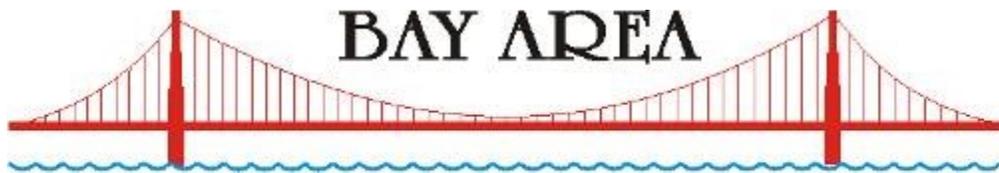


BAY AREA



**WOODTURNERS**  
ASSOCIATION  
A CALIFORNIA NONPROFIT CORPORATION  
LOCAL CHAPTER AAW

May 2014

Volume 18, Issue 5

## The May Meeting: Professional Ray Key full day demo

Ray Key will be our second professional demonstrator of 2014, another giant in the field of woodturning. Ray has been turning fulltime since 1973 and has been featured in over 150 exhibitions world-wide. Ray has written over 30 major articles on woodturning, authored 3 books and produced 3 DVDs on box making (check youtube for "[The Basic Box with Ray Key](#)").



Ray will demonstrate his box making techniques and turn a platter demonstrating numerous rim embellishments on the same piece. Throughout the day, Ray will also talk about woodturning as an art form and his approach to capturing simple beauty. You will probably learn more about dimensions, size relationships and design decisions than any presentation this year. This should be a fantastic demonstration that shouldn't be missed.

A few words from Ray about his life as a woodturner:

*"From an early age I knew wood was my medium. In 1958 I became an apprentice Pattern Maker; woodturning was part of the job. Completion of my training saw me work with fibre glass and clay, wood remained my first love and turning it in particular. In 1965 I purchased my first lathe. In 1973 I turned my back on industry to become a full time turner. What has followed these past 35 years could not have been foreseen or imagined."*

*"The world wide growth of turning organizations, seminars, workshops, hobby turning, equipment development etc. is unbelievable. Perhaps the most significant and important development of the ancient craft is that it is now accepted as an Art Form."  
"Since 1980, it has been my good fortune to have been present at many events where embryonic seeds have been sown that have impacted world turning. Parnham House hosted the first truly International Seminar in 1980; this was a truly seminal event. Since then my commitment and involvement with national and international woodturning causes has been all embracing, in retrospect it may have had a negative effect on my growth as turner (little time to develop ideas). That said my understanding and knowledge of woodturning worldwide continues, as does my development as a person. For every negative there is always a positive."*

*"My work embraces minimalism; my quest is to produce objects of beauty and elegant simplicity. I am a great believer of the object as a whole; not a disjointed assemblage of different ones. 'Keep it simple stupid', 'let the wood speak for itself' and 'if in doubt leave it out' are my design bywords."*

As always demonstrations are free for members, non-members pay \$25 for the day. A BAWA annual membership is \$50. Doors open by 8:30 and will close at 4:00.





# BAY AREA WOODTURNERS ASSOCIATION

A CALIFORNIA NONPROFIT CORPORATION

LOCAL CHAPTER AAW

## 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

9:30—12:30 meeting and demo

**Meetings will be held at the PHEC Woodturning Center, 1 Santa Barbara Road, Pleasant Hill, CA.**

See [bayareawoodturners.org/](http://bayareawoodturners.org/) for directions and club information.

### **BAWA Officers Meeting -**

Officer meetings are open to all members. Contact [Bill Mellberg](mailto:Bill Mellberg) if you would like to be on the agenda.

## 2014 Event Schedule

May 10th	Ray Key: The Basic Box
June 7th	Greenwood: From Log to Lathe (note schedule change)
July 12th	Pens for Troops: The Club Will Be Turning Pens for a Great Cause
Aug 9th	Annual Summer BBQ
Sept 13th	Jerry Kermode
Oct 11th	Larry Lew-Pyrography Illusion
Dec 13th	Annual Holiday Party and Competition

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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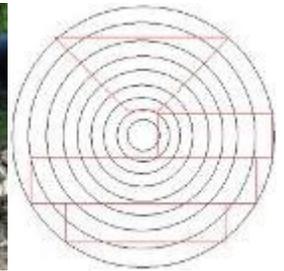
Social Coordinator  
TBA

## June Meeting: Green wood, chainsaws and cutting blanks

Club member Tony Wolcott, who this year started an excellent presentation series on local trees is going to lead a demonstration and discussion on processing green wood logs into turning blanks.

