

Alabama Woodturners Association



Newsletter

July 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

July Demo

Christmas In July (Alabama Woodturners' Style)

Join us on Saturday, July 14, at 9:00am for our First Ever Christmas In July Round Robin Demonstration and Picnic!



Six of our members, Jack Capps, Carl Cummins, Tommy Hartline, Dwight Hostetter, Justin Miller and Judy Osmundson, will be demonstrating their 'take' on turning Christmas ornaments! This will be a wonderful opportunity to get in the spirit of making ornaments, get some new ideas, get some socializing done and get your tummy filled after the meeting! We will be providing hamburgers, hot dogs, chips and drinks! If you wish to bring a side dish or dessert, we're pretty sure no one will object and that you will go home with less than you brought! We've also been told that Myra has offered to bring her World Famous Banana Pudding....

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In this issue:

Rendezvous - Page 2
President's Challenge - Page 3
Meeting Recap - Page 4
Turn & Tell - Page 5
Birthdays & Raffle News - Page 6
Karl Harper Challenge - Page 7
Coming Soon - Page 7
Favorite Wood - Page 8 & 9
Tools & Materials Sale - Page 10 & 11



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

**REMINDER: Lathe Demo Cleanup Volunteers for June/July/August:
David Duncan & Bill Calderwood
Please plan accordingly!**

‘Rendezvous’

The Evelyn Burrow Museum at Wallace State Community College announces its biennial sculptors’ exhibition “Rendezvous” on display through Aug. 31, 2018. The exhibit features the work of 12 acclaimed sculptors from across the region.

Included in the exhibit are Gokden Alpman Matthews, Walter Black, Everett Cox, Casey Downing Jr., Glenn Dasher, **Howard King**, Bruce Larsen, Dale Lewis, Ted Metz, Brad Morton, Nov Ontos and Duane Paxson.

The installations include a collection of small cast bronze pieces (Morton), an elaborate wall hanging consisting of dozens of pieces that together resemble a splatter pattern (Black), and an example of a ship’s figurehead made of driftwood (Larsen).

“I really enjoy seeing what the artists will bring in each time we hold this exhibition,” said Donny Wilson, director of the Museum. “I’m always amazed at their creativity and talent, and I hope visitors from all over the state will take time to enjoy the show.”

“Rendezvous” is free and open to the public.

Black, Cox, Downing, Dasher, Larsen, Lewis, Morto, Ontos and Paxson are all returning artists. Alpman Matthews and King are new to the exhibition.

Alpman Matthews, of Huntsville, specializes in ceramic sculptures and mosaics that draw from her Turkish heritage and from Istanbul, formerly Constantinople, which is a city that is at the intersection of Europe and Asia, with Europe on one side of the Bosphorus and Asia on the other. Istanbul also represents an intersection of religions. The origin of the Eastern Orthodox Christian Church and now majority Muslim, its complex history is represented in the Hagia Sofia, and in much of Alpman Matthews’ work. **King, of Cullman, is a wood artisan, and his work on displays includes wood turned vases, platters, bowls and more.**

The museum is located in the Otis and Evelyn Burrow Center for the Fine and Performing Arts on the campus of Wallace State Community College at the corner of US Highway 31 and College Drive. For specific directions, please see the website at www.burrowmuseum.org.



PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE

For July, our challenge is "Art, non-functional piece". The idea for this topic came from the Tennessee Association of Woodturners symposium presentation by Betty Scarpino titled, "A Journey: From Bowls to Sculpture". For me, the part that left the lasting impression was the slide show featuring works by many other artists, all working in wood, but in delightful originality and in variety that never ends.

For us, this topic may be simply an opportunity to step away from the traditional, or to spend some time with the mind in a different state. This could be a chance to try colors, or interesting shapes, or mixing in other materials. Personally, I haven't invented original ideas of my own, so for now I imitate others that I admire. James asked, "If we turn a bowl but cut a hole through the bottom, would that count?" Quite amusing! So the answer is, "Yes, as long as you make it look intentional!"

Please note I added a new topic for October, "Something Old, Something New". Do you still have the first bowl you turned or other very early turned item? How would you do it differently now? Bring in your old item along with a new version of the same thing. What if you don't still have or can't find your early pieces? In this case just look around for an old item (bowl, candle-holder, vase, pen, etc.) then see if you can turn a copy or improve on it.

