

Alabama Woodturners Association



Newsletter

DECEMBER 2021

A member of the American Association of Woodturners
MEETING IN PERSON THIS MONTH
Meeting time: The second Saturday of each month at 9 am
www.alabamawoodturners.com

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

As the year draws to a close, I will share a personal observation: Regardless of how small a tree looks while you're cutting it, you really need to take the height into account when you decide to try and change its direction of fall with a body part. The consequences can include tearing your distal bicep tendon and an unwanted trip to the surgery center. Don't ask me how I know!

Looking back on the last two years, I'm proud of what we've accomplished as a club:

We adopted a new logo that more accurately reflects what we do, and managed to promote it on shirts, hats, and patches. (Let us know if you want one!)

We weathered Covid with monthly Zoom meetings from many world-renowned turners including Glenn Lucas direct from his workshop in Ireland.

We are in the best financial position I believe we've ever been in thanks to GENEROUS donations by a few current members, spouses of former members, and the Alabama Arts Recovery Program grant we were awarded in October.

Our member count has remained fairly stable thanks to all of our new members, even though we only managed to have four in-person meetings. (Five if you include December.)

After "losing our lease" with Homewood Senior Center, we were able to land on our feet at Hardware Park with Red Mountain Makers (RMM). We now have the potential to teach multiple classes each month, something we've never been able to do in our old location.

Here are a couple of updates as we close out the year:

We have completely moved out of the Homewood Senior Center, including all our equipment, tables, cabinets, tools, etc. Special thanks to Carl Cummins, James Vaughn, Lynn Bagwell, Phil Fortmeyer, Ron Herbst, Bruce Gibson, Bob Moore, Terry Tingle, and Jim Rabey for packing up the library cabinet as well as the tool cabinet and moving it, along with the craft tables and several lathes to storage in advance of the big move. (Apologies in advance if I left anyone out.)

Our Vicmarc lathe and one Jet midi lathe are now on display in the lobby of Hardware Park. We are working on an informational piece to put on them to encourage folks to check out the club. The other equipment is in a storage facility until we can move it into the RMM space in January.

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PRESIDENT'S NOTE CONTINUED

Also, we now have a candidate for the President's position and hopefully will have a VP candidate soon. We are still looking for some Board members and volunteers for the Program Committee, so now is the time volunteer!

As I close, let me thank each of you for your support during the past couple of years. Let me also thank John Sowell, Bruce Gibson, Tom Corbett, Phil Fortmeyer, John Rhymes, Carl Cummins, and Michelle Marken for keeping the club going for the last two years. I especially appreciate Carl and John S. for their advice and counsel on most things we've tackled over the last two years. It has made my job MUCH easier. Finally, let me express my hope that we can now resume our monthly in-person meetings going forward. I think we all now realize how much we missed seeing each other every second Saturday!

Safe Turning,
Scott

DECEMBER IN-PERSON MEETING

The Christmas meeting will be a social get together with a few changes from years past. We will not do a covered dish luncheon this year as we have no kitchen at Hardware Park to prepare the food, although if you would like to bring a dessert, please feel free.

We will have Show and Tell, a Gift Exchange (bring a gift if you want to participate), and the Raffle Grand Prize drawing (you are already registered for this if you bought raffle tickets at our four in-person meetings during the last two years). We will also have a few pieces to auction off including Cindy Drozda's Lidded Box from last year's demo.

However, due to the AV guy's stupidity in land clearing (Yours Truly) we will not have a Zoom presentation of our Christmas meeting. Zoom meetings will resume in January.

ITEMS TO BE AUCTIONED

Turned pieces

Cindy Drozda demo lidded box
Trent Bosch demo textured bowl
Maurice Clabaugh 9" Black Locust winged bowl 2007
Wilford Bickel 13" Sapele platter
Steve Cook 7-3/4" Ambrosia Maple bowl signed "Steve Cook 70" "Savannah GA"
Bill Grumbine 11-1/4" Maple bowl 2009

Tools

Chuck, Record Power SC4 with accessories and M33 adapter (new)
Spindle Roughing Gouge, WoodRiver (used)
Skew Chisel, Crown Tools Pinnacle Cryogenic (used)
Sorby Hollow Master system (used)
PSI 3-piece pen turning tool set (used)

NOVEMBER MEETING RECAP by CARL CUMMINS

Howard King demonstrated making a simple Christmas ornament. First, he showed a variety of designs including the traditional, and a birdhouse and an elf. He advocates making a short icicle because it is easier to hang on a tree. For his demo, to emphasize "simple" he used only two pieces of wood. He had his chuck equipped with pin jaws to hold a small tenon.

