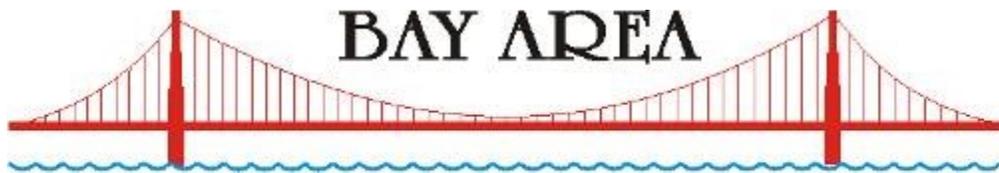


BAY AREA



WOODTURNERS
ASSOCIATION
A CALIFORNIA NONPROFIT CORPORATION
LOCAL CHAPTER AAW

July 2015

Volume 19, Issue 7

July Meeting: Turn for Troops

Our July 11th meeting will be our second annual Turn-for-Troops event where we will turn 100+ pens which will be sent to men and women serving abroad. Last year we turned over 120 pens and this year we hope to exceed that goal. There is room for everyone, from novice to expert to be involved. If you haven't turned a pen before this is a great way learn the process as there will be a room full of experienced turners willing to coach. For those who have some pen making skills, pick out a couple figured blanks and make something special. This is a great opportunity to offer your skills to support family and friends doing a great service for our country.



For those who think they can turn fast, we will have the big lathe set up for the speed competition and you can attempt to break Dean's record of 36 seconds.

Jeff Tanner has once again done a huge amount of work prepping, gluing and trimming all the blanks that we will turn. Thanks Jeff, we definitely appreciate the commitment to make it a successful event. This is a fun social meeting that gives back to members of our community who are proudly serving abroad. Doors open at 8:30, the store will be open and we will have the wood raffle at the end of the meeting around noon.



Mark Knize Shares His Art at June Meeting



BAWA member Mark Knize gave a fabulous presentation at the June meeting that could easily have been a start of a dream masters class. Mark is an accomplished woodturner and woodworker who leverages those skills with remarkable artistic creativity to produce an array of work that is truly impressive.

Mark brought in a variety of pieces, rough outdoor stools, smooth “rocks”, large hollowings and significant wall assemblages that were all remarkably different individual works of art yet there was a consistent vein of design and style that flows through his work. He talked about each piece, the genesis of the idea, how that flowed into execution and what was modified to improve the next piece. This was a fantastic glimpse into the mind of a very creative artist. Thank you Mark for a fantastic presentation.



Piet Mondrian & Mark Knize



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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 [John Cobb](mailto:John.Cobb@bayareawoodturners.org) if you would like to be on the agenda.

2015 Event Schedule

July 11th	Turn for Troops
Aug 23th	BBQ
Sept 12th	David Marks
Oct 10th	Mike Bulat: Off Axis and Multi Axis
Nov 14th	John Beaver 9:-00-3:30
Dec 12th	Holiday Party, Auction and Raffle 11:30-3:00

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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Summer Picnic

Sunday August 23

August brings our annual summer potluck picnic which is always a fun social event. We will gather on Sunday the 23rd from 10 - 2 at the Pleasant Hill Community Park.

This year we will once again host the annual tool swap / sale which always has plenty of deals and steals. If you need to free up cabinet space, find those tools collecting dust and bring them along, they are sure to find a new home.

The President's challenge this year so to make "something to sit on, that is 51% made on a lathe." I'm already hearing of great ideas and look forward to seeing what whimsical projects are presented for the coveted Best-In-Picnic award. Reportedly Corwin's entry is already patent pending.

We are looking for a couple BBQ masters to run the grill, please email John president@bayareawoodturners.org or Michele membership@bayareawoodturners.org if interested.

Looking forward to seeing everyone on the 23rd.



CRAFT SUPPLIES 10% DISCOUNT ORDER

The 10% discount applies to any published price (including sale items, close-outs, etc.) and there's no tax and S&H is free 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 Musings

July 2015



While going over my notes and pictures from the June meeting with Mark Knize, I once again realized how fortunate we are to have a club with remarkable talent and generosity within our membership. I was personally inspired by Mark's presentation to get more creative and push the boundaries of what I think is possible with my work. Mark's presentation of his portfolio shows us there are no boundaries to what is possible; we are only limited by our own creativity. If you combine that message with the concepts from other recent demonstrators and what you see on the show-and-tell table, the possibilities are truly endless.

