

BAY AREA
WOODTURNERS
 ASSOCIATION
A CALIFORNIA NONPROFIT CORPORATION
 LOCAL CHAPTER AAW

The July 12th BAWA Meeting will feature Don White
 and the *Darth Vader Box*

President's Message
 Harvey Klein

Fellow Woodturners

By the time you read this many of you will have gone to the symposium and I trust had a good time. I want to let know of couple things coming up. First is the picnic in August, family is invited the only thing we ask is for you to let Robert Whitworth know, if your coming and how many guests so we can have enough food. It will be a simple picnic with hot dogs and hamburgers, and drinks. We hope to set up a couple of lathes and have a fun time. There will be more information coming about the picnic but I wanted to give everyone a heads up so they can mark the date on their calendar.

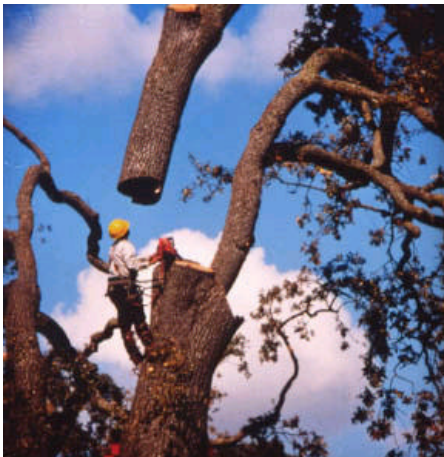
The second, election time is coming and nominations are being accepted. Please give it some thought about being on the board, this where you make a difference.

For those that were at the last meeting Wayne brought up the idea of a collaborative making a pair of candle sticks. I hope all of you will give this a try, I think you will find it a challenge and fun to do. I hope all of you enjoyed the demonstration by Jesus of his Mexican lathe. Hope to see you all at the next meeting. Go out and turn and try new things.

Harvey

The Big TREE Project
 {in memory of an ancient oak}

The Big tree Project, and exhibition of over 100 works of art, memorializes an ailing, ancient oak in Walnut Creek, cut down to protect the people beneath it. Mourning the tree's passing, the East bay community is honoring the big tree's life and history through artworks created from its wood.



BAWA is very well represented in the exhibit, with works from Jacques Blumer, David Burton, Carlin and Lanny Dana, Jerry Decker, Mark Knize, David Lambert, Myron Levin, Elizabeth Lundberg, Wayne Shipman, and Bill Small.

The exhibit at the Bedford Gallery at the Dean Leshner Regional Center for the Arts continues until August 31st, Tuesday through Sunday with hours from 12:00 noon to 5:00 pm. See <http://bedfordgallery.org> for more info. Don't miss it!



Myron Levin

Leo's Corner
 Leo Lichtman

Well, I was sitting there eating my lunch, and sort of letting the TV fill the room with background noise, when I suddenly realized I was watching David Oreck demonstrate the "amazing" suction of his little
Continued on page 3



The Bay Area Woodturner's 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 meets the second Saturday of each month at the Senior Center in San Ramon. The Association periodically sponsors exhibitions and demonstration by local and internationally known turners.

President:
Harvey Klein
hkmak1@comcast.net

Vice President:
Robert Whitworth
Hdhuunter9@sbcglobal.net

Treasurer:
Del Morisette
delmorisette@comcast.net

Secretary:
Mike Skinner
Skinner_mp@hotmail.com

Librarian:
Gene Pitkin

Membership:
Rich Bonnyton
richnvc@cno.us
925-228-0271

Historian/Webmaster:
Dave MacDonald
dmacdon@pacbell.net

Editor:
Fred Deadrick
fdeadrick@comcast.net

Member-at-Large:
J. Wayne Shipman
jwshipman@comcast.net

Community Service
Bill Small
William Small@comcast.net

BAWA Officers Meeting Notice

BAWA Board of directors meetings are held at Denica's Cafe (in the same center as WoodCraft) 8AM to 9:30AM. On the day of the scheduled club meeting. Board meetings are open to all members. Contact Harvey Klein if you would like to be on the agenda.

Presidents Challenge 2003

January: *Pen*

February: *Turned box*

March: *Candle sticks*

April: *Plate or Platter*

May: *Members competition*

June: *Segmented vessel*

July: *A pair of hair sticks*

August: *Natural edge something*

September: *Small blank shal-
lenge. Each person starts with
the same size blank and we see
what he or she can come up with*

October: *An inlay of something
other than wood.*

November: *Members competi-
tion*

December: *Ornaments*

The President's Challenge is organized to prepare members for our club competitions. The next club competition to be held in November will consist of the following categories:

- Natural Edge Bowl
- Multi-Axis Turning
- Box w/Threaded Lid
- Footstool
- Flower
- Segmented Turning
- Mixed Media

Competition is grouped into three skill levels: Novice, Advanced, and Professional.

