off of the blank. Cleaning will remove dislodged grit and keep it from interfering with the finer grits. On open grain wood, I use a slurry made from thin CA and sanding dust. The CA slurry will be discussed in more detail later. After sanding with sandpaper sand with Micro Mesh tm, a cushioned abrasive, which leaves the wood surface as smooth as glass and ready for the chosen finish. More information about Micro Mesh tm, which is available from all pen turning suppliers as well as most woodturning suppliers, can be found at www.sisweb.com/micromesh. Purchasing full sheets and cutting them into smaller swatches is much more economical than purchasing the smaller swatches in sets. Micro Meshtm will last for several months and can be cleaned by placing it in the pockets of jeans or in a separate garment bag and tossing in the washing machine. It can also be used wet for wet sanding acrylics and plastics. One thing I've noticed penturners doing (incorrectly) is assembling and handling pens as soon as the finish is applied. A newly finished pen should be given time to cool and cure before assembly and each finish has its own cure time. Learn what they are and respect that for a much better finish.

FINISHES FOR PENS

Shellac Based Friction Polish: The finish most of us started using is shellac-based friction polish. Most pen-turners who make pens to give away (the recreational or casual pen turner) will

continue to use shellac based friction polish. When used correctly, shellac-based friction polish produces a very stunning finish. However, all too often shellac friction polish fails to produce the finish we desire for two reasons: (1) the use of too much friction polish for each coat and/or (2) not applying enough pressure (friction) to create the heat needed to evaporate the solvent leaving the shellac behind. Ever wonder why it is called friction polish? Several coats can be applied but the pen blanks should not be handled until the final coat is completely cured. Waiting until the next day to assemble the new pen is best. A nice shellac-based friction polish finish can be ruined by handling the pen while the shellac is still warm and not fully cured. Shellac-based friction polish is not as durable or as hard as pure shellac. They have oils and solvents added that make them easy and quick to use, but reduce the durability of the finish. Remember the white rings we often find on older furniture? Those white rings were caused by moisture condensing on drinking glasses and reacting with the finish—the shellac finish. Shellac reacts with the moisture and oils from our hands and causes the finish to deteriorate and turn darker as the pens ages and is used. Shellac-based friction polish is great for turnings that will not be handled. Several profess to like this patina and that's fine. Several of us do not, and that's fine also. Pure shellac is quite durable but takes lots of time to properly apply.

Lacquer: Lacquer is one of my favorite finishes. It is not a quick finish because lacquer takes a week or two or longer to fully cure and reach its full hardness. But once it does fully cure, lacquer can be buffed to a deep shine. Lacquer can be used in several ways: (1) full strength from the can; (2) diluted using lacquer thinner; (3) spray can; or (4) the dipping lacquer. Lacquer can be purchased in gloss, semi-gloss, or satin finish. But remember, lacquer must be allowed to
completely cure to its ultimate hardness before buffing. This may take several weeks depending on individual shop conditions. I prefer a 50-50 mix of gloss lacquer and lacquer thinner applied on the lathe with a clean cloth. I apply 6 or 7 coats and allow the pen to cure for two weeks before assembling and buffing. It is not a fast finish, but lacquer is a great finish for pens.

Plexiglass: After reading several threads on the penturning forums, I think plexiglass finish has potential. Basically, the plexiglass is broken into small pieces, dissolved into acetone and applied to the pen. Smaller pieces will dissolve quicker. The solution needs to be stirred often to keep the pieces of plexiglass from forming one large mound of plexiglass reducing the total surface area of the plexiglass and requiring more time for it to dissolve. Add more plexiglass or acetone as
needed to reach a solution that is close to thick syrup in consistency. The mix is applied to the pen using paper towels. Two or three coats are applied and when it dries, wet sanding seems to be the best way to sand. Wet sanding keeps down the heat and the finish doesn't melt. **Caution: use only real plexiglass.** Other clear plastics like Lexan(tm) will not work. And, the best plexiglass to use is the Cyro brand which is used by picture framers. Cyro brand Acrylite(tm) is the only sheet acrylic currently manufactured that is guaranteed not to yellow. Other brands of sheet acrylic will yellow, especially the Plexiglass^{tm} brand. Scrap from picture framing shops can be bought cheaply or often will be given away, else it ends up in landfills

