



# CHINOOK WOODTURNING GUILD NEWSLETTER

A CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS • VOL 2019, NO 3 • MARCH 2020

## Teaching the Teachers

On Wednesday and Thursday, February 20-21, several of our members met at GS Lakie Middle School in Lethbridge to mentor 13 school shop teachers from the local region in the art of woodturning. This was during the teacher's Professional Development days and the woodturning was to be two full days.

In November, we had been approached by Gord Smith, shop teacher at GS Lakie, who asked if we would be willing to teach the teachers. Never having tried anything like this before, we decided to give it a try. Terry Beaton, Roger Wayman, Norm Robinson, Roy Harker, Dan Michener, Paul McGaffey, Bryan Matthews and John Vandenberg were on hand to help.

We rounded up 15 lathes, tool sets and face shields. The guild supplied the wood; and most of the teachers brought their own equipment. The class had guys who had turned wood before and others who had not, but they were all familiar with power tools and had the requisite eye/hand coordination. Most of all, they all wanted to be there. Some wanted to take what they were learning back to their schools because they had lathes in the



TOP LEFT: Roger Wayman demonstrating a cut to a teacher

BOTTOM LEFT: Roger Wayman explains how to present a scraper

ABOVE: Dan Michener in discussion with a teacher



shop, and others were doing that, but also were just loving making stuff.

The class began with Dan giving a brief introduction to the wood

lathe and a quick demo of making a spinning top. Then everybody made a top. Tops are great starter projects because they use a lot of common wood turning processes in a simple item: mounting between centres, roughing, chucking, using a gouge and following the bevel, using the parting tool. And when they finish the students have something they

**Guild meetings and events for March are cancelled due to the Covid19 health crisis. Casa is closed.**

### COMING EVENTS

Schedule of Meetings, demos and events

#### March

- 7 - Sat, 10am, Sawdust session -
- 19 - \*\*Thurs, 7pm - Paul McGaffey, "Turning Wild Wood"

#### April

- 4 Sat, 10am, Sawdust session -
- 16 \*\*Thurs, 7pm - Kai Muenzer lamp demo.
- 17 Fri. Kai Muenzer, all day hands on class

#### May

- 2 Sat, 10am, Sawdust session -
- 21 \*\*Thurs, 7pm -

- 23 Sat. Art Liestman - all day demonstration at Casa 9am-4pm
- 24 Sun. Art Liestman - Hands on class at Dan Michener's shop, 9am-4pm

#### June

- 6 Sat, 10am, Sawdust session -
- 18 \*\*Thurs, 6pm, Casa woodshop. BBQ.



can be pleased with instead of just a practice stick.

After the tops were done, everyone chose a project from a list we had provided. I expected them to start with simple things, like a honey dipper, but no! They all went for more involved things like gavels, bowls and making pens. One fellow made a sphere and then worked on a segmented piece he brought from home.

The ratio of helpers to students seemed about right because so much was going on that there wasn't much time to slack off. Besides the woodturning, there were two sharpening stations set up which required an experienced sharpener on hand. On day two, all the students were there ahead of us woodturners and the lathes were going when I walked in. At noon piz-

za appeared and everyone stopped for about half an hour and then went to work again right after.

Finishing up, cleaning up, loading up, trying to get all the parts and tools back to their rightful owners didn't take long with everyone pitching in. Gord and the other teachers

thanked the guild for a fine time, made sure we would do it again next year, and said goodbye. And the Chinook Woodturning Guild got a handsome honorarium!

This was a satisfying two days.

