



# WOODTURNERS

ASSOCIATION  
A CALIFORNIA NONPROFIT CORPORATION  
LOCAL CHAPTER AAW

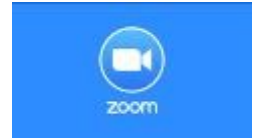


December 2021

Volume 25 Issue 12



**Craig Timmerman**  
**Three-Sided Bowl**  
December 11th  
8:30-12:30



Craig has been turning for two decades and has been a full time artist and production woodturner since 2008. His specialties include non-round turnings, hollow forms, spheres, lamps, and production gift items. Many of his pieces combine multiple turnings and bent laminations. He works primarily with reclaimed timber accentuating the flaws by making them the focal point of the piece, often filling them with crushed stone.

In December he will be demonstrating how to turn a Three-sided bowl.





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## Club Meetings

### *Club Meetings-*

Meetings are held on the 2nd Saturday on each month by Zoom conferencing. Invitations are posted to all members: guests are welcome by request to: [membership@bayareawoodturners.org](mailto:membership@bayareawoodturners.org) who will forward an invitation to the next meeting.

Zoom sessions open at 8:30am. The meeting start time is 9:00am.

See [bayareawoodturners.org/](http://bayareawoodturners.org/) for club information.

### *BAWA Officers Meeting -*

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

## 2021-2022 Event Schedule

Dec 11th	Craig Timmerman Three-Sided Bowl
Jan 8th 2022	Jim Rodgers Demo Subject-TBA

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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Staff Photographer  
Rick Dietrich

Social Coordinator  
TBA



# Barbara Dill's November Demo

Amazed and confused by multi-axis turnings? In November, Barbara Dill Zoomed in from rural Virginia to clear the air about multi-axis spindles. Taking a very effective approach of using PowerPoint and videos of her techniques, she was able to demystify her process.

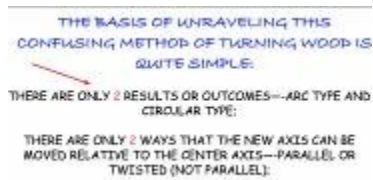
She began her demonstration with a PowerPoint presentation of the basics of multi-axis:

- 1) There are two types of cuts – arcing or circular
- 2) There are two types of off-axes of rotation – parallel to the center or twisted.

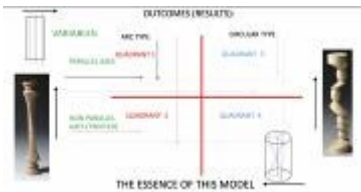
She gave numerous examples of how combining these cuts and axes can result in a multitude of different spindle shapes. She discussed the importance of properly orienting and systematically labeling points of the axes of rotation on a piece.

She then narrated a video of turning a 4-axis candlestick with a 60° twist. Her explanation was so well organized, clear, and concise that there were almost no questions during the demo. She also showed how she weighted the base of the candlestick with lead shot and yellow glue and how she fashioned a candle insert out of an annealed 3/4" copper end cap. She generously spent time after the demo to answer questions.

For more details, see the video of Barbara's demo which is available on the BAWA webpage Members-only section. Her book: Multi-Axis Spindle Turning – A Systematic Exploration, covers the theory of multi-axis turning plus numerous step-by-step instructions for various projects as well as a plethora of tips and examples of multi-axis turning by other artists.



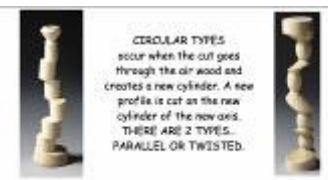
Basis of Multi-Centered turning



The four outcomes



Arc types



Circle types



Arc cuts with parallel axis



Parallel axis pieces



Twisted axis pieces



Example candlesticks



Drilling candle hole



Roughed out piece



Marking twisted axis



Preferred drive centers



Mounting off-center



Watching ghost image



Cut to desired depth



Sanding ends



Sanding sides



Filling with shot



Mixing in glue



Annealing copper



Completed insert

# President's Letter

December 2021



This is the last letter from me as President of the Bay Area Woodturners Association as Steve Griswold will assume this position in January 2022.

I would like to deeply thank the current Board of Directors for their tireless work in keeping the Association working smoothly during our most trying times – the Covid days.

Also, very importantly, a big continuing thank you to Louie Silva who each month takes time to assemble and publish our BAWA newsletter. I know there is time involved and he has provided this service for us for a continuing number of years. **Thank you, Louie!**

We have been able to provide more professional presentations, more frequently; but at the same time we gave up the opportunity to meet together and conduct personal exchanges.

