



CHINOOK WOODTURNING GUILD NEWSLETTER

A CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS · VOL 2022, NO 2 · Feb. 2022

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Complaining about the inconveniences brought on by the pandemic takes up a huge amount of our time these days. However, we woodturners could look at this a different way. If we devoted our energies to square dancing, basketball or the marching band we wouldn't have had much chance to pursue our passion for a couple of years. But we are woodturners. We spend time alone in our workshops anyway, we like it like that. Our main restriction is not being able to spend our money on tools as fast as when the border is easy to negotiate.



Consider ourselves fortunate to have such an absorbing pastime that a worldwide pandemic only dampens our ability to socialize with all the other woodturners out there. Even that is not impossible what with today's internet technology. The biggest hinderance to more woodturning is inertia. So get turning. Make shavings. Don't complain that the shop is too cold; you can fix that if you really want to.

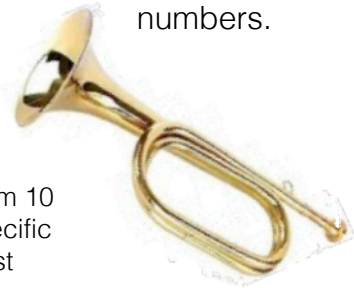
Our guild has begun to have shop visits with 2 or 3 turning in my workshop or at our Casa workshop. Suddenly I see the pile of recyclables in the corner, the half-done projects at the back of the bench and the dusty worn out sandpaper disc stuck on some shelf. I have become so familiar with the accumulated chaos that I no longer see it. But the prospect of a visitor has me seeing the place as they might see it. Gradually I organize, discard and sweep. This is a good result, but there is a long way to go. I better have more visits. You should too, your workshop will thank you.

Dan Michener

ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

The guild has initiated several programs to encourage fully vaccinated members to meet safely in small numbers.

1. **Saturday Sessions.** We will begin sessions at Casa for groups of 3 or 4, plus a mentor or two, on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month from 10 am until noon. There will be specific projects, so this is not a sawdust session. When the projects are announced, any of our members may ask to be included. That same project will be taught repeatedly until all interested members have had a chance to attend.



Contact **Terry Beaton** to register and find out what projects are being taught.
403-381-4552, terry_beaton@shaw.ca

2. **Reciprocal Shop Visits.** To broaden our horizons and promote camaraderie among our members, we will start a program of drawing names of pairs of willing woodturners, who will arrange to visit the other one's workshop and see the tools and tricks of the workspace.

Contact **Norm Robinson** to agree to a shop visit (text or phone 403-404-4428).

3. **Shop Sawdust visits.** We are inviting members to visit other workshops, in small numbers, to do a half day of turning and talking all things woodturning with a couple of our more experienced members. There is no set program. Turners can bring their own wood and tools for a project of their own or just come with questions and an open mind.

Initially, these turning sessions will be in Dan Michener's workshop which is large enough for 4 invitees and 2 mentors to not be crowded. There are sufficient lathes for all. Some wood is available. The date and time will be agreed on among those who wish to attend.

Contact **Dan** 403-331-9177 or michenerdan@gmail.com to get on the list.

ERIC LOFSTROM IRD

Eric Lofstrom presented an Interactive Remote Demonstration on Sunday, 6 February. This demo was about making his “Namaste” end grain bowls, decorated for inner light. Around 48 members of the Edmonton Woodturners, Central Alberta Woodturners, Calgary Woodturners and Chinook Woodturning Guild as well as the Great Falls Woodturners Club were present.

Since there were relatively few participants by Eric's standards, he decided not to use the chat feature for asking questions, but took verbal questions as they arose. This greatly enhanced the discussion during the IRD and encouraged the watchers to be more participatory, resulting in one of the best interactive sessions I have seen.

Eric started by saying he doesn't use “crappy” wood. Namely wood with cracks, end grain checking, rot, etc. Instantly distancing himself from half the audience because many of us use found wood, old wood, crappy wood. Never-the-less, it soon became clear that without great wood you won't get the results that Eric gets no matter how good a woodturner you are.

We got a description of tuning up our tool rests and polishing our bed ways with fine sandpaper and clear shoe polish so we can make the smooth movements needed to create these bowls. Then a description of the lathe tools he uses and how he grinds and sharpens them. Time was given to how to grind and burnish the scrapers to cut a surface so smooth it shouldn't be sanded. This was a real eye opener for many of us when we saw the scraper being used. The next morning, I could hear the



Eric's infectious enthusiasm was evident throughout the demo.

distant buzz of grinders as half of us were rejigging our scrapers.

