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## The February 14th BAWA Meeting Features *Tool Sharpening Techniques (Details on Page 3)*

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### President's Message Bill Small

#### Four Clubs Makes For a Winning Hand

Whether playing cards or turning wood, we're always on the lookout for that winning combination of luck and talent. BAWA is playing its best cards by promoting cooperation among the four woodturning clubs serving the Bay Area (West Bay, Silicon Valley, Wine Country and ourselves). Each of these clubs has a very talented membership and each has developed its own unique areas of interest and specialized talents. By working together, each club can offer its members the collective talents of all four.

The idea of inter club cooperation is not new. For years, several members have belonged to multiple clubs - a form of inter club cooperation. And for years, we had an annual picnic among the seven Northern California clubs. Unfortunately, that effort became too great from some clubs to manage and the idea has been dropped.

Last year, Robert Whitworth worked with Linda Salter of West Bay to arrange an exchange of demonstrators (Linda did a presentation on segmented pieces for us and Robert did one on turning critters at West Bay). BAWA also provided judges for West Bay's annual exhibit.

Harry Levin is pursuing this club cooperation concept aggressively. He issued a list of BAWA club members willing to conduct demos at other clubs and in turn has a list of their members who are willing to reciprocate. At our March 13th meeting,

Tom Howard, president of West Bay (and a former president of BAWA) will talk about his ornamental lathe and the unbelievable pieces that he makes using it. Harry will write more about Tom's presentation in the next newsletter. Other guest demonstrators may appear later in the year. Harry is also working with his counterparts in the other clubs to combine resources so that we can afford to bring internationally-known demonstrators to the Bay Area.

Where will this new effort lead us? Time will tell. Certainly, exchanging demonstrators is a natural. Sharing newsletters and information on new tools, etc. seems straightforward, as well. Joint exhibits and public demonstrations are other possibilities. Perhaps a four-club picnic ... and so on. Do you have thoughts about how this four club arrangement could help you? I am sure that Harry would love to hear from you.

Bill Small

### Flash! Flash! John Jordan is coming to town!

John Jordan will be giving an all day demonstration on hollow bowl turning and surface treatment on Sunday, April 4th. John is a renowned turner who produces museum quality work and his pieces are very popular with collectors. The demo will be held at Bill Small's house, and is limited to 25 attendees. The cost will be \$30. Don't be disappointed, and make your reservation early by contacting Jim Abreu (925)828-1907 or jkabreu9@comcast.net. Bring check to the next meeting or send to 11622 Amarillo Ct. Dublin CA 94568.



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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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—Bill Small & Jim Rodgers

**March 13:** Ornamental Turning—Tom Howard

**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

**GET SHARP!**  
The February Demo featuring  
Bill Small & Jim Rodgers

How do I get a truly sharp edge on my tools? What angle should I use? How often should I sharpen? How do I raise a burr? What happens when I touch my gouge to the wood? These and many more questions will be addressed at our February meeting.

Bill Small will start with a discussion of the physics of what happens when your tool touches the wood. Ever wonder why sometimes you just aren't getting a clean cut or too much tear out. Bill will explain the

forces at work that lead to smooth cuts. Regardless of whether you're a beginner or advanced turner, this information you will enable you to self-diagnose problems and improve your turning techniques.

Jim Rodgers will continue the presentation with the theory and practice of sharpening, including a discussion of angles, profiles, jigs and sharpening tips for a wide variety of turning tools. He will have a variety of sharpening systems available to demonstrate. If you have an unique sharpening system, bring it along and share it with the membership.

**Leo's Corner**  
by Leo Lichtman

There is a thread running currently in-Rec.crafts.metalworking, which I think may be of interest to woodturners. I have reproduced all of the posts, except for a couple which I consider of no value.

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I would like to carve out a design on a wood surface and then somehow melt or embed a silver/chrome looking metal/material into the grooves. Then I want to sand it really smooth so that it looks like its part of the wood.

Any tips or suggestions greatly appreciated?

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My buddy did this for his, at the time, girlfriend in a jewelry box. He used one of the Cero metals, they make a variety, I believe it was Ceromatrix. They expand on cooling and melt at, about boiling water temp. Looks just as you wanted.

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Herschel House did that sort of thing building a

kentucky rifle in one of his videos. In this case, it was making a chevron-style nose cap.

The wood was curly maple and he poured pewter into the design. Lead pencil was used to help the pewter to flow into the grooves, and then the whole thing was sanded smooth. No burning of the wood, and it looked pretty sharp.

Another way of inlaying into wood involves using a bow drill, "passer bit", and brass template. The passer bit is two pieces of sharp, springy wire and they excavate the wood inside of the template design. This is how brass inlay was done on things like rosewood squares in the 19th century, and I believe violin bow-makers still do this to inlay mother of pearl etc.

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Dental amalgam, be advised it will contain a little mercury.

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For fine work you can use a router with a 1/16" diameter bit to carve out the pattern at an even depth, then hammer in silver banding. A cabinet scraper or sander will pare it down smooth.

