Honolulu Woodturners
A Chapter of the
American Association of Woodturners

May 14, 2024 Meeting Minutes

President's Report:

Warren

President Warren Na'ai brought the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. The meeting was recorded and will be available for viewing on YouTube.

New member Ron Ho was welcomed. Guests present were John Lane and his daughter Erica.

Warren turned the mike over to Rob Faris who extended well-deserved thanks to key volunteers for last month's Magic at Mike's: Chair Rob Hale; next year's chair, Tommy Uno; Chef Andy Cole; the six team event captains. Barry Wheeler was also key in setting up the lathes and acquiring wood for turning. Special recognition, including $100 CPK gift cards, was then given to Mike Chu and Kraig Smith for providing excellent space and accommodations for the event. In total, 28 members volunteered their assistance. Mahalo to all!

Our club has been invited to do a woodturning demonstration at the Obama Hawaiian Africana Museum festival on June 15, from 9-3. It will be held at Washington Middle School. The event celebrates the 250th birthday of Anthony D. Allen. He played a prominent role in Hawaiian history. Currently we will have two lathes at the event, perhaps one more. Warren invites members to sign up for woodturning time slots. Members just need to bring their own turning tools. Please note, for liability insurance reasons, volunteers need to be AAW members.

Rob and Kraig

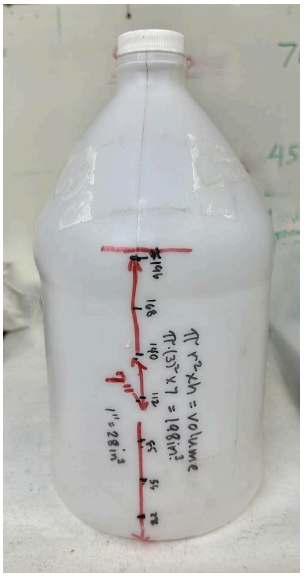
Treasurer's Report:

Rob Faris reported the account balance on 5/14/24 was $12259.03. Receipts were $2380.00, disbursements were $2362.32.

Evening's Demonstration:

President Warren Na'ai pulled double duty tonight by presiding over the meeting AND comprehensively guiding members through considerations in turning an urn. It's not just turning wood folks! Warren advised us to maintain perspective: Take stock of your personal expectations and abilities with the request. Will it meet the expectations of the urn requestor and the mortuary? For example, how large should the urn be if some of the ashes are scattered and not stored? Mortuaries may have specific size limitations. Also be flexible in accommodating changes given the charged emotional environment. As Warren states; "Grief does things to people that cause them to act differently."

Warren then went into the nuts and bolts of calculating how big an urn you need to fabricate. Multiple considerations need to be taken into account!



Rule of thumb: 1 pound of body weight = 1 cubic inch of cremated remains ("cremains"). Warren showed the containers he made to help him determine the size of the urn needed (images left).

Here's your best bet: Please click on the link below for a YouTube video of the meeting. It includes Warren's in-depth presentation. Link: Honolulu Woodturners May 2024 Meeting

Warren's meeting handout also appears at the end of the newsletter.

This Meeting's Challenge:

The challenge laid down at the last meeting was to create anything related to the word "writing". Several members took creative liberty with the term, interpreting writing as "righting". Clever! Another person flaunted size limitations and totally did his own thing (take a bow Rob't D!). Congratulations to the numerous members who entered their piece. Six prizes were awarded: 1st and 2nd place got a $25 gift certificate, 3rd and 4th place got $20 gift certificates, and 5th and 6th got $15 gift certificates. (Please note, you can only win in the challenge if your piece is physically at the meeting. You or anybody else can bring the piece in. The person bringing the piece must sign in for the entrant. To win, the entrant must also attend the meeting either in-person or by Zoom.)

