



**BAY AREA**  
**WOODTURNERS**  
**ASSOCIATION**  
A CALIFORNIA NONPROFIT CORPORATION  
LOCAL CHAPTER AAW

February 2014

Volume 18, Issue 2

## Milk Paint and Texturing with Hugh Buttrum

Our own Hugh Buttrum will be our presenter at the upcoming meeting in February. Hugh is a very experienced and talented turner and has been involved with BAWA and Wine County Woodturners for many years. Hugh took home an award in the professional category at the BAWA December competition for a hollow vessel. The form was executed well but he likely won the award for the newly developed surface treatment – which he promises to share one day...

Hugh's demonstration at the meeting will focus on a variety of texturing techniques and the application of milk paints. The first part of the demo will be the set up and prep for texturing using hand and air tools. Once dialed in, he will show texturing on the outside of a series of 4 or 5 bowls all with different styles



After the texturing part, he will go into milk paint....how to mix it - paint up something already textured and sand it a little bit (sorry, there will be a bit of dust involved). Using texture reduces the amount of sanding (which every woodturner just loves to do).

As Hugh says: "People like texture. I plan on showing as many different textures as I can think of - from smooth to hand carving with a gouge or air tools that are very fast at creating texture. The adding of the milk paint adds a whole other dimension to the process. If you have a bowl made from a plain piece of wood with not much color or grain pattern - Adding milk paint on the outside of the bowl can make the bowl much more attractive."

Join us for Hugh's presentation this Saturday; you will definitely learn a new skill or application that is something to take back and try in your shop.





# BAY AREA WOODTURNERS ASSOCIATION

A CALIFORNIA NON PROFIT CORPORATION  
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## Club Meetings

Meetings are the 2nd Saturday of each month unless otherwise noted.

8:30 doors open for setup, use store and library, swap ideas, view displays

9:30—12:30 meeting and demo

**Meetings will be held at the PHEC Woodturning Center, 1 Santa Barbara Road, Pleasant Hill, CA.**

See [bayareawoodturners.org/](http://bayareawoodturners.org/) for directions and club information.

### **BAWA Officers Meeting -**

Officer meetings are open to all members. Contact Bill Mellberg if you would like to be on the agenda.

## 2014 Event Schedule

Feb 8th	Hugh Buttrum-Milk Paint and Texturing
Mar 8th	David Ellsworth
Mar 10th-12th	David Ellsworth Workshop
Apr 12th	Bill Mellberg and Greg Ketell-Casting and Turning Synthetic Pens
May 10th	Ray Key (tentative)
Aug 9th	BBQ
Sept 13th	Jerry Kermode
Oct 11th	Larry Lew-Pyrography Illusion
Dec	Xmas Party

The Bay Area Woodturners Association is a local chapter of the American Association of Woodturners. Our purpose is to provide a meeting place for local turners to share ideas and techniques and to educate the general public regarding the art of turning. The Association usually meets the second Saturday of each month. The Association periodically sponsors exhibitions and demonstrations by local and internationally known turners.

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# January Meeting Recap

Jim Rodgers once again choreographed an excellent presentation, this time focusing on pens and alternative approaches to the standard kit. Jim has spent countless hours over the past year exploring the basket illusion process developing skills and techniques which he demonstrated could be overlaid onto pens.



Jim elaborated on how to make an almost segmented pen: it looks like miniature segmented construction but indeed is just an illusion. If however you want the real thing, he showed how to make an actual segmented pen, some with non standard angles which provided a unique twist.

Jim provided excellent instructions covering all his topics that can be found on his website: <http://jimrodgers.com/pent-techniques.shtml> and the video of his presentation is available in the library. Thank you Jim – excellent presentation.



## CRAFT SUPPLIES 13% DISCOUNT ORDER

The 13% discount applies to any published price (including sale items, close-outs, etc.) and there are no tax or S&H charges. You can find full on the Craft Supplies Club 13% Discount Program in the April 2012 newsletter.

Craft Supplies has a new catalog that includes new items, and there have been some price increases as well. Look on-line to pick your loot and check prices.

Orders are placed with Norm Robinson by e-mail: ([normrobinson@hotmail.com](mailto:normrobinson@hotmail.com))

- Fill out an electronic order form which Norm can e-mail to you
- Send Norm the pertinent information.
- Catalog item number, catalog page number if possible,
- Item description
- Quantity ordered and the total price before 13% discount. Please don't use old catalogs as the prices will be incorrect
- Call Norm (415-420-3492) to place an order and follow up with an e-mail to confirm all the information required.
- If you have already placed an order you might send Norm e-mail reminder.

