



CHINOOK WOODTURNING GUILD NEWSLETTER

A CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS Volume 2024, NO. 7·November 2024

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Congratulations to all our members for their generous contribution of Christmas ornaments. Your executive is very pleased with your response. To have over 200 ornaments will surely allow us to have a representation of our skills on the Christmas tree. Thank you.

There is always a moment to raise safety awareness. We had a comment on the last sawdust session that not everyone is following safety standards. Be aware that you need to wear a mask. Caution your observers to stand out of the line of fire.

I had a request for an urn from a friend. I decided to make a segmented one to hold 2 cremations for a columbarium. Size is restricted to 14.5 deep, 10.5 inches high and 12 inches wide. To accommodate 2 cremations, I planned on 400 cubic inches as it takes 1 cubic inches to 1 pound of body weight.

The assembly took 15 rings at 12 segments per ring. I finished the inside with 3 coats of poly and the outside the same. Finished on a Beal buffer with Caruba wax. On the bottom I added a 2 ½ in threaded nut.



**Coming up:
Require instructors for
Teacher's convention in
February**

**We are planning to run a
course a CASA next spring. We
will need instructors.**

**Volunteers to teach the 4H club
members.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

**November 21, Regular monthly
meeting. 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM @ Casa.**
230 8th St South, Lethbridge.

**Dec 7, 2024 - Sawdust Sessions at
Casa.** 10 am - noon @ Casa. 230 8th St
South, Lethbridge. Steve will send out an
email to remind and inform us of plans for
the morning.

Tool Sharpening is encouraged as you
require. 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.

CASA CHRISTMAS CRAFT SALE

November 15-16, the guild has six
tables, please contact Terry at 403-308-
4552 to reserve a spot.

The 30th Annual Chinook Regional Hospital
Foundation's Christmas Tree Festival is coming!
Join us from November 17th to 20th for the
annual four-day Festival, where the [Visit
Lethbridge.com](https://www.visitlethbridge.com) Arena will be transformed into a
whimsical winter wonderland featuring
beautifully decorated trees, festive activities,
and a glitzy Gala. **Gala and Auction**

(Tickets \$125/each)

Wednesday, November 20th

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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October 5 Sawdust Session

Steve Munroe demonstrated his method of making Christmas Bells. Several members attended.



Christmas ornaments displayed are turned and donated by members that where present. Thank you.



Steve finessing the finial on the Christmas Bell.

October 17, 2024, General Meeting



Remie,
demonstrating
how to place
Paint on a top to
get an artistic
effect.

To get the proper design on the top: use acrylic paint available at Michaels. The paint brush needs to have a point rather than a wide pattern. Wet your brush in water prior to adding the paint. It is easier to clean the brush between colors. Add paint to the brush and the paint should have a soft ice cream peak at the top. Spin the lathe at about 2000 rpm. Don't forget to make yourself a paint guard to prevent splatter.

November 2nd Sawdust Session

Steve Hosted another successful sawdust session. We had a good turnout and explored all of the different Christmas ornament designs.



A display of all the Christmas tree decorations that are donated at the session. A very good day, and a wonderful assortment of ornaments.

Tom, Vern, Remo, Hans Dryer, Neil

Vern with his grandson, Kevin. Very interested and has his own ideas on what a top should look like. Example, Cd plate to make it spin. Future member.





Roger Wayman. 1



Terry Turning a top, Tom discussing with Vern.



Remo and Neil, I in awe of the bird in the cage.



Terry and guest. Guest is experiencing the thrill of turning a piece of wood into a top.



I would like to add a comment. If you are not coming to the Sawdust Sessions you are missing out on the great ideas that Steve presents.

