

BAY AREA

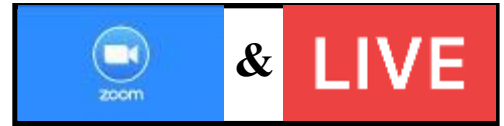


**WOODTURNERS**  
ASSOCIATION  
A CALIFORNIA NONPROFIT CORPORATION  
LOCAL CHAPTER AAW

July 2022

Volume 26 Issue 7

**Turn for the Troops**  
July Meeting  
July 9th  
8:30-4:00



**Turn for Troops**  
**July Meeting**

Our July meeting will be our annual Turn for Troops. Everyone is invited to show up and turn a pen for the troops. All materials are provided, and the blanks have been prepared and are ready for turning. The event starts at 08:30 in Room 108 at the Pleasant Hill Middle School.

Please remember for the safety of everyone in attendance, masking is mandatory, with N95 or KN95 masks preferred, and vaccination is required, along with boosters.

We hope to see all of you there.





A CALIFORNIA NONPROFIT CORPORATION  
LOCAL CHAPTER AAW

## 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](mailto: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/](http://bayareawoodturners.org/) for club information.

### *BAWA Officers Meeting -*

The Association's officer meetings are held each month. Contact Steve Griswold at: [president@bayareawoodturners.org](mailto:president@bayareawoodturners.org) for more information.

## 2022 Event Schedule

July 9th	Turn for the Troops 8:30-4:00 Room 108
August 13th	Annual Picnic
September 10th	Alan Lacer
October 8th	Alan Straton
November 12th	TBD
December 10th	TBD

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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# Stuart Batty June Demonstrator

Stuart was our June demonstrator. Stuart provided a video showing the steps he goes through and the techniques he uses to turn a bowl. Starting with the roughing of the blank and mounting. Stuart discussed the starting RPM of 1,000 and how a blank, no matter how out of balance, will always fall straight down if it comes off from between centers. A comment many of the members found interesting and one in which he discussed in detail during the first Q&A.

In the course of the video Stuart talked about the bevel and how he approaches a blank so the bevel is always firmly planted against the wood. To this end he discussed the two grinds he uses; the 40/40 grind for the sides, and the 60 degree grind for the bottom, both of which allow for the greatest opportunity to get a clean cut on the cross-grain areas of a bowl.

A point Stuart came back to more than a few times was the push-cut vs. the pull-cut. He discussed how he uses a push-cut and how most folks, including his friend Michael Mahoney, use a pull-cut. The point he made is the push-cut puts less stress on the turner and provides the opportunity for a cleaner cut in cross-grain.

An additional item Stuart expounded on at some length is the importance of moving away from the lathe so the body has more room to pivot, and the importance of the left hand being back away from the tool rest and used for general guidance to keep the bevel against the wood, rather than using the left hand to drive the tool into the wood.

In all, the video provided some great examples of why Stuart Batty is considered one of the top turners in the profession today, and why he is so proficient at bowl turning. The Q&A time was informative and allowed for some fun storytelling, mostly on his good friend Mike Mahoney.



Showing end-grain and side-grain



Cutting recess



Scraping dovetail in recess



Ready to chuck



Bevel controls cut



Rounding blank



Truing face



Shaping exterior



Push cut leaves fine surface



More shaping exterior



Cutting tenon



Checking tool rest height



Begin to hollow



Hogging out material



Approaching desired wall thickness



Original and Thompson bottom gouges



Adjusting tool rest



Hallowing bottom



Flattening ridges



Almost done



Jam chucking



Reinforcing with tape



Removing tenon



Shaping bottom

*Continued on following page*



Dressing foot with scraper



Making wall thinner



Removing tool marks



Finished bowl



Tool array



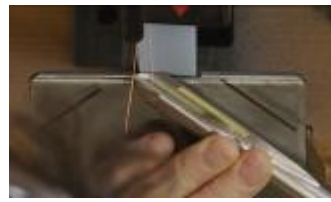
Setting 40° angle



Setting other 40° angle



Edge to be reformed



Shaping wings



Shaping nose



Heel of bevel is removed



Final sharpening



Setting 60° angle



Sharpening bottom gouge





# President's Letter

July 2022

## **Summer: Turn for Troops, BAWA Picnic, and President's Challenge**

At long last, summer is here and outdoor living is in full swing. A good time to open the windows and doors, switch on the fan, and turn some of that dry wood we've all got lying around!