For those who want to push the envelope: how do we maximize this remarkable opportunity that exists within the club? I encourage everyone to bring pieces to the show-and-tell table and get involved in conversations. Talk about your piece and ask questions about the work of others. Write down a few new ideas and incorporate those into a piece or two for the next meeting. You will be amazed at how valuable the show-and-tell opportunity is.

BAWA's summer schedule offers more fun / social opportunities since many of have scheduled vacations. July's meeting is a personal favorite that Jeff Tanner spearheads: Turning for Troops. Club members will turn 100+ pens that will be sent to service men and women overseas as a simple gesture of appreciation. Last year we initiated the event and everyone had a good time producing 120 pens. Novice turners are encouraged to learn how to turn a pen, experienced turners can crank out a handful and it's a hoot to watch the speed competition at the demonstration lathe.

I look forward to seeing everyone on Saturday.

Keep turning.

John Cobb

New Pen and Wine Stopper blanks for the Store

Cindy Navarro, Bill Mellberg, and Joel Albert are donating some prep-time and wood to help restock the store with some gorgeous blanks for sale at a great price. Blanks include: Madrone, Maple, and Redwood Burls plus Spalted Maple, Mahogany, and Figured Madrone. All will be for sale in the BAWA Store starting at our July meeting. We expect this stock to sell out fast, so we are looking for other members who have some special wood or blanks they would be willing to donate to the club.

Tool Swap – August 23rd BBQ

One of the highlights of our upcoming BBQ in August will be our Tool SWAP and Shop Sale. This is a great opportunity to clean out your shop and sell or trade any tools, gear or wood that you have with other BAWA members. Last year, many members scored big time with lots of great bargains that they have enjoyed using throughout the year. This year, we hope it will be even better—you never know what someone will bring to the tables to sell. So now is the time to start going through your shop and pulling together treasures to sell or swap.

Special Thanks to Chevron, Dean Adkins and Joel Albert

Chevron has donated a total of \$1000 to the club in 2015 in honor of the volunteer efforts of Dean and Joel. The club is using this money to help support the Mt. Diablo Woodturning Center through cash and equipment donations. The club is always looking for volunteers and we certainly can use the donations. Check to see if your employer is willing to make a donation to a non-profit that you support through your volunteer hours, it's a clear win-win-win situation for all of us.

Trees of the Bay Area #14

Juglans hindsii

Claro Walnut

By Tony Wolcott

There is a constant state of confusion surrounding walnut wood and walnut trees. Walnuts are almost always grafted, and there are various combinations out there depending on soil and scientific research. *Juglans nigra* or black walnut is a common rootstock for *Juglans regia* or English walnut. The word Claro walnut is commonly attached to a variety of woods because the word sells better than the actual wood. There is a geographic bias for *Juglans hindsii* or Hind's walnut because this is the native Northern California walnut and is correctly called 'Claro Walnut'. There is a native Southern Californian Walnut - *Juglans californica* and it also has the name Claro walnut. Although many black and English walnuts are called Claro, this is a mistake and should be avoided. The two native California walnuts are the real Claro.



Juglans hindsii no longer exists in natural large stands. You will find the occasional Claro walnut in a Berkeley backyard or stuck alone in a field. You might not know that these trees are a walnut because they often do not bear at all. The close proximity to cross pollination is missing. But if a branch should fall or a little pruning done, the chocolate color inner wood is a dead giveaway. The leaves are compound with five or more leaflets. The leaves are also odd pinnate with a single terminal leaflet. Leaflets are ¾" wide or greater, singly serrate, evenly toothed. Leaflets are uniform in size or middle ones largest.

