

# Alabama Woodturners Association



## Newsletter

MARCH 2023

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)

### MARCH AWA PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Folks, our board has discussed alternative ways of doing our meetings, since we are not always successful in finding someone willing to do a demo for us. For our upcoming March meeting, we will be discussing two major topics. Jigs, jigs, and more jigs. Do you have a jig that you use, that helps make your projects easier for you? It can be one you have purchased or made yourself. And if you can provide directions on how to make that jig, even better.

Besides jigs, we are going to discuss things that you might need help with. Bring a project that has you stumped, or you need direction with. If you have a piece of wood that you want to turn into something nice, but you're not sure where to begin, bring it, and let's get the wisdom of the group to assist you. Maybe you have a question about turning between centers, or questions about what finish to apply to a piece. We would like the folks who attend on-line to participate as well. Of course, the more participation, the more successful this meeting will be.

We plan to meet Friday to set up for our Saturday meeting, but as of right now, we are not sure what time. If you will let Carl know that you want to volunteer, we will notify you before Friday, of what time we will meet.

Susan McCalla has suggested that we consider doing a "Turn for Troops" party sometime, where we, as a group, work to turn pens for the troops. Although we considered doing that for our meeting, we decided it was best to do that as a small group activity. Harold Deason donated wood enough for at least 150 pen blanks. I have been marking and cutting them, getting them ready to drill.

For our class this Saturday, we will be working on gluing tubes into

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the blanks, squaring the blanks, and turning a few pens to get this group project started. If you are interested, please go to Red Mountain Makers and sign up for the class. Remember, it is no cost to AWA members, just use code AWA2023 when registering. Even if it is a work event, you still need to sign up for it.

For a future event, with some good planning, we should be able to produce anywhere from 150 to 200 pens. Just think, if you were currently in the military, and you received a handmade pen, how would you feel, knowing that someone had taken the time, and made the effort to show how much they appreciated your service to our country? It would also give those who have never made a pen, an opportunity to learn how. If you have any pen kits checked out, please bring them back so we can get our supply of pen kits replenished. If you would like to be on a team that helps to plan these events, please let me know! We could do the same thing with spinning tops and Christmas ornaments.

I was recently looking at some of the back issues of FUNdamentals, a resource of the American Association of Woodturners. The first was "Turn a Simple Bowl" by Glenn Lucas. The second was "Bead-and-Cove Sticks – Effective Practice Makes Perfect" by Mike Peace. Mike was one of our demonstrators last year. Both of the articles were from Woodturning FUNdamentals -May 2020. It reminded me that there are so many learning resources out there, for the beginners and the experienced turners. Of course, it is better if we learn from an actual person, who can see what we are doing right, and what we are doing wrong, what we are doing ok, but could do a little better, etc.

Please remember to bring something for the raffle table. Surely, most of us has something in our shop that we haven't used in a long time or have upgraded. I look forward to seeing what you all have been up to turning.

Safe turning!  
Terry

## 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.**



MARCH BIRTHDAYS	
Darrell Buckelew	3-1
Harold Deason	3-1
Sara Barr	3-2
David Fancher	3-10
Jim Rabey	3-15
Bob Moore	3-21
Brent Clayton	3-31
John Rhymes	3-31

**Dues MUST be CURRENT to be**

# MARCH MEETING WILL BE ABOUT JIGS & QUESTIONS

*COPIED FROM TERRY'S NOTE ON PAGE 1*

Besides jigs, we are going to discuss things that you might need help with. Bring a project that has you stumped, or you need direction with. If you have a piece of wood that you want to turn into something nice, but you're not sure quite where to begin, bring it, and let's get the wisdom of the group to assist you. Maybe you have a question about turning between centers, or questions about what finish to apply to a piece. We would like the folks who attend on-line to participate as well. Of course, the more participation, the more successful this meeting will be.



Steady Rest or Center Steady  
For turning larger pieces



Mini Hollowing Tools  
Made with Allen Wrenches



Pen Blank Drilling Center Vise



Wedge-less Sled for cutting  
segments

## FEBRUARY DEMO BY JOHN SOWELL

John showed us how to design and turn bottle stoppers and openers are a fun project for the lathe. Design opportunities are limited only by the turners imagination and the participant will have an opportunity to practice tool techniques and forms while producing a stopper, opener or both during the session.





