



CHINOOK WOODTURNING GUILD NEWSLETTER

A CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS Volume NO.7, October 25, 2025

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello, this month is a fun one for me. It is great to be able to experiment with new methods of turning styles and make Christmas decorations. I am always energized watching Steve at the Sawdust sessions.

I went all out this month and joined the Greater Vancouver Woodturners Guild. The cost was \$50 but I have been able to watch two great demos. Dan Breck on Natural Edge bowls and Kevin Jesequel on turning a hollow form. Kevin also demonstrated in Portland.

Kevin inspired me to try turning a hollow form, I tried with a piece of olive wood. The 3/8-inch hole ended up being an 1 1/2-inch hole by the time it was finished. Dry olive is not an easy wood to turn, very hard and even a carbide blade had a tough time.

I am looking forward to your creations, ideas and suggestions. Help me out by volunteering to do a demo at one of the meetings.



THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS

The American Association of Woodturners is a huge source of information on all things related to woodturning. This is a worldwide organization encompassing woodturners of all interests and skills. Many benefits accrue to members. If you are not a member you can check out their website here <https://www.woodturner.org/>. We recommend membership to all our members.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

MEETINGS ARE HELD AT CASA

230 8th St South, Lethbridge

November 1, 2025- Sawdust Sessions at Casa. 10 am – 12 PM

November 20, 2025- Guild Meeting at Casa. 7 PM-9 PM.

December 6, 2025- Sawdust Sessions at Casa. 10 am – 12 PM

December 11, 2025, Guild Social

7:00 PM to 9:00 PM

November 14 and 15, CASA Christmas sale. Call Terry for space at a table.

Sawdust Sessions.

Tool sharpening should be done as necessary. The grinder will be set up and ready to go. If you have any questions as to how to accomplish any task, bring your materials and ask for help. Someone will surely know how to help you.

Remember, the best part is sharing some quality time with friends of like interests. Bring something you have made.

Membership Dues

Dues remain the same as 2024.

\$75 for in town and \$50 for out of town.

Take the opportunity to pay at the November 1 Sawdust Session

E-transfer. Payment to:

Cwgtreasurer021@gmail.com

SUBMISSIONS REQUEST FROM GUILD MEMBERS

Again, I want to encourage any of you who have a story regarding wood and turning, or anything related, to feel welcome to write up your experience and submit it to me for inclusion in the newsletter.

It has also been quite some time since anyone has written an introduction of themselves to the Guild. Several new members have joined while we have not been able to meet.

Please take a few moments to tell us about yourself, your experiences and your dreams and I will include it in an upcoming newsletter. (New members encouraged).

If you are not comfortable writing, contact me and we will work on it together. We would like to know you.

rbenoit@chinookwoodturning.org

ABOUT THE GUILD

[http:// www.chinookwoodturning.org/](http://www.chinookwoodturning.org/)

The **Chinook Woodturning Guild** was formed in September 2004. The Guild's main emphasis is skill improvement and camaraderie.

mailing address: Casa: 230 - 8 Street South Lethbridge, AB Canada T1J 5H2

Meetings - 7 pm - 3rd Thursday each month, Sept through June at the Casa building on 8th Street South in Lethbridge

Sawdust Session - 10:00 - 12:00 1st Saturday each month at Casa. Interested individuals are Welcome.

A map to the meeting location is found on our website



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Vice President Steve Munroe
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Saturday sawdust session
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Treasurer, Terry Beaton
403-308-4552
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Beads of Courage
Chairperson
John Vanderberg
403-380-0141

Christmas Decorations

Over the last few weeks our club has made great progress on making and collecting Christmas decorations for the Chinook Health Foundation Christmas tree festival. We need an additional 100 ornaments to decorate the tree. I am looking forward to collecting your contributions at the November 1, Sawdust session. This will be important as the tree is being decorated on November 14-15.

