



CHINOOK WOODTURNING GUILD NEWSLETTER

A CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS · VOL 2023, NO. 07 · Sept. 2023

CHESS ANYONE?

By Dan Michener

The giant chess set that our guild made for the city in 2013 was on display and in use. The president of the Lethbridge Chess Club, Klaus Jericho, discovered that the Galt Museum houses the set. So impressed was he that he organized an exhibition chess game on 15 August. He invited the makers of the chess pieces and the press to attend and be interviewed. See this link for the press coverage <https://calgary.ctvnews.ca/southern-alberta-museum-goes-big-with-giant-chess-game-1.6521219>.



Makers Jim Farr, John Vandenberg, and Dan Michener were there. Norm Stelter was away so missed it, Dennis Delaney has moved away, and Vern Miller and Allan Schaaf are deceased.

The was played on a small conventional board and watchers copied their moves on the huge outdoor chess board.

Thanks to Klaus for organizing this and giving the guild publicity.



ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

Sept. 21 - Annual General Meeting at Casa. 7:00pm. Annual Business and election of Guild Executive. Be there or be elected President!

7:30pm - **Regular Monthly Meeting**. Will be holding a raffle for some nice turning blanks donated by Jim Farr as well as open bids for the Router Crafter and 14 inch Ridgid Bandsaw.

Sept. 23 - Word On The Street Festival. A Celebration of Reading and Literacy put on by the Lethbridge Public Library and the Allied Arts Council which includes demonstrations by

groups who use Casa, like us. It will be held on 5th Ave. S., between the main Library and the Bowman Arts bldg. The street will be closed to traffic with demonstrators and visitors occupying the street. Dan has arranged for guild members to demonstrate our skills.

Oct. 7 - Sawdust Session at Casa. 10 am - noon.

Nov. 4 - Sawdust Session at Casa. 10 am - noon.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I wish to thank my Executive Council and the membership for the assistance in operating the Guild over the past year. It was challenging at times, but overall, it was a rewarding experience. I trust that you will consider letting your name stand for one of the executive positions.

Past Events

June 15 –Guild BBQ to wrap up our year. Good food and friends.

July 8, August 5 and September 2 – Sawdust Sessions at Casa. We had good sawdust

sessions, fairly well attended, it was good to visit with members. There were really good discussions by those in attendance on a variety of topics.

August 19 & 20 – Demonstration at Coyote Flats, there were more visitors than last year. We turned tops and small bowls for those observers. There was some interest in membership in the Guild.

Terry Beaton
President

GUILD BUY & SELL

This is for personal equipment of individual members of the guild.
If you have items to include, please send an email to Roy Harker: nlharker@gmail.com
No business advertising!

Please notify [Roy Harker](#) if your item sells so that I may delete it from the list.

Pen Blanks

4 Wenge 3/4 x 3/4 x 5"
6 Ziricote 3/4 x 3/4 x 5" Quite rare.
or make me an offer I can't refuse.

Roy Harker nlharker@gmail.com

~~\$6.00~~-ea What are they worth?
~~\$10.00~~-ea

My phone is US so email me.



SUMMER EVENTS

The guild didn't have the regular evening meetings during July and August, but that doesn't mean we didn't do anything.

The BBQ

On 15 June the woodturning season concluded with a BBQ for members and guests. Held in Indian Battle Park, about 37 people showed up to meet, chat and munch down burgers and hot dogs, expertly grilled by Terry Beaton. Terry also contributed his own gas BBQ and Claire Beaton brought her excellent baked beans. André Laroche, as has become the custom, arranged and delivered the fixings and drinks. It was a great success and everyone had such a good time they forgot to take any pictures. Thank you, Terry and André.

The Sawdust Sessions

In July, August and September we had morning Sawdust Sessions on the 1st Saturday of each month. Well attended, these sessions provided opportunities for us to meet other woodturners and for teaching and demonstrating. Too bad none of us thought to take pictures. I guess we were all too engaged in the group to think of standing back and snapping a few.

Coyote Flats Harvest Days

August 19 and 20 saw the wood turners return for another annual outdoor demonstration at Coyote Flats Pioneer Village, near Picture Butte. We set up lathes on the platform of the old railway station, under a kiosk tent lent to us by Casa. Luckily the weather cooperated and lots of visitors to the other events, such as old-time grain threshing, heavy horse pulls, and the antique tractor parade, stopped by to watch, ask questions and sometimes ooh and ah at the little bowls and tops we were turning out. Pieces we made were handed out to the spectators.

We had a good time.

Few of our guild came to help and some who said they would, didn't. Many thanks to Ken Bly for assisting in the turning and talking to the visitors. Earl Stamm, Terry Beaton and Norm Robinson helped with setup, take down, transportation and just about everything else. Our display table was watched over very ably by Dorothy Shelson. Thanks, Dorothy.

Needless to say, we don't have any pictures.

Looking forward to the upcoming woodturning season.

Dan Michener

OPPORTUNITIES

Reciprocal Shop Visits. Lets broaden our horizons and promote camaraderie among our members. If you are willing to visit other turner's workshops and see the tools and tricks of their workspace, contact Norm Robinson to arrange a shop visit (text or phone 403-404-4428).

