



Chinook Woodturning Guild Newsletter



Volume 2017, number 1

Sept 2017

President's Message

Summer is over and a new turning year is about to begin. Hopefully we will have a good turnout of members to our AGM and 1st meeting of the year - Thurs Sept 21, 2017. - 7:00pm in the workshop at CASA.

With many new members joining last year and prospects of other new members in the coming months this should be an exciting year for the Guild.

Already we have had a good start to the year with a bowl turning session and a general sawdust session at Dan Michener's workshop this summer, a demo day at the Prairie Tractor Club in Picture Butte and the beginning of a 3 month gallery display by the Guild at the Picture Butte Art Gallery. Of course there will be more to come.

I will be unable to be at our AGM & Sept meeting as I will be in Ontario at that time. We drove down into Prince Edward County a couple of days ago and things sure have changed in the 45 or 50 years since I farmed in the county. Most of the roads are paved, there are vineyards almost everywhere you look and of course a multitude of wineries. But most notable to a woodturner is the abundance and very broad variety of trees, something we don't see near as often on the prairies. Like many woodturners I have more wood than I can turn in a lifetime and yet it still made me wish I had my chainsaw and a big trailer to bring samples back with me.

I also noted there are a few fall colours starting to show here and there. Won't be long before the countryside is a riot of colour. Unfortunately I'll be back to Alberta before that happens.

This will be my last President's message as I am stepping down from the Board. After six years as President and a total of at least 10 years on the Board of Directors it is time for me to be less directly involved and for new blood to guide the future of our guild. I have appreciated the help and cooperation of all our member during those years and very much the help of those who have served on the Board during my tenure as President.

There is no question, woodturners are a great group of guys and gals.

Coming Events

Thurs Sept 21 - AGM & regular meeting

Sept 29 - Art Walk

Christmas at Casa - Christmas Sale

Fri. November 17, 5pm to 9pm,

Sat, November 18, 10am to 6pm

May 2018 - Demonstration by J Paul Fennel

Bowls of Courage

The last info we have is that we produced 62 boxes in 2016 - 17 and a grand total of 107 boxes to-date.

Let's make 2017 -18 an even bigger year. Bring them to our meetings as you make them.

Coyote Flats Pioneer Village

August 19 & 20, 2017 demonstration at Coyote Flats Pioneer Village, near Picture Butte, Alberta. This was formerly the Prairie Tractor and Engine Club



This was a very successful event. Lots of victors meant excellent exposure for the Guild and a number of interested parties were added to our email list.

Many thanks to those who organized and participated in the event.

Beginners Course – The Sequel

by Lorraine Mix

The Beginners Class of March this year were offered a wonderful opportunity to attend a second course specifically on turning bowls. Dan Michener volunteered his time, shop, tools, and 4 of his own lathes, as well as his breadth and depth of knowledge of turning. Any of you who have seen Dan's turnings will envy the five of us who were able to attend his skilled sessions on July 22 & 23.

Norm Robinson was on hand for the Sunday session and was of great assistance to all of us in technique, resolving any issues we were experiencing and going above and beyond in presenting perspective throughout our turnings. Norm demonstrated this by taking our chuck, intact with the bowl, and setting it vertically at eye level height so we could more fully grasp the shape and decide whether what we have is the right form. Making our bowls a bit of eye candy certainly gives us a greater feeling of accomplishment.

We started right from the logs with choices of Elm, Birch or any wood chosen from our own stash. The Elm logs were such a size that large bowls could be turned on full sized lathes. Jim Galloway was experienced enough and was privileged to get to use Dan's Monster Lathe for his project which took 2 full days. As Jim's bowl progressed, I stopped by and admired, or should I say drooled over the beautiful grains and colouring of the Elm. Gotta get me a some of that Elm.

Dan showed us a quick and easy way of determining the potential size our bowl from our piece of log using pre-made circular templates of several diameters. This made size and placement on the log face very simple. His templates included a screw in the centre which fasten to the blank and become a cutting guide on the band saw. (Apparently I did not catch on to not sinking the screw too deep. Fortunately, I did not end up with a hole in the bottom of my bowl). Then Dan demonstrated the setup and use of the bandsaw to cut out our blanks.

Various means of attaching the blank to the lathe were discussed

and we were shown how each would work, including use of a face plate, spur drive, and the screw chuck method, with information as to which to use for various projects, and the limitations of each.

Before we were allowed to start turning our bowls, Dan demonstrated the use of the tools that we would use, and emphasized the cardinal rule, DO NOT USE the Roughing Gouge on bowl turning as it will likely end badly.

Ken and I chose the smaller Birch pieces as we had registered to come for two half days, which turned into a full day Saturday and half day Sunday. In that time period we were able to complete two bowls each. We were amazed at how quickly we turned the second bowl on Sunday, which goes to show the excellent instruction by Dan on Saturday was not lost.

Kenn Hasse and Albert Weik attended the Sunday session and were similarly instructed and mentored as the Saturday attendees. They both did a terrific job on their bowls as can be seen in the pictures. I would like to express huge gratitude to Dan for sharing his skills and inviting us to his shop for such a wonderful experience. Also, a Great Big Thank You to Norm for being Dan's sidekick on this one and his many additional insights that were so complementary to the course.



Ken Mix and his bowls



Lorraine Mix and her bowls



Albert Weik and his bowl



Kenn Haase and his bowl



Jim Galloway working on his big bowl

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 8th Street South in Lethbridge

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

Executive

President:	Vern Miller	403-892-6729
Vice-President	Dan Michener	403-3319177
Secretary	Norm Robinson	403-404-4428
Treasurer	André Laroche	403-395337

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

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