

The Turning Point

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From The President's Workshop

Don Moore

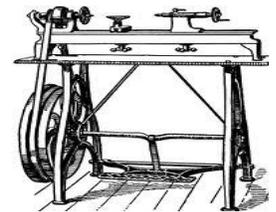
Well the deadline has now passed for submissions for the Lee Valley competition; hopefully most of you are participating in this terrific opportunity to have your work critiqued by three very competent individuals. Personally, these critiquing are what enabled me to improve and develop as a woodturner. Each time you enter and have your work critiqued (it's not "you" being critiqued, but your work) areas to be improved upon will be revealed and identified; sometimes you may even receive a suggestion on how to do so.

There is a lot of work and time involved in putting together an event like the competition at Lee Valley. It is with respect to this point, that I would like to acknowledge and congratulate our "Events Committee". The committee consists of Chairperson, Robert Atkinson, and members Dan Graham, Ted Monk, Alan Hunt and yours truly. Not only have these individuals arranged the very successful NSCAD Exhibition and the Lee Valley competition, they also found the time to

create and make our new trophies for the award ceremony to follow. As Ted's recent photos indicated we had a great time doing so, and each of us participated to the best of our ability, however there is one individual who has been exceptional. Robert through his leadership, determination and participation has ensured that all of the above were successful, of course his culinary skills also helped in motivating us, as does his humour. Kudos's to Robert in particular, as well as to the rest of the committee.

Dianne's recent "Shape Challenge" was also another terrific success with great participation. This is what these people who volunteer to organize these various events need from the rest of us members, we have to participate in order to justify their efforts, time and money.

Next we have the "Fun Turn" coming. This is an opportunity to express the child in all of us as we show our playful side. Although there is no "critiquing" there is a lot of good humour thrown into the mix, and then there are



those that will just blow you away with their imagination and skills. Look forward to seeing what all of you have come up with.

With reference to the late J.F.K., "ask not what the Guild can do for you, but what you can do for the Guild".

Tip of the month; If you don't own a chuck and want to mount "end-grain" to a face plate, drill the same number of holes now found in your faceplate that are at 90 degrees, to a new 45 degree angle. This way, your screws will not enter straight into the wood, but on an angle that will actually draw the wood tighter into the faceplate and will never come loose from the end-grain. Again, if this is not clear to you, please ask me to further explain this process to you.

Keep your bevel rubbing,
Don

The Secretary's Quill

Ted Monk

First, on behalf of the Nova Woodturners' Guild, let me extend a warm and hearty welcome to all of the new members! We're really glad that you decided to join us! We feel that we have a lot to offer local woodturners through our meetings, the website, the newsletter and of course, each other.

We try very hard to make our information easily and readily available. However, if you feel that we missed something please let us know! Likewise, if you have a question please just ask anyone on the Executive team. ☺

Speaking of information, in addition to the Guild website we also email out many notices throughout the month, including the one for the newsletter. If you are not receiving these notices via email:

1. Please let me know to ensure that I have your correct email address
2. Ensure that your mail reader allows email from tedmonk@gmail.com.
3. Check your Spam and Bulk email folders.

Once again, welcome to the Nova Woodturners' Guild!

I'll now put on my Editor's cap for a moment ☺ - We've got some great stuff once again for your reading pleasure this month in the newsletter. There are some Executive reports, the January meeting article, info about the soon to be due Fun Turn, a Trophy photo spread, Darrell Eisner's Pen Pals and bits and pieces in the Shavings section. Note that because of the short notice caused by the earlier meeting date this month that a couple of our regular articles are missing. Rest assured that they'll be back again next month. ☺

Now back to being Secretary, I sent out a request last week asking those that did not receive a nametag to contact me. If you are one of those that did contact me please see me at the meeting on the 5th to pick up your nametag.

And finally, I hope everyone had a chance to get out to Lee Valley to see the turnings on display for the Competition. They'll be there until around the meeting start time on Saturday the 5th. If you have a piece entered I wish you the best of luck! See you on Saturday. ☺

The Next NWG Meeting is February 5th

**The next meeting of the Nova Woodturners' Guild is
February 5th at Lee Valley at 1:00pm
Go to page 15 for more info on the meeting topic!**

Events Committee Report

Robert Atkinson

The committee met on the January 19th for Day 5 of the trophy project and finished mounting the last 3 turnings, attached the feet and nametags to all 10 trophies. It was a good feeling to have the project finished and to see the results of our labour. (See the photos on page 17)