Club Meeting Dates & Topics 2003

January 11: Turning a box
Robert Whitworth

February 8: Wood finishing.
Ron Ashby

March 8: Thread Chasing.
Dick Jessing

April 12: Stave bowl construc-
tion. *Jim Rodgers*

May 10: Vacuum chucking.
Richard Sherry

June 14: Turning in Mexico.
Jesus Morales/Lou Gonzalez

July 12: Darth Vader Box.
Don White

August 9: Log to Bowl.
Wayne Shipman

September 13: Photographing
Your Turnings

October 4 (1st Sat.): Seg-
mented Turning; *Linda Salter*

November 8: Christmas Orna-
ments.

December 6 (1st Sat.): Christ-
mas party

Leo's Corner from page 1

eight-lb vacuum cleaner. He had a funnel attached to the hose, and with his POWERFUL machine he was able to suspend a 15 lb bowling ball. His attractive, smiling curvaceous female

assistant was really impressed. And, when he turned off the vacuum cleaner, that 15 lb bowling ball dropped like a lead weight. Actually, it dropped JUST like a lead weight. That's a principle of physics demonstrated by Galileo, from the Leaning Tower of Pisa. But anyhow, that bowling ball fell hard!

We know what Galileo proved, but what did David Oreck prove? How does picking up bowling balls relate to vacuuming your house? More to the point, here, is there any way I can tie it in to running a lathe? Well, I'm about to get to that. Let's say Mr. Oreck's funnel was 5" in diameter. It would have an area of almost 20 sq. in. Since he told us the bowling ball weighed 15 lb, that means his machine had to be developing an amazing 3/4 psi of vacuum. We know that one atmosphere is just under 15 psi, and it equals 30"Hg (that's the height of a barometer column.) So we know that 1 psi is almost exactly 2" Hg, and therefore, we know his vacuum cleaner was developing 1.5" Hg, at least. Are you impressed? I'm not. My shop vac develops about 5" Hg.

So, if a vacuum cleaner will hold up a bowling ball that easily, is it a good choice for a vacuum chuck? It could be--lots of people use them successfully. But lots of people spend big bucks on vacuum pumps because they are not satisfied with 5" Hg for a vacuum chuck. What is the reason? Well, every pump has a vacuum rating, and a volume rating. The ones that handle high volume tend to develop low vacuum. The ones that can pull very high vacuum, like laboratory vacuum

pumps, tend to have limited capacity (volume.) So, how should you think about these things in order to arrive at a sensible solution for yourself? Well, as Mr. Oreck showed us, if you have enough area, you can generate some pretty large forces with a small vacuum. If his vacuum cleaner develops 4" Hg, and you are holding an 8" workpiece with it, that calculates out to about 50 sq in, or 100lb force. That seems like plenty, and it is. But, the area of a circle varies as the square of the diameter, so if you cut to a 4"workpiece you have only a quarter of the holding power, or 25 Lb, and if you go down again by a factor of 2, to a 2" piece, you will have only 6 1/4 lb holding it. That won't do it.

So, lets say you go out and get a pump that will pull 26" Hg. You will have 13 psi holding your little 2" bowl, which gives you about 41 lb of force. That will work! But, when you hook up this pump to your lathe you discover that you're not getting 26" of vacuum. Your gauge shows something more like 5 or 6". That's where you were with the vacuum cleaner. Why is this--what did you gain, and what's wrong? Well, if you listen closely, the system is "talking" to you. Hear the hissing? Leaks! Well, why wasn't that a problem with the vacuum cleaner? Well, first, the vacuum cleaner was so noisy that you couldn't hear the leaks. Secondly, the vacuum cleaner didn't care much about leaks--it pumps so much volume that pretty big leaks don't phase it in the least.

So, you go over the leaky system, trying to get the vacuum level up to what you want. Gaskets. Hot glue. Thread sealant. Little by little you gain a few inches here and a few inches there, and, if the forces are with you, you get up to 15 or 20 inches. But, what a lot of work. Getting rid of leaks becomes your major challenge every time you

make a change in your setup.

