



# Chinook Woodturning Guild Newsletter



Volume 3, number 8

June 2011

## President's Message

As the date for the June BBQ comes closer, I hope to see all of you there to close out the season. There should be lots of time to share some lies, laugh and who knows what else. I have been busy trying to book a major presenter for next year and we are getting close to closing that up - we will discuss it at the BBQ to see if we have support to bring this highly respected act to town. I have also been fortunate enough to be spending lots of time at the lathe over the last 2 months and I am very pleased with some of the things that have appeared as finished pieces. I hope that all of you have been able to fit in some quality lathe time in between planting gardens, fields and who knows what else. Our garden is finally in plus we have planted about 75 more trees and bushes this spring - busy, busy. If you are not able to make the BBQ, I wish you all the best over the summer and hope that you are all able to experience some great holiday and family time. Have a great summer. Jim

## Coming Events

- next meeting is our annual BBQ and windup. **Thurs, June 23 @ 6:00pm.** It will be held at the picnic grounds at the Research Station on the Jail Road.

While this is primarily a social evening, there will be an instant gallery table, so bring a turning.

## From the Editor

Our Guild season is rapidly coming to a close. That doesn't mean we will stop turning but there won't be any more organized meetings until Sept 2011. Here's hoping you all have a great summer.

Safe turning - see you in Sept.

In our last issue I talked about safety, a subject that was brought to the forefront by an accident to a well known turner. Regrettably I have to advise that she lost the battle with her injuries and passed away shortly after our last newsletter was published. Here is a link to Joan's story and a memorial fund set up by her home club to set up lathe safety shields.  
<http://www.woodturnersamerica.com/>

We need to elevate safety to a high priority in our turning and shop activities. Human nature being what it is, the priority level tends to slip the longer we go without an occurrence or reminder.

Starting with this issue there will be a regular monthly column on safety. The goal is to

help each of us maintain a higher priority level on safety and to improve our understanding & practice of safety issues.

I will write or seek out at least 1 writing for each issue but it is also my hope that our members and other readers of this newsletter will contribute experiences, thoughts & tips for the column. If you want to remain anonymous that would be fine with me, but please share your experiences for the good of all.

Please contribute to this important subject. If I get too many submissions at one time I will save them & publish them later.

I am always looking for ideas and writeups for the newsletter, if you have an idea, or can help, talk to Vern at a meeting, give him a phone call or email him with suggestions or an article @ [pccltd@xplornet.com](mailto:pccltd@xplornet.com) or at [vlmiller@telusplanet.net](mailto:vlmiller@telusplanet.net)

If you have a photo that can be used in the newsletter, send that to me at the above address.

Previous issues of the Newsletter are available on our Guild website.

## Last Meeting

Our last meeting was a full night. After a short business meeting it began with a presentation by Doug Campbell on his turnings with a twist.



Doug did an excellent job of describing & showing how he prepares the turning, the layout of design elements and the process, right through to finishing the project. He discussed the various issues that arise during the project and even provided an example of a "What not to" result.



Vern discussed turning a bowl from found wood and some of the things to look for. He also demonstrated some of the issues of roughing out a green blank and re-turning a roughed out blank once it has dried.

The meeting then turned to a discussion of form and an evaluation of several similar but different hollow forms.

These are the 5 hollow forms we evaluated. All 5 were turned from poplar, were about the same dimensions (except for the short one) and had the same finish



We also looked at the impact different finials and/or pedestals had on the overall appearance of a form.



Here are Dennis Delaney's thoughts on those discussions.

#### Design and Form Demo - May 19 /11

It was an informative session that reinforced the importance of considering the appeal of the form our turnings take. Certainly there is a variation in tastes but there was also some general consensus of what is appealing and what is not. However, I was the only one that thought the piece the rest felt was the poorest form, was in fact my second choice for good form. My taste could be in doubt, but there is usually others out there with odd tastes as well.

When I'm at a sale, I watch to see what pieces are picked up, how they are handled and when appropriate, I ask for comments. People like to pick up and feel a piece that appeals to them, and it doesn't have to be an artistic piece, it might be a simple small bowl that attracts attention.

I would encourage us all to try a few simple pieces, like small weed vases, and try out different forms. Then have some others (neighbours, visitors) take a look and rate them the same way we did with Vern's pieces at the meeting.

How about us all doing a little project of turning four small weed vases with different forms, putting them on our display table with our favourite form on the left and the least liked one on the right? These could be about 3 inches high and turned out of whatever bits we have laying around.

I leave this to our organizers to consider.

– Dennis Delaney

#### Turning Safely

Safety starts before the flip of the switch and it starts with the most important of safety devices - the gray matter between our ears.

Our biggest enemy is complacency.

Before tackling any project we should develop the habit of stopping for a moment to assess what the safety risks are and how we can minimize or avoid them.

We should each develop a mental checklist that becomes first nature a part of our shop & turning routine.

