

BAY AREA



WOODTURNERS
ASSOCIATION
A CALIFORNIA NONPROFIT CORPORATION
LOCAL CHAPTER AAW

January 2020

Volume 24 Issue 1

BAWA New Year's Kick-off Party

Please calendar Saturday, January 11th for the BAWA New Year's Kick Off Party at the Elks Lodge in Walnut Creek from 11 am to 2pm. Kinder's will cater a great lunch of ball tip beef and chicken with all the sides.

Bring 2 or 3 pieces of your best work from 2019 to share with others.

Participate in our only fund raiser of the year by bidding on Silent Auction items and purchasing raffle tickets. We have generous sponsors who have donated to our fund raiser including:

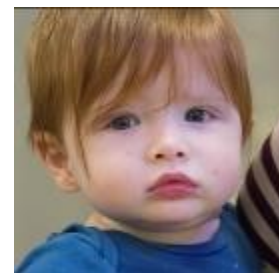
- Cook Woods
- Costco
- Craft Supplies
- Razertip
- Reeds Woodworking
- Rockler
- Ruth Niles
- Treeline
- Wood Turningz

And many of your fellow member's donations, including wood blanks from John Cobb, Joe Dahl, Steve Griswold and Tony Wolcott



We raise funds to be able to host professional demonstrators at our meetings throughout the year. If you have items to donate for the raffle or silent auction, please contact Anna Duncan at ajduncan3@comcast.net to arrange your donation. We appreciate your generosity!

Hope to see you all on January 11th!