My own solution was to find a pump which pulls a fairly high vacuum at fairly high volume. With my Gast vane pump, I can get about 24" vacuum if I have no leaks, and if I just throw some foam gasketing on a wooden vacuum chuck, with no major effort to eliminate leaks, I still get 15" or so. That's almost 100 lbs force on a 4" bowl.

What I am trying to get across here is that there are a lot of different ways to go, and they all work, but I think the best compromise is a pump whose vacuum and volume both fall in the medium range. One thing I am sure of: once you have begun to use a vacuum chuck, you'll never be without it again.

June Meeting and Demo

Hats off to Jesus Morales and Manuel Hernandez for a great demo at the June BAWA meeting.



Jesus and Manuel learned their turning skills in the village where they lived in Mexico. Many of their turning tools are simple, made from files and leaf springs from cars, but they get the job done.



Here Jesus proudly shows off the small bottle he turned with his Mexican lathe.



Thanks to Ralph Ramirez for his translation skills. Photos by Hal Bain

BAWA Summer Schedule Bill Small

There's a lot going on this summer. Here's a summary:

Wed, 9 July, 7-8 PM, Senior Center Craft Fair Organizing Committee meeting, Bill Small's house, to get the ball rounding. Everyone is invited, even if you didn't sign up.

Sat, 12 July, 10-12, July Membership meeting featuring Don White turning his Darth Vader Box. Don has a secret evil side that you might not know about.

Sat, 19 July, 8-12, Pen/Pencil Class. There are since two seats available for this popular class. Sign up today and get a \$10 discount at the store.

Sat, 19 July, 1-5, Sharpening Demo. This class is only half full. It will cost you \$30 to register and you get \$10 credit at the store. The first step to improving you turning is to learn how to properly sharpen you tools. Sharp tools mean less sanding and more fun. Sign up today.

Sat, 2 Aug, 9-5, Green Wood Bowl Class. This is the second session of the June class to accommodate over subscription. Plenty of room in this

second go round. Sign up today and get \$10 discount at the store.

Sat, 9 Aug, August Membership Meeting. Wayne Shipman will demonstration the best techniques for turning a log into a bowl blank. A BAWA picnic at the Senior Center will follow the club meeting.

June President's Challenge (Segmented Object)



- Jan Blumer—Walnut and Ebony bowl
- Wayne Cowden—Baltic Birch vases
- Jim Abreu—Round Vessel
- Bill Biddell—Vessel
- Doug Thompson—Rotary Bowls

Show & Tell

The June S&T may have set a new BAWA record—20 people had items to share!



- Harvey Klein—Walnut Goblet
- Fred Deadrick—Beech Plate & Top
- John Paul—Box
- Jan Blumer—Box Elder
- Bruce Jarvis—Natural Edge Bowl Masur Birch 1st natural edge



- Brad Adams—Camphor Burl Bowl, Alder Salad Bowl, Tulip Poplar Popcorn Bowl
- David Burton—Natural Edge Camphor Bowl
- Dennis Heitz—Sycamore Bowl
- Robert Brumage—Walnut Bowl
- Harry Levin—Spinning Tops
- Steve Miller—Segmented Bowls
- Jerry Decker—Open Segmented Vase & Olive Bowls
- Dale Anderson—Maple Burl Bowl with Ebony Rim
- Lanny Dana—Pens
- Carlin Dana—Darts
- John Bocks—Top & Sphere



- Don White—Small Box and Bird
- Robert Whitworth—Spike & Jumping Top
- Bill Small—Sprayed Black Bowls
- Leo Lichtman—Stubby Lathe Rack

Wood Raffle

The monthly wood raffle is not only an important revenue source for the club, it is a great way to share your extra wood, and a supply of wood for your fellow woodturner. Wood suppliers this past month are:

- Robert Whitworth—Bocote, Cocobolo, Canary Wood, Ebony & IPE
- Fred Deadrick—Beech and Basswood cutoffs
- Jan Blumer—Black Walnut & Sycamore
- Brad Adams—Soft Maple & Tulip Poplar
- David Burton—Birch

If you have some extra wood, please bring it to the next meeting. Label and date the wood if you know what it is.