## WOODCRAFT HAS MOVED!

2975 PELHAM PARKWAY

This is 3 miles south of the old store. Just before Old Time Pottery on the same side of Pelham Parkway as the old store. The sign is up now so you should be able to find it. A LOT more room. Located south of Old Time Pottery.



## FREE DEMO

### **SATURDAY, MARCH 11th, 1PM - TABLE SAW TUNE-UP**

Stop in to learn how to keep your table saw in tip-top shape. The in-store experts will cover basic alignment and maintenance of the table saw.

### **SATURDAY, MARCH 18th, 1PM - RESIN CAST A PEN BLANK**

Interested in resin casting and making your own unique turning stock? Stop in to see how you can create custom pen blanks, handle stock and more. We'll review mixing the resin, adding color and some tips to get you started.

## *AWA's Children's of Alabama Christmas Tree Project -- The Final Step*

We start soliciting Christmas Tree Ornaments from AWA members well before summer begins and conclude in October so that we are ready to decorate on the first Sunday in November. Displaying the beautiful ornaments made by our members is an important step but one that only a few members know how this happens. Decorating is our Secret Weapon and you can discover the secret below.

Meet AWA's long time Christmas tree decorating secret weapon is the West Sisters and their Daughters. For a quarter of a century, they have sorted the ornaments, carefully decided where to place each one, filled the AWA tree to capacity and added enhancements that takes our tree to the next level. Why have the West Sisters stayed involved with our project? The short answer is Bill West, their Dad who was a wood turner and longtime member of AWA.

AWA is lucky to have this group of dedicated women creating beautiful trees from unique hand turned ornaments. Margaret, one of Bill's daughters, answered questions about their long time involvement below.

How did Bill West get involved in the project? *"Daddy was a longtime member of the woodworker's guild and the AWA. I personally think turning was his favorite, although he could make anything from furniture to mantles to just about any kind of bowls and ornaments. This particular project has been in existence for many years and I'm not certain how the AWA got involved. Daddy spearheaded it for several years as well."*

How did the Christmas project become a family affair? *"Daddy was 'in the basement' every spare minute he had woodworking or turning. We all grew up 'helping' him, whether it was being taught how to turn, making toys or carving ornaments, or just sweeping the floors when they needed it. If I had a nickel for every time I swept that floor. All that to say, decorating the wood turning tree at Children's just came naturally because we always loved being around his hobby. Our mama really enjoyed it as well, we have all participated from the beginning."*

How long have the West crew been the decorators? *"I believe we have been decorating in some form or fashion for at least 25 years, probably more. The first time I remember decorating, we were in the Sheraton at the BJCC."*

What does doing this work mean to you? *"All three of us really love decorating the tree. Daddy was always a giver, we've come to learn that more after he passed away. It was a way to be with him, and see the fruits of what he loved so much. Now that he is gone, it's our way of honoring him while making the tree beautiful for everyone to see. We love seeing all of the ornaments each year, it kind of brings him back to us for a bit."*

AWA is lucky to have this group of women dedicated to creating beautiful tree from unique hand turned ornaments. Their dedication brings a beautifully decorated tree to fruition. Thank you to Bill's daughters, Margaret and Julia, granddaughters Laura and Allison and two great granddaughters for many years of service to AWA. Once again you made the 2022 AWA Christmas Tree beautiful for everyone to see.





### **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.

**JOHN JORDAN STUBBY 750 FOR SALE**  
\$2500 Contact Pete Marken at p\_marken@bellsouth.net

### **NEW still in the box**

Nova Comet II DR midi lathe for sale \$500  
Contact Pete Marken at p\_marken@bellsouth.net



### **SUSAN MCCALLA**

I recently was gifted a treasure trove of wood samples from around the world. This is where I am so far in my project - more to come! The collection will be on display as part of an exhibit of work from WAWA (Tuscaloosa club) at Harrison gallery in Tuscaloosa beginning with an evening event on April 7. Items will remain until April 17.



If you want to watch the video of Karl Harper 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.

Challenge listed on the last page.

# AWA LIBRARY

The materials in the AWA Library are now available for checkout. Since this is a new system (it actually began in 2020 but right before the Covid shutdown) I'd like to go with the following procedures and see how well it works. Your feedback is welcome.

