

Alabama Woodturners Association



Newsletter

AUGUST 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

AUGUST AWA PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Hello everyone,

August is already here, and this year is flying by. We have had a great run of demos so far, with even more to come.

Please remember to sign up for the Karl Harper Perpetual Challenge if it applies to you. Speaking of challenges, I hope to see some great rolling pins this Saturday for the President's Challenge!

We will also enjoy a demo focused on segmented bowl creation. It is going to be another great Saturday.

Following up on our discussion last month regarding the future of the Karl Harper Challenge, we need at least 11 members committed to participating monthly to keep the program viable and ensure participation extends beyond the same few people.

As a reminder, this challenge honors Karl Harper's "Try Anything" spirit. Anyone can participate, whether you turn a simple stick with a bead and cove or an elaborate hollow form. If your name is drawn, you will have until the next meeting to turn an item of your choice. At that meeting, you will present your piece, and the next person chosen will take it home and turn their own item for the following month. This challenge has inspired members to turn their very first bowls and hollow forms, and it is rewarding to see everyone's skills grow.

To ensure this memorial lives on, please sign up using the link below to confirm you are willing to participate if your name is drawn.

Remember, "Try Anything",

Lee

<https://forms.gle/N42aSwkBdhMKA7DJ9>

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IN THIS ISSUE:

President's Note - Page 1

This month's information - Page 2

This month's Birthday's - Page 2

Last month's recap - Page 3

Children's Hospital Christmas Tree - Page 4

What People Are Doing - Pages 5 - 9

Karl Harper Challenge - Page 11

Special Articles

Library Information
Page 12

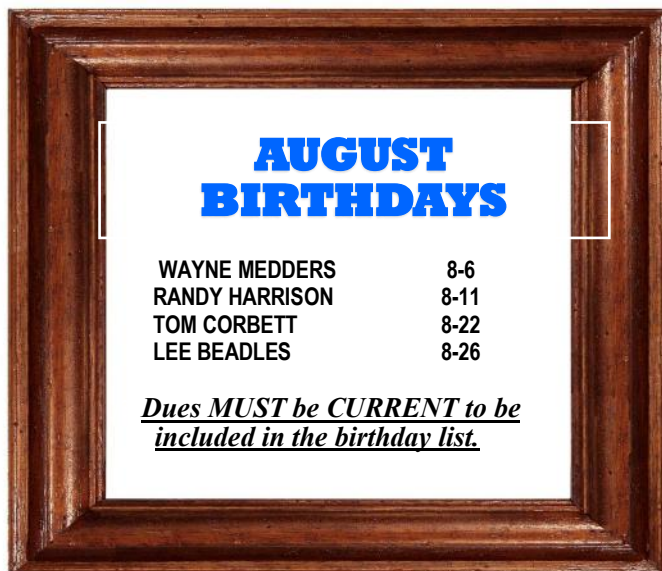
Turn for the Toops
Page 13

AUGUST DEMO BY RON HERBSTER & CHRIS HENLEY

Have you ever wanted to make a large bowl, but have trouble finding large blanks? This is one of many issues solved when you enter the world of segmented turning. Gluing up your own bowl blank makes it possible to build a bowl as large as you want and allows for custom patterns and shapes. Once built, a segmented bowl can be turned even easier than a normal blank as there is less wood and it is entirely side-grain oriented. While setting up a segmented bowl may seem challenging, this month Ron Herbster will be showing everyone that it does not have to be. Ron and Chris Henley will be demonstrating Pete Marken's Wedgie Sled, showing the proper way to cut and assemble segmented rings and bowls. Ron will be turning at least one bowl he has already assembled and will have several examples of the many uses for this method.



PETE MARKEN



NEW MEMBERS

JULY DEMO WITH CHRIS HENLEY



The planned resin demonstration with Leslie Ballard was not able to show due to a medical event. However, as turners, we are always solving problems in the moment, and this situation is no different. Chris demonstrated turning a Christmas Bell ornament.

Thank you Chris Henley for stepping up.



President's Challenge:

Remember to bring your July 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

55%

Months Lapsed 6

Months Remaining 4

(last meeting to collect – October 2026)

Percent of Time to Collect

40%

Note #1: We still need a volunteer to make the 2026 tree topper!

Note # 2: Ornaments find “a pride of place” on the tree when it weighs about 2 ounces. Hollowing helps manage heavier ornaments. Also, if the height is under 7 inches it helps placement. If you have an ornament a little heavier or longer it will be used but it is more difficult to place.



