



CHINOOK WOODTURNING GUILD NEWSLETTER

A CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS Volume NO.2 March 2026

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello, I know all of you looked for the February newsletter and to your own chagrin, never found it. The truth is I never published one. Here we are in March already with this year at midway of our meeting schedule. I have noticed the camaraderie at the meetings and the sharing of ideas and methods. We have a new member this month, Darren Allen. Seek him out and make him welcome.

I am going to demo at our March meeting on how to make a wave bowl. I learned this method from John Beaver at a workshop. Most interesting is the jig for creating this bowl and I will share that with you.

André had a good idea. If you would like to share with others a work you are especially proud of, I would like to feature it in one of our newsletters. If you are comfortable writing about it send me the description and a picture of process etc. If you're not, let me know and I will write it up and take the pictures.

Last Fall I joined the Vancouver Turners Guild. Look at their website. They have amazing demo presenters and are well worth the cost of membership.

[HTTPS://gvwg.ca](https://gvwg.ca)

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

MEETINGS ARE HELD AT CASA

230 8th St South, Lethbridge

March 72026- Sawdust Sessions at Casa. 10 am – 12 PM

Guild meeting March 19, 2026, 7 PM at CASA

Membership Dues

*Dues remain the same as 2024.
\$75 for in town and \$50 for out of town.*

E-transfer. Payment to:

Cwatreasurer021@gmail.com

Sawdust Sessions.

Tool sharpening should be done as necessary. The grinder will be set up and ready to go. If you have any questions as to how to accomplish any task, bring your materials and ask for help. Someone will surely know how to help you.

Remember, the best part is sharing some quality time with friends of like interests. Bring something you have made.

ABOUT THE GUILD: **Please check out the website if you have not already**

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

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

Sawdust Session - 10:00 - 12:00 1st Saturday each month at Casa. Interested individuals are Welcome.

A map to the meeting location is found on our website



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Dan Michener - Board Member

Palliser's Home Education Group

Palliser Home education contacted Chinook Woodturners Guild to see if the guild would do a presentation to a group of Home bound Students. Through efforts by Dan Michener and Terry Beaton a demonstration event was organized for February 24. A one hour demonstration presented by Terry (a baseball Bat) and Steve (a bowl). It was much appreciated by Students and parents.



Your executive welcomed this group of Home-schooled students. The group was very enthusiastic and responded well with questions and interest. There were 5 students of various ages and 5 adult parents. Maybe future members.



Platter presented to Fiona Miller of the Lethbridge Scottish Dancers Club as thanks for the donation of the Sound System. Platter assembled by Terry Beaton, turned by Steve Munroe and Stand made by Remie Benoit.

Wood in the platter are: Maple, Walnut, Red Oak, Brazilian Rosewood, and White Oak.

The Laser Script. Done by:

Steve Kothig at MIRAGE LASER DESIGN

415 Stafford Drive North
Lethbridge. 403 320 8214



February 19, Guild Meeting

John Vandenburg presented on how to turn small vessels. John demonstrated home made cutters made from Allen Wrenches and how to hollow a small vessel.



A mini hollow form by John Vandenberg

An excellent presentation by John on how to turn mini hollow forms. John started with a 2"x 2"x 4" piece of maple and rounded it between centers and made a tenon for the chuck. His diamond parting tool is angled to match the angle of his chuck dovetail jaws, a trick he picked up from a visiting demonstrator a few years back. After mounting the piece on the chuck, he did pierce a hole (5/16" diameter, slightly larger than largest Allen key) to enable hollowing his piece. Then he cut the outside of his mini vase using bowl and spindle gouge. He did leave the mouth opening thicker at this point as entering and exiting the hollowing scraper always bring an element of danger. The next step was using mini scrapers made from Allen keys (photo). He learned that trick when he took his first hands-on demonstration with Molly Winton, an outstanding embellisher turner from Seattle area that visited our Guild in May 2013. John was so please from his first hands-on experience that he never missed a hands-on session after that. He started with the small scraper and followed by the second one. It is critical to remove shavings regularly when hollowing. You can use a straw, a ballon blower or compressed air. The hollowing is made from a "feeling" of the tool inside the shape. John mentioned that sometimes You will go through the wall but with practice you learn when to stop. He also stops the lathe too enter and exit the scrapers as you can easily destroy your work at that stage. Once hollowing completed, the mouth area of the vase is thinned out then the hollow form is parted. This was a wonderful demonstration John. Thanks again.

