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NEXT MEETING ON JANUARY 22, 2003

at the Sapperton Pensioners Hall
 318 Kearny St., New Westminster

Focus on Fundamentals

(Starts at 6:30 p.m.)

The Discussion Form on Finished Pieces

Bring in your finished pieces and get
 involved in the group discussion.

Mounting Systems

How to mount using chucks
 and screw centers.

Basic Cuts

Using a roughing gouge and a skew.

MAIN EVENT: Bowls can have handles

Really . . . John Bese
 will demonstrate this challenge.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Art Liestman

Although I was away in November, I understand that the meeting was action-packed and a lot of fun. Sorry I missed it! Thanks to Ted Fromson for taking over the chair in my absence.

On December 14th, we had the great pleasure of a full day demo from Mike Mahoney. Although it was packed, I think everyone enjoyed it and learned a lot. I hope that has primed your interest in visitors from the outside, because we have a lot more lined up starting with Jim Christiansen in early February. For more about that, see the article later in the newsletter.

Ted issued a President's challenge for January – the ball and cup game – so, let's see a big turnout of them!



A Reminder for the January Meeting Food Providers.

We ask that the following members please provide some food for the meeting on January 22nd:

Larry Stevenson, Les Trelenberg, Robert Turrell, Joseph Ujfalusi, Gary Vardy, Christine and/or Gerry Vickers.

(Food is supplied in alphabetical rotation and even though most of us are dieting New Years resolutions can be broken!)

JIM CHRISTIANSEN Demo and Class

Art Liestman

We are happy to announce that Jim Christiansen, professional woodturner from Moscow, Idaho, will be here February 8th and 9th for a demonstration and a class. Jim Christiansen specializes in developing ways to use collaboration to help woodturners improve their creativity and turning skills. During the



Root Vessels and Dinosaur Box.

past few years he has focused on ways to improve our use of critique. As a woodturner, he has not yet developed a “signature” piece as he rarely makes the same type twice. He prefers to try new things. However he has received several awards for his “root vessels” and pieces incorporating simulated fossils as surface decoration. His work has also been featured in a popular woodworking book entitled *Celebrating*

Boxes and will appear in Dona Meilach’s new book, *Wood Art Now* to be published in 2003. Jim is not overly concerned about technique. He admits that he uses “what ever works” and those who attend his workshops sometimes learn what not to do by his example. Currently, he is exploring new styles of lathe-made boxes.

The Saturday demo will be held at the Sapperton Pensioners Hall from 9:30 am to approximately 4:00pm on Saturday, February 8th. There is a \$15 charge to attend the demo. (If you can pay in advance at the January meeting, it would be appreciated.) The demo consists of an informal discussion and presentation of the following topics:

- How to develop an approach and philosophy that enhances your ability to produce more creative and exciting work.
- How to recognize and overcome psychological barriers that prevent you from doing your best work
- How to use a multilevel checklist to guide your sharing of opinions and information. Please bring an example or two of your recent work to share during the critique training session.
- A discussion of possible ways to develop your design skills and get new ideas.
- A discussion of surface treatments Jim uses on some of his pieces including color, texture and “fossil” inlay techniques.
- An overview of Jim’s work will be shown using slides and several recent examples of his work.



Sweet Excess, 12.5" x 7"

Jim will finish the day by demonstrating his techniques for turning a loose lid box similar to the form to be explored in the Sunday hands-on class.

Jim will give a hands-on class on Sunday, February 9th at KMS Tools in Coquitlam from 9:30 am to approximately 4:00 pm. The class will focus on COLLABORATIVE BOX DESIGN and will include the following activities:

A discussion of box design principles and ideas.

Completion of a collaborative project where participants will design and produce a small box. The projects will receive an in-depth group critique and will serve as the basis for design and production of a second small box.

The day will end with a sharing and critique of individual boxes.

Participants should bring their own turning tools and sandpaper. If you plan to use specialized tools to provide shape and texture you may wish



*Hollow Vessel #2 – “Gift From The Sea” series.
9” x 4”.*

to bring them as well. Turning blanks will be provided. The Sunday class is limited to 6 participants. Beginners as well as experts are encouraged to attend. The class fee is \$125. If you are interested in taking the class, please contact Art Liestman (artliestman@shaw.ca or 604-939-3843) as soon as possible to ensure a space.

