

# Alabama Woodturners Association



# Newsletter

JUNE 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)

## JUNE AWA PRESIDENT'S NOTE

I hope you are all doing well and have been enjoying some productive time at your lathes during the recent rainy weather. It has been wonderful to see the beautiful pens and vessels many of you have created over the last month.

Reflecting on last month, although our scheduled program changed, Rudy Lopez stepped in to deliver a world-class demonstration on natural edge winged bowls. It was a fantastic session that covered essential techniques, such as balancing a natural edge and ensuring the curvature of the wings flows seamlessly with the bowl. For those who were unable to attend, the recording link provided by Rudy are now available for all members. The link is at the end of this note. (Top of page 2)

Regarding our ongoing commitment, we are currently a little under half of our goal for the Children's Hospital Christmas tree ornaments. There is still plenty of time to turn these "tiny treasures," and I encourage everyone to contribute to this great cause.

Additionally, the American Association of Woodturners 2026 Symposium was held this month in North Carolina. We had a few members in attendance, and we look forward to hearing their stories and learning about the new techniques they brought back.

Looking ahead, we are thrilled to announce this month's demonstration in Birmingham. We are hosting the world-class turner Helen Bailey, who will be demonstrating a three-sided box. In addition to the demonstration, we will be holding an afternoon workshop for those interested in a deeper dive into her process.

I look forward to seeing each of you on the 13th!  
Safe turning,  
Lee

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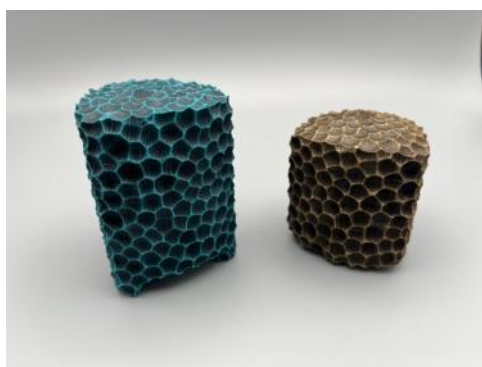
*Link to last May's demo*

<https://shop.rudolphlopez.com/video-links/alabama-woodturners-natural-edge-winged-bowl-may-9-2026/>  
See your email for the password

# JUNE DEMO BY HELEN BAILEY

Helen Bailey is a contemporary woodturner based in Newcastle Upon Tyne in the North East of England. Her introduction to woodturning came in 2016, during a visit to her local club with her dad, Neville. What began as a simple outing to watch a pen-turning demonstration quickly became a life-changing moment. Captivated by the craft, Helen purchased her first lathe within days, setting the foundation for a career that has since gained international recognition.

Helen's work is defined by precision, creativity, and meticulous planning. She specializes in thin-wall turning and intricate piercing, often working with part-seasoned wood to achieve the consistent wall thicknesses that allow her designs to come alive. In recent years, she has expanded her practice to include box-making and mixed-media pieces, exploring new forms while maintaining her signature attention to detail.



### ***THIS MONTHS DEMO***

Three sided box with texture and color  
This demo will cover turning on different axis to create a three sided box, texturing using burrs and dry brushing to color.



Pendant turning in resin and burl



**JUNE BIRTHDAYS**

KEVIN KOZAK	6-1
MIKE BRISCOE	6-12
LYNN BASWELL	6-14
TERRY JAMES	6-15
GARY CROSSON	6-25
PETE MARKEN	6-27

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

### In Sympathy:

Our thoughts, deepest condolences, and comfort go out to Maurice Clabaugh, Charter Member of AWA during this incredibly difficult time with the recent passing of his beloved spouse Kathleen (Kathy) after a long illness.

# CONTINUED BIO FOR HELEN BAILEY

Her artistry has been featured in Woodturnermagazine, the American Association of Woodturners' American Woodturner, and Masters of Contemporary Wood Art by Wood Symphony. She is a regular contributor to the World of Woodturners website, where many of her pieces have been selected as "Cover of the Day." Helen has earned the AWGB Woodturning Certificate, the Worshipful Company of Woodturners Diploma, and is listed on the Register of Professional Woodturners.