Challenge Winners

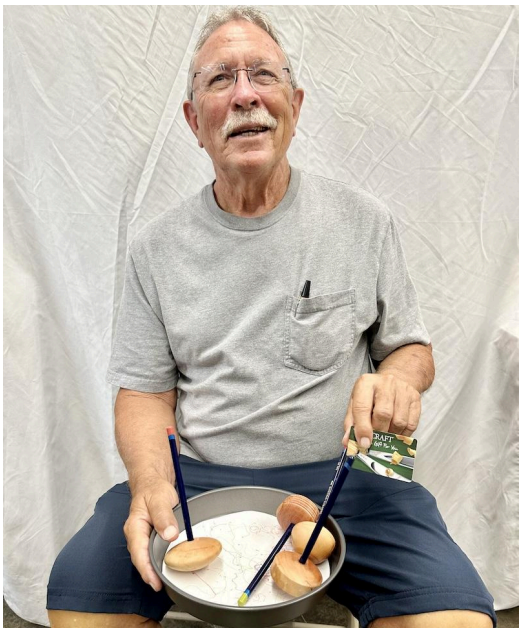
First Place

Luther Bjornsen: Color pencil pencil holder

Second Place

Warren Na'ai: Koa/lychee inkwell

Third Place



Rob Hale: Milo writing tops

Fourth Place

Bruce Soll: Milo "Dead Poets"

Fifth Place

John Berthiaume: Resin Bowl

Sixth Place

Kevin Lui: Koa pencil cup

Honorable Mention:

Adam Vila	Cypress pencil holder
Albert Koorenhof	Norfolk pine pencil holder
Andy Cole	Mac nut “righting” bowl
Craig Mason	Spalted koa bowl
Brian Green	Olive wood pen

Selected Challenge Pieces:

Instant Gallery:

The Instant Gallery invites turners to share any of their creations with the club. It's open to any member.

Tommy Uno	Ironwood bowl
Andy Cole	Nested macadamia set
Robert Duffer	Pencil bookend (DQed from Challenge but we forgive you Robert!)
Kit Beuret	Natural edge lychee bowl and formosan koa bowls
John Berthiaume	Longworth chuck
Greg Dornback	WIP Milo Bowl
Bruce Soll	Norfolk pine charcuterie board, milo urn
Roy Reeber	2 kamani boxes
Albert Koorenhof	Norfolk pine vessel with honu inlay

Selected Instant Gallery Pieces:


APOC
ADVANCED ELASTOMERIC
WHITE ROOF COATING

Participation Prize:

Just showing up is rewarded! The Participation Prize is a $30 Woodcraft gift card. Members attending the meeting in person or by Zoom are eligible for the drawing. This meeting's winner is Kainoa Chong. Congrats!

Tech Talk:

Rob Hale described an article in the magazine Woodturning. It gives insights on how to restore a CBN wheel. Key components are soaking the wheel in penetrating oil followed by liberal use of Brakleen.

Bruce Soll shared a Carter and Sons guide on sharpening tips. You'll find it at the end of this newsletter. Bruce went on to describe helpful modifications to a toolrest that the club group-ordered a few years ago. The changes reduced the length, weight and bulk of the tool.

Kit Beuret intrigued us with a glimpse of AI reality. He showed several pictures of turned wood bowls generated by AI! Besides the shock value of this demonstration, Kit suggested this technology may be of value in giving turners creative ideas. You can try it out yourself at Google ImageFX. It's free but you need to have a Gmail account.

Craig Mason alerted members to new books added to the club's library. It was donated by a former member.

John Berthiaume asked for anyone's experience with Hunter Tools Osprey carbide tools.

Your Challenge for the Next Meeting:

Rob Hale laid down a challenge to turn an urn. It must be lidded and it must be big enough to fit a hummingbird. Rob declined to give a maximum size limit in hopes that good discretion will prevail.

Mahalos to:

-Curtis Tanaka for sharing avocado wood
-Luther Bjornsen and Albert Koorenhof for volunteering to help with the Challenge and Instant Gallery photos.

