



GREATER VANCOUVER
WOODTURNERS
GUILD

CHAPTER 130 OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS



VOLUME FIVE – ISSUE ONE

SEPTEMBER 2003

CONTENTS

President's Column.....	1
Phill Brennion demo.....	2
J.Paul Fennell demo.....	2
Knee Deep In Shavings.....	3
Appreciating Segmented Turning.....	4
AAW Annual Collaborative Challenge.....	5
Pasadena 2003.....	6
Provo 2003 versus Pasadena 2003.....	6
It's That Time Again.....	6
History Lesson.....	7
Editor's Note.....	7
West Coast Woodturning Comp.....	8
Obituaries.....	8

NEXT MEETING:

SEPTEMBER 24, 2003

Sapperton Pensioners Hall
318 Keary St, New Westminster
Meeting starts at 6.30

This month's meeting will be devoted to the registration of members for the coming year. Please bring your \$30 membership fee.

President's challenge for this month:
An example of off-centre turning.

Food providers:

Claudia Hayward, Robert Hobson, Gerry Hodgins,
Ernie Hooge, Don Hoskins, Sandy Howkins,
Keith Hudson, Michelle Jacobs.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Art Liestman

Well, that was a pretty action-packed summer for a club that doesn't hold regular meetings in July or August!

Throughout the summer, we participated in a Shop Crawl series, held jointly with the Fraser Valley Woodturners. Thanks to all the members who opened up their shops and shared ideas. I had a great time at the few that I managed to attend and am sure that the others were equally well appreciated.

In July, we held two organized events - an informal meeting at the hall on July 23rd and a picnic held on July 27th. The meeting focused on turning tops. We had 8 or 9 lathes there and kept them all turning with members making tops or showing others their special turning and decorating techniques.

The picnic was a great success thanks to our wonderful hosts Sandy and Sharon Howkins. It was a lovely venue for lawn games, feasting, and auctioning. Thanks again, Howkinses!! Speaking of the auction, thanks to the generous donors (both members of the guild and our visiting demonstrators) for donating the items to be auctioned. Thanks also to the members (and non-member friends and family) who purchased the items in the auction. I'm pleased to report that the auction brought in just under \$2700 for the guild..

The August meeting was planned to be informal, but a change of plans allowed us to present a special demonstration by Don Derry, a professional woodturner from Ellensburg, Washington. Those who attended were treated to an entertaining evening of hollow turning by one of the masters.

Remember, the President's challenge for September (issued by the VP while the P was off playing in California) is something with off-centre turning. Let's see what you've got! You have had 3 months to work on it! Seriously though, we have a lot of exciting events coming up this year, and some planned for further in the future. I'm looking forward to seeing you all in September.

Phil Brennon Demo and Class

Art Liestman

We are happy to announce that Phil Brennon, a woodturner from Chino Valley, Arizona will be here Oct. 4th and 5th for a demonstration and a hands-on class.

Phil Brennon, a professional woodworker since 1976, resides in central Arizona. For the last 16 years, turning vessels has been the main focus of his art. His work has been influenced greatly by the images and cultures of the Southwest and appears in collections around the world. Surface treatments, along with Pueblo forms and design elements, used on and off the lathe, have become his recognized specialty. Phil produces works primarily for galleries. He enjoys writing articles and teaching woodturning through classes and seminars. Articles on his turning designs and techniques have appeared in numerous magazines, including WOOD and American Woodturner. Phil is one of the owners of Arts Prescott, a Co-Operative Art Gallery in Prescott, Arizona. He currently consults on woodturning to WOOD magazine as well as hosting the woodturning discussion group at WOOD ONLINE. Last, but not least, Phil is also the current President of the American Association of Woodturners.

On Saturday, Oct 4th, Phil will give a demo at the Sapperton Pensioners Hall from 9:30 am to around 4 pm. Please bring along a lunch so you don't miss any of the fun. There is a \$25 charge to attend the demo. (If you can pay in advance at the September meeting, it would be appreciated.) The demonstration will focus on Native American form and design, and how principles of design and their creative process can help develop your own personal style of turning. Innovative surface treatments as well as other design elements will be discussed and shown. The intent is to help develop both techniques and imagination. Having seen Phil do several demos over the past 5 years, I can add that he's a very entertaining demonstrator. I promise he will show some techniques that you have never considered!

On Sunday, Oct. 5th, Phil will teach a hands-on class for up to 6 participants at KMS Tools in Coquitlam. The class will include hollow turning, but if participants are not experienced hollow turners, open vessel turning may be substituted. The class emphasis will be on creativity and various surface techniques that will help participants along the way to experimenting with new approaches to their own work. (Principles of design as well as elements of design will be a strong part of the class.) Participants should bring any ornamenting equipment (carvers, burners, chisels, paints) and an open mind. No turquoise or inlays will be allowed, though! Turning blanks will be provided. The class fee is \$150. 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.

