



The Turning Point

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MEMBER SINCE 2012

*The next meeting of the Nova Woodturners' Guild is at
Lee Valley Tools
100 Susie Lake Crescent, Halifax, N.S.
June 19, 2017. 6:15 p.m.*

**The next meeting will feature
The Annual General Meeting (AGM)
&
Fun turn Show and Tell**

The President's Workshop

David McLachlan

President's Message - June 2017

I want to take this opportunity to thank **Robert Atkinson** for a great presentation on finishing turned projects... it seemed like there was something there for everyone whether a novice or advanced turner, and generated a lot of discussion within the crowd that is always a sign of a presentation that made it's points.

I also want to advise you to mark, July 29th down as the date for the Annual NWG BBQ. **Ted** and **Debbie Monk** have kindly offered to host the Annual BBQ at their home once again. If past years are any indication, this year's event will be a fun filled afternoon for us to get together along with our partners. More information will be coming out as the date for the event approaches.

Our next meeting is the Annual General Meeting for the year and when we elect our executive members and committee members. The guidelines for the positions and job descriptions can be found on the NWG website under: Documents header, Organization Documents; Policy Document and Guidelines for the NWG Guild.

The positions are as follows:

President	David McLachlan	re-offering
Vice-President		TBD
Secretary	Calum Ewing	up for election
Treasurer	Brenna Swinamer	re-offering
Member-at-large	Dianne Looker	re-offering

Committees:

Events Committee		
Chairperson	Dave Duggan	up for election
Committee member		TBD
Competition Committee		
Chairperson		TBD
Committee member 1		TBD
Committee member 2		TBD
Newsletter -		TBD
Membership		
Chairperson	Gary Landry	re-offering
Committee member		TBD
Library Committee		
Chairperson	Jim Diamond	re-offering
Committee member	Richard Ford	re-offering
Website Master	Trevor Edis	re-offering
Website Forum	Norm Jolivet	re-offering
Guild Photographer	Chris Palmer	re-offering

The President's Workshop continued

Fund raising

Chairperson

Committee member

Committee member

Nominations -

Norm Jolivet

Yogi Gutz

TBD

re-offering (Raffle)

re-offering (Raffle)

TBD

If anyone is interested in any of the To Be Determined (TBD) positions please let me know as soon as possible. (mclachlandg@gmail.com)

We hopefully will be able to fill these positions at the AGM.

Moving on – Last month I was approached by **Dr. Sara Robinson**, a University of Oregon mycologist who works on mechanisms of spalting wood products to champion our Guild's participation in a survey on the esthetics and use of spalting woods in turning. The survey will be posted on line in early July and should only take 20 minutes to complete. They are looking for all levels of turners to participate whether or not you are currently or have ever used spalting wood. This survey is a North American survey being sent out to AAW chapter Guilds. The participants will remain anonymous, but the results will be made to all participating Guilds. I am hoping that members will take the time to respond to the Survey when it comes out... I will keep you posted as new information comes out between now and then.

Sincerely,

Dave McLachlan.

The Editor's Desk

Norm Jolivet

Well, that was fun!

I've been playing with this newsletter for five years now. Wow, time goes fast!

I feel that it's time for fresh eyes and a fresh approach to covering the advancements and achievements of both the Guild and its individual members. So, to that end, I am handing over my Editorial position to someone else with a vision for the future.

I hope you have as much pleasure in learning as I have.

Norm Jolivet

Editor (Former)

Meeting Notes May 29, 2017

Calum Ewing

Pre-meeting Demo – Sharpening Drill Bits with Richard Ford

Richard Ford gave an informative demo on using a bench grinder to sharpen drill bits:

- a) Any normal twist drill bit can be sharpened using a standard bench grinder. Not the same for brad point bits;
- b) it is important to make sure drills are sharpened at their original angle;
- c) the tip angle should be measured using a machinist's protractor;
- d) set the tool rest to the correct angle (one half of the tip angle)
- e) hold the bit firmly on the tool rest and touch the tip of the drill bit to the grinder wheel, rotating the bit as you do;
- f) grind both sides of the bit so that they are even and the cutting face is the same length on both sides.

