



AWA Newsletter



A member of the American Association of Woodturners

Location: Homewood Senior Center at 816 Oak Grove Road, Homewood, AL 35209
 Web Site: www.alabamawoodturners.com

Coming Events

- Apr 12 – Worth Barham
- May 10 – Open
- Jun 14 – Tony Rae (Ireland)

President's Message

Snow and ice was one of the highlights of the March meeting! We had a Birmingham style blizzard on Saturday morning March 8th with a few patches of ice and a few flakes of snow that shut down I-65. I left Wilsonville early for the meeting and weaved down I-65 in Homewood among the wrecked cars and got off on Oxmoor just before they closed the interstate. Over 40 hardy souls braved the elements to get to the meeting. "Neither rain nor sleet nor snow will keep a woodturner from his appointed rounds..." Some folks think this is a USPS motto or slogan but it was first penned by Herodotus, a Greek woodturner in 500 BC who also had a hobby of being a historian. He wrote the phrase about couriers in the Greek and Persian wars. William Kendall, a woodturner in New York, (his hobby was being an Architect) paraphrased it as an inscription on the New York Post Office in 1896. Aren't woodturners great?



The trek through the .001" of snow and ice was worth it to see Maurice Clabaugh demonstrate how to turn natural edged bowls. It was an excellent program about the techniques of turning a natural edged bowl. Maurice's long experience as an educator shows in his clear and thorough manner of teaching woodturning techniques. Thanks Maurice.

Another renewals reminder: See the treasurer Norris Jackman if you haven't paid your 2008 dues!

The program for April will be Worth Barham doing an as yet undisclosed presentation on woodturning. Worth has taken his woodturning to the next level and is doing some very good work. I am sure the program from Worth will be interesting, educational and entertaining as well.

Will Pate is keeping the training express roaring along with two train sessions after the April meeting. The classes fill up fast so see Will about future classes.



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Officers of AWA

- President** – Dave Chanslor
- Vice President** – Bruce Gibson
- Secretary** – Richard Serviss
- Treasurer** – Norris Jackman
- Directors:** Don Blankenship, Kevin Felderhoff, Phillip Fortmeyer, Bill Hubbard, Jerry Osmundson, Judy Osmundson, and Lee Taylor
- Web Master** – Robert Scheitlin
- Training** – Will Pate
- Newsletter Editor** – Jerry Hanchey

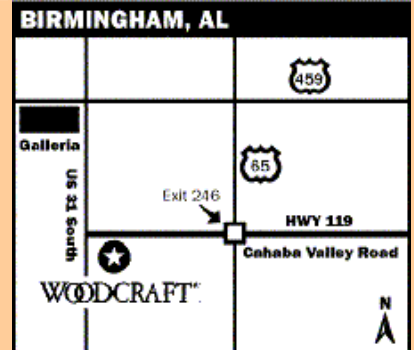
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 Thursday: 9 am – 9 pm
 Saturday: 9 am – 6 pm
 Sunday: noon – 5 pm



Go by and see Tom and the guys!!

This month we complete the article by Maurice that we started in the Mar newsletter. For those who'd like to see Part 1 go to our Web site and click on the Mar newsletter link.

PASSION BY MAURICE CLABAUGH

(Part 2)

...Maurice continues with a discussion about how to set up two lathes and the benefit of doing so...



Picture 4- between centers

Being able to do this successfully would solve the size (Problem #1), attachment (Problem #2), turning outboard and maybe the best chance to solve the clearance problem (Problem #3) of the roots curving back towards the trunk. This would require an additional outboard attachment to hold the tool rest but I had one, so that was not a problem but merely an inconvenience. Seemingly having solved all four problems, I began turning, as shown in picture 4, a 37.5 inch root between centers on two "16 inch swing" lathes. (Problem 4 solved???)