While we will provisionally re-start on in-person meeting in January, there will still be limited attendance due to the need to minimize the room's maximum capacity. Richard Dietrich will provide a pre-meeting registration process to allow the first 25 registrants to attend in person.

While we will hold some meetings in person with local as well as remote demonstrators, other sessions will continue the successful Zoom demonstrations. A mix of both - allowing us to reach out further distances to access international demonstrators also.

Have a joyous holiday season and – stay safe,

JimR

## 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.



## Membership News

By Hugh Bevan-Thomas



We are now in December, and as of the writing of this newsletter we only have 36 members signed up for next year. This is way behind our usual renewal rate for this time of year, so I would urge all of you who have not yet renewed please do so ASAP.

Once again I will remind you of the methods of renewal.

1. You can use the BAWA website and follow the instructions for renewal using a credit card. This has not changed from previous years,
2. If you want to use PayPal then you have to open your personal PayPal account and make a payment to (treasurer Bay Area Woodturners Association)
3. As always you can send a cheque directly to our treasurer at the following address 1584 Webb Lane, Walnut Creek, Ca. 94595.

REMEMBER THAT NEXT YEARS DUES HAVE BEEN REDUCED TO \$30

For those of us who enjoyed the zoom meetings, among other information, **this price is a bargain**

## BAWA Classified Ads



We want members and others with items to sell or trade, services to render or if you're just looking to find a specific item from fellow BAWA members.

Please send ads to Louie Silva at:  
[newslettereditor@bayareawoodturners.org](mailto:newslettereditor@bayareawoodturners.org)

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

## Turning Pros at the Bay Area Woodturners!!

I'd like to thank those of you that participated in this year's Turn for Troops program! With Jim Rodgers and Jeff Tanner leading the way, the BAWA group accounted for a large portion of all the pens completed this year! There was a total, for the annual event, of 1000 pens completed and BAWA accounted for 110 of them! And it couldn't have been accomplished without your participation and Jim and Jeff's lead.

The Turn for Troops program was started in 2004 with the intention of sending pens to our military troops in the middle east theater so they could write home to loved ones. Over the years, the program has shifted, for obvious reasons, to the wounded military and now to those deployed on long tours. We have supplied thousands of pens to aircraft carriers and battle groups over the years! Your San Carlos store, through groups like yours and local high school programs and our Turn for Troops weekends at the store, have supplied over **15,000 pens** over the past 17 years, making us one of the top 5 stores in the 80 store company! And it's because of folks like you that take time to recognize our military heroes!

Happy Holidays and Keep on Turning!

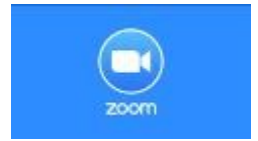
Regards,  
Eric  
Owner  
Woodcraft San Carlos





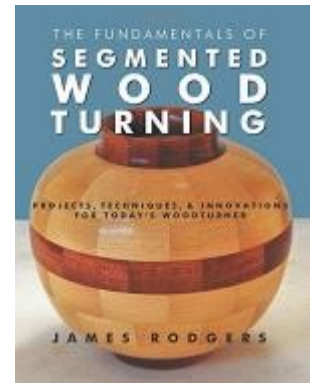
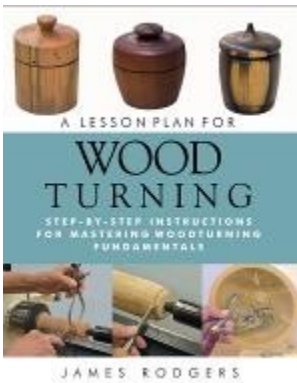
## Jim Rodgers

January 8th  
8:30-12:30



Jim, a local legend, has explored virtually every aspect of woodturning over his decades of experience. He is the long-time Head Instructor of the Mt. Diablo Adult Education Woodturning program and is the go-to person for any question involving turning, finishing, equipment problems, and more. His demonstrations are always fascinating and chock-full of information.

It is planned that this will be BAWA's first hybrid meeting with a limited number of attendees in the meeting room and the rest on Zoom.



### BAWA PURCHASE OF NEW DEMONSTRATOR LATHE

We are excited to announce that the BAWA board of directors has approved upgrading our demonstrator lathe by purchasing a Robust American Beauty lathe to replace the current OneWay lathe. The OneWay has a 16" swing whereas the Robust has 25" inboard capacity (60" outboard) with greater versatility that will allow our demonstrators to present a wider variety of projects. The Robust was chosen as the best fit for our needs as well as the best price in that class, especially after a substantial manufacturer's discount available to AAW clubs. We are also grateful to two of our members (who wish to remain anonymous) for major donations towards purchase of the Robust American Beauty!



