



# Chinook Woodturning Guild Newsletter



Chapter

Volume 2018, number 7

Mar 2019

Previous issues of our newsletters are available on our web site

<http://www.chinookwoodturning.org>

## President's Message

I am always curious how woodturners first got exposed to woodturning and why and when did they decide to spend a lot of time at it. Many of the ones I talk to say they enjoyed a lathe project in grade 8 and never thought about it again for decades as they were developing careers and raising families. Eventually when the demands of life diminished something rekindled their interest and they bought a lathe. Some others say their father had a lathe and they wound up with it eventually, so they were exploring how to use it when they came across a reference to a woodturning guild on line or at the local wood/tool store.

I have the feeling that most schools these days don't offer much in the way of woodshop classes and when they do the instructors are not particularly familiar with the wood lathe. It isn't surprising that schools don't do much with lathes because unlike a table saw or a jointer, lathes have so many essential but separate parts which get distributed, confused and misplaced in a crowded environment. You can't turn much wood if the spur drive is gone missing or the skew is being used to open paint cans or the grinder is mostly used by the welding students.

Look around our Chinook Woodturning Guild meetings and you see a quite a bit of grey hair, or no hair, and a minority of wood artists who are younger. I wonder how we can recruit the next generation of woodturners. We get great interest when we put on a short class for the Casa woodworking students, and a few times groups of Boy Scouts have had a good time and gotten some exposure which may come back to them in the years to come.

Sometimes I get emails from parents who say their teenaged child is interested in woodturning and inquiring if we offer lessons. I always say we don't offer lessons as a group, but some of our members may privately mentor interested students. I invite them to attend a monthly meeting or two. But it's tough for anybody who doesn't have access to a lathe to do much because practice is the key to success and enjoyment; imagine taking trumpet lessons if you don't have a trumpet. Musical instruments can be rented, but I don't think you can rent a lathe.

So what do we do to encourage another generation of woodturners? The American Association of Woodturners has a Turning To The Future page which addresses this issue with programing aimed at teachers, schools and students. But what should we, as a local guild do? Lessons for youth? Who will organize and teach? Where? What about insurance? How much would it cost? Age or experience restrictions? If you have ideas about this get in contact with someone on the executive. Let us know what you think.

## New Members

We'd like to welcome Don Lancaster. At our next meeting introduce yourself to him and make him welcome.

## Coming Events

### Schedule of Meetings, demos and events

**\*\*Regular meetings are held the third Thurs of each month Sept to June**

**2019** unless otherwise indicated, all meetings are held in the woodshop at CASA

- a map to the meeting place can be found on our website

**Mar** 2 Sat, 10am, Sawdust session

21 \*\*Thurs, 7pm, Dan Michener – make a quach.

**Apr** 6 Sat, 10am, Sawdust session

18 \*\*Thurs, 7pm, Kai Muenzer - make a slanted vase

19 hands-on class lead by Kai Muenzer on making the slanted vase

**May** 4 Sat, 10am, Sawdust session

16 \*\*Thurs, 7pm, TBA.

25 Sat, 9am, Ed Pretty demo

26-28 3x1 day hands on workshops with Ed Pretty

**June** 20 \*\*Thurs, 6pm, Casa woodshop. BBQ.

## Announcements

- Save the Date - Great Falls Woodturners - the Symposium this year will feature Sam Angelo, a prolific turner from Wyoming, on Sat Sept 7 and Sun Sept 8, 2019. Details will be posted as they become available.

- Waterton Artisan Fair June 14-16 2019. If interested an application form was attached to Pres. Dan's Mar 8 email. The application deadline is April 1st.

- Many of you will have received Pres Dan's email regarding Jim Jones. For those of you who haven't seen it, here it is.

Our long time member, Jim Jones, had a stroke on March 2nd. Fortunately, Eileen was able to get him to hospital very quickly and he is in Foothills Hospital now. Jim has regained his speech but has paralysis on one side and is expected to be in hospital for many weeks.

