



November 2015

Volume 19, Issue 11

John Beaver, November Demonstrator

Our November BAWA meeting will be Saturday, November 14 from 8:30 to 4:00 p.m. Our featured demonstrator is John Beaver.

John, a native of the Southern California coast, has been inspired and influenced by the motion of waves in the pieces he creates. His turning began on an inherited lathe with some glued pieces of wood resulting in a small vase. Later with classes at the Center for Furniture Craftsmanship in Maine he realized the potential of adding both visible and tangible dimension to the walls of a bowl. From this, John's career as a Hollywood cameraman and director was transformed to artist and woodturner. He uses local wood from his area, mainly sycamore, live oak and walnut with a very limited amount of exotics.



John's goal is to bring "life to turning," by capturing some of the elements of the ocean and more specifically – the wave -- to give the impression of a protruding wave and the notion of motion and rhythm. Everyone can make a bowl but his focus is to make a bowl which is more interesting, employing the use of multiple colors, woods, and textures to create his signature wave bowls.

John will demonstrate how he makes his "drunken" bowls, small bowls that rock on the bottom and incorporate his famous wave patterns. He will also demonstrate his protruding wave bowls and his flying rib vase. If time he will show how he makes is beautiful jewelry.





BAY AREA WOODTURNERS ASSOCIATION

A CALIFORNIA NONPROFIT CORPORATION
LOCAL CHAPTER AAW

Club Meetings

Meetings are the 2nd Saturday of each month unless otherwise noted.

8:30 doors open for setup, use store and library, swap ideas, view displays

9:00—12:30 meeting and demo

Meetings will be held at the PHEC Woodturning Center, 1 Santa Barbara Road, Pleasant Hill, CA.

See bayareawoodturners.org/ for directions and club information.

BAWA Officers Meeting -

Officer meetings are open to all members. Contact [John Cobb](mailto:John.Cobb@bayareawoodturners.org) if you would like to be on the agenda.

2015-2016 Event Schedule

Nov 14th	John Beaver: 9:-00-12:30
Dec 12th	Holiday Party: Auction and Raffle 11:30-3:00
Jan 9th	Jim Rodgers
Feb TBA	Eric Lofstrom: 9:00-4:-00
Apr	Ashley Harwood
May 14th	Tricks and Cheats
June 11th	Brad Adams

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.

President
John Cobb
president@bayareawoodturners.org

Vice President
Paul Litsky
vp@bayareawoodturners.org

Secretary
David Fleisig
secretary@bayareawoodturners.org

Treasurer
Joel Albert
treasurer@bayareawoodturners.org

Member at Large
Michele Freeze
membership@bayareawoodturners.org

Pleasant Hill Adult Education (PHAE) Liaison
Jim Rodgers
Jlrodgers236@comcast.net

Librarian
Cindy Navarro
librarian@bayareawoodturners.org

Membership Co-chairs
Hugh Bevin-Thomas, Karen Rice
membership@bayareawoodturners.org

Store Manager
Richard Kalish
storemanager@bayareawoodturners.org

Webmaster
Greg Ketel & John Cobb
webmaster@bayareawoodturners.org

Newsletter Editor
Louie Silva
newslettereditor@bayareawoodturners.org

Audio Visual

Woodmeister

Educational Coordinator
Jan Blumer
educationalcoordinator@bayareawoodturners.org

Pro Demonstrator Liaison
John Cobb
Cobbemail@gmail.com

Staff Photographer
David Fleisig
dhfleisig@yahoo.com

Social Coordinator
TBA

Mike Bulat Makes His Triumphant Return

It was a pleasure having Mike Bulat return to the Bay Area and present at our October BAWA meeting. He is still a BAWA member although his home is now near Raleigh North Carolina. Mike spent time in France as a woodturning student at Ecole Escoulen. There he learned many interesting techniques. The two projects he demonstrated for us both involved off axis turning.



