



August 2022

Volume 26 Issue 8

2022 August Picnic
Saturday, August 13th
11:00 AM to 2:00 PM



It's time for our annual BAWA picnic.

Food - The club will provide burgers, brats and buns along with all necessary serving utensils, plates, cups and condiments. Below is a list of what we'd like you to bring, again, alphabetically by last name:

A through G: Cold drinks, (soda, ice tea, etc.)

H through P: Sides, (baked beans, salad, deviled eggs, etc.)

Q through Z: Desserts

Show and (don't) Tell - Anyone who would like to display a work or three at the picnic will be welcome and encouraged to do so!

We'll have tables set up for you to set your works on. There will be no formal "Tell" session. This is simply an opportunity for you show what you've been making and informally chat about your creations with fellow members!

Tool Swap/Sale - 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!

Wood Sale - There will be a great selection of wood for you to purchase. Please bring cash!

President's Challenge - Neither Steve nor Jim C. will be present at the August picnic. Larry Batti will be MC. 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.

Please email: larrybattiwoodturning@gmail.com with your questions, suggestions, and comments.

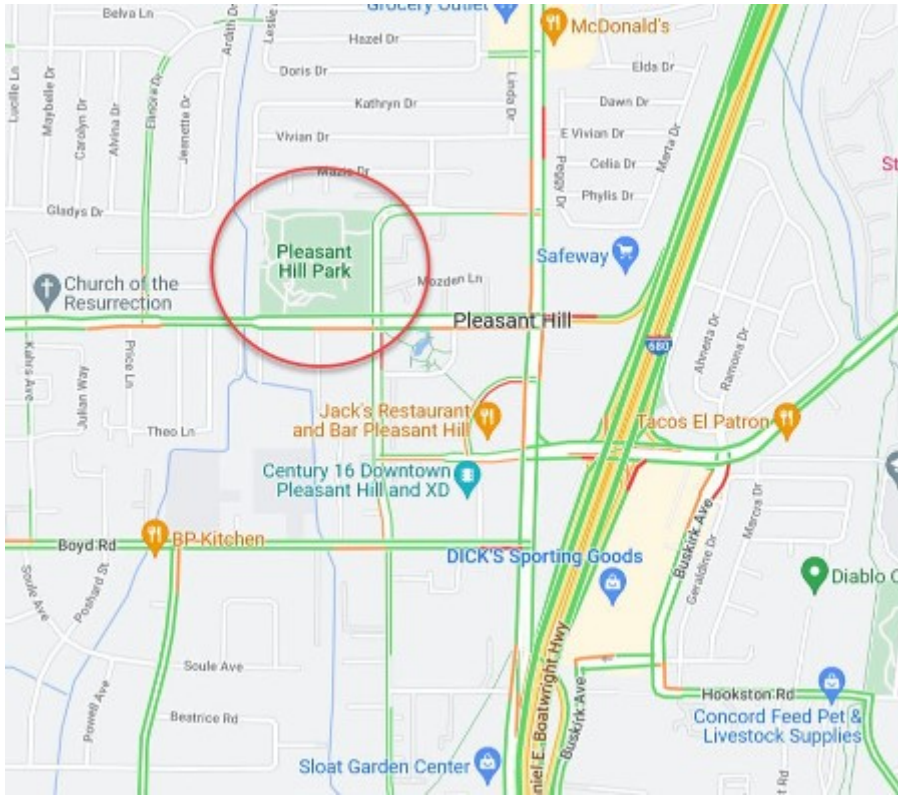
Regarding COVID-19 protocols:

After consulting county officials and CDC guidelines, we have been reassured that fully vaccinated people can resume outdoor activities without wearing a mask or social distancing, so there will be no such requirements for our picnic. However, if you're not fully vaccinated, you should adhere to guidelines set out for you by the CDC, and if in doubt, consult your physician as to the precautions you should take. Whether vaccinated or not, we are each responsible for our own health and safety.