CA (cyanoacrylate) glue with or without Boiled Linseed Oil: As will soon be revealed, finishing pens with CA glue has become my finish of choice. And, I also use boiled linseed oil with the CA. Woodturners have been using CA glue for filling checks, cracks, and gaps on woodturnings. But, CA has become a popular finish for pens. I know some turners who use CA

for a finish on small bowls and spindle turnings. CA is used with and without boiled linseed oil and results are quite comparable. I've seen excellent and not so good CA finishes where CA was used with boiled linseed oil as well as without the oil. Several excellent instructional articles have been posted on the penturning forums outlining the finishing techniques for CA glue. Go to your favorite penturning forum and you'll find those instructions where ever the forum stores articles and instructions. My CA instructions follow. I use either a sanding sealer or a slurry of CA and sanding dust after sanding with 320 sandpaper. Sanding through 600 grit sandpaper is followed with Micro Mesh$_{tm}$ starting with 1500 and progressing through 12000. An application of Medium Walnut WATCO Danish oil follows. The Danish oil darkens the wood just a little and makes the grain very noticeable. The pen is now ready for the CA finish.
Here are the steps I use:

1. Tear a sheet of paper towel into six or seven strips and fold. Use a piece of paper towel folded several times, add three drops of boiled linseed oil and apply a light coat of boiled linseed oil to the spinning pen blanks, using a slow lathe speed. I use three drops for the entire pen with each coat of CA. I apply the finish at a much faster lathe speed now than I did when I first started learning. (note: if you use too much oil the CA will gunk up and not be nice and smooth or the finish will appear to have some ghosting spots, like maybe the CA is not stuck to the wood.)

2. Hold the paper towel applicator from step 1 (which was used to apply the boiled linseed oil) against the bottom side of blank. Starting with the paper towel and CA bottle on same end of pen, add a thin layer of medium CA on top of blank as the blank spins while moving the CA and towel pad from one end of the pen to the other--one pass only--then add light pressure with the paper towel on the blank, constantly moving side-to-side until the CA is dry and the surface of the pen is smooth and slick. The CA will heat up some (the heat is from the CA curing, not the friction applied by the paper towel applicator.) Repeat process for second blank. The paper towel should be kept moving from end to end and the CA will cure to a bright shiny coating. After some practice, you will be able to determine how long to keep the applicator on the blank and moving. I think many who try this remove the applicator too soon and hence the high failure rate and frustration. Now, do the same to the other half of the pen.

3. I sometimes lightly sand between the CA layers but most of the time I don't...you will learn to tell when you should. I use very fine sandpaper (600 or 1000) or the 1500 MicroMesh$_{tm}$

4. Repeat step two...I do four coats of CA/boiled linseed oil.

5. After the final coat of CA/boiled linseed oil, sand with Micro Mesh$_{tm}$ 1500 to 12000.

6. After sanding with MicroMesh$_{tm,}$ I buff with Tripoli, white diamond and HUT Ultra Gloss Plastic Polish.

7. Next, I use McGuire's scratch and swirl remover auto polish and I use it as directed on the tube.

8. I use no wax or other top coats over the CA finish.

That's how it's done and the result is a great durable finish for pens. After using this finish for three years now, I get such a great looking finish after the final CA/boiled linseed oil application that I have stopped the sanding after the CA application and go straight to the buffing step. This has come with practice and continual tweaking of the application process. I often apply the CA to the paper towel applicator and then apply the CA to the spinning pen, but I think learning as I have outlined may produce quicker successful results. Deviations can be developed as you become comfortable with the CA/boiled linseed oil finishing process. Happy finishing....and, OH YEAH, you should keep a can of acetone close by. You will figure out why!
Do a good turn daily!