-MRC Roofing for the great locale!

Lastly, thank you to everyone for coming out. Great to see such a lively crowd enjoying all things wood!

Next meeting: July 9, 2024, 6:00PM. Please join us!

Submitted by Kevin Lui, Secretary

Handouts follow:

Urn Demo Handout:

Honolulu WoodTurners Demo Urns May 14, 2024

So, you're going along, minding your own business, when suddenly you get a phone call: "My _____ just passed away. Can you make and urn for me?"

To which you gleefully reply: "Wood turners can do anything!"

(Notice how you haven't said "yes" or "no" to anything yet…)

Some helpful guidelines to follow:

Rule #1: Manage expectations: the requester's, your own, the mortuary, etc.

Rule #2: Manage your time. Corollary 1: As good a woodturner as you *think* you are, can you *really* produce a quality urn by next week Tuesday? Corollary 2: Maybe I should make some urns in a few sizes and keep them on hand.

Rule #3: Be flexible. When people/pets die, things change very rapidly and sometimes for no "good (logical)" reason. Grief does things to people that cause them to act differently.

But,…once you've cleared the Rules and said yes, what's next?

DECISION TREE:

SIZE MATTERS: volume (X=body weight of an adult, say 150 lbs.)

companion urn (2X) one-person urn (1X) keepsake urn/pet urn (1/4X)

SIZE LIMITS: external dimensions

size of wall niche size of in-ground vault size of mantel/shelf

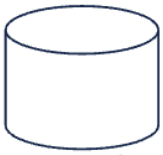
RULES OF THUMB:

1 pound of body weight=1 cubic inch of cremated remains (cremains)

100#=100 cu.in.~7 cups; 150#=150 cu.in~10 cups; 200#=200 cu.in.~*14 cups*

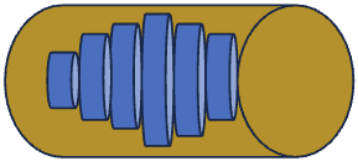
1 gallon=231 cu.in., about 16 cups

DESIGN:

A. Shape: a lidded cylinder  or a series of cylinders 

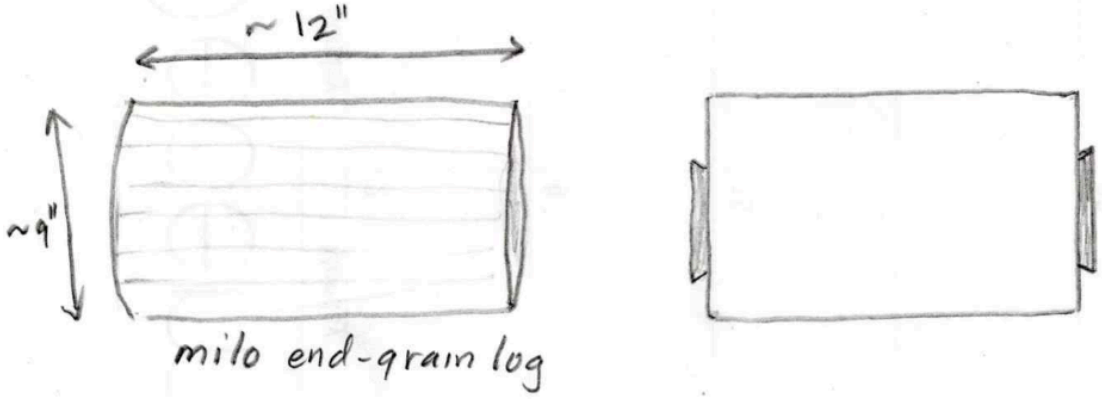
B. One-piece or two-piece? Pros and cons: do you have a hollowing rig?

