



CHINOOK WOODTURNING GUILD NEWSLETTER

A CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS · VOL 2021, NO 2 · Feb. 2021

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dan Michener, President



With all the lousy news lately it's easy to lose interest and go into hibernation, waiting until it blows over. Despite not having face-to-face meetings this is evidence that we woodturners are hanging in there and following our obsession.

Terry offered a variety of surplus woodturning supplies for sale and he was sold out more or less immediately, so we know people are reading their email. Remie seems to be making Cryptexes*, mysterious boxes with an incorporated wooden combination lock, this requires a sliding mount for a router on the lathe bed, very clever. Several of our members are gathering tools and art pens for making basket weave illusion pieces following Harvey Meyer's IRD. Don is installing better lighting in his workshop. I always thought we turners did what we do because it's stimulating and creative, so we keep on doing it. The social bit, which we have largely lost, is not the driver, just the fun spin off, and it will return. Sometime.

I have given up looking ahead to when we have face to face meetings. Everyone says they wouldn't have believed last March that we'd still be isolating this March. Now the talking heads are talking about next September, nobody really knows, so why think about it. Think about woodworking. Last week the AAW sent us a survey as they try to figure out if they will have the annual symposium next summer. The question was asked if I would attend the symposium if I have to mask, stay 6ft. from all

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **IRD** by **Alan and Lauren Zenrie**, 21 February 2021. The event is scheduled to start at 2:00 pm MST. This is arranged by the Edmonton Woodturners Guild and is open to the Alberta guilds and the Great Falls Woodturners.
- **Glen Lucas** will be demonstrating for the Alberta Guilds and the Great Falls club on 27 March 2021. Details at a later date.
- Our **Chinook Woodturning Guild** has **volunteered** to arrange an **IRD in April 2021**. **Suggestions** on who to invite are **welcome** from our members. Contact **Dan michenerdan@gmail.com** with a name and reasons why you think that person would be a good choice.
- The **Basket Weave Illusion Challenge** encourages members of the participating guilds and club to make pieces inspired by Harvey Meyer's demonstration and send in pictures to enter a draw. The winner will receive an assortment of foam backed sandpaper. Several of our guild members are enthusiastically working on basket weave illusions. The deadline for sending pictures was announced as **28 February, 2021** but may be extended due to increased shipping time during the present challenges.
- There will be **No February general meeting**. Instead, there is the Alan and Lauren Zenreich IRD on 21 February.
- **Sawdust Session** on 6 March 2021 (Saturday) at 10am. This is a virtual meeting using Zoom.
- The **Allied Arts Council** store has sold 7 of our spinning tops for the benefit of the Lethbridge Food Bank. We will be passing on the \$35 to the food bank soon. Last year it was \$315, but we had a Christmas sale then where we sold the tops.
- **Contact André to pay membership** and join the guild, gplaroche@telus.net, 403-393-5337. You may also drop off payment at André's home. Phone ahead for the address and to be sure he is there.



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others, have no banquet, auction or other social event. Of course not – the annual symposium is a largely social gathering, why go if you can't socialize? I imagine most respondents will say the same thing and the symposium will probably be cancelled for the second year in a row.

Never the less, there is lots to do to keep our sawdusty minds occupied. Great Zoom demos are everywhere, monthly virtual sawdust

sessions, more emails from AAW with projects, suggestions and tips than I can keep up with. And when it is too much we can flee to the solitude of the workshop where there is always a piece of wood looking for a woodturner to make it into something amazing.

* Cryptex is a combination of *cryptology* and *codex* coined by Dan Brown in "The Da Vinci Code". Consequently, it has no plural but cryptexes has been used by some.

How to join a Zoom Meeting

This information is from the Central Alberta Woodturners newsletter.

On desktop, tablet or phone by downloading the app.

