



Greater Vancouver Woodturners Guild

130th chapter of the
American Association of Woodturners



Newsletter

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President's Column

Art Liestman

It has been a busy month again and we plan to keep things happening during the summer!

The Richmond Carvers Show was held on May 26th and 27th. Several members demonstrated and talked to the public at our booth during the weekend. Thanks to all, especially to Ted Fromson for organizing our participation. Congratulations also to Marco Berera, Len Sawyer, Ted Fromson, and another unnamed

June 27, 2001 Meeting:

Focus on Fundamentals –

Level 1 – Supplies and Suppliers - Art Liestman will present this material and will talk about various suppliers of tools and materials.

Level II – Sharpening II - John Bese will lead this session and show how to sharpen a skew, a roughing gouge, and a scraper.

Level III – Interesting Projects - Bruce Campbell will show how to make a sugar scoop. Making these useful kitchen items is an excellent project for building your skills and improving your tool control.

(starts at 6:30 p.m.)

Main Speaker – Neno Catania –
Natural Edge Bowls

**Meeting at Canadian Legion Hall
1025 Ridgeway Ave., Coquitlam**

Meeting Food Providers – Reminder

We have gone to an alphabetical rotation!

We ask that the following members please provide some food for the June 27, 2001 meeting: **Doug Schop, Matthew Selwood, Don Simkin, Larry Stevenson, Bob Turrell, Harvey Wiebe, Des Wilson, Gunther Yip.**

Your contributions are much appreciated.

elected officer for winning ribbons in the competition. Well done, guys! Other members attended the show and, I believe, everyone enjoyed it. Let's try to get an even bigger turnout for next year.

On the following weekend, we were very privileged to host Russ Fairfield for a two-day demonstration in Langley. This was our first joint event with the Fraser Valley Woodturners and unfortunately, the turnout was rather modest. Too bad! Those in attendance were treated to an exceptional presentation and took away lots of good information. I know that I learned a lot.

After our June meeting, we won't meet again until September when we will take up residence in our new location – the Sapperton Pensioners Hall. The new hall is larger and should be more conducive to our events.

Although we won't be having regular meetings for a couple of months, we have scheduled two special demonstrations, some classes, and the famous shop crawl during July, August, and early September. More details can be found elsewhere in this newsletter and in the July newsletter.

A quick plea from me: We NEED a newsletter editor. NOW! The job is interesting and will keep you involved in the ongoing events in the guild. We already have several people who will be writing articles for future newsletters; we just need an editor. I can't do all of these jobs myself! Please contact me if you are interested.

Last, but not least, don't forget the June President's Challenge – turn a small bowl!

May's Instant Gallery

Art Liestman & John Flanagan (photos)

May's Instant Gallery was small, but included some nice pieces. Mike Dawson displayed a fine black walnut goblet with two captive rings. Doug Schop's contribution this month was a vase in purpleheart and maple. Art Liestman brought two bowls of maple burl and birch burl. Fred Baldwin showed a bowl in spectacular spalted sycamore and Larry Stevenson displayed a walnut bowl.



Mike ("Ace") Dawson's Goblet

First time visitor Bill DeLeeuw brought along a very handsome rolling pin made of Australian redgum with pewter rings inlaid on the ends. Another visitor, Scott Belway, showed us several pens and a wonderful hourglass made of maple with cocobolo accents.