Jim is a life long woodturner, cabinet maker and teacher. He is a past president of our guild and was editor of our newsletter for a spell.

Our thoughts and best wishes are with Jim and his family.

If you wish to visit Jim in the Foothills Hospital it would be a good idea to speak to Eileen first as his therapy schedule is busy and variable. He would appreciate visits, but only for a few minutes at a time.

Messages to Jim are best delivered through Eileen.

You can leave a voicemail or text on her cell phone 403-519-5829. Cards or mail can go to the Jones' regular mail address: Box 2362, Claresholm, AB, T0L 0T0.

## From the Editor

Thanks to Dan, Jim Galloway, Lorraine, Paul & Remie for their contributions.

## Meet our Members

### Paul McGaffey

member since: Jan 2019

New member Paul McGaffey is a Psychologist, still practicing, who turned to woodwork many years ago as counterbalance to working closely with deeply distressed people. On moving to Lethbridge recently he limited professional practice to one day per week, giving time, finally, to turn wood into whatever emerged.



Rebuilding five old lathes provided the cash to buy an 18x47" lathe (like the Laguna) w/ subtle speed control. Turning at 60-100 RPM allowed Paul to shape wild wood - root balls, wide crotches, burls, knots. Wild stuff, it seems, is a persistent theme in his life.

As another way of distracting himself from harsh reality, Paul is a film actor / life member of ACTRA / with two gigs in the past year.

## Error Correction

Last newsletter we incorrectly identified the gentleman on the left as Jack Lorge, it is Don Lancaster.



Don Lancaster and Jerome Veenendaal in discussion

## Greetings from Arizona

Hello Fellow turners. This is my 6<sup>th</sup> year turning, and I thought I was pretty good until I attended a triangle box workshop, presented by Cindy Drozda. I admire her command of the class and her great skill at making objects appear easy to make. I always come away from these presentations thinking of new possibilities for making new objects in form and appearance.

This season the opportunities presented to me to learn and advance my skills both on the lathe and in my thinking process when regarding a piece of lumber have been wonderful. Last fall the Arizona Woodturners had Kelly Dunn from Hawaii present an all-day workshop on making Calabash bowls, Hawaiian style bowls, a Norfolk pine vessel using a light source to determine the final thickness and a lesson on how to create Pewa Patches for Bowls.

<https://kellydunnwoodturner.com>

Pewa patches: [www.bigislandengraving.com/](http://www.bigislandengraving.com/)

Carl Jacobson also presented a one-day workshop on how to create a stingray out of a 6 inch by 6 inch by 3.5 inch block of wood. This was a combination of turning, carving and a lot of sanding. Very fun project. Most exciting and of course had to purchase a Turbo Planer made by Arbor tech for my grinder. Carl can be found on you tube.

In 2017 our park invested in a space for a wood working workspace. The space was empty but with generous donations of now unused tools it got off the ground. We have about 130 members with about 40 that are actively using the facility. Somehow, I got volunteered to teach the safety aspect of wood turning as well as the introduction to some basic skills on tools. I try to give people a hands on experience with the tools, both standard cutting tools and carbide. We only provide carbide tools on a limited basis to beginners. We encourage buying there own. The carbide tools have the advantage of not having to be sharpened.

Happy Turning and keep on learning. Never miss an opportunity to learn from a master

Remie Benoit.

## Members & Past Members, your help is requested

Over the years there have certainly been hundreds if not thousands of photos taken at meetings and other Guild events.

We have the storage capacity to now store photos which help document our history and have been able to retrieve and catalogue quite a few photos covering the nearly fifteen years our Guild has been in existence. Unfortunately there are many holes and we are hoping you can help fill some or all of them.

Please have look through your collections of photos of Guild activities and instant galleries. If you can identify the event, the approximate date and any other information relevant to the photo, please send a copy of those photos and the related information to our newsletter editor [verntheturner@gmail.com](mailto:verntheturner@gmail.com) so we can add your photos to our photo library.

