



Chinook Woodturning Guild Newsletter



Chapter

April 2019

Volume 2018, number 8

Previous issues of our newsletters are available on our web site

<http://www.chinookwoodturning.org>

President's Message

I approach woodturning as an adventure every time I go into my workshop. Typically I get excited about some technique or form or type of wood. Then work on it and lie awake thinking about how to make it and muddle through with something which isn't perfect but is in the ball park. Then I refine the process in the light of what I have learned and make a few more similar pieces, each one being an improvement, until I have something I quite like. Not perfect, of course, but the casual observer will think it's great and only the maker knows the flaws and the minor, or not so minor, disasters which occurred along the way.



Dan Michener

By that stage I'm ready to order that special tool or finish which will make the thing excellent every time. When my order finally arrives I've become obsessed with some other form or finish and the new tool sits around, filling up my storage space and relieving the internal pressure on my bank account.

Wherever woodturning equipment is on display turners can be found with their tongues figuratively hanging out and their minds quietly consulting their cheque books to see if that beautiful tool is affordable, and discovering that it is, just. Whenever the newest issue of American Woodturner arrives, the first thing I look at are the advertisements on the back pages so I can salivate over all the stuff I might just need. Visits to the trade shows at the AAW conventions can drive you mad with desire. Through this process, over the course of time, I have accumulated quite a few tools that I don't really use much. But I like to have them and every now and then one which has lain unused for a year or two turns out to be just the thing for some project which was never anticipated when the tool was purchased. When that happens I congratulate myself for having such foresight. So I keep buying tools, they are so attractive I can't help it, and everybody knows you can't have too many chucks or gouges.

Happy shopping!

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

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

Dennis Delaney, a founding member of this Guild has moved to Three Hills. Dennis has been a stalwart member, serving on the Board of Directors, organizing various events and giving many demonstrations over the years.

Not only are we losing a valued member we are also losing a friend to many of us. Dennis you will be missed.

We wish Dennis all the very best in the future.

From the Editor

Thanks to Dan and Lorraine for their contributions.

Meet our Members

Remo Brassolotto
member since: Oct 2018

I am retired and spent most of my working life at Humber Community College in Toronto. My teaching was done in the Liberal Arts and Sciences Department where I taught General Education Elective courses (Humanities, Psychology mainly).



Just last summer my wife and I moved to Lethbridge from Toronto. She had spent her whole life there and I lived there since 1970. My home town is Niagara Falls, Ontario. We moved from our home of 37 years in the Bloor West Village area of Toronto.

I have been interested in woodworking all my life really. My dad was a construction carpenter and I have been familiar with woodworking tools since a very early age. Mostly it's been a hobby. While in retirement I found myself taking on smaller and smaller projects, as it were, and thought I would like to focus on turning. I have a good friend who is retired and does turning and I have always admired his work. About a year and a half ago I acquired a small, used lathe (King Canada 10" X 16"). I also joined the Toronto Woodturners Guild and was getting some very good tutoring in what they call their "hands-on" sessions. Since moving here I am not getting to the lathe as often as I thought I might. So far I have been focusing on spindle turning and only very recently have I begun to try making a bowl.

I enjoy the meetings of the Guild and the fact that there is a neat focus on doing things for the community. I also hope to use my new-found contacts to help me increase my skill level.

Ed Pretty demo & workshops

Our major annual demonstration & workshop weekend is fast approaching with guest demonstrator Ed Pretty. May 25 - 28, 2019.

Check out his website <http://www.edswoodturning.com/>

Hope to see all our members at the demo



March 2019 meeting

At the March 21, 2019 meeting of the guild I demonstrated how to make a wooden quaich. The wooden quaich, (pronounced like 'quake') with one bowl but two handles, is a traditional Scottish symbol of close friendship or esteem. Many a wedding, christening and social meeting has been blessed with strong drink in a quaich.



