



Alabama Woodturners Association

# AWA Newsletter

October 2014



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

October 11—Maurice Clabaugh  
November 8—Round Robin  
December 13—Party/Potluck  
January 10-???  
February 14-???  
March 14-???

## October Program: Maurice Clabaugh 'It Is Just Firewood: My Perspective'

### Profile:

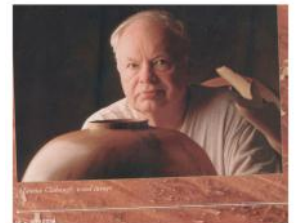
Maurice Clabaugh began turning in 1991. Before that he had no formal training in any art form, or knowledge of lathe turning. He is completely self-taught and using his keen observations and innate ability to focus on nature's extraordinary handiwork (i.e. inclusions, wood grain/figure, knotholes and wood colorations). Maurice trained himself to become a wood turner/artist who specializes in creating his pieces in harmony with, and brings special attention to, the unique variations nature places in each piece of wood. He calls this "natural/ organic" art form *Contemplative Wood Art*.

### Artist Statement:

"Most wood turners use unblemished wood manipulating/adjusting each piece in an effort to express themselves through their work. I subscribe to a very different approach. I believe wood is a living element and possesses a spirit. I bring into harmony the personality and spirit of the wood and use my skills to expose this accord, so it maybe seen and appreciated. Begin a metamorphosis during this process, which takes the commonly labeled "defects" in a piece, I transform them, so that they become the very feature that gives the piece its distinctive beauty. Highlighting blemishes rather than "turn them away", my end goal is not only to release the inner beauty of the piece but also to preserve and enhance it for future".

### Wood & Finishes:

He sees woods differently. Maurice specializes in revitalizing discarded wood, i.e. logs struck by lightning, charred in fires, pieces of roots, those with knotholes and cracks as well as other disfigurements. Wood destined for a fireplace or discarded as unusable become his most stimulating challenges. He uses only these found woods and never cuts trees for his art. Clabaugh prefers to use primarily southern hardwoods. Somewhat unique in his turnings, is the use of "spalted" woods. Spalting is a stage in the decaying process that due to bacteria, moisture, temperature and time creates a delicate, lace-like network of lines in the figure of the wood. The process changes the chemical and cellular structure of the log and thus enables a "one of a kind" pattern to emerge that cannot be duplicated. Most all of the wooden items are left with a "natural wood" finishes and are not augmented with stains/colorings. Each bowl or wooden object is completed with a jeweller's finish giving it a smooth very tactile finish.



Maurice Clabaugh (AWA charter member and President 2004) will conduct a member interactive meeting entitled "It is Just Firewood". Maurice asks that members bring pieces of "Found Wood" that they have been uncertain how to turn. After a brief discussion of "CONTRASTS" and purposes in wood, he will explain HIS process for turning "found" wood. Maurice will illustrate the "turning options" of the selected member's wood, as time allows.

Information provided by Maurice Clabaugh

## Welcome to New Member:

John O. Baucom-Madison, AL

## \*\*Notice\*\*

**How many Christmas ornaments have you made and turned in?** As of our October meeting, there are only 75 days until Christmas but, more importantly, 22 days until we decorate the Christmas tree at Children's Hospital.

Do you have a **November** birthday? If so, please see Jean or Amy at the sign in table.



2215B Pelham Pkwy N (US 31)  
Pelham, AL 35124  
Phone: (205) 988-3600  
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

Curious about these? Would you like to have one for your collection?



Please see the raffle article on page 5!

# Joe Ruminski-September Meeting Demonstrator



## Saturday Afternoon Mentoring (Starts about 1 hour after the morning session ends or about 1:00)

Almost all of us have those weird shaped pieces of wood that we keep putting back on the shelf because we don't know what to do with them or how to attach them to the lathe so they don't become NASA's latest UFO! Here's an idea~bring them to Saturday's mentoring class. We've all seen what Maurice can do with some of his pieces of fire-wood and he has agreed to provide his thoughtful considerations for what and *how* your odd pieces can be turned. (Editor's note: I participated in Maurice's class a year or so ago and, while my piece didn't 'turn' out to be what he envisioned, I left with some ideas and the confidence that I *could* turn a project that didn't become a missile and that I could be proud of!) We will take pictures of the pieces of raw material and request that you bring the finished piece to a future Saturday morning 'Turn and Tell' session so we can see what you started with and what you ended up with. If you are too embarrassed to bring your own piece or if you forget, Phil will have a grab bag of misfit pieces. You don't need to register for this class and there is no charge. Just come and join in!

