



# Chinook Woodturning Guild Newsletter



Chapter

May 2019

Volume 2018, number 9

Previous issues of our newsletters are available on our web site

<http://www.chinookwoodturning.org>

## President's Message

In our woodturning journey we get to see a lot of other turners showing us how they do things. Member's demonstrations are an integral part of our meetings and special events. Every woodturner can think of demos which were outstanding and demos which made you wish you were somewhere else. I've seen a lot of demos and I've given a few and I have developed a few ideas about what works and what should be avoided.



Dan Michener

For me, a few simple rules make all the difference:

Be pretty good at the project you want to show. This sounds obvious but, surprisingly often, the demonstrator has only made the piece once before and is unprepared for the disaster which unfolds before them in public because conditions are different. So before exposing yourself, do the demonstration 10 times in the privacy of your own workshop to get the kinks worked out, learn where the going gets a little tricky and how long the demo takes to finish. The other thing about repeatedly doing the turning ahead of time is that you become sufficiently familiar with the moves and cuts involved that you can describe to the audience what you are doing while you work, instead of being so concentrated on the eye-hand coordination and remembering the next step that you can't describe what you are doing. And if you don't talk, the audience will, and you will have lost their attention.

When beginning the demonstration, show an example of the completed piece so your audience will know what the objective is. It greatly helps them to understand where you are going. I have seen demos which were fine, but I didn't know why they were doing what they did because I hadn't seen what the finished product was meant to look like.

Don't get bogged down in time consuming sanding and fine tuning. When you get to the point where you must spend a while doing something tedious, have another similar piece, turned to the same stage but with the tiresome stuff already done, to slot into the demo and keep going.

I have seen lots of mistakes made by demonstrators. Mistakes which would not have happened if the person wasn't distracted and scrutinized by the audience. Expect something unexpected to happen and have a backup piece so when things really go wrong you can restart. When you get a catch, laugh and go on; when you cut through the side wall, put your spare piece on and proceed. Of course, everybody is waiting for a mistake, but be assured there isn't anybody in the audience who hasn't cut through the bottom of a bowl or caught the wood on the wrong angle with that gouge. They understand, and plenty of them feel better for knowing you aren't entirely out of their league.

Dan

## 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

<b>May</b>	<b>4</b>	Sat, 10am, Sawdust session
	<b>16</b>	**Thurs, 7pm, TBA.
	<b>25</b>	Sat, 9am, Ed Pretty demo
	<b>26-28</b>	3x1 day hands on workshops with Ed Pretty
<b>June</b>	<b>20</b>	**Thurs, 6pm, Casa woodshop. BBQ.

## Ed Pretty Demonstration

The time has come and Ed Pretty will be here in just a few days. A full day demonstration on Sat May 25 should make for a great day and hopefully the room will be filled up with members and visitors. I have never left a demonstration without having learned something useful and have no doubt there will be something for everyone and that all will leave with new ideas to improve their turning experiences.



For those of you who are participating in one of the workshops during the 3 days following the demonstration I have no doubt you will be in for a treat. While attending the demonstration by an accomplished turner is a very worthwhile experience, there is no substitute for time with that demonstrator in a hands on workshop. With the workshop attendee numbers kept small, there is lots of time for personal interaction and work on your particular issues. This will be a day not soon forgotten and if you haven't been to a hands on workshop, consider attending one in the future - you won't regret it.

## From the Editor

Thanks to Dan, André, Lorraine and Jim Galloway for their contributions.

## Meet our Members

name Roy Harker  
member since: Dec 2016

N. LeRoy (Roy) Harker

I was a teacher until I retired in 2004. I studied Industrial Education at Brigham Young University in Provo Utah where I was a teaching assistant to Dale Nish, a world renowned turner and educator who passed away a couple of years ago.



Born and raised in Magrath, I spent many years in other regions before returning to my roots in 1996. I taught building construction in Western Samoa for 2 years before accepting employment with the Calgary Board of Education. I finished my career with the Westwind School Division at

Magrath Jr/Sr High School.