Notice the clearance between the legs and the roots in Picture 4. When the root was mounted and the tailstock tightened, the lathes moved apart forced by the tightening of the tailstock quill (Problem 5). The solution was to clamp the two lathes together, as seen in Picture 4, so that the lathes would not move apart. When the root was mounted, centered and rotating, the lathes would "bounce" even at slow speed (under 75 rpm's).

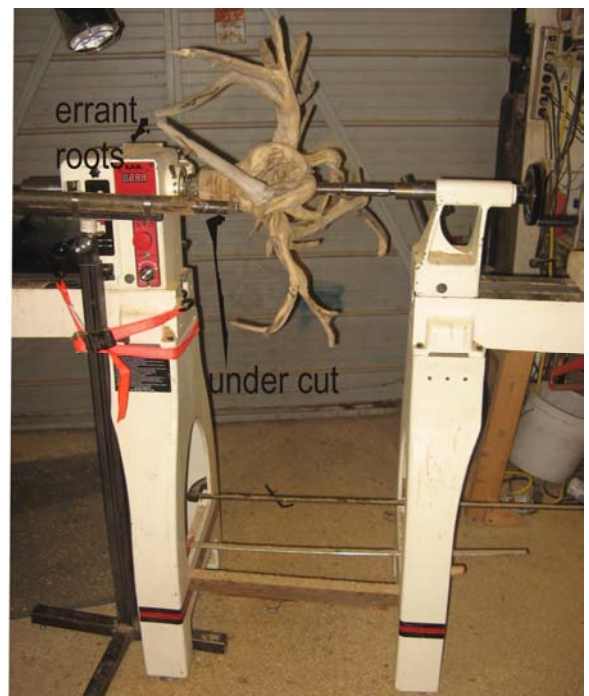
After much analyzing and trying to level the lathes, I found that centering the root on the same plane was almost impossible without having a squared end. So I removed the 45-degree angle on the trunk, removing as little as possible to maximize the length available. The two lathes still "heaved" during turning but not as much. Had there been more use for this type of "set up" in the future, I would have made a clamping system from steel which would clamped the lathes at the bottom and at the top to hold the two lathes in parallel planes. But this turning was a one-time process. I spent a total of 5 hours just getting the lathes aligned to complete the little bit of turning that was done on this piece.

Designing the artwork - Although minimal turning is done on this sculpt-turning; the trunk was progressively shaped up to the root structure (i.e. from the base to the roots). Likewise the flow of the roots into the center seemed to demand a turned center as an apex for the motion seen in the roots.

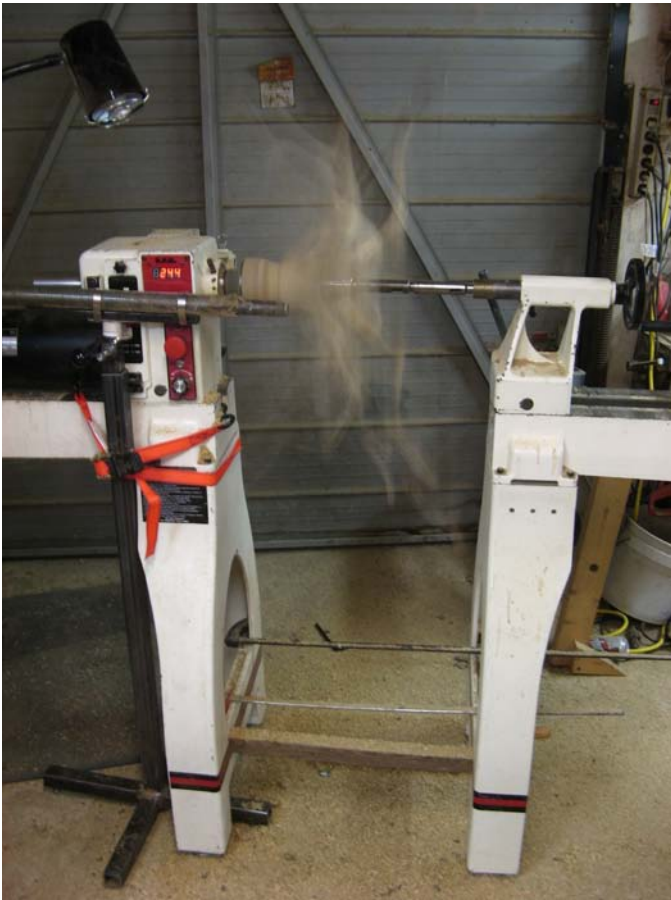
Turning the shaped base was very difficult because some of the roots curled back towards the base (further than the length of the trunk), as shown in Picture 5.

