

The Turning Point

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From The President's Workshop

Don Moore

The opening of the "Turning of Age" exhibition at NSCAD's Anna Leonowens Gallery was a terrific success and a wonderful attribute to our Guild. Success usually follows effort, with this, a grateful thank you to Alan for instigating and spearheading this project, and to Ted for quickly coming on board, virtually assuring success. Our "Events Committee", who also includes Robert and Dan, completed the team with a job well done.

None of this would have been possible without all of the woodturners who participated &/or donated to this worthwhile cause and exhibition. I would like to acknowledge and thank all of you who did so hopefully we will see the creation of a scholarship

fund at NSCAD because of this exhibition. It is this on going exposure that will keep our Guild alive and vibrant, now and into the future.

As the Holiday Season nears I wish you and yours a Merry Christmas and a healthy, successful New Year!

Tip of the Month: Spalted wood is a terrific wood for

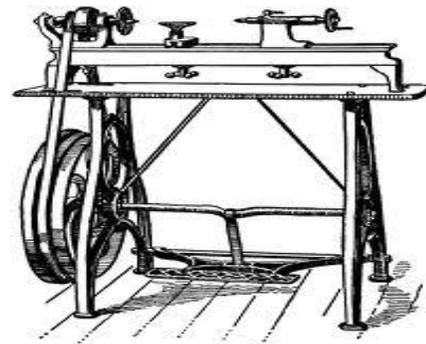


figure and feature. However, to achieve this effect there has to be active spores in the wood. These spores must be respected by you. You have to wear a respirator and protective clothing when handling spalted wood. If you would like to talk to me further on this subject, my door is always open.

Keep your bevel rubbing,
Don

The Next NWG Meeting is December 13th

The next meeting of the Nova Woodturners' Guild is

December 13th at Kent at MicMac Mall at 6:30pm

Go to page 15 for more info on the meeting topic!

The Secretary's Quill

Ted Monk

Wow! Another great issue of the newsletter, folks! Once again, thanks to all that have made it possible.

We've got articles on the Turning of Age Exhibition and a Guild wood salvage project called Walnut Wednesday. There's another great how-to from Darrel Eisner and more insights (☺) into photography from Glenn McCarron. We get to know more about Guild member Doug McGuire in the Know Your Member section. There's a slew of reports from the Executive and Committee members and the Shavings section has some great info on how to get some special deals on wood and end sealer. Enjoy!

I'd like to take this time to wish everyone a hearty Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Likewise, a hearty Happy Holidays to those of other faiths. Regardless of our individual religious beliefs I believe that this time of year is especially for sharing good will and spending time with our family and friends. Here's a poem I'm often reminded of:

It's Christmas Time by Bob Lazzar-Atwood

Put your problems on probation
 Run your troubles off the track,
 Throw your worries out the window
 Get the monkeys off your back.
 Silence all your inner critics
 With your conscience make amends,
 And allow yourself some happiness
 It's Christmas time again!
 Call a truce with those who bother you
 Let all the fighting cease,
 Give your differences a breather
 And declare a time of peace,
 Don't let angry feelings taint
 The precious time you have to spend,
 And allow yourself some happiness
 It's Christmas time again!
 Like some cool refreshing water
 Or a gentle summer breeze,
 Like a fresh bouquet of flowers
 Or the smell of autumn leaves,
 It's a banquet for the spirit
 Filled with family, food and friends,
 So allow yourself some happiness
 It's Christmas time again!

Have a great Christmas, everyone!

As always, if you have something on your mind, a question, a suggestion, an article, an announcement to make, a comment, a suggestion, an error or omission please feel free to contact me anytime at tedmonk@gmail.com

"This time of year is especially for sharing good will and spending time with our family and friends"

Dollars and Cents

Alan Hunt

Presently we have a combined bank balance of \$5,341. This is made up of savings account of \$2080 and checking/deposit account of \$3261.

Since my last report we have received membership fees from two members -- one new and one returning. Additionally we have raffle income of \$45 (a big thanks to the guy in the funny hat for helping with it).

We have had a series of expenditures that have yet to be reflected in our checking account balance. We spent:

1. \$91.00 on our Anna Leonowens opening reception, check payable to me
2. \$11.36 on dots (yellow and red) for the Anna exhibition, check payable to me
3. \$115 on a metal cabinet for Kent to hold library and lathe, check payable to Dan Graham
4. \$206.61 for wood for our trophies, check payable to Ted Monk
5. \$149.43 for People's choice award ballots and NWG business cards, check payable to Bob Atkinson.

Our total expenditures this past month have been \$573.40. Our "trial" checking account balance as of today (Nov 30th) should be \$2687.60 less our service charges.

Well that is it. We got revenue, spent money and did a whole bunch of good things -- seems to me that is what we are all about.

Merry turning to all and to all a good edge!

Membership Committee Report

Andrew Watson

At the December meeting of the NWG I will be distributing copies of the time sheets related to the "Table" that Lee Valley Tools has kindly agreed to provide during the Annual Competition of member's turnings. This is a golden opportunity to enhance the Guild's profile and membership.

The President reminds me that it has been customary for members to "donate" at least four hours of their time at any one sitting which makes any travel worthwhile.

I have only had three replies so far as to volunteers, for which many thanks. When one considers we will have 9 days to cover during Lee Valley's opening hours between Jan.25th. and Feb. 5th.2011 this response leaves much to be desired! Three days will be covered by the Executive Committee during judging of the exhibits.

For new members one only needs to have confidence in presenting the Guild's objectives, to encourage turning in general and the Guild in particular, and distribute the provided application form for membership, noting of course we hold meetings at various locations on the third Monday of every month, with a low membership fee of \$50 /year.

I look forward to a great response at the Dec. meeting.

Respectfully submitted by **the sole member of the Membership Committee!**

"We got revenue, spent money and did a whole bunch of good things -- seems to me that is what we are all about."

"Here's a golden opportunity to enhance the Guild's profile and membership!"