## FOR SALE: FULL SIZE ONEWAY 1640 LATHE WITH ACCESSORIES

Bay Area Woodturners Association is offering for sale a full size ONEWAY 1640 lathe with accessories. This is the lathe used by demonstrators from around the country at the monthly BAWA meetings. The lathe is unique in that these internationally known demonstrators all put their signatures right on lathe.

The lathe, including the accessories below, is offered for sale as is for \$3000. It will be available for pick-up at the Pleasant Hill Adult Education Center upon delivery of BAWA's new demonstrator lathe, estimated for mid-February 2022.

To purchase, or if you have any questions, contact [secretary@bayareawoodturners.org](mailto:secretary@bayareawoodturners.org)

- Oneway 1640 lathe S/N HO 769
  - Tool rests: 1- 6-inch, 2-12-inch
  - 18-inch outboard extension
  - Outboard riser block
  - Outboard tall banjo
  - Moveable base (two adjustable casters and one towbar)
  - Dust collector attachment installed
- Supplies
  - 33mm faceplates (3 – 4-inch diameter, 1- 2-inch diameter)
  - 33mm Jacobs chuck
  - 2 spur dives (1 - multispur, 1 - four point)
  - Thread adapters (1 - 33mm to 1.25x8, 1 - 33mm to 1x8)
  - OW live center system (MT3)
  - Taper adapter (MT3 to MT2)
  - 33mm center locator
  - 33mm buffer attachment extension
  - Paddle spur drive



# Beads of Courage



Each bead in this photograph represents a procedure, event or milestone that this child has experienced in her ongoing fight against cancer. Imagine going through just one of these events...a bone marrow transplant, chemo therapy, radiation...now multiply that by the beads shown here! And yet she smiles, and there are thousands of children just like her!

The Beads of Courage program provides support to these children and helps give them strength to sustain their fight! BAWA's Beads of Courage box making program is one way we too, as wood turners, can provide them support, demonstrating through action that we care.

'Tis the season for giving, so if you'd like to participate, you can learn more about the program by clicking on the PDF under "Beads of Courage" on the front page of The Bay Area Woodturner's Association website, <http://bayareawoodturners.org/>. And if you have additional questions, you can contact Larry Batti at [larrybattiwoodturning@gmail.com](mailto:larrybattiwoodturning@gmail.com),

or (925) 997-9548

Oh, and in the world of giving, the Christmas season is year around, so if you don't have the time or just aren't feeling it right now, no problem! This is an ongoing program, so we accept and appreciate your art work year around!

Safe Turning and Happy Holidays!



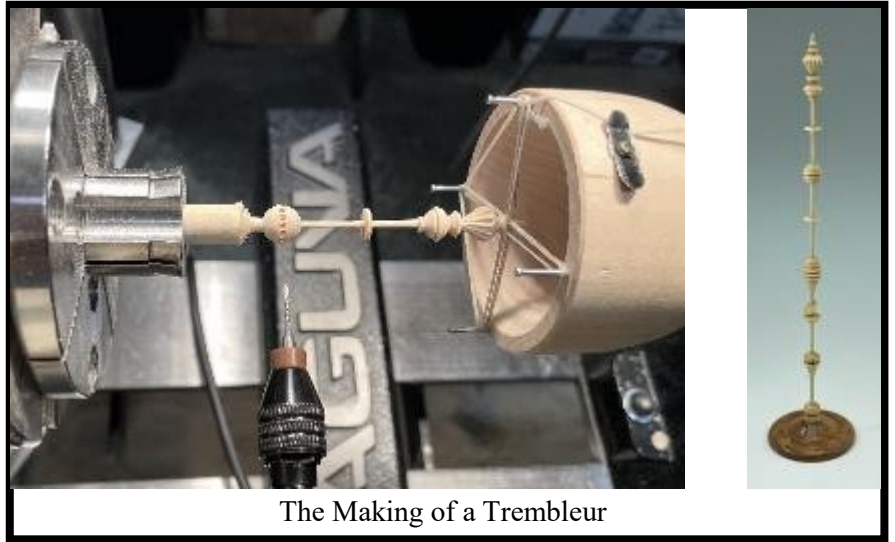


# Virtual Show & Tell November

*Dave Morris*



*Jean-Louis Meynier*



The Making of a Trembleur

*Carl Mercer*



*Gary Bingham*



*Vern Stovall*



*Dave Bentley*



## The “Universal Truths” of Woodturning (As I Know Them)

by Russ Fairfield

Photos by D.E. McIvor

These Truths I hold as self-evident. These are the things about woodturning that I have learned to accept without question. They are above argument.