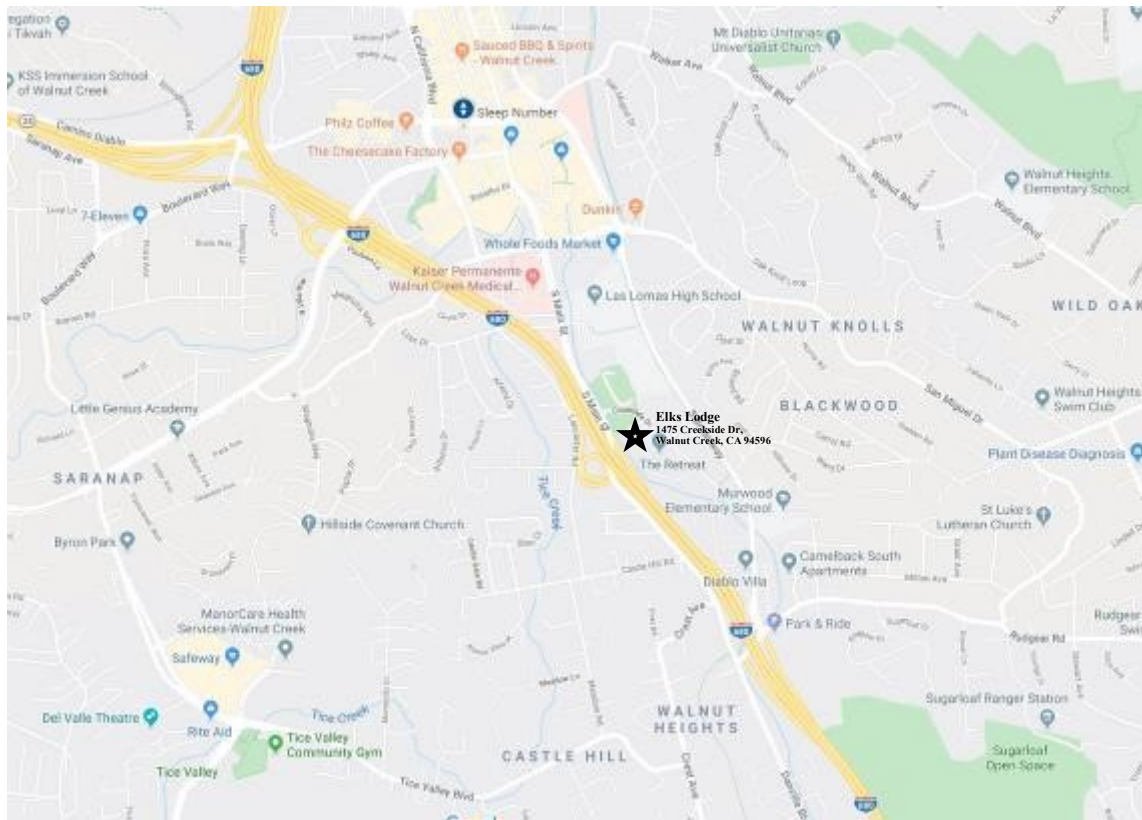


Thank you to our Generous Donors

These organizations generously donated to BAWA to support our fundraiser at the Holiday Party. You will see their items in the Silent Auction and Raffle Baskets. Please support them when shopping for your woodturning supplies!



Elk's Lodge, Walnut Creek





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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 Jim Rodgers at: president@bayareawoodturners.org if you would like to be on the agenda.

2020 Event Schedule

Jan 11th 2020	Holiday Party 11:00-2:00
Feb 8th 2020	Brad Adams 'Playing All the Angles' 8:30-12:30
Mar 14th 2020	Cindy Navarro Boxes 8:30-12:30
Apr 4th 2020	Dixie Biggs Surface Embellishment 8:30-12:30
May 9th	TBD 8:30-12:30

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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TBA

Jim Rodgers

The Magic Oven Method of Platter Design and Decoration

December 14, 2019



Jim Rodgers moved his January 2020 presentation to the last month of December 2019 when our BAWA Christmas meeting was moved to January. What a busy time for Jim, publishing 25 lessons, creating lesson plans for the Woodturning School, teaching and making sure that the equipment used in room 108 is constantly up to par. With all these items underway he again came up with a great presentation on platters, how to turn them, add a design, use a woodboring technique to permanently add the design to a platter then add color and finish to the platter to finish it.

All went as planned as the platter when through the “Magic Oven” process that Jim was following. We had several cameras set up to record the process, and it will be released in January. To prepare for the meeting Jim made several identical platters, all in different stages of production. He turned the initial platter, then moved to a table at the front of the room and showed where he found a design, and how to transfer it to the turned platter. He then described the woodburning process and showed how to burn the pattern onto the platter.

Once the platter had the bare design, he added color. As color can be touchy when adding a finish, he showed how to gently put the first coat of finish on the platter, let it dry and then finish as normal to preserve the color. It was a half day, fast moving presentation.

As the presentation ended you could almost hear the Christmas Bells from the nearby stores calling everyone to the store to hurry down and do their Christmas shopping. I hope some of the attendees tried making a Christmas platter, as they are a special gift that stands the test of time and is unique.

As the year closes, we want to wish everyone of you Happy Holiday’s, Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah, Kwanza and a wonderful and safe New Year.

We all look forward to seeing you at the club party in January, where we will be showing BAWA 2019 - The Year in Review, have a silent auction, lots of prizes and other activities. See you there.



With recess cut, bottom is shaped



Cutting bead



Final scraping of platter



Power sanding



Don't forget the edge



Recess turned away



Pattern taped in place



Transfer pen moves pattern to wood



Tracing pattern with burner



Using magnifiers for close work



Sample sheet showing colors on maple



Colored platter ready for finish



One coat of finish done

Brad Adams

"Playing All the Angles"

February 8, 2020
8:30 – 12:00 Noon

The featured speaker for the February 8, 2020 will be one of our fellow members – Brad Adams.

Brad will impart wisdom gained from his years of experience as full-time turner. “The bane of all woodworkers is tear-out.” he explains, “The way to eliminate tear-out is not some new miracle tool, it is the angle at which the tool, any tool, is presented to the wood.”

Brad will be demonstrating tool application to both spindle and face plate turning by turning bottle stoppers and bowls. Using a variety of turning tools, he will concentrate on how to get the best finish from each tool. He will also show how a flexible cabinet scraper can cut sanding time in half.

If time permits, Brad will also give a short lesson on sanding.

