

BAY AREA



WOODTURNERS
ASSOCIATION
A CALIFORNIA NONPROFIT CORPORATION
LOCAL CHAPTER AAW

August 2023

Volume 27 Issue 8

Turn for Troops
August 12th
8:30-2:30

Our August 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. There will be assistants available to help anyone who has never turned a pen before and assist with pen assembly as well.

The event starts at 08:30 in Room 108 at the Pleasant Hill Middle School.

We hope to see you there!

2022 Turn for Troops Photos



Joel Albert



Cindy Navarro



Larry Batti



Martin Gibb



Connie Klein



Bob Nolan



Embellishment



A hive of activity



The finished product



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Club Meetings

Club Meetings-

Meetings are generally held on the 2nd Saturday of each month. We meet in person. Meetings are held at the PHEC Woodturning Center at 1 Santa Barbara Road, Pleasant Hill, CA. The doors open at 8:30am. The meeting start time is 9:00am. See our website at bayareawoodturners.org for more information.

Guests are welcome to attend in person by request to: membership@bayareawoodturners.org.

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.

2023 Event Schedule

August 12th	Turn for Troops 8:30AM-2:30PM
September 9th	Jean-Louis Meynier Captive Wooden Spheres 8:30AM-12:00PM
October 14th	John Cobb Hollowforms 8:30AM-12:00PM
November 11th	Turnathon 8:30-2:00

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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Summer Picnic

Different month, different site, but the same joyous celebration.

BAWA held its annual summer picnic this July at Pleasant Hill Park. It was a beautiful sunny day but cool enough to require jackets. This was not our traditional site. Dining was in the shade of a pavilion and ‘facilities’ were closer. There were tons of wood and tools for sale. There were tons of delicious food headlined by burgers and sausages.

Seven answered the president’s challenge to turn a useful item and there were many other superb items for Show and Tell. Thanks to President Steve Griswold for managing the wood sale and MCing the event. Thanks to the cook, Peter Nakatani, and his TAs, John Langen and Vern Stovall, the organizer Larry Batti, and all who contributed time, effort, food, and drink.

Here are a few pictures from the event.



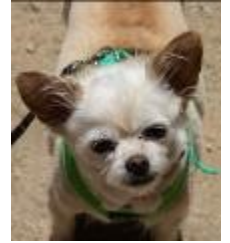
Rough Outs for Sale



Wood for sale



Scoping out the goods



Canine corp



Smiles all around



Spalted wood



Master Grillers



The Wolcotts



Desserts



Mmmm Good



Helping themselves



Movin’ down the line



Fun for



Chowing down



Watching Show and Tell



Lined up for eats

Continued on following page

Summer Picnic President's Challenge



Robin Hirsh-Tamper



Larry Batti-Scoop



Michael Hackett-Club



Joel Albert-Utensil box



Peter Nakatani-Bottle holder



Carl Mercer-Emerging Clock



Bob Bean-Spatulas





President's Letter

August 2023

Happy summer everyone! As you know, Room 108 is getting a new roof even as we speak. Despite this, we have had two great events so far this summer: the Malcolm Tibbetts demo at the Loma Vista Adult Ed Center and the picnic in July. Coming up on August 12 we will be back in Room 108 for our annual Turn for Troops, which is always great fun for a good cause. In that regard, BAWA member and Store Manager, Rick Kalish sent me this: "By the way, I recently received a message from an Army member who recently got a pen from a Red Cross office in Europe which had my note and e-mail message with it. He selected this particular pen because it had my note with it! Fun to finally get a reply from a service member who got one of the pens we turned in the past."

I know we all wonder who might have received any one of the many pens we turn, and I agree it's pretty cool to have received that message. What a great event Turn for Troops is, and as always here's a huge shout-out to Jeff Tanner who organizes it each year and to all the volunteers who help out!

One other unofficial event undertaken by BAWA members this summer was a two-day workshop sale we organized for long-time member Jack Giolitti who is moving into a retirement community with his wife Carol. This was another instance of the wonderful volunteerism and camaraderie that characterizes our BAWA community, and we wish Jack all the best in this next stage of life.