We met with two of the judges on Monday the 17th of January and the other one on Tuesday the 18th of January. As the judges were pressed for time last year we changed the process this year. The judges remained in the back room at Lee Valley and the committee took the pieces the judges wanted to them. When they finished that group of pieces we gave them another group to judge and we put the first one back in the cabinets in their designated places and so on. Another change was that the members' Guild number plus the piece number (ex. NWG # xx-1) was also the People's Choice number. Last year there were two numbers and the judges found it confusing. Even with these changes the judges required up to 6 hours to complete the task. Another thing we stressed to the judges was the comments that we wanted them to make on the forms. None of them wanted to make comments that could hurt anyone's feelings. As was explained to them that their score gives us a winner, but their comments allow all turners to grow by identifying their areas that require improvement. We are very fortunate to have such highly skilled craftspeople that are willing to take the time and effort to do the job we ask of them. Therefore when you get your sheets back with the comments from the 3 judges, take a close look at them and see what you can learn from them to improve your turnings.

On Monday the 24th of January we gathered at Lee Valley, opened all the boxes, sorted the pieces by category and level and displayed them in the cabinets. There were 43 pieces by 19 turners, one of which was a non-member. This results in \$215.00 going to Feed Nova Scotia and \$10.00 going to the Guild from the competition fees.

On Tuesday and Wednesday (25 & 26 January) we were at Lee Valley to assist the judges. Don Moore and Maureen Simpson will tabulate the judge's scores, as they had no pieces in this year's competition, and the winners will be announced at our meeting on Saturday the 5th of February at Lee Valley with things starting at 1:00 pm. Pieces can also be picked up at the end of the meeting. Pieces must be picked up no later than Saturday the 12th of February 2011. I look forward to seeing everyone on the 5th of February as we give out the prizes.

Robert Atkinson
Events Committee Chairperson

*"There are 43 pieces by
19 turners in the
Competition!"*

The Annual Competition - 2011

Pieces will be on display until around the start of the meeting on February 5th at Lee Valley.

The Award Ceremony will be held at 1:00pm on February 5th at Lee Valley. (This will be our February meeting instead of our usual date on the 3rd Monday of the month.)

Pickup for your pieces can be made following the Award Ceremony and no later than February 12th.

Library Report – Books And Video

Richard Ford

Below are two lists of videos and books. Previously we have only posted the Overdue list but I think it would be helpful for you to be able to see what was issued at the last meeting so that you can round it up and bring it in.

Overdue:

- 29 Mar. 2010 - Maureen Simpson - 1999 AAW National Symposium – Tacoma Washington
- 29 Mar. 2010 - Maureen Simpson - Beyond The Basic Bowl - Bill Grumbine
- 29 Mar. 2010 - Maureen Simpson - Hollow Wood Turning - John Jordan
- 19 Apr. 2010 - Alan Hun - Turning Wood with Richard Raffan
- 19 Apr. 2010 - John Fitzpatrick - 1999 AAW National Symposium Techniques Vol II
- 19 Apr. 2010 - John Fitzpatrick - Turning Outside the Box - Beth Ireland
- 20 Sep. 2010 - Russell Parrot - Turning Pens and Pencils - Kip Christensen & Rex Burningham
- 13 Dec. 2010 - Calum Ewing - Elliptical Turning An Introduction – David Springett
- 13 Dec. 2010 - Calum Ewing - Intermediate woodturning Projects - Woodturning magazine
- 13 Dec. 2010 - Calum Ewing - Woodturning I with Bonnie Klein
- 13 Dec. 2010 - Robert Atkinson - Finial Star – By Cindy Drozda

Issued at the last meeting:

- 17 Jan. 2011 - Dianne Looker - Essential Tips for Woodturners - GMC Publications
- 17 Jan. 2011 - Dianne Looker - Dennis White Teaches Woodturning – Vol 3
- 17 Jan. 2011 - Dianne Looker - Woodturning: A Foundation Course - Keith Rowley
- 17 Jan. 2011 - Dianne Looker - The Finial Box -- Turned Boxes by Ray Key
- 17 Jan. 2011 - Edmond Benoit - The Complete guide To Sharpening - Leonard Lee
- 17 Jan. 2011 - George Price - Dennis White Teaches Woodturning - Vol 1
- 17 Jan. 2011 - George Price - Dennis White Teaches Woodturning - Vol 2
- 17 Jan. 2011 - George Price - Dennis White Teaches Woodturning – Vol 4
- 17 Jan. 2011 - Ian Scott - Woodturning: Two Books in One - Phil Irons
- 17 Jan. 2011 - Peter Nicholl - Turning Practical Items On A Wood Lathe - Dick Sing
- 17 Jan. 2011 - Peter Nicholl - Woodturning A Source Book Of Shapes – John Hunnex
- 17 Jan. 2011 - Richard Ford - The Art of Turned Bowls - Richard Raffan
- 17 Jan. 2011 - Ron Hazlett - The Basic Box -- Turned Boxes by Ray Key
- 17 Jan. 2011 - Ron Hazlett - The Capsule Box -- Turned Boxes by Ray Key

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.