While the list may already seem long with forty truths, I have no doubt that many more can be added as I become more proficient in woodturning. I also have no doubt that there will be arguments on the merits of some of those that I have included. There is no importance in their listed order; I wrote them down as I thought of them.

1 - There are only three ways to become an accomplished woodturner, and they are practice, practice, and more practice.

That practice will be easier with a copy of Keith Rowley's book, *Woodturning: A Foundation Course*, and learning to do everything that he discusses. Follow that with Keith Rowley's *Woodturning Projects*, and make all twenty of them. If you do these things, you will be well on your way to becoming a woodturner. There are comparable books and videos, but I happen to like these.

2 - It takes years to become an expert woodturner. Standing in front of a lathe, all day, every day, for twenty years would be a good start. Others may be faster than that, but most of the real experts have a lot of gray hair.

3 - Woodturning is both an art and a craft. The craft is in how the wood is cut, the tools we use, and how we use them. The shape of the finished piece is the art. Learning about other art forms



Public domain

Seek inspiration from other art forms—pottery, glass, sculpture. The traditional Pueblo jug on the left inspired the turned form on the right.

(pottery, glass, sculpture, etc.) will improve the art of our woodturning.

4 - Continue being challenged to learn new things. One year's experience repeated ten times is not the same as having ten years of experience.

5 - Never lose sight of the customer/user. Anything that is intended to be used must be usable.

6 - You can't cut wood with dull tools. The corollary is that the sharper the tool is, the better it cuts.

7 - Consistency is more important than the actual profile of the cutting tool. Otherwise, we are using a different tool after every trip to the grinder.

It doesn't matter what the grinding wheel is made of, how fast it spins, whether the tool is held in a jig or freehand, or if we use a belt sander or a rock, so long as the same edge profile is repeated every time we use it.

## PRO TIPS: Universal truths

8 - The speed of the grinding wheel doesn't matter. They all remove metal. The faster wheel removes it faster. There is some justification for the new woodturner to use the slower wheel.

9 - The color of your grinding wheel doesn't matter. It can be pink, gray, white, violet, blue, green, or whatever color. It can be made from aluminum oxide, silicone carbide, sandpaper, or a rock. They all remove metal. Some may be softer and require dressing more often to make them flat again. Others, like the hard gray wheels that came with the grinder, will require dressing more often to remove the glaze of embedded metal and "sharpen" the wheel.

10 - The color of the grinding wheel has no meaning. While all white wheels may be aluminum oxide, not all aluminum oxide wheels are white. They also come in a pale green, violet, pink, blue, and yellow, depending on the manufacturer and the dyes they use in the binders that hold the abrasive particles together.

11 - There is no truth to the myth that the gray wheels will damage the steel.

12 - A cheap grinding wheel is a cheap grinding wheel, whatever color it is. Good quality is more expensive. Lacking any other knowledge and

specifications, the price is a good indicator of quality.

13 - A 46-grit is a coarse wheel, and a 120-grit is a fine wheel. Take your pick for those in between. There isn't enough difference between 60, 80, and 100-grit to worry about it.

14 - Getting HSS to turn blue or even red-hot while grinding is not a problem. But, if you do, let it cool in the air. Don't shock it by submerging it in cold water because that can start micro-cracks in the thin cutting edge.

15 - Getting carbon steel hot enough to turn blue is a problem. That temperature allows the carbon to move around in the steel and it loses temper.

All is not lost when this happens, just get it hot again, immediately dip it in cold water, and then grind away the blue steel, keeping it cool this time with frequent dipping in cold water.

16 - Real woodturners do use scrapers. A scraper is a cutting tool, and it does remove wood. I can do everything with a scraper that can be done with a bowl gouge. It will take me longer, but the wood surface will be better.

17 - You can turn an entire bowl or anything else, inside and out, with a scraper. It just takes longer and there is no reason for the tooled finish to be any different from that of a gouge.



*You can avoid the whole color/composition tangle by using a set of CBN wheels. This type of grinding wheel was not available at the time Fairfield set down his 40 truths.*



*Don't be afraid to use a scraper, even if your peers are watching. Scrapers can remove wood safely and effectively and leave an excellent surface ready for sanding.*

## PRO TIPS: Universal truths



18 - Any wood can be turned. Some are just easier than others. On a scale of 1-to-10, I have yet to find a 0, but I have had some that came close.

