



# Greater Vancouver Woodturners Guild

130<sup>th</sup> chapter of the American Association of Woodturners



Newsletter Vol. 1 Issue 2 November 1999

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## At the Last Meeting

*Art Liestman*

Although the weather was against us, we had an excellent turnout for our second meeting on October 27<sup>th</sup>. The brave attendees were treated to several firsts. We began with our first Focus on Fundamentals, presented by Neno Catania on tool selection (see Bruce's article on page 5), our Library was open

### November 24 Meeting:

Focus on Fundamentals –  
Sandy Dougal – Sharpening  
Your Tools (starts at 6:30 p.m.)

Main Speaker – Rich Schmid –  
Hollow-form Christmas  
Ornaments

for the first time, and the first President's Challenge was issued. The challenge for November is to make a spatula. I'm looking forward to a huge pile of them to be on display, so don't forget yours!

The business meeting was reasonably brief. Signup sheets were circulated to obtain volunteers for meeting speakers and members for two committees. One committee's job is to design a group project for our entry in the chapter collaborative challenge at the next AAW Symposium. The other is to develop a website. If you would like to be involved in either committee but didn't get a chance to sign up, let me know.

A major development is that Fred Baldwin has taken on the chore of organizing speakers for future meetings. Thanks, Fred!

Finally, one of the instant gallery items was a gavel made by Bill Kennedy. When we got to the gavel during the Instant Gallery discussion, Bill donated it to the guild for use in our meetings! (He must have been annoyed by my use of a parting tool as a gavel at the first meeting.) On behalf of the GVWG, thanks for this wonderful donation! It will see lots of use during the coming years.



*Bill Kennedy – Gavel & board*

After another successful raffle, John Bese inspired us all with his demonstration of turning a spindle-handled bowl (see John’s article on page 7).

**December Meeting Reminder**

*Phil Laliberte*

We will not be having our regularly scheduled meeting in December, which would have fallen on December 22, 1999. Instead, we are invited to attend a demonstration of **metal spinning** on Saturday, December 4. This demonstration will take place at:

APRO Metal Spinning  
 11C 2350 Beta Ave.  
 Burnaby, B.C.  
 Tel. 291-6635

The workshop is located south of Lougheed Highway at Beta Ave. Beta is two blocks east of Willingdon and can only be reached via Lougheed Highway, either coming from the east or west.



Thomas said that he could start one group of 15 to 20 people at around 9:00 A.M., and another group could come at 10:00 A.M., if we have more than 20 people interested in coming. Prepare to be amazed, this is fascinating to see!

Please contact me at **[pjldesigns@hotmail.com](mailto:pjldesigns@hotmail.com)** or 936-2995 if you wish to attend this demonstration, and we will also have a sign up sheet at the November meeting. It is important to let us know that you are interested so that we can organize the attendance at the demonstration.

### **GVWG Officers, Appointees, and Volunteers**

President – Art Liestman (939-3843)

Vice President – John Bese  
(581-8807)

Secretary – Dave Martin (521-8327)

Treasurer – Don Hoskins (939-6808)

Member at Large – Ted Fromson  
(876-0267)

Focus on Fundamentals Coordinator  
Bruce Campbell (469-0221)

Education Coordinator –  
Fred Baldwin (224-5788)

Librarian – Dave Armatage  
(936-0705)

Raffler – Phil Laliberte (936-2995)

Instant Gallery Manager –  
Neno Catania (291-7898)

Food Chief – Rich Schmid  
(852-2810)

Digital Photo Guy – John Flanagan  
(939-0942)

Newsletter Editor – Amie Hillaby  
(469-0221)

Website Committee – Bob Dechaux  
(594-8037), Colin Delory (576-  
1172), John Bese (581-8807)

Bruce Campbell, Focus on Fundamentals (FOF) Coordinator, led a discussion on how the FOF section of the program could be made more effective. The group reaffirmed that the purpose of this segment was to present ideas and suggestions that would be particularly useful for those members who are relatively new to woodturning.

Several suggestions were considered for how best to structure these sessions. Most importantly, the executive recognized the need to restrict the focus of each FOF to very basic ideas (for example, have one FOF cover the use of a gouge), rather than trying to cover too broad a topic. One idea was to break up the FOF into several smaller groups so members could more easily see what is being demonstrated and ask questions in a less threatening atmosphere. A consideration for this idea was how to determine a manner of organizing the meeting space to successfully achieve this, without alienating individual members or causing disruption to the demonstrators.

