



# Greater Vancouver Woodturners Guild

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



Newsletter

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## President's Column

*Art Liestman*

It has been a busy month and the next month will be much the same! Since the April meeting, we have hosted two excellent visiting demonstrators – Mark Salusbury and Jack DeVos.

Mark Salusbury presented an evening demonstration in which he turned a very nice platter which he promised to send us when it is finished. Those attending learned some very useful tips and were impressed by the wonderful finish on Mark's display pieces. His slide show

### May 23, 2001 Meeting:

Focus on Fundamentals –  
Level 1 – Sharpening I  
Level II – Mounting Systems II  
Level III – Quick Finishing  
(starts at 6:30 p.m.)

Main Speaker – Doug Black  
– Turning small items for sale

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

and discussion of design were also well-received. I'm sure we'll have to get Mark to return for another session some day.

Jack DeVos stopped in Vancouver on his return trip from Ontario to Australia. Jack's full day demo included hollow turning with his own home-made tools as well as surface shaping, texturing, and coloring. His display pieces were stunning and were all made of Australian woods that are largely unfamiliar to us. We finished the day with a slide show illustrating what can be done with variations on a theme. He shared lots of good ideas with us.

The Richmond Carvers Show will be held on May 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> at the Steveston Community Centre

### Meeting Food Providers – Reminder

*We have gone to an alphabetical rotation!*

We ask that the following members please provide some food for the May 23, 2001 meeting: **Ed Pretty, Cornelius Regehr, Udo Richter, Gordon Rosenthal, Lance Rossington, Denis Savidan, Len Sawyer**

Your contributions are much appreciated.

at 4111 Moncton Street in Steveston. The show runs from 12 to 5 on Saturday and from 10:30 to 4:30 on Sunday. Members of the guild will be demonstrating woodturning throughout the show at our guild's booth. If you can help setting up on Friday evening, packing up on Sunday afternoon, or working at the booth during show hours, please contact Ted Fromson. Even if you don't want to participate in the guild's booth, please make an effort to attend the show. It is a lot of fun and the carvings in the competition are wonderful.

On the next weekend, we have a two day demonstration by Russ Fairfield as described in the article later in the newsletter.

I hope that you are all enjoying the visiting speakers and classes that we have arranged this year. We are busily planning more events of this type for next year. If you have any particular demonstrators that you would like to see or topics that you would like to learn more about, please let me know.

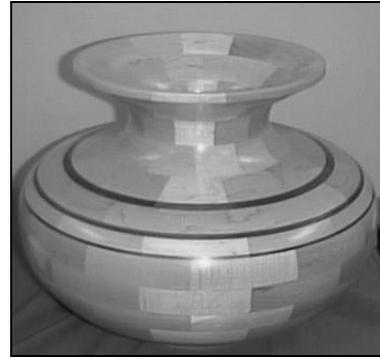
Last, but not least, don't forget the May President's Challenge – turn a trivet!

### **April's Instant Gallery**

*Art Liestman*

We had a bit of a personnel glitch in April - nobody took notes on the Instant Gallery. From memory and with the aid of the signup sheets, we had a lot of nice pieces on display. Doug Schop had a nice covered dish of acacia and black walnut. Rich Schmid showed off a juniper box and bowls of fir and maple. Bruce Campbell showed off a very fine lidded box of East African blackwood plus a couple of fir burl bowls (say that fast three times!)

The segmented turning crowd seems to be growing. Bob Vergette showed us a lovely vessel in maple and walnut while Larry Stevenson wowed us with a zebrano salad bowl. Somehow, Larry also managed to produce a natural edge birch burl bowl (again, three times) and a walnut vase.



Bob Vergette – Segmented Vessel



Larry Stevenson – Segmented Bowl

Other members are also in the box turning business. Al Koehn showed us two – one in walnut and one in maple. John Flanagan's box was done in chestnut while Keith Greffe produced his in walnut and holly. Great stuff, guys!



Marco Berera – Printing Press

Of course, Marco Berera continues to astound us. This month he brought in his prize winning printing press – made of a single 2x4. Woof! He also brought along some turned nylon rollers.