And I'll state again, in case you missed any previous months' challenges, please feel free to do those, too. They will count toward the annual total, as well. We will award a prize based on participation.

Have fun and stay safe!

– *Carl*

UPCOMING PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGES

March - Platter, plate, etc.

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 - Something Old, Something New

November - TBA



Dwight Hostetter



Dwight Hostetter



Gary Hales



Gary Hales



Howard King



Jerry Hanchey



Myra Harper



Pete Marken



Ron Herbster

June Meeting Recap

Thank you Carl Cummins for providing the off-center turning demo!



June Turn and Tell Highlights



Gary Hales



Howard King



John Jackman



Lynn Baswell



Pete Marken



Unknown



Myra Harper



Myra Harper



Unknown



Maurice Clabaugh



John Jackman



Myra Harper



Maurice Clabaugh



Justin Miller



Justin Miller



Howard King

AWA July Birthdays

Gary Sartin - 7/1	Bill Dunn - 7/9	Bill Rosenblum - 7/19
Sandra Capps - 7/2	Mel Brown - 7/15	Jim Hipp - 7/21
Scott Arnold - 7/4	William Calderwood - 7/15	Gary Garris - 7/22
Joe Cannon - 7/9	Richard Graham - 7/18	Royal Ritchey - 7/23

Congratulations to **Jim Priest** for winning the birthday door prize for the month of June, a chuck of cherry!

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 June meeting!

Doc Phil (x 2), John Jackman (x 2), Howard King, Michelle Marken, Jim Priest, Brent Clayton (x 2), William Calderwood (x 2), Myra Harper and Gregg Oliver!

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 May challenger, **Jack Capps**. Our June challenger is **Jim Priest**.



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

August Demo - Justin Miller, Hollow form utilizing a visualizer

September - Phil Duffy, Platter and decorations/embellishments

October - Jerry Osmundson

What's Your Favorite Wood For Turning?

Maurice Clabaugh: Being a “cheap person” (Ha ha!) I always say “jokingly” free. But seriously, since I use mainly 99% “trash wood”, not the type you would use, I like dogwood, maple, pecan essentially any wood that is green and has a lot of “character”. Remember that I am not the technician that you are. I’m just an old “bodger”. (*Bodgers* were skilled itinerant wood-turners, who worked in the beech woods on the chalk hills of the Chilterns. {The *Chiltern* Hills form a chalk escarpment in South East England.} They cut timber and converted it into chair legs by turning it on a pole lathe, an ancient and very simple tool that uses the spring of a bent sapling to help run it.*)

Bruce Gibson: Boxwood, mesquite, cocobolo.

Larry Dye: Free wood!

Jim Hipp: My favorites in order but each closely liked: maple, cherry, bradford pear.

Steve Mills: Dogwood! It has beautiful, rich colors in old trees. Plus it is very fine grained and take a great polish. As to handles, it just continues to get smoother as it is used. Absolutely ideal for knitting needles and crochet hooks due to them continuing to polish with age. Unfortunately, it does not grow very large.

Pete Marken: I like maple.

John Jackman: Bradford pear.

Gary Hales: Maple.

Ronny Perkins: I sure do like to turn creek side walnut. It has more color than just walnut.

Lester Daw: I prefer to turn dogwood. It has a very fine grain that can be cut to sharp edges and sands to a very slick finish. It has a large detriment in that it cracks and checks as it is drying and may decide to do so after being turned for years. That is the primary wood I look for in wood piles by road.

Jim Priest: Bradford pear or any fruit wood.

Jerry Hanchey: Boxwood...European boxwood that is.

Royal Ritchey: Box elder.

Ron Herbster: I agree with your original answer. Every wood has its own characteristics, qualities, and flaws. Some are more challenging than others but there’s nothing wrong with being challenged. If I had to pick a favorite it would be “free”.

Charles Moore: Maple.

Bob Moore: Dogwood.

Michelle Marken: Any burl.

Chuck Smith: My favorite wood to turn is cherry.

What's Your Favorite Wood For Turning?

Dwight Hostetter: It would be easier to answer my least favorite. All the following turn well most of the time: Bradford pear, cherry, black wood, ebony, Honduran rosewood, privet, dogwood, holly, bloodwood, osage orange, poplar, and probably many more if I thought about it long enough.