Bruce will prepare a package of materials to assist FOF speakers with their presentations. The executive would appreciate feedback from members who have limited experience with woodturning concerning the topics and the format of the FOF sessions.

Members are reminded that these sessions are intended for beginners and for people who need to improve their

## **Executive Meeting Highlights**

*Dave Martin*

The executive met on November 10 with Art Liestman, John Bese, Don Hoskins, Bruce Campbell, Amie Hillaby, Ted Fromson, and Dave Martin in attendance.

The group decided that future executive meetings, when necessary, would be held on the second Monday of the month.

skills in the areas presented during the FOF. The main program starts at 7:30 p.m.

The executive discussed the possibility of applying to the American Association of Woodturners for an Educational Opportunity Grant, but decided to wait until next year when our needs would be clearer.

Treasurer, Don Hoskins, reported that the raffle at the October meeting raised \$93.00 and the coffee and library contributed a further \$31.00.

Members are reminded that Dave Armatage is the GVWG's librarian. Dave will bring the library materials to each meeting and members may borrow materials for a short period prior to the meeting and during the coffee break. To help develop the library, members are asked to contribute \$1.00 for each magazine or journal borrowed, \$2.00 for each book, and \$3.00 for each video. Monies raised by these fees will be used to purchase new materials for the library. We also welcome donations from members. Anyone donating materials to the library is entitled to one free rental.

The GVWG now has 45 paid up members, 25 of whom receive their newsletter by e-mail. Although most of the group are from the Greater Vancouver area, we have members from Abbotsford, Langley, Chilliwack and Sardis.

A meeting for members who indicated an interest in working on an entry for the chapter collaborative challenge for the Annual National Symposium of the AAW in North Carolina June 30 to July 2, 2000 will be called shortly.

## October's Instant Gallery

*Amie Hillaby & John Flanagan (photos)*

I have been consistently amazed by the talent and creativity that our GVWG members have demonstrated in our last two Instant Galleries.

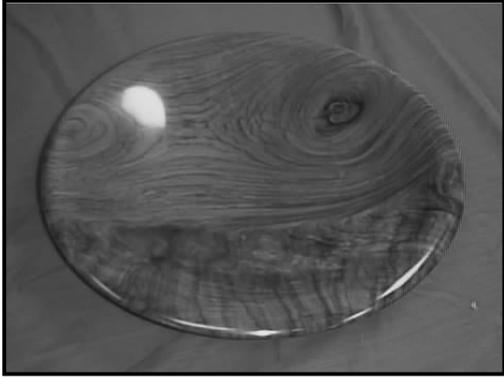


*John Bese – Quilted maple salad bowl  
(appr. 16" diameter)*

For the October Instant Gallery, we managed to get some great photos of our member's work, thanks to John Flanagan and his nifty digital camera. I am looking forward to continuing this "tradition" with future Instant Galleries.

We won't be able to display all of the items from the Instant Gallery in the Newsletter, but we are planning to keep a photo-library of the GVWG's Instant Galleries. This will eventually be compiled onto CD-ROM to go into our

library as a reference source of our members' work. Depending on the interest, we may even make CD-ROMs available for sale to members – but that won't be for some time yet.



*Cornelius Regehr – Bubinga fruit bowl  
(appr. 10" diameter)*

I'd like to thank the following people for their contributions to the October Instant Gallery - Rich Schmid, John Bese, Ludger Paus, Bill Kennedy, Bruce Campbell, Darcy Wardrop, Neno Catania, Marco Berera, John Tompson and Cornelius Regehr.



*John Tompson – Bowl  
(appr. 12" diameter)*

I would especially like to thank John Tompson for his fascinating and

entertaining look at his woodturning experiences; and of course, to Marco Berera for his amusing "mystery" piece.



*Marco Berera – Dried potato vessel  
(appr. 1.5" tall)*

## **Focus on Fundamentals – What Tool for What Job?**

*Bruce Campbell*

At our October meeting Neno Catania lead a discussion of the various tools he uses in turning. Much of the discussion centered around Neno's hollowing tools. Here is a brief summary of his presentation along with some additional information on tool selection.

Basically wood lathe tools can be broken into five groups: gouges, skewes, scrapers, hollowing tools and specialty tools.

**Gouges** - Gouges are fluted tools (i.e., the profile of the tool is 'U' shaped) and the depth of the flute determines their use. Deep-fluted gouges are used for bowls (both inside and outside) and shallow-fluted ones are used primarily for spindle work. The size of a gouge is determined by the diameter of the tool.