Events Committee Report

Robert Atkinson

The Events Committee met on Monday, November 15th before the Guild meeting to go over final preparations for the Turning of Age Exhibition. We then met at Anna Leonowens Gallery on Sunday, the 21st at noon to unpack all the pieces and arrange them for the Exhibition. It was almost like Christmas as we opened the packages and saw the wonderful pieces inside!

On opening night several of us waited at a nearby café for the Exhibition to open and it was wonderful to see a crowd of people waiting outside the gallery for the doors to open, so they could rush inside and view the exciting pieces that had been created. I plan on going back for a second look, which will be less rushed, to truly appreciate the pieces and the talented turners that we have in our neck of the woods.

In the midst of our preparations for the exhibition, we met at Ted Monk's for a day of making trophy bases for the Lee Valley competition on Wednesday the 17 Nov 10. Ted had already picked up the walnut, so we planned it and cut the various pieces to size. Routed the tops and bottoms, angle cut both sides of the middle piece and cut all the biscuit slots for assembling them. All that remains to do is the sanding, assembling and finish for the 9 trophy bases and then attaching the turned piece on the top. Again many thanks for those who have agreed to turn the top pieces. We are also going to redo the Warman Castle trophy to be somewhat similar to these, but have not finalized the design. Hopefully one more day in the workshop will finish the bases.

Robert Atkinson
Events Committee Chairman

Special Thanks To Norm Jolivet & Bill Luther

Special thanks to Norm Jolivet and Bill Luther for stepping forward to help out with our fund raising efforts this year. Norm has take on the role of 50/50 Drawmaster and Bill will take care of acquiring prizes for the Annual Competition. Kudos, guys!

Committee Members Still Needed!

We are still in serious need of more Guild Committee members as there are still many vacancies.

Presently we need a Fund Raiser Chair, a whole Social Committee and more members for the Membership and the Constitution and By-laws Committees. Unfortunately, the existing Executive and Committee members are stretched to the max and wearing multiple hats, and now stretched even further as Norm and Bill already had other roles within the Guild! We're looking for a couple of members not presently serving to come forward and take up the reins for this exciting and very important task.

Interested? Please contact any member of the Executive. Remember, with more funds the more fun things we can do!

Library Report – Books And Video

Richard Ford

Here's a list of members with books and /or videos that are due for return at the next meeting:

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Alan Hunt | - Turning Wood with Richard Raffan |
| Dan Graham | - Practical Tips for Turners and Carvers - GMC Publications |
| David W Lewis | - The Art of Turned Bowls - Richard Raffan |
| Don Campbell | - From The Tree To The Table – Mike Mahoney
- Finial Star – By Cindy Drozda
- Turning Pens with Rex & Kip Video I
- Turning Pens with Rex & Kip Video II |
| Gordon Marshall | - Bowl Coring with the McNaughton – Reed Gray |
| John Fitzpatrick | - 1999 AAW National Symposium Techniques Vol II
- Turning Outside the Box - Beth Ireland |
| Maureen Simpson | - 1999 AAW National Symposium – Tacoma Washington
- Beyond The Basic Bowl - Bill Grumbine
- Hollow Wood Turning - John Jordan |
| Peter Nicholl | - Keith Rowley's – Woodturning Projects
- Woodturning Projects - Mark Baker
- Ellsworth Woodturning |
| Russell Parrot | - Useful Woodturning Projects - The Best from Woodturning
- Turning Pens and Pencils - Kip & Rex |
| Ted Monk | - Elliptical Turning An Introduction – David Springett
- Elegant Finials Third edition – By Cindy Drozda
- Woodturning II with Bonnie Klein Bowls & Projects |

*“Please return
library items on time
so that other
members can share
this great resource”*

Library Report – Magazines

Jim Diamond

Here is the overdue magazine list, which is quite short again this month.

- G Marshall: WT July 03, Aug 03, Nov 08, Feb 09; JAAW Fall 05, Fall 06; WT Design Summer 2009 Winter 2010: June 2010
- I Scott: WT May 02, July 02, April 02, Oct 01: Oct 10

The Turning Of Age Exhibition Opening Reception

Wow! What an opening! People were lined up to get in!

The opening reception of the Turning of Age Exhibition was certainly a success with well over a 120 people in attendance, even CTV was there!

The evening started with 40 to 50 of us outside, patiently waiting for the door to open. We could get a glimpse of the displays through the curtains. Then, as the curtains were removed we were treated to the classic 'outside looking in' view. And what a view it was! Standing there in the evening dusk, with a few snowflakes coming down, looking into the well lit Gallery window front showing all the beautiful works of art - it was almost like Christmas!

Within minutes of this the door was opened and we made our way in to the spectacular display of the 106 pieces that were on exhibit. Let me tell you, there was a lot of 'oohing' and 'ahhing' going on. :)



The Turning Of Age Exhibition Opening Reception



The Turning Of Age Exhibition Opening Reception

A warm welcome and an introduction for the scholarship fund was given by the Dean of NSCAD, Christine Holzer-Hunt. Welcoming remarks were also given by Dr. Sandra Alfoady, followed by Tonia De Risio, Gallery Director at the Anna Leonowens Gallery, who thanked all those that helped to put the show together.



