

BAY AREA



WOODTURNERS
ASSOCIATION
A CALIFORNIA NONPROFIT CORPORATION
LOCAL CHAPTER AAW

February 2021

Volume 25 Issue 2



Michael Alguire – Wheel of Delicacy
February 13th
8:30-12:30



Michael Alguire hails from New Mexico. He has 13 years of experience as a Machinist at the *Very Large Array*, the most versatile, widely used radio telescope in the world.

He has been turning wood for 8 years, starting with pens and small wooden ornaments. Over time, his skill and passion have advanced to making intricate turned hollow forms, bowls, vases and abstract art pieces. He will be Zooming in to BAWA to demonstrate his iconic Wheel of Delicacy.

Be sure to witness the creation of this amazing work.





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Club Meetings

Club Meetings-

Meetings are held on the 2nd Saturday on each month by Zoom conferencing. Invitations are posted to all members: guests are welcome by request to: membership@bayareawoodturners.org who will forward an invitation to the next meeting.

Zoom sessions open at 8:30am. The meeting start time is 9:00am.

See bayareawoodturners.org/ for club information.

BAWA Officers Meeting -

The Association's officer meetings are held each month. Contact Jim Rodgers at: president@bayareawoodturners.org for more information.

2021 Event Schedule

February 13th	<p>Michael Alguire-Remote Wheel of Delicacy 8:30-12:30</p> <p>https://www.michaelalguire.com</p>
March 13th	<p>Jason Clark-Remote Saturn Bowl 8:30-12:30</p> <p>https://jtcturning.com/</p>

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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Seri Robinson, Spalting



Professor Seri Robinson told us all about spalting at our January meeting.

Here is some of what we learned:

In four words, ‘Spalting is fungal vomit.’

There are three types of spalting:

- 1) Zone lines – usually black; a mechanical barrier where 2 types of fungi meet.
- 2) White Rot – caused by fungi which digest lignin – lighten the wood
- 3) Pigmentation – fungi secrete antifungal pigments. Different fungi can produce different colors. They tend to grow very slowly. The pigments produced are long lasting. (Intarsia examples of spalting used in inlay were shown. Some were over 500 years old.)

This is NOT spalting:

- 1) color produced by a tree. (Box elder’s pink flame coloration is produced by the tree in response to invasion by fungi. It will fade with time.)
- 2) color produced by independent chemical or mineral effect.
- 3) color produced by dyes.

Ambrosia Maple is a trifacta of wood changes, where the holes are from a beetle which introduces a fungus which, in turn, imparts the blue color, and the green pigment is made by the tree. Over time, the green will turn brown but the blue will persist.

Spalted wood is safe to turn. There are no spores inside the wood; only on the outside. Spalting fungi are decay fungi, not pathogenic molds.

Spalting fungi can be grown in the lab and the dyes can be extracted from them. These are UV and fade resistant dyes which can be used to stain wood, textiles, and decking and also used in solar panels. The fungi can be inoculated into wood to produce spalting in a controlled manner.

The Northern Spalting website, www.Northernspalting.com, has lots of information about spalting as well as spalting fungi and extracted dyes for sale.

This was a marvelous presentation, chock full of interesting and useful information. Check out the video of Dr. Robinson’s presentation on the BAWA website for more details. It is available only to members so if you’re not a member, join up.



All three types of spalting



White rot



Zone lines



Pigmentation



Ancient intarsia



Old intarsia with spalting



Turkey tail (white rot)



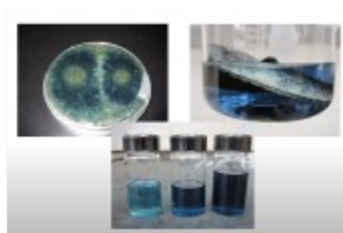
Dead man’s finger (zone lines)



Elk’s cup (blue pigment)



Myth busting



Cultured elk’s cup



Extracted pigments

Jason Clark - Saturn Bowl

March 13th

8:30-12:30



Join us on Zoom in March as Jason Clark demonstrates how he creates a Saturn Bowl.