1. Download the **Zoom desktop app** on your Mac or PC. <https://zoom.us/download>
2. Open the **Zoom app**.
3. Click **Join a Meeting**.
4. Enter the **Meeting ID** and your **name**, and set **audio/video permissions**.

On desktop, tablet or phone via meeting invite link.

1. Click on the Meeting Invite URL that the host shared via email or text.
2. Open the **Zoom app**.
3. **Approve** the request for **permission** to use your computer's **audio and camera**.

Depending on the meeting's set-up:

- you may enter the meeting right away
- you may need to wait for the host to arrive first or
- you may be placed into a waiting room that the host controls.

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.*

HARVEY MEYER IRD - by Dan Michener

Harvey Meyer presented an Interactive Remote Demonstration on the 23rd of January 2021. Harvey is renowned for the basket weave illusions he creates on turned wooden plates, bowls and vases, and he led us in producing that illusion.

There are many steps required to create the illusion and we were taken through them in perfect clarity and detail right to spraying the finish on the completed piece. Harvey admitted that it takes time and patience to finish this type of piece and he often spends hundreds of hours on one. Clearly, he couldn't do that in this demonstration, but he had at hand partially finished pieces, at various stages, on which he could show the processes involved. Even so, the demo lasted 3.5 hours (with a 5 minute break in the middle for the obvious reasons) and not a minute was wasted.

This IRD was shared among the Chinook Woodturning Guild, Edmonton Woodturners Guild, Great Falls (MT) Woodturners, Central Alberta Woodturners and Calgary Woodturners Guild. It is a testament to the topic and the presenter that all 60 participants stayed until the end. Harvey began by introducing us to former basket illusion artists, showing examples of their work and then his own before getting down to the nitty gritty of producing the illusion.

Most of the steps involved are not too difficult in themselves, but they have to be performed in sequence and with care to get an acceptable result. Harvey showed us how to construct a couple of simple jigs for marking lines, discussed

beading tools, woodburning tips and his choice of artist's coloured pens. No detail, from safety to tool use to ink was left to our imagination. Perhaps a lot of information at a single dose, but Harvey supplied us with handouts, which have much the same information within, for our reference.

It was made clear that anybody can make spectacular basket weave illusions if they have some sense of design, the right tools, a clear eye, a steady hand and ten thousand hours of practice.

Undeterred, lots of the IRD participants are ordering the tools and scouring art supply stores so they can work on making these beautiful pieces. The Chinook Woodturning Guild has challenged the members of the clubs involved to make basket weave illusions and send me pictures to enter a draw for a valuable prize. The deadline for sending pictures was announced as 28 February, 2021, however, it appears tools and burning tips are taking quite a while to arrive cross border, so it is likely we will back off that date for several weeks. Stay tuned for that.

Harvey Meyer has generously made a recording of his IRD available to members of the participating guilds and clubs. If you don't have the link to that video, contact your club officers and they will provide it to you. That video will be available until 13 February, so better get cracking!

Thank you Harvey Meyer for your stimulating, captivating and thoroughly thorough Zoom demonstration!



Harvey Meyer tells it like it is.



INSTANT DISTANT GALLERY

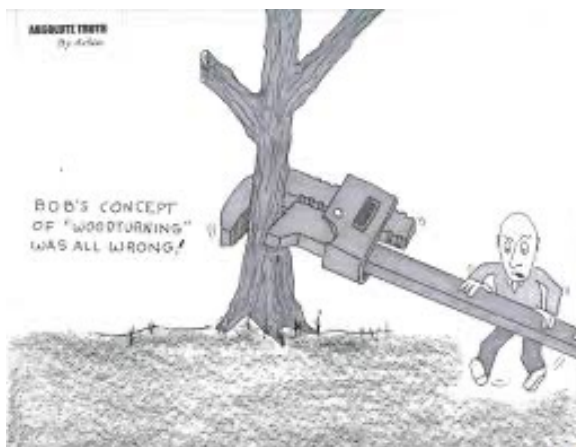


Pepper and salt grinders and tea light
Norm Stelter



A cryptex was used by early civilizations to send messages. They contain a compartment that can only be opened if you know the code. In this case I used numbers but they could be symbols.
Remie Benoit