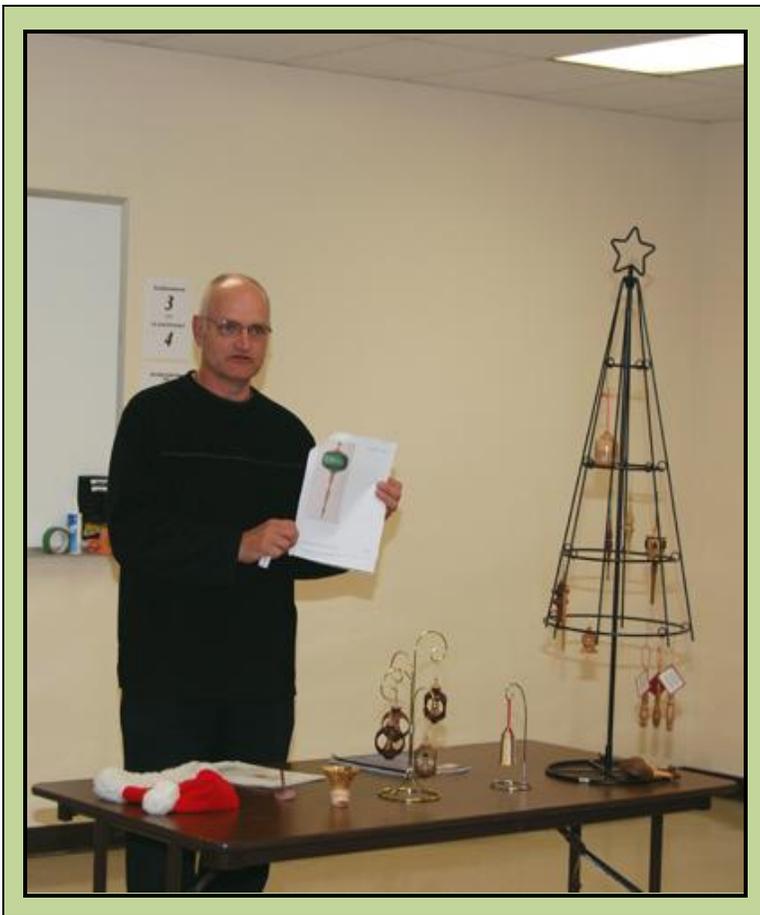
For several hours people were milling about, mingling, enjoying the finger food and chatting. Turners were talking with each other and guests. Family and friends were getting an eyeful. All the sentiments were the same - what a fantastic showing of woodturnings! It truly was a special evening.

Look for more on the Turning of Age Exhibition in next month's newsletter!

The November 2010 Meeting – Christmas Ornaments

The theme of the evening was 'Inside Outside Christmas Ornaments' hosted by Guild Vice-President Dan Graham.

Although we came up a bit short on our hoped for 100 Christmas ornaments it still turned out to be a great showing! There were over 30 ornaments brought in - almost enough for a small tree! We know this because Dan had brought in a small, metal 'tree' to display the array of ornaments on. :)



Dan began his presentation with a talk about making various types of Christmas ornaments, the different styles and lots of hints, tips and suggestions for turning ornaments. For example, while styles of ornaments are only limited by your imagination you can get some great ideas from books, the Internet as well as recreating traditional glass ornaments. Another great idea was creating a ornament as a gift for someone that is made from wood that means something to them, like wood from a fence on the old family homestead. He also told us about and explained how to make some different types of displays for those 'special' ornaments.

Next, he started the Show and Tell portion of the meeting beginning with his own 'six-holer' ornament, giving a great explanation on how to make one. Then he presented and explained how to make his small segmented bell, focusing on the 'clapper', and a small bulb type ornament.

Dan was followed by the other members, with each giving a short talk on their ornaments, how to make them, the finished they applied and any hints to overcome any issues that one might have while making their own.

Stuart Taylor brought in a couple of very large, Cherry bells, complete with ribbons and bows, and he explained some trials and tribulations in both turning and selling them. He also brought in and explained an ornament that featured a captured ring plus a small ball type ornament.

Dale Rayner brought in four inside/outside ornaments on a brass display stand and gave us a step by step explanation on how he almost 'magically' gets the little snowman inside the turning. (Yep, it's sort of like 'getting the caramel in the Caramilk bar'. :))

Norm Jolivet brought in a couple of segmented drop, or 'pod', style segmented Walnut and Maple ornaments. He also brought in and explained a 'specialized' mandrel that he used to turn them with.

Ted Monk brought in a few Christmas whistles and related a story about how the Christmas whistle has become a Christmas tradition around the world and one of Santa's early warning systems. He also gave a simplified version of the steps used to create them.

The November 2010 Meeting – Christmas Ornaments

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Doug McGuire brought in a small birdhouse ornament as well as several different styles of small Christmas trees. He explained how he was able to achieve the different effects and coloring techniques.

Robert Atkinson brought in a slender 'icicle' ornament and a small bowl that held some unique 'acorns' that sported tops from real acorns!

Dianne Looker brought in a small spin top and offered the idea of how any small item, especially a toy like a spin top, can be used as a Christmas ornament.

Gary Landry brought in an multi-wood ornament made of Walnut and Paukuk that was reminiscent of a Japanese pagoda and explained the process that he took to make it.

Ross Parrot brought in and explained his version of an 'icicle' style ornament as well as bringing in and sharing his experiences turning a spalted bowl and a hollow form.

In addition to all the different styles of ornaments presented it was also obvious that there was a variety of hanger options. In use were small eyehooks with wire hooks or ribbon, thin wire inserted and glued into a small hole as well as using twisted wire of different colours.

Dan, you gave us a fantastic presentation to kick start us into getting ready for Christmas. The Christmas tree display was a great touch but your Santa's hat took it over the top! (Dang, wish we had photos of that! :) Thanks, and Merry Christmas!

This was followed by an extensive Q and A session where many questions were asked and equally answered. Here are some notes from these discussions:

When wireburning use piano or guitar strings. Lathe speed, pressure on wire and depth of initial cut determines the quality of the burn.

For punky wood, saturate it with Future floor polish every 15 minutes until the wood can take no more. Future is actually a 'self levelling acrylic paint'. (Here's an interesting article on this amazing formula - <http://tinyurl.com/3ttvwk>)

For log end sealer you can also use solvent based driveway sealer. It is suggested to spare no expense when covering the log ends. Paint the grain ends. For a bowl blank paint the outside though some members paint the inside too. Paint all of a burl.

When cutting a log for woodturning cut out a strip in the middle that contains the pith. Cut off both sides of the pith of this slab and there'll be two very useable quartersawn strips.