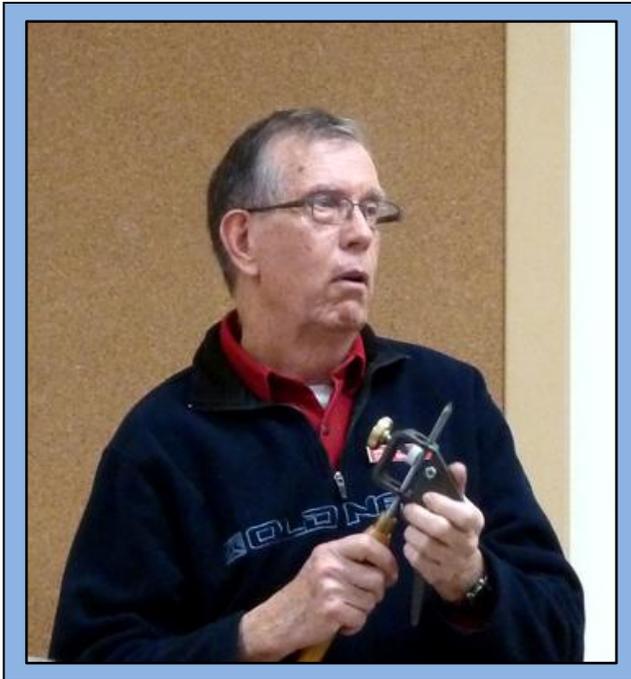
Interested? Please contact any member of the Executive. Remember, with more funds the more fun things we can do!

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

The January 2011 Meeting – Sharpening 102

Standing room only! That's the best way to describe January's meeting. There were 39 members in attendance and this included 5 new members that joined that night! Standing room only, indeed! We're going to have to start getting there early just to get a seat. :)

Tonight's meeting featured long-time Guild member, Doug McGuire, in the cockpit, navigating us through the murky clouds of sharpening myths and false assumptions.



Although a definition of 'sharp' is how fine that you can make the intersection of 2 surfaces or planes, obviously, getting to this is the challenge. Doug started his presentation by explaining how following the proper rules can further your sharpening skills and he gave several personal examples of how his own sharpening abilities were enhanced just by changing a few old habits. He mentioned that there is lots of good information on the fundamentals of sharpening in books and magazines and he suggested *The Complete Guide To Sharpening* by Leonard Lee and *The Fundamentals of Woodturning* by Mike Darlow where these fundamentals can be attained.

Tonight's focus was on sharpening with a grinder, which Doug is quite familiar with. Freehand sharpening, he said, requires a lot of sharpening time and practice, a skill usually only attained by professional turners so he suggested that using sharpening jigs is the suitable and most viable solution, at least to start.

In regards to the grinding wheels, he mentioned that the white wheels wear much faster than blue wheels and that

Oneway sells different wheels for the particular speed of your grinder. He also cautioned us to never exceed the maximum rated speed of the wheels and to inspect the wheels frequently for cracks. One of the easiest ways is to give the wheel a 'ring test' by tapping it with a wooden mallet or the handle of a screwdriver to see if it gives a clear ring. If it doesn't, inspect further.

He introduced a wooden jig that he made that allows him to flatten the bar of a gouge so that the clamp on the Wolverine Vari-Grind attachment will have something to grab on to, enabling him to get another inch or more of useable tool. This brought up a point about the Oneway double-ended tools that will give you 50% more usable tool for only 30% more cost. Although you can put a different grind on each end and have two tools in one, with the same grind on each end will give half as many trips to the grinder.

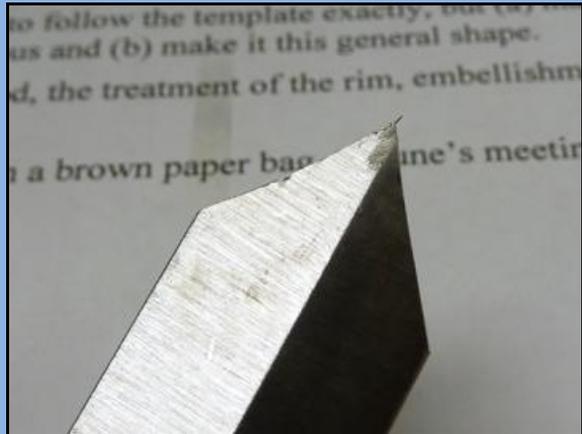
Doug spoke of the different types of steel used in turning tools, from the older carbon tools to the new carbide tip tools. With the better steels giving you a sharpen tool as well as one that will stay sharp longer it really comes down to the cost that you associate with your woodturning hobby or business. He was quick to mention that not all tools are created equal, even those that state that they use the same material. Due diligence is of the utmost importance when buying tools.

