

# Alabama Woodturners Association



# Newsletter

MAY 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)

## MAY AWA PRESIDENT'S NOTE

I hope everyone enjoyed our demo and workshop with Peggy as much as I did. I learned a lot but by then end of the workshop, working with beautiful burl is much less intimidating. Her technique of hiding the holes came in handy while making this months President's Challenge (anything live edge).

That's what I love about this hobby. You never stop learning and new clever tricks can usually be applied in several situations.

I wanted to remind everyone it's never too early to start making ornaments for our Children's Hospital tree. Icicles make for great tool control practice.

See y'all Saturday

Safe turning,  
Lee

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# MAY DEMO BY RUDY LOPEZ

The program for our May meeting will be a remote demo by Rudy Lopez of Tampa, FL, Natural Edge Wing Bowl from a Half log or crotch section. Rudy will turning a thin natural edge wing bowl from a green log or crotch section. Design and layout considerations regarding limb orientation, crotch figure, keeping or eliminating features or flaws in the wood will be covered. The basics of bevel-supported cuts along with two of the most important fundamentals of turning - sharp tools and good tool control will be emphasized. Turning thin allows the wood to warp and move which influences the final piece and helps avoid cracking. Rudy will explain using and sharpening Negative Rake scrapers their benefits and how safe they are to use. Sanding wet wood both on and off of the lathe along with different finishing techniques will also be covered.



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



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**WELCOME NEW MEMBER!**

## MAY BIRTHDAYS

TERRY TINGLE	5-10
TIM TINGLE	5-10
JACK WEBB	5-10
VAN PHILLIPS	5-19
CHUCK WOOD	5-20
JIM BLACK	5-30

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

# RECAP OF PEGGY SCHMID'S DEMO FOR APRIL

The piece Peggy finished during her demo. There will be pictures of the demo in the next newsletter.



## Peggy Schmid's afternoon class.



## 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



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.

Currently, we have 81 ornaments collected to hang on our 2026 Children's Hospital tree. We carried over 31 ornaments from 2025. Through our March meeting three different members have contributed 50 ornaments.

To achieve our final goal by the November decorating date we need 300 ornaments we need:  
More members participating  
All participants producing as many ornaments as possible

Our Decorators goal is to find a "*pride of place*" for every ornament and they are amazingly successful at meeting their goal. There a few "*prides of place*" limitations to remembered when making an ornament. First, the weight of the ornament must be considered. Heavy ornaments weigh down the tree limbs and are therefore more challenging to place. Ornaments should weigh less than three ounces (two ounces is even better) and therefore hollowing is often necessary. Longer ornaments can be used but they will only hang properly from the lowest limbs. Shorter ornaments are easier to place on the tree. Seven inches is an outside limit for ornaments to earn a great spot on the tree. The perfect tree is one that includes the complex ornaments that demonstrate all of the woodturning skills of our members as well as the fun and funky ornaments that everyone loves. There is plenty of opportunity to donate what you enjoy making.



If you're short on ideas check out Mike Peace's channel on YouTube for a number of suggestions.  
[https://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=mike+peace+christmas+ornaments](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=mike+peace+christmas+ornaments)

# WHAT EVERYONE HAS BEEN DOING



**HOWARD KING**



**HOWARD KING**



**NORRIS JACKMAN**



**LEE BEADLES**

From Lee, 50 pens I completed last week. They are headed to the Woodcraft resort for some rest. This brings me to 100 pens I have completed for 2026. Happy turning.

# WHAT EVERYONE HAS BEEN DOING



**DWIGHT HOSTETTER**  
6' picnic table, treated pine



**NORRIS JACKMAN**



**MARTY COGEN**  
Mostly .308 and one.30-06



**RANDY TYNER**  
These take some time. 122 segmented pieces. The time demand comes from making a jig to hollow and inset the ornament once it is turned and cut into 2 halves. Thanks again to Terry James for 3 d printing light weight threaded inserts which allow this ornament to be opened, and a gift hidden inside Took 22 hours for this 1 ornament. I could get rich. Ha!