So a “spindle gouge” is made from roll steel and has a shallow flute.

**Skews** - A skew is made from a flat rectangular bar of steel and has a nose that is cut at an angle – usually around 30°. Skew are used to turn the outside of a piece, and are thus usually thought of as a spindle-work tool. However, they can also be useful for the outside of bowls. The main advantage of a skew is that it can produce beautifully smooth surfaces that require little sanding.

**Scrapers** - Scrapers are, in general, made from rectangular bar stock with noses that come in a wide variety of shapes, from square to rounded. They are usually quite heavy, which provides mass that dampens the vibration created from scraping across the wood surface. The main use for scrapers is on the inside of a piece. They are held at or near 90° to the surface of the wood so they scrape wood off as it rotates by. The exception to this is when they are held at a very steep angle to the work to produce a soft finishing cut called a shear scrape.

**Hollowing Tools** - Hollowing tools are specially designed to allow you to remove material from inside of a vessel through a small opening in the top. These tools are specialized scrapers that usually have a bend in them to aid in reaching around the shoulder of the vessel. Hollowing tools tend to “rotate” as they are being used because of this off-set feature; thus, a number of special braces and tool rests have been designed

to hold the tool in place and take the pressure off the user. In some cases these braces and rests are 6-8 feet long and weigh over 50 kilos (100 lbs).



*Neno Catania – Hollow turned maple burl vessel (ca. 10” tall)*

**Specialty Tools** - This is a catch-all category for the wide variety of tools that have been invented over the years to do special jobs. The one specialty tool that almost every turner has is a parting tool. This has the single use of cutting directly perpendicular to the work to remove or part it from the lathe. Other specialty tools include:

- ◆ Chatter tool for making decorative textures
- ◆ Thread Chasers for cutting threads into wood
- ◆ Sizing Tool for cutting exact diameters

- ◆ Texturing tools used to add texture to the surface
- ◆ Cove & bead cutters for making standard size coves and beads

and many, many more.

It seems a new tool comes out every year to tempt us to part with our hard-earned cash. Some are truly innovative but most are just repackaged concepts designed to keep the quarterly profits of the tool makers up (what? me, a cynic?). If in doubt, ask someone at a monthly meeting. Chances are someone in the group has used the tool you are thinking about buying. A little consumer research might save you some cash.

**Steel Quality** - Steel comes in many types and qualities but we can keep it simple to say that woodturning tools come in two kinds of steel – standard and high speed steel (HSS). HSS is more expensive than standard steel, perhaps as much as double or triple the cost. It takes a better edge, holds the edge longer, does not burn as easily and will not lose its temper unless really badly abused (no pun intended). For the extra value you get for HSS tools it is worth the money. Unfortunately, tool makers know this and set their prices accordingly.

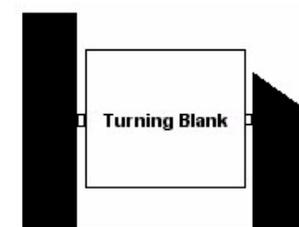
**Home-made Tools** - Finally, don't be afraid to make your own tools. Excellent "waste" steel can be found in remarkable places. The remains of a worn out gouge can be made into a coving point or a

pyramid point tool. Worn out planner blades from your shop or commercial bandsaw blades (3" plus) can be turned into parting tools and chatter tools. Get waste planner blades from a plywood mill and you have excellent stock for a scraper or a skew. I even saw a presenter at the 1999 AAW Symposium make a small hollowing tool from a bent nail. The thing to consider is safety. The heavier the intended use the more careful you must be to ensure that your handmade tool is up to it. At some point it is not worth the risk and you will simply have to buy what you need. But until then, be inventive and have fun.

## October's Main Presentation - Turning Spindle Handled Bowls

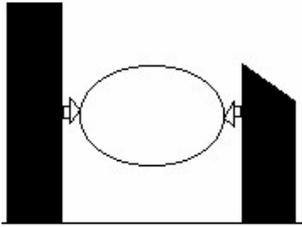
*John Bese*

**Step 1** - Turn you blank down to the desired diameter (turn end-grain). The length must be at least 2" longer than the diameter.



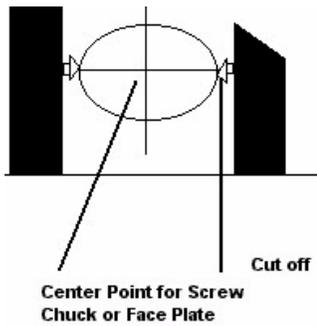
*Step 1 – Use a spur drive live centre*

**Step 2** - Turn the piece down to the form of football (oval). Make sure that the length is about 2" longer than the diameter. After you have turned your desired form, sand the entire oval, going through all grits as needed.



