



# GREATER VANCOUVER WOODTURNERS GUILD

CHAPTER 130 OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS



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### Piercing in the 1800's

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#### Special points of interest:

- Next Meeting:  
Wednesday, April 25  
at 6:30 PM, Sapper-  
ton Hall, 318 Keary  
St, New West
- Main Event:  
Ed Pretty – Working  
without modern  
chucks  
  
FoF – Jim Johnson  
will turn a wooden  
box
- Food Providers:  
Keith Ruttan  
Byron Scheffler  
Ray Schiffers  
Dennis Schmidt  
Brad Sieber  
John Spitters
- Greeters:  
Ron Kredba  
Olaf Lepper  
Art Liestman  
Kent Lindsey  
Brian Lunt  
Ted MacKinnon
- President's Challenge  
April:  
FLAT
- President's Challenge  
May:  
"Flower and Vase"

# President's Column

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Bill Fowle

**W**elcome to the new look and feel for our newsletter. I would like to thank Bruce and Robert for working so hard on the new format. I sure they would appreciate any feedback you may have.

The new Board of Directors are settling in and I thought I would bring you up to date on a few things we are working on.

- 1) We are in the process of buying a new more robust lathe for the Focus on Fundamentals demonstrations at our meetings. It will have variable speed and a few other goodies we will be able to offer a wider range of demos.
- 2) You may have noticed the extra light at the last meetings demo. The Board is trying to improve the quality of the video so we can all see the details a little better. A third (and maybe a fourth) camera will be back again shortly to give us another angle.
- 3) With the success of our show 'Not Just Round' in Port Moody, we are looking into another show, this time in New West at a newer gallery. More details to follow.

All of us on the Board are always open to hear your ideas, suggestions and comments for making our Guild a better place. The Board meetings are open to anyone who would like to attend, just ask any Board member for information. If you are interested in what the Board is up to, the meeting minutes are kept in the Library for all to see.

Speaking of the Library, check out the sale Gerry is running. The books are not renting to well and so has decided to clear some of them out. Will be some great deals there.

Please don't forget about the AAW Symposium in Pittsburgh June 25 – 28th. There are a great line up of demonstrators this year. I hear there are lots of things to do there for your family if you decide to make it a holiday.

I have had many people ask me about the history of the Opinel knives we are using as thank you gifts. If you are interested in more info you can find them on the web at <http://www.opinel.com>

This month's President's Challenge is "Flat" and I am looking forward to see how you interpret it. With Mother's day around the corner, I thought next month's challenge should be a "Flower and Vase" for Mom

Happy Turning

*Bill*

# Editor's Notes

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Bruce Campbell

This is my first issue editing and Robert's first issue publishing the Guild's newsletter and we are both excited and a little terrified. The newsletter has always been a major communications tool for the Guild and previous editors/publishers have contributed their own style and emphasis. Previous editors have even won recognition for the AAW and Robert and Robert and I hope to deliver that level of quality in the future. But, of course that means we need content and that comes from you - either as articles or ideas.

Some thoughts we have for future issues are project articles, personal profiles of various members, news about upcoming events, reports from members on turning-related activities, a current calendar of events and soon. The better the content we get from you, our members, the better the newsletter will be.

For this issue, Robert and I have focused on introducing a new look to the Newsletter and as we go along we will refine it and add new and interesting columns. Meanwhile, please be active consumers of the Newsletter. Tell us what you like and how we can improve. That way we will make it into something of which we can all be proud.

*Bruce Campbell   Robert Carlson*

Bruce Campbell, editor and Robert Carlson, publisher

*Front Cover:  
Piercing in the 1800  
By Marco Berera*

# Tech Talk

Bruce Campbell

There was a good group for Tech Talk this time. I started the discussion by bringing along a pair of calipers that I was given years ago by Buzz Blum, the first recipient of an AAW Education Opportunity grant. Buzz gave me the design for free with the understanding that I would pass it on to others for free. Those at the discussion were able to trace out the design to be cut out from metal, wood or plastic. Steve even planned to use his skills to make a few. Let's see what he comes with. Meanwhile, if you would like a look at the calipers, let me know.



