

BAY AREA



WOODTURNERS
ASSOCIATION
A CALIFORNIA NONPROFIT CORPORATION
LOCAL CHAPTER AAW

April 2015

Volume 19, Issue 4

Giulio Marcolongo, April Demonstrator

Australian turner Giulio Marcolongo will be presenting at our April 11 meeting. He's coming to us from Down Under to demonstrate his "down under turnaround".



Giulio is a truly accomplished and entertaining demonstrator, amongst the best in the world. He enjoys travelling, teaching, and passing on his skills to others. He especially likes making lidded boxes which have his own flair, turning that hard Australian burl into beautiful pieces and making the occasional hat. Giulio's demonstration will include projects that include the dog bowl, a lidded box, and his signature box.

Dog Bowl

This demonstration is called "The Dog Bowl Transformed." Giulio will show how to undercut the bowl blank to develop a skirt. He will incorporate the jam fit technique to take off the foot, with indexing and a template. Lastly, he will show how the ordinary bowl can be turned into his glider design.



Lidded Box

Giulio will turn an off-center lidded box, with a paua shell (Māori name for abalone) insert in the lid. This demonstration incorporates a variety of off-center, jam chucking, and box making techniques.

Signature Box

This demonstration incorporates various box making techniques and jam chucking. He will also show how to cut the scallops on the skirt and lid using a dowel and sandpaper.





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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

Apr 11th	Guilio Marcolongo 9:00-3:30
May 23rd	Jason Breach (UK Turner)
June 13th	Mark Knize-Large Segmented Hollow Forms
July 11th	Turn for Troops 9:00-12:30
Aug 8th	BBQ
Sept 12th	TBA
Oct 10th	Andrew Baxter-Xmas Ornaments 9:00-12:30
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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Meet Jason Breach, Our May Presenter



We are fortunate to be able to have Jason Breach come by to do our second 2015 professional demonstration. Jason will make the rounds of California clubs on his way to the Utah Symposium where he is a featured presenter.

Here is what Jason says about himself:

“My passion for wood started at an early age, and with the love and encouragement of my family I started woodturning as a hobby. My parents were very supportive enabling me to attend Parnham House for weeklong courses. Leaving school at 17 I attended Buckingham College in High Wycombe from where I graduated, aged 21, with a BA HONS in Furniture Design and Management. I enjoy the challenge of making complex items of furniture and worked in this field for 6 years.”

“After I was made redundant I took up a position that enables me both to teach my turning skills but also hone and develop them further. I have now been there for nearly a decade. I now make a range of turned items ranging from commissions to craft shop regulars; each is produced to the same exacting standards. I create a range of functional items such as fruit bowls and light pulls to purely decorative items such as boxes and other abstract pieces. I also produce solitaire sets where each ball is hand turned in a different timber. Please take a look at my gallery for examples of my boxes, solitaire sets and also other items that I have turned, www.jasonbreach.co.uk/ I have now also added Wedding Cake Toppers to my range.”

Jason has created a number of boxes that have won competitions within the UK, including 1st prize in the Plain Box category of the Worshipful Company of Turners competition 2010. The “Orbital Arc Box” series is his main design focus at present, taking one idea and developing this into a number of different finished boxes. He has demonstrated throughout the UK, Australia, Alaska and Europe. These skills have also led to him being in demand as a tutor, his full time job in the UK being a tutor teaching woodturning at a UK based tool company, but he has also held classes in Utah, Alaska and Australia. Jason’s enthusiasm for turning is a major creative force in his demonstrations.

Currently Jason spends much of his time tutoring these hand skills and techniques. This has enabled him to develop his teaching skills, allowing him to explain and educate the learners within classes or at club demonstrations. A major aim of Jason’s demo’s is to try and explain exactly what he is doing and why, so that everyone can understand from new turners through the experienced turners within the group.

Jason likes to turn objects that are unique. He was challenged to create a hollow form within a hollow form. He came up with “sputnik”



Club News

Meeting Notes, 3/14/15 – Pi day:

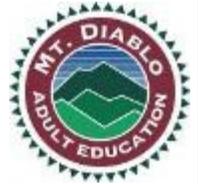
Paul Litsky reported on upcoming presenters. April 11 and May 23 will feature professional presenters Guilio Marcolongo and Jason Breach. Our own Mark Knize will demonstrate how he designs those big turnings of his on June 13. July 11 will be Turn for Troops day, with the proceeds from pens we turn being used to support our veterans. August 22 is the date for the annual BBQ at Pleasant Hill Community Park.



