



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

September 12-**Mark St Leger**
~'Extraordinary Boxes'

October 10-**Jess Walls**~
'Platter with Offset Bowl'

November 14-**Round Robin**

December 12-**Christmas Party/Luncheon**

January 9-TBD
February 13-TBD
March 12-TBD
April 9-TBD
May 14-TBD

Notice

How many Christmas ornaments have you made and turned in? As of our September meeting, there are only 104 days until Christmas but, more importantly, 50 days until we decorate the Christmas tree at Children's Hospital!



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September-Mark St. Leger "Extraordinary Boxes"



Woodturning is an art that should be explored and felt with each piece of wood we have the good fortune to work with. Artistic inspiration for me presents itself in many ways. When I allow myself to slow down, I become more aware of the natural beauty that surrounds us. I am amazed by the movement of water as it slowly carves and gently sculpts the ever changing shorelines. I continue to be humbled and in awe over the wonders I encounter while paddling in my kayak. Keeping an open mind while developing a new piece begins a journey worth traveling.



Mark has been working with wood since he was a young boy, helping his father who is a cabinetmaker/turner. He took woodshop for a year in high school where he first turned on a lathe, and still remembers his teacher's name (Mr. Snyder). It's funny, some of the things one doesn't forget. After high school Mark served a four-year apprenticeship and became a Journeyman Carpenter. Thru the years his interests moved towards the finer aspects of building which enabled him to become an accomplished Cabinetmaker as well.

In 1982, Mark moved from Pennsylvania to the mountains of Southwest Virginia where he still lives today with his wife Barbara. Their three children are grown and branching out in their own careers.



After working years in the field of building, Mark was approached and asked if he would consider teaching woodworking to high school students. Eighteen years later he continues to teach at a rural high school and enjoys it. Thru the years, along with some very caring contributors, Mark and his students have built up a virtually empty shop into a fine woodworking facility. It is set up for a full range of carpentry & cabinetmaking along with woodturning and carving.

Mark's interest in woodturning came from a weekend visit by his father who brought a weed pot and small tagua nut vessel he turned, along with his excitement about turning. Well, that was the spark that ignited an interest in woodturning. Twenty years later Mark still enjoys exploring the endless possibilities of woodturning with enthusiasm and creativity.

As an Honorary Lifetime Member of the Blue Ridge Woodturners Club in Virginia,



Mark has served as vice-president, president & activities coordinator along with hosting their club meetings at the high school shop on a monthly basis. He is also a member of the American Association of Woodturners where he has served as a member of the board of directors.
(Continued on page ?)



Dennis Paullus-August Demonstrator



Mark St. Leger-(Continued from page 1)

Several years ago the AAW produced a "Skill Building Projects" video featuring some of Mark's teaching techniques.

Mark has been an active demonstrator and workshop leader for turning clubs, along with demonstrating at many regional and national symposiums. He is currently on the faculty list of Arrowmont School of the Arts in Tennessee, Appalachian Center for Craft in Tennessee, Peters Valley Craft Center in New Jersey, and the John C. Campbell Folk School in North Carolina. Mark also finds satisfaction in teaching woodturning courses for a local college. His work has been shown at many venues and is in private collections.

Known for his sense of humor and ability to effectively teach a variety of age groups and skill levels, Mark's teaching techniques are easily followed and incorporate much skill building. His enthusiasm for woodturning has offered him the opportunity to meet a variety of individuals who share his interests in woodturning. Exchanging ideas with woodturners and clubs throughout the world, gives him the opportunity to contribute to the continual process of growth and learning in the field of Woodturning.

Copied from <http://www.markstleger.com/>

Upcoming Saturday Afternoon Mentoring Opportunities for 2015

September

Mark St. Leger-Special Classes

(Friday Sept 11~ Rock-A-Bye Box
Saturday Sept 12~Snug-fit Lidded Box
Sunday Sept 13~Rock-A-Bye Box)
Contact Carl Cummins for more information about Mark's classes.

October

More information coming

Contact Carl Cummins about Mark St. Leger's classes and 'Doc Phil' Fortmeyer to sign up for the October class and for more information.

