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NEXT MEETING

MARCH 24, 2004

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

Focus on Fundamentals

Discussion forum on finished pieces
 Basic Cuts I – cutting with a spindle gouge
 and a parting tool
 Sharpening II – free-hand sharpening a
 skew, roughing gouge and scraper

Main Event

Dave Warren of Stihl Canada and John
 from Fraser Valley Equipment will be
 discussing chainsaw safety

Food Providers

Gerry Vickers, Anthony Wade, Philip
 Wade, David Wagner, John Weir, Erv
 Wildeman, Des Wilson, John Wood

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Bruce Campbell

Last month our main speaker was Colin
 Delory who gave us an excellent overview
 of his amazing open-segmented pieces.
 Thanks, Colin. Afterwards we held our
 Annual General Meeting and elected a new
 President (me), Steve Hansen as our new
 VP, Larry Stevenson for a second term as
 Secretary, and Marco Berera as a new
 member-at-large. See the last page for
 contact info on all the executives, new and
 old.

In my first President's Column I want to
 thank our founding chairperson, Art
 Leistman for five excellent years of service.
 From that first organizational meeting in
 1999 to his last duties as president Art has
 given unselfishly and skilfully and we have
 all benefited from his leadership,
 organizational skill and dedication. I am
 sure I am joined by many others in saying,
 "Thanks, Art".

Rather than cancel the hall booking for April
 17th we have decided to hold a Turning 101
 session. This will be a small projects
 seminar lead by selected members and
 targeted to new turners and those who want
 to improve their skills. Wood and lathes
 will be provided but each person should
 bring their own tools. There will be a fee to
 cover the cost of the hall.

Art's last President's Challenge was to bring
 "something" and you did. Wow, what a
 display! This month the challenge is
 something "Big & Small" so let your
 imagination run wild and bring the result(s)
 to the meeting.

TRIBUTES TO OUR PAST PRESIDENT

Bruce Campbell

I met Art Leistman at the first organizational meeting of the GVWG and was immediately struck by his calm and open character as well as his remarkable ability to get things done. Over the last five years that initial impression has been re-enforced time and time again. Art also has a terrific ability to include others and is constantly striving to get different people to do things. As a result, we have a terrific Guild to which lots of folks contribute.

In the last five years Art has always been one of the first ones at the monthly meeting and one of the last to leave - often doing much of the set-up and teardown. At every meeting I have attended he has been very well organized and has always chaired the events very well. In addition, Art is responsible for the amazing string of world-class turners that have visited us in the last five years.

Above all of this Art has become a world-class turner in his own right. Few people know the heights that Art has reached. He is represented by Del Mano's one of the very best turning galleries in North America and has been featured in a number of publications and shows as well as making his demonstration debut with four rotations at the 2004 AAW Symposium in Pasadena, California. Yet Art remains a quiet, humble, and sincere individual. Someone who has enriched my turning career but, more importantly, has enriched my life.

Ted Fromson

I have known Art for some 8 years and there is not one moment or anecdote that would sum my association with him. Mostly I think of the things he does and his principles. His sense of humour, his sense of friendship, his drive and determination and his willingness to work to get things done. He was the driving force in starting this club and I hope he will continue to have a long and satisfying relationship with all of us.

Anne Rostvig

Although I have been a member of the Guild for only a couple of years, I quickly realized what a pivotal role Art played in the success of the group. Chairing a meeting of so many members, many of whom preferred to talk than listen, required a blend of familiarity and discipline that is hard to achieve. Art's strength of character and patience combined with his sense of humour have helped the meetings flow smoothly and enabled us to be home before midnight!

When I took over as editor of the newsletter, Art guided me, supported me and helped me. He is constantly looking for new sources of information of interest to members and smoothing the way for me to obtain the right to publish articles from outside the community.

I know enough about Art that he will be embarrassed by any more praise, so I just want to thank him for the enormous achievement of launching this club, and for his devotion to the organization and its members. Thanks from me personally for your encouragement and patience.

FEBRUARY DEMO – COLIN DELORY

Doug Schop

After years of seeing the beautiful segmented vessels that Colin makes, I was pleased to see him come to the last meeting to explain how they are done. Because of the time constraints on segmented work he could not actually produce a piece, however he explained in detail what was involved in cutting the pieces, sizing them, and finally the jig used to glue them together. As Colin explains it, it seems so simple. It isn't. Each segment has to be cut to precise depth and angle. Each segment after cutting is filed in a container for that particular row. And when all segments have been cut the assembly begins.