He made another great point when he reminded us to carefully check the tools before buying them. He passed around several examples where the machining was off, pretty much making the tool useless. One such example was a diamond parting tool where the high point doesn't match from one side to the other side.

The January 2011 Meeting – Sharpening 102

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Tool center doesn't match the one on the other side



The jig for extending gouge life



Doug finished his presentation with a sharpening demo that included even more tips, a group discussion and a short Q &A session. Some of the tips included the suggestion to polish the flute of the gouge and a warning not to sharpen the point of a tool twice when sharpening. It is better to sharpen one side and then the other side without going over the point on each sweep.

Thanks, Doug, for a refreshing look at sharpening. You certainly shared a lot of information, a lot more than could be written here, that will help keep us on the edge!

Another highlight of tonight's meeting was the Shape Challenge that Dianne Looker proposed way back in September. The challenge for this project was a concave shape and with fourteen members participating; Alan Hunt, Robert Atkinson, Gordon Marshall, Dale Rayner, Don Shubaly, Ian Scott, Stuart Taylor, Doug McGuire, Dan Graham, Dianne Looker, Edgil Tanner, Gary Landry and Matt Pilfold, there were quite a few entries. Each one was different but all captured the challenged shape, even those that were more of a 'challenge' than others. Yes, there were some great stories of how challenging attaining a simple shape can sometimes be. :)

The January 2011 Meeting – Sharpening 102

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The January 2011 Meeting – Sharpening 102

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The January 2011 Meeting – Sharpening 102

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Following the presentation of the Shape Challenge pieces Dianne unfolded a new Shape Challenge. This time the challenge is for an enclosed curve and will be due at the June meeting. She suggested sensual, 'fondable' bowls :) (More info on this new challenge can be found on page 12)

The display of fine pieces didn't end there! No! The Show and Tell featured six entries. Norm Jolivet brought in a selection of spin tops, Gordon Marshall brought in a segmented turning of Teak and Yellowheart, Alan Hunt showed us a natural edged bowl, Ron Hazlett shared a lidded bowl of spalted Maple, Dan Graham showed us a bowl made of Cypress and Peter Nicholl brought in a hollow form and a couple of Perfume applicators. Great job, everyone!



The January 2011 Meeting – Sharpening 102

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The January 2011 Meeting – Sharpening 102

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The meeting opened with Guild Vice-President Dan Graham speaking on the upcoming Competition and encouraging everyone to participate. He also gave an update on the trophies that are being made by the Events Committee. They are almost done, with one more work session required to complete them.

Membership Committee member, Andrew Watson, spoke on staffing the information table that will be at Lee Valley during the course of the Competition. There are still some spots to fill. Please contact Andrew regarding.

Past President, Bill Luther, gave an update on his attempts with soliciting prizes from sponsors for the Competition, citing how the tough economic climate wasn't allowing the expected, or desired, results. He also spoke on the importance of supporting our sponsors.

The meeting closed with our Drawmaster, Norm Jolivet, offering up a couple of pieces of great looking Walnut and some pen blank collections. The winners were Alan Hunt, Calum Ewing, Ron Hazlett and David Duggan and \$68 was raised.

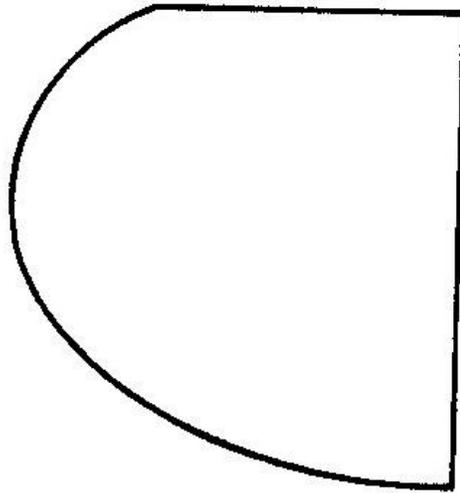
Special welcome goes out to the five new members that joined tonight; Edmund Benoit, Mark Colgan, Matthew Colgan, Ron Hazlett and George Price. Welcome!

As always, this was another great meeting of the Nova Woodturners' Guild!

The NWG Shape Challenge II

Dianne Looker

An Enclosed Curve with a Rounded Bottom.¹



The template for Project # 2: Enclosed Curve comes from Richard Raffan's book, *The Art of Turned Bowls*, pages 66-67.