Eric is a master at explaining how and what he is doing as he works. His video setup is the best I have seen, he knows how to use it and how to present himself, so he seemed to be right in the room with me. This is a credit to his interest in teaching and his experience. He really cares if we understand what he is teaching and isn't going to quit until we get it.

Making the bowl, decorating it, showing us, explaining why and how, brushes, sandpaper, paints, chucks, finishes ... After 3 hours and 40 minutes he was still fresh as a daisy and willing to keep on answering questions. What a great demonstration!! Eric has kindly made his demo recording available to members of the guilds and clubs involved for a time. Contact your club executive for the link.

Thank you, Eric. This was the best IRD imaginable.

Dan Michener

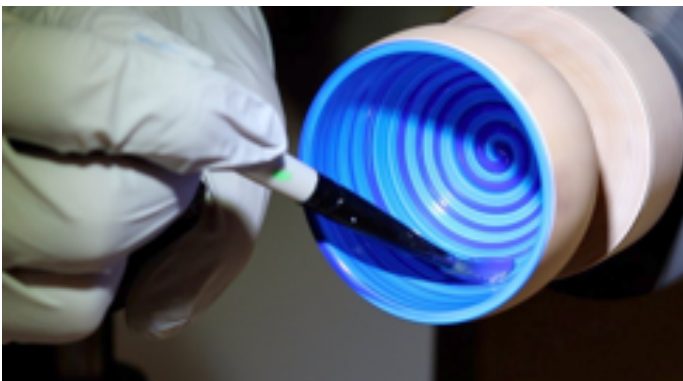


Photo swiped from Eric's website

A Note on Insurance

It has been pointed out to me that standard homeowner's Insurance excludes commercial activity in the home. If you make woodturnings in your home and sell them, this may give an insurance company grounds for denying ANY insurance claim. This conceivably could lead to denial of claims unrelated to your woodturning activities. This would apply to any commercial activity such as painting, potting, etc., not just woodturning.

Below is what I was told by a woodturner, who is a retired insurance underwriter in Saskatchewan.

"The issue is that Home Insurance Providers assume that, unless told otherwise, they are insuring a private home residence. When commercial (money-making) activity takes place in that dwelling, there is a significant potential that an Insurance Company will deny a claim simply

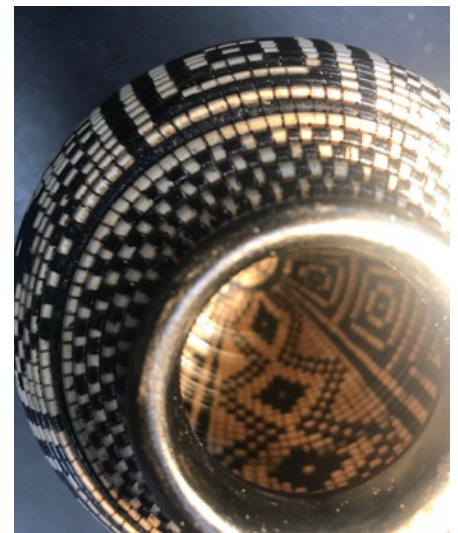
because they didn't know of this "material fact." This "material fact" can exist when the coverage was first purchased or arise during the term of the policy and its renewals. It is even possible that claims for damage completely unrelated to the commercial activity are denied."

I asked how much income from woodturning would be required to be called commercial. The answer was any income would be sufficient.

The suggestion is that if you are selling home made pieces it would be wise to have a talk with your insurer so that they are aware of the situation. Have that talk in an email or letter so you have a record of the conversation. Also, do not teach for money in your home. Your insurer will not like to hear that at all.

Dan Michener

INSTANT DISTANT GALLERY



*John Vandenberg has not only made a beautiful Basket Weave Illusion vase, he has done the INSIDE also.
(Will we see one of these in the Louvre soon?)*

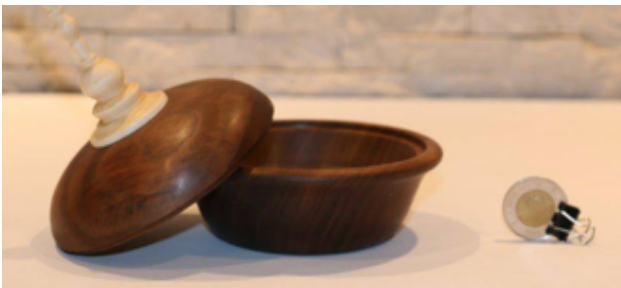
INSTANT DISTANT GALLERY -cont.