Using a jig that he has created Colin turns the base of the vessel on the headstock, again using a degree jig he has made, and carefully glues each segment in place using yellow glue. Then he moves to the next segment and so on until the row is complete.

Then it's on to the next row and so on until the vessel is complete. The combination of the wood colours and the positioning of the rows are just another challenge. Colin describes it as quite simple, but as he actually assembled a row, we could see there is a good deal of work involved. The final truing of the outside of the vessel is done using another jig that Colin has made to support the vessel solidly enough that it can be lightly turned and sanded. Then the finish is applied. Finally a beautiful vessel that shows the hours of preparation and care that was required to make it.

Great work Colin



SANDING ADVICE

Brad Vietje

I've been working with a newbie turner recently, who was having problems with scratches -- he'd sanded up through the grits, from 80 - 400, and still had scratches that were hard to sand out, especially in the end grain. As turners, we deal almost exclusively with end grain, and those things that are side grain are usually sanded sideways, which shows scratches pretty readily.

Turns out, he went from one abrasive to the next, to the next, then was surprised to find scratches. The key to avoiding this is to keep your abrasives separate, if possible, and especially, to clean the workpiece between grits. As we sand the wood, quite a few abrasive particles come off the surface of the sandpaper, (depending on the brand, paper vs cloth, wet or dry, etc...) Most of these little gritties go flying around the room, (remember that mask !) but some become embedded in the open pores of the wood.

If a few 180 grit particles decide to dislodge when you are really enjoying the developing sheen at 400 or 600 or so, you will get nasty little scratches that tend to show up most in the end grain where they require a reversal of grits, and a good deal of work, to remove.

To avoid this, use a compressor, compressed air canisters, or even a vacuum to clean the surface of the wood between grits. The more little grit particles you remove, the better your final finish will look. This is also true at the end of all sanding -- don't lock the grit and dust in those pores with your finish ! Fine grained woods like Maple, Boxwood or Hophornbeam have fewer problems with grit packing in the pores, while woods with open pores, such as Oak, Padauk, Walnut, and Ash are the most problematic. If you are trying for a high-gloss, mirror finish, this is especially important ! This is where the optical part comes in:

One of my other hobbies is astronomy and telescope making, by which I mean grinding and polishing the glass optics by hand. We not only go for a "mirror-like" surface, we actually grind and polish a parabolic curved mirror, and one that is hundreds of times more precise than the one we look in when scrubbing our teeth. The grits used in optical work are essentially the same as in woodworking, though optical grade abrasives are much more expensive because they are graded much more carefully for size. We use the same Silicon Carbide (carborundum), Aluminum Oxide, Emory, and, in some cases, Garnet.

The lesson from optical work is in cleanliness, and carefully cleaning up between 120 and 180 and 220, etc... Believe it or not, you can actually make a telescope by hand, in your basement, without fancy machines, that will easily out-perform all but the most expensive telescopes you can buy, if you can only master the cleanliness part. Just one little particle of 220 that dances across a mirror being polished to a tolerance of a few millionths of an inch, can create a real mess!

If you haven't taken the time to carefully blow off all traces of grit and dust between abrasives, "Try it -- you'll like it !" You'll save a lot of time, and get a nicer looking finish, too.

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MORE ON JIMMY CLEWES

Marco Berera

After picking up some great tips on the Saturday Demo with Jimmy, I looked forward to taking part in the hands on seminar Monday morning.

At 8:15 we parked our cars and were ready to attack a freshly cut cherry log. Mine was very round but the pith had to be off centre, otherwise you could get some "lovely" cracking. Working on the Nova 300 DVR Variable with variable speed control was a joy. I have a Preston with flat belt pulleys and my quick slow down is by letting the belt slip. We started out by getting instruction on how to develop an open vessel. We formed the inside first, then the outside. For me, it was kind of backwards but now when I look back, it makes sense for that kind of shape (Easter lily). Jimmy was always ready for a quick: "Can I show you something?" He never put you down or said "Why are you doing it this way?" He showed us how to get a smooth finish with a scraper, shear scraping. Colouring the top of the bowl was another step he taught us, including shading. I would recommend that everyone should attend a seminar to get personal instruction and have great fellowship.

Lance Rossington

Jimmy, like most of the visiting turners, is a master, and just watching them work gives me a continuous set of notes on small things I could do better. Very personable and hardworking for the class, Jimmy was around to us all and I think I was on the lathe close to 8 hours that day!! He did stress many times that it was just his way he was showing us and that there were many "right" ways to do things. He even went so far as to sympathize with us that he was sure we became confused by the different approaches we would be shown over a period of time for the same procedure. Deep hollowing was very new to me and I enjoyed the opportunity to see three different tools work (even if I couldn't make up my mind which one was the best all round for me).

