



The March 13th BAWA Meeting Feature s Mike Rude on Spiraled Hollow Vessels (*Details on Page 3*)

President's Message by Bill Small

Woodturning: A Journey Without End

Several weeks ago, I spoke with a former BAWA member who had dropped out of our club. He said that he had learned all that he wanted to know about woodturning and; therefore, our meetings had no value to him. I found this sad.

In woodturning as in life, you must never stop learning. When you reach the end of learning, you reach the end, period. I think we are especially fortunate because our craft offers unending possibilities to explore. Exploration offers the opportunity to meet new friends, trade information with them and try new tools and techniques. (With golf you only get worse.)

Of course, exploration involves risk taking - and risk taking involves the potential for failure. But even failure, if viewed properly, offers the opportunity to learn what doesn't work. Below are five ways to explore using the club's resources:

1. Copy the Demo. Many of our demonstrations present unusual techniques. Go home and try them - then bring your efforts to the next meeting.
2. Study the Show & Tell. Look the pieces over carefully and select one that you like, but that represents a type of turning you have never tried. Then give it a try. Note who turned the original and call them up if you need advise.

3. Visit the Library. Gene Pitkin has a wealth of information sitting out on his table. The best turners in the world could not master all that Gene has waiting for you. Pick up a video or book and explore.
4. Pick from the Wood Raffle. Instead of selecting your favorite woods or shapes month after month, pick out the most challenging piece you can find. Then turn this ugly chunk into something beautiful. It will stretch you.
5. Visit Another Member. Woodturners are very generous people. Approach someone at the next meeting or call them up on the phone. Ask if you can come to their shop and see how they work. You will go home having had a good time and with several new ideas - guaranteed.

Turn wood and stay young! — Bill

Leo's Corner by Leo Lichtman

Tool(rest) Time

I have been hearing for years that the top of a tool-rest had better have a certain shape. It needs to be angled toward the work, so that the pivot point of the tool is up close. A round or flat toolrest is supposed to be bad because it results in a variable distance from the pivot point to the cutting edge, and it cannot provide the closest possible approach to the work. Since tool control is critical to woodturning, this sounds very plausible, and, until recently I have believed every word.. But I have come to have my doubts.

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:

Bill Small

williamsbill@comcast.net

Vice President:

Harry Levin

captinharry@sbcglobal.net

Treasurer:

Robert Whitworth

Hdhuunter9@sbcglobal.net

Secretary:

Jim Rodgers

jlrogers@aol.com

Librarian:

Gene Pitkin

Membership:

Rich Bonnington

richnvic@cnonline.net

925-228-0271

Historian/Webmaster:

Dave MacDonald

dmacdon@pacbell.net

Newsletter Editor:

Fred Deadrick

fdeadrick@comcast.net

Member-at-Large:

Harvey Klein

h.e.klein@sbcglobal.net

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.

May Turning Competition

The competition this year will take on a different flavor. Have you wondered how your turnings would sell in a gallery? We will be privileged to have Andreas Strieve, the owner of Gallery M in Half Moon Bay, judge your pieces with regard to salability and recommend, if needed, how a piece might be improved. There will be 3 categories.

1. Gift class – under \$100
2. Accessory class \$100- \$500
3. Collectable class over \$500

RULES:

You can have one (1) entry in a given class and can submit to all three categories.

You set the price of your piece –Andreas can reassign the class of your piece if he believes it is necessary

There will be 3 proficiency levels- novice, advanced, and professional

If you have received a first place in novice or advanced levels in previous competitions then you are in the next level for this years judging.

Gallery M

A noted above, Andreas Strieve, owner of *Gallery M* in Half Moon Bay will be the judge of our next club competition. If you have not visited his gallery, you are missing out on a fantastic collection of fine art wood-working. Several BAWA members have works at the gallery.

