

BAY AREA

WOODTURNERS
 ASSOCIATION
 A CALIFORNIA NONPROFIT CORPORATION
 LOCAL CHAPTER AAW

The January 10th BAWA Meeting Feature
Turning Spheres

President's Message
Bill Small

The 2004 Board of Directors adopted the following five mission statements to help them guide the club.

1. *Ensure that the club's programs, projects and activities are responsive to the range of members' interests and skill levels.*
2. *Encourage member-to-member friendships that lead to an exchange of information and enjoyable times.*
3. *Develop leadership and participation.*
4. *Ensure financial sustainability.*
5. *Keep the club in the public eye.*

This is what I think they mean in practical terms.

1. *Members' interests.* The directors want BAWA to be your club, serving your interests. However, you (all 80+ of you) represent a wide range of interests that change as you develop individually. Understanding how to serve such a wide spectrum of changing interests is a challenge. During 2004, the directors will ask you for suggestions for new events and for feedback on recently held ones. To do a good job, the directors need to know what you value and enjoy. Please speak up.

2. *Information and enjoyable times.* BAWA is most successful when it fosters friendship. Our monthly meetings have traditionally done a good job of promoting this goal. We plan to adjust the meeting schedule to provide more time for socializing.

One-on-one and small groups provide the most effective learning environments and the most satisfying social times. Some members already get together between meetings for sawdust sessions, of-

Dick Jessing



Dick Jessing passed away on January 2, 2004 after a short respiratory illness. He will be remembered as a soft-spoken true gentleman who was always ready to give a helping hand to the club. This included the sharing of his skill in thread chasing to help building the storage shed to everything else in between.

His woodturning reflected his personality. There was a quiet elegance about his work. He favored small sophisticated pieces that could easily be picked up in one hand and upon close examination revealed his extraordinary skill and craftsmanship. He will always be remembered as a true friend and talented woodworker.

Services will be held on Tuesday, Jan 6th, 2pm at the Graham-Hitch Mortuary, 4167 1st St, Pleasanton.

Harry Levin

Spheres, Spheres, Spheres
Jim Rodgers

Spheres are one of the most complicated shapes for a turner to master. We will be demonstrating several different techniques for turning a sphere. Hal Bain will be turning a sphere free hand with a skew, Harvey Klein will turn a free hand sphere with a gouge, and I will demonstrate several systematic approaches to simplifying the process including a few "aids". There will be time Q & A so bring you experiences and questions to share. Bring your spheres and spherical projects for a good show and tell item for this month!"



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.

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Community Service

TBD

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 Bill Small if you would like to be on the agenda.

Presidents Challenge 2004

The BAWA Board of Directors are currently evaluating new formats for this years President's Challenges. Stay tuned!

The President's Challenge is organized to prepare members for our club competitions. The next club competition is to be scheduled.

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

Dues are Due

Your BAWA membership dues for 2004 are due. The dues are \$40/year, and provide you with great meetings, our club book and video lending library, the club store which can easily save you the annual membership alone, and access to our monthly wood raffle and wood alerts. See Rich Bonnington or Robert Whitworth.

Club Meeting Dates & Topics 2004

Note: We have secured the 2nd Saturday for each month's meeting at the San Ramon Senior Center.

January 10: Turning Spheres - Harvey Klein, Hal Bain and Jim Rodgers

February 14: Sharpening, Theory and Practice

March 13: Ornamental Turning

April 10: TBA

May 8: TBA

June 12: TBA

July 10: TBA

August 14: TBA

September 11: TBA

October 9: TBA

November 13: TBA

December 11: Christmas party

Leo's Corner Leo Lichtman

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ten focusing on a topic of common interest. This concept will be promoted. Additionally, it has been suggested that the club develop a mentoring program in which more experienced turners would take new turners under their wing. Would you like to have a mentor - or be one? Would you like to pursue a special interest with others? Please let us know.

3. *Leadership and participation.* We want at least half of our members can contribute in some way to the club's operation. To facilitate this, we are going to break down the work so that every member who is willing can contribute without feeling burdened. We believe that this will give members a sense of 'ownership' in the club and encourage them to speak up about how the club is being run.

We also want to encourage members with the time and interest to take on ever increasing leadership roles. Our goal is to have a stable of experienced people to rotate through the various leadership positions.

4. *Financial sustainability.* In recent years, our club has achieved a great deal (new meeting place, teaching program, club store, community projects, etc.), made possible in part by creative fund raising and careful cash management by previous boards and treasurers. As new directors, we are fortunate to inherit a solvent club with a history of strong financial management. We need to continue the good work.