Dan at work



A finished quaich (minus the strong drink)

It is easier to make two quaichs than just one using this method. The process involves a series of fairly simple procedures requiring spindle turning followed by chucking in several orientations. Only a little sanding is required to finish off.

Begin with two 2" thick blocks glued together to make a 4"x4"x7" turning blank. My blank was half mahogany and half maple so it was easy to see the centre line. Turn to a cylinder.



laying out the blank

Locate the half way point, then mark out half the diameter on either side of the centre line, as if to make a ball. Since the objective is an oval, instead of a ball, mark another line a further ¼ inch to the outside of each of these lines.



the centre line and the outside ends of the oval

It is necessary to locate the centre of the bottom of each half so a chucking tenon can be cut later on. To do this adjust the tool rest to support a horizontal pencil at the height of the centre line, then rotate the spindle until the glue line is as close to vertical as you can make it by eye. Then mark the position on the centre line of the cylinder with the horizontal pencil. This spot will be the center of a tenon for putting the piece in a chuck. Repeat with the other side of the spindle. Centre punch the two points.



Centre punch the bottom of the bowl

Next, turn the oval shape which will become the bowl of the cup, leaving the spindle ends (which will be the quaich's handles) about half the diameter of the original cylinder. It is important to make a flowing curve between the centre oval and the emerging handles.



forming the cup

When the oval is finished it should be symmetrical on either side of the centre line, and the two handles should match one another and be smoothly blended with the sides of the oval.



The spindle turning finished

Remove the spindle from the lathe and remount between centres with the two centre punched points located previously. The piece is now mounted sideways with the glue line perpendicular to the axis of the lathe.



Remount perpendicular to the lathe's axis

Cut chucking tenons on the headstock and tailstock sides.

Now remove from the lathe and cut the piece in half from end to end along the glue line. To do this safely you will need to make a supporting block which will keep the ends secure during the cut.



making a safety block to hold spindle for bandsawing



Cut the spindle in half



safety block after cutting the spindle

Now there are two identical halves which will each make a finished quaich.

With one of the halves secured in a chuck, carefully true up the face, taking light cuts so the corners of the handles don't break off. This is a little tricky because you can't see the spinning handles and it is difficult to get a smooth cut. Next, shape the handles with light cuts. Many handle shapes are possible. Rough work on the handles can be sanded off pretty easily at the end so don't spend too much risky time on them.

With the handles shaped and a rim established on the bowl, begin the hollowing. Leave the rim at least 1/8" thick so it doesn't chip out in the hands of the future owner. Check the wall thickness as you hollow, being sure to gauge the thickness on the side of the bowl, not on the ends which are quite thick because the outside is oval in shape not round as with a conventional bowl.

Leave the bottom on the thick side because you are going to cut off the tenon.

Reverse the turned quaich between centres to remove the tenon.



Jam chuck the hollowed cup and cut off the tenon

Sanding is easy with a sanding pad mounted on the lathe. Hand sand to 320 grit to finish off.



The end result



Sanding with a lathe mounted sanding pad

Rub the finished quaich with a beeswax/mineral oil mixture to seal and beautify.

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.

Here is a different approach to turning

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=395686561214569>

Skew Variations by John Lucas

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YFIzYGKYro4&t=825>

How to explain a new idea

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qLIZPoXNdio>

This last one I do not endorse nor recommend you try. It somewhat illustrates the need to exercise caution when viewing things on the internet. Using the wrong tool for the task usually is inherently dangerous. But if nothing else, it is amazing how much work a person might do to accomplish something that could be done more safely, easier & faster using a lathe.

Turn a bowl with a table saw

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MUKcEQPC6Mg>

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.

March Bring Back

This is the 32nd Bring Back

Bring Back by Norm Robinson is an interesting little teapot that was aged by spraying acid on the bronze paint after it had dried. But, before he could turn the Bring Back wood, he had to glue several pieces together as the donated wood was a bag full of quite small leftovers of various woods.



