



Greater Vancouver Woodturners Guild

130th chapter of the
American Association of Woodturners



Newsletter

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President's Column

Art Liestman

The November meeting was action packed. It began with the final installment of Larry Stevenson's presentation on motors. After the business meeting, we proceeded with four simultaneous presenters (Marco Berera, John Bese, Ed Pretty, and Rich Schmid) doing ornaments and ornament related finishing. What a night! Thanks to all of you for your impressive presentations.

During the business meeting, we had a discussion concerning whether or not to offer a critique component in the instant gallery. After some spirited discussion, a show of hands showed that there were a considerable number of people on both sides of this issue. Having taken everyone's comments into account, I'll offer a suggested resolution here. If you'd like to offer some counter proposals or additional suggestions, please jump in. Participation is what we need!

January 24, 2001 Meeting:

Focus on Fundamentals –
(starts at 6:30 p.m.)

Main Speaker – Cornelius Regehr
– Finishes

**Meeting at Canadian Legion Hall
1025 Ridgeway Ave., Coquitlam**

First of all, I'd like to suggest that we try running the gallery as we did in the November meeting, with each contributor speaking (briefly!) about their piece and answering questions that arise from the audience. Let's try that for a few months and see how we like it.

It seems to me that the people wanting a critique component are interested in two different types of information. First, there is a thirst for general information on design and the esthetics of turned wood objects. Second, individuals want feedback on their own work.

In the first case, there are many things we can do to get this information out. We can (and should) attempt to incorporate more of this in our regular monthly presentations. The program committee (Fred) is already working on this. I'm sure he

Meeting Food Providers – Reminder

We have gone to an alphabetical rotation!

We ask that the following members please provide some food for the January 24, 2001 meeting: **Keith Greffe, Lief Hansen, Steve Hansen, Amie Hillaby, Ernie Hooge & Don Hoskins.**

Your contributions are much appreciated.

would appreciate help or input from any members.

Another excellent source of this type of information is from our occasional visiting speakers such as Clay Foster who will be here in February (see the article later in this newsletter). Seeing these world-renowned turners is an excellent way to learn not only technical details but also to get a glimpse of how an artist sees the work we do.

The newsletter is also an excellent forum for such information. Last month's article "Judges Comments" by Rusty Harrison was a good start in that direction, summarizing the thoughts of the judges for the woodturning competition. I know that at least one member has been inspired by this article to start writing a follow-up. Stay tuned for that. If you have something to say, this is the place to do it!

We are discussing the possibility of holding some additional meetings (on an irregular basis) to address various issues that we just don't get to in our monthly meetings. It would be appropriate to have some of these sessions focus on design issues. If you'd like to help organize such events, please let us know.

Our (growing) library does contain some books (notably Raffan's "Turned-Bowl Design"), magazines, and videotapes (specifically, the AAW Symposium videos) that address design issues specific to turning. If you haven't been using these resources, please do. We will be adding more to the library as resources permit and demand warrants.

Finally, the best source for information on design is probably your own eyes. Look at LOTS of woodturnings – in person or in pictures. Decide what you like and ask yourself why you like those pieces. Don't stop with woodturnings. Look at pottery, basketry, glasswork, flat woodworking, sculpture, architecture, paintings, pastry, or whatever. Keep looking and asking yourself what you like, what you don't, and why.

Regarding the need for feedback on individual members work. For now, the best I can suggest is that if you want such feedback, you should approach people whose work you like and ask specific questions. As you can tell from the discussion at the meeting, some members won't want to offer comments. Please keep in mind, though, that each of us has his/her own view of what is good and what isn't – this is "eye of the beholder" stuff.

Since the last meeting, we've gotten a new website, www.gvwg.ca, which is now providing better service for those of us who download the newsletter. Mark Bese, our excellent webmaster, has given the site a new and improved look. Great work, Mark! He's also added some new features. Please have a look.

If you are a new member with web access and are receiving the newsletter by snail mail, please consider downloading it instead. By downloading it, you will save the guild some postage and printing costs which can be used elsewhere AND you will get the newsletter a day or two earlier than the snail folks. (This is a great advantage when you are hoping for something good to turn up in the classifieds, for example.) If you'd like to switch to downloading the newsletter, please let me know by email (art@sfu.ca).

A quick reminder - the President's challenge this month (for January, that is) is a weed pot. Get 'em made, boys and girls.

November's Instant Gallery

Art Liestman & John Flanagan (pictures)

The November Instant Gallery was another good one. This time, we ran the gallery "show and tell style" with each contributor describing his/her own pieces. This worked well and we will try it a few more times to see whether we want to adopt this method permanently.

As usual, there were too many pieces to comment on in detail. Colin Delory brought his

award-winning segmented hollow vessel and Steve Hansen showed a lovely pepper mill.



Figure 1: Vessel by Colin Delory

Larry Stevenson and Fred Baldwin both brought some hollow vessels inspired by Soren Berger's talk in Seattle in October. Bill Olsen, Don Bishop, Cornelius Regehr, Al Koehn, Bill Luck, Bruce Campbell, and Art Liestman showed lots of nice bowls. Bruce Campbell and Bob Vergette showed us their approaches to potpourri bowls and Bruce also showed off some nice candlestick holders. Well done, everyone! I suspect that most of those pieces are now in the hands of lucky gift receivers.