5. *Public eye.* All organizations need to recruit new members just to stay in business. If we want to grow (more members mean more resources to support more activities), we need to actively recruit. Over the last two years, the club has effectively entered the public arena, but mostly in the San Ramon Valley. We would like to see the club visible throughout our membership area (the entire East Bay). Keep an eye out for opportunities in your community.

Please let the directors know how you feel about your club and its programs.

Bill Small

We just had one of the big events of the year--the club competition. And it seems that no one is happy with it. The level of member participation has been diminishing, in spite of constant pleas from the club leaders. The time required for judging seems to be insufficient, so that the judges are highly stressed, and the results are often announced late, and in a hurried manner. Another area which, I have observed, needs to be looked at is the categories. Certain particular mainstays are included year after year, but there is a constant search for variety--some people feel that by introducing new categories greater interest and participation can be generated.

I will address these problems one at a time. First, the judging. Our club has a time limit on the use of the room. This means that by the time the entries are collected, and the judging is done, there must still be time for giving out the awards, and cleaning up the room. That kind of pressure should not be on the minds of the judges as they look at each piece and attempt to do it justice. We went from an annual to a semi-annual judging in order to reduce the task judging, but that did not solve the problem. And, I think, having the competition twice a year dilutes its impact, which may be a factor in the loss of participation.

I suggest that we go back to an annual competition, starting in 2004. And I suggest that, to take the time pressure off the judges, we collect the entries in November, and make the awards in December. I am sure that the judges would be happy to have more time, even if it means spending an extra day or two outside of regular meeting hours. Having an annual judging would also allow the introduction of a few more categories without overburdening the judges, or "busting" the treasury with the cost of ribbons.

A second problem associated with the judging is how to make it fair and objective, while, at the same time, keeping the esthetics from being reduced to a system of formulas. I have talked to others who have been in this for a long time, as participants, and as judges. They generally seem to think that the method of filling out a form, with rat-

Leo's Corner continued from page 3

ings for things like "difficulty," "form," "finish," etc., is not good, for two reasons: it takes too long, and it has a kind of "bureaucratic" quality. A piece that simply looks best may fall short in the scoring of individual characteristics. It seems to me that the quest for total objectivity is impossible. Let's just accept that judges are human, and they may not always agree. If you win or don't win because of the leanings of individual judges, that's just the way life is.

Categories. I think this is an area where participation can really be encouraged. If the time pressure of judging during the meeting is removed, the judges should be able to handle several extra categories without too much difficulty. As I see it, there are various ways to sort things. The traditional method used by BAWA is according to the shape and type of turning: Open bowl, closed form, hollow form. Another parameter, also used by BAWA is the technique of production: segmented, surface treatment, mixed media. A third way of sorting the work is according to use: ornament, weed pot, candle holder.

I, personally, would like to see more departure from the usual categories, such as "abstract turnings," "utilitarian objects," or "salad bowls." Maybe we should explore some of these categories in the President's Challenge, to see how people respond.

It may seem like we have plenty of time to think about this, but, if changes are to be made, they should be hashed out now, so the members know where they are headed.

Leo

President's Challenge

Christmas Ornaments

- Robert Whitworth—Carob&Bloodwood Ornament
- Jim Abreu—Lantern Ornament
- Fred Deadrick-Acorn Ornaments
- Dale Anderson—Birdhouse Ornaments
- Jim Lehman—Maple&Cocobolo Ornaments
- Wayne Cowden—Misc Ornaments
- Jerry Decker—Bells and Ornaments

Wood Raffle

- Jim Abreu—Myrtle & Juniper
- David Burton—Persimmon
- Jim Lehman—Oak, Elm & Liquid Amber
- Harb Norris—Black Acacia, Iron Wood & Mahogany
- Wayne Shipman—Peppertree Burl

Show & Tell

- Steve Miller—Kaleidoscope
- Fred Deadrick—Tops, Segmented Bud Vase
- Jim Lehman—Natural Edge Black Locust & Mystery Wood Natural Edge Bowls
- Ros Harper—Bowl with Lid
- David Burton—Cherry Bowl
- Don White—Hollow turning & Vertical Vase
- Jerry Decker—Maple Bowl, Cherry Bowl, Cherry Goblet
- Skip Bensen—Cracking Bowl
- Leo Lichtman—Mallet & Dual Laser from Costco
- Rich Bonnington—Assorted Turnings
- Jan Blumer—Olive Nested Bowls
- Bob Ellis—Homebuilt Sharpening Jig



