

# June 2008 Newsletter

## Alabama Woodturners Association

Our Newsletter editor, Jerry Hanchey, is on safari this month so I am sending out this low tech version of our newsletter for June. I like to record the meeting activities each month since my memory is short... what was I saying??? Oh yea, the newsletter. We have some pictures from the meeting on the web.

We had a good meeting as usual in May but attendance was light at about 50. We were running 70 to eighty this time last year. I figure either the price of gas is slowing attendance or you're tired of the current administration. We will fix the latter problem this year as we are preparing to appoint a nominating committee to identify candidates for next year.

We had an entertaining and informative program in May with four of our experienced turners – Harold Hall, Bill West, Brian Simmons, and Jerry Osmundson. The subject of the demo was turning scraps, small pieces of wood you don't want to throw away but don't know what to do with. They show us all kinds of things from salt and pepper shakers to goblets to tooth pick holders! Thanks guys!

The wood turning competition was held again in May and we had some nice entries. Mell Brown won the novice category, and Will Pate won the advanced. Congratulations on some nice work to these winners.

Wood giveaway – some members brought free wood to give away at the meeting – cherry, Spanish cedar, oak, hickory. Thanks to the members who brought the free wood to those who don't have access to "found wood".

There were plenty of door prizes at the end of the meeting: six \$10 certificates from Craft Supplies, two big pieces of Spanish cedar, and a beautiful vase made by Craig Timmerman that went to Buddy Finch.

We will have a raffle at the June meeting for a Oneway live center valued at about \$120. The same as always, chances are \$1 each or six for \$5. I picked the live center up at Woodcraft this week so the winner will walk away with it June 14.

Speaking of Woodcraft, Tom sold the Woodcraft Store to a man from Florida who owns two stores down there. I spoke with the new owner this week and I liked what I heard from him. He plans to continue to support AWA and is planning an expansion of the store, either at the current location or in a new facility (location unknown). He is bringing in a manager from Florida who is originally from this area I am told.

It's Christmas Ornament time again and Harold Hall hosted a turning event May 24th to make Christmas ornaments for the Children's Hospital Benefit we do every year. Thanks to Harold for kicking it off for us. We had a good turnout at his place in the Shades Valley area. We had breakfast at a little grill perched on

top of a ridge with a breath taking view called "Tip Top Grill" and then went to Harold's place. We need to make about 300 ornaments this year so let's get started!

The June meeting program will feature Tony Rae from Ireland who will show us some interesting surface decorations. We will have a cookout with Jess Walls, Norris Jackman and other men doing the cooking and Judy Osmundson, Shirley Thomas and Gay Austin running the kitchen along with other volunteers.

Looking ahead, we continue to have a busy training schedule with Will Pate and Phil Fortmeyer planning much more as the year goes on. The July program will feature Frank Penta who specializes in platters but does everything else too. We will have a hands on workshop on Friday July 11<sup>th</sup> with Frank turning a multi-centered platter.

See you all on June 14<sup>th</sup> for the program and good food!

Dave Chanslor

AWA President 2006-2008