



# CHINOOK WOODTURNING GUILD NEWSLETTER

A CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS · VOL 2020, NO 9 · Nov. 2020

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dan Michener, President



This holiday season is lacking its usual luster because the pandemic has turned our world upside down. In other years our group would, by now, have made scores of ornaments for the Regional Hospital Foundation Christmas Tree Festival and auction. However, that has been cancelled. Usually at about this time the Christmas At Casa Christmas Art sale would be getting underway. Six or eight of us would be trying to figure out how to cram more vases, kaleidoscopes, candle stick holders, bowls and platters on their allotted 8ft. table. Those Casa sales are crowded happy affairs, but they are totally inappropriate this time around.

To their credit, the Allied Arts Council has moved the Christmas sale online rather than cancelling it outright. However, the hassle of photographing and annotating every item, posting it on Shopify and the subsequent packaging and shipping is unattractive to all but the most determined sellers. No members of our guild are participating even though we were encouraged to do so. Fortunately, none of us depend on art sales for our livelihood so deciding to skip the online event doesn't

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Zoom demonstration** – Nick Agar, renowned woodturner and artist, will present a Zoom demonstration for the Alberta Guilds on 24 November at 7pm. Members will receive invitations by email. Nick's webpage: <https://nickagarstudios.com/>.
- **Harvey Meyer**, master of the basket weave illusion, will present a Zoom demonstration on 23 January, 2021. Harvey's webpage: <http://www.harveymeyer.com/>. More information to come.
- The Chinook Woodturning Guild is selling spinning tops for the benefit of the Lethbridge Foodbank. Bring your tops to the Allied Arts Council Store, 318 7 St S., Lethbridge. The tops are sold for \$5; all proceeds go to the food bank.
- **Membership fees are now due.** This year dues are reduced by approximately 1/3<sup>rd</sup>. Regular members pay \$50, Family memberships are \$84 and Students pay \$32.50. Mail your dues to: Chinook Woodturning Guild, c/o Casa, 203 8th St. S, Lethbridge, AB, T1J 5H2 Or : André, our Treasurer, can process credit card payments over the phone. Contact André to make alternative arrangements to pay. [gplaroch@telus.net](mailto:gplaroch@telus.net), 403-393-5337. You may also drop off payment at André's home. Phone ahead for the address and to be sure he is there.



## COMING EVENTS

Schedule of Meetings, Demos and

### NOVEMBER

Nick Agar Demo

November 24

7:00 PM

(Zoom)

### DECEMBER

Sawdust Session  
Monthly meeting

December 5  
December 17

10:00AM  
7:00 PM

(Zoom)  
(Zoom)

**Guild Meetings are cancelled due to the COVID-19 health crisis. CASA is closed to large group gatherings.**

## **President's Message**

undermine our futures. While at the same time there are a number of smaller local sales going on which permit a degree of social distancing.

My attitude to selling pieces online is that what I like about woodturnings is precisely what you don't get from a photograph. The feel of wood in the hand, the variation in colour and texture as it is turned in the light, the smell, are all things that buyers respond to. I don't want the buyer to be disappointed when the vase they bought online turns out to be not quite what they thought it would be from the picture. And to be honest, I like to talk with the customers. They have hundreds of questions and

comments whether they buy or not and I learn from them as they from me. Finally, woodturning is a solitary pastime. I, and the rest of us, spend long hours alone in the workshop, revelling in the solitude and the shavings, so it's great to have a few days of talking and showing off, meeting people from other walks of life that I would never meet otherwise, and seeing old friends who show up and say hello. Of course, it's always a rush when somebody wants to buy the stuff; bless their heart.

See you in 2021 at the Christmas At Casa Art sale!

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## **How to join a Zoom Meeting**

*This information is from the Central Alberta Woodturners newsletter.*

### **On desktop, tablet or phone by downloading the app.**

1. Download the **Zoom desktop app** on your Mac or PC. <https://zoom.us/download>
2. Open the **Zoom app**.
3. Click **Join a Meeting**.
4. Enter the **Meeting ID** and your **name**, and set **audio/video permissions**.

### **On desktop, tablet or phone via meeting invite link.**

1. Click on the Meeting Invite URL that the host shared via email or text.
2. Open the **Zoom app**.
3. **Approve** the request for **permission** to use your computer's **audio and camera**.

Depending on the meeting's set-up:

- you may enter the meeting right away
- you may need to wait for the host to arrive first or
- you may be placed into a waiting room that the host controls.

## Craig Timmerman Zoom demo

Dan Michener

Craig Timmerman, from Armadillo Woodworks in Austin, Texas, gave a super demonstration on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. This demo was attended by more than 80 participants, representing the 4 Alberta guilds and the Great Falls Woodturners in Montana.

