

# Chinook Woodturning Guild Newsletter

Volume 2017, number 6

Feb 2018

Previous issues of our newsletters are available on our web site

<http://www.chinookwoodturning.org>

## President's Message

I think a lot about woodturning tools. They are satisfyingly expensive and shiny and nothing is as exciting as buying tools! A lot of people have become interested in woodturning in the last couple of decades and manufacturers have responded by producing a bewildering array of tools, finishes and jigs which are sold as the perfect thing to make us expert woodturners.



When professional woodturner Andrew Glazebrook visited my workshop he asked why I had so many tools. I think the answer is that I live in the hope that if I get just the right chisel I'll miraculously be able to do something amazing. It turns out it doesn't work quite that way. The truth is that a careful artisan doesn't need all these products. The expert demonstrators don't carry around a huge pile of tools. They have a few chisels and a couple of scrapers but they can do beautiful things with them because they spent untold hours perfecting their techniques.

I find that although I have rows of shiny gouges and scrapers, in reality I use the same 3 or 4 for 90% of what I do because I have gotten used to them and I have a fair idea of what they can do and, by trial and error, I have learned to grind and sharpen them to suit me. I have learned to not get hung up on tool names. If a tool does the job, who cares if it is a "bowl gouge" instead of a "spindle gouge"? The wood certainly doesn't know and the customer who buys the piece never asks.

Once I was at a demo by Jacques Vesery. To make the point that the perfect tool isn't nearly as important as the technique, he sharpened an old shovel and took a fine shaving off the spinning wood. How could he do that? Well, he knows how to use a tool rest and what a bevel is for. So I use whatever tool does the job (maybe not a shovel). Sometimes I have to scrape a lot, sometimes a spindle gouge works on a bowl, sometimes sandpaper is the only solution. There are as many ways to make a cut as there are woodturners and as many shapes of edges and points as imagination can generate.

CBN grinding wheels, like other special tools, don't make me a better woodturner. They may smooth the sharpening process and they certainly relieve the bank account of excess cash, but they won't make the finished woodturnings any different. If you do a lot of sharpening a CBN grinding wheel will last more or less indefinitely and take off less steel from your favourite gouge each time you sharpen, but if you don't sharpen several times every day they are a luxury, not a necessity.

I keep on buying tools 'cause I love 'em, and because there is a saying about whoever dies with the most tools... Could it be true?

## Coming Events      Schedule of Meetings, demos and events

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

2018

<b>Feb</b>	15	**Thurs, 7pm, Casa. Pepper Mills, Norm Robinson
<b>Mar</b>	15	**Thurs, 7pm, Casa. TBA, Roger Wayman.
<b>Apr</b>	19	**Thurs, 7pm, Casa. TBA, Turned Cabinet with drawers, Kai Muenzer
<b>May</b>	17	**Thurs, 7pm, Casa. TBA.
	19	Sat, visiting artist J. Paul Fennell, all day demo
	20	Sun, J. Paul Fennell, full day hands-on workshop.
	21	Mon, J. Paul Fennell, 2 <sup>nd</sup> full day hands-on workshop.
<b>June</b>	21	**Thurs, 6pm, Casa woodshop. BBQ.

## New Members

We'd like to welcome back Darryl Haakonson to the Guild. Please make yourself known to him and make him feel welcome.

## From the Editor

Thanks to Dan, André, Norm and Lorraine for their contributions.



Surely we have had enough.

## Meet our Members

meet - Norm Robinson  
member since: 2015

Norm is our vice-president

Norm first got interested in woodworking by watching his father. Making many projects in high school.



Wood turning took a strong and permanent hold when Norm was living in California.

He attended numerous shows and seminars in the US, including being involved in 4 different clubs in the San Francisco area.

During this time he was making furniture, salt & pepper grinders and bottle stoppers, during this time he was focusing on items that pertained to the wine industry.

He continued to take classes from well established woodturners,

then began to teach woodturning himself. This he did in the Walnut Creek area for 2 years.

While living in California he was employed selling woodworking equipment and finishing material.

