

# Alabama Woodturners Association



# Newsletter

JUNE 2022

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

## JUNE AWA PRESIDENT'S NOTE

I was looking through all the pictures that I have submitted to newsletters over the past few years, looking for a picture of Ron Herbster's Christmas ornaments. I did finally find one from 2019. While I was looking, I was amazed at all the "show and tell" items that have been presented over the years. Our chapter has some of the best turners around, I have not doubt. Carl Cummins' spindle work not only displays an unbelievable ability to shape wood, but he is creative and artistic, and his off-axis pieces are simply remarkable. I remember when Pete Marken demonstrated how he made his museum quality bowls. I am amazed that he can get the walls of these exquisite bowls so paper thin. There are so many excellent turners in our club, we are fortunate that they continue to be with us and help us learn how to be better turners. I used to simply show up at club meetings, not knowing what all it took to make sure things went smoothly. But I have learned so much this year and am so grateful that we have folks like Scott Arnold and John Rhymes who keep our on-line meetings available. For those who take care of our community projects, Sandra McMillan, and David Fancher. For Michelle Marken who helps run the table for each meeting and takes care of putting together the newsletter. And for Carl Cummins for being our webmaster and treasurer. When you see these folks at our meetings, thank them for the work they do, because we would not be where we are without them.

I am thankful for everyone in our organization who is willing to teach and help others become more skilled at the art of woodturning. I will not be at this month's club meeting, due to getting over covid. I put off getting my second booster. Please, do whatever you can to keep from getting this virus, especially, if your immune system is compromised. I should have gotten my second booster five months ago. I will not take my health for granted, ever again. Y'all be healthy, and thanks to Harold Deason for filling in for me, Saturday.

Terry

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# JUNE DEMO BY RON HERBSTER

## RON HERBSTER

Being a forester, my whole adult life has revolved around wood and woodworking. Shortly after retiring and moving back to Alabama in 2012 I attended a lathe tool sharpening demonstration where Scott Arnold told me about the Alabama Woodturners Association. At one of my first meetings, I learned of, and later attended a basic turning session by Pete Marken. Since then, I have received guidance from other club members including Carl Cummins, Howard King, and the late Bill Hubbard. By attending a wide range of AWA and symposium demonstrations I have been exposed to and have been able to try a wide variety of different turning and carving techniques. I've also been able to borrow (steal) several other club member's ideas.



I love a challenge and thoroughly enjoy all turning and carving projects.

This session will cover a few Christmas ornament ideas beginning with snowman and Christmas tree. I'll also show a couple of ways of making ornament bodies and if time allows, I'll cover ornament tops and finials.