If you have any other suggestions or questions please email Jim Christiansen at jimchristiansen@moscow.com

Photos courtesy of www.kestrelcreek.com. Check out their web site.

MEANINGFUL QUOTE'S

Submitted by Stan Clarke

Chris Stott says: “An amateur turner picks up a tool and starts to cut with it. A professional turner picks up a tool and sharpens it”.

Bill Jones says: “The brotherhood of the lathe must be almost unique in friendly encouragement”.

Allan Batty says: “When sharpening a scraper leave the burr on for coarse grained wood, remove the burr for tight grained wood”.

Bill Jones says: “I’m convinced that whatever skill one is aiming to achieve is attainable in a time commensurate with the effort one expends working at it”.

Everybody says: “There are two things that you must always do before you switch on the lathe: Make sure it is free to rotate 360 degrees. Make sure the speed is correct for the weight and balance of the wood between centers”.

Bill Jones says: “It’s the satisfaction of being able to make things with real skill – the reward of daily practice – that enables old crocks to keep turning, to the encouragement of us all”.

Walter Gropius, founder of the Bauhaus School of Design says: “There is no essential difference between the artist and the craftsman. In rare moments beyond control of his will the Grace of Heaven may cause his work to blossom into art. But proficiency in his craft is essential to every artist. Therein lies the source of creative imagination”.

Bill Jones says: “Of course you’ll say you can’t draw, but everyone can if they want to”.

Allan Batty says: “The tool rest on many lathes is so skimpy that vibration will prevent a good clean cut unless the gouge is very close to the tool rest post”.

Bill Jones says: “The main purpose of our lathe work is the pursuit of pleasure. If you actually get paid you should regard it as a bonus”. There are high falutin’ turners who “Create Vessels” rather than turn bowls, work in a “Studio” not a workshop, are “Lathe Artists” not woodturners and constantly talk about “Expanding the Envelope”. You know them, they are always featured in the woodturning publications.

Chris Stott says: “A good guide is: Decorate plain wood, keep figured wood simple.

DOUGHNUT CHUCK

Art Liestman

The first thing that many woodturners do when seeing a new bowl or hollow form is to pick it up and look at the bottom. The reasons for doing this are to see the artist's signature and to see that the bottom is appropriately finished. For many years, an unturned bottom has been regarded as unacceptable. Thus, one of the important steps in turning a piece is to turn the bottom.

There are several methods to hold a bowl or hollow form for this "reverse turning". As each turning presents its own challenges, it is worth having several options in your mental toolkit.

For large bowls, I use a vacuum chuck. For very small bowls, I often use commercially made "Cole jaws" mounted on my standard chuck. Another option for bowls is to use a "doughnut chuck" and for my hollow vessels (see photos), I use a slightly modified "doughnut chuck".

In my local woodturning club, many of the newer members aren't familiar with these doughnut chucks, so I thought that a description might be of general interest.

The doughnut chuck, in its simplest form, consists of a plywood circle attached to a faceplate, a separate plywood ring, and three or more bolts with wingnuts. (Alternatively, the faceplate circle could be made to fit into the jaws of a chuck.) A bowl or hollow vessel is then sandwiched between the two pieces of plywood and the bolts as shown in the photo hold the whole thing together.

To make a doughnut chuck, you will need plywood, a dedicated faceplate, screws for the faceplate, some foam padding, several bolts of the same diameter in various lengths and matching wingnuts.

Begin by selecting some plywood of the appropriate thickness. As my vessels are generally small and lightweight, I use 3/4" plywood for the faceplate circle, and 1/4" plywood for the ring. For heavier pieces, you may want to use thicker plywood.

Attach two (or more) pieces of plywood face to face with double stick tape.

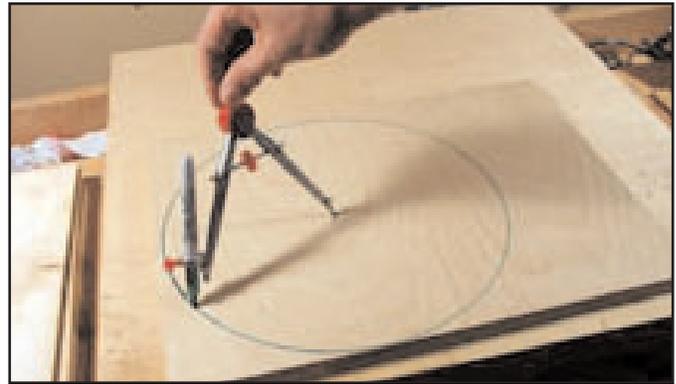


Figure 1: Layout circles.