Brad’s previous BAWA demonstrations have been very well received. We appreciate his willingness to share his expertise with the group and look forward to his demonstration in February.

Don’t miss what is sure to be an entertaining and informative demonstration. If you want to learn how to get the most out of your tools, be there!



President's Message

January 2020



Welcome to the new year, the new decade, and our new Board of Directors! Let me introduce you to the other two who have joined our BOD with me. Steve Griswold has been assisting in the Diablo Woodturning Center, turning great hollow forms and, managing our “wood pile.” Rick Dietrich, is the newest instructor in the Diablo Woodturning Center, taking over the Introduction to Woodturning course and additional to assisting in almost every other class.

We are glad to join Claudia Foster who manages the club's finances to keep us afloat and Anna Duncan who, as Member at Large has successfully coordinated the complex arrangements for our picnic and Holiday parties. We look forward to their continued hard work.

Our Past President, Kim Wolff, is choosing to head up a new activity focused on community relations and publicity.

For the day to day activities that proceed in the background at each chapter we continue to rely on the active support of the Store, Library, A/V, Membership and Wood Meister, and set up crew.

My monthly notes will focus on keeping you informed about our activities and operations so we all can understand on what keeps our Chapter functioning smoothly.

I look forward to many interesting and informative presentations and to the community we continue to support with our talent, knowledge, and participation.

Attention BAWA members who shop on Amazon.com

BAWA is always looking for ways to generate funds to improve our Club. BAWA recently registered with Amazon's program to support charitable organizations, AmazonSmile. It is an easy, no cost way for our Club to benefit from your Amazon.com shopping expenditures.

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization; **BAWA!** When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same products, prices, and Amazon Prime benefits as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate .5% of the purchase price to BAWA.

Here's how it works:

To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. On your first visit to AmazonSmile, you need to designate BAWA to receive donations before you begin shopping. We are one of the almost one million charitable organizations registered with Amazon Smile. From then on when you enter Amazon through <https://smile.amazon.com/> every eligible purchase you make will result in a donation to BAWA.

You may want to bookmark the AmazonSmile URL to your desktop or mobile device to insure that you don't end up at the standard Amazon portal, thus bypassing benefit to BAWA.

If you haven't already done so, please consider registering with AmazonSmile and designating BAWA as your beneficiary. And encourage your friends and family to do likewise! We look forward to updating membership monthly on donations from this unique program.



Tree Article #33 We Can Do Better

By: Tony Wolcott
December 16, 2019

At a woodturner's meeting just the other Saturday, a member was extolling the benefit of planting trees. I agree with him 100%. If we are to turn back some of our 1000 years of mistakes, there is no better time than now. Start planting trees by all means.

Once planted, it would be advisable to water the saplings to tree establishment. Never is it too early to train your trees for structure, health and form. But once you have a mature tree, be advised on what kind of pruning is appropriate. First, mature trees are best left unpruned, unless deadwood and hanging branches pose a serious risk. Sometimes a live branch needs to come off due to human necessities: The tree is blocking traffic, preventing access, hanging over a neighbor's leaky roof, and so on.

What is a mature tree? Once a tree reaches its genetically determined size, the tree has reached its maturity. Often, the entire environment will help mold a tree's mature size –nutrition deficiencies, water stress, light stress, a freeway installed through its root system. A tree has to adapt to survive. However, once a tree is at balance and its size is roughly determined, this mature tree can remain static for years, even decades.

I just took a walk around the block this sunny afternoon and quickly discovered what a mess we are making of our mature trees.

The tree at right is a silver maple (*Acer saccharinum*). Two years ago in the spring, this maple was stripped of all its new growth. The major branches were headed back in a Venus deMilo manner. The ends flushed out with new growth. This spring the growth was sporadic and weak. The new green stems were removed again as if this were a pollarding exercise. By the fall this year the silver maple is dead. I cannot help but assume that the property owner and or tree pruner was intentionally trying to kill the tree.