ANDRÉ'S PREFERRED WEB SITES OF THE MONTH

Richard Raffan (www.richardraffan.com.au) is a monument in wood turning. He is a writer of many books, he has demonstrated around the world including in Calgary at Black Forest Wood Company and now that he has retired from the world demonstration circuit, he is producing YouTube videos every week. He was born in U.K. and after a few well-paid jobs in different retail businesses, he decided on a whim to become a woodturner. He left his job, paid a year of tuition to a small woodturning production shop and went on. After 4 months on the job as a woodturning student, he realized that he needed some money. So, he quit the production group, opened his own shop and created his own apprenticeship in June 1970. He taught himself to use the skew and started production of scoops and knobs for blind and light-pull cords. Early on, he produced a catalog of his available wares in different size and shape (it was 1970 after all) and his business grew and soon, he became a recognized woodturner in U.K. and abroad. In 1978, he went for a three-month residence in woodturning in Sydney (Australia) and emigrated to Australia in 1982. He set up his shop and has been busy since. In 1984 he published his first book "Turning Wood with Richard Raffan" that included a video. This book led to his international career as a demonstrator, teacher, book and magazine writer. In January 2020, he decided that it was time to slow down and had terminated all his international engagement. A few months later, the world stopped but he was already set up at home. The best part about retirement is the fact that he can turn wood almost every single day and he just loves it. Recently, a younger friend showed him how he could use his smart phone to film himself and continue to teach his skills and knowledge to a world audience through YouTube (@RichardRaffanwoodturning). He has produced over 165 videos during the last year. Richard was a production turner and was obviously fast and productive. His videos are usually under 10 min but are packed with information and a plethora of different turned wares. Make sure you visit his YouTube channel and you will be impressed to discover his ability to efficiently teaching production of many different wares. His enthusiastic smile full of satisfaction after completing a project is always a renewed pleasure to catch at the end of each video.

On his web site, please consult the Gallery. You will find some of Richard's lovely works. The Bowls tab contained only a few of the over 32,000 units that he has turned during his career. I specially like the one with the natural edge and the bark. He has turned many beautiful different bowl shapes, some with greenwood and others using dry wood. You will even find his preferred ways to maintain your bowls for years of usage. The variety of styles of his boxes (under the Boxes tab) is amazing. Most of his smaller boxes are end-grain turned and have a suction-fit lid that necessitates two hands to be able to open them with the characteristic "pop" sound. His larger boxes are cross-grain turned with a looser fit of the lid enabling to open them with a single hand. Richard has a tab for Toys and these are unbelievably cute. One of his many books was about turning and making toys for the little ones. Again, you will find a wide variety of works from cars to animals and all are interesting, some with a lot of colours. Again, a fantastic source of inspiration. There are many more tabs to explore. One is "Scoops - Spatulas - Miscellaneous." To repeat myself, this is remarkably interesting and stimulating. Quite interesting as you know now that Richard started his career as a scoop production turner. Have a good look you will be happy that you went exploring Richard Raffan's website.

I believe a few Guild members might have taken a session with Richard during his different demos in Calgary over the years. Ask the most experienced guild members if they have taken a course with Richard. Do not forget to consult the Guild library to see how many books from Richard are hiding there?

André

BEADS of COURAGE

Try to remember the Beads of Courage program as you go about your daily routines and, if you find the time and have the inclination, please make some boxes and tops for the kids.

John VandenBerg
Beads of Courage Coordinator



Guidelines for Turned Treasure Boxes:

1. In order to hold the beads, turned boxes for the Beads of Courage program need to be about 6 inches in diameter (5 inches minimum) and 5 inches deep (4 inches minimum).
2. If possible, have "Beads of Courage" engraved or burned in the lid, or leave a place to insert a bead.
The round bead sizes are: 3/4 "+" with a thickness of 5/16" or 1 1/4" with a 3/16" thickness. There is a rectangle bead that is 3/4" x 15/16" with a thickness of 5/16".
3. Make sure the lids are easily removable. Any finials should be easy for a small child to grasp and not too elaborate.
4. Finishing:
Children who receive these boxes are susceptible to germs/infections/mold. Bowls that have not been properly sealed can harbor mold. Ensure you are using a safe finishing process that does not contain toxic materials. Do not use finishes like linseed or walnut oil that take a long time to outgas.
Do not paint Beads of Courage boxes. Instead, highlight the beauty of the wood with clear varnish, stain, and/or burning.
5. John (John VandenBerg fayjohn@shaw.ca, ph. 403-380-0141) has the beads to be glued on after the box is finished. He has a limited number of them so will give them out, one per box, when you have a box ready. Contact him to request a bead.
6. Please complete a donation form with your finished box or bowl. You can get the forms at the Beads of Courage Canada website, or John VandenBerg will have copies of them.

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

SUBMISSIONS REQUEST FROM GUILD MEMBERS

I again 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.

Roy Harker - nlharker@gmail.com

ABOUT THE GUILD

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

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Lethbridge, AB
Canada T1J 5H2

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

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

A map to the meeting location is found on our website.

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



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