19 - Don't turn bad wood. There is good wood and there is bad wood. Experience will teach us the difference. And, a high purchase price is not a measure of wood quality.

20 - Some wood will crack, no matter what you do with it. Neither soap, nor bags, nor magic potions, nor prayer will save it. And you will never know until after it happens.

21 - Cracking in wood starts long before we turn it on the lathe. How the wood was handled before is more important than what we do with it after it is turned.

22 - There are only two kinds of people. Those who are allergic to cocobolo and those who will be.

23 - Measuring the height of the toolrest is not important. Riding the bevel of the gouge on the wood is important. The toolrest has to be at whatever height makes that happen while the handle of the tool is held in a comfortable working position.

24 - Learning to use a skew chisel will teach us how wood is cut, and that will make all other turning tools easier to use.

25 - The walls of bowls and other vessels will become thinner and more uniform with practice, automatically. We will know when we are getting there because we just know it and we can hear it. Cracking and other drying problems will start to disappear at the same time. Some folks will never get there, and that's okay too. There is nothing wrong with using calipers.

26 - Don't make turning tools from old files, even if you understand the heat treatment of steel, know how to do it, and have the facilities for it. Every groove on the surface of the file is a stress concentration waiting to crack. Many

will have already started to propagate microscopic cracks through the file. No amount of grinding the grooves away, annealing or tempering the file will weld these cracks back together.

27 - Sanding is important. No finish can be any better than the surface that it is applied to.

28 - The finish will accentuate your mistakes and torn grain. It will not hide them.

29 - Sanding and finishing takes at least as long as the turning, and often longer. If it doesn't, you are either very good and don't need to be reading this, or your standards are too low.

30 - Wood cannot be made into something that it is not: waterproof. If you want waterproof, consider making the vessel from glass or porcelain.

31 - Before using mineral oil, keep the customer in mind (again). Ask yourself if you would want to use a salad bowl that was covered with the same thing that your mother gave you as a laxative when you were a child.

32 - That didn't do it? If you wouldn't put motor oil on the wood, why would you want to use mineral oil? They are the same thing.\* (This one always sparks an argument!)

33 - There is no such thing as a food-safe finish. Somewhere, sometime, someone will be found who has an allergy to anything that we can put on the surface of a piece of wood, or to the wood itself. If it is considered as being safe, it's because that person hasn't been found, yet.

34 - Woodturners and chemical companies are the only people who believe that "All finishes are food-safe after the solvents have evaporated." Try explaining this logic to a generation of folks who believe that their

*\*Ed. note: Motor oil and mineral oil are different distillation fractions of crude oil. Point is, you may want to pause before applying a non-curing derivative of crude oil to your woodwork.*

## PRO TIPS: Universal truths

health has suffered from "Better living through chemistry."

35 - If the bottom isn't finished, the piece isn't finished. And, a flat surface from a belt sander or a glued-on piece of felt is not a finish.



*The bottom of a vessel should be at least as interesting as the top. Do something to delight the viewer.*

36 - If it isn't signed, it isn't finished. If you don't think enough of it to sign your name, nobody else will think much of it either.



*Sign your work, including the date. Use a pyrography tool, engraver, or permanent pen.*

37 - Always wear face and eye protection, even while sanding. You never know when a piece of wood will explode, and the heat from sanding can be enough to do it.

38 - Do not sand without covering your nose and mouth with a respirator or air filter that



*Protecting your lungs and eyes is critical. Damage to your lungs may not manifest itself for 20 years or more.*

is approved for fine wood dust. A cheap paper mask is neither. If you think that this isn't important, come back in 20 years and tell me again that it isn't.

39 - I have never met a woodturner that I didn't like. There have been a few that have pushed that statement to the limit, but in the end, they are all good folks.

40 - Never do anything that you wouldn't want to read about in the next morning's newspaper.

*Russ Fairfield was an accomplished and well known woodturner who lived in Post Falls, Idaho. He was a member of the American Association of Woodturners and the Inland Empire Chapter. He did much to widely share his expertise on many aspects of woodturning, including articles on sanding, finishing, form and design, sharpening, projects, and technique. Russ passed away in 2011, and we all lost a wealth of his experience and knowledge. Many of his written articles are still available through Wood Central, The World of Woodturners (WOW), and the American Woodturner archives.*



**HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**  
**From BAWA**