— Dan Michener



TOP: The instructors and the teachers proudly exhibiting their work. TOP LEFT: Dan Michener supervises teacher. TOP CENTRE: Bryan Matthews visually explaining a cut to a teacher. TOP RIGHT: Norm Robinson adjusting the drill press

MIDDLE LEFT: John Vandenberg commenting on the on-going turning. MIDDLE CENTRE: Terry Beaton adjusting the tailstock pressure. MIDDLE RIGHT: The wood shop at GS Lakie Middle School was a very busy place

LOWER LEFT: Bryan Matthews and Dan Michener discussing about the skew and its use. LOWER RIGHT: Roy Harker commenting on the application of a finish



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



When Vern Miller died I sent the guild's condolences to the family, also I made a few comments about Vern in my request for someone to take over producing the newsletter (no response). However, more

needs to be said. If you joined the guild in the last two years, you didn't meet Vern, but you heard of him and read his newsletters and he knew about you because he kept a list of members, with pictures if he could get one. If you were already in the guild, Vern was inescapable.

I noticed in the speech at the funeral that not much was said about Vern's involvement in wood-

turning. I think that's because his children may see him as the person he was when they were growing up and he was working as financial officer and a dad. We, on the other hand, mostly knew him as a permanent fixture in our guild, almost from its inception. I don't know when or how he became

involved in turning, although I'm sure I was told. It was clear that woodturning had become a passion for him, and he attacked it with great energy and devoted untold hours over the last 15 years to promoting our guild.

Vern and I traveled to Great Falls, Montana, to see Mike Mahoney demonstrate and again to see Rudy Lopez demonstrate and we also took a class from Rudy after the demo. Three hours of driving each way, both times, leaves a lot of time to talk. Again, Vern and I drove to Regina for the Saskatchewan Woodturners Symposium in 2016. 7 hours each way. Lots of time. Vern abhorred a silence, so I heard more than I will ever remember about his whole life up until that date. Sleep did not overtake him.



Vern was a fine woodturner with a deep knowledge of the craft. He introduced me to the World of Woodturning website, convinced me to join the AAW, and did all sorts of demos for the guild when nobody else was available. Vern's great gift to me was his continual emphasis on form in turned pieces. This has guided my woodturning for years.

All of this is not to say that Vern couldn't be an irritating guy. He was an expert at rattling other woodturners with an off the cuff remark or an unfortunate turn of phrase. His tendency to comment on what could be improved rather than what was excellent put off many new woodturners, and he often pushed his ideas past the comfort zone. Because of this, much valuable advice was rejected, and

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## President's Message

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that is a tragedy because his ideas were often correct. Unfortunately, this resulted in little support for many of his brain storms. I learned to tell myself "that's just Vern, he's probably right but I hate to admit it".

Vern gave freely of his time as Treasurer, President and newsletter editor for the Chinook Woodturning Guild for more than 10 years. Even recently he was sending me suggestions for demonstrators we might want to bring to Lethbridge, devising forms he thought we should fill out, collecting contact information on everybody who showed any interest in woodturning and putting them on his voluminous mailing list.

Vern always had a joke, some advice and a story. I'm sorry he is no longer with us.

## LAST MINUTE NEWS

We just heard that the Guild has been awarded the Public Library display case for the month of June to show some of our works to the general public. Think about one or two pieces that you would like to display at that time.



## BEADS OF COURAGE

In February, Rae from Beads of Courage called to ask for some boxes. I have delivered all of the boxes we had in the library, so we need to replenish our supply. It's cool outside so a good time to spend a day in the shop.

I want to mention how we became involved in building boxes for the Beads of Courage Program. Vern Miller heard about the B of C program in the United States, and thought it would be a good project for our club to be involved with. He also contacted many clubs across Canada to encourage them to join also, and many joined. He asked me to be the program chairman. I contacted the Beads of Courage Director of



The thirteen Bead of Courage boxes delivered by John Vandenberg in February 2020. Many thanks to all the generous turners who contributed the beautiful boxes. You will bring smiles to many kids experiencing health challenges.

Artist relations in Calgary, and met with Rae. She gave me information to bring back to the club, and the Chinook Woodturner's club joined in October of 2015. We were the first club in Canada to join. Since then we have donated 185 boxes

to be given to seriously ill children in Canada.

