

Alabama Woodturners Association



Newsletter

AUGUST 2025

A member of the American Association of Woodturners
Meeting at Oak Mountain State Park in Pelham
Meeting time: The second Saturday of each month at 9 am

AUGUST AWA PRESIDENT'S NOTE

I hope you are looking forward to our cookout this month at Oak Mountain State Park. The Sandpiper Pavilion is located very close to the beach and the lake, so swimming and fishing is conveniently close by. Chris Henley is bringing about 30 hot dogs and David Fancher is bringing some hamburgers, already grilled, and kept warm in a crockpot. So, we will need:

Charcoal for grilling	Drinks, soft drinks, tea, etc.
Plates	Plastic ware
Cups	Napkins
Hamburger buns	Hot dog buns
Mustard	Ketchup
Sauerkraut	Chips
Deviled eggs	Potato Salad
Baked beans	

Other vegetables, green beans/ green bean casseroles, slaw, etc.

Jodean and I are bringing homemade vanilla ice cream. If you are bringing homemade ice cream, please let us know, and what flavor. Cobblers go great with ice cream, hint, hint.

I would suggest that each family bring enough vegetables and desserts for your own family plus one other family. For our church potlucks, that seems to provide enough food for everyone.

Please let Carl know what food you are bringing. That way, we can make sure we have a good variety of foods, and not 10 green bean casseroles.

You are welcome to get there any time you wish. If we start gathering around 10am with the plan to eat around 11:00, that will give us enough time to grill, etc.

There are several tables in the pavilion, but you are welcome to bring a table if you want to, and tablecloths. The picnic tables will provide seating, but if you want something more comfortable, you are welcome to bring your own chairs. I will be bringing a couple of board games; sequence and Rummikub. If you have games that you enjoy playing, please bring them. If you have never played 3-13 with cards, you will be surprised at how much fun that is!

All family members will be welcomed to our gathering, spouses, dates, friends, children, grandchildren. If you have any questions, please text me. 256-339-4040. Thanks! Terry

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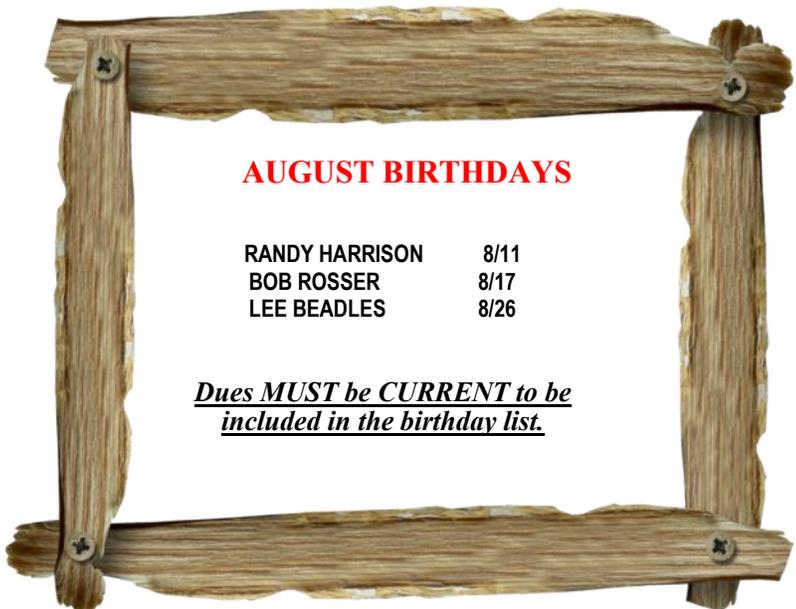
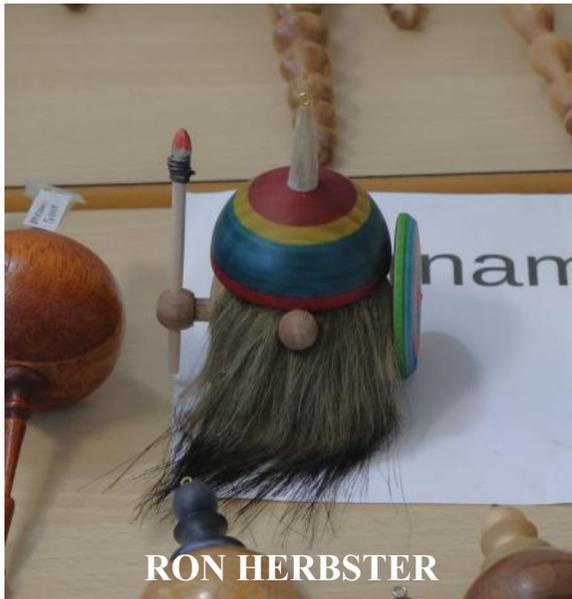
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Christmas Ornaments turned in July.

Please see the note from
Sandra McMillan on page 4.



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

RANDY HARRISON 8/11
BOB ROSSER 8/17
LEE BEADLES 8/26

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.

