

# Alabama Woodturners Association



# Newsletter

OCTOBER 2021

A member of the American Association of Woodturners  
Currently meeting on ZOOM  
Meeting time: The second Saturday of each month at 9 am  
[www.alabamawoodturners.com](http://www.alabamawoodturners.com)

## PRESIDENT'S NOTE

As the year winds down, we come to the inevitable call for volunteers to serve as Officers and Board members. Now before you skip the rest of the page because you saw the "V" word, you need to read a little further!

When our call went out last year, we had exactly 0 responses from our 75 or so members. Therefore, the leadership from 2020 remained exactly as it was. More than a couple of the folks in leadership positions wanted to move out of their spots, but because of their love for the club they stayed on. I am eternally grateful to each and every one of them for that decision!

However, this year we will be losing a number of folks in leadership roles and need a few members to step up. Leadership experience is not necessary, just the desire and commitment to help make the club better. Volunteers are absolutely VITAL to the club's continued success.

As I shared at the Zoom meeting last month, we do have some challenges ahead of us as our rates at the Senior Center have been more than quadrupled going forward. Luckily, we did manage to secure a grant from the Alabama Arts Recovery Program that should help us offset some of that increase. Special thanks to Carl Cummins and John Rhymes for their help on that project!

As I close this President's Note, I again ask you to please think about volunteering in our club. It doesn't have to be just as an Officer, there are many facets of the AWA that can use a little help. No organization can survive without the active participation of its members and we are no exception. All of us who currently serve active roles will be more than willing to offer guidance and assistance to anyone who wants to become involved.

Safe Turning!  
Scott

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In this issue:

President's Note - Page 1  
This month's Demo info - Page 2  
September Recap - Page 3  
Birthdays Page -Page 3  
Collaboration Corner - Page 4  
What People are Doing - Page 4 - 7  
Karl Harper Challenge - Page 8  
Turn for the Troops - Page 8  
Amazon Smile Information - Page 8



Turn  
The  
Page  
Here!

## OCTOBER DEMONSTRATOR JOHN SOWELL



Our very own John Sowell will be our demonstrator over Zoom this month. John will be turning a Natural Edge Opening & Winged Hollow form. (Try to say that three times fast!) John bills it as "An exercise in discovery!"

From John:

I turned my first pieces of wood many years ago as a teenager. They were quite primitive but I was hooked on the process. Through my professional career I had little opportunity to participate in turning as a hobby but since retirement I found myself drawn daily to the lathe.

Woodturning is the best stress reliever I have found as well as being a lot of fun. I am constantly amazed by what the wood reveals. Although I may start with a specific design in mind, the wood often leads me to an entirely different outcome. I am a recycler. The wood I use comes almost entirely from the roadside and is often oak, maple, box elder, cherry, cherry laurel (also known as Carolina Laurel), Bradford pear, dogwood, poplar, walnut, sweet gum or IDK (I don't know). Recycled wood often has defects or imperfections and these frequently become a focal point for the piece. My pieces are generally turned for function or whimsy and include bowls of various types, hollow, open and closed forms, tops/toys and off-center turnings. I am an active member of the American Association of Woodturners, North Alabama Woodturners, Central Ohio Woodturners and the Alabama Woodturners Association.

Editors note: John also has some of his pieces for sale at Artist Incorporated Gallery which is now at Grand River Mall.



## SEPTEMBER MEETING RECAP by CARL CUMMINS

At our September meeting Bruce Campbell from British Columbia, Canada, gave an in-depth presentation on "Managing Green Wood".

Several points stood out for me, different from what I had heard or thought before:

- Don't do this just to get free wood because it is not free. Consider the cost of the chainsaw, fuel, oil, chains, etc., plus the extra trouble to cut it, haul it, preserve it, and on and on ... Basically, the wood you purchase is the cheapest.
- The best reason to go after green wood is to have control over what you get, control over the size, shape, grain placement, and special figure.
- Of course, green wood cuts more easily than dry, but it comes with many other considerations: How to preserve it, how to deal with movement, how to dry it, ...

Guys I know often apply Anchorseal immediately after cutting a log. Bruce says this does not preserve a log; it only buys some time. He also said acrylic paint works as well, and you can get cheap paint at a paint store by asking for "miss tint" (where the color did not come out as expected).