John Doyen states, "The local walnut is justifiably celebrated for its excellent working characteristics and beautiful figure.. Natural stands extirpated, but readily available as a street tree and as rootstock in orchards." My experience is limited but I have not seen Claro as a rootstock, and I have not seen *Juglans hindsii* as a street tree. I do believe they can be found. We once had to remove a medium size *Juglans hindsii* on the Albany El Cerrito border. It had a high percentage of sap wood and was difficult to turn, very fibrous and frustrating. Recently we had one claro walnut die on the UC Berkeley property and I offered to cut it down at no cost. This wood is a dream to turn and the figure is amazing. The heartwood seems to actually bleed into the sapwood and various shades of brown and green and off white make the wood very colorful. But the best aspect is the figure. It is outstanding wood.

Not everybody likes to turn walnut of any sort. It is a very dirty wood. Your skin and clothes will be a crusty mess with dark coloration. Tools and machinery will suffer as well. I try to make a habit of cleaning everything thoroughly right after finishing turning any walnut. However, the wood itself turns brilliantly and easily. Claro walnut has an excess of oils and sap so expect a shower when turning fresh off the tree wood. The wood dries slowly, again a factor of the oils in the wood. But it dries without major cracks or checking. The wood moves some but not a lot, actually it is fairly stable. Walnut wood lots often have twenty or thirty year old chunks that work just fine. I do not have to tell most of you how valuable this wood can be.



June Show and Tell



David Fleisig-
Two Eccentric Pieces



Michelle Brooks-
Michael Blankenship Piece



Larry Lew-
Closed Vessel



Larry Dubia-
Hollow Form & Box



Harry Levin-
Plate



Tim Kennedy-
Three Bowls



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More June Show and Tell



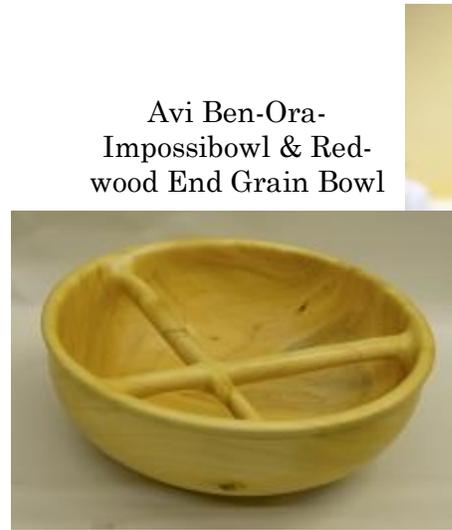
Jim Campbell-
Bowl



Gary Bingham-
Necklace & Bowl



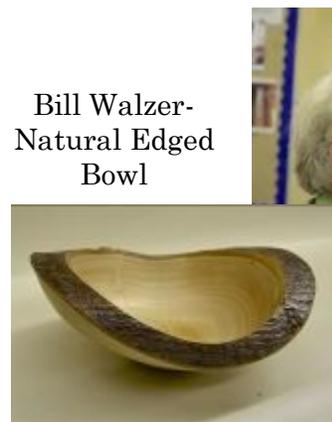
Brad Adams-
Closed Burl Vessel



Avi Ben-Ora-
Impossibowl & Red-
wood End Grain Bowl



John Cobb-Closed
Burl Vessel



Bill Walzer-
Natural Edged
Bowl



Mt Diablo Woodturning School Summer 2015 Workshop and Demonstration Schedule

Registration is now open: [click here](#)



July & August

Introductory Survey of Woodturning 7/6/15 – 7/8/15

Bowl Turning Green Wood 7/20/15 – 7/21/15

End Grain Techniques: Hollow Forms and Boxes 8/3/15 – 8/6/15

From Log to Lathe 7/15/15 – 7/16/15

Profession Demo & Pizza Night 7/8/15 - 8/12/15 Wed 6-9 pm

Date	Demonstrator	Topic
7/8/2015	Joel Albert	Turning Slimline Pen
7/15/2015	Jim Rodgers	Hollow Christmas ornaments w/ finials
7/22/2015	John Cobb	Turning bowls from a log
7/29/2015	Jan Blumer	Bottle Stoppers: Natural Edge
8/5/2015	John Cobb	Salad Bowl: Start to finish
8/12/2015	David Fleisig	Constructing and turning a segmented bowl

Free Demo Night 7/9/15, 8/6/15 7:00 – 9:00 pm

For more information:
www.diablowoodturning.org

How does wood dry?

