



Honolulu Woodturners
A Chapter of the
American Association of Woodturners

November 12, 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 David Raastad and guest Dustin Cook were introduced. Welcome!

Bruce Soll gave a planning update on our exhibit and woodturning demo at the Oahu Country Club. The exhibit will run from January 16, 2025 to February 27. Setup for the event will be on January 14 at 7:30am. The event kicks off on January 16, 2025 in the evening. Club members are encouraged to sell or exhibit their works. Participating artists can attend the opening ceremonies and food event for free (guests will pay a fee). A sign up sheet was at the meeting. A signup email will be sent to all members shortly. Display pedestals will need to be constructed by our club for the show. A member event to build them will be held on December 7, at 8:30am at Adam Vila's house--a signup email for this day is forthcoming.

Warren brought us up to date on our woodturning exhibit at Nohea Gallery. Based on the sales of our pieces so far, we've collected over \$100 for donation to the Hawaii Food Bank. Gallery owner, Laurie Baron, encourages members to still bring in pieces for sale as the holiday season is approaching.

Craig Mason announced he brought some equipment and materials from former member, Rollo Scheurenbrand, for members to take for free. Mahalo Rollo and Craig!

Andy Cole spoke on the 2024 Hawaii's Woodshow running from November 17-24. It is a prestigious showcase for artists working with Hawaii-grown wood. Several of our members will be displaying their pieces there.

Warren announced that our club's woodturning demo at the Arbor Day celebration at Maili Community Center on Friday, November 8 was canceled by the organizers at the last moment.

Elections of the next club officers for 2025 were held. Per bylaws, Vice President Adam Vila will be the next President. Warren proposed a slate of officers of Bruce Soll for Vice President, Kevin Lui for Secretary and Rob Faris for Treasurer. After opening the floor for additional nominations, Warren moved that the nominations be closed. Stan Hebda seconded. A majority voice vote elected the slate of officers.

Congratulations on an energetic and successful term Warren!

Treasurer's Report:

Rob Faris reported the current club account balance was \$12398.72. He also announced that the \$25 dues for 2025 are due by February 1, 2025. You can pay by cash, check, PayPal or Venmo. A more detailed email will be sent to members.

Evening's Demonstration:

Luther Bjornsen gave a presentation on something that many of us ponder: How to make our pieces translucent, commonly when turning a lampshade. Luther first discussed lampshade design and other considerations, noting that a lampshade is basically "a bowl with a hole"!

Next Luther described how to stabilize wood with a 1:1 mixture of water and Kirkland Liquid dish soap. This method was popularized by Ron Kent (he's deceased but his website is still active and is listed at the end of the newsletter). Doing this enhances your ability to turn wood thinner and achieve greater transparency.

Luther then went on to describe the various techniques he experimented with to make a piece translucent: mineral oil; tung oil; boiled linseed oil; wipe on polyurethane, aka "Larry's Finish"; and Watco Danish oil. See the handout following this newsletter for a description of the five methods Luther tried. He includes his observations and pros and cons.

A video says it all. Here's a link to the meeting so you can watch Luther's presentation: [Honolulu Woodturners 11/12/24 Meeting](#)



This Meeting's Challenge:

The challenge laid down at the last meeting was to turn a calabash. It must fit within a 10" cube. 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



Gordon Tang: Big Island Koa

Second Place



Craig Mason: Mahogany

Third Place



Bruce Soll: Cook Pine

Fourth Place



Willy Ridep: Koa, Spalted Barkwood

Fifth Place



Dustin Cook: Maple

Sixth Place



Kevin Lui: Milo

Honorable Mention:

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|
| Eric LeBuse | Formosan koa |
| Warren Naai | Sugi pine calabash, afromosia lid |
| Robert Duffer | Guava |
| Kit Beuret | Mango |
| Ron Ho | Milo live edge |
| Owen Sherwood | Pink eucalyptus |

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

Albert Koorenhof

Tim Freeman

Bruce Soll

Kit Beuret

Large milo bowl

Bowling pin candle holder

Tropical almond platter

Mahogany bowl, white milo Jack-O-Lantern

Neem bowl

Luther Bjornsen
Stan Hebda
Ron Ho
Gordon Tang

Norfolk pine lamp
Pens: Koa and Truestone
Milo natural edge
Carved pumpkin, carved flower

Selected Instant Gallery Pieces:





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 Kit Beuret. Congrats!



Tech Talk:

Kit Beuret started off the Tech Talk segment with a discussion on how to price your works for sale. He said understanding who you're selling your pieces to and where you're selling it is important. For example, are you selling your works at a swap meet or a gallery?

Bruce Soll talked about his experience using dish soap to stabilize his wood. He then asked for advice on thinning a bowl while avoiding breaking it.

Stan Hebda described the pros and cons of two pen kits he bought. He also asked if anyone had experience turning soapstone or alabaster.

