



May 2016





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What a wonderful experience we had last month with Nick Cook. Nick is an outstanding teacher with a calm and easy going style. He demonstrated how to turn seven easy, but useful items which could be used for personal use as well as for potential sale at craft shows. Nick actually makes part of his living producing these same items for sale in his local market.

# President's Corner



Good morning fellow woodturners. Here it is May and this month we will be continuing our Mike Mahoney DVD, Woodturning Basics. It had good interest by the membership and was requested to finish viewing it when we had a chance. It is time this month to finish this very informative DVD. I have seen Mike demo many times at past AAW symposiums and his personality and style of teaching is very easy to learn from. So bring your note pads and get ready for a good demonstration.

It is possible that we will have a little more time for fellowship this month. We could spend a few extra minutes on instant gallery this month, so think about bringing some of your work to share with the club. You could also bring some tip or technique to share too. If you are having trouble with some thing let us know. With a membership of about a 100 people we have approximately a thousand years or so of experience in our club, we should be able to help you.

Please think about items for our raffle as you are getting ready this week to come to the meeting. Any nice piece of wood that you could share or some other woodturning item that you might not need or want. With out your help we don't have a raffle. So thanks in advance for your help.

I want to remind you again of our charities. Of course Beads of Courage is the most pressing. Any boxes you have, need to be turned in at this May meeting so that they can be delivered to the AAW symposium June 9th. Thank you for all of you that have already made some and to those of you that plan to bring some this meeting. Pens for Troops and Memphis Empty Bowl project items are due at October meeting, so if you want to get involved in these projects you need to start thinking about them.

So, I look forward to seeing everyone Saturday May 28<sup>th</sup>. Doors open at 8:am and meeting starts at 9:00am. If you want to help with set up please come early. Dennis

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**By:**  
**Dennis Paullus**



# Wood Spin

## Maple - Confusing but Special

Sugar Maple in Autumn

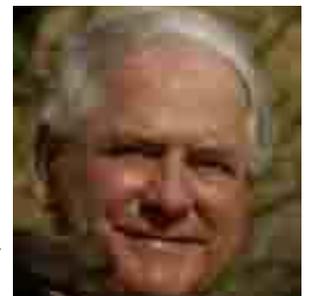
Going back over the 82 previous Wood Spin columns I have rambled, I realized that no column has been devoted to maple, the trees or their woods. The Acer (maple) genus consists of over 100 species, with *Acer saccharum*, the sugar maple, being the source of the wood prized by American woodturners. I will introduce one element of confusion right off in that a European maple favored by overseas woodturners is usually referenced as sycamore, but is properly termed sycamore maple. This European "sycamore" is not related to our common sycamore, so be alert to this distinction.

The mid-south USA is blessed with a great variety of excellent turning woods; unfortunately, sugar maple is not among them. The sugar maple, also known as hard maple or rock maple is found mainly in the northeast United States. Middle and eastern Tennessee represent the southern range of this tree. I know of a few sugar maples in Shelby and Fayette counties but most of them appear stunted, some are even struggling to survive.

Western Tennessee has a number of "soft" maple species with silver maple and red maple being the most common.



Silver Maple



By:  
Emmett Manley

## Wood Spin cont.

Red maple (*Acer rubrum*) is so common as to be considered an invasive species in some areas. The scientific name for the woodturner-prized sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*) is very similar to that of the common silver maple (*Acer saccharinum*) and thus adds another layer of confusion.



Red Maple

The most outstanding characteristic of the silver maple is the silver color of the underside of their leaves so these trees are easily identified. Also very conveniently, the red maple has red buds and red leaf stems especially obvious in the early spring. While the autumn foliage is not as spectacular as that demonstrated by the sugar maple, our southern maples are pretty and numerous cultivars of the silver maple have been introduced after being genetically developed for autumn color and prolonged leaf attachment to the tree. One popular proprietary maple is sold as Autumn Blaze.

