



# 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

Jul 11 –

Pre-Mtg demo. None this month to allow more time for Binh Pho.

The main event is Binh Pho who will demonstrate air brushing, piercing and thin wall turning.

## Officers of AWA

**President** – Kevin Felderhoff

**Vice President** – Worth Barham

**Secretary** – Richard Serviss

**Treasurer** – Norris Jackman

**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 Hanchev

## President's Message

We had a great June meeting and there was a lot of activity going on around the room. There were 86 members and 2 guests. The guests were: Jim Priest and Troy Priest. The June meeting featured Larry Thomas who presented a program on Step by Step Finishes. Kudos to Larry, we enjoyed the program. We also had some tips on chainsaw safety.

The anchor seal was passed out during the meeting. We have a few gallons left over, if you still need some just let myself or Tut Touchstone know and we will get it you some while supplies last. The cost of the wax is \$8.00 per gallon. Thanks Tut and everyone else for handing the distribution of the wax. It's not a fun job especially with the rain we had during the meeting.

Just a reminder, Christmas is right around the corner! We still have a way to go on the ornaments for the Children's Hospital Christmas tree. Please start turning your ornaments and turn them in at the next meetings.

If you have a good fixture or stand for cutting your logs, take a picture or make a drawing of it so we would like to put it in the newsletter to share with our members. It is always great to share pointers with each other.

The demonstrator for the July meeting will be Binh Pho. We are going to have two sessions for this meeting with lunch served at the Homewood Center.

1. Morning session - Thin Wall Hollowing
2. Afternoon session - Piercing and Air Brushing.

Brian Simmons donated a seat to the club for Sunday's training class with Binh Pho. This is a \$135 value. Thanks Brian!

On another note which some of you may not be aware of is that I will be stepping down from the position of President at the end of the year. The economy caught up with me in March and with a lot of thoughts and prayers my wife and I have decided to relocate to North Carolina and start over. We were planning to move to N.C. in the next four or five years, this just moved everything up. We are currently in the process relocating and will be fulltime residents by the middle of August. In the meantime, I will be commuting back and forth from N.C. to AL to finish out this year.



continued page 2

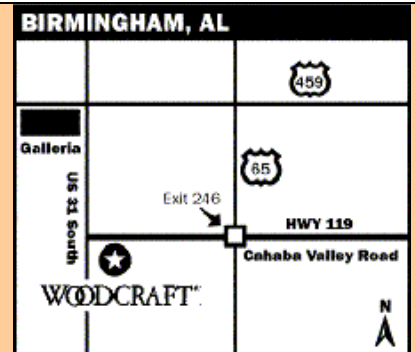
## Inside this issue:

Article by Christy Felderhoff	Pg 2
Competition Results	Pg 3
A brief on Binh Pho	Pg 3
Report on AAW symposium	Pg 4



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



I have enjoyed being President and want to thank everyone for your thoughts and prayers. We will be forming a nominating committee to find a replacement. I look forward to seeing everyone at the July meeting.

Thanks,  
Kevin

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## Treasure beneath the Barn

Written By: Christy Felderhoff

Some say beauty is in the eye of the beholder. In this case, beauty is seen in the eye of a creator, Kevin Felderhoff. Kevin is an imaginative woodcraftsman who sees something deemed undesirable and renews it into a magnificent work of art. Kevin's desire and passion for wood began at a young age and continued to prosper as he grew older. Kevin takes notice of the beauty in the imperfections of wood and sought to enhance the beauty through his craft, wood turning.

About a year ago, Kevin bought an eighty year old barn listed on Craigslist from Maylene, AL to reclaim the wood to make barn wood furniture. To most, this barn would be seen as rubbish, but out of the rubble emerged an alluring and long lost treasure. The hidden treasures buried beneath the barn were 175 year old Long Leaf Heart Pine beams from the frame of a 175 year old log cabin that the barn was built on.

Once harvested for log homes and English sail masts, Long Leaf Heart Pine is one of the most sought after restorative woods. Currently, salvaged Long Leaf Heart Pine wood is used for flooring; leaving homeowners breathless with its timeless beauty, strength and stability.

Like a caterpillar emerges from a cocoon into a beautiful butterfly; Kevin rejuvenated these beams and turned a piece of that wood into an artistic bowl; shown here. He brought new life to this old piece of wood. He turned out the imperfections with his lathe, and repaired the wood with epoxy after breakage. Kevin is always looking for that hidden piece of lost wood that is waiting to be rejuvenated and turned into a piece of art.



Brian Simmons sent me the following hyperlinks to Web sites that contain some good info on general woodworking and woodturning. I've used these in the past and if you haven't, you might want to check them out. Thanks Brian.

Woodcentral's turning forum

<http://www.woodcentral.com/cgi-bin/turning.pl?index>

Sawmill creek turning forum

<http://www.sawmillcreek.org/forumdisplay.php?s=2b056058041d57a190e310ed725be63a&f=20>

Woodweb has forums on sawing, drying, finishing, adhesives, etc <http://www.woodweb.com/>

## RESULTS OF THE JUNE CLUB COMPETITION

In the BEGINNER category, Sheri (Mark Couto's girlfriend) won first place followed by Tom Corbitt who took both second and third with his two entries.

In the INTERMEDIATE category, John Carpenter took first place. There were no other entries.

In the ADVANCED category, David Tucker took first and second places and Brian Simmons took third.

In the ENHANCED/SEGMENTED category, Bill Hubbard took first, Moody Davis took second, and Staten Tate took third.



