

# Alabama Woodturners Association



# Newsletter

June 2017

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](http://www.alabamawoodturners.com)

## JUNE DEMONSTRATOR ~ PETE MARKEN

I started woodturning about 25 years ago and found I really enjoyed it more than any other kind of woodworking. I really got into it. Then, about five years ago, I started doing segmented woodturning.

Segmented woodturning is a really interesting style of woodturning where you assemble dozens or hundreds of wood segments in one project to create unique patterns. In conventional woodturning, you're turning a solid piece of wood on a lathe. You're working with one block of one type of wood. I found this was limiting what I could do compared to segmented woodturning.

I make my vases and bowls by cutting small segments of wood and gluing them to form rings. I stack and glue the rings, one on another. Then I turn the glued-up piece on my lathe. The challenging part is all the segments and all the rings have to be very precise so everything fits together exactly. If I'm off even two minutes of an arc, I'll have a gap between segments or rings. (Original article editor's note: 2 minutes of an arc equals 0.03 degrees!)

The rings with all the design work in them are called 'feature rings.' The designs in them have to be cut very precisely, too. One segment may have 20 to 30 or more pieces of wood



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Or you  
could just  
turn the  
page  
here!



# Welcome New Members!!

Bethany Alexander  
Bruce Alexander  
Wally Bromberg  
Allen Smith

## On Finding and Donating Wood

by Bob Heltman

Some months ago, I wrote an article about how to find wood. This was to help folks new to woodturning. Often, they get a lathe, tools, etc. and then wonder “where do I get wood?” I’ll review that, but herein want to mostly address the more experienced woodturner who wakes up buried in more wood than he can turn in the future, even if he lives on into eternity. I’ve been both without and with too much wood, so I can comment in expert fashion.

The newbie to woodturning can get wood by a number of methods. Go to a local store selling hardwoods, a craft store, lumber yard, etc. This, however, costs money. Better, look around your area for fallen trees, damaged trees about to fall, etc. Talk to the owner. Talk to a tree service company. Look for a “stump dump” where tree surgeons take parts of trees. Keep your eye on the weather - remember, a hurricane, tornado, or other high wind is the woodturner’s friend. However, be considerate and don’t visit a damaged area when the EMS squad or ambulance is there...I mean for goodness sake, curb yourself a bit. Have a chainsaw handy at all times though. Helping a neighbor remove

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**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**

See page 6 for upcoming classes.

## May Meeting Recap

Thank you to Staten Tate, Howard King, Ronny Perkins, Royal Ritchie, Justin Miller and Scott Arnold for participating in our May Round Robin.



**Staten Tate**



**Justin Miller**



**Ronny Perkins**



**Scott Arnold**



**Royal Ritchie**



**Howard King**



## American Association of Woodturners

The most comprehensive woodturning learning experience can be accomplished through both a local chapter membership and AAW membership. For 30 years, AAW and its chapters have partnered to share, support and deliver a shared educational mission to those interested in turning wood.

This is a special chance for you to add an AAW membership to your chapter membership for the “total experience”.

- Learn to turn your way.
- Boost your learning curve.
- Expand your skills better and faster.
- Maximize your turning time.
- Have more fun.

**Limited-time offer. Sign up to receive a one-year introductory AAW membership for just \$30 (restrictions apply).**

Details:

- 50% discount. One-year AAW membership for just \$30.
- Introductory offer. Only chapter members who have never been AAW members are eligible.
- Limited-time offer. Exclusive sign-up period from April 1 to June 30, 2017.
- Each discounted one-year membership includes the printed bi-monthly American Woodturner journal (six issues)

To sign-up:

- **Online:** Use the special online portal at <http://www.tiny.cc/AAWNewGen>
- **By phone:** Call toll-free (U.S.) at 877-595-9094, Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. CST.

Become a member of the AAW and you’ll have access to extensive educational resources and advice from leading woodturners worldwide.

