



CHINOOK WOODTURNING GUILD NEWSLETTER

A CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS · VOL 2021, NO 7 · SEPT. 2021

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our Chinook Woodturning Guild has completed a year like none before it and may well be heading into another similar year. At the end of August we had 46 paid members, which is probably a record number. However, It will be difficult to keep all of them into the new season. All our activities since the last Annual General Meeting in September 2020 have been shadowed by the ongoing pandemic. All meetings and demonstrations have been virtual using the Zoom communication platform. Recently we have been willing to have a couple of outdoor events bringing some of our members together.

Even with the pandemic restrictions we have been able to pursue some guild activities.

We have produced ten newsletters containing announcements, pictures of members work in an Instant Gallery, and descriptions of Interactive Remote Demonstrations.

Our Guild has continued to partner with the Guilds in Edmonton, Calgary, Red Deer and Great Falls, MT, in a sharing arrangement in which each club pays an equal amount of a demonstrator's fee. Thus, saving money and making the wisdom and experience of noted woodturners and artists available to a wider audience. Remote demonstrations do not replace the excitement and learning opportunity afforded by a hands-on session with the expert, but it is the next best thing.

Our Guild had an IRD with Kai Muenzer on making a "touchless turned lamp" on 17 September. In October we organized an IRD with Craig Timmerman, from Austin Texas, making a winged bowl. And in January with Harvey Meyer, from Atlanta, Georgia, making



ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

- **Our Annual General Meeting (AGM)** will be on Thursday 16 September 2021 at 7pm at Casa (230 8th St. South, Lethbridge, AB), followed immediately by our by our regular monthly meeting. *(Be aware that pandemic considerations may force the meeting online).*
- **The Chinook Woodturning Guild's AGM** is an opportunity for the members to review the financial position of our club and to elect the guild officers for the upcoming year. It is also a good time for members to express concerns and make suggestions about the future direction of the guild. Please be there.
- Nominations for the positions of President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary are now open, and will remain open during the AGM until voting time. André Laroche has agreed to act as the Nomination Committee. If you wish to nominate yourself or some other guild member contact him gplaroche@telus.net or 403-393-5337. There will be a call for nominations from the floor during the meeting.
- The current Executive is:
 - Dan Michener – President
 - Norm Robinson – Vice President
 - André Laroche – Treasurer
 - Roy Harker – Secretary.
- The meeting will include:
 - Review of the minutes of the 2020 AGM *(minutes will be sent in the days ahead of the meeting).*
 - President's Annual Report.
 - 2020/2021 Financial Report.
 - Election of Officers for the upcoming year.
 - Invitation for comments from the floor.
- **Membership dues** will return to their pre-pandemic level: Regular Member \$75, Family membership \$125, Student member \$50.
- **Christmas At Casa** art sale is planned for November 19/20. The woodturners will probably have space for 6 tables. Pandemic restrictions may change the way the sale is conducted or force it to go online as happened last year.
- **Lethbridge Regional Hospital Foundation** is undecided about their usual Christmas tree decorating and auction. We await their decisions, but woodturners are encouraged to make Christmas tree decorations anyway.



President's Message continued

the Basket Weave Illusion from a turned plate. These were both excellent demonstrations. As encouragement to get involved, we issued a Challenge to use the skills learned from the demo to make something similar. The Challenges were taken up by viewers from all the woodturning clubs and the winner, chosen by random draw, received a valuable supply of foam backed sandpaper from our guild. In May, we were proud to get David Ellsworth, from Weaverville, North Carolina, to present an IRD on his natural edge bowl process, allowing us to see a true master at work.

Other Guilds organized IRD's in which we participated. In November Nick Agar, from Georgia, previously from the UK, demonstrated his techniques for making a bronzed bowl. In February Lauren and Alan Zenreich, from New Jersey, presented an IRD on making pendant jewelry. In March, Glenn Lucas, from County Carlow, Ireland, demonstrated his methods in making a "Viking Cup". And in May, Joe Fleming, from San Diego, taught us about the airbrush and how to get the most from it. And in September Ed Pretty, from the Vancouver area, demonstrated chuckless woodturning.

In addition to IRDs, our guild held regular monthly meetings and sawdust sessions online. This is not a particularly good way to meet up for artists and craftsmen. Interest in these meetings is difficult to maintain as they consist mainly of small talk and holding up recently turned pieces in front of the computer camera. We need to develop more interesting content if we are to continue online meetings.

Throughout the past year various of our members have got together in their private workshops, not for guild activities, but to further their interests in craftsmanship and for social contact.

