



AWA Newsletter



A member of the American Association of Woodturners

Location: Homewood Senior Center at 816 Oak Grove Road, Homewood, AL 35209

Web Site: www.alabamawoodturners.com

Coming Events

June 13-Phil Morris~
'Advanced Pen Turning Techniques'

July 11-Mike Zinser~Off
Center/Off Axis Turning with
Color

August 8-Dennis Paullus~
'Unique Carved Acorn Box'

September 12-Mark St Leger
~'Extraordinary Boxes'

October 10-Jess Walls~
'Platter with Offset Bowl'

November 14-Round Robin

December 12-Christmas
Party/Luncheon

January 9-TBD

February 13-TBD

June-Phil Morris "Advanced Pen Turning Techniques"

One of the more unique pens Phil Morris has created features a body made of the horn of a Dall sheep from Alaska.

"That's a \$1,000 pen. I've got it priced at \$1,000 on my website," Morris said at his home in the outskirts of Columbiana recently. "The components are an Emperor fountain pen that is plated in rhodium and 24-karat gold. It's for when you like a big, nice desk pen -- and you've got the money to spend."

It's not all about high-dollar luxury pens for Morris, who likes to show off a writing instrument that has a gray acrylic body with a clear tip that's about four inches long.

"Since I'm a Star Wars fan," Morris said, holding the lightsaber pen that uses parts from an LED flashlight to make it glow red. "Oh, it lights up." When Morris isn't working as a shift manager at Shelby County 911, chances are he's in his shop making pens. "You wake up in the morning, you hear the lathe going, and you come home from hanging out with friends, you can hear the lathe going," son Wally Morris, 18, said.

(Continued on page 6)



Inside This Issue:

Saturday Afternoon Class-Page 2
and 3

Turn and Tell-Page 5 and 7

Raffle/Birthday News-Page 3

President's Challenge-Page 4

Notice



How many Christmas ornaments have you made and turned in? As of our June meeting, there are only 195 days until Christmas but, more importantly, 140 days until we decorate the Christmas tree at Children's Hospital!

Do you have a May birthday? If so, and your name is not on the Birthday News page, please see Jean or Amy at the sign in table or email us at clineclan1@gmail.com or leobenefield@gmail.com.



May-Round Robin



Team 1

Karl Harper
Howard King
Maurice Clabaugh
Jack Capps



Team 2

Carl Cummins
John Sowell
Jerry Hanchey
Dwight Hostetter



That the flag of the United States shall be of thirteen stripes of alternate red and white, with a union of thirteen stars of white in a blue field, representing the new constellation.

This was the resolution adopted by the Continental Congress on June 14, 1777. The resolution was made following the report of a special committee which had been assigned to suggest the flag's design. Both President Wilson, in 1916, and President Coolidge, in 1927, issued proclamations asking for June 14 to be observed as the National Flag Day. But it wasn't until August 3, 1949, that Congress approved the national observance, and President Harry Truman signed it into law.

Copied from <http://www.va.gov/opa/publications/celebrate/flagday.pdf>

Upcoming Saturday Afternoon Mentoring Opportunities for 2015

June
Phil Morris-Basic Pen Turning

July
Bill Hubbard-Christmas Ornaments

August
Dennis Paullus-Acorn Box

September
Mark St. Leger-Special Classes
(More information coming!)

See 'Doc Phil' Fortmeyer to sign up and for more information.

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

Phil Morris, Guest Demonstrator for June, will be teaching a basic pen turning class.

See Page 2 for future mentoring opportunities. 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.

The May birthday prize of a Workpro 38-piece tool set was won by John Taylor.

The birthday prize for June is a DeWalt 27-piece rapid load quick change accessory system for use with drills and screwdrivers.

Who will take it home?



Welcome to New Member:

Sandy Bishop
Birmingham, AL

Raffle/ Birthday Gift Door Prize News

In keeping with the demo theme for June the raffle prize is a Barrel Trimmer kit and a Pen-Ultimate Assembly Tool.



And, maybe, a lightly used Wagner Texturing Tool slightly used!



Do you have an interesting raffle idea or a product you'd like to win? Please see Jean or

Amy at the raffle/sign in table.

If you've been to the meetings for the last few months or actually read the newsletter, you've noticed that the AWA has been giving a birthday gift door prize to a turner who has a birthday during the month of that meeting.

Here are the 'rules' for 2015 as they stand now:

- 1) This is a door prize so, yes, you need to be at the meeting 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!

Happy Birthday to
AWA's June Bugs!

Lynn Baswell-June 14

Phil Duffy-June 19

Greg Faulkner-June 24

President's Challenge-May

May-Ball~Round as round can be *without* using a jig!



PARTICIPANTS

HOWARD KING
CARL CUMMINS
BILL HUBBARD
JACK CAPPS
UNIDENTIFIED



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

Hollow form

July

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

August

Turning from 3 or more pieces glued together

September

Christmas ornament

October

Natural edge bowl (bark or not)

November

Mushrooms

May Turn and Tell



CARL CUMMINS



LYNN BASWELL



MAURICE CLABAUGH



MYRA HARPER



HOWARD KING



KARL HARPER



RONNY PERKINS



BILL HUBBARD



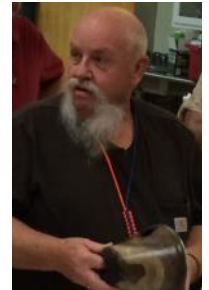
JUSTIN MILLER



JOHN SOWELL

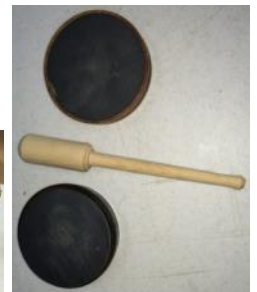


BUDDY FINCH



ROYAL RITCHIE

How'd They Do That?