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As in years past the picnic will be held at the Pleasant Hill Community Park, 147 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill, Picnic Area # 2.

We hope to see all of you there!



Sneak peak of wood available at picnic



Pictured: Redwood slabs, Plum, and Birch.

Also freshly cut Japanese Maple, some dry Walnut Burl wood and a few pieces of very dry Carob.





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 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 Steve Griswold at: president@bayareawoodturners.org for more information.

2022 Event Schedule

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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Turn for Troops 2022

BAWA Event

We had a very nice Turn for the Troops event on Saturday July 9. This was the 8th in person turning event for BAWA and the 15th year the club members have participated in this worthy cause. There were several species of wood crafted into many styles of turned pens for our servicemen and women by our members. These little touches of home will be sent to members of our military serving abroad during the holiday season, a small token of our appreciation for their service. Members of BAWA have turned over 1,500 pens over the years

I would like to thank Jim Rodgers for generously allowing BAWA to use the woodturning center for this event. Also, thank you to Eric at Woodcraft in San Carlos for donating all of the hardware for pens. And of course, thank you to our members who participated and turned 140 pens for the troops. Without all of you, the event would not have been a success. Hope to see everyone at next year's event!

Woodcraft San Carlos:

A very special Thank You to the Bay Area Woodturners Association for hosting their Turn for Troops event on July 9th! This amazing group of folks worked all day to produce 140 pens for our military troops around the world! Over the past 18 years, Woodcraft, and our local clubs and schools, has produced over 12,000 pens for our military branches serving our country. We couldn't do it without the help of amazing local woodturning and woodworking groups like BAWA! Thank you!

Thanks again for the support of the TFT program! I posted a HUGE Thank You to our store's Facebook page naming all the volunteers and mentioning your website.

www.facebook.com/woodcraftsan-carlos

Eric



Joel Albert



Cindy Navarro



Embellishment



Madhav Mehra & Jeff Tanner



Martin Gibb



Larry Batti



Connie Klein



Rick Kalish



Claudia Foster



Bob Nolan



A hive of activity



The finished product

President's Letter

August 2022



President's Letter – August 2022

Greetings, everyone – I hope you are having a wonderful summer!

Once again, we had another outstanding Turn for Troops in July (see the article and photos elsewhere in this edition). As he has done for the past eight years or so, Jeff Tanner organized the event, so a huge Thank You to Jeff and all those who helped make this another great turning event!

Speaking of traditions, the summer picnic is coming up on Saturday 8/13. As I mentioned last month, I will not be able to attend, and it turns out that our VP, Jim Campbell, is unable to attend either. Our Member at Large, Larry Batti, has kindly agreed to step up and MC the President's Challenge, on top of organizing the picnic itself. Thank You, Larry!

As usual, there will be a wood sale - our Wood Meister Tony Wolcott will be bringing wood (everyone is invited to donate wood too!). And of course, the picnic is always a great time to bring tools to sell or swap.

Have a great rest of the summer, stay safe, and keep on turning,
Steve Griswold



BAWA NEWS & NOTES



Rick Nelson in the Art Gallery at Orinda Library

BAWA member Rick Nelson has 10 of his turnings in the August exhibition in the Art Gallery at Orinda Library! Rick, an accomplished turner specializing in segmented work, wears many hats including BAWA Treasurer, Instructor at the Diablo Woodturning Center, and President of the Oakland Art Association. Rick's work can be seen this month as part of a multi-media, multi-artist show in the Art Gallery at Orinda Library. Rick's wife, Tina, is a fabric artist and also has work in the show. Congratulations Rick and Tina, and we are all looking forward to visiting the exhibition!



Rick Nelson's turned wooden vessel Starburst.



