

Alabama Woodturners Association



Newsletter

March 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

MARCH DEMONSTRATOR ~ JOHN JACKMAN

I joined WAWTA approximately five years ago, but was not very active. However, I did turn some lidded boxes and I enjoyed learning from the local members of the Tuscaloosa group. The turning point, pun intended, for me was when Maurice Clabaugh asked me to help him build his new studio. The weather did not always cooperate, so on rainy days we decided to turn bowls. Watching him turn and listening to him explain what he was doing made all the difference in my improvement as a wood turner. I joined AWA about November 2016, Maurice invited me to a meeting in October and immediately I saw the potential to learn so much more in this rich wood turning environment. My favorite things to turn are bark edge or natural edge bowls, and secondly, hollow forms. I have worked in the building trades most of my life and have enjoyed framing, trim carpentry, built-ins, and even some furniture, but the most enjoyable woodworking endeavor is wood turning.



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Follow the Arrow...

(Turn the page)



Welcome New Members!!

Brent Clayton
Joby Dobbs
Bill Dunn

Debark SAFELY with a Hand Adze

by Bob Heltman

Once upon a time, about 20 plus years ago, I had a forge and became quite interested in blacksmithing. Pounding on red hot steel, especially on a hot day, gives one a deeper appreciation for what our forefathers did in developing our country! At around the same time, I was beginning in woodturning, and forged a number of gouges and scrapers. Two related tools I developed were to aid in larger scale



Figure 1. Hand adze that the author made for stripping bark from a piece to be turned.

wood carving; these were hand adzes. As it turned out, I became more interested in woodturning, and the adze pictured in Figure 1 was ideal for removing bark from the center of half-logs prior to pinning a log in place between Steb center in headstock and the tailstock.

There were, and are, two approaches to mounting a half log. One is to trust in the firmness of the bark, which often leads to the log coming loose. After a few such accidents, particularly if damage to toes occurs, the second way is to use a hand axe and

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.

(See "Adze" on page 10)

February Meeting Recap

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



Donations Needed!!

To My Friends and Woodturners,

My name is Myra Harper, I have been a volunteer at the Southeastern Blind Rehabilitation Center for over twenty years. It is sad to see how many of our Heroes are in need of so much, and how few people help. We have an Alumni Reunion every year that is the highlight of the year for most of them, with a golf tournament on Thursday, barbeque on Friday and a banquet on Saturday. This year's event will be held May 11 - 13.

At the banquet we have an auction which is a big money maker. Last year we took in more than \$1,500. Many of the Birmingham woodturners donated items they had made (big money makers). I am asking for donations again this year. Anything will be appreciated. You can bring your donation to the meeting this week or next month or I will make arrangements to pick them up at your convenience.

I and our Veterans thank you.

Myra Harper
myragharper@gmail.com



Upcoming Events

March 11

Morning Demo
John Jackman
Natural Edge Bowl

Afternoon Mentoring
Natural Edge Bowl

April 8

Morning Demo
Dwight Hostetter

Afternoon Mentoring
TBD

May 13

Morning Demo
Round Robin

Afternoon Mentoring
TBD

June 10

Morning Demo
Pete Marken

Afternoon Mentoring
TBD

Segmented turning or finishing

Do you have what it takes to be an 'I.F.'?

Have you ever walked into a new place where the only person you knew was yourself? It can be a rather unnerving and kinda scary feeling! AWA would like to fix that!

So what is an 'I.F.'? Simply stated an I.F. is an 'Instant Friend!' You would be part of a very special group within the AWA membership. Here's how it would work: When you get to a meeting and sign in, you'll note that you are an I.F. When someone identifies themselves as a guest or new member, Jean and/or Amy will introduce you. Your tasks would be to simply be a friend - show them the important things (donuts, coffee, best place to sit to watch the demo, etc.), engage them in conversation about woodturning (you already have that in common!) and perhaps, introduce them to other turners. In short, just be a friend!

How do you get to be an Instant Friend? Let Jean and/or Amy know when you sign in at the meetings! They will take it from there!

AWA March Birthdays

Nevin Newton - 3/2	David Fancher - 3/10	Michelle Warren - 3/17
Norm Adams - 3/8	Buddy Finch - 3/11	Robert Moore - 3/21
Johnny Carpenter - 3/9	Michael Malinconico - 3/12	Brent Clayton - 3/31
	Keith Pitman - 3/13	

Congratulations to John Jackman for winning the birthday door prize for the month of February, 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!

The Woodworking Shows Atlanta, GA March 31 - April 2, 2017

For the past 30 years, The Woodworking Shows have established a devoted following by providing woodworkers with an outlet for their passion through tools, education and a unique sense of community by hosting hands-on trade shows for woodworkers across the United States.

Please see their website for more information:

<http://www.thewoodworkingshows.com/atlanta.html>.

If you want to go to the show and are interested in carpooling with someone, there will be a signup sheet at the February and March meetings so you can see who else is interested and make carpool arrangements.

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'.

Congratulations to our raffle prize winners for the February meeting:

Scott Arnold, Myra Harper (x3), Ronny Perkins, David Duncan, Beau Cottrell, Terry Tingle and Bill Dunn!

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 February challenger, Jim Priest. John Sowell will be the March challenger.



Finish Library

If you are interested in trying a finish, but are hesitant to spend money on something you've never used, check out the new Finish Library!

As we are currently building the library, we are asking anyone who has a finish they would like to donate, please bring it to any upcoming meeting. We will collect them and make them available for checkout at each meeting to club members to try on a project. We are working to have them available throughout the month as well. This would be a great way to try a new finish without having to spend money on it. If you like the finish, you would then purchase some for yourself.