And we've got some terrific BAWA summer traditions to look forward to:

**Turn for Troops** - On July 9 at the woodturning center we'll have Turn for Troops which is always great fun and a wonderful cause. Keep an eye out for more details in coming emails, and as always, a huge thanks in advance to Jeff Tanner and all those volunteering to make this another great turning event.

**Summer Picnic** - On August 13 we will all get a chance to see each other outdoors at the annual BAWA picnic. Once again, BAWA Member at Large Larry Batti will be orchestrating the event, so keep an eye out for Larry's emails and please don't hesitate to jump in with any help you can offer! As usual, everyone is invited to bring tools for the annual Tool Swap/Sale and this is a good time to donate those hunks of wood you know you'll never get onto the lathe - BAWA will sell them then and there and another member will walk away happy - It's a win/win/win!

**President's Challenge** - Unfortunately, I will be out of town for the picnic but BAWA Vice President Jim Campbell will MC the President's Challenge. Here it is: "Turn the Sphere, Ball, Orb, Circular Object of Your Dreams!" In other words, whether you are a first-time or a veteran sphere-turner, make a sphere or a creation involving a sphere and tell us all about it at the picnic. There are no constraints or limitations except that it be made primarily on the lathe. Big or small; wood, acrylic, epoxy, or something else; segmented or solid; carved, painted or just plain wood - you name it, we want to see it! And the awards? Everyone who brings an entry will receive 5 Wood Raffle tickets to be claimed at any of this Fall's monthly meetings. Have fun and I look forward to seeing the pictures.

P.S. If you're looking for some guidance on turning a sphere, a great place to start is with Jim Rodgers' two videos on the topic. You can find them on the BAWA Website: go to Resources, then to Videos, and then to the Jim Rodgers Videos page.

Stay safe and keep on turning,  
Steve Griswold

## **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](mailto: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.





# BAWA NEWS & NOTES



## New Name Tags

Many thanks to Club member Peter Travis for making new name tags for all BAWA members. Ever creative and resourceful Peter engraved names on flat wood blanks with his laser cutting machine, and as you see to the right, they turned out great!

We look forward to seeing everyone at in-person meetings and social events wearing their new name tags, and when you see Peter, give him a shout out of thanks.



## Last Meeting



Anna Duncan-new Membership Maven



Peter Travis-ID plate maker



Dave Bentley-Tech Wiz



Charlie Saul checks out American Beauty



Wood Raffle

## BAWA Summer Picnic August 13, 2022

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Pleasant Hill Park  
147 Gregory Lane  
Picnic Area #3  
Pleasant Hill

## BAWA Summer Picnic & President's Challenge

As always, come join us for great food, great company, wood for sale, tool swap, and President's Challenge. If you have any questions or would like to help out, contact Larry Batti at <mailto:memberatlarge@bayareawoodturners.org>

### President's Challenge for the BAWA Picnic:

“Turn the Sphere, Ball, Orb, Circular Object of Your Dreams!” In other words, whether you are a first-time or a veteran sphere-turner, make a sphere or a creation involving a sphere and tell us all about it at the picnic. There are no constraints or limitations except that it be made primarily on the lathe. Big or small; wood, acrylic, epoxy, or something else; segmented or solid; carved, painted or just plain wood - you name it, we want to see it! And the awards? Everyone who brings an entry will receive 5 Wood Raffle tickets to be claimed at any of this Fall's monthly meetings. Have fun and I look forward to seeing the pictures.

