



CHINOOK WOODTURNING GUILD NEWSLETTER

A CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS Volume NO.8, November 20, 2025

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Important Notice: The December Meeting is on December 11 at 7 PM at CASA instead of Thursday December 18. The change in date is due to the proximity to Christmas. We are hopeful of a better turnout for the social and meeting.

November has been an especially busy month for your executive. Terry has been heavily involved in planning and organizing the CASA sale, André with the Chinook Regional Health Foundation. In addition, we organized a meeting and had an executive meeting. Steve organized and had a great sawdust session, and we were pleased with the number of members that attended.

Your executive is hoping for feedback on what you wish to see at your meetings. Remo is conducting the survey. Paul is doing a demonstration at the meeting, on natural edge bowls.

Thanks to Terry and André for their contributions of time and effort to organize The CASA sale and the Christmas tree. Their efforts make our Guild shine. Thanks to all the members who contributed ornaments and tops.

There will be no Newsletter in December.

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

MEETINGS ARE HELD AT CASA

230 8th St South, Lethbridge

December 6, 2025- Sawdust Sessions at Casa. 10 am – 12 PM

December Meeting and social is on December 11 at 7 PM

Membership Dues

Dues remain the same as 2024.

\$75 for in town and \$50 for out of town.

E-transfer. Payment to:

Cwgtreasurer021@gmail.com

Sawdust Sessions.

Tool sharpening should be done as necessary. 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.

SUBMISSIONS REQUEST FROM GUILD MEMBERS

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.

rbenoit@chinookwoodturning.org

ABOUT THE GUILD

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

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 at the Casa building on 8th Street South in Lethbridge

Sawdust Session - 10:00 - 12:00 1st Saturday each month at Casa. Interested individuals are Welcome.

A map to the meeting location is found on our website



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Saturday sawdust session
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Beads of Courage
Chairperson
John Vanderberg
403-380-0141

NOVEMBER 1, SAWDUST SESSION



Steve demonstrated how to turn a miniature cowboy hat using a block of side grain Manitoba Maple, measuring about 5 inches long by 4 inches square. He selected the most desirable end of the wood block to be used for the brim of the hat. This face was then mounted to the chuck on the headstock using a wood worm screw. The tailstock was engaged for extra support. The wood block was then shaped into a cylinder and a tenon was created at the tailstock end of the block.

The wood was then reversed and mounted on to the chuck using the tenon.

Next, square off the face of the cylinder, this will be the hat's brim. Drill a hole approximately 1 inch in diameter and $\frac{3}{4}$ inch deep into the face. Next, determine how wide you want the hat's brim. Approximately 3 times the diameter of the hole.

Carefully remove the bulk of the material between the edge of the brim and the headstock, making sure not to cut into the drilled hole intended for the hat's interior. Sand and finish both the underside and inside of the hat at this stage, since you won't be able to access them later.

After removing the cylinder from the chuck, make a jam chuck to finalize the hat. The jam chuck should have a tenon and a 1-inch cylinder matching the depth of your hat. Face the jam chuck so the base of the hat fits snugly onto it. The jam chuck will add support to the brim of the hat. Bring up your tailstock to the unfinished cylinder and carefully remove excess wood to shape the top, being cautious not to expose the hole inside. When about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch from the brim, leave extra thickness to form a band. Burn the band at this point to add a decorative feature, then sand and finish.

To shape the sides, use a jig like the one shown below. Boil some water, with the hat secured to the jig with rubber bands and oriented correctly, soak the brim of the hat in the boiling water for just a few seconds. You may need a second soaking. Over time, the hat will gradually take on your desired shape.

Be careful not to put too much pressure with the rubber bands. It is possible to snap the brim depending on the thickness of the brim and type of wood used.



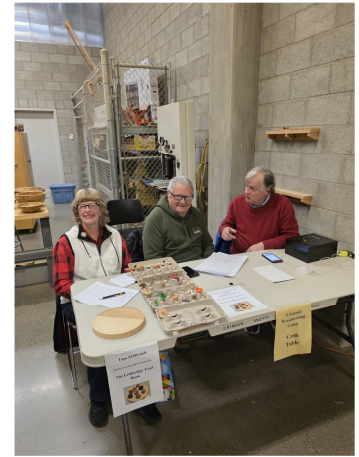
Show and tell.
Checking out the
designs of the
Christmas tree
decorations and
talking about
different techniques.
Good work.

Casa Sale November 14 and 15

Thanks to the volunteers who helped make this years sale a success. I won't mention names for fear of missing someone. We had volunteers for selling tops which benefit the food bank. Reports are that Patrons were generous and had fun turning the tops.

The volunteers taking in proceeds from the sales had to be diligent recording each sale and collecting the money. Thank you.