Any help and assistance you can provide would be greatly appreciated.

History is important



## Feb 2019 meeting

Feb was a busy meeting with Norm Robinson demonstrating various colouring and enhancing techniques, show and tell & our bi-monthly wood raffle.

Norm demonstrated several techniques such as gilding with different materials..



Norm also presented several other products and techniques for enhancing your work



Oil finish on a bowl



Some of the products and effects Norm demonstrated



Some of Norm's work

In addition to Norm's demonstration the wood shown below was raffled off to our members.







Lorraine and Sadie discuss wood staining



Lorraine staining with Norm's assistance

Meanwhile, Dan set up a lathe and made the beginnings of a winged, natural edge bowl as a sort of a demo. That project was finished at home the next day.

Some items were brought in for a mini show-and-tell, including a battery powered respirator made by Sundstrom.



Dan Michener &amp; Roger Wayman have a discussion



### March 2 Sawdust Session

The Saturday sawdust session on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March was attended by 12 members. It is great that Tracy and Sadie, from the Casa woodwork class, took the time to come on down on a -20 degree morning and meet some of the woodturners. They are most welcome to come to some of our meetings

Most of the morning's activity centred around Norm Robinson's colouring techniques, which he had demonstrated at the last meeting. On Saturday members brought in some of their own work and experimented with the dyes and paints under Norm's supervision.



Ken watching Lorraine apply stain with Norm's guidance



a goodbye wave from Sadie and Andre is on a mission



Richard Shelson is focused

**Editor's note:** from personal experience the answer to Dan's question is easy - the lungs are more valuable.



## CASA Woodworking Group



We had a great evening with the CASA woodworking class as we took them through the joys of woodturning. As woodworkers they already appreciate wood and were keen to try a different approach to making things from wood.

### WoodTurning for the woodWorking class

Our Guild was invited to introduce woodturning to the students in the Casa woodworking class. We organized a special session of the regular woodworking evening to give a short demonstration and then turn (no pun) the students loose on our wood lathes to make their first round treasure.

So, on Wednesday, 25 February, 2019, nine woodworking students along with one of their instructors - Jay Johnson came to the Casa wood workshop where the guild had 4 lathes set up. Dan was the guild's organizer and Norm, Dennis, Roy and Bryan came to help so we had an experienced woodturner at each lathe to mentor the students, find the necessary lathe attachments and keep the students from self injury if things got out of hand.



Dan starts by discussing the lathe, turning tools and safety, etc

Things did not get out of hand. The evening's project was for everyone to make a spinning top. We started out with Dan demonstrating the

steps (while pointing out that no two woodturners would make a top the same way, however, for this exercise all the tops would be made in Dan's simplified way using only 3 turning tools). Everybody then chose a block of wood, punched marks more or less on centre in each end and went to one of the lathes.



Dan Michener gives advice to Rene Poirier



Dennis helps Katie



Roy helps George



Deb & Sadie watch as Tracy makes a top

The great thing about teaching adults from a woodwork class is that they have already shown an interest in working with their hands and with wood. So they are a self-selected group. These guys were completely inexperienced woodturners, but they weren't afraid of tools and dust and they dived into the project with enthusiasm and energy. With a little mentoring from the guild, everyone turned out a very creditable top, no wood went flying around the room, no blood was let



and the only casualty was a broken tool rest (which was clearly faulty because it is impossible to break a quality tool rest on a 2 inch block of wood).



Brenna & Jay in discussion



Pres Dan shows other things that can be made



Dan helps Tracy chuck the blank



Rene Poirier, first top completed



Katie, Brenna & Dennis discussing the project

At the end of the evening we had a top spinning contest. All joined in and the competition was intense because the tops were so well made.



Sadie having fun



Norm Robinson assists Deb



ready, set, go - the spin off begins

Everybody had a blast, including we from the guild. The pictures tell the story!

The winner of the spin-off  
Luis Villamil.