During the summer, our past member, Harold Plumptre, donated a hollowing tool and an embellishing tool as well as a large quantity of high quality wood to our guild. The tools will be kept with the guild's other equipment at Casa, and the wood will be raffled at upcoming meetings. Thank you, Harold. Also thanks to Maureen and Gina at Ladybug Arborists for their donations of fresh wood of which we are invited to help ourselves.

In August, our woodturners were invited to demonstrate once again during Harvest Days at Coyote Flats Pioneer Village. During the two days a good number of our members put in an appearance to turn some wood or lend support. The public crowds were a bit thin, but it was a good time for our members to meet up after more than a year.

In early September we organized a 'welcome the new woodturning season' BBQ. Thirty-two members and their guests showed up and had a good time reawakening friendships.

Summarizing, the Chinook Woodturning Guild 2020/2021 year maintained its membership and provided expert content, but we have missed the personal get togethers and social interactions which are so important to our artists and crafters.

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.

BBQ

We had a BBQ for all our members and their guests on September 1st.

At 5 o'clock we congregated in perfect weather at Indian Battle Park in the Baroness Picnic Shelter. Richard Shelson kindly lent us his BBQ grill, and Norm Robinson agreed, reluctantly, to be the cook. Then Norm found Ken Mix was willing to flip burgers so Ken was our cook (did Ken get a bit of a push from Lorraine?). When the big moment



Dan welcomes everybody.

arrived, John Vandenberg was cooking while Ken supported and Norm talked. Go figure! Anyhow, many cooks did not spoil the food and everything went flawlessly.

Thirty-two members and guests showed up. We were so pleased to see each other together after such a long time; conversations started up where they had

left off and it was as if the intervening year and a half hadn't happened. It was a great pleasure to know that so many of our members still considered themselves part of our gang. The dining and talking lasted into the evening and many commented on what a good time they had.

Thanks to all who came. Special thanks to André Laroche, Norm Robinson, John Vandenberg, Ken Mix, and me (Dan Michener).



Paul & Dolores McGaffey



Terry Sutton



Gail Michener, Kathy Harker



Roger McMullin



Kenn Haase



Bert Kadijk



Carol Wensman, Gail Michener, Tyler Wensman, Remo and Dianne Brassoletto, Norm Robinson, Norm Stelter.



Sandra and Terry Baker, Louise Vandenberg, Bert Kadijk, Nellie Kadijk, Suzi Tomita.



DEMO AT COYOTE FLATS PIONEER VILLAGE



Rob Thomsen, Earl Stamm & Norm Robinson with Norm's kiosk tent.



Dan makes a top for a future woodturner. This young man couldn't get enough of it. Maybe the old fella too!



Oscar, Foreman of the mouse patrol, guarding the CPR station platform at Coyote Flats on our arrival.

August 21st and 22nd saw the woodturners return to demonstrate for the public at Coyote Flats, near Picture Butte. The event was cancelled last year. Although the public largely stayed away, we woodturners had a good time meeting up and turning a bit of wood and shooting the breeze with one another and the visitors alike.



Kind of wet at Coyote Flats



Rob Thomsen turns a piece of acrylic.



Waiting for the train woodturners to show up. (Dan Michener)



A couple of old farts wait for the show to begin. Dean Oseen & Dan Michener



Coyote Flats knows what to do with miscreants. Albert and Barb Weik



Ken and Lorraine Mix it up.

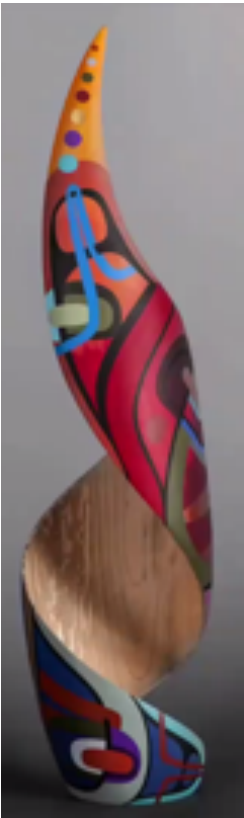
ED PRETTY IRD



On Saturday, 4 September, nearly 10 of us joined together with the **Big 5** turning groups (does that sound like we are **BOWL** eligible?) from Alberta and Great Falls to watch a Zoom demo from Ed Pretty that was prerecorded in Edmonton this summer at Stew Bremner's shop. Fortunately, Ed joined us online, and as the sound was less than stellar, he narrated for us through the video.

He stepped us through three separate processes.

- He demonstrated how he would turn a bowl if he didn't have a chuck. The method, in my opinion, was less impressive than the information he shared in controlling the gouge and his turning techniques.
- Next, he demoed turning a morse taper on a spindle and used the taper directly in the headstock to work on a finial.
- Finally, he showed some of his work and explained how he removes empty space from hollow forms to form sculptures.



