



Alabama Woodturners Association

# AWA Newsletter

March 2011



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

## Coming Events

**Mar:** Mark Gardner  
**Apr:** Dean Black  
**May:** TBA  
**June:** Rudy Lopez: "Natural Edged Winged Bowls"  
**July:** TBA

## Officers of AWA

**President** – Richard Serviss  
**Vice President** – Moody Davis  
**Treasurer** – Phil Duffy  
**Secretary** – Jennifer Smith  
**Directors:** Moody Davis, Laura Reder, Tom Corbett, Bob Henry, Jeff Hicks  
**Web Master** – Robert Scheitlin  
**Training** – Phil Fortmeyer  
**Newsletter Editor** – Dave Chanslor

## Inside this issue:

Easy Log Loader  
Traveling woodturner

\*\*Notice\*\*

Make Tops and  
Ornaments!

## President's Letter

My apologies for missing last month's meeting. Sometime work gets in the way of pleasure.

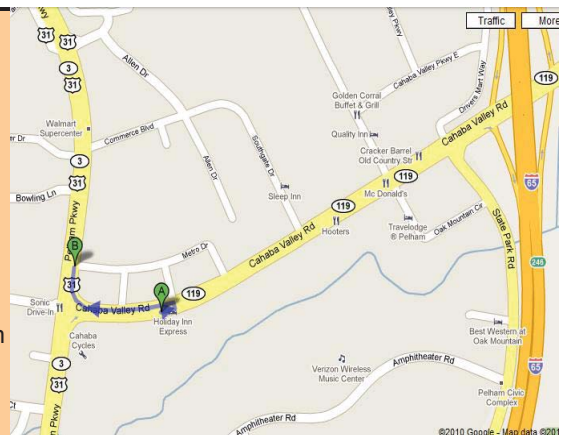
Good news! The Homewood Park Board has adjusted the time slots for the users of the Senior Center. Our slot has been increased to five hours. We have the meeting room from 8 AM to 1 PM. Another group has the room the other Saturday mornings of the month. They would like to have our slot also. The Homewood Senior Center is a great place for our club to meet. For a minimal payment we get the meeting room, the use of the craft room and storage for our equipment.

Our demonstrator this month is Mark Gardner. He will demo at our club in the morning and at Woodcraft in the afternoon. His workshops on Friday and Sunday are filling up. If you are interested in one of the workshops contact Will Pate at 205-907-0638.

Our plans are to have Dean Black from Springville as our April demonstrator here at the Homewood Senior Center. There has been some discussion about having a workshop at Dean's Gallery at a later date. More to come on this subject as it develops. At the February meeting Maurice Clabaugh made a motion to name the AWA workshops after Bill Cleage, who recently departed. Bill made AWA the recipient of many gifts in his years as a member. In 2004, he anonymously donated the money for AWA's first mini lathe, which was the beginning to the current AWA workshop program. The motion was seconded and past unanimously. In appreciation for all the bill did for the Awa, the AWA workshop program will be called the William S. Cleage Wood Turning workshops.



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Web Site: [www.woodcraft.com](http://www.woodcraft.com)  
Email: [Woodcraft511@bellsouth.net](mailto:Woodcraft511@bellsouth.net)  
Manager: Jay MacDougall  
Store Hours:  
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday: 9 am – 7 pm  
Thursday: 9 am – 9 pm  
Saturday: 9 am – 6 pm  
Sunday: noon – 5 pm



## February Meeting Highlights - No Photographer

### **From the Road by Beth Ireland**

I am writing to you from my desk in the van, which is currently parked in Saint Petersburg, Florida. It's hard to believe all the places I've visited and the people I've met over the past five months since I began traveling the country with Turning Around America. At this point in the project, I have taught at:

- Fourteen high schools
- Five colleges
- Three elementary schools
- Two woodturning guilds
- One Cub Scout troop
- One community art center
- One woodturning school
- One woodturning symposium
- One program for teenage boys at risk
- Guerrilla workshops

**Turning Around America has reached over 1,500 people, in 21 states, over 10,000 miles!**



The rewards for me have been many: from the bubbling enthusiasm of a third grader touching a tool for the first time, to the sincere handshake of a high school junior who is excited about his first turned object, to a school administration considering the purchase of lathes for the art classes at the Yeshiva Girls High School. One wonderful second grader at WISH Elementary School in Los Angeles announced to his mother, "You know how I always wanted to be an astronaut, Mom? Well now I think I want to be a woodworker."

