

Alabama Woodturners Association



Newsletter

May 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

MAY DEMO - HOWARD KING - McNaughton Coring System



Copied from last years newsletter about Howard.



In the early 1970s, my hobby was making wooden furniture. Eventually this led me to buy a lathe to do spindle turnings for furniture such as bed posts, fern stands, candle holders and stools. Later I got into turning segmented bowls as well as weed pots which lead me to turning bowls from solid wood. I gave up woodturning in the early 1990s and didn't turn much of anything until 2009 when my interest returned. I took a bowl turning class with Frank Bowers one weekend at Highland Woodworking in Atlanta. I had taken some bowl gouges which Frank looked at sadly and told me he would resharpen them for me with the "Irish Grind". Amazingly, he did it free hand. Later, Nick Cook came to Cullman to demonstrate and I watched him turn about 15 different things in one day. So I was hooked again. I have been amazed at the advancements and the progress woodturning has achieved over the past twenty years. I have really learned a lot from the members of AWA and the programs that are offered every month as well as those at the North Alabama Woodturners. It is amazing how many great woodturners there are in the Birmingham group as well as in the Boaz group who freely share their expertise with us. It is very inspiring to see all the fantastic pieces that are brought to the meetings. I've made a lot of good friends and I'm very happy to be a member of both groups.

CRAFT SUPPLIES USA
— THE WOODTURNERS CATALOG —

(800) 551-8876

<http://www.woodturnerscatalog.com>



In this issue:
Turning in France - Page 2
Meeting Recap - Page 3
President's Challenge - Page 4
Birthdays - Page 5
Turn & Tell - Page 6
Karl Harper Challenge - Page 7
Opportunities & Library - Page 7



Turn
The
Page
Here!

Ecole Escoulen

by Carl Cummins

I suppose Gary told you I missed the April meeting because I was at a woodturning school in France. I had a great time for many reasons: scenery, driving, dining, and of course woodturning.

I was in southeast France, first visiting several medieval villages where the stone buildings and narrow alleys say, "We're not in Kansas anymore!" Driving through small towns and villages where all intersections are round-a-bouts I went long distances without seeing a stop sign nor light. For someone who hates red lights this is like heaven!

L'Ecole Escoulen is a fully furnished woodturning school, similar to the woodturning school at Arrowmont except this work space can be divided to run two different courses at the same time. They often have world-renowned teachers, and most speak English. Courses cover the entire range of subjects imaginable for the lathe.

I attended this school previously in 2014 when I first learned the techniques and special chucks of Jean-Francois Escoulen. Since then I have practiced a good bit and started trying to develop my own designs, but still have questions. When I saw that JFE was scheduled to teach in April I decided to take the opportunity to return, to ask questions, and get advice for improvement. The course covered a wide variety of techniques and projects:



I showed him photos of some pieces I had done recently so he could offer suggestions for improvement. I showed him this piece which was inspired by one of his:

He said, "That's good. Is it one piece of wood?" My jaw dropped! I asked, "Are you saying this could be done with one piece?" He said yes, and he showed me how to do it. Of course he was referring to the center

section with the nests and disks. With his guidance I did the following which I still amazes me:

Escoulen said he plans to teach two workshops next year. In April he will be at Woodworkers Emporium in Las Vegas. In July he will be in Saskatchewan, however I don't have details yet. I will consider one of these myself. He is a very enjoyable teacher, and there's always more to learn.



Hey! Wanna learn more about turning? Or help someone else learn more about turning? Mentoring is available Saturday afternoons in the Craft Room at the Homewood Senior Center. Sessions start one hour after the demonstration ends or 1 pm. AWA owns lathes, chucks and tools to use in class, but you may also bring your own. 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

April - Pete Marken



The finished piece

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.

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: one project made from three or more different types of wood

You can choose any project and any woods. Components may be glued together or loosely assembled. It's nice to see the woods identified if known.

August-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 — APRIL



SANDY BISHOP



HOWARD KING



HOWARD KING



JERRY FANCHER



TOMMY HARTLINE



TOMMY HARTLINE



Watching the demo



AWA May Birthdays

Jim Williams 5-3
Terry Tingle 5-10
Perry Andrews 5-26
Jean Cline 5-29
Jim Black 5-30



April Turn and Tell Highlights



John Rhymes



Howard King



Gary Hales



Gary Hales



Gary Hales



Gary Hales



Gary Hales



Ron Herbster



Ron Herbster



Sandy Bishop



Sandy Bishop



Lynn Baswell



Gary Garris



Gary Garris



Maurice Clabaugh



Maurice Clabaugh



Maurice Clabaugh



Gary Garris



Ron Herbster



?????

Birthday Door Prize News

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 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!'

April challenger was Carl Cummins, a hand threaded box. The challenger for May is Doc Phil.

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 Herbstler 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 overdue. 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!

June - Nick Cook

July: Round Robin & Cookout

August: TBD

September : Peggy Schmid

October : Frank Bowers

November : TBD

December : Christmas Party

