

# Alabama Woodturners Association



# Newsletter

JANUARY 2026

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  
[www.alabamawoodturners.com](http://www.alabamawoodturners.com)

## JANUARY AWA PRESIDENT'S NOTE

### Note from Michelle:

We have a new president AND vice president. Lee Ferguson is our new president and Chris Henley is the new vice president. Welcome to our new officers!

### Note from Lee our new president:

Welcome to 2026! I trust everyone had a happy and safe holiday season. We had a very nice December meeting, getting to see everyone and visit with friends. Our auction was a success, thank you to those who donated items and those who bid on those items. We have an exciting year in the works with great demos and more ways to keep the knowledge flowing. So, get your gouges ready and your wood between centers because we are going to TURN this year into something great!

We will meet at Hardware Park this Friday at 2pm to set up for Saturday's meeting. January is a good time to invite a friend to the club.

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

JOE PETRANKA  
TERRY JAMES

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# JANUARY DEMO BY HOWARD KING



**Howard's History:** I have been woodturning since the 1980's while building furniture. I turned on a Delta-Rockwell 12" spindle lathe making table legs, fern stands, quilt racks, sconces, candle holders and bowls. Now I turn almost exclusively bowls, hollow form vessels, urns, plaques, etc. I turn these items primarily using native hardwoods such as Walnut, Cherry, Ambrosia Maple, Box Elder, Oak (red & white), Bradford Pear, Maple and Privet. I especially enjoy turning burl and woods with highly figured grain. Woods with very plain wood grain patterns I try to embellish the turned piece using coloring, carving, piercing, pyrography and texturing.

**Demo:** I will discuss the best way to prepare a block of wood for the most desirable result as a turned object. This involves ways in cutting up a log or limb to maximize the grain pattern and in the final shape of the turned object. I'll follow up this discussion by turning a block of wood demonstrating these ideas.



**Afternoon class:** We will discuss and lead the participants in trying various methods of embellishment. These include pyrography, piercing, carving, etc.



**HAPPY**

**JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

|                  |      |
|------------------|------|
| TERRY WHITE      | 1-6  |
| JAMES WEBB       | 1-7  |
| KEVIN DENNY      | 1-11 |
| PAT JOHNSON      | 1-12 |
| DWIGHT HOSTETTER | 1-14 |
| DAVID ROWE       | 1-22 |
| JOHN SOWELL      | 1-22 |
| NANCY DEASON     | 1-29 |

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

**BIRTHDAY**

## 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 DECEMBER CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON



GROUP PICTURE

## AUCTION ITEMS



**2 OF GRAND PRIZES**  
These are from the raffle tickets you can purchase at each meeting.



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



**Children's  
of Alabama®**

**We have nothing new for January. Please bring your ornaments to the meeting.  
We will need about 300 ornaments for the 2026 tree at Children's Hospital.**

**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



**DWIGHT HOSTETTER**  
4.5' long by 19" high by 11.25" wide  
old fashion style sitting bench



**DWIGHT HOSTETTER**  
. End grain spiraling squares trivet or  
small cutting board – 9" square by 1" thick



**HOWARD KING**



**RON HERBSTER**

# WHAT EVERYONE HAS BEEN DOING



**HOWARD KING**



**LYNN BASWELL**  
Pierced ship in a broken bottle



**RON HERBSTER**  
All 3



# WHAT EVERYONE HAS BEEN DOING



**LEE FERGUSON**  
Osage Orange platter



**LEE FERGUSON**  
Walnut bowl with black palm finial

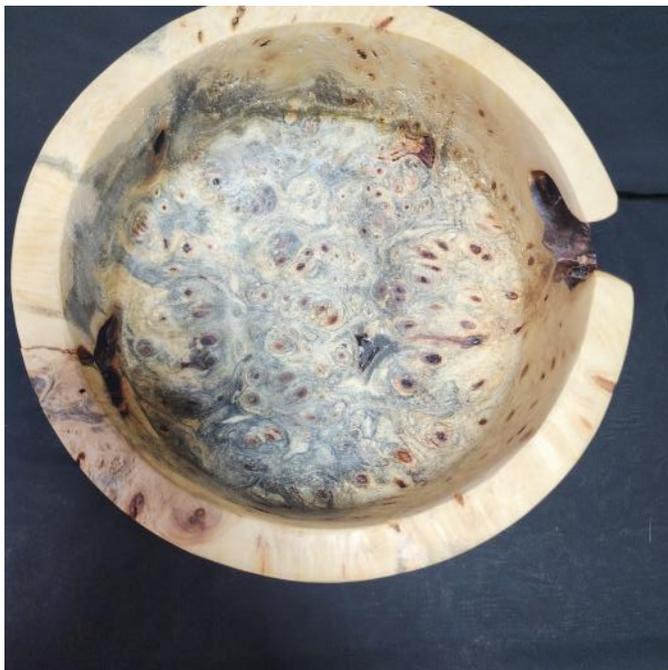


**LEE FERGUSON**  
Walnut bowl with pyrography

# WHAT EVERYONE HAS BEEN DOING



**MARK HARRIS**  
4 VIEWS OF THE SAME BOWL



# WHAT EVERYONE HAS BEEN DOING



**MARK HARRIS**  
4 Views of the same piece



# WHAT EVERYONE IS DOING



**RANDY TYNER**

From an Oak tree with 26" diameter trunk.

## 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:**

It's been a great year for pens for troops. This year over 300 pens were created for the troops. Over the last three years, that is over 1000 pens! According to Dean at Woodcraft, he expects the store to again be one of the top three stores in the nation. Also, this year we have had more members turning pens. If you have any interest in participating in this project, please see me at the meeting and have a doughnut.



## LEADERSHIP

President: Lee Ferguson  
Vice President: Chris Henley  
Secretary: John Rhymes  
Treasurer: Carl Cummins  
Board: Scott Arnold

Board: Rocky Kimble  
Librarian: Jane Rabey  
Training: Under Development  
Newsletter: Michelle Marken  
Webmaster: Carl Cummins