

# Alabama Woodturners Association



# Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 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](http://www.alabamawoodturners.com)

## PRESIDENT'S NOTE

I hope this newsletter finds each of you well! As I write this, my wife and I are embarking on a new adventure together, building our dream home. From everything I've heard from others who have gone down this path, it may be the last thing we do together! :) Anyway, we found a grown-up piece of property with a house that is falling down and stuffed to the ceilings with every manner of clutter. It promises to be a challenge!

One of the most exciting things about this project is building a new shop! (I currently work out of one bay of our garage, so my wife's car is constantly covered in wood dust). I'm currently planning a building that will act as an extra garage with an attached woodturning shop. I have been extremely fortunate during my time in the club to visit several of your shops and have always tried to make mental notes about the things I loved and things to avoid.

As an example, my mentor, Bill Payton, had a wonderfully functional shop that he worked in every day from sunup to sundown. One feature I particularly liked was the winch and track he mounted on the ceiling that ran the length of the shop, including his covered outside wood storage area. It made moving logs a breeze. The one thing I learned to avoid was a window in close proximity to the lathe. The one he had behind the lathe with boards covering the broken glass testified to how dangerous flying bowls can be!

And with that observation, I'd like to ask for your help. Can you send me suggestions of features I should include in a new shop? What should I avoid? Any advance planning, I need to consider before settling on a design? Any and all ideas/suggestions would be welcome!

With that, I'll mention that our September meeting will be virtual via Zoom. Look for the Zoom invite in the newsletter email. I hope to see you on Saturday!

Safe Turning!  
Scott

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Turn  
The  
Page  
Here!

## SEPTEMBER DEMONSTRATOR BRUCE CAMPBELL



Our presenter for September is Bruce Campbell from British Columbia. Bruce presented at the AAW Symposium this year and several members who saw his presentation said it was one of the best talks on green wood they had seen. He has tweaked his presentation a bit for our group and encourages audience questions. See his presentation synopsis below:

### Managing Green Wood

We often get the chance to collect fresh wood but either have to wait a long time before we can use it or watch it crack itself into firewood. During this talk I will attempt to lead you through a step-by-step process to avoid having your "free" wood go to waste and how to predict what a piece will look like when it has been turned.

This will be an information packed session and it often triggers a LOT of questions. I am happy to answer as many as I can you as long as you keep asking.

You can see more examples of Bruce's work at <http://www.artisansworkbench.com/>

Examples of Bruce's work.



## AUGUST MEETING RECAP



Our August guest demonstrator, Frank Penta of Chapel Hill NC, showed the process of laminating wood for turning. Laminating starts with the simple concept of cutting wood on a table saw into straight strips and gluing them together. He showed how they can be cut, glued, recut, and glued again and again into an infinite variety of arrangements to make turning blanks with striking patterns of contrasting colored woods. He emphasized the simplicity and flexibility of the concept as he can turn them into candlesticks, peppermills, bowls, platters, and more, all from straight cuts on a table saw.



He went through the complete process for the "Lattice Bowl", arranging wood strips to make the blank, and turning the blank to the finished bowl.

His enthusiasm and energy were infectious, making for an inspiring demo.



For details you can watch the entire demo at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D8di4n0cohk>

Many handouts with detailed instruction are available at

<https://www.carolinacraftscenter.com/instructional-handouts>

**SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

<b>JERRY HANCHEY</b>	<b>9/01</b>
<b>CHARLES COPPEDGE</b>	<b>9/11</b>
<b>SHERRY TWILLEY</b>	<b>9/18</b>
<b>JEFF WYATT</b>	<b>9/18</b>
<b>DAVID DUNCAN</b>	<b>9/25</b>

*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

## 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?"**

*The easiest visualization is to picture yourself holding a bundle of drinking straws. The open ends of the straw are end grain. The part you are holding with your hand is the side grain. Now picture a log the same way. Most turned bowls are side grain since it offers the most strength. There are cases however where someone might turn an end grain bowl, which would show all of the growth rings around the bowl as if you were looking at the end of the log. While this is a nutshell version of the side grain vs. end grain discussion, if it has piqued your interest, please research it further or contact another member for advice.*