Stuart Batty demo piece – Spindle Turning

Bruce also brought in a very fine spindle done by Stuart Batty during his class.

In addition to the fine gallery pieces, we had a great turnout for the President's Challenge in April. To commemorate the anniversary of Bonnie Klein's visit the previous year, the challenge was to make a top. The entries were numerous and of excellent quality. Bruce Campbell brought in seven different types of top. Doug Schop contributed a nice maple top with a burned ring. Marco Berera showed us a giant top/box, four small wooden tops, and a metal top made by his son Kevin. I think there were other contributors, too, but they didn't sign the sheet. Thanks to all of you!

## **Main Presentation – Robert Prinse & Bill Headridge on Local Woods**

*Doug Schop*

Rob started getting interested in woodworking when he took wood class at high school. Finding that he enjoyed the work he decided to try working as a framer for houses and barns. He found the work was good but working in the rain was not. In 1986, he started cutting lumber for

furniture and kitchen cabinets, and in 1992 he bought a kiln and started drying lumber for woodworkers and for hardwood flooring. Discovering a market for curly maple in the US, he sold wood to the San Diego area and as far east as Las Vegas. Rob also has a market in the high schools where he has come full circle, the place he learned to love woodworking is where he is now helping other students learn the joys of wood.

There is little waste with Rob and he turns his offcuts into pens and bud vases. But his real love is BIG furniture. One of his projects was a 7 foot diameter black walnut table with 2 cabinets and 12 chairs all made from one black walnut tree. Recently, he received a commission from a design studio in Beverly Hills to make two 5 foot benches from 3 inch curly maple with timber framed dovetail legs fastened with ebony pins. Now that's a bench!

Rob also showed us a video made by a film student that showed the process he goes through to cut, kiln and shape his wood. One of his projects in the video was a huge maple bench with a curved back and seat made from the curve in the tree. Rob usually sands to between 280 and 400 grit and finishes with 2 or 3 coats of Watco oil. There seems to be a big future for big furniture. Thanks Rob.

Rob's co-presenter was Bill Headridge who is quite a guy. He knows local woods inside and out and even the history of some of the felled logs. His description of the woods he has sawn and the stuff he finds in them was very enlightening and he answered a lot of questions from the members. Bill operates a portable sawmill that he takes to the job site, so you may see him in a neighbour's yard taking down that oversize tree that is cutting out your sunlight. If you have a tree to be milled Bill can be reached through Rob Prinse. His explanation of the Colony Farm in Coquitlam was particularly interesting for me, as I had some previous knowledge of the area but didn't know the history of the place. Thanks Bill.

## Grinder Wheels

*Bruce Campbell*

Another dimension to grinder wheels I was lucky enough to attend the two-day class with Stuart Batty last month. We all learned a huge number of things but one concept was completely new to me: grinding wheels have "hardness" as well as "grit".

We are all familiar with concept of "grit". Personally, I favour a 120 "smooth" wheel and an 80 "rough" one. What I did not know is that the hardness of the wheel counts for just as much as the grit. Hardness is represented by a letter where A is very, very, soft and Z is extremely hard. The rule is this: the harder the steel the softer the wheel. This seemed counter-intuitive until I learned that harder stones don't break away quickly enough and the steel embeds itself in the wheel.

We saw ample evidence of this during the class when sharpening HSS tools on a 100P wheel. The stone quickly developed a black streak on it which Stuart religiously took off with a wheel trimmer (thus shortening the life of the wheel). However, the carbon tools that some people had sharpened beautifully left no black streak on the wheel. Back home I checked out my grinder and was surprised (and happy) to learn that I have a 120G (fairly soft) wheel which does not develop streaks with HSS tools and has held up well for the 8 or so months I have had it. On the other hand, the older carbon tools I have do seem to chew it up more quickly. So, from my limited experience the guide seems to be that for HSS tools a hardness of G or H is good and look for a wheel with L or higher if you sharpen a lot of carbon tools. For more tips from Batty's class I do accept bribes :-)

## Russ Fairfield Demos – June 2 and 3

*Art Liestman*

On Saturday June 2 and Sunday June 3, Russ Fairfield from Silverdale, Washington will put on a two-day demonstration at Willoughby Hall at 8280 208<sup>th</sup> Street in Langley. This event is jointly sponsored with the our friends the Fraser Valley Woodturners. The map on the last page of the newsletter shows how to get to the hall. From Highway 1, take the 200<sup>th</sup> Street exit to the south. At 82<sup>nd</sup> Ave, turn east. At 208<sup>th</sup>, turn north. The hall is on the east side of the street. There should be ample parking, but it's more fun to ride with somebody!