Craig is a full-time artist, craftsman, teacher and demonstrator. His thoroughly professional presentation, aided with a camera setup which clearly pictured all the critical moves and angles necessary, showed us how to make a winged bowl. A running commentary accompanied his lathe work so we were never in doubt about what he was up to or why he chose a certain method over alternatives. A key consideration in his design decisions is saving time. Lengthy, difficult cuts are kept to a minimum because production turning depends on producing lots of pieces to sell. In this way he is rather different from hobbyist woodturners such as most of us.

At the beginning of the demo Craig gave us a slideshow (some pictured below) of many types of winged creations. It appears that the title can be applied to a wide variety of bowlish shapes

which seem to have the common property of lots of air turning. During the actual woodturning, Craig discussed woods (he loves mesquite), finishes, turquoise inlay types and techniques, glues, gloves, and salesmanship in between explaining what cut he was making, why and with which tool. Every step in the turning of his bowl led clearly to the next step. At the end of two and a quarter hours Craig didn't appear tired or bored and he took questions as long as they kept coming.

Thank you Craig Timmerman!



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## WINGED BOWL CHALLENGE

The Chinook Woodturning Guild issues the Winged Bowl Challenge to all members of the clubs and guilds who attend Craig's demo.

Craig showed us pictures of a variety of winged bowls to inspire our imaginations using the techniques he demonstrated. If you email a picture of a winged bowl you have made, you will be entered in a draw for a valuable prize of \$20 worth of foam backed sandpaper.

Please include your **name** and the **club or guild** of which you are a member. Entrants have **4 weeks** to send in their winged bowl pictures, so the **deadline is 26 November 2020**. All the pictures will be collected together and emailed to the guilds so everyone can see what each other are up to in our workshops.

Email the pictures to:

[michenerdan@gmail.com](mailto:michenerdan@gmail.com).

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### Sawdust Session

November 7



A few of us gathered virtually for a Sawdust Session on the 1st Saturday of the month. Terry Beaton shared videos of some of his work making tops. It was informative and enjoyable. It was also good to be able to chat and share some of our work and sources. In some ways I think we are getting to know a little more about each other in this time of virtual meetings. Thanks to Terry and all of you who joined in. See you again next month.

Roy Harker

## INSTANT DISTANT GALLERY



Nutty Thursday. It's pandemic, turn anything. Scots Pine, no finish  
Dan Michener



Wiing-Ding - Spruce  
Ken Hasse



Bowl - branch from Lady Bug Arborists  
Walnut Oil Finish  
Dan Michener



Lost Wood



Winged Bowl  
Roger McMullin



I felt like making salad bowls. They are 8", 10" and 12", Walnut and Maple, finished with Clapham's beeswax and mineral oil salad bowl finish.  
Dan Michener

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**INSTANT DISTANT GALLERY cont.**



Manitoba Maple – John VandenBerg



Salt and pepper grinder  
Norm Stelter



2 3/4"H x 9" - Australian Blackwood - Mahony's walnut oil finish  
Roger Wayman



Vase of unknown wood, bowls of Scots Pine, one of them torched to bring out the grain.  
Kenn Haase

## INSTANT DISTANT GALLERY cont.



Just a simple bowl, Russian Olive, oil finish  
Roger Wayman



Kaleidoscopes - 12" x 2 1/2"  
Terry Beaton



Birdhouse  
Rob Thomsen



Tops for the annual top sale for the Food Bank  
Terry Beaton



From a chunk of Ornamental Crab, "turned" out to be quite punky so I proceeded with very careful caution down to about .25". Supposed to be an URN but if someone isn't ready to die it could be a COOKIE JAR. I'm not at all pleased with the result but I learned a lot. The lid is too clunky for my liking etc.

7"X8.5" Finished with food safe Tera Niva NatruOil and buffed with Bee's Wax. I don't have any capability for turning threads so I used that part of a plastic jar.  
Kenn Haase



## A WOODTURNER'S ADVENTURE

Roger McMullin

Several years ago my wife and I ventured off on a summer vacation to Vancouver Island. We planned to visit friends and family and unbeknownst to my wife my goal was also to search for some good old fashioned BC woodturning wood.

We arrived in Sydney, visited friends in Victoria then headed up island toward Port Hardy. Enroute, we came upon a cedar mill North of Campbell River. I drove our camper van into the yard and was greeted by an energetic young man who, as it turns out, was a bowl maker and the foreman of this smaller mill. He was excited to show me his stash of fresh cut yellow cedar burls that he was hoarding. I was ecstatic about seeing these massive yellow cedar logs, some larger than 3' in diameter and more thrilled when he offered me a number of smaller (10-12") burls. A gift from one Woodturner to another. I hastily loaded them into our little van, said our goodbyes, with gratitude and many thanks. As we were driving away, I was euphoric, the smell of fresh cedar was profound. It was such a nice experience talking to this young man. There is something special sharing a common passion.

