



CHINOOK WOODTURNING GUILD NEWSLETTER

A CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS Volume 2024, NO.1 February 2025

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Fellow Turners: The ground hog has appeared and disappeared. The world around us is in uncertain times but fortunately we have our guild that has a loyal membership and good fellowship.

Your executive has been deliberating a demonstrator and hands-on person over the last couple of months. Dan has suggested and contacted Kai Muenzer to demonstrate. We are excited that he agreed to come to Lethbridge. Further information is to follow. I would encourage you to bring your turnings, to the meetings for show and tell. Part of our club meetings is to show projects, discuss accept praise and learn from one another.

Coming up:
We are planning to run a course a CASA next spring. We will need instructors.
Volunteers to teach the 4H club members.

www.wttool.com If you are interested in 2MT drill bits this is where you can get them. 1" bit 0101-0370, 7/8" bit 010-0315, 3/4" bit 010-0255, 5/8" bit 0101-0215 Good bits and better than a drill chuck.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

February 20, Regular monthly meeting.
7:00 PM to 9:00 PM at Casa. 230 8th St South, Lethbridge.

March 1, 2025- Sawdust Sessions at Casa. 10 am – 12 PM @ Casa. 230 8th St South, Lethbridge. Steve will send out an email to remind us of plans for the morning.

Tool sharpening should be done as necessary. The grinder will be set up and ready to go. If you have any questions as to how to accomplish any task, bring your materials and ask for help. Someone will surely know how to help you.

Remember, the best part is sharing some quality time with friends of like interests. Bring something you have made.

THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS

The American Association of Woodturners is a huge source of information on all things related to woodturning. This is a worldwide organization encompassing woodturners of all interests and skills. Many benefits accrue to members. If you are not a member you can check out their website here <https://www.woodturner.org/>. *We recommend membership to all our members.*

SUBMISSIONS REQUEST FROM GUILD MEMBERS

I Again, I want to encourage any of you who have a story regarding wood and turning, or anything related, to feel welcome to write up your experience and submit it to me for inclusion in the newsletter.

It has also been quite some time since anyone has written an introduction of themselves to the Guild. Several new members have joined while we have not been able to meet.

Please take a few moments to tell us about yourself, your experiences and your dreams and I will include it in an upcoming newsletter. (New members encouraged).

If you are not comfortable writing, contact me and we will work on it together. We would like to know you.

Remiebenoit@shaw.ca

ABOUT THE GUILD

The **Chinook Woodturning Guild** was formed in September 2004. The Guild's main emphasis is skill improvement and camaraderie.

mailing address: Casa: 230 - 8 Street South Lethbridge, AB Canada T1J 5H2

Meetings - 7 pm - 3rd Thursday each month, Sept through June @ Casa building on 8th Street South in Lethbridge

Sawdust Session - 10:00 - 12:00 1st Saturday each month @ Casa. Interested individuals are Welcome.

A map to the meeting location is found on our website

[http:// www.chinookwoodturning.org/](http://www.chinookwoodturning.org/)



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February 20th Meeting Happenings

At our regular meeting we are planning a wood raffle, I have a halogen spotlight on a stand that I will donate to the cause. As well as a folding aluminum bench that raises you about 18 inches from the floor.

In addition, we are having a silent auction.

February 20th meeting. Vern McNeely will present his collection of wood planes. We decided to have a wood raffle following the demonstration. Bring wood, tools, etc. to put in the raffle. Steve Munroe has offered to sell his surplus 12" sliding miter saw and drill press by silent auction during the meeting, with 50% of the proceeds going to the guild. Minimum prices are set at \$150 for the saw and \$100 for the drill press.