Luis is happy with his top



LtoR-Deb Magyar, Luis Villamil, Sadie Hashemnia, Tracy Wyman, Brenna Lowrie, George Seiller, Katelyn (Katie) Heidinger, Grant Adamson, missing from the photo is Rene Poirier and instructor Jay Johnson

### Website of the month

We do not endorse any of these sites or products that may be promoted thereon. We merely reference these sites as interesting to check out. It is up to you to determine the quality of information therein.

To our members - if there is a website you have found useful, send the link to the editor so we can make it available to our members through the newsletter.

**A word of caution:** Not everything you see on the internet is always 100% cosher or safe. For example videos are sometimes uploaded to youtube without experienced oversight and can show techniques and procedures which are unsafe at any level of experience. It is the viewer's responsibility to assess what is or is not safe to do. If unsure, we suggest you err on the side of caution.

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Here are a couple of web sites to check out

South Auckland Woodturners Guild. This is a very active Guild and there website contains tonnes of information. Check out their projects page. There are a great many to get ideas from.

<https://sawg.org.nz/>

WoodWorkers Guild of America. <https://www.wwgoa.com/> While this is not devoted to woodturning but rather a broader spectrum of woodworking, there are woodturning pages that can be of interest.

<https://www.wwgoa.com/content/woodturning-projects/>

<https://www.wwgoa.com/content/woodturning-techniques/>

## **Guild Website**

<http://chinookwoodturning.org/>

Have you taken advantage of the gallery available to you on our web site. If you want to post photos of your work ask one of the Executive how to proceed.

Diane Munroe is our web mistress and I'm sure she would like to see her hard work pay off with more of our members work being posted to our web site.

## **Email addresses**

Every once in awhile we have an email bounce back when we send out the newsletter and I suspect it is often because we have addressed the newsletter email to an address that no longer exists as the result of the email address being changed.

If you are changing your email address, please remember to let us know what your new address is so that we can up-date our records.

Thank you

## **Beads of Courage**

chairman: John vandenBerg

You can find a selection of boxes we have donated to the program on our website

Thank you to all who turned pieces to be donated to the hospital fundraiser. They really appreciated your donations to help them purchase beads for the program.

I am still in Arizona, doing a little turning, and just enjoying life away from snow. I will see you in April..

John



Dennis Delaney

## **Bring Back**

Bring Back is a Guild program where at each meeting a member is given a block of wood to turn. The member turns something from the block and brings the result to the next meeting along with a block of wood which is given to a different turner to take home and produce a turning.



Maple\_ from Rob Thomsen to Norm Robinson to bring back in Mar



BB-31\_Rob Thomsen\_Feb 2019



## **A passing Thought**

Things not going as planned, sounds like O'Toole's Law. He's one of those who said Murphy is an optimist.

## **CWG Soap Box**

This space is reserved for YOU and is just waiting for your input.

## **Musings by the editor**

### **Critiques**

Last month I talked about expanding your horizons and made some suggestions on how you might approach that. I intentionally left out the idea of having your work critiqued. For many of us this is a touchy subject and yet in many ways it is a very important development tool.

The first thing we have to do is get rid of our fear of the word. I wish there was a less inflammatory word but I don't know of one. To critique or evaluate does not mean to criticize, certainly not in the sense that we often have where to criticize is often thought of as, to attack, to tear apart, to find what is wrong, a put down, even to demean someone or their skills. These are all negative connotations whereas a critique is a positive thing, an exploration of what works and what might be changed to make it work better.

Some of the words might seem harshly critical but in the end an honest expression, honest comments are what can make the difference. Only glowing praise is really not that helpful because as satisfying as it is to receive them, they don't help us evaluate changes we could consider. One of our biggest hurdles is our ego and our inability to set it aside so that we can listen and truly hear what is being observed & suggested. We need to realize that if we ask for a critique we are asking for that person's honest opinion and it is unlikely they will respond to that request by being mean spirited. Perhaps their words might sound a little harsh but you need to assume they are trying to be constructive, trying to be helpful, trying to help you see the work as they see it. They are sharing their observations with you and are not judging you.

