



# CHINOOK WOODTURNING GUILD NEWSLETTER

A CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS · VOL 2022, NO10 · DEC. 2022

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi everyone, this message will be very short as I am vacationing in the Dominican Republic right now and I am enjoying the 28 degree weather. It is quite windy but otherwise very nice.



I would like to remind the membership of our challenge to turn 10 tops for John to include in the Beads of Courage boxes.

This Thursday we will have the traditional Guild opportunity to turn a top and then compete in a run-off to see whose top spins the longest. There will be treats and it should be a relaxed atmosphere and a lot of fun.

Kenn Haase reported a total gross sales of \$561 raised for the food bank from the member-donated tops.

Steve Munroe represented us at the Annual Christmas Tree Festival Gala and Auction where our tree, decorated with our member-turned and donated decorations, was auctioned to benefit the Chinook Regional Hospital Foundation. Steve reported that our tree was auctioned for \$1300.

We have again been invited to "Teach the Teachers" at Teachers Convention in February this year. We need 12 volunteers for one day. Contact me if you are interested.

Thanks.

Terry Beaton  
President

## ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

### December 15, 7:00 pm General Monthly Guild Meeting

(Casa - 230 - 8 Street South, Lethbridge).

**Remember** the challenge we issued to our members: Turn at least 10 tops to bring to the meeting. We will give them to John Vandenberg for the Bead of Courage Boxes.



### January 7, 2023 10:00 am - 12:00 pm Sawdust Session

**December 19 7:00 pm  
General Monthly Guild Meeting** (Casa - 230 - 8 Street South, Lethbridge).  
Details to come.



*However you Celebrate,  
may it be filled with Joy*

## NOVEMBER GENERAL MEETING

We had a good turnout at our November meeting.

**Roy Harker** performed an encore presentation of turning a small bird decoration for The Season or - Any Season. It was a repeat of his presentation given at the previous Sawdust Session which included preparation, turning and finishing.



The process is the same for each part, both body and head. The turning uses some of the same processes as the simpler parts of a finial but certainly not the finesse, although it could provide practice for finial development.

The shape and size is entirely arbitrary each is individual just as no two animals are the same. When the two parts have been shaped and sanded a finish of your choice is applied. Roy used CA glue and buffing.

To attach the head to the body, a small flat spot is sanded on the top of the body and one the same size on the bottom of the head. Less than 1/4 inch is adequate. The location of the 2 spots will determine whether the head is looking up or down and a twist while gluing will allow the bird to be looking to one side or the other. Variety is the spice of life. Medium CA glue is applied to the spot on the under side of the head and accelerator is sprayed on the body. When placed together, the glue hardens immediately.

He also drilled a very small hole (smallest drill bit he has is 1/16th inch, 1 mm would be better) in the body just behind the head. He used CA glue to attach a very small metal eye (brass pin bail) to the body to facilitate a thread for hanging.

Roy tries to use wood with some sapwood as it creates a two-toned bird, similar to nature. Caragana wood is very figured and can create feather-like designs. Try a variety of woods and discover new ideas.



*Steve Munroe's tops.*

**Terry Beaton** led a short discussion on the finer points of top making.

**The parts of a top that he use are:**

1. Point
2. Body
3. Stem

A good top has balance with a long spin in one spot, easy for most people to spin and pleasing appearance. He makes many levels of tops from easy to extremely difficult. The easiest top to spin has a low centre of gravity, light to medium weight, and a small diameter stem of 3/4 -1" long.

**Factors affecting tops:**

1. **Centre of gravity** – the higher the center of gravity, the more unstable the top becomes. It will fall down as it slows down.
2. **Sharpness of the point** – the sharper the point the less friction and the longer the spin. Some tops have more of a round point, but they travel around the surface.
3. **Size of the stem** – the larger the diameter of stem the less the torque that is applied to the top. The less torque the less speed and the shorter the spin.
4. **Length of the stem** – the stem should be long enough to get a grip with the fingers. Really long stems will make the top unstable, partially when it slows down.
5. **Weight** – the heavier the top the more difficult it becomes to get a long spin.
6. **Perimeter weighting** – by removing some of the weight from the centre of the top and leaving more weight on the outer edge of the top, it will spin faster and longer. Think of a figure skater.
7. **Grain of the wood** – a uniform grain pattern across the wood is best. If you have a tight grain on one side of the top and an open grain on the other side; the top will be unbalanced and not spin as long.
8. **Hardwood** is preferable to softwood. The point will last longer.
9. **Spinning surface** – the smoother the surface you spin the top on, the better it will spin.

There may be more factors, but these are the factors Terry has observed. If you have questions in this regard, call Terry Beaton.



