

Alabama Woodturners Association



Newsletter

AUGUST 2021

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

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Greetings Woodturners! I hope this newsletter finds you healthy and busily working at your lathes.

It appears as though COVID is not done with us just yet, and unfortunately it will have an impact on our August meeting. In our discussion with the AWA Board last week, it appeared that many of the members knew personally of someone who had gotten the vaccine, but was dealing with a Delta variant of Covid. Even though the severity of the infection might be significantly reduced, the "Long-Haul Covid" issues are still a concern. It was therefore decided that we would go virtual with the August meeting. I can promise you that every single member of the Board gave thoughtful consideration of the ramifications of this decision, but in the end, member safety is our primary concern.

Therefore, our August meeting will consist of a Lamination Demo from Frank Penta. Please see more about his demo in the following pages of the newsletter. The Zoom meeting invite should be included in the email with the newsletter.

In other news, the club is actively pursuing collaboration opportunities with the Red Mountain Makers and also the Alabama Woodworkers Guild. Both clubs have a limited woodturning program and so we are working on cross-promoting both groups in hopes that we can share some members and involve more folks in our hobby. Websites for each group are listed below:

[RedMountainMakers.com \(https://redmountainmakers.wildapricot.org/\)](https://redmountainmakers.wildapricot.org/)

[AlabamaWoodworkersGuild.com \(https://wp.awwg.info/\)](https://wp.awwg.info/)

In closing, let me say that I am hopeful we can resume in-person meetings sooner rather than later. In the meantime, we hope to see you on Zoom this Saturday.

Safe Turning!
Scott

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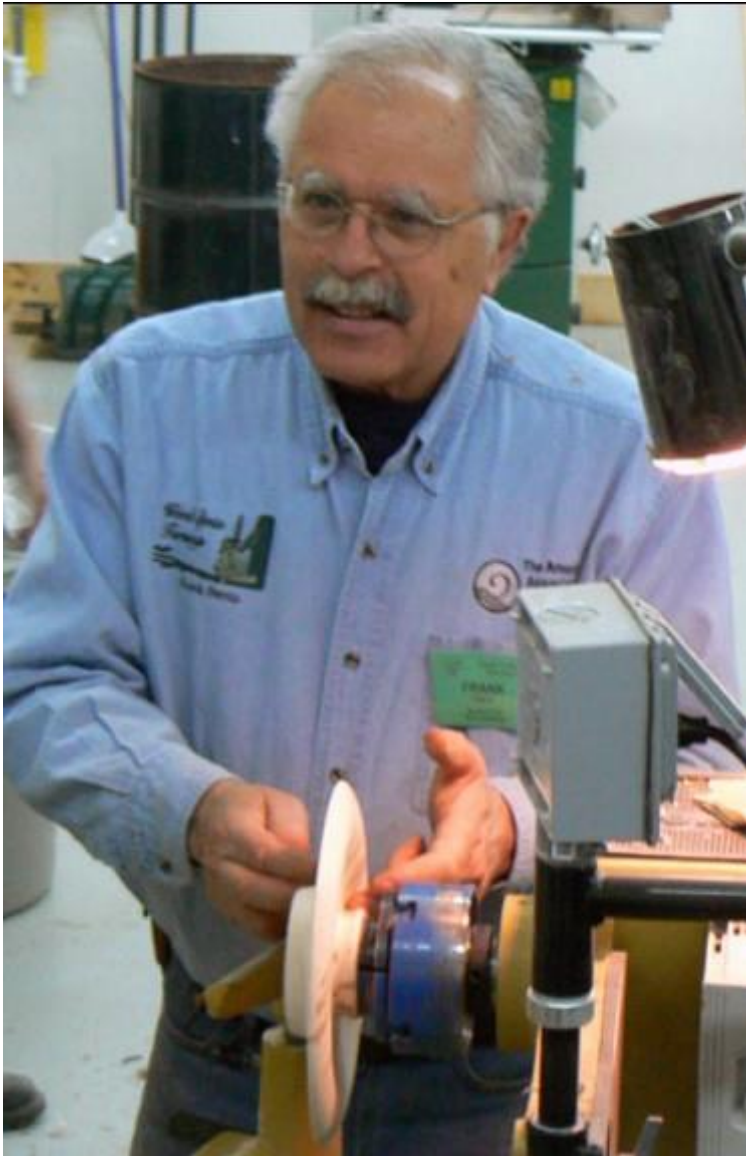
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Turn
The
Page
Here!