1. Turn a bowl using the above as a guide.
2. You do not need to follow the template exactly, but (a) make the curve smooth and continuous and (b) make it this general shape.
3. Your choice: wood, the treatment of the rim, embellishments, and the finish.
4. Bring your bowl, in a brown paper bag, to June's meeting for display.

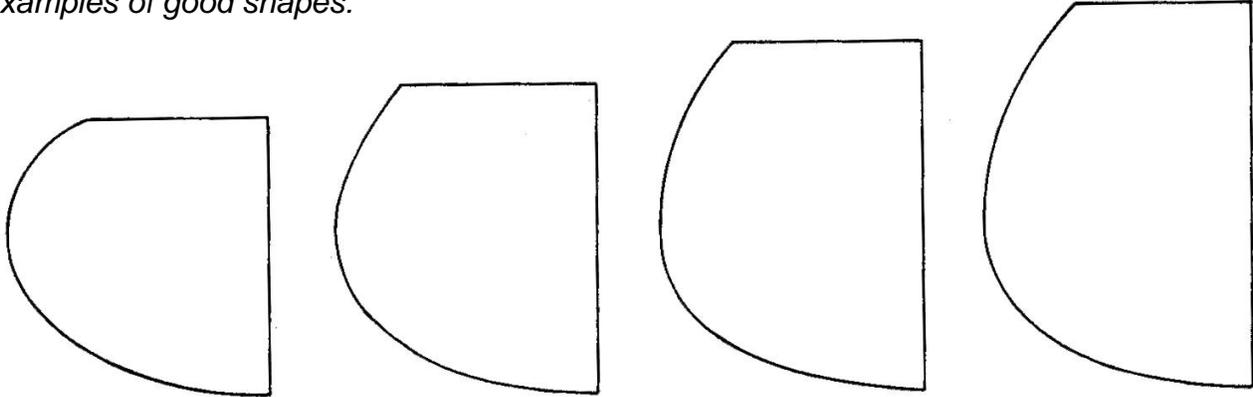


Manchurian Pear and Box Elder – both turned green – by Richard Raffan

The NWG Shape Challenge II

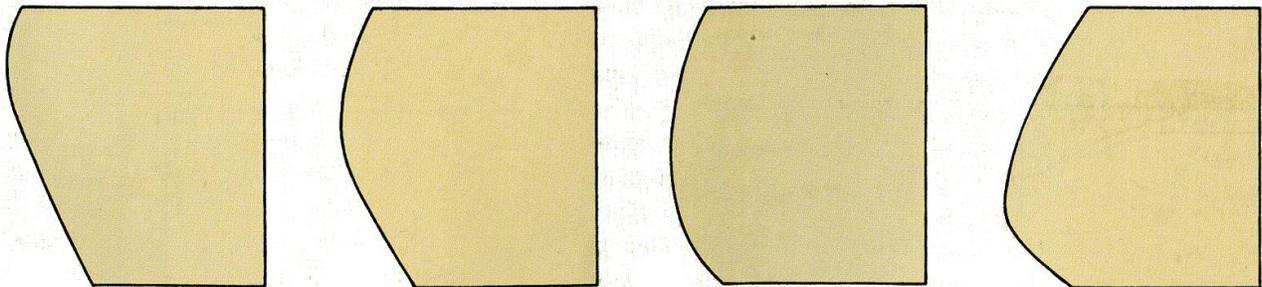
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Examples of good shapes:



"In each profile ... the diameter of the rim is smaller than that of the bowl. These are containing, even secret forms." The above "show four strong forms with the fullness of the curve at different heights." "If you take the forms and continue the curve through the centerline, you will wind up with round bases, as in the drawing above. These slightly squashed spheres... are some of my favorite forms. The curve flattens as it approaches the rim and also across the base, with the tightness kept below center. The result can be so incredibly sensual that fondling such a form verges on the erotic." Raffan, P. 66-67.

Examples of **not** good shapes:



"These profiles all suffer from too wide a base and from having the tightest part of the curve in the wrong place. The steep curve generates no life to the form and would be greatly improved by sweeping into a narrower base. My rule of thumb ... is for the base diameter of the bowl to be between 1/3 and 1/2 the diameter of the bowl." Raffan, P. 67.

¹ Note: both the idea of the shape challenge and bulk of material in this handout come from Cheryl Samuel, of the Island Woodturners Guild (Vancouver Island, that is) – thanks, Cheryl!

We had an excellent showing for the first Shape Challenge so let's do it again!

Remember, it's due at our June meeting.