Stay safe, keep on turning, and see you at Turn for Troops!
Steve



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.





BAWA NEWS & NOTES



Beneath the Bark Call for Art

BAWA Member Showcase ,Orinda Library Gallery, January 2024

Seeking all types of turnings: sculptural, functional, segmented, ornamental, green-turned, etc. created by BAWA members for a group exhibition from January 2, 2024 - February 1, 2024.

Submissions should showcase the beauty or idiosyncratic / nature of the specific piece of wood, such as striking figure, bark inclusions, voids or hollows in the wood, etc. All works must be original and not previously displayed at the Orinda Library Gallery.

How to submit your work

Deadline: November 10, 2023

Email photos of your work to Kim Wolfe at bawacommunityoutreach@bayareawoodturners.org

Photos need to be 300dpi (photos will be used by Lamorinda Arts Council to promote the show)

Include size of artwork in inches

Indicate if you wish to sell your work and price if not for sale indicate NFS (Lamorinda Arts Council requests a 20% commission on sales)

Artists may submit up to three pieces of work for consideration.

Notification of work accepted will be by November 12, 2023

Delivery of work

Deliver accepted work by hand to the Orinda Library Gallery on Tuesday, January 2, between 10:30 am-11:00am on January 2, 2024. You may also make special arrangements to deliver to Kim Wolfe in advance.

The work will be displayed in a locked cabinet and great care will be taken with each piece of art however the Lamorinda Arts Council requires each participant fill out release. BAWA, The City of Orinda, Lamorinda Arts Council and the Orinda Library may not be held liable for any loss or damage of work.

Take down will be at 10am on Thursday, February 2, 2024

Artist reception

Date to be determined. The Gallery requests participants provide finger foods and beverages. Additional information will be provided

TOOLS FOR SALE!

Contact Info: Bob Mellberg
1029 St. Helena Ave.
Santa Rosa, CA 95404
Cell: 530-318-3134
bobmellberg@sbcglobl.net

WOODWORKING TOOL CATALOG (Owners Manuals For All Tools)



