

Alabama Woodturners Association



Newsletter

FEBRUARY 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

FEBRUARY AWA PRESIDENT'S NOTE

I hope everyone has been staying safe and warm during this winter weather.

I would like to start by thanking Howard King for a fantastic January demo and class. Preparing the best blank is a fundamental skill in turning, yet often one of the last to be mastered. Following his informative demo, Howard hosted an embellishing class attended by several members, and I have personally enjoyed experimenting with those techniques. Thank you, Howard.

- Karl Harper Challenge:

Many members have been passing on the monthly challenge recently, which prompted discussions regarding a potential change. However, the feedback was clear: "Don't change Karl Harper." Consequently, the format will remain the same. To help reduce the number of passes, we are introducing a sign-up sheet. If you would like to participate in the challenge, please sign up when you arrive.

-Fundraising:

We know y'all want to see a wider variety of demos and presenters throughout the year. We enjoy our "off-site" meetings, such as our Oak Mountain meeting and our annual Christmas party. It might surprise some members to learn that, even with healthy membership numbers, our annual dues don't cover all club expenses, we make up the deficit in other ways. This year, we would like to try something a bit more proactive.

Our Club has unofficial access to a vendor booth at Pepper Place Market, once a month for the 2026 season. In addition, I personally enjoy setting up at similar art events throughout the year. We feel like this is a big opportunity to generate income AND interest for the club. My proposal is this: Members are encouraged to donate pieces to the club. These can be utility or art pieces, but I will take these to market to generate revenue. We will use this revenue to host a wider variety of demos, pay for any offsite activities, or anything else we want/need. The funds will be spent "in your face," meaning we will not only be fully transparent in pricing and sales of your donations, but the funds will be used to directly improve our monthly meetings.

This will start immediately as our first appearance at Pepper Place is on February 21st, the Saturday after our February meeting. Everyone is encouraged to participate, no matter what their skill level. Bring any items you wish to donate to our meetings each month, starting this month.

And as always, we will be setting everything up on Friday at 2:00 at Hardware Park.

Safe turning,
Lee

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FEBRUARY DEMO BY LEE FERGUSON

Lee has been turning for a little over 2 years now. I enjoy making bowls and boxes but I have recently found spindle turning to be greatly satisfying.

The demo is something familiar, with a twist. I'll be making a pepper grinder/salt shaker combo, utilizing the Crushgrind mechanism and a simple shaker cap.



CARL CUMMINS demo 2-2025



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

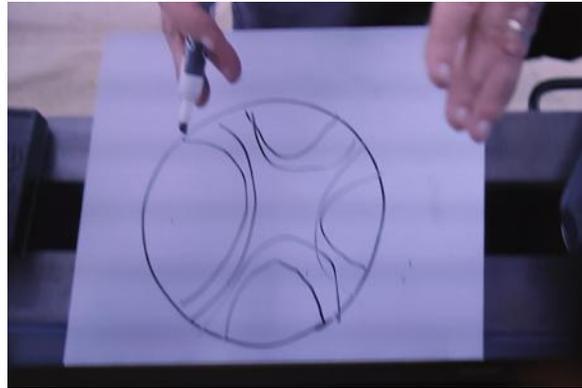
JIM HAVLIK 2/25

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

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

- RONALD BURKE, MONTGOMERY
- GARY CROSSON, BIRMINGHAM
- KEVIN KOZAK, HOMEWOOD
- NOAH LOHAN, BIRMINGHAM
- VAN PHILLIPS, HOOVER
- CHUCK WOOD, BIRMINGHAM

RECAP OF HOWARD KING'S DEMO FOR JANUARY





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

Collect turned Christmas Ornaments now!

Don't forget to bring your turned ornaments to the meeting.



2025 Tree at
Children's Hospital of Alabama



Interesting picture of the hospital.



These are a good start to this year's
ornaments
turned in at the January meeting.
Thank you Ron Herbster.

