



CHINOOK WOODTURNING GUILD NEWSLETTER

A CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS · VOL 2023, NO. 08 · Oct. 2023

NOVEMBER BRINGS BACK THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL



Guild Tree 2022

It will be the 29th Annual Christmas Tree Festival, November 19 – 22 (<https://crhfoundation.ca/content.php?p=18>), and the Guild will participate by decorating a tree with hand made and turned ornaments. As in the past, we will need 175-200 ornaments made by the members. Looking at the membership roster, this is about five ornaments per member if everyone participates. A light task when the objective is shared among all members. It would be great if you could bring your ornaments to the saw dust session of November 4 or at the regular meeting on November 16. If your ornaments are ready, I will be very happy to collect them at the upcoming meeting on October 19. If you cannot make it to the upcoming meetings, you can deliver the ornaments to my house at any time. If you are running late, let me know how many ornaments you will be supplying as I will accept the ornaments until Friday, November 17 as we are decorating the tree on Saturday morning November 18 from 9:00 am until 11:30 am or so. It is a lot of fun setting up the great ornaments that you always make. Please let me know if you can help as some volunteer members are needed for this task as well.

The profits of this activity are going to the **Chinook Regional Hospital Foundation** as everyone from Southern Alberta benefits from the services of the hospital. If you look at this from a selfish angle, we are making an investment for our future as soon or later in our life, we will need a stop by the hospital for us or a loved one and we will benefit from this small investment. In 2019, our tree went for \$2400 which was a very nice contribution to the Foundation. Last year, the tree went for less money and everyone is looking for a rebound of the auction's prices to be held on November 22 this year.

If you need inspiration, there was already a session at the saw dust session last week and more demos are planned at the meeting next week. You can also look at my website chronicle for different sites for inspiration. There is a multitude of examples on YouTube as well.

André

Captain for the 2023 CWG team gplaroch@telus.net

ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

Oct. 19 - Regular Monthly Meeting. 7:00 pm - 9:00 @ Casa. 230 8th St South, Lethbridge. Remember to bring something for the Instant Gallery.

Nov. 4 - Sawdust Session at Casa. 10 am - noon @ Casa. 230 8th St South, Lethbridge.

Steve will send out an email to remind and inform us of plans for the morning. Remember, the best part is sharing some quality time with friends. Bring something you have made.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Hello fellow woodturners. I am your new president for the 2023/2024 Turning year. We had good attendance at our AGM in September. It was extraordinary the enthusiasm and sharing of experiences at that meeting.

We had a good representation from Chinook Woodturners for "Word on the Street." Woodturning enthusiasts turned tops, bowls and entertained the crowds. Children are amazed to see a piece of wood turned into a top. Wonderful job by the volunteer turners.

I would like this excitement and sharing of ideas, methods, and knowledge to continue. It is important to include the new members to turning as well as those who have experience but need encouragement to tell their story.

Most members have name tags. Please remember to put them on your shirt, as I, for one, am not particularly good at remembering names. It is easier talking to someone if you know their handle. Some of our new members may not have a name tag, please let us know and we will arrange one.

We have an experienced executive with Terry Beaton returning as Treasurer, Steve Munroe as VP, and leader of the Saturday sawdust sessions. Grateful to Kenn Haase for being secretary and Roy Harker for the newsletter. Since this is my first time as an executive, I will need your ideas and suggestions to meet your expectations of our club.

As a member you may not be confident to share your projects and skill. But just a thought,

woodturning is a lifetime of learning. I ask that you make that extra effort to bring your projects, turnings, and creations to the meetings. We all like to hear about your turning, what type of wood, where it came from, how you did it and what was your inspiration?

Something to think about:

- What kind of demos would you like to see?
- When we have a demonstrator come in the spring, what would you be interested in seeing and committing to attend to?
- Would you come both to the demonstration as well as the hands-on sessions following the demo?

Your feedback and commitment is important to the success of this event.

You can send your thoughts and suggestions to anyone on the executive. My email is: remiebenoit@shaw.ca

Our guild decorates a Christmas tree each year for the Chinook Regional Hospital **Christmas Tree Festival**. This takes place November 22. If everyone would kindly make 5 turned decorations for the tree it would be great. Bring them to the meeting on November 18 or, better yet, I will offer to collect them if you have them ready before that date.

I hope to see you all at our meeting at Casa on Thursday, October 19 @ 7 PM.

Remie Benoit

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.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



André Laroche, the head and only member of the Nominations Committee, calls for nominations.

Our annual AGM was held on September 21 at 7:00 pm at Casa. There was a very good turnout by the guild membership. Our President, Terry Beaton, gave the annual President's report and then we heard from Kenn Haase, our Treasurer, as he presented our annual financial report followed by the presentation of the annual audit carried out by John VandenBerg. The reports were accepted by those in attendance.

The next item of business was turned over to the head of our Nomination Committee, André Laroche, to proceed with the election of a new Executive.

The names put forward were as follows:

President - Remie Benoit

Vice President - Steve Munroe

Treasurer - Terry Beaton

Secretary - Kenn Haase

The call was made for any nominations from the floor. There were no additional nominations so the individuals put forward by the Nomination Committee were declared elected by acclamation.

An appeal was voiced by Roy Harker, the outgoing secretary, and referred to the minutes of the 2022 AGM with regards to some possible recommendations made by then outgoing president, Dan Michener, one of which was the possibility of having a few extra members sit on the Executive. Roy felt that a few extra directors would be beneficial in taking the load off the President.



Roy Harker expresses himself clearly and succinctly.

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).

SEPTEMBER MONTHLY MEETING AND INSTANT GALLERY

Our monthly meeting for September immediately followed the AGM with just two items on the agenda. Tickets were sold throughout the evening following the AGM for a raffle for a considerable number of turning blanks generously donated by Jim Farr.