## SEPTEMBER'S PROBLEM

**New member Chris says, "I've noticed my new tools are bluing when I sharpen them. I think it's a combination of high-speed grinder and cheap tools. I've also found out I'm sharpening them all wrong. I'm wondering if I would be better served with the Wolverine sharpening system or a low-speed grinder with a blue Norton wheel?"**

## WHITE OAK BURL

Recently a gentleman contacted us offering an Oak burl for sale from a tree he is about to remove. He says it is a White Oak around 130 years old. If you are interested, contact Scott, Carl or [alawoodturners@gmail.com](mailto:alawoodturners@gmail.com) with your offer and we'll pass it along.



# WHAT EVERYONE HAS BEEN DOING



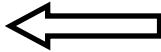
CARL CUMMINS



CARL CUMMINS



SCOTT ARNOLD  
Dogwood Natural  
Edge



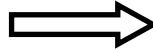
SHERRY TWILLEY  
CALLIGRAPHY PENS



DWIGHT  
HOSTETTER  
This is a 12-  
inch diameter  
Nantucket  
Lightship  
Basket I just  
finished. The  
bottom was  
turned on a

lathe to true it up and to cut a 1/16" slot 1/2" deep on the edge for the staves to fit into. Also, the decorative coves in the inside bottom were cut while it was on the lathe.

JIM GORRIE  
All 3 from a  
very old oak.





# WHAT EVERYONE HAS BEEN DOING



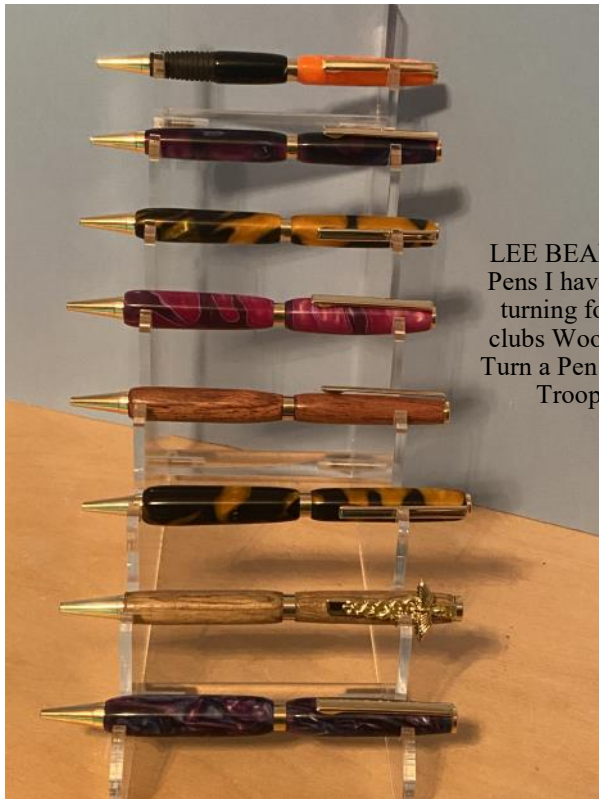
HOWARD KING  
CHERRY ELEVATED HOLLOW FORM



HOWARD KING  
WHITE OAK



LEE BEADLES  
Pens I have been  
turning for the  
clubs Woodcraft  
Turn a Pen for the  
Troops.



**TERRY WHITE**  
Set of 4 hat racks. Made of pine with the tops only 3 1/2 inches in diameter. (I did not turn the dowels). The client plans to paint them, and they will be used for a baby bonnet collection display.

