BAY AREA WOODTURNERS ASSOCIATION
A CALIFORNIA NONPROFIT CORPORATION
LOCAL CHAPTER AAW

September 2022 **Volume 26 Issue 9**

Alan Lacer
The Skew Chisel
September 10th
8:30-12:30

zoom & LIVE

Alan Lacer is world renown. Alan will be demonstrating one of most challenging tools in the woodturners arsenal, and one with which he has incredible talent for using. The Skew.

Bio:

Alan has been involved in woodturning for over forty years as a turner, teacher, writer, exhibition coordinator, demonstrator and expert witness. Alan has been an instructor and demonstrator, working in all fifty states and six foreign countries. His published writings—upwards of 150—cover a wide spectrum of woodturning from historical and cultural, technical and specific projects. His specialties include the skew chisel, sharpening techniques, finishing, lidded boxes and making/using hook tools. In 1999 he was awarded the Honorary Member Award for that year from the American Association of Woodturners for his contributions to the field. He has appeared on PBS in the series, Woodturning Workshop and on the DIY channel.

Sources:

https://www.alanlacer.com/
www.alanlacer.info
https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=al+lacer+woodturning









BAY AREA WOODTURNERS ASSOCIATION

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LOCAL CHAPTER AAW

Club Meetings

Club Meetings-

Meetings are held on the 2nd Saturday on each month. We meet in person with attendance simultaneously available via zoom. Meetings are held at the PHEC Woodturning Center at 1 Santa Barbara Road, Pleasant Hill, CA. The doors open and the simultaneous zoom session starts 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 or via zoom 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.

2022 Event Schedule

September 10th	Alan Lacer The Skew Chisel 8:30-12:30
October 8th	Alan Straton 8:30-12:30
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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August BAWA Picnic

The August BAWA picnic was a great success. Records were broken for attendance (over 60 folks – young and old) and Show and Tell (eleven – the highest in-person participation in years). The President's Challenge was taken up by nine turners who brought in spheres of all styles and sizes. Even the weather cooperated – the extreme heat of recent days held off.

There was lots of food and drink and fellowship. There was lots of gear and wood for sale.

Thanks to the cooks, Peter Nakatani and John Lawson, the organizer Larry Batti, and all who contributed time, effort, food, and drink. Thanks also to Jim Rodgers for MCing the festivities.

Here are a few pictures from the event.

Woodmeister Tony Wolcott

Karen Rice, Anna Duncan & Carl Mercer

Wood

Old Tools

Chowing Down

Steve Smyers, Michael Hackett & Peter Travis

Various Items

Chef Peter Nakatimi

President's Challenge: Turn a sphere of any shape, size or style

Garry Seidlitz

Jean-Louis Meynier

John Lawson

Bob Nolan

Carl Mercer

Hugh Buttrum

Larry Batti

Vern Stovall

Stephen Smyers

Alan Straton

October 8th Demo

8:30-12:30

The Artists' Voice:

I fell in love with woodturning a long time ago. At the time, I was a poor college student recently married and had no furniture. The university had a woodworking shop with a lathe. I learned how to use the lathe and made a living room set with turned spindles. We still have that furniture despite having moved back and forth across the country and recovering the cushions a couple of times.
A short time later, after graduation, we moved to Boston (Peabody actually) for a short term work assignment. One Sunday we bought a newspaper (remember those?) and I read the want ads. (This was very unusual for me.) I happened to see a note about a lathe for sale. We saw it and bought it. What a mistake! We lived in a small apartment and were expecting our second child.

Later I got rid of the lathe and bought a nice new one. Happy days, but work and family still came first.

Later yet, I decided to pursue the dream again. My children have all left the house and I have made the time to turn. Now, I make a turning video every week to post to my As Wood Turns web site and YouTube channel. There are over 400 videos now. Every year, I host a Christmas Ornament Challenge open to all crafts. This challenge is a lot of fun and helps celebrate Christmas. You too can join in the fun each November.

I am not a professional woodturner, that university degree was in accounting. I'm learning with each project. I decided to specialize in turning diversity. I like to try new projects and explore new frontiers. For example, I developed the Infinite Axis Chuck for multi-axis turning.

I want to share my dream with others I know are out there who also dream of making something beautiful.

Let's have some fun turning wood, just remember to be safe at the same time.

BAWA NEWS & NOTES

More BAWA members with woodturnings in local exhibitions

Jan Blumer and **Rick Nelson** currently have pieces in an ongoing show at the Moraga Art Gallery. A reception will be held on Saturday, October 15th from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. The Moraga Art Gallery is located at 432 Center Street in Moraga's Rheem Shopping Center.