Leaf glued on, then coated with wipe on poly. Russian Olive bowl. Canadian penny and a Portuguese Centavo.
Jim Galloway



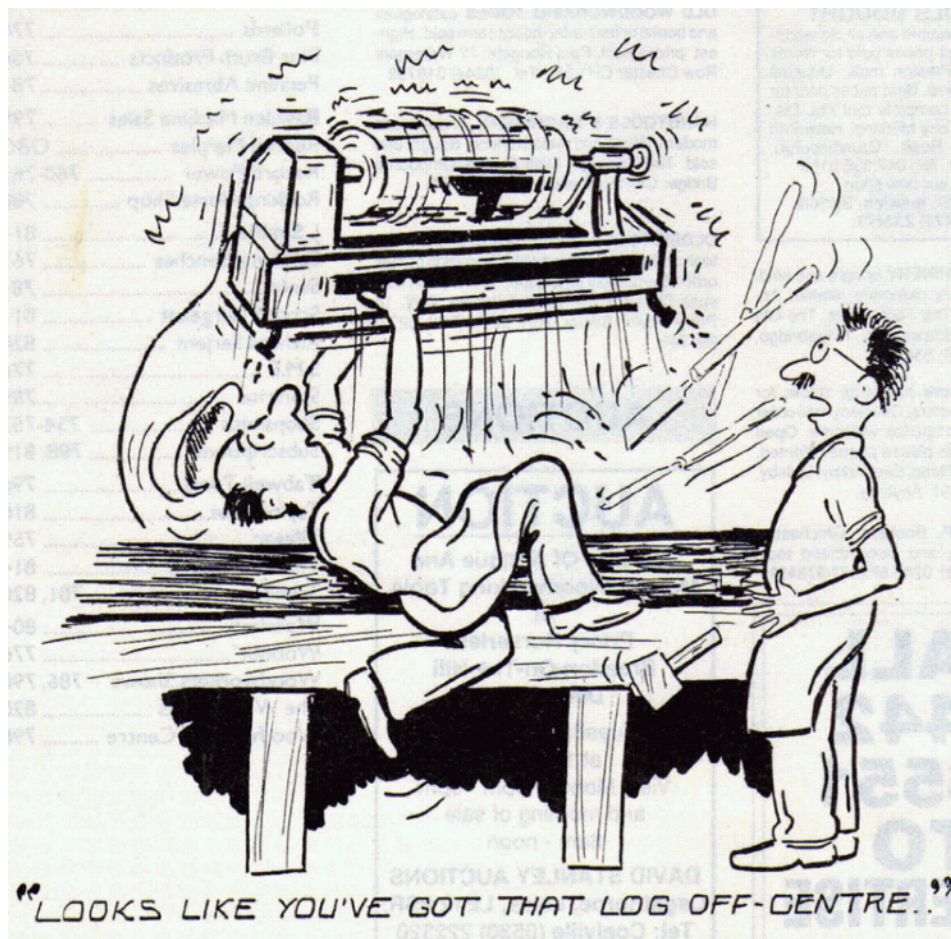
"Galaxy" Basket Weave Illusion- I haven't done the back side yet. The wood is Yellow Poplar; bad choice because the ink bleeds along the grain. The pattern represents our galaxy.
Dan Michener

INSTANT DISTANT GALLERY cont.



Five Basket Weave Illusion pieces.

John Vandenberg



THE MAKING of a CRYPTEX

I was inspired by a recent project proposed in the Woodturning Magazine Issue 348. The project involved a 1 1/8 and a 1 1/2 inch Forstner bits, a router and of course lumber. It involves turning two cylinders, one that fits in the other, and 4 rings and 2 end caps. Easy enough but a challenge to get all the rings the same size. I found that a solid piece of maple or walnut worked well and cutting the rings after final diameter worked the best.

