



Alabama Woodturners Association

AWA Newsletter

A member of the American Association of Woodturners

June 2016



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

Coming Events

June 11-Phil Fortmeyer
July 9-**Peg Schmid**~Hollow Form with Texturing
August 13-**Keith Rueckert**~High Gloss Lacquer Finishing
September 10-**Jim Sebastian/Jean Cline**

2016 Officers of AWA

President-John Sowell
Vice President-Carl Cummins
Treasurer-Jennifer Smith
Secretary-Amy Benefield/Jean Cline
Directors-Maurice Clabaugh, 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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June-Phil Fortmeyer



Message from Phil about June's Meeting:

I'll be leading the meeting. I may or may not demo anything. The meeting will center on getting those present to talk about their wants, needs, desires for the club and for them to enjoy and grow in their turning experiences. Will have a special surprise for those who are in attendance.



Christmas Is Coming!
How many ornaments have you made and turned in?



Kevin Felderhoff-May Demonstrator



May Turn and Tell



- Jean Cline**-Cherry, Mahogany, Poplar, Walnut, F.I.T.S., Dyed Craft Sticks 'Cane of Many Colors'
- John Sowell**-Yellowheart Platter; Elm Natural Edge Vessel; Leyland Cypress Beads of Courage Box
- John Jackman**-Red Oak Natural Edge Bowls
- Maurice Clabaugh**-Walnut Platter; Pecan Bowl
- Bob Henry**-Sassafras Spiral Vessel
- Howard King**-Poplar Natural Edge Vessel; Cherry Natural Edge Closed Form; Oak Natural Edge Winged Bowl; Oak Hollow Form; Figured Bubinga Square Bowl; Tigerwood Square Bowl
- Staten Tate**-Spanish Cedar Hollow Form **Karl Harper** Perpetual Challenge Piece
- Pete Marken**-Segmented Bowl; 883-piece Segmented Form
- Mel Brown**-Offset Turning
- Gary Hales**-'Design Opportunity'
- Myra Harper**



- Lynn Baswell**
- Carl Cummins**-Maple Burl Vase



What is the Beads of Courage Program?

The program is a resilience-based intervention designed to support and strengthen children and families coping with serious illness. Through the program, children tell their stories using colorful beads as meaningful symbols of courage that commemorate milestones they have achieved along their unique treatment path.

How it works

Upon enrollment, each child is given the Beads of Courage bead color guide/tally sheet. Their Beads of Courage journey begins when each child is first given a length of string and beads that spell out their first name. Then, colorful beads, each representing a different treatment milestone are given to the child by their professional health care provider to add to their Beads of Courage collection throughout their treatment.



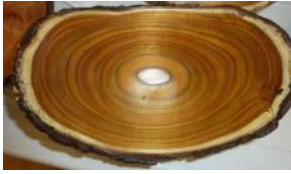
Beads of Courage gratefully thanks all woodturners who donate their one-of-a-kind, handmade bowls, and boxes to a child in treatment for a serious illness.

Guidelines

In order to hold the beads, turned boxes for the Beads of Courage program need to be about 6 inches in diameter (5 inches minimum), rectangular lidded boxes about 4 x 6 x 4 inches or round lids. If possible, engrave or burn "Beads of Courage" in the lid or side of container. Sign your name and write "American Association of Woodturners" on the bottom. Make sure the lids are easily removable. Any finials should be easy for a small child to grasp and not too elaborate (may break). We ask that you refrain from painting the boxes or bowls. Instead, highlight the beauty of the wood with clear varnish, a stain, and/or burning on the bowl.

So-o-o, Where Do We, As Woodturners, Fit In?

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.

AWA has established a perpetual turning challenge in memory of Karl Harper. This challenge will be an excellent gesture as Karl certainly expressed a 'try anything' spirit and was an inspiration to us all. This is the process as it stands now: a piece will be turned by a member to be presented at the next meeting, a name will be drawn from those attending and, if accepted, they will take that piece to keep and will bring a piece the following month. If they decline, then another name will be drawn. 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!' Staten Tate's name was drawn to begin the Karl Harper Memorial Turning Challenge!



Staten Tate designed and turned the inaugural piece for the Karl Harper Perpetual Challenge from Spanish Cedar. Lester Daw's name was drawn as the recipient of Staten's piece and will design and turn the next piece.



Who will take home the June birthday prize?

Check out the list of contenders below.

Happy Birthday to AWA's Members with
June Birthdays!

Lynn Baswell-June 14

Phil Duffy-June 19

Greg Faulkner-June 24

Pete Marken-June 27

Jim Priest-June 29

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-May 2016

A natural edge piece Incorporating a major flow in the wood



PARTICIPANTS
BOB HENRY
GARY HALES
JEAN CLINE
CARL CUMMINS
SEVERAL UNKNOWN
PARTICIPANTS



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

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

Simple Photo Tricks by David Reed Smith (December 2002)

Introduction

There have been several articles published lately on how you can take “almost” professional photographs of your turnings. This isn’t that sort of article. If you need professional photographs because your living depends on getting into a prestigious gallery or craft show then you should actually hire a pro, not read another article.

But if you need photographs for your web site or to illustrate a magazine article you probably can’t justify hiring a pro, but want something better than a flash picture with a point and shoot camera.

This article describes two easy and inexpensive ways to get photographs of turnings that are only a step or two down from professional.

Flatbed Scanner

To get an image of small articles that don’t have a lot of height you can just plop them on a flatbed scanner and scan them. This technique is great for such things pens, refrigerator magnets, lace bobbins, or in my case, tatting accessories (see photo below.)

