

# Alabama Woodturners Association



# Newsletter

MARCH 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)

## MARCH AWA PRESIDENT'S NOTE

It is hard to believe that spring is already here! I hope you all enjoyed last month's demonstration of the pepper grinder and saltshaker combo, created almost entirely with a single carbide tool.

In the spirit of the new season, we are excited to introduce fresh faces and topics for our upcoming demonstrations. We have been working hard behind the scenes to secure some incredibly talented turners. Our calendar is still being finalized, so if you have a project or technique you would like to share with the club, please let us know.

### The current demo schedule is as follows:

- March: Vacuum Chuck – Chris Henley
- April: Burl bowl – Peggy Schmid
  - May: Open
  - June: Open
- July: Leslie Ballard – Resin & Wood
  - August: Ornaments
  - September: Open
  - October: Open
- November: Annie Ogg – Historical Miniatures

Last month also marked our first appearance at the Pepper Place Market in Birmingham. I want to extend a huge thank you to everyone who donated items. We raised a total of \$155, and as promised, those funds will go directly toward supporting our monthly meetings and demonstrations.

Our next date at Pepper Place is Saturday, March 21, the week after our club meeting. If you have any items you would like to donate, please bring them to the meeting and we will handle the rest. Here is just a sample of what we sold. Please let me know if you'd like a detailed account of the items sold at market.

Safe turning,  
Lee

**PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE ON PAGE 3**

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



**Children's  
of Alabama®**

**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**

**Collecting turned Christmas Ornaments now!**  
Don't forget to bring your turned ornaments to the meeting.



2025 Tree at  
Children's Hospital of Alabama



**RON HERBSTER  
LIGHTED ORNAMENTS**



**ORNAMENTS COLLECTED FOR FEBRUARY**

**RIDDLE**  
Why are Christmas trees bad at  
knitting?

# WHAT EVERYONE HAS BEEN DOING



**CARL CUMMINS**  
Lidded vessels



**BILL CALDERWOOD**



## FROM RON HERBSTER



I have a piece of heart wood pine ( rich lighter) that I will give someone "if" they will bring what they made to the next meeting and talk about their turn.  
This piece was dung out of a swamp 5 years ago and I can't count high enough for all the growth rinds! It's older than me!!!!

# WHAT EVERYONE HAS BEEN DOING



**HOWARD KING**  
Large Bowl



**JACK WEBB**  
'Not Rotten' Apples



# WHAT EVERYONE HAS BEEN DOING



**NOAH LOHAN**



**JOHN SOWELL**



**RON HERBSTER**

Sycamore Vase

# WHAT EVERYONE HAS BEEN DOING



**ROCKY KIMBLE**



**RON HERBSTER**

# WHAT EVERYONE HAS BEEN DOING



SANDRA MCMILLAN  
Purple Heart Bowl & Walnut Bowl



SANDRA MCMILLAN  
Off-center bowls



HOWARD KING'S  
Mallet



JACK WEBB'S  
Mallet



LEE FERGUSON'S  
Mallet

# WHAT EVERYONE IS DOING



**LYNN BASWELL**  
"Breaking Free"



**DWIGHT HOSTETTER'S**  
Big mallet - "timber framing beetle"



**DWIGHT HOSTERRER'S**  
Most used mallet

# WHAT EVERYONE IS DOING



**DAVID HAUSEMAN'S**  
Mallet



**TIM NAGY'S**  
Mallet



**CHRIS HENLEY'S**  
Mallet



**NOAH LOHAN'S**  
Mallet

# WHAT EVERYONE IS DOING



**ROCKY KIMBLE'S**

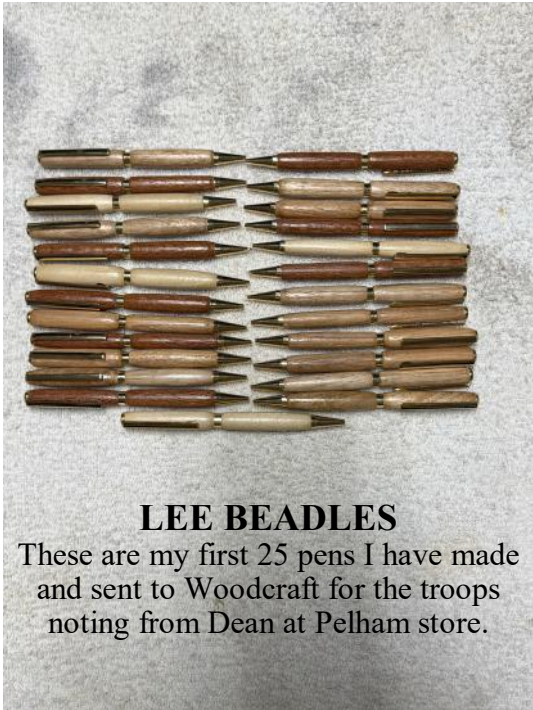


**RON HERBSTER'S**  
Small Mallet



**These are the pieces sold at Pepper Place.**

# WHAT EVERYONE IS DOING



## LEE BEADLES

These are my first 25 pens I have made and sent to Woodcraft for the troops noting from Dean at Pelham store.



## LEE BEADLES

I made a police officer pen for a new Pelham officer. She is new to police work and just was hired full time by Pelham PD.

The middle one is a pheasant feather casing of feathers shot by nephew in a hunting trip he made to Kansas in later 2023. I made three pens as gifts for Christmas 2025 for him, his son, and another relative.

Far right was a set of three pens alike that I made for a retired Marine who lives around the corner from me here.



## MARTY COGEN

More pens for troops and a cutting board

# WHAT EVERYONE IS DOING



**NORRIS JACKMAN**



**DWIGHT HOSTETTER**



**HOWARD KING**



**HOWARD KING**



**CARL CUMMINS**  
11"x4.5"x3" Elm

# WHAT EVERYONE IS DOING



**CARL CUMMINS**  
8.5"x3" Elm



**CARL CUMMINS**  
7.5"x2.5" Mesquite; 9"x3" Sapele



**RANDY TYNER**

Four days to make this segmented hollowed threaded 3" Christmas ornament. The threads allow it to open and close and allow one to hide a gift inside



# WHAT EVERYONE IS DOING



## RANDY TYNER

This was a huge piece (14in diameter) of beech wood. I inserted a tiny piece of darker wood and turned a platter.



## MARK HARRIS

Buckeye Burl



## MARK HARRIS

Maple burl open turning

# WHAT EVERYONE IS DOING



**MARK HARRIS**

3 Views of California Juniper Hollow Form



**MARK HARRIS**

Claro Walnut from Palisades



**MARK HARRIS**

Koa Hollow Form



## 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

**RIDDLE ANSWER:** They keep dropping their needles!

### 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!'

Lee Ferguson turned a bowl for the February challenge, won by Terry Tingle for March-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:

Pen for Troops is doing well. At the last meeting 30 pens were turned in. A new pen style that is becoming popular is a slime line pen with a 308 cartridge for the top. Hoover Tactical Firearms has been kind enough to supply us with these. If you're interested come by the table at the meeting to get some.

Lee Beadles, a longtime member of the club has literally made 1000 of pens for Pen for Troops. He and his wife recently moved to Kansas. I'm sorry to say that his wife has recently passed. I know your thoughts and prayers are with Lee and his family



## LEADERSHIP

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

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