



GREATER VANCOUVER  
**WOODTURNERS**  
 GUILD  
 CHAPTER 130 OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS



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FEBRUARY, 2005

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**NEXT MEETING**

**FEBRUARY 23, 2005**

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

**Forum on Form & Finish:**

Bring in a completed piece and receive valuable input from other turners.

**Focus on Fundamentals & Beyond the Basics:**

Andrew Forrest will demonstrate Sharpening II - Free hand sharpening a skew, roughing gouge, and a scraper. Larry Stevenson is going to demonstrate tools & cuts for hollow forms.

**Main Event:**

TBA

**February Food Providers:**

JoAnne Kazienko, Bill Kennedy, Steve Kent, Tom Kilgour, Al Koehn, Olaf Lepper, Georges Leroux, Art Liestman

**PRESIDENT'S COLUMN:**

*Bruce Campbell*

Last month we tried a new format with two speakers. First, Christina Clarke spoke on the very complex topic of colour. She discussed values and tones, how to use a colour wheel to mix colours and how different colours influence us emotionally. It was packed with information and gave us lots to think about.

Our main speaker was our founding president and well-known artist, Art Liestman. Art spoke about refining our work to take it to its highest possible quality - regardless of what it is. He introduced some techniques of refining curves to make them as smooth as possible and then spoke of his adopted philosophy that "good enough isn't". Isn't what, you ask? It simply isn't good enough. He recommended that we always make each piece as good as we can make it since it will very likely be around for a while - perhaps longer than us. Thanks, Art. Speaking personally I got a lot from your presentation.

A special thanks to Bob Gadd who delivered a eulogy for John Bese, one of the six founding members of the Guild. Look below for members stories about John and the impact he made on wood turning.

The President's Challenge of a Turned Stand went well last month with thirteen examples presented. Thanks to all that took that challenge. This month the challenge is to make something that is sanded to 2000 grit or higher.

Finally, we will hold our annual AGM this month with executive positions for Treasurer and Vice President up for re-election. If you are interested in running please contact one of the Nomination Committee - Andrew Forrest or Art Liestman.

# John Bese

## In Memoriam

On Dec. 31, 2004 John Bese passed away. We lost one of the founding members of the GVWG, and a stalwart woodturner who brought many to the craft through his classes. Some of our members have contributed their memories of John and his contributions to the community and their lives..

Dear John

How fondly I remember our times together through the guilds activities. I especially remember the help that you provided during our first Collaborative Challenge project "Organic Fantasy", the first year our club formed. It was such a crazy project. I was all stressed out as I couldn't see how we were going to get the valves to fit onto the wind chest as we had planned. I stayed up late one night, drafting an email to all the people involved, sounding the alarm and asking anyone or everyone to prove me wrong! We were running out of time and I desperately was asking people to get over to my house and look at the problem. I received many responses to calm down, everything would work out. There was only one person who came over to see what was going on and to see first hand what I saw, that was you John. We looked over the problem and you and I spent time together and came to the same conclusion, that being that we had to change the design and together we redesigned it. You and I spent the time drilling all the holes and figuring our how to modify your small drill press to drill inside the wind chest to mount the air pump. Crazy times and lots of fun. The story of your sale of a bowl "Full of Holes" and "What Good This Art?" makes me laugh every time I tell the story. We shared many great times together and I will dearly miss you John. Goodbye my friend.

*Larry Stevenson*



I took my first instructive turning course from John. I did a piece that day that I was proud of, but what John really showed me was the incredible potential of the craft once you had developed good tool technique. And of course making shavings always brought out the child in him.

Thank you John

*Lance Rossington*

John and I had an ongoing tradition ever year on Canada day. We would participant in the crafts crawl at Grandville island July 1 for CABC.

For the last four years John and I would pack up our lathes, tools and head down to Granville Is for the Canada day wood turning demonstration .

John would always bring his jet mini lathe so he could turn spinney tops

for the children attending that day. I remember one year John must have turned over 50 spinney tops for a steady stream of children who wait half an hour or more for their chance to have a custom made toy.

John has always given of his time and craft when called upon, he was very passionate when it came to woodturning and would help you in any way he could if you that a problem to do with woodturning.

John love to do demonstrations just to see a childs face light up with joy when he would hand the spinney top to him or her.

I will truly miss John for the good times we had together on Canada day at Granville island.