Gregg Parsons

I found Jimmy to be a very 'up front' kind of person. He was very patient and very good at showing how to 'get' a particular technique. I was very happy to come away with 2 projects. He was very willing to go 'a little over time' (like 3 hrs) so that we could get the experience of a second style of bowl. All in all a great day, a great teacher, a great experience. I learned so much. Thank you GVWG for bringing professionals like Jimmy here.

ON THE MEND

Larry Stevenson

Just thought I'd drop a line to let everyone know that my surgery went well and I'm feeling better than I have in a very long time. I am no longer stooped over and am walking 25 minutes, twice a day. This is something I haven't been able to do for the best part of a year. I'd like to thank everyone for their support, visits and phone calls. I have felt overwhelmed by the support of our members. It has shown me that we are more than just a group of woodturners that get together once a month to talk chips. You have demonstrated a deep level of friendship and caring that exists within our guild. I feel truly blessed for knowing each and everyone of you. Thank you!

PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE

Wow! The group really responded to Art's final challenge. He requested that every member bring something to show, and it was a treat to see so many members represented.



Art's cobra puzzle



Larry's Southwest hollow form with leather



Gina's spalted birch bowl



Tom Kilgour's monkey puzzle bowl



Doug Schop's laurel bowl with stained trim. Sandy Howkins willow burl and bloodwood





RACAL AS200 AIR HELMET BATTERIES

Larry Stevenson

Does anyone other than me like to save money? Do you own a Racal Air Helmet and need a new battery? If so, this may be of interest to you

Another member in our guild was talking to me about new batteries for his helmet and I mentioned to him about a supplier that I deal with at work. This supplier puts together cells to our specs for whatever we need them for. Is that vague enough for you? I got them to put together some cells for a replacement for the depleted battery for this particular battery pack.

The price quoted for the battery pack in a catalogue for a supplier of this helmet is \$185.00. This includes the entire battery assembly that has the case, switch and belt clip. If you wish to rebuild your own battery pack, you can purchase the cells all ready to solder in, delivered to your door for \$64.03. I had Wise Labs put the specs on their database for future orders. If you need this pack, quote “4030 Racal Air Helmet” and this will get you the correct battery. The supplier is Wise Laboratories Ltd, 8090 – 110 St., Delta BC, 604-594-5028. The fellow to talk to is Keith and mention that I referred you. He is a great guy to deal with.

To open up your battery pack, remove the screw on the belt clip. The top part of the pack’s housing has a partial solvent bond to the lower case. To break this bond, gently squeeze the pack in a vise, just under the top, remembering I said **gently**. You may have to ease it away with the blade of a screwdriver. Take your time. If it doesn’t release try to squeeze from the other direction. Once it comes apart the battery is held in place with a sheet of rubber to prevent it from rattling. Gently pull up on the battery and it will slide up and out of the case. Cut the leads, one at a time, taking note of wire colour and polarity and solder in the new battery. Reassemble, this time drilling and installing a self-tapping screw on the opposite side from the screw that goes through the belt clip. Charge and you are on your way.

This price was in September of 2003 and may vary dependent on postal rates and fluctuation in battery cell prices.

NOTES

Club members are invited to enter their turnings in the annual Richmond Carving Show coming up on the May 15/16th weekend, in Steveston. Anyone wishing an entry brochure can phone me and I will mail one out to you.

Len Sawyer 604-266-3913.

The GVWG will once again be showcasing its talents with an active display at the show, and volunteers are needed to show off the good work that we do. Signup sheets will be available at the March and April meetings. For further information contact Merv Graham at mervgraham@shaw.ca or Gregg Parsons at dgparsons@shaw.ca

My thanks to the following members for the response to my appeal for bowls for A Loving Spoonful's fund raiser. At the moment the total is 44 and still counting.

Art Liestman, Bob James, Bruce Campbell, Larry Stevenson, Keith Hudson, Tom Byrom, Gary Miller, Ernie Hooge, Lance Rossington, Erv Wildeman, Norm Forshaw, Merv Graham, Gina Myhill-Jones, John Weir, Gordon Rosenthal, Bill Kennedy, Don Hoskins, Stan Clarke, Rich Schmid.

Bob McConnell

CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE

Woodchuck Router Lathe (MR12)

All accessories

Offers and more info - contact Ed King at 530-4640

THE FINAL WORD!

Stan Clarke

Art Liestman past pres of woodturners
Cared for advanced and the learners
With gavel and shouts
He silenced the louts
His meetings were thanks and praise
earnings.

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