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

Mark St. Leger, our guest demonstrator for the morning session, will be teaching a class in making his *extraordinary* boxes! Contact Carl Cummins for information about this class.

See Page 2 for future mentoring opportunities. 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 August birthday prize was won by Clyde Hoover whose birthday is August 11.

Who will take home the September birthday prize? Check out the list of contenders below.

Happy Birthday to AWA's September Apples -Of-Our-Eye!

Jerry Hanchey-September 1

Jack Tyler-September 2

Mark Cuoto-September 4

Randy Tyner-September 7

James Kemp-September 9

Hale Wilson-September 15

Tom Irby-September 19

Raffle/ Birthday Gift Door Prize News

The regular raffle prize for September is: A VIKA Workbench/Scaffold/Dinner Table!



\$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!)

WHY TAKE ONLY ONE BITE OF YOUR FAVORITE DONUT?

By Maurice Clabaugh



Alabama Wood Turners Association (AWA) is a non-profit organization dedicated to the furthering the art of woodturning (AWA Home page). Therefore, one would assume members join/attend to further their interest/skills in woodturning. AWA, like almost all Wood Turning Associations, assigns some meeting time for a “SHOW AND TELL” session. The purpose of this part of the meeting is to display member’s work, explain the process and answer questions about the work and techniques used. Many Associations and symposia call it an “Instant Gallery” but the purpose is the same. Over all it is to show the progress “participants” are making toward their journey in woodturning and NOT a competition to see “who is the best”! It is an integral part of the educational portion of each meeting, just as important as the part marked “demonstration”.

Successful wood turning is a journey and as in any journey we need to recognize our progress. We attend association meetings and attend symposia to see new techniques through demonstrations, discuss wood turning techniques and problems needing solutions--- as well socialization. All woodturning skills levels are welcomed by members and encouraged to share at these events. No one leads nor follows, we are all on a journey to become good woodcrafts persons. The end goal is EDUCATION and FELLOWSHIP. Members are at different points in their journey in woodturning. We each started woodturning for numerous reasons: to explore the possibility in the wood medium; to improve our skills levels as progress is made; and thusly we found we “liked sharing our adventures in wood turning” with others who were struggling on their journeys also.

Going to a turning meeting or symposia and failing to participate is like leaving a football game at half time, when the game is tied. Additionally, being an observer rather than a participant in the “show and tell” is getting only part of the educational experience offered at a meeting. Observing what everybody else is doing but getting NO feedback on how YOU are doing or how your work can improve is not shortening your learning curve, but rather lengthening it. Yes! Yes! We ALL believe our work is “not good enough” to inspire or cause anyone else to improve by sharing it with them, but we never know when someone could be inspired not only by what they see but the mistakes the turner admits he had to over-come to complete his/her work shows. Remember also that the instant gallery and the “show and tell” items are NOT being submitted to be judged but rather to be admired. Remember also, that even at the National meetings participant’s work is NOT critiqued publicly without the participant’s permission. Critiquing ones work even if it is self-evaluating, it is mandatory if one wishes to “become better” at what one is trying to achieve. Failure to look at one’s work with a discerning eye almost assures one to repeat those mistakes and remain at the original skills level rather than improving and moving past them. Receiving affirmation/suggestions, learning how someone achieves an effect and asking for impromptu critiques from members attending are one of the greatest pathways for improving your wood art skills. Failure to do so is like “eating only one bite of a donut” and not finishing the rest of it. It’s not satisfying. Getting questions answered about “how can I improve what I am doing or how do I do this more easily or better...? Bringing the object and having those who attend see your work makes answering your specific questions easier and will definitely shortening your learning curve. To quote Edmund Burke, “Those who fail to learn from history are destine to repeat it”, and Confucius said, “Our greatest glory is never falling but in not rising every time we fall.” Failure to get advice and suggestions from others on our work is not just ignoring accessible/non-judgmental educational opportunities, but it is counter productive and it lengthens one’s learning curve and destines one to repeat past “mistakes”.