His first project was a corkscrew handle. Starting with a 2 inch by 8 inch blank mark the center of each end (this will be axis 2), a point about 1 inch from the center of one corner to the end (this will be axis 1). Mount the piece on the lathe at axis 1. He basically turns a cove in each corner of the blank using a 5/8 inch detail gouge. Vibration is your enemy so a heavy spindle gouge works best. A bowl gouge would also work but cannot get into the corners. Carve the piece so it tapers from the center point to the coves in the corners. At this point you have to sand and finish this portion of the piece because once you change the axis it will be too late. Mike remounts the piece using axis 1 and marks the middle point. He uses his hand to determine the width of the center section so it will be comfortable for him to use the corkscrew. At this point he drills the hole for mounting the corkscrew itself. He uses a 7/32 drill and a jig to insure he has the center point. Corkscrews can be bought at Craft Supplies. With the piece now centered on Axis 2 he completes turning the center portion of the handle. The ends are turned using a bead cut. The completed piece is sanded and finished before parting off the lathe.



Mike's second project was an artistic 9 inch candlestick holder. This was a quite complex project that I won't try to explain since it has 32 steps and 3 changes of axis. He did leave a handout with instructions for the candlestick and the corkscrew handle.

Thanks to Mike for coming to the meeting and demonstrating these projects. It was a treat for club members to see him again and have him demonstrate these off axis techniques he has learned.



Holiday Party December 12th Winslow Center 11:30 - 3:00

BAWA's annual holiday party is rapidly approaching on December 12. As in previous years we will have a wonderful pot-luck lunch with catered main dishes, plus a big raffle and silent auction. I believe we are leaning towards Italian again but we are open to suggestions.



*2014 Best of Show
David Plemons*

The club competition (see detailed information below) is always a fun event with members showing off their good-stuff. We really want novice and intermediate entries as showing your work is an important part of improving your skills. The categories are Bowls, Boxes, Hollow Forms and Functional items. This year novice through professional levels are eligible to win the coveted Best-in-Show award.

Starting at the November meeting we will be selling raffle tickets for a chance to win lots of tools, wood, gift certificates plus the professional demo projects. In addition, we have Joel's famous silent auction that offers great wood, tools and events. We are looking for donations, so if you have something for the auction or raffle please bring it to the November meeting or holiday party.

Once again a big thank-you to Michele for coordinating the event and to all the helpers who make this happen.

Winslow Center: 2590 Pleasant Hill Rd, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523



BAWA members, the annual club competition is coming up at our Holiday Party on December 12th. We have simplified categories this year to avoid confusion and unscrupulous blue ribbon chasing of prior years. This year we will also modify the criteria for the coveted Best-In-Show award which will now be open to all entries not just the advanced category.

There are now two main skill levels

Advanced & Professional: If you have sold your work in a gallery or have won a blue ribbon in that specific class then you are in the Advanced & Professional category.

Novice & Intermediate: Anyone not in Advanced & Professional

Categories	Novice / Intermediate	Advanced / Professional
Bowls		
Boxes		
Hollow Forms		
Functional Items		

You can enter up to two pieces in a category with a maximum of 4 in the competition. BAWA members will judge the Novice/Intermediate entries and esteemed judges will preside over the advanced and best-in-show awards.

We would love to see everyone enter at least one piece which will make for a terrific event.

Presidential Ramblings

November 2015



This Saturday John Beaver will be our professional presenter who brings incredible creativity and ingenuity to woodturning. John has demonstrated at AAW Symposiums and Segmented Symposiums to packed rooms and his presentations always get rave reviews. I encourage you to look at his website (johnbeaver.net) and check out his “wave” vessels which he will demonstrate. I know a bandsaw is involved but from there I’m stumped at how he executes the “wave”. Given my recent fixation on sanding (yes I actually said that), I have no idea how he gets a perfect finish around the bands. Bring a notebook and grab a double espresso on the way in, there will be lots of great information. John’s demonstration is a full day, 8:30 to 3:30, so bring a lunch, buy lots of wood raffle tickets and enjoy a signature BAWA event.

Updates on a couple past topics I wrote about:

Color retention for Box Elder finishes. I tested three finishes, Polyurethane, Tung Oil plus a new varnish with UVA and HALS (hindered amine light stabilizers) that is designed to keep wood from turning brown. I put 1 - 5 layers of each finish on Box Elder test boards containing streaks of pink color. On the bottom of each board I put a strip of blue tape over the entire length to establish a baseline for each finish. The boards were placed on a sunny windowsill for 2 months.

Results: The pink under all three finishes is gone and surprisingly the pink under the blue tape is 50% gone as well. Unfortunately my conclusion is that Box Elder color is highly sensitive to UV rays and should not be exposed to natural light - regardless of the finish.

