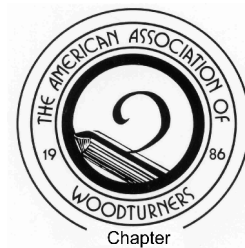
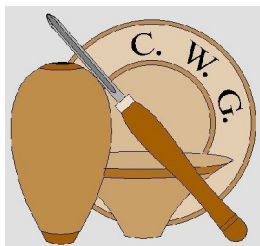


Chinook Woodturners Guild Monthly Newsletter



Volume 14 – June, 2015

Presidents Message:

The Cindy Drozda demonstration & workshops are now over and from all reports were a complete success. What a great weekend. Cindy is not only a skilled turner, she is an excellent presenter and I'm sure all who attended learned a lot from the experience. No doubt Jim will have some photos elsewhere in this newsletter.

A big thank you to all who attended the demonstration and participated in the workshops - your support is what makes these kinds of events a success. I also want to thank Dan Michener for his help with organizing, hard work and contribution to making it all work, Jim Jones for lending us his lathes for the workshops, Dennis Delaney as auctioneer. There are others who pitched in and helped and I apologize for not listing you all - your help is appreciated.

Our June (Thurs June 18) meeting is the traditional end of season BBQ with our spouses. Hope to see all our members there.

To Jim Jones, a big thank you for resurrecting the newsletter. I hope you all look forward to it each month, I certainly do.

Hope you all have a great summer

Happy turning, Vern

Coming Events:

Thurs. June 18th our regular year end BBQ at the Research Station



Email Addresses:

As with any organization, keeping an up to date email list is a challenge. Please try to keep us in the loop if you change emails – other wise you may end up missing this newsletter or other information that the executive decides they wish to share with you. If you do not get a newsletter (we will try and send it out a week before the monthly meetings) then please get ahold of me and make sure I have your correct email address. Thanks, Jim

Guild Website:

<http://chinookwoodturning.org/>

Diane Monroe still acts as our web master and our thanks to her for all her work in maintaining the site. It always worthwhile to take the time to add a few of your own pictures of new work. Having said that I need to do that

myself. I said I would do it last month but have not gotten there yet. I did, however, find the time to go and visit the web site. It looks great.

Here's hoping some of us will find the time to do it this month.



John Vandenberg at the workshop

Cindy Drozda Demo and Workshop: by Dan Michener

The Chinook Woodturning Guild was lucky to have **Cindy Drozda** attend our workshop at CASA in Lethbridge on May 23-25, 2015. Cindy is a professional woodturner and is among the most accomplished and innovative woodturning artists working today. Check out her website at www.cindydrozda.com for examples of her art and much more.

Twenty-eight woodturners showed up for the demonstration. Cindy introduced herself and her art with a slide show portraying the Colorado setting of her workshop, examples of her artwork and a tribute to partner, artist and woodturner David Nittmann, now deceased.

The first woodturning demonstration was of Cindy's signature finial box. This included a discussion of form and proportion, supported by examples shown on a large screen. Discussion of types of tool steel and grinding wheels, along with a bit on tool sharpening worked in seamlessly as the finial box took

shape. As lunchtime rolled around the completed finial box emerged, tiny and perfect. Great Timing!

The afternoon demo was a burl bowl. Starting with a very cool description of burl anatomy, Cindy produced a small, beautifully figured asymmetric bowl, which she then stained and turned again, removing the surface but leaving the stain in the burl end grain where it penetrates, to achieve a magical effect.

At the end of the day the box and bowl, which Cindy had made, were auctioned off. **Dennis Delaney** agreed, after a bit of pressure and threatening, to be the auctioneer. He did a fine and entertaining job of it and both pieces sold for handsome prices. Thank you to the bidders and buyers.



Workshop Day 1

The following two days of Cindy Drozda's visit were small hands-on workshops. Each day the seven or eight participants worked on their own finial boxes. In theory these were to be similar to the one Cindy had demonstrated the previous day, and for the most part, they were!

The workshop was organized into short sessions when Cindy would demonstrate a step in the project, after which we would go to our lathes and try to duplicate what we had seen. While we were at the lathes Cindy, in an impressive display of energy, enthusiasm and efficiency, never stopped moving from station to station to see what we were doing and to lend advice and encouragement. Participants in the class varied in their woodturning experience from none to 30 years, however, Cindy gave



Workshop Day 2

fair time to each one according to their needs. Everybody finished the project! A testament to great mentorship.

It is a great thing for a Guild as small as ours to get an artist and turner of the caliber of Cindy Drozda here in our workshop for three days teaching and demonstrating. Cindy never tired of answering questions, never brushed aside a query, never talked down to the less experienced. She said woodturners are a sharing bunch, and she is happy to share her knowledge and experience. Every participant takes away things they can apply in their own workshop.

We attracted woodturners from Saskatchewan, Montana and other parts of Alberta to our Guild because Cindy Drozda was here. We appreciate that they went to the trouble and expense to come to Lethbridge and we hope they will come again and we can visit their clubs in the future.

Cindy spent the last evening with my wife and me. Not teaching, she could relax with Alberta beer and a bit of Australian wine and chat about cats, food and daily life. The following day as I drove her to the Calgary airport she talked about woodturning, not about technique and craftsmanship, but about woodturners as a community. Especially about how much woodturners depend on each other to share their craft so that they can all grow. Finally, she told me if I want to really pursue turning, I better start going to symposiums and meet the community.

