



# CHINOOK WOODTURNING GUILD NEWSLETTER

A CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS · VOL 2021, NO 8 · Oct. 2021

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Insurance is, by far, the greatest expense that our guild has. Almost all the woodturning guilds in Canada are covered under a group insurance plan arranged through the Society of Canadian Woodworkers. The Society was set up specifically for insurance purposes when it was realized that the insurance which woodturners had been purchasing through the American Association of Woodturners was invalid outside of the USA. I assume AAW didn't realize this, nevertheless there was no money refunded to the Canadian guilds.



Colleen Samila, of the Woodturners Guild of Ontario, spearheaded the search for ways to get affordable insurance for Canadian woodturners. You can get some of the story and insurance information on the website <http://www.canadian-woodworker.com/about insurance.html>.

Our insurance is renewed each October 1<sup>st</sup>. This year our insurance premium increased by an eye watering 38% to \$850, plus the usual \$50 membership in the Society of Canadian Woodworkers. So, we are in it to the tune of \$900 with few options but to pay. As far as Colleen can determine, only one company is interested in group insurance for woodworkers. The other companies want to insure individual woodworkers for a couple of thousand dollars a pop, so as an alternative to that, it seems like a good deal. However, it's a pretty big hit for guilds like ours, and it amounts to at least \$22 for every one of us, like it or not.

Liability insurance protects us against issues arising from accidents during our guild activities and we must have it. Our guild has cancelled damage insurance to cover our lathes and equipment because it is expensive and the deductible is greater than the value of most of our possessions.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

**The Annual General Meeting** was on 16 September 2021. Due to the pandemic the meeting was virtual using Zoom. Here are the highlights:

The AGM was attended by 13 members.

We learned that the guild is financially sound.

The **new Executive** was elected by acclamation.

**Dan Michener** remains **President** for one final year. **Norm Robinson** remains **Vice President**, **Roy Harker** was elected **Secretary** (previously he was appointed to fill in the vacant seat) and **Terry Beaton** is our new **Treasurer**. Welcome Terry!

André Laroche has stepped away from his long time position as Treasurer but will help familiarize Terry with the Treasurer's procedures.

**Membership fees are now due.** Dues are reverting to their pre-pandemic levels.

Student Member	\$40.00
Regular Member	\$75.00
Family Membership	\$125.00

Payment can be made in 1 of 4 ways:

1. **e-transfer** to – [cwgtreasurer021@gmail.com](mailto:cwgtreasurer021@gmail.com)
2. **Send a cheque** (payable to Chinook Woodworking Guild) to Chinook Woodturning Guild c/o Casa, 230 8- Street S., Lethbridge, T1J 5H2
3. **Send or deliver a cheque** to Terry Beaton at 269 Heritage Crescent, Lethbridge, T1K 7E4.
4. **Deliver cash** to Terry Beaton at 269 Heritage Crescent.

You can phone or text Terry at 403-308-4552.

**The Regional Hospital Foundation** Christmas Tree Festival fundraiser is cancelled for this year.

The **Christmas At Casa Art Sale** is scheduled for **November 19 and 20**. (Friday afternoon and all day Saturday). The woodturners usually have 6



---

## President's Message continued

A year or so ago I wrote about insurance, but it bears repeating. I am not an insurance guy and Colleen Samila is not an insurance agent, this is what we believe to be the situation re. Woodturners, but if you are teaching for money you should investigate. Instructor's Insurance as an add on to the guild insurance is not very expensive, I think less than \$100 per year. A letter from Colleen outlined guidelines for those instructing or mentoring woodturning. She says the most frequent questions she is asked concern instructors insurance so she has summarized frequent situations.

Below is reprinted from her letter:

"Plain and simple: if you are teaching for money or teaching a non-member of your specific woodturning/woodworking club (any 3<sup>rd</sup> Party – a friend, another member's friend, a neighbour) – you must purchase the Instructors Insurance. This will extend the current General Liability coverage to pick up occurrences of Bodily Injury or Property Damage, while conducting this operation. Subject to the rules associated around Instruction as laid out by the Association.

Instructors Insurance will always only allow one to one teaching.

Scenarios that occur where there seem to be questions:

1. In the club meetings, where a member is teaching a member such as a skills night for club members to learn – you are covered without the requirement of the Instructors Insurance.
2. A club member teaches a club member in either one's home with no money exchanged, called mentoring – you are covered without the requirement of the Instructors Insurance.
3. A demonstration where a turner is on a lathe, safety precautions are in place, public is watching and not partaking in the demonstration – you are covered without the requirement of the Instructors Insurance.
4. A demonstration where a turner is on a lathe, individuals who are not members of your specific woodturning/woodworking club are watching and allowed to try their hand at turning – Instructors Insurance Required.