Do you have budding magicians, witches, warlocks or princesses at your house?  
How about making a magic wand to use with their halloween costume this year?

### Turning A Magic Wand:

Turning a Magic Wand is a fun and easy project that anyone can make and is perfect for kids of all ages. Turn a simple tapered wand or get creative with shapes, colors and textures to make any wizard jealous. This is a very simple project that is great for spindle turning practice.



#### BLANK PREPARATION

Select a blank 1" x 1" x 12". Mark the center on each end using a Center Finder. Mount the blank between centers using a Revolving Center and Drive Center.

**Turning Tip:** *If you are planning on coloring the magic wand, use a light colored wood such as; Holly, Ash, or Maple.*

#### TURNING THE WAND

Turn the blank to round using a roughing gouge. Turn the blank to your desired shape using a spindle gouge. Leave a 1/4" of waste material on each end of the blank to trim off later. Sand the wand through at least 320 Grit.

*(If you're having difficulty with the spindle gouge, use a skew flat on its side or an Easy Wood Tool. This will be easier to control and allow you to focus on the shape of your wand.)*

#### FINISHING TECHNIQUES

Decorate Your Wand With a Variety of Texturing Tools and Markers. The techniques below can be used to add a little wizard flare to your magic wand.

Textured Finish- By using a texturing tool, you can produce a realistic textured or rope-like surface on the handle section as shown.

Coloring and Appearance- To create an old or weathered look to the wand, use a combination of Liberon White Liming and/or Black Patinating Wax- Shoe polish or similar materials could also be used. Use a wire brush to rough the surface for a worn look. To create bright colors, we recommend using Tombow Markers.

#### FINISHING THE MAGIC WAND

We recommend finishing the blank using with friction polish or spray lacquer. Remove the blank from the lathe and use a handsaw to remove the 1/4" waste material from each end of the wand. Sand and finish the exposed ends.

Copied from Craft Supplies USA website <http://blog.woodturnerscatalog.com/2012/10/turning-a-magic-wand/>



## Alabama Woodturners 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.



# September Turn and Tell



Gary Hales



Mr. Files



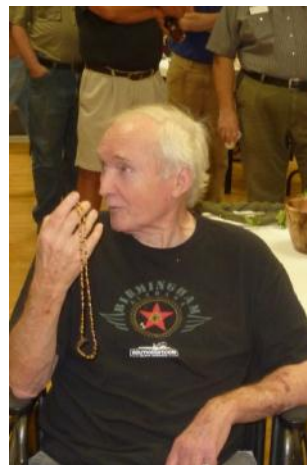
John Sowell



Jack Capps



Steve Mills



Ronny Perkins



Mark Couto



Alan Stanton



Steve Mills and John Sowell-Saturday Afternoon Mentoring Class with Joe Ruminski (Editor's Note: It was a great class!)



## Anasazi Flute

The **Anasazi flute** is the name of a prehistoric end-blown flute replicated today from findings at a massive cave in Prayer Rock Valley in Arizona, USA by an archaeological expedition led by Earl H. Morris in 1931. The team excavated 15 caves and the largest among them had 16 dwellings and many artifacts including several wooden flutes, which gave the site its name, the Broken Flute Cave.

The flutes found in the cave were dated between 620 and 670 AD. They were all made of Box elder, have six finger holes and are end-blown. It is similar in many respects to a Hopi flute, which has only five finger holes.

A detailed analysis using radiocarbon dating techniques was published in 2007. The analysis included one item from a burial pit in the Broken Flute Cave. The dating placed the artifact in the range 599–769 CE.

The Anasazi flute has in recent years been reproduced and restored to the catalog of World flutes. While difficult to play in many respects, it has a rich, warm voice that spans a little over one and a half octaves.