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 - The Shape Challenge II	Kent Dartmouth 6:30-8:30

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

Important Dates

- January 25 - February 05, 2011 - Lee Valley Week of Woodturning
- February 05, 2011 - Annual Nova Woodturners' Guild Competition & Meeting
- 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
- June 20, 2011 – Shape Challenge II pieces are due

The February 2011 Meeting – February 5th

The Nova Woodturners' Guild Annual Competition Awards

The Nova Woodturners' Guild Annual Competition Awards is the most popular meeting of the year. You don't want to miss this one!

The winners of the 2011 Annual Competition will be announced and trophies awarded. There will also be a prize draw for all of the 2011 Annual Competition participants!

Get there early to get a good seat!

It's a fun time for all!

The February 5th, 2011 Guild meeting is at Lee Valley at 1:00pm

Lee Valley is located at 100 Susie Lake Crescent in Bayers Lake Park
A map is located here - <http://goo.gl/maps/gZRo>

Please note that this is our February meeting. There is NO meeting on February 21st

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

Your Fun Turn Piece Is Due At The March Meeting!

The Nova Woodturners' Guild Annual Fun Turn is one of the highlights of the Guild's season. Every year we get a chance to not only apply our woodturning skills but our imagination as well in this amazing event.

Amazing, you say? Yes, what is amazing is that there is always such a wide variety of finished turnings - there are never two pieces alike! Sure, everyone is different but the thing is that we all start with relatively the same sized piece of wood. No doubt about it, that's pretty amazing!

The object of this yearly challenge is to have fun and the rules are equally as simple - we are given a block of wood and we can turn anything of our choice. We can even use a small amount of additional wood to accentuate our piece. Pretty simple, huh? Oh, and did we mention to have fun? Yep, it's all about the fun!

And fun it is. From the time we get the block of wood and place it in our shop it sits there, beckoning us (threatening us?) demanding from our every waking moment the question - "What will I turn this block into?" Then we wait for it to speak to us... we wait... and wait... and wait... Then, if the lathe gods are smiling and the wind is blowing just right, at the very last minute it does speak to us and it's a mad scramble to get our pieces finished on time (sometimes the finish is even still wet when it's brought in!) And finally it's done, ahh... woodturning bliss. Oh, there are some that the wood speaks to immediately but do they really get to enjoy the anguish and turmoil that this little block of wooden fun brings? LOL!

Seriously, the Annual Fun Turn is a great opportunity to try something different, perhaps even turn something that you wouldn't normally turn. Challenge yourself. This, of course, can take your skills to another level. However, the biggest enjoyment you will likely get is just by participating in the camaraderie of the event. Yep, it really is a lot of fun. It really is... but only if you participate. ☺

And if you do participate there's a chance that you just might win a prize! Oh yes, everyone who joins in on the fun and enters a piece into the Annual Fun Turn gets their name entered into a draw. The prize is yet to be determined but we know that it will be fantastic!

So get your block of wood that you received at the October meeting out from underneath your workbench, dust it off and get turning!

Remember, you must **return the finished piece at the March 21, 2011 meeting** for the Annual Fun Turn Show and Tell!

For those members that did not receive a block of wood and want to participate the size this year is 8" X 8" X 3" and the choice of wood was Maple or Oak. Check your woodpile for similar. :)

Check out the Guild website for photos of past year's entries for the Annual Fun Turn!

"The object of this yearly challenge is to simply have fun!"

The Annual Competition Trophies

The Nova Woodturners' Guild Annual Competition trophies have been completed and once the winners have been determined the nameplates will be attached and they'll be ready for the Award Ceremony on February 5th.



First Place – Novice Spindle
Top was done by Robert Atkinson

Here are the trophies for

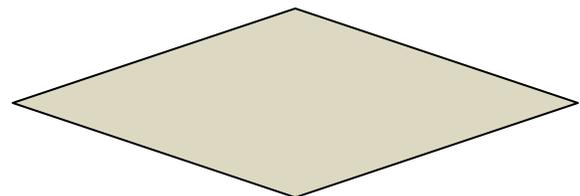
NOVICE



First Place – Novice Pen
Top was done by Andrew Furlong



First Place – Novice Faceplate
Top was done by Gordon Marshall



The Annual Competition Trophies

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Here are the trophies for
INTERMEDIATE



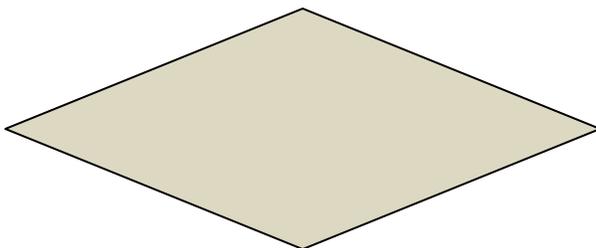
First Place – Intermediate Faceplate
Top done by Doug McGuire



First Place – Intermediate Spindle
Top done by Richard Ford



First Place – Intermediate Pen
Top done by Ian Scott



The Annual Competition Trophies

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First Place – Open Faceplate
Top done by Don Moore



First Place – Open Pen
Top done by Darrell Eisner



First Place – Open Spindle
Top done by Stuart Taylor



People's Choice Award
Top done by Warman Castle

Pen Pals

Darrell Eisner

For me, January is a time to get caught up in my shop, reflect on the direction I want to take my pen making in 2011 and to get all my administrative work organized for that dreaded inventory counting and income tax filing.