John suggested starting with hollowing an open form to develop your muscle memory with the scrapers before moving to a hollow shape. Then, once you are comfortable with the hollowing process, you can move to larger and large forms.

For your information, black Allen keys make better scrapers than the other colors. Also, you will need a Map gas torch (rather than propane) to warm the metal enough to enable increasing the angle of the scraper. After turning a small handle, you are ready to sharpen your scraper and making your first hollow form.



Platter from a solid piece of Walnut



Steve original. very



Oak Platter



New member Darren Allen with Steve.

February 7, 2026 Sawdust Session



Neil assisting a future turner.



March 7, 2026, Sawdust Session

Sawdust session was interesting with Steve demonstrating off center turning.



Small off-center turnings.

Terry and John



André's preferred websites of the month

Glenn Lucas (www.glennlucaswoodturning.com) an amazing and passionate woodturner, demonstrator and teacher has his studio/teaching center in County Carlow, Ireland near Dublin. Some of us had the pleasure of seeing him on one or more Remote Demonstration sessions since 2020. Recently, I came across on YouTube of a new series entitled "A Woodturner's Life." So far there are five episodes from December 5, 2025, until January 27, 2026. In these episodes, Glenn is showing us the life of a production wood turner and many of the various aspects that this life entails. I was amazed how well Glenn is organized in his beautiful facility with many tools from collecting tree trunks from farmers around his location, his sawmill, wood drying kilns, different lathes for different steps in the production of bowls and how he utilizes and disposing of waste products such as shavings and left over woods. He has a different scheme whether the blanks for twice turned bowls for his own production or bowl blanks for the many sessions he offers to woodturners. From the videos from this past December and January, you will be noting that the days are long as the work starts before sunrise and concludes after sunset and that the work schedule must be organized in function of the daily weather conditions. In these videos, Glenn also shows us beautiful images of the countryside of Carlow County in addition to his miniature donkeys and his faithful dog always following him. The videos last between 23 and 28 min and will provide you with a lot of information about the life of a production turner/teacher. Here is the link for the first episode (<https://youtu.be/vUJ9jxQtmxs?si=flQeaaSAoefZJjBp>). It will be easy to click on the subsequent episodes after the first one. After viewing one or all episodes, I am sure that you will conclude that Glenn is running a beautiful operation but that you will also have pick up a few tricks from Glenn about green wood preservation, utilization and turning to be as efficient as possible. I was impressed with how he minimizes wood dust in his environment and all the steps he takes to protect himself against the different hazards associated with woodturning. Safety is clearly a top priority in all his activities as it should be for all of us in our own shops.

If you want more information about turning or coring bowls, sharpening gouges, Glenn has numerous pertinent videos on his YouTube channel that are very informative.

Mastering or at least controlling the skew can be a long-time personal objective for some turners. During his nice demonstration in January, Roy mentioned that the controlling skew is a goal for himself. A first link on improving skills with the skew is with Mike Nish from Craft Supplies with his two parts videos on Mastering the skew (<https://youtu.be/-SxFXT2WXhM?si=6hIrkZd-BHQU9dg>; <https://youtu.be/slltP9fhFaY?si=Szk6XkOU8bB0Sor0>). But if you want to further investigate, there is at least eight recent videos on the skew produced by the excellent British turner Richard Findley. He takes the time to explain very well how one can learn to master the challenging skew and how the skew interacts with the wood. This is an exceptional series. I am sure that you will learn a lot about the skew and how to master it and most importantly enjoy Richard's videos. I surely did. Here are the links for the first two videos (<https://youtu.be/PBE5ruUdE1A?si=UHB6j4AqH59WU-QL>; <https://youtu.be/xezpQJyEVug?si=zSK9bIHVMFIsWrFT>) and I am sure you will find the others easily.

Enjoy the different sites.

Please stay safe while you are in your shop.