The evening finished with a bit of social time where the members congregated around the ornament display, asking each other questions and getting more in-depth construction tips. The library was a center of activity too.

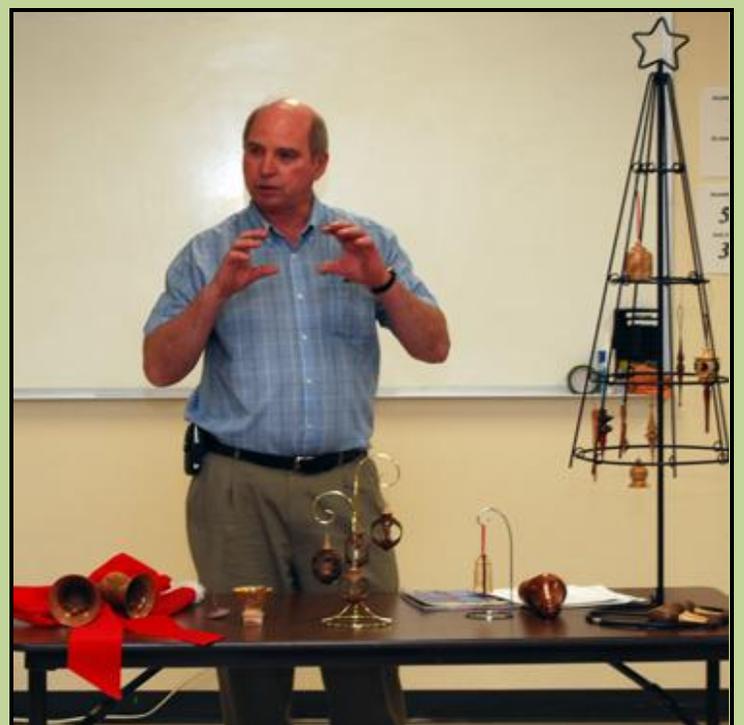
Norm Jolivet, the Guild's new Drawmaster, was busy throughout the meeting selling tickets for his inaugural 50/50 draw. Calum Ewing and Alan Hunt each went home with a beautiful piece of Horse Chestnut and \$45.00 was raised! Kudos!

Guild President Don Moore began the meeting with a hearty thank-you to Kent Building Supplies for welcoming us with the free use of the room to hold our monthly meetings. This was supported by a resounding round of applause by the membership. Thank you Kent!

There were 28 members in attendance for this meeting and by all accounts, everyone had a great time!

The November 2010 Meeting – Christmas Ornaments

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The November 2010 Meeting – Christmas Ornaments

...continued



The November 2010 Meeting – Christmas Ornaments

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NWG Meeting Calendar 2010-2011

Date	Subject	Location/Time
September 20, 2010	Shape & Design Part I with Alan Hunt The Shape Challenge with Dianne Looker Show & Tell – Look What I Did Over The Summer! Membership Dues & Fun Turn Wood Coupon	Halifax Specialty Hardwood 6:30-8:30
October 18, 2010	Robert Sorby Demo with Clive Brooks Pick up wood for The Annual NWG Fun Turn	Busy Bee Tools 6:30-8:30
November 15, 2010	Inside Outside Christmas Ornaments with Dan Graham Show & Tell	Kent Dartmouth 6:30-8:30
December 13, 2010	Segmenting Presentation with Gordon Marshall Show & Tell	Kent Dartmouth 6:30-8:30
January 17, 2011	Sharpening 102 with Doug McGuire and Gordon Marshall Show & Tell – The Shape Challenge	Kent Dartmouth 6:30-8:30
February 05, 2011	Annual Nova Woodturning Guild Competition	Lee Valley 1:00-3:00
March 21, 2011	The Annual NWG Fun Turn Show & Tell – Competition Entries	Kent Dartmouth 6:30-8:30
April 18, 2011	Hollowing Shape & Design Part II Show & Tell	Kent Dartmouth 6:30-8:30
May 16, 2011	Pen Turning – Cecil Canam Items Turned Similar To Pens – Ian Scott Show & Tell	Kent Dartmouth 6:30-8:30
June 20, 2011	Annual General Meeting Eccentric Woodturning with Don Moore Show & Tell	Kent Dartmouth 6:30-8:30

More information on each meeting will be in the preceding month's newsletter.

Important Dates

- January 17, 2011 – Shape Challenge pieces are due at this meeting
- January 22, 2011 - Entry deadline for the Annual Nova Woodturners' Guild Competition
- January 25 - February 05, 2011 - Lee Valley Week of Woodturning
- February 05, 2011 - Annual Nova Woodturners' Guild Competition
- February 12, 2011 – Deadline for pickup of Annual Competition pieces at Lee Valley
- March 21, 2011 – Annual Fun Turn pieces are due at this meeting

The December 2010 Meeting – December 13th

Segmenting with Gordon Marshall

You've seen Gordon's beautiful segmented turnings, now find out how he makes them!

Gordon will be using mock ups and examples from his own segmented turnings in this presentation that will focus on the easier of the styles of "Open Segmented Turning".

He will answer the following questions:

- What is "Segmented Turning"?
- What are the different styles?
- How do you start your design?
- What materials are required?
- What tools are required?
- How do I assemble my project?
- What turning skills are required?
- How do I finish my project?



If you have ever had an interest in this style of woodturning, curious now it's done and wondering how to get started or you just want to enjoy a great evening, be here for this one!

In addition to being an avid Guild member Gordon is a member of the American Association of Woodturners. He is also a member of the AAW Segmented Turners chapter and he has just recently returned from the 2nd Annual Segmenting Symposium at Arrowmont in Gatlinburg, Tennessee where he spent a weekend with leading segmenting turners Malcolm Tibbetts, Bill Smith, Curt Theobald and more!

Please bring a project in for Show & Tell!

We love to see what you've been up to!

Did you rush home after last meeting to make a Christmas ornament? Did you turn some Christmas gifts for your family and friends? Well, bring them in for us to see!