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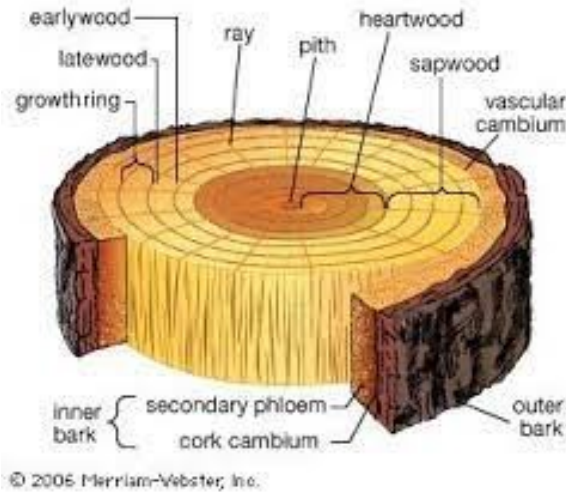


# Tree Article 54 The Philosophy of Wooden Bowls

By Tony Wolcott

Note: I have postponed the third article on Wood Identification until I have enough time to digest the information.

In dealing with any topic or issue, one must state the case and define the terms. Philosophical conversations center around questions—what are we talking about? The philosophy of wooden bowls? What is a wooden bowl? First, start with the adjective ‘wooden.’ For anything to be wooden, it must be predominately wood. The accepted name is composite, even if an object is half wooden and half plastic. But what is wood? Back to introductory Botany:



In this diagram, there are only two references to wood—sapwood, and heartwood. Through the secondary meristematic activity, the vascular cambium creates phloem to the outside and xylem to the inside; xylem is represented here as sapwood and heartwood; together, the two can be called wood or xylem. Rarely does one talk about xylem bowls, but the terminology is correct. When bowls are turned across the grain instead of with the grain, the pith is often removed prior to turning. The pith is not wood because primary meristems create this apical growth. Even the wood surrounding the pith is suspect due to the incomplete transition from primary apical growth to secondary vascular cambium growth.

For a wooden bowl to be 100% wood, there can be no pith, no bark, no cork cambium, no secondary phloem (inner bark), and no vascular cambium. Palm trees do not produce wood. So what? For a bowl to be wooden, the piece must have a predominance of xylem. Sapwood and heartwood are not dead because rays exist radially through the wood. Only series or ray groupings are visible to the human eye.



For the last eight years, the evident rays of the red oak wood have shown prominently in my cereal bowl.

Is the above a wooden bowl? If the bowl is flattened, its identity may morph into a platter, a saucer, or a plate. If the top is extended and the opening reduced significantly, the term may be an urn, a vase, or a bottle with a cork stopper. What denotes a ‘bowl’? The object’s function helps with recognizing a bowl. This wooden bowl holds food and liquid, most often oatmeal in the morning. We cannot obsess over naming things; when someone drops a stone on your foot, it matters little that object may be called rock or a stone.



The above wooden bowl is a repository for my loose change and keys. This is a wooden bowl consisting of cherry wood from the rootstock and the scion and includes the graft line, predominately wood.

In nature, do wooden bowls exist?

*Continued on following page*



The two photos above reveal two wooden bowls.



The above photo is a lacrosse stick made from a single piece of hickory wood. With the help of boiling, steaming, and the addition of leather and other animal products, this stick represents much more than a hickory stick.

We can understand a wooden bowl, but do we grasp the deep-seated inner story of every piece of wood entering our lives?

Many years ago, I crossed the international boundary from America to Canada, somewhere in Northern Idaho. My companion and I thought we would enter the British Columbia Kootenays before the day's light disappeared. The crossing was minimal, not close to any town. On either side, we were the only vehicle in sight. The gentleman in charge looked over our various means of identification. He then signaled softly for us to pull into the two-car parking lot.

