



# 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](http://www.alabamawoodturners.com)

### Coming Events

- Oct 10 – Brian Simmons
- Nov 14 – Round Robin
- Dec 12 – Christmas Party

### President's Message



What a meeting we had in September! Our excellent wood tuner demonstrator was Pat Matranga from Nashville, TN. She specializes in creating unique corporate gifts and has quite a following. She also enjoys and perfects the skill of turning historic wood. It was nice to see a young woman up there doing the demonstrating for a change. More and more women are picking up woodturning as a hobby in this growing field. If you would like to see more of Pat's work, her web site is [www.matrangadesigns.com](http://www.matrangadesigns.com). (Also see a couple of pictures on page 4.)



We had 67 people attend the September meeting. Guests were Bob Hitchcock and Ginny Bradshaw. When you see a person you don't know be sure to make them feel welcome. It could be their first time at a meeting and we want everyone to feel welcomed.

Bill West updated the club on the Christmas ornament project for Children's Hospital. Our goal lately seems to be a moving target, around 350 to 400 range. When we get enough, I am confident Bill will let us know, so we can start turning something else. This is the last meeting to get your ornaments in. So get busy turning. We all know how important this is so please get to work and make some to support Children's Hospital. It's a very worthwhile cause.

On another note, Bill spoke to us about shop safety and his accident on the table saw. It only takes a split second to get hurt. Every shop has a table saw in it and it is the most widely used tool in a shop. I have attached a link for some safety tips on the table saw.

<http://woodworking.about.com/od/safetyfirst/p/TwelveTableSawSafetyTips.htm>

The program for October will be from a club member Brian Simmons. Brian is a very technical person that comes up with some nice fixtures and tools to assist in his turning and he likes to share them with the club. He turns some really nice designs on the lathe and we are looking forward to his presentation.

Kevin

### Officers of AWA

- President** – Kevin Felderhoff
- Vice President** – Worth Barham
- Secretary** – Richard Serviss
- Treasurer** – Phil Duffy
- Directors:** Don Blankenship, Bill Hubbard, Dave Chanslor, Judy Osmundson, Donald Payne, Jess Walls, and Brian Simmons
- Web Master** – Robert Scheitlin
- Training** – Phil Fortmeyer
- Newsletter Editor** – Jerry Hanchey

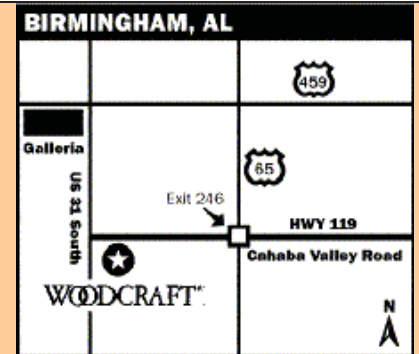
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 Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday: 9 am – 7 pm  
 Thursday: 9 am – 9 pm  
 Saturday: 9 am – 6 pm  
 Sunday: noon – 5 pm



## THE SEPTEMBER COMPETITION RESULTS –

This month we did not have any entries in the Beginner Category; I suppose everyone has graduated to the next levels...but maybe we'll have some for the Oct competition. There were only two Intermediate entries and both Advanced and Enhanced/Segmented had at least three each. At the end of the competition, a suggestion was made to consider expanding the competition to include some level of critique in addition to awarding first, second and third place in each category. More discussion on that idea later.

### INTERMEDIATE CATEGORY



1<sup>st</sup> – Plate by Sean McCurley



2<sup>nd</sup> – Bowl from root by Lincoln Gaborik

### ADVANCED CATEGORY



1<sup>st</sup> – Manzanita root burl vessel by Bill Hubbard



2<sup>nd</sup> – Cherry cup turned with eccentric stem



3<sup>rd</sup> – Mulberry closed vessel by David Tucker

### ENHANCED/SEGMENTED CATEGORY



1<sup>st</sup> – Large Poplar platter by Sean McCurley



2<sup>nd</sup> – Two part work enhanced with piercing and painting by Will Pate



3<sup>rd</sup> – Segmented closed vessel by Dwight Hostetler

Following is part 2 of Dave Chanslor's article on building your own wood burning system. Last month focused on how to build the burner using a battery charger. This part covers the hand piece. The figure numbers beginning with 5 are sequential from part 1.