We are grateful for Vern's initiative.

— John Vandenberg  
Beads of Courage chairman



## GENERAL MEETING

# Was it a duel?

No! We had demonstrations on two complementary methods of finishing turned vessels.

Dan Michener started by demonstrating its utilization of the Parfix 3408 CA adhesive on a greenwood turned vessel. This particular cyanoacrylate adhesive has a very low viscosity (5 cps), with low odor and low blooming characteristics and curing between 40 and 60 sec. Dan likes the product as it penetrates deeply into the wood surface before curing which provides plenty of time to apply it. He prepares the surface by sanding up to 600 grits on the piece revolving on the lathe then stops the lathe to sand with the grain to make sure the surface is without any visible scratches. Then he does apply one single coat Parfix 3408 CA adhesive over the entire vessel with the lathe turning at a very low speed. He was using a piece of shop towel to apply the CA. After the application, he lets the product cure for an additional minute or two before spraying with an accelerator to ensure complete curing. He then buff with a cotton wheel loaded with the Vonax polishing compound. He was using the buffing adapter with an expansion mandrel from a Beal system (Craft Supplies or other supplier) to spin the buffing wheel. After polishing is completed, a very nice surface is obtained without altering the natural color of the wood. Another very important advantage when working with greenwood is that the exterior surface of the wood is sealed and humidity is not going to es-



cape from this surface. This provides more time to turn the inside of a hollow form or a vase without shape distortion due to drying. Dan mentioned that he has been using this product for over one year now and he has always been very pleased with the result on the surface and the fact that no distortion of the shape occurs while he completes the inside of the work. A supplier of the Parfix 3408 CA adhesive and Vonax polishing compound is Mark Sillay (<http://www.marksillay.com>). There was a recent email from Terry Beaton about a group order.

Rob Thomsen demonstrated the utilisation of the Osmo TopOil product (<https://osmo.ca/>) on a completed burl bowl. This is a clear food-safe



product. He applies the product generously to all surfaces of a bowl spinning at a medium speed on the lathe using a white 3M Scotch-Brite pad. In Rob's experience, it is critical to use this type of pad to apply this product. After a few minutes the excess product is removed using a paper towel. We have seen over and over the quality of different works from Rob at the Instant Gallery. The wood treated with this product has a very pleasing appearance. This product can be purchased locally at Windsor Plywood.

It was great to hear about the arsenal of products used by two of our members. Rob and Dan many thanks for sharing some of your secrets with us. I am sure that we will see works from members using one of these solutions to finish the surface of various turned objects in the coming months.

— André Laroche

# WOODTURNING DEMONSTRATION

**The Chinook Woodturning Guild**  
is pleased to host

## **Art Liestman**

**Expert woodturner, artist and teacher from Vancouver, BC**  
**Saturday 23 May 2020**

Art Liestman has spent a lifetime as a maker of artistic wood creations. His work is available in galleries across North America. Art has contributed many articles to woodturning publications and taught and demonstrated at arts and craft schools, woodturning symposia and local clubs. You can see his work and much more on his website: <http://artliestman.com/>

**There will be an all day demonstration**  
**Saturday, 23 May 2020, 9am – 4pm**  
**Registration: \$60 (Students \$40) includes lunch**  
**(Non-members \$70)**

**Location:**  
**CASA Building**  
**230 8<sup>th</sup> Street South**  
**Lethbridge, Alberta**  
**T1J2H2, Canada**

Please register to attend by contacting :  
Dan Michener 403-331-9177 ([michenerdan@gmail.com](mailto:michenerdan@gmail.com))  
or  
André Laroche 403-393-5337 ([gplaroch@telus.net](mailto:gplaroch@telus.net))

On the days subsequent to the demonstration, Art will be instructing hands-on workshops covering The Lost Wood Process for all skill levels.  
If you want to participate in the workshop, call to inquire.

