

# Alabama Woodturners Association



# Newsletter

DECEMBER 2025

A member of the American Association of Woodturners  
Gardendale Presbyterian Church, 200 Tarrant Road, Gardendale, AL 35071  
Meeting time: The second Saturday of each month at 9 am

## DECEMBER AWA PRESIDENT'S NOTE

**Due to the nature of the party/meeting and change in location, there will be no Zoom**

We will be meeting at the same place we did last year for our annual Christmas/Holiday celebration, Gardendale Presbyterian Church. The church is located on Tarrant Road about a block from Hwy 31. (200 Tarrant Road) If you are coming from the South, turn right onto Tarrant Road. If you come from the North, turn left onto Tarrant Road. If you need help finding it, please call me at 256 – 339 – 4030. Sometimes Maps doesn't give great directions.

We will open the doors at 9:30 to set up chairs and tables. A member of the church is coming early that morning to turn the heat on. There is a kitchen with a stove and refrigerator. I'll bring a small microwave and a 2-burner Buffet burner if you need to keep food warm. Let's plan to eat around 11:00.

We will be having an auction to raise funds for the club, so if you have an item you would like to donate for the auction, please bring it.

For you who want to participate in the gift swap, please bring something you've made, or bring something of value around \$15 - \$20.

We will do our December birthday drawing but will not do the Karl Harper Challenge or show and tell.

If you bought tickets for raffles during the year, those tickets will be the ones that we use to draw for our Grand Prizes.

For our Grand Prize drawing, we are offering 8 prizes:

A mini hollowing set

A mini embellishing set

4 Woodcraft gift cards, each worth \$25.00

1 Woodcraft gift card worth \$50.00, compliments of Woodcraft of Birmingham.

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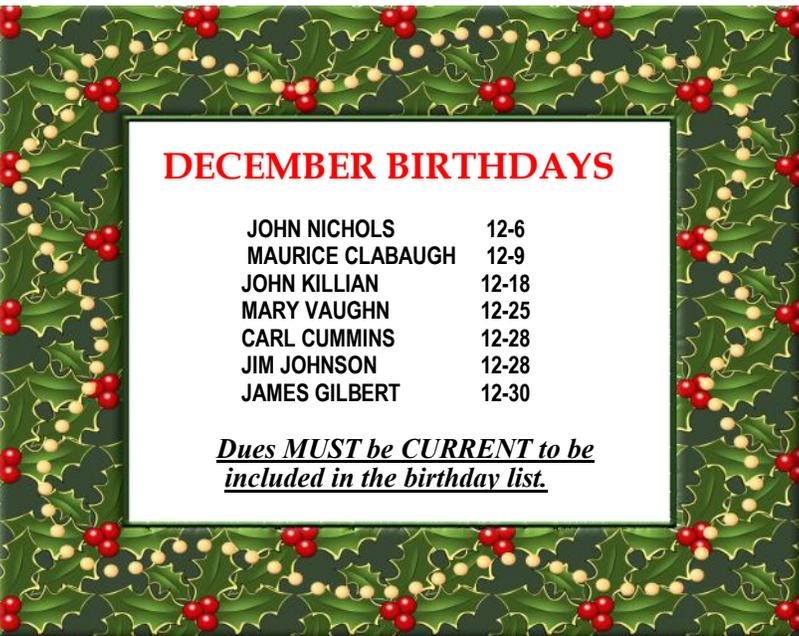
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At this time of year, I think about the many folks who deserve our thanks. Those who have stepped up and agreed to do demonstrations for us. Those who take care of the audio-visuals during our meetings. John Rhymes and Rocky Kimble were there faithfully, making sure that each meeting was recorded and zoom set up so all our members could have access to our demos. Michelle Marken has “manned” the front table, taken care of the tickets for the raffles, and puts together our newsletter each month. Sandra McMillan has not only made a lot of Christmas ornaments but keeps us updated on the count. I went to Children’s Hospital and took pictures of the tree that our club, with some help from North Alabama Woodturners, provided for the hospital’s fundraising project. While I was taking pictures, a lot of people stopped by and were in awe of the skill displayed in those ornaments. Many thanks for Jane Rabey for taking care of our library. David Fancher brings donuts for each meeting and takes care of our “Pen for Troops” project, and makes sure the pens get turned into Woodcraft. Many thanks for our faithful few who always show up to set up on Friday and make sure we are ready for our meetings on Saturday. And many thanks to Carl Cummins for taking care of our account and records, and for keeping me straight. Really! Many thanks for all of you who have invited new people to our meetings. It is amazing how much talent that you all have, and I’m thankful for your willingness to share your work with the club.

I am extremely thankful for Red Mountain Makers, our class area there, the flexible hours that they are willing to offer us, and the advertising they do for us.

Next month, Howard King will be demonstrating the McNaughton coring system as he turns two bowls from one piece of wood. Sandra McMillan will be presenting her Karl Harper challenge piece.