Norm Jolivet will also be there with more great items for the 50/50 draw! Remember to bring a loonie or two!

The December 13th, 2010 Guild meeting is at Kent Building Supplies 6:30 – 8:30

Kent is located at 35 Mic Mac Blvd. Dartmouth, NS B3A 4Y8.

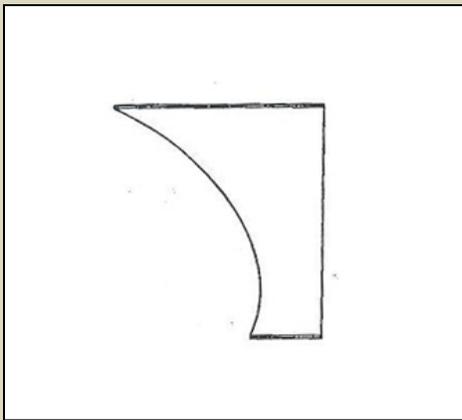
A map is located here - <http://goo.gl/maps/dZG8>

It's going to be another great one. See you all there!

The Shape Challenge Is Due in January!

Don't forget, "The Shape Challenge" that Dianne Looker introduced to us at the September meeting is due at the meeting on January 17th. This is a great opportunity for all of the Guild members to participate in turning an item that will challenge us on a specific design. It doesn't matter what the item is as long as it follows the requested design.

Use this concave shape as your guide.



The rules for this project are quite simple:

- Turn a bowl using this shape as a guide.
- You do not need to follow the template exactly but (a) make it a smooth, continuous curve and (b) make it this general shape.
- You can choose whatever wood, rim treatment, foot and finish; you can do a segmented or decorated bowl, as long as it is this shape.
- Bring your bowl to the January meeting hidden in a bag so it won't be seen until the appropriate time.

This promises to be an exciting challenge and everyone is asked to participate. Dianne mentioned that in addition to the fun and understanding that can be gained from this project it is a real eye popper when all the same shaped pieces are displayed together!

There's only a few weeks before this Challenge is due and Christmas and New Year's is in between. So, if you haven't started this project yet it's time to get out to the lathe and get turning! We're hoping to have another great display of Guild participation!

Also remember... our meetings are now held at

Kent Building Supplies Mic Mac Mall Location

Enter Kent through the front entrance and go all the way to the back of the store. At the end of the alcove where the **Men's Washroom** is located you will see a door marked 'ASSOCIATES ONLY', enter and take the stairs to the top floor, then through the doors at the top of the stairs.

Kent is located at 35 Mic Mac Blvd. Dartmouth - <http://goo.gl/maps/dZG8>

Meet Your Guild Members – Doug McGuire

Ted Monk

After driving for almost two hours and finally turning into the long driveway to Doug McGuire's place one might be struck by the thought, "Gee, why would anyone want to live way out here?". Then, as the trees open to reveal his property it becomes clear... quite clear.

Doug and his wife, Jackie, live on 17 acres of pure bliss. Their home and workshops are surrounded by a hardwood forest and sits on a bluff that overlooks Shingle Lake. Yep, when you're here, you're definitely at home.



Doug recently built a new, larger, barn-style shop that houses, among other tools of the trade, his latest acquisition, a Powermatic 3520B. Standing at his lathe you are faced with a large window that overlooks the lake. From this viewpoint it's easy to see why Doug is so down-to-earth and laid back - it's almost Zen like, an easy draw for inspiration.

He retired 16 years ago after working as a Service Technician and Technical Trainer with Xerox for almost a third of a century. Prior to that he did a five year stint in the Air Force as an Airborne Communications Technician. His shop reflects this innovative and technical background. It is well designed and clearly laid out with stations for his table saw, bandsaw, sanding and of course, woodturning. A full set of cupboards stores his hand tools, a selection of tools and jigs that he made himself and some that he has made with the help of his son-in-law, Liam, who is also a member of the NWG. There is a separate room

that houses his cyclone dust collection system and the upstairs is for lumber storage and a finishing room. There is also a small library of woodworking books and magazines in his shop too!



His grandfather was a woodworker from England so his interest in woodworking began at a young age. Over the years he has built everything from furniture and small kitchen items to the building of their home and workshops. Now he sticks mostly to woodturning. When asked what he likes best about turning he said, "The instant gratification", an answer we can all identify with. Although his tremor (Benign Familial Tremor) frustrates him at times and keeps him from doing delicate work it doesn't slow him down from turning out piece after piece after piece of great turnings.

Meet Your Guild Members – Doug McGuire

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Doug's woodturning leans towards practical pieces and more specifically, bowls. He's a avid bowl maker. Doug starts his bowls right from green wood, often from wood he cuts himself, then partially turns it, air dries it and weighs the blank until it is dry. Once it is dry, and only then, he'll turn it into another beautiful bowl.

Not only does he make and sell his finished bowls he also sells his partially turned, air dried bowl blanks. You have no doubt seen these, and possibly purchased one or two, at Halifax Specialty Hardwoods.



These are just a few of the many bowls, forms and vessels that grace Doug's and Jackie's beautiful home!

Meet Your Guild Members – Doug McGuire

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In addition to woodturning Doug still makes a variety of small items for sale like spatulas, pate dishes and salad servers. This is a collaborative effort with Jackie, who together have designed their ever so popular 'Whale Servers'. Making these started from a request from a store in Toronto and they have never looked back. Doug and Jackie have made thousands of these servers and some of them have travelled all over the world. Again, you have no doubt seen these around and possibly purchased a pair or two. They were sold through the larger craft stores such as Jennifer's of Nova Scotia and The Teazer but now are sold exclusively through Amicus in Chester.

Doug and Jackie have been happily married for 46 years and in Doug's words, "She is my support and encourager. She always encourages me to get whatever tool, even to a new lathe, that will make my turning life easier and more enjoyable". When Jackie is not helping in Doug's workshop she is in her own shop, down by the water's edge, making lovely quilts. Since their two children, Kimberly and Patrick, are grown with families of their own she has plenty of time to spend on her craft. She also makes a great seafood chowder!