**JET Dust Collector
DC-1100A/RC (mobile)**



**DeWalt 12 inch Compound
Miter Saw (DW705)**



**Walker -Turner 14 inch Bandsaw
(BN905) with replacement motor, Krieg
fence, and mobile base**



NOVA 1624/44 Wood Lathe



**Ridgid 10 inch Table Saw
(TS3650 Mobile)**



**JET 17 inch Drill
Press (JDP- 17MF)**



**Delta 6 inch
Variable Speed
Grinder on
Stand**



**Ridgid 13 inch Planer with
Wixley depth gage**



JET 6 inch Jointer (JJ-6CSX) on mobile base



**Craftsman Vacuum with
Cyclone Bucket**

Show & Tell July

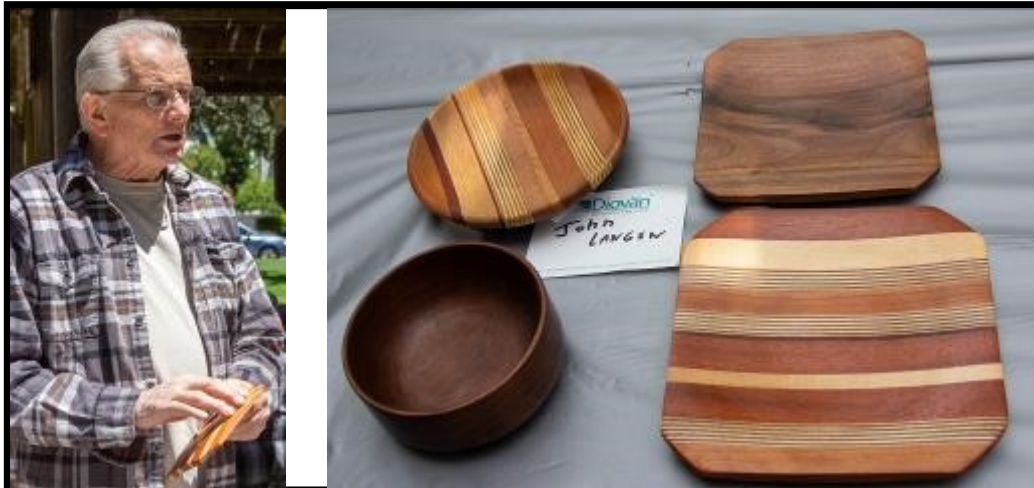
Larry Batti-Bowl & Box



Brad Adams-Bowl



John Langen-Trays & Bowls



Continued on following page

Show & Tell July

Michael Hackett-NE Crotch Bowl (top & bottom)



Carl Mercer-Segmented Box



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Turn bottoms of large-diameter bowls

I turned a large-diameter bowl, which necessitated removing the tailstock on my lathe. This presented a problem in finishing the bottom because the tailstock was removed. My solution was to make a large jam chuck. I cut a large circle from a piece of 3/4" (20mm) underlayment (dumpster diving at a construction site) and securely mounted it onto a faceplate. I turned a dado so that the rim of the bowl fit snugly. To ensure nothing moved, I attached two bungee cords. Worked great.

—Paul M. Kaplowitz, South Carolina



Continued on following page

Located in the heart of the picturesque Litchfield Hills of northwestern Connecticut is a bed and breakfast called 7C Herb Garden B&B. There are many bed and breakfast establishments in this area; it is a famous destination for experiencing classic New England countryside. But what makes this place noteworthy—especially to anyone interested in woodworking—

is its proprietor, Hansel Collins, and his wife, Alicia. At age 90 and blind, Jamaican-born Collins remains an avid woodworker and offers for sale skillfully made wooden kitchen items, hand-carved or turned on the lathe.

When I arrived at the B&B to interview Hansel, I thanked him for taking the time for me. "All I got is time," Hansel laughingly said in his easy accent. "Not much

money, but lots of time." It is evident that he is content with his life. He is not in a hurry, and even at 90 he appears strong and able. I am inspired.

We sat at his dining room table, which is in the oldest portion of the house—dating to the 1730s, with the original floorboards! Strewn across the table is a bounty of Hansel's woodcrafts: tasting and mixing spoons, spatulas, forks, salad servers, cutting and cheese boards, and letter openers, which were all hand-carved and sanded at the carving bench. There is also a turned wooden bowl, 18" in diameter. Its creation would be impressive for any woodturner, let alone someone without sight.

Hansel gradually went blind from glaucoma. In 1968, when he and Alicia bought the four-acre property, his sight had deteriorated to limited tunnel vision. To make matters more challenging, the old house had sat vacant for four years before the Collinses found it, so it needed a lot of work, which Hansel did mostly by himself.

A growing family

Hansel and Alicia moved to rural New Preston, CT, from Bridgeport, CT, because they needed more space for their growing family. Over the years, they had six children of their own, fostered twelve, and adopted three of the foster children. Hansel first told me about their kids over the phone, and when I asked again to confirm how many they had fostered, he replied with his characteristic humor, "Twelve so far." I told Hansel it is clear that he is not afraid of hard work, and he replied simply, "I grew up on hard work." There is no arrogance or resentment in the statement, merely factual acknowledgement.

If you visit the 7C Herb Garden B&B, you might hear firsthand the story of how Hansel and Alicia met and eventually married. Hansel came to the United States during World War II as part of a program that provided additional farm labor while civilians were called away



Blindness and age are no handicap for Hansel Collins, pictured here at the carving bench.

THE REMARKABLE HANSEL COLLINS

Joshua Friend

from their jobs. As it happened, a woman who lived near Hansel had the flu, so he offered his “home remedy”—quinine. The quinine nearly killed her, but even so, she and Hansel became friends.