# JOHN SOWELL HAS BEEN BUSY



2 Cherry  
1 Dogwood  
6-7"



Elm Hollow Form  
5"



Pair of Ambrosia Maple  
Each 10.5"



Oak Burl 14"



Oak with inlaid sticks.  
9"



Oak Burl 9"



# JEFF WYATT IN THIS OLD HOUSE MAGAZINE

## You did it!

Reader projects, tips,  
and triumphs



### Sylvan pavilion

**TOH Insider:** Paul Cortright,  
St. Louisville, OH

My wife, Kim, and I built this pavilion with timber I cut and milled myself. The carpentry wasn't too bad, but the fireplace block and stonework took time to learn, and *TOH* videos were part of my masonry education. We enjoy the shelter very much. It draws you in and makes you want to sit and appreciate the land. We look forward to starting on the landscaping. Not sure what we're going to do yet, but I find that figuring it out is part of the fun.

### READER TIP



After drilling into concrete, instead of blowing away the dust, use canned compressed air to clear the hole. You'll avoid getting a face full of concrete dust, and screws installed afterward will sit tighter.

**TOH Insider:**  
Walter Just, Orlando, FL



### Better built-in

**TOH Insider:** Alyssa Hart, Chesterfield, NJ



Spending a lot of time working from home left me wanting to refresh my dated office built-in. To contain costs, I kept the existing cabinets, built new doors, removed the scalloped valance, and updated the hardware. I also built a low cabinet with a roll-out printer shelf. The changes completely transformed the space!

### A chair for the ages

**TOH Insider:** Jeff Wyatt (son Copper John, shown),  
Hoover, AL

Years ago, my father and I watched Norm Abram build a Windsor chair on TV, and I was hooked. This is one of several writing-arm Windsors I've made "from log to chair," with maple and pine harvested from my property and a neighbor's. Watching your shows with my dad and building projects with him are memories I carry with me. Thank you for being a real inspiration.





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

COPY & PASTE  
Also on the AWA website.

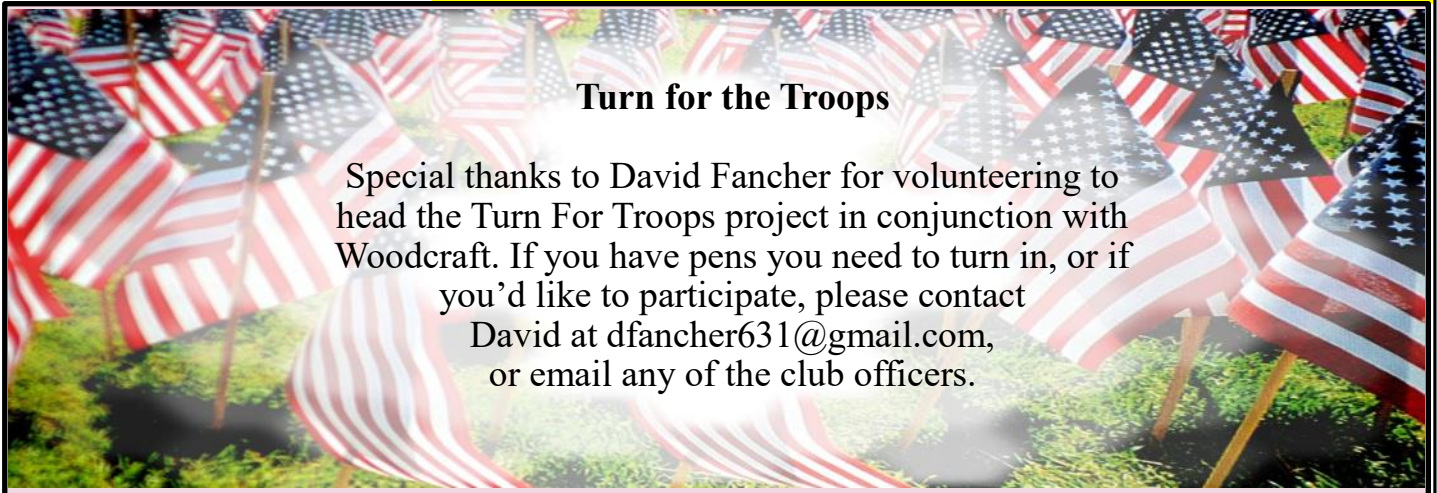
## The Karl Harper Perpetual Challenge

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](mailto: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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