Starting with a blank about 2x2x4, mount between centers and turn to a cylinder. Turn a tenon 1/2" diameter and 1" long. Shape the body of the ornament as desired, leaving the non-tenon end flat and about 3/4" diameter. Sand.



Remount workpiece with the tenon in chuck. Using a 5/8" Forstner bit with lathe speed down around 600, drill most of the way into the body of the ornament. Hollow the body to where the walls are thin, and the ornament is light in weight.

Remove the workpiece from chuck. Switch the tenon-end to the tail center and use a cone drive pressing lightly into the hole to drive the workpiece as a jam-chuck. Turn what was the tenon to make the finial. Sand. Remove from lathe.

For the icicle, start with a blank about 1.5" x 1.5" x 3.5".

Mount between centers and turn to a cylinder. At one end turn a tenon with diameter to match the hole of the ornament body (5/8" or larger) and about 1" long. (Excess will be cut away later). Turn a curve to suit the transition from icicle to tenon. Test the fit in the ornament. When the fit is correct, mount icicle workpiece in chuck with the tenon held in pin jaws. Turn the icicle to suit the ornament. Sand.

Remove from chuck. Cut off excess tenon leaving about 1/4" long to fit into the ornament. Glue together. Finish as desired; for example, paint and spray with lacquer.



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.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

JUDY OSMUNDSON	1
PAMELA SCHWARTZ	1
JENNIFER SMITH	1
MAURICE CLABAUGH	9
JAMES ARMSTRONG	16
JOHN HENRY	17
JOHN KILLIAN	18
CARL CUMMINS	28
JIM JOHNSON	28
JAMES GILBERT	30

COLLABORATION CORNER

NOVEMBER'S PROBLEM

John asks, "Is speed a factor in my turning? Is it better to turn at a low or high speed?"

One of the MOST important rules of turning is: Do not turn at a speed above your comfort level. In some cases a higher speed can be safer, such as rounding a piece of balanced wood. Higher speeds can also aid in making cleaner cuts with a sharp gouge, helping to minimize sanding. However, all of those advantages are negated if you turn faster than your comfort level. Large diameter or out-of-balance pieces must be turned at lower speed.

December's Question:

A new member asks, "How do I know if my piece needs a foot or should be flat?"

AWA Officers

We are looking to fill Officer and Board positions and need volunteers/nominations now. Here are descriptions of the roles:

The President

- leads the monthly meeting
- calls Board meetings as needed to make plans and discuss issues
- with approval from the Board sets the direction for the club and makes decisions about new purchases/expenses
- oversees other functions such as recruiting volunteers or appointing committees (A/V, Turn For Troops, Christmas Tree Ornaments, Library, etc)
- serves as the spokesperson for the club.

The Vice President and Program Director

- fills in when President is absent
- leads the Program Committee to arrange programs for monthly meetings.