Over the next two hours, our Volkswagen bus was emptied of everything. We watched with amusement and patience as every little item was checked, opened, sniffed, and placed in some order on the pavement. At one point, a jar of oregano was questioned with raised eyebrows. We explained the seasoning purpose, and that gained their capitulation. An accomplice came out of the building to assist. They searched every nook and cranny of the vehicle. Finally, we were allowed to go.

Not to stir up the pot, my friend and I gestured at the assemblage on the asphalt. They agreed to help us load the stuff back in. Near the ordeal's end, the original border guard picked up one of two walnut bowls. He turned it over several times, feeling the smooth finish and the gentle contours of the wood. My partner's grandfather had turned these two walnut bowls as a present for our travels. He's not going to take it! I thought to myself. Her eyes and mine fixed on every move he made. The hands continued to massage the wooden bowl. This bowl with its twin had been our meal companion from San Francisco to Victoria and then from central B.C. to Nova Scotia. Our patience grew thin, and our blood heated up. This was not going to happen.

Suddenly, he started and sheepishly handed over the bowl. He apologized and said, "I was raised in these mountains, and every time I touch wood, I think of my childhood and the woods. That is a very nice piece. What kind of wood is it?"

"Walnut."



## 7th Segmenting Symposium September 22-25, 2022

Crown Plaza Northbrook Hotel and Convention Center  
2875 North Milwaukee Ave, Northbrook, Illinois 60062

**Registration is open!**

Join us for this unique international symposium.  
Meet and learn from the best in segmented woodturning.



Jerry Bennett Robin Costello Tom Lohman Jim Rodgers Curt Theobald Malcolm Tibbetts



Bob Behnke Steve Bonny Martha Collins Tom Kenyon Wayne Miller Al Miotke

### Benefits of Attendance

5 classrooms with almost 50 rotations.

Tradeshow

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Special Friday Evening Sessions

Saturday Banquet with Awards and Entertainment

Raffle

Spouse/Companion Activities

A lot of fun, education, and the opportunity to meet other segmenters!

For more information and to register, visit:

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

you can also contact Al Miotke at [al@segmentedwoodturners.org](mailto:al@segmentedwoodturners.org)



An old lathe with a set of tools for woodworking: hammer, chisels, pliers

OLIVE HYDE *Art* GUILD  
PROUDLY PRESENTS

Holiday for the Arts 2022

Call for Artists



Olive Hyde Art Guild is now accepting entries for the  
Holiday for the Arts Gala, Show & Sale, October 21-23, 2022

The show opens with a ticketed Gala on Friday night featuring hors d'oeuvres, sweets, and wine, with the first viewing and sale of art.

On Saturday and Sunday, the show is open to the public without charge. Each year we sell over \$25,000 of high-quality handcrafted objects and fine art.

All aspects of the show, including sales, are handled by Guild members. Artists do not need to be present at the event.

Media: Ceramics & glass, paintings, jewelry, fiber art, wood products, sculpture, and holiday goods.

Image samples of new artists' work will be screened online at the OHAG website. Artists submit 2-3 digital images using the online form at [OliveHydeArtGuild.org](http://OliveHydeArtGuild.org).

Entry Deadline:  
July 7, 2022

For new artist information,  
visit [OliveHydeArtGuild.org](http://OliveHydeArtGuild.org) or  
email [ArtistContact@OliveHydeArtGuild.org](mailto:ArtistContact@OliveHydeArtGuild.org)



### Woodturning rule #5:

Do not wear loose clothing, gloves, jewelry or any objects that dangle as they may become entangled in the lathe. Always tie back long hair. Check your person and your surroundings for any other items that may be accidentally entangled with the wood lathe.



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# Virtual Show & Tell June

*Ben Townley*



*Charlie Saul*



*Gary Bingham*



*Carl Mercer*



*Continued on following page*

# Virtual Show & Tell June

*Don Gouveia*



## AAW | AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS

### Cleaning Buffing Wheels

I appreciated the tip that S. Gary Roberts from Austin, TX submitted concerning the cleaning of buffing wheels. I would like to share the process that I use and it has proven to be quick and effective. Just hold a piece of coarse sanding abrasive against the spinning buffing wheel. It will quickly remove excessive buildup. I use either 40- or 60-grit sanding material that I get from a friend who is a floor finisher. He saves me some of his used abrasive

paper. I use this cleaning process after every second time I use the wheel, especially on the Tripoli wheel. The white diamond compound doesn't seem to build up as badly.

