

BAY AREA



WOODTURNERS
ASSOCIATION
A CALIFORNIA NONPROFIT CORPORATION
LOCAL CHAPTER AAW

April 2017

Volume 21, Issue 4

April Meeting
Mike Mahoney Demonstration
April 8th 8:30 - 4:30

Professional bowl maker Mike Mahoney will be our demonstrator for the April meeting. Mike was last at BAWA in 2013 and we frequently get requests to have him back, so now is the time to see the most prolific bowl turner in the country.



Mike was the pioneer of hand made production bowl turning on a grand scale, analyzing each step of the process to maximize efficiency. He produces thousands of bowls each year, starting with a chain-saw and big pile of logs and ending up with stacks of beautifully finished bowls headed to stores around the country.

Mike will also discuss finishes, highlighting the difference between oil and film products and his preferences. Before you get to finishing however you have to sand correctly, he will go over his routine to completely sand a bowl in ten minutes.

Funeral urns are also one of his business lines, Mike will turn a hollow form and if time permits turn a threaded lid.

Expect to see lots of chips flying throughout the day with comprehensive information on finishes, how to achieve clean cuts, tool selection and wood preferences. Mike's presentation is geared so everyone in the room can reproduce his projects, so bring a notebook and be prepared for full day masters class.

Bring a pieces for show-and-tell, look for bowl blanks for sale in the store along with our new BAWA polos, T-shirts and hats. For now, we will continue selling the donated wood through the store—the wood raffle remains on hold.





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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

9:00—12:30 meeting and demo

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

See bayareawoodturners.org/ for directions and club information.

BAWA Officers Meeting -

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

2017 Event Schedule

April 8th	Mike Mahoney 8:30-4:30
May 11-13	Utah Woodturning Symposium
May 20th	Bob Bley: Fractal Burning 8:30-12:30
June 10th	Brad Adams: What to do with Cutoffs 8:30-12:30
June 22-25	AAW Symposium (Kansas City, MO)
July 8th	Turn for Troops 8:30-12:30
Aug 6th	Summer Picnic 11:00-2:00
Sept 9th	Kalia Kliban 8:30-12:30

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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May 20, 2017 Presenter: Robert Bley

Many of our BAWA members have expressed an interest in learning how to do fractal burning. Well, now is your chance to see how this is done!

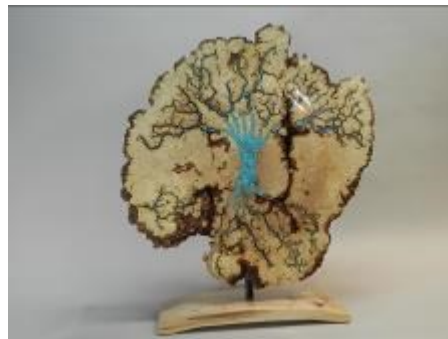
Mr. Robert Bley will be BAWA's featured speaker for the May 20th meeting. Bob's presentation will cover an introduction to "Lichtenberg (Fractal) Burning" which is a relatively new process found in the fine art-decorating of wood surfaces including woodturnings.



Basically, "Lichtenberg Burning" involves connecting two high voltage wires to a piece of wood, applying a salt solution to the wood, and turning on the power resulting in burning "fractals" into the wood. Of course, the process is much more complicated than this with a multitude of variables that affect the results.

Bob's presentation will focus on safety issues, equipment, and techniques developed to provide some direction over this process, which has a mind of its own and cannot be controlled. Various patterns achieved with different chemical solutions will be shown. Additional decorative fillings of the deep burned patterns such as stone will be covered briefly.

Bob has offered to do fractal burning on one of your woodturnings. If you have a piece you would like to risk "burning", bring it and, if there is time, he will use your piece for the burning portion of his demo. Pieces must be dry, finish sanded and have no finish on it. The one caveat is that he may not be able to "burn" all the pieces that members may bring. Some processes are fast, others very slow! So, please do not be disappointed if he is unable to do everyone's pieces.



CRAFT SUPPLIES 10% DISCOUNT ORDER

The 10% discount applies to any published price (including sale items, close-outs, etc.) on almost all items. Craft Supplies has a new catalog that includes new items with a different item numbering system. There have been some price increases as well so don't use old catalogs. If you don't have the latest catalog please look on-line to pick your loot and check prices and item numbers.

Orders are placed by filling out an electronic order form which is available on the BAWA website. E-mail the form to Dean Adkins (adkd@chevron.com) with all the requested information:

Member name, phone number and e-mail address
Catalog item number
Catalog page number
Item description
Quantity ordered
List / sale price (before 10% discount)

You can call Dean (925-998-4111) to place an order, but must follow up with an e-mail to confirm all the required information.



