



CHINOOK WOODTURNING GUILD NEWSLETTER

A CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS • VOL 2022, NO 4 • Apr. 2022

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Spring is on the horizon and the woodturners are meeting face to face again. With any luck, upcoming events will not shut us down. Guild plans are for regular meetings on the third Thursdays of April and May. The June meeting is ordinarily a BBQ for the families. July and August we don't have regular evening meetings, but will continue Sawdust Sessions at Casa on the mornings of the first Saturday of every month.

With the warmer weather our hearts turn to thoughts of wood, and luckily for us, Maureen, of [Ladybug Arborists](#), has us in mind. Maureen loves trees and wood and she has an appreciation of what woodturners can do. Instead of consigning the trees she trims to the firewood pile, she often offers the wood to our members. She has been supplying us with lots of wood recently -Black Walnut, Plum, Juniper, Manitoba Maple. Usually, when Ladybug has wood, I get a phone call and I then email our members what and where the wood is. It is free for the taking, first come first served. This is a kind and thoughtful gesture. Repay the thoughtfulness by calling Ladybug Arborists when you need tree work done: 403-634-3062

Lately, Maureen has branches from the Heritage Tree, Ol' Westy. A century old cottonwood in Lethbridge. Read about Ol' Westy in André's column in this newsletter. Our guild has been asked to make a few items from Ol' Westy's branch trimmings as gifts for the Galt Museum and Archives and for the Principal of Westminster School. Maureen will make a selection from the turned pieces we



ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

Non-members who are interested in woodturning are welcome to come to our meetings as visitors. We will be glad to meet you!

21 April - General meeting of the guild. **7pm** at Casa (230 – 8 Street South, Lethbridge) Demos by Steve Munroe and John VandenBerg. Instant Gallery as usual. There will be a wood raffle of the last of Harold Plumpton's donated wood. This lot of wood is pure gold!



27 April. The Casa Woodwork Class with instructor Dave Green will get an introduction to woodturning. We will have seven students and will set up lathes for them to use. Several of our members, yet undecided, will be on hand to provide mentoring in making a spinning top. If all goes well, we will have a spin-off at the end of the evening.

7 May. Sawdust Session at Casa. 10am – noon

19 May. General meeting of the guild. 7pm at Casa.

Special Programs

The guild has initiated several programs for members to meet in small numbers outside of the regular monthly meetings at Casa. This is to encourage our woodturners to get to know each other and to build self confidence and skills. These programs have been well received and are ongoing. You can be on multiple lists and attend multiple times.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Cont.

come up with, and we will keep the rest. There are still some 3"-5" thick branches of Ol' Westy in the Ladybug building. Go get them and make something. The deadline is the middle of May.

Ol' Westy still stands, heathy, at 411 – 16St. N., Westminster Pool.

Dan Michener

ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS cont.

1. **Saturday Sessions.** We have begun teaching sessions at Casa for groups of 3 or 4, plus a mentor or two. There will be specific projects, so this is not a sawdust session. When the projects are announced, any of our members may ask to be included. That same project will be taught repeatedly until all interested members have had a chance to attend.

Contact Terry Beaton to register and find out what projects are being taught. 403-381-4552, terry_beaton@shaw.ca

2. **Reciprocal Shop Visits.** To broaden our horizons and promote camaraderie among our members, we have started a program of drawing names of pairs of willing

woodturners, who will arrange to visit the other one's workshop and see the tools and tricks of the workspace.

Contact Norm Robinson to agree to a shop visit (text or phone 403-404-4428).

3. **Shop Sawdust visits.** We are inviting members to visit other workshops, in small numbers, to do a half day of turning and talking all things woodturning with a couple of our more experienced members. There is no set program. Turners can bring their own wood and tools for a project of their own or just come with questions and an open mind.

Contact Dan Michener, 403-331-9177 or michenerdan@gmail.com, to get on the list.

In-Person General Meetings Resume

On 17 March we had our first General meeting in more than two years. The program of the evening was mainly social since we hadn't seen each other for so long. This was an opportunity to meet several members who joined during the pandemic and had not had an opportunity to meet lots of us. We welcomed Ron Kisko, Steve Munroe, Duane Vandenberg and Doug Morrison to their first guild meeting at Casa.

Although we had a lathe set up, most of us just wanted to visit and look over the Instant Gallery.

After going through the pieces in the gallery we held a raffle of some of the wood donated to the guild by ex-member Harold Plumpton. The Raffle proved to be popular and our Treasurer, Terry, could hardly keep up with the guys wanting to buy the \$2 tickets.