Member of Board of Directors

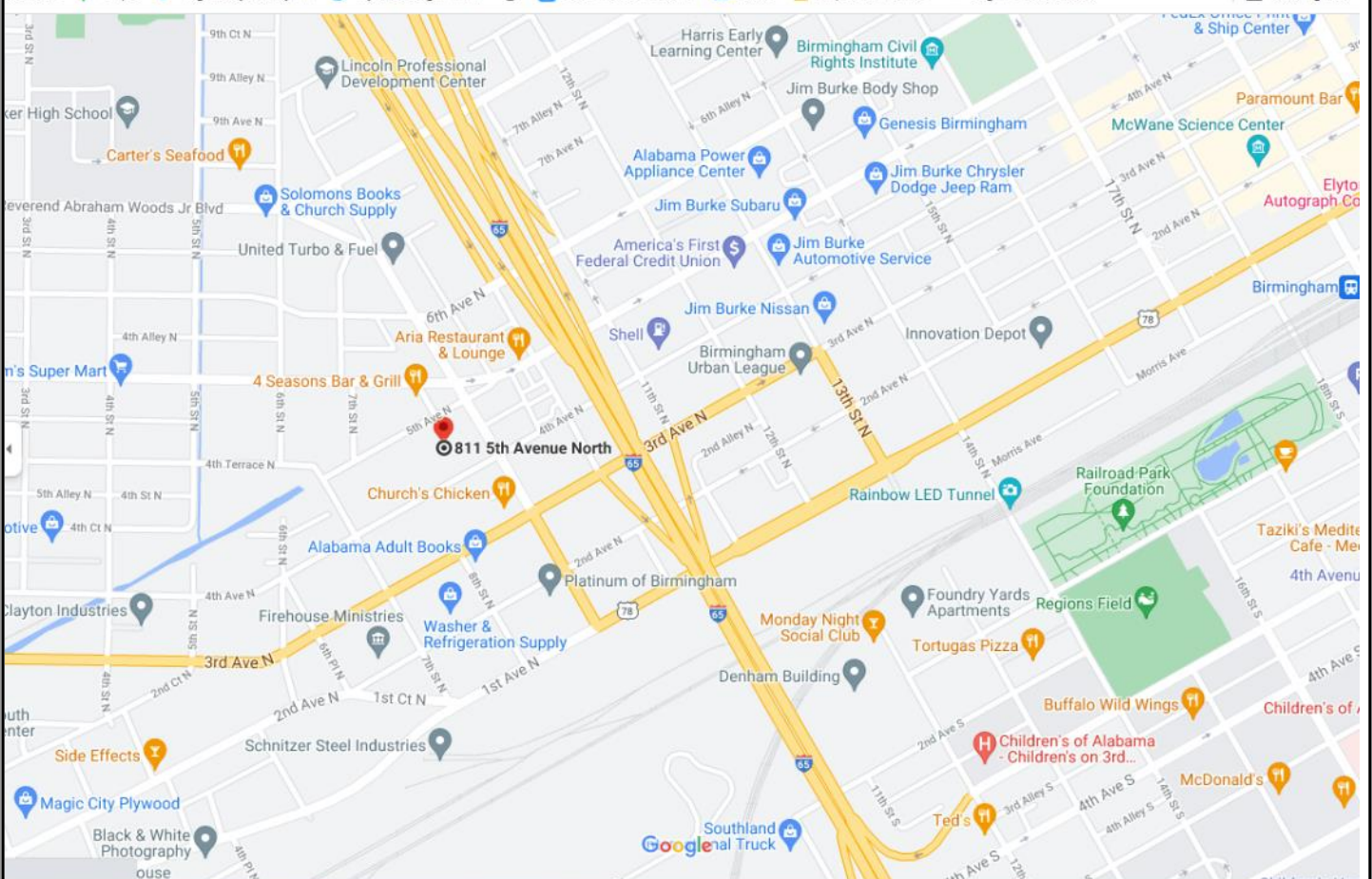
- provides ideas and feedback about the activities, direction, and finances of the club.





Our meeting place this month is Hardware Park (formerly Long-Lewis Hardware), downtown between 4th and 5th Ave. North. The exact address is 811 5th Ave North, Birmingham, AL 35203. You'll enter through this door.

Make sure to look for our new flag on the corner!