5. A turner has a member of their specific woodturning/woodworking club at either's house, and money is exchanged for teaching purposes - Instructors Insurance Required.
6. An event is held where both members and non-members of your specific woodturning/woodworking club will be present, teaching/instructing will occur – one to one only - Instructors Insurance Required."

With any luck the cost of insurance will not continue to escalate as fast as it has recently. As of now, the Chinook Woodturning Guild is insured. We have not had a claim and I hope we never do.

---

## Announcements & Events continued

vendor tables set up in the woodworking workshop. The table fees are paid by the guild and the Guild takes 15% of the gross sales from our members. All sales go through our cashier at the entrance to the hall, and the Treasurer then pays the sellers their 85% in the days following the sale. Vendors are expected to have their space occupied for the entire time, if they share a table they can spell off one another. Vendors must be set up when the sale begins and not taken down until the sale is officially over. There will be more information as the sale date draws near.

If you want to join the Guild in the sale notify Dan Michener.

Due to Provincial restrictions on gatherings, it is not certain at this time that the sale will go ahead.

## Dan at Green Haven

*Pictures by Jim Galloway*

On 25 September Dan Michener participated in the Art For Fall art sale at Green Haven Garden Centre. Dan was selling his bowls and vases while others sold paintings, photography, porcelain, leather work, glass and weavings. It was an uncrowded sale in an outdoor enclosure; everyone masked. Several of the woodturning community passed through and said hello.



*Some of Dan's turnings.*



*Dan trying to sell to Norm Robinson and Bert Kadijk. No success there!*

## Terry at Art Days on the Square - Casa

On Sunday, 26 September 2021 Terry Beaton was demonstrating woodturning during Art Days on the Square on the east side of Casa. The outdoor setting under a tent was a good location for the public to wander by and watch or ask questions. If the live music hadn't been so loud there would have



*Claire explains while Terry demonstrates.*



*Terry shows how it is done.*



*André Laroché looks over Terry's sale table.*



*Ray's carved Bohemian Waxwing and Robin.*

*Ray Routhier was there to demonstrate bird carving. Dan is trying to hear what Ray is saying over the racket from the live music.*





## INSTANT DISTANT GALLERY

Paul Saw a large bowl behind me (Dan) during a Zoom meeting. He asked for the story:



The bowl is Narrowleaf Cottonwood from a tree which grew on my farm, along a now gone irrigation ditch. Probably from the 1930s or '40s, I owned it from 1978 until 2010 when I sold the land. Eventually, the tree began to lean into the field and caught the tip of the large irrigation pivot that was passing by, tearing 60 ft. off the machine and causing me to cut the tree and drag it home with a tractor. This piece weighed around 200-300 lbs when I put it on the lathe, using an engine crane. Outboard turning for the roughing out. Lot of work.

Then it sat around for a couple of years, cracking a bit around the pith, and there is rot around the pith as well, as there is in almost all cottonwoods of a certain age (much like ourselves).

I showed the dried rough-out to Cindy Drozda when she came to demo and teach in 2015 and she said "I don't know what your going to do with THAT!. But I didn't throw it away. I filled the voids with coloured epoxy and finished it.

Now I treasure it, and put it out when I have a chance for it's WOW factor and to get people walking by to stop and talk.

24" diameter."

Dan



This platter, from the same tree, is a Departmental retirement gift for Dr. Stew Rude, Cottonwood expert, from the U of L.



I acquired a bit of Siberian Elm Burl and some epoxy from the Bearded Ox Timber. Had some fun this weekend.  
Duey Vandenberg

## INSTANT DISTANT GALLERY cont.



Paul McGaffey volunteered to rough turn a solid log into a stool for The Bearded Ox. Here is his story.

"OK Guild folks... I saw the stool, picked it up, guessed weight to be 40 LBS, Jacob weighed it and it is 40.13 LBS."

Shiny epoxy finish will be sanded to matte.

Initial hollowing was done w chainsaw, when that rough block was removed then Jacob shaped it with a wonderful set of Eastern European carbide carvers driven by a powerful angle grinder called a 'Dragon'.

As part of my bounty for turning the outside of the stool to design dimension, I picked up a unique 18" spruce double-burl. It has wild promise! I'm not actually sure what a Spruce bump should be called - any suggestions? I've turned one that had wild & interesting grain, but they are usually not like any other burl I've turned...

(I suggest the Spruce bump be called Bruce. - Dan)



Siberian Elm urn/vase. 10"x7".  
Dan Michener

From this to my towering pyramid made with my Bandsaw.