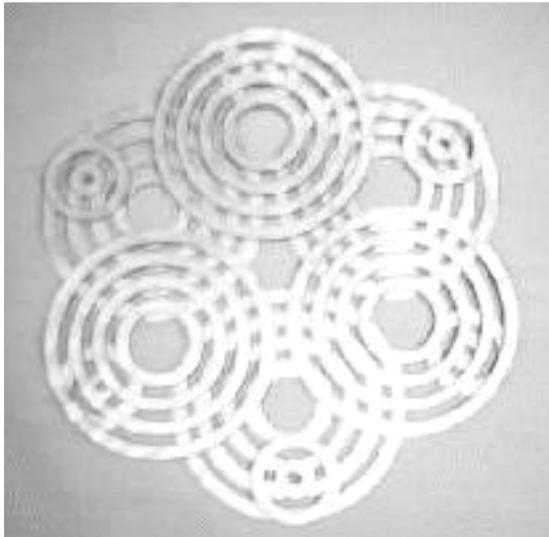


Rolling Pin by Bill DeLeeuw



Hourglass by Scott Bellway

The President's Challenge was to make a trivet. There were few entries this month, but they were all well-made and showed creativity. Doug Schop's trivet was of oak with a plexi insert while David MacDonald's was made from an unnamed spalted wood. Larry Stevenson and Marco Berera both explored variations on the interlocking rings theme. Great work, guys!



Multicenter trivet by Larry Stevenson



Marco Berera's off center trivet

Main Presentation – Doug Black

Doug Schop

Doug has been woodturning a long time. He started at 11 years old on a lathe that had belonged to his late father and has gone on from there. He went into the Canadian Forces in 1963 and had to give up woodturning during that period. He left the air force in 1983 and started a bicycle business on the island and just got back into turning. Doug now has a company called Island Woodcraft Supplies and he distributed a few of his catalogues to the members. If you want to have a look at Doug's impressive on line catalogue: <http://members.home.net/islandcraft/>

At home in Comox he uses his two Oneway lathes and has a Record bowl lathe that he uses to drive a wax buffer. Doug doesn't limit himself to any one kind of work, and he produces a wide variety of pieces. His work is influenced by Jason Marlow and Doug has had several items displayed at shows. He brought some of his turnings to the demo for our members to look at and the large burl bowl he displayed showed the kind of woodturning that we would all like to master.

Doug says if you want to make pieces to sell, wine bottle stoppers and Christmas tree ornaments sell well, as do weed pots and candle holders. His demonstration with wine corks showed how he worked to put detail into his pieces with a small spindle gouge, and he puts rings on the bottom of his bowls, "for the other turners".

He likes to decorate the rims of his turnings and switches his tool from hand to hand when doing it. "There are no left or right hands in woodturning," Doug says.

Doug oils the woods he works on with a mixture of canola and mineral oil to keep the dust down and he has found the best place to buy mineral oil is your local Buckerfields store, "best price," he says.

Doug also likes to sand with J-Flex sandpaper and says it is available at Lee Valley or at his own shop in Comox. His finishes are often just wax on the wood and sometimes he uses paste wax to get a deep luster. His favourite woods to work with are Maple and Yew and he really prefers to work with Cypress burls.

Thanks for the demo and the tips Doug!

A Demo on Bagpipe Making

Art Liestman with much text by John Liestman

I am very pleased to announce that on **Monday, July 16**, John Liestman from Houston, Texas will present a demonstration on bagpipe making at the Sapperton Pensioners Hall at 318 Keary in New Westminster from 7pm to 10 pm. (For directions, see the end of this article.) There is a \$10 charge for this event. Please pay at the June meeting.

I have known John since I was 2 years old which is something I can say about very few of our demonstrators. Generally speaking, he is an excellent fellow who comes from a good family. Seriously, though, my brother is an accomplished woodturner who specializes in making bagpipes. He will be in Vancouver to speak at the WHAT'S ITS NAME conference in July. I asked him to please find the time to share some of his knowledge with us. Now, on with a real introduction:

John Liestman, in addition to being a performer on the Northumbrian smallpipes and other instruments, is North America's most well known maker of the instrument. Although he has only made 13 full sets (plus dozens of repairs and

parts), a set that he built in early 1997 went on to win the Northumbrian Pipers' Society competition in pipemaking, held at the Bagpipe Museum at Morpeth Castle, England. This was the first time in the 120 years of the Society that an overseas entry was awarded the First Prize. John's book *The Northumbrian Smallpipes Tutor* is now the only book recommended by the Society for learning the instrument. It is available through John's website (<http://web.wt.net/~liestman>) and selected retailers in the US and Britain.