In the event that 40- or 60-grit abrasive is not readily available, you can use 100-grit abrasive, although the procedure may take a bit longer to get a nice clean buffing wheel.



Alan Leach, Bay City, OR Tillamook County Woodturners Photo taken of Tom Levi by Janice Levi

## TURNING TIPS

### Shopmade gauges nail recesses and tenons for scroll chucks

To save time and trouble in laying out chucking tenons and recesses, I have made a set of 1/4" (6mm) plywood gauges. These match the maximum and minimum diameter for a recess in expansion mode, and tenon size for exterior attachment. This is much quicker, easier, and safer than trying to find the diameter using a caliper or dividers.

I made a set of gauges for each of my three chucks as well as for their the various jaws. I drilled a hole in each to hang them on a nail (clip the head off) on my grinder stand.

It's a judgment call whether to make a recess or a tenon, based on the weight, kind of wood and size of the blank. Sometimes a tenon on a heavy bowl can break off while hollowing.

#### Recess mounting

I lay out the bottom of the blank and cut the recess with a shopmade square-end scraper to a depth of 3/8" to 1/2" (10 to 12mm). A small skew creates a slight dovetail for better holding. The depth is marked on the template for testing before dismounting; be sure to let the lathe stop before inserting the template. I mark the center of the blank with a pencil while spinning, and also have marked the center of my template.

#### Tenon mounting

When cutting a chucking tenon, I just make sure the gauge's smallest opening does not drop over the tenon, while the largest opening does. As with the recess gauge, I also mark the tenon length on the gauge, to be sure the tenon doesn't bottom out in the jaws.

— David Zurek, Virginia Beach, VA



Each jaw set gets a tenon and a recess gauge.



Recess gauge includes depth indicator.



Tenon gauge nails the diameter.

## TURNING TIPS

### *Sizing tenons with a carpenter's pencil*

Instead of sticking the sharp metal points of a compass or divider into spinning wood to mark the diameter of a chucking tenon, just lay a flat carpenter's pencil on top of the tailstock live center. Then touch it to the spinning wood to mark a circle.

This makes a circle about 2" (5cm) in diameter, the perfect size tenon to fit a scroll chuck equipped with the common #2 (50mm) jaws. — Bill Karow, Portland OR



**Flat pencil** held flat on *live center* marks a 2" (50mm) circle for the chucking tenon.

### *Sizing with ruler gauge*

To make tenons the proper diameter for the chuck jaws, I made a gauge from an old aluminum ruler. I cut a vee in one end, and drilled holes to match my four chucks. I attached a magnet on the other end to keep it handy.

To use the gauge, I just place the vee onto the live center, insert a pencil tip into the proper hole to mark the wood, and then cut the tenon to that mark. Works every time. — Jack Roberts, Gainesville, FL



**Ruler gauge** has holes for each size of tenon, and a vee cut in the end that drops over the lathe center.

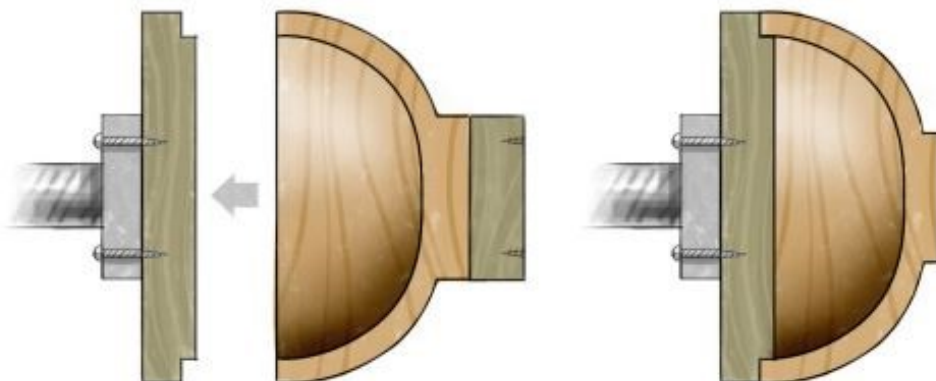
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**WoodCentral**