To cut a slot for the locking pins required a slot cut on the inside cylinder. The project recommended a router for this purpose mounted on the lathe. They have a picture of the jig in the article. I made a jig that suited my purpose to fit an old craftsman router. By removing the housing on the router and using only the motor there is enough adjustment to do a straight cut. I know there are other uses for a router on the lathe but those will come later.

In order to finish the rings, I made a set of soft jaws for my chuck. Soft jaws should be made from maple as soft woods split when you tighten the chuck. They can be customized to fit the size of your rings. I included a couple pics of the Cryptex.

One photo shows a completed Cryptex, finished with graphite which gave it a steely color. This is a fun project making all the jigs. I also need to get an extension for the Forstner bit. The pieces of timber are 10 inches long to start, the width of the rings in 30 mm.

Remie Benoit



Router attached to jig



Router base components



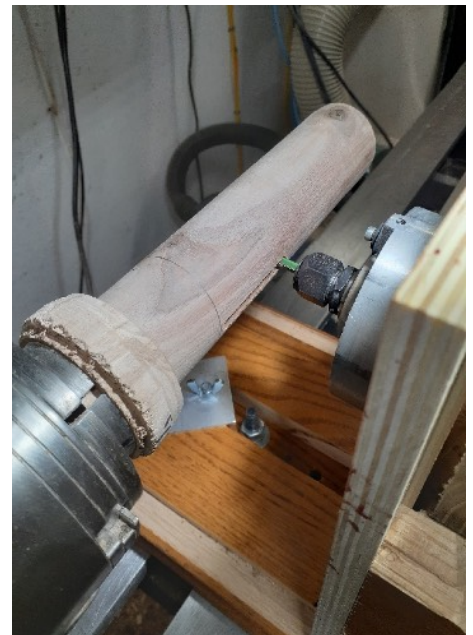
Cryptex parts without the pins.



FINISHED CRYPTEX



Soft jaws



Jig mounted on lathe bed

REBUILDING VINTAGE TREADLE LATHE

Paul McGaffey says "I buy all old rusty lathes and bandsaws 'with good bones' that are inexpensive - like a Delta 1460 I'm currently rebuilding, and the Delta 10" bandsaw I upgraded last year. Such old equipment features strong frames that easily handle bigger motors, new double bearings, conversion to digital speed control, and shop-made riser blocks. I enjoy crafting sturdy stands for these machines. This work is a fun challenge for me - though it consumes many, many hours, selling the rebuilt equipment goes a long way toward paying for this expensive turning hobby (Lathe, chucks, electric power, shop heating, sandpaper, CA glue, finishes, sharpening wheels & jigs, garage sales, etc...)."

I bought this lathe off Kijiji, sight unseen, and son-in-law Kevin picked it up from Airdrie.



Very rusty, the owner was getting rid of an unwanted inheritance, I guess. If I can't return this vintage lathe to its treadle beginnings. I'll try selling it to someone near Boston where such parts may still be found.

Research to date suggests that this 8x26" cast-iron Treadle lathe is from

Wilkinson Makers, Boston, Mass., date about 1860 - 1870. You use this lathe sitting down, pushing two pedals that turn a large (32"?) lower 3-step pulley that acts as a flywheel.



Unique to me are the iron-to-iron headstock 'bearings'. The machined ways and matching sliding bits move like a hot knife through butter. I'm corresponding with Robert Monaghan, who owns the linked lathe, to search out the bottom half of my recent find (or get plans to build one myself??).

Come take a look ! - call 587 220 6098 first, eh?

Paul McGaffey

Picture of a larger 10x40" confirmed Wilkinson lathe w 4-step lower pulley. See this picture at: <http://www.vintagemachinery.org/photoindex/images/35690-B.jpg>



Cleaned headstock pulley, with bearing cap oiling holes (surprisingly, It turns true & easy).