Northumbrian Smallpipes

John sent the following description of the instrument. "Northumbrian smallpipes are a traditional instrument from the Northeast of England. (Northumberland is the ancient kingdom / county which is north and west of the city of Newcastle upon Tyne.) Developed to their fullest extent during Victorian times, they are the most sophisticated of all the members of the bagpipe family. The more common Scottish Highland Bagpipes can play only 9 notes, have 3 drones each playing one note forcing the music to be played in one key only, and are powered by the players blowing directly into the bag. Northumbrian smallpipes have a typical range of 19 notes, 4 drones with 2-3 notes per drone allowing the music to be played in several keys, and are powered by a bellows under one arm that supplies air to the bag under the other arm. Also, by contrast, the Highland pipes are very loud and are designed for outdoor use only. Northumbrian smallpipes are quiet and sweet, designed for playing in a cozy corner of a home or pub. You will not likely ever see them in parades!



John Liestman playing the pipes

Music played on the Northumbrian smallpipes is typically sweet, lyrical, and sedate, although fast, rowdy dance tunes can also be played. Unlike most other forms of bagpipe, the Northumbrian pipes are frequently played with other instruments, especially the violin.”

When I asked him for a brief description of the demo, he sent the following: “Producing a workable, precise musical instrument is the first order of business. The functional part must come above all other concerns. This requires a combination of some normal woodturners shop equipment and practices along with some very specialized techniques and tools, many of which are shop-made. Added to this are basic silversmithing and leatherworking skills, some of which are again unique to instrument building.

I will survey these topics, emphasizing things that may be applicable to other kinds of woodturning. Some of the topics are:

- designing around the given functional requirements,
- planning the order of work,

- close tolerance woodturning with hand tools (some of which are Canadian),
- peculiarities of purchasing, gluing, and working with toxic rosewoods,
- imitation ivory, and brass on the wood lathe,
- and shop equipment.

There is way too much to cover, so I will bring handouts with photos and other information and questions will be highly encouraged to direct the topics where folks want them to go.

Built on top of the functional is the artistic element, embellishing the instrument within the functional constraints. I plan a short exercise to design a pleasing shape within very tight functional constraints. Somewhere between function and art lies "tradition". Tradition can be the best teacher and your worst restraint, but it must be dealt with, whether it is table design or making a bagpipe bag (from BC-tanned leather – more Canadian content!)

There will of course be a demo of the instruments and a chance-of-a-lifetime to "give them a squeeze"! This is always the chance for some good laughs. On display will be at least two sets of Northumbrian smallpipes and one set of Irish (uilleann) bagpipes. Dancing will be optional.”

Okay, there you go. I hope you will join us on the 16th for what should be a fun evening!

To get to Sapperton Pensioners Hall (318 Keary) from Highway 1, take the Brunette exit going south. Turn west (right) on Braid street (first light after the exit), and then south (left) on Columbia Street. Turn right on Keary which is about 6 or 8 blocks south of Braid. (Keary is the street on the south side of Royal Columbian Hospital.) The hall is just west of Columbia Street.

GVWG Picnic – Sunday, July 22

John Bese

The address for the picnic is 18726 Advent Road, Pitt Meadows. Just follow the map that Sandy distributed at the last meeting. More copies will be available at the June meeting.

The picnic will begin about 2 o'clock. We will need a few members to help set up for this event. I will bring some plywood to use as tables to hold the donated wood and turned objects for the auction. The money from the auction will be used to host upcoming events and for club expenses. Donations of turned objects and wood will be most welcome.

Bruce Campbell will be in charge of setting up the wood turning competition, so join in the fun and laughs. Rick Schmid has volunteered to organize the bocce ball competition. After these two events are over, it will be time to fire up the barbecues. If anyone is able to provide a barbecue, please bring it along.