Helen demonstrates and teaches throughout the UK and internationally, with appearances in Spain, Germany, Norway, Ireland, Iceland, Australia, South Africa and numerous states across America. She offers symposium and club demonstrations, hands-on club classes, and personalized one-to-one or paired tuition from her home studio. Her work is collected worldwide, admired for its craftsmanship, elegance, and distinctive artistic voice. Those who meet her often note that her sense of humor is as sharp as her tools, bringing warmth, approachability, and a touch of fun to every demonstration and class she leads.



Thin wall turning and piercing techniques.



Trinket box with silver embellishing techniques



Three part natural edge goblet



Decorated Box



Square platter with embellishing techniques



Three legged pot with texture

## RECAP OF RUDY LOPEZ'S DEMO FOR MAY

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)

### President's Challenge:

Remember to bring your June President's Challenge item to show it off during the June 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.

Percent Ornaments Remaining to Collect

66%

Months Lapsed 5

Months Remaining 5

(last meeting to collect – October 2026)

Percent of Time to Collect

50%

Note: We need a volunteer to make the 2026 tree topper!



2015 AWA Tree Topper



2019 AWA Tree Topper



2022 AWA  
Tree Topper



2024 AWA Tree Topper

# ARTICLE FROM HOWARD KING

Our fellow woodturning member, Dr. John Sowell, found a very crooked stick that he visualized could possibly be a "walking stick". It was about two inches in diameter and long enough to fit perfectly to his six-foot six-inch frame (five foot eighteen inches he would always announce when asked his height). He asked me if I could turn the bottom part while he would finish the top part to fit his hand comfortably. The lower part of the piece presented quite a challenge because it had three separate curves all in different planes to the central axis. Mounting the long piece to align the central axis was trouble enough but then trying to mount the crooked top handle piece in order to turn the lower section was all another set of problems. Plus, my lathe is not equipped to turn a four foot plus object. I figured if I could attach my smaller midi-lathe to the larger lathe, tail end to tail end, it might just work. Reversing the direction of the tailstock on the midi-lathe, I now could put the "stick" between "centers". However, turning between "centers" would cause the crooked stick to be whipping around in a very precocious manner. To solve this issue, I cut a triangular piece of wood to attach to the top part of the stick with "hot melt" glue and two hose clamps. After several attempts and adjustments of the head stock spur drive position, I was able to turn a smooth straight bottom section safely. I started turning slow and easy, always working from the bottom of the stick toward the head stock. Stopping regularly to make sure that the piece was securely mounted and that it was not overly tight where too much pressure would cause the piece from springing out of the lathe. I reduced the bottom tip to approximately three-quarter inch in diameter. I gradually ran a taper up to about one & one-fourth inch diameter at the confluence of the handle.

Howard King



# WHAT EVERYONE HAS BEEN DOING



**JIM BLACK**



**LEE FERGUSON**  
Black Walnut Serving Stand



**RONALD BURKE**



**LEE BEADLES**



**MARTY COGEN**

# WHAT EVERYONE HAS BEEN DOING



**CARL CUMMINS**



**BRIAN LARSON**  
Osage Orange



**ROCKY KIMBLE**

# WHAT EVERYONE HAS BEEN DOING



**DWIGHT HOSTETTER**



**RONALD BURKE**



**RONALD BURKE**



**RONALD BURKE**



**RONSLD BURKE**

# WHAT EVERYONE HAS BEEN DOING



**RANDY TYNER**  
Unknown wood



**RANDY TYNER**  
Walnut Vase



**RANDY TYNER**  
15" platter with textured edges

## NOTE FROM MICHELLE MARKEN:

I was contacted by a gentleman about a lidded bowl for his daughter's ashes. He doesn't want an urn just something lidded he can use for her ashes. If you are interested in helping him let me know and I will give you his contact information. Thanks in advance.

# PICTURES FROM THE APRIL MEETING



CARL CUMMINS



CARL CUMMINS



ORNAMENTS



NOAH LOHAN

# PICTURES FROM THE APRIL MEETING



**MARTY COGEN**  
Turn for Troops



**JACK WEBB**



**RON HERBSTER**



**JOHN SOWELL**



Peggy Schmid's afternoon Class

## 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!'

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.*

## 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