BB-32_Feb 2019_Maple_ from Rob Thomsen to Norm Robinson



BB-32_Norm Robinson_Mar 2019_2.5x2.5

Bring Back for next month



BB-33_Mar 2019_Poplar_from Norm Robinson to Ross Robinson

CWG Soap Box

A vegan said to me - people who sell meat are disgusting

I said - people who sell fruit and vegetables are grocer

Musings by the editor

Creative Thinking

For many of us the creative side of woodturning is a challenge. Show us something and we can try to make it - usually successfully. There is nothing wrong with enjoying the making of things, of building our skill levels so that we get better and better over time. For others of us there is a desire to be more creative in what we make, to be more artistic and to make things which are outside the norm.

It seems to me that our biggest creativity hurdle is within our own selves. Everyone of us has creative ability - the question is - have we developed it. Like so many other things, creativity develops and expands over time. Our job is to work at expanding the boundaries of our thoughts and how we look at things, to experiment and try new ideas. As we try new things, more ideas will come to mind and our creativity will expand in the process.

Much of our lives revolve around staying safely in the acceptable box. To expand and explore our creative side we need to take some risks, to try things and even fail at some of them. We also need to expand our thinking and to explore in ways we haven't before, to open our minds beyond the safe boundaries we normally live within. The internet can be a valuable resource. Google "the creative process" as a starting point and you will find numerous references to help you

think about and explore your potential. The trail will continue from there if you want it to. Below are a couple of youtube links of Ted Talks that verbally help in that exploration and with them many more similar links.

Challenge yourself to think about and explore developing your creative side once a week, once a month, once a day - whatever works for you. You may be surprised at where that takes you over time.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bEusrD8g-dM>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oww7oB9rjgw>

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.

lathe speed is a critical issue in terms of your safety. The saying that speed kills is absolutely true in woodturning. There are examples of people who have been killed while at the lathe for that very reason.

Sometimes you put a piece on the lathe and it looks as sound as the rock of Gibraltar. At slower speeds internal faults often don't come into play but crank the speed up and you can have an unexpected explosion. Remember that even at slow speeds your reaction time is, at your best, not good enough to duck a missile, turn the speed way up and you don't have a chance. As well, when things go wrong at high speed they go wrong faster than instantly. At slower speeds there can be a warning but not at high speeds.

Below are a couple of quotes from turners which I saved several years ago. I don't remember who they are from or I would give them credit.

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I think the second most important safety rule, after wearing a face shield, is to operate the lathe at a reasonable speed. I was taught that for a sound, well balanced blank the lathe speed multiplied by the workpiece diameter (in inches) should be between 6000 and 9000. When roughing, or if the blank is sketchy, then this should be cut in half.

I've always followed this rule, and I have had pieces come off of the lathe and they just fall to the floor and bounce around. Potentially a hazard to your feet or legs, but they're not going to kill you. I'm guessing that the guy in the story probably was turning faster than this rule suggests.

I know many turners ignore this rule. I have seen professional demonstrators say things like "crank the speed up until the lathe dances around, and then turn it down a bit." High speeds make many operations easier, and you can get away with high speeds for a long time. But, there is always a risk that the wood will have an internal defect that won't let go until you've turned away enough of the supporting wood. So, I follow the speed rule, and I spread the word whenever I have an excuse.

Unknown author

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No need for me to dig out the physics books, actually I'm a mechanical engineer. As I mentioned in my earlier post above, I never exceed a speed where the diameter in inches times the rotational speed exceeds 9000. That corresponds to 27 mph, or somewhere in the neighborhood of 50 km/h. So 250 km/h is 5 times as fast as I would turn.

I don't know about you, but my reaction time isn't fast enough to respond at the speeds I turn, let alone the idiotic speeds you're talking about. So, the reason to keep the speed down is to minimize the pain when the piece does hit you, cause you won't have time to move.

So, again, I AM NOT ADVOCATING TURNING FAST. Far from it.

