



CHINOOK WOODTURNING GUILD NEWSLETTER

A CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS · VOL 2023, NO. 10 · Dec. 2023

CHRISTMAS TREE ORNAMENTS



Hello everyone, first many thanks for all the members who were able to contribute ornaments this year! Your contributions were greatly appreciated and collectively we were able to provide a stunning tree sporting 191 ornaments. Each individual ornament was beautiful and this year there was a large variety of many different ornaments as displayed in the photos below. It was also nice that our tree fetched a good price (\$5750) thus making our collective contribution to the Chinook Regional Hospital Foundation even more significant. I



The Christmas Tree Elves

also want to thank the "dream team" that help me to put the tree together: Diane Munroe, Steve Munroe, Dan Michener, Norm Robinson, and Mirelle Cloutier. It was a hoot working with you and your contributions setting the ribbons, preparing the ornaments for hanging and a few last minutes fixing and not the least, hanging the different ornaments all around our magnificent 2023 Chinook Woodturning Guild Christmas Tree. All Guild members can be proud of this collective success. For members that could not contribute this year, be proud of the group effort and you will have a chance to contribute next year.

André

ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

Dec. 14 - Regular Monthly Meeting. 7:00 pm - 9:00 @ Casa. 230 8th St South, Lethbridge. Our **Christmas** event has been moved to the **2nd week** (This Week) due to the proximity of Christmas. Top turning and spin-off (trophy award), visiting, treats and drinks. Come for the fun! **Instant Gallery** - Lets revive it. Bring in your work. There will also be a **Wood Raffle** of some desirable wood. If you have any wood sitting around to donate then **bring it in** and share it through the raffle. For top turning please feel free to bring in your own tools or use the Guild's.



Jan 6, 2024 - Sawdust Session at Casa. 10 am - noon @ Casa. 230 8th St South, Lethbridge. Happy New Year! Steve will send out an email to remind and inform us of plans for the morning. Tool Sharpening can be done as you require. The grinder will be set up and ready to go. If you have a question 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. Bring something you have made.

Jan. 18, 2024 Regular Monthly Mtg. Stay tuned. We will meet at Windsor Plywood @ 7:00 pm. (3103 6th Ave North) They will explain what they stock and how they can help us. Perhaps an opportunity for us to make suggestions as well. See you there!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



December is a busy month for most of us. Christmas is around the corner, gifts are exchanged, we reflect on the past year and plan for the next. November has been an exciting month for our club members.

We enjoyed a sawdust session hosted by Steve Munroe. Terry demonstrated the making and use of a lathe spindle tap. All attendees at our monthly meeting were invited to view Roger McMullen's display at CASA. Great work and again demonstrates the depth of knowledge within our club.

November 17 and 18 many of our members participated in CASA Christmas Sale. It was rewarding for all that participated. For myself I shared a table with Kenn Hasse and we enjoyed having people come to our table and chatting. We even sold some precious turnings. Thanks to Terry for organization and accounting.

The Christmas Tree Festival was a remarkable success and thank you for your ornaments. Thanks to André for the organization and decorating of the tree. Be sure to read his comments in the newsletter.

Roy Harker demonstrated making a candle holder and candle at our last meeting. I took up the challenge and turned one out of cocobolo. Cocobolo has a beautiful look when finished but one must be cautious of the

sawdust. I found that it affects the respiratory system even with an N95 mask. When in contact with cocobolo look up its toxicity before turning it and use caution. It is actually a good idea to look up the properties of any new to you wood species.



Finished with CA and lacquer spray.

On behalf of the executive, we wish everyone a Merry Christmas. Be sure to attend our December meeting for a top spin off, socialization, doughnuts, and soft drinks.

Remie Benoit

President

GUILD BUY & SELL

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

No business advertising!

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

OPPORTUNITIES

Reciprocal Shop Visits. Lets broaden our horizons and promote camaraderie among our members. If you are willing to visit other turner's workshops and see the tools and tricks of their workspace, contact Norm Robinson to arrange a shop visit (text or phone 403-404-4428).