Doug has been a member of the Nova Woodturners' Guild since 2001 and placed 3rd in the Open category at last year's Annual Guild Competition. He is presently serving on the Executive and is now in the process of seeking out ways that the Guild members can benefit from their collective buying power. He is a member of the American Association of Woodturners and went to the AWA Symposium in Hartford, Connecticut this past June and plans on attending the 2011 Symposium in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Doug's other hobbies and pastimes include volunteering at the local Food Bank, swimming, working in his woods and biking. He was a licensed private pilot and glider pilot but his tremor now keeps him from pursuing this pastime that he truly loved. You can tell that he still retains his strong interest in planes because there are quite a few photos of them on his shop walls and lots of plane related books in his home library.

Doug's experience is obviously wide and varied, from technical to practical and all things in between, and what is even more obvious is his quick offers to share what he has learned. His conversation is so peppered with tips, tricks and work-arounds that just speaking with him is like a stroll through a how-to manual!

He says, "I would like to encourage anyone who thinks they would like to try woodturning but are afraid to, to just do it! My tremor could hold me back but I refuse to let it. There are always ways around things that hinder and there are many people who are willing to offer their good advise on how to do things differently and better. So go for it! Don't hesitate!".

As you can tell, Doug is a man of many, many talents (did I mention the saw sharpening business he also had at one time?), and certainly he is one that is willing to share them. Next time that you're in the Bridgewater area give Doug a call and drop by. He will make the trip worthwhile!



Walnut Wednesday

On a beautiful fall day in November, Wednesday the 3rd, to be more precise, several Guild members; Robert Atkinson, Ted Monk, Dan Graham, Don Moore, Doug McGuire, Liam Nagle, Maureen Simpson and Dianne Looker got together at the home of Dr. Andrew Watson in Mahone Bay. After exchanging pleasantries and sharing a pot of coffee we were off to tackle the 'big Walnut'.

The Walnut tree was owned by Anne and George MacLaren who live just down the road from Andrew and his wife, Jennie. They believe that the tree was originally brought up from Virginia and was well over 100 years ago. The estimated height was over 130 feet and it was 31 inches at its base! Unfortunately, in mid-September, a week or so before Hurricane Igor, a heavy wind storm hit the South Shore and brought it down.

Since they were good friends, Andrew approached the McLarens' and explained about the Guild, how we worked and what we did and they agreed to let us have the wood with just a few requests; that there were not too many members in attendance, that we cleaned up as much as possible afterwards and that we saw up several pieces of Walnut for them. It was a more than generous offer!

When we got there the tree had already been cut into lengths of around 16 inches and there was a lot of it. In order to save time and wood we all split on the hiring of Bruce from Ewe 'R' Hare Farm and Portable Mill Services who brought along his Wood-Mizer bandsaw mill and it was onsite and ready to go.

The tree had stood at the top of a hill and when it fell it fell down the hill. Of course it would, it is Murphy's law. This meant that the 'logs' had to be rolled back up the hill to the mill. We don't have an estimate of what each one of them weighed but it did take three of us to roll each one up the hill!



We spent the morning getting the wood up the hill to the mill and getting some of it sawn. Our first priority was cutting choice pieces for the MacLarens as they are hoping to use their wood for a couple of table tops. After we had their wood cut it moved to the 'end sealer station' where the ends were painted with end sealer and then it was moved into their shed to dry. We also organized a lot of the old branches in piles for later chipping. After we achieved a sizeable amount of sawing done it was time for lunch.

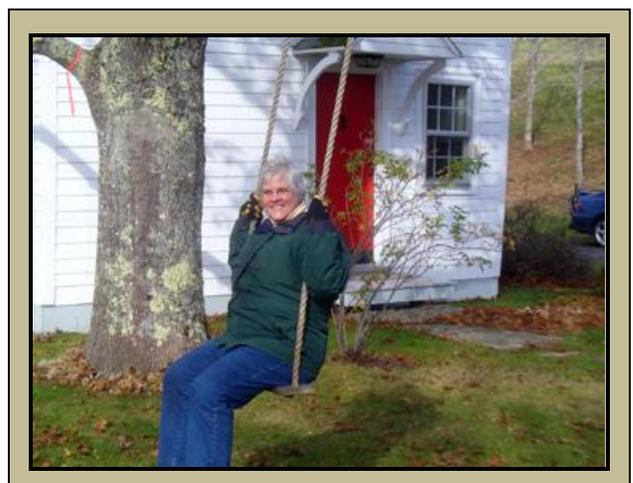
Andrew's wife, Jennie, served us delicious soup and pizza for lunch and Maureen Simpson supplied the mile-high apple and bumbleberry pie and ice cream. This hearty meal certainly satisfied the big hunger that working outside creates! After lunch we took a quick tour of Andrew's workshop and then it was quickly back to the 'harvest'.

Walnut Wednesday

...continued



The afternoon was spent getting more logs loaded onto the mill, taking the slabs away, removing the pith from the center cuts, splitting the branch logs and cleaning up. Then it was time to split the booty with each of us choosing our own choice pieces for ourselves and the Guild.



Walnut Wednesday

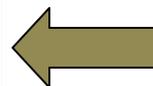
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Walnut Wednesday



A Trunk-A-Hunka Wood!



Can you spot the difference?

It was a lot of hard work but very rewarding. Not only did we each come home with a trunk load of beautiful 100 year old Walnut but we got a chance to spend a very enjoyable day together. It's a day that we'll be talking about for years to come. In fact, afterwards we sent an email to our good buddy, Benny the 16th, over there in Rome, and he has agreed with us that henceforth the first Wednesday of November will now be known as 'Walnut Wednesday'. He joked that it's been far too long that the Ash had sole dominion over this day of the week. He will be making a decree to the masses this Sunday. :)

We would like to extend our heart-felt thanks as individuals and as a Guild to Anne and George MacLaren for giving us this great opportunity to not only share in the bounty of such beautiful wood but also to share in the camaraderie and good will of a great day!