Sheri's Bowl – 1<sup>st</sup> place Beginner



John Carpenter's Bowl – 1<sup>st</sup> place Intermediate



David Tucker's multi-axis vessel – 1<sup>st</sup> place Advanced



Bill Hubbard's segmented rimmed platter – 1<sup>st</sup> place Enhanced/Segmented

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### ABOUT BINH PHO

For those of you who aren't acquainted with Binh and his work, you are in for a special treat. Of all the turnings I've viewed in the last few years, I consider Binh Pho's work to be as "good as it gets." His unique style of combining airbrushing, piercing, dying and gilding with a variety of turned shapes have resulted in stunning works of art that now reside in galleries, museums and private collections around the world. One of the principal characteristics of Binh's work is how he has incorporated his life's story into his pieces. The designs and symbols on his turnings represent significant events and experiences in his life. Born in Vietnam, he was taken "prisoner" by the Viet Cong about the time I was returning from my second tour in Vietnam...early 70's. After several failed attempts to escape he finally succeeded and came to the U.S. as many other emigrants from South Vietnam have done. Binh now lives with his wife and children just outside Chicago where he has his studio. His work is truly art and because of the time involved to complete a piece, he only does a few each year. So be sure to attend this one. You'll definitely be impressed! -EDITOR

## A Report on the AAW Symposium

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual AAW Symposium was held in Albuquerque, NM Jun 25 thru Jun 28, 2009. We had two members and their wives attend. There were 54 demonstrators conducting 150 demonstrations or rotations. Featured demonstrators came from as far away as New Zealand, Ireland and South Africa. The range of matter covered in those demonstrations ranged from basic skills instruction, taught in the youth classes, to exotic uses of colors, metals (such as pewter), dyes and a multitude of complex shapes .

My experience began with our arrival late Wednesday and a trip to Santa Fe NM on Thursday. Santa Fe is located in the high desert of New Mexico with only one style of buildings and literally hundreds of galleries and artist shops as well as many shopping opportunities for the ladies especially in silver and turquoise. Two things stood out to me above all else. Everyone's home, including the many celebrities who live there, is so surrounded by the native bushes, cactus, trees and stucco walls you can't tell much about what the homes look like. It is a paradise to those who want privacy. Second thing is the absence of grass. Lawn mowers are like snow plows in Alabama... nonexistent.

I sat in on two rotations with David Nittmann who talked about his signature "Baskets of Illusions." It takes him about 400 hours to complete one of his larger platters. Most of the time is taken in marking the basket weave pattern on the wood and in filling in each tiny segment with custom mixed colors to create the beautiful patterns that he's so famous for. He discussed how he designs through trial and error each piece and draws it out on paper before starting on the wood.

Marilyn Campbell from Ontario Canada also presented two very informative sessions on how she used epoxy to create very unusual pieces. Her technique is to use the bandsaw to cut a flat disk of wood into several wavy pieces. She then removes some of those pieces and reassembles the pieces filling in those empty spaces with epoxy of different colors. The resulting wood/epoxy blank is then turned into some shape on the lathe. The various ways she uses epoxy really stimulated me to give it a try. The results are stunning.

Years ago, pretty much all woodturning just involved the use of wood and the completed turnings were finished with some type of clear or nearly clear finish that enhanced the look of the wood but didn't disguise it. In the last few years more work with high gloss and/or colored finishes is being not only accepted but in demand by collectors and other buyers. The work being put in galleries these days is seldom "natural" looking. One of the people involved in the high gloss, brilliant color finishes is Steve Sinner. I attended one of his rotations and found it very informative as he described his techniques for using metal leaf, acrylics, and inks on his hollow vessels. He talked about the steps he uses to sand, color and buff out the final finish. Interestingly, he used Spar Varnish in lieu of lacquer or other clear finishes. Additionally, he often uses piercings in geometric patterns on very thin pieces to provide the surface decoration. If you aren't familiar with his work, Google Steve Sinner and check out some of his stuff.

Another very interesting demonstrator was John Wessel from South Africa. I'd never heard of him but he's been doing his thing for many years. In fact he's one of a very few that mixes pewter with wood to create beautiful pieces. John uses both sheet pewter and solid pewter to create trim elements that are either "stuck" on the wood or become integral parts of the finished piece. He uses various chemicals to create patinas on the sheet pieces and on the solid pewter elements. He also uses metal turning tools to texture and create designs on the surface of the solid pieces such as chatter marks etc. He has developed his own techniques from research and experimentation on how to best adapt pewter to wood turning. Although he doesn't have any DVD's or teach classes on how to do what he does, his three seminars which will be available on the AAW symposium DVD pretty much cover all you need to know.

Chris Pytlik was another new name to me, but his use of dyes to color his work from the inside intrigued me. So I sat in on one of his rotations. Chris turns thin wall vessels not unlike others we've all seen but what he does next is very unusual, at least to me. He uses syringes to inject various kinds of dyes into the inside of his vessels and lets the porous nature of the wood cause the color to "bleed through" to the outside. This creates different patterns and shades of colors on the outside. Of course he uses high gloss finishes to make his colors "pop." One of his pieces is shown on the left.



The last demonstrator I'll mention is Andrew Chen. Also unknown to me before this year, Andrew, aka Andy, specializes in using Corian instead of wood to create his "segmented" pieces. Andy described his techniques for cutting and assembling his works. Although he glues his pieces together, it's almost impossible to see the glue lines unless you get very close and look for them.