OCTOBER MONTHLY MEETING



Our October meeting was well attended.

Remie Benoit gave us a presentation on the uses of carbide cutters. Many of the members have some carbide cutters and use them to varying degrees. Some prefer carbide while others use them for specific purposes. He showed us a set that he purchased in the US and explained how he uses them.



Roy Harker gave a short demo on a Christmas ornament that he adapted from an article in the Edmonton Woodturners Newsletter. It is important to realize that each of us have our own preferences in how we accomplish projects but often rely on inspiration and motivation from other turner's examples. That is one of the benefits of belonging to the Guild. We inspire each other.

The base of the holder is approx. 2 1/4" in diameter. The candle is 1/2" x 2 3/4".



OCTOBER INSTANT GALLERY



Steve displayed an interesting assortment of turnings including a split turning.



Paul McGaffey bowls



Exquisite work by John Vandenberg



Remie Benoit's jig and boxes. He insists the jig was harder than the boxes.

OCTOBER INSTANT GALLERY cont.

Much of our Instant Gallery consisted of the 200+ decorations donated for the Christmas Tree Festival.



Casa CHRISTMAS SALE

As in the past, the Guild participated in the Annual Casa Christmas Sale on November 17 & 18. Six Guild tables were set up and manned by 7 turners. It was very successful overall. The guild paid for the tables and vendors paid 15% of their sales to the guild to cover costs of tables and Square Trade credit and raise funds for the Guild. Donated tops were sold @ \$5 each for the Food Bank. A few people just donated money and left the tops for others to buy.

Total sales by Guild members	6,220.00
Commissions (15%)	933.00
Costs of Square Trade (credit and debit) and Casa Fees	110.60
Table Rental	<u>450.00</u>
Profit to Guild	372.40

Total Top Sales for the food bank 1,155.00

Start preparing your products for next year!



SAWDUST SESSION

About a dozen woodturners showed up for the Saturday Sawdust Session. In addition to the regulars, it was a pleasure to have on hand some of our members who live far away. Roger Wayman drove from Cut Bank, Montana and Neil Stewart from Twin Butte, south of Pincher Creek. These fellows don't find it convenient to attend the evening meetings and drive home for hours in the dark winter nights, so it's great to see them on a Saturday morning.

Sawdust Sessions are sort of unstructured get togethers with a pre-announced loose focus. This time that focus was to introduce us to carbide tipped turning tools. Carbide tips are great if you don't like sharpening traditional HSS gouges and scrapers. Remi and Steve brought selections from their own tool collections for us to try out. I tried out a few of Remi's, but I didn't get as smooth a cut as he can. I probably need more practice, but I'm old school and I like my tools and don't mind sharpening. We really needed conventional tools to compare with the carbide cut on the same piece of wood. Perhaps, it all comes down to what we are used to and how set in our ways.

Most of the session was the guys talking about woodturning, discussing the recent Christmas sale, complaining about the price of wood and generally enjoying the company of other like-minded woodturning enthusiasts.

The instant gallery had two contributions. John Vandenberg brought his latest amazing Basket Weave Illusion piece, complete with the weave pattern on the inside. John, you must have long beading tools! And patience. Dan Michener brought a 3 piece walnut bowl. Mainly to show that he was still woodturning.

After the meeting several of us adjourned to the local A&W for lunch and to continue the small talk. The morning was another perfect sawdust session.

Dan Michener



*John Vandenberg's Basket Weave Illusion.
The inside is done too!!*



Alexander Wingate turning a top.



Dan Michener's walnut bowl, 9".



Ken Bly turning a bell.