*Neno Catania*



I first met John over 18 years ago when he came to the Pacific Woodworkers Guild to demonstrate on his first portable lathe. It was a Viel Kit with a 5/8 inch threaded headstock shaft and a fixed tail stock. I liked John as I have a Viel.

We continued to see each other at Ian Waymark symposiums at Abbotsford.

Soon after the FVWG was formed with John as a founder. I joined a couple of years later to renew my contact with John. The brave Five took on the Committee work for the First Competition. John and I were on that hard working group along with Colin Stan and David.

In the second year the FVWG executive decided to cancel the Guilds commitment to the competition without asking the membership. John got wind of this and he organized a a vote at the meeting to counteract the executive. He said that he and Margaret his wife would cover any overrun if needed. The vote by the members was almost a full endorsement. The Guild carried on for a further year until the GVWG took the work on.

John was a founding member of the GVWG along with a few of us and was always there to help in any way he could.

#### *Don Hoskins*

John is such a special person who is greatly missed by all. Our friendship with him goes back to the Abbotsford symposium with Rudy Osolnik and Bonnie Klein and hands on course with Mich O'Donnell.

John always encouraged and challenged me to broaden my attempts at new methods of turning. When I wasn't confident to display or bring something I turned to the club or show, he said yes you're bringing that piece and build up my confidence.

At monthly meetings he taught us so many skills and we so admired the pieces he brought in to show. We know Margaret and Mark miss him tremendously and so do we.

#### *Marco and Myrna*

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## JANUARY MAIN EVENT—ART LIESTMAN

*Kerry Deane-Cloutier*

The highlight of January's meeting was a fascinating and entertaining presentation by Art Liestman. Art gave us a trial run of a presentation he is preparing for the AAW concerning overcoming design difficulties. He did little actual turning, but seemed to expect us to take it on faith that he can. As usual, Art's presentation consisted of some marvelous insights and pearls of woodturning wisdom, interspersed with gratuitous slagging off of club members (always good fun).

Art's had several key points:

1. Good enough is not good enough. Whenever you get the urge to accept something as "good enough", don't. Instead do the best that you can do. Art attributed this point to Wally Dickerman.
2. More Light!  
We tend to get used to whatever level of light we have in our shops, and it is almost never enough. Art has 6 – 100 W lights within 4 feet of his lathe. Two can be pulled down to touch the piece. He recom-



*Art can too turn!*

mends checking your piece with the lights on, off, and at different raking angles. Cindy Drozda's class was an excellent demonstration of the difficulty in doing fine work without strong lighting.

3. Keep some of your work.  
Art advocates keeping some of your pieces, so that you have a history of your progress and can reflect on what you have learned. In 5-10 years you will be able to look back on your older works and cringe – hence point 1 above.
4. Make a bunch of something.  
Make as many as 50 of the same items, trying to make each better than the last. By doing so, you can train your eyes to see shapes. Ask yourself why you like one better than another.



*Art slags off crowd...*

The focus of the presentation was on making a fair, meaning a long and continuous curve, without any flats or peaks. Many things can help you see the curve, including a contrasting cloth on top of the lathe bed to eliminate distractions, French curves, a straight edge with light shining behind, and a flexible ruler. Use a 4B pencil to mark problem areas, then go back and fix them. Be aware that a change in the tool angle will change the curve. This means that the area near the tail stock will need work. A common flaw is a flat near the bottom of hollow forms. Art attributes this to a reluctance to remount a piece.

Art also brought many cool props designed to induce envy in us. These included the Kirsten Cone, a long rod with a #2 Morse taper and acrylic cone in the middle, which allows the piece to be driven at the inside and outside of the bottom, with the mouth stabilized by the cone. Other props were the Longworth chuck (similar to Cole jaws but quicker), and a donut chuck, which he brought plans for.

The final topic was sanding, with reference to point 1 above. Art likes Skilton pads best, but goes to carving catalogues for 1" pads. He reminds us to use them like water, and throw them away. More cool props were displayed, including a random orbital sander, a Proxon Pen sander and the scary looking, Extend-A-Sand made by Bruce Hoover. The random orbital sander does not produce the usual swirl marks. Art sands with the lathe on, off, and in reverse. This closing segued nicely into the President's Challenge, which is to produce something sanded to at least 2000 grit.

Art is a marvelous turner, and a talented teacher, and his talk was well worth attending.