Dean Mailheau sought advice on how to remedy torn grain on a piece that is nearly finished.

Your Challenge for the Next Meeting:

Luther Bjornsen shared information on how to make wood translucent. Fittingly, the challenge for the next meeting is to make an item with the word "light" in mind. Let your imagination rule in determining how you will apply the term "light". It could be the weight of your piece, the translucency of it or however you decide the word applies. Just be sure it fits within a 10" cube.

Mahalos to:

Generous members shared items below. What a treat! Thank you!

Dougie Bowers brought teak chairs. Mahalo Dougie!



Barry Wheeler



Bruce Soll

-Willy Ridep and Albert Koorenhof: Thanks for volunteering to help with the Challenge and Instant Gallery photos. Great pics!

-MRC Roofing (Mike Chu and Kraig Smith): Mahalo for your hospitality!

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

Next meeting: January 14, 2025, 6:00PM. We have a very special speaker scheduled. She is Heather McMillen, PhD, urban and community forestry coordinator for the state of Hawaii, DLNR. Please join us!

Submitted by Kevin Lui, Secretary

Handouts

Luther's Handout #1: Translucent Bowls

To make wood transparent, you can follow these steps¹²³⁴:

Soak the wood in a bath containing lye and sodium sulfite for several hours.

Bleach the wood in a bath of hydrogen peroxide.

Infuse the wood with a transparent polymer, such as epoxy or acrylic.

Cure the infused wood to solidify the polymer and create a transparent material.

A New way to make wood transparent:

<https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/sciadv.abd7342>

<https://www.instructables.com/Transparent-Wood/>

Ron Kent Translucent Cook and Norfolk Pine

<https://ronkent.com/techniques.php>

Various Methods:

Member

-Apply Mineral Oil liberally several times until desired translucency is achieved. Wipe off excess oil, apply DuraSeal to seal the oil in, You can then apply sanding sealer and polyurethane or other finishes if desired.

Member

-Apply several coats of Watco Danish Oil until desired translucency is achieved,

Member

Soak in Polyurethane overnight.

Anonymous:

-Apply a 50 :50 mixture of Boiled Linseed Oil and Mineral Spirits(Paint Thinner).

Anonymous:

-Apply Tung Oil Liberally until desired translucency is achieved.

Thank You

Larry, Eric, Dean, Kyle, Christian, Bruce, Tommy, Albert

Luther's Handout #2: Exp Worksheet

(A) Mineral Oil, Soak overnight, Rub in, Let dry, Repeat

Observations: Very Oily, Absorbs Slowly, No Evaporation No Smell, Relatively Cheap, Turns Wood a orange-Yellow Color, oily residue

Translucency: Good way to achieve translucency, but would probably need additional treatment to seal in the oil.

(B) "MinWax" Tung Oil, Soak overnight, Rub in, Let dry, Repeat until desired finish is achieved.

Observations: Thin, Absorbs Fast, Evaporates Fast, Some Smell, Somewhat Expensive, Turns Wood a orange-Yellow Color, little to none residue. Dries hard. Translucency: One way to achieve translucency, Dries well, doesn't need additional finishes.

(C) "Keen-Strip" Boiled Linseed Oil and Mineral Spirits 1:1, Soak overnight, Rub in, Let dry, Repeat.

Observations: Thin, Absorbs Fast, Evaporates Very Fast, Somewhat offensive Smell, Wood seems to remain lighter in color, little to no residue.

Translucency: A good way to achieve translucency, Dries well, doesn't need additional finishes.

(D) Wipe On Poly-"Larry's Finish", (Polyurethane and Penetrol 1:1), Soak overnight, Rub in, Let dry).

Observations: Very Thick, Absorbs Slow, Very Slow Evaporation, good penetration, Somewhat offensive Smell, Wood turns an Orange-Yellow color.

Translucency: One way to achieve translucency, Dries hard so multiple applications are not absorbed easily or at all. Might be better in VAT soak, then completely wiped off to avoid a "gloppy" finish doesn't need additional finishes.

(E) Repeat

"Watco" Danish Oil, Soak overnight, Rub in, Let dry, Sand and Rub,

Observations: Medium Viscosity, Absorption-Medium, Evaporates-Slow, Penetration-Medium Some Smell, Wood stays lighter yellow, Wax residue that needs to be rubbed and polished. Translucency: Good way to achieve translucency, Dries well, doesn't need additional finishing. Easy to re-apply.

Conclusion: This experiment may have been better using a VAT, some of the finishes dried faster preventing additional treatments from fully being absorbed. Conclusion: This experiment may have been better using a VAT, some of the finishes dried faster preventing additional treatments from fully being absorbed.

Disclaimer: There are hundreds of finishes and methods for applying. The finishes used in this experiment were applied with TRANSLUCENCY as the primary goal. These are methods mentioned, and recommended by fellow woodturners.