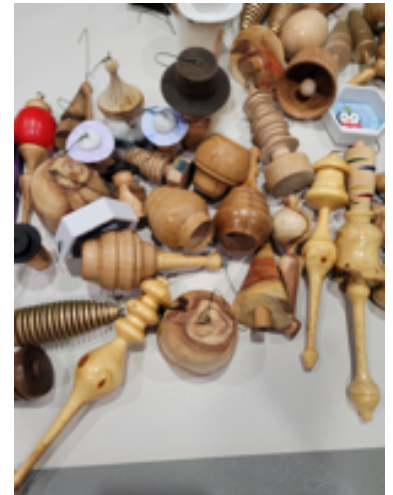
## ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL



*Crew members were Diane Munroe, Mireille Cloutier, Steve Munroe, Norm Robinson and André Laroche.*

The Chinook Woodturning Guild was present for the re“turn” of the 28th Annual Christmas Tree Festival, November 20 – 23. The sponsor of our tree this year was the Epiphany Group, a local asset management company. We had a total of 164 ornaments to decorate the tree in addition to the bird watching over the ornaments. The decorating dream team met at 9:00 am on Saturday, November 19 to put the tree together. The result was a stunning Christmas tree. Steve and Diane attended the Gala and Auction event on the Guild’s behalf and the tree went for \$1300 which is an excellent contribution from all of us to the Chinook Regional Hospital Foundation.

André Laroche



*It is always fun to discover all the ornaments ...*

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## ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL cont.



... and then, ...



... find the perfect spot on the tree for each one of them.





## DECEMBER SAWDUST SESSION

A sawdust session was held Saturday, December 3, 2022. It was a good time for all the members that came. There were at least 2 dozen in attendance, including the long lost Roger Wayman all the way from Cut Bank, MT, with lots to see and do with various activities taking place.

Steve Munroe instructed Don Lancaster in making a Christmas bird house ornament.

Rob Thomsen worked at turning pen bodies.

Remo Brassolotto brought an old wood chisel and reshaped it into a negative-rake scraper under the guidance of John Vandenberg and Roy Harker.

It was nice to see the more experienced turners mentoring the turners that are newer to the craft. We are never too old to learn something new and everyone has their own expertise and experiences.

Let's continue learning from and with each other.

Steve Munroe

Vice President



*Steve Munroe instructs Don Lancaster at the lathe.*



*Roy Harker, John Vandenberg & Remo Brassolotto discussing tool sharpening.*



*John Vandenberg & Remo Brassolotto at the grinder.*



*Roger Wayman & Earl Stamm have a friendly discussion.*



*Kenn Haase enjoying watching Steve Munroe & Don Lancaster working on the lathe.*



*Success!*



*Rob Thomsen turning pen blanks.*



*Norm Stelter, Suzi Tomita & Roy Harker enjoying the morning.*



*Christmas ornament - progressing, completed.*

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## ANDRÉ'S PREFERRED WEB SITES OF THE MONTH

**Gerrit Van Ness** (<http://gerritvanness.com/>) is an irreverent turner from Mount Vernon, Washington State. By consulting the different tabs of his portfolio from his web page, you will be in for a good and lasting laugh. He uses wood and additional media. Under the Politics and pop culture tab, most pieces include the red and blue colors associated with the Republicans and the Democrats in USA. His Tin man series is a set of unique situations illustrated with humour. His Spoon series is just beautiful where he displays his great sculpting abilities. These spoons are to die for. From his resumé, we learn that he was always interested in creating and using wood since he was a young kid and that he ended up with a degree in wood products engineering. After his military duties, he settled on the West Coast where he started his artistic production. My only disappointment is that his website has not been updated for many years. But you can see images of some of his more recent production when you google his name. He was a featured artist at the last American Association of Woodturners Symposium in Chattanooga, Tennessee (July 2022) in the POP Exhibition and Auction event with his work entitled "Common man" a mix-media piece depicting his own interpretation of the outside and inside of the human brain. It is shown in the June 2022 issue of the American Woodturner magazine. He was in good company in this exhibition with other outstanding turners reported in this chronicle that included: Malcom Zander (<http://www.malcolmzander.com>; CWG Newsletter January 2021), Kailee Bosch ([www.kaileebosch.com](http://www.kaileebosch.com); CWG Newsletter June 2021), Alain Mailland (<https://mailland.fr/en/alain-mailland-woodturner/>; CWG Newsletter September 2022), Elisabeth Mezières (<https://www.elisabethmezieres.com/>; CWG Newsletter September 2022), Art Liestman (<http://artliestman.com/>; CWG Newsletter October 2020) and Elizabeth Weber (this month). I am sure that during your exploration of Gerrit Van Ness's work, you will have many smiles.

