

HFIA Feature Member

Andy Cole, HFIA Member, Award Winning Woodworker and Hawaii's Woodshow Volunteer

Andy Cole has been an HFIA member since 2003 as well as a dedicated Hawaii's Woodshow (HW) volunteer. He has entered Hawaii's Woodshow every year since 2003, has won many awards, and has assisted with the planning and implementation of the event as a valuable member of Hawaii's Woodshow Advisory Committee.



Andy has been an admirer of wood and things made from wood throughout his life. "There is something about the natural and organic nature of wood that fascinates me. Every tree is unique, and no two pieces of wood are the same. Like fingerprints from heaven, are the grain lines on a piece of wood. Amazing!", says Andy.

Andy was introduced to woodturning when he had the opportunity to take a basic bowl turning class in 2000. He went home with a lathe in his trunk and a passion for turning that lives on to this day. While many turners look for a flawless piece of wood to work with, Andy finds great satisfaction in turning flawed and blemished pieces of wood into works of art. "Bug holes, decay, and natural inclusions are not viewed as defects, but rather as unique character highlights, the wonders of nature at their best!"

All of the wood Andy uses for creating bowls comes from O'ahu grown trees that were brought down by either a property owner or strong gust of wind rescuing the wood for a higher purpose before it can be transported to a land fill – a natural fit with the purpose of Hawaii's Woodshow to promote the use of the Hawai'i grown woods.

Andy has become one of Hawaii's Woodshow's Master Artists. Master Artists are long time HW participants who have received a required number of points for their repeated awards and are now recognized as Invited Artists whose work is juried in a separate division.

He explores many directions in wood turning, however specializes in the organic beauty of natural edge bowls. His trademark works are natural edge nested bowl sets. "Though the process to extricate multiple bowls from one log is challenging, the results, when successful, can be astounding!"

In addition to being instrumental in producing Hawaii's Woodshow, Andy is Treasurer for Honolulu Woodturners and just retired from his position of Director for the American Association of Woodturners



▲ Andy's Woodshow 2018 Honorable Mentions "Half Dozen of Another" and "Three Part Harmony". Photos: Brad Goda

(AAW) where he helped to meet the challenge of presenting their national symposium virtually to adapt to the COVID pandemic. He was also Chair of the AAW Professional Outreach Program.

Now a gifted teacher himself, Andy is known for infecting his students with his enthusiasm for woodturning as well as always generously sharing his skills. He is an in-demand teacher and demonstrator throughout Hawai‘i and on the Continent and has taught woodturning locally at Woodcraft and Honolulu Museum of Art School and at many venues nationally including the prestigious Marc Adams School of Woodworking in Indianapolis. His work is in many national and local private collections and is in the collection of the Hawai‘i State Foundation on Culture and the Arts.

Home has been O‘ahu since the 1980’s where he works in a hillside studio inspired by a spectacular ocean view overlooking the island’s south shore and beyond. Andy and his wife Sharon have raised two successful sons.

Andy is not only one of those men who always has his toolbox handy and seemingly can fix anything with a smile, he actively promotes the joy of woodturning and our Hawai‘i-grown wood whenever possible. See more of Andy’s work [here](#).



▲ Top: Andy’s 2017 1st Place Turning: Form Emphasis “Rebirth” and 2020 1st Place Turning: Form Emphasis “The Challenge”.
Bottom: Andy’s 2016 Honorable Mentions “HI 5” and 2014 Honorable Mention “Can’t Have Just One” Photos: Brad Goda.