Rule #1: If you have to reduce the spread of a tree, you must cut back to a significant lateral branch to assume the life of the branch. 'Significant' means to come back to a branch that is one-third the diameter of the branch you are cutting off. As an example, if you have a three-inch diameter branch, you must cut back to a lateral branch with at least a one-inch diameter. You may have to cut back to the main stem or a scaffold branch. Many variables exist in the tree world. Some species can handle more pruning than others. Weaker trees are more prone to pruning damage. But if you cut off a branch with a diameter above five inches, the negative impact on the tree will be significant. We used to use a 25% removal of the live canopy is the upper limit. Now, we do not utilize a percentage, because a water-stressed tree may not respond well to 10% removal.



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The above picture shows two American sweet gum or liquidambar (*Liquidambar styraciflua*). Note the wonderful form (I'm joking.). Do you see pruning cuts that follow the one-third rule? Can you identify the old topping cuts from the previous butchery and also the hollow heartrot decay. Know your species. Liquidambar is by nature excurrent – excurrent trees have strong apical control, typified by a single stem with much smaller branches. Each one of these cut off branches will attempt to be the one leader. Latent buds just below the cuts will sprout and head up. After five to eight years, these sprouts will be pushing each other and coming down with a crash. Of course, these sprouts may be removed annually as long as there is enough healthy wood to cut back to. One reason people resort to this type of pruning is 'less maintenance.' The opposite is true. Another expense crops up when the tree is removed.



Above is another liquidambar with two squirrels asking "WTF"! The American gum is a young tree, but topping the tree is just a way of killing this kind of tree.

Apical control needs an explanation. Apical growth is called primary meristematic activity. Meristematic cells are actively dividing non-differentiated growth. Secondary meristems include the cells that differentiate into the xylem (wood) and phloem (food transport). Growth tips are apical meristems. Most conifers resort to apical growth. Take a pine tree. Pines have strong apical control and that control is at the apex of the tree, or strongly excurrent. Pine has a single stem with much smaller branches often arranged in whorls. If you cut even a foot off the top of a pine, you will cause the closest branches to curl up and race to be the leader. Multiple upturned branches result in co-dominant stems, a structural weakness. Pines race up the single stem because whoever gets to the light first, wins. Pines are not shade tolerant. They shade out their competition. When you cut off half a pine branch, you kill the whole branch. Pine branches rarely pop out with new growth. Their growth is all apical. Below is a good example of what not to do to a pine.

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The Monterey pine (*Pinus radiata*), on the left, has had lower branches headed back to allow for more room, visibility to stop sign, less needle fall, and other hidden reasons. The cut branches will die back to the single main stem. It would have been wiser to have pruned the branches to just outside the branch collar to give the chance to close the pruning cut. However, these potential large cuts at the main stem will not prevent decay going into the stem of the pine.

Pruning Rule #2 – make proper pruning cuts, branches should be pruned just outside the branch collar, no flush cuts.

Decurrent trees include Chinese pistache (*Pistacia chinensis*), wavy leaf pittosporum, or Australian cheesewood or mock orange (*Pittosporum undulatum*), and the camphor tree (*Cinnamomum camphora*). There is little apical control with decurrent trees. Pruning tips invigorate lateral buds, and outward growth occurs. This tip removal makes for a much wider tree and denser tree than most conifers. However, even decurrent trees respond to the highest point, and a single stem is the objective.

Pruning Rule #3—always prune to a single tallest stem. Multi-stem trees are doomed to a short life.



A camphor tree expands both up and out. The camphor is a decurrent tree. We do not recommend shearing on any tree.

Bruce Hagen wrote an article in the *Western Arborist Fall 2019* titled “Some things never change.” He decries the fact that we have the pruning knowledge, but that ANSI A300 information does not manifest itself out on the street. I have to agree with him in looking around my neighborhood. The information is not reaching the public, and tree companies often forget pruning standards at the door of a paying customer. We have to walk away from sub-standard pruning practices. We can do better.