# President's Message

February 2014



*Our local club (BAWA) and the national organization (AAW) are focused on teaching safe practices for turning wood on the lathe. The process involves demonstrations and instruction in the selection of the right tool and the correct turning technique for shaping wood or making a controlled precision cut. Additionally there are a myriad of other processes, techniques and tools that allow you to embellish the surface or pierce the form to create negative space. Dyes, stains and finishes can be applied that accentuate the grain and protect the wood.*

*This year our meeting demonstrators will focus on a cross section of all these skills in hopes of providing inspiration and education for you to practice. Each demonstrator has a unique set of skills that have been developed over many years and influenced by other turners and artists during an individual journey of discovery.*

*At the February 8th meeting, the club will raffle all of last years demonstrator pieces that were donated to the club. These objects reflect a woodturners technical skill, selection of form and artistic creation. Each piece is a permanent record of the exchange of ideas, techniques and dialog that took place that day. The raffle will also contain items from the store and gift certificates for you to develop your own skills and purchase items you want for creative exploration.*

*When you come to this months meeting plan to visit our new library and check out a DVD or book to read. Besides demonstrations the club offers many opportunities to explore the art of woodturning. There are many tools and techniques that make the hobby fun and interesting, with lots of ideas for your next project. There are also many opportunities to attend classes that develop your skills and expand your creative interests with new projects and materials.*

*We would like to complete the 2014 dues collection process in February. If you cannot attend our next two meetings, plan to mail a check for \$50 made out to BAWA and send it to: **Joel Albert, 1242 Morning Glory Drive, Concord, CA 94521**. As a BAWA member you should also consider becoming a member of the national organization known as the American Association of Woodturners (AAW) which publishes a bi-monthly member only magazine and conducts a yearly symposium and exhibition. This year the symposium will be held in Phoenix, Arizona in mid June.*

*Respectfully, Bill Mellberg, President*

## News From the Store

The club has Bailey's "End Grain Sealer" in 1 gallon pails for sale available starting in February.

## Newsletter Articles

Got a great idea you want to share with your fellow Woodturners? Whether it is a turning tool, turning technique, finishing process or anything at all related to turning, your BAWA newsletter can always use an article. If you have pictures, all the better. If you need help writing it up or taking pictures, we're here to help. That's what our club is all about - sharing.

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# Trees of the Bay Area

## *Acacia melanoxylon black acacia*

By John Doyen and Tony Wolcott

This tree goes by many common names, but as an arborist and plant enthusiasts would agree this tree is best known as a pest – on the Cal-IPC list as an invasive weed. That means this tree has naturalized, seeds readily and crowds out other plants.

There are a few good things about this tree. The wood is hard and strong, can be milled and turned with a lustrous finish. You will have to sharpen your tools often as black acacia seems to be part rock. Table tops and other slabbed usages can be spectacular as the grain is coarse, sometimes cross grained, or wavy. Fine figure can be found. The wood will vary in color, yellowish sapwood, reddish brown heartwood with black streaks and quite variable, some wood reminiscent of walnut. Turning is a challenge and a chore but a nice finished ending. You will see some heart checking immediately and surface checking through the drying stages, but not deep and fairly stable wood.



There is an interesting aspect to *Acacia melanoxylon* as it grows. First, this tree is from Australia, a broad leaf evergreen (Angiosperm), belongs to the Fabaceae family, one of the largest families capable of providing its own nitrogen supply through fungal symbiosis. Acacia is the largest tree genus, over 1200 species. Black acacia produces a bipinnately compound leaf at first flush of growth, and then quickly converts over to a flattened leathery phyllode. It reminds me of pollywogs and frogs, not quite the same as juvenile eucalyptus leaves which is replaced by a mature leaf such as the silver dollar eucalyptus – a mainstay in flower arrangements. This type of conversion makes seedlings and saplings easy to identify as *Acacia melanoxylon*. Now that you know you are under an ethical mandate to pull this weed out when you see it. Don't worry there will always be black acacia to pester us. Arborists get together for pith pulling parties just to help our riparian areas, because that little seedling or root sucker or stump sprouter is the pith.



On a scale of 1 to 10, ten being the worst. Black Acacia comes out a robust ten for allergenic plants. The leaves are poisonous. In the Bay Area it is said that no matter where you stand you are 100 yards from at least one rat, the same can be said for *Acacia melanoxylon*. At the corner of Monroe and San Pablo Avenue in Albany on the west side of San Pablo and both sides of Monroe, there are approximately 20 black acacias, quite mature.