Bottom feeder gouges. After unsatisfactory performance of my flat english grind gouge used to finish the bottom of large bowls I reground a used up bowl gouge from 75 degrees to 65 and 70. There was a significant improvement in cutting at the new angles with 65 being a little more aggressive. I will continue to test 65 and 70 degrees then pick one angle and stick with it. These gouges do take a little time to master a perfectly smooth sweeping cut but once you get the skill it’s a great asset for bowl turning. One other side note, given the shorter blade of this tool, it has increased stability and is less likely to vibrate and chatter. If you have a used up bowl gouge, I highly recommend regrinding to 65 degrees and you will have a new tool.

I look forward to seeing everyone on Saturday. Don't forget to bring wood for the wood raffle and something for show-and-tell.

Turn on, my friends

John Cobb



Open House Art & Craft Sale

Join us for our Annual Event!

Great handcrafted gifts



Meet instructors



Chat with students at work



Visit open classrooms

Drawings for class tuition credits

Pre-register for Winter classes



Demonstrations

Saturday, December 5, 2015 9:30am - 3:30pm

Pleasant Hill Education Center

Mt. Diablo Adult Education

One Santa Barbara Road, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

(925) 937-1530

From Oak Park Boulevard turn onto Monteicello Ave., at the signal light by the library, & follow the signs.

TREE OF THE MONTH

TAXUS BACCATA ENGLISH YEWE



Yews are a favored tree by many folks, in particular English garden types as the yew is a staple as a dark green filler in Elizabethan gardens. For me it is a wonderful plant and a spectacular wood. There are drawbacks of course. Yews are shrub like so finding any size wood is difficult, and turning requires a close scrutiny of bark inclusions. Taxol is the oil derived from yews and is now being used to fight cancer. Having said that it is then not surprising that nearly all parts of the yew are considered toxic and poisonous to humans. It can cause eye, skin, and respiratory irritation, as well as nausea. I have worked some pieces of yew and not had any of these symptoms. Take this information with a grain of salt or perhaps a grain of wood.

Tree size is 30-50 feet tall, 1 to 2 feet trunk diameter. I must say that these sizes are hard to find here in California, but in older areas especially in Europe, some good size yews are possible, not common. If I ever found a yew big enough to mill, I would be ecstatic to have such a beautiful wood to do small woodwork projects. The heartwood is orangish brown, sometimes with a darker brown or purplish hue, darkening with age. Sapwood is always thin and a pale yellow. Yews grow slowly, so if you do come across one being cut down, realize how precious and old these yews are.

The grain of yew is straight, fine, uniform textured with a good natural luster. The wood is rot resistant, repels insect and borers. Easy to work but often you will find weaknesses winding through and the presence of knots can be problematic for some applications, but for wood turning this is an excellent wood.

There are some unusual usages for yew including archery bows, the preferred wood for longbows in medieval warfare for centuries. Yew is a good wood for carving, musical instruments (lutes) and of course turning. The wood is unusually strong but also flexible. Average dried weight – 44 lbs/ft³, Specific gravity (basic, 12% MC): .62 .71 Janka hardness: 1,600 lbf Shrinkage: radial:4.0 %, tangential: 5.4%, volumetric: 9.7%, TR ratio: 1.4

There are many yews, all are closely related. Yews in general have rich, dark green needles about one-inch long. These are dioecious plants with a male plant and a separate female plant. Only the female plant gets the scarlet red 'berry' in the fall. Yews are very tough tolerating both alkaline and acidic soils. The one thing yews do not tolerate is wet feet. The genus *Taxus* is a gymnosperm or conifer, so the 'berries' are actually female cones; and yews are erroneously called a 'softwood'. This is a very hard wood. You will commonly find yews planted as foundation shrubbery on both sides of a front door. They grow into good size trees and are commonly hacked down to keep them from looking like roof supports. Over time the multi stem trunks mold together and produce some interesting grain patterns although the bark inclusions can be troublesome.



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TREE OF THE MONTH (Cont.)

Common names abound such as English Yew, Irish Yew, Scottish Yew; although these are all the same tree. The Japanese yew is different (*Taxus cuspidata*), this yew is shorter and wider lacking the bright color of the *T. baccata*. There is a cross between the two – *Taxus x media* which is hardier. *Taxus baccata* typically gets to 40 feet tall, densely branched; the species is native to Europe, northern Africa and western Asia. You will see yews everywhere. And since they are mis-planted next to houses they can be salvaged for the spectacular wood.

