



Greater Vancouver Woodturners Guild

130th chapter of the American Association of Woodturners



Newsletter Vol. 1 Issue 3 December 1999

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At the Last Meeting

Art Liestman

The October meeting was action-packed with few announcements.

Future executive meetings will be held on the second Monday of the month (as needed) at the ARC Arts Council at 2425 St. Johns in Port Moody. Any interested member is welcome to attend these meetings.

Our Annual General Meeting will take place at the regular February meeting. At this meeting, we will elect officers. Our constitution specifies that officers are to be elected for two-year terms with the President and Secretary being elected

January 26, 2000 Meeting at 1025 Ridgeway, Coquitlam

Focus on Fundamentals –
Don Hoskins – Mounting Systems for
Woodturning (starts at 6:30 p.m.)

Main Speaker – Derek Luder –
Wood Identification

in even numbered years and the Vice President, Treasurer, and Member at Large being elected in odd numbered years. In February we will hold our initial election for all 5 officers with the latter three coming up for election again in 2001. Members are reminded that the five elected officers must be members of the AAW.

President's Challenge Spatulas



The first President's Challenge was very successful with about 20 spatulas on exhibit. The participants who signed in were Phil Laliberte, Dave Armatage, Marco Berera, Andrew Forsyth, Colin Delory, John Bese, Bob Varner, Russ Selwood, Fred Baldwin, Bruce Campbell, and Larry Stevenson. The entries were surprisingly different, considering the humble subject. In retrospect, I realize that we

should have had some more discussion of the challenge entries. If you have any ideas about how to do that without taking too much time from other parts of the meeting, please let me know. Bring your eggs for January's meeting!

November's Instant Gallery

Amie Hillaby & John Flanagan (photos)



*John Bese - Yellow Cedar bowl
(16" diameter)*



*Marco Berera - Angelfish vessel
(6" diameter)*



*Lee Crosby - Sponge holders
(1" foldback clips attached to doweling)*

Although I missed this month's Instant Gallery in person, thanks to John's photos, I have a good idea of what was displayed.

Congratulations to all who took up the first President's Challenge - keep up the good work!

Thanks to the following people for their contributions to the November Instant Gallery: Marco Berera, Neno Catania, Bill Kennedy, Sandy Dougal, John Bese, Bruce Campbell, Don Hoskins, Bill Luck, and Steve Hansen. Special thanks to Lee Crosby for his innovative sponge-holder idea.

February 23, 2000
Annual General Meeting
Vote for your executive for 2000!
 The executive positions we're voting for are President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Member at Large.
Main speaker – Kathy Somerville
 of Lee Valley – Pen Turning

**Focus on Fundamentals –
Sharpening Your Tools**

Amie Hillaby

Sandy Dougal led our November Focus on Fundamentals on sharpening your tools. There are of course an infinite variety of sharpening systems and tools available on the market for woodturners to choose from, ranging from the more complex systems that you attach to your grinder and set up for each tool, to the very simple slipstones that are hundreds of years old.

Sandy discussed three main points regarding the sharpening of tools: the grinder itself, sharpening flat chisels and sharpening gouges.

Grinder - Sandy recommended a slower speed for your grinder, that is 1725 rpm rather than the normal 3450 rpm. This speed allows you to sharpen your tools without burning the steel of the tool as easily. He also recommended using the white stone (a finer grit stone) for your gouges. Regardless of what stone or speed you use, you should have water close by, and every

five seconds or so, use the water to cool the metal being ground. This will also help reduce the chance of burning the steel.

Sandy discussed the difference between carbon steel and high-speed steel tools. Carbon steel tools are very functional, as well as being less expensive, but they are much easier to “blue” during grinding if you’re not careful. Once you have blued the steel, you must grind the blue out and start over again. High-speed steel is a little more costly, but it is more resistant to burning, and even if you blue the steel, it will still hold an edge. High-speed steel also tends to cut more cleanly than carbon steel, as long as there are no burn marks on the steel.

Flat Chisels - When grinding flat chisels, such as your skewers, use the angle ledge on the grinder to establish the bevel that you want. Utilize your forefinger as a depth gauge on the underside of the tool against the rest. Do not remove this finger until grinding is complete. Remember to go slow and easy. Using water during grinding is vital. When the sparks from the grinder come over the top of the chisel, you know you are done.

Gouges - There are two ways to grind your gouge profiles: either straight across or with a fingernail profile. Sandy suggests that a gouge that is ground straight across will cut better when the back of the gouge is rounded at the heel, thus reducing or eliminating marks on the inside of a bowl.

Fingernail gouges are gaining in popularity as they are somewhat easier to use. In order to achieve a good fingernail profile, Sandy discussed and recommended the use of the Sorby system. You could learn to sharpen fingernail profiles by hand, but this would take a long time and a lot of steel, so getting it right can be costly.

Once you have created a fingernail profile on your gouge with the grinder, you can use an

EZE-Lap diamond and slipstone to give the gouge a fine cutting edge, especially for finishing cuts.