*Calipers*

I also brought along version 2.0 of the interesting off-centre chuck discussed in the AAW Journal in February 2015. I got a small catch when using the first version I built in February and it broke the center unit. I needed a more secure way to hold it so redesigned it to have a heavy ring that secured the center post. I also took advantage of the large metal surface to mark index points that will make it easy for me to make patterns in sets of two, three, four, five, six, and eight markings. This has been an easy and fun addition to my shop.



*Off-centre chuck*

Finally, Gary shared his personal experience that boiling one rough-turned bowl blank while just waxing another made from the same wood showed a huge difference in the amount of cracking and warping. The boiled bowl showed only a little warping and no cracking while the unboiled blank had already severely cracked and warped. He wanted to know more about the boiling process.

Boiling is one of a number of ways to treat green-turned blanks in order to reduce cracking. Over the years we have heard of microwaving, soaking in dish detergent, water replacement treatments like polyethylene glycol (PEG), soaking in industrial alcohol, slow drying using wax or paper bags, and so on. But one of the more popular methods is to boil the blanks right after they have been rough turned.

I think four things happens when we boil wood. The heat kills any active cells in the wood, it softens the lignum in the wood allowing for the cells

*(Continued on page 6)*

# Focus On Fundamentals

March 25 2015

John Spitters has developed a reputation for fine hollow turnings topped with beautiful finials. For FoF this month we were fortunate to have John demonstrate his technique in making finials.



John started by advising us that tool rest should be smooth, free of any nicks, and clean. Use a file to remove any irregularities and the appropriate solvent to get rid of sticky finishes, glue, etc.

John's stated that in planning the shape of the finial you must take into consideration the shape and size of the piece you plan to place it. In this case, he started with a 2 inch square blank about 4-6 inches long. He mounted the blank in a 4-jaw chuck and ran up the tailstock. After roughing the blank John

removed the tail stock. He starts shaping the finial at the top taking very careful cuts as there is no support. He explained it is important to learn how to get 'clean cuts' and you do this by having a sharp tool, speed and, of course, practice.

John works about one half inch at a time. He uses a lighted magnifying glass to ensure accuracy in his cuts. For his final cut he cuts away from the tail stock, this helps to keep the finial stable. In making his cuts he emphasized the importance of always using the bevel to ensure accurate tool control. John sands each section of the finial as he progresses, supporting the piece with his finger. He uses 180 to 240 grit.

As he progressed down the finial John discussed various aspects of shape and size. When you get to the base it is important to be careful to make the base 'flow' with the top of the piece it will be placed. He used the bedan to cut off the tenon and demonstrated to the group the various uses of the bedan.

To finish his finial, John will often use black leather dye.

Thank you John for a very informative demonstration.

For the April FoF Jim Johnson has kindly agreed to demonstrate how he turns a wooden box.

# Pre-Meeting Activities - an evolution

Bruce Campbell

When GVWG first started several elements were borrowed from the successful models used by other AAW Guilds; a main speaker, the Instant Gallery, and a coffee break. Folks always seemed to show up early so we thought we could add a “little” bit to the front end of the meeting. Focus on Fundamentals (FoF) was the first addition and it was only supposed to be 15 minutes. 15 “modules” were developed concentrating on proper, safe turning techniques. A few years later a number of turners wanted to talk about design and finished work so Focus on Form and Finish (FoFF) was born. Within FoFF some people were asking “how” questions and the group did not want to discuss technique – just results. This led to the creation of Tech Talk – a place dedicated to discussing how

things can be done in turning. The Guild has also spent a fair effort compiling a library of books and videos on a wide variety of woodturning topics. Having the library open prior to meetings has also become an integral part of our club.

What started out as a short presentation on techniques has grown into four major activities at each meeting – the Instant Gallery, The Library, FoF, FoFF, and Tech Talk. Add to that the vendor tables and a good deal of camaraderie and friendship and our “pre-meeting” activities are just as much fun as our main demonstrations.

*(Continued from page 4)*

to move slightly to relieve internal stress, it frees bound water from the sugars in the sap and finally, it opens the inter-cellular channels to allow free movement of water from one cell to another. These four things combine to significantly reduce warping, cracking, and drying time.