Starting at 9:30 am on Saturday, Russ will show slides of his work, demonstrate his technique for making segmented bowls, and give detailed information on sanding and finishing. Russ has a lot of information to pass on to us, so don't miss this.



**Some of Russ's segmented work**

You will want to return at 9:00 am on Sunday when Russ will show us his methods for tuning a bandsaw, discuss turning pieces including the pith, and demonstrate turning a square natural edge bowl. This will be a treat! He is very knowledgeable and an exceptional demonstrator.



### square natural edge bowls in the workshop

There is a charge of \$25 for one day of the demo and only \$35 for both days. In addition to the demos, participants will receive a nicely produced 63 page booklet of articles written by Russ. Please sign up and pay at the May meeting.



**Russ Fairfield**

Russ spent nearly thirty years in Florida as an engineer in the pulp and paper industry. On his retirement, he and his wife returned to their native Washington state. As an active woodturner for over fifteen years, Russ has extensive turning experience and is primarily known for his plates, platters, and square bowls. His work is exhibited in several galleries in the U.S. He has been a

regular instructor and demonstrator at AAW Chapters and regional symposiums.

### **Racal Power Visor**

*Bill Luck*

I've been looking for a headgear type air filtration system at the lower end of the price scale. 3-M has a product that they call the Racal Power Visor that reaches the marketplace at around \$240. It's a junior version of their \$600 model.

I got a visor from 3-M on a test basis and used it over several days for a total of 8 hours, or two recharges of its battery. The unit is not NIOSH approved but meets ANSI standards. For full face protection, safety glasses under the face shield are recommended. The fan and motor are situated in the headgear.

So, is the glass half full or half empty? Let's start with half full. The mask provides a nice clean, cool airflow. I was quite happy with the mask on and there was never any visible dust inside the mask. It never fogged up while the fan was on and flying chips (oops shavings) could be completely ignored. Visibility was also good.

Now, is the glass half empty? The visor is of questionable construction. Padding was loose, the battery connection was faulty, various clips holding things together didn't quite work, and the face seal is made out of a very heavy and stiff neoprene. The motor is somewhat distracting as it sounds like a small vacuum cleaner attached to your skull. The headgear is difficult to get on or off due to the neoprene gasket, especially while wearing glasses, and the facemask does not flip up.

Unfortunately, for this product, the glass is half empty. Good idea, bad product, outrageously priced. This is essentially a \$20 facemask with a face seal, little electric fan and filter. Made in China and sold for under \$100 and I might change my mind.

## Thanks Amie, but now we need a new editor!

*Art Liestman*

Amie Hillaby has been our newsletter editor since the second issue. Although she hasn't been at many meetings this year, she has contributed greatly to our success. As Amie heads off for a year in Australia, we would like to thank her for her service to the guild. We'll miss you, Amie!

We need a new editor! The job is interesting and will keep you involved in the ongoing events in the guild. (Plus, you get to see the want ads before anybody else - when Bruce decides to sell his Oneway to buy a Stubby, you'll be able to get that great deal on his big white elephant of a lathe before anyone else knows about it. ☺) Seriously, folks, we need somebody to take over the editor's job. Please contact me if you are interested.

