Alabama Woodturners Association

# AWA Newsletter

A member of the American Association of Woodturners
Location-Homewood Senior Center; 816 Oak Grove Road; Homewood, Alabama 35209
www.alabamawoodturners.com

November 2016

## Coming Events

November 12-**Round Robin**

December 10-**Christmas Luncheon**

January 14-**TBD**

February 11-**TBD**

March 11-**TBD**

### 2016 Officers of AWA

**President-**John Sowell
**Vice President-**Carl Cummins
**Treasurer-**Jennifer Smith
**Secretary-**Amy Benefield/Jean Cline
**Directors-**Maurice Clabaugh, Bruce Gibson, Dwight Hostetter, Michael Malinconico, Richard Serviss, Staten Tate, Gary Hales
**Webmaster-**Carl Cummins
**Newsletter Editors-**Jean Cline, Amy Benefield

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## November~Round Robin


# October Turn and Tell

Due to the October field trip to Dean Black's shop, Blackwood Gallery and Studio, in Springville, Alabama, the October Turn and Tell and How'd They Do That will be combined with November at the November meeting.

# How'd They Do That?

## 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.**

James Files designed and turned the September piece for the Karl Harper Perpetual Challenge. Jack Capps' name was drawn as the recipient of Mr. Files' piece and will design and turn the next piece.



The birthday drawing for October was postponed until the November meeting.

Who will take home the November birthday prize of a piece of Red Mallee?

Check out the list of contenders below.

## AWA November Birthdays


Roland Nelson-November 3

Bruce Gibson-November 4

Chuck Smith-November 6

Tom Palmer-November 7

Lee Michaels-November 9

Jess Walls-November 11

John Johnson-November 19

Justin Miller-November 23

Ray Dugas-November 24

## Raffle 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!**

So-o-o-o-o, what do you donate? How about a tool, jig, turned item, wood blank etc. If you've been to any of the meetings since November, you probably saw some of the items that were donated for the AAW Symposium ticket 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 an additional raffle ticket!

**$1 each~~~~~~$5 for 6 tickets~~~~~$10 for 13 tickets. Ask Amy for ticket numbers for higher dollar amounts!**

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**

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 probably ***ARE*** 'good enough'.

**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 2016 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 birthdate. No fair changing your birthdate in the middle of the year! You're stuck with the one they originally gave you!**

# President's Challenge-October 2016

**Christmas Ornaments-Postponed until the November Meeting**

# President's Challenge-November 2016

**Lidded box with 'pop' top-1" or more in diameter**

# President's Challenges For 2016

**February-Done!**
Tops
**March-Done!**
Jigs, Tools and Contraptions you have made
**April-Done!**
Square Bowl-7" x 7" x 2" or larger
**May-Done!**
A natural edge piece incorporating a major flaw in the wood
**June**
No Challenge due to the AAW Symposium

**July-Done!**
Matched or complimentary pair of candle sticks, one at least 6" high
**August**
Pepper mill in memory of Karl's Harper's birthday
**September**
Thin-walled bowl-4" or more in diameter by 1/8" or less thick
**October**
Christmas Ornaments
**November**
Lidded box with 'pop' top-1" or more in diameter

# Turning a Duck

by Fred Holder

Back in 2004, Guilo Marcolongo, a turner from Australia, demonstrated how to turn a Daffy Duck at the Utah Symposium. I decided to try one. Here's my process, with some photos from Guilo's demonstration.

**Guilo's ducks**

To begin this project, you need a piece of wood for the body and another piece of wood for the head. Here are the dimension ratios that I came up with from Guilo's ducks and they seem
to give a nicely proportioned duck (everything is dimensioned off of the diameter of the body):

Length of body: 1.5 diameter of body
Length of head: 0.73 length of body
Length of head blank: 1.25 length of body
Diameter of head: 0.5 length of body
Top of bill: 0.52 length of body
Radius of foot: 0.33 length of body
Eye: 0.1 length of body
Diameter of leg: 0.06 length of body

I actually worked everything out using the length of the body then realized that the controlling factor will be the diameter of the piece of wood that you are turning the body from. After that I
changed the basis for everything to be from the diameter of the body.

The body is turned into a good egg shape. Just make it 1.5 times as long as it is in diameter. From this make the dimensions of all of the other pieces.

Next step is to turn the head. Cut a blank and turn it round. The round blank should measure 0.5 the length of the body and 1.25 times the length of the body. Make sure the ends are square with the body. Take this piece to the bandsaw and saw out a 1/4 section. Set the 1/4 section aside and
shorten the blank by the top of the bill length or 0.52 length of the body. Mount this in the chuck and turn the egg shaped head to be 0.73 length of body.

**Here the head is mounted in the chuck and ready to turn. The ¼ section is left out in the initial turning of the head.**

**The head has been turned to shape. It is now time to glue in the ¼ section that will become the bill.**

Now glue in the 1/4 section that you had set aside. When the glue sets, turn the head down to meet with the bill and turn the bill into the shape shown in the photo.