Swirl, by Rick Nelson - maple, purpleheart, walnut, 10" x 4"



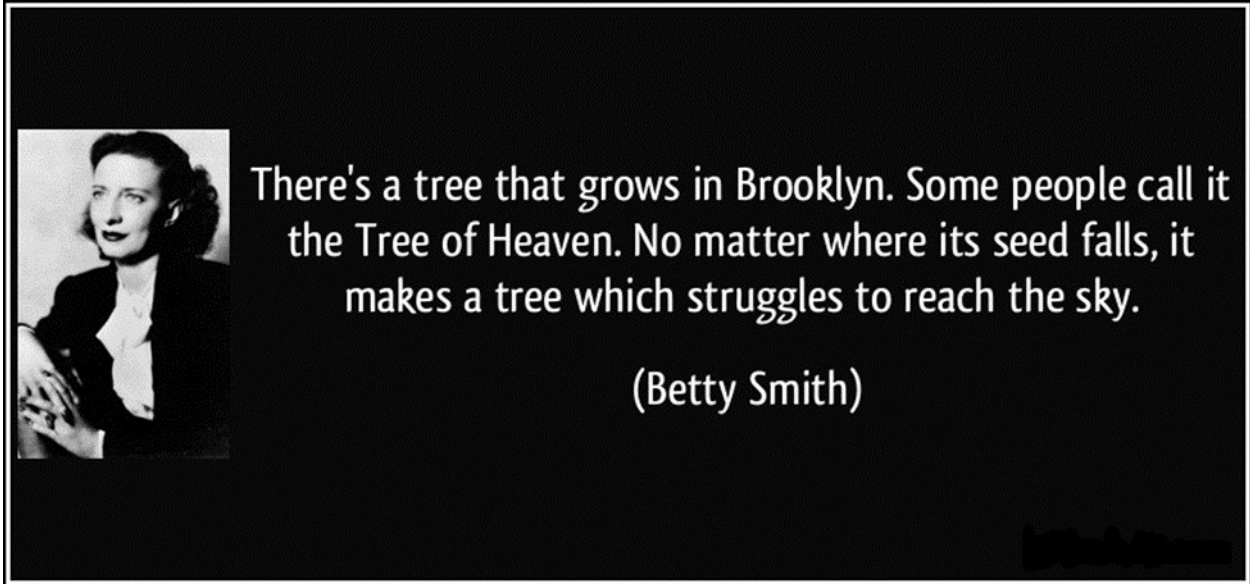
Tina Nelson's Girl in High Top

Orinda Library announces an exhibit of David Fleisig, another BAWA artist, coming November 5th. Put it on your calendar.

Tree Article 55 Looking into the Disaster of *Ailanthus altissima*, Commonly referred to as the Tree of Heaven

By Tony Wolcott

The Tree of Heaven, or Ailanthus, gained fame in 1943 as a symbol of endurance in Betty Smith's "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn." The persevering tree served as a metaphor for the protagonist; this resilient tree grew out of floors and thrived in concrete cracks. The heavenly tree has a history. In 1823 a nursery in Queens sold the Ailanthus for the top price -- \$1.00. And a famous tree it was, quickly sold for \$3.00 and mostly sold out. Native to Taiwan and the other China, the tree of heaven entered the American west coast around 1850.



During the western U.S. invasion of the Ailanthus, an inchworm reared its ugly head in the east coast urban environment. The worm denuded trees throughout the eastern U.S.; without leaves, the worms dangled on the branch tips and let go when a nest walked by. Not blessed with sharp eyesight, the worms mistook hairdos for bird's nests and often took up residence in the wigs of the walking trees. When it was hot, the worms were at their height of undressing the trees and destroying any shade from a once foliage-filled tree. Only the Tree of Heaven appeared resistant, and the planting and nourishing of the Ailanthus increased.

Unfortunately or fortunately, the tree of heaven has an awful smell, especially from the male flowers. People complained, accusing this tree of stinking up the neighborhood, causing allergy problems, and even death claims; so much for heaven's tree. By 1853 Congress outlawed the 'stink tree.' Opposite opinions developed-- the inchworm preferred all trees except the Tree of Heaven, but the stench of Ailanthus was too much for other people. Typical of the era, the Chinese Tree of Heaven became another unwanted foreigner. But one cannot deny the survivability of this tree. Others thought the Ailanthus preferred the poor, growing in empty lots and concrete beds.

