



Alabama Woodturners Association

November 2015

AWA Newsletter



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

Coming Events

November 14-**Mark Sfirri**

December 12-**Christmas Party/Luncheon**

January 9-**Karl Harper**

February 13-**Maurice Clabaugh**~McNaughton Coring System

March 12-**Charles Jennings** ~Epoxy Inlay

November-Mark Sfirri

My mentor said that the lathe is a very creative tool that most people don't use that way. They make bowls and spindles and that's it. So I thought I should really try to do something here.

Woodworker Mark Sfirri continually blurs the line separating woodturning from sculpture. Sfirri, who earned his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Rhode Island School of Design in 1974, and his Master of Fine Arts from the same institution in 1978, was heavily influenced by his mentor Tage Frid, who encouraged the young Sfirri to use his primary tool, the lathe in new, creative ways. Sfirri uses the lathe to create conventional bowls and spindles which he then manipulates using multi-centered spindles, and a series of crosscuts; the resulting pieces combine concave and convex surfaces with curvilinear contours. *"As a furniture maker and sculptor much of my work centers around the wood lathe-turned object. Turned pieces sometimes turned on several different axes have allowed me to explore form in a spontaneous, mathematical, creative way."* Well known for his bold composition and meticulous attention to detail, Sfirri has collaborated on individual pieces with numerous other artists, including Michael Hosaluk and painter Robert Dodge.



Officers of AWA

President-John Sowell

Vice President-Carl Cummins

Treasurer-Jennifer Smith

Secretary-Laura Reder

Directors-Staten Tate, Bill West, John Sowell, Dwight Hostetter

Webmaster-

Newsletter Editors-Jean Cline, Amy Benefield

Sfirri grew up in Middletown, Pennsylvania and studied fine arts at Penn-crest. He attended the Rhode Island School of Design for his undergraduate and graduate degree. His first job was as an industrial designer but did not find it as creatively fulfilling. He has taught at Bucks County Community College since 1981 as an Associate Professor of Fine Woodworking.



Sfirri has published numerous articles in journals such as American Woodworker, and Fine Woodworking. Sfirri is a sought-after lecturer and has given talks all over the United States and the world. He has been a guest of the French government, giving three-week courses instructing French turners in the art of lathe turning and has been a guest speaker at the Association of Woodturners of Great Britain Conference at the University of Warwick.



He has a strong interest in the woodworker Wharton Esherick and has written many articles on the topic and has given lectures. His work has been reviewed and featured in Australian, British and Canadian publications and in many prominent newspapers and magazines in the United States. In 2012, he was the recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award from Collectors of Wood Art.



Inside This Issue:

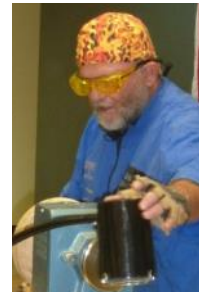
- ◆ November Demonstrator-Mark Sfirri-Page 1,
- ◆ October Demonstrator-Jess Walls/ Saturday Afternoon Mentoring-Page 2
- ◆ Turn and Tell-Page 5, 6
- ◆ Raffle/Birthday News-Page 3
- ◆ President's Challenge-Page 4
- ◆ Adding Decoration To A Bowl-Page 6-11

Copied from <http://www.michenermuseum.org/bucksartists/artist.php?artist=242>

In the December issue-
'Finishing Pens' by Don Ward of Red River Pens



Jess Walls-October Demonstrator



Saturday Mentoring Session-Christmas Ornaments



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.



The October birthday prize was won by Howard King whose birthday is October 26.

Who will take home the November birthday?

Check out the list of contenders below.



Happy Birthday to AWA's November Turkeys!

Roland Nelson-November 3
Bruce Gibson-November 4
Chuck Smith-November 6
Tom Palmer-November 7 (New-ish member)
Lee Michaels-November 9
Justin Miller-November 23
Ray Dugas-November 24

Raffle/ Birthday Gift Door Prize News

We're changing the raffle beginning with November!

As most of you know by now, the AAW Symposium for 2016 will be held in Atlanta! We will raffle the cost to go to the Symposium so bring your raffle money.

\$1 each~~~~~\$5 for 6 tickets~~~~~\$10 for 13 tickets

Do you have an interesting raffle idea or a product you'd like to win? Please see Jean or Amy at the raffle/sign in table.

If you've been to the meetings for the last few months or actually read the newsletter, you've noticed that the AWA has been giving a birthday gift door prize to a turner who has a birthday during the month of that meeting.

Here are the 'rules' for 2015 as they stand now:

- 1) This is a door prize so, yes, you need to be at the meeting 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!
- 3) We have prizes for the entire year that have been numbered. The prize winner for the current month (i.e. July) will draw the prize number for the next month (i.e. August) so Amy and I don't have to bring all of the prizes to all of the meetings. (We sometimes have a hard time just getting us to the meetings!)



Royal Ritchey won October's regular raffle~a Nova Precision Midi Chuck! Wonder if he has used it yet...



President's Challenge-September

Natural Edge Bowl-Bark or Not



PARTICIPANTS

CARL CUMMINS
 HOWARD KING
 TOMMY HARTLINE
 JOHN SOWELL
 MAURICE CLABAUGH
 ROYAL RITCHEY
 BILL HUBBARD
 JACK CAPPS

President's Challenges For 2015

February-Done!