- American Woodturner (six printed issues annually)
- Woodturning FUNdamentals Online Learning Center (six digital issues annually), an easy-to-use integrated online learning experience designed for new turners, which complements the Woodturning FUNdamentals digital publication.
- Discover Woodturning Online, a compelling new resource designed to educate the general public about the art and craft of woodturning.
- Safety for Woodturners and an expanding selection of other digital learning and mentoring resources
- Unlimited access to online website tools, including: EXPLORE!, Video Source and Connects

**See AAW’s complete portfolio of member benefits online at <http://tiny.cc.AAWBenefits>**

## AWA June Birthdays

Staten Tate - 6/8  
Allen Smith - 6/13  
Lynn Baswell - 6/14  
Phil Duffy - 6/19

Greg Faulkner - 6/24  
Pete Marken - 6/27  
Jim Priest - 6/29



Congratulations to **Jean Cline** for winning the birthday door prize for the month of May, a block of maple!

### *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 2017 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 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 April meeting:

**Bethany Alexander, Bruce Alexander, Scott Arnold, Sandy Bishop, Maurice Clabaugh, Brent Clayton, Moody Davis, Greg Dobbs, Phil Duffy, James Files, Doctor Phil, Gary Garris, James Gilbert, Bob Henry, Clyde Hoover, Dwight Hostetter, Howard King, Pete Marken, Lee McDonald, Justin Miller, Jack Tyler and Terry White**

### *Raffle Ticket Prize News*

**We're changing the raffle once again!**

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 new lathe!

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 lathe 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 and when the drawing takes place 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**  
**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 the process: 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!'

At right is the piece brought by the May challenger, **Richard Serviss**.



## **PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE**

June - Small Turning, must fit in a 1x1" cube

July - Finial

August - Embellished turning, can be paint, dye, chatter tooled, pyrography

September - Christmas ornament

October - Child's toy

November - Hammer or gavel

Please bring a piece and show what you can do!

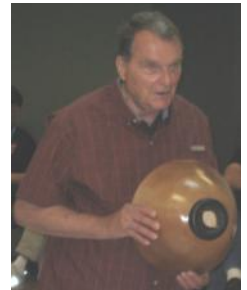
# May Turn and Tell Highlights



**Pete Marken**



**Jean Cline**



**Bill Hubbard**



**Dwight Hostetter**

**Jack Capps**



**Maurice Clabaugh**



**Howard King**



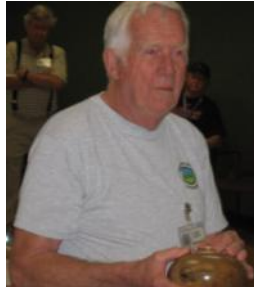
# May Turn and Tell Highlights, cont.



**Royal Ritchie**



**Sandy Bishop**



**John Jackman**





a tree is a service rendered...and you get the wood! In some places, talk to your US Forest Service and get their advice. Look in the paper. As you drive around, look for fallen trees, an old apple orchard being uprooted, etc. Opportunity favors the prepared mind. And, of course, join your nearest woodturning club and let your need be known.

As you get into the woodturning game you will hear of burls and strange sounding woods. Subscribe to *More Woodturning Magazine*, the AAW Journal, etc. and look in the ads section. If all else fails, wear torn and shoddy clothes, stand on a high traffic street corner, put a sad and downcast look on your face, and wear a cardboard sign around your neck that says, "Have Lathe, Need wood." You'll get all the attention you need.

Now, let's move forward in time 1 to 3 years. What happens is that word gets around that you turn wood and you'll get calls from friends, neighbors, even strangers, asking if you are interested in taking down or cutting up a tree they have. From time to time you'll connect and acquire a large supply of maple, cherry, ash, oak, dogwood, sourwood, hickory, pecan, boxelder, and so on. And you'll have a very large pile of wood, or several such piles. At first this is high-status and you'll feel elegant and proud. "Yes, yes" you'll humbly say, "I'm kinda pretty much devoted to woodturning some." If you turn a good bit, you'll stay familiar with what type of wood is in what part of the pile or has its own pile. And, you'll develop expertise in looking at a piece of a tree and correctly identifying it. Smugness will set in...as will bugs and rot if you leave the woodpile outside, on the ground, uncovered.

As the untouched wood ages, it can lose bark, gather fungus, and you get a little uncertain as to what kind of wood it is. You'll say things like, "I should have painted the cut ends to avoid cracking." And, "Well, if I cut off two inches from the cracked ends I'll still have enough left for a good bowl." If this also happened a few years earlier, you will subconsciously remember, on your next fallen tree wood gathering trip, to cut pieces a little longer just in case you don't get to paint the ends right away. This leads to an even larger woodpile.