Visit our Turning forum, where woodturning enthusiasts and many well-known turners meet to swap questions, answers, tips, tricks and good fun.

[www.woodcentral.com/turning](http://www.woodcentral.com/turning)  
SINCE 1998

# Jam chucks remount work



This bowl was mounted on the lathe by way of a glue block on its foot. The jam chuck, with tailstock support, permits remounting the project for final cleanup.

Many projects, toward the end of the turning process, need to be reversed and remounted for final cleanup. The old way, with the help of a wooden jam chuck screwed onto a faceplate, remains a very solid technique. It's quick, infinitely adjustable, inexpensive compared to scroll chucks, and, when supported by the tailstock, highly reliable.

A jam chuck is sometimes called a waste block, but that doesn't mean it's scrap wood. It's called that because it wastes away as you repeatedly reshape the disk to fit each new project. Softwood, or a mild turning wood like cherry, is best. Mount the bandsawn jam chuck on a faceplate with stout steel screws, not brittle drywall screws.

Bowls can be fit over a rebate cut into the rim of the chuck, for access to the entire outside surface. Some box and vessel projects will be centered in a groove turned into the face of the chuck, and some will be nestled into a hollow. Always leave the tail center in place as long as possible, which may leave you with a small nub to pare and sand by hand.



**Jam chuck** – To make a jam chuck, bandsaw a softwood disk and screw it onto a metal faceplate. Center, the jam chuck can be reshaped and reused many times. Right, the chuck wastes away.



## Fit the jam chuck, use tailstock support



**Rim shot** – The bowl will fit onto a rebate turned in the rim of the jam chuck.



**Shallow recess** – Small jam chuck will be used to remount boxes and lids for cleanup.



**Reusable** – The recess in the jam chuck is tailored to each piece in a matching set.



**Tailstock** – Tailstock live center supports bowl on the jam chuck. Leave the tailstock in place as



long as possible. Detail the project, then pare the glue block or tenon to a tiny nub.



### Jam chucks and scroll chucks



To mount a jam chuck on the regular scroll chuck, turn a recess to fit the almost-closed jaws. Then expand the jaws into the recess.

Most scroll chucks can be fitted with jumbo jaws

that have rubber bumpers for remounting. The eight bumpers can be threaded into a series of holes to grip a wide range of projects.

**No marks** – Rubber bumpers on jumbo jaws won't mark the work. Whenever possible, bring up the tailstock for support; avoid dings by pressing the live center against a smooth disk.



### How do I know toolrest height?

**Q** How can I know the height of the toolrest? It's way out from the center of the lathe, I know the cutting edge will work best on center, but I don't have a point of reference for exactly how high center is.

**A** Trust your fingers. Put a cone center in the lathe headstock and bring the toolrest up to it. Now wrap two fingers around the toolrest post and learn how it feels in your knuckles on dead center, and also how it feels when dropped 1/8" (3mm) and 1/4" (6mm) below center.

That doesn't work for your arthritic gnarly-fat sausage fingers? Make a wooden step gauge, one step for center and a second step for 1/4" or so below, as in the photos.



**Fingers** — Bring the rest up to a cone center, wrap fingers around the post, and learn how it feels. You'll quickly become able to judge center and the thickness of a tool below it.



**Gauge** — The step gauge guarantees the rest is on center.



**Step** — The gauge step lowers the toolrest by the thickness of this scraper, positioning the edge at center height.