After teaching woodwork and other areas of Industrial Arts for the first half of my career. I switched to computers for the last half. Throughout that time I began to build up an arsenal of tools as woodwork continued to be my true love.

Since retirement I have pursued several venues including making countertops, small contracting and selling cars. I spent a year in Japan teaching English, built a school in Samoa and served as a missionary in Samoa.

I think Kathy and I have now settled down... but no promises.

My first experience woodturning was in shop classes in High School. With very little guidance I tried turning a bowl and discovered I could make money turning drum sticks for my brother's friend who drummed in a local band.

In University I developed my skills under Dale Nish and found pleasure in turning. Over the years I turned bowls, lamps, bedposts, and table & chair legs. I used my skills to repair furniture.

I use an older Delta Rockwell lathe with variable speed and a 12 inch throw. Perhaps some day I will find the money to get a larger throw and electronic variable speed. In the mean time I will continue repairing the old one. Anyone with mechanical familiarity with the old Delta Rockwell Reeves Drive variable speeds...?

A few years ago I was introduced to the Chinook Woodturners by my cousin Clair Norton whom you all know. For a few years I came periodically when work and travel allowed it. I became a member of the guild about 3 years ago.

I have discovered that my skills as well as my equipment were dated and have found a new way to spend the grocery money.

I couldn't say that I have a preferred type of turning, finding interest in a variety of styles and processes. I am intrigued by "Can I do that?" My problem is that I don't really like doing the same thing over again, preferring new challenges. Unfortunately, I only seem to get into my shop a few times a week on average and some medical issues stop me from spending prolonged hours there.

I joined the Guild for inspiration, encouragement and friendship. I have enjoyed my associations here and look forward to our sessions, often just to be here. I'm not overly outgoing so I appreciate it when any of you share your time with me. Thanks for all you do.

Roy Harker

#### **April 2019 meeting** demo by Kai Meunzer

Kai Muenzer gave an excellent demonstration of turning tilted vases. There was a good turnout for the meeting, lots of wood for the wood draw, as well as the usual instant gallery and a very pleasant evening was had by all.

#### **Kai Muenzer demo and class** (by Dan Michener)

#### **The Demo**

Our guild was honoured to have Kai Muenzer visit us on April 18 and 19 to present a demonstration and lead a hands on class. Kai lives in Calgary and has demonstrated for us twice before, but this is the first time he has taught here.

Kai's demo and class were on making a tilted vase. This is a project which entails spindle turning on 2 different centres, waste blocks, hot glue, hollowing, carving and several rechuckings, so it requires a variety of skills be brought together in order to achieve the final result.

Although Kai demonstrated a fairly unadorned example of the tilted vase, he brought along several examples of his beautiful work which show where the simple pattern may lead given an open imagination.







Right at the beginning Kai located the fire extinguisher, which raised a few eyebrows in the audience, and briefly mentioned personal precautions which should be common to all woodturning enterprises.

Diving into the project, Kai explained how to locate centre points on the unturned wood and position the glue block. Then it was time to hot glue the waste blocks in position and add support blocks for extra security while turning. Making a tenon on the glue block and transferring the piece to a chuck took only a few minutes, and the live centre secured the right end while the initial rounding was done. Turning the vase on an angle caused vibration so the rpms couldn't be too high, but things smoothed out as more wood was removed. Before cutting the vase to its outside diameter the inside was hollowed out with a  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch drill. Then the outside could be refined and the

final shape appeared.



happened.

Kai finished off showing a method of marking off areas of the vase to be carved. Carving was done with a multipurpose bit powered with a Fordom motor on a very cool stand.



During the whole demo, Kai kept up a narrative about what he was doing and why. Everybody's attention was riveted from start to finish, there were plenty of questions and at the end woodturners surrounded his table to look at the tools and the results.

The Guild has two 50" TV's that can be set up for demonstrations. While only one was needed for this event, there wasn't a bad seat in the house and there are times when you can see the detail of a procedure better on the TV than when viewed directly.



Thank you, Kai for another excellent demonstration.