In the artist's words:

"My work as a woodturning artist strives to feature and highlight the natural character of the wood, including natural defects and flaws. Wood often has such beautiful contrast between the dark heartwood and the lighter sapwood and I often orient the wood so that the work features this contrast. My finishes are basic oil finishes to enhance the natural figure and color of the wood without major alterations. The woods have been acquired primarily from various local sources including fellow woodturners and storm damaged trees from my neighborhood and the surrounding urban areas.

I've given demonstrations on a wide variety of topics including my signature Saturn bowls, lidded boxes, jigs and tricks, vacuum chucking, multi axis turning, and more. I also teach hands-on classes including classes for beginners and a hands-on class for making my signature Saturn Bowl

My passion for woodturning is supported by my wife, Judy, and tolerated by my children, Christopher 18, and Bek 15."



Membership News

By Hugh Bevan-Thomas

For those of you who have not yet paid your current dues, please be advised that the BAWA Sheriff (Name Withheld for security reasons) is forming a posse.



So if you have not renewed your membership, NOW IS THE TIME!

If you cannot remember whether you renewed or not, it is a very simple process to click on your profile at the BAWA website. It will clarify your status immediately.

As always, you can renew online, you will receive three emails. The first one indicating that the computer recognizes you are in the process of renewing your membership. The second email will show you have completed your membership application and the third email will be an invoice showing that you've paid your membership dues. If for some reason you do not get all three emails then you have not completed the process.

If you wish to send a check you could do that with a check made out to be BAWA and send it to:

BAWA Treasurer
1584 Webb Lane
Walnut Creek, CA 94595

Taking Measure

COVID-19 has disrupted the entire world, and it is affecting all of us, in every aspect of our lives. Self-quarantine, Social distancing. It can be overwhelming and stressful. Until this crisis passes, we must continue to create, learn, and share.

That said, now may be the perfect time to isolate yourself in your workshop-- turning, planning and prepping for projects, reviewing favorite woodturning magazines, watching videos, and more.

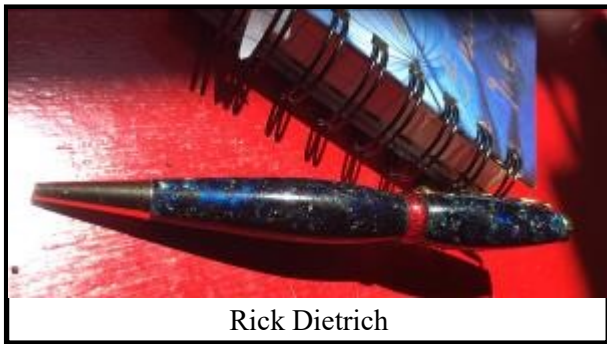
Remember, safety is always a top priority. Take measure: observe precautions, act wisely, and keep yourself safe. Together we are stronger, together we are the woodturning community.

President's Challenge Part 5

Pens



Jim Rodgers



Rick Dietrich



Carl Mercer



Mike Vergino



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: newslettereditor@bayareawoodturners.org

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

Rockler Helps BAWA Members

BAWA members receive a 10% discount when purchasing directly at the Concord Rockler Store at:

<http://www.rockler.com/retail/stores/ca/concord-store>.

Mention your BAWA membership when checking out, to receive your discount. Rockler also donates part of the proceeds back to the club which help support our Holiday Party raffle.



President's Letter

January 2021



Happy New Year to everyone! We look forward to a much better year and want to forget much of 2020!

SO, Let's get to work in our shops!

Larry Batti is heading our program for *Beads of Courage* – a chance to contribute to the lives of children with difficult medical issues. A chance to use our skills in saying that we also acknowledge what they are going through to live; our sharing by providing a piece of wood.

The lidded bowl (or box) has specific requirements to meet the need of the program standards; Larry is sending all that information to you through our email.

Already John Muir Walnut Creek and Concord campuses are excited to receive our projects, Other hospitals will follow as we are able to provide the products.

If you have completed any *Beads of Courage* boxes by meeting time, let's see them. If the project is in works, let's see it. We have some great programs lined up for 2021 and look forward to them also.

Let's have a great year!

JimR

<https://smile.amazon.com/>

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.