FROM ANDRE:

Michael Kehs (<https://michaelkehswoodworks.com>) is a legendary woodworker and woodturner from Pennsylvania making custom furniture and artistic woodturning. Click on the Gallery tab of his website and you will see a display of different type of turning. Click on the Vessels image and a new window will open. I like very much the finials on his hollow forms. They have just enough elements to give an impression of vertical movement to the hollow forms. Some other vessels are just technically superb with amazing side openings. Burnings on the surface of other hollow forms create a unique impression. If you click on the teapots image, you will discover amazing teapots interacting with bees or butterflies. Just magnificent and so unique! The boxes tab opens on magical boxes. They are all beautiful and combinations of colors and surface texturing make them unique. I particularly like the box with the blue, green, turquoise colors and the unique texturing. Make sure you look at the other tabs and you could find inspiration for years to come. Michael will be doing a one-day demonstration and a one-day hands-on session on March 22-23 for the Calgary Woodturners Guild at Black Forest. Publicity about this event should occur very soon.

Mark Gardner (<https://www.markgardnerstudio.com/>) is a woodturner located in North Carolina. He makes bowls, decorative vessels and unique spoons from hardwood species originating from the local Appalachian Mountains. In the Gallery tab find the locations for the bowls. You will see nicely shaped bowls with either flat or uphill rims with nice soft colors. Just below you will find his lidded vessels which are very nicely shaped. The black ones create a strong impression due to the color and texture. At the bottom of the page, you will find the beautiful spoons. These are unique with their lovely supports. I have never seen such a display of surprising but very pleasing spoons. Enjoy!

Finally, a very interesting video from Craft Supplies USA was released earlier this week about safety at the lathe. It is entitled "Woodturning Safety: Tips to Keep you Safe" and you can find it by clicking on this link: <https://woodturnerscatalog.com/blogs/blog/woodturning-safety-tips-to-keep-you-safe>. Please make sure to take time to look at it. It is always very good to be reminded about basic safety principles at the lathe as with its utilization it is so easy to forget about safety.

Enjoy the websites and the video. Please stay safe while you are in your shop,

André

January 16, Meeting. Written by Andre.

On January 16, we had a very well planned and organized demonstration about turning wood spheres by Steve Munroe (Photo 1). To start, Steve circulated several spheres he had previously turned and finished to the audience. They varied in size from about 1 ½” to almost 4” and they were feeling round (Photo 2). Before turning the spheres, Steve told us that we needed adapters for finishing the spheres. His first adapter about 1 ½” diameter was fitting in a scroll chuck and had an area in the center with a small cavity to support the sphere on its edge. Alternatively, the adapter could be threaded with a spindle tap fitting the specs of your lathe (the Guild owns 1” and 1 ¼” taps). To hold the sphere at the tail stock end, Steve had an adapter with a pressure fit ¾” (10 tpi) nut to fit on the thread of a Oneway/Powermatic/Robust live centre. Alternatively, a ¾” (10 tpi) thread could be tapped on a piece of wood. The diameter of this adapter and its cavity were smaller than the one from the chuck drive to better adjust the pressure when fine tuning the sphere. As seen in Photo 3, Steve fitted an O-ring on his adapter to minimize scratches on the spheres.

Then Steve told us that he was using the Octagon method to turn spheres. After rounding a piece of wood, you measure its diameter in millimeters (mm) with calipers and mark lines to define the center and the length to equal the diameter. Then you reduced the diameter outside the defined lines. The advantage of using mm for the measures is due that fractional multiplications must be completed, and it is a lot easier to measure that in mm than in inches. Then using the values of 0.293 and 0.414 multiplied by the diameter you can establish lines where to cut the wood at a 45° angle using a spindle gouge (Photo 4). After completing the cuts according to photo 4, you obtain an octagon (Photo 5). There are 8 faces of the same length (making abstraction of the tenons). You can then subdivide each face using the same fraction number to further round your work. Steven mentioned that after making 10-12 spheres you develop your eye to assess the roundness of the work, and you can eyeball the subdivisions to make the work more spherical. Then you part the tenons (Photo 5a) and hold the work with the adapters. When you spin the sphere, you will observe shadows, and you eliminate these by fine tuning the sphere using a skew on the side (negative rake scraper) or the wings of a spindle gouge as you feel comfortable to use. It is best not to cut the central line if possible. Then you turn the sphere 90° and gently remove the shadows. Then turn the sphere another 90°. You will see that the sphere is becoming rounder. Then to carry another set of gentle cuts on the three different axes. Then you sand stepwise from 80 grits to 320 grits or higher. With each grit, you must sand in the three different axes. Once sandling is completed you will be amazed how spheric your work is. You can then finish your sphere with an oil finish. To let it dry to put your sphere on the top of a small plastic or cardboard cup. The advantage of using oil is that there will not be a line on the sphere where the cup was touching the sphere. Soon you may have a basket filled with your own spheres (Photo 2).

