

# Alabama Woodturners Association



# Newsletter

March 2018

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)

## MARCH DEMONSTRATOR ~ JARED BRUCKNER

I was born in Illinois, raised in Michigan and spent 28 years in Massachusetts before moving to Tennessee in 1995. I worked as a university professor for 40 years before retiring in 2007. I have MS in Math 1968, a MS in Computer Science 1972, and a DSC in Computer Science 1993. I retired in 2007 and started turning soon after that.

I started turning pens, but soon wanted to turn bowls. So upgrading lathes was a must. I have a Powermatic 3520B and way too many tools. I enjoy turning many things. As a member of four AAW chapters I do a lot of President's challenges and often spend way too much time on them.

I also enjoy doing demos and have done demos on turning Christmas ornaments, boxes with threaded lids, a toothpick dispenser, emerging bowls, maze coin puzzle boxes, and what I call multi-axis hollowing.



### **Information about the Saturday Afternoon Class with Jared Bruckner (and DocPhil!) :**

The class will give participants the opportunity to turn the 'emerging bowl' that will be demonstrated during the morning session.

Jared Bruckner has agreed to stay and lead us through the process of creating these unique turnings. To participate, I ask that you have intermediate turning skills and experience with 'open air' turning, relative proficiency with turning a bowl and use of a scraper. I encourage you to view one or more of the youtube videos available online to acquaint yourself with the overall aspects of the turning and variations available. Because of the wood and preparation involved and his additional time, the class fee will be \$30. If you want to be in the class and/or have any questions, please call me at (205) 612-7496. Class size is limited to 6 so call me early to assure your spot!

Looking forward to a full class, fun fellowship and a great learning experience for all! See you Saturday.

DocPhil

(Additional class information on page 3)

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*Follow the Arrow...*

*(turn the page)*



# Welcome New Members!!

William Calderwood-Brent, AL  
 Bob and Donna Dill-Hayden, AL  
 Richard Graham-Birmingham, AL  
 Susan McCalla-West Blocton, AL

## Blacksmith Opportunity

Vulcan Forge would be happy to conduct a special class for our members on May 25, from 9am until approx. 4pm at Tannehill Iron Works State Park near Bessemer. We will cover steel selection, heat treating, forging techniques, and how to have an affordable forge and tools. This course is designed for wood workers to be able to make tools at a fraction of the cost with readily available tools and materials. Cost will include a one year membership in Vulcan Forge, additional classes at no charge, materials and tools furnished for the class, membership in Alabama Forge Council, newsletter (very good), and you should leave with wood working tools you will have made. Lunch will be provided for an additional small charge. I believe that will be \$25 for the class and \$6 for lunch plus cost of admission to the park. Students will need to wear clothing made of natural material (cotton, linen, wool, leather) and have safety glasses. This class will be smaller than our last class to insure better personal instructions and more anvil time. Class is limited to 12-that is 2 students per anvil per instructor. Women are welcome and one of our smiths is a woman. Just as at our turning meetings, people may have items for sale. To register or for questions, contact James Vaughn at (205) 608-0022 or email [cahabatraders@hotmail.com](mailto:cahabatraders@hotmail.com).



**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.

### AWA Treasurer's Report February 27, 2018

Balance on hand 01/29/18 \$8,969.56  
 (Checking account plus \$250 cash on hand with Jennifer)

Expenditures since 01/29/18:

Food for January meeting	\$161.59	
Gift Certificate for Ornament drawing	\$100.00	
Lathe	\$756.01	
Year end drawings-President's Challenge	\$337.59	
Year end grand prize (Arrowmont)	\$595.00	
Coffee Supplies	\$24.38	
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$1,974.57</b>

Income

Dues	\$2,120.00*	
Coffee contributions-January	\$29.00	
Coffee contributions-February	\$5.00	
Raffle-January	\$213.00	
Raffle-February	\$160.00	
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$2,527.00</b>

Balance on hand 02/27/18 \$9,521.99\*\*

- \*Dues comprised of 44 individual and 8 family memberships paid thus far
- \*\*Balance reflects checking account and cash on hand with Jennifer of \$250.00 to be used for change those paying dues. Additional cash on hand held by Jean and Amy for change at their table is not included in the balance.