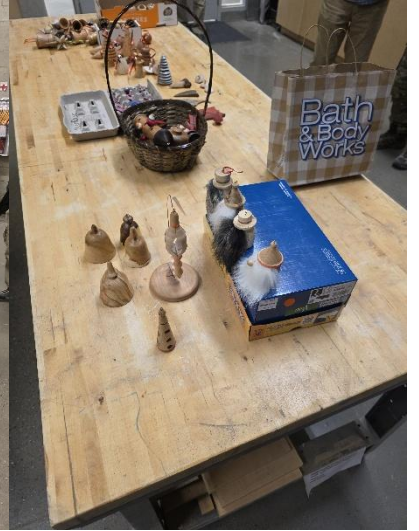


Demonstrating how to make a bell using a $\frac{3}{4}$ inch drill to hollow out the bell.



Terry demonstrating how to turn a gnome.

Show and Tell





Rob made a resin pen blank using a pressure pot. He demonstrated turning the resin and was using water and sandpaper for final polishing.

Rob Thompson
epoxy pen blank

October 4 Sawdust session.



Vern and grandson Braden. A future member in the making.



Braden

Steve demonstrated how to turn a bell.

André's Observations and information

Christmas Ornaments

Remie Benoit and Terry Beaton demonstrated their methods of making Christmas ornaments.

Remie presented his way to make a bell. He started with a square piece of maple about 2.5" x 2.5" x 5". After rounding the wood between centers with a roughing gouge and making a tenon, the block was mounted into a chuck and supported at the tail stock. He then profiled the outside of the bell. Once completed, he moved to the inside. He started with a nice 1" twist bit with a morse taper #2 end (www.wttool.com # 0101-0370) and drilled a hole inside the bell at the determined distance. Remie prefers a twist drill to a Forstner drill as it is faster to complete the inside of the bell. The inside of the bell was completed with a 3/8" bowl gouge. Then the upper side of the bell was completed and cut away from the block. To suspend the clapper, Remie showed us that he takes a 14- or 16-gauge copper wire, fold it in two, holds one end with Vise-Grip pliers and chucked the other end in a drill to twist it. After piercing a small hole through the top of the bell, you pass the twisted wire through the clapper and through the top of the bell and shape a hook on the outside. Voilà! You can spray your bell with a lacquer, and you are ready to make another bell or to hang or deliver your bell. Thanks Remie, your demo was informative, and you made it easy to turn a Christmas bell.

Terry presented how he makes a gnome. He started with a square piece of maple 2" x 2" x 5". After rounding the wood between centers with a roughing gouge. Then he did divide his piece of wood about 2/3 – 1/3 for the hat and body of the beast. Terry also mentioned if you are using a larger piece of wood for your gnome, you could pierce the body portion to reduce the weight and mount the wood on a chuck with pen jaws. He profiles the hat first with the rim being the widest part of the gnome. He then profiles the body with a slight curve and of a smaller diameter than the rim. Once completed, he pierces a 1/4" hole with the brad point bit located about 3/8" below the rim of the hat for the nose location. He parted the piece at the hat side. The gnome can be finished at the time. The hat could be left natural or painted and then a protective coat painted or sprayed. Then, Terry turned the nose from a 3/8" dowel about 3/4" long with a taper to fit in the 1/4" hole. Then the fun starts. Terry had a collection of faux-fur samples and selecting the proper color for the gnome, he tacks a portion with translucent glue, cut a small slit in the fur to glue in the nose. Voilà! After adding a small eyelet, your gnome is ready to hang up. Terry mentions that he has a lot of different size eyelets (gift from Norm Robinson) and he is always happy to share eyelets if you need some. Thanks, Terry, for the demonstration demystifying how you make your gnome and how you personalize it with the appropriate piece of fur.

Both Remie and Terry did not sand their pieces to minimize dust during their demonstration.

André's preferred websites of the month

The Art of Wood Exhibition 2025, an annual event of The National Association of Woodworkers NZ Inc. in New Zealand (<https://theartofwood-2025.naw.org.nz/>) is becoming an annual mention in my chronicle. The submitted works are judged by an international panel of woodworkers from around the world (including the Canadian woodturner Ruby Cler). The pieces are just astonishing and leave me in awe. This competition for our pleasure is dominated by wood turners. To best preserve your discovery, I am suggesting that you terminate your exploration by the first tab, Awards. You could start with the Tab for the Judges of the competition. You will recognize several well-known turners in addition of Ruby including another Canadian-born artist Melissa Engler. Every tab includes fabulous and amazing works with beautiful New Zealand native wood species. You will not be disappointed if you take the time to investigate each tab. My favorite pieces are "The great migration" under the Boxes, "Fantail/Piwakawaka" with amazing feet, "Tui Vase" both under Hollow Forms/Vases and "Tree in One" under Natural. At the end you can compare your choices with the official results of the competitions. In any case you are in for a wonderful treat of fabulous forms, designs and wood species.