Figure 2: Steve Hansen's peppermill

The President's Challenge brought in a goodly number of handsome mallets as shown below.



Figure 3: Mallets meet the challenge

Four Presenters! A Pictorial Reminder
Art Liestman

As we mentioned above, in November we had four simultaneous presentations. Here are pictures of our four brave members. Thanks guys!



Figure 4: Marco Berera making trees



Figure 5: John Bese hollows an ornament



Figure 6: Ed Pretty discussing finishes



Figure 7: Rich Schmid looking serious!

Clay Foster is coming in February!

Art Liestman

We are very fortunate to be able to welcome Clay Foster to our guild in February. Clay is one of the top woodturners in the world and is much in demand as a speaker. Clay is known for his adventurousness in creating hollow vessels and sculptural pieces such as those shown here. He recently visited several AAW chapters in Ontario and got rave reviews there. This will be an inspirational and mind-expanding event!



Figure 8: A recent piece by Clay Foster

On Saturday, February 3rd, Clay will present a full day demonstration. This will include a 30-minute slide show of his work and discussions on adaptations to lathes, tools, techniques, and equipment that can make woodturning easier, more efficient, and more enjoyable. A two-piece hollow vessel will be produced while demonstrating the adaptations. Clay will also demonstrate processes for turning multiple axis vessels, including a discussion of the process for making a two-piece multiple axis hollow vessel. Time permitting, he may also show us a method for turning a multiple axis spindle, and an exploration of what to do with them. There will be a charge of approximately \$25 for the demo.

On Sunday and Monday, February 4th and 5th, Clay will offer full day hands-on classes for up to 6 participants. In each class, participants will turn a two-piece hollow vessel and a two piece multiple axis hollow vessel. Participants should have basic turning skills. The class will cost approximately \$150 for each participant.



Figure 9: Another recent Clay Foster piece

More details including actual costs for the events and additional pictures of Clay's work will appear in the January newsletter.

Focus on Fundamentals - Update

Bruce Campbell, Coordinator

There will be three FOF circles happening each month (Level 1, Level 2, and Level 3). Attendees may select any session to attend and may move from one session to another.

There will be special FOF sessions on occasional weekends. These will be organized as interest dictates. In addition, the FOF team wishes to encourage a Mentoring program.

The first rotation will begin on January 24, 2001 at 6:30 p.m. The Level 1 session will be on Starter Tools, the Level 2 session on Basic Cuts II and the Level 3 session on Sharpening III. As these elements will all be rotated throughout the

year, you will be able to see one demonstration topic more than once if you wish, or attend one that you may have missed from an earlier meeting.

Session Descriptions – Level 1

- Starter Tools – which tools do I need to get started and why
- Mounting Systems I – spur centers and faceplates
- Safety – how to turn safely
- Basic Cuts I – cutting with a spindle gouge and a parting tool
- Sharpening I – free-hand sharpening a spindle gouge and a parting tool

Level 2

- Basic Cuts II – using a roughing gouge and a skew
- Interesting Projects I – one of String-o-Beads, Tops, Honey Dipper
- Sanding – selecting and using sandpaper on the lathe
- Ergonomics – setting up your work area to “fit” you
- Mounting Systems II – screw centers and chucks
- Sharpening II – free-hand sharpening a skew, roughing gouge, and scraper

Level 3

- Sharpening III – fingernail profiles and sharpening jigs
- Basic Cuts III – using a bowl gouge and scrapers
- Mounting Systems III – jam chucks, mandrels, glue, 2-sided tape
- Interesting Projects II – one of Egg Cup, Egg, Xmas Tree
- Quick Finishing – sealers (CA glue, shellac), Waxes (paste, hard), Liquids
- Supplies/Suppliers – where to get tools and supplies (pen parts, brass findings, etc)

Please keep in mind that these sessions are geared towards those who are beginners in turning and those who would like to improve certain basic skills. For those turners who are more advanced, we can always use demonstrators. Please call me at 469-0221 if there is a topic that you feel you would like to present. You do not have to demonstrate a given topic each time it comes up in a new rotation. In fact, the more people we have showing us their tips and tricks, the better!

Upcoming Events

Fred Baldwin – Education Coordinator

February 28 – Scott Belway (Fraser Valley Woodturners) will demonstrate turning a bowl with a scraper.

March 28 – Martin Thorn from Squamish will either demonstrate turning cedar burl balls or turning beaded boxes.

April 25 – Rob Prinse (Mt Cheam Woodworking) will give a discussion on local woods, how to identify them, what turns well, and drying characteristics.

May 24 – Doug Black (Island Woodcraft Supplies) will demonstrate turning small items for sale and will answer questions on wood turning tools.

June 28 – Neno Catania on bark edged bowls.

If you have any suggestions or requests or would like to volunteer for a future talk, please contact me at 224-5788 or at fbaldwin@telus.net.

THANKS!

A special thanks to the following for donations, expertise and help:

KMS Tools (Coquitlam) 522-5599

Mount Cheam Woodworking
(Chilliwack) 795-9297

Neufeld Brothers Hardwoods
(Chilliwack) 795-7886

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

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