## Raffle News

There will be 2 raffle tickets drawn at the October meeting! Warren Carpenter (August Guest Demonstrator) has sent 2 winged natural edge bowls that he turned during his demo! For those of you who were there, you'll remember that Warren is an excellent turner and very entertaining! For those who weren't there, you



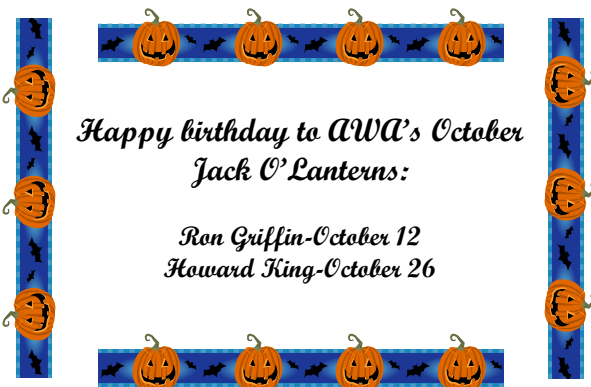
missed a wonderful presentation!

Stay tuned as we change up the raffle a little bit! If you have raffle ideas, please see Jean or Amy at the raffle/sign in table.

## Classified Ad Section

**Planer**-Tom Irby has a 15-inch Grizzly Planer G1021. It has a 2 hp motor and requires 220 Volt electricity. It has some rust due to lack use. His asking price is \$100. [tirby@knology.net](mailto:tirby@knology.net) or (256) 461-0399.

If you have anything you'd like to buy, sell, trade, give away, donate, etc. Please contact Jean Cline ([clineclan1@gmail.com](mailto:clineclan1@gmail.com)) or Amy Benefield ([leobenefield@gmail.com](mailto:leobenefield@gmail.com)).



## There's a New Sheriff in Town (and she has a deputy!)

In order to meet the Alabama Woodturners newsletter publication deadline, please send article information to Jean Cline ([clineclan1@gmail.com](mailto:clineclan1@gmail.com)) or Amy Benefield ([leobenefield@gmail.com](mailto:leobenefield@gmail.com)) within 2 weeks of the last meeting. This will allow time to get articles, pictures, etc. edited in time for the newsletter to be sent out BEFORE the next meeting.



## The North Alabama Woodturners

News From Our Good Neighbors to the North!  
[www.northalabamawoodturners.org](http://www.northalabamawoodturners.org)



Steve Mills won the birthday raffle at the September meeting. He signed up, literally, at the last minute. His gift from the Alabama Woodturners was set of accessory 'attachments' for a Dremel-like tool. If you have an October birthday, don't forget to let Amy or Jean know when you sign in!



# More Turn and Tell





## Tree Talk: Boxelder



Boxelder, also known as ash-leaved maple, Manitoba maple, elf maple, boxelder maple, maple ash and poison ivy tree (!!!), is one of the most common and adaptable urban trees in North America-it also may be the trashiest. The best thing about the tree is that it is comfortable on poor sites where more desirable trees cannot maintain adequate health for long life. It is very commonly seen in the treeless plains and western United States as a street tree. Although considered by many a 'maple outcast', it is indeed in the maple family and the only native maple with more than one single blade or leaflet on a single leaf stalk.

Boxelder is a rather nasty tree where limbs break with a vengeance-a landscape maintenance nightmare. The fruit droops in clusters which some describe as looking like 'dirty brown socks' which adds to the overall trashy look of the tree. The boxelder bug makes things even worse. (See the Critters Corner article.)

Boxelder in the landscape grows to a height of 25 to 50 feet, depending on tree variety and site conditions. One of the tallest ever measured had a recorded height of 110 feet. The tree's crown spread is 25 to 45 feet and the crown is typically broad and ragged or disheveled. The tree often has multiple furrowed trunks or very squat single trunks.

Flowers are without petals, dioecious (both a 'male' and 'female' tree are needed for either to reproduce) and yellowish green and the female tassels are very conspicuous. The very maple-looking seeds, called samaras, hang in long, profuse clusters and stay on the tree throughout winter. Nearly every seed is viable and will cover a disturbed area with seedlings- a very prolific seeder is boxelder.