### The Workshop

The next day, Good Friday, Kai led a group of 6 of us in a class making the tilted vases. The class, met in Dan Michener's shop near Picture Butte, and with the addition of lathes loaned by Remie Benoit and Vern Miller, we followed the same procedure for making the vase as Kai did in the demo, but instead of taking 1 hour it took 6 hours and it turns out

The glue blocks were removed using a hot knife. This is where the gloves and fire extinguisher came in, but no disaster





to be not as straight forward as one would have thought from watching the demonstration.

There is no substitute for hands on experience under the eye of a good teacher, and all of us came away from the class with new ideas and new skills.

They say a picture tells a thousand words and the following pictures tell the story; Kai is the tall guy who looks like he knows what he is doing.



Kai Meunzer workshop\_Apr 2019\_LtoR, Kai Munzer, Roger Wayman, Remie Bennoit, Terry Beaton, Andre Laroche, John vandenBerg, Dan Michener missing



A happy and satisfied bunch of guys.



LtoR, Dan Michener, Roger Wayman, Remie Bennoit, Terry Beaton, Andre Laroche, John vandenBerg



### May 4, 2019 Sawdust Session

SPARKS, CHIPS and SAWDUST Session...

Norm and Lorraine were busy on a lathe. Norm assisting Lorraine with a cedar bowl. Roger was selling some wood that he picked up in Canada and wasn't allowed to take it back south over the border. Roger also had a large piece on the lathe and was turning a large platter, the chips were flying. Terry was on the grinder sharpening tools, he was also quite busy.



Bert and Roger having a discussion



Bert, Terry & Suzi





let the chips fly



Terry making adjustments



And sharpening tools



Roger's evil wood that he can't take into the US of Eh



Terry, Ken &amp; Baz discuss a project

If you haven't been to a sawdust session, you should plan to get to at least one session. Chances are you will return for more sessions after getting a taste. I'm told there is great enthusiasm by those who attend and it is a great time to learn and practice something new. This is an excellent opportunity to interact with members in ways you can't at a regular meeting. They are the first Saturday of each month at 10:00am in the CASA woodshop. There is no charge to our members and the sessions are expected to continue through the summer months.

Cudo's to our Board for implementing these sessions and keeping them going.

### 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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- While this is a commercial site (they sell tools) this is a site with tons of articles and tips

<https://www.highlandwoodworking.com/the-highland-woodturner.aspx>

- labelled as dangerous woodturning. Not recommending you try this but interesting to watch perhaps. (you may have to cut & paste this one)

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfQ\\_xrseNPcEhGD\\_VZrFWTw/featured?fbclid=IwAR0\\_JsV3ka7Ooi3\\_SxBIN7EX1UKJ5dxiCMLuO2hT5TSonmT65Ou-ZOPx5D](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfQ_xrseNPcEhGD_VZrFWTw/featured?fbclid=IwAR0_JsV3ka7Ooi3_SxBIN7EX1UKJ5dxiCMLuO2hT5TSonmT65Ou-ZOPx5D)

One Big Ugly Burl Into A Decorative Flowerpot  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7kTpIJCMEpo>



Lorraine with a very nice face shield and respirator turning cedar bowl



Lorraine with a very nice face shield and respirator turning cedar bowl



## Guild Website

<http://chinookwoodturning.org/>

## Email addresses

Just a quick reminder. From time to time people change their email address without letting us know. If you aren't reading this it could well be that we don't have a new email address for you. Sound silly, I guess a bit - the point is if you know a member who has not been getting a newsletter, ask them to get their new email address to me so we can get them back on the list.

## Beads of Courage

chairman: John vandenBerg

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

Here is an email recently received from Rae Parry, Director of Artist Relations. While addressed to Vern, I'm sure it is intended for our entire Guild.

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Greetings from Beads of Courage-Canada!



I hope that this message finds you well. I wanted to take a moment to say Thank You for all that you do to serve the mission of Beads of Courage through your generous donations of one-of-a-kind art.

Your beautiful art is truly the heart of our program and we are humbled to partner with you to provide a way for children to record, tell and own their stories of COURAGE. You are helping make healing happen with each and every beautiful donation.



As our program has grown throughout Canada we have had to look at how we best service our hospital programs. Our hospitals have asked that all donations are coordinated through Rae Parry at Beads of Courage prior to delivery to the hospital.