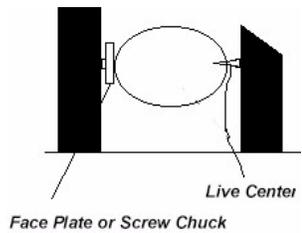
Step 2

**Step 3** - Find the centers of both the length and the diameter. You will use the point where these two lines cross as the centering point for mounting the face or screw chuck. You can now cut off the two centering ends.



Step 3

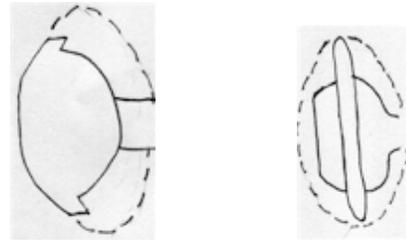
**Step 4** - Mount the piece between centers using the center points as described in step 3.



Step 4

**Step 5** - You are now ready to turn your handled bowl. Start to turn a small foot to fit a spigot chuck at the tail stock end.

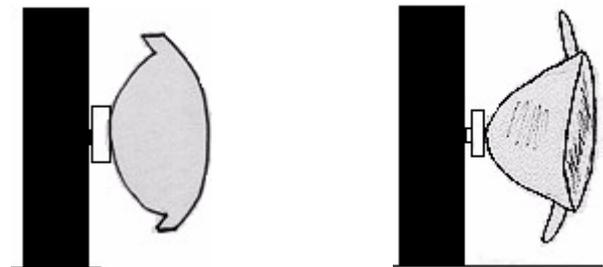
Now start to shape the bowl. As you turn to the center, you will notice that two wings are starting to appear.



(a) (b)  
Step 5

These wings can be rolled up or down as you desire. Be creative!

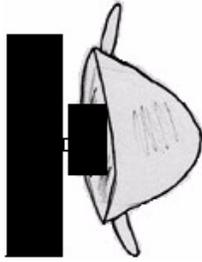
**Step 6** - The next step is to reverse the bowl by mounting the foot in the spigot chuck. Start to form the outside of the bowl. Notice that the handles are starting to form. Finish turning to your desired form.



(a) (b)  
Step 6 - note handle goes around bowl

Now you are ready to hollow out the center. Complete by sanding the inside and outside of the bowl, being careful not to hit your fingers with the rotating handles!

**Step 7** - The last step in turning is to jam chuck the bowl and turn the foot.



*Step 7 - Note handle goes around bowl*

Complete with your choice of finish.  
Enjoy your new bowl!

## Tips from the Web

*Art Liestman*

There were several interesting concepts this past month on the internet news group

**[www.rec.crafts.woodturning](http://www.rec.crafts.woodturning)**. As I have been experimenting a bit with sanding with wax, a thread on that topic caught my eye. I've extracted bits of several posts by Kevin Miller on the topic. If you haven't tried this, give it a shot.

"Some time back the discussion came up of wiping some paste wax on a piece before sanding to help get out the deep sanding marks. I was skeptical, but I tried it anyway on a piece that I didn't cut as cleanly as I'd have liked. I got out the Johnson's and wiped it on. The sanding disks immediately clogged with dust & wax but I cleaned them up with one of those crepe rubber doohickeys and in a really short time was down to bare wood again. I was really impressed on how cleanly the surface looked. That was about the best 'tip' I've come across in a

long time. For those problem spots on wood, it is a really useful way to clean them up quickly and easily.

"I started with the wax at about 80 grit. What prompted me to try this technique was that I had rough turned a couple of bowls, then set them aside to do some carving on the rim while it was still green. Well, I didn't get to it as fast as I'd have liked, so the bowls warped and I hadn't taken any finish cuts on them yet. I had a choice: recut them and lose the carving or try to sand out the sides. There was a lot of tearout, and typical rough cut ridges, but I figured I could always recut them if sanding didn't work.

"I just wiped on the wax, and immediately hit it with the disk sander. As the wax and sawdust mixed, it would pill up in to little balls and be thrown off just like regular sawdust. Every once in a while I clean the goo off the disk with a crepe stick. Even though the paper looks clogged, it is still working as evidenced by the "spray" of the wax/sawdust mix. I use the wax only at the earliest grits: by 120 there isn't any need for it anymore as a rule. I just proceed through the grit series like normal after that. Don't skip grits - that's where problems can arise."