Of all the wood art groups I have known; wood turners are the most positive, sharing group of people. Historically, I have only heard of only one wood turner who refused to “share his/her turning “secrets” and that included many world famous turners. So wood turners want to help and share and by not asking your questions and sharing you work, you are denying them the opportunity to pass on advice and techniques that could save you time and further your skills in the art of wood turning.



Top row~Myra Harper, Ronny Perkins, Karl Harper, Charles Moore, Royal Ritchie, Steve Mills, Dwight Hostetter

Second Row~Howard King, Maurice Clabaugh, Bill Payton, Pete Marken

Others are willing to share their advice, so why hesitate? “Well, you say, I am not that good!” Since “show and tell” is not a contest but an exhibit, it behooves members to show what they have been doing. IT IS NOT A MATTER OF WHAT IS BEST BUT HOW CAN I GET BETTER. Why miss this opportunity to get help or to help someone else? The famous Rudy Osolnik (1915-1986) said after over 40 years of teaching woodturning at Berea College in Kentucky, (started turning in 1937 and continued up to two weeks before he passed in 2001 at 86). He was quoted as saying “I HAVE ALWAYS PROCLAIMED MY STATUS AS A BEGINNER BECAUSE I AM ALWAYS LEARNING EVERY DAY”. As a member you join AWA to learn to be a better wood artist, but by NOT participating fully in the ENTIRE AWA programs at the meetings--- members could be compared to someone who is attracted to a book because of its cover but does not read it!

Yes, showing your work to others often feels risky. What part of life isn't a risk? In 24 years of woodturning, only once have I heard a negative comment from a judge about my work in a juried art show. Your work is a part of you and your life. It doesn't have to be perfect. After all “perfecting” is a journey not a destination. Sharing examples of your woodturning expresses where you are at-- in that journey. If life were viewed as a grid, some people might have filled in more squares than others have filled in, and not always the same squares and usually in a different order. To not share your work with others deprives them of a singular opportunity to learn YOUR experiences and for you to learn from theirs.

I have been turning since 1991, and I like Rudy Osolnik—“the grandfather of turning”--- I have learned more each day about woodturning and about myself. I do not see the journey as ever completed. I constantly look forward to the challenge of learning, of sharing my turning work ideas and experiences and I welcome learning from others. A “SHOW AND TELL” activity allows me to learn in unique and personal ways. I participate because I want others to show me a better way and to receive encouragement. Sharing different turning styles, turning techniques and the turning processes on a particular piece (answering questions on how and especially why it was done that way) reinforces the decisions made and provides input on possibilities of changing the process next time.

In my mind, there is very little risk for the TREMENDOUSLY large rewards in putting a piece of your work into the “SHOW AND TELL” part of our meetings. Helping each other progress on our journeys is what we all should come together for at AWA meetings... ..

...THUS ENABLING US TO EAT ALL OF THE DONUT AND NOT STOP WITH JUST ONE BITE!



President's Challenge-August

Turning from three or more pieces glued together



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

Christmas ornament

October

Natural edge bowl (bark or not)

November

Mushrooms

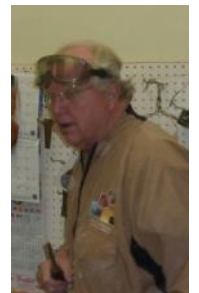
<p>Alabama Woodturners Association Treasurer's Report July 11, 2015 (No report for August)</p> <table> <tr> <td>Balance on hand</td> <td>\$6,583.79</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cash on hand</td> <td><u>\$176.00</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>\$6,759.79</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Outstanding checks</td> <td>\$933.57</td> </tr> </table>	Balance on hand	\$6,583.79	Cash on hand	<u>\$176.00</u>	Total	\$6,759.79	Outstanding checks	\$933.57	<p>Income From Dues for 2015</p> <p>New Members</p> <table> <tr> <td>Individual Memberships-9</td> <td>\$315.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Family Memberships-3</td> <td>\$120.00</td> </tr> </table> <p>Renewals</p> <table> <tr> <td>Individual Memberships-67</td> <td>\$2,345.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Family Memberships-7</td> <td>\$280.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mailed Newsletter-1</td> <td><u>\$40.00</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>\$3,105.00</td> </tr> </table>	Individual Memberships-9	\$315.00	Family Memberships-3	\$120.00	Individual Memberships-67	\$2,345.00	Family Memberships-7	\$280.00	Mailed Newsletter-1	<u>\$40.00</u>	Total	\$3,105.00	<p>Average Annual Expenses</p> <table> <tr> <td>Rent (\$100/month)</td> <td>\$1,200.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Insurance (The Hartford)</td> <td>\$455.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Donuts (Approx. \$45/month)</td> <td>\$550.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Coffee Supplies</td> <td>\$200.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Christmas Lunch</td> <td>\$300.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Website</td> <td>\$120.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Paper Bank Statement Fee</td> <td><u>\$36.00</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>\$2,861.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Plus costs of demonstrators, program costs, supplies, etc.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2014 Demonstrator costs</td> <td>\$3,262.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2015 Demonstrator costs (to date)</td> <td>\$1,720.00</td> </tr> </table>	Rent (\$100/month)	\$1,200.00	Insurance (The Hartford)	\$455.00	Donuts (Approx. \$45/month)	\$550.00	Coffee Supplies	\$200.00	Christmas Lunch	\$300.00	Website	\$120.00	Paper Bank Statement Fee	<u>\$36.00</u>	Total	\$2,861.00	Plus costs of demonstrators, program costs, supplies, etc.		2014 Demonstrator costs	\$3,262.00	2015 Demonstrator costs (to date)	\$1,720.00
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How'd They Do That?



Saturday Mentoring Session





August Turn and Tell

Howard King~Cedar and Ebony Hollow Form; Cedar and Ebony 3-sided Hollow Form;
 Royal Paulownia Hollow Form; Sassafras Natural Edge
 Royal Ritchie, Jack Capps, Justin Miller~Cedar Bowl
 Ronnie Perkins~Pen
 John Sowell~Persimmon Bowl on Bias
 Michelle Marken~Purple Heart, Bloodwood, Brazilian Cherry Kaleidoscope and Pens
 Pete Marken~Spalted Sycamore Lidded Box
 Charles Moore~Maple Bowl; Walnut Vase; Walnut and Maple Oops!

(Editor's note~There were MANY other contributors whose information did not get recorded. We're working on a 'Plan B' so that won't happen again. Sorry!)



Dennis Paullus's Acorn Box with Carved Top

tools and materials

2 dry end grain blocks of wood (I like contrasting colors) about 3" square x 4"-5" long
spindle roughing gouge 1" - 1 1/2"
spindle gouge 1/2" or 3/8"
3/8" drill bit with handle
round nose scraper 3/4" wide x 1/4" thick
bedan 3/8"
parting tool 1/8"
calipers
micro carver(electric)

- 1 Mount block of wood between centers of lathe; rough turn to cylinder with spindle roughing gouge. Turn tenon on one end with bedan. Do this for both pieces.
- 2 Mount piece of wood for bottom of Acorn Box in chuck and true up the end; put small divot in end for drill bit.
- 3 Drill depth of inside with drill bit. Using spindle gouge, hollow inside of Acorn Box bottom to finished size, can use round nose scraper to fine tune inside of box.
- 4 Shape outside of bottom to acorn shape with spindle gouge, leaving a small portion still attached to lathe on the small end. Sand inside and out side of box bottom. Then part from lathe and set aside.
- 5 Mount block of wood for Acorn Top in chuck and true up end. Mark size of bottom onto wood with calipers.
- 6 Using a bedan, hollow top to fit bottom approx. 1/2" - 5/8" deep. Can use round nose scraper to detail inside of top. The fit should be slightly tapered for a snug fit.
- 7 Use box top as jam chuck to mount acorn bottom to finish turn bottom of acorn shape. then finish sand bottom.
- 8 Use spindle gouge to turn rough shape of outside of Acorn top and stem. Part off from lathe.
- 9 Now carve top, I usually divide top into 5 sections vertically. Using round cylinder carving burr with flat end carve into box top at section lines. You will create 5 convex lobes on box top. The finish from the medium grit burr will create a nice texture on the box top. Now you are done.