Tony is Albany's Urban Forster and has an exceptional knowledge of what trees grow in our neighborhoods and what is good for turning. He will lead us through the process of selecting a good log, what to avoid and how to safely chainsaw it into blanks. Tony will also discuss how to anticipate warping, visualizing the piece within the log and minimize cracking in the drying process.

Bring all your questions about chainsaws, their use or sharpening – we have a wealth of professional knowledge in the club that can keep you cutting safely. June 7 from 8:30 – 12:30



### CRAFT SUPPLIES 10% DISCOUNT ORDER

The 10% discount applies to any published price (including sale items, close-outs, etc.) and there are no tax or S&H charges. You can find full on the Craft Supplies Club 10% Discount Program in the April 2012 newsletter.

Craft Supplies has a new catalog that includes new items, and there have been some price increases as well. Look on-line to pick your loot and check prices.

Orders are placed with Norm Robinson by e-mail: ([normrobinson@hotmail.com](mailto:normrobinson@hotmail.com))

- Fill out an electronic order form which Norm can e-mail to you
- Send Norm the pertinent information.
- Catalog item number, catalog page number if possible,
- Item description
- Quantity ordered and the total price before 10% discount. Please don't use old catalogs as the prices will be incorrect
- Call Norm (415-420-3492) to place an order and follow up with an e-mail to confirm all the information required.
- If you have already placed an order you might send Norm e-mail reminder.

## April Meeting and The Art of Resin Casting

Bill Mellberg and Greg Ketell, two members of the International Association of Pen-turners (IAP) demonstrated the art of resin casting using clear polyurethane casting resins which were filled with colored powders to create beautiful translucent pen blanks. A proven casting technique utilizes positive pressure to collapse internal bubbles and eliminate entrapped air that happens during the mixing process. The equipment and techniques for fabricating these space age materials were explained during the demonstration.

Greg and Bill have many years of casting experience and enjoyed sharing their talent and techniques for creating collectable polymer pen blanks for treasured gifts. We learned about local sources of supply along with tips and tricks for achieving success in your own shop.

To learn more about resin casting, register for the class mentioned below.



Bill Mellberg



Greg Ketell

### **Mt. Diablo Adult Education, Spring 2014 Class**

**Register for course: 95548001**

**“Resin Casting for Pens & Other Projects”**

**Instructor: Harper / Mellberg**

**5/12/14, Monday, 9:00 – 12:00 (Noon), May 12th**

**Fee: \$21.00 (includes lab fee)**

Do you learn by doing? If so plan to attend this session on “Resin Casting” with lots of hands on instruction and more pen blank castings. I will have all of the equipment and components for casting, including colored mica powder, cups and molds so everyone leaves with a resin pen blank. We will go through the entire process in a small group allowing you to experience each step and ask detailed questions. This is a three-hour class, so we will have plenty of time to cover most aspects of this technical art form.

Register online at:

[www.mtdiabloadulted.org](http://www.mtdiabloadulted.org)

Or in person at:

Pleasant Hill Education Center

One Santa Barbara Road, Room 210,

Pleasant Hill CA 94523

Call 925-937-1530 for more information

# Sheep Shearing Day at the Farm

The weather was great for Sheep Shearing Day at Forest Home Farms Historical Park, with more than 1400 people visiting San Ramon's working farm on Saturday April 26<sup>th</sup>.

David Gill, Carl Mercer, Joel Albert, Jim Abreu, Norm Robinson, Don White, Rick Kalish, Harry Levin, Randy Brunzlick, Bill Mellberg and Dean Adkins had a great time turning finger tops. There was a steady line of kids anxiously awaiting their turn to color a top, and there were even a few kids who brought their tops from previous years to proudly show us.