Well, last month I told you how I blew all the dust out of my shop, with a leaf blower. So this month I've had to put everything back on the shelves from where I blew it off. As it's been too cold to work in the shop, I have listed my inventory and previous year's sales and decided on what I want to turn for the year. This downtime also gives me an opportunity to check in with other penturners to see what is happening in their shops.

I've bought some of those piece together kits from www.kallenshaanwoods.com and will put them together in the comfort of my heated space in the house. Ken Neilson of Kallenshaanwoods has put together some pretty neat pen kits so have a look if you are interested in something unique. I have also entered some pens in the NWG competition, the www.totallyturning.com pen exhibition in Sarasota Springs, NY in March and I'm thinking of a pen design for the NSDCC Mary Black Gallery exhibit later this spring. So, while I haven't been turning much, I have got it "in gear" for an exciting year.

Last month I showed you some traditional wooden materials for pen blanks. This month let's look at some alternative materials for making pens:



Pen Pals

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#9 Deer or Moose antler: I have been using antler for the past 8 years and it does make a nice pen. It is a bit difficult to work with due to its curved shape. Mount the antler on your lathe between centres and rough turn it until you get a bit of a round shape. This will allow you to drill the antler (on the lathe or in a drill press) so that you don't get a blowout at the end. If you take great care, you can get some bark (brown colour on the antler) to remain. Sometimes, I have to leave the barrel a bit large in order to retain the bark and the outside enamel. In most cases, you will still turn it down to the marrow in the antler and this can be later filled with ca. The negative side of turning antler is that it smells like a tooth being drilled at the dentist. You can make a beautiful pen out of antler or make a nice rifle cartridge pen with antler on the cap.

#10 Green, swirl acrylic: This one is from Lee Valley and I put it on a Baron fountain pen. When drilling acrylic, you have to be careful that you don't overheat the drill as it will melt the plastic. Depending how translucent the blank is , it may be necessary to paint the tubes and inside the blank itself. When painting the blank, I use Testors paint from Michaels and apply it with a Q-Tip. I think you will be pleased at how rich the blank looks on the pen.

#11 Now, here is a fun blank. It has bowling ball chips embedded in aluminte. It's a hand cast blank from Bruce119 in Florida. Aluminte turns real easy and is not brittle like some resins.

#12 This is another cast blank with gold sparkle embedded in it. It looks like a starry night on a black background. This is a creative blank and you may wish to pair it with another material/colour. I did a tutorial on this in a previous newsletter.

#13 Camo blank: There are a number of camouflage acrylic blanks available from the leading vendors. Bullet pens are the hot item this past fall. I did a tutorial on this pen in a previous newsletter. The blanks are dark enough that you don't have to paint the inside of the blank. There is also a desert blank available in a lighter colour. You can see several versions of these pens on my website at www.scotianpens.com. The resin is quite easy to turn and you can dress the pen up with a rifle clip.

#14 Cat and jungle animal blanks: I must admit that I purchased this zebra blank and a number of cat blanks a few years back and have not turned them yet. You can see them at www.exoticblanks.com. They are acrylic and are easy to turn. What makes them interesting is pairing them with the right pen kit and deciding how you will cut the blank to get the right presentation. I have seen pictures of pens made from these blanks and they are quite interesting. Give them a try and post a picture in the newsletter.

#15 Coffee bean blank: Yes, they are made with real coffee beans in them. They are a joy to smell when you turn them in your shop. You can find them at the major vendors. When turning them, the bean is exposed and sometimes will have a void in the middle. Just fill the void with CA and give the whole blank a CA finish.

#16 Corn cob blank: Again, these are real corn cobs which have been infused with a dyed resin. They are very fragile on the exterior but once rough turned, you are down to a hard core. The downside to this blank is that once rough turned, you expose the kernels which has voids in them. So, a lot of infill with CA is the order of the day. I would also suggest a CA finish.

*“Here’s a fun blank,
it has bowling ball
chips embedded in
it!”*

*“Give them a try
and post a picture in
the newsletter!”*

Pen Pals

...continued

“If you have any questions about pens please contact me!”