Now you are ready to go with a fresh drill bit that will cut cooler and be less likely to wander as you use it.



President **Dave McLachlan** called the meeting to order at 6:40 and welcomed everyone. There were three new visitors:

Bill has been turning on and off for many years and after taking some turning seminars at Lee Valley has been getting more seriously into turning. He is specializing in peppermills recently.

Andrew has been doing a variety of woodworking for some time and after finding a lathe being discarded following spring clean-up he has been restoring it and getting into trying turning as an extension of his woodworking.

Darren has been turning for a while and has been focusing on smaller items including pens, key chains, etc.

Announcements:

The American Association of Woodturners has a 1/2 price membership deal on until the end of June. New members of AAW who are members of a chapter (NWG is a chapter of AAW) can join the AAW for 50% off.



Special Presentation – As part of our celebration of the 20th anniversary of the NWG, Founding member and long time Guild photographer, **Chris Palmer**, was recognized and honoured for his long term contributions to the Guild with a small gift.

Meeting Notes continued

Calum Ewing

Fun Turn – pieces are due back for display at the June meeting.

Executive – a number of people are stepping down from executive positions and committees, so we will need some volunteers or suggestions. Currently we have vacancies for:

Vice President

Newsletter Editor

Events Committee Chair

Competition Committee Chair

Darrell Eisner has generously offered two free instruction sessions for people who are new to the Guild and wish to get some specific instructions. Interested people should contact Darrell directly to take advantage of this opportunity.

Spalted Wood Survey – **Dr. Sarah Robertson**, who wrote a book on spalted wood, is working on a survey on the use of spalted wood by woodworkers. Information on the survey will be distributed by email and members are encouraged to participate in this survey to help Dr. Robertson gather data on members use and appreciation of spalted wood in our work.

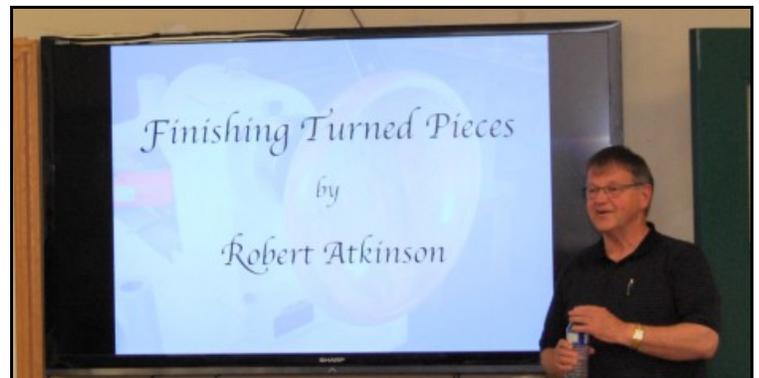
The summer NWG BBQ and Social will again be hosted by **Ted Monk** and his wife **Debra** at their home in Dartmouth. The date is July 29 and more details will be sent out by email.

Dave McLachlan thanked **Richard Ford** for the interesting pre-meeting demonstration.

Main Presentation: Finishing Turned Pieces – Robert Atkinson

Robert Atkinson provided an informative and engaging presentation on sanding, finishing and protecting our turned work with a host of practical tips and lessons learned:

What is Finishing? – Finish is not the lacquer, tung oil, etc. that we put on pieces to give them a sheen. That is what we put on to protect the finish we have achieved. Finishing is everything that happens after your last cut with turning tools and before the Protector goes on. The goal is to achieve a flawless surface that is smooth, clear and without blemishes.



What is required for a good finish?

Good lighting & Sensitive fingers.

Sandpaper – various grits, good quality Up to 400 or 600 grit for wood, up to 12,000 grit for acrylics or other synthetic materials.

Meeting Notes continued

Calum Ewing

Surface protection (lacquer, tung oil, etc.)

Enhanced surface protections (eg. buffing material for a high sheen).

Lighting

Need to have good, bright light to ensure a good finish. You can't get rid of blemishes or scratches that you can't see.