The benefits of boiling depend a lot on the species being used. If the wood is arbutus, yew, or any fruitwood the results are exceptional. Where nearly 100% of unboiled wood will crack and/or warp enough to ruin the piece, boiled pieces will show much better results. In my experience, boiling is not a guaranteed method but it is very good. I also have found that drying times are reduced by as much a factor of three. Where typically we plan for

drying times of 1 year per inch for untreated wood, boiled wood dries at a rate of 3-4 months per inch.

As usual our newsletter archive is a great place to get more information. For a more complete discussion of these methods check out our May 2000, October 2000, and March 2006 newsletters at [www.gvvg.ca](http://www.gvvg.ca) under the “Newsletters” tab.

# Piercing in the 1800's

Marco Berera

I was born in Switzerland and trained as a Pattern Maker in the apprentice/journeyman/master tradition. Today I enjoy researching and demonstrating traditional European wood turning methods, such as ring turning (maple leaf, animals), old fashioned water flasks, and barrel spindle turning (therming).

Wood piercing has been made popular by such remarkable artists as Frank Sudol, Binh Pho, and others. But the tools and techniques used today are high speed cutting tools such as dentist drills. These did not exist in in the 1800s. So how did they pierce?

In researching old techniques I discovered a process of making "Duftdosen" or traditional potpourri containers. I could only find one woodturner worldwide who still practises the traditional method. His name is Reinhart Beck and he lives and works in Bavaria, Germany. You can find videos of his work on the internet.

The basic technique is to turn the outside shape of a container and then use specialized chisels to "punch" patterns into the wood BEFORE hollowing it out. The parts contained within a punched section come out completely as the piece is hollowed leaving a "pierced" area. This requires chisels that are quite thin so I bought some inexpensive carving tools and reground them into the appropriate shapes.



After some trial and error I discovered that not all woods suit this type of piercing. The fibers of some timbers crushed too much or tear out rather than being cut cleanly. I tried tight grain yellow cedar, old fir, chestnut, holly, and Cedar of Lebanon. Reinhart uses Linden, basswood, and Zirbelholz or Swiss Pine (*Pinus cembra*). To duplicate this I used some European pine from an old wooden pallet.

This type of piercing suits lidded boxes, serviette rings, or hollow spheres. Traditionally thee boxes were filled with sweet smelling potpourri and placed in draws to help keep clothes smelling sweet. Perhaps they also used things like cedar shavings to ward off insects. The spheres make beautiful finial vessels like we make for Christmas ornaments.

In my demo I chose to turn a container with a lid. Here is my process:

- 1) Turn a cylinder with a tenon suited for the jaws in your chuck.
- 2) Once the cylinder is mounted safely on a chuck between tail stock and live center, start shaping the container.



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*(Continued from page 7)*

- 3) With a pencil, lay out your pattern and then punch it out with the reground carving tools and mallet.



- 4) Start hollowing out the container. I predrilled with a Forstner bit and then finished with a gouge.
- 5) As you hollow out the vessel you will see the lines of the pierced openings appearing on the inside which determines the thickness of the walls. You can now push out the loose pieces with an awl from the inside to the outside.
- 6) Finish turning the foot and part off.
- 7) Now mount a blank and turn a lid also between centers.



Punch the lid with your carving tools which will be easier and cleaner since it is end grain. Hollow out the lid. Bring the tail stock back again, but don't use the point of the live center but attach a little wooden dowel or Bruce's Extension Points. Now turn the finial for the lid.



I hope you enjoyed seeing a traditional technique brought back to life and that I have challenged you to try something different in your turning.