Or you can use the new metallic epoxies which don't need a flat bottom. Fine Woodworking magazine did an article on that a couple years ago. [http://taunton.com/store/pages/fw\\_toc\\_159.asp](http://taunton.com/store/pages/fw_toc_159.asp) Look for "epoxy inlay" on Google, too.

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Maybe guitar fret material would work. You can buy it in different colors and widths. Rout a slot and hammer it in. Silver solder might work also. Experiment on some scraps.

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Process was done on rifles from the early days of the country till mass produced rifles were made in the factories. I've seen it done on the Woodwright Shop program with a group doing old rifles and they cut a groove in the wood and inserted a thin metal strip. The process even included undercutting the wood so that the metal would be hooked into the wood. Thicker stuff may want casting but for the thin filligree, the above process is probably the one to do. I'll note that any casting process will tend to fall out due to the shrinkage of the metal as it cools along with the

burning of the wood while casting if the metal is too hot.

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Brownells Gunsmithing supply sells all the materials for doing this. It is usually done with a very small router bit and a template. The grooves are filled with a silver or gold polymer stick that is melted and dripped into the grooves, then sanded off.

Leo

## BAWA Lending Library New Arrivals

By Gene Pitkin

We have some great new additions from the AAW to the Library this month. Four new DVDs were added. The first are *Volumes 1 and 2 Techniques from the 2003 Symposium* on two DVDs. The third DVD is on the *Instant Gallery from the 2003 Symposium*, and the fourth DVD is on *Fundamentals of Sharpening* featuring Bonnie Klein, John Jordan, Bill Johnson and Alan Lacer (90 minutes). We also added the book *Woodturning Methods Book Number 2* by Mike Darlow.

It costs only \$1 per month to borrow items from the Library. If you have any past due materials, please return them so others can borrow them.

Gene

## Wood Raffle

Jan Blumer, Woodmeister

The wood raffle is a great way to pick up some great turning wood at a great price. The wood raffle is also a great way to help support the club. If you have wood to contribute, please bring it to the meeting. This month, the following members contributed wood:

- Bill Small—Liquid Amber
- Brad Adams—Black Acacia & Bay Laurel
- Jim Lehman—Ash
- Leonard Stanton—Camphor, Cedar and Myoporum
- Jim Trusler—Eucalyptus
- Jan Blumer—Black Acacia
- Ron Reeves—1/2 Inch Baltic Birch Plywood Cut-offs 8-)

## BAWA Store Specials

By Steve Miller

The BAWA Club Store is a great way to save money on turning supplies and accessories, and now you can check out what is in stock by going to the Member's Section of the BAWA web site:  
<http://www.bayareawoodturners.org/>

This month the store has two specials:

1. Palm Nuts - regular price of \$3.00 will be on sale for \$1.50
2. Cocobolo bottle stopper blank with dowel and cork—Regular price \$4.00 will be on sale for \$3.00

Stock up now!! If there is something you would like to see in the store, let me know.

Steve

## Turning Spheres

At last month's meeting, Jim Rodgers, Mark Knize, and Hal Bain did a tremendous job showing us several methods to turn a sphere on the lathe. In case you missed the presentation or did not receive Jim's handout, you and email Jim at [jlrogers@aol.com](mailto:jlrogers@aol.com) and ask for a copy, or thanks to Dave Macdonald our BAWA webmaster, you can now download the file from the BAWA web site in the member's section.



Here Jim is shown with a jig for turning spheres. Bring your balls—er spheres to the next show and tell!

## Give Morrie a hand!

Morrie Shoob is the man in charge of setting up or meeting facility at the Sr Center. Setup starts at 9:30, and all must be cleaned up before the wood raffle.

So next time you see Morrie, give him a hand and help setup and clean up the facility! Thanks Morrie!



## January Show & Tell

We had a great Show & Tell session at the January meeting. Here are photos of some of the items shown.



Everett Eiselen's Screwball—a complex lamination of rotated wedges turned into a sphere.



Dave Morris showed us his mobile toolcart with a pullout drawer to hold sandpaper.



Don White showed a beautiful bowl turned from Norfolk Pine.



Andrew Baxter is giving segmented turning a try. Here is his first segmented bowl.



Jim Rodgers showed a somewhat distorted Fig vase.



Fred Tamuty's Maple candy dish.



Dan Curtis showed us several new bowls of pink Myrtle, Sycamore and Claro Walnut.



Jim Lehman's bowls of Buckeye and Black Locus.



Steve Miller showed us his latest segmented bowl with a complex insect pattern.



Mike Skinner's pen collection.

Other S&Ters were Bill Small, Fred Dadrick, Brad Adams, Dave Burton, Jerry Decker, Dale Anderson, Elizabeth, Larry Catron, John Bocks, and Norm Robinson.

## 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

### **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)

### **Custom Wood Ball Point Pen or Pencil – Acct. #27410**

Make a custom, high quality, ballpoint pen or pencil (your choice). The pen and pencil mechanisms are 24K gold plated. Turn the pen/pencil body from an exotic and colorful hardwood. This class is ideal for beginners. A \$10/pen or \$15/pencil materials fee is payable to the instructors. Sa 20 Mar 8am-12pm \$48(R) \$60(N)

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

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## 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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