Steve Griswold and his wife, Susanna, will be having a joint show at Orinda Books. The show will include Steve's woodturnings and Susanna's oil and pastel paintings. There will be an opening reception on Saturday, September 17, from 3:00 to 5:00 pm, and the exhibition will continue through the rest of September to the end of October. You can see samples of their work at: www.griswoldart.studio. Orinda Books is located at 276 Village Square in Orinda.

David Fleisig, another BAWA artist, announces an exhibit of his works coming November 5th at the Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563.

Put it on your calendar.

Faces of BAWA


Peter Nakatani


Jim Rodgers


Bob Nolan


Vern Stovall

President's Letter

September 2022

Greetings, everyone – I hope you have had a wonderful summer!

This has been a good summer for BAWA – we had the great Turn for Troops in July, and on August 13 we had our annual picnic. Rick Dietrich took photos and is providing us all with an article you can read elsewhere in this newsletter. I would simply like to thank all of our great volunteers whose efforts made the picnic happen, including Anna Duncan and Cindy Navarro for doing set-up, John Lawson and Pete Nakatani for manning the grills, Tony Wolcott for managing the wood sale, Jim Rodgers for MC'ing the President's challenge in my absence, Rick Dietrich for taking the photos and writing the newsletter article, everyone who contributed food and drink, and of course Larry Batti for putting the whole event together!

For our September meeting, we will have another internationally known demonstrator, Alan Lacer, who will be demonstrating mastering the skew. Again the meeting will be in person as well as on Zoom. I look forward to seeing everyone there!

Looking back on these summer events, I am again struck by what a wonderful community we have here.

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

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

For sale: Delta midi lathe model L46-250. Comes with custom cabinet and complete vacuum system. Includes extra tool rests, original owners manual and canvas cover. Price: $300

Contact Ron Sutherland at honestronn@yahoo.com or call 925-829-4046 or message at 925-876-5800

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.

ROCKLER
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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.

Bg Bedford Gallery at the Lesher Center for the Arts

Show & Tell
August

Fred Fogg

Larry Batti

Michael Hackett

Ray McIntosh

Continued on following page

Show & Tell
August

Jack Gioliti

Carl Mercer

David Fleisig

Tim Kennedy

Jean-Louis Meynier

Jaime Gracer

HOLLOWING THROUGH THE BOTTOM

Wes Jones

After making a number of bowls and spindle projects, many woodturners want to try their hand at hollowing. Hollowing techniques are primarily scraping methods and are most useful for making vases and other forms where conventional cutting methods with a gouge cannot be used. The typical approach is to hollow through the top of the vessel. I'd like to offer an alternative—hollowing through the bottom, which allows you to leave a very small (or even nonexistent) hole at the top.

After hollowing, a plug is glued into the hole in the bottom. By making the plug from similarly oriented wood from the same log and carefully fitting it into the hole, you can disguise the hollowing method very effectively. In this article, I show how to make a teardrop-shaped hollow form with a ⅜"- (10mm-) diameter hole in the top, but since this technique lends itself to a variety of vessel shapes, you can apply this method to any form of your choosing.

Wood selection

I like to use green, or wet, wood for these vessels, although dry wood can also be used. Position the log so the pith is exactly in the center of rotation at both ends. That way, the wood will dry and shrink concentrically and any warpage of the hollowform will be minimized. Select a freshly cut log with no cracks radiating out from the pith. The log section shown here, maple with some ambrosia markings, is about 10" (25cm) in diameter and 12" (30cm) long (*Photo 1*).

If you prefer, you can quarter a log and use a section of wood without the pith. But it is likely the piece would warp into an oval shape. If you do this, leave extra wall thickness to true up the vessel after it has dried.

Rough-turn vessel

Carefully position the log with the drive and live centers on the pith. For driving log sections, I find a 2"- (5cm-) diameter, two-flute drive center to be ideal; mine is made by Best Wood Tools, and it fits in my scroll chuck. Holding the drive

Straight from the log

Mount a freshly cut log with the turning centers on the pith. Rough out a cylinder and true up the ends.