RECAP OF JULY MEETING WITH RON HERBSTER





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



**Children's
of Alabama®**



SANDRA McMILLAN

Typically, the Children's Christmas Tree Project has a ten-month time horizon ending our collections at our October meeting. This year the tree will be decorated on the second Sunday in November, which is the 9th. We gain an extra month of production which is nice but not an excuse to procrastinate.

This year has been different since all 329 ornaments were used in 2024. We always fill the tree and any ornaments left start us off for the next year. As of our July meeting we have 188 ornaments collected from eight members. To achieve our final goal of 300 ornaments we need:

More members participating
All participants produce as many ornaments as possible

There are a few items to remember when making an ornament. First, the weight of the ornament must be considered. Heavy ornaments weigh down the tree limb. Ornaments should weigh less than three ounces (2.5 ounces is even better) and therefore hollowing is necessary. Longer ornaments can be used but they will only hang from the lowest limbs. Shorter ornaments are easier to place on the tree. The perfect tree is one that includes the complex ornaments that demonstrate all the woodturning skills of our members as well as the fun and funky ornaments that everyone loves. There is plenty of opportunity to donate what you enjoy making.

Ornaments will not be collected at our August Picnic at Oak Mountain State Park due to logistics. Save those to bring to our September meeting. If you are committed to making ornaments and will not be able to be at the September meeting, it would be helpful to know that we can count on your ornaments. Let Sandra McMillan know your situation by emailing her at macdra47@gmail.com.

Many thanks to eight members who have contributed ornaments already. They are Ron Herbster, Chris Henley, Dwight Hostetler, Carl Cummins, Bill Calderwood, John Killion, Gary Garris, and Mike Briscoe.

Chris Henley volunteered to make the Tree Topper for 2025. Thanks to Chris for taking on this task. I know that the topper will be beautiful.

WHAT EVERYONE HAS BEEN DOING



CARL CUMMINS
Ladles made out of Ash



CARL CUMMINS



CARL CUMMINS



RON HERBSTER
Acrylic Bowl

WHAT EVERYONE HAS BEEN DOING



ROCKY KIMBLE



LEE FERGUSON



LEE FERGUSON

WHAT EVERYONE HAS BEEN DOING



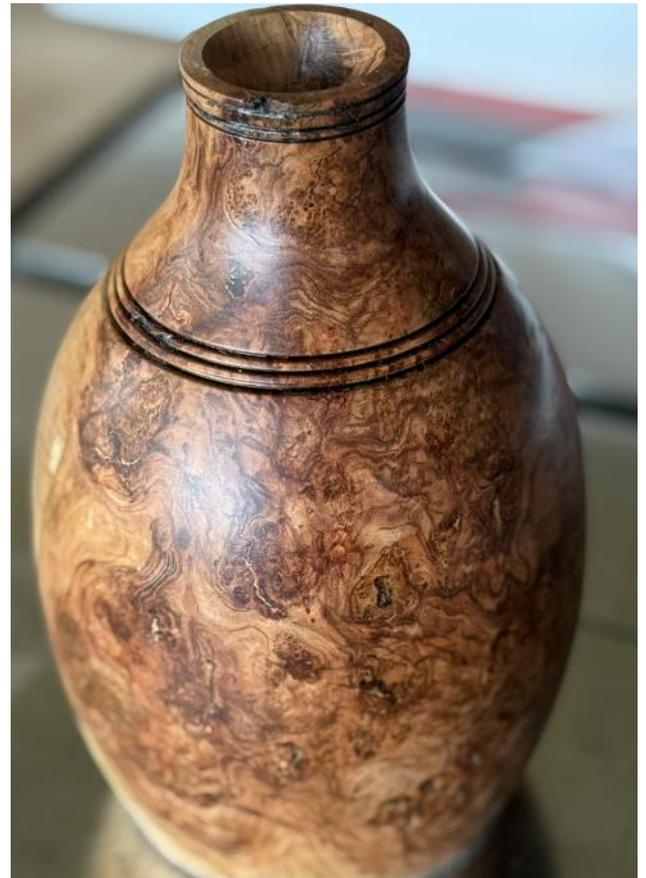
CARL CUMMINS
Lidded bowl Holly/Purpleheart 5"x4.5"



CARL CUMMINS
Elm bowl 10"x3"



CARL CUMMINS



RANDY TYNER
Cherry Burl urn/vase



**MARTIN
COGEN**

WHAT EVERYONE HAS BEEN DOING



DWIGHT HOSTETTER



LEE BEADLES

This picture is of my last 25 pens I turned for Woodcraft. That makes me a total of 125 for this year that I have turned in. Looking forward to making more after I get to Wichita.



LEE BEADLES

This is a picture of my family's Christmas gifts of a pepper grinder/saltshaker that I turned.

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

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.

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 Killian turned an Australian Red Gum Burl bowl for the July challenge, won by Mike Briscoe for September-2025 .

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.

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.

From David Fancher;

Pen for troops is doing great with 183 pens turned in. Lee Beadles has made hundreds of pens for this project over the years. Lee is moving to Kansas and will be missed. He plans to continue to turn pens for troops in his new state.



LEADERSHIP

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