

BAY AREA



WOODTURNERS
ASSOCIATION
A CALIFORNIA NONPROFIT CORPORATION
LOCAL CHAPTER AAW

April 2020

Volume 24 Issue 4

President's Message

April 2020

Keeping in touch



How is everyone doing accommodating to the current guidelines necessary for dealing with Covid-19? Since we can't hold a monthly meeting again this month due to the restrictions and the fact that the Pleasant Hill campus is totally closed, I wanted to reach out to everyone.

A couple of weeks ago Joel Albert sent an email to the teaching staff for the Diablo Woodturning Center asking, "How is everyone doing?" I was surprised at how everyone responded with what they were up to and how they were coping! We all need to keep in touch with our friends and colleagues by email, Skype, Facetime, etc. Lack of social interaction becomes isolating and for some, depressing.

My daughter just returned from England and is now in her self-imposed isolation, so we have been talking via WhatsApp, Skype, and Facetime, and discussing using Zoom, a video conferencing app. These are things that were not in my consciousness a month ago – time for me to come into the 21st century.

Personally, I'm focusing on a demanding learning process for Fusion 360, a CAD/CAM software package, that doesn't work the way I think it should!

The Board is working on creating content for our membership using the current technology to connect us with each other and outside demonstrators. Richard Dietrich will tell you more about our current activities – exciting times!

It's also a good time to buy new "stuff" for the shop from Amazon (you don't have to go out). Remember to use smile.amazon.com with the donation directed to Bay Area Woodturners Association. We get a small percentage rebate for the benefit of the Club.

Meanwhile consider the many videos and YouTube channels containing woodturning content. When you find a favorite or a unique technique, please share your finding. (Remember that I have two series of videos that might occupy some of your spare time at www.jlrogers.com. Also check out Dave Bentley's YouTube channel for past meeting videos also.

Keep well, protect yourselves and stay in touch.

Jim Rodgers



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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

Apr 18th 2020	'Dry Run' Zoom Meeting Zoom will open at 8:30am Meeting will begin at 9:00am
May 9th	Zoom meeting Ed Pretty Replication 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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Covid-19



The COVID-19 pandemic is changing everything. Gathering together in a meeting is definitely a no-no so what can we do?

Technology to the rescue: Luckily for BAWA, we live in a connected age. Anyone with a computer, pad, or phone and an internet connection will be able to attend a virtual BAWA meeting from anywhere.

For April and May, BAWA will be holding virtual meetings on Zoom, a robust meeting hosting package that works on Windows, MacOS, iOS and Android. BAWA has purchased a license but for everyone else, it's free of charge. You do not need to open an account or sign in. Some of you may be familiar with Zoom already – my grandchildren do circle time with their preschool classmates on Zoom. It's almost like being there, only without the contagion.

We plan to have a dry run meeting on April 18. The Board will demonstrate how we'll do show and tell, answer questions about Zoom, and present a remote demonstration.

Many professional demonstrators have risen to the challenge. Ed Pretty, a turner near Vancouver, BC, will give us a demonstration on May 9. He will be presenting a demonstration on techniques of replication which he did at the 2018 AAW Symposium in Portland.

Before each Zoom meeting you will receive an email invitation with a link to join the meeting. Clicking on the link will bring you to a webpage which will automatically download the Zoom application if it's not already on your computer. (People using an iOS or Android device will need to download the Zoom app from the appropriate app store.) Once loaded, you will be given options about audio (it can come through the computer or via a separate phone connection) and video. Then you will be directed to the meeting. If you are using a phone, hold it horizontally (landscape) for best results.

The Zoom website has a number of tutorial videos. The first one goes through the join a meeting process. The link to their video tutorial page is:

<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/206618765-Zoom-Video-Tutorials>

There are many other tutorials on the page. Most are targeted at the Host who will be either the presenter or a Board member. We all hope that the pandemic will end soon but no one knows when at this point. The BAWA Board will follow the recommendations of public health experts in determining how our meetings will be held in the coming months. Meanwhile, let's all stay safe, sane, and healthy.

Some Tips for Looking Your Best in Zoom

The following screen shot was taken at the first Zoom BAWA Board meeting.



As you can see, not all photographic results are the same.

During our virtual meetings, it would be nice to see your smiling faces and, perhaps more importantly, it would be nice to see your show and tell items in the May meeting. You've spent a lot of time and effort on them. Don't leave them standing in the shadows.

Before you join the meeting, be sure to pick a location which will illuminate your face with a soft light.

Don't sit with a bright window behind you; don't sit in a dark corner. Computer and phone cameras are quite sensitive but it might help to turn on a light.

Popular Photography has published a professional approach to this issue.

The link follows:

https://www.popphoto.com/story/how-to/look-better-video-chats-zoom-skype/?utm_source=internal&utm_medium=email

For most of us, of course, some of this is overkill but please follow the general guidelines and be sure to check out your image on Zoom before joining the meeting.