*Tops for my nephews.
Terry Beaton*



*A kaleidoscope and stand. The wood is maple, canary, rose wood and FON (found on ground). It is 10 inches long and about 2 ½ inches in diameter.
Terry Beaton*



*I had a couple of previous partially turned walnut pieces that had been sitting in a cupboard. I decided to rework/return the wood into 'something'. This is what I came up with. The finial is Maple.
Steve Munroe*



A gift for my wife.

Steve Munroe



Vase: Olive Wood

Stand: Rose Wood

Finial: Apple and African Blackwood



*This was my first attempt at any kind of piercing some time ago. I call it "EROSION".
Kenn Haase*



*Rosewood and resin bottle stopper.
Rob Thomsen*

INSTANT DISTANT GALLERY - cont.



I got this maple burl from Remie a while back. I decided to try epoxy. Very slow curing epoxy. The directions said 72 hours but it was more like 96 hours until it was fully set. Ken and Norm were assisting in the pour, and all I can I say is "It's everywhere it's everywhere." We eventually rounded up the most of it and all else was well. LOL ❤️
Lorraine Mix



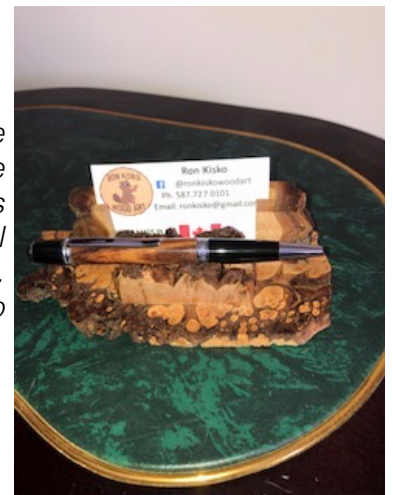
I have made about 16 of these toothpick holders. I used a variety of woods for them. Some were yellow yarara and walnut, Some were yellow yarara and sapele. Others were bloodwood and yarara and maple. I also used Russian Olive, and Apple.
Lorraine Mix

Flame
Manitoba
Maple vessel
with lpe lid
and finial. I
deliberately
didn't repair or
fill the cracks
in the vessel.
Artist's choice,
I guess.
Ron Kisko



Elm bowl, 23"; Birch bowl, 9";
Manitoba maple end grain bowl, 5";
Natural edge Manitoba maple
bowl; goblet with rings and a
couple of spurtles.
Dan Michener

Pen is lpe
and the
holder is
burl
maple.
Ron Kisko



Winged bowl from Juniper branch.
Duane Vandenberg



Here's the item I
began on Saturday at
Dan's Sawdust visit.
With tung oil and
some polishing.
Remo Brassolotto

BEADS of COURAGE

Guidelines for Turned Treasure Boxes:

1. In order to hold the beads, turned boxes for the Beads of Courage program need to be about 6 inches in diameter (5 inches minimum) and 5 inches deep (4 inches minimum).
2. If possible, have "Beads of Courage" engraved or burned in the lid, or leave a place to insert a bead.
The round bead sizes are: 3/4" with a thickness of 5/16" or 1 1/4" with a 3/16" thickness. There is a rectangle bead that is 3/4" x 15/16" with a thickness of 5/16".
3. Make sure the lids are easily removable. Any finials should be easy for a small child to grasp and not too elaborate.
4. Finishing:
Children who receive these boxes are susceptible to germs/infections/mold. Bowls that have not been properly sealed can harbor mold. Ensure you are using a safe finishing process that does not contain toxic materials. Do not use finishes like linseed or walnut oil that take a long time to outgas.
Do not paint Beads of Courage boxes. Instead, highlight the beauty of the wood with clear varnish, stain, and/or burning.
5. John (John Vandenberg fayjohn@shaw.ca, ph. 403-380-0141) has the beads to be glued on after the box is finished. He has a limited number of them so will give them out, one per box, when you have a box ready. Contact him to request a bead.
6. Please complete a donation form with your finished box or bowl. You can get the forms at the Beads of Courage Canada website , or John Vandenberg will have copies of them.

Dan Michener

How to join a Zoom Meeting

This information is from a previous Central Alberta Woodturners newsletter

On desktop, tablet or phone by downloading the app.

1. Download the **Zoom desktop app** on your Mac or PC. <https://zoom.us/download>
2. Open the **Zoom app**.
3. Click **Join a Meeting**.
4. Enter the **Meeting ID** and your **name**, and set **audio/video permissions**.

On desktop, tablet or phone via meeting invite link.

1. Click on the Meeting Invite URL that the host shared

2. via email or text.
3. Open the **Zoom app**.
4. **Approve** the request for **permission** to use your computer's **audio and camera**.