Consider both the brightness (lumens) and the colour of your lighting. Colour is measured as the colour temperature in degrees Kelvin (K). Incandescent & Warm White bulbs (2800K-3500K) have yellowish, warm colour to the light. Cool white (4000K – 5000K) bulbs are better, but can have a slightly greenish colour. Daylight (5000K – 6000K) are best. They give a clean, slightly blue light that is very close to natural sunlight.

LED lights are very good and have come down in price dramatically. They come in a range of colours and run nice and cool.

Hands

Use your hands (fingertips) to check the surface regularly for blemishes. Our fingertips are very sensitive. You can often feel imperfections that are too small to be seen but will show up once the protector coat is applied.

Sanding

Ensure you are using breathing protection to avoid inhaling sanding dust – it is very harmful! Most turners typically use sandpaper grits between 80 and 600 on wood (higher for synthetic materials like acrylic).

The grit you can start with will depend on how good your final cuts are. Start with a low grit that will remove cut marks and progress through finer and finer grits. Use the 1 1/2 times rule when advancing between grits. The number of your next grit should be no higher than 1 1/2 times the number of the grit just used.

For example, if you start with 80 grit, the next grit would be no more than, $80 \times 1.5 = 120$ grit, then to $120 \times 1.5 = 180$, etc.

A good progression would be: 80 -> 120 -> 180 -> 240 -> 320 -> 400 -> 600

Don't skip grits or advance more than 1 1/2 times the grit number. Moving to a finer grit too quickly will mean that the finer paper will not be able to remove the scratches left by the previous coarser grit.

Hold the sandpaper lightly on the wood while sanding, with just enough pressure to keep it in place. Too much pressure can overheat the wood causing cracks, cause deeper scratches than the grit size would normally make and will wear out the paper faster.

It is important to clean your turning thoroughly between grits using compressed air or a rag (or both) to ensure that all the previous grit and sanding dust is removed before moving on.

You can "wet" sand with mineral oil or whatever protector you intend to use. This reduces heat buildup and extends the life of the paper.

Between grits, turn the lathe off and lightly sand by hand with the grain to help remove any concentric scratches from sanding with the lathe running. Monitor how well the sandpaper is cutting by monitoring the dust coming off the piece as you work.

Meeting Notes continued

Calum Ewing

Robert uses mostly Wurth™ sandpaper. It cuts well and resists loading.

Surface Protection

After sanding a good protector will ensure a long life to the finish you have achieved with careful turning and sanding.

The first coat of protector may cause scratches to show that were not visible. If this happens, let the protector dry and go back a grit and re-sand – especially hand sanding with the grain, then move to your final grit.

Robert uses mostly Minwax Tung Oil – applying 5 or 6 coats to get the desired sheen making sure the previous coat is well dried before moving on. He buffs each coat with a fine plastic “steel” wool to ensure an even coating and build up of the tung oil.

For “food safe” items, Robert recommends Mahoney’s Finishes walnut oil. It is heat treated and filtered so that the compounds in the nut oils that cause allergic reactions are broken down in the heat treating.

For “enhanced” surface protection, you can buff with a three part treatment of Tripoli, white diamond and carnauba wax. Buffing is normally done at 700-1000 rpm and coloured buffs should be avoided as the colour may get transferred to you turning.

Hints

Foam-backed paper is good to use – it gives a good feel of the surface as you use it

Power sanding (with the lathe off) is a good way to ensure that the centre of a bowl is flat. If the lathe is turning, the wood at the centre is hardly moving so does not get sanded as much, leaving a bump in the centre.

When sanding wood with hard and softer growth rings, use a light touch so that you don’t scoop out the softer wood creating ridges.

Discussion – there was a varied discussion on the topic following the formal part of Robert’s presentation:

Don Moore emphasized the need for good ventilation when sanding. He uses both a supplied air respirator helmet and a cheap fan, blowing from behind him, to move dust away while he is working.

Norm Jolivet raised the issue of buffing wheels. They are not all the same. Buffs intended for metal work, may not take up compound well (they are intended for liquid or paste compounds) and can be too hard for wood, occasionally leaving marks on the wood.