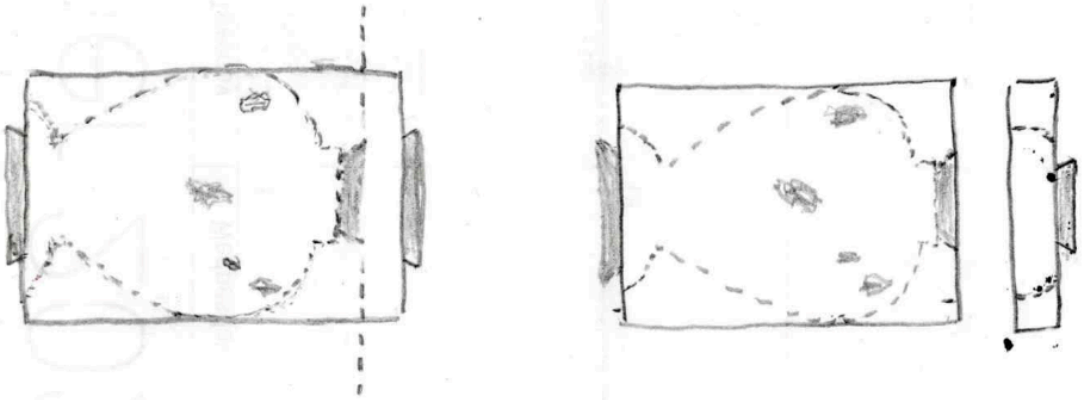
C. Internal/External size constraints: Where's it going to end up?

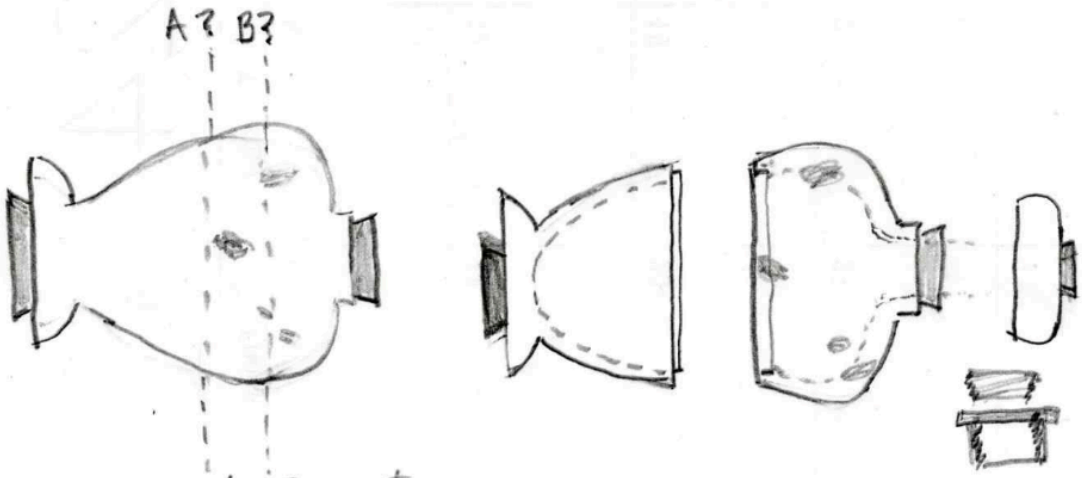


D. Choice of wood and grain orientation: end-grain or side grain

How I actually turned the urn...







Bowl & Spindle Gouges

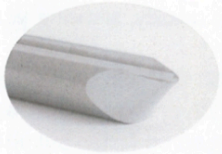
We've found the raptor set-up tool and vari-grind jig are helpful in maintaining a consistent gouge grind. Chart guide: P = protrusion of tool from the vari-grind jig. JA = vari-grind jig arm angle.