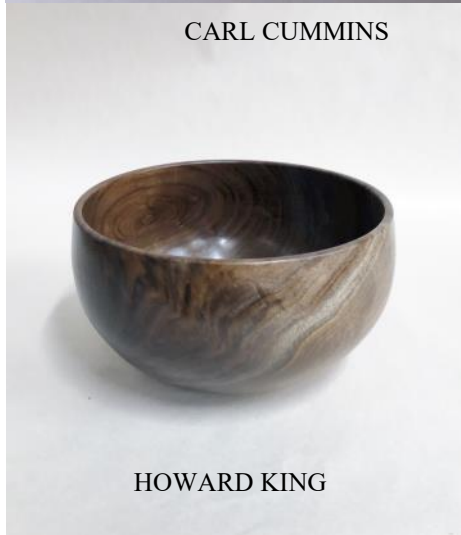
WHAT EVERYONE HAS BEEN DOING



CARL CUMMINS



CHRIS HENLEY



HOWARD KING



JIM GORRIE
EBONY BOWLS



JOHN SOWELL



HOWARD KING

WHAT EVERYONE HAS BEEN DOING



DUSTIN SLEE



DUSTIN SLEE



DUSTIN SLEE



1
JOHN RHYMES - 2 VIEWS OF MY LATEST
5-5/8"X2-1/4" PERSIMMON BOWL



Neely Farms Choose & Cut Christmas Tree
Nov 25 · 🌐

RON HERBSTER
ORNAMENTS BEING SOLD FOR CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

WHAT EVERYONE HAS BEEN DOING



MYRA HARPER



RON HERBSTER



CARL CUMMINS



DWIGHT HOSTETTER



HOWARD KING



RON HERBSTER



DWIGHT HOSTETTER

WHAT EVERYONE HAS BEEN DOING



SANDY BISHOP
CHERRY BURL



JERRY HANCHEY



JERRY HANCHEY



PETE MARKEN
DONE ON THE CNC MACHINE



LYNN BASWELL

WHO'S WHO



JOHN SOWELL



CARL CUMMINS

MICHELLE
MARKEN



MYRA HARPER



PETE MARKEN



SANDY BISHOP



DWIGHT HOSTETTER



JERRY HANCHEY



WHO'S WHO



SCOTT ARNOLD



LYNN BASWELL



JOHN KILLIAN





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.

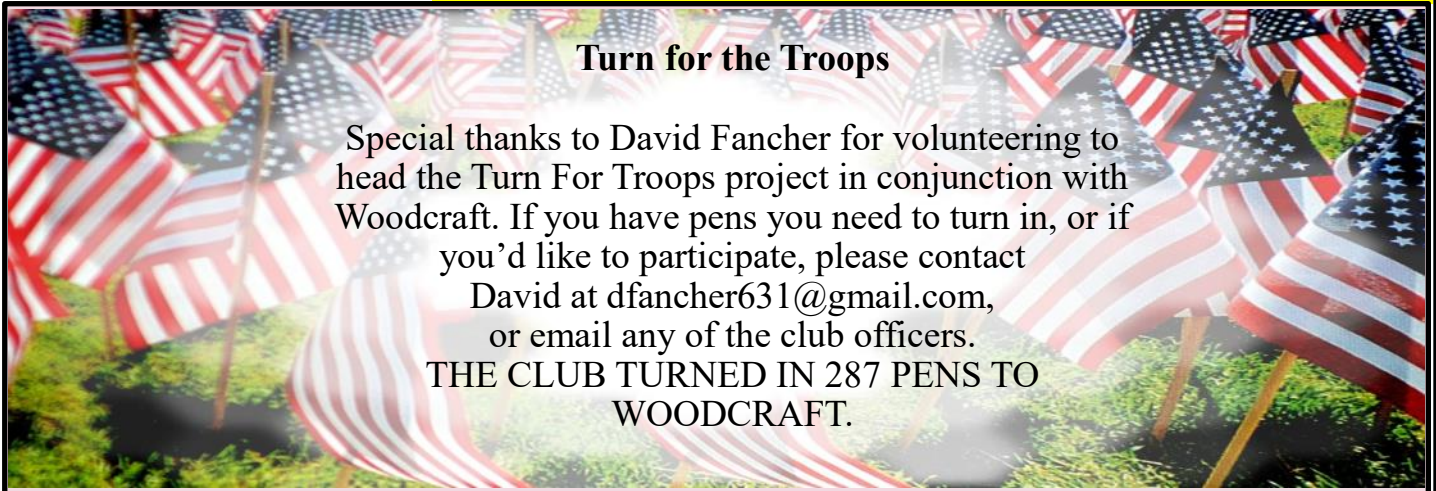
The Karl Harper Perpetual Challenge

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.

THE CLUB TURNED IN 287 PENS TO WOODCRAFT.

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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