

Alabama Woodturners Association



Newsletter

MAY 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

MAY AWA PRESIDENT'S NOTE

We recently held a board meeting to discuss getting insurance for our equipment at Red Mountain Makers. At the end of that discussion, Carl reminded us that we made an agreement with Red Mountain Makers to offer at least two classes a month to the public. So far, only a few of us have been helping to fulfill that obligation. If we held up that obligation, we would have access to the class area, pretty much whenever we needed it, if it didn't interfere with other classes or open hours for RMM members. We have barely met that obligation. The thing is: we have so many members who are such great turners. Every month, I am in awe of the items brought for show and tell.

I would like to share something with all of you. Most of you know, up until this year, I have turned nothing but pens. I, along with Harold Deason, did a demo last year, mainly because we could not secure someone to do a demo for us. I must admit that I was a little anxious giving a turning demo before so many experienced turners. But I did it because it needed to be done. And I learned a lot from doing the demo. It took courage, but y'all were very supportive, and not at all critical. You did make suggestions as to how I might turn the pens differently. Of course, there are always different ways to produce any product. All this to say, I am glad I faced my fears and went ahead with the demo.

All this to say, if you are good at turning something, please consider doing a demo for one of our club meetings. It doesn't even have to be the hour and a half that our professionals offer. Do you have a fear of talking in front of a group, or maybe suffer from a lack of confidence? Well, join the club. I guess the only advantage I have is that I am used to speaking to small and large groups of people. I will say this, if you would like to do a demo for our group but feel that you might be too anxious to do that, I would be willing to help you with your anxiety. Maybe we need to practice doing demos in front of a small group of people. Would that help? We are all in this together, so let's work on what we need to work on, to help our club succeed. If you are good at turning something, I guarantee there are other folks in our club who would love to learn from your experience. I am not trying to lay a guilt trip on anyone. But I would like to encourage those of you who have never considered doing a demo, to please consider it. When David Fancher first brought me to the meetings, I never ever thought that I would be in front of our group, doing a demo. And it wasn't bad at all.

Now, I would also say that I have had the same kind of experience teaching classes there at RMM. I learn something in every class I teach. It may be realizing a different way to approach a student's problem with tool technique. It might be realizing that I need to approach the class from a different perspective. It might be learning how to teach four students at a time, who are on four different levels of experience with turning.

If you think you might be good at teaching a class, but don't feel confident enough to do it by yourself, we have a group of folks who have been through training, who would be willing to assist you with your class. (Including me) I am not just thinking about our obligation to our club, or to RMM. Teaching is an opportunity to grow.

Terry

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APRIL MEETING WITH MARK SILLAY



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.



MAY BIRTHDAYS

TERRY TINGLE	5/10
TIM TINGLE	5/10
JACK WEBB	5/10
JIM BLACK	5/30

Dues **MUST** be **CURRENT** to be included in the birthday list.

MAY DEMONSTRATOR IS STEVE PRITCHARD

A Gonk is a mythical Scandinavian creature that inhabits barns and other farm buildings. Gonks normally look out for the farmer and their family, but can turn mischievous when they are ignored or annoyed. Turned Gonks can be made to be Christmas tree ornaments, bottle stoppers, gifts or just a conversation piece that sits on the mantel or shelf. They make great gifts especially when made to fit the person's hobby, lifestyle, job etc. The variations are only limited by one's imagination. One thing is sure, no one can look at a gonk without smiling.



Simple Gonks are a great beginner project and a great way to practice basic turning skills. However, they can be an enjoyable project for more advanced turners by adding arms, legs and other accessories like spears, bows, bags (think Santa), funky hats, beads, ribbons, balloons, etc. They can be masculine or feminine, cute or scruffy, sophisticated or crude. When your family and friends see them, you will be making more for sure!



Do you have a spouse that isn't interested in your turning? Get them involved in coming up with Gonk ideas. Linda and I have great fun coming up with the next idea for a Gonk.

All you need is a few scraps from around the shop, some fake fur, and a little glue and you are ready to make a Gonk!