André's preferred web sites of the month

Wooden spheres are always fascinating whether they are hollowed or not. However, they are not so simple to make. A few suppliers manufacture the perfect tools to make them but woodworkers have been making perfect (or at near perfect) spheres for centuries. What are the different options. Christian Burchard (<https://www.burchardstudio.com/>) an amazing turner from Oregon has created fabulous works. Madrone (arbutus, *Arbutus menziesii*) is an evergreen tree growing on the west coast of North America. One property of this species is that the wood will deform when drying, so when turned green and thin, the wood will "move" and most of the time in an unpredictable way, a characteristic sought by many artistic turners. Under the "The Work" tab of the website, you will find a variety of amazing works produced by Christian. Every subsection of this tab exhibit surprising work showing the many shapes and twists that madrone can exhibit. The "Baskets and Vessels" subsection is my preferred one but more I look at the "Books", more they are creating a lovely impression. Make sure that you are taking a few moments to visit the website. It is just amazing.

Thus, as spheres making has been central to his art production, Christian Burchard made a presentation in Portland last May demonstrating that one should be able to obtain a near perfect sphere by first turning a cylinder and making a light pencil mark to the center then making the cylinder the same length as its diameter. Then turning the piece 90 degree and rounding the piece on this second axis (holding the work with cups on both the driving spindle and the tailstock) without cutting the pencil mark of the first axis. After gently removing the high spots, he was making a new pencil mark at the center and turning the work 90 degrees and again rounding the work without touching the last pencil mark. Then repeating the process on the three axes. Voilà! You have a near perfect sphere! This could be an interesting project for a sawdust session in the spring. This method to make a sphere is different from approximate approaches reported in the November 2021 Newsletter: the octagon method using some simple mathematical formulas (https://youtu.be/u_dp_TAvX-s) and just by eye (<https://youtu.be/3lConTQ-cUw>).

I always been impressed by nutcracker soldiers and their diversity. They are just beautiful. Although you can find many in discounted stores, the quality of the finish product can be disappointing. So why not making your own? If you look on the web, there are many options from Etsy to YouTube. I pulled a few examples of interest from YouTube. One of the first example I look at was from Steve Ramsey, a woodworker present on Facebook and YouTube (<https://youtu.be/2Ttsn43modQ?si=OVQfnzCChpOlbD2e>). He had an appealing design but the sad thing is that I could

not download his template as the link did not work for me. Perhaps you will have more success than me. In any case, I thought he had an interesting lathe. Paul McGaffey suggested that it was likely a 1930s Delta or Craftsman Homecraft type lathe but with a tailstock from another machine. The best demonstration on how to build your own nutcracker that I could find was the two parts video from Colwin Way (April 2022 Newsletter, www.colwinwaywoodturner.com) where he has an handout available for a 9" nutcracker. The two videos <https://www.youtube.com/live/seGssktnpwc?si=t9lbAYtDq5-SXKjM> and https://www.youtube.com/live/fOM6l9W4yvk?si=aBOGQ4Sbld_I95Qt provide a lot of careful explanations on how to turn your first nutcracker. The assembly is simple as dowels are used to assemble the different components. Since these videos are produced by Axminster, products placement is obvious. Another interesting option was the version of Glen Teagle a manufacturer of carbide tool (<https://ukwoodcraftandcarbidechisels.co.uk/>). His production of good-looking nutcrackers is also well described into two videos (<https://youtu.be/-xi3BnapQ2o?si=NVR2Mhy9ooePMDmM> and https://youtu.be/ovX7tBCnhzQ?si=O7VK_L51Qq2pkEL0). The dimensions of the project are well described in the first video and turning of the project appears in the second. Again some product placement but a fine step by step description of the project. However, if you feel ready for something more imposing Sam Angelo (Newsletter May 2020, demonstrator May 2014, <https://www.samangelo.com>) has an early video where he turned a giant nutcracker of 38" tall (https://youtu.be/9dPJOYSBp64?si=3lVZnLTWHp-C_LT5). Quite impressive. With a pair of these guardians, I am sure anyone shop would be highly secured. Do you have a preferred video for turning a nutcracker? Please let me know. A turned nutcracker is definitely in my projects' book. Watch for the Instant Gallery next year! Will there be more than one?

Thanks again to the members who contributed ornaments for the Christmas tree. Your support to this guild project is greatly appreciated. You can enter a picture of your best ornament(s) to <https://www.aswoodturns.com/challenges/> before November 30th and you could get a chance to win one of the many prizes.

Enjoy the websites and the YouTube videos. Please stay safe while you are in the shop.
André