**JUNE BIRTHDAYS**

LYNN BASWELL	6-14
PETE MARKEN	6-27

**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!

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



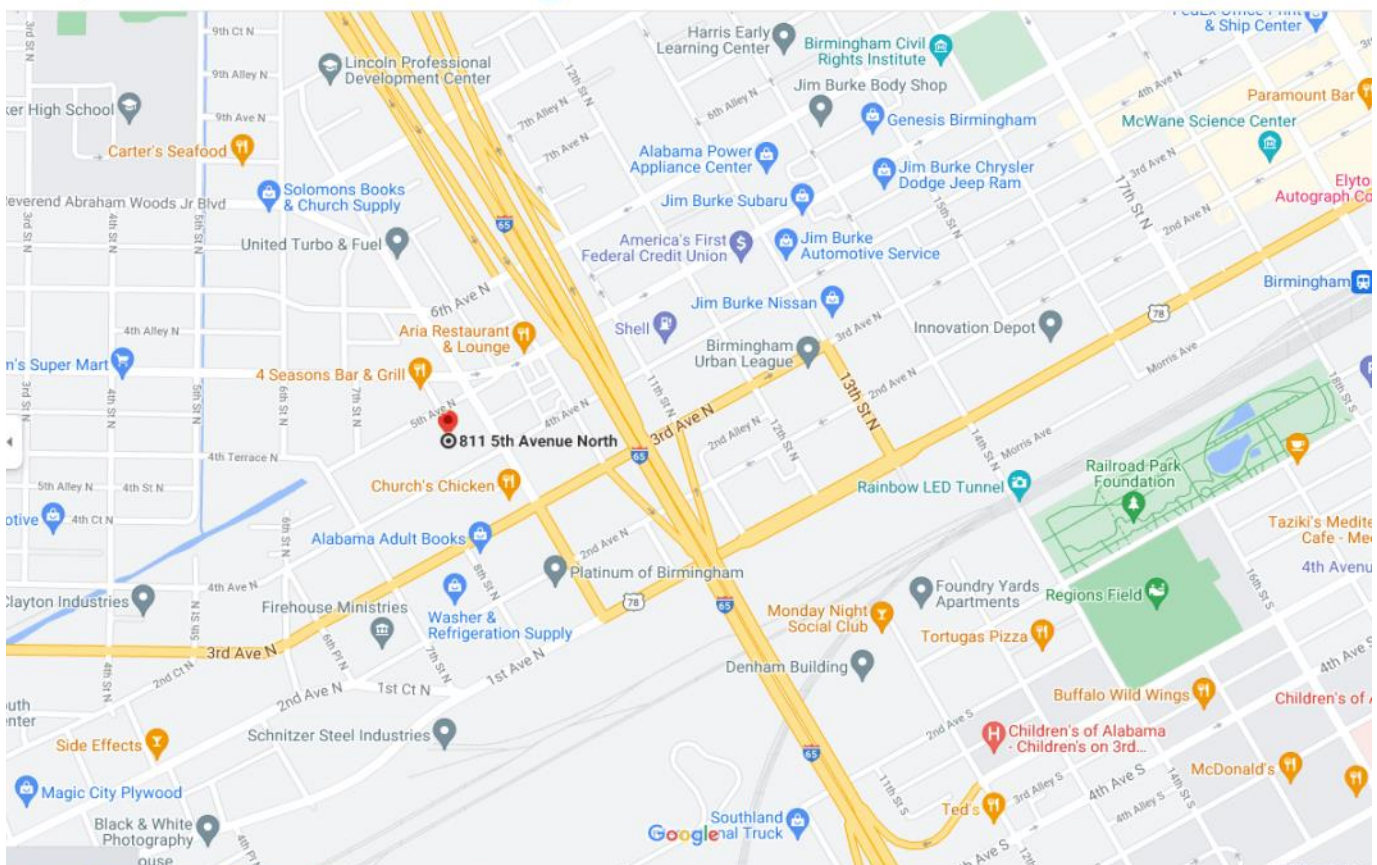


Our meeting place this month is Hardware Park (formerly Long-Lewis Hardware), downtown between 4th and 5th Ave. North. The exact address is

**811 5th Ave North  
Birmingham, AL 35203**

You'll enter through this door.

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





Children's  
of Alabama®

**Alabama Woodturners Association  
(AWA)  
Supporting  
Children's Hospital of Alabama**



We need your Christmas Ornaments contribution for The Children's Hospital Tree!

YouTube videos for Inside Out Turning and Cross Drilled Christmas Ornaments are listed below. These videos were the first to come up when searching and you should find numerous helpful videos.

Inside Out Turning Christmas Ornament Turning  
Basics from As Wood Turns with  
Alan Stanton

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



Wood Turning a New Inside Out Ornament with  
ThePapa 1947

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?>



Cross Drilled Christmas Ornament Turning  
Presentation made to Gwinnett Wood Turners  
by Dan Douthard

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



## **From the AAW Safety Committee**

### **Fractal Burning Kills; AAW Reiterates the Dangers**

The AAW Board, through its Safety Committee, wants to re-emphasize the dangers associated with the process known as Lichtenberg, or “fractal,” burning, an embellishing technique that uses high-voltage electrical current to burn patterns on wood. This often unsafe, life-threatening practice has once again surfaced in the news and on social media, following a two-victim incident in April 2022.

In 2017, the AAW Board of Directors voted to ban any fractal-burning demonstrations and equipment sales at AAW-sponsored events. The ban prohibits displaying fractal-burned pieces at any AAW-sponsored event and promoting the practice via articles in AAW publications. Sadly, since the AAW Board adopted its policy on fractal burning in 2017, there have been thirty-three reported deaths directly attributed to fractal burning, and an unknown number of injuries and close calls.