Beads of Courage



BAWA's Beads of Courage Program

As you may know, BAWA has started a program to support the Beads Of Courage, which is a hospital-based nonprofit that provides support to children who are very ill. These children receive colored beads specific to each procedure they undergo or each significant event they endure during their treatment process. The beads are symbols of community support, reassuring them that they are not alone in their struggle for survival. These children, throughout their treatment journey, receive hundreds and sometimes, thousands of beads, and our role is to make lidded bowls, lidded boxes, for them to store their treasures in.

We introduced our program at our December meeting, and to this date, members have committed to making thirty-seven boxes...and counting! We are so impressed and grateful for the participation; however, we're not surprised. It seems members always show up when asked to help, and this call to action is yet another example of your generosity; thank you all!!!

Box making for Beads of Courage is an ongoing program for the club, so if you want to take part, you can do so right away or later on down the road when it becomes the right time for you, but we hope you will, at some point, participate. This is not only a very worthy cause, but participation gives even more meaning to the craft we all love, woodturning!

There's more information on the BAWA website regarding the Beads Of Courage and on our Club program to support it. The document link is on the front page and also in the "Member" section under the heading "BAWA Meeting Videos 2021".

Continued on following page

The document itself is long, but the good news is, you don't have to read the entire thing right now...whew!!! There's an introduction that will tell you more about what Beads of Courage is, and the rest of the document is designed for you to reference if you should decide to make a bowl for the program. It's designed so that you can easily find answers to questions you may have about how to proceed. You'll find headings, for example, that will tell you the desired dimensions for a bowl, what cautions to take with finishes given health concerns for these children, how to donate the bowl and hopefully any other questions you may have.

There is also an email address for the person who is administering the program and he can answer any additional questions you may have. You can also email him to receive, free of charge, a Beads of Courage logo bead to insert into your turning if you'd like to do so.

Thank you again to all who have raised your hands so far and are creating these bowls! And thanks to every one of you reading this for considering playing a role in the support of, and hopefully, positive outcome for, these children!



The Video Corner

Information on the Beads of Courage program has been added to the Home Page and the Membership area of the Website under Meeting Videos 2021. There are three new videos by Jim Rodgers on making a BOC box and decorating it. A PDF of the actual program is also in both areas, on the website the links are live and all currently up to date.

That area also holds all current videos for 2021 and are available now.

This is the BOC information on the Home page of our website.



Below is where to find the BOC information on the Meeting Videos for 2021 page of the website. As this is the president's challenge for next month, I look forward to seeing your Bowls of Courage.



Happy Turning,
DAB

Virtual Show & Tell

January

Hugh Bevan-Thomas



Wave Bowl



Bowl

Dave Morris



Bowl



Bowl

Charlie Saul



Floral Bowl



Floral Bowl

Continued on following page

Virtual Show & Tell

January

David Fleisig



Beads of Courage



Beads of Courage

Peter Nakatani



Goblets

Vern Stovall



Segmented Bowl

Carl Mercer



Box



Box

Continued on following page

Virtual Show & Tell January

Joe Martinka



Dyed Vase



Dyed Vases



Candlestick

Mike Vergino



Resin Filled Wave



Wave Bowls

Gary Bingham



Bowl

Bob Bean



Toothpick Holders & Drill Handle

Continued on following page

Virtual Show & Tell January

Larry Batti

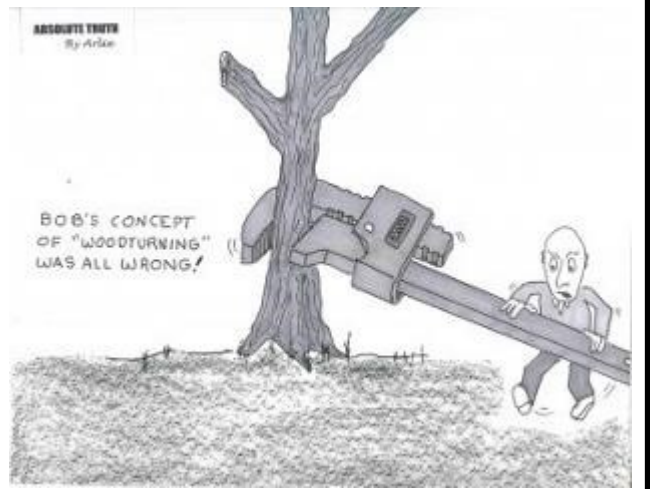


Beads of Courage Bowl

Ken Plant



Footed Bowl



A better way to sharpen gouges

Sharpening demystified

By Kirk DeHeer

Quite possibly, you've given up on your grinding jig for producing consistent bevels on your gouges. Here's a reliable method that will get you back to the lathe—with tools you can control.