Geoff

Are you a member of the AAW

The AAW has issued a newsletter and suggested we share it with our friends. I will be forwarding that newsletter to our members in the next day or so

Notes of Interest

If I agreed with you we'd both be wrong

Tip of the Month

Mounting blocks hold chair spindles in lathe

When I refinished some spindle-backed chairs, I had a tough time sanding the intricate spindles. I tried mounting them in a lathe, but the tenons were too small for the drive center to grip. To solve the problem, I cut two 2x2x2" scrapwood blocks and drilled a centered hole in one end of each to match the tenon. I fit the blocks onto the spindle ends, and then put the assembly into the lathe. I sanded the spindles smooth in no time.

—Michael Hall, Bedford, Ind

March Show and Tell Table/ Instant Gallery

The instant gallery brought some fun pieces to be admired. I have to admit that my favorite item this month had very little woodturning on it. But it was close to my heart as it is related to my first love which is scroll art. Gunter's GM Hummer was an amazing project with such fine detail. However, Gunter did not use a scroll saw, but he was able to do a fantastic job with other tools including a jigsaw. if you ever feel up to the challenge you can buy various patterns from Toys and Joys.



Gunter Schultz _GM Hummer



Dennis Hooge created a fantastic segmented bowl that was made from Walnut and Padauk. His finish was three coats of polyurethane.



Dennis Hooge_ Walnut & Padauk segmented bowl

Remo brought in a nicely designed bowl that appears to be Walnut and Maple. He did a very nice job of aligning the segments. For the finish he used sealcoat sealer and Livos Natural Oil.



Remo Brassolotto _Maple & Walnut bowl

Suzi has created a vessel with a step rim with a matching lid that has a beautiful ebony finial to finish it off. I had asked each of the Instant Gallery contributors to describe any particular processes that brought the beauty out in their work. Suzi's reply on that was "Just overlook the flaws." LOL. But isn't it true. When we set our piece aside for a couple days and come back, amazingly the flaws have disappeared!



Suzi Tomita _vessel with a step rim



Roy Retti

Roy Retti brought in three vessels with lids. The configurations created by the changes in color and grains in the wood make for very interesting results. It is always amazing how the wood changes throughout the tree's growth.



Roy Retti

Terry Sutton has created another awesome segmented bowl. This time he has cut various angles on the segments which must have been quite a challenge to piece back together. He had used wood that had already been segmented small plaques that he had won on one of our wood raffles. Nice bowl for a dollar Terry!



Terry Sutton_segmented bowl

Roger McMullen has turned a vessel made from Maple Burl. The lid has an embellishment made from ebony which really catches the eye and completes the project nicely.



Roger McMullen_Maple Burl vessel

I (Lorraine) have finally brought something in for "show and tell". As we were unpacking things that have been in storage for the best part of a year I came across a bowl that I had turned out at Dan's when he was giving us a bit of a course. It is a birch bowl that has lost some of its shape due to being out in the elements so to speak. However I decided to try wood burning a flower design in the bottom of the bowl. Even though far from perfection I like the concept.



Lorraine Mix_birch bowl



Dan Michener_colored pot

Dan Michener brought in a colored vase and pot made from Manitoba Maple Burl. He colored it with successive layers of wood dye, and sanded back before the next coat was applied. It was finally finished with a spray lacquer that gave a brilliant sheen.

Once again thank you to all of the contributors to our Instant Gallery and Bring Back. It is always such fun to see what others have come up with.

Lorraine Mix.



Dan Michener_colored vase

update on Jim Jones

Eileen Jones reports:

“Jim is coming along quite well with his therapies. Slow but sure. He has quite a bit of strength in his right leg now and is starting to get use of his arm. Thank all the gang for their concern and visits. I will let him know you got in touch - Eileen”

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.

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

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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 8th Street South

Lethbridge, Alberta

T1J2H2, Canada

Please register to attend by contacting :

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

or

André Laroche 403-393-5337 (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.