Depending on the meeting's set-up:

- you may enter the meeting right away
- you may need to wait for the host to arrive first or
- you may be placed into a waiting room that the host controls.

ANDRÉ'S PREFERRED WEB SITES OF THE MONTH

Roger Bennett (<https://www.rogerbennettwoodturner.com/>) is a wonderful professional Irish woodturner who makes distinctive coloured bowls and vessels. A considerable proportion of his work is inlaid with hundreds of silver dots arranged in constellation-like clusters or formal geometric patterns. His silver embellishment brings a real WOW factor to his beautiful colored works. Once on his site, click on the Gallery tab and you will discover his stunning forms sparkling with silver dots applied precisely in different geometric forms. The geometric forms with silver are even more impressive in his large (15") wall platters. Then the different silver patterns generate a different but still fulfilling impression on the pendants, brooches, earrings, and cufflinks. Once you click on the link, time will disappear as you will happily discover his lovely work during your journey on his site.

I discovered **Kimberley Winkle** (<https://kimberlywinkle.com/home.html>) during the Fundamental Woodturning session put on by AAW in November 2021. She is an artist and Art Professor from Tennessee and she defined herself as a maker who creates furniture and objects using wood and paint. Her work is colorful and unique often embellished using dots and lines in different geometrical or not displays. She preferentially uses milk paint and obtains stunning results often using concentric circles of distinct colors. Looking up her unique embellishment of stools is worth the visit to her website alone. Make sure that you see her own definition about turning coat hangers. They are unique and are definitively inspirational. She is a very solid woodturner and was excellent explaining all the cuts she was making during her demonstrations during that weekend. We could learn a lot from her if she were to visit us for a hands-on session. Talk to your Board members.

I really enjoyed the demonstration/presentation by **Malcolm Zander** (<http://www.malcolmzander.com>)

who was the guest of the Edmonton Woodturners Guild for an IRD at the beginning of the month. I presented Malcom in the January 2021 Newsletter. It was a night of emotion to be remembered. I was very much impressed by the precision of his work and by his willingness to take the time needed to deliver unique work at the highest precision. One link suggested by Malcom was the **Kamm Teapot Foundation** (<https://kammteapotfoundation.org>) that oversees more than 35 years of collections of teapots in different media by Sonny and Gloria Kamm from Los Angeles. Under the "Collection" tab, you will find within the "Wood Works" subsection, one of the recent teapots that Malcom showed us. I am sure that you will be amazed by all the different personalities of the displayed teapots. Quite a magnificent collection of wood teapots including one from **Michael Gibson** (<http://www.michaelgibsonwoodturner.com>) presented in April 2020.

In closing, I had the pleasure to sit recently on a great IRD presentation by **Donna Zils Banfield** (<https://livealifelessordinary.com>) presented in the Newsletter of March 2021. Donna reminded us about safety and personal protection when we are turning. She insisted on the utilisation of sturdy safety glasses and using a prescription pair in her case, coupled to a top-class air-purifying respirator. She made the crucial point that as wood turner we are often not intimidated by making important investments on a nice lathe, top of the line gouges and accessories and instruction and told us that we should not be afraid to invest in ourselves to safeguard our pair of lungs and pair of eyes as we are stuck with them for our whole life. Something to keep in mind.

Enjoy the websites, happy turning and remain safe everyone!

André

THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS

The American Association of Woodturners is a huge source of information on all things related to woodturning. This is a worldwide organization encompassing woodturners of all interests and skills. Many benefits accrue to members. If you are not a member you can check out their website here

SUBMISSIONS REQUEST FROM GUILD MEMBERS

I again want to encourage any of you who have a story regarding wood and turning, or anything related, to feel welcome to write up your experience and submit it to me for inclusion in the newsletter.

It has also been quite some time since anyone has written an introduction of themselves to the Guild. Several new members have joined while we have not been able to meet. Please take a few moments to tell us about yourself, your experiences and your dreams and I will include it in an upcoming newsletter. (New members encouraged).

If you are not comfortable writing, contact me and we will work on it together. We would like to know you.

Roy Harker - nlharker@gmail.com

ABOUT THE GUILD

The Chinook Woodturning Guild was formed in September, 2004. The Guild's main emphasis is skill improvement and camaraderie.

mailing address:

% Casa
230 - 8 Street South
Lethbridge, AB
Canada T1J 5H2

Meetings are at 7 pm the 3rd Thursday each month, Sept through June at the Casa building on 8th Street South in Lethbridge

A map to the meeting location is found on our website.

[http://
www.chinookwoodturning.org/](http://www.chinookwoodturning.org/)

Guild meetings are being held on line via Zoom until it is deemed safe to meet face to face again.



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