**Bead Donations**-all bead donations must be sent to Calgary for review and packaging

**Bead Bowls**-contact Rae when you have bowls ready to deliver and she will connect with the hospital to ensure they have the need and storage space

If Rae knows you make bowls and the hospital requests bowls, she will contact you directly

**Bead Bags**-contact Rae when you have bags ready to deliver and she will connect with the hospital to ensure they have the need and storage space

If Rae knows you make bags and the hospital requests bags, she will contact you directly

Donation forms can be found at <http://beadsofcourage.ca/artist-donations>

Once I connect with the hospital, I will let you know how to arrange delivery with the hospital staff. This ensures we are all on the same page and that we can appropriately send donation acknowledgements as well. Please complete the donation form for each artist donation, without this

information we cannot properly acknowledge your beautiful gifts.

Thank you for your continued support! Together, we are #BeadStrong!



If you are in the Saskatoon area, we would love for you to participate in our upcoming Colour Festival Fun Run on June 2nd! Visit <https://www.colourrunsask.ca/> to learn more.

With much gratitude,

Rae Parry  
Director of Artist Relations  
[rae@beadsofcourage.ca](mailto:rae@beadsofcourage.ca)

## Beads of Courage Report;

I am back home and had a chance to make some boxes while I was down south, I see a number of boxes have come into the library while I was away. Thank you, they appreciate what you have made. I won't deliver the boxes to Calgary until July, so there is time to make more before then. Thanks John V



John VandenBerg\_Pine\_Pine beetle damaged wood



John VandenBerg\_Pine\_Pine beetle damaged wood



John VandenBerg\_Manitoba Maple



### **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.

#### **April 2019 Bring Back # 33**



Poplar\_ from Norm Robinson to Ross Robinson



One of 2 bowls embellished by rose engine



2<sup>nd</sup> of 2 bowls

Next month Bring back blank



### **CWG Soap Box**

The aim of a discussion should not be victory but progress

### **Musings by the editor**

#### **Importance of dedicated/focused lathe time**

There is nothing more a woodturner likes to do than to chuck up a piece of wood and make something. Often we have no plan. For some of us we say "the wood talks to me and becomes what it wants to be". What it turns out to be is that in many cases we didn't have a plan when we mounted that piece of wood. What we ended up with is what evolved as we merrily wielded our tools. I not saying there is anything wrong with that. That is often how I approach a turning. Even when I think I have a plan very often one thing or another intervenes and something different than planned is the result.

What many of us don't often do is intentionally focus on a particular skill. Perhaps it is because we feel like we are wasting wood if we don't end up with a useful item at the end of the day, or perhaps the repetition of practicing a particular skill or tool is boring and to add

insult to injury not productive. As much as I dislike repetition, as much as I dislike making identical things over & over, there is no question that for skill development & tool control improvement, repetition builds muscle memory, helps train your eye and helps you make the adjustments that are so important for the progressive development of your skills.

One of the things I like to do especially if I haven't been at the lathe for awhile is to chuck up a blank, pick a particular tool and compatible skill and spend ten or fifteen minutes focussed just on that. For example: Take a long turning blank and a skew chisel and practice making beads, each as close to the others as I can make them. Thin beads, fat beads, shallow beads, deep beads. Level it off and repeat until the blank has been wasted away. Another time use a spindle gouge and do the same thing. Several things happen.

- 1) your skill & comfort level with a skew gets better
- 2) you train yourself to accomplish what you are wanting to make.

Your first beads are usually pretty rough but they get easier, more constant and more uniform as you work

- 3) your eye helps you guide the tool to form the shape you wanted rather than the shape that just happened.

- 4) when you start something else you are looser & more relaxed so that the project moves forward more effectively

Sometimes, that warm up is to make tops with various tools. It seems my grand kids must eat tops for a snack when I'm not looking so I can always use more and there are some for our Christmas sale for the Food Bank.

You can spend as little or as much time as you want. Taking some time in this way will be a benefit to your turning.

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.