ANDRÉ'S PREFERRED WEB SITES OF THE MONTH

The American Association of Woodturning Annual Symposium is returning to Portland, OR from May 23 to May 26, 2024 (www.aawsymposium.org). This is the closest location it will ever get to Lethbridge. I attended in 2018 the last time it was in Portland and as I was attending the AAW Symposium for the first time, I had a red sign on my badge name and many people were taking care of 1st time attendees. It was an extraordinary meeting with everything and anything about woodturning and an outstanding treat for the eyes and the mind. The demonstrators were all more exciting one from the other. There were eleven concurrent sessions and four rotations per day for four days although Sunday was finishing mid-afternoon. Some demonstrations were repeated to enable more people to attend them. It was a challenge to organize a schedule. After getting there, I saw a very exciting demonstration the first day and I had to change my planned schedule as I wanted to see the two other different demonstrations presented by the same turner. There were also special events at night. The days were jam-packed. I came back with a notebook full of new ideas and know-how to do things.

A very enjoyable angle of the meeting was the presence of three other friends from Lethbridge. Dan Michener, Norm Robinson and Ross Robinson. Hanging with Norm was great as Norm knows a lot of turners and suppliers and he would always introduce me to his friends. Thanks Norm. Hanging out with Dan and Ross was also very fun and relaxing.

The Instant Gallery display was humongous and you could see many items. Be warned, a lot of more fragile items could not be handled but just looking at them was quite fulfilling. The camera shutters were going all the time around us. Then there was the Special Exhibitions section of the work from a few show-cased turners. It was unreal and beautiful at the same time! You must see that once in your woodturner life. Work after work the different pieces were just stunning! Then if you wanted to change your mind, there was the Trade show area where vendors would present everything you might have dreamed about. A lot of free advice was given. Make your equipment list before you go as it is difficult to resist everything that you see. Overall, there were so many woodturners to talk to and exchange with.

Yet another angle to attend the meeting is volunteering to help with demonstrations. Dan was the only brave one from our group and he got a free T-shirt for helping. Dan was the assistant for Vancouver demonstrator Ed Pretty. Ask him about the job and he will tell you it was very enjoyable. The outcomes were many and one, not the least, was Ed coming to Lethbridge for a May demo that was extremely enjoyed by many of us.

If there are five or more participants from our Guild, I can make a special arrangement and request for a \$40 US ("50 CAD) discount but we must organize ourselves ahead of time. If you are interested, please contact me by January 20 and I will do the work so that we can get the discount.



I am not a travel agent but I found that Portland was a very nice city with beautiful parks including the Washington Park and a world famous Rose Garden and an impressive collection of trees from around the world, a botanical garden. Also there is in Portland, a spectacular block of Food trucks and shacks (4 sides of the block, it was hard to make a choice), the sour beer breweries and restaurants and the largest used book shop in the world. I felt very safe in the city and the public transportation was outstanding to go through town and to the Congress Centre where the Symposium was held. My only negative surprise was the number of homeless people in Portland that I was not aware of. Apparently, the problem is less visible now. On the Black Friday weekend I could find a return fare for \$255 to go to Portland. There will be other sales after the New Year. Driving is also a good option.

Look at the Symposium website as Christmas is coming up and perhaps you could get a trip from Santa?

A lovely story suggested by Paul McGaffey. about the Blakely Burl Tree Project and the fate of a pecan burl tree from Georgia (USA) that will live for much longer can be found at http://blakelyburltree.com/STORY/digging_deep.htm. Make sure you look at the different tabs to get the whole story. Thanks, Paul, for the great suggestion. It is a magical story!

Enjoy the websites. Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Stay safe while you are in the shop as I would like to see you in Portland!

BEADS of COURAGE

October 31 2023 is our year end report. We have 5 new boxes for a total of 241 to date. We have a few boxes in storage so for now we ask you to donate Tops for the children. In 2023 we had 48 Tops donated to the program "Thank You" to all of you that have donated.

John VandenBerg
Beads of Courage Coordinator



There seems to be an abundance of boxes for the time being so keep those tops rolling in.

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, 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.

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 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

ABOUT THE GUILD

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

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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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