We were allowed six tables to display product. There were 8 turners sharing these tables. Traffic was continuous with a good response to the products presented.





Vern's display along with
Brandon



*Thanks to all of you who donated
tops and to the volunteers who
helped sell them. The result is
approximate, but 200 tops sold.
Raised \$1200 for the food Bank.
Thank you.*

A beautiful Christmas Tree for the Chinook Regional Health Foundation



Joy to the Wood, the nicest ever Christmas tree!

We had again the nicest tree of the block after completing the decoration of the tree Friday morning at the Conference Centre and Agriculture Hub. First, a big thank you to all members that contributed ornaments. We had 227 to hang up and they were all beautiful. I am always in awe looking at them on the table before they are hung up and then walking all around the tree and looking at all of them. My second thank goes to the fabulous team that put the tree together: Diane and Steve Munroe, Dianne and Remo Brassoloto, Norm Robinson, Mireille Cloutier and I.

Again this year, it is great to be able to count on you to supply the ornaments to show the skill and imagination of our members to the public and to contribute importantly to the Chinook Regional Hospital Foundation for improving the wellbeing of everyone in the community. If you could not contribute this year, there is always next year. Thanks to Terry Beaton for finding the nice owl sitting on the top of the tree.

Please see the Joy to the Wood tree from front and back and some close ups on the ornaments. Unfortunately, it is not possible to include a close up of all ornaments. There was a new request this year for the tree decorating teams. It was to include a Waldo in each tree to enable an interactive activity with all the children visiting the Tree Festival. So, we had a Waldo dressed up as a Christmas tree.

André Laroche

Tree Captain 2025

André's preferred websites of the month

A very nice video about explaining the four types of cut that we are making on a lathe is reviewed on the YouTube channel of Shaun Graham under the name "worththeeffort" at <https://youtu.be/KXzEjCorWO0?si=twNkUFgDzNu549GG>. The four cuts are planning, peeling, slicing and scrapping. Shawn clearly explains the interaction of the gouge edge and the fibers of the wood. The video is over one hour and there is a lot to digest. This video has been seen almost 700,000 times since it was posted since May 2019 suggesting it has been recommended by many turners. Make sure you stop as needed and go through the whole video. I am sure that you will enjoy every minute of this video. Once you are finish you may want to mark down this video on your computer for future reference. Shawn has also a large number of videos that you might enjoy as well.

Jessica Edwards is an American woodturner turning a lot of different objects. To see her works you need to access her Instagram page (www.instagram.com/turningpntstudios). There, you will discover the beautiful Viking smokers. These figurines are very elaborated and very classic. There are the prettiest of the smokers that I have seen. She also does different gnomes and one thing that Terry did not show us during his last demonstration on making gnomes is the biological fact that female gnomes also exist and they carry either pink or green furs. This was a revelation as I never reflected about gnome gender. Did you? Make sure you scroll all the pages of her Instagram page as she has turned a lot of different items, some utilitarians, others for the pleasure of displaying them. Her rendition of a blue heron is just amazing. Just below is a unique gavel. Any president would love to have one just like that one. You will find nice collections of bowls and lovely Christmas ornaments. All beautifully done.

You can find a demonstration of her making gnomes and birds on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/yLqp5sT7ShU> and <https://youtu.be/w9vjvNzabxU>. She is a very talented woodturner.

SAFETY

Personal Protection Equipment (PPE)

Face Shield

Having at least minimal protection in place to reduce the chances that these projectiles will reach and damage the eyes should be a common sense no-brainer for ANYONE who intends to stand at the lathe,



It is advisable to select a face shield that is not simply a piece of plastic hanging from a headband, but one which includes lower face and jaw protection as well.

Respiratory Protection

Another safety issue involving the use of personal protection equipment involves ensuring that the operator is adequately protected from fine wood dust carried in inhaled air. Since inhaled fine particulates can represent a significant health risk, particularly in repeated exposures over extended periods of time, it is particularly important that this aspect of woodturning safety be treated very seriously.

Installation of an efficient dust collection capability in the classroom workstation is recommended. Respiratory PPE involves specific devices that are used to eliminate or reduce the possibility of inhaling fine air-suspended particles deep into the lungs.

Face masks are recommended for protection from wood dust generated during sanding, this is the greatest respiratory health risk.



AAW
SAFETY

Hearing Protection

In general, woodturning at the lathe is a fairly quiet endeavor, especially when compared to running other woodshop machinery such as surface planers, jointers, miter saws, and table saws.

There are numerous kinds of hearing protection (Hearing Protection Devices, HPD) available in different designs. Some prefer an earmuff style hearing protector, with a spring-tension band that can be worn over the top of the head, behind the head, or even under the chin. Others prefer hearing protection that inserts into the outer ear canal as an ear plug which attenuates high noise levels before they reach the ear drum and inner ear anatomy.



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