Also, don't forget to bring your food to cook, plus a side dish to share with the group. The Club will be providing drinks, buns, butter, etc. for the meal. After we have digested all that good food, Bruce Campbell will begin the fund-raising auction. Last year, this was the highlight of the evening!

At the June meeting, I will be asking for volunteers to bring a few barbecues.

GVWG Picnic – The Auction!

Bruce Campbell

I hope everyone can attend the Summer Picnic this year. If it is anything like last year you will have a GREAT time including turning events, lawn games, good food and excellent company. A very successful part of the event last year was the auction. Members donated wood, supplies, tools, services, and finished pieces to be auctioned off with the proceeds going to the club. Items included lots of excellent wood, a number of

seasoned rough-turned bowls (thanks, John), several beautiful pens (thanks, Ivor), lessons (thanks, Sandy) and so on.

With your help, I hope to have an even better action this year. To whet your appetites, we have been collecting items made by several of the presenters that have been here recently (no Art, you cannot keep them). These projects, which have been made by some of the best-known turners in the world, will be included in the auction this year.

So, plan to attend, bring some items for the auction and bring a full wallet - you will be sorry if you miss it.

The Summer Shop Crawl

Art Liestman

So far, we have scheduled seven events on our summer shop crawl that will run from the end of July into September. If you'd like to have your shop added to the crawl, please contact me. The final details will appear in the July newsletter.

Don Derry Demo and Classes Coming!

Art Liestman

We have arranged for Don Derry of Ellensburg, Washington to visit us in September. Please note that this is BEFORE the September meeting, so you won't have a meeting to remind you about it! There will be more information and pictures in the next newsletter, but mark your calendars now.

Don Derry has been a woodworker for the past 35 years. And has concentrated on woodturning since 1994. He has spent several years doing the craft fair circuit producing pen and pencil sets, turned boxes and even earrings. But the bread and butter product of his line turned out to be Christmas ornaments, selling almost 500 ornaments per year. In 1999, he quit doing craft fairs to focus totally on artistic studio wood turning and 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.

On Saturday, September 15th, Don will demonstrate the tools and techniques that he has developed to produce featherweight Christmas ornaments. His style of hollowing and spindle work is fast, consistent, easy to learn and unorthodox. Not only are the tools larger than you would expect for such delicate work but he uses a reverse rotation of the lathe (clock wise) to do the hollowing.

On Sunday and Monday, September 16th and 17th, Don will teach a two-day hands-on class called "Sharpening the eye". This class will focus on developing a better eye for shapes and will involve a lot of turning.

On Tuesday, September 18th, Don will offer a one-day hands-on class on making Christmas ornaments.

Although the numbers are still being crunched, we expect that there will be a \$25 per person charge for the Saturday demonstration, the two-day class will cost about \$250 per participant, and the one-day class should be about \$125 per participant. Final costs will appear in the next newsletter. If you think you may be interested in the classes, please let us know as soon as possible to ensure a space.

Decoding the Label

Bruce Campbell

In the FoF session on sharpening a spindle gouge at the last meeting I spoke a little bit about grinders and grinding wheels. I mentioned that, for our use, the wheels that come with a grinder usually need to be replaced with finer ones. When buying a new wheel it is useful to be able to decode the information on the side of each stone. I found an excellent web site by Brian Clifford (a British turner) at:

www.a1studio.freeserve.co.uk/wtintro/wtintro.html

Here is what he has to say about the labeling on wheels: A new wheel will have a label attached that gives the specification. (An example is) as follows: 180x25x31.75 BA60PV. The first three figures refer to the size of the wheel in millimeters (diameter x size of hole x width). The first letter (B) is the maker's own mark. The second letter (A) indicates the type of abrasive. 'A' stands for aluminium oxide. If it was 'C' it would be Carborundum (i.e. silicon carbide). The number (60) indicates the grit size. The third letter (P) indicates the hardness of the non-abrasive material that binds the grit into the wheel. This ranges from 'E', which is (very) soft, to 'Z', which is (very) hard. The final letter (V) indicates the nature of the binding material. In this case 'V' stands for vitrified. It could also be 'R' for rubber or 'E' for shellac.