These stories demonstrate that we are achieving our goal of teaching people the thrill and empowerment of using their hands to create an object. Over the next four months, we want to reach another 1,300 kids, teens and adults. In order to make this happen, we need your support.

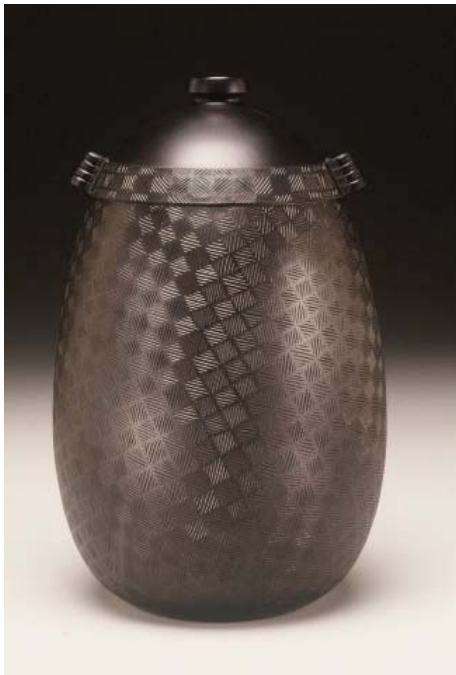
The project has been entirely funded through the generosity of people like you. Many schools do not have funding to pay us. The honorariums I have received from schools and guilds cover only a fraction of the cost of fuel. Your contribution will purchase materials, gas and lodging.

Turning Around America is changing my perspective about the act of living, teaching, creating and learning. The lessons have been as diverse as the people I've taught and places I've traveled. What has remained constant is the belief that: if you can conceive and believe, you can also achieve. Please help me bring this message to an even wider audience. You can donate and follow my progress and see new pictures of the project at: [www.turningaroundamerica.com](http://www.turningaroundamerica.com), click on the **Blog** link page for a personal story of my journey.

Guest Demonstrator March 2011:

**Mark Gardner**

On Friday March 11, Mark will hold a hands on workshop at the Woodcraft store on making a closed vessel with surface decorations. On Saturday March 12, he will be our featured demonstrator, making a square bowl similar to the one shown below which is turned on three different axes. On Sunday, his workshop will be on making the square bowl. Don't miss it!



**Editors Note:**

I regret that there are no pictures for the February meeting. I was traveling and not able to attend. I had asked two people to take pictures at the meeting and think neither were there.

If there is anyone who did take pictures, please send them to me and I will document the meeting in a revised newsletter of in the April Newsletter.

Thanks,

Dave

Anyone who is the least bit interested in knowing more about this addictive hobby, contact Richard Serviss at (205) 853-2136 or Phil Duffy at (256)355-4201 and they'll happily answer your questions and get you signed up. OR...come visit us at our next meeting. We meet the second Saturday of each month. Meeting starts at 9:00 am, but people start

**Meeting Location—816 Oak Grove Rd. Homewood AL**

From I-65 N, exit 256B (From I-65 S, exit 256A). Turn West on Oxmoor Rd. go about .5 mi – halfway there take the left fork at the traffic light (means you'll go straight ahead) – Turn left onto Oak Grove Road and go about .2 mi. Homewood Senior Center is on the right. Check out our Web Site at [www.alabamawoodturners.com](http://www.alabamawoodturners.com) for much more about our club.

# Easy Log Lifter V2.0

By Staten Tate

After straining my back twice being a fool for free wood, I began looking for a more effective way to accommodate my cellulose addiction. I rejected several ideas because they were either too complicated or expensive. When Jerry O. brought the log loader he had made from plans in the AAW journal to last January's meeting, I knew I would never have thought of anything so obvious (didn't we learn about levers in grammar school?). Great as it was, I still wanted something that would break down, fit in the bed of a small pickup, and be easy to transport, assemble and disassemble at the site. It also needed to be strong enough to lift anything I could wrestle on to it. I eventually came up with the Easy Log Lifter V1.0 and was surprised by its performance. I made some handouts for the club but continued to tweak the design and now have V2.0. If you've tried making and using one, give me some feedback - there is always room for improvement and a V3.0. Since the design is so flexible, the construction descriptions are fairly general.