Tree Article 30: Wood Fluorescence

By Tony Wolcott

We have all heard about wood spirits, the aura of wood, wood biorhythms. What canopy were you born under? What's your wood sign? Let's face it. Wood is at the center of our well being. If you haven't touched wood today, you are adrift. The secret life of wood is out there and needs illumination.

While removing a tree from this world, one must appease the wood gods and honor the tree's journey to the high carbon in the air. One way to do this is to take a 100% cotton T-shirt and lay the shirt down next to the remaining trunk. When the last cut is made, set the trunk piece upright onto the T-shirt, support the trunk piece with branches to keep it upright. Wait 24 hours, and return to the scene of the crime. Remove the trunk and put the T-shirt on.



All will ridicule you. "St. Stephen with a rose, in and out of the garden he goes. Country boy in the wind and the rain, wherever he goes, the people all complain." (Bob Hunter, Grateful Dead lyricist)

Your T-shirt will look dirty and disheveled. People will wonder about your laundry upbringing. Then, you have to attend a black light party. You will be the hit of the wood nymph crowd. Your shirt will have the exact imprint of the forgotten tree trunk with a kaleidoscope of intense colors beaming out. The wood spirits are alive. And my T-shirt sales are off the hook.

Wood fluorescence is a new portal into the wood spirits world. I do not advise the T-shirt treatment, too messy and often empty. However, if you take a raw piece of wood, lightly sanded, and put it under blacklight - enlightenment. Not all wood fluoresces. Wood absorbs invisible light energy, transforms that light, and sends it back at you with visible wavelengths. Sir George Stokes, of Devonshire Wood Spirits, first observed this phenomenon in 1852.

Blacklight is near ultra-violet light, not visible to the human eye. Wavelength units measure light – either Angstrom or nanometer units (nm). I prefer using nanometers, more accepted in the scientific literature.

1 Angstrom = 0.1 nanometers

1 nm = 1×10^{-9} meters

<https://www.livescience.com/50326-what-is-ultraviolet-light.html>

You can see that a nanometer is very small, but the different lengths make a world of difference to the human eye. Visible light has a range of wavelengths – 400 nm to 700 nm. **UV (Ultraviolet)** Light refers to the region of the electromagnetic spectrum between visible light and X-rays, with a **wavelength** falling between 400 and 10 nm.

Many substances — including minerals, plants, fungi, and microbes, as well as organic and inorganic chemicals — can absorb UV radiation. Absorption causes electrons in the material to jump to a higher energy level. These electrons can then return to a lower energy level in a series of smaller steps, emitting a portion of their absorbed energy as visible light. Materials used as pigments in paint or dye that exhibit such fluorescence appear brighter under sun-

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Fluorescence can also locate and identify certain minerals and organic materials. According to [Thermo Fisher Scientific, Life Technologies](#), "Fluorescent probes enable researchers to detect particular components of complex biomolecular assemblies, such as live cells, with exquisite sensitivity and selectivity." Fluorescence effectively analyses tree leaves. Healthy leaves will absorb the radiation and emit back specific colors. The colors reflecting reveal the missing or underperforming nutrients.

The most common colors of **fluorescence** are green and yellow, but some **woods** can fluoresce orange, pink, red, etc. While some species will give a strong **fluorescent** response, many others will only be faintly **fluorescent**, while the majority of species will exhibit no **fluorescence** at all.

Check out Eric Meir's list of reflecting woods.

<https://www.wood-database.com/wood-articles/fluorescence-a-secret-weapon-in-wood-identification/>



Resources and Literature Cited

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Meier, Eric, *Wood Identifying and Using Hundreds of Woods Worldwide*, The Wood Database. 2015

Porter, Terry, *Wood Identification & Use*, Guild of Master Craftsman Publications Ltd., 2017

Web sites as resources:

<https://www.livescience.com/50326-what-is-ultraviolet-light.html>

<https://www.google.com/> Google Images

https://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/database/documents/pdf/tree_fact_sheets/lagfaua.pdf

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?taxonid=282496>

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2016 Show and Tell

Vern Stovall-
Vase with Wave



Bill Walzer-
"All Cracked Up"



Hugh Bevan-
Thomas-



Gary Bingham-
3 Faberge Eggs



Charlie Saul-
Segmented Bowl



Jim Abreu-
4 Screw Lid Boxes



(Continued on following page)

2018 Show and Tell



Cindy Navarro-
Screw Drivers & Pepper Mill



Joel Albert-
Ringed Goblet



Jean-Louis Maynier-
Spalted Coast Oak Platter



Harry Levin-
Vessel



Ed Steffinger-
Compound Miter Vessels



Larry Batti-
Segmented Vase, Small Vase and Ball

Vernier Calipers

Measure Up! Roger Zimmermann



A collection of vernier calipers, including dial and digital calipers.

A vernier caliper is an indispensable part of my woodturning toolbox. In my teaching of woodturning I have found most people are missing out on the use of this simple, but handy measuring device. There are two aspects of the vernier caliper that, once understood, will take the mystery out of the tool. Once mastered, it will become your go-to measuring device.