Looking forward to seeing you Saturday. 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.**

## RECAP OF NOVEMBER DEMO BY CHRIS HENLEY

Goblets, chalices, and various stemware can be a fun project for any turner. With a variety of sizes and shapes, these projects can serve as an introduction to turning all the way up to a complex display of skill, talent and beautiful wood.

Stemware is typically turning by hollowing the cup followed by crafting the stem. To stabilize the cup, some form of non-marring jig is typically attached to the tailstock. This can be anything from a jam chuck to a tennis ball. Chris took the inspiration from another product and made his own – a cast silicon rubber cone.



The main difference between goblets and chalices is the level of detail. With proper support, a turner can add all manner of beads, coves, flats, and other details to the project to make a chalice stand out. One option Chris plans to incorporate into this demonstration is a captured ring. Also popular in stemware turning is to fuse wood and epoxy to create unique designs. With effort and an eye for embellishment, even a simple goblet can become a showpiece for any collection.





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



**Children's  
of Alabama®**

**Children's Hospital AWA Christmas Ornament Project**

Once again, this year we have a beautifully decorated tree. The family of Bill West, a past president, decorated our 2025 Christmas tree on November 9<sup>th</sup>. The tree has been in the lobby of Children's Hospital for the last month for viewing. Mike and Ann Warren purchased our tree benefitting Children's and then donated it to Encore Respite for All. Encore is a program that provides a break for care givers of individuals with dementia. On December 12<sup>th</sup> following Encore's Side by Side Community Concert, the ornaments will be sold. All in all, at this time of giving, AWA's contributions has provided a little relief to our neighbors who struggle with difficult challenges every day.

Thank you to all AWA members who contributed to the cause this year. Also, thank you to our AWA leadership who has encourage us to give back to our community for so many years.



2025 Tree at  
Children's Hospital of Alabama



West Family



Interesting  
picture of the  
hospital.



# WHAT EVERYONE HAS BEEN DOING



**BILL CALDERWOOD**  
Goblet and Mushroom



**BILL CALDERWOOD**  
Holding his goblet



**LINN BASWELL**  
Vase



**LINN BASWELL**



**LYNN BASWELL**  
Bradford pear replica of a cannon shot

# WHAT EVERYONE HAS BEEN DOING



HOWARD KING



HOWARD KING



# WHAT EVERYONE HAS BEEN DOING



**TIM NAGY**  
Spalted Oak FOG  
Fell out of Cole jaws while finishing the foot



**TIM NAGY**  
Red Cedar



**RANDY TYNER**  
Spalted Maple



**RANDY TYNER**  
from Woodcraft scrap wood bin

# WHAT EVERYONE HAS BEEN DOING



**RANDY TYNER**  
Pistachio



**CARL CUMMINS**  
"Turning Escoulen Style"  
demo for Tri-State Woodturners



**RANDY TYNER**  
Flower pods: Walnut, Mahogany, Quilted Cherry, Zebrawood, Lacewood

# WHAT DAVID HAUSEMAN HAS BEEN DOING

## **FROM DAVID:**

I am working on making six Nativity Scenes for Christmas presents. However, I have a substantial amount of work left to finish still so this is just a work in process. Perhaps the wise men might have to follow after the first of the year (LOL).



# WHAT DWIGHT HOSTETTER HAS BEEN DOING



Osage Orange Natural Edge Bowl



Three flower vases



Trivets



Mahogany flower vase



Spectra-ply  
Christmas ornament

# WHAT EVERYONE HAS BEEN DOING



**RON HERBSTER**



**SUSAN MCCALLA**



**CARL CUMMINS**  
Spalted and cracked Boxwood.  
Larger box is 4" x 2.5"



**CARL CUMMINS**  
Cross-grain Box in London Plane 4" x 3"



**CARL CUMMINS**  
Elm 7" x 2"

# WHAT MARK HARRIS HAS BEEN DOING



Black Cherry Burl 1



Black Cherry Burl 2



Black Cherry Sculpture



Black Cherry Hollow Turning 1



Black Cherry Hollow Turning 2



Black Cherry Vase



Box Elder Live Edge 2



Box Elder Live Edge 1



Bradford Pear Hollow Turning

# WHAT EVERYONE IS DOING



**NORRIS JACKMAN**



**HOWARD KING**



**HOWARD KING**



**ROCKY KIMBLE**  
Karl Harper Challenge Apple

## 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](mailto: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 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.



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!'

Rocky Kimble turned an apple for the November challenge, won by Sandra McMillian for January-2026.

### 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:

Pens for troops pen total so far is 258. The number of pens turned in has slowed in the last few months. If you have a pen kit, please try to finish it and turn it in at our next meeting. If you're interested in supporting our troops with this program, pen kits and blanks already tubed are available at every meeting



## LEADERSHIP

President: Terry Tingle  
Vice President: Harold Deason  
Secretary: John Rhymes  
Treasurer: Carl Cummins  
Board: Scott Arnold  
Board: Rocky Kimble

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