President's Chatter

April 2017

I was listening to a pair of podcasts from Freakonomics, on my way to work a few days ago and suddenly realized it applied to my passion for Woodturning and my struggle to improve my skills. In "[How to Become Great at Just about Anything](#)", psychologist Anders Ericsson has been focusing on the distinction between *natural talent* (which I sorely lack) and *deliberate practice* for people trying to master complex skills. What hit me was the importance of practice that involves a number of key elements.

- Focus on small skills and improving them
- Incorporate coaching feedback
- Add complexity and challenges as skills become ingrained
- Continue to work and do this on a daily basis

The ability to stick with deliberate practice is a trait sometimes referred to as *grit*, and was discussed in "[How to get More Grit in Your Life](#)". We all have varying levels of grit which often change based on a number of factors.

- Interest – something that grabs your attention.
- Deliberate Practice – building your skills and using feedback to improve
- Purpose – Connecting your interest to others
- Hope – To help you get through the rough spots

Turning is such a fun and challenging hobby and there never seems to be an end to new skills to master. Strangely enough, my passion for this hobby has turned me into a *gritty* person. Despite my struggles in getting the perfect shape, the endless coaching feedback, I still have hope that one day I will get there.

Does the idea of Deliberate Practice resonate with you?

For April's Show-and-Tell, a new President's Challenge:

Try something new and different and bring in a piece to share. Let us know what inspired you, what went well and where you struggled?

I want to take a moment and thank Elvis Adler for stepping up and volunteering to be the club's photographer. It's really appreciated and will make a big difference in our newsletters and website.

Time to head back to the shop and have fun!

Tips & Tricks

Maintenance of all equipment is a necessity for performance, longevity, as well as, safety. In the past I have written about lathe maintenance and chuck maintenance as these are very important.

This month I want to talk about maintenance of hand tools. I will speak of tools in general, not specific manufacturers. Most power tools require routine maintenance to assure then working properly.

Chain saws require that you maintain them to prevent rust and to keep them working well. A properly maintained and sharp saw cuts through wood effortlessly even with very little pushing.

Never use a dull or damaged saw chain as this can cause increased effort to make the cut, there can be an increase in vibration load, unsatisfactory cutting results and an increase of wear.

After each use it is important to clean the saw. First remove the chain cover and remove all of the sawdust and chips from the chain using a stiff brush, making sure to keep your fingers away from the chain. With the cover removed check the sprocket for any wear on the teeth.

Next, check the teeth of the chain to ensure that there are no chips or damage to the chain or rivets. An improperly sharpened chain, especially the gullet depth can lead to increased frequency of kickback and possible injury.

If necessary, sharpen the chain using either a chain saw file and/or a Dremel set to the correct angle. If necessary replace any damaged or worn chain parts. An improperly sharpened chain can lead to increased kickback tendency of the chain saw and injury.



by Cindy Navarro

Maintenance of all saws are similar to the chain saw. Make sure that the saw is cleaned each time, that there are no chips in the blade, that the blade is sharp, that the kick plate is cleaned so it doesn't drag and that the blade is tightened. This type of maintenance is true for jig saws, circular saws, miter saws and table saws, even reciprocating saws.

Sharp blades make saws work easier without burning the wood and without increased risk of injury.

This type of tool care is easy to perform, doesn't take much time and the benefits result in better performance and less effort to do the work.

Book Review

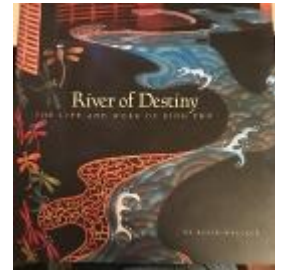
River of Destiny, The Life and Times of Binh Pho

This book is the story of Binh Pho, his escape from Vietnam and his subsequent life and its effects on his work and art.

Binh Pho is a renowned woodturning artist. His art is sublime and amazing. He can turn paper thin pieces, which he then pierces, dyes, air brushes and creates wonderful pieces of art.

I have seen Binh demonstrate several times and heard him speak about his life and his escape from Vietnam during the fall of Saigon, his life afterwards and its influence on his life and art.

It is an interesting read and I found that it helped me look at how my own life and experiences do and can further influence my work.



Good Deal From AAW!

BAWA members who have never been members of the American Association of Woodturners (AAW) have the exclusive opportunity to become AAW members for one year for just \$30, a 50% reduction on the \$60 rate. Only AAW chapter members who have never been AAW members are eligible, and the special rate is available only during the exclusive sign up period from April 1 through June 30, 2017. Join AAW at the reduced \$30 rate by going to:

<http://tiny.cc/AAWNewGen>



Membership News

By Tim Kennedy

Membership Update

BAWA has 143 paid members.

Our newest members are Martin Kircher from Vacaville and Kerby Stoval from Richmond.