**Tree of heaven, Ailanthus, or in [Standard Chinese](#) as *chouchun*
([Chinese](#): 臭椿; [pinyin](#): *chòuchūn*; literally means: "foul smelling tree")**

"Smells like rancid Peanut Butter"- Clark Owen, Northeastern IPM Center

I was visiting Mountain View the other day and came across some tree trunks that looked like cantaloupe skin; a glance up and the Tree of Heaven foliage danced with the wind. Soon, I realized someone had planted the Tree of Heaven as a street tree. Mountain View has a problem.

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The photo to the right shows the incurable habit of the Tree of Heaven to sucker from roots. I have a client with a vineyard, and a neighbor also has a vineyard. The removal of mature *Ailanthus* caused thousands of roots to sucker and filled the vineyards. Sprouts as young as two years are capable of producing seed. Tree-of-Heaven has allelopathic chemicals in its leaves, roots, and bark that can limit or prevent the establishment of other plants.



The only cure is the application of herbicides (three different chemicals) applied in mid to late summer. Repeat for two or three years after. Cutting heavenly trees down or pulling out suckers is counterproductive because the roots immediately send up thousands of suckers. I suggest digging up any tree of heaven that you can easily dig and removing roots. Otherwise, bring a back-hoe in or move. *Ailanthus altissima* is one of the worst invasive plants in the world.

Identifying the Devil Tree

More mature trees of heaven have distinctive bark, similar to cantaloupe skin. The compound leaf, pinnately compound (central stem with leaflets attached on each side), has many leaflets and can be up to four feet long with ten to forty leaflets.



If you break off an entire compound leaf, you will get the smell most people dislike. *Ailanthus altissima* has some complete flowers with male and female parts, but this tree is usually dioecious; separate male and female flowers are on different trees. The clonal habit of the plant muddles this distinction. The tree is deciduous, but the fall color is poor. Fruit is winged, quite colorful, and capable of sending off thousands of seeds.



The flower on the top left, morphs into a winged fruit—top right. By fall the fruits roll into a reddish/brownish mass, similar to sumac plants, but hanging down.

Continued on following page

One thing to know about the Tree of Heaven—the wood is excellent for turning or slabbing into tables. The only trouble is finding a sizable tree that is up for removal. When you do, let me know, as I would like to see how this wood handles. We may have to outlaw this plant, just like congress did in the 1800s. The spread of this pest is epidemic, dare I say pandemic.



10X magnification



You Tube video-- good example of how to identify any wood. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fGnEuM_jHj4



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.



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.



Benefits of Attendance

5 classrooms with almost 50 rotations.

Tradeshow

Instant Gallery

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

you can also contact Al Miotke at al@segmentedwoodturners.org

Calling all Portrait Lovers!



We're excited to announce Bedford Gallery is now accepting art submissions for our spring 2023 juried portrait exhibition, *About Face!* The deadline to apply is January 26, 2023.

The practice of creating portraits dates back nearly 12,000 years to the Neolithic era. What began as plastered human skulls has evolved into paintings, photographs, and sculpture that not only capture the likeness of an individual, but also provide clues about the cultural and societal context in which the person lived. *About Face*, a juried and invitational portrait exhibition, continues this fascinating tradition using a contemporary lens to speculate how future generations might perceive the way we value beauty, power, and ultimately, what we hold culturally significant.

Eligibility: Open to all artists, 18 years of age or older, working in all media and all sizes.

Jurors: Zoë Latzer, Associate Curator and Director of Public Programs, ICA San Jose and David Reyes, Curator of Exhibitions and Collections, Huntsville Museum of Art.

Over \$2,000 in cash and prizes for artist awards!

About Face will be on view April 15 – June 25, 2023.

For application details visit bedfordgallery.org/art-opportunities/call-for-entries.