I've been fortunate enough to meet many of the world's best-known woodturners when they've passed through Provo. Because I'm a self-proclaimed tool freak, I've examined their tools and watched their every move at the lathe.

Most of the turners I've met are freehand sharpeners, as I was when I started assisting them at workshops and demonstrations.

That all changed when Dale Nish asked me to assist him in a beginner's class. Because Dale is a freehand sharpener, he asked me to demonstrate sharpening jigs. And he gave me 30 minutes' notice!

Oh my gosh—that was all new to me. I could quickly see that the bowl gouge would be the hardest tool to sharpen with a jig. So I grabbed my bowl gouge and started to set up the jig.

As I remember, the demonstration went well, but

there were questions from the class. Many of them had tried to follow the instructions that accompanied the jig, but my setup wasn't anything like their instruction sheets recommended.

Adjust your thinking

As I researched sharpening jigs, I realized that the control leg did not set the bevel angle like I thought but adjusted the *angle* of the grind on the gouge wing.

The first major hurdle is that the instructions packaged with the Wolverine jig and similar systems confuse new woodturners and experienced turners alike. The side grind is not the *length* of the wing (how far the grinding extended), as the packaged instructions lead you to believe. Rather, the side grind is the *angle* at which the wing is ground.

Although the great turners have different preferences for the bevel angle, there is one common denominator: The bevel of the tool follows around the side to the wing. Unfortunately, if you follow the directions packaged with the sharpening jigs, the wing angles are much steeper than the nose angle. It's no wonder great instructors direct students away from sharpening jigs.



American Woodturner Winter 2006

Continued on following page

What goes wrong

I bet this has happened to you: You introduce a straight and extremely steep side grind to the work without any support (steel in contact with wood), and the piece grabs the wing and pulls it into the wood. Almost instantly, the gouge rolls over, allowing the edge to dig deeper into the wood and “Bang!” Another catch. Then you put the tool on the shelf because it’s hard to control.

Don’t quit—there’s a way to get comfortable with grinding your turning tools—and a better way to grind your gouges.

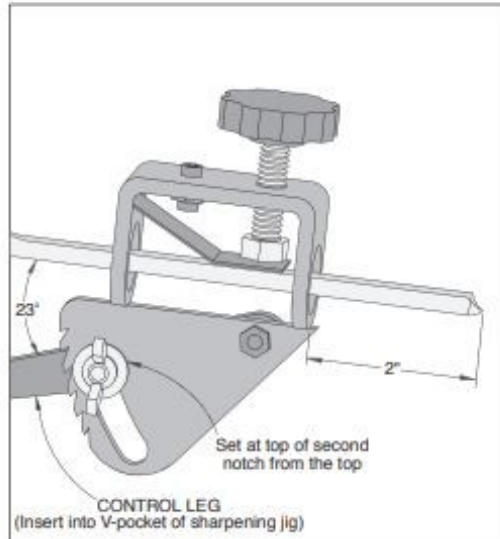
To be sure, freehand grinding is faster. But until you acquire keen grinding skills, the method I’ll outline here will help you reduce the variables at the grinder and help you produce a wing (side grind) that matches the nose.

The process *below* works with all of the popular sharpening jigs I’ve found on the market, including the Wolverine sharpening jig and the Tru-Grind jig.

A proven method

Place the flute of the gouge against your grinding wheel and get the shape (profile) that you want. Remember that a straight edge on your flute is more aggressive than a curved edge (convex), which is less aggressive and easier to control.

Now you’re ready to set the control leg on the tool holder. The farther you move the control leg forward (toward the wheel), the more side grind you remove and the steeper the angle. The farther back you move the control leg (away from the wheel), the less side grind you remove.