Joel Albert made a brief financial presentation. We reached our membership goal and the club is financially sound. Thanks Joel. In the store Rich has a new item, Renaissance Wax. This is in response to last month's presentation by Ron Ashby. Cindy requested we raise the library fee to \$2 per month to raise revenue to buy more DVD's. Members were in favor. She also requested we sell our extensive collection of magazines to raise money for the store. We had one new member, David Lonsboro (sp?). The club thanked Brian for putting feet on the lathe stands. Bruce requested help with the video equipment. We need one or two volunteers to help with setup and recording.

Announcements:

The Mount Diablo Adult Education center is offering a number of woodturning classes during the spring. These include Introduction to Woodturning and Wedgie Sled Construction taught by Jim Rodgers; Beginning Bowl Turning, Basket Illusions and Put Color in your Work all taught by Bob Nolan; turning Hollow Vessels taught by John Cobb; End Grain Turning taught by Jan Blumer and Dave Flesig and Making Resin Pen Blanks taught by Jim Rodgers and Bill Melberg. Class schedules are on line.



www.mtдиabloadulted.org



There are two symposia coming up. The Utah Symposium will be May 14-16 in Orem Utah and features our own Jim Rodgers (segmented turning, tool making) Cindy Navarro (deconstruction) as well as Guilio Marcolongo, Sally Ault, Jason Breach, Kip Christensen, Cindy Drozda, Ashley Harwood and Mike Jacofsky. The AAW Symposium will be held June 25-28 in Pittsburg and features lots of people. Check out their web site for details. www.woodturner.org/?page=2015Pittsburgh

Tony presented our tree of the month, the Evergreen Pear. This is a common street tree that can be found all over the Bay Area. It is a type of broad leaf conifer that keeps its leaves all year. Bark looks like alligator skin. The wood is like pear wood with a slight orange coloring. It turns easily and finishes to a hard even surface. Like other fruit wood it is highly prone to cracking. Suggestions for minimizing cracking included boiling and freezing (not at the same time).

Presentation by John Cobb:

John specializes in green wood hollow forms. He was amazed at a fellow turner able to make very narrow hollow forms until he discovered the turner actually glued two pieces of wood together. So John began turning Frisbee like forms. These are basically two platters glued together to give the appearance of being one piece.



Bottom piece – take a round of wood and true it up on the lathe. Cut a recess tenon for use with expansion chuck jaws using a parting tool or skew. 1/16 in is fine for expansion mode. Reverse and place on the chuck. You now have access to the inside for hollowing. Leave about 3/8 in flat at rim for glueing. Use a sanding paddle to insure the rim area is indeed flat.

Top piece – take a round of wood and glue on a square piece of stock in the center. Turn this stock into a tenon to fit chuck jaws in contraction mode. Reverse onto chuck. Now hollow out the interior of the top piece also leaving a 3/8 in flat at rim for glueing. Again use sanding paddle to insure flatness.

Glue it up – Place glue on both surfaces, then bring up the tail stock to insure you center the bottom piece onto the top piece. Let dry. Now you can shape the sides and bottom being sure to keep the groove for the expansion chuck intact. Then reverse onto this groove to complete the top. Finally, use a hollowing tool to cut the final hole into the vessel. You have a piece that appears to have been hollowed out with an impossible angle.



President's Ramblings

April 2015



From the President's Lathe

I was reading an article recently that said if you want to become an expert you need to spend 10,000 hours working on that skill. I finished the article and went on with life until one sleepless night I began to think about the magnitude of that number and realized: 40 hours in a week, 52 weeks in a year - that gets me to roughly 2,000 hours if I work full time. So after 5 years of working full time I should be an expert in the field of my choice. My sleepless pondering continued: do I need to spend that kind of time to become an expert at woodturning? That was a rather sobering and disheartening thought. I can't argue that if you commit that kind of time you will most likely be a very good woodturner but you can also go through medical school in that time so 10,000 hours is probably on the high end for woodturning proficiency.