2025 AWA Tree Topper

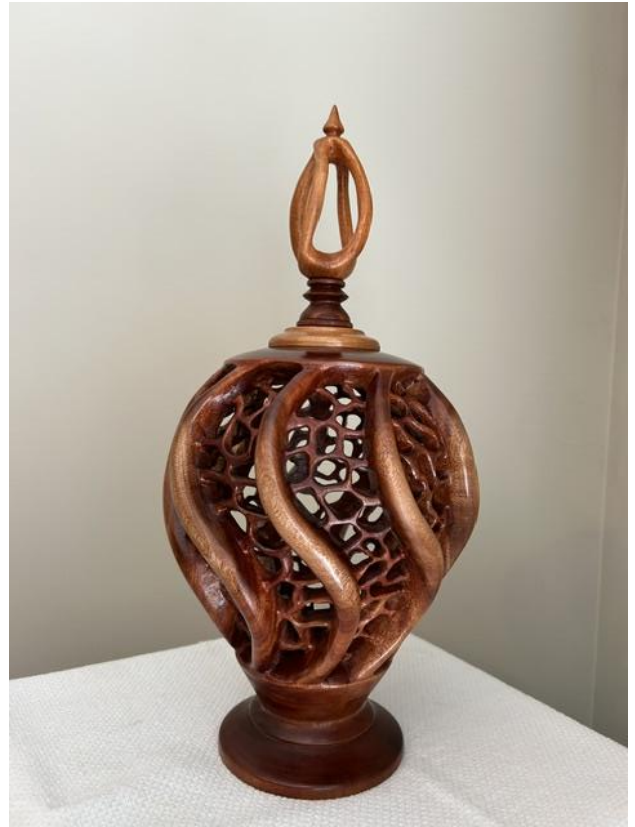


WHAT EVERYONE IS DOING



BRIAN LARSON

After the demo at the last meeting on turning a bell ornament, I decided to try one myself. With a little embellishment, I ended up with this one that I will plan to donate to the Christmas tree collection.



LYNN BASWELL



CARL CUMMINS

I spent a week at Arrowmont in a class taught by Michael Moch. These are some of my practice pieces for texturing.

WHAT EVERYONE IS DOING



HOWARD KING



HOWARD KING



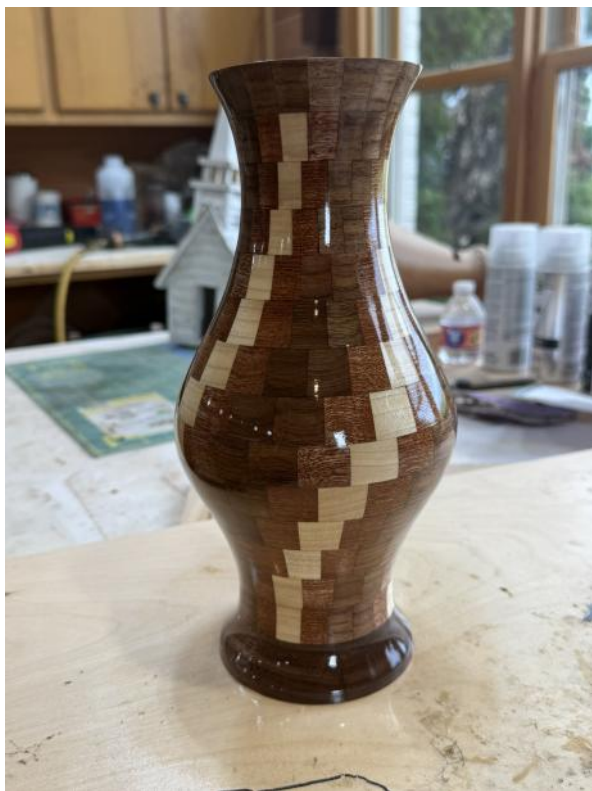
RANDY TYNER

Made this bowl for grandsons to remember 2026 summer events. Used laser for the image and insert the image into the segment.



RANDY TYNER

WHAT EVERYONE IS DOING



RANDY TYNER

4 days of cutting, gluing, waiting and repeat. Walnut, mahogany, poplar



WAYNE MEDDERS



CARL CUMMINS

WHAT EVERYONE IS DOING



ROCKY KIMBLE



LEE FERGUSON



WHAT EVERYONE IS DOING



NOAH LOHAN



RON HERBSTER



RON HERBSTER



RON HERBSTER



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

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! Lee Ferguson turned a hollow form for the July challenge.



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:

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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