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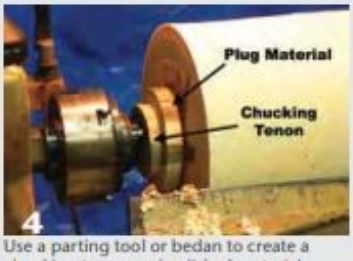
Make a plug



Use a parting tool or bedan to create a chucking tenon and a disk of material to later use as a plug. Using wood from the bottom of the workpiece will blend seamlessly with the vessel.

The author parts most of the way through next to the plug material, then finishes the cut with a hand saw with the lathe off.

Mount the plug material in a chuck and form a 10-degree taper to the approximate diameter of the hole you will hollow through.

center in your chuck is a great time saver. When you are ready to quit holding the work between centers and mount it in the chuck, the chuck is already in place.

Use a spindle-roughing gouge or large bowl gouge to turn away the bark. ***Safety Note: A faceshield is a must when turning away bark because large pieces can fly off and strike you in the face.*** If the log is very out of round, you may find a bowl gouge to be safer than a spindle-roughing gouge. Once the bark is removed, you can switch back to the spindle-roughing gouge to form a cylinder. Next, position the toolrest at one end of the workpiece and use a bowl gouge to true up the end (*Photos 2, 3*). True up the other end of the cylinder in the same manner.

Remove plug material

Mark off 1" (25mm) from the end of the cylinder to indicate the bottom of your vessel. The 1" thickness of material will be parted off and used to make the plug. Use a bedan or long parting tool to reduce the diameter of this material to the approximate diameter you expect to need for the plug. Then form a tenon to fit your chuck (*Photo 4*). It is very important to align the grain of the plug with the grain of the hollowform, so before removing the slice, draw a radial line on both ends of the cylinder from the center outward. These lines will be used later to align the plug properly.

Using your parting tool, begin to part off the 1" slice, widening the cut as needed so that the parting tool does not bind. Stop cutting when you have just a small section of wood connecting the slice to the rest of the cylinder. With the lathe off and the workpiece sitting on the bed of the lathe, complete the separation using a hand saw (*Photo 5*). Don't try to twist the slice off from the cylinder, as wood fibers would be pulled out of the center.

Remount the cylinder between centers, being careful to position the drive center exactly on the pith again. True up the cylinder once more if necessary, then form a chucking tenon on both ends of the cylinder. Remove the workpiece from the lathe.

Form the plug

Mount the plug material in the chuck. Using a small bowl gouge begin to form a 10-degree taper on the plug. This angle will make it easier to get a good fit in the bottom of the hollowform later. The angle of the taper is approximate and not critical at this point. I use a skew chisel as a scraper to ensure the surface of the taper is straight (*Photo 6*). Remove the plug from the chuck and wrap it in a brown paper bag to slow the wood's drying and prevent it from cracking while you are working on the hollowform. ▸

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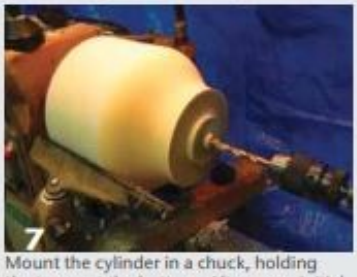
Drill spout, shape vessel



Mount the cylinder in a chuck, holding the tenon at the bottom. After some initial shaping, the author drills into what will become the neck, or spout.

With the tailstock brought up for added support, continue shaping the hollowform.

Shopmade Bevel Gauge

You can make your own bevel gauge from a thin piece of aluminum attached to a strip of wood with a screw and wing nut. Its adjustability makes reading and transferring bevel angles a snap.

Drill and shape bottom

Reverse-mount the vessel, now holding the spout tenon in the chuck. Drill a larger hole through the bottom.

Use a bowl gouge to form a tapered opening.

Hollow the vessel

The author's hollowing rig, a captured boring bar system.

Drill and turn vessel

Mount the cylinder in the chuck, using the tenon at the bottom of the workpiece. Position the live center on the pith at the tailstock end, as before, to ensure proper alignment, and tighten the jaws securely. Then remove the live center and install a drill chuck in the tailstock with a ⅜"-diameter twist bit. With the lathe running slowly, drill through the pith to form a hole that will be the spout at the top of the hollowform (*Photo 7*). Drill as deep as the drill bit will go, backing the bit out frequently to clear the chips. Remove the drill chuck and once again install the live center in the tailstock.

Bring up the tailstock to support the cylinder while shaping the outside of the vessel. Using a bowl gouge or small roughing gouge, begin to define the outside profile, leaving the neck of the vessel extra thick to provide support during the hollowing operation (*Photo 8*). Do not reduce the diameter of the neck any smaller than the diameter of the tenon at the top.