## GVWG Picnic In July

*John Bese*

We are planning to hold our GVWG picnic on the afternoon of Sunday, July 22, 2001. Sandy Howkins has kindly offered his residence for this event. The address for the picnic is 18726 Advent Road, Pitt Meadows. There will be more

### 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)  
 Members at Large – Ted Fromson (876-0267),  
 Andrew Forrest (990-9667),  
 Fred Baldwin (224-5788)  
 Focus on Fundamentals Coordinator  
 Bruce Campbell (469-0221)  
 Education Coordinator – Fred Baldwin (224-5788)  
 Librarian – Larry Stevenson (438-3947)  
 Wood Exchanger – Phil Laliberte (936-2995)  
 Food Chief – Rich Schmid (538-7012)  
 Digital Photo Guy – John Flanagan (939-0942)  
 Newsletter Editor – Amie Hillaby (273-9408;  
 email: plover\_wing@yahoo.com)  
 Webmaster – Mark Bese (markbese@home.com)

information on how to get there in the next newsletter.

I will be working with Sandy to set up this event. We will need a few barbecues, tables etc. for the picnic which will be a go rain or shine because there is shelter for everyone, should it rain. This is a great barbecue opportunity, so bring along your lawn chairs, meat, plates, cups, utensils, a side dish or goodies to share with the group.

A wood auction will be held at the picnic providing an opportunity to raise some money for the Guild's ongoing events. Your donations of turning wood and turned objects will be welcomed. There will also be a woodturning competition for fun and laughs as well as possibly a game or two.

Rain or shine, this will be a great day!

## The Return of the Summer Shop Crawl

*Art Liestman*

Since we don't have regular monthly meetings in July and August, last year we instituted the *Summer Shop Crawl* which ran from the end of July through the middle of September. The basic idea of the crawl is that on various weekend afternoons throughout the summer, individuals open their shops to interested guild members. What happens during these open shops depends on the host. Some will focus on particular projects, others on specific tools, and others will be more of an open house. We had a lot of fun doing this last summer and I think we should do it again this year.

If you would like to host a shop crawl event, please contact me by June 15<sup>th</sup>. We'll put together a schedule for the next newsletter.

## Upcoming Events

*Fred Baldwin – Education Coordinator*

June 27 – Bark edged bowls. Neno Catania will show us the tools and techniques he uses to do either natural or burl bark edged bowls.

September 27 – John Elliot who is the Wood Cut representative will demonstrate Wood Cut tools including their new hollowing tools, bowl saver etc.

October 24 – Keith Greffe will give us a demonstration on segmented plates using a Cyma curve technique that interlocks segments with the previous segment.

November 28 – Once again, we will have a collaboration of turners demonstrating turned Christmas gift ideas.

January 23, 2002 – Art Liestman will demonstrate how he turns a vessel, then carves and dyes or colours the outside of vessels.

February 27, 2002 – Ron Graham of the Mt. Vernon chapter will present how he does segmented and inlaid bowl.

March 27, 2002 – Threaded boxes are the theme and Bruce Campbell will turn the lid and bottom of a box then show how he cuts the threads.

April 24, 2002 – TBA

May 22, 2002 – Bowls can have handles – really - and John Bese will take on this challenge.

That's all so far. For future meetings if you have any suggestions please give me a call – (604) 224-5780 or email me at fbaldwin@telus.net.

## CLASSIFIEDS

**WANTED: WOODTURNING MENTOR** - My 11 year old son has taken an interest in wood turning. So I built him a table-top woodturning lathe (it fits in a small suitcase) but I'm not a wood turner. Is there someone who could give us 30 or 40 minutes of their time to start him off on the right foot? We live in Surrey and I could take him to wherever there is someone who could give us a bit of their time. Thank you, Steve White (604) 502-7546

## 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

Lee Valley Tools (Vancouver) 261-2262 and [www.leevalley.com](http://www.leevalley.com)

As you all know by now, we purchased a Nova 3000 as a club lathe last month and have already used it twice at the recent demonstrations. We got an excellent deal on the lathe through KMS Tools. In addition, Teknatool, the manufacturer of the lathe, threw in some free accessories. The whole deal was done very quickly and easily. Thanks to both KMS and Teknatool for treating us so well! We appreciate the support that they have shown us. We'd particularly like to acknowledge the contributions of Bob Gadd at KMS. Bob has been a great help to our guild from the beginning and he continues to support us behind the scenes. Thanks again, Bob!

Map to Willoughby Hall