André

AAW Safety Recommendations

- Use a full-face shield whenever the lathe is turned on.
- Tie back long hair do not wear gloves and avoid loose clothing or objects that may catch on rotating parts or accessories.
- Always check the speed of the lathe before turning it on. Use slower speeds for larger diameter or rough pieces, and higher speeds for smaller diameter and pieces that are balanced. Always start a piece at a slower speed until the work piece is balanced. If the lathe is shaking or vibrating, lower the speed. If the work piece vibrates, always stop the machine to check the reason.
- Check that all locking devices on the tailstock and tool rest assembly (rest and base) are tight before operating the lathe.
- Position the tool rest close to work, almost touching the wood. Check tool rest position often and as wood is removed, turn off the lathe and re-position the rest.
- Rotate your work piece by hand to make sure it clears the tool rest and bed before turning the lathe “on.” Be certain that the work piece turns freely and is firmly mounted. A handwheel on the outboard side of the headstock simplifies this process of spinning the lathe by hand before turning on the switch.
- Be aware of what the turners call the “red zone” or “firing zone.” This is the area directly behind and in front of the workpiece - the area’s most likely for a piece to travel as it comes off the lathe. A good safety habit is to step out of this zone when switching the lathe to the “on” position. When observing others turn stay out of the area.
- Hold turning tools securely on the tool rest, holding the tool in a controlled and comfortable manner. Always contact the tool rest with the tool before contacting the wood.
- It is safest to turn the lathe “off” before adjusting the tool rest or tool rest base (banjo).
- Remove the tool rest before sanding or polishing operations.
- Never leave the lathe running unattended. Turn the power off. Do not leave the lathe until it comes to a complete Stop

Ottawa TurnFest 2026 – Registration Now Open

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Message

We're pleased to share some exciting news with fellow woodturners and would appreciate you passing this along to your members. Registration is now open for Ottawa TurnFest 2026. The Ottawa Valley Woodturners will be hosting our inaugural Ottawa TurnFest 2026 in the nation's capital on Saturday, May 23 and Sunday, May 24, 2026 (please note: this is not the long weekend). We are thrilled to present three exceptional, world-class demonstrators: • Dale Larson • Art Liestman • Elizabeth Weber This two-day event will be held at: Confederation Education Centre 1645 Woodroffe Avenue Ottawa, Ontario K2G 1W2 For full event details and registration information, please visit: <https://www.valleywoodturners.com/turnfest.html> Notification has been sent to Canadian clubs nationwide and the event is listed in the American Association of Woodturners Journal (Calendar section). Interest has been very strong and space is limited. We encourage early registration to avoid disappointment. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact: Murray Cameron ovw.president@gmail.com Malcolm Zander malcolmzander@gmail.com Thank you for helping us spread the word — we look forward to welcoming woodturners from across the region and beyond to Ottawa in May 2026

[Amber Balloi<marketing@claphams.com>](mailto:marketing@claphams.com)

rbenoit@chinookwoodturning.org; smunroe@chinookwoodturning.org

Dear Mr. Benoit & Mr. Munroe,

My name is Amber and I manage Sales & Marketing at Clapham's Beeswax. We're a small family-run business specializing in natural and easy to use wood finishes and polishes. For nearly 40 years we've been producing high-quality beeswax products crafted by hand in British Columbia – which have become cult favourites amongst woodworkers across the Pacific Northwest and beyond!

We are currently looking to collaborate with like-minded organizations in order to get Canadian products into the hands of our country's most talented woodworkers and makers. We thought your guild could be a great fit, and we'd be happy to extend our wholesale rates to your members.

If this is of interest I'm happy to follow up with a copy of our wholesale price list and product sheets for more information. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks for your time and consideration. Looking forward to hearing from you!

All the best,
Amber

Amber Balloi

Yellowstone Woodturning Symposium

September 25,26,27 2026

Tom Wirsing Demonstrator

At the Roaring 20's Auto Club- 7400 Grand Avenue-Billings, Montana

Early Registration must be received by mail Before September 1st
Lunch will be provided Saturday and Sunday: Fabulous door prizes!!!

2026 Registration Form:

Name _____

Address _____ City-State _____

E-mail _____ Phone _____

Check One of the options below:

Early Registration \$125.00 ____ Due before September 1st 2026

Non Turning Spouse ½ Price \$60.00 ____ Due before September 1st 2026

One Day Registration \$60.00 ____ (Either Fri, Sat, or Sun)

Late registration \$135.00 ____ (Paid After 9/1/26 (Or at the door)
No Charge for minors under 18 (Must be accompanied by an adult)

Payment: Make Check payable to Yellowstone Woodturners Club

Mail to: Yellowstone Woodturners
Post Office box 21836
Billings, Mt 59104

If you have questions, please call Roger Kesler (club President)
1-406-671-3372 or email rogerkesler@msn.com