About Steve Pritchard

Steve was born in a very small town in South Dakota in the late 40's and grew up on his parents' farm there. In 1970, he received a BS from South Dakota State University and moved to Texas to enter the Air Force pilot training program. After graduation, he became a T-38 pilot instructor at Webb AFB and later, an instructor at the instructor pilot training school at Randolph AFB in San Antonio. After leaving the Air Force, he held jobs in sales and teaching and in 1995 he moved to the Atlanta area to become the IT manager for the US District Court in Atlanta from which he retired in 2007.

As he approached retirement age, he was considering building furniture. However a stray memory of using a lathe when he was young, resulted in his purchasing an inexpensive Craftsman lathe and a true addiction soon set in. He started out with his Craftsman in the basement of his home, and eventually graduated to half of his four car garage. He now has two Powermatic 3520's and a couple of mini lathes.

Over the years, he has done his share of production turning for craft shows around the southeastern US. Eventually, he tired of production turning and began to make cremation urns. Since around 2020, 90+% of what he makes are pet or human urns. The rest being artistic pieces for shows and exhibits.

Steve has demonstrated at local clubs and regional symposiums from Florida to New York and teaches two one-week classes each year at the John C. Campbell Folk School.

Steve is currently active in three clubs in the Atlanta area. He is a two-time past president and current board Secretary and Webmaster for the Georgia Association of Woodturners (GAW), Webmaster for the West Georgia Woodturners, board Secretary for the South Metro Woodturners, and a long time member of the American Association of Woodturners (AAW).



Volunteer Needed for the Top of the Tree!

We need an AWA member to volunteer to be the maker of the 2023 tree topper for our Children's Hospital Christmas Tree. The design of the tree topper will be the full prerogative of this year's volunteer. The photos below will give you an idea of what has been created in the last number of years.



2009 TREE TOPPER
LARRY THOMAS



2012 TREE TOPPER
TOMMY HARTLINE



2013 TREE TOPPER
TOMMY HARTLINE



2015 TREE TOPPER
TOMMY HARTLINE



2016 TREE TOPPER
JUSTIN MILLER



2017 TREE TOPPER
JUSTIN MILLER



2018 TREE TOPPER
JUSTIN MILLER



2022 TREE TOPPER
CARL CUMMINS

Larry Thomas 2007-2011

Tommy Hartline 2012-2015

Justin Miller 2016-2019

Carl Cummins 2022

If you are willing to take on this opportunity to volunteer contact Sandra McMillan at macdra47@gmail.com

Also, remember to bring your ornaments to the May meeting! To meet our goal we need to collect more than 30 ornaments per meeting for the next six meetings.

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

Bill Hubbard Collection



This month we are offering this ***Sea Urchin Ornament.*** The diameter is 2-1/4" and the overall length is 9-1/2". This comes from the Bill Hubbard collection, but we don't know who made it.

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
AWA Librarian

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

Any discount has expired.

There will be nearly two dozen top-flight demonstrators and panelists, scores of demonstrations, three auctions, plus a banquet. Several from AWA are going, so come join in the fun! If you are interested please inform Terry or Carl so we'll know to look for you.

WHAT EVERYONE HAS BEEN DOING



CHRIS HENLEY

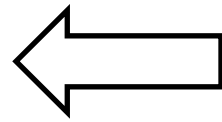
CHRIS HENLEY



SUSAN MCCALLA
BURL ANGELS

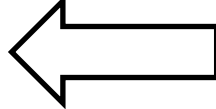


SUSAN MCCALLA
Ornament display at
Harrison Gallery in Tuscaloosa.
Wood native to different parts
of world depicted on map.
Best in Show!



SUSAN MCCALLA

Bowls of Siberian Elm
from the campus of the
University of Alabama
in Tuscaloosa.



RON HERBSTER

WHAT DWIGHT HOSTETTER HAS BEEN DOING



Dwight Hostetter

Blanket chest made for my oldest grandson and his fiancée for their wedding. (Plans came out of an old Shop Notes magazine.)