Later that night, we rearranged the wood in the van, placed the burls under our couch which was to be converted to our bed. In the middle of the night, we both woke up to the increasingly pungent odour of fresh cedar which now completely permeated the van.

I had instructions from my wife, to get that damn wood out of the van because she was not going to spend another night smelling that stuff. I coaxed her into agreeing to relocate my stash into the shower. I made sure it was doubled bagged just like I was instructed. There was no way I was giving this treasure up.

On our way South, we stopped in Parksville to stock upon groceries. I'm pushing a cart down the aisle and look up to see this 6'3" guy walking down the aisle. I immediately recognized Doug Fisher. if you are not aware, he is a world renowned Woodturner known for his unique off-centre turnings, use of lots of colour and his trademark

West Coast native carvings. He is a person I really admire after he demonstrated for our Guild in about 2005. So, we chatted, and he invited me to tour to his shop. What an honour. As it turned out, Doug was moving to Qualicum beach in a few weeks and was interested in divesting some of wood stock. Oh Lucky me! I loaded a bunch of wood, with my wife giving me concerned glances wondering where this bunch was to be stored. Again, many thanks to Doug as we said our goodbyes.

One of the pieces I obtained from Doug was a 26" old growth Douglas fir slab. I have finally had the courage to do something with it after almost 15 years. I tried to follow his style with my own West Coast native design. It's a tribute to Doug for the great memories. It's been a cathartic experience which reinforces the importance of the fellowship that woodturners enjoy, the sharing of our love for wood and the craft or art of woodturning. It enriches our life.

I hope you like the results. It's titled "I Am Watching You". If you look closely you will see a killer whale and other sea creatures. The insert piece is an eye which is looking at us encouraging us to look after our environment for the health of every living thing.



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## BEADS OF COURAGE

I hope you are all doing well.

We are into our sixth year with the Beads of Courage Program.

Our year end was October 31, and we have made 27 boxes this year, for a grand total of 199 boxes. That's a lot of happy children receiving a special box to keep their beads in. We delivered 13 boxes in March and I have 14 waiting to be delivered to Calgary.

Thank you to those who have made the boxes and I hope you will all consider making a box for a child. The information as to sizes is available on the guild's website.

I have lots of beads for the lids. If you have boxes made they can be brought to my house, or I can pick them up. My phone number is 403 380-0141.

I'm looking forward to receiving the Beads of Courage boxes that you have made.

Thank you.

John VandenBerg

Beads of Courage coordinator.



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## ANDRÉ'S PREFERRED WEB SITES OF THE MONTH

As we are getting ready for another all Alberta Woodturning Guilds interactive remote demonstration, why not explore the web site of Nick Agar, a wonderful woodturner from UK now living in Georgia, USA. Nick's presentation is sponsored by the Calgary Woodturners Guild. Nick has a busy web site with classes and many different products but if you go directly to <https://nickagarstudios.com/gallery.php?t=creative-turning&glD=4>, you will find some of his spectacular work. Additional work can be found under different tabs in the same Gallery section. Discover his website before his demo if you can spare a few minutes (or more). If you have more time, his website is filled with demonstrations with different products he is endorsing. Lot of information to discover. Nick has also co-written a book entitled "Woodturning Evolution: Dynamic Projects for You to Make". The paperback version is very affordable on [www.amazon.ca](http://www.amazon.ca).

A turner that I discovered at the AAW meeting in Portland is a spectacular turner Hans Weissflog from Germany. Hans had a wonderful sense of humour during his demonstration and his turning of a box was close enough to his specs when he was within 0.1 mm.... He likes to use African blackwood (Dalbergia melanoxylon) and boxwood (Buxus sempervirens), a creamy color hard wood found in Europe and northwest Africa. Both wood species are very stable. I have not been able to find a web page for Hans but he has a public Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/hans.weissflog>). If someone finds a web page for him, please let me know. The following link, <https://www.bucksturners.com/bucksblog/2016/4/5/workshop-hans-weissflog-makes-a-lidded-box-and-a-hans-martin-box>, is from one of his demonstrations in April 2016 to a Woodturning Guild from Pennsylvania where he demonstrated some of his talents.

Enjoy the websites and happy turning!

André

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## 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 are at 7 pm the 3rd Thursday each month, Sept through June at the CASA building on 8th Street South in Lethbridge

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

<http://www.chinookwoodturning.org/>



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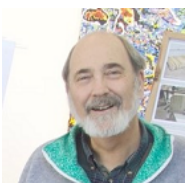
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