For more information on Phil, check his web pages at www.kestrelcreek.com/AIR/Phil_Brennon.htm.





EXAMPLES OF PHILL BRENNION'S WORK

J. Paul Fennell Demo

Art Liestman

We are happy to announce that J. Paul Fennell, a woodturner from Scottsdale, Arizona, will be here November 15th for a full-day demonstration at the Sapperton Pensioners Hall. I'll give you lots more information in the next newsletter, but put it on your calendar now!

As a teaser, I'll suggest you hope for a cloudy day since Paul turns with the assistance of fibreoptics! Check out www.woodturnersresource.com/jpaulfennell.803.html if you are curious to see more of Paul's work. If you want to see the fibreoptics, though, you'll just have to be there!

Knee Deep In Shavings – A Week of Turning in Provo

Claudia Hayward

In July I was fortunate to attend a one week woodturning course in Provo, Utah. After an inauspicious start at Vancouver airport where I spent 2 ½ hours lined up with a weeks worth of cruise ship passengers and worrying whether I would make my flight, everything fell nicely into place and I arrived in Salt Lake City and hopped on the shuttle to Provo.

Monday morning bright and early the hotel provided a van to shuttle the students to the class. The classes are put on by CraftSupplies USA, one of the largest suppliers of woodturning tools and supplies in the US. Several years ago they built a classroom large enough for 11 students, each with their own lathe and tools. The courses, which are a week long, range from basic to advanced and are taught by a variety of well-known turners. I registered for a basic course with Stuart Batty, who is not only an accomplished turner but also a gifted teacher. There were 10 students in the course, from complete beginners to fairly experienced turners who had taken several other courses and had been turning for years. They came from as far away as Indiana and Tennessee – I was the only Canadian. Stuart claims that both his basic and intermediate course are taught the same way, the difference being that he demands better work from the more experienced turners. Everyone who took the course was really satisfied.

Stuart believes in keeping things simple. He concentrates on the basics, which provide the foundation for becoming a competent turner – tool sharpness, grain, tool rest position, lathe speed, stance and chucking. We learned to sharpen tools without using jigs – it was nice to practice on tools that didn't belong to you! Basic spindle technique was covered (what not to do with a skew), then we moved on to simple bowls, boxes, square bowls and spheres. Most of the day was spent at the lathe with Stuart providing assistance as necessary. Demos and chalk talk were kept to a minimum although I did manage to come back with many pages of notes! Not only does Stuart show you the right way to do something (and make it look easy) but he explains the "why" of doing it that way, which provides a good foundation for problem solving later back in one's own shop. One of the best things about the course was to be able to immerse oneself in turning for an entire week with no other interruptions or commitments.

It was a terrific experience and I can highly recommend it to anyone that wants to improve their turning, meet new woodturners and learn a lot!

Appreciating Segmented Work

Bruce Campbell

I love to look at segmented pieces. I am not interested in trying this form for myself and thus I can look at them purely as art. Each piece is clearly the result of many hours of meticulous work, yet most final products are sadly lacking. Turned pieces must first survive on the strength of their shape. It does not matter how well the segmenting is done, if the shape is poor then the piece is diminished. At the recent AAW Symposium in Pasadena, CA, there were a number of segmented pieces but most were not good shapes and the hard work on the pieces was lost.

Good shape and an excellent glue job are not enough in segmenting. Turners are introducing colour and pattern into each piece and those elements must also complement the shape and balance of the form. If the pattern consisted of a single dark line then the traditional One-Third Rule might work. But segmented work usually consists of lots of bands and patterns. To put these in proper balance with the shape is a challenge indeed and I doubt we even have good design rules that cover that area. I think the "art" of segmented turning is much more complicated than most of us realize.

The downside of this added complication is that few "get it right" but the reward is that some do. Consider Mr. Shuler's excellent example that was on display in Pasadena:



For me this piece is a wonderful example of the melding of shape, colour and pattern. The curved lines in the pattern complement the shape of the bowl and echo the overall curve of the piece. Meanwhile, the pattern lends a starburst effect that opens the piece and invites you to explore the depth of the bowl. Finally, the finish is very well done which adds to the feeling of quality.

I call on all segmented turners to embrace the wider problem and wrestle to balance all the factors you are faced with. That way I will get to see many more examples of beautiful segmented turning.