*Marco Berera*



# Instant Gallery

March 25



Beverley Pears - Sandblasted Bowl - 6.25 x 12.75 - Magnolia - Paint, Lacquer



Bill Robertson  
- Bullet Pen - Deer Antler - CA



Marco Berera  
- Pierced Globe - 2.75 x 8.25 - Chestnut - Black Lacquer



Meerman  
- Square Bowl - 8 x 2 - Maple - Wax



Kieth Hudson  
- Bowl - 11 x 4.25 - Cherry Root - Varnish



Marco Berera  
Pierced Cup - 2.625 x 3.125 - Holly



Keith Ruttan  
- Bowl - 14 x 3 - Maple - WOP



John Spitters  
- Winged Rocking Bowl - 11.5 x 14.5 x 2.5 - Hazelnut - WOP

# Instant Gallery

March 25



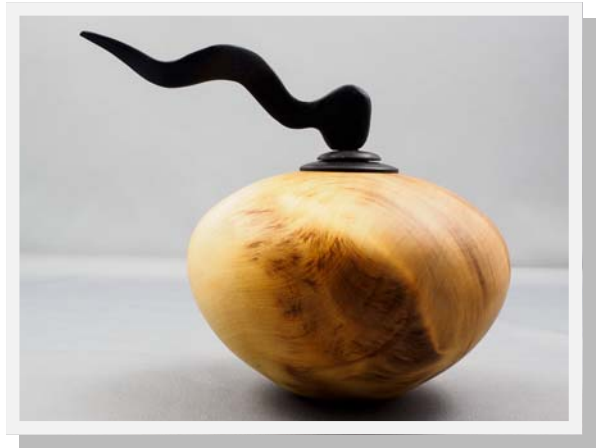
Jim Johnson  
- Dragon Pod #3 - 3.5 x 3.5 - Maple - WOP



Don G  
- Ves - 18cm x 29cm



Joe Schifferns  
- Salad Bowl - Lilac - Beeswax Salad Bowl Wax



Jim Johnson  
- Cedar in the Wind - 4.25 x 4.5 - Yellow Cedar Burl - WOP



Brian Lunt - Coffee Pen

# Present's Challenge Gallery

## Holo



Ross Pilgrim  
- Segmented Vessel - 1.5 x 1.625 -  
Bloodwood & Veneer - Tung Oil



One Eyed Jack  
- 6-7 x 6.25 -Holly - Bees Wax & Cotton



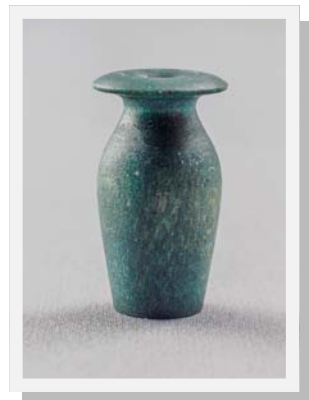
Allan Cusworth  
- Hollow Vase - 4.5 x 10.75 -  
Red Alder - WOP



Bruce Campbell  
- Hollow Form - 12 x 14 - Walnut - Mineral  
Oil



Steve Hansen  
- Hollow - 5 x 4 - Red Cedar - Oil



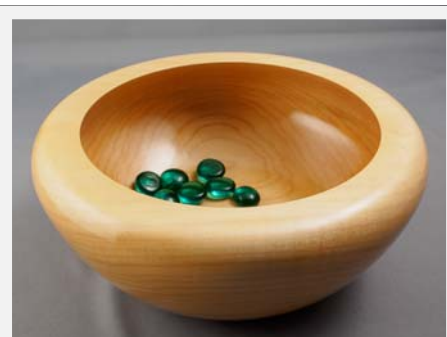
Meerman  
- Hollow Form - .2 x .75 -  
maple - felt pen



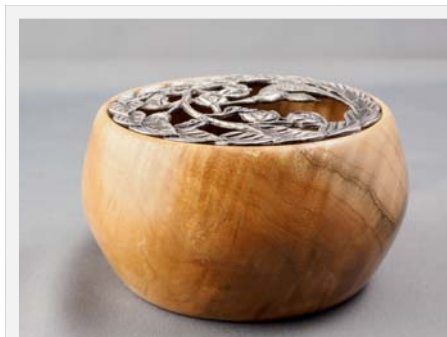
Marco Berera  
- Bangle - 3.125 x 1 - Maple  
Branch - Friction Polish