A Drill Jig for the Lathe

By John Lucas

Many years ago, I was building a flat wood clock and the plans showed how to drill holes for the numbers and insert a dowel. Cut and plane the dowel flush and you had a clock face. When I got into woodturning, I naturally wanted to do the same thing. I turned a face for my clock and carefully drew all the lines and measured and marked for drilling the holes on my drill press. I glued in the dowels and put the clock back on the lathe and turned the dowels flush.

When I got a new lathe with an indexing head, I wondered if I could complete the whole operation on the lathe. I designed and built a device to hold my drill bit aligned with the work and used the indexing wheel to position the divisions. The jig worked so well I started using it for other tasks, like adding round decorations to other projects.

The opening shot shows a few of the drill guides that I've built. Now let me show you how to build and use one. I'm sure you will come up with even more ideas for how to put one to good use.

The guide

Select a 1" - 2" (25mm - 50mm) square piece of wood about 6 - 8" (15cm - 20cm) long depending on the swing of your lathe. The objective is to be able to adjust the height of the guide so that the drill hole is on center to make use of the indexing feature. Mount the blank between centers and resist rough-turning the

1. Use the force of your tailstock quill advancing into a revolving bit to drill a guide hole. Make sure the bit is smaller than the Morse taper of your quill.



entire piece round! You only need to turn a 4" - 5" (10cm - 13cm) cylinder on one end to mount in your lathe banjo.

Drill one or more holes through the square end corresponding to the diameter of the drill bits you

plan to use. You can do this on the lathe by mounting a drill chuck in the headstock and pushing the piece of wood into the drill with your tailstock quill (**Photo 1**). This should drill a hole perpendicular to the square side. A



TOOLS: Drill jig

drill press will be a little more efficient at this particular task—use it if you have one.

That's all there is to building the drill guide. I prefer a hardwood like oak or ash, but in a pinch I have used pine and it works for one or two uses.

When I decided I was going to do a lot more of this type of work I built a drill guide with a metal tool post and off set it so that I could reach more places (**Photo 2**).

In use

The only thing easier than building the guide is using it. Just place the drill guide in your banjo. Put a drill bit in the guide and align it with the hole you want to drill. Chuck your chosen bit in a hand drill and bore the hole (**Photo 3**).

Doweling tips

There are some tricks to aid with drilling the hole exactly where you want it to be. The first tip is to use an index wheel of some sort (**Photo 4**). If your lathe doesn't have indexing, you can make your own guide or buy one of the commercial index wheels. Using an index wheel, you can easily divide your circular piece into any number of positions for drilling holes. I prefer to use my homemade index pin to position the wheel. You can see it under the yellow Flutemaster wheel.

Commercial dowels are rarely perfectly round—glue a slightly oval dowel in a round hole and it's pretty obvious. One solution to this problem is to make your own doweling jig. This is a piece of steel plate with a hole drilled through it matching the dowel size you need. Having

INDEXING PIN

For more on building a shopmade indexing pin, check out the author's August 2019 article in *American Woodturner*, 34(4):24-25.

Design variation



2. Many variations on this simple theme are possible. This metal and wood jig is intended to be more durable, and it features an off-set post that provides more options for positioning the guide.

Using the guide



3. The guide is mounted in the banjo in use, replacing the toolrest. Note the use of an indexing guide and pin, mounted behind the chuck.

Index wheel adds precision



4. From left, the Flutemaster wheel is the least expensive and does a great job, but you have to build some sort of index pin holding device. The Alisam is well made and the quickest to set up. The Chefware Kit is the most versatile and easiest to use.

TOOLS: Drill jig

Make your own dowels



5, 6. Make a doweling jig from a small piece of bar stock. Enlarge the upper length of the hole to make starting the dowel easier--it's the bottom 10 percent (or so) of the hole that does the actual sizing. You'll need a firm clamp or vise, as force is required to drive the dowel stock through the hole.