Brent Clayton: Hard to say, but probably any wood that's free and pretty. That said, privet is a beautiful almost white wood that turns so smoothly that it sometimes doesn't even need to be sanded. And you can polish it on the Beall system and just wax it with no other finish. If we get into buying wood, I really like Padauk. It has a great color, turns nicely and finishes beautifully.

Bill Calderwood: "Genuine" mahogany. (*Swietenia macrophylla*)

1. It's free. I have what is for me an unlimited supply of high-end cabinet shop (doors and windows) cut-offs accumulated by a friend who worked there many years ago.
2. The wood responds to all manner of tools like butter to a hot knife.
3. It readily accepts your choice of finishes and gives a beautiful lasting sheen.

Terry Tingle: I mostly turn pens, and I love working with olive wood, because it smells so sweet. It turns easy, and always looks good too.

Judy Osmundson: My favorite wood... early in my turning, my favorite was tulip wood, but now I would have to say it would be anything spalted and or burl'd. I love patterns in the wood, the more the better. I also love color in the wood. Before we started turning and collecting wood, Jerry and I cut down a bunch of trees in our yard. We had them piled up in the road and the colors in the wood were so beautiful! We kept commenting that *Someone* should have it and do *Something* with all that beautiful maple and Bradford pear wood.

Tom Irby: I like black cherry, the kind you pick up when someone cuts down a tree. Walnut is also one of my favorites.

Jim Black: My first choice of wood would be ambrosia maple, then box elder, maple, hickory, cherry. But, with cherry you have ring shank problems plus difficulty getting out sanding scratches. I have also turned dogwood, holly, pine, red cedar, mahogany. I've tried walnut, but it bothers my sinuses. That's about it.

Myra Harper: I think walnut, it's pretty.

Carl Cummins: My favorite is boxwood for its ability to hold fine detail and threads. I also like dogwood, blackwood, and Bradford pear for their fine grain. Woods I like turning for the fragrance: sassafras, olivewood, cherry, cedar. For color I like bloodwood and walnut, however I read that bloodwood, like most unusual colored woods, will turn to brown eventually. Of course I love the appearance of burls, but I'm still learning how to deal with fractures and inclusions.

Jean Cline: Whatever is currently on my lathe!

Tool and Materials Sale

The AWA will hold a Tool and Materials Sale at the July meeting. This meeting also features the Round Robin demonstrations of Christmas ornaments. So after you have toured the Round-Robin demos you may browse the items for sale. The sale will be conducted as a silent auction.

This is how the sale will work: Any member may bring in items they wish to sell. For each item, the member must prepare a bid sheet providing a Description, an optional Minimum Bid, an optional Minimum Raise and the percentage to go to AWA. The choices for percentage are 25%, 50% or 100%. A sample bid sheet is provided at the end of this newsletter and will also be sent separately in an email. Sellers should print one sheet per sale item and fill it out prior to the July meeting.

The silent auction will run from 9:30 to 11:30. When the auction closes at 11:30, those bidders with winning bids take the bid sheets to the cashier and pay with cash or check. The AWA Treasurer will subtract the selected percentage and pay the seller with cash (if available) or check.

Guidelines to sellers: Only members are permitted to bring items for sale. You may bring in any number of items (please be reasonable in consideration of space) and you must prepare a separate bid sheet for each item. The Minimum Bid is optional and a Minimum Raise is optional. For items valued over \$50, a Minimum Raise of \$5 might be appropriate. For items valued over \$100, a Minimum Raise of \$5 or \$10 might be preferred. The club will keep a percentage of the highest bid. The seller may choose 25% to go to the club, or if feeling more generous, may choose 50% or 100% to go the club.

Guidelines to bidders: Bidding is open to visitors as well as members. When you want to bid you enter your bid amount and write your name on the bid sheet. Check back later to see if anyone else has bid higher and you may bid again as high as you like. When the auction ends at 11:30, you check all the items where you bid and, if your bid is highest, take the bid sheet to the cashier. Please be prepared to pay with cash or check.

Payments to sellers: We will try to pay sellers the same day if possible. Small amounts may be paid in cash and large amounts will be paid by check. If time does not permit making payments during the meeting, then checks will be sent later via USPS mail.

AWA Tool and Materials Sale

Description: _____

Seller's name: _____

Percentage to AWA (circle one): 25% 50% 100%

Bid Amount

Bidder's Name