Hmm, maybe I will.

Editor's Message:

Well I missed the monthly meeting again but I have lots to say about the Cindy Drozda Demo and Workshops. I have attended between 40 & 50 workshops in the last 20+ years and I think that Cindy provided the best one I have ever been to. She was so professional in her approach and so well prepared that it was just awesome to see. She is a very knowledgeable and highly skilled turner who does not mind sharing her wealth of knowledge.

I hope that the year end BBQ on the 18th brings good weather and a good time. Eileen and I will unfortunately be away camping so I also hope that good weather is on the horizon.

I wish you all a safe, happy and successful summer and look forward to seeing you again in the fall. I also thank you for being patient with the development of the newsletter this year. Hopefully most of the kinks are out and it will be more successful next year.



Dan Mitchener's Demo in May

Some Interesting Links:

World of Woodturners Website:

There are a number of woodturning websites in addition to the AAW website. My favourite is the World of Woodturners website. This

website has been around for quite a long time, formerly under the “MyFamily” banner and about a year ago under their own name alone. The new website was developed by woodturners for woodturner. There are about 2,500 members from all corners of the world and they think of themselves as a family. Members are at all skill levels from beginner to professional and include many of the biggest names in wood turning including Cindy Drozda, Molly Winton, Richard Raffan, Marilyn Campbell and Malcolm Tibbetts, just to name a few.



Remie Benoit at the workshop

They are a sharing family, always willing to offer suggestion when members ask questions and to share techniques and procedures in the file cabinet and the galleries are full of remarkable works.

Membership is by invitation, the general public does not have access except to a public gallery area. This keeps the website as a friendly family, the Administrators do not tolerate bad behaviour and as a result members follow the rules which are civil and keep the website civilized.

If you are interested in giving the site a try send me an email and I will send you an invite to the site.

Verntheturner@gmail.com



Dan's Off Center Tool Handles

Creativity: Thinking in a Creative Way:

For many of us the creative side of woodturning is a challenge. Show us something and we can try to make it - usually successfully. There is nothing wrong with enjoying the making of things, of building our skill levels so that we get better and better over time. For others of us there is a desire to be more creative in what we make, to be more artistic and to make things which are outside the norm.

It seems to me that our biggest creativity hurdle is within our own selves. Everyone of us has creative ability - the question is - have we developed it. Like so many other things, creativity develops and expands over time. Our job is to work at expanding the boundaries of our thoughts and how we look at things, to experiment and try new ideas. As we try new things, more ideas will come to mind and our creativity will expand in the process.

Much of our lives revolve around staying safely in the acceptable box. To expand and explore our creative side we need to take some risks, to try things and even fail at some of them. We also need to expand our thinking and to explore in ways we haven't before, to open our minds beyond the safe boundaries we normally live within. The internet can be a valuable resource. Google “the creative process” as a starting point and you will find numerous references to help you think about and explore your potential. The trail will continue from there if you want it to. Below are a couple of

youtube links of Ted Talks that verbally help in that exploration and with them many more similar links.

Challenge yourself to think about and explore developing your creative side once a week, once a month, once a day - whatever works for you. You may be surprised at where that takes you over time.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oww7oB9rjgw>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bEusrD8g-dM>

Are you a member of the AAW?

The American Association of Woodturners membership year begins Jan. 1st of each year. The best part about it for me is the arrival of 6 copies of The American Woodturner that arrive each year. It is a great organization that seems to have its heart in the right place. They have themselves launched a new web site in the last few months. It is www.woodturner.org.



Dan and Roger Collaborating at the Workshop

Safety:

Well I have always been concerned with turning at speeds that are too high. Cindy, more than others before her, has convinced me that for at least some applications turning at high speeds (300 +) is OK if you apply the correct safety procedures. Certainly when you are turning something that is either rectangular or even triangular you are in fact turning lots of air in between contact with the wood (that is clear as mud to me). In a situation like that turning faster means you spend less time turning air and more time on the wood. For working on finials and/or their design mates (ie: icicles on Christmas ornaments) I was shocked at how much easier it made it. Granted the negative rake scraper idea makes much less chance of having a catch. At any rate, if approached in the right manner turning at high speed can be very rewarding.



Vern working hard at the workshop

Editor's Message:

Certainly this year has brought its share of ups and downs as far as the newsletter is concerned. I think we have made a good start at producing

an attractive and informative newsletter that will help all of our members and associates to figure out what is going down with the Chinook Woodturners Guild. Over the last couple of years the guild has gone through some difficult times. We bought a new lathe for the club which ate up a lot of our savings. We have also purchased 2 new TV's and the cameras to video and project demo's. There has also been the new expense of renting space in the CASA center. I know the costs have gone up but I think that the current executive is doing a great job and encourage their visions.



Richard Shelson at the workshop

I personally had a fabulous time at the Cindy Drozda workshop and demo. In the last twenty + years I have attended around 40 or 50 demos and workshops. In my mind this was the best I have ever been to. This despite the fact that I am basically a bowl turner and will likely use the finial skills in making Christmas ornaments more than doing finial type pieces.



Roger Wayman at the workshop



Cindy's Burl Demo Piece



Instant Gallery Pieces – at the Demo



Norm Robinson's Box



John Vandenberg's Manitoba Maple Bowls



Norm Stelter's Rolling Pin



Workshop Day 1 – Listening In



Dan Johnson at the workshop