March's Presenter: Cindy Navarro

“Using Woodturning to Reconstruct Common Household Utensils”

Our Librarian Cindy Navarro was the featured speaker for our March meeting as part of our support for the AAW's Women in Turning Program. Cindy's presentation was entitled, “Using Woodturning to Reconstruct Common Household Utensils” which she recently presented at the Utah Symposium.



Cindy began her presentation with a table-full display of household utensils and she described how she removed the original handles of these utensils and replaced them with turned handles using wood, acrylic or Corian, or other materials. These included: seam rippers, tea strainers, bottle openers, spatulas, potato mashers, whisks, vegetable peelers, micro-planes and graters, screwdrivers, knock-out bars – just about everything imaginable found in the kitchen, shop and household.

Cindy discussed how many woodturning supply stores are now selling kits, e.g. seam rippers, bottle openers, pizza cutters, etc., that woodturners can purchase and then turn wooden handles for them. However, Cindy explained that these kits are typically ridiculously expensive. Instead, Cindy recommended looking for these household items at department and outlet stores – not dollar stores, but stores that sell high quality merchandise. She looks for stainless steel or chrome products. Purchasing these items from these stores is still much, much cheaper than buying from the woodturning supply stores.



Of course, when you purchase the household utensils from stores, they come with handles already on them. Therefore, these handles need to be removed. This is what Cindy calls “reconstruction” – i.e., removing the handles and replacing them with turned handles. Cindy has replaced the original handles using material including wood, acrylic, and Corian. However, it's not just turning a nice looking handle; ergonomics come into play and must be taken into consideration so that the handles will ergonomically comfortable for the end user.

Wood Selection

- You can use any wood that you have handy.
- It must be dry or it will warp as it dries.
- Straight grain works best, but you can use burl, etc if you do not mind sanding.
- The length should be 6”-7”, but length depends on your project.
- Any cracks or voids can be filled with resin, epoxy or crushed stone.
- Pyrography can be used to add design or embellishment.

Specialty Tools

- Texturing tools
- Point tool
- Bedan
- Chuck
- Calipers
- Ruler
- Bandsaw, hacksaw or rotary tool with cutting wheel
- Drill bits
- Jacobs chuck or drill press
- Masking or blue tape
- Sandpaper, sandpaper pads
- Sanding pads – get at a beauty supply store and cut into different sizes

(Continued on following page)

Tools

- Spindle roughing gouge
- Spindle gouge or bowl gouge
- Parting tool
- Skew

Ideas for Reconstruction

- Strainers – tea or larger
- Screwdrivers of all sizes
- Bottle openers
- Spatulas
- Potato mashers
- Whisks
- Seam rippers
- Vegetable peelers
- Grate
- Micro planes
- Letter openers
- Garden trowels
- Knobs
- Any kitchen utensil or household tool!

Reconstruction Steps

1. Select an item you think will be nicer with a turned handle or piece.
2. There are several things to pay attention to before removing handle. Make sure that you will have at least 1” or more to glue into the handle. Use blue tape to cover the area where it inserts into the handle so that it is not marred during the removal.
3. Remove the handle using a bandsaw, hacksaw or rotary tool leaving at least one inch to glue into the handle.
4. Measure the length and circumference of the piece that will be inserted into the handle.
5. Drill the hole for the insert using either a drill press or a Jacobs chuck. I usually make the hole 1/64” larger
6. Using a Steb center and a live center turn the blank round using the tool of your choice. Make a tenon on the steb center end.
7. Insert the blank into a chuck and the hole end onto the live center.
8. Turn the handle to a comfortable and ergonomic shape. If you add texture make sure that it is not uncomfortable to the hand.
9. Sand the handle through grits from 120 to 400 at a low speed, sanding lengthwise between grits. I often sand without the lathe running. It is just as fast and I don't have to deal with any marks from the spinning.
10. Finish with finish of your choice. I use walnut oil or wipe on poly so that there is some resistance to water
11. Glue the piece into the handle using epoxy. You can color the epoxy so that it gives a better appearance. Use a drying rack to allow pieces to sit upright while drying.

Allow yourself to work with any object that you think would be more interesting with a turned handle or as a part of it. Buy more than one item to try. It may take several times to figure out all aspects of your project to make it successful.

March Show and Tell



Gary Bingham-
Ring Holder



Andrew Baxter-
Gavel



Joel Albert-
Pen



John Langen-
Beer Bottle Opener



Jim Rodgers-
Wood Burned Object



Jay Holland-
Two Basket Bowls

Rockler Helps BAWA Members



BAWA members receive a 10% discount when purchasing directly at the Concord Rockler Store at:

<http://www.rockler.com/retail/stores/ca/concord-store>.

Mention your BAWA membership when checking out, to receive your discount. Rockler also donates part of the proceeds back to the club which help support our Holiday Party raffle.



UTAH WOODTURNING SYMPOSIUM

Set Aside the Dates for the 2017
Utah Woodturning Symposium
May 11th, 12th, & 13th, 2017