You do not have to accept their opinion as absolutely correct, different people have different view points, and you can reject the opinion out of hand. If you do reject the opinion, do so for good reason, do so because you don't agree, rather than out of anger or hurt feelings.

It is true that we woodturners do what we do because we like making things with our hands, we enjoy the process and find satisfaction in the end result. Unless the work never leaves our shop and we don't accept visitors, we also make what we do to share with others and so how others view our work is also important.

We can learn a lot from critiques of our work and even by listening to critiques of other people's work. Critiques can help us shape our ideas and result in pleasing improvements to the forms we create.

Critiquing someone else's work can also be part of the learning process. You don't have to do it out loud or it could be more in the form of a discussion between two understanding friends. The point is that if you are critiquing someone else's work, you have to force yourself to be objective but also to try to understand why you have formed the opinion you have. Understanding why you have formed an opinion is not as easy as it might sound. It takes practice and honest evaluation.

If you google "woodturning critique" you will find a multitude of articles



and references that will help you appreciate critiquing.

Keep your tools sharp and your mind active. Happy turning, Vern

### Safety First

This column will appear regularly to help us all increase our safety awareness and our safety procedures. If you have ideas or an experience to share for the benefit of all please email it to me.

safety tip - don't leave keys or tommy bars in the chuck, if you turn your lathe on with the key or tommy bar in the chuck you have turned a dangerous missile loose. A good habit to develop is to always remove the key or tommy bars whenever you are not tightening or loosening the jaws, that includes even if you turn away for what you might think is only a brief moment. It is easy to be distracted, momentarily forget the key or tommy bars are in the chuck and turn the lathe on.

### Notes of Interest

Not all lathes in use come directly from the factory floor. In fact some started out with an entirely different purpose in mind.

Can your lathe handle this project?

This will not fit in your standard garage

It is powered by a tractor drive wheel.



Ingenuity rules.

When the Margarita is ready to be consumed, turn the blender on its side and make a pen or two.

### Tip of the Month

Your tip to other woodturners will fit right inhere.

### Feb 2019 Show and Tell Table/ Instant Gallery

Our instant gallery was a collage of beautiful and varied items. Some were made from our favoured Exotic Spruce to Japanese Cherry and the mystical Gumbo.

Dan Michener presented a winged bowl and a tall doorstop, both made from Green Ash which demonstrated the multi spectrum of his turning talents. He also presented a hippopotamus bottle opener that was given to him from a new found friend on his latest journey in Zambia. Quite a cute little delight.

Dennis Delaney came through with two darling Beads of Courage boxes with smiley faces. He adds a sweet touch with a finger top and has

recently added a snowman to the cashe for the sick kids enjoyment. He also made a wine goblet for special friends celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary.

Terry Sutton has come up with another segmented vessel with a beautiful curved embellishment made of Gumbo wood. I mentioned to Terry that it sounds more like soup or stew, but I googled it and the wood also goes by the name "Copperwood" in Jamaica where it commonly grows.

Albert Weik has made a bowl from Mountain Ash. The grain, texture, and contrast in this piece is very attractive. Albert said it best, "I have worked with other pieces from the same tree but the grain never jumped out like that before!"

Roy Retti used a piece of Oak to make an interesting inside/out piece that is about 12" high, with an adornment positioned inside. Very nicely done.

Susie Tomita doesn't bring his treasures very often but when he does they are definitely eye candy. This one is a very intricate "glass" that was made from pine. Great detail went into the project, with dragonflies and piercings, a stepped top edge, and varied colors in a laquer base which was applied with an airbrush.

Remo Brassolotto turned three walnut bowls which show off well with their nice finish. He has used shellac, Kunos Natural Oil Sealer by Livos. That is a product that I enjoy using as well.