## February Meeting Recap

Thank you, Tommy Hartline for providing the hollow form turning demo!



### **Additional information about the Saturday afternoon class with Jared Bruckner:** (Continued from page 1)

I will prepare the blanks with a tenon to be used in the first mounting. We will be turning bowls about 2.5" to 3" in diameter. I will also bring 6 wooded face-plates for the second mounting. We will be using hot glue for the second

Students will need a lathe with chuck (normal jaws) and some sort of center for the tail stock (it does not have to rotate as it will be used only to position the wood). In addition to a face shield they will need a bowl gouge (1/2" shaft with 3/8" flute recommended), a 3/8" detail or spindle gouge, and an interior bowl scraper (bowl will be about 2.5" to 3" diameter). A 1/2" or larger square scraper (or 1/2" or larger skew to be used as a scraper) might be helpful. If they have a hot glue gun they should bring it. I will have mine and we can share if anyone does not have one.

If the location allows for sanding they should bring sandpaper. **(THAT PART WE ARE LIMITED ON AT THE CENTER!)** Power sanding equipment with 2" sanding disks might be helpful, but not needed. Sanding might be better done at home after the tenon is cut off. They will not be able to sand that side anyway and the only part that can be sanded on the lathe is the bowl and the outside of the bowl will need hand sanding anyway.

I will bring the wood blanks and will have my tools (and I will bring extras) if someone does not have something.



## Upcoming Events

March 10

Morning Demo

Jared Bruckner

Emerging Bowl

Afternoon Mentoring

Jared Bruckner

Emerging Bowl

April 14

Morning Demo

Jess Walls  
From Tree To Bowl

Afternoon Mentoring

TBD

May 12

Morning Demo

To Be Announced

Afternoon Mentoring

TBD

June 9

Morning Demo

To Be Announced

Afternoon Mentoring

TBD



### February Turn and Tell Presenters

Gary Hales~Ron Herbster~David Duncan~John Sowell~Bethany Alexander  
 Bob Dill~Carl Cummins~Lynn Baswell~Susan McCalla~Howard King  
 Bill Hubbard~Maurice Clabaugh~Myra Harper~Brent Clayton~Bill Calderwood



## **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	

### ***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 2018 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 16-18, 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 March meeting so you can see who else is interested and, perhaps, make carpool arrangements.**

## *Raffle Ticket Prize News*

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 *BIG* prize to be given away at the Christmas party in December! The *BIG* prize for 2017 was a Scholarship to attend a class at Arrowmont! *Smaller* prizes were a set of tools and a chuck.

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 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 depends 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!'

Below is the piece was brought by the February challenger.



## Message from AWA President, Carl Cummins

Greetings,

Evidently some recently used email lists omitted a significant number of members, so I feel the need for some catch-up. In case you haven't heard, I was elected President at the January meeting. I had written some initial thoughts, but instead of waiting until the next newsletter I'll include them here:

We've arrived at another New Year and facing new opportunities. Finding myself as the new President of this club I see both opportunity and challenge. First let me thank all the club veterans who brought us to where we are now. Obviously without them we wouldn't have this club. I didn't seek this position, but I accepted the nomination partly from a feeling of obligation to "pay forward" the fruits of previous efforts so that you and future members will have the opportunity that I've had since I joined back in 2011

I've never been a President before, so I'll welcome help and support. In particular I'll look to our board for direct input into the decisions that we make. But everyone should feel free to convey thoughts to any officer or board member. The combined effort will direct our progress. However I'm not just hoping for help for myself, but rather your participation in some of the many jobs that are required to keep this club working. I will pass around a list at our next meeting, hoping to get your name on one or more of these opportunities.

I'm writing this having just returned home after attending the Tennessee symposium. I'm now full of enthusiasm for turning (as if I wasn't already). It was a great weekend with something of value for any turner. Now let's get to turning!

One way to do this is with the President's Challenge. I've certainly enjoyed the Challenge these past three years, and now I want to pass that along to you. I'll provide a topic for each month, and all you need to do is try it and bring in your work piece. It doesn't have to be beautiful or even finished. I just want to see that you've tried. If you found it difficult, well that's part of the Challenge! The other part is to encourage you to ask others in the club for advice. There are probably others who've already tried one of these projects before. You may get a variety of suggestions, but I can guarantee you will not leave empty handed!