Mostly cherry wood with inserted eastern red cedar in bottom of upper box. Main box has dovetail joints done on the table saw. Three drawers with cherry face and dovetailed drawer sides, interior front, and back of poplar. Bottoms of drawer are hardboards. Hardware is Chippendale style. The lock plate is a faux lock (no lock installed only a drilled hole painted black inside opening). The finish is several coats of brushed-on and wipe-on poly. Then the whole chest was wet hand sanded (except lid) with 600, 1000, 1200, & 2000 grit sandpaper. The lid was sanded with a random orbital sander up to 3000 grit. Then car polish was hand applied and then two coats of carnauba wax. Total time to make was more than two hundred hours.



WHAT EVERYONE HAS BEEN DOING



HOWARD KING
Cherry Burl Bowl
2 VIEWS



MARK HARRIS



MARK HARRIS



MARK HARRIS



MAURICE CLABAUGH
15 Inch Platter "Bird Shot" Pecan

WHAT EVERYONE HAS BEEN DOING



MAURICE CLABAUGH
"Spots" Wormy Red Oak 11-inch Basket Bowl



MAURICE CLABAUGH
"Pear Cup" Bradford Pear 13" three footed bowls



MAURICE CLABAUGH
"Antique Barber's Bowl" Sycamore 10" Bowl
(Bark edge bowl front is recessed for client's neck)



MAURICE CLABAUGH
"BOSS HOG" Spalted Red Oak 8-inch bowl
(Notice the Natural "Boss Hog" Character in the bark)



RANDY TYNER



WHAT EVERYONE HAS BEEN DOING



RANDY TYNER



RANDY TYNER



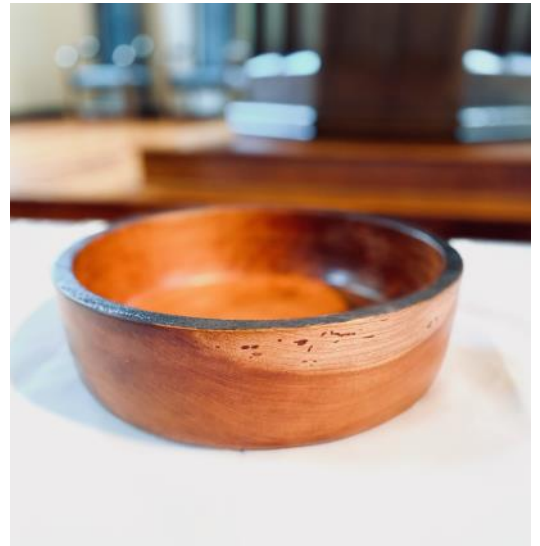
BILL CASH



WILLIAM ONEAL

4 VIEWS

This is from a cherry tree that was harvested 100 years ago (at least that is what I was told by the architect I bought it from).



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 want to watch the video of Karl Harper turning here is the link!
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n_XGRjlvMDk

COPY & PASTE
Also on the AWA website.



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!'

Pete Marken turned a bowl for the April challenge, won by James Vaughn.

Turning Pens for Troops

Turning pens for the troops sponsored by Woodcraft has been a long-time project of our club. This project provides pen to our troops all over the world. Several of our members have met soldiers that have received a pen. All the service members speak of how much this meant to them and that they still have the pen. Last year, our club turned in over 300 pens! How the program works is that for every pen that we turn in Woodcraft gives us a slimline pen kit to make another one with. This makes it very important that if you pick up a pen kit at a meeting, that you complete the pen before the next meeting. This lets us get new kits to make more pens with. Also, you are not limited to using a pen kit from the club. You can make any pen that you want and donate to the project. Every kit that you pick up will have a Pen for Troops card in it. This is for you to write a message to the service member. Please be sure to sign the card. Currently, there are only a handful of members that are making pens for the project. Lee Beadles has taken this challenge to heart and has turned in 125 pens just this year! Please consider taking on the challenge of this project and Turn a Pen for our Troops. I know that we all want to thank and recognize our troops for what they do for us. So far this year, we have turned in over 200 pens.
David Fancher



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