## How You Can Help

*Dave Martin*

In last month's newsletter, I presented a number of areas where our organization can use some assistance. Remember that the GVWG depends on our members to

volunteer their time, knowledge and skills in order to succeed.

Here are some of the ways you can help the GVWG improve.

Newsletter - We always need *writers* to contribute material to the newsletter and *mailers* to help in getting the newsletter sent out. Suggestions for contributions would be reviews of books and articles you have read and enjoyed, software, web sites, shows and demonstrations you've attended, or anything related to woodturning. If you would be willing to help with the newsletter, please call Amie Hillaby at 469-0221 or by e-mail at [\*\*amiemh@dowco.com\*\*](mailto:amiemh@dowco.com).

Meeting Programs – We have an Education Coordinator, now we need people to volunteer as *speakers* for our upcoming meetings. We would like to see many members participate as demonstrators and speakers, as we know there is a huge talent and knowledge base available from our GVWG membership.

If you feel that you don't yet have the skills to present a topic, but you have ideas about what topics you'd like to see, *suggestions for topics* are welcome and encouraged. Our Education and Focus on Fundamentals (FOF) Coordinators are looking forward to matching members with topics.

To volunteer as a main speaker, contact Fred Baldwin 224-5780 or by email at [\*\*fbaldwin@direct.ca\*\*](mailto:fbaldwin@direct.ca). To volunteer as a FOF demonstrator, contact Bruce

Campbell by phone at 469-0221 or via e - m a i l a t [\*\*bruce.campbell@telus.com\*\*](mailto:bruce.campbell@telus.com).

Raffle – We always need donations of wood, woodturning tools, shop supplies, or equipment for the monthly raffle, which has been quite successful to date. Thanks to all those who have donated items to our raffles so far. If you can help, contact John Bese by phone at 581-8807 or via e-mail at [\*\*johnbese@home.com\*\*](mailto:johnbese@home.com).

Library – We are building a library of materials that can be borrowed by members. If you have woodturning books, magazines, or videos that you would be willing to donate, please contact Dave Armatage at 936-0705.

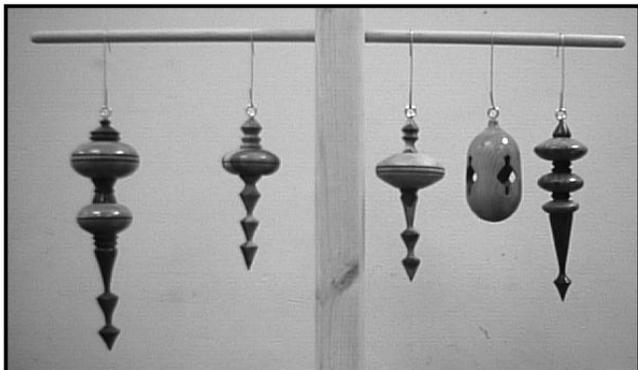
Website – We would like to develop a website for the GVWG. If you would like to be involved in this, contact any of the officers.

Wranglers - People are needed to help set up the room and carry in equipment before meetings. If you can help, please arrive about 6:00 p.m. Following the meeting we need to clean up the room and put chairs and other equipment away. Your assistance would be appreciated.

## Upcoming Events

*Fred Baldwin*

Main topic presenters for upcoming meetings are as follows:



*Rich Schmid's Christmas Ornaments*

November 24 – Rich Schmid will be showing us how to do hollow form Christmas decorations. The sample he showed at the October meeting was terrific and I am looking forward to seeing how he does them. (Also, if you have any interesting Christmas turnings you have done, please bring them to the November meeting for the Instant Gallery.)

December 4 – Special field trip organized to visit APRO Metal Spinning. Contact Phil Laliberte to sign up to attend this demonstration.

January 26 – Derek Luder of Windsor Plywood will be discussing wood identification. Here's a chance to bring in types of wood you can't figure out and maybe Derek can help you identify it. He's been a big help to me in the past.

February 23 – Kathy Somerville of Lee Valley will do a demonstration on pen turning. Kathy is one of the premier pen turners in the lower mainland and has great tips, which can be a big help for all.

That's all so far. For future meetings if you have any suggestions please give me a call – 224-5780 or email me at [fbaldwin@direct.ca](mailto:fbaldwin@direct.ca).

**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



*Bruce Campbell – Pedestal bowl  
juniper & ekiwood (appr. 8" x 6" tall)*