That woman was Alicia’s aunt, and through her, he learned of Alicia, who was living in Kingston, Jamaica. He and Alicia began writing to each other and sending pictures. They could not talk on the phone; “that was not a privilege.” Eventually, he proposed in a letter, without ever having met her or heard her voice. When she accepted, he bought her a gown and a ring and made his way back to Jamaica, where they were married a week later.

When I expressed my surprise at their long-distance courting, Alicia was quick to remind me that they have been married for 57 years. She explains, “You get to know someone better by writing back and forth. When you have something to say to someone, even if they are in the next room, write it down. You have to think through it as you write it, so it is better than just speaking to each other.”

Working wood blind

After his vision was gone completely, Hansel became involved with The Connecticut Institute for the Blind (Oak Hill) to help him transition to living without his sight. They offered to supply Hansel with some wood-working tools and machines, on the condition that he learn to use them safely. So Hansel attended The Carroll Center for the Blind, in Newton, MA, which helps the blind achieve independence through rehabilitation and educational services. There, Hansel took a course on the safe use of woodworking machinery. Hansel told the staff at the Center that he had heard it is possible to cut circles on a table saw, and he wanted to

learn how. They taught him that—and much more. Shortly after the course, a truck arrived at the Collins’ house with machinery: a table saw, lathe, drill press, bandsaw, and more.

Hansel began to produce wooden kitchenware and sell it at the B&B. He uses local hardwoods, such as cherry and maple. Spoon and fork blanks are cut on the table saw. The tines of large forks are created with the workpiece standing vertically at the table saw, held against a miter gauge. Then he takes the work to his carving bench, where he hand-shapes each piece using carving chisels, rasps and files, and a variety of handplanes. Finally, the work is hand-sanded and mineral oil applied.

Showing me around his shop, Hansel dons a heavy work apron and ties the strings behind him. He sits at the carving bench and demonstrates the sanding of a large spoon. His right hand sands with rapid motion, then his left hand darts in to evaluate the result. The confidence of his movements shows it is a well-orchestrated and well-practiced process.

At the lathe, Hansel primarily makes bowls and plates to complement his line of wooden kitchen items. Although he received some education on safely using other tools and machines, he taught himself how to use the lathe without ever having used one prior to becoming blind. He had seen lathes in action; his brother was a wheelwright who made spindles on improvised, hand-cranked lathes erected in the forest, so he understood the concepts.

Unlike his brother, Hansel has the benefit of using a modern Delta lathe

with a heavy floor-standing toolrest. The headstock is angled and moved to the center of the ways so he can turn larger-diameter pieces. He has a small block of wood clamped to the toolrest that he uses as a guide for presenting his cutting tool. With the lathe off, he positions the tool and verifies its distance from the workpiece. Then he turns the lathe on and slowly advances the cutting tool into the spinning wood. After the piece has taken shape, he proceeds with sanding, also at the lathe, and works through to a fine polish. Finally, he applies a coat of mineral oil.

When I first heard of Hansel Collins—a 90-year-old blind woodworker from Jamaica—I thought I would interview him and just focus on the story of his craftwork. But, as it is with many woodworkers, the craft is part of a larger story. During our brief interview, I saw that there is much more to Hansel’s rich, remarkable life—his family, his work ethic, his gracious and persistent style. I was inspired just meeting him. So it seems fitting that now, with all of their children grown and on their own, Hansel and Alicia welcome people from around the world into their B&B to continue sharing themselves and extending their incredible legacy. ■

Joshua Friend, a woodturner and writer, is a member of the Nutmeg Woodturners League, an AAW chapter that meets in Brookfield, CT. See jfriendwoodworks.com for examples of his work and contact information.

To learn more about the 7C Herb Garden B&B, visit 7cherbgarden.com.



A selection of Hansel’s craftwork, mostly in cherry and maple.



Prior to turning on the lathe, Hansel uses his fingers to gauge the position of his cutting tool in relation to the wood.



Hansel and Alicia Collins, owners of the 7C Herb Garden B&B, New Preston, CT.

PENS

A Memoir

Patrick Dioguardi

What is a pen?