AUGUST DEMONSTRATOR FRANK PENTA



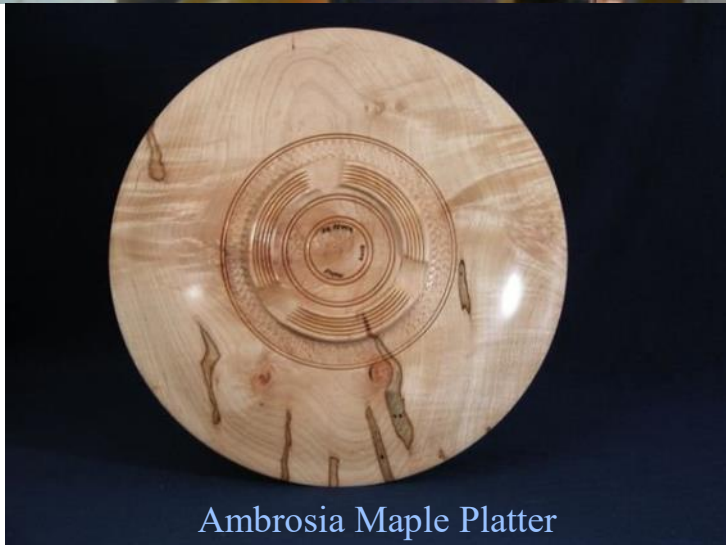
Frank Penta's Bio

Frank Penta has been involved in woodworking for most of his life, and he began to focus specifically on woodturning in 1996. He enjoys creating pieces that are attractive as well as functional. Using fine detailing and careful finishing, he enhances the natural beauty of the wood. His one-of-a-kind designs are exhibited in private collections and sold through local galleries.

Frank served for six years as the president of the Woodturners Guild of North Carolina and is a founding member of the Chapel Hill Woodturners.

Frank has been a demonstrator at numerous woodturning clubs and has taught sessions at regional and national symposia. Since 2004, he has been a regular woodturning instructor at John C. Campbell Folk School, teaching two to three classes each year. He also has been an instructor at Arrowmont School for Arts and Crafts, the Appalachian Center for Crafts and at Snow Camp, for the New England Craft Program.

Frank's platters were featured in "American Woodturner" journal in the Spring 2005 issue, and his article "Turning and Detailing Platter Bases" appeared in that same issue. He is the author, along with Alan Leland, of Woodturning Tools, Techniques, and Projects.



Ambrosia Maple Platter

July Meeting Recap

Carl Cummins demonstrated two multi-axis projects which you can do without special tools or chucks.

The first project is a sculptural item done on two axes. Starting with a blank 2" x 2" x 7", mark a diagonal at both ends. On the diagonal line, mark two mounting points about 1.5" apart, same on both ends.

Mount the base end at the tail center, and the alternate mount point in the drive center. A "cup-center drive" or "safe drive" is essential as opposed to a four-prong drive.

Leave the base of the blank square and turn the lower part of the blank down to solid wood forming a shape of your choice. Sand before changing axis, and with great care to keep your hands away from the spinning corners still on the blank.

Shift both ends of the blank to the second mount points. Turn a disk or bead in the center to define the separation of the base and top parts of the sculpture. Turn the upper part of the sculpture but keep the mount points intact for now. Complete sanding, again being careful of the off-axis portion. The top end of the blank can now be turned down to where the completed sculpture can be cut away.

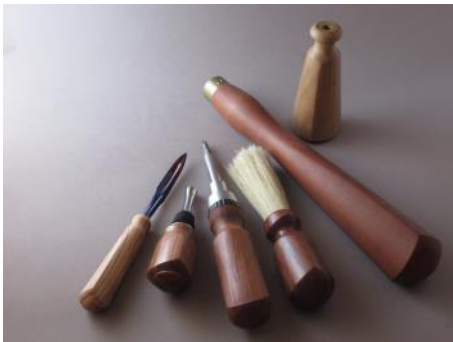
Note this technique can be expanded to any number of axes, and mounting in many different combinations of mount points.