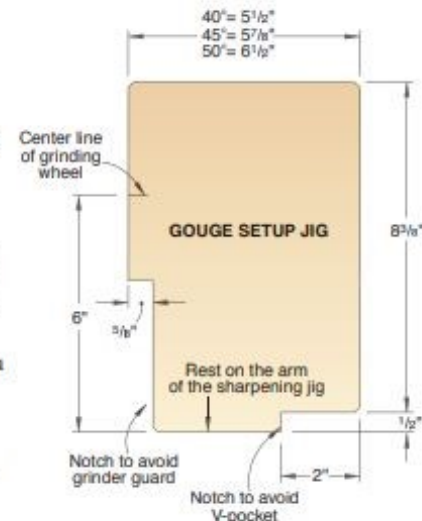
This was the hardest concept for me to grasp and is how most woodturners stray off course with sharpening jigs.

Set the side grind

I believe the control leg should be set at 23 degrees from the bottom of the gouge flute to the top of the second notch on the Wolverine Vari-Grind jig, as shown *above*. You can set this angle and never have to move it again.

Now, slide your gouge into the jig, as shown *above*. To quickly set the jig to 2”, use the notch on the **Gouge Setup Jig**, shown at *right*, or mount a 2” set block on your grinder base.

This 2” setting is key so you can get consistent sharpening. If your control leg and the length of the tool are the same, you’ve set two sides of a triangle. You’re on your way! Now you just need to set the third side (the cutting edge) and sharpen without wasting time or steel.



Photos: John Hetherington
Illustrations: Roxanne LeMoine

Set the bevel angle

To set the bevel angle, make a **Gouge Setup Jig** from 3/4" plywood, as shown on page 33. Then use this jig to set the V-arm at the proper distance from the wheel (6" from the V-pocket to the centerline of the wheel), as shown in **Photo 1**. You may have to elevate your grinder. You can rely on this jig regardless of the size of your gouge or the diameter of your grinding wheel.

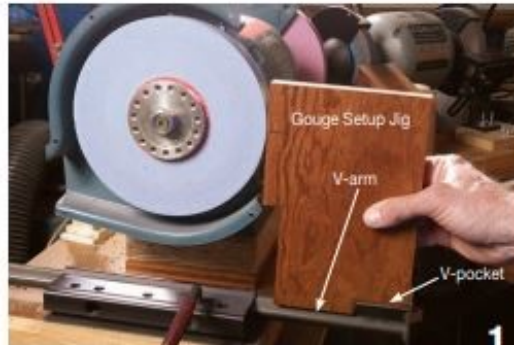
The setup jig quickly locks your grinding into a consistent bevel angle. You may wish to make three of these jigs—one each for 40, 45, and 50 degrees (40 degrees is the most aggressive; 50 degrees gives you the most control).

Now, place the control leg in the V-pocket, as shown in **Photo 2**. Start grinding one wing, then pull the tool away from the wheel and grind the other wing. Finally, blend the wings with the nose.

In the turning classes I teach in Provo, I recommend a 50-degree angle as the best starting point for tool control, as shown in **Photo 3**. If you get confused about sharpening angles, think of 90 degrees as no sharpened angle and a really steep angle as 30 degrees. A metal protractor like the General model shown at right sells for about \$11. It's a good investment.

Common mistakes

- **Not setting up the jig the same way each time.** The quicker you learn to produce a consistent grind, the faster you'll advance your skills. This method will get you back to the lathe quickly.
- **Over-grinding the nose of the tool.** Most new turners start grinding at the nose of the tool, then grind one wing, hit the nose again,



The Gouge Setup Jig will help you set the V-pocket at the proper distance from the grinding wheel for consistent bevels.



For best control of sharpening, hold the Vari-Grind in your hand. Avoid attempting to control by gripping the tool handle.



An inexpensive metal protractor will help you measure your tool bevels.

grind the other wing, and finally return to the nose. This means you spend too much time on the nose and end up changing the profile. Don't do that! Follow the step-by-step instructions above.

- **Grinding in one sweep.** When you do this, you have a tendency to hesitate as you transition from the wing to the nose and from the nose to the wing. This causes a bird-beak grind, which is challeng-

ing to control.

- **Failure to keep the tool moving.** You will create flat or straight spots if you over-grind in one area.
- **Gripping the tool handle.** For better control, grip the tool at the grinding jig when you sharpen, as shown in **Photo 2**.

Kirk DeHeer (kdeheer@cs.com) lives in Provo, Utah. He is a full-time woodturner and demonstrator.