Questions such as:

is the blank sound, have I identified cracks and defects which can break loose.

- is the blank securely mounted
- is the speed turned down before I turn the lathe on
- is the blank balanced
- am I clear of the line of fire when starting the lathe
- DO I have my face shield on

These questions are just a start to safer turning.

If you are using a scroll chuck there are several issues to consider.

A tenon is much safer than a recess. Certainly there are times when a recess is needed rather than a tenon but the inherent danger is that the pressure of the jaws tends to split the wood particularly if you use excess pressure. This can result in a catastrophic failure and it can let go unexpectedly.

When forming the tenon, match it as closely as you can to the shape of the chuck jaws so as to maximize the holding surfaces of the jaws mating to the tenon.

Use as much tenon length as you can but not so much that the tenon bottoms out in the chuck. For the best grip the blank should come up against the surface of the jaws which increases the bearing surface (support area) of the blank on the jaws.

Do not over tighten the jaws as this can crush the wood fibers resulting in a failure of the wood and a loss of grip or a complete break away.

Use the tail stock for addition support for as long as it is practical, particularly when roughing out or taking very heavy cuts.

#### Guild Website

<http://chinookwoodturning.org/>



Dianne Munroe acts as our web master and our thanks to her for all her work in maintaining the site.

Did you know that each member of the Guild has a photo page and you can post photos of your work in your own gallery. Please

take advantage of that and contribute to the growth and value of our website.

#### Resource Binder

I hope that those of you who have subscribed to the Resource Binder have found it to be a useful resource.

At the moment I have a bit of a backlog of articles - I haven't had time to finish organizing and distributing them. They will be sent out, hopefully in the near future.

You can help with this project. If you have or know of an article that would be useful, send it to me at [pccltd@xplornet.com](mailto:pccltd@xplornet.com) or at [vimiller@telusplanet.net](mailto:vimiller@telusplanet.net)

Remember that our Guild policy is to only use copyrighted material where we have a written authorization on file to use the material so we need to be able to contact the author or publisher for an authorization. We therefore need to know the source of the material and when possible contact information such as an email address or website.

#### Website of the month

Here is an article on ebonizing wood [http://www.popularwoodworking.com/article/Ebonizing\\_Wood/](http://www.popularwoodworking.com/article/Ebonizing_Wood/)

The following website has an extensive library of woodturning tips and ideas.

<http://www.woodturningvideosplus.com/woodturning-tips.html>

#### How are we doing

This is the last newsletter of this turning /Guild year.

We have regularly published the newsletter for 2 years and would appreciate some feedback on how well the newsletter has been meeting the needs of our Guild and of you, our members.

As editor, my goals for the newsletter have been:

- to keep our members up-to-date with Guild happenings and activities. This also helps serve as a permanent record of our activities for the Guild archives
- to provide useful information and references as an aid to member turning activities
- to provide a forum for our members to share thoughts and ideas with other Guild members

Are we meeting those goals?

What can we do to improve the newsletter? Are there things you would like to see in the newsletter that aren't there or things we should drop?

Do you use the website links that are published in each newsletter? Are they helpful? Do you know of other links that would be useful to our members? (If so, please send them to me)

Your input would be appreciated. Your comments can be forwarded to the editor by replying to the email that brought you this newsletter. Or click on one of the following email links [pccltd@xplornet.com](mailto:pccltd@xplornet.com) or [vmiller@telusplanet.net](mailto:vmiller@telusplanet.net)

**Fund Raising Ideas**

- we can collect empty inkjet and laser toner cartridges to help with fundraising for our Guild. Bring them to a meeting.

- If ordering from <http://woodchuckers.com/> tell them you are from the Chinook Woodturning Guild and a small credit (a percentage of your purchase) will be credited to an account for the Guild's use

This area is left blank for contributions from other Guild members.

**About the Guild**

mailing address: c/o Bowman Arts Centre  
811 5<sup>th</sup> Ave S  
Lethbridge, AB  
T1J 0V2

Meetings are at 7:00pm  
the third Thursday of the month  
Sept thru June  
at Roger Olsen's Shop, near the old McNally School  
a map to the meeting location can be found on our website

**Executive**

President:	Jim Jones	403-687-3111
Vice-President	Allan Schaaf	403-328-8426
Secretary	Scott Copeland	403-360-4384
Treasurer	Vern Miller	403-892-6729

Newsletter Editor Vern Miller 403-892-6729

Website <http://chinookwoodturning.org/>

the Guild is a member of - Allied Arts Council, Lethbridge  
and a chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

the Chinook Woodturning Guild is incorporated under the  
Alberta Societies Act and is a non-profit Society

## WOODCHUCKER'S SUPPLIES

1698 Weston Rd, Weston, Ontario, M9N 1V6; CANADA

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Store hours:

Monday to Friday 9:00am to 5:30pm  
Sat 9:00am to 5:00pm  
Closed on Sundays

**1 - 2 - 3**  
Exotic Wood  
Squares Sale