



# Greater Vancouver Woodturners Guild

130<sup>th</sup> chapter of the  
American Association of Woodturners



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## **We are moving to a new location!**

*Art Liestman*

Just a reminder that beginning September 26th, our regular (fourth Wednesday of the month) meetings will be held at the Sapperton Pensioners Hall at 318 Keary in New Westminster. To get there from Highway 1, take the Brunette exit to the south. Turn west on Braid (first stoplight) and then turn south on Columbia. Keary is the street on the south side of the Royal Columbian Hospital. The Hall is just west of Columbia on Keary.

Annual membership dues are payable at the September meeting. If you can't attend, we would greatly appreciate receiving your dues by mail. Please send your cheque for \$30 payable to the Greater Vancouver Woodturners Guild, c/o Don Hoskins, 3676 Kelly Road, Belcarra, BC, V3H 4R4.

## **Why are we here?**

*Art Liestman*

To me, one of the main benefits of belonging to our guild is that we can get exposure to world-renowned woodturners who give demonstrations and teach hands-on classes. We've had several such visitors during the past year and will be doing more in the years to come. I'd like to encourage you to participate in these events.

The demonstrations are always educational, fun, informative, and sometimes even provocative. I always learn at least a couple of things that make the expense worthwhile. Members at all skill levels can benefit from seeing the demos.

Even more valuable are the hands-on classes. I have found that in these classes you can make major improvements in your turning skills in a

very short period of time. A good instructor can make a huge difference in your turning. Each instructor has different skills and ideas to share with us. Don't let these opportunities go by!

## **Don Derry Demo and Classes**

*Art Liestman*

Don Derry of Ellensburg, Washington will visit us September 15<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> for a demonstration and two different classes. Please note that this is *BEFORE* the September meeting!

Don Derry has been a woodworker for the past 35 years, concentrating on woodturning since 1994. He spent several years doing the craft fair circuit producing pen and pencil sets, turned boxes and earrings. During that time, the bread and butter product of his line was Christmas ornaments. He sold almost 500 ornaments per year. In 1999, he quit doing craft fairs to focus on artistic studio wood turning. He is now known for turning large state-of-the-art hollow forms of wood that are brightly colored and polished to such a high optical luster that they are often mistaken to be fine art glass. Interestingly, the wood turning techniques that he learned doing Christmas ornaments have served him well as an artist.

## **Saturday, September 15<sup>th</sup> Demo:**

This six-hour demonstration consists of a broad group of techniques exhibited with wit, humor, and philosophy. The day begins with a demonstration of how to turn a very delicate and extremely lightweight traditional style ornament with the lathe going backwards and tools so big that it will surprise even the most seasoned turner. Don has a broad-minded approach to the craft of woodturning and feels that no single turner's approach or turning technique is correct for everybody. He proves this by showing and explaining how he discovered that by using

objective self-observation, and asking oneself the proper questions, a person may be lead to answers and techniques that are often contrary to established tradition. Don will then show how turning a small hollow ornament ball is no different than turning the gigantic artistic hollow forms for which he is gaining a worldwide reputation. He will demonstrate the state-of-the-art torque arresting hollowing tools he has developed and show that they are so easy to use that anyone can learn the techniques and become a master hollow form turner. Don will also exhibit a way to prepare a shear scraper that is so sharp you may never need sandpaper again. Throughout the day, between flying wood chips and entertaining banter, Don will be expressing his unique point of view on the art world and what is needed for the craft of woodturning to blend seamlessly within it and why this is absolutely necessary for the health and longevity of our craft.

There will be a \$25 per person fee to attend the demo which will begin at 9:30 am at Sapperton Pensioners Hall, 318 Keary, New Westminster.

**Sunday and Monday, September 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> - “Sharpening the Eye” class:**

This is a two-day hands-on class that will focus on the decision-making process used by woodturners. We will analyze, explore, and learn many ways to be objective about our own work. We will begin by turning a sphere between centers using only the eye as a guide. The day will then progress by turning models of many other basic forms. We will explore egg forms, pear shapes, and cones on the first day. The second day will be an exploration of how these basic forms can be used as the building blocks of more complicated forms and integrated into almost any turning endeavor that can be imagined.

Upon completion of the course, participants will have a much better understanding of how their own creative decision making process works and how to use it to more easily produce works in their own studios. Participants will also have produced eight to ten form study models that they can refer to in the future.

There is a \$250 per participant charge for this class.

**Tuesday, September 18<sup>th</sup> - Christmas ornaments class:**

This is a one-day hands-on course on producing the traditional style turned wood Christmas ornament consisting of a hollow globe with a decorative top finial and a matching long icicle bottom. The first half-day consists of an introduction to the techniques for hollowing the globe using a reverse lathe rotation technique and a special hollowing tool supplied by the instructor. The tools and techniques can be easily learned and adapted to the more traditional counter clockwise lathe rotation. The second half day will be used for developing the spindle turning techniques needed to turn a long and delicate decorative icicle that will match the top finial which covers the access holes that were used for hollowing the small globe.

There is a charge of \$125 per participant for this class.

**Requirements:** Both classes begin at 9:30 am at KMS Tools in Coquitlam. For both classes, participants should have reasonable experience with a roughing gouge and a half-inch spindle gouge. Minimal experience with a skew chisel is also helpful but is not necessary. Students should bring a 1-inch or larger roughing gouge, a half-inch spindle gouge, and a parting tool and are encouraged to bring any other tools that may help adapt their personal style. The instructor will supply any special tools required.

**Sign Up Now!** We have some spaces left in both classes, but if you think you may be interested in them, please let me know as soon as possible to ensure a space! Call me at 604-939-3843 or email [art@sfu.ca](mailto:art@sfu.ca).