**Elizabeth Weber** is also a wood turner from Washington State (Seattle) that you can find on

Instagram (<https://www.instagram.com/icosawoodworks/>) and on the web at <https://icosawood.work/>. You can also find a short presentation of some of her works at <https://youtu.be/SEGiNv2uClc>. She describes herself as loving to turn pieces and then carving them. In Instagram, you will find bowls and spoons, many elegantly carved and then colored vibrantly. You must look at them. I am extremely impressed with her bowls carved with mushroom representations. They are just spectacular. Make sure that you see them. Her other colorful bowls are also very impressive. She also has a unique way to produce spoons in all sizes and shapes. You will find some of her work on her web site under the Wood Turning tab. She also does group demonstrations. Make sure that you discover her lovely and colorful works.

**Ed Pretty** ([www.edswoodturning.com](http://www.edswoodturning.com)) is a Canadian woodturner residing in Langley near Vancouver. The guild had the privilege to hosting him for a demonstration and two different hands-on sessions on technique enhancing (ABC) and coloring wood in May 2019. He was our last guest demonstrator in our annual series. If you were in the crowd at his demonstration and perhaps in his hands-on sessions, you will remember his beautiful forms and his great ability to simply explain what he was doing. On the Gallery tab of his web site, you will find some beautiful work from Ed and some with color. Ed comments on his web site that his work is made to be looked at, not to be used for utilitarian duties. My preferred works are his colored hollow forms and after doing the liming and black painting in his workshop, those black and white hollow forms are still the most gorgeous and spectacular ones. Ed now offers different IRD sessions as well as private instruction. He also offers demonstrations to the members of the Greater Vancouver Woodturning Guild on a regular basis. After visiting his web site, I am sure that you will agree that Ed is an amazing turner if you did not know him.

Enjoy the websites. Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year with a lot of turning!

André

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## BEADS of COURAGE

Beads of Courage year end is October 31 2022 we received a total of 15 boxes this year for a grand total of 236 over the years, and also 22Tops donated. Thanks for all those who donated this year to help the children.

John VandenBerg

Beads of Courage Coordinator



### Guidelines for Turned Treasure Boxes:

1. In order to hold the beads, turned boxes for the Beads of Courage program need to be about 6 inches in diameter (5 inches minimum) and 5 inches deep (4 inches minimum).
2. If possible, have "Beads of Courage" engraved or burned in the lid, or leave a place to insert a bead.  
The round bead sizes are: 3/4 "+" with a thickness of 5/16" or 1 1/4" with a 3/16" thickness. There is a rectangle bead that is 3/4" x 15/16" with a thickness of 5/16".
3. Make sure the lids are easily removable. Any finials should be easy for a small child to grasp and not too elaborate.
4. Finishing:  
Children who receive these boxes are susceptible to germs/infections/mold. Bowls that have not been properly sealed can harbor mold. Ensure you are using a safe finishing process that does not contain toxic materials. Do not use finishes like linseed or walnut oil that take a long time to outgas.  
Do not paint Beads of Courage boxes. Instead, highlight the beauty of the wood with clear varnish, stain, and/or burning.
5. John (John VandenBerg [fayjohn@shaw.ca](mailto:fayjohn@shaw.ca), ph. 403-380-0141) has the beads to be glued on after the box is finished. He has a limited number of them so will give them out, one per box, when you have a box ready. Contact him to request a bead.
6. Please complete a donation form with your finished box or bowl. You can get the forms at the Beads of Courage Canada website, or John VandenBerg will have copies of them.

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## GUILD BUY & SELL

### New to our newsletter.

This is for personal equipment of individual members of the guild.

If you have items to include, please send an email to Roy Harker: [nlharker@gmail.com](mailto:nlharker@gmail.com)

### No business advertising!

Remie Benoit has a few items he no longer needs.

Rikon slow speed grinder. Comes with complete oneway grinding jigs.

\$180.00

CBN wheel 180 grit for the above grinder or other grinder

\$65.

Delta Lathe with stand and 1 chuck and several jaws;

\$500.00

Hitachi compound miter saw 12 inch.

\$120

All in good condition and should serve someone well.

Everything is priced @ 50% of retail.

Please notify [Roy Harker](mailto:Roy Harker) if your item sells so that I may delete it from the list.



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## THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS

**T**he 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

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### SUBMISSIONS REQUEST FROM GUILD MEMBERS

**I** again 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.

Roy Harker - [nlharker@gmail.com](mailto:nlharker@gmail.com)

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### 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 are at 7 pm the 3rd Thursday each month, Sept through June at the Casa building on 8th Street South in Lethbridge

A map to the meeting location is found on our website.

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



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