For challenge topics I'll start with ideas coming from the symposium. For example the topic for March will be a "platter". You may interpret the topic broadly. Although I'm thinking of something basically flat or shallow, you could interpret that as a large food platter, or a small plate, a cheese tray, a wall hanging, etc. As I said before it doesn't have to be beautiful, I just want to see that you tried. We'll have a prize to reward participation. If you have questions about this, just ask. I'll be happy to hear from you.

I'm looking forward to seeing you at our next meeting March 10.

Cont. on page 10

# President's Challenge

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March – Platter, plate, etc.

April – Calabash bowl or other curved bottom no foot

May – Hollow form any size

June – Salad bowl, small or large

July – Art, non-functional piece

August – Scoop

September – Two or more ornaments in different styles

October – TBA

November – TBA

## Turn A Helping Hand

The AWA is offering new ways you can use your skill/hobby to help others.

Blind Veterans Benefit Auction

Turn for Troops

Empty Bowls

1. **Blind Veterans Benefit Auction:** Myra Harper is accepting donations of any kind of woodturned item to be offered in an auction to benefit blind veterans. Examples are bowls, pens, boxes, platters, ornaments, or anything that you have turned. Items should be given directly to Myra at our March and/or April meetings.

2. **Turn for Troops:** The AWA is joining with Woodcraft in the project to turn pens for US Troops on active duty or in rehabilitation. This project is in its 14th year, totaling 146,118 pens so far.

“Woodcraft is again depending on the hundreds of volunteers who show up each year to turn the beautiful pens that say ‘thank you’ in a very personal way to the military men and women who continue to keep the United States safe, while making tremendous sacrifices in their personal lives,” president Jody Garrett said.

The project spans the whole year culminating on Veterans Day Nov 11.

<https://www.woodcraft.com/pages/turn-for-troops>

Cont. on page 10



# February Turn and Tell Highlights



Cont. from page 7

In my note regarding the February meeting I included this description of our raffle:

One thing that will stay the same as last year is how the raffle works. Each month we will raffle off a variety of donated items, and all tickets from each month will be collected for a grand prize to be awarded at the end of the year. Our last grand prize winner, Bob Moore, won a scholarship to Arrowmont, John Jackman won a new set of tools, and Howard King won a new chuck. Our next grand prize(s) will be based on what we can collect through the year. For this to work we need your donations of any woodturning related items such as tools, wood for turning, or turned items. I will start by donating an unused tool and an eccentric woodturned spoon that I hope someone will like. What do you have to contribute?

We held the meeting this past Saturday, and for those who weren't there I can report it went well. We had very good turn-out. Tommy Hartline provided an excellent demo of a different technique for a hollow form. I was inspired to try it for myself. We had large participation in the raffle thanks to the donations of attractive items. We had another impressive display of work in the Show & Tell gallery, plus plenty of time to socialize.

I passed around a sign-up sheet for various committees. We did get some volunteers, but there are certainly more openings. Please let me know if you are available to help with any of the following:

- Lathe setup/takedown
- Audio/Visual
- Holiday Party
- Mentor – help other turners in their shop or yours
- Newsletter
- Library
- Web site
- Nominating - recruit future officers and board members
- Training

I hope that brings us up to date. Let me know if you have thoughts, concerns, or ideas. Have fun and stay safe!

- *Carl Cummins*

Cont. from page 8

Johnny Carpenter (assisted by Michelle Marken) is managing the project within the AWA. Woodcraft will supply pen kits to Johnny, and he will turn in the completed pens to Woodcraft. If you already have pens made that you are willing to donate, please bring them to the next meeting, and you'll get a new kit in return. This project runs from now through our October meeting.

3. **Empty Bowls:** As described by Wikipedia, “Empty Bowls” is an international project to fight hunger, personalized by artists and art organizations on a community level. We are working to develop a local program. More information will come later.

Also, don't forget that we are still making ornaments for a Christmas tree to be auctioned for the benefit of Childrens Hospital.

Thanks in advance for your contributions!