AAW Annual Collaborative Challenge

Larry Stevenson

We did it!! We won first place in the Fantasy Category for our entry “I SCREAM”. It was interesting to hear the comments from the attendees at the symposium. Better yet was to watch the reactions. Most people looked, laughed, picked out their favorite cone and then changed it to a new favorite and then a new favorite again. There were lots of smiles, laughs and entertainment. Which was the point, wasn't it. There were even a few people that doubted our sanity. (Not just our own members!) Other members of our guild that were in attendance had similar experiences of watching people's reactions. So I would like to thank everyone who participated in our entry. Here is the list of all the participants:

Fred Baldwin, Marco Berera, Don Bishop, Tom Byrom, Bruce Campbell, Gary Cormier, Colin Delory, Andrew Forrest, Ted Fromson, Merv Graham, Gerry Hodgins, Michelle Jacobs, Steve Kent, Al Koehn, Phil Laliberte, Art Liestman, David MacDonald, Bob Macgregor, Gina Myhill-Jones, Ralph Myhill-Jones, Gregg Parsons, Wayne Pilchak, Ross Pilgrim, Lance Rossington, Len Sawyer, Rich Schmid, Doug Schop, Larry Stevenson, and Les Trelenberg.

When you see any of these people, give them a pat on the back and thank them. Now the big question is “What do we do with it?”. I would like to see it on display somewhere or in some art show or something. Not much good sitting in my basement in a box. Ideally it would be nice to have it available for our public events such as the Wood Show at the Cloverdale Fairgrounds. I would like to get some feedback on this and hopefully some participants to take it the next step.

In closing I would like to thank Tom Byrom, who trucked the bundle down to Pasadena and back as well as made sure it got to the symposium at a predetermined time. Thanks Tom for going the extra distance.



Thanks to Steve Hansen for the great picture.

Pasadena 2003

Larry Stevenson

Rather than comment too much on the symposium let's talk about other experiences. While on the lookout at all times, I never did find or see "The Terror of Colorado Boulevard". Go granny, go granny, go granny, go! However I may have missed her as there was a car show on Colorado Boulevard on Sunday complete with rods and classics. And what about the meals. A certain member, that shall remain nameless, Fred Baldwin, dragged two good members, both dedicated husbands, to an eating establishment by the name of Hooters. Now, I'm not sure, but the place was a tad noisy and the food wasn't exceptional, so I'm guessing that there was another quality that Fred was looking for other than the fact that he found a discount coupon in our symposium package. Could it have anything to do with the names of the waitresses, such as Baby and Brandi or Fluffy or whatever. Surely Fred isn't that shallow or interested in such young females at his age. But I suppose we can still dream. The fellowship was great, and many laughs and good times had by all.

Provo 2002 versus Pasadena 2003

Tom Byrom

I must start by saying that I enjoyed both symposiums and have no complaints directed at either. The talent of the presenters at both events was equal and in fact some demonstrated at both. I thought the "Craft Supply Days" the day before the Provo Symposium, complete with demos and special buys, was terrific and my Master Card showed it on my return home. But on the other hand, the "Vendors Show" at Pasadena was also informative and had some specials as well.

At Provo I saw different demos than at Pasadena partly because I was at a different level of expertise and interest and I wanted to see other world-class turners. The organization in both events was about equal. Although I thought that Provo was a bit more smoothly run especially with the banquet.

The one positive difference was the Collaborative Challenge at Pasadena. The fellowship and knowledge gained in the design, making, and texturing of our entry. The bonding with other club members in the assembly and the taking down of our club's display was rewarding in itself. The joy of hearing the thoughts and comments of turners from other clubs about our entry would warm the hearts and put a smile on the faces of all that helped with this project.

Both symposiums were fantastic and very rewarding to me. I would recommend that club members search out dates of some upcoming symposiums and make plans to attend at least one next year

It's That Time Again

Larry Stevenson

Once again it's a new club year and membership fees are due. There is always a lot of activity around this time of the year and I would appreciate everyone trying to make things run as smoothly as possible.

Single member dues are \$30.00 / year and \$50.00 for family (2 people). As well as paying dues you will need to sign the agreement form. Please make sure that email addresses and other logistical data are correct. This is important for our phone out list and for notification of newsletters. The dues are paid to the treasurer (Ted Fromson) and I deal with the forms. We will both try to be available early for the next few meetings in order that people can pay prior to the beginning of the meeting. During the meeting we want to keep the noise down so we will shut down until the break. Please try to have correct change or a cheque made out to "Greater Vancouver Woodturners Guild". In the past, people have requested a membership list and this is only practical when everyone is paid up. So, please try to take care of this in the first few meetings and let's not drag it on into 2004. Thank you for your anticipated cooperation.