The second design uses three off-center axes and can be applied to tool handles or decorative items such as a bud vase.

Start by marking centers at both ends of the blank. Then at one end use a compass to draw a circle around the center. The larger the circle, the more distinct will be the three sides. Mark three points on the circle which form an equilateral triangle.

Start by mounting the blank between the center points at both ends. At the end with the marked circle, turn a tenon to fit in a chuck. Mount the tenon in a chuck and drill the other end to suit your project.

Using a cone drive, mount the blank with the drilled hole on the cone drive, and the opposite end at one of the points of the triangle. Turn by hand to be sure the tool rest is out of the way. Again turning by hand and using a Sharpie, draw a line (arc) where the workpiece comes close to the tool rest.



Starting with the lathe at very slow speed, gradually increase speed to hopefully 1200 rpm or more but less than would cause a lot of vibration. There will be a lot of "ghost" wood, but look for the line you drew with the Sharpie and turn down to that line. From there turn in a straight line to the other end of the workpiece. With the lathe stopped, sand by hand lengthwise.

Mount on the next corner of triangle and repeat. Mount on the third corner and repeat.

Shift to the center axis (at both ends). Turn the drive end down to round to suit your project. At the three-sided end, turn away the tenon and shape to suit. Sand and finish.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

STEVE SIMCIK	8/2
TOM CORBETT	8/22
LEE BEADLES	8/26
SANDY BISHOP	8/28

MEMBERS DUES MUST BE CURRENT TO BE INCLUDED IN THE BIRTHDAY LIST.

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!

COLLABORATION CORNER

JULY'S PROBLEM

Jack Griffin asks: "I've heard a lot about mortises and tenons. What are the considerations before deciding between them?"

In most cases, either of these will work for most pieces. There are a few exceptions though. You should never use a mortise on a piece that already has a crack on the bottom running through the center of the piece. The force of the chuck jaws will widen the crack and possibly split the item. Likewise, a mortise in an end grain bowl or platter can cause a crack along the grain lines. A tenon is normally a safe bet, although on extremely dry wood it may tend to shear off if you experience a catch. Whichever you use, it's paramount that you have the shoulders of the chuck jaws resting squarely on the piece to provide stability.

AUGUST'S PROBLEM

John McClane asks, "I always hear other woodturners talking about end grain and side grain. Can someone please explain the difference to someone who's new to turning?"

WHAT EVERYONE HAS BEEN DOING



BRENT CLAYTON
MAGNOLIA



BRENT CLAYTON
MAGNOLIA



HOWARD KING

Here are some photos of recently made bowls. Both are made of Rosewood, the smaller cored out of the larger bowl.



WHAT EVERYONE HAS BEEN DOING



CARL CUMMINS

CARL CUMMINS — PREDEMO DISPLAY



MARK HARRIS — BOX ELDER



MARK HARRIS — BRADFORD PEAR



MARTIN COGEN - BUTTER KNIVES
Western red cedar (left, center left);
Apple (center right, right).



SHERRY TWILLEY



MYRA HARPER

WHAT EVERYONE HAS BEEN DOING



PETE MARKEN
PET URN



PETE MARKEN - TOP OF URN



BRENT CLAYTON
HACKBERRY



BRENT CLAYTON
BRADFORD PEAR



RICHARD SERVISS



RICHARD SERVISS
WHAT KIND OF WOOD IS
THIS?