Since we are into maple foliage color, let me dispense with another designer maple, the Japanese maple (*Acer palmatum*) which now

exists in the form of some 700 cultivars. These small slow growing trees are spectacular four season beauties bred to be viewed as lawn features. Because of their small size and high cost, it is unlikely that much of this wood will wind up on your lathe.



Japanese Maple

Another mid-south maple not nearly as common is the ash leaf maple or box elder, which is neither box nor elder, but worth discussing. The wood is soft and often borderline punky and would be of little interest to woodturners if it was not for the red color which is often present. The color can range from a light pink to breath taking deep reds, and



Box Elder

## Wood Spin cont.

turners fall in love dreaming of spectacular vases and bowls. Unfortunately, as woodturners have learned, it appears impossible to preserve the red color if the wood is exposed to light.

What is the source of the red color? A red fungus has been assumed the color source for many years. However, several plant pathology studies suggest that the color is not due to a fungus but rather a reaction of the wood to various insults including even minor stresses. Chemically, the red coloring agent may be an unstable phenol that breaks down when exposed to UV light rays.

Not willing to give up on box elder color, some woodturners have turned to dying or painting red colors on box elder turned items to substitute for the natural red which they know will disappear. Is this practice unethical or merely artistic license? Sort of like dying one's hair in our society -- it is considered OK if people know you dye your hair, and you are not trying to fool observers.



Ambrosia Maple

Ready for some more confusion? Let's consider ambrosia maple. Woodturners are fond of such maple and proudly proclaim that their pretty bowl was made from ambrosia maple. First, strictly speaking, there is no maple species named "ambrosia." It is like The Tennessee Waltz, which is a song about a song that does not exist. Ambrosia is a general description for any maple that has been infested by ambrosia beetles, insects which bore into the tree and bring with them a fungus that discolors the wood in attractive gray streaks. In our geographical area, it is my understanding that most of the maple attacked by the ambrosia beetle is silver maple. I've downed a few maple trees in my time and been present when a lot more were felled, and I have yet to encounter ambrosia maple in this area. On the other hand, in the wood pile at John C. Campbell Folk School (North Carolina) there always seems to be unlimited "ambrosia" maple scattered around.



Ambrosia Maple

Although dealing with maple can be confusing, sugar (hard) maple is a top quality turning wood, widely used for butcher blocks, bowling pins, pool cues, baseball bats, and numerous wood turned items. Plus, any maple that has been naturally

embellished by fungi and beetles provides a template for interesting wood turnings.



Hand mirror—body made from Ambrosia maple

A lucky find is sugar maple where the wood has been distorted into an undulating iridescent pattern perpendicular to the grain. Such maple is known as curly, ripple, fiddleback, or river stripe, among other terms. This maple is often used in the manufacture of musical instruments and fine furniture, and can be very valuable.



Tiger Maple



Curly Maple

Not surprising, the sugar maple is the primary source of maple syrup and maple sugar candy, products obtained by boiling down maple sap, with 20-50 gallons of sap required to yield one gallon of syrup. Other maples can be used to produce a maple syrup but sugar maple sets the standard. The chemistry of maple syrup is more complex than that of moonshine, which is another old time product of concentrating plant materials and increasing value while reducing storage space.

I'll resist the temptation to offer theories on the origin of sugaring but I suspect it involves people in the far north becoming bored after endless winters -- they could either ice fish and drink beer, or remain warm boiling maple sap while drinking beer.

Maple is special and is a favorite turning wood for many people. The following link provides concise information about the maples emphasized in this article.