John VandenBerg





---

## INSTANT DISTANT GALLERY cont.



*"Paper Bag" bowl*  
Paul McGaffey



*"Paper Bag" bowl blank being cut.*

*The log was not the least bit green, it was dry as a bone. Thus, the apparent distortion is caused by the irregular slanted top edge and the burl effects that create an illusion. The bowl is 10" wide & 6" deep.*  
Paul McGaffey



*My latest basket illusion.*  
John VandenBerg



---

## NEW MEMBERS

Say hello to two new members.

**Ron Kisko** is joining us from Vulcan, Alberta. Ron is a retired journeyman cabinet maker and wants to hone his skills on the lathe.

**Don Reichert** is a tech, math and science teacher here in Lethbridge. He took an introductory class in

---

## ANDRÉ'S PREFERRED WEB SITES OF THE MONTH

**A**t work I always receive information on different aspect of safety. This past week one item was not related to lab work but was nevertheless an interesting topic for a wood turner: it was about chain saw safety and compliance. I know I did talk about this back in April but the reality is a chainsaw is one of the most dangerous tools in a woodshop. In this report, a 5-steps game plan was suggested to prevent chainsaw injuries:

- 1) Ensure that chain saw meets the current safety standards including kickback protection.
- 2) Ensure proper chain saw inspection, maintenance and storage.
- 3) Implement safe work procedures in your routine including turning off the motor for any adjustment and inspection.
- 4) Ensure that you use all the required personal protective equipment (PPE) before starting using the chain saw including proper safety boots (CSA Z195), approved safety pants or chaps, safety glasses, goggles or other protection shielding the worker's eyes and face from chips, flying debris and other hazards, a hard hat with suitable hearing protection and protective gloves. A suitable fire extinguisher close by could become very handy. And a proper log stand so that you are in a safe and comfortable position when cutting a log.
- 5) Finally, a list of safety instructions to review before using the chain saw.

I know this is a lot of work and prep to cut or split a single log. As an accident can occur in a split second, it is a small time investment to

protect yourself and perhaps save you a trip to the emergency ward.

Please take a moment to develop your own game plan for safety when you use your chain saw and stay safe as I like to see your turnings.

On a more enjoyable note perhaps some interesting sites:

**Rebecca DeGroot** is a visual art teacher in Houston who originates from Michigan. She creates fantastic creatures with bent legs in the form of wild animals or wild teapots. It is difficult to forget her works especially when we are getting close to Halloween. Unfortunately, she does not have a website but you can find her work on Facebook (no membership required to see it) at <https://www.facebook.com/rebecca.degroot>. She is also very present on Instagram. Discovering her work takes you into a different world. I am sure that you will be happy with your virtual visit. Her demonstrations are well done and very stimulating. For the AAW members, she has an upcoming presentation coming on November 13 under the Women in Turning Events section.

**Malcom Tibbetts** is a highly creative and very gifted segmented woodturner creating works from a few inches to 10-12 feet in diameter. He uses color and different media and produces unique, attractive and fascinating work. He creates unique vases, ribbons, interlaced tubes and many other shapes including beautiful cryptex boxes and furniture. You can find some of his spectacular work on his web site at <https://tahoeturner.com/>. He also published a book in 2005 entitled: *The Art of Segmented Wood Turning*. This is available on-line at Chapters Indigo or Amazon.

---

### How to join a Zoom Meeting

Enjoy the websites, happy turning and remain  
*This information is from a previous 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
2. via email or text.
3. Open the **Zoom app**.
4. **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

**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

---

### 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.

---

### 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/)

**Guild meetings are being held on line via Zoom until it is deemed safe to meet face to face again.**



#### President

Dan Michener  
403-331-9177  
[michenerdan@gmail.com](mailto:michenerdan@gmail.com)



#### Treasurer

Terry Beaton  
403-308-4552  
[terry\\_beaton@shaw.ca](mailto:terry_beaton@shaw.ca)



#### Vice-President

Norm Robinson  
403-404-4428  
[NormRobinson@hotmail.com](mailto:NormRobinson@hotmail.com)



#### Beads of Courage Chairman

John Vandenberg  
403-380-0141  
[fayjohn@shaw.ca](mailto:fayjohn@shaw.ca)



#### Secretary & Newsletter Editor

Roy Harker  
ph 587-316-0255  
txt 385-245-9449  
[nlharker@gmail.com](mailto:nlharker@gmail.com)

#### Newsletter Contributors:

Dan Michener

Roy Harker

John Vandenberg

André Laroche

Jim Galloway - Photos