Something you'd use or find in the kitchen

March-Done!

Worst blowout or break you kept as a reminder

April-Done!

Spindle work turned +80% with a skew

May-Done!

Ball-Round as round can be but without using a jig!

June-Done!

Hollow form

July-Done!

Turning between centers on 3 or more axis but no eccentric chuck!

August-Done!

Turning from 3 or more pieces glued together

September-Done!

Christmas ornament

October

Natural edge bowl (bark or not)

November

Mushrooms



How'd They Do That?





CHARLES MOORE



BILL HUBBARD



PETE MARKEN



TOMMY HARTLINE



JACK CAPPS



HOWARD KING



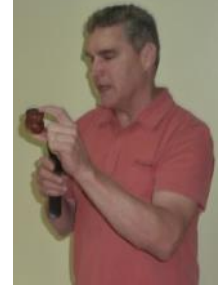
ROYAL RITCHEY



JOHN SOWELL



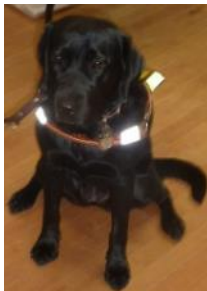
MAURICE CLABAUGH



LEE McDONALD



MYRA HARPER



WILLOW



CARL CUMMINS



KARL HARPER

October Turn and Tell

Pete Marken~Spalted Sycamore Vessel with Jatoba Lid
 Charles Moore~3 Maple Vessels
 Lee McDonald~Frasier Magnolia, Jatoba Lidded Box, Calabash Box
 Karl Harper~Walnut Salt and Pepper Mills, Sign for Pete Marken
 Myra Harper~Salt and Pepper Mills
 Howard King~Ambrosia Maple 'cored from some log'
 John Sowell~Persimmon Goblet
 Tommy Hartline~Ash bowl by Wes Jones featured in AAW Journal
 Maurice Clabaugh~Spalted Box Elder Salad Bowl, 'Red Feather' Redtip Palonia Fork

Adding Decoration To A Bowl by Fred Holder

I don't turn a lot of bowls each year, perhaps 12 to 15 at the most, and often they are small bowls that are never finished because they were used to test a tool or show a student how to turn a bowl. I seldom apply any decoration to a bowl, but occasionally I do get an urge to try something different. This story is about such an occasion.

Nearly two years ago, I had rough-turned and cored a nice 10 inch maple bowl. I decided to finish it and do some form of decoration on it. The decision was to put a circle of 24 dots of a contrasting wood on the top of the rim of the bowl. So, when I finished turning the bowl, I left the top of the rim wider than I normally would.

This was shortly after I acquired one of Richard Benham's Rim Chucks so I tried using the Rim Chuck to turn the foot of this rough turned bowl to fit my Nova Chuck with large jaws. The bowl was a bit warped on top and somewhat out of round; however, it fit nicely into the Rim Chuck so I could turn the foot to fit my chuck (see the photo) below.

I never trust any of the reverse-chucking devices completely and normally give additional support with my cup-shaped live center as shown in the photo.



Using a Rim chuck to turn the foot of my rough turned bowl.

With the foot turned to fit into the chuck, I mounted the bowl in the chuck and finally turned the outside and the inside. Incidentally, I used the cup-shaped live center to support the bowl in the Nova Chuck also. This allows more aggressive turning without concern of losing the bowl from the chuck.



Turning the outside of the bowl when mounted in the Nova Chuck.



This cup-shaped live center doesn't mar the bowl's surface when used as support for the chuck.

I used some reddish colored wood that we had in inventory. I don't know its name because it came from a scrapped-out crate. So I just call it "Crate Wood". This board was 3/4" thick. I used a plug cutter to cut enough plugs to fill 24 holes around the rim of the bowl.

I then used a Forstner Drill in the Oneway Drill Wizard to drill the 24 equally spaced holes, the maximum indexing positions on my Nova DVR 3000. Actually, I glued in a plug each time I drilled a hole. The glue used was Tite-Bond 2, which is the glue that I use almost exclusively. I've never had a glue joint fail with this glue, which is a good reason to continue its use.



Drilling the 24 equally-spaced holes with the Oneway Drill Wizard and my 3/8” drive drill motor that had to be purchased to fit the collar of the Drill Wizard.

Once the glue was dry, I turned away the tops of the plugs, finish-sanded, and applied finish to the inside and outside of the bowl.



A view of the bowl from the side after sanding and finishing.



A view of the top of the bowl while still mounted on the lathe.

The bowl was now ready to reverse and turn the foot. I would have normally reversed the bowl onto my vacuum plate made by Vicmarc that I've had for a number of years. However, the Rim Chuck was easier to set up and worked very well. Again, for safety sake, I used tailstock support; something that I do with any reverse turning method, whether it is a jam chuck, a vacuum chuck, a Longworth Chuck, or the Rim Chuck.



Turning the foot of the bowl. The tailstock was removed for final turning away of the little tenon in the center and for final sanding.



I was pleased with the bowl and so was the person who purchased it.

If you haven't tried decorating one of your bowls, perhaps it is time that you gave it a try. This was a very simple method, but only one of many ways to enhance the appearance of a fairly plain piece of wood. Give it a try.