Some woods decay faster than others...poplar and apple come to mind along with sapwood of oak, I have to confess. Several years ago, I just had to get rid of a lot of decayed apple I had laboriously gathered a couple years earlier. Guilt ridden, I had trouble sleeping for a night or two, although some guilt can be suppressed with a sufficient absorbing of adult beverages, I'm told. Actually, I had to get rid of a whole bottom row of cut wood that was stored on the ground. Being a part-time turner, I go for extended periods of time between my woodturning sessions.

Recently I had gotten myself into another situation where I just had to admit I had far more wood than I was likely to turn, and noticed some of it was starting to get too split, decayed, or bug ridden. What to do...You could run an ad and sell the surplus to other woodturners. Or add to your firewood pile (just the bad pieces of course). Or donate it to your woodturning club's annual fund raising auction (but this may mean hauling a lot of wood to one or more club meetings). Being in the world's finest and largest woodturning club (allow a bit of pride, OK?), the Carolina Mountain Woodturners, where we have email and a website, our Internet expert broadcast the following email from me: "I have accumulated more wood blanks than I can turn. New Spalted Maple logs 12" diameter, sassafras ditto, butternut, odd pieces of walnut, chunks of various others. I'd like a CMW member, probably in the Hendersonville area, to come by and take some. A donation to CMW would be a nice gesture on the recipient's part and save me haul-

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in it. One of my vases is made of over 870 individual pieces of wood!

I've sold my turnings through word of mouth, galleries and I do custom work, too. Prices for some of my turnings can range up to \$1,200 or more depending on complexity of the design and the wood I use. For example, Ebony is very expensive – up to \$120 or \$140 a board foot.



“Rising Sun” vase is 9-1/2” diameter X 10-1/2” tall – Woods used: Walnut, Yellowheart, Bloodwood and Holly - 551 pieces of wood



Vase with Diamonds – 8-1/4” diameter X 9-1/2” tall – woods used: Bubinga, Wenge, Maple and dyed veneers - 571 pieces of wood



Vase – 11-1/4” diameter X 9” tall – woods used: Cherry, Mahogany, Yellowheart, Wenge and dyed veneer - 870 pieces of wood

Excerpt from: <http://woodmasterdrumsandersblog.com/tag/pete-marken/>



ing pieces to the September auction. Glad to get a few chunks of osage orange in trade. Call first (my phone #) and will provide detailed directions.” Within a day or two I received seven calls/ emails, leading to visits and the removal of all the wood I wanted to have moved out. Each visit was very pleasant and allowed club members to see my shop and get their wood. We also greatly enjoyed each other’s company and had nice chats. One interesting couple lives six months in Florida and six here in Hendersonville, NC. They needed wood while HERE! Makes sense. Each grand person promised to give money to our club, and this approach saved my aging body from having to load, transport at high gas cost expense, and unload a LOT of wood for our annual club’s money raising auction.

There is still a bit of butternut to be retrieved by an out of town member, but the outside storage area is in great shape once again. I can either load in more wood or not. And, the decayed bark under one of the piles made great mulch for the flower garden. It is good to have a happy wife.

What remains is my inside wood on the floor of my basement shop studio. Now, yes, I allowed some of it to escape too, but at this point I can get to my smaller and second table top lathe which got blocked off for months by the inside wood blanks. The current condition allows me to throw out some rugs on which some wood sat and left its fungus marks. The floor can be seen once again. There were a lot of wood chips to vacuum up, dust, and even a few dead bugs. Such is woodturning. I have to go now, the phone is ringing...oh, it was my neighbor Dan, with the portable sawmill. He is slabbing a maple tree trunk and wondered if I wanted a piece near the root area as it is somewhat spalted and has real curly grain. I’d better go take a look.

This information is provided by *More Woodturning Magazine*. Please visit their website: [www.morewoodturningmagazine.com](http://www.morewoodturningmagazine.com).



Upcoming Events

June 10

Morning Demo                      Afternoon Mentoring

Pete Marken

Segmented Turning or                      TBD  
Finishing

July 8

Morning Demo                      Afternoon Mentoring

Howard King, Royal  
Ritchie and Justin Miller

TBD

Christmas in July