Last month Norm Robinson had brought in an Epoxied cylindrical block of pencil crayons. He explained it was a bit of an experiment and didn't know how it would turn out, but that he would bring it back for this meeting. The cylinder was the height of the full pencil crayons and about 4 1/2" in diameter. The end result appears to be a cute, small budvase. It reminds me of a vase I was making that turned into a tea light holder after snagging a catch. LOL. Thanks for having some fun with this one Norm.

Thank you all who have shared your wonderful creations.

Lorraine Mix



Norm Robinson\_pencil crayon vase



Albert Weik-Russian Olive



Remo Brassolotto





Roy Reti



Dan Michener-Hippo bottle opener from Zambia



Terry Sutton



Dennis Delaney - goblet



Suzi Tomita-



Dan Michener, door stop



Dan Michener - natural edge bowl

### For Sale by members

This section is available to members and past members who want to list items they want to sell. If you have something you wish to post to this section & on our website, contact our President to make the necessary arrangements.

Woodturners and cabinetmakers, I have decided to sell off most of my hardwood as we may be moving in the next year or so and don't like the idea of trying to sell all this at the last minute.

Teak – 7' long – 2 at 8" wide, 1 at 11" wide – all 2" thick  
 Padouk – 1 at 8' long x 16" wide x 2" thick, 2 at 21" long x 17" wide x 2" thick  
 Cherry – 8 pieces 9' long x 1" thick all 6" to 8" wide  
 Yellow Poplar – 10' long x 7" wide (2), x 8" wide (1), 10" wide (1), 12' long x 12 1/2" wide x 2" thick  
 Soft Maple – 6 pieces all 6" or more wide and about 4 – 5' long  
 Ash – 6 pieces various lengths and widths, 1" thick  
 White Oak – almost all 1/4 sawn – 15 pieces 4' to 8', 6" wide or wider, 2 pieces 2" thick x 8" wide x 8' long  
 Walnut – 2" thick – 7' x 5" and 7' x 8 1/2" – 1 of each  
 Red Oak – 7' x 2" thick – 6 of them  
 Avodire - 5' x 1" – 3 of them of varying lengths

Hard Maple – all 9'  
 4/4 – 1 each at 10 1/2 (actually 2), 9 1/2, 8 3/4  
 5/4 – 9 3/4, 8 1/2, 8, 9 1/2, 10 1/2, 9 1/4

Various exotics like Honduras Rosewood, East Indian Rosewood etc. 1 plank of each.

I don't want current wholesale prices but I want a decent price as you can see I have a considerable amount of money tied up. Please feel free to call me at:

403-687-3111 home

403-682-9478 cell

Please call before 8pm, Monday to Saturday. Thanks, Jim Jones  
 1/19

### About the Guild

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 8<sup>th</sup> Street South in Lethbridge

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

#### Executive

President: Dan Michener 403-331-9177  
 michenerdan@gmail.com

Vice-President Norm Robinson 403-404-4428  
 normrobinson@hotmail.com

Secretary Richard Shelton 403-381-6670  
 rshelton@shaw.net

Treasurer André Laroché 403-329-6414  
 gplaroche@telus.net

Newsletter Editor Vern Miller 403-892-6729

Website <http://chinookwoodturning.org/>

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

# WOODTURNING DEMONSTRATION

**The Chinook Woodturning Guild**

is pleased to host

**Ed Pretty**

**Expert woodturner and teacher from Langley, BC**

**Saturday 25 May 2019**

Ed Pretty has spent a lifetime as a maker of functional and artistic wood creations. His work is available in galleries in B.C. and you can see it on his websites

<http://www.edswoodturning.com>, <https://www.facebook.com/Edswoodturning>

**There will be an all day demonstration**

**Saturday, 25 May 2019, 9am – 4pm**

**Registration: \$50 (Students \$30) includes lunch  
(Non-members \$60)**

**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 ([gplaroche@telus.net](mailto:gplaroche@telus.net))

On the days subsequent to the demonstration, Ed will be instructing hands-on workshops covering skill enhancement for all skill levels and on colouring figured wood.

There is a cancellation list. If you want to participate in one or both workshops, call to inquire.