So clocking in at hour number two of not sleeping, I shifted the subject to focus on what am I trying to achieve with woodturning: is being an "expert" really the goal? Should it be making pieces with fewer flaws? Should it be becoming really proficient at using a gouge or hollowing tool? Or is it simply making pieces I like and that others may appreciate? Slumber finally arrived with nothing resolved but it did give me a kernel to chew on - one which I think is valuable for artists and craftspeople to consider: "What are my goals and how do I achieve them?"

My path through the woodturning experience has been akin to a four year old with ADD in a giant toy store. Everywhere I turn there is something really cool that I want to pick up and play with which keeps my attention for about 10 seconds until the next even cooler thing comes into view. However I found that I would periodically return to a few subjects, still wandering off to explore new things now and again, but always coming back to a couple staples. For me they are bowls, and hollow forms.

About the time I had made a couple dozen of each, I learned to see the flaws in my work - how did my work compare to the BAWA professional presenters projects or the club show and tell table. I forced myself to finish a piece each month and bring it to the club meeting. I knew it wasn't perfect but I could always ask for advice on what or how to do better. A couple times I had stopped short of my best skill level: bad sanding, poor finish or clunky form because in the shop it was "good enough" (AKA - too lazy to spend enough time). I felt self conscious about those pieces as I knew I could do better and in retrospect those pieces contributed very little to improving my skill level. I always felt great about the pieces that reflected my best even if they still had flaws - which they always did.

So getting back to the original nocturnal subject of 10,000 hours to be an expert. I'm not going to lose any more sleep over that topic as I think it's irrelevant. I'm going to focus on bowls and hollow forms with a few ADD diversions to spice things up. Most importantly I'm going to avoid "good enough". If I have time to fix a flaw, I'll do it. If the piece just progresses from one problem to the next or requires an inordinate amount of time to fix an avoidable problem, I'll move it along knowing there are flaws. Everyone creates seconds, that's why there are sale tables at craft shows, in laws and wood burning fireplaces. A flawed piece is only a dud if you stopped at "good enough". If you critique all your pieces and work on avoiding the avoidable problems there is no doubt that you will produce some remarkable pieces.

Speaking of remarkable pieces, this month we have Giulio Marcolongo as our professional turner for a full day on Saturday April 11th. A professional turner from land of kangaroos and Eucalyptus. Giulio is well known for a fantastic presentation covering a broad range of topics that should appeal to everyone. Doors open at 8:30, the meeting runs from 9 - 3.

Thank you again to our extraordinary setup crew for coming in a week early to transform the room from a 20 lathe shop to 100 seat auditorium with new AV systems. You guys are the best!

Trees of the Bay Area #11

Araucaria heterophylla

By Tony Wolcott

In discussions about the Norfolk Island pine a question arose regarding the Cook pine.

I was under the impression that the Cook pine was the same tree. It is not, and this brings up the age old problem of common names. Captain Cook was an English explorer in the 1770's and was responsible for mapping Australia and New Zealand. He was fond of naming things after himself such as the Cook Islands (Rarotonga), the Cook pine, and short order cooks. Okay I made up that last one. But since we are so fond of common names, should we not call Hawaii the Sandwich Islands as Captain Cook did after his buddy Lord Sandwich? The actual Latin name for the Norfolk Island pine is *Araucaria heterophylla*, and the Cook pine is named *Araucaria columnaris*. The Cook pine is columnar and often leaning. The Norfolk Island araucaria is conical and not leaning.



Another easy way to identify an *Araucaria heterophylla* is the star arrangement in the branch whorl around the trunk. This tree grows up to 150 feet in height, has around fifty million leaves on a mature tree, and has a rather large cone growing from the top of higher branches. All Araucaria cones are heavy – five to fifteen pounds and usually fall apart attached to the tree, but occasionally come down whole. Do not sit under an Araucaria.