When you cut up a log remember the "Larsen Rule": Take the most valuable pieces and leave the rest. Don't keep it all. Don't fill your shop with junk wood!



## 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!

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



# COLLABORATION CORNER

## 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've wondering if I would be better served with the Wolverine sharpening system or a low-speed grinder with a blue Norton wheel?"

### ANSWER:

When a tool turns blue from sharpening, it means that it is too hot. At this point it is losing its tempering which causes the tool to hold an edge. A low-speed grinder is a must, regardless of what wheel you put on it. As for the Wolverine, it is one of the best sharpening systems out there and makes it extremely easy for a beginner (or advanced) turner to sharpen a tool to an exact grind. It does take a little setup on the front end, but once it's set up, sharpening takes just a few seconds.

## OCTOBER'S PROBLEM

Scott asks, "Excluding your lathe, what's the one piece of equipment or tool that you can't live without for turning?"

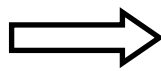
# WHAT EVERYONE HAS BEEN DOING



WILLIAM O'NEAL

Here are a couple of photos of a coffee table I turned the legs for (my friend built it).

CLOSEUP OF LEG



# WHAT BRENT HAS BEEN DOING





# WHAT EVERYONE HAS BEEN DOING



HOWARD KING  
PYRO OPUS 7  
BRADFORD PEAR



HOWARD KING  
PYRO OPUS 7  
BRADFORD PEAR VIEW 2



MARTIN COGEN  
Teardrop bottle stoppers  
Indian hawthorn root/trunk:  
last remains of my dead shrubs



MAURICE CLABAUGH

# WHAT EVERYONE HAS BEEN DOING



TERRY WHITE:

These are for a craft sale at my church.

Maple, Pecan, Cherry and Black Walnut. Different finishes, everything from Walnut oil to beeswax.



MAURICE CLABAUGH



MAURICE CLABAUGH



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.

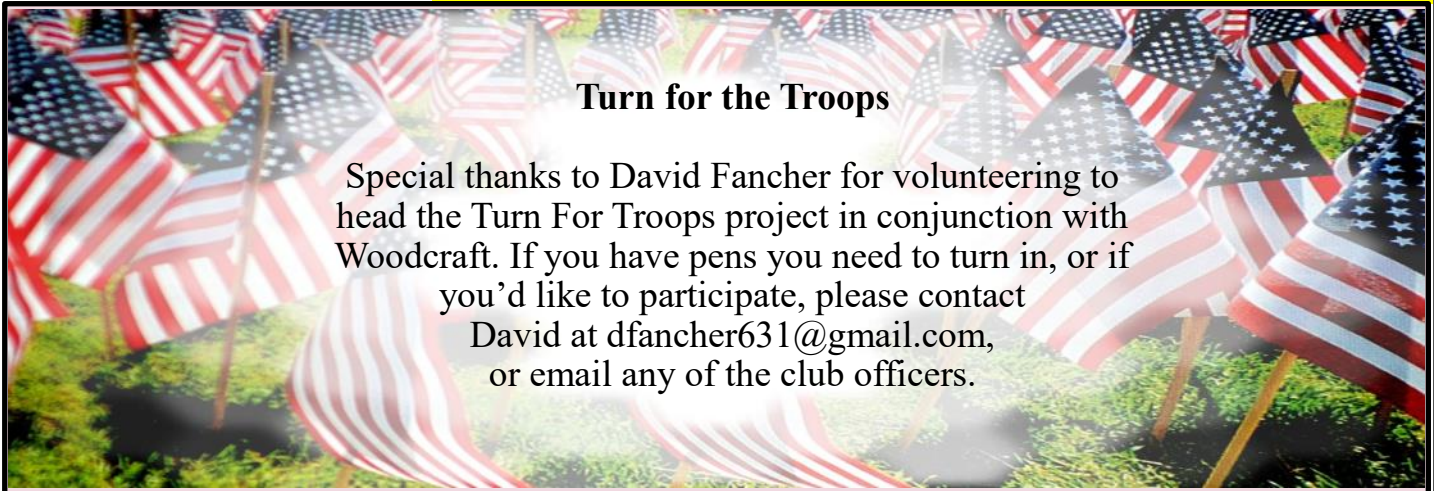
## The Karl Harper Perpetual Challenge

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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