The lid of the scanner will usually lie at an angle so you’ll get a nice graduated gray background. You may find you get better results by turning up the resolution (dpi) for your scan and then reducing the image size to the quality you need with software. You can’t control shadows, and you may get some reflections from the inside of the camera, but this is so easy you should try it first. It seems almost criminal to get images this effortlessly.



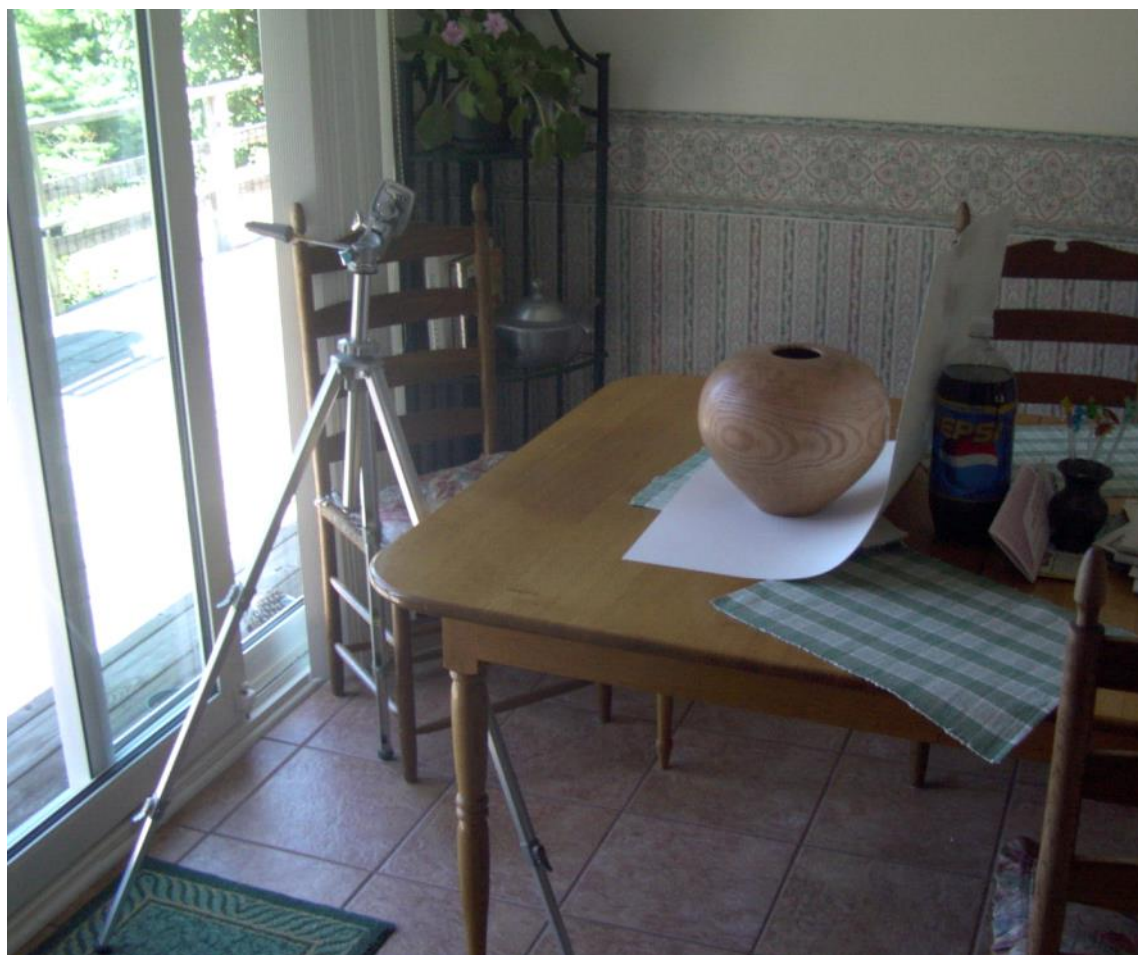
Two tatting accessories. This image was obtained by simply scanning with a Flatbed Scanner.

Dining Room Light Box

Bowls and vessels won't balance very well on a scanner, so unless you're unduly proud of the bottoms you'll need another technique for larger articles. I've had very good luck with my dining room light box.

It produces a seamless background and diffuse lighting, with just enough shadow to give definition. You don't need much equipment. You need a room with more or less neutral-colored walls that has a large window. White walls and a south-facing window would be ideal, but not essential. Most of the light comes from the window, not off the walls, so anything but hot purple would probably work. Besides a room, you need a camera, a tripod, a sheet of poster board, and something to prop the poster board up.

The photo below shows my setup to photograph a vessel. I've set it on the dining room table so I don't have to crouch. It faces the patio doors for plenty of indirect light. As it's somewhere near noon, I don't get harsh light direct from the sun. The vessel sits on the front of a sheet of poster board. The back edge is propped up with a two liter Pepsi bottle. As I'm not getting a placement fee, I must point out that Coke, juice, or any heavy article that's a foot high or so will work. Use poster board. Paper, even heavy white Kraft paper, will wrinkle instead of curving gently and may look mottled if backlit at all. The camera is mounted on a tripod to reduce motion. You can increase your odds of a sharp picture by using a cable release or timer.



Dining Room Light Box. An easy set-up to get photographs with a seamless background and diffuse light.



The photograph produced by the set-up above. This is a red oak vessel about 11 inches high and 9 inches in diameter.

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

