

# Alabama Woodturners Association



# Newsletter

APRIL 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)

## APRIL AWA PRESIDENT'S NOTE

I hope everyone has enjoyed indecisive climate. I was thinking about the President's Challenge last month, "Anything with a Finial", and the variety of interpretations we saw. It just reinforces the amount of talent and knowledge we have among us. I know I've relied on the experience of some of you.

I encourage us all to think of each other as resources. It's very likely someone else has encountered an issue and doing a clever way to work through it.

Also, I'd encourage anyone who hasn't, to check out our library of physical books and videos. It's free for all members and has some great titles. And don't forget, we have an Air Microclimate powered respirator available as well.

I'm very excited about this our upcoming demos, our calendar keeps feeling up with great turners.

Safe turning,  
Lee

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# APRIL DEMO BY PEGGY SCHMID

This month we welcome the return of Peggy Schmid from Cumming, Georgia. In previous visits she demonstrated a hollow form with embellished exterior and threaded finial, and a box featuring polymer clay. More recently she has developed a method of turning a burl while disguising the mounting, thus preserving the outside of the burl. As she describes it, "For the demo I will show how to turn a small hollow form from a Burl while leaving the Burl on the bottom. I will show the process of using dye on a section and add some textural elements. Then I will show how I disguise the mounting process, making it almost impossible to see. I will install a finial and threaded insert on the finished piece."



Peggy will also lead the afternoon hands-on workshop where you will have the opportunity to use these techniques yourself to produce a very impressive piece. The burl and all tools and supplies will be provided. This will be an exceptional opportunity! Places are limited, so sign up in advance at <https://www.redmountainmakers.org/event-6641912>



**APRIL BIRTHDAYS**

ROCKY KIMBLE	4-8
STEVE BURGESS	4-17
CHRIS HENLEY	4-23

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

**WELCOME NEW MEMBER!**

WAYNE MEDDERS - OHATCHEE

# Artist Biography Peggy E. Schmid

Peggy E. Schmid is a distinguished sculptor and woodturner whose creative journey began with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Sculpture from the Atlanta College of Art in 1990 (now the Savannah College of Art and Design). She further honed her skills as an Honors student at Georgia State University, where she studied to become an Art Educator. Her artistic career spans diverse mediums and notable collaborations.

As a sculptor, she produced work for the movie "Freejack", with Mick Jagger and Emilio Estevez, created the Pinwheel Project at Tula Art Foundation in Buckhead, a featured artist on the program "Artage" for the City of Atlanta, and had works featured at ABC No Rio in New York and drawings in the Gorilla Girl Movement in Chicago.

Several of her bowls were featured in the HGTV Green Home in 2012. Demonstrated at several Woodturning Symposiums: Southern States Woodturning in Cartersville, Georgia, Turning Southern Style, Dalton, Georgia, The Florida Woodturning Symposium, and 2016 AAW Symposium in Atlanta. Ms. Schmid has been an instructor on several occasions at Arrowmont in Gatlinburg and is a frequent instructor at The Florida School of Woodwork. She conducts woodturning retreats for women to help advance their skill levels and create a sense of community among women makers. She also is a demonstrator at many of the woodturning clubs in the Southeast.

Ms. Schmid has served as the President of the Georgia Association of Woodturners in Atlanta and was the Secretary Treasurer of Apple Ridge Woodturners in Ellijay Georgia. She is currently a member of the Etowah River Woodturners in Canton Georgian

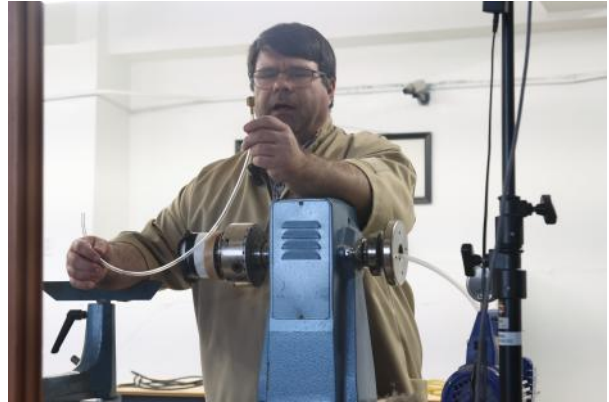
She has won awards both as an artist, sculptor, and woodturner and her works are in private and corporate collections throughout the country.