Eric Meir has a new book out called **Wood**. It lists hundreds of woods and uses identification through the endgrain. For *Taxus* spp the endgrain (under 10x magnification) shows an absence of resin canals, a gradual earlywood to latewood transition, moderate grain contrast, no odor. He mentions *Taxus brevifolia* (Pacific yew) but mentions that it is difficult to separate from *Taxus baccata*.

To properly identify yews in the field, grab the needles and squeeze. Yews are pleasant and soft to the touch. Other similar looking plants such as junipers, spruces, cypresses will bite back when you squeeze them. Also look for dark green dense needles and dense branching. There will be several trunks but at the base with a little luck you will find a single useful trunk. In the fall the female scarlet berry is an easy way to identify.

A picture is worth a thousand words.



Craft Sale Donations Needed



BAWA members, The Holiday Craft Sale at the Pleasant Hill Campus is coming up December 5th. This is an important fundraiser for the woodturning school which helps keep tools and equipment up to date. Recent purchases of AV equipment definitely helps improve BAWA meetings with new HD cameras and TVs.

Please bring donated pieces to the December meeting - seconds and "good enoughs" are fine. Most sales are in the \$20 range.

If you can't make the meeting, you are welcome to drop off donations at the school office during business hours or at room 108.

Thank you!



By mid February El Nino will have us all *waterlogged* and begging for sunshine. What's the cure?

The Bi-Annual Desert Woodturning Roundup in Mesa Arizona:

Eight renowned turners will demonstrate in rotations:
Glenn Lucas Curt Theobald John Beaver Betty Scarpino
Andi Wolfe Rex Burningham Art Liestman Jason Clark

Also included are a live turning competition, a pen turning event, vendors, instant gallery, silent and live auctions. February 26 thru 28th, 2016. Go to (desertwoodturningroundup.com) for more information.

October Show and Tell



Paul Litsky-
Bowls With Gilding



Brad Adams-
Myrtle Vessel



Don White-Chickens



Gary Bingham-Lathe
Chisel Holder



Rick Kalish-Christmas Ornaments



David Hoag-Basket Illusion



(Continued on following page)

October Show and Tell Continued



Hugh Bevan-Thomas-
Tea Pots



Mike Vergino-
Segmented Plate



Bob Ackley-
Hollow Segmented Form



Bob Nolan-
Assorted Ornaments



CRAFT SUPPLIES 10% DISCOUNT ORDER

The 10% discount applies to any published price (including sale items, close-outs, etc.) and there's no tax and S&H is free on almost all items. Craft Supplies has a new catalog that includes new items with a different item numbering system. There have been some price increases as well so don't use old catalogs. If you don't have the latest catalog please look on-line to pick your loot and check prices and item numbers.

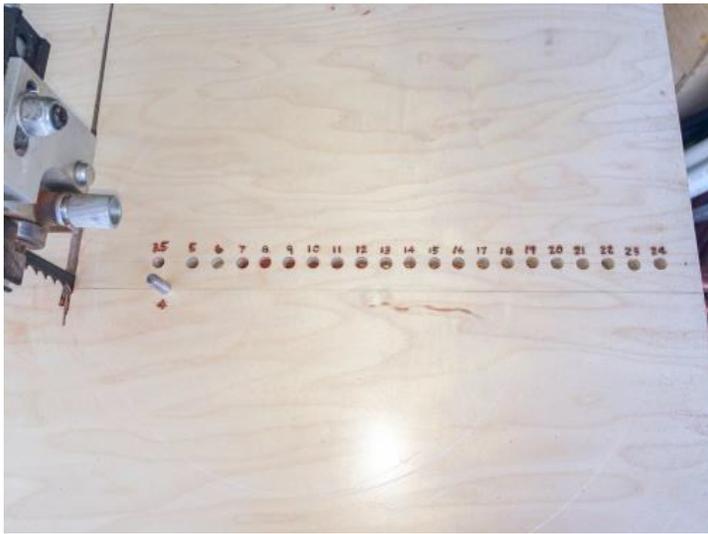
Orders are placed by filling out an electronic order form which is available on the BAWA website. E-mail the form to Dean Adkins (adkd@chevron.com) with all the requested information:

- Member name, phone number and e-mail address
- Catalog item number
- Catalog page number
- Item description
- Quantity ordered
- List / sale price (before 10% discount)

You can call Dean (925-998-4111) to place an order, but must follow up with an e-mail to confirm all the required information.