Don't let this happen to you!
(Photo courtesy of Wally Dickerman)



BAWA Welcomes Our 2004 President

By Wayne Shipman

A few years ago a group of us members chose to change the direction of our association. At that time we felt that our greatest asset was the club library. We had a five-year plan and many good ideas. Many of you know that those goals were reached in record time by the efforts of those who were dedicated to making things happen for the better. At the present, we members can be proud of the Woodturning School, Supply Store, Library, Newsletter, Wood Raffle, our location for monthly meetings, Bi-annual competitions, Specials Projects, Generous Atmosphere, and much more. All of these are valuable assets; however, our greatest asset is YOU the member. Nothing can sustain itself without your participation. BAWA will continue to grow with your stewardship. Much to our credit, we have elected Bill Small to lead us through 2004. Have more fun this year and get involved in organizing and orchestrating the BAWA events of 2004.



Bill is a serious wood harvester with serious equipment. He believes that our urban forests offer more species of trees to chose from than other communities. His desire to turn green wood has lead to some outstanding pieces turned from local woods.

In 2000, at Robert Whitworth's insistence, Bill Small joined a BAWA sponsored workshop featuring Lyle Jamieson. This two-day workshop was Bill's first woodturning experience. He reached a basic understanding with the bowl gouge that weekend and for the next week continued to make bowls one after the other. I had the pleasure to see the first smile on Bill's face that indicated he was making a good cut and having fun. Bill believes that the best way to learn to turn is to see one, make one and teach one. True to his word, he shared his knowledge of woodturning that first week with his son, Peter, who made his first bowl that day.

Bill was raised in Baltimore. He earned a Bachelor of Architecture degree from Carnegie Mellon University and a Master of City Planning from MIT. After college he spent four years as an officer in the U. S. Navy, Civil Engineer Corps. His principal duty was to master plan Navy shore facilities in the Washington, D. C. area. After leaving the Navy, he joined a group of friends in a small consultancy that specialized in master plans and zoning and subdivision regulations for rural counties in Maryland and Virginia. Six years later, Bill joined the Bechtel Corporation as a project manager. During his 22 years with the company, he prepared master plans for dozens of airports, several railroads, and new towns. During this period Bill, his wife Jeanie, son Peter, and daughter Jennifer lived in Caracas for two years and later Saudia Arabia for three years. Bill also spent extended periods working with South Korea, China, Hong Kong, Japan, Australia and Malaysia as well as New York City and Dallas.

In 1999, Bill retired from Bechtel as a principal vice president in order to pursue woodworking. To get started, he apprenticed himself for five months to a furniture maker in San Francisco. He purchased the basic woodworking machines needed for making furniture and surprisingly a 2036 Oneway wood lathe. With an understanding of the basic skills and safety, he began making furniture for family and friends in his garage. The lathe got little or no use. After joining BAWA and attending the workshop in 2000, he quickly caught the bug and has concentrated on woodturning every since that time. Bill has also assisted the teaching staff in woodturning classes at the Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts in Tennessee. Now the flat woodworking machinery serves as a horizontal surface to display his numerous turnings. To be totally honest, he still makes an occasional piece of furniture.

BAWA Woodturning Classes

Each of these four courses provides students with an understanding of design concepts; safe lathe operation and proper tool techniques. . Lathes and all necessary equipment provided. Two instructors teach a maximum of eight students (Ages: 14+). Location: Senior Center

Wood Bowl from Local Hardwood – Acct. #27408

Make a 9" diameter wood bowl from a freshly cut, recycled East Bay hardwood. This all day class focuses on learning several cutting techniques using the bowl gouge, one of the most popular and versatile woodturning tools. Class is ideal for first time turners. A \$10 materials fee is payable to instructors.

Sa 17 Jan 9am-5pm \$98(R)\$123(N)

Make a Lidded Wood Box – Acct. #27409

Make a small, circular wooden box with its own detachable lid ideal for storing treasures. You will use an exotic hardwood with colorful grain and develop a design of your own. This all day class is not recommended for beginning turners. A \$5 materials fee is payable to the instructors.

Sa 21 Feb 9am-5pm \$98(R)\$123(N)

Contact Lanny Dana (925) 829-5304 or wced@comcast.net for more information.

Save Your Woodcraft Receipts

By special arrangement, Jim Rodgers has secured a way for BAWA to receive a 3% rebate from Woodcraft for each dollar spent in the Dublin store. Simply deposit your receipts (or copies) in the box located on the Show & Tell table at the next meeting. This is an on-going rebate, so what more justification do you need to buy that new tool!



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