*The random orbital sander: Metabo Electronic Disc Sander SX E 40 - not available in Canada, but is available in the US - Note that the pad is 3 1/4" or so, but can be replaced by a 2" or 3" pad to fit available discs.*

*The Extend-A-Sand is available from Bruce Hoover. His website does not list it (yet) but an email to him will get his catalog - woodturner@esva.net.*

## CHRISTINA CLARKE ON COLOUR

*Steve Hansen*

Last month Christina Clarke gave us an interesting talk on colour theory. Some of her main points were:

- Aniline dyes are highly toxic - use respiratory protection and gloves when handling.
- In theory you can make any colour from the primary colours(R-Y-B), but in order to make them more dense, it often works to add black or burnt umber.
- Most black dyes/pigments are actually intense blue.
- The cool colours: green, cyan(blue) and violet recede away from the observer and the warm colours: orange, red, yellow and purple advance.
- You can create depth of field by interspersing these warm with cool colours.
- When trying to create a warm appearing piece, it is worth considering a small splash of cool colour in order to create a little contrast. Naturally, the opposite is also true.
- It's worth considering the intended market or display space when choosing colours to decorate your piece.

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### TIPS, TRICKS & PROBLEMS:

This is the first of what will hopefully become a semi-regular column. The idea is to share some of our unusual tricks and techniques with the rest of the club. This can take the form of a tip, or it can be a Jeopardy type question as in the one submitted by Larry Stevenson below. Submissions are more than welcome (please don't make me beg...)

Submitted by: Larry Stevenson

I've been in discussion with a few of members and we thought that a version of Questions and Answers could provide some entertainment. We have all experienced some problem and through perseverance came up with a solution. There can be a bit of a twist, just to make things interesting and make people think. For my first entry I thought I'd do it Jeopardy Style. I'll give you my solution and you figure out what the problem was. I encourage all guild members to get involved and share either a problem that you are stumped on or need a little help, or give a solution to the problem and see if the members can figure out what the issue was.

Solution to my dilemma: My solution involved a piece of closed cell foam, a "Whoopee" cushion and some Silly Putty. What was the problem?

*(Larry assures us that this does have something to do with woodturning and does not involve any farm animals. Ed.)*

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### THE DROZDA POINT

*Bruce Campbell*

When Cindy Droza taught her classes here in January we all struggled a little with the wide tail centers on the Oneway lathes in the classroom. After some discussion with Cindy I thought of a design for a replaceable point for the Oneway Live Center System that still provides support but has a small contact surface to allow for more detailed tooling. I have called it a Drozda Point. It is about 1.5" long and 1/4" in diameter with just the right taper to fit into the Oneway Live Center (see picture). Let me know if you would like to try one. I had a number made.



## RON GERTON DEMO AND CLASSES

*Art Liestman*

We are happy to inform you that Ron Gerton, from Richland, Washington, will be here on Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup> for a demo and for hands-on classes on April 17<sup>th</sup> and (possibly) 18<sup>th</sup>.

Ron Gerton is a retired mechanical engineer who spent 31 years working in the nuclear field. He has been retired for four years and now does art full time. Ron's unique work combines his interests in jewelry and woodturning.

For the past six years Ron has been working with bronze. He set up a foundry in his studio and has earned a reputation for his extremely high quality castings. He occasionally casts pieces for local artists.

His most recent passion has been woodturning. After buying a used lathe eight years ago, he fell in love with wood turning. He has developed tools that allow hollowing of very large wooden vessel through a small center opening.



A four-foot diameter vessel thirteen inches tall and hollowed through a three and a half inch center hole has been created, and is possibly the world's largest hollow vessel. It was only a matter of time before his multiple talents combined to form a totally unique art form.



He combines bronze castings of distorted sagebrush plants with woodturnings to create fantastic sculptures. He has also sliced his wood turned vessels either straight or curved and reassembled them by rotating the segments to create a totally new vessel shape. Some of these are combined with bronze to make unique sculptures. The combination of woodturning and bronze casting has allowed him to work on pieces of much larger scale than jewelry. To him it is still jewelry but jewelry for the home or office.

On Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, Ron's demo will be held at the Sapperton Pensioners Hall from 9:30 am to approximately 4pm. There is a \$25 charge to attend the demo. In the demo, Ron will explain in detail how something is prepared for gravity casting, do an actual bronze cast, and then discuss how the castings are combined with wood turnings and finished. He will also discuss how to make a rubber mold.

Ron will teach hands-on classes on Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup> and on Monday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at Island Woodcraft in Coquitlam from 9:30 am to approximately 4pm. Ron is flexible in what will be taught in the classes and on whether the class should be one day or two days long. We will discuss some options at the February meeting and then confirm the details with him. The class fee will be \$150 per day.