Tool	Angle	P	JA
V-Flute, Fingernail Grind	50°	2"	23°
U-Flute, Traditional Grind	60°	2"	23°
Traditional Spindle Gouge	45°	2"	23°
Detail Spindle Gouge	35°	2"	23°
Mahoney Wood Beater, Cleaner, Finalizer, Double Barreled Resolver	40°	2"	23°
Mahoney Bottom Feeder	50°	2"	23°
Mahoney Shear Shaper	35°	2"	23°

Before you begin, have the **fingernail profile** fresh on your mind. Remember that the nose of the gouge should be oval, not too pointy. And the side profile of the wings should be straight or convex, never concave.

When grinding a **swept back profile** using a jig, you'll notice that the angle of the wings and nose will be slightly different. That's okay! We suggest setting the nose at your desired angle, and the wings will follow.

A **detail spindle gouge** is characterized by a shallow flute, swept back wings, and a sharp nose. Pay close attention to the amount of time the nose is in contact with the wheel - too much can result in a flat nose.



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1 Set wolverine jig v-arm

Set the distance of the v-arm using the raptor tool and appropriate "angle" in the chart. The raptor should rest in the v-arm and touch the wheel in two points.

2 Fasten gouge in vari-grind

Pay close attention to protrusion from the jig, and the angle of the jig arm (P and JA in the chart).

3 Rest vari-grind in the v-arm

Rotate the tool back and forth to restore the edge. The jig is a helpful guide, but make sure to solidify the profile you'd like in your own mind. This will ensure that you know what you're working towards. Feel free to mark the bevel with a sharpie so you can visually determine if the entire bevel has been sharpened.

Quick Tip: When grinding tools with swept back wings - whether spindle or bowl gouges - it's critical to note the amount of contact the nose has with the wheel, as too much can result in a flat nose. It's often helpful to grind the wings first, rotating from the back edge of the wing towards the nose, and lifting the tool off the wheel before you reach the nose. After grinding both wings, finish by grinding the nose.

YOUR ULTIMATE SHARPENING GUIDE

CARTER AND SON TOOLWORKS

Your best woodturning starts at the grinder. Razor sharp tools are not only safer - they create smoother cuts and more enjoyable turning. As with any skill, every sharpening master began as a rookie. Use this guide as a starting point to hone (pun intended!) your skills.

For video tutorials, visit carterandsontoolworks.com.

Quick Sharpening Reference

Bowl Gouges	Angle	P	JA
V-Flute, Fingernail Grind	50°	2"	23°
U-Flute, Traditional Grind	60°	2"	23°

Mahoney Line	Angle	P	JA
3/4" Wood Beater, 1/2" Cleaner, 3/8" Finalizer & 3/8" Double Barreled Resolver	40°	2"	23°
5/8" Bottom Feeder	50°	2"	23°
5/8" Shear Shaper	35°	2"	23°
12 & 16 TPI Thread Chaser	20°		
Dimensioner	25°		
Spear Point	12°		

Spindle Gouges	Angle	P	JA
Traditional Spindle Gouge	45°	2"	23°
Detail Spindle Gouge	35°	2"	23°

Spindle Roughing Gouge	Angle
Spindle Roughing Gouge	35°

Skews, Scrapers & Bendan	Angle
Skew Chisel	30°
Round & Square Nose Scraper	12°
Negative Rake Scraper	25° top, 40° bottom
Bedan	45°

Chart guide: Angle = angle of flat platform, or angle used to set distance from wheel to wolverine jig v-arm pivot. P = protrusion of tool from vari-grind jig. JA = vari-grind jig arm angle.

Scrapers, Skews & Roughing Gouges

For flat tools and roughing gouges, an adjustable grinding platform is a helpful fixture. We also like to mark the bevel with a sharpie pen to visually verify that the platform is set to the correct angle.

Chart guide: Angle = angle of the tool's bevel, and angle at which the platform will be set.

Tool	Angle
Skew Chisel	30°
Round & Square Nose Scraper	12°
Negative Rake Scraper	25° top, 40° bottom
Spindle Roughing Gouge	35°

When sharpening your **roughing gouge**, the critical factor is that the edge is straight across when seen from the top and side. Begin sharpening in one corner, with the heel of the bevel resting against the wheel. Simply rotate the tool from one edge to the other, applying even pressure.