As you shape the bottom of the vessel, be careful not to get too close to the chuck. The shape of the bottom does not have to be perfect because you will have an opportunity to refine it later. The tenon on the bottom will eventually be removed.

Reverse the workpiece, now clamping the top tenon in the chuck. Tighten the chuck jaws loosely and rotate the workpiece by hand to make sure it will run true. The live center can be brought up to help align the workpiece. If it is not running true, lightly tap the bottom to improve the alignment. When the workpiece is running true, tighten the jaws securely.

Once again, remove the live center and install the drill chuck in the tailstock, this time with a large bit

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Refine plug hole

Set a bevel gauge to match the plug taper. Then transfer this angle to the opening at the bottom of the vessel. Refine this angle as needed using a skew as a scraper.

for drilling out waste from inside the hollowform. I use a 1½"- (38mm-) diameter ship auger bit, but you could also use a large Forstner bit with an extension to get enough depth. Carefully measure where you want the drill bit to stop. Hold the drill bit up to outside of the workpiece and determine the depth. You will have to imagine what the finished shape of the neck of your vessel will look like. Mark or apply a piece of tape on the shank of the drill bit (or extension) at the bottom of the hollowform. Now mount the bit in the drill chuck and drill out the waste through the bottom of the vessel, being careful to stop at the indicated depth (*Photo 9*). Remove the drill chuck.

Hollow vessel

Before you get your hollowing tools out, use a small bowl or spindle gouge to enlarge the drilled hole at the bottom (*Photo 10*). Make a tapered opening a little smaller than the diameter of your plug. But don't fit the plug just yet—you'll need to hollow out the workpiece first.

Any small- or medium-sized hollowing system will work on a vessel of this size. I use a shopmade "D-handle" captured boring bar system (*Photo 11*). As you hollow, leave the wall thickness at about ½", enough to allow for some truing up of the outside after drying if needed. There is no need to make the walls very thin, as the interior cannot be seen once the plug is glued into the bottom. The primary purpose of the hollowing process is to ensure the piece does not crack as it dries.

As you hollow into the neck, or spout, area, visualize the finished shape of this section. Strive for a smooth transition from the body to the drilled ⅜"-diameter hole in the top. No sanding of the inside surface is required.

Now shape the tapered opening in the bottom to accept the tapered plug. I use a very simple bevel gauge to help get the angles to match (*see Shopmade Bevel Gauge sidebar*).

Set the bevel gauge to match the angle of the taper on the plug. Then check the taper of the bottom opening and adjust as needed. Once you have the correct angle, it is a simple matter of gradually increasing the size of the opening until the tapered plug fits. You can scrape with a skew chisel to get the tapered surface straight (*Photos 12-14*).

Glue in plug

Glue the plug into the bottom of the vessel, aligning the grain to its original orientation. The tailstock provides clamping pressure.

Glue in plug

One of the keys to hiding the joint where the plug is glued into the bottom is to align the grain perfectly. Remember the vertical, radial lines you drew on each end of the cylinder? You can use these lines to rotate the plug in the tapered hole to get a really good match of the woodgrain. Mark the proper position of the plug at the joint.

This glue joint is going to be established in wet wood and must be strong and reliable since we are going to drive the workpiece using the tenon on the plug later. I have found that polyurethane glues work very well in this application. Coat the mating surfaces with glue, carefully rotate the plug to align the grain, and use the tailstock to clamp the plug in place (*Photo 15*). The ▸

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polyurethane glue will foam as it reacts with the moisture in the wood and will fill any slight irregularities in the mating surfaces.

Shape the neck

After the glue has dried, you can begin the final shaping of your hollowform. Chuck the workpiece by the tenon on the plug. Bring up the tailstock (using a cone center if possible) on the spout to align the workpiece before tightening the chuck jaws. True up the outside of the vessel if necessary.

Using a bowl gouge or small spindle-roughing gouge, shape the neck of your hollowform (*Photo 16*). As you do this, try to visualize the shape you made as you hollowed the inside. Remember that you have a ⅜" hole in the spout. Remove the live center and shape the spout using light cuts, bringing the outside diameter at the top to ½" to ⅝" (16mm).

Sand the vessel

Sand the outside of the vessel (*Photo 17*). If the wood is too wet to sand, you may have to wait a couple of days for it to dry a little. One drying trick I use is to put a small air hose connected to an aquarium air pump into the spout. Let it run for a day or two. The slow airflow will help to dry out the hollowform from the inside. Put the vessel into a brown paper bag and scrunch the top of the bag around the spout to equalize the moisture content around the vessel and slow the drying rate of the outside surface.