# Turning 101

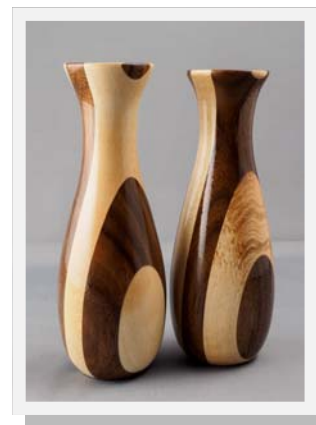
March 25 2015



Bill Howorth  
- Bowl - Maple - WOP



George Price  
- Potpourri Dish - 4 x 2 - Maple - Crystal Coat



Pat Driscoll  
- 2 Vases - 2.5 x 6 - Maple & Black Walnut - Tung Oil



Lance Rossington  
- Simple Bowl - 9 x 2.5 - Maple



Dex Hallwood  
- Bowl - 8 x 2.5 - Maple - WOP



George Price  
- Simple Bowl - 8 x 2.5 - Maple - Beeswax



Pat Driscoll - Change Cup - 3 x 3 - Maple & Black Walnut - Tung Oil

# Calendar of Events

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2015

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Event</b>
Apr 22	6:30 P.M.	Sapperton Hall	Club Meeting FoF – Jim Johnson will turn a wooden box Main Speaker – Ed Pretty – Working without modern chucks
May 9		KMS Tools Classroom	Turning 101
May 27	6:30 P.M.	Sapperton Hall	Club Meeting FoF - TBA Main Speaker - Neva Hilliard – Making a baby rattle
Jun 24	6:30 P.M.	Sapperton Hall	Club Meeting FoF - TBA Main Speaker - Kerry Deane Cloutier/ Dennis Cloutier – TBA
Jul-Aug			Summer Break – Enjoy a summer full of turning
Sept 23	6:30 P.M.	Sapperton Hall	Club Meeting FoF – TBA Main Speaker - TBA
Oct 28	6:30 P.M.	Sapperton Hall	Club Meeting FoF – TBA Main Speaker - TBA
Nov 25	6:30 P.M.	Sapperton Hall	Club Meeting FoF – TBA Main Speaker - TBA
Dec			No Meeting – Happy Holidays

## Special points of interest:

- Next Meeting:  
Wednesday, April  
25 at 6:30 PM,  
Sapperton Hall,  
318 Keary St, New  
West

- Main Event:  
Ed Pretty – Work-  
ing without mod-  
ern chucks

FoF – Jim Johnson  
will turn a wooden  
box

- Food Providers:  
Keith Ruttan  
Byron Scheffler  
Ray Schiffers  
Dennis Schmidt  
Brad Sieber  
John Spitters

- Greeters:  
Ron Kredba  
Olaf Lepper  
Art Liestman  
Kent Lindsey  
Brian Lunt  
Ted MacKinnon

- President's Chal-  
lenge April:  
FLAT

- President's Chal-  
lenge May:  
"Flower and Vase"

# *GVWG Officers, Appointees & Volunteers*

## **President:**

Bill Fowle  
604.466.2150  
president@gvwg.ca

## **Vice President:**

Dan Breck

## **Secretary:**

Bob Askew  
604.535.6774  
secretary@gvwg.ca

## **Treasurer:**

Barry Wilkinson  
604.466.2150

## **Members At Large:**

Tom Byrom  
Brian Lunt  
Claudia Hayward  
Des Wilson  
Olaf Lepper  
John Spitters  
604.929.1766  
604.462.7597  
604.936.2749  
604.307.6005  
778.783.0098

## **Educational Coordinator:**

Steve Kent  
Larry Stevenson  
Bruce Campbell  
604.937.0145  
604.940.9760  
604.944.3028

## **Librarian:**

Gerry Vickers  
604.463.0760

## **Food Chief:**

Marco Berera  
604.274.7594

## **FOF Coordinator:**

Neva Hilliard  
604.462.9476

## **Turning 101:**

Gerry Vickers  
604.463.0760

## **Newsletter:**

Editor Bruce Campbell  
604.944.3028  
editor@gvwg.ca

Publisher Robert Carlson  
604 430 1866

## **Digital Photography:**

Dennis Cloutier

## **Webmaster:**

Steve Hansen  
604.585.0638  
webmaster@gvwg.ca