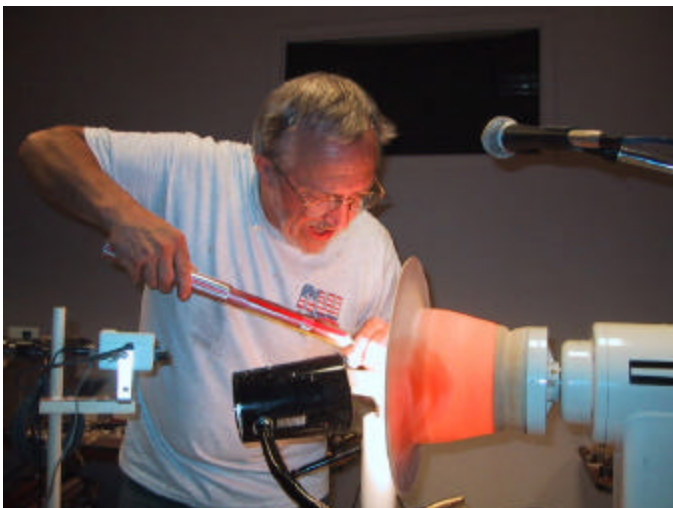
2003 AAW Symposium in Pasadena Article and Photos by Hal Bain

The American Association of Woodturners (AAW) held their 17th annual symposium in Pasadena, California on June 27 through the 29th. Jim Rodgers and I drove to Pasadena in Jim's truck. As I'll explain later, the truck came in handy. The BAWA members were everywhere, and I counted at least 15. More than 26 demonstrators, from Eli Avisera (Israel) to Vic Wood (Australia) were



Vic Wood from Australia

present. It was very exciting to see in person some pioneers of modern artistic wood turning. The topics ranged from the anatomy of a tree to surface decoration with an air brush. They displayed an instant gallery with submissions from turners all over the world. In the trade show area there were 102 booths. In the trade show many, many wood sellers plus the usual tool sellers were offering their goods. At the outdoor banquet it did not snow! Many may remember it snowed at the Utah symposium in May. After the banquet, they held an auction in the auditorium and raised more than \$33,000 for the education programs. Our own Dale Anderson donated a beautiful turned and routed bowl



JoHannes Michelsen light in hat setup

and it brought a tidy sum at auction. Congratulations Dale, way to go! The directors announced that they had accepted the 200th local chapter and it is in Japan. The representative from Japan was present, and they introduced him to the group. Sunday, when the vendors were packing their stuff to haul it back home our intrepid bargainer Robert Whitworth took advantage of the situation on the club's behalf. He bought an entire pallet load of redwood burl. He paid pennies on the dollar, so that our club's store can have beautiful wood at a low price. But, how do you get 1000 pounds of wood back to the bay area? If you guessed Jim's truck, you're right. A little slower over the grapevine but it sure rode smooth.



Robert and Sara Whitworth, aka Redwood Burlman

I got to talk with attendees who had just purchased a lathe to production turners making their living turning and it was mind opening experience. The presenters all asked to be questioned about what they were doing and how they were doing it. I encourage all of you to attend an AAW symposium not only to support the national organization but for the comraderie with other turners and to see the best turning wood is educational. More than that, it was just fun!



More photos at:

<http://members.cox.net/gyniahousewoodturning/index.htm>
<http://www.turtlewoodworks.com/aaw03/ig/aaw03ig1.htm>

The Last Words

An open letter to BAWA members (and in particular to our talented group of novices)

In 1967, I bought my first lathe, a used Delta Model 1236, for \$75.00. From then until 1998, I turned about 20 pieces (less than one a year).

In 1998, I purchased an Oneway scroll chuck – and became addicted to woodturning. However I was still under the impression that a gouge was just another scraper – and that half of your woodturning time needed to be spent sanding. Then, I purchased a video by Del Stubbs. In watching his video, I could see the proper way to use a gouge. **WHAT A REVELATION!** Over the last 5 years and thanks to Del and many others, I've become more comfortable with the use of the gouge and spend much less time sanding.

I discovered that the more effort I invested in learning technique, the happier I was with the results. I could see that there were a number of ways to accomplish this: take classes; watch videos; read books; and perhaps most importantly, make friends with other Woodturners and learn from them.

I am writing this letter to encourage you to have more fun woodturning – by improving your technique. BAWA provides you the resources. Our classes provide a solid grounding in tool control and sharpening and an opportunity to explore new projects. And lastly, our membership contains a wealth of knowledge for the asking – But you do have to ask! Taking advantage of these resources was how I became a better turner and much happier with my finished work.

I am very pleased with my latest project “Spike the Spider” which I showed at our June 14th meeting, but I realize that without the knowledge that I gained from videos, books, classes, and most of all, friends, I could not have attempted such a project.

Robert Whitworth, BAWA Vice President



2870 Creston Road
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

Address
Correction
Requested