If you missed the meeting and would like a handout, talk to Steve. If you want to make adapter cups, Steve will be very happy to help you with this during upcoming sawdust sessions.

Thanks, Steve, for the highly informative and great session. You had only a couple days to get ready. You did prepare many samples at different stages. This was very useful for understanding what you were presenting. Your session was greatly appreciated.

We had two lovely items at the meeting. John Vandenberg showed us another fabulous basket illusion bowl (approx. 8" diameter x 3" high). The design and the selection of colors were great.

Norm Robinson had a spectacular set of salt and pepper grinders with a unique original shape (Photo 8). The burning of the surface was very appropriate for the pepper grinder.

Thanks John and Norm for sharing your stunning work.



Norm Robinson



John Vandenberg



Brian Oliver displaying a epoxy platter. Turning bland was from Black Forest Products.



Steve created this for his grandson's birthday.
Hoop and basketball.

Steve Munroe January Meeting Demonstration.

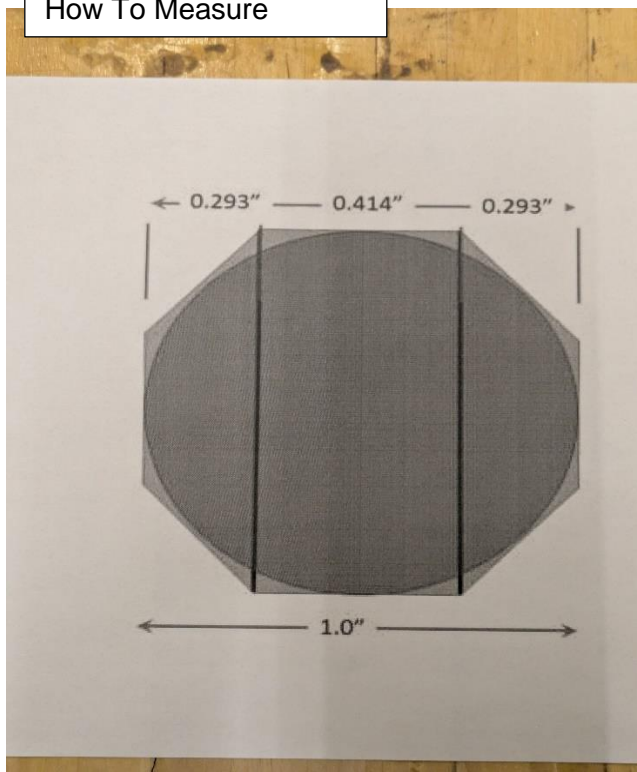
Measuring for the sphere



Questions, Anyone?



How To Measure



A Basket of Spheres





Tom Olfert brought in a birch log to turn. Steve and Tom decided it was best to make a live edge bowl. Tom did a wonderful job shaping and hollowing the bowl. Alas on the final finishing pass he had a catch.





The look explains it all



February 1,
Sawdust
session. Herb
Culler turning a
sphere with
Steve's
guidance.





This old truck in San Jose Del Cabo. I could not resist taking a picture.