This caused problems in turning. To overcome this problem I used curved tools used in hollow turning to turn under the errant spinning roots. This worked for the base of the piece (cutting on the trunk toward the headstock) but I had to reverse cut to blend the trunk with the root structure. To reverse the cut I had to reverse the cutting edge (turn the tool over and mount the cutter on the opposite side) on the curved tool and cut the opposite direction (away from the headstock toward the roots), while the errant roots "whirled by and the lathes were "heaving". Lathe speed was always below 245 rpm's.

Picture 6, on the next page, shows the wood set up for the undercutting process while rotating at 244 rpm's (maximum speed). Notice the "ghosts" of the roots on both ends of the piece. I was "really" careful to keep my hands, arms and tools out of the way.



Picture 5 – The Undercut



Picture 6 – Torchwood piece spinning at 244rpm

Picture 7 shows “Passion” to date on the fireplace mantel (picture is at an angle because of the placement of the errant roots.) I like the looks of it against the brick but with the proper base it could be a dramatic centerpiece on a dining room table.

I am pleased with what I have solved so far and am looking to solve this final problem and looking for another challenging project. I could have entitled it 16 inches and 16 inches don't make 37.5 inches but it would have made sense to only me. Or “Holding and Touching” or “Motion” could have been the title.

I chose “PASSION” as the title. For the piece describes the passion within me to “push my skill limits”, the limits of my equipment and risk being called “weird and twisted”. But thankfully the piece was successfully completed, to my satisfaction and that's why I turn.

Notice the motion in the piece title “Passion”. It seemingly moves, yet the observer knows that it is a stationary object. All the motion comes from or moves toward the center of the object, just as the emotion of passion. All the roots are interacting with each other through intersection and overlapping. In fact several roots look like crossed fingers or overlapping hands. Just as with the emotion of passion, it has subtle nuisances, touching of others and the holding emotions in check, etc. The more you look at “passion” the more you see. Just like looking at emotions in life.

After completing the turning of the base and the inside center of the piece, it was sculpted with 4 inch and 2 inch power grinders. Sanding was initially done with 2 and 3 inch sanding disks on a drill and an orbital sander. This sanding removed the dull “driftwood gray” color revealing the creamy shades of yellow and brown that contrasts the light and dark brown growth rings in the center of the piece. The piece was hand-sanded and finished with penetrating oil.

What remains to be completed? The base of the piece remains a problem. Since the errant roots extend past the trunk, it cannot “lay flat”. It was designed as a wall hanging because of its 37.5-inch expanse. But it will not lay tight against the wall because of these errant roots. I am determined not to remove or alter the roots by attempting to bend them. I have decided to add additional wood to the base. I do not have any more torchwood, so I must use other types of wood. Again more problems- similar or contrasting wood, smooth or rough texture, and flat or sculpted. I have left a 1-inch tendon on the base so I might make the “add-on” base more secure. Problems. Problems. Problems.