In over a four hour period we turned more than 100 tops, each one taken home as a memory. Several adults expressed interested in woodturning, reminiscing about high school woodshop or asking questions about lathes, turning tools, types of wood, finishes and BAWA. People young and old thumbed thru the turning books and magazines, and about 20 left with BAWA brochures.

Carl Mercer made a day of it with his family - wife, daughters and grandkids spent the day at the farm and had a great time running around the farm, taking in all the sights, sounds and yes, smells! A half hour after closing Dave Gill still had 6 kids in line when we had to shut things down ..... but they'll be back a bit earlier next year to make sure they get a top!



A heartfelt thank you for participating in Sheep Shearing Day at Forest Home Farms Historical Park. This wonderful day celebrates our valley, its heritage and traditions in a way that brings them to life for its residents, and you are a special part of that.

Sheep Shearing Day is one of the biggest fundraisers of the year for the San Ramon Historic Foundation. This volunteer-only organization has raised almost two hundred thousand dollars to date for the preservation of Forest Home Farms. The next project is the restoration of the "Ole 1850's Barn". This structure has survived 164 years and is in need of repair. The goal is to restore it in such a way that its architecture is preserved and can be used for historical study.

Your being here today is helping make that possible

Again... thank you. We hope you enjoy your experience here at Forest Homes Farms.

Barbara Cipolla  
Exhibitor/Vendor Coordinator



Cindy Duffy Chase  
Event Chair

Dall Barley  
San Ramon Historic Foundation Board



Dedicated to Preserve The City of San Ramon's Early Farms and Homesteads  
P.O. Box 5148 • SAN RAMON, CA 94583 • (925) 973-3281 • FAX (925) 556-1961

*Thank you letter from San Ramon Historic Foundation Board*



# President's Message

April 2014



*On the eve of the birth of my daughter's first child, my thoughts are on my transition from being a Dad to being a Grandfather. Yesterday we had a lot of fun at Sheep Shearing Day at Forrest Home Farm; turning wood tops for kids that found us in the barn. I took lots of pictures of our club members doing what they love to do, turn wood, and also of the kids watching us turn, then coloring their prize with colored markers. The common themes in each photo are the smiles on everyone's face; the joy of sharing your passion and doing fun things is contagious. I want to thank Dean*

*Adkins for organizing the event and also thank all the club members who donated their time to come set-up, turn and clean up for this annual event. I overheard a Mom say to her husband as their child colored his top, "this is turning out to be the best part of our day".*

*This weekend I finalized my plans to attend the AAW symposium in Phoenix in mid June. I submitted my application to be a demonstrator assistant during the three-day symposium. One of the most popular volunteer positions at each symposium is being an assistant in the "Youth Turning" room, which attracts attendee's children, grandchildren and local students who try their hand at woodturning, perhaps for the first time.*

*Locally we are fortunate to be associated with several high school woodshop programs that also need volunteers to help guide and instruct students on how to operate the wood lathe. As a national organization our club's future is tied directly to introducing the next generation to the joy of working with your hands in the creation of a turned wood object. Creativity and problem solving are as important to the educational development of our youth as the 3 R's. The ability to visualize an idea and then assemble, construct or manufacture that idea is a skill often lost in our technology focused world. If you have some spare time, please volunteer to support a local youth event either through BAWA a school or church based organization, you won't regret it.*

*This month's professional demonstrator is Ray Key a turner from England who for almost 40 years has made a livelihood turning wood. His designs are simple but elegant and functional as a vessel for storage or serving. As a production turner he focused on clean designs that customers would value in their lives as beautiful to the eye and a pleasure to touch. Smooth polished wood is irresistible to humans and Ray knew his creations were solid and timeless. After Ray's demo on Saturday he will visit other local clubs before leaving for Utah. This years Utah Woodturning Symposium is a celebration of the spirit of the late Dale Nish who dedicated his life to training young adults the skills of wood technology. As a professor in the Industrial Education department at BYU he shared his love of woodworking and woodturning, organizing and leading the symposium for 34 years. Ray Key was a frequent demonstrator and houseguest of Dale's for many of those early symposia. To bring some closure and celebrate a lifetime of woodturning Ray was invited to the 35<sup>th</sup> symposia to honor and celebrate the legacy of a great teacher.*

*Respectfully,  
Bill Mellberg, BAWA President*

## Link of the Month



For those of you who miss watching Woodturning Workshop with Tim Yoder every Sunday morning on PBS, have no fear. Tim is back!