When grinding a **curved skew**, follow the curve of the edge, starting at the heel and sweeping back and forth.

After grinding a **scraper**, you may find yourself left with an aggressive burr. This is easily removed using a stone. Generally, when you're turning softer woods, an aggressive burr isn't a concern. However, when you're working with dense, hard woods an aggressive burr can cause catches and should be removed. When grinding your negative rake scraper, make sure to grind the top bevel first, then the bottom bevel, to leave a burr on the top.

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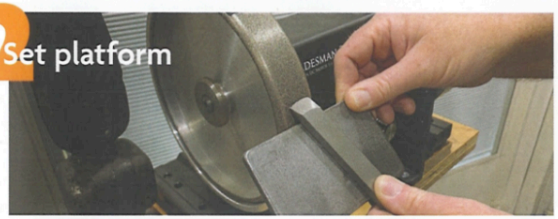
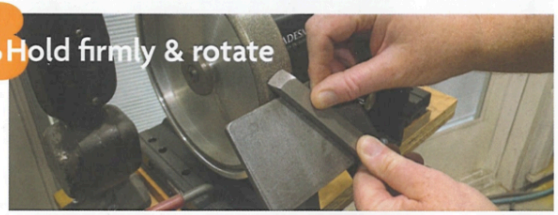
First, color the bevel of the tool. This helps check that your grinding platform is set at the correct angle.



Next, set the platform to the desired angle (see chart). To check the angle, or set the angle without a protractor, rest your tool flat on the platform and turn the wheel by hand. If the sharpie mark is evenly removed, from top to bottom of the bevel, the angle is correct. If not, adjust the platform accordingly.



Once the angle is established, hold the tool flat against the platform with your thumb, and rotate back and forth. The bevel should be in contact with the grinding wheel. You're sharpening the bevel, not the edge. And keep in mind that you're simply holding the tool in place, not pressing the tool upward.

Quick Tip: Depending on the wood you're working with, you may need to restore the burr of your scraper regularly. When using the negative rake, you can grind the bottom bevel to restore the burr to the top. Every so often, touch up both sides to maintain the angles.

Answers to Common Questions

A **light touch** is all you need to restore a razor edge. Applying heavy pressure will not only waste tool stock, but may cause the steel to overheat. If your tool feels hot, simply give it a few minutes to cool. There's no need to dip it in water as this can shock the steel, resulting in hairline cracks.

Relief or second bevels come standard on all Carter and Son gouges. They help prevent the bevel from scuffing the wood and can reduce catches. To grind the relief edge, maintain the same angles required for the primary bevel, but allow your tool to protrude 2-1/2" from the vari-grind jig.

Don't have the raptor system? No problem! You can set the distance of your wolverine jig v-arm by marking the bevel of the gouge with a sharpie pen, placing the vari-grind jig in the v-arm, and resting the bevel against the wheel. Rotate the wheel by hand and inspect the sharpie mark. Was it removed, from top to bottom of the bevel? If so, your v-arm is set appropriately. If not, adjust accordingly.

You've heard the buzz about Cubic Boron Nitride, or **CBN wheels**. But do they live up to the popularity? Compared to standard white aluminum oxide, CBN hones to a very fine edge. At the lathe you'll enjoy not only a sharper tool, but a longer-lasting edge to boot. Another time-saver, CBN wheels don't shrink in diameter and don't need to be trued or cleaned (provided you're grinding hardened steel). In addition, CBN won't cause your tools to overheat as quickly, allowing you to remove stock at a faster pace.

We'd suggest investing in an 80-120 grit wheel for reshaping your tools, and a 220 or higher for re-sharpening. (A higher grit wheel heats up faster, but also creates a finer edge.)