## President's Challenge:

Remember to bring your April President's Challenge item to show it off during the April meeting. Also, below is the calendar of challenges:

Jan -  
Feb - Carvers Mallet  
March - Finial  
April - Item assembled from multiple turned items  
May - Live Edge Anything  
June - Duplicate Item  
July - Hollow Form  
August - Rolling Pin  
September - Ornaments  
November - Cup/Goblet

# RECAP OF CHRIS HENLEY'S DEMO FOR MARCH





**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**



**DWIGHT HOSTETTER**



**BRIAN LARSON  
Sea urchin ornaments**

# WHAT EVERYONE HAS BEEN DOING



**BRIAN LARSON**  
Sea urchin ornaments Cedar, Cherry, and Maple



**CARL CUMMINS**  
Pedestal boxes, Sapele and Mesquite



**LEE FERGUSON**  
Cherry & Walnut Bowls

# WHAT EVERYONE HAS BEEN DOING



**DWIGHT HOSTETTER**  
Cherry, Hickory, and Walnut end grain cutting board



**DWIGHT HOSTETTER**  
Christmas ornament



## RON HERBSTER

Ron will be donating a segmented bowl blank to the raffle (blank on the left).

The one on the right is a finished cherry bowl from the same pattern 9 1/4 x 5

# WHAT EVERYONE HAS BEEN DOING



**NOAH LOHAN**  
Black Cherry bowl



**LEE FERGUSON**  
Cherry (almost funnel)



**SANDRA MCMILLAN**  
Square bowl, cherry



**ROCKY KIMBLE**  
Spalted maple, red Oak, and black cherry



# WHAT EVERYONE HAS BEEN DOING

The club's president challenge,  
anything with a spindle



Your Name: *Ron Herbster*  
Item Description:  
Kinds of Wood Used:



Your Name: *Noah Lohan*  
Item Description:  
Kinds of Wood Used:

**NOAH LOHAN**

**RON HERBSTER**

# WHAT EVERYONE HAS BEEN DOING



**CARL CUMMINS**  
Escoulen style triple box , Elm



**CARL CUMMINS**  
First attempt



**CARL CUMMINS**  
Closed form bowl, Elm



**JOHN RHYMES**  
Our very faithful videographer , not thanked enough.

# NEW SAFETY EQUIPMENT



**Air Micro Climate face shield given to the club for demonstrations**



It looks like Chris Henley (in the face shield) is saying “greetings earthlings” or “calm down”

# WHAT EVERYONE IS DOING



**CARL CUMMINS**

Boxwood 2-3/4" wide with four attempts at a finial



**CARL CUMMINS**

A furniture maker asked me to make four spindles for a table he is making.



**CARL CUMMINS**

Dogwood and Walnut 8-1/2"x6"x2-1/4"



**CARL CUMMINS**  
Redheart box 3"x3"

# WHAT EVERYONE IS DOING



**CARL CUMMINS**  
Maple Burl and Cherry 7" x 3-1/2"



**DWIGHT HOSTETTER**  
White oak French Rolling Pin  
Japanese Maple bowl  
Segmented Ornament - Dogwood, Walnut, Maple



**HOWARD KING**



# WHAT EVERYONE IS DOING



**JOE PETRANKA**  
Magnolia bowl

Getting back into turning after 15 years. Enjoy zoom presentation. Looking forward to the national in June.



**MARTY COGEN**



**NORRIS JACKMAN**



**RANDY TYNER**

# WHAT RANDY TYNER HAS BEEN DOING



## **Note from Randy:**

Not sure as to wood type. Had lots of rot, spalting, cracks, and worm holes.  
All of this giving great character

# WHAT EVERYONE IS DOING



**RANDY TYNER**  
Mahogany



**RANDY TYNER**  
Maple with a segmented padauk ring inserted then turned into a platter



**RANDY TYNER**  
Large 12in maple platter



# WHAT EVERYONE IS DOING



**ROBERT BURKE**  
Magnolia



## 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 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!'

Terry Tingle turned a bowl for the March challenge, won by Rocky Kimble for April-2026. *Terry made this bowl with red oak Rocky brought for the raffle.*

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.

## 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  
Secretary: John Rhymes  
Treasurer: Carl Cummins  
Board: Scott Arnold

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