[Minnesota maple series: Identifying maples trees for syrup production](#)

# Club Supported Charities for 2016

## Running Total of Turned Items



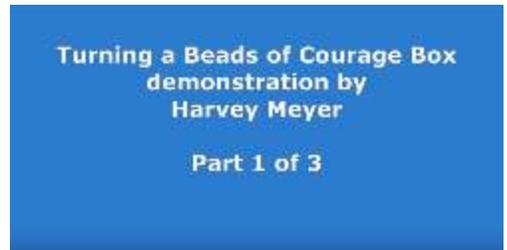
**Even if you were not able to contribute this year, don't forget this worthy cause. Start on your bowl for next year. For added inspiration please click on the links below.**



[Beads of Courage Promotional Video](#)  
2:20 minutes



[Children's Testimonials](#) 1:56 minutes



[Box Making Tutorial](#) by Harvey Meyer: This is the first of a three part series. Once you find part one, parts two and three are easy to find.

# Meet the Demonstrator

## Mike Mahoney - Video

May 28 Club Meeting

Please note that our June meeting will feature pepper mill demonstrations by Skip Wilbur and Dennis Paullus. This month we will attempt to finish the Mike Mahoney video we started at our September meeting. We will be sure to cover the pepper mill portion of the video as Dennis has set a President's challenge to create a pepper mill which will be submitted and judged at the August 27 meeting.



"I graduated in 1989 from San Diego State University from the Industrial Arts program wanting to be a full time woodturner. I was selling my work through local galleries and doing weekend art shows, while working a full-time job. After moving to Utah, I took the leap into full-time woodturning, trying to find additional galleries and opportunities to sell my work; looking for something a bit more stable I ventured into the wholesale craft market. I took my wares to The Buyers for American Craft Show in Philadelphia (a bi-annual show held at the Philadelphia convention center). This is where I built my

business and was able to establish relationships with enough galleries to buy my work on a regular basis to make woodturning my livelihood. The main staple of my business is making salad bowls, generally from 10" to 17" in diameter. All of the bowls are made from wood that is growing here in my valley. I use soft hardwoods, such as box elder, silver maple, ash, English walnut, and poplars. All of these woods are excellent for utilitarian bowls. I also use highly figured woods for my bowls, which makes them easier to sell.

In addition to salad bowls, I make burial urns for humans and animals. This evolved from my interest in making hollow vases. I hand-chase threads on the lid and the neck of the hollow form so that it seals tightly, which makes it unique. The market for urns is never ending.

I also specialize in nested bowls. Coring bowls from the inner parts of my larger bowls manifested this skill. I felt that if I cored them properly they would fit together nicely and waste less wood."

*Editor's Note: All of the above was copied from an article in Wood Magazine.com*

# Instant Gallery

**Bob Smith**



Box Elder Vases

**Dennis Lissau**



Beads of Courage

# Instant Gallery

Jay Lehman



# Instant Gallery

**John Williams**



Slotted HF



Pecan Natural Edge

**Jonas Nemanis**



Red Oak Goblet

# Instant Gallery

**Tom Dorough**



Ambrosia Maple



Guanacaste - National Tree of Costa Rica



White Oak Natural Edge

# Instant Gallery

**Rick Stone**



Maple Platter



Natural Edge Bowls



# Instant Gallery

## Skip Wilbur - Jim Tusan Collaboration



Campaign Chair



# Upcoming Events 2016

- May 28** Watch remainder of **Mike Mahoney Video** started at our September meeting. Emphasis on pepper mills in preparation for June demonstrations
- “Beads of Courage” Boxes project final turn in date**
- June 25** Skip Wilbur and Dennis Paullus - Pepper mills
- July 23** Bob Wolfe - Triangular box
- August 27** To be announced
- President’s Challenge turn in date - Pepper Mill**
- September 24** To be announced
- October 14 - 16** Pink Palace Craft Fair- club booth
- October 29** Oktoberfest *(Note: this is a week later than our normal date. This change was made to reduce conflicts with competing events at this time of year.)*
- “Empty Bowls” project final turn in date**
- Annual Pens for Troops pen turn in deadline**
- November 8** Empty Bowls event
- November 26** To be announced
- President’s Challenge turn in date - Christmas Ornaments**
- December** Christmas Party (date to be determined)
- Annual Club auction

# Mentor Program

All members of MSWG are invited to contact the following mentors to learn a new technique, improve their turning skills or turn something different. Mentors are volunteers and do not charge.