## Make a DIY Woodburning Hand Piece By Dave Chanslor

Figure 5



This is a continuation of an article in last month's newsletter on making a wood burning system from a battery charger and custom hand pieces, burning tips and branding tips. First let me say that you can buy burner hand pieces separately and many come with the standard phone plug connection. I have a BurnMaster hand piece from Woodcarvers Supply in addition to my home made hand piece. (\$60 for hand piece and 5 tips) The commercial ones have some tips that are useful that I cannot make. The home version is best for branding and special tips and is easy to make. Buy or otherwise obtain some nichrome wire. It is available in spools of 50 feet or so for around \$11 on the web (i.e. Amazon.com) Get 18 or 20 gauge wire (20 gauge is thinner than 18 gauge). You need only a few inches of the nichrome wire so you should try to find someone who has some. I use 20 gauge wire as it is thinner and easier to form in to special shapes.

Buy a terminal strip from Radio Shack which costs about \$3 for an 8 position strip which will make 2 hand pieces. Find a short piece of 12 gauge solid copper wire. Find a short piece of 1/2" PVC pipe. At a home construction site or my shop is a good place to look. The picture in Figure 5 tells the whole story, except for making the connectors that attach the 12 gauge copper wire to the nichrome tip. For those, take two joints of the terminal strip and melt the plastic off of them and you have the connectors. See the meltdown in Figure 6. I used a propane torch and held the piece with pliers. The plastic comes off easily and is not sticky as I had thought it would be.

The individual pieces are shown in figure 7 with only partial assembly. The wire to plug in the hand piece to the burner is not shown but connects to the right side of the terminal block. Cut the PVC to the desired length, between four and six inches

Figure 7



and notch it as shown. I used my band saw but you need to be very careful if you use a course toothed blade. A Dremel tool will do a smoother job and is safer but I was in a hurry as always. The hole in the terminal block is 9/32 in diameter. Drill a 9/32 hole in the notched portion to line up with the terminal block hole. I drilled through the terminal block in to the PVC. The screw that holds the terminal block is 1/8 by 1-1/4 inches, available at your friendly hardware store. The two pieces of 12 gauge copper wire are heat sinks for the connector. I cut mine 1-1/4 inches long. Just assemble the parts and your ready to burn, except you need to make some custom tips for your new

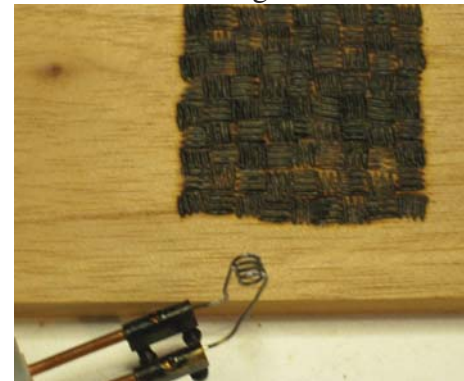
burner. Use the 18 or 20 gauge wire to make any shape you want. I made a brand for a crab body to put on some crab cracker mallets, and a letter "C" for some reason. Figure 8 shows a coil I made for making a weave texture, also shown. I just wrapped the 20 gauge wire around a small Phillips screw driver shaft and bent the ends to fit in the hand piece connectors. For complex shapes you can heat the wire in the hand piece to make it easier to finalize the shape. The possibilities are endless for the brands or burning tips you can make.

Figure 9 (next page) shows the completed hand piece with the cord and plug. I used the cord that was on the charger leads for the first burner hand piece. For the second hand piece I will use 16 gauge stranded wire power cord from Lowes or HD. The 18 gauge stranded wire for the cord is good for 10 amps and 12 volts but I will go up one size to be sure the cord doesn't get too hot if I use it a long time...

Figure 6



Figure 8



I run my burner usually at about 8 amps on the 6 volt setting with 20 gauge nichrome wire tips. The 18 gauge wire tips require a little more juice. Be sure to tin the leads of the power cord that go into the terminal blocks if you have a soldering gun which you will also need to attach the phone jack connections both on the hand piece cord and inside the battery charger/ wood burner as shown in the previous article.

I have had a lot of fun with my powerful DIY wood burner. It opens up more surface design possibilities and saved me money I can spend on other wood turning toys!

Happy wood burning!

Figure 9



One of Pat Matranga's platters enhanced with acrylic paint



Another platter using BB's to decorate the rim

These are two of several pieces Pat Matranga brought along to her demonstration last month. Her work focuses on her market which is corporate and business "presentos" and as such tries to make her work a bit unique. She also does a great job teaching and explaining how to use turning tools to be efficient at completing a turning. Of particular interest is her choice of a bowl gouge for doing spindle work.. It seems to be fast and effective for her.

*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 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 Phil Duffy at (256)355-4201 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 before 8:00 am. 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](http://www.alabamawoodturners.com) for much more about our club.