You can use the gouge straight from the grinder for roughing your piece, but for more finished work, Sandy recommended giving the tool a finer edge first. Using a honing tool does this. There are different tools used for the finishing honing of the gouge. Sandy discussed three that are available: slipstones, cone-shaped stones and EZE-Laps. Slipstones come in ceramic or Arkansas varieties, cone shaped stones in Arkansas and diamond types, and EZE-Lap makes both a diamond hone and stone.

Sandy stressed that the most important thing to remember is that if you wait until your tool is dull before you sharpen it, you have waited far too long. As soon as it starts to lose its fine cutting edge, you should be at your grinder giving it a sharpening touch-up. Another important thing is to go slowly. If you try to sharpen your tool too fast, especially without the use of water to keep the tool cool, you will end up burning the steel, and you will have to start again.

November’s Main Presentation – Turned Christmas Ornaments

Rich Schmid

These Christmas tree ornaments consist of three main components:



- ◆ spherical main body, approximately 1 1/2" – 2", hollowed
- ◆ icicle, approximately 1/2" diameter and 3" in length
- ◆ finial on top.

The components should be of contrasting materials. Quarter inch strips laminated together make interesting patterns.

Turning the Sphere – Start with a rectangular block, about 3" – 4" long and about 2" square. Rough the block into a cylinder leaving about 3/4" at head stock end. If you are turning between centers re-mount the material in a chuck. Now make the shape for the main body.

Drill a 3/8" hole from the tail stock end completely through the sphere. Hollow the sphere out to lighten it. Use a 1/4" scraper to start and angled scrapers to get “around the corners”. Sand the sphere to about 240 grit to finish it. You can make attractive black lines as accents by creating a groove with a skew and then placing a wire in the groove and firmly pressing down with both hands as the work is turning. The heat caused by the friction will burn the groove. Take care here not to burn your hands, as the heat will travel up the wire quickly. Some people make wooden handles for the wire to reduce this risk.

Part off the sphere with the long end of a skew. Notice that the holes at each end of the sphere are different diameters. The end that was hollowed will be a little larger from using the hollowing tools.

Turning the Icicle – Start with a piece of wood that is 3/4" square and about 6" long. Round the piece to about 5/8" to 1/2" then taper towards the tail stock. Leave as much material at the head stock as you can for strength. Create droplets by cutting beads into the piece. Leave the tail stock in place until the first droplet is cut and sanded and you have roughed out the taper of the icicle. Finish the icicle as your imagination guides you and sand it. Create a tenon on the head stock end of the icicle to the size of the hole at the bottom of the sphere. (Machinist calipers are very helpful here to get the inside diameter of the hole in the sphere.) Don't be too finicky about the fit because if it's a little loose, you can glue it.

Turning the Finial – Create the finial from the same type of wood as the icicle and once again,

be creative. Turn the “top” of this part pointing towards the tail stock side if the lathe. Use your calipers again to measure the hole in the top of the ball and cut a tenon on the finial to match it. Before you part off the top, drill a 1/16" hole in the apex. You can do this with a chucked twist drill in the tail stock or, with a little practice, freehand by holding the drill with pliers or Vicegrips. Be sure to slow the speed of the lathe down to do this.

Glue the parts together with your favorite glue and then insert a wire eyelet into the apex hole. Finish with three coats of spray varnish. Hang on your tree and enjoy your new ornament!

!!HELP!!

In order to make our organization work, we need **everyone's** participation. Find a neat thing to do and help out!

Here are some areas that we always need help:

Newsletter – writers, contributors, ideas

(Amie Hillaby – 469-0221 amiemh@dowco.com)

Focus on Fundamentals – ideas, presenters

(Bruce Campbell – 469-0221

bruce.campbell@telus.com)

Main Speakers – ideas, presenters

(Fred Baldwin – 224-5788 fbaldwin@direct.ca)

Raffle – donations of tools, wood, etc.

(John Bese – 581-8807 johnbese@home.com)

Library – donations of books & videos

(Dave Armatage – 936-0705)

Meeting Wranglers – setup, takedown, cleanup

Offer your assistance at the meetings.

Collaborative Challenge – “Fast Ferry Project”

Watch for announcements in the newsletter!

Call Bruce Campbell to get involved.

Software Review - µLathe

Bruce Campbell

About 4 years ago I found a neat little software package called µLathe. Written by Daniel S. Baker, this shareware product allows the user to enter the profile of an object in its Lathe Window and then instruct it to display the object

as a three-dimensional turning in the 3D Window.

You may choose the number of slices in the rotation (3 to 120) and one of four kinds of 3D display:

- ◆ Wire frame - most basic 3D model (quick and dirty)
- ◆ Hidden line - a little more advanced but still limited.
- ◆ Constant - shading added (I find this the most useful)
- ◆ Gouraud - advanced shading but takes a LONG time and needs lots of computer memory.

Once the basic image is there you can:

- ◆ rotate it by clicking on rotation buttons
- ◆ zoom in and out
- ◆ change the colour and texture of the object
- ◆ alter the colour, location, and intensity of the light source.