Throughout the evening donuts and drinks were on hand for everyone. The 16 members present consumed 32 donuts so it must have been a good evening.

On the following pages are photos of the festivities and of the **Live** instant gallery.

First General Meeting after COVID-19



Welcome to the first meeting in two years.



Instant Gallery table.



Kenn Haase reads out raffle ticket numbers.



Harold Plumpton's donated wood all laid out for the raffle at the end of the evening.

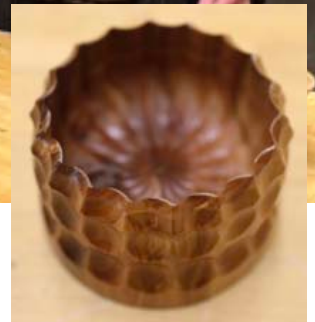
INSTANT GALLERY



*Manitoba Maple wall hanging . "John's Donut".
John VandenBerg*



*Proud creator on
his Rose Engine.
Ross Robinson*



*Another fine
basket weave
illusion vase.
John VandenBerg*



*Turned pens.
Duane Vandenberg*

INSTANT GALLERY - cont.



*Bowls
Remo Brassolotto*



Paul McGaffey believes size matters.



*First attempt at 'segmented
turning.' Very time consuming,
etc., but my wife likes it!
Kenn Haase*

INSTANT GALLERY - cont.



*Beads of Courage Program donation.
Constructed with various hard woods
Finished with Tried & True Original
Wood Finish.
Steve Munroe*



*Mini Vase constructed of oak and
walnut.
Steve Munroe*



*Segmented bowl from lessons
from Terry et al at the weekend
turning class. Oh, and that's
my Ukranian name which I will
sign all my pieces with until the
war is over in my ancestral
home.
Ron Kisko*



*Vase from Russian Olive I won
at the raffle at the monthly
meeting.
Ron Kisko*



*I got a commission to turn a fountain pen and a European
pen using lilac. This is the result. I have yet to get them
laser engraved.
Terry Beaton*

INSTANT GALLERY - cont.



*I had a request to make 3 chalk holders in the Harley logo colours (black and orange). I also made pens for the Ukranian Relief Fund.
Terry Beaton*



*A gift of a European and fountain pen set made with lilac, from Coaldale.
Terry Beaton*



*Basket Weave illusion platter.
John VandenBerg*



*Namaste cup and base after the Eric Lofstrom demo.
Dan Michener*



*Wood and epoxy.
Doug Morrison*

Dan Michener and Roy Harker received letters a couple of weeks ago from [William Wood-Write](#). They found our website and reached out to offer our guild an opportunity to sample some of their products.

They are a family-owned Canadian company based in Guelph, Ontario who specialize in pen making supplies as well as other turning kits and have recently added a line of Canadian made pouring and finishing Epoxy.

After consulting with Dan, I replied, accepting their offer. They very quickly got back to me and sent some sample pen kits and blanks. When they arrive, we will organize a way to share them in an equitable manner with those who may be interested.

Thank you William Wood-Write.

Roy Harker

SATURDAY SESSIONS

In March a Segmented Bowl turning series of classes was held. Four turners attended: Duane Vandenberg, Loraine Mix, Rob Thomson and Ron Kisko.

We covered:

- cutting the segments for the base and sides
- gluing the segments into rings
- gluing the rings together
- and turning the bowl.

Norm Robinson and Steve Munroe assisted me. The class was 2 Saturdays and a Wednesday night.

We will organize another session if there is sufficient interest. Contact me if you are interested.

Terry Beaton



GUILD BUY AND SELL

New to our newsletter.

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!

General International Maxi-Lathe VF

- Variable Speed, 3 speed ranges
- Swing over bed – 14 inch
- Distance between centres – 17 inches
- Comes with stand, 3 inch face plate and an extra 12 inch tool rest
- Asking \$500.00 or best offer

Call me at (403) 308-4552

Terry Beaton



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Volunteer Opportunity

GS Lakie middle school has requested assistance in introducing their students to the lathe.

The classes are 37 minutes long, there are 3 classes each morning and afternoon. Each student gets an introduction to the lathe and learns to use the roughing and spindle gouges and the parting tool.

The second class we turn and finish a top. The students are very interested, thankful for our help, and excited about the lathe.

The process is for the turner/demonstrator to work with 2 students who each have a lathe, teach them to mount the blank and teach them the use of the tools. The 2nd class you review the first lesson and turn a top (with the same students).