Recommended reading: Gilman, Edward F., *An Illustrated Guide to Pruning, Second Edition*, Delmar – Thomas Learning, Inc, 1997 ISBN: 0-7668-2271-0

-Tony Wolcott 12/16/2019

December Show & Tell



Gary Bingham-
Angels



Jean-Louis Meynier-
Bowl & Hollow Form



Joel Albert-
Square Platter & Bowl



Randy Besecker-
Bowls



Vern Stovall-
Burl Bowls



Charlie Saul-
'Mushroom' Bottom

Continued on following page

December Show & Tell (cont.)



Dave Morris-
Chalice & Plates



Dennis Fisher-
Bowl



Andrew Baxter-
Burl Bowl



Michael Hackett-
Natural Edged Bowl



Ed Steffinger-
Chests



Harry Levin-
Cork Oak Bowl

SHOP TIP

Sawdust Samples

When turning different species of wood, I used to marvel at the many colors of shavings piled on top of each other and lying all over the floor. Then a friend, Bill Berry of Gulf Coast Woodturners, suggested that I sweep up the shavings before starting a new turning project and keep some of the finer sawdust to use as filler in the event that the turning blank has or develops a crack.

Now I do sweep up the shavings from each project, discard the heavier bits, and put the finer particles in a plastic container. I find that I often use these shavings to fill in all sorts of cracks and checks. I especially like to use ebony or blackwood, even on lighter-colored woods. The contrast is striking. Then, of course, you'll find that your imagination will run wild and a visit to the key-making shop will get you a big bag full of brass shavings. Or, use those coffee grounds that have gone through the coffee pot and have been dried.

To use the sawdust, partially pack the crack with shavings then apply a layer of thin cyanoacrylate (CA) glue. Don't use an accelerator or the CA will bubble and crystalize. Apply another layer of sawdust and CA glue and as many layers as needed to make the sawdust stand a bit proud of the surface of the turning. You can then either cut away or sand away the excess sawdust and CA glue.



Containers showing different colors



The crack-filling process



A piece with cracks filled ready to turn

– Janice Levi
Groesbeck, TX

Creating a sanding and finishing plan

by Mark F. Palma

I recently attended a week-long hands-on workshop taught by Steven Kennard, a phenomenal box maker from Nova Scotia. One piece I made during the week was this teardrop box from a piece of figured hard maple.

Before turning began I studied the blank and thought about what I wanted to achieve in this box. My goal was an organic shape that people would want to touch. I decided then and there that the piece would be well cut, well sanded and have only a coat of wax as the finish. In further studying the wood I could see the figure wrapped around the blank and would require care in both cutting and sanding.

Through the course of cutting the piece I kept this goal of tactile enjoyment in mind. Frequently I would stop the lathe, close my eyes, and feel the piece to see if the curves flowed correctly. Steven stopped by my lathe frequently to remind me



where the piece could use more attention to achieve my goal. After I thought cutting was complete I studied the piece carefully under good light, turning it by hand on the lathe. I could see the areas where sanding would be a challenge due to the multiple grain directions.

Sanding began at 150 grit (CAMI scale), stopping the lathe frequently to look and see whether radial scratches were forming. Fortunately no torn grain, low spots, or bumps seemed to be present. Wiping off the piece between grits (I used shotgun cleaning pads, which are small squares

of soft cotton), I proceeded through 180, 240, and 320. Then I put a light low to the piece and with the lathe off carefully inspected the work again. I was looking for the same culprits of scratches, tears, and bumps. Again with the lathe off and my eyes closed I felt the piece carefully to see if the form felt right. I touched up a few areas with the 320 grit and the lathe off to follow the grain and make sure those unusual grain patterns

were sanded well. Sometimes sandpaper will bounce off very hard grain and leave a hollow in the soft wood that follows. Then I continued to sand through 400 grit.

Sanding was followed by polishing with EEE Shine, a tripoli and wax compound. Last, I buffed the piece with carnauba wax on a Beall wax wheel.

I hope the result speaks for itself. This was a good exercise in design, form, execution, and sanding, where the piece has no finish other than wax. □