Gallery M is located at 328 Main Street, Half Moon Bay, (650)726-7167. (www.GalleryM.net)

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: Spiraled hollow vessels — Mike Rude

April 10: TBA

May 8: Spring Club Competition — Andreas Strieve (Judge)

June 12: Club Question & Answer Session followed by a Club Picnic

July 10: Chucking Techniques — Rich Johnson

August 14: Finial Boxes — Don Bonnett

September 11: Router Inlays — Phil Roybal

October 9: Ornamental Turning—Tom Howard

November 13: Christmas Ornaments — Jim Gott

December 11: Holiday Party

Leo's Corner continued from page 1

First of all, I believe that the idea of putting the toolrest close to the wood came from spindle turning. In spindle turning, it is generally pretty easy to bring the toolrest to within 1/8", or so, of the wood. In bowl turning, this is seldom possible--often the tool overhang can reach several inches, and in some difficult cases it can go to a foot or more. Some time back a number of our members attended a "hands-on" class by Mike Darlow, dealing only with spindle turning techniques. He startled us all by deliberately putting his tool rest an inch or two back from the wood. When someone in the group questioned him about this, he moved it even farther back, just to drive the point home. So I have concluded that having the pivot distance of the tool as short as possible is not critical.

But, the argument goes on. If the toolrest is round on top, then as the tool handle is raised or lowered, the fulcrum distance changes. This is supposed to be a problem. Well, I have been using a toolrest made of 1" round barstock for about a year, and I have not noticed a problem. I also use a toolrest made of rectangular barstock--the top is 1/2" wide. This has not produced a problem either. Well, maybe it's just me. I am not a master turner. Could be I am just not tuned in enough to notice something as subtle as this. But, I have made toolrests for others, also using this 1/2" wide steel bar. No one has reported a problem.

Let's examine what happens with my 1" round toolrest. As the handle is raised, to lower the bevel and cutting edge toward the wood, the fulcrum approaches the work, due to the rolling action of the tool on top of the rest. This increases the mechanical advantage of the handle over the tip. In other words, the turner *gains* control by this motion. If the turner lowers the handle, the fulcrum moves back, resulting in a decreasing tip control. I don't know whether this is a problem for anyone else, but it has never even been noticeable to me.

Something else I really like about the round toolrest: it doesn't get dinged up. One of the big annoyances with toolrests is that they get nicked up, and this can really interfere with the smooth motion needed for good turning. A sharp-edged tool rest is *designed* to get nicks, especially if you work with a

skew on edge. To combat this, most turners keep a file or sandpaper handy, and are constantly dressing and redressing the toolrest. Many skews are now made with rounded edges to minimize the problem. Some turners round the edges of their skews for the same reason. My round toolrest stays smooth--the contact between the tool and the rest is distributed over a wider area, so the yield point of the steel is not exceeded. Also, with this wider contact and lower stress, I believe the tool slides with less friction, which is what we want.

The toolrest of the future--round.

Leo

March BAWA Meeting Program

The March Speaker at our monthly BAWA meeting will feature Mike Rude.

Mike is an accomplished turner from the Silicon Valley Wood turners club. He will be demonstrating the techniques and tools used in producing spiraled hollow vessels.

Northern California Woodturner's Picnic

OK woodturners, save September 18th for the new Silicon Valley sponsored "Turn-off".

The Turn-off will be a Picnic get together, held on September 18,(location to be determined). Clubs participating will be Silicon Valley, West Bay, Nor Cal woodturners, and BAWA.

The picnic will be a fun get together with a potluck supplied by all the attending members. The competition will be a bit different from previous years. It will be a game of croquet. The only twist is that each club must make their own regulation set, 6 mallets, 6 croquet balls, stick and hoops. The traveling trophy will go to the best judged set. The only other requirement is that the official playing team must wear the same team attire. It sounds like a great day to meet members from the other clubs and have fun within our club planning and making the croquet set.

At the March meeting we will have a sign up sheet for those who want to participate in building the croquet set.