#### Editor's note

I omitted the date when members joined the guild, so here is an update to previous issues.

#### Member since

Gunther Schilz	2015
Jim Farr	2004
Dan Michener	2010
André Laroche	2008
Richard Shelson	2004

#### Jan 2018 meeting

##### Shadow turning with Dennis Delaney

It was a great and wonderful demonstration prepared by Denis. He did built a jig to go over the lathe's bed with a centre line in the axis of the bed. The centre line must be aligned with the tip of the driving spear and the tip of the tailstock live centre. His jig included a support for a light to be attached over the lathe and a mechanism to centre the light over the jig's centre line. A strong light from a single source is recommended.

With this device any form can be turning by watching the shadow over a defined shape centered and immobilized on the jig's platform. The diameter of the starting wood cylinder will define the maximum diameter of the final turned object.

Denis brought different flat shapes such as a circle for a sphere, a flat Christmas tree and a flat snowman. Any shape could be used for any specific design. It was mentioned that this could be use for any serial production of different objects. The flat shape needs to be placed on the centre line on the jig.

The final position of the lamp is adjusted by minimizing the shadow using a centering indicator which is a straight dowel inserted in a base and centered over the central line of the jig. This reduces the risk of producing an ellipse rather than a sphere.



Once every adjustment is completed, simply start removing wood from the wood cylinder until the shadow of the edge of the turn object matches exactly the contour of the shape immobilized on the jig.



Dennis



very rapidly turned a sphere that look perfect once completed. This was a real eye opener and a great demonstration.

As usual Dennis brought copies of his instructions which is always very much appreciated by fellow turners. Now I am ready to build the jig and I am sure that my first sphere with be perfect.

Thanks Dennis!

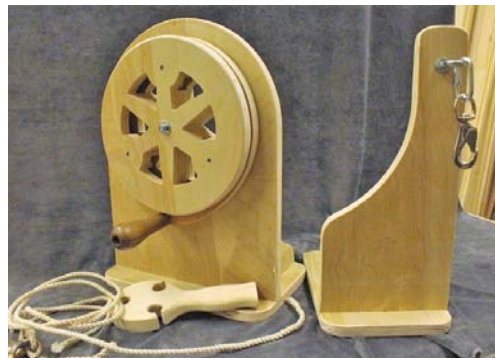
André Laroche



##### Rope Making Machine

Last autumn Aimee Benoit of the Galt Museum approached the Chinook Woodturning Guild asking if any of our members could or would make a rope making machine out of wood. The Galt Museum runs Fort Whoop-up and wanted to let visitors try hands-on rope making as one of their activities. Aimee had a set of blueprints from a website, but no pointers on how to assemble and operate the parts.

Euan Hanchard quickly volunteered, and with a bit of help from his woodworking machinery and a bit of experimenting, came up with a beautiful, working rope maker. This required the cutting and assembling of 3 smallish gears, which run inside a large ring gear, all are supported by a frame. Hooks through the centres of the small gears rotate in the opposite direction from the ring gear so that rope strands are twisted in one direction while the rope proper is twisted in the other.



At the January meeting of the Guild, Euan showed up with the



finished product and clamped it to a table. After threading rope fibres through the hooks and back to a starting block, he demonstrated how to make rope. Ideally it seems to be a two person project when one of the two knows how it works.

The finished rope was strong, uniform and pleasing to the eye, congratulations Euan.



Aimee Benoit (who, by the way, is the daughter-in-law of our Remie Benoit) was there to watch and expressed pleasure and satisfaction as she received the machine on behalf of Fort Whoop-up.

Dan Michener



In addition to Aimee we also had a potter from CASA, Michael Lanyi, as a guest. He was looking to collaborate with one of our members on a tea pot project.



turning.

Roy Harker brought his piece from a fall meeting that he was unable to bring the following meeting because of health issues.



As well Terry Baker brought his Koa bowl from the Dec bring back draw.



Terry brought this oak cube and Richard Shelson will have a go at making something from it for our Feb meeting.