Bandsaw Circle Cutting Jig

Cutting circular blanks on the bandsaw is one of those skills I'm only so-so at. Even trying to stay outside a perfect circle pinned to the top of the rough blank, my edges are always pretty ragged, to be kind. I found myself in the situation that I would need to cut over 80 small round blanks from 8/4 stock. I don't relish working close to the blade anyway, but doing it 80 times seemed to be pushing the odds. Besides that, if I could cut more accurate circles it would reduce the following step or rounding it on the lathe. It seemed like a circle blank is in order. I remember Bob Gerenser had good results from one, but didn't remember the specific details. I Googled a few, but they were more complex than I need, with a sliding center



point, but had some good features, too. Beside my immediate need, I don't expect to need precise adjustments. Being able to cut logs into rounds with 1" resolution is fine for me, so I decided to go simple.

3/4" Plywood Sheet-to sit on top of the bandsaw table. This sheet is about 1-2" larger than my bandsaw table, hanging off in the front and right side. If I ever decide to make a sliding adjustment, I can route a groove insert a sliding center and have room for a clamp mechanism on the right side. The overhang in front allows adjustment room for the position stop adjustment.



Hardwood Runner-I used maple, attached underneath to ride in the miter gauge slot. It is sized to run securely but



smoothly in the track.

An Adjustable Stop-I inserted a threaded insert in a piece of wood and screwed it under the front side of the plywood sheet, near the guide strip. Insert a screw with an inch or more protruding and a wing nut behind it to lock it in position. My saw has very little clearance from the top of the saw table to the top of the guide rail for the miter fence, so I had to make this really skinny (the threads of the threaded insert show where I sanded it to final thickness after the inset was screwed in place.)

1/4" holes spaced for the 3 1/2" dia. I need now, and at 1" diameter (1/2" radius) intervals beyond that. Mark the diameter of the adjustment holes. I burned them in so they won't wear off.

Make a 1/4" pin to form the pivot point.



Construction:

Cut the rectangular sheet to size.

Cut the runner width to fit in the miter slot. I cut a groove on the bottom of the plywood sheet (optional) to fit the runner at the right position for the miter slot groove. (I was lazy and just kept moving the table saw fence in increments until the groove was a snug fit. It may not be elegant, but it's faster than changing to a dado blade).

Cut the thickness of the runner so however it is mounted to the plywood, it won't bottom out in the miter slot groove.

(Continued on following page)

Attach the runner to the sheet.

Mount the adjustable stop; I glued and screwed it in place.

Place the adjustment screw in place and lock it in position at the middle of its adjustable range.



Turn on the band saw and push the jig back until the metal adjustment screw contacts the bandsaw table top, and turn off the saw.



Mark where the back of the gullet of the saw blade teeth are relative to the table right at the cut just made.

Remove from saw and draw a line from the mark, to the right side of the plywood jig, perpendicular the saw curf just made. Mark $\frac{1}{2}$ ' increments along this line, and drill $\frac{1}{4}$ " diameter holes $\frac{1}{2}$ " deep in the plywood.

Make $\frac{1}{4}$ " pin of desired length to stick up as far as you want. It could even be a wooden dowel.

To use it, I need to drill a $\frac{1}{4}$ " hole deeper than the pin protrudes above the table in the blank. With the jig on the bandsaw and pulled out well away from the blade, place the hole in the blank over the pin and insure the blank seats completely, doesn't rock and spins freely. Turn bandsaw on, and push the jig with blank in place into the blade, until the jig contacts the stop position. Rotate the blank, taking care to keep hands, fingers and other pink things away from the vicinity of the blade. When the cut is complete, carefully pull the jig back out from the blade, letting the blade exit through the initial cut. Don't apply much pressure to the blade doing this because I've heard it is easy to pull the blade off the wheels while doing this. (I usually start the cut into cross grain so when the jig is in place against the stop there is end grain perpendicular to the cut. If the cut springs closed it is easier to break the waste material at the end grain). If the finished cut tends to be a little outside or inside the starting cut, adjust the stop position to move the center of rotation forward or back-ward relative to the blade.

Well that was a rather long winded explanation of something that took about a couple hours to build. Be careful, be cautious, and be safe, because bandsaws are great at cutting meat and bone.

Article Written by Mike Lanahan
Courtesy of Silicon Valley Woodturners
<http://www.svwoodturners.org/>