7, 8. An alternative approach is to purchase a commercially made plug cutter. With the aid of a drill press you can take an assembly line approach. Plugs can be broken free or cut free with a bandsaw.

drilled the initial hole, you enlarge the top 90 percent of the hole with a slightly over-sized bit (don't drill all the way through!). The enlarged hole helps start the dowel stock (**Photo 5**). You may have to taper the first 1/4" (6mm) of the dowel to make it easier to start. Then you simply push or drive the dowel through this hole and it comes out perfectly round and sized to fit (**Photo 6**). If you start with a square billet or a dowel that is too large you may have to drill a series of holes from large down to the size you want and drive the dowel through each one to gradually reduce its size.

Another option is to purchase a drill plug bit (**Photo 7**). There are two styles on the market. One makes a perfect straight sided plug and the other makes a tapered plug. The tapered plugs fit your holes perfectly and don't leave any gaps. The downside to these is your piece must be finish-turned and all you have to do is level the

plug to the surface. If you start removing too much wood for additional shaping you can cut into the tapered portion of the plug and leave an unsightly gap. The straight-sided plugs fit the holes pretty darn accurately and you can easily cut into them and not get a gap. I use these when I want to cut a slight concave or convex area in the plug after it's glued in.

To make the dowel plugs, you simply take a piece of wood and drill a series of plugs. The plugs remain attached at their base to the stock material, and you can often pop them loose using a flat blade screwdriver to break the wood across the grain. I prefer to use my bandsaw and just cut a slot across the bottom of the plugs and they fall out (**Photo 8**). I prefer to slightly round-over the bottom end of the straight-sided plug to make it easier to install in the holes. I use my disc sander for this but be careful; it's easy to erase your fingerprints when holding

TOOLS: Drill jig

these short dowels—don't ask me how I know. The plug cutters offer the advantage of being able to drill into endgrain and produce plugs with a distinctly different appearance. Endgrain also soaks up dye differently than facegrain, producing even more contrast.

I often make my own dowels because I like to drill the hole at an angle to the face of the piece, and this orientation requires a longer dowel. When I turn the angled dowel flush, the dowel appears to be oval. I often use this trick to mark the 12, 3, 6, and 9 o'clock positions and use the round dowels for the other numbers. The angled dowel can also be used decoratively as on this hand mirror (**Photo 9**).

Drilling holes at an angle can be difficult because the drill bit will try to wander. I glue a scrap piece of angled wood to my project oriented so the drill bit can start square to the scrap wood before reaching the project. This

prevents the bit from wandering and minimizes tearout. After gluing the dowels in, I turn all of the scrap away (**Photo 10**). Another variation is to drill all the way through a piece and insert long dowels (**Photo 11**). Turning away material to expose the side of the dowels creates an interesting appearance (**Photo 12**).

There are many other options. You can drill into a project at random or you can lay out a pattern for dowels such as this ornament sphere (**Photos 13, 14**). I'm not sure about the Christmas spirit, as after placing the dowels it strongly resembled a naval limpet mine.

I have a gazillion other ideas for how to use dowels in turnings and by now you probably do, too. I hope this makes it easy for you to add them to your projects. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

Drill angled holes



9. Inserting dowels into angled holes creates visual interest by deviating from the expected roundness of turned objects.



10. To create angled holes for dowels, use a shopmade jig to align the drill bit and prevent it from wandering.



11, 12. Another approach is to drill straight holes for the dowels, then turn the object to reveal the inserted dowel. With the blank cut at an angle, the dowels themselves appear to vary in diameter.



TOOLS: Drill jig

Turn away excess material



13, 14. The dowels in this ornament were laid out systematically—you can see the carefully drawn grid pattern on the blank and the resulting ordered appearance.



Retired photographer John Lucas (seen at left with his drill guide) has been working in wood for more than 35 years and also dabbles in metalworking. He enjoys modifying machines, making tools, and sharing his knowledge through written articles and videos. He has taught classes at John C. Campbell Folk School, Arrowmont, and The Appalachian Center for Craft.