WHAT EVERYONE HAS BEEN DOING



MARK HARRIS
OSAGE ORANGE



MARK HARRIS
SPALTED MAPLE



MAURICE CLABAUGH
WATER OAK
Called FEATHER 16.5" W X 6.9" H



MAURICE CLABAUGH
BRADFORD PEAR FORK WALL HANGING
CALLED FIVE EYES 18.5 "W X 2.25" H



JOHN SOWELL
BRADFORD PEAR &
MAPLE

WHAT EVERYONE HAS BEEN DOING



SCOTT ARNOLD
SPALTED WATER OAK



SCOTT ARNOLD
PIERCED SILVER MAPLE BOWL

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Association



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SCOTT ARNOLD
POPLAR



SCOTT ARNOLD
POPLAR NATURAL EDGE BOWL

WHO'S WHO



SCOTT ARNOLD
CLUB PRESIDENT



PETE MARKEN



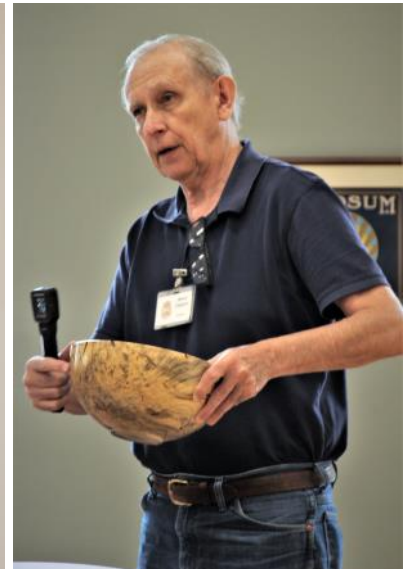
MYRA HARPER



JOHN SOWELL



DWIGHT HOSTETTER



BRENT CLAYTON



RICHARD
SERVISS



JIM BLACK

BILL HUBBARD

MEETING AND DEMO PICTURES



TURN FOR THE TROOPS
SUPPLIES SEE DAVID FANCHER



Blind Veteran Wood Turner



If you want to watch the video of Karl turning here is the link!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n_XGRjlvMDk

COPY & PASTE
Also on the AWA website.

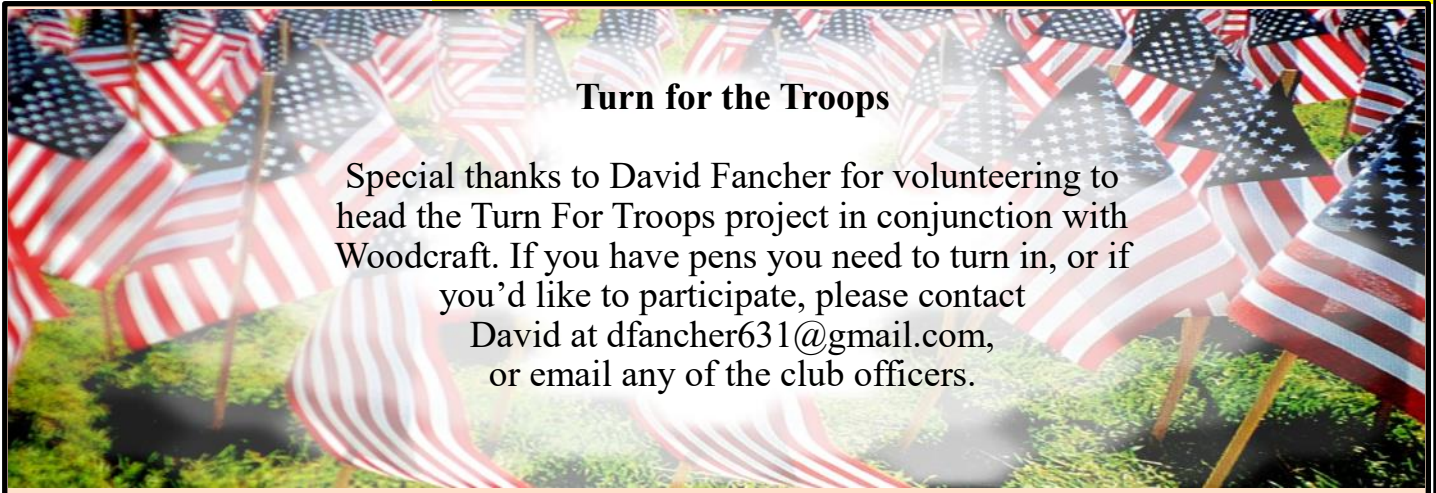
The Karl Harper Perpetual Challenge

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!'

We will resume this challenge once we start meeting in person again.



Turn for the Troops

Special thanks to David Fancher for volunteering to head the Turn For Troops project in conjunction with Woodcraft. If you have pens you need to turn in, or if you'd like to participate, please contact David at dfancher631@gmail.com, or email any of the club officers.

Leadership

- President: Scott Arnold
- Vice President: John Sowell
- Secretary: John Rhymes
- Treasurer: Carl Cummins
- Board: Bruce Gibson
- Board: Tom Corbett
- Training: Phil Fortmeyer
- Newsletter: Michelle Marken
- Webmaster: Carl Cummins

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