Had I been asked this question months ago, my answer would have been substantially different than it is today. I am in high school, and to any typical high school student, a pen is simply a means of transferring thought to paper or of completing homework assignments. Although pens are important throughout every day, I had never considered them significant—why would I when I find at least ten a day strewn about the school hallways and can buy a pack of twenty-five for less than a dollar? If someone had told me then that a pen could be a work of art, I might have laughed at the notion: *How could something so simple, so commonly overlooked be so wondrous?* It just so happens that I was recently enlightened as to how a pen truly can be a work of art. And this is how it happened...

Grandpa's hobby

For as long as I can remember, I was aware of my grandpa's uncommon hobby of woodturning. When I was younger, he would often show me examples of his bowls, tops, and ornaments and I remember being astonished by the elegance of his work. The uniqueness of every specimen's wood variety and grain patterns amazed

(and still amazes) me. Occasionally, he would allow my sister and me to watch him turning a top, which we would then decorate. He would tell us that we, too, could one day make beautiful creations on the lathe. I recall quite clearly thinking, *I will never be able to make anything that incredible on my own.*

In recent years, I had been feeling more pressure from my grandpa to take up the woodturning hobby as well, because he thought I was ready to learn the skill. Regrettably, I shrugged off his kind offers with a, "yeah, maybe later." Sometime before summer, though, I finally decided to let him teach me, and I am so glad I did. Not only do I enjoy turning and making marvelous wood creations, I feel closer to my grandpa, and it's great to know I am learning from one of the best!

First pen

After several lessons on woodturning, my grandpa asked if I would like

Patrick's zebra wood pen from his lesson with Mike Hachey.

Osage orange pen, made completely on my own!

to make a pen, a relatively simple task, which he thought I would enjoy and believed would be within my skill level. At first I was skeptical for reasons I have previously explained, but everything my grandpa made on the lathe turned out magnificent, so I knew I had to give it a chance. Once again, I'm glad I did.

Although he knew little about making pens, grandpa has many friends, one of whom is Mr. Hachey, who is an experienced pen maker. Mr. Hachey generously took the time to demonstrate the correct way to make a pen. It was wonderful how he let me make a pen as he explained the steps to complete it. I had a grand time creating this pen, and the excitement I felt as I pressed the two halves of the zebra wood together was magical. I couldn't stop smiling. Had I really made this? It was simply wonderful, and I knew I wanted to make more so I could feel this over and over again.

As of today, I have made more than fourteen pens, and with each one I feel more and more confident at the lathe. My latest accomplishment was making a pen from Osage orange, completely on my own—Grandpa didn't have to save me from a catch or turn the wood down to the exact diameter when I got too nervous. ▶



I am also able to make pens faster each time as I become increasingly comfortable on the lathe. My family and friends think my pens are amazing and are pleased when I give them as gifts. I have even sold some, although it makes me sad to see them go. I enjoy creating these pens so very much, and love to feel the joy of witnessing the final product, just as I did after assembling my first pen. I hope to be able to make many more pens in the future, and I hope my grandpa and I can share our love of this hobby together for years to come.

What is a pen? Well... this has become a complicated question. I have no definitive answer, for it seems a pen has



Pen and pencil set from stabilized boxelder burl

the potential to be many things. Surely, for many a pen remains simply a means of transferring thoughts to paper, or finishing homework assignments, but for me it is much more. A pen is art, it is beauty, and it is a symbol representing the times I was fortunate enough to spend with my grandpa in his wood shop. Sometimes, as I write with my first

zebrawood pen, I stop midsentence, lost in the intricate patterns of the polished wood, just thinking...

Patrick Dioguardi is a junior in high school, and is currently taking wood technology classes. He started woodturning in March 2012 and is a member of the Finger Lakes Woodturners.



(Far left) Mike Hachey gave Patrick his first pen-making lesson.



(Left) Patrick turning pen blank.



(Above) Patrick with his Grandpa Ralph.

(Left) Patrick Dioguardi examines his work.

(Right) Measuring the diameter of the pen blank.