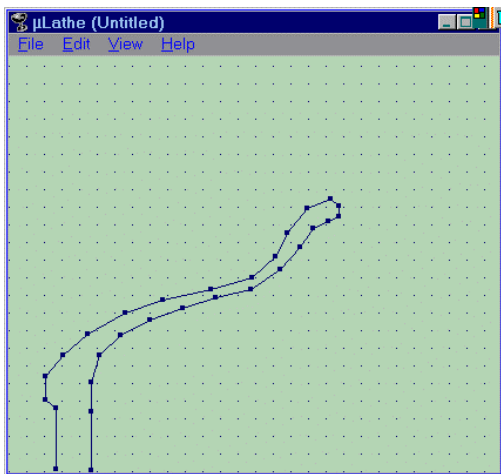


Fig. 1. – Lathe Window

You can flip back and forth between the Lathe Window (*Fig. 1.*) and the 3D Window (*Fig. 2.*), and this is where I find Lathe most useful. In the Lathe Window you can drag the points of the profile around with your mouse to change

the shape of the object. By switching back to the 3D Window, the program shows what that change would look like. I lay out a profile that I think would be pleasing and then look at the 3D picture. I assess the shape of the object and ask, “How can this shape be improved?” I then vary the profile a little and look at the results. Did that change improve the overall design? What if I made it wider? taller? bigger foot? add a rim or a bead?

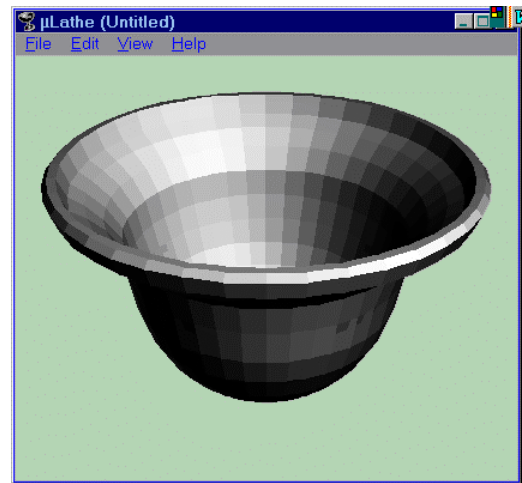


Fig. 2. – 3D Window

Within a few minutes I can inspect any number of alternatives to a basic design and choose those I like and those to avoid. The program lets me save the results to disk and also save files and the 3D images (bitmap or a targa format).

μLathe is a great way to explore woodturning design - much easier than turning all the alternatives on the lathe. But be warned, like most shareware you get what you pay for. μLathe has crashed my PC, especially when doing views with lots of slices and Gouraud shading (it seems to run out of memory). It also does not have a way to add points into a profile, so sometimes it is hard to add characteristics like beads and lips. Still, it is a very useful tool.

If you would like to try it out you will need a PC running Windows 95 or higher and at least 16 Mbytes of memory. See me for a copy of the software.

Is Your Lathe Y2K Compliant?

Gary Morris, Central New York Woodturners

Y2K preparedness is a major issue for everyone, wherever the dreaded Y2K bug threatens to incapacitate critical functions. Woodturning certainly constitutes a critical function for all woodturners, and it is only prudent to take the appropriate steps to insure that come Saturday morning, January 1, 2000, the trusty old lathe will still operate. Below is the approved ISO 9000 procedure for testing compliance of "lathes, woodturning, electric". This test should be completed prior to December 22, 1999.

1. Turn off lathe, dust collector, shop lights, and unplug shop clock.
2. Verify that lathe date-of-manufacture listed on nameplate uses full 4 digits for year.
3. Change shop calendar to December 31, 1999.
4. Change wall clock and wristwatch to 11:59 p.m. Leave stem pulled out on wristwatch.
5. If watch has calendar feature, adjust date to December 31, 1999.
6. Pull shades to simulate midnight.
7. Using flashlight, place bottle of champagne on ice. Put on silly party hat.
8. Mount 8 x 3 x 3 inch hardwood block on lathe between centers.
9. Using as many helpers as necessary, simultaneously flip calendar, plug in clock, push in wristwatch stem, turn on lights, start lathe, and start dust collector while singing "Auld lang syne".
10. Wait 1 minute. While waiting, open bottle of champagne.
11. Check if lathe is still running.
12. If lathe has digital readout, verify indicated speed using tachometer or by placing finger on spinning wood blank.
13. If test is successful, turn sufficient goblets for yourself and all helpers.
14. Pour champagne into goblets (see step 13) and drink champagne.
15. If test is unsuccessful, drink champagne directly from the bottle.

THANKS!

Once again, please support the following fine folks for helping us out this month:

KMS Tools (Coquitlam) 522-5599

Mount Cheam Woodworking (Chilliwack) 795-9297

Neufeld Brothers Hardwoods (Chilliwack) 795-7886

Shadow Wood Too (Bellingham) (360) 738-3369 (Manufacturers of Kerf's Wood Cream)

Editor's Note

Amie Hillaby

I've changed the format of the newsletter a little this month, to try to accommodate a couple of extra articles in a smaller space. Let me know what you think (e.g., is the type still readable?). We'd also like to add a buy/sell column, so let me know if you think it's a good idea, or if you have any items you want to add to it!



*Steve Hansen -
yellow cedar and
blackwood container*