# WHAT EVERYONE HAS BEEN DOING



**RONALD BURKE**

My first turned bowls. One mahogany and one live edge magnolia



**RANDY TYNER**  
Cherry bowl with a 24-  
piece walnut  
segmented insert



# WHAT EVERYONE HAS BEEN DOING



## RANDY TYNER

Guy brought me a piece of red bud tree and asked me to turn his wife a mushroom like the crystal ones she collects. Got close. Tilt is close. Was wet so prob crack to heck and back. Started as redbud stump. Drilled pit out of vase but mushroom may crack



# ARTICLE BY HOWARD KING

Lately there has been a lot of discussion in our club (North Alabama Woodturners) regarding a caliper to measure proportionally the "Golden Rule Ratio". Several of the members were looking up places on the internet to buy such a caliper. But there is no need in purchasing a caliper when you can make one. I used Purpleheart wood to make mine some 15 years ago copying one that showed the measurements on an internet site. I cut the Purpleheart wood into strips:  $\frac{1}{8}$  inches thick and  $\frac{7}{16}$  inches wide. To make this caliper you need two strips that are  $13 \frac{1}{4}$  inches long; one strip that is  $8 \frac{1}{2}$  inches long; one strip that is  $5 \frac{3}{4}$  inches long. Each strip has two holes that are drilled  $5 \frac{1}{8}$  inches apart. I just attached the pieces together with screws, washers and nuts. I cut points on the ends to get an accurate measure of the "Golden Rule Ratio". I don't think that it is important to get the piece exactly turned to the "Golden Rule Ratio". The important part is: is the shape pleasing to the eye"? A smaller caliper, as well as a larger one, can be made simply by using ratios of the dimensions that I posted.

Howard King



# Turning a Cannon Wheel Hub

## by Carl Cummins

The American Village in Montevallo has an authentic vintage cannon on display. Last year it needed refurbishment as the wooden carriage and one of the wheels had advanced decay. They contacted the Riverchase Career Connection Center ("RC3") where high school students learn practical skills such as construction, automotive, culinary, and others. The RC3 accepted the task of refurbishing the cannon. To replace the wheel hub, however, they didn't have a lathe nor anyone knowing how to turn wood, so a teacher at RC3, Bill Vanderwilt, contacted AWA, and I volunteered to help.

I received the old hub and recruited Dwight Hostetter to look at it with me. First, we took measurements, then Dwight removed the metal bands and split open the hub to reveal the metal part inside. We found that it was tapered and had wings. Making a new hub with a tapered hole with wings in the center would not be a straightforward turning. I spoke with an experienced wheel maker, and he confirmed that step is not done on a lathe. I reported this back to Bill, and he decided to work that out. By March of this year, the RC3 team of students and teacher had rebuilt most of the carriage and made the blank for the hub by gluing together oak boards with the tapered hole inside. Now all I had to do was turn the outside shape.

The glued-up oak blank was 12"x12"x14", large and heavy. Next, I contacted fellow AWA member Norris Jackman who has a lathe much larger than mine. Norris agreed to let me use his lathe to turn the hub. Mounted on the lathe, the 12"x12" blank had a diagonal that was nearly a 17" swing. Norris used a reciprocating saw to trim away four corners reducing the swing. Turning was rough and slow until I got it down to round. Next, I turned the shape to match the original hub. I had to be careful not to reduce too much as the finished hub needed nearly the full 12" diameter.

I wanted the metal bands to fit tight over the hub, but measuring the bands revealed they were not round! I could only guess what diameter might work. At this point I took the hub back to my shop and invited Bill to come and help me decide on final diameters. He came and we agreed to aim for half-way between the minimum and maximum interior diameters. At this point the turning was complete!

Bill took the turned hub back to RC3 where they cut slots for the spokes, assembled the whole wheel, painted and assembled the whole carriage with cannon. They completed the job at the end of April.

On May 1, American Village staff members come to RC3 to receive the completely refurbished cannon and carriage. They brought along a TV crew from ABC 33 40 to cover the event. The cannon is now back on display at the American Village in Montevallo. With the help of Dwight and Norris, I was glad that AWA was able to do the woodturning required for this project!

**PHOTOS ON THE NEXT PAGE**

# Turning a Cannon Wheel Hub Photos



## 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.
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- Be an active and knowledgeable member of the woodturning community.
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#### 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

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

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