Contact information is on our website under Members Only and the Roster. Sessions should last no longer than 3 hours and be scheduled at the convenience of the mentor.

Benson, Joel	Wood Selection, Turning Green Wood, McNaughton Coring, Chain Saw Sharpening/Maintenance, Chain Saw Use/Safety
Cannon, Rick	Segmented Bowls
Hosier, Jerry	Basic Stone and Wire Inlay, Woodturning Basics (Beads & Coves), Use of Spindle & Bowl Gouges
Maffitt, Mike	Trembleurs, Offset Turning
Manley, Emmett	Basic Woodturning, Small Bowls, Tool Handles, Hand Mirrors, Stick Pens, Eggs, Wine Bottles, Miniature Birdhouses, many other small items
Paullus, Dennis	Tool Use, Turning Safety, Hollow Vessels, Bowls, Boxes (Friction Fit or Threaded), Spindle Turning
Pillow, Wright	Inlaying: Marketry, Inlace, Epoxy
Sefton, Larry	Milk Paint, Make Your Own Pyrography Unit, Hollow Forms
Stone, Rick	Finials, Bowls (incl. Natural Rim), Boxes, Spindles, Carving, Finishes, Pyrography, Making Tools, Turning Tool Basics (incl. Sharpening)
Tusant, Jim	Bowls, Hollow Forms, Pyrography, Carving, Dyeing, Tool Use
Voda, Joseph	Spindle Turning (e.g. Ornaments)
Wilbur, Skip	Bowls, Hollow Forms, Goblets, Finials

# AAW | AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS



ATLANTA  
2016  
AAW | AMERICAN ASSOCIATION  
OF WOODTURNERS  
SYMPOSIUM  
30 YEARS  
1986-2016

## There's still time...

to register for [AAW's 30th Annual International Symposium in Atlanta](#), June 9-12, 2016 - and you know a good value when you see one. AAW's symposium packs in more high-quality learning opportunities for woodturners than any other event in the world. [Get a sneak peek by reviewing our planning guide.](#)

## All skill levels are welcome!

Whatever your skill level, the AAW symposium offers something for you. Select from the broad range of demonstrations and panel discussions to focus on sessions that will enhance your experience wherever you are on your woodturning journey. Take away knowledge, tips, and techniques that will last a lifetime. [View complete schedule.](#)

## Top instructors!

The AAW symposium offers three-and-a-half days of classroom-type demonstrations and panel discussions led by internationally known woodturners, veteran instructors, and top woodturning talent. No other event offers as many opportunities to learn from the world's best. [View demonstrators and panelists.](#)

## Trade Show extraordinaire!

You'll be able to see the latest and greatest woodturning products up close and in action. AAW's enormous trade show will be jam-packed with the newest woodturning products, tool and lathe manufacturers, and supplies. You'll be able to observe ongoing demonstrations, see tricks and techniques, hold tools in your own hands, and kick some tires. [View trade show exhibitors and scheduled trade show demos.](#)

***Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn. ~ Benjamin Franklin***

<http://www.midsouthwoodturners.com>

## Join us!

AAW's 30th Annual  
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Atlanta, Georgia  
June 9-12, 2016

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remarkable  
event!**

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If you have questions, problems, or need assistance with registration, please call us M-F, 8am to 4:30pm CST, toll-free (US) at 877-595-9094 or 651-484-

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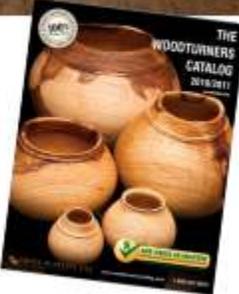


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