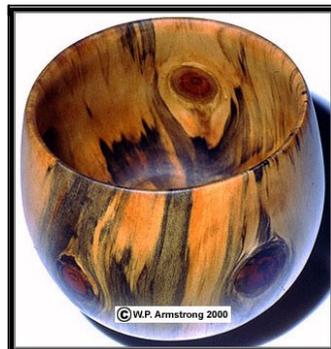


For those of you insistent on calling the Norfolk Island araucaria a pine, keep in mind the differences with real pines. Araucarias do not have pitch canals or pitch pockets. Pines have fascicles or needle bundles of two, three or five. Araucaria has very stiff needle leaves, often sharp and dangerous. Pines defend themselves by flooding areas under attack with pine pitch, very sticky and hard to work. The bark on pine is fissured with age, thick and sticky. *Araucaria heterophylla* bark is papery thin, smooth and grey brown. There are black protrusions and a curly flaking throughout.

This wood is a joy to turn, especially green. The branches give an added ornamentation highly desired. The thinner the bowl the more translucent and green is the effect. This wood is highly sought after by turners. I saw one removed in San Francisco that was at least 40 inches at the base and straight as an arrow up to 150 feet. My feeling is that the other Araucaria (*A. columnaris*, *A. cunninghamii*, *A. bidwillii*, *Araucaria araucana*) might be fine to turn but not as spectacular as the heterophylla. In regards to wood for woodworkers I do not have a clue, but intend to find out.

There should be no valid reason to remove any Araucaria. They are huge and beautiful trees, and with very unusual foliage. They typically do not fall over. Norfolk Island araucarias are often given as house plants. Do not plant them next to your porch, they need to be in parks. Captain Cook 'discovered' these giants on different islands. He even named one after himself, but the Sandwich Islanders were not happy with Mr. Cook and murdered him in 1779.

My suppositions about wood usages from Araucaria were erroneous. Turns out that there is a whole industry of wood products from various Araucarias. If anything the Norfolk Island araucaria is the least desirable wood. There is a long history of aboriginal usages, and English sailors decimating the forests for ship masts. Very interesting.



This bowl was turned from *Araucaria cunninghamii*.



An *Araucaria heterophylla* bowl

March Show and Tell



Don Gouveia-45°
Compound Miter
Bowl



Tim Kennedy-
Two Bowls



John Lawson-
Fish Bank



Bob Nolan-Handled
Eggshell Surprise
Favor



Mike Vergino-Norfolk
Island Pine Hollow Form



Harry Levin-
Hollow Form



(Continued on following page...)

More March Show and Tell



Dave Nelsen-
Various Boxes



Jay Holland-
Cherry Plate



Gary Bingham-
Decorated Bowl
and Platter



Chuck Cottril-
Laser Tool



Bill Walzer-
Acacia Bowl



Jim Gobel-Bowl
Made From Raffle
Wood



SANDING WAX RECIPE

Here is a sanding wax recipe similar to what Eli Avisera uses. Eli rubs his sandpaper in the jar of wax and proceeds to sand without any dust. The sanding wax is also very effective at supporting end grain for a finish cut without tear out. The sanding wax is simply mineral oil and beeswax. The process is to heat the mineral oil and beeswax which then remains a soft paste when cooled.



Here is what you need to make a batch;

Beeswax (16 oz brick from Rhul Bee Supply) Mineral Oil (edible grade from any pharmacy)

Scale (kitchen or postal)

Thermometer (candy or kitchen)

Cheese Grater

Double Boiler (sauce pan and melting can) Storage Containers (for grated beeswax and jars for finished mix)

Rhul Bee Supply has the 16oz. bricks in either natural (brown) bricks for around \$7.50 and refined (opaque white) wax bricks for \$12.00.

Grating the beeswax allows rapid melting into the heated mineral oil. The mineral oil should be heated to no higher temperature than 175o F (80o C). The beeswax will degrade at high temperatures and 175o is high enough to melt and mix the wax with the mineral oil. Store the unheated beeswax in a sealed container and the finished mix in containers with a wide mouth opening for easy access. I use 1 part wax to 4 parts oil by weight but this is arbitrary as the mix can be varied to change the stiffness as needed. Less oil and it becomes stiffer.



This mix can be applied to your sandpaper for “wet” sanding with no dust. The mix is also good for supporting end grain for clean finish cuts. Some turners use this mix for a non-toxic finish especially on turnings that have to be food safe.



Jerry Klug

(Courtesy of Silicon Valley Woodturners
www.svwoodturners.org)

*Wood is a gift from
God/Nature that maintains
its beauty forever via the
hand of a woodworker.*

~Anon

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:

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