

Alabama Woodturners Association



Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2025

A member of the American Association of Woodturners
Meeting at Hardware Park, 811 5th Avenue North, Birmingham
Meeting time: The second Saturday of each month at 9 am

SEPTEMBER AWA PRESIDENT'S NOTE

I want to thank everyone who manned our booths at Tinglewood this year. Lynn Baswell came bringing wood and his tools but ended up not turning anything. Rocky Kimble and Chris Henley spent most of the day on the lathes. Ron Herbster brought his midi-lathe, and I brought my brother Tim's mini-Jet lathe, so we had two lathes going at the same time, most of the day. Lee Ferguson also did a lot of turning.

I was grateful to see so many folks from our club show up. What impressed me was that Chris and Rocky and Lee not only did demos, but they initiated a lot of conversations with folks walking by, about their demos and our club. Several times, I counted at least 12 people watching our turning demos. Lee and Chris and Rocky turned spinning tops, bowls, and mushrooms, and explained what they were doing while they were doing it. Rocky talked a lot about his bowls. Their enthusiasm for woodturning was awesome, and fun to witness.

We shared a lot of brochures about our club and invited numerous people to our meeting this coming Saturday. You never know when that kind of enthusiasm will pay off and get someone hooked on our habit.

David Fancher and I turned several pens for the troops, and encouraged folks to write notes to them on the back of the "Turn for Troops" card. Thanks to David for supplying pen blanks ready to turn.

I had the opportunity to talk with several folks about Red Mountain Makers, and our club's close association with RMM. I wished I had had a brochure about RMM to hand out. Maybe that is something for us to shoot for going forward.

It was a long day, but we enjoyed each other's company. We were very lucky that storms passed on either side of us but missed us completely. It did get a little hot for a couple of hours, but we enjoyed a good breeze most of the day. They have built a new stage with access to all the electricity we needed. Congratulations to Ron Herbster for getting "Best in Class" for woodturning. And it is always a treat for my grandkids to get to see new personalities carved into trees there, by Tim Tingle's chainsaws. (not my brother Tim, but our cousin)

I am looking forward to Chris Henely's demo Saturday. And as always, we will be setting everything up on Friday at 2:00 at Hardware Park. Terry

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CHRIS HENLEY WILL BE DOING THE SEPTEMBER DEMO



Chris Henley grew up watching his parents dabbling in woodworking. When COVID hit, forcing people to stay home, he decided to spend more time in his barn and give woodworking a try. About six months later, a friend showed him how to use a lathe and a week later Chris bought his first. He's been hooked ever since.

Chris started out learning everything he could from YouTube, watching woodworkers such as James Hamilton (StumpyNubs) and Colin Knecht. In one turning video, the youtuber mentioned he was inspired by a presentation he saw at his local woodturning group. Ten minutes later, Chris found the AWA website and reached out for more information. A day or so later, he met Carl Cummins and turned his first bowl. Chris said finding the guild was a blessing and he's learned much from all the members. Chris enjoys turning just about anything that strikes his interest. Hoping to give back to the community, he has taken to making Christmas ornaments and represents the guild at wood festivals, where he turns tops and whistles for the delight of children.

The presentation this month will be a tree topper angel. Chris has worked on this design for over a year, though he admits he's still perfecting it. Last year he debuted a similarly designed cherub. This larger piece includes fluting using a custom jig Chris designed.



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

JERRY HANCHEY	9-1
RANDY TYNER	9-7
JAMES ELDER	9-9
MARTY WATKINS	9-13

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 AUGUST MEETING AT OAK MOUNTAIN STATE PARK



Ron Herbst
received the "Best
in Show" for wood
turning at Tingle-
wood Festival on
9-6





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



Children's
of Alabama®



As of our July meeting we have 188 ornaments collected from eight members (no collections were made at our August picnic). To achieve our final goal of 300 ornaments we need:

- More members participating
- All participants producing as many ornaments as possible

Please bring all your ornaments created over the last two months. It seems that when everyone makes what they enjoy turning we have amazing variety.

Please remember to bring your ornaments to our next meeting on September 13th.. We need to start ticking off ornaments received toward our 2025 ornament goal of 300 ornaments!



WHAT EVERYONE HAS BEEN DOING



CARL CUMMINS



CARL CUMMINS



DWIGHT HOSETTER
Making handles and holders for
Woodcraft 16" pizza cutters.