### **Guild Website**

<http://chinookwoodturning.org/>

### **Don't forget to visit our website from time to time**

### **Sawdust Sessions**

These are new this year and while they are not attended by as many as to our regular meetings, they are a successful way of sharing skills with other members.

President Dan sent out an email recently which captures the intent of these sessions and is worthy of being repeated here.

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One of the points of Sawdust Sessions is to give turners an opportunity to BS about their passion and meet other woodturners. This is something for which there isn't much opportunity at the regular monthly meetings, but is an important part of expanding and enjoying our art.

This is a repeat of the email I sent out a couple of weeks ago, just to remind you (and me!)

We will have a "Sawdust session" on Saturday, February 10th at Casa. Put it on your calendar. We start at 9am, (unless I'm late like last time) and continue as long as we wish. Come whenever you want and leave whenever you want. Bring a sample of your recent work or unusual tool so we can stand around and discuss it.

Sawdust sessions are not demonstrations, but an opportunity to discuss and maybe do some hands-on work with others who can help or give advice.

Tool sharpening was, and remains, one of the harder aspects of woodturning for me to grasp. By now I am pretty good at sharpening my own tools, but I'm less confident about sharpening your tools! There are so many sizes and shapes and qualities out there. I have been asked to help with sharpening turning tools, so bring your tools with you and maybe you'll gain confidence. If you have been turning with dull tools you will be amazed when you get sharp.

Something else you want to do in a sawdust session? Let me or André or Norm or Richard know. Suggestions for general topics for Sawdust Sessions are greatly appreciated.

See you on Saturday,  
Dan

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**Sawdust Session** Feb 10/18

Nine members of our Guild showed up for the Sawdust Session at

Casa, Saturday, 10 February 2018. Some members were interested in improving their tool sharpening skills, and while we were able to regrind and sharpen tools, I discovered that I really don't know the best shape for gouges with a 'U' shaped flute. My gouges have a parabolic flute and that's all I have much experience with.

Roger Wayman drove up from Cut Bank MT to discuss all matters woodturning; Vern came to take some photos and Darryl got some practice using his newly sharpened tools. Jerome made a winged bowl and fixed the electrical connection on the pioneer lathe, Suzi dropped by to install the improved tail stock swing away on the big lathe, Norm installed a new wheel lift system on the Powermatic lathe, worked on nametags for the members and pulled tiny projects out of his pockets to amaze us and discussed all matters related to woodturning and everything else. Jim made the outside of a Mountain Ash box, Albert experimented with cuts on spinning birch, Dan messed around with sharpening unfamiliar tools and Richard brought a bowl blank he wanted to discuss with the rest of us.

We talked, and turned until early afternoon when the last remaining 6 of us adjourned to the nearby A&W for a bite to eat and continue the chatter.

It was a good session and everybody went home happy.

Dan Michener



Pres Dan looks on as new member Darryl works at improving his tool control



And offers some helpful tips



Others gathered to discuss various topics



Rob Thomsen

### Show and Tell table/ Instant Gallery



Terry Sutton tool handles



Roy Harker bracelet



Roy Harker

#### 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
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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 of Lethbridge presents:

# J. Paul Fennell

## WOOD ARTIST



**Saturday 19 May 2018**

**J. Paul Fennell hollows and carves wood to create  
forms inspired by nature**

### **Demonstration**

**Saturday 19 May 2018 9 am – 4 pm**

**Registration: \$60 (Students \$40) includes lunch**

**Location: Casa Building 230 8<sup>th</sup> St. South  
Lethbridge, AB, T1J 5H2, Canada**

To pre-register contact:

Dan Michener 403-331-9177 (michenerdan@gmail.com)

André Laroche 403-393-5337 (gplaroche@telus.net)

(Registration will also be accepted at the door)

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### **Workshop**

**Sunday 20 May 9 am – 4 pm**

Registration for Paul's full-day hands-on workshop is \$200.

Space is limited so please contact Dan Michener or André Laroche, as above,  
if you would like to attend the workshop

**Do not miss this opportunity to learn from and be inspired by  
one of the great artists of our time.**