## MORE COMING EVENTS

Several more accomplished turners have been lined up for courses and demos over the next few months. The dates are still tentative. We'll have more info, with pictures in the newsletter as they get closer. For now, we have included a few web links:

May - Steven Hatcher

June 25-26-27 - Andi Wolfe

Andi Wolfe, her own site: <http://www.biosci.ohio-state.edu/~awolfe/COW/wolfe.html>

And another clubs article on a demo she did for them: <http://www.carolinamountainwoodturners.org/wolfe/wolfe2.html>

And Woodezine's article: [http://www.woodezine.com/03\\_2004/54025\\_turner.html](http://www.woodezine.com/03_2004/54025_turner.html)

And Creative Woodturnings article: <http://www.creative-woodturning.com/showcasewolfe.htm>

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## TURNING 101— LIDDED BOXES

*Merv Graham*

Happiness is being cloistered in a room with 13 turners and 3 instructors for a Saturday of learning and creating. That seemed to be the feeling of those who attended the guild work shop on Feb 12 at the pensioner's hall.

The session instructor Claudia Hayward led the group through the processes of making a lidded end grain boxes. She was aided by Merv Graham and Ross Pilgrim who acted as mentors for the session. Starting at 9:00 am with 4x4 cubes of maple the candidates went through the process of rounding the block creating tenons and parting the piece in two. Then the learning started fitting the top to the bottom with enough strength in the mortise and tenon and the right size to use it as a jam chuck. Not too many OS problems here though there were a few spacers of tape and paper needed to make a snug fit.



Hollowing end grain created a challenge for some but in most cases there was little problem once the correct tool technique was achieved. There were some really interesting shapes created with only one failure which needed a small amount of modification and some CA glue. Jam chucks were the order of the day and after going through the process several times to finish the top and bottom of the box I am sure that making them is no longer an onerous chore for those in attendance.



The session wrapped up at 3 and we were cleaned up and out of there by four with the lathes removed and the floor back to its daily status. I think the feeling of all that attended is that Claudia did a marvelous job and needs a large round of applause from the membership for taking the time to make that Saturday so enjoyable.

Next Saturday session will be April 8 topic yet to be decided.

## INSTANT GALLERY



Florentine Alabaster Goblet, 2 in x 1 in.  
Gary Miller



Mondrian oval vase maple, 8 in x 3 in  
Art Liestman



Natural edge bowl, maple burl, 4 in x 8 in  
Al Koehn



Oak Bowl 3 in x 9 in  
Lance Rossington



Potpourri Urn, basswood, 5 in x 3 in  
Allan Cusworth



Puzzling Illusion Form, arbutus burl, 6 in  
Art Liestman

INSTANT GALLERY (cont.)

Cindy Drozda Inspired Finial Boxes



Gary Miller



Mel Bottaro



Des Wilson



Bruce Campbell



Marco Berera

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PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE—A STAND



## CLASSIFIEDS

### For Sale

#### **Buckeye Burl Wood**

Blue spalted wood, green. Wood is root burl, so it contains voids, and the occasional pocket of dirt or bark.—\$8/lb  
Call Dennis or Kerry  
(604) 468-0605

### NOTICES:

*The club executive elections are coming up at our next meeting. The position of Treasurer is being contested, and Merv Graham has submitted the following:*

My name is Merv Graham and I am running for the office of Treasurer. I have been a member of the GVWG for the passed 4 years and have been active in the club serving on several committees as well as being a member of the AAW. I was a member of the organizing committee for the Cloverdale wood show and competition, a member of the Symposium committee, I was coordinator for the pre and post symposium classes, a member of the “I Scream” collaborative challenge group, organized the displays for the wood carvers show and the Cloverdale wood show, a mentor and demonstrator for the hands on Saturday workshops and I am the gallery photographer for the club.

My experience on committees I long and varied as I have served on committees in all executive rolls from president/chairman to member at large. These have been both in my roll as a teacher and as a member of various civic groups.



## GVWG Officers, Appointees and Volunteers

### **PRESIDENT**

Bruce Campbell 604-944-3028

### **VICE PRESIDENT**

Steve Hansen 604-585-0638

### **SECRETARY**

Larry Stevenson 604-438-3947

### **TREASURER**

Ted Fromson 604-876-0267

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### **WOOD EXCHANGER**

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