Pen Pals

Darrell Eisner

The Holiday season is upon us and it's time to turn a few presents for family and friends. I chose a real friendly pen to turn and it offers lots of opportunity to be innovative in your use of the gouge and skew. We have chosen the Slimline kit that is available at Lee Valley. Some pen turners feel that this is a nice kit for new pen turners to work on. I am inclined to recommend the Sierra kit as there is more wood room in the diameter to use and less risk of turning through to the brass barrel. However, if you are not constrained by the Slimlines' centerband then you can make more wood diameter available to turn. We would call this a modified Slimline.

Start off with picking your wood, something with a nice grain or color.

TIP: You can use one of the brass barrels from the slim line kit but you will also need a longer length of barrel from an Euro kit or cut one from a longer length of brass tubing available from PSI.

TIP: Choose a contrasting piece of wood for your centerband. All pieces of wood should be an 1/4 inch larger than the metal tubing and you can trim them down later. Use CA glue to glue the centerband wood to the longer barrel wood. To speed the process you can use an accelerator spray from Lee Valley to harden the CA glue.

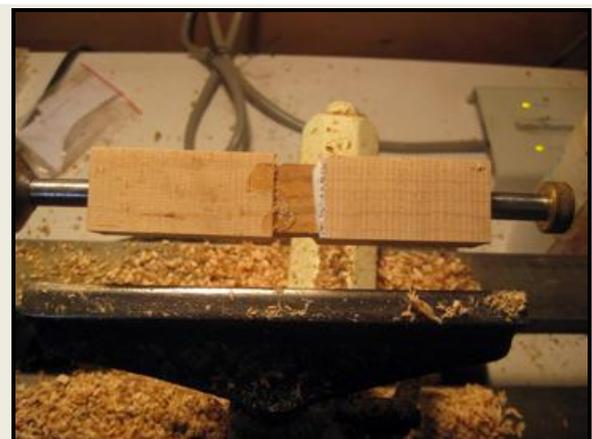


Once you have the pieces glued proceed to drill the barrels using a 7 mm drill.

Once done you are now ready to glue the barrels to the wood. You have a choice of 2 part epoxy, medium to thick CA or Gorilla glue (a polyurethane glue). I have chosen Titebond glue for an overnight set up. Here are a few tools of the trade I use: an Exacto knife for cleaning out the glue from the barrels, a 22 calibre aun cleaning brush to clean out any excess glue in the



Now we are ready to put the wood on the mandrel. Note that the wood does not fit particularly tight as I have not squared the wood blanks (if you choose you can use a pen trimmer first instead of my method...I just don't use the trimmers as I feel there is more room to cut into the brass barrel, especially on length sensitive kits like the cigar pen)



Pen Pals

...continued

Once you have rough turned the blanks then square up the barrels on the disc sander. I prefer this method because you are working with a smaller diameter wood for trimming and it is safer in that you don't have the barrel trimmer in a hand drill.

Sand the barrels down until you just see the brass barrels. I use a 120 grit sanding disc. If you use 80-100 grit it is too coarse and scores the brass and wood. A finer grit will clog up the sand paper and burn your trimmed barrel.



Put the rough turned barrels back on the mandrel and turn to a pleasant shape. This is where your artistry comes into play. You can cut coves, use a wire for burning in designs, use a parting tool for design work on the tip or end.

One of the critical measurements is at the tip. I use a set of callipers to measure the metal tip and then I go to the lathe and compare it to the wooden tip.



Once you are finished its time to sand. Use 220, 320, 400, 600 and you may even want to use the levels in micro mesh for a finer finish.

TIP: I cut the sandpaper into one inch strips and sand from the underside of the wood. Just move the sand paper from side to side. Remember, you are not trying to remove wood, just putting a finer and finer scratch pattern in the wood.



Pen Pals

...continued

Now, for a bit of clean up. You can use an air compressor to take the fine dust out of the wood, a tack cloth, or some methyl hydrate which evaporates quickly. I use the methyl hydrate in my secret formula bottle :-).



After the pen is cleaned it's time to put the finish on. But first you have to seal the wood. Use a sanding sealer of your choice. I use Brewax. There are lots of choices for the actual finish. You can use CA, Shellawax or my favourite, Lee Valley Turners polish.

All set now to assemble the pen. Just be careful when inserting the transmission in the lower barrel. Keep checking the length of the refill in the barrel, otherwise you will be spending extra time in disassembling the pen.

It really does not take all that long to make the pen and it is a lovely gift to give your favourite person for Christmas!



Have a great Holiday Season!

Check out Lee Valley's 2011 winter seminar schedule for hands-on pen turning classes with Darrell Eisner!

Camera Shake

This month we will talk a bit about camera shake. We have all taken pictures that maybe looked like the end of my bowl gouge, not so sharp. So what do we do about it? Another name for it is a soft picture. I guess I am trying to avoid saying that my picture is just blurry or out of focus! Ironically pushing the shutter can cause camera shake.

Looking at your image and realizing that all areas of the picture are soft can identify camera shake. If you look at a picture to find most of it sharp but your subject soft it might be that your subject moved so maybe your technique was good.

So the answer is to have a steady camera. We can accomplish this in a number of ways. The first and most obvious is to use a good sturdy tripod. This will give great results. Be careful when you are outside with a strong wind, I have seen some lighter weight tripods topple. Another consideration is not to allow the camera strap to dangle, it will introduce camera shake.

Another method to steady your camera would include using a beanbag. You can ruffle it anyway you want to get your subject in the viewfinder. Simply setting your camera down on a solid object will do the job as well. If you have to hold the camera you could steady it against a door frame or any solid object.

When it comes time to take the picture use the self-timer mode. This will eliminate you pushing down on the shutter and introducing more shake.

For all you handy type people out there the tripod screw socket on the bottom of the camera is a 1/4 X 20 thread.