The tree is susceptible to breakage and can occur either at the crotch due to poor collar formation, or where the wood itself is weak and tends to break.

Boxelder wood is light-weight, soft and not strong. It is used for low quality furniture, paper pulp, interior finishing, and barrel making. Syrup can be made from the sap. The seeds are a source of food for birds and mammals, and are important because they stay on the tree through the winter, when other food resources are scarce.

The Navajo use the wood to make tubes for bellows. The Cheyenne burn the wood as incense for making spiritual medicines, and during Sun Dance ceremonies. They also mix the boiled sap with shavings from the inner sides of animal hides and eat them as candy.

The Meskwaki use a decoction of the inner bark as an emetic and the Ojibwa use an infusion of the inner bark for the same purpose. The Chiricahua and





## Tree Talk continued:

Mescalero Apache dry scrapings of the inner bark and keep it as winter food, and they also boil the inner bark until sugar crystallizes out of it. The Dakota also use the sap to make sugar, as do the Omaha, the Pawnee, the Ponca, the Winnebago and the indigenous people of Montana, who also freeze the sap and use it as a syrup. The Ojibwa mix the sap with that of the sugar maple and drink it as a beverage.

The Cheyenne also use the wood to make bowls and to cook meat. The Keres make the twigs into prayer sticks. The native peoples of Montana also use large trunk burls or knots to make bowls, dishes, drums, and pipe stems. The Dakota and the Omaha make the wood into charcoal, which is used in ceremonial painting and tattooing. The Kiowa burn the wood from the *negundo* subspecies in the altar fire during the peyote ceremony, and the Sioux boil the sap of this variety in the spring to make sugar. The *interius* subspecies is used by Cree to make sugar from the sap, and the Tewa use the twigs as pipe stems.

## Critters Corner: Boxelder Bugs

Boxelder bugs are familiar insects to most people. They are generally not noticed during summer, but often can become an issue when they try to move into homes (and shops!) during fall as they search for overwintering sites.

**Identification**-Adult boxelder bugs are about ½ inch long, black with orange or red markings, including three stripes on the prothorax, the area right behind the head. Their wings lay flat over their bodies, overlapping each other to form an 'X'. The immature nymphs are 1/16<sup>th</sup> inch long and bright red when they first hatch. As they grow older and become large, they are red and black.



**Importance**-Boxelder bugs are primarily a nuisance because they enter homes and other buildings (shops!), often in large numbers. Fortunately, they do not bite people and are essentially harmless to property. When abundant, they can stain walls, curtains, and other surfaces with their excrement. Occasionally some may seek moisture and may be found around houseplants, although they rarely attack them. In the few cases when they do feed, boxelder bugs are very unlikely to injure indoor plants.



**Biology and Life Cycle**-Adults feed on low vegetation and seeds on the ground during spring and early summer, and begin mating a couple weeks after they start feeding. Starting in mid-July, they move to female seed-bearing boxelder trees where they lay eggs on trunks, branches, and leaves. They are rarely found on male boxelder trees. Boxelder bugs may also feed on maple or ash trees. There is no noticeable injury to these trees. During late summer and fall, boxelder bugs start to leave the trees where they were feeding to find protected areas for the winter. Adult boxelder bugs typically can fly several blocks, although in some cases they can travel as far as two miles.

Some homes are especially attractive to boxelder bugs, while neighboring buildings may have few. This usually depends upon the amount of sunny exposure a building receives. Boxelder bugs like warm areas and are attracted to buildings with a large southern or western exposure. Buildings standing taller than surrounding structures or standing isolated on flat ground can also attract large numbers of boxelder bugs. Color does not appear to influence boxelder bugs as they are found on buildings of all hues.

Boxelder bugs are not a serious problem every year. They are most abundant during hot, dry summers when followed by warm springs. They were very numerous in 1988, 1987, 1978, 1977, and 1975. They were also abundant in 1958, 1949, and the hot dry years of 1936 and 1935.

Bibliography for all 3 Boxelder articles:  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Acer\\_negundo#](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Acer_negundo#)  
<http://www.museum.state.il.us/muslink/forest/htmls/trees/A-negundo.html>  
<http://www.extension.umn.edu/garden/insects/find/boxelder-bugs/>