From : www.wood-database.com

Perhaps the most important aspect of woodworking deals with the relationship between wood and moisture. A fundamental fact is that wood is **hygroscopic**. This means that wood, almost like a sponge, will gain or lose moisture from the air based upon the conditions of the surrounding environment.

But not only does wood gain or lose moisture, but it will also *expand or contract* according to the magnitude of such changes; and it is this swelling and shrinking in finished wood products—often referred to as the wood's **movement in service**—that is responsible for so much mischief and so many malfunctions in woodworking.

When a tree is first felled, it is considered to be in the **green** state, and contains a very large amount of moisture. This moisture exists in two different forms: as **free water** that is contained as liquid in the pores or vessels of the wood itself, and as **bound water** that is trapped within the cell walls.

Once a fresh log or piece of lumber is cut and exposed to the air, it will immediately begin losing free water. At this point, the wood does not contract or otherwise change in dimension since the fibers are still completely saturated with bound water. It is only once all the free water has been lost that the wood will reach what is called the **fiber saturation point**, or simply **FSP**.

Below the FSP, the wood will then begin to lose moisture in the form of bound water, and an accompanying reduction in the wood's volume will occur. At this point, the wood is no longer considered to be in the green state, but is now in a state of *drying*.

Just how much bound moisture is lost during the drying phase will ultimately depend upon the temperature and relative humidity (RH) of the surrounding air. At 100% RH, no bound water will be lost. At 0% RH, all the bound water in the wood will be lost, a condition known as **ovendry**—so-called because a kiln or oven is typically required to completely drive out all moisture.

The amount of water in a given piece of wood is expressed as a percentage of the weight of the water as compared to its ovendry weight. Some species of trees, when they are initially felled, may contain more water by weight than actual wood fiber, resulting in a moisture content (MC) over 100%.

Moisture Content % = (weight of water / ovendry weight of wood) x 100

For instance, suppose that a freshly sawn piece of Eastern Cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*) weighed 50 lbs. in its initial green state, and ended up weighing only 20 lbs. when fully dried in an oven—this means that a total of 30 lbs. of water was lost in the drying process. So using the equation above: 30 lbs. (weight of water), divided by 20 lbs. (ovendry weight of wood), and multiplied by 100 to get the percentage, we arrive at 150% MC for a green section of Cottonwood.

Of course, the preceding moisture equation—though entirely factual—is mainly for illustrative purposes. In most practical circumstances, the easiest way to check the moisture content of a piece of wood is to simply use a moisture meter. But it's a good practice to understand what the moisture meter reading actually represents, and to recognize that readings above 100% MC are possible, (and in the case of many lightweight species in their green condition, are quite common).

As a piece of wood dries, it first loses its free water and dips below the FSP (fiber saturation point). This FSP corresponds to roughly 30% MC in most wood species. (The FSP may be roughly $\pm 3\%$ MC depending on the wood species, but 30% MC is the commonly-accepted average.)

That is to say, regardless of whatever MC the wood begins at when green, (anywhere from 35% MC to over 200% MC depending on the species), it begins to lose bound water (and

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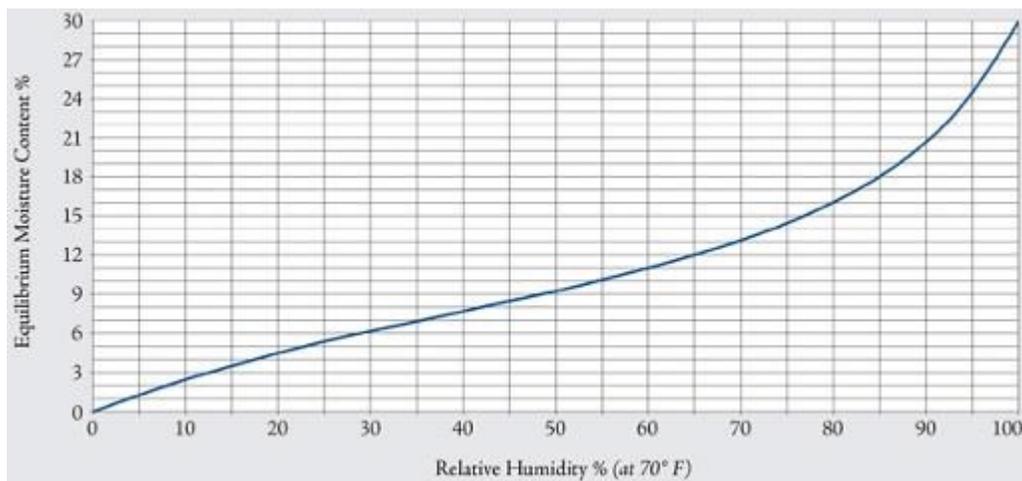
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dimensionally shrink) when the weight of the remaining water is at a ratio of approximately 30% to the theoretical weight of the oven-dry wood.