Cal-IPC.org lists of noxious weeds

Ritter, Matt "A Californian's Guide to the Trees Among Us"

Ogren, Thomas Leo "Allergy-Free Gardening"

Hatch, Charles R. "Trees of the California Landscape"

## March Meeting: David Ellsworth

March 8      9:00 – 4:00 pm

Our March meeting is not one to miss. Arguably one of the most significant woodturners in the world, David Ellsworth is coming to our club on Saturday March 8. We have David for a full day at Pleasant Hill, where he will discuss and demonstrate his sharpening technique, tools, bowls and hollow forms. David is in many ways responsible for the remarkable growth and artistic acceptance of woodturning today; we are incredibly fortunate to have him on the BAWA schedule. Doors open at 8:30 and the meeting will start at 9:00 sharp. If you are new to the club, the one day fee is \$30 or you can join the club for \$50 and see the remaining excellent presenters for the balance of the year.



David is the founding member of the American Association of Woodturners, of which he was president from 1986-1991, and its first Honorary Lifetime Member. He has written over fifty articles on subjects related to craft and woodturning and has operated the Ellsworth School of Woodturning at his home and studio in Buck's County, Pennsylvania since 1990. His works have been included in the permanent collections of thirty-six museums, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, and the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. He has taught workshops throughout the world and has received fellowship grants from the National Endowment of Arts, the Pennsylvania Council for the Arts, and the PEW Foundation. In 2009 he was elected the "Master of the Medium" by the James A. Renwick Alliance of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. He is a Honorary Lifetime Member of the Collectors of Wood Art, and a Fellow and a former Trustee of the American Craft Council.

Read more about David at: [www.ellsworthstudios.com](http://www.ellsworthstudios.com)



**The David Ellsworth Workshop is sold out!** After David's BAWA presentation we cajoled him into staying on for three days and teaching a workshop at Pleasant hill. He will go into more details on turning bowls and hollow forms while working one-on-one with the ten participants. March 10-12. Special thanks to Bob Bley from West Bay Woodturners for organizing David's schedule and to Jim Rodgers for coordinating and hosting the Ellsworth workshop.

## February 8th Raffle of Demonstrator Pieces



Mike Mahoney



Mike Jackofsky



Mike Jackofsky



Mike Mahoney



Mark Gardner



Doug Fisher



Doug Fisher

Additional items that will be in the raffle are: BAWA logo shirts and hats, gift certificates from Woodcraft and Craft Supplies and selected exotic wood pen blanks donated by Larry Dubia.

Tickets cost \$5 apiece or 5 for \$20. Don't miss this opportunity!!

## Stabilizing Active Wood

By David Morris

Several months ago I did a disfavor to a number of members by offering Arbutus, or Pacific Madrone, through the wood raffle without any forewarning of its challenges. All one needs to do is refer to the shrinkage tables, referenced on our website, to get a feeling of what might happen (5.6% radial shrinkage and 12.4% tangential shrinkage). I was sure that I could turn and age an end grain vessel with no special precautions other than being placed in a paper bag with shavings for several weeks. The result (see photo #1) was exacerbated by not aligning the pith with the vessel center line. At the same time I turned several other items including a natural edge bowl from the tree crotch. But this time, after turning the green wood, I boiled the items for one hour in water. After drying (losing 38-40 % water) the three pieces dried with no cracking nor significant distortion (see photos # 2 and 3). From the appearance of the hot water a lot of color left the boiled items. However, the salad bowl in photo #3 exposed its original color I removed about one quarter inch from the interior and exterior during final turning.

A word of caution - the process does create discoloration of the container even if it's stainless steel. However, little odor was observed.

*Photo #1*



*Photo #2*



*Photo #3*



*(photos by Sam Finnegan)*

### **Newsletter Articles**

Got a great idea you want to share with your fellow Woodturners? Whether it is a turning tool, turning technique, finishing process or anything at all related to turning, your BAWA newsletter can always use an article. If you have pictures, all the better. If you need help writing it up or taking pictures, we're here to help. That's what our club is all about - sharing.

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### **BAWA Classified**



We want members and others with items to sell or trade, services to render or if you're just looking to find a specific item from fellow BAWA members. Please send ads to Louie Silva at:  
[banjohead@comcast.net](mailto:banjohead@comcast.net).

You can't beat the price...FREE!!

## *January Show and Tell*



Ron Tinay with his Segmented Vase



A Vase and Bowl From Joel Albert



Looks Like Another Award Winner From Bob Nolan



Mike Vergino Shares a Bowl



Bonnie Glover Discussing Good Dental Hygiene



Windsor Box Back Chairs Courtesy of Ed Steffinger



Cindy Navarro Looks Quite Pleased of Her Turnings



It's Playtime for Corwin Jones, Showing the Kendamas He Crafted



Colin Mackenzie and a Lidded Vessel