Jason Breach (www.jasonbreach.co.uk) is a woodturner from Axminster in southwest UK. He makes amazing boxes and you ask yourself how did he do that? You can see a few of his amazing boxes on the home page of his website. They are unique and just lovely. To see more of his works you need to go on his Instagram (https://www.instagram.com/jmb_wood_turning/#) and Facebook (www.facebook.com/jason.breach.33) pages. In both locations, you will see more of his marvelous boxes, bowls and fruits (to fill the bowls). A great turner with amazing production. He also offers courses in his shop at a reasonable price. It could be an exciting adventure during a future trip to UK. To make some of his boxes, he apparently uses an eccentric chuck. As you visit Jason pages, I am sure that you will appreciate his ingenious and lovely works.

Aside: Eccentric chucks appear to be more common in UK than in North America I believe. Axminster, Robert Sorby and Vicmarc are advertising these chucks. They seem much larger than the mini accessory sold by Ruth Niles for eccentric turning of small objects. Has anyone ever used one of these chucks? If so, let me know as I am curious.

Enjoy the websites. Please stay safe while you are in your shop.

Ornaments needed for our Christmas tree 2025

Hello everyone,

This is the time of the year when I become anxious. We have currently have 129 ornaments on hand. First, many thanks to the contributors of these beautiful ornaments. We are slightly above half of the objective of 250 ornaments. So, we have a long way to go. If you have not contributed yet, please consider joining the guild project and becoming part of the contributors. Please let us know (Remie, Steve, Terry or me) the number of ornaments that you are planning to contribute. This year, we will decorate the tree on November 14 which is before our regular meeting. Please bring your ornaments at the sawdust session on November 1st. If you are not ready on November 1st, please contact a member of the executive to deliver your ornaments. We are located either on the West, North or South side of Lethbridge to facilitate delivery.

The tree is seen by thousands of people during the Christmas Tree Festival to be held at the Agri-Food Hub & Trade Centre from November 16. In addition to being an occasion to publicize the guild activities, it is an easy way to contribute important \$\$ to the Chinook Regional Hospital Foundation. Soon or later, we or our lovely ones will need to check in at the hospital.

Looking forward to seeing your ornaments,

André Laroche

PS: If you do not have small eyelets to hang your ornaments, just bring your ornaments. Norm Robinson has a nice collection of eyelets that he will take along when we are setting up the tree.

Copied from AAW Woodturning Safety

How to Determine Safe Lathe Speeds Appropriate lathe speed should allow the blanks to be turned with little or no vibration. Vibration is usually caused by the wood being unbalanced in weight and is particularly common before the wood has been rough turned down to round. Low speeds are needed to reduce the vibration until the work becomes balanced, then speeds can be increased for more efficient turning. Suggested lathe speeds for various diameters of spindle stock are given below. If there is a question regarding whether a lathe rpm is set too high, chances are it is. It is best to work on the side of caution. A slower lathe speed may require more time to remove the excess stock but will allow for safety turning. Cutting principles remains constant regardless of lathe speed.

Determining Safe Lathe Speeds

Set lathe speed low to minimize vibration, especially if the wood is unbalanced. Increase speed once the work is rounded and stable for efficient turning. Refer to recommended speeds for different spindle diameters and always err on the side of caution if unsure. Slower speeds take longer but improve safety. Cutting principles do not change with speed.

Suggested Lathe Speeds	Diameter of Stock 1" or less	1.5 "	2"	3"	Lathe Speed
	3,000 rpm	2,500 rpm	2,000 rpm	1,500 rpm	

Reminder: We are still needing 100 ornaments and another 100 tops.

Take it easy on the Halloween Candy. Happy Halloween

November 2: Turn your clock back. We are back to MST.

Note: Consider writing a small article about your projects, tools or yourself as a contributor to the newsletter.