I have help from Remie Benoit and Roger McMullin, Roger is traveling to BC so will not be available after the end of April.

If you have 2 hours to spare twice a week; call me and we can discuss it (masking is no longer mandatory).

Terry Beaton



Support for Ukraine

I purchased these pen blanks from [Wood Turningz](#) (now out of stock). Turningz donates \$1.00 for every blank sold to Ukrainian relief).

My plan was to turn pens and then sell them through the Allied Arts Store (they have agreed to waive their commission).

I plan to donate the entire proceeds to the Red Cross relief fund for Ukraine. If you are interested in purchasing a pen.

Contact me or the AAC Store. Cost \$40.00.

This is something I can do and hopefully make a small difference.

Terry Beaton



BEADS of COURAGE

Thanks for all your support in the Beads of Courage program. We expect that with Covid restrictions ending we will be needing more boxes for the children. Spring is around the corner so I think we have time to turn some boxes before yard work starts.

Our guild has been asked if we could supply some tops for the children to play with while they are waiting for treatments. These are a few I made.

Thanks.

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.

Dan Michener

ANDRÉ'S PREFERRED WEB SITES OF THE MONTH

This month I am breaking my habits and I am starting with a fabulous book that every wood turner should know, *Heritage Trees of Alberta* published by the Heritage Tree Foundation of Canada (ISBN 978-0-9784931-0-3) in 2008. The idea to talk about this book came following the availability of woods from the Old Westy (or Ol'Westy), a magnificent cotton wood located by the Westminster pool in Lethbridge. My first reaction was to find out whether the tree was down or the wood was originating from a regular maintenance trimming of the tree. I knew that Ol'Westy was listed in the *Heritage Trees of Alberta* book. There is a full page (p. 190) describing the tree and photos in the adjacent page. What was my relief when I confirmed that the tree was still standing up. Since the tree was planted around 1906, it is older than 116 years. You can also find additional information about Ol'Westy on the Ladybug Arborists web site (www.ladybugarborists.com) under the "Education" tab and search for "heritage tree" and you will see the article about Ol'Westy. In the book, you will also find a list of 12 heritage trees identified in Lethbridge. The most magnificent one being certainly the Fairfield Poplar (measuring over 104' (32 m) in height with a trunk circumference of 21'8" (6.6 m) located in the Fairfield Garden at the Research Centre. A white oak located at the Research Centre is also indicated in the book but this tree, unfortunately, came down 6 or 7 years ago. You may remember that last year, wood from a white oak of the same vintage as the one from the Research Centre was made available by the Ladybug Arborists. You can find the *Heritage Trees of Alberta* book at the Lethbridge Public Library and in all the public libraries around Lethbridge (membership is still free this year). Get a copy of the book and go for car ride while these giants are still with us. If you are stopping by the Fairfield Poplar, make sure to download the map of the Fairfield Garden (<https://www.icangarden.com/uploaddocuments/>

[d12021+2019FairfieldTreeBrochure.pdf](#)) to discover a large variety of tree species growing in Lethbridge. The Fairfield Garden located on the east side of the main building at the Research Centre was closed to the public for the last two years. However, it appears that it may become accessible for visits by the general public in a few weeks.

Colwin Way (www.colwinwaywoodturner.com) is another fabulous production turner from UK living on the Jurassic coast in Dorset. In addition to being a production turner, he finds time to demonstrate and teach woodturning. He has demonstrated in Europe and North America and was a demonstrator on the first Norwegian Woodturning Cruise and a few subsequent ones. Although he has also switched to Interactive Remote Demonstrations (IRD) like many of his colleagues, he cannot wait to do a demo tour in USA and Europe this summer. He is a very thorough demonstrator and it would be outstanding to witness one of his live demonstration. His Gallery under his website is to be discovered with great enthusiasm. I particularly enjoyed his hollow forms with impeccable natural edges, he has a beautiful transparent vase lightly stain in green and you will find his collection of Nutcrackers irresistible, each one having a unique personality. Learning how to do one these beautiful nutcrackers would be a terrific demonstration for October. You will also recognize his lovely very modern Nativity scene that was published last fall in the *Woodturning Magazine*. If you had the pleasure to see Norm Robinson last fall, he might have shown you that great article on how to turn and assemble the Nativity scene that Colwin created for the article. In the Shop section of the web site, he offers plans to turn a variety of fruits that you could use to fill a bowl with great success. This is a unique offering.

Enjoy the websites, happy turning and remain safe everyone!

André

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



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