Thanks!!

Scott Arnold

Northern Alabama WoodCrafters

Presents

Wood Worker Hall of Fame

Judy Gale Roberts

Intarsia Event

<https://intarsia.com/>

Saturday March 18, 2017

Jaycee's Community Building

2180 Airport Road SW

Huntsville, AL 35802

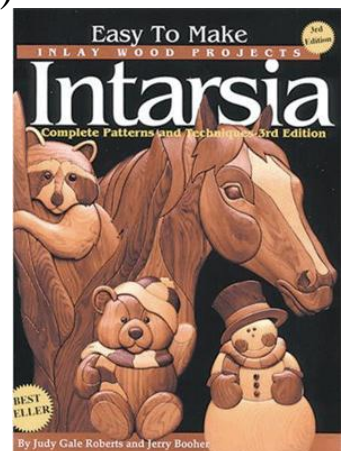
(Cost 20.00 /person, Age 12 and under free)

9:30 – 4:30

Presentation/Demonstrations
by Judy Gale Roberts on Intarsia

Some hands-on time
Projects in Various Stages
Pattern to all attendees
Door Prize Drawings
Book/Pattern signings

Brag Table(s)...bring in an Intarsia Project
Other Vendors/Demonstrators may be present



Interview with an “Original”

As we approach the 20th anniversary of this AWA chapter, we thought it would be nice to look back to the charter members, the “Originals,” to see what got them started and keeps them coming back. Below, you will find an interview with one of the Original Turners, Harold Hall. We hope you enjoy.

How long have you been turning? Why did you decide to join Alabama Woodturners?

I started turning as a charter member of AWA. I joined because some friends joined and invited me to join.

What would you like to see AWA accomplish? What did you think AWA would accomplish?

I think it has been a great club and to have maintained its interest is great. (Must be doing something right!)

How did you get started turning?

I was invited by friends.

What do you like to turn most?

Hollow forms.

Do you have a picture you’d like to share of something you have created, something you’re proud of?

I presented a sample of my work at a meeting showing pictures. I also hosted a turning session which is on a CD in your files perhaps. I also have participated in several round robins which were photographed. The CD is titled “Turning on the Creek”.

What do you wish someone had told you when you were first starting out?

That I would end up with a hundred turning tools!

Do you have or did you have a mentor and/or favorite turner?

First bowls were turned with Bill West and Roland Nelson at Pat Johnson's shop. There are turning teachers and teaching turners, Maurice Clabaugh stands out to me as one of our better teachers.

What do you like to do when you aren’t turning something?

Woodworking

We’re all turners here. What makes you special and different from everyone else? (It doesn’t have to pertain to turning or wood or your shop, etc.)

I try not to think I am better than I am, that makes me less disappointed when I fail.

What have you done in a previous or current phase of your life perhaps not related to turning?

We have 67 members in our family, I stay pretty busy with them!

February Turn and Tell Highlights



Cont. on page 10

February Turn and Tell Highlights, cont.

Cont. from page 9



("Adze", cont. from page 2)

remove bark in the center of the log. The problem here is that the downward swing can come close to your thumb as your hand steadies the log!

When using the hand adze, one is facing the full bark side of the half-log. If necessary, the other hand can steady the log and tends to naturally hold the log at its upper left, out of harm's way. A few carving strokes with the adze gets one down to the wood itself which is a safer grabbing point for the tailstock's center. Figure 2 shows my two adzes.

I tend to use the longer end of the adze's blade on the left. The "funny stuff" on the handles is a gripping material that forms to hand-fit by using a hot air gun. (Sorry, source was lost years ago.) Handles were carved on a shaving horse, with the steel heads held in place using epoxy and a carriage bolt, on the left one, and a wedge and epoxy on the right one. Figure 3 shows the heads.

I tape-wrapped the one handle near the head to cushion against striking wood when sculpting.

In 22 years of use, these tools have stood up perfectly well. While these heads were forged, you can make a very functional adze head with most any piece of flat steel that is about 1/4" thick by 1 1/2" wide, and 4 to 5 inches long. Just drill a good-sized hole in the center and sharpened the edges "lopsided" with the cutting edge at bottom. See Figure 4 to get the idea.

The angle of attack at the cutting edge can be adjusted by grinding, to where the adze functions comfortably within your normal chopping stroke.

Another point concerns the handle. Naturally, a wood-turner will be tempted to turn the handle. **HOWEVER**, it is important that the adze **NOT** twist when striking wood! This is more likely to happen when your arm is tired, like when you have bucked some logs, split them, and are in a hurry to mount a half-log for green bowl turning. Twisting can result in dangerous glancing blows which may not be appreciated by near body parts! **SO**, turn the handle off center so it is oblong. Wrapping it with tape that provides extra friction between hand and handle is also a good idea. Ash or hickory are ideal woods.

An adze may not normally be considered a woodturning tool, but if one fells one's own trees, bucks the logs, paints the ends to ward off checking, and splits the logs lengthwise for bowl blanks, **THEN** the hand adze becomes as, or more important than, a chain saw.

By the way, sometimes a log will have some loose bark that can fly off dangerously. The hand adze is a fast and ideal way to remove some or all the bark. Since dust, sand, and grit get trapped in rough bark, and will erode the edges of your gouges more quickly, removing all bark first is often a good idea. Besides, guys never have all the tools they need. Make yourself a hand adze. You will be glad you did.

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



Figure 2. This photo shows the author's two adzes.



Figure 3. This photo shows the heads of the two adzes of Figure 2.



Figure 3. This photo shows the heads of the two adzes of Figure 2.