Your camera may have the ability to select a variety of focus methods. It could be set to a centre focus point or a multi sensor (wider area). Ensure that the focus point is on your subject. If you are set to a center point area and your subject is standing off to either side your background may be what the camera sees with it's focus beam and your subject is left blurry. Most cameras can compensate for this by using the focus lock. What you do is aim the camera at your subject, hold the shutter release halfway down then re-compose the picture and push the shutter all the way down.

A general rule is to not handhold a camera below 1/60th of a second shutter speed. Slower than this it becomes next to impossible to get a pin sharp image. If you are inside and do not use a flash your shutter speeds are going to be well below the 1/60 limit. A few methods to help the slow shutter would be to increase the ISO setting or opening up the aperture setting. Adding more light will also help.

So when you're taking picture of your turnings make sure the focus point is on the area that draws the most attention to showcase your product.

My article assumed that you are using the auto focus system of your camera. If you are using manual it will be up to you to adjust the focus just right.

As always, we look forward to seeing your pictures posted on the website for all members to see.

Shavings

Worthwhile Wood Project

Doug McGuire is presently pursuing a price from Jeff Amos for some wood and he wants to know if any members would be interested in getting together and processing the wood similar to the same that we did on Walnut Wednesday. There is a mixture of Maple and Walnut. The wood is located in Mahone Bay and there is a lot of it:



End Sealer Purchase

Doug is also pricing up the cost of a 55 gallon drum of end sealer. This will be distributed in 1 gallon containers and the cost is expected to be in the \$12 - \$15 per gallon range. This is 1/3 the cost of commercially sold products.

Please contact Doug at Doug.McGuire@ns.sympatico.ca if you are interested in either of the above.

Woodmaster Tools Now Sharpens Planer & Jointer Blades

Woodmaster Tools, a strong supporter of the Nova Woodturners' Guild, now sharpens Planer and Jointer blades!

Even better news is that they do these for only .50 cents per inch of blade (min. \$4.charge per blade)

Contact Craig Blois at 902-893-1915 or at <http://moldingknives.com/>

Shavings

AAW Symposium Host Hotel Now Available For Booking!

Just a heads up, folks. Booking for the host hotel for the AAW Symposium in St. Paul is now available. Book **now** as these rooms will go fast. The cost is \$129.00 per night, which, with a quick look around at other hotels, looks very reasonable.

Go here and scroll down to the Accommodations section:

<http://www.woodturner.org/sym/sym2011/>

Lee Valley Winter 2011 Seminar Schedule Now Online

From January 26 to February 5, join Lee Valley Tools and Nova Woodturners' Guild in a celebration of woodturning in Nova Scotia. Among the various activities offered during this event, you will have the opportunity to register for various seminars.

Book now, they sell out fast!

<http://tinyurl.com/3xh4ghq>

Busy Bee Tool Bandsaw Setup Demo

Saturday December 11th – 10am & 2 pm - Wood Bandsaw Setup / Blade Selection

Reserve your spot today by calling the store at 468-8088 to register!

Create-A-Caption!

Dan Graham sent in this photo of Robert Atkinson peeling apples at a community fund raiser. He's looking for captions to go along with it. Post yours online at the NWG forums here:

<http://tinyurl.com/356v9wt>

Let's make this fun!



Do you have any 'Shavings' that you'd like to share? How about a cool woodturning website or video that you found? Perhaps you have something for sale that the other Guild members would be interested in? How about a humorous anecdote or a turning tip? If you do, please send them along to tedmonk@gmail.com

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year's

The Turning Point

The purpose of the Official Journal of the Nova Woodturners' Guild is to keep you updated on the various aspects of the Guild, to announce upcoming meetings and to keep record of past meetings. In addition, and more importantly, its purpose is as a vehicle to share information among the Guild members.

It is through the sharing of information and ideas that the true benefit of being a Guild member is determined.

This newsletter gives the opportunity for you to do that.

Please submit articles, how-to's, photos, humour, interesting tidbits, reviews, items for sale, items wanted, helpful jigs that you've made, thoughts, ideas, observations, websites, videos and anything else related to woodturning.

We need your input to make The Turning Point a success.

Don't worry if you don't consider yourself a 'writer'. This is not about how great you can write (look what we're getting away with! ☺), it's about getting the information out there. Type it as you speak it. If it needs editing we can edit it for you. No submission is too large or too small. We'll take it all! ☺

Please send your submissions to Ted Monk at tedmonk@gmail.com

The deadline for submissions for the December issue is December 31st, 2010

Sharing is what a guild is all about!

*"The Turning Point is
YOUR newsletter. Its
success depends on
YOU"*

**Ensure that you continue to receive the newsletter by
keeping us updated with your email address!**

Please send any changes to tedmonk@gmail.com

Don't Forget - We're On The Web!

**The Nova Woodturners' Guild website is a great
place to connect between meetings!**

**It offers message forums, a member photo
gallery, hints and tips, links and more!**

<http://novawoodturnersguild.com>

Your 2010-2011 Guild Executive

President: Don Moore

moorewood1@gmail.com

Vice President: Dan Graham

djgraham@ns.sympatico.ca

Secretary: Ted Monk

tedmonk@gmail.com

Treasurer: Alan Hunt

prof.a.j.hunt@gmail.com

Past President:

Bill Luther



Members At Large:

Ian Scott

Dianne Looker

Gordon Marshall

Doug McGuire

“to encourage and promote the art and craft of woodturning”

Committees

Library

Jim Diamond

Richard Ford

Website

Ian Scott

Norm Jolivet

Glenn McCarron

Membership & Promotion

Andrew Watson

Fund Raising

Norm Jolivet (50/50 Drawmaster)

Bill Luther (Competition Prizes)

Events

Don Moore

Robert Atkinson

Dan Graham

Alan Hunt

Maureen Simpson

Ted Monk

Insurance

Alan Hunt

Don Moore

Darrell Eisner

Constitution & By-laws

Dianne Looker

Guild Photographer: Chris Palmer