# INSTANT GALLERY

CWG Feb 20, 2020 Instant Gallery

It is going to be difficult for our Newsletter to ever be as good as Vern has accomplished until his passing. He will be deeply missed.

The Instant Gallery was well attended at our February 20th meeting.



**Albert Weik** presented two unique rolling pins. One was made in whole with Padauk, and the other was a mixture of Purple Heart, Padauk, and Oak. Nicely done.



**Dan Michener** brought in a winged bowl made from Chokecherry with the top edge still having the bark on it. He explained that this piece took on its own shape since he turned it. I love the way the grain changes in this piece as well as the natural colouring.

**John VandenBerg** was busy as always, turning out two Beads of Courage boxes that have some fun colours, and a very unique segmented bowl made from a variety of woods including Walnut, Padauk, Maple and possibly some Oak. And also a cool little sphere-shaped, lidded vessel from spalted Birch. During my dilemma with my segmented platters, I consulted the



pro on the matter - being John, and now Ken and I fully understand why he loves spending so much time in his amazing shop. □



**Kenn Haase** tackled three very different projects. He made a Cherry bowl which he embellished with three rings burned in the midsection and completed it with a very nice lid which enhanced the bowl even more. His next piece is a Grecian Urn from Elm



that is well-balanced and very nicely finished. Kenn's third piece is a Spruce lidded box, which he coloured the lower portion red and the lid a dark blue.



**Norman Stelter** presented a very nice lidded box which was constructed from segments of Cherry, Maple, Walnut and Hickory. A very nice configuration and end product.

**Remo Brassolotto** (Nexr page) turned three bowls from Cottonwood. Two of them were embellished with rings burned into them. The change in colours of the grain give nice contrast.



# 2020 SASKATCHEWAN WOODTURNERS SYMPOSIUM

July 17, 18, 19

Featuring Master Woodturners from Britain, Canada, and France



Jean F. Escoulen



Nick Agar



Jason Breach



Michael Hosaluk

Also featuring Dale Lowe and Lori Maxim

Registration details can be obtained from  
[www.southsaskwoodturners.ca](http://www.southsaskwoodturners.ca)

Demonstrations, Wine & Cheese, 2 Lunches, dinner, Social,  
Vendors, Auction on Sunday

Instant Gallery- Bring your wood piece(s) for show and sale

Post Symposium hands-on workshop limited space  
check registration details

Email: [sswguild@gmail.com](mailto:sswguild@gmail.com)

Location: Regina Trades and Skills Centre  
1275 Albert St. Regina



South Saskatchewan Woodturners Guild

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**Roy Reti** turned a very unique shaped vase from Russian Olive bringing out the spectacular change of grainery, and further enhanced by an embellishment tool applied near the base of the vase.



**Terry Sutton** made 2 bowls each made from plywood, Walnut and Baltic



Birch. One has a straight wall and the other with an outward slant. Both of these bowls were embellished nicely with the bottom of the bowl having attractive segmented patterns.

After having a conference over at John Vandenberg's shop that cleared up my dilemma, I (Lorraine Mix) managed to complete my segmented



platters, and although not perfect I am quite pleased with them. I plan on making

a second set in the foreseeable future and have a great expectation that it will be without the dilemma and more fun. LOL.

Thank you to all the people who have brought projects to the Instant Gallery. They are always a treat for all members to enjoy.

— Lorraine Mix



## ABOUT THE GUILD

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

mailing address:  
c/o CASA  
230 - 8 Street South  
Lethbridge, AB  
Canada T1J 5H2

Meetings are at 7:00pm the third Thursday of the month, Sept thru June at the CASA building on 8th Street South in Lethbridge

*A map to the meeting location can be found on our website*

<http://chinookwoodturning.org/>



### President:

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### Treasurer

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### Beads of Courage, Chairman

John vandenBerg  
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The Guild is a member of - Allied Arts Council, Lethbridge, the Society of Canadian Woodworkers and a chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

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