Vernier calipers range in price from a couple of dollars to about

\$30. Each model has its pluses and minuses, but they all perform the same measurements. Some read only in fractional inches, some have both inch and metric scales, and some will provide a digital readout in either system.

Reading the scales

Good calipers are capable of precise readings, often to 0.001" (0.025mm), but any degree of precision requires learning to interpret the vernier scale. The \$2 plastic

vernier caliper in *Photo 1* has both English (top) and metric (bottom) scales, with an inner and outer scale for each type of readout. The bottom line of the English scale reads $\frac{1}{16}$ " increments, while the upper scale reads $\frac{1}{32}$ " increments. For a reading to the nearest $\frac{1}{32}$ ", use the bottom line of the scale to measure to the nearest $\frac{1}{16}$ ", and add to that reading any additional length in $\frac{1}{32}$ " increments. For example, the zero mark of the short ($\frac{1}{32}$ ") vernier scale in *Photo 1* aligns just to the

right of the $\frac{5}{16}$ " mark on the inner scale. This means the dimension is slightly more than $\frac{5}{16}$ " (or $7\frac{1}{28}$ "). Reading along the short ($\frac{1}{28}$ ") vernier scale again, we see the "6" mark most closely aligns with a mark on the inner scale, meaning the actual measurement in this example is $7\frac{1}{28}$ " + $\frac{6}{28}$ " = $7\frac{13}{28}$ " or $3\frac{3}{4}$ ". The metric scale operates in the same fashion, but relies on the bottom two scale lines.

Practice a little and you will quickly find accurate measurements are easier than my description leads you to believe. Helpful resources on the Internet include Wikipedia's entry for the "vernier scale," with animated examples of caliper measurements.

Enter the digital age and you can get a vernier caliper that takes the math out of the equation and gives you a direct readout in decimal or fractional inches, or metric—just make sure to keep a spare battery on hand! I find the fractional vernier calipers to be unnecessarily difficult and recommend either a mechanical one reading in thousandths or the digital calipers, as they are relatively inexpensive.

While reading the vernier scale is a useful skill, calipers in the woodturner's shop are often used to transfer direct measurements. Sizing a tenon to fit into a pre-drilled or turned recess can be accomplished by setting the caliper opening to the diameter of the recess, and transferring the dimension to the tenon, bypassing the math altogether.

Using the vernier caliper

Vernier calipers employ four methods to measure the following dimensions:

- The large jaws measure external dimensions, such as the

diameter of a spindle or tenon (Photo 2).

- The small jaws measure internal dimensions, such as the inside of a lidded box, mortise, or drill hole (Photo 3).
- The protruding piece at the tail end measures depth or length, such as the length of a tenon or depth of a bowl (Photo 4).
- The shoulder on the small upper sliding jaw measures the depth of a step, offset, or recess such as a rabbet or groove (Photo 5).

Both sets of jaws have sharp points—especially on metal calipers—and attempting to use the calipers on spinning stock may result in a dangerous catch when a point digs into the rotating wood. To use calipers as a sizing gauge for rotating spindles, the points must first be ground off the jaws. The calipers should never be used for internal measurements on spinning stock; friction generated between plastic calipers and spinning stock may melt the calipers. For the safest practice, turn off the lathe when using calipers.

Vernier calipers have many applications in a turner's shop, including fitting lids, turning down a pen blank to perfectly match components, making snug-fitting mortise and tenon joints, and determining the depth of bowls and boxes. Add this handy tool to your shop and watch the quality of your turnings jump up a notch! ■

Roger Zimmermann is the president of the Wisconsin Valley Woodturners. A retired engineer, he has been turning for more than 35 years. You can email Roger at Latheybum@aol.com.



1 Plastic calipers, set to $\frac{3}{4}$ ".

2 The outside jaws measure external diameter.

3 The internal diameter is measured with the caliper's smaller inside jaws.

4 A depth probe is connected to the sliding jaw and cleverly provides a precise way to measure length or depth.

5 The sliding inside jaw is slightly offset, providing a step-measurement option.

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Tip of the Week

Accurate Diameter Measurement

I often need to measure the diameter of a workpiece after it is mounted and rough-turned on the lathe. I have tried using a caliper, then transferring the reading to a ruler, but that process feels cumbersome and sometimes my workpiece is larger than my caliper. I could lay a ruler on the nose of the tailstock's live center, but the live center's diameter would keep the ruler's edge off center—not by much, but enough to make me want a more accurate measurement.

I came up with a handy solution: a customized center-finder rule with a small, half-round cutout at the rule's "0" marking. The cutout fits over the nose of my live center, allowing the rule's edge to align with the true center of the workpiece and giving me an accurate measurement of its diameter. As my rule is made from aluminum, I roughed out the cutout at the bandsaw, then refined it with a small sanding drum in a rotary tool. You could just as easily use a hacksaw and file.

This rule modification works great for accurately measuring a tenon's diameter. It is also useful when laying out markings for a freehand-turned sphere, as you would transfer the rough cylinder's diameter to its length and add a center point.

Pat Miller, *American Woodturner*, February 2018



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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.

(Articles courtesy of AAW)

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.



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.



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!!