Don Moore also emphasized the need for safety when finishing:



Meeting Notes continued

Calum Ewing

Watch out for hot lights as a potential fire hazard

Always place rags used with finishes in a sealed container so that air cannot cause them to ignite as they dry. Plastic jars or sealable bags work well for a few rags

Yogi Gutz pointed out that Costco sells LED strip lights to replace existing fluorescent T8 tubes in a two-pack for \$19. They must be inserted correctly into your existing fixtures to avoid possible electrical arcing.

Show & Tell

Gordon Marshall showed a practice piece that he had been using to experiment with carving/ piercing, scorching and staining. He found that a small butane torch sold for making deserts gave very good control of the scorching.

David Duggan showed off the Carter and Sons spindle gouge he won in the recent competition. It has a hefty solid-feeling handle and the tool itself cuts very well for a small gouge - even when taking more aggressive cuts he gets little vibration.



Dianne Looker has been making a number of pieces to donate to fund-raising events and showed off a small cherry bowl with sparkling beads. Her Bloodwood handled letter opener that won Open Mandrel class in the recent competition required a lot of effort to get the feel and proportions of the handle just right. She showed off her innovative "Mirror Bowl" from the competition and discussed the design process to achieve the piece. She also showed a "golf Ball in a cube of Wood" puzzle and discussed the process of getting the ball inside the hollowed cube.

Don Moore showed off his fun turn piece (he won't be at the June meeting), an interesting tear drop-shaped bowl done using his eccentric chuck to turn the piece on multiple centres then sand the intersecting curves to get smooth transitions.



Thanks to Chris Palmer for the photos.

Meeting Notes continued

Calum Ewing



A nice hollow form in Weeping Mulberry was shown by **George LaFontaine**. It had lots of bark inclusions and wipe on Polyurethane as a protector coat.

Brian Sharp showed of his competition winning hollow form, Facing My Fears, in figured Maple with piercing and texturing to create a variety of surface finishes.



Richard Ford showed a small “Drop Nose” Scraper he made inspired by a design taught by **Myron W. Curtis**. It has a 25° angle at the cutting edge and a rounded back to allow tight curves when cutting coves. It works a lot like a skew chisel but is less prone to catches.



Library Report

Richard Ford

ISSUE DATE	NAME	ID #	DESCRIPTION	AUTHOR
10 Apr. 2017	Robert Atkinson	099VC	Glen Lucas Traditional Irish Platter	
10 Apr. 2017	Robert Atkinson	102VF	Glenn Lucas Mastering Woodturning Dublin Viking Bowl	
10 Apr. 2017	Bill Fisher	064BJ	Turned Boxes 50 designs -	Chris Stott
10 Apr. 2017	Brenna Swinamer	103BA	Practical Woodturning Projects – A selection from the AAW Journals	
29 May. 2017	Brian Sharp	050BU	Decorative Techniques for Woodturners -	Hilary Bowen
29 May. 2017	Lowell Jenkins	098BV	The Creative Woodturner –	Terry Martin

Calendar of Events

Date	Subject	Location
September 19, 2016	Membership dues and Bravery Bead box presentations.	Lee Valley Tools, 100 Susie Lake Crescent
October 17, 2016	Celebration of the Guild's 20 th anniversary	Lee Valley Tools, 100 Susie Lake Crescent
November 21, 2016	Accenting With Surface Techniques Part 4 Inlays - Ted Monk	Lee Valley Tools, 100 Susie Lake Crescent
December 12, 2016	Christmas Social	Halifax Specialty Hardwoods, 112 Bluewater Rd. Bedford
January 16, 2017	Pen turning demonstration and general discussion	Lee Valley Tools, 100 Susie Lake Crescent
February 13, 2017	Deep Vase Hollowing – Richard Ford Fun turn wood tonight!	Lee Valley Tools, 100 Susie Lake Crescent
March 20, 2017	Kevin Power on dustless sanding technologies offered by Mirka Ltd.	Lee Valley Tools, 100 Susie Lake Crescent
April 10, 2017	Aspects of Safety for Turners Submissions for NWG Competition	Lee Valley Tools, 100 Susie Lake Crescent
April 29, 2017	Awards Day Lee Valley	Lee Valley Tools, 100 Susie Lake Crescent
May 29, 2017	“Finishing and Finishes” with Robert Atkinson	Lee Valley Tools, 100 Susie Lake Crescent
June 19, 