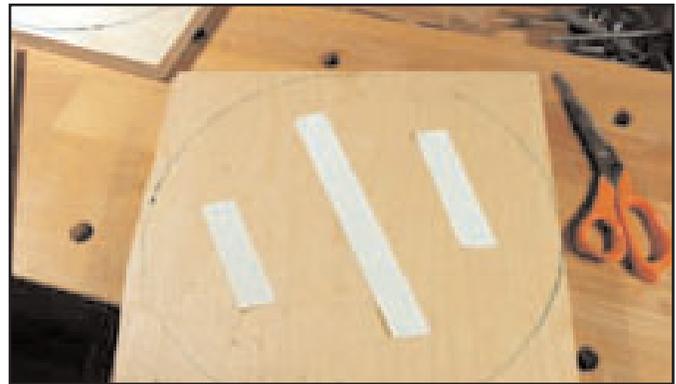


Figure 2: Tape circle together.



Figure 3: Bandsaw circles.



Figure 4: Drill holes.

Cut this stack of plywood into circles with a bandsaw. The diameter of these circles should be at least two inches larger than the diameter of the largest bowl (or vessel) for which the chuck will be used.

While the plywood circles are still connected by the tape, drill three (or more) equally spaced holes centered approximately 1/2" in from the outer diameter of the circles. The diameter of these holes depends on the bolts you will be using. (I use 1/4" bolts of lengths ranging from 3" to 6".)

Bolt the circles together.

Attach the faceplate circle to a faceplate with screws of appropriate length.

Mount the entire assembly on the lathe.

True up the outer edges of the circles on the lathe.

Mark the edges of the circles so that you can align them the same way each time.

With a parting tool, remove a circle of an appropriate size to create the plywood ring. Note that the diameter of the opening in this ring should be large enough to allow the foot of the bowl to be fully exposed for the reverse turning, but not too large. I make several different rings with openings of various diameters so that the chuck system can accommodate a wide range of turnings.

Dismantle the assembly.

Cut some protective foam padding and glue it to the surfaces of the faceplate circle and the ring where they will touch the turning.

You are now ready to use the chuck.

Mount the bowl in the chuck with the rim on the faceplate circle and the bottom protruding through the ring. Secure with bolts, being careful to put the wingnuts on the headstock side.

IMPORTANT SAFETY NOTE:

Always put the head of the bolt on the tailstock side and the wing nuts behind the faceplate circle on the headstock side. Be sure to keep your fingers away from those spinning wing nuts!



Figure 5



Figure 6: True up sides.



Figure 7: Mark edges.



Figure 8: Remove circle.

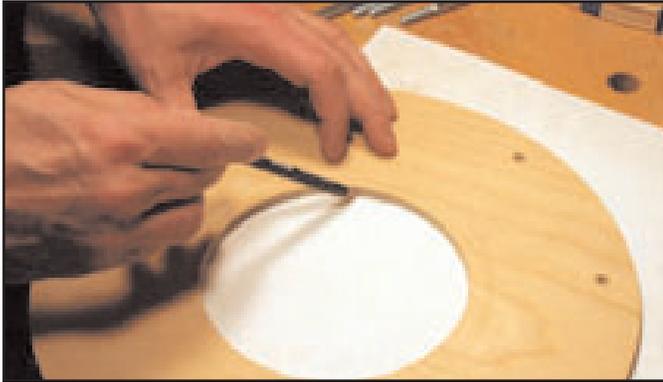


Figure 9: Mark foam for cutting.