#### **Can you still Breathe**

As woodturners and woodworkers we are constantly exposed to wood dust. Many of us grew up in dusty environments - working in grain bins and many other very dusty places. We never gave it much thought - just coughed it up and got on with it. Little did we realize how much accumulated in our lungs and over the years it built up and reduced our lung function. It did so so slowly that we didn't realize how we were being affected. Nor did we appreciate that the result is irreversible. Masks seemed too much of a nuisance and we just carried on - old habits die hard.

The question is - Are you controlling the dust in your shop and taking the necessary precautions to keep it out of your lungs?

There is a wealth of information on the internet about the effects of dust on your lungs and on how to control it and protect yourself.

Do yourself a favour - be more aware of this safety issue and take action.

### **Tip of the Month**

An open ended wrench can make an effective sizing gauge/tool for spindles etc. Make sure the leading edges are smoothed out so you don't get a catch.

**Show and Tell Table/ Instant Gallery - April 2019**

Norm Stelter

John Vandenberg\_pinnacle  
box\_Mexican wood\_Ampa

Ross Robinson\_Oak bowl



Rob Thomsen's box



Rob Thomsen bowl cherry

John Vandenberg\_maple & walnut\_  
segmented bowlJohn Vandenberg\_maple & walnut\_segmented  
platter

Norm Stelter concave plaque ducks of the marsh

Roger Wayman vase cedar oiled  
hand rubbed

Roger McMullen oriental scheme



I am really sad that I was not there to see all these pieces up close and personal. What great ingenuity and diversity this Instant Gallery has unveiled. But, taking first place in the Ladies Texas hold'em tournament at the casino is a consolation I can bear (barely).

The two Rogers have contributed very nice projects.

Roger Wayman has presented a cedar vase which he oiled and hand-rubbed to a beautiful finish.

Roger McMullen showed off his meticulously detailed vessel with an Oriental touch. It is further enhanced with a beautiful butterfly design.

Rob Thompson turned a lidded box and applied a translucent stain for an interesting effect. He also turned a very nice Cherry bowl that shows off its delicate grain and texture.

Norm Stelter has turned a box from wood unknown. Very catching piece with the beaded look on the lid, along with the delicate finial and interesting circle design. The circle design brings visions of UFO's to my mind (LOL). Norm presented a second work of art by creating a concave plate that sets the stage for ducks taking flight out of the marshes. What a great variance from the norm. (Pun intended) ??

And now for the winter adventures of John Vandenberg. John never forgets to remember the sick children with his beautiful and wonderful Beads of Courage boxes. This month he has brought in 3 boxes. Two of them are the coveted beehives with a bee included. The other is from a wood unknown but is a piece with wonderful light and dark accents.

John also made a pinnacle box which is very eye-catching with a contrasting finial lid. He also enhanced his collection with an airy segmented bowl. The types of wood are not disclosed with the picture, but it appears to be perhaps Oak, Walnut and Maple. And last but not least, John has created a platter with umpteen segments. I hope no one expected a count on the number of segments put into this platter because being an accountant - well everyone knows that accountants can't add. So maybe John can tell us what an amazing undertaking this must have been. I am in awe of the perfection of the intricate fitting of each and every piece.



Our Bring Back piece was created by Ross Robinson. He created a small bowl and used his Rose Engine to embellish the details and turn a plain bowl into a wondrous work of art that would keep people pondering the question "How?"

Thank you once again to all who have contributed to another amazing Instant Gallery. And Thank You to Jim Galloway for taking the photos in April.

Lorraine

#### 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.

A blonde was weed whacking her yard when she accidentally cut off the tail of her cat who was hiding in the long grass. She immediately rushed the cat along with its tail over to Wal-Mart.

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Why Wal-Mart??

HELLOOOOO !!

Wal-Mart is the largest retailer in the world.

#### **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 Shelson 403-381-6670  
rshelson@shaw.net

Treasurer André Laroche 403-329-6414  
[gplaroche@telus.net](mailto:gplaroche@telus.net)

Newsletter Editor Vern Miller 403-892-6729  
[verntheturner@gmail.com](mailto:verntheturner@gmail.com)

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

# 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.