BAWA Lending Library

By Gene Pitkin

Return to Library—Return to Library—Return

Many videos and books have been checked out of the library and not returned so that others can use them. For the Month of March BAWA has declared amnesty for overdue items —please return items, no questions asked!

Wood Raffle

Ros Harper, Woodmeisterin

Ros Harper is our new Wood Meisterin (a female woodmeister). The wood raffle is a great way to get some really nice wood for turning, and a great way for the club to make a income. If you have some spare wood which is suitable for turning, please bring it along to the meeting to contribute.



This month's wood contributors were: Harvey Klein, Myron Levin, Wayne Shipman, Harry Levin, John Bocks, Jim Lehman, Jim Abreu, Ros Harper, LeRoy Whinnery, Dave Lambert and Harb Norris — Thanks all!



David Wade, Orange CA is the lucky owner of this new CA plate.

John Jordan Demo on April 4th

Don't forget the John Jordan demo coming up on the 4th of April at Bill Small's House. If you have not paid your \$30 to Jim Abreu, please do so at or before the March BAWA meeting. Unpaid seats will be released to other clubs.

Tool Sharpening Demo

Bill Small description of the physics of cutting wood, and Jim Rodgers' demonstration on how to sharpen tools at last month's meeting was very informative with lots of good techniques. In case you missed their presentation, the notes are available on the BAWA web site: www.bayareawoodturners.org in the members section. Also, as Jim pointed out, excellent free sharpening videos can be downloaded from the Oneway site: www.oneway.on.ca You can also get a free video CD from Oneway too.

BAWA Members in Print

The new issue of the journal is in the mail. BAWA is mentioned for its 15th year as an AAW chapter. Mark Knize has pictures of two of his walnut pieces. Bill Small and Ron Sutherland explain how BAWA made stands for the club's midi lathes using a single sheet of plywood each.

If you aren't getting the journal, do yourself a big favor and join AAW today.

Thanks Harvey for your Service to BAWA!



February Show & Tell



Harb Norris shows his thin wall Black Acacia Bowl.



LeRoy Whinnery's Redwood Burl Bowl



Bob Ellis showed us his continuing development of a home-made sharpening system.



Jack Brophy brought in his Hollow Form Vessel and a Segmented Bowl



Bill Small's Hand Carved Fish Bowl



Wayne Shipman's Candle Holder



Don White's Burl Bird

Other members with Show and Tell include Harvey Klein-bowls and boxes; Leo Lichtman-cane, bowls & sphere; Hal Bain-turned bowl model of Waterford Crystal bowl; Fred Deadrick, spheres; Myron Levin-iron bark bowl & carob vase for raffle; Mike Skinner-bowl; Bob Evans-tool rack & potpourri bowl; Steve Miller-segmented bowl, pepperwood bowl, palm nut & sphere; Andrew Baxter-segmented bowls; Dale Anderson-vase with Macassar Ebony legs; Rosemarie Altberg-containers & small bowl.

For Sale

Sears Craftsman best 2hp (real, not peak) piston driven compressor. 20 gal ASME tank. 220 volts. Excellent condition \$100. Contact: Harry Levin, (925) 443-5562.

Note: *The BAWA Newsletter will accept woodturning/woodworking for sale ads. Send them at least two weeks before the next club meeting to Fred Deadrick, fdeadrick@comcast.net or (925)447-9650.*

The BAWA woodturning classes are temporally on hold pending resolution of the club's liability insurance policy.

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. The current rebate is for \$160 which brings the total to the club to over \$600. It is an important source of income to BAWA. Remember to bring your receipts (or copies) and deposit them in Jim's collection box at the next meeting.

Mike Cunningham is the new owner of the Dublin Woodcraft store, and we should all seek Mike out personally as they go to the store to do business and tell him what they think about Woodcraft and their past service. We are the customers and he should know about the positives and negatives. More input, more output to our benefit.



2870 Creston Road
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

First Class Mail

Address
Correction
Requested