For those of you that also turn bowls, have a look at this - Martha Stewart puts shavings in her muffins - <http://www.marthastewart.com/article/wooden-bowls-with-david-lancaster>. This was the first time I saw David Lancaster and I was impressed with the number of bowls he could get out of a burl. A pretty nice Oneway lathe too.

TIP - When I am using CA glue I normally put the top on the bottle afterwards, however, over time the top gets all plugged up. Some penturners will use the cherry picker needle from CSUSA instead of the top and this does keep the nozzle open on the glue. A number of other penturners subscribe to the theory, "Just leave the cap off the glue and it won't dry up". For long term storage, to keep the CA fresh, some will store it in the fridge. All helpful tips.

TIP - You know how that CA/epoxy/Gorilla glue gets in the ends of the brass barrels when doing the glue ups? Well, to keep the ends of the barrels clean, go to Canadian Tire and buy one of those gun cleaning kits plus a few extra 22 cal. metal brushes. If there is hard CA inside the barrel, I break it up first by using an Exacto knife, then I run the 22 cal. metal brush through the tube. It also helps to clean any wax that you used for plugging up the ends of the tubes. After this, I use a de-burring tool to round off the interior barrels... it helps to smooth off the edges when installing the pen parts.

This is a big week for the NWG with the Annual Competition and exhibit at Lee Valley. I would encourage everyone to come on out and have a look at some of the finest wood turnings in Nova Scotia. This is the first year that there is a category for penturning. We hope to see lots of pens on display and look forward to the competition results on Saturday.

If you have any questions please contact me at info@scotianpens.com



Shavings

Blackhawk Sharpening Jig Pattern and Video Available!

During Doug McGuire's sharpening presentation Norm Jolivet mentioned a jig for resetting the Wolverine style sharpening system. He has posted a link to the pattern and the video in the Forums of the Guild's website. Check out the post title 'Blackhawk Sharpening Jig' in the General Woodturning Board category of the Forums section of the Guild website located at www.novawoodturnersguild.com

It's A Girl!

Past Guild member, Dave Wilkins, exclaims "My daughter, Mary Grace Alexandra, was born a bit early on January 26th and she weighed 6 pounds 9 ounces. Mom and baby are in good health. ☺

Congrats to Dave and Alexis from all of us here at the NWG!

Tree rings tell more than just the age of a tree and it is big science too!

Dendrochronology, or tree ring dating, is the science and it has three main areas of application: paleoecology, where it is used to determine certain aspects of past ecologies (most prominently climate); archaeology, where it is used to date old buildings, etc.; and radiocarbon dating, where it is used to calibrate radiocarbon ages. Find out more at <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dendrochronology>

Small Turning Tip

Instead of mounting small, delicate turnings on hardwood waste blocks that offer the possibility of damaging the turning when trying to remove it, use a piece of 1/2" drywall. Then when finished you just have to cut through the drywall's paper 'skin'. A bit of solvent will remove the 'skin' residue.

Busy Bee Tool Celebration Sale

There'll be some great specials coming up February 11th and 12th at Busy Bee Tools in celebration of them winning the Burnside Business of the Year Award! Find out more at <http://www.busybeetools.com/pages/BurnsideRetailAward.html>

Lunch Plans For Before The Award Ceremony On The 5th

There is a very short lunch hour between the end of Steven Zwerling's workshop and the Award Presentation. Some time would be saved if an eatery was selected beforehand. Any suggestions? Last year some of us went to the Dragon Buffet King, (no waiting) <http://www.dragonbuffetking.com>. This lunch is for anyone that wants to meet. Contact Norm Jolivet at jolivetn@yahoo.ca for more

Woodturning Cruise In Norway

For those who don't know, there is a woodturning cruise this summer (August 15-27) in Norway. Demonstrators include: Richard Raffan, Glenn Lucas, Jimmy Clewes, Nick Agar, Bonnie Klein, Mark Baker and many more. Opportunities for hands on experience with the pros and a cruise up the west coast of Norway, visiting 11 cities plus a bus trip to the North Cape, the northernmost point of Europe!

Check out the details at <http://www.woodturningcruise.com>

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

Watch this video and you will find it absolutely fascinating! It is about logging giant redwood trees about 60 years ago. <http://www.archive.org/details/RedwoodS1940>

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 March issue is March 6th, 2011

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

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Vice President: Dan Graham

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Secretary: Ted Monk

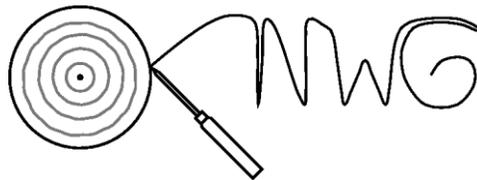
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Members At Large:

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

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