

# SOUTH BAY WOODWORKERS' NEWS

Volume 25, Issue 3

March 2017

## Presidents Column

By Jay Perinne

**S**o I have a great story from my turning instructor Stuart Batty at Craft Supplies USA in Provo, Utah (thanks to SBWW member Tom Gaston for suggesting I take this one week class from February 27-March 3rd - yes in the middle of WINTER in Utah replete with snow and scraping windshield in morning at motel just to drive to class and engine is barely warm by the time you arrive at class).



So Stuart is the son of another famous woodworker Alan Batty (from England, he passed away just a year ago). Stuart's dad Alan was trained to be a turner (spindle turning but somewhere along the line he learned bowl turning which in the trades is a Different trade!) the TRADITIONAL way through a six year Apprenticeship where the family of the apprentice PAYS the master to teach the son skills through apprenticeship. Not sure how long he had to sweep the floors before he could use a power tool! So Stuart does an apprenticeship with his father and somehow because he is the son he gets to earn some money by the piece instead of paying the master for lessons. The protocol was that his dad comes to his lathe and says like "here is how to do this - now you do it. Ok, good, keep doing that in exactly the way I just taught you and Alan would return to his own lathe and work on projects".

Now Stuart pointed out that at the time of his early apprenticeship there were NO BOOKS on turning. There were no videos or movies on turning. One ONLY learned turning from masters in the trade. But because Stuart is getting some money by the piece (essentially he is helping his dad get product out the door) AND is the son of the Master Turner - Stuart studies what he is doing and realizes IF he sharpens his tool to a different angle he can accomplish more and speed up his work. He asks his dad, "You are paying me by the piece, correct?" Yes, son. Well I

want to do it a different way with the tool I will sharpen differently and cut down on the production time. His father somehow relents but is skeptical and Stuart goes down the road of sharpening at a 40% angle (for which he is now well regarded by the way) and indeed reduces production time but his dad does not totally accept his method but is ok as long as the work gets done and they are paid.

## This Meeting

Tuesday  
March 28

By  
Sid Dunton  
Mike Wirth &  
Bill Whittemore

At  
The Saratoga  
Federated Church  
at 7:00 pm

## Next Meeting

Tuesday  
April 25

By  
Tom Gaston,  
Ed Vincent &  
Tracie Johnson

Think about your shop  
experience of the last month  
and give us a 10 second  
explanation of something  
important you learned.

So I asked Stuart at the break "What if he (Stuart) was an apprentice to someone OTHER than his Dad?" (I basically figured out that his dad had another apprentice who had started a different year so the other traditional apprentice and Stuart were not being 'taught' technique at the same time. Stuart's answer was an emphatic: "I would have been fired at that moment - NO ONE in the Apprentice world was to do ANYTHING DIFFERENT than exactly the way the master learned and that was that". So we in the amateur world are very fortunate Stuart was an Apprentice to Alan Batty or I would not have the privilege of studying with him and he would probably have had to enter another trade or hold his tongue until he became a journeyman turner and began experimenting at that time (probably would have dropped the idea by then).

Hooray for him being allowed (a clear exception) questioning and thinking about the cutting angles, the bevel angles and how the work is done. And now hooray for books, videos and week-long classes - even in the middle of a freezing winter in Utah. IT WAS FUN and I learned a lot. Just saw Stuart again last week at the Oregon Turning Symposium and think his technique (called pushing instead of pulling) is a good one!

Jay Perrine

## This Month's Program:

Minutes February 28, 2016

### Guests:

There were no guests this evening.

### Announcements:

**S**yd Dunton is in possession of a spatula that was left at the Christmas party. If you are missing one, it may be the one that Syd has.

### Program:

**T**he demonstration was given by Bob Bley, a member of the West Bay Woodturners. The technique that he showed us is called "Lichtenberg fractal



burning". A neon transformer with a rating of at least 12,000 volts and 30ma is required for this process.



As a safety precaution, plenty of ventilation is needed with the area clear of things that might catch on fire plus the process should not be done on a metal table.



He chose a bowl for the demonstration. The first step after finish sanding the bowl is to brush on a solution that has electrical conductivity. In this case, he brushed on baking soda with a concentration of one tablespoon of baking soda to a cup of water with the preference being distilled water.

Electrodes are then placed at each end of the area that was painted with the solution. The switch is then turned on. After a few seconds, the wood starts to burn in a random pattern from each end of the damp patch toward each other in the middle.



The pattern must be rinsed with water and carefully brushed with a nylon brush to remove the burnt particles from the design. No sanding should be done after the burning as the delicate features might be sanded away. The fractal process creates a discoloration of the project so a two part bleach must be applied to eliminate the discoloration.

### Show and Tell:

**T**om Gaston constructed a bathroom cabinet for a beach house to contain a supply of toilet paper. It has mahogany rails and stiles with maple burl





veneer panels while the top is made of mahogany. The corners of the veneered panels contain inlaid sea shells. The back splat is hand carved with a wave motif that includes a natural sea

shell imbedded in the center. The cabinet is finished with shellac and poly.

Tom's second object was a turned pepper wood bowl. It is finished with lacquer.



Jeff Lukanc created handles for a cheese knife and a letter opener. Olive wood was used on the



cheese knife and koa was used on the letter opener. Both handles are secured to the blade by brass pins and finished with wipe-on poly.

Bob Konigsberg made a cutting board from plywood by cutting the



plywood into thin strips and laying them flat. The result was a basketweave pattern. He then finished the board with polyurethane.

### Next Program Committee

Please take the ice chest home after the meeting

### Refreshment Suggestions

Variety of Soft Drinks (48)

Water, Regular, Diet, Caffeine-Free, Juices

Varied Snacks: Donuts, Cookies, Chips, Nuts

#### **2016 Officers**

<b>President</b>	Jay Perinne
<b>Vice-President</b>	Dennis Yamamoto
<b>Secretary</b>	Ron Gerard
<b>Treasurer</b>	Syd Dunton
<b>Newsletter editor</b>	Larry Schwarcz
<b>Photographer</b>	Fred Sotcher
<b>Librarian</b>	Mike Wirth
<b>Web Master</b>	Tom Kenyon

#### **Program Committees**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Members</b>
January 24	Tom Kenyon LeRoy Nelson
February 28	Fred Sotcher Rich Winslow
March 28	Sid Dunton Mike Wirth Bill Whittemore
April 25	Tom Gaston Ed Vincent Tracie Johnson
May 23	Ron Gerard Lou Thorpe Allen Glesser
June 27	Bill Henzel Larry Schwarcz
July 25	Dennis Yamamoto Ross Oliver
August 22	Terry O'Donnell Rex Osborne
September 26	Mike Papa Don McKell
October 24	Jay Perinne Jeff Lukanc
November 28	Chuck Aring Larry Petulla
December	Officers
Contact Dennis Yamamoto for any changes to the committee schedule.	