Shape and complete bottom

To turn the bottom of the vessel, we need a way to hold the work and drive it from the spout. I use a small jam chuck with a rubber O-ring to grip the outside of the spout. You can purchase a thick O-ring from your local hardware store; look for one with an inside diameter of about ¾" (19mm).

To make the jam chuck, cut a square piece of wood that will fit into your chuck. If necessary, turn a tenon on the jam chuck for mounting. Depending on your chuck, turning this tenon may not be necessary. Chuck the piece of wood and drill a clearance hole through the center. Then, using a skew chisel or scraper, turn a small recess around the hole to accept the O-ring. Make sure the clearance hole is large enough that it will not bind on the spout when it is pushed into the O-ring. I use thick or medium cyanoacrylate (CA) glue to hold the O-ring in place (*Photo 18*).

Put the spout into the O-ring chuck and bring up the tailstock against the bottom to hold the vessel (*Photo 19*). Use gentle pressure with the tailstock. We only want it tight enough to drive the vessel without slipping.

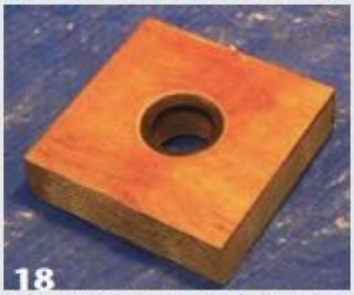
Using a small bowl gouge, turn away the tenon on the bottom and shape the bottom of the vessel, leaving a small nubbin of wood under the live center. Then undercut, or dish out, the bottom slightly so the vessel will sit flat without rocking (*Photo 20*).

Refine neck area, sand

With the vessel now held in the chuck by the base tenon, refine the shape of the neck/spout.

Sand the exterior of the hollowform.

Reverse-mount vessel



A shopmade O-ring jam chuck allows the author to remount the piece to complete the bottom. The spout fits into the jam chuck hole, and the tailstock holds it in place.

Continued on following page

Complete the bottom

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Turn away the plug tenon and shape the base of the vessel. Leave a small nubbin under the live center.

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Carefully placed V-grooves help to hide the glue line of the plug, leaving no evidence of how the piece was hollowed.

22

With the workpiece removed from the lathe, use a small hand saw to cut off the remaining nubbin of wood. A piece of cardboard protects the base.

Use the point of a skew to form a small V-shaped groove at the glue line. Make one or two other V-grooves on the bottom to help disguise the actual location of the glue joint (*Photo 21*).

Use a small spindle gouge to cut the nubbin down to a little cone. Then remove the vessel from the lathe and use a small saw to cut off the nubbin. I typically place a small piece of lightweight cardboard with a hole in the center over the nubbin to prevent the saw from scarring the bottom of the vessel (*Photo 22*).

Final steps

Use a small sanding disk in a drill press or hand drill to finish-sand the bottom of the hollowform. Hand-sand the vessel in the direction of the grain if needed. The inside of the spout can be sanded also, using a small custom flap sander. Using a ¼"- (6mm-) diameter dowel 6" (15cm) long, cut a slit with a fine saw in one end about 1½" long. Put a small piece of sandpaper in this slit and wrap the paper around the dowel. Chuck this dowel in a drill press or hand drill to sand inside the spout (*Photo 23*). Be sure the sandpaper wraps around the dowel in the direction it will rotate.

Sign your vessel on the bottom and finish it with your favorite finish. I like to apply several coats of a hand-rubbed oil finish, such as Waterlox, over several days. When the finish has built up sufficiently and does not show any "flat" areas, you have put on enough finish. You can then buff it out if you want a high gloss finish. I have also used walnut oil to provide a lower luster finish.

Your completed vessel is sure to prompt lots of questions at your next club meeting. When your friends ask how you hollowed it through such a small opening, just smile and say, "Trained termites." ■

Sand inside the spout

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A custom flap-sander made from a dowel reaches inside the spout.

Wes Jones has been a lifelong woodturner and woodworker. Living in Lawrenceville, Georgia, he is a member of three woodturning clubs in the Atlanta area and has served the clubs in various leadership positions. Wes has taught and demonstrated woodturning and has published more than a dozen articles on the subject. For more, visit wesjoneswoodturner.com, or contact him at wwjones@comcast.net.

(Articles courtesy of AAW)