We care about the size (including the size of the hole - be sure that it matches the size of the shaft on your grinder), the grit (100-120 for your smooth stone, 60-100 for your rough stone) and the hardness (G, H, or I range for high speed steel and M, N, O, or P range for tool steel).

Stop the Slipping

Bruce Campbell

I love my JET mini-lathe but the tailstock slips even under moderate load. I finally got tired of this problem and decided to see if JET or other turners had a fix. My e-mail communications with JET recommended that I clean the ways and be sure that the tension nut was tight enough but since I had already done both of those things I was no farther ahead. Next I posted my question on the AAW discussion forum and got lots of responses. The collective wisdom seems to be to really tighten the tailstock lever. One person hits it with a rubber mallet, another with his gouge handle, but the best suggestion comes from David Kaylor who keeps a 12" (30cm) pipe by his lathe that he slips over the tailstock lever and torques it down. Finally, Alan Lacer suggested roughing the under side of the ways with sandpaper and increasing the surface area of the ways-plate

under the tailstock (i.e., getting a bigger plate). This should increase the "grip" of the tailstock. Regardless of the method the answer seems to be to tighten the tailstock more than can be done with just hand pressure alone.

So, for all you JET mini-lathe owners out there, I hope this is useful.

Upcoming Events

Fred Baldwin – Education Coordinator

September 27 – John Elliot who is the Wood Cut representative will demonstrate Wood Cut tools including their new hollowing tools, bowl saver etc.

October 24 – Keith Greffe will give us a demonstration on segmented plates using a Cyma curve technique that interlocks segments with the previous segment.

November 28 – Again this will be a collaboration of turners (John Bese, Marco Berera, Steve Hansen & Rich Schmid) who will be demonstrating Xmas gifts. If you have any ideas and would like to see them demo please let me know.

December – Group demonstration to be arranged.

January 23, 2002 – Art Liestman will demonstrate how he turns a vessel, then carves and dyes or colours the outsides of vessels.

February 27, 2002 – Ron Graham of the Mt. Vernon chapter will present how he does segmented and inlaid bowl.

March 27, 2002 – Threaded boxes are the theme and Bruce Campbell will turn the lid and bottom of a box then show how he cuts the threads.

April 24, 2002 – TBA

May 22, 2002 – Bowls can have handles – really - and John Bese will take on this challenge.

That's all so far. For future meetings if you have any suggestions please give me a call – (604) 224-5780 or email me at fbaldwin@telus.net.

CLASSIFIEDS

For Sale: Six-inch riser block kit for 14-inch bandsaw. Fits all Taiwanese saws easily adaptable to Delta, General saws. \$40 or trade for? Call Ross Pilgrim at 985-6423.

THANKS!

A special thanks to the following for donations, expertise and help:

KMS Tools (Coquitlam) 522-5599

Mount Cheam Woodworking (Chilliwack) 795-9297

Neufeld Brothers Hardwoods (Chilliwack) 795-7886

Lee Valley Tools (Vancouver) 261-2262 and www.leevalley.com

GVWG Officers, Appointees, and Volunteers

President – Art Liestman (939-3843)

Vice President – John Bese (581-8807)

Secretary – Dave Martin (521-8327)

Treasurer – Don Hoskins (939-6808)

Members at Large – Ted Fromson (876-0267),

Andrew Forrest (990-9667),

Fred Baldwin (224-5788)

Focus on Fundamentals Coordinator

Bruce Campbell (469-0221)

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Librarian – Larry Stevenson (438-3947)

Wood Exchanger – Phil Laliberte (936-2995)

Food Chief – Rich Schmid (538-7012)

Digital Photo Guy – John Flanagan (939-0942)

Acting Newsletter Editor – Art Liestman (939-3843)

Webmaster – Mark Bese (markbese@home.com)