WHAT EVERYONE HAS BEEN DOING



DWIGHT HOSTETTER

Osage Orange and Spalted Hackberry French rolling pins



DWIGHT HOSTETTER

. End grain spiraling squares trivet or small cutting board – 9” square by 1” thick



HOWARD KING

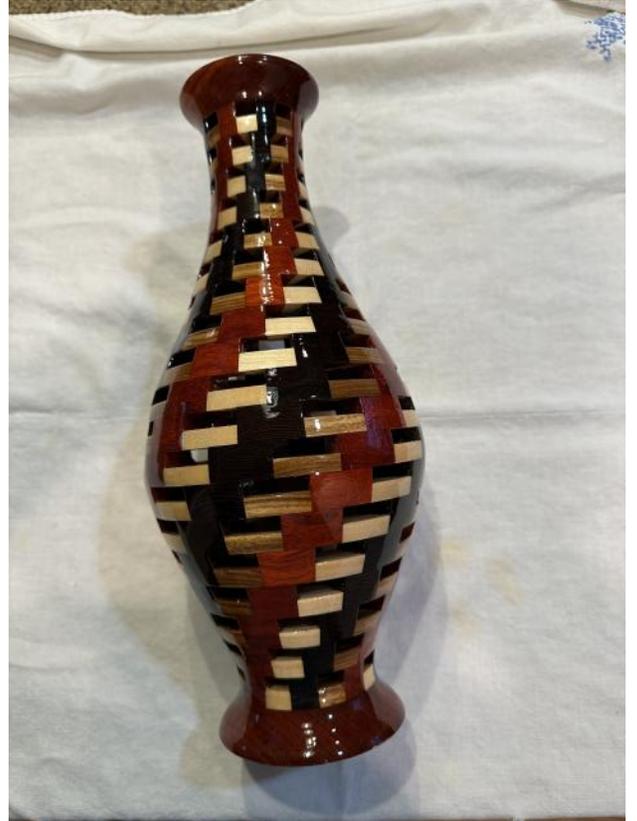


HOWARD KING

WHAT EVERYONE HAS BEEN DOING



GARY CROSSON



GARY CROSSON



TERRY JAMES
Segmented Olivewood salt and pepper cellars.
Tops are turned from Corian



MIKE BRISCOE
Head is 3.5" x 6" x 3" thick of Walnut & Red Grandis with a White Oak handle. Through handle was left a little proud and edges softened with a chisel. Finished with Danish oil and is very wet, picture is dark but will lighten as the oil cures.
Good project - I enjoyed it.

WHAT EVERYONE HAS BEEN DOING



MARTY COGEN



CARL CUMMINS

Red Oak Burl and African Blackwood, 4.5" tall and wide



NOAH LOHAN

Maple and marble wood carver's mallets

WHAT EVERYONE HAS BEEN DOING



NOAH LOHAN
Sapele bowl



NOAH LOHAN
Black walnut winged bowl



TIM NAGY
Dogwood



TIM NAGY
Spalted Oak 8.5 x 2.5

WHAT EVERYONE HAS BEEN DOING



TIM NAGY
Mallets



TIM NAGY
Lidded Bowl



RANDY TYNER
Oak bowl

WHAT EVERYONE IS DOING



RANDY TYNER

Golf balls in colored 2-part epoxy



DAVID HAUSEMAN

Three Kings for Nativity set



RANDY TYNER

Flaming box elder out of scrap box
at Woodcraft 7" diameter



RANDY TYNER

Cut up several dark pieces of a Burl and threw in some
light Cherry. Mixed and poured several different colors
and layers of 2-part epoxy. Let it sit in pressure pot all
night and turned next day. 9" diameter \$50 worth of
epoxy

WHAT EVERYONE IS DOING



RANDY TYNER
Cell phone amplifier



RANDY TYNER
Redbud?

Bottom ⇨



WHAT EVERYONE IS DOING



DAVID HAUSEMAN
Mallet in Indian Rosewood and Hickory glue-up



RANDY TYNER
Burl vessel with and without finial

WHAT EVERYONE IS DOING



BILL CALDERWOOD
spinning top as a top



BILL CALDERWOOD
Beyond the bevel 12-11-2025
article that he used for his
spinning top



JACK WEBB
This might be his son James turning

WHAT EVERYONE IS DOING



CARL CUMMINS
Lidded boxes



RON HERBSTER



LEE FERGUSON
Platter

WHAT EVERYONE IS DOING



ROCKY KIMBLE
Spalted Red Oak



BRYCE HUNT & HIS SON →
Spectrally mallets



NOAH LOHAN

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!'

Sandra McMillian turned an off-center bowl for the January challenge, won by Lee Ferguson for February-2026.



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:

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