The Instant Gallery is slowly picking up after a considerable lull following the pandemic. We really appreciate those who have been willing to bring in their work and share their success and challenges. We encourage everyone to bring their work each time we meet.

The Raffle for Jim Farr's treasure's wrapped up the evening.



Remo describes his woodturning.



John VandenBerg, Tom visiting from Hays, AB, Duane Vandenberg, Peter Dibble.



Instant Gallery and Jim Farr's turning blanks which are to be raffled off.



André Laroche describes his lidded box while Terry Sutton, Norm Robinson and Ron Kisko listen.



Steve Munroe has everyone's full attention, except maybe Roger's.

WORD ON THE STREET FESTIVAL

The Chinook Woodturning Guild was invited to demo outdoors at the 'Word On The Street' festival on September 23rd. This is an annual event put on by the Lethbridge Public Library to promote literacy and interest in books in general. This year Casa was asked to participate so potters and woodturners were on hand to enrich the experience of the several thousand visitors.

We trundled two lathes and all the gear down to the location in front of the Bowman Art Centre on that Saturday morning and found our little kiosk tent was positioned right opposite the music stage and beside the port-a-potties. Yikes!! However, woodturners rarely pass up an opportunity to connect with the non-woodturning community, show off our stuff and



Dorothy Shelson guards the instant gallery.

became our connection to the passers by.

Adults and children paused at the lathes to watch shavings fly. Some stayed to talk. The bowls and spinning tops we made were handed out free to whoever was watching, much to their delight.

By mid afternoon the din from the music stage (regardless of the quality of the music, it is a deafening din if you are trying to talk and listen to interested visitors) became unsupportable and we packed up and left. Our ears rang for days. If we do this again we should have the will to pick up the tent and move ourselves to a quieter place. Availability of electricity will be the only concern if we do that.

Many thanks to the guys who showed up to help and support us:

Remi Benoit
Paul McGaffey
Earl Stamm

Dan Johnson
Dan Michener
Norm Stelter

Ron Kisko
Steve Munroe
John VandenBerg

André Laroche
Norm Robinson



Two lathes and a little kiosk tent on the street. L to R: Norm Stelter, Ron Kisko, Steve Munroe, Paul McGaffey.

do a little woodturning so the people can see what we are all about. The hope is we will kindle interest in someone who sees us and maybe get a new guild member.

Our guys came during the day to do some turning and meet the public as well as talk with the other turners. Dorothy Shelson graciously agreed to look after the instant gallery table for us, and she immediately



Lots of people on the street stopped by to talk or just have a look.

ANDRÉ'S PREFERRED WEB SITES OF THE MONTH

The **Art of Wood Exhibition 2023** is an annual competition organized by the National Association of Woodworkers Inc. in New Zealand and the results were made public just a few days ago (<https://exhibition.naw.org.nz/>). There are ten categories in which participants could submit their works ranging from bowls, hollow forms, platters. For our enjoyment, the competition is dominated by the woodturner membership. By clicking on each category tab, you will find exceptional works by different Kiwi turners. This is real candy for the eyes and the soul. Take time to see and enjoy each work. This is absolutely wonderful woodturning. Of course, you could cheat and go directly to the Award tab (or stay on the main page) and find the best pieces from every category but you would deny yourself of the pleasure of seeing all the amazing work submitted by many exceptional turners. For a second year in a row, Robbie Graham was the extraordinary turner this year clinching the "Supreme" award, with an amazing hollow form called "Phi" made from a single piece of black maire (*Nestegis cunninghamii*) a spectacular native species of New Zealand. A close runner up was Tery Scott with many pieces including the magnificent hollow form called "Pohutukawa at Christmas" representing a full-size flower (30 cm - 12" tall) of this native New Zealand tree that blooms at Christmas time. Be assured that you will treasure every moment spent on this site.

With the upcoming 29th Annual Christmas Tree Festival, next month, our Guild will be again contributing to the decoration of a tree, it is timely to visit some sites related to Christmas ornaments. If you need inspiration for making some ornaments, the first website to consult is our Guild Newsletter page (http://www.chinookwoodturning.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=20&Itemid=226). If you select the November and December issues from last year and from 2019 and each previous years, you will find a tremendous collection of Christmas ornaments turned by you and our colleagues over the years.

A second site to consult is the announcement of the **Christmas Ornament Challenge 2023** (<https://youtu.be/wzQvdHYhhlo?si=pSQrUH6ke2LHY0lr>) put forward by Allan Stratton (AsWoodTurns) and Matt Deighton (Woodturners Worldwide). Starting at 5:30 of the video you will find the contributions from last year's challenge, all very interesting and surely inspiring. Now that you have the site information you could also contribute a photo of your best ornament and perhaps become a winner of one of the many prizes to be awarded. Mike Peace (www.mikepeacewoodturning.com) who did a remote demonstration for us in 2020, has many videos on YouTube as well about turning and assembling different Christmas ornaments. After this, if you are not quite sure you found the inspiration for the perfect Christmas ornament(s) yet, type "woodturning Christmas ornaments" in the search box of YouTube. You will find hundreds of suggestions. Then, it will be time to turn ornaments for the Christmas tree.

Enjoy the websites.

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: $\frac{3}{4}$ "+" with a thickness of $\frac{5}{16}$ " or $1 \frac{1}{4}$ " with a $\frac{3}{16}$ " thickness. There is a rectangle bead that is $\frac{3}{4}$ " x $\frac{15}{16}$ " with a thickness of $\frac{5}{16}$ ".
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.

mailing address:
% Casa
230 - 8 Street South
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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