### **Learn About the Hidden Dangers**

Fractal burning poses a significant hidden risk of electrocution. It speaks volumes that there are no UL-rated fractal burning units commercially available. Many of the YouTube videos that show how to build these devices at home do not adequately address the inherent safety concerns. Many users think they are being safe, but the number of serious injuries and deaths says otherwise.

To learn more about what makes fractal burning dangerous, visit the AAW website. This webpage lists known deaths, the AAW’s official position on fractal burning, as well as other resources.

### **AAW Chapters Take Note**

The AAW Board’s 2017 policy explicitly extends its position to its chapters: “AAW-chartered chapters are strongly urged to refrain from demonstrating or featuring the process in chapter events.” Yet the practice persists at the chapter level. The AAW Safety Committee, with endorsement from the Board of Directors, requests once again that its members and chapter leaders join in the AAW’s efforts to discourage the use of fractal burning. Do not promote the practice via newsletter articles or social media posts, and do not allow fractal-burned pieces to be displayed in instant galleries, exhibitions, at chapter meetings, or on chapter websites.

Further, due to liability concerns, the AAW Board has decided to disallow chapters that promote, demonstrate, or allow the use of fractal burning to be eligible to obtain, or renew, insurance through the AAW for their chapter.

—AAW Safety Committee: John Beechwood III (Chair), Steve Pritchard, Kevin Jesequel, Kent Crowell

**JOHN JORDAN STUBBY 750 FOR SALE**  
**\$2500 Contact Pete Marken at [p\\_marken@bellsouth.net](mailto:p_marken@bellsouth.net)**



### **Why join the AAW?**

Plain and simple, you are enthusiastic about woodturning.

An AAW membership offers you access to the single largest portfolio of high-quality educational woodturning resources available in the world. Membership is the fastest way to learn and enhance your woodturning expertise.

### **An AAW membership can help you:**

- Experience the remarkable world of woodturning.
- Connect with others who share your passion.
- Be an active and knowledgeable member of the woodturning community.
- Make a commitment to your own personal and creative development.
- Express your dedication to preserving woodturning for future generations.

### **With an AAW membership you have access to:**

- 3,000+ online projects, articles, videos, and tips are in AAW's Explore! search tool. Get the best project instructions, technique guidelines, and information in just a few simple clicks. Easily searchable by topic and includes all interest areas.
- 12,000+ images of member work are in AAW's Forum gallery online. Get inspiration, ideas, and feedback simply. Connect with woodturning enthusiasts using this member-moderated virtual community.
- 475+ online videos are quickly searchable by topic in AAW's Video Source. Avoid the frustration of searching YouTube. Get relevant woodturning videos in just a few clicks. All videos are prescreened by the AAW for quality content and safety.
- 150+ issues of American Woodturner are online with a searchable index.
- 38+ issues of Woodturning FUNDamentals publication and the Woodturning FUNDamentals online learning portal offer one-stop basics. Helps newer turners build and expand their woodturning knowledge and skills safely with a curated selection of information, projects, tips, and videos.
- 365 affiliated chapters are all easily searchable in our directories. Find a chapter near you fast. Also, search for symposia, demonstrations, exhibitions, events, organizations, and schools, and more, quickly and easily.

## **AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS (AAW) NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM**

The American Association of Woodturners is an organization that is committed to delivering the highest quality woodturning resources and education to its members. Today, the AAW has more than 16,000 members worldwide with 365+ local chapters, publishes the American Woodturner journal, organizes an annual International Symposium, sponsors woodturning outreach and education activities, and operates a gallery space in St. Paul MN's Landmark Center. Our organization, the AWA, is Local Chapter number 111 of AAW.