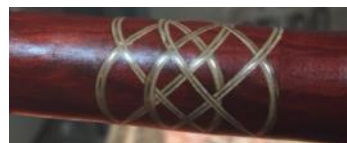
(Continued from Page 1)

The 43-year-old father of two learned to become a penturner about three and a half years ago, and he's been continuing to make either fountain or roller-ball writing instruments that have gained fame in Alabama and elsewhere. For instance, Gov. Robert Bentley wanted to bring gifts to dignitaries in Japan and Korea, so he turned to Morris to supply his high-quality custom-made pens. "I gave him one as a gift and he bought eight," Morris said. "They recommended me to go down and talk to the Goathill Museum Store in the basement of the state Capitol, and they now carry my pens," Morris said. "I've had 101 pens go to the Capitol since November."

Morris purchases pen kits and he specializes in materials of all kinds to make their bodies -- feathers from pheasants and jungle cock, assorted wood types including ancient bog from England that's between 4,000 and 6,000 years old, warthog tusk, even an alligator jaw bone. "I seek out material. This is probably the only one of these pens I've seen made," he said about using Dall sheep. Some of his pens embrace his appreciation of Alabama. "I have a lot of wood from the tornado damage in Tuscaloosa," he said, showing a card that indicates a pen was made using wood salvaged from Hurricane Creek following the April 27, 2011, destruction.

Morris grew up in Chilton and Talladega counties, but graduated from Shelby County High School in 1989. He has been at his Columbiana home for 23 years in the area where his wife, Charity, was born and raised. A friend of his father-in-law who's a woodturner invited Morris to his shop in Alabaster to work with wood a few years ago. "The very first pen, he taught me to turn. It was fun to me. I always like to draw anyway, and I started turning pens and giving a way a lot of pens. People wanted to start buying them, so I sold a few and I have done a few shows," Morris said. "As my skills improved, I started building pens that people didn't ordinarily see," he said. One of his earliest creations was a contest entry for the International Association of Penturners that uses .30-caliber shell casings, which he split to create a rather heavy pen that resembles a flower with green leaves and red petals. Other pens include a scepter made from 126 pieces of blue mahoe, dyed maple and some acrylic, while there's a castle turret built from buckeye burl and walnut. There's also his sword-in-the-stone pen, which consists of a miniature anvil base and a sword handle crafted from Mexican redheart wood with hand-filed flutes and guitar-string inlays. Making pens has become an obsession for Morris. "I wish I would have been doing this 20 years ago. I probably would only be making pens now. I know a few guys and that's all they do," he said. "It started out as a pure hobby." His hobby provides plenty of gifts he gives away. "This year at graduation I probably gave away \$1,800 worth of pens" totaling about a dozen, he said. The pens average around \$50 on the low end of the price spectrum. "I've got one on my website that's got a 'sold' next to it that's \$1,400," he said, noting it's made from elephant ivory and cast silver. Morris started the Alabama chapter of the International Penturners Association that has about 30 members. They meet quarterly at Woodcraft in Pelham. His inventory is available on his website at www.philspenstudio.weebly.com, and his email is firewhatfire@bellsouth.net. If anyone wants to find Morris, he'll probably be in his studio making his pens. "I love the stuff. I really do. I love to do it. If I'm at home, chances are I'm out there," he said.

Copied from http://www.al.com/news/birmingham/index.ssf/2014/07/a_1000_handcrafted_pen_check_o.html



More How'd They Do That?



May Turn and Tell

- Buddy Finch**-Pen made from library chair from Ensley High School/Pen from old dormitory at Maryville College/Pen from Heart Pine bannisters from 6th Avenue Presbyterian Church/Pen made with Ebony and Bloodwood or Redwood
- Carl Cummins**-3 small Vases 'Poor Man's Hollow Form' as taught by Frank Bowers
- Karl Harper**-Eucalyptus Bowl
- Myra Harper**-2 segmented Pepper Grinders various types of wood including Oak and Walnut/Cherry Candleholder
- Royal Ritchie**-Deer Antler bolt-action bullet Pen/Rosewood lever-action Pen/Walnut natural-edge hollow form Vase
- Justin Miller**-Black Walnut natural-edge heart-shaped Bowl/Ambrosia Maple Natural-edge Bowl
- Maurice Clabugh**-'Orbits' Black Walnut Wall Hanging or Platter/'Sea Ray' Quilted Crepe Myrtle natural-edge Sculpture
- Howard King**-Boomerang Ball and V-shaped Bowl/Walnut with brass powder inlay HUGE, natural-edge Bowl
- Lynn Baswell**-Poplar Bowl/Mahogany natural-edge Bowl on stand
- John Sowell**-Leland Cypress Bowl
- Bill Hubbard**-2 Mesquite, Hickory and Slate 'Calling All Turkeys' Turkey Calls (Editor's note: They worked! There were a LOT of turkeys gathered around checking them out!)
- Ronny Perkins**-Acrylic pouring mold stand

SOME
Super Heroes
Don't have
CAPES...
They are
called
DAD

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Father's Day
June 21