HOWARD KING

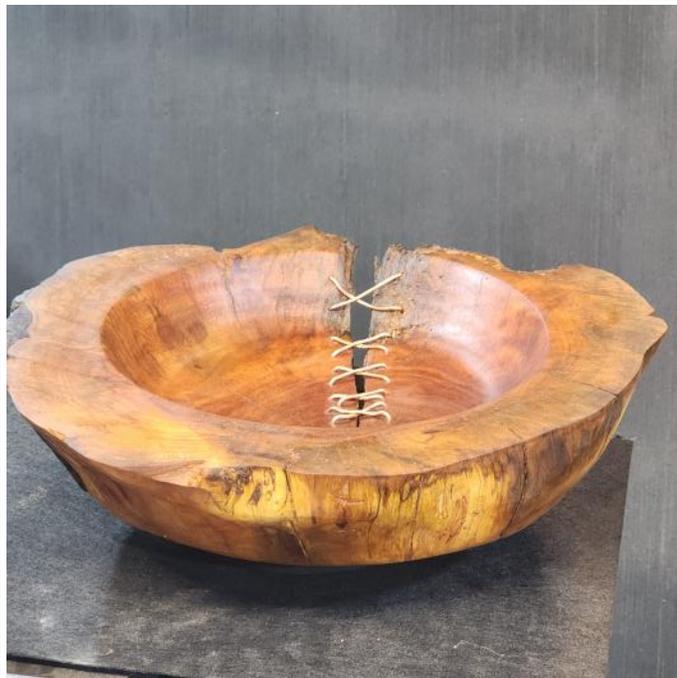
WHAT EVERYONE HAS BEEN DOING



HOWARD KING



MARK HARRIS
BLACK CHERRY



MARK HARRIS
Copper stitched Dogwood



MARK HARRIS
Copper stitched Dogwood

WHAT EVERYONE HAS BEEN DOING



MARK HARRIS
Flame Box Elder

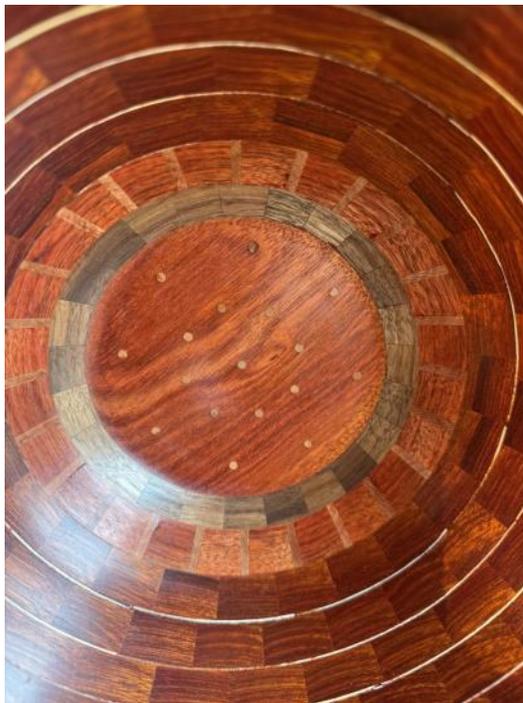


MARK HARRIS
Spalted Maple



MIKE BRISCOE

WHAT RANDY TYNER HAS BEEN DOING



RANDY TYNER

This bowl is made with over 500 pieces of blood wood walnut and sycamore. Made for my cousin who is getting married the weekend of 9-6.

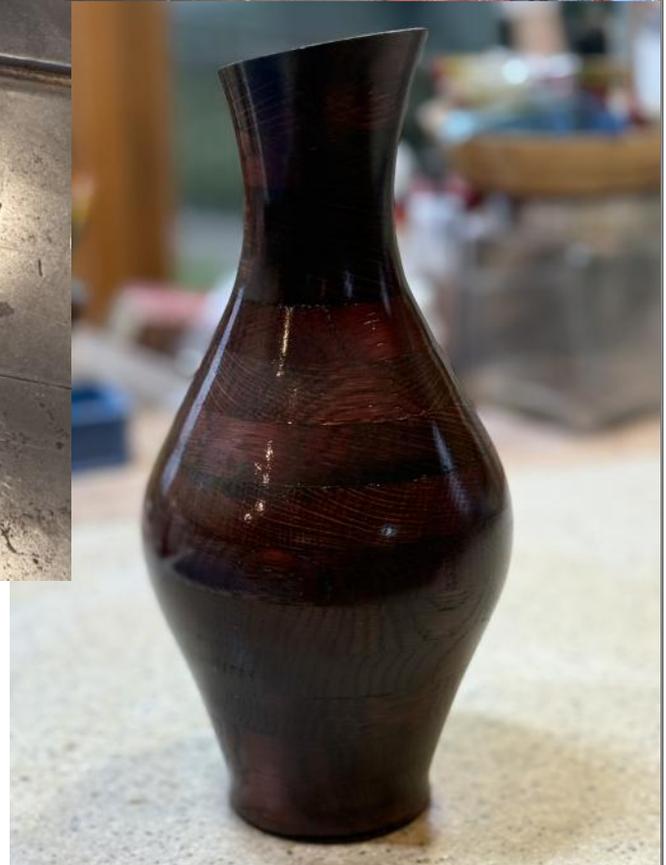


WHAT RANDY TYNER HAS BEEN DOING



RANDY TYNER

Plywood end grain and mahogany boarders



Stained oak with leather dye

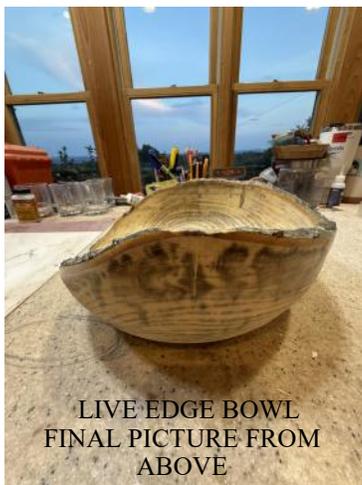
WHAT RANDY TYNER HAS BEEN DOING



SMALL NATURAL EDGE BOWL



Live edge. I about got it too thin. See the light showing thru the edge.



LIVE EDGE BOWL
FINAL PICTURE FROM
ABOVE



SMALL
LIVE EDGE
BOWL



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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Vice President: Harold Deason
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Board: Scott Arnold
Board: Rocky Kimble

Board: John Sowell
Librarian: Jane Rabey
Training: Under Development
Newsletter: Michelle Marken
Webmaster: Carl Cummins