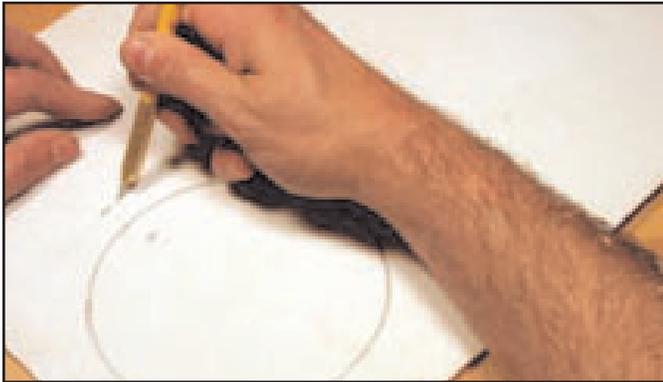


Figure 10: Cut foam ring.



Figure 11: Mounted bowl.



Figure 12: Turn bottom.



Figure 13: Added cone for hollow vessels.

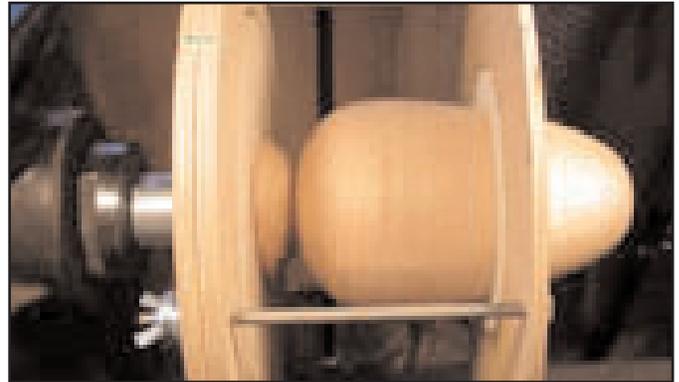


Figure 14: Mounted hollow vessel.

Mount the assembly on the lathe. The tailstock can be used to align the center of the bowl and hold it in position as you tighten the wingnuts. Don't over tighten, as it is possible to crack a thin bowl.

When the chuck is fully tightened, you can turn the bottom. I usually leave the tailstock in place as long as possible for safety, but it can be removed for completing the bottom. I always use this chuck at a fairly low speed – perhaps 600 or 800 rpm at maximum.

The hollow vessels that I turn have small entrance holes – from 1" to 2" in diameter. To aid in aligning a vessel, I add a wooden cone in the center of the faceplate.



*This article originally appeared in Canadian Woodworking Magazine
Check out their web site at
<http://www.canadianwoodworking.com>*

UPCOMING EVENTS

Fred Baldwin – Educational Co-ordinator

Guest presenters for upcoming meetings are as follows:

JANUARY 22, 2003 – Bowls can have handles – really – and John Bese will take on this challenge.

FEBRUARY 26, 2003 – Les Jovsa “The Wood Guy” from Forintek Canada will talk about the Basics of Wood Structure and Tree Growth.

MARCH 26 – This months theme will be either Thin turnings and or square bowls by Jack Wayne of the AAW Seattle Chapter.

APRIL 23 – Ron David from Vancouver Island will be discussing/demonstrating design, function and thin turning. (He currently has a show at the Hong Kong Bank, downtown) .

MAY 28 – Have you ever seen soap stone turned on a lathe? Phil Laliberte will demonstrate and give us pointers on using this stone.

JUNE 25 – Michael Werner form the North West wood turners will do a presentation on offset turning. I have asked Michael to show us the “hands” he did for the AAW symposium.

That’s all so far. For future meetings if you have any suggestions please give me a call – 604-531-9395 or email me at fbaldwin@shaw.ca.



CLASSIFIED

FOR SALE: Set of 6 oak chairs. These (antique) chairs are not much good as chairs themselves but the backs (including the back legs) are nicely carved and are in good shape: The rest of the chair was poorly designed. They would be a good start for anyone planning on building a set of chairs. \$100 obo. Ed Pretty: 604-888-5981.

FREE TO GOOD HOME: Assorted Lee Valley catalogues. Includes almost all main catalogues and flyers from early eighties. Also includes most issues of “Woodcuts” magazine. Get ’em before I toss ’em. Ed Pretty: 604-888-5981.

FOR SALE: The guild still has a few Boathouse Dining certificates left – just in time for that Valentine dinner with someone special. They are good until October 31, 2003. \$25 Certificates are only \$20 and the money goes to sponsor guild events. See Ross Pilgrim at the January meeting or call 604 985 6423.

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