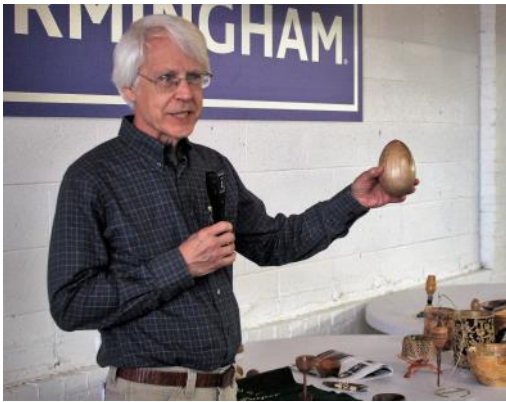
In June, AAW will present a live, In-Person Event, the AAW's Annual International Woodturning Symposium. The location is close, Chattanooga, TN. The dates are June 23-26. In 3 ½ days, there will be 100 compelling presentations to help us become better. If you decide to attend, please know that if we register as a club, we get a discount. Please inform Carl if you plan to go!

AAW also offers weekly newsletter articles and instructional videos. And they provide Zoom videos for members and visitors. For instance, on Saturday, February 19th at 2:00, AAW had a Zoom video demo "From Pen Turning to Pen Making" with Mark Dreyer and John Underhill which was excellent. Also scheduled on March 19th, at 1:00 p.m. AAW was presenting Dale Larson "Cutting the best bowl from a tree," where Dale told how to cut intentionally to get the exact grain you want for your bowl. Cost is \$10 for members, \$15 for non-AAW members.

**If you are not a member, check out their website to see all that they offer.**

**Web address is [www.woodturner.org](http://www.woodturner.org)**

# PICTURES FROM THE APRIL MEETING



**CARL CUMMINS**



**TERRY TINGLE**



**SUSAN McCALLA**



**PAM SCHWARTZ**



**RON HERBSTER**



**LEE BEADLES**



**DWIGHT HOSTETTER**



**JW BAKER**



**MYRA HARPER**



# PICTURES FROM THE APRIL MEETING



HOWARD KING



MYRA HARPER



DWIGHT HOSTETTER



MYRA HARPER WITH ANDREW ZIMMERMAN'S ON HIS VISIT TO MS MYRA'S BBQ





# PICTURES FROM THE APRIL MEETING



**HAROLD DEASON**



**CARL CUMMINS**



**HOWARD KING**



**HOWARD KING**



**APRIL KARL HARPER CHALLENGE  
WON BY  
TIM TINGLE**

# WHAT EVERYONE HAS BEEN DOING



**CARL CUMMINS  
TAMARIND**

**BRENT CLAYTON**

Here are some photos of a little white oak bowl that I turned.  
It has no finish, not even wax.



**HOWARD KING**

A natural edge platter made with Box Elder.



**HAROLD DEASON**

**HOWARD KING**

Hollow form made with Box Elder



# WHAT EVERYONE HAS BEEN DOING



**TIM TINGLE**



**DWIGHT HOSTETTER**



**BRENT CLAYTON**



**MIKE McPHERSON**



**BRENT CLAYTON**



**JOHN RHYMES  
PEN FROM A CAST HE MADE**



**JOHN SOWELL  
GAVELS**

# WHAT EVERYONE HAS BEEN DOING



**RON HERBSTER**  
Epoxy resin bowls



**STAN KEENUM**  
BIRDHOUSES



**MAURICE CLABAUGH**  
Pear Blossom Stable- Bradford Pear/  
Spalted White Oak/ Padauk/Verdigris Copper



**MAURICE CLABAUGH**  
Baby Rattle- Maple with Walnut Oil Finish



**MAURICE CLABAUGH**  
Lidded box- Crape Myrtle/  
Spalted White Oak/ Ebony



**STAN KEENUM**  
Kokeeshi doll painted  
by granddaughter



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!'

Tim Tingle turned a pen for the May challenge, won by Harold Deason.

### 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.

**UPDATE:** Sent 60 pens to Woodcraft, we are getting close to 300 pens. I will have pen kits and blanks at the next meeting.

60 PENS FOR  
TURN FOR TROOPS



### Leadership

President: Terry Tingle  
Vice President: Harold Deason  
Secretary: John Rhymes  
Treasurer: Carl Cummins  
Board: Scott Arnold  
Board: Tom Corbett  
Board: John Sowell  
Board: Richard Serviss  
Librarian: **volunteer needed**  
Training: Under Development  
Newsletter: Michelle Marken  
Webmaster: Carl Cummins

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