Picture 7 – The completed work “Passion” sitting on a mantel

Here are the results from the March member competition

Beginner category:

1. Antler Pens - Ray Morgan
2. Mahogany and Tiger Maple Bowl - Marty Cogen
3. Oak Lidded Box - Shawn Swanner

Advanced: No Entries

Intermediate category:

1. Pecan Bowl – Brian Simmons
2. Black Walnut and Birds Eye Maple Veneer Bowl – Brian Simmons
3. Cedar Goblet – James Files

Enhanced category:

1. Spanish Cedar, Indian Rosewood, Maple Veneer and Aluminum Studded Platter – Robert Scheitlin

Barron Bartlett held the raffle for the One-Way chuck we have been selling chances for and the winner was David Tucker of Ashville. Congratulations to David and thanks to Barron for conducting the raffle. We will be doing another raffle soon.

This is a reminder that we will be distributing Anchor Seal wax sealer at the April meeting to protect your stored wood from cracking or rotting. Kevin Felderhoff will coordinate the sale and take receipt of the drum when it is shipped to us. Kevin will be at the Homewood Center by 8:00 AM to start the distribution. He will need a couple of helpers to dispense the wax and to take up the money. Please see Kevin if you can help. We plan to finish up before the meeting starts at 9:00. We will sell it for what it costs the club to the even dollar to make the money changing easier. Bring a jug or two for your wax sealer. The cost will be \$7.00 per gallon, the same as last year, compared to about \$20 retail.

I would like to make another pitch for the eighth annual Southern States Symposium will be held April 25-27 at Georgia Mountains Center, Gainesville, GA and we are a sponsor. The headline turners for this event are John Mascoll (Florida), Graeme Priddle (New Zealand), Avelino Samuel (St. John VI) and Betty Scarpino (Indianapolis). One of the guest turners will be our own Wilford Bickel. Plan to go! Don Blankenship and Pat Johnson will coordinate our support team again this year to see that we provide support for the demo room that we sponsor.

A special thanks to Shaun Swanner who is doing the audio and video for us. Mel Brown is out of the country for a few months and Don Blankenship has health problems so Shaun is carrying most of the load right now. This feature adds a lot to the quality of our presentations and we all appreciate his hard work. Be sure and tell him at the meeting how much we appreciate his work.

I'm afraid there will be no door prizes this time but we will load up for May. I will have some cherry and some Spanish cedar as well as several \$10 gift certificates to draw for at the meeting in May. - Dave

ANNOUNCEMENT RE' NEWSLETTERS... As Dave has mentioned before and earlier in this news-letter, dues are past due for this year. Beginning with next month's newsletter, those who have not paid for 2008 will be removed from the mailing lists. This is a head's-up for those who need to pay their dues.

2008 – Hands-On Class Schedule

Date	Subject	Instructor	Cost
April 12	How to Sharpen your Tools (limit 8)	Pat Johnson	\$25
April 12	Basic Segment Construction (limit 4)	Nevin Newton	\$25
May 10	Hollow Vessels (limit 6)	Will Pate	\$25
Aug 9	Christmas Ornaments (limit 6)	Bill Hubbard	\$25
Sep 13	Pepper Mills (limit 6)	Phil Fortmeyer	\$25
Oct 11	Pen Making (limit 6)	Robert Scheitlin	\$25

Come and See Us!

For those interested in joining our club, it is a great way to share and learn woodturning techniques. With over a hundred members, the experience of our members ranges from novice to professional turner. Some have big fancy lathes and some have none. Everyone who is the least bit interested in knowing more about this addictive hobby, contact Richard Serviss at (205) 853-2136 or Dave Chanslor at (205) 669-5196 and they'll happily answer your questions and get you signed up. OR...come visit us at our next meeting. We meet the second Saturday of each month. Meeting starts at 9:00 am, but people start showing up much earlier. Questions are welcome and answers are plentiful.

Meeting Location

From I-65 N, exit 256B (From I-65 S, exit 256A). Turn West on Oxmoor Rd. go about .5 mi – halfway there take the left fork at the traffic light (means you'll go straight ahead) – Turn left onto Oak Grove Road and go about .2 mi. Homewood Senior Center is on the right. Check out our Web Site at www.alabamawoodturners.com for much more about our club.