**Here the ¼ section is glued into the head and ready to final turn. You must turn the head down to match with the bill section and turn the bill section to a point at the very end. Do not turn on the center pointed section.**

Sand, and the head is done except for drilling holes for the eyes and a hole to mount the head to the body. The head is never glued to the body. You leave it free so that you can position the head to best effect in your display.

**Here the head has been completely turned. You must hand sand the top of the bill section.**

**In this photo, Guilo is determining where the head would look best on this particular duck.**

Turn a disk that has a radius of 0.33 length of body and cut it into four sections to make four feet. This piece should be curved a bit to make the feet more pleasing. Round over the back of the feet on a disk sander and shape the front of the feet as shown in the finished picture. Turn the leg pieces and the neck piece; they can all be the same size or the neck piece can be different if desired.

**This shows the blank from which Guilo made the feet. You can get four feet out of a blank like this.**

Turn the eyes out of contrasting wood. I used African Blackwood, but walnut or any other dark wood would work fine. I turned the eyes into little balls on the end of a small tenon. The tenon was turned to a common drill size. The location of the eyes is then determined and holes are drilled for the eye tenons. The small end of the body goes towards the head. Hold the head and body together to decide where it looks best and drill a hole in the body for the neck pin.
Now, try to determine the best point to align the center of gravity above the legs and drill two leg holes. Make sure the holes are parallel to one another. Drill holes in the feet pieces and glue in the legs. Now, apply glue to the top of the legs and insert them into the body. Press down until the duck is setting level and both feet are touching the table surface.
It is a good idea to do a dry set up of all of the pieces before you start gluing any of them together. Let the glue dry and apply finish to the duck.

**The author's duck made for a friend who gave us some wood.**

You will find these are interesting to make and Guilo says that they sell quite well, especially as a mama, papa, and ducklings set.

# Navaho Border Patterns for Segmented Turning Feature Rings

by Bill Kandler

You know what they say about idle hands…

This spring, I got to thinking about doing a Navaho border pattern for a new project. I started playing with the cutting angle and make up of the diamond, the width of the slice, and the size of the saw kerf. In doing so, I came to realize that there's an awful lot of variability in the result that comes from being able to change each one of these items. So many were the variations, and the results differed so much from the starting point, that I came to the decision that I needed to put together a model of the process. A model so I could see what was going on. And, when you have a model, you get to make the rules. Did I say rules? No, I meant to say no rules. The border pattern is usually made with a double border. But what would it look like with a single border or a three-part border? Wow! Here are four examples to show what I mean:

**Starting Diamond Sliced Result**

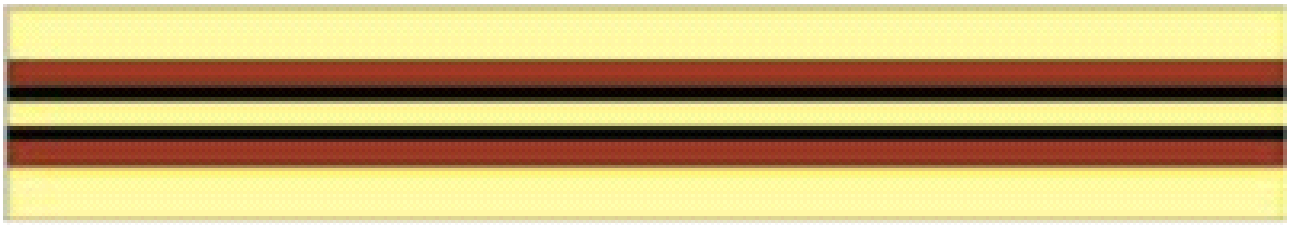
**Figure 1**

**Figure 2**

**Figure 3**

Figure 1 is a 30 degree diamond with a double border. The slices, 1/8" thick, are cut with a bandsaw. It results in a kind of snowflake appearance because the inner border color matches the surrounding material. Figure 2 is a 40 degree diamond with no distinct borders; just color and contrast. Again the slices are 1/8" thick and cut with a bandsaw. The result is truly wild. Figures 3 and 4 are 45 degree diamonds with a single border. The border is narrow in Figure 3, 1/8", while it's ¼" in Figure 4. So, how does one go about constructing such complex segments? Read on…

Start by assembling the lamination board. For this step it is important to mill all the stock to the same width, which makes it much easier to get everything lined up. The first wood is the middle, which is then flanked on either side by the next wood, which is then flanked on eitherside by the next wood, and so on. You should end up with something that looks like this:



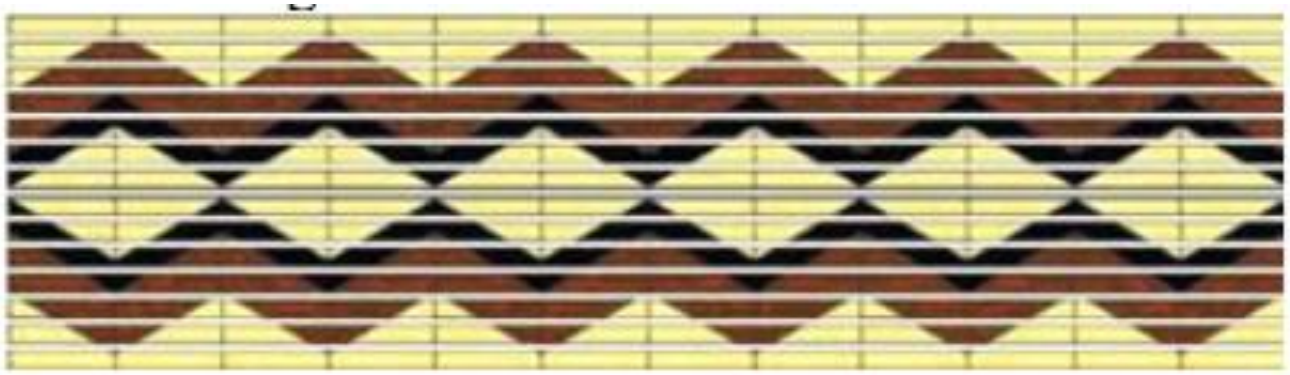
Now set up your saw for making cuts at the angle specified in your design. For this one, it's 30 degrees. Also set up a stop block so that all the strips will be cut at the same width. And, be sure the saw blade is 'dead on' vertical. The lamination board needs to be as long as needed for the strips plus some extra for safe handling during the sawing operation. After sawing, you now have this assembly of pieces:

Now take alternating strips and turn them over (left to right or right to left) and you have the Diamond pattern shown below. At the least, you now need to glue the strips into pairs. But for safety in processing, it's a good idea to then assemble the pairs together temporarily using hot melt glue or an equivalent. Do this against a straight edge so you can be sure that all the points line up. If they don't, you won't be able to get the points to line up in the ring you later construct from the Diamonds.

Now you have a set of ZigZags from which you make Diamonds. But first trim off any excess material from the top and bottom of the design.

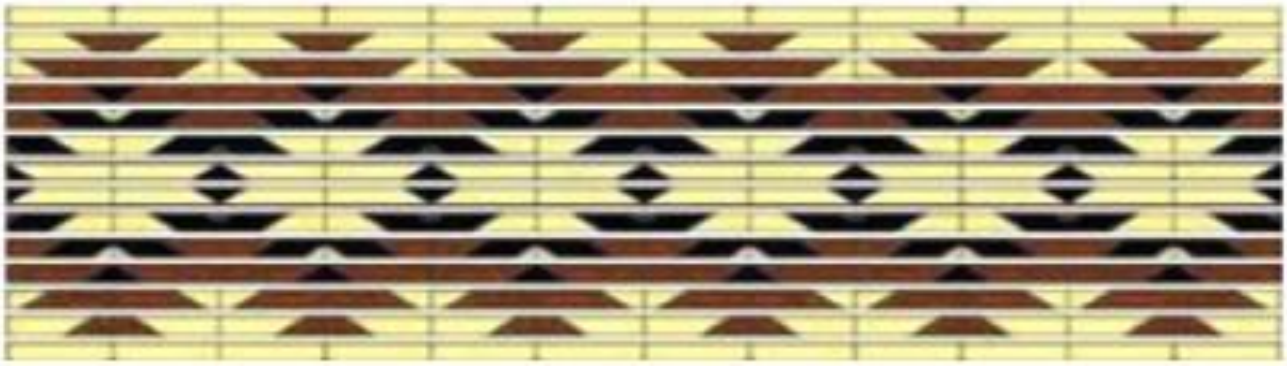
Now locate the exact center (vertical) of the design and cut the entire assembly into two horizontal halves and slide the top/bottom to the left/right to reveal the diamond pattern. Phew! Now we can finally start slicing.

Set up your slicing situation with a sawing fence with the appropriate spacing between the fence and the saw blade. Starting from the center of each half, slice away until you have exhausted the stock. Do this for both the top and bottom halves. Oh!, and keep track of which slice goes where.



Now, flip each slice over, top-to-bottom.

Last step! Carefully glue all the slices together, taking care to keep the pieces vertically aligned. One way to do this is to clamp blocks across the ends of the slices. This will keep things from moving around as you clamp along the strips. You can't use too many clamps for this activity. With a good slicing blade and really hefty clamping pressure, you'll find that there is no need to sand the slices before gluing.



All that's left to do now is make the pieces into segments. That's likely a two step process as you first need to break the glue-up down into segment blocks and then make the miter cuts. The trick here is to be sure that you make the miter cuts so that the two halves of each Diamond unit are identical. Otherwise you won't be able to get the points to line up in the ring. Now, you're almost ready to go off and try this out for yourself. And to make sure you really can, and do it easily, I've created a new designer as a Plug-In for my Segmented Project Planner that does it all with Diamond design, slicing, and detailed construction instructions (you just read them). Want to slice something else? Well, there's also a pure Slicing designer, as well, that helps you to slice virtually anything you can construct.

About the Author:

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