1. A chart listing the materials will be available on the AWA website. You can find it on the "Learning" tab at "Library Listing" which is a link to <https://alabamawoodturners.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/AWA-Library.pdf> The materials are grouped according to type: DVDs, Books, Magazines. If you want to check any item(s) out please let me know by sending an email to **alawoodturners@gmail.com** prior to the next scheduled meeting. Please give me both the item number and its title so I can make sure I get the correct item.
2. The day of the meeting I'll pull these items from where they are stored. I'm going to plan to be in that room in the other building, i.e. the Red Mountain Makers space, from about 8:15 - 9:00 in case anyone wants to come browse and see what's in the library. Around 9:00 I'll bring any requested materials to the Hardware Park meeting room and check them out. I'll probably plan to stay at the meeting until around 9:30, but if you want an item and are going to be late let me know so I can stay until you get there.
3. Items will be checked out for one month, so they will be due back at the next monthly meeting. If you need to keep something longer please let me know; as long as no one else has requested it there shouldn't be a problem with keeping it an additional month. Questions, problems, suggestions, etc. can be sent to me at the above email address or see me at the meeting.

Thanks,  
Jane Rabey

## AAW Symposium in Louisville June 2023

Several from Birmingham have plans to attend the National Symposium which this year will take place in Louisville June 1-4, 2023. Last year we had ten who went to the National Symposium in Chattanooga, which qualified for an extra discount plus a reserved table at the banquet. If you are thinking of going, please let me (Carl Cummins) know now. I will start a list, and a little later I will collect pre-payment by check. If you have already registered just let me know that as well. You may contact me via the club email address [alawoodturners@gmail.com](mailto:alawoodturners@gmail.com)

### **Here is the offer from AAW:**

#### **Chapter Group Discount**

Back by popular demand with an even better discount! Register with your local chapter and receive a \$40 discount. Chapters that bulk register 10 or more AAW members receive a special discount rate of \$315 per member. Registration must be coordinated through a Chapter representative and be paid with check (not credit card). Applies to current chapter members who are also AAW members.

Includes opportunity to purchase dinner tickets and reserve chapter group dinner seating.

# WHAT EVERYONE HAS BEEN DOING



**CHRIS HENLEY - Lati with a Purple Heart ring**



**HOWARD KING**

Four pictures are of a Mushroom Patch I made for my youngest granddaughter. The mushrooms are made of Maple, Ambrosia Maple and Walnut. The red color was made with a Faber Casteel India Ink pen. The white blotches were done with Bic Rit-out. The base is Walnut.





# WHAT THE TINGLES HAVE BEEN DOING



**TIM TINGLE  
CANDLE HOLDER**



**TIM TINGLE  
CALDLE HOLDER**



**TIM TINGLE  
CANDLE HOLDER**



Terry Tingles  
granddaughter  
at the lathe.  
Below is the  
pen she  
completed.  
Nice job!



**TIM TINGLE  
CANDLE HOLDER**



# WHAT EVERYONE HAS BEEN DOING



**HOWARD KING  
VIEW 1**



**HOWARD KING  
VIEW 2**



**SANDY BISHOP**



**LYNN BASWELL**



**HOWARD KING  
Ambrosia Maple Hollow Form**



**BILL CASH**



**BILL CASH**



# WHAT EVERYONE HAS BEEN DOING



**RON HERBSTER**



**ROCKY KIMBLE**



**RON HERBSTER**



# WHAT EVERYONE HAS BEEN DOING



**JIM JOHNSON**



**JOHN SOWELL**  
Nothofagus (southern beech)



**JOHN SOWELL**  
Unknown Wood



**JOHN SOWELL**  
Box Elder



## FOR AUCTION FROM BILL HUBBARD'S COLLECTION

This month we are offering an attractive bark-edge mushroom turned from Persimmon by member Bill Calderwood.



# WHAT EVERYONE HAS BEEN DOING



**TERRY TINGLE PEN TURNING CLASS AT RMM**



**HAROLD DEASON**



**JOHN SOWELL**



**SANDY BISHOP**



**SUSAN McCALLA**



**ROCKY KIMBELL**



**BILL CASH**



## 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!'

John Sowell turned a bowl for the February challenge, won by Mike McPherson.

## 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: 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: Jane Rabey  
Training: Under Development  
Newsletter: Michelle Marken  
Webmaster: Carl Cummins

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