Beautiful cast 4-knob tightener on toolrest &



Tailstock & toolrest adjust very easily / good engineering / knob is convenient.



Here's where the missing name plate goes I'm guessing.

ANDRÉ'S PREFERRED WEB SITES OF THE MONTH

As we are approaching the International Women's Day on March 8, I selected exclusively women turners. The challenge was to limit myself to a few.

The first turner, **Martha Collins** (<http://studiomarthacollins.com/>) has her studio to the north edge of the Olympic Peninsula in Washington State, just across from Victoria, BC. Norm Robinson told me to look up her web site as she is doing magnificent micro segmentation with vivid colors. Norm met her sometime ago in Artists' sale venues around the Bay Area as they were both selling in different Festivals. Martha is very well known for her beautiful and micro-segmented bracelets, pendants, earrings and bowl. Some of her work includes over 1500 elements. The colors are plentiful and the design varied and unique. Unfortunately, she is not demonstrating outside her area anymore, but she offers many sessions in her studio in small groups up to four attendees and some sessions are for women only. You can also find some videos of her presenting her work on YouTube. Click on the link above you are going to enjoy the visit.

Betty Scarpino (www.bettyscarpino.com) defines herself as a contemporary artist, woodturner, wood sculptor, and woodcut printmaker. In a previous life she was an Editor with the American Woodturner magazine. Her work is quite different depending on her inspiration. Most artwork is turned, sculpted, cut, pyrographed, texture, or colored. Combining turning and sculpting, she generates exquisite forms that must be seen. Betty was featured last month by the AAW *Women in Turning* (WIT) during an interactive remote demonstration (IRD) at the same time we had our enjoyable demonstration by Harvey Meyer. AAW members can access her recorded demonstration on the WIT section of the AAW website. A beautiful and eye opener gallery to explore on Betty's website.

In 2012 or 2013, I had the great pleasure to assist at the demonstration of **Marilyn Campbell** (<http://www.marilyncampbell.ca>) a woodturner from Kincardine in southwestern Ontario who came to Lethbridge for a weekend. She had these peculiar hybrids of wood and epoxy that were just beautiful. I went back to her web site to find out what was her current production. Her website is still there but the last update seems be from 2017. The gallery has beautiful examples of split vessels with pierced epoxy she demonstrated during her visit. We have seen over the years some wood-epoxy hybrid pieces turned by some of our members and inspired from her visit. A virtual stop by her gallery is a very nice visit to discover or re-discover her unique work.

Last month, I presented **Sally Burnet** (www.sallyburnett.co.uk) one of the two artists selected under the *Professional Outreach Program Showcase* at the 2018 AAW meeting held in Portland (OR). She produces stunning vases, hollow and open forms that are embellished using bleaching, pyrography, carving, black paint, gold gilding and different colors to produce the most beautiful art. I just found out that Sally will be the feature artist presented by the AAW *Women in Turning* in a few days on February 20, 2021. This is a free event for AAW members and you can register at (https://www.woodturner.org/Woodturner/WIT/WIT-Home-Page.aspx?WebsiteKey=c9100f02-c77e-4177-a9bc-7d3eb0216238&hkey=7f6a65b2-ec98-472f-a7b6-2ac573f7258d&New_ContentCollectionOrganizerCommon=8). I am registered. If you have not yet registered, click on her website, and you will be in for a real treat!

Enjoy the websites and happy turning!

André

NEW MEMBERS

We have three new members recently. Please welcome **Doug Morrison, Rick Everett** and **Deuy Vandenberg**. Doug and Rick attended one of our meetings a year ago, but we haven't had any meetings since. Deuy has recently acquired a lathe and is raring to go. Welcome guys!

REQUEST SUBMISSIONS 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. 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).

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.

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/>



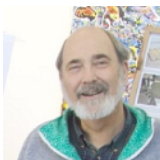
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