It should be noted that in real-world situations, the FSP is never uniformly reached throughout the thickness of a piece of lumber. A moisture gradient develops where the outside (shell) is drier, with the interior (core) still wet and playing catch-up.

As the MC of wood drops below the FSP, it will continue to lose moisture until it eventually stabilizes at a value that is commensurate with the surrounding moisture in the air. This is known as the point of **equilibrium moisture content**, or simply **EMC**. The EMC will change based upon the fluctuating temperature and relative humidity of the surrounding air.

In addition to the fundamental fact that wood is hygroscopic, perhaps the most crucial concept to understand regarding wood and moisture is the link between relative humidity and equilibrium moisture content.



From studying the included chart, several important points pertaining to the relationship between relative humidity (RH) and equilibrium moisture content (EMC) emerge.

- The chart tops out at 30% EMC, which is equivalent to the FSP. Short of physically submerging a piece of wood underwater, it's not possible to go back and exceed the FSP once all the free water has been lost.
- The plotted line is not flat (linear), and 50% RH is *not* comparable to the midpoint value of 15% EMC. (50% RH actually equates to just over 9% EMC.)
- There is a noticeable increase in the slope of the line, especially in the 85% to 100% RH range. This means that wood will swell to a significantly greater extent if it is exposed to prolonged humidity in excess of 85% RH.

Conversely, the line is somewhat flatter in the range of 20% to 55% RH. Humidity changes that happen in this window have a slightly gentler effect on EMC, and hence results in smaller amounts of shrinking and swelling.

Although the values given in the preceding chart are for rh at 70° F, changes in temperature—assuming the same humidity level—only have a moderate effect on EMC, typically amounting to $\pm 1\%$ MC within a normal climatic range of 30° F to 110° F.

Most interior buildings are kept between 30 to 60% RH, corresponding to 6 to 11% EMC. Exterior values can be much more variable depending on locale and season, but averages typically range from 30% to 80% RH, corresponding to 6 to 16% EMC.

It can be very useful to make mental notes of common humidity levels and their corresponding EMC. For instance, furniture and other interior woodwork should usually be constructed with an intermediate target of 8% EMC, which is achieved by storing lumber at

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approximately 40 to 45% RH. For exterior projects, a target of about 12% EMC is a good compromise, which equates to lumber stored at 65% RH.

Using lumber that is within the median EMC range for a given locale prevents the *Goldilocks syndrome*: the wood is not too dry, (which might lead to subsequent swelling in the humid summer), and not too wet, (which might lead to checking and splitting in the dry winter). In this way, the wood is most likely to remain as close as possible to its intended size and shape.

(Article courtesy of www.wood-database.com)

Hand Truck to Move Logs

Here is an easy way to use a hand truck to move several logs. Start by hooking a tie-down web strap to the back bottom rung of your hand truck. With the strap attached, but out of the way, lay the hand truck handle down and load two or three logs on. Bring the web strap over the logs and wrap the strap around the top rung of the hand truck. Hold onto the loose end of the strap and lift the hand truck handle to the normal loaded position. The web strap keeps the logs stacked on the hand truck and only minimal effort is needed to hold the strap tight enough to keep the logs in place.



(By Bob Gerenser
Courtesy of Silicon Valley Woodturners)
www.svwoodturners.org

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.

Contact:
Louie Silva
Email: newslettereditor@bayareawoodturners.org

June Wood Raffle

Donations:

Tony Wolcott-Avocado, Locust, Camphor, Elm
Larry Dubia-English Walnut
Joel Albert-Bowl Blanks

