

Alabama Woodturners Association



Everyone's Irish
On March 17th.



Newsletter

March 2019

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

Getting Started in Hand Thread Chasing by Carl Cummins

From the first time I saw hand thread chasing I promised myself I would learn to do that. I figured it would be a challenge, but it took me longer than I had expected. After trying from time to time over several years, it was only recently that I succeeded in making hand-chased threads. I have not yet perfected the technique, but at least I have decent success, so I continue to work at it and plan to make a variety of items, mostly for my own amusement.

In trying to learn the technique I watched several demonstrations, read books, and watched videos. However I was still missing some key points. Finally I had a "Eureka!" moment that led to my first success. This journey is still fresh in my mind, so I think I can pass along some tips that go beyond the other sources.

For my demonstration I will explain how to get started with hand thread chasing. I will cover

- How to prepare your tools
- How to prepare your lathe
- How to prepare the wood (or other turning material)

I will explain the basic techniques of starting a thread, extending the thread, sizing a pair of matching threads, etc.

I will also explain some of the thornier aspects:

- How to know what speed to use
- How much force to use
- How to know if a thread is accurate

As a preview I recommend the video by Allan Batty:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-0iEd0kD0S4>



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Turn
The
Page
Here!

The Doctor Is In By John Sowell

The board has approved a test of a new concept for the club. As many of you may have noticed at our last meeting there was a table manned by two individuals with a sign stating “Doctor is In”. The purpose is to provide a resource for members who have questions about or problems with their wood turnings. We will attempt to give you appropriate advice or put you in touch with someone who can better address your wood turning problems. Regardless of level of experience, there are always questions that come up so ask and we might solve your problem. Let’s have a conversation. This is a no cost service for Woodturning. Medical problems will be discussed at \$100 per hour...

Reserve your space in the afternoon class by calling
Phil Fortmeyer - (205) 612-7496

February— Jack Capps



PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE 2019

Note the challenge for November! I suggest you do this now so that we can see how the bowl looks after several months of drying. If you don't have wet wood, ask me (Carl Cummins); I have some to share or I can ask around.

As of March we are one-fourth the way into the year, but don't worry if you missed a previous month. You may bring in an item for a previous month's challenge at any time, and it still counts for that previous month.

This series is designed to encourage everyone to have some fun at the lathe and perhaps try something different from your usual projects. These topics may seem easy or difficult, but you don't need to worry about creating a great piece; you only need to try. One additional requirement is that pieces submitted must be turned within this year 2019. At the end of the year I'll award a prize to the one who participates most consistently.

January: egg

Turning an egg shape is a good exercise in tool control, cutting a continuously changing curve, and in creating a desired shape. This is not easy at first, but practice in the long run will pay dividends in all your turning. As your skill improves you could create a collection in various interesting woods.

February: funnel

Most of us have turned a bowl with a hole in the bottom (oops!), but that's not what I'm looking for. A funnel should have a spout on the bottom. Note that the spout can be small or large. You can challenge yourself by making it with a thin wall.

March: loose-lid covered box

As opposed to a friction-fit lid or a threaded lid, one should be able to open the box with one hand simply by lifting the lid. I suggest a box with the diameter larger than the height. This could be turned from face-grain blanks or end-grain, but I suggest dry wood so it will retain its shape. The lid could be in matching or contrasting wood.

April: ogee

This classic shape can be a challenge to get looking nice. You can choose any type of project to include an ogee, for example a bowl, or candleholder, ornament, vase, platter, etc.

May: added color

You probably recall Jack Capps' demo of "hydro dipping" (aka "marbling"). This is just one of endless possibilities. You also have free choice of any item to turn, such as an ornament, bottle-stopper, box, bowl, hollow-form, etc.

June: jewelry

There are many possibilities here. Not long ago Jean Cline demonstrated making bracelets. Another possibility is earrings shaped like tiny Christmas ornaments. Pendants are popular. Ring core bands came on the market not long ago (see woodturnerscatalog.com).

July-September: TBA

October: ornament

Our Christmas Tree decoration project deadline arrives in October, so let's all bring in one or more ornaments to show and donate to the project. But don't save everything for October! Please bring in ornaments all through the year so we don't have to worry about meeting the goal.

November: bowl turned from wet wood

I hope you will get a head start on this. Turn a bowl *now* from wet wood, going all the way to final shape and thickness in one session. Also make record of the date you turned it. When you bring it to the November meeting we can see how it did after drying.

PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE – FEBRUARY



Robert Jones



Bill Calderwell



Jack Capps



Ron Herbster



Carl Cummins

The Symposium Experience Continued

Scott Arnold:

From Ashley Harwood's demo:

- Sometimes you need to raise price on items to sell them. It gives buyers a better sense of quality and value.
- Move grinder next to lathe to make it easier to sharpen more frequently.
- Put magnets on the grinder to catch shavings.
- Use 50-70 degree angle for bowl bottom-feeder gouge.