**STRENGTH** - Use metal electrical conduit commonly available anywhere electrical supplies are sold (Lowes, etc). It comes in 10' lengths. For medium size logs 1" conduit telescoped with 1 1/4" conduit is adequate. For big logs 1 1/4" & 1 1/2" conduit is strong enough to require two people to lift a really big log. I recommend the larger sizes and taking a friend - you will be able to handle just about anything that comes along.

**CONSTRUCTION & ASSEMBLY** - Drilling the holes in the conduit is the tricky part. After some experimenting, I went with a 3/8" hole for a - bolt or hitch pin. This helps with misaligned holes. I like wing nuts for securing bolts. Large hitch pins are faster but may need to be bent open a little to fit large conduit. Initially I made the shelf from two rough cut 2x4's and two pieces of 1/2" plywood (9"x30"). The idea was strength and long holes to keep the conduit parallel. This was overkill. One 2x4 stud and one sheet of plywood will work for both requirements. You could increase the dimensions of the plywood some to stabilize the logs better. Attach the plywood to the 2x4 and drill conduit holes with a Forstner bit, spade bit or hole saw a comfortable shoulder width apart. Check the outside diameter of the conduit for the correct size hole - the conduit diameter is given as an inside diameter. A close fit is best and will help hold the conduit parallel. You may need to use a



rasp and/or wax on tight holes. The shelf height should match you tailgate height and can be supported with either bolts or hitch pins.

**PORTABILITY** - For small pickups, cut the conduit in half (5' lengths) and telescope the two sizes you chose. For more leverage telescope all three sizes. Alternately, if you have a trailer or don't



mind poles sticking over the tailgate and have a place to store long poles, you can use longer lengths or the whole conduit. This will require more conduit and cause some waste but any combination of lengths will work. It all depends on how long you want to cut the poles and how high you need to lift the logs. For 5' lengths and a foot overlap you get a 9' pole. Drill some extra holes in the end of the conduit for pin/bolt storage and transporting the conduit as shown.



USE - The point where you go from lifting the poles to pushing the log on to the truck is the hard part. It gets more difficult for bigger logs. This is where a helper is useful. This is also where the back/hernia problem you originally wanted to solve just gets moved to a higher level. Its hard to resist the power in mechanical advantages. When using a helper, make sure your efforts are coordinated or you can easily dump the log off the lifter while raising it.

The metal conduit makes initial lifter loading from any angle easy. The wood also slides easily on the metal. You

can stick a handy branch under the poles to raise them off the ground and make your initial grip on the end easier. Logs that are a little short for the width of the handles will usually catch on the log's diagonal if one end is resting on one of the poles. Alternately you can drill more than one set of holes in the shelf for long or short logs.



OPTION - As I began lifting larger logs, changing my grip from lifting to pushing became more of a problem and once resulted in a sore shoulder

the next day (so far my back's doing fine). It occurred to me a more natural way to lift a log would be like lifting a barbell. So I decided to add a horizontal bar to the end of the handles.

Place a chain link fence tension band (Lowe's etc.) inside the ends of the conduit and secure them with a #14 sheet metal screw. The

screw only needs to go through one wall. If you are using large dia. conduit you could drill some large holes through the end of the conduit. Place a bar or pipe or more conduit through the loops, add a couple of pins to keep the bar in the loops and you're good to go. A long bar also helps coordinate lifting with a helper. It's still tricky changing your grip from the bar to the poles while under load and the bar does add a level of complexity to the lifter. However, I consider the option an overall improvement as far as ease of lifting goes.

CONCLUSION - The initial idea behind the lifter was to save a lot of work and back pain. But another benefit soon became apparent. You now have access to larger diameter wood. This should translate to a better quality and straighter grain to work with and result in better quality turnings with fewer warps and splits. All you need now is a bigger chain saw and bigger pickup.



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**Just Say No!**