Brought to you by Popular Woodworking Magazine online, Tim continues his award winning show with bi-weekly shows you can watch anytime on your computer.



Go to: <http://www.popularwoodworking.com/woodturning>

Do you have a favorite website you think BAWA members would find interesting and informative? If so, then please send us the website name, address and a few sentences about why you think the website is cool!

Send info to Louie Silva: [banjohead@comcast.net](mailto:banjohead@comcast.net)

## Membership News

The month of April yielded only one new member, Doug Fowler of Oakley. Welcome Doug.

We assume most of the renewals are now in for this year.

The new badges are going pretty well. The only problem is one we anticipated. People leaving the meeting are thinking about the wood raffle or their chores for the afternoon, and not about taking off and returning their badges. Hugh and I may have to cause a monthly log jam at the door to get the badges back before you leave!

Please try to remember!!

Karen Rice,  
Membership



## BAWA Classified Ads



We want members and others with items to sell or trade, services to render or if you're just looking to find a specific item from fellow BAWA members. Please send ads to Louie Silva at: [banjohead@comcast.net](mailto:banjohead@comcast.net).

You can't beat the price...FREE!!

## 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 either club president

Bill Mellberg

Email: [jbmellberg@comcast.net](mailto:jbmellberg@comcast.net)

or newsletter editor

Louie Silva

Email: [banjohead@comcast.net](mailto:banjohead@comcast.net)

# The Band Saw Sled

By Bob Gerenser

If you have a table saw, chances are you also have at least one sled that you use with it. Sleds are used to safely cross-cut unwieldy planks, make repetitive cuts to produce duplicate pieces and to securely hold awkward pieces for cutting. Specialty sleds are often purposely built for cutting segments in the segmented turning arena.

Most wood turners don't have table saws, they have band saws. As far as I know, few wood turners use a sled with their band saw, but once you build and use a sled, I think you will find it, if not invaluable, then down-right handy.



The advantage of using a sled is that the sled slides smoothly across the band saw table in a straight line, allowing a straight cut without fighting the uneven-ness of rough cut stock.

The sled is a board (the base) that slides across the band saw table guided by a runner in the miter slot. The base has a fence at one end that is at a right angle to the blade, for cross cutting. Stock being cut can be held against the fence. The sled can be used with the fence at the rear, which is the usual position, or at the front end of the sled, depending on the cut.

The sled should be well built and care used in building it, but a band saw sled does not need to approach the degree of accuracy found in table saw sleds.



A couple of examples of band saw sled uses are:

1. I wanted to cut the face of a half log section so that I had a flat face for use with a screw center and also to have the flat face on the band saw table for rough cutting the blank. The piece had partially dried and the face had become uneven. By putting the half log on the sled I was able to easily re-cut the face, flat and smooth.



Having a rough shaped piece riding on the sled, rather than being on the band saw table, makes it safe and easy to produce a straight edge. The edge of the sled is the cut line.



2. Cutting branch pieces, or any round stock, can be dangerous because of the tendency of the band saw blade to grab and try to spin the stock. By firmly hold-ing the stock to the fence the tendency to spin can be minimized.

These are just a couple of ways that I have used a band saw sled and I'm sure there have been other times that just don't come to mind at the moment. This isn't the best thing since sliced bread, but try it, you'll like it!

*(SVWT Newsletter-August 2013  
Article and photos courtesy of our friends at  
Silicon Valley Woodturners)*

Visit them at :

<http://www.svwoodturners.org/>

## April Show and Tell



Tony Wolcott showing a container made from Taiwan Juniper



Two bowls made by Jay Holland with carving and wood burning



A closed vessel turned by Steve Griswold



Walt Deardorf turned this beautiful platter



A bowl made by Tim Kennedy



Hugh Bevan Thomas and his segmented teapot



John Doyen and a turned bowl of his



Jim Rodgers' bowl from a board



A vessel from Jim Abreu