The inter-guild co-operation over the past year, which has offered all of us new opportunities for instruction, has been a bright spot in the darkness during the pandemic.



INSTANT DISTANT GALLERY



Paul McGaffey produced a beautiful wedding gift vase from a Mugo Pine. "This rootball is from from a huge Mugo Pine - 12' high and wide, maybe 70 years old from a well-watered garden in N Lethbridge. Harvested by me and a friend, from a house site cleared for re-development."



I made a series of urns (or cookie jars if you prefer) this summer. Two from Manitoba Maple and one from Siberian Elm (That's what the tree owner called it. I'm not sure what it is.)
Dan Michener

INSTANT DISTANT GALLERY cont.



The basket illusion is maple the other two are ash. One is natural the other has four coats of black lacquer, then a coat of liming wax and then buffed. The liming wax fills in the grain in ash .
John Vandenberg.



INSTANT DISTANT GALLERY cont.



Lady Bug had a piece of maple outside a while ago. I put a small piece in my dehydrator for a couple days and made this pen. I used lots of CA glue on the knot end to keep it together and turned it carefully. I'm pleased with the result.
Duane Vandenberg



BEADS OF COURAGE

Summer is over and I am looking forward to getting back into the shop, and this is a good time to turn some beads of courage boxes. Kids are still getting sick and they will appreciate the boxes we make.

Thank you.

John Vandenberg - Beads of Courage co-ordinator



ANDRÉ'S PREFERRED WEB SITES OF THE MONTH

Welcome back everyone,

I'm hoping that you had a nice summer. I know that some colleagues took the opportunity to visit the shop of other members. Great idea.

In my review of some video presentations this summer, I came across this one a few days ago and it is related to personal safety while preparing wood for turning. **Alan Stratton** (www.AsWoodTurns.com) made a painful discovery on his bandsaw as he ended up at the emergency ward after inadvertently inserting his finger in the blade return channel of his bandsaw while searching for the switch to turn off the machine. See the details here <https://youtu.be/pJ-CEZX98T4>. I was sure that the return channel was closed on my bandsaw until I checked it out. Indeed, the return channel was also wide open on my bandsaw. So, I fixed it temporarily using Alan's initial suggestion. He is working on a long-term solution. In the meantime, I will, like Alan does in his video, plead that you take a moment right now to inspect your bandsaw and fix it temporarily as he suggested. If you come up with a better solution to fix the problem on a permanent basis, please do not hesitate to share with all of us, your successful approach.

How to finish a turned piece is always a question that I have. The question has been investigated by many other woodturners. I came across many suggestions. The first one is diving into the so-called bible of finishing book ***Understanding Wood Finishing, 3rd Revised Edition: How to Select and Apply the Right Finish***. March 2, 2021 by **Bob Flexner**. This book is available at many outlets in both paperback and hard cover and is very affordable.

The next two links from ***Elements of Living*** ([\[how-to-choosing-the-right-finish-for-your-woodworking-project/\]\(https://www.theelementsofliving.com/weekend-how-to-choosing-the-right-finish-for-your-woodworking-project/\)\) and the **Santa Cruz woodturning Guild** \(\[http://www.scwoodturners.org/uploads/4/8/2/3/4823810/scw_chapter_meeting_7-18-2020.pdf\]\(http://www.scwoodturners.org/uploads/4/8/2/3/4823810/scw_chapter_meeting_7-18-2020.pdf\)\) provide an extensive list of different products with comparisons with pros and cons for the different finishes. However, I have not seen info about using cyanoacrylate adhesive \(CA\) as a finishing compound. You may recall that Loraine Mix has been very successful using the Parson product "PARFIX® 3408 cyanoacrylate adhesive" to seal and finish bowls and vases turned from greenwood while preventing crack development and accomplishing a very nice sheen. You may recall that a while ago, Terry Beaton had organized a group purchase for this product. If you want to try many members have some around.](https://www.theelementsofliving.com/weekend-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

Finally, **Kirk DeHeer from Craft Supplies USA** has a very nice series of woodturning demonstrations on YouTube called *Woodturning 101*. It has at least 8 videos so far, the first one being about turning a Bead and Cove stick () and #8 being about Turning a Box. After accessing the first video, it will be very easy to find the other one. He also has a video on sharpening gouges. He is an outstanding teacher and his videos are excellent for everyone whether you have limited experience or you just want to review your knowledge and correct some bad habits, perhaps.

Enjoy the websites, happy turning and remain safe!

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 <https://www.woodturner.org/>. *We recommend membership to all our members.*

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.

ABOUT THE GUILD

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

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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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