History Lesson

Anne Rostvig

I recently read that St Catherine is the patron saint of woodturners. St Catherine was a woman renowned for her beauty, but also for her learning. She was reputedly martyred in Alexandria, Egypt in the 5th century. Refusing to renounce her faith, she was condemned to death by torture, the chosen method being 'turned' on a spiked wheel. Apparently God recognized a true righteous spirit and broke the wheel, saving her life. Unfortunately, her persecutors were not to be denied as she was later beheaded! Legend has it that angels transported her body to Mount Sinai, where a monastery was later built in her name.

St Catherine gave her name to the firework, the Catherine wheel. As well as woodturners, she is also claimed by wheelwrights, saddlers and ropemakers. Because of her great learning, she is the patron of philosophers and of eloquence. The Worshipful Company of Turners adopted her as their patron saint in 1634. St Catherine's feast day is November 25th and it is celebrated every year with a service at St Bride's Church, Fleet St, in the City of London.



Editor's Note

Anne Rostvig

New year, new format, new content.

I hope you like the new layout of the newsletter. Let me know your thoughts and suggestions for improvement. And for all of you who are not receiving my e-mail messages, please let me know by e-mailing gvwgnews@yahoo.ca.

Moving house has made it a hectic summer for me, with no time for turning. No space either as I still have to build a shop. However, the time wasn't completely wasted. I received a complementary copy of an instruction manual written by Duncan Askew of Cornwall, England. I will bring it to the next meeting, together with some brochures. It is unique in that the pages are removable and laminated so that they can be used while actually working on the lathe. One of the problems I have with how-to books and videos is that it is seldom possible to use them while actually working. This solves the problem beautifully. My thanks to Duncan for the gift. You can visit him at www.anduecraft.com. In a bizarre quirk of fate, I discovered that he is married to my neighbour and friend from high school in England! We lost touch over 30 years ago!

West Coast Woodturning Comp.

Ross Pilgrim

Once again the GVWG will be hosting the West Coast Woodturning Competition in conjunction with the Cloverdale Wood Show Oct 31 to Nov. 2 2003. Some changes to the categories have been made since last year. \$3500 in cash prizes will be awarded by judges this year. In addition there will be merchandise prizes awarded by draw, with each entry standing an equal chance of winning. So.... members, get that entry finished by the deadline of Oct 21st. Entry form is available on the GVWG Website or from Andrew Forrest 604 990 9667. The Boathouse Restaurant has once again given us a quantity of \$25 dining certificates which we will sell for \$20 each to raise prize money for the competition. The certificates are valid for a year so that will give lots of time to use them for a personal special occasion, business entertaining, or Christmas gifts. Your support is appreciated. The woodshow is under new Western ownership this year. Canwest Shows appear much more interested in us and have granted additional space that we will use for demo and fundraising purposes. Merv Graham will be organizing turners to demo turning tops and other small items that we will sell as a fund raiser for expenses and the club's benefit. If we all pull together we can once again cover expenses and hopefully make a contribution to the guild's education fund.

Obituaries

Steve Hansen

It is with great sadness that I tell you of the passing of two of our members.

Bill Luck passed away on September 2, 2003. Bill was a very friendly man and a great student of turning and design. Many of us had the pleasure of enjoying his turnings and input during the *Discussion forum on finished pieces*, and we shared ideas with him at break time. We will all miss his friendly face and camaraderie.

Also departing was Leif Hansen, in June. Leif was a quiet gentleman and made friends with many of us. He was just beginning to become part of the crowd when life was cut too short. The guild expresses its deepest sympathy to family and friends of both these fine people. We are all glad to have known Bill and Leif.

GVWG Officers, Appointees and Volunteers

PRESIDENT	
Art Liestman	604-939-3483
VICE PRESIDENT	
Bruce Campbell	604-944-3028
SECRETARY	
Larry Stevenson	604-438-3947
TREASURER	
Ted Fromson	604-876-0267
MEMBERS AT LARGE	
Fred Baldwin	604-531-9395
Colin Delory	604-576-1172
Andrew Forrest	604-990-9667
Steve Hansen	604-585-0638
Gina Myhill-Jones	604-298-5472
Ross Pilgrim	604-985-6423
FOF COORDINATOR	
Bob James	604-980-9192
EDUCATIONAL COORDINATOR	
Tom Byrom	604-929-1766
MENTOR PROGRAM ORGANIZER	
Al Koehn	604-273-6995
LIBRARIANS	
Michelle Jacobs	604-581-7097
Russ Selwood	604-224-4126
WOOD EXCHANGER	
Steve Kent	604-937-0145
FOOD CHIEF	
Rich Schmid	604-538-7012
NEWSLETTER	
Anne Rostvig	604-467-2755
gvwgnews@yahoo.ca	
DIGITAL PHOTO GUY	
John Flanagan	604-777-1133
WEBMASTER	
Mark Bese	604-581-8807
markbese@shaw.ca	