From Harvey Meyer's demo:

- Use an old mouse pad on jam chucks to cushion items.
- On bowl shaping:
Inside: Use tool top to bottom
Outside: Use tool bottom to top

Carl Cummins:

Ashley Harwood said that the angles used to grind a negative rake scraper are not critical as long as the included angle is less than 70 degrees.

Ashley Harwood was talking about practicing the 40/40 grind and said she's heard people afraid to practice because of wasting steel. In response she thinks sandpaper is expensive (someone in the crowd said, "You've got that right!!"), and if you waste some steel to get a clean cut, thus using less sandpaper, you'll probably come out ahead. You'll probably save time as well.

Michelle Marken:

I also attended a couple of Ashley Harwood's rotations. She gave several tips on turning as well as selling. Ashley mentioned she actually marked some of her pieces UP because they weren't selling. She sold them the same day. She also said in selling her turnings she had to come up with something that was quick and easy that would sell so she started doing jewelry. Ashley started out in the flea market in Charleston, SC. I think her back story is interesting.

FOR SALE (as far as I know)

I have a 1979 5/8 inch bench top drill press for sale at \$100. Contact Maurice Clabaugh at 205-553-6977 or maurice@clabaugh.org



CBN Wheel 8", 80 grit, Radius edge

Woodturners Wonders, retail value \$150

<https://woodturnerswonders.com/collections/cbn-wheels/products/cbn-wheel-80-grit>

Offered to any club member for \$100.

I bought this new at the TAW symposium in January, but back in my shop I saw that I already had one!

This one was used only one time.

See me, Carl Cummins, at the meeting or write to cjcummins@gmail.com

February Turn and Tell Highlights



Pete Marken



John Jackman



Bill Hubbard



Bill Hubbard



Jerry Osmundson



John Sowell



S. Tate / J. Hicks



Charles Smelley



Carl Cummins



Justin Miller



Justin Miller



Ron Herbster



Sandy Bishop



Dwight Hostetter



Brent Clayton



Myra Harper



Maurice Clabaugh



Bill Hubbard



Bill Calderwood



TURNING FOR THE TROOPS

Once again the AWA will be turning pens for the Woodcraft "Turn for Troops" program. This will be the 16th year that service men and women have received pens on Veterans Day, in a small way thanking them for their service.

We have a goal of 180 pens to be turned in by our October club meeting. Anyone interested in helping can either trade your Slim Line pens in for replacement kits or I can provide kits to be returned as pens. If it helps I have drilled blanks and even a few blanks with the inserts already glued in place.

I have business type cards for the turner to sign and maybe add a few words and plastic bags to put the card and pen in. I've been handing them out with the kits and/or have them available when pens are turned in.

If there is any other way I can help, please let me know.
Ron Herbster

Closure of I-20 / I-59

The section of I-20/I-59 near the Civic Center will be closed for construction during 2019. If you are coming to an AWA meeting from the east (such as Leeds, Pell City, etc.) be sure to plan an alternate route and allow extra time.



AWA March Birthdays

Johnny Carpenter 3/9
David Fancher 3/10
Robert Moore 3/21
Nink Allsbrook 3/25
Brent Clayton 3/31
John Rhymes 3/31



Birthday Door Prize News

AWA gives a birthday gift door prize to a member who has a birthday during the month of that meeting. Here are the 'rules' for this year:

- 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 the Secretary and/or Newsletter Editor 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 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 how it works: A piece will be turned by a member to be presented at the next meeting. A name will be drawn from the sign-in sheet at that meeting. If the person whose name is drawn accepts, they will take that piece to keep and will bring a piece the following month. If they decline, then another name will be drawn until someone accepts the challenge.

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!'

At left is the piece brought by the January challenger, Howard King. Our February challenger is Gary Garris.

Opportunities To Help Others

This year we will repeat our projects to help others in the form of Christmas Ornaments to benefit Children's Hospital and also pens for U.S. Military personnel. Jennifer Smith will collect the ornaments, and Ron Herbster will collect the pens. We'll have more details about these efforts at meetings and future newsletters. Meanwhile you could go ahead and start making these and bring them to a meeting.

AWA Library

Wayne Bagwell and Lester Daw have volunteered to manage our library, so Thanks to them! Thanks much to Greg and Pat Faulkner who have done this for the past several years!

Items checked out are normally due back the next month, a "renewal" after two months. After that it is simply over-due. Please check for books or DVDs you may have checked out and bring them back at our next meeting. At this point we don't charge over-due fines. I hope we don't have to go there. Thanks!



UPCOMING MEETINGS!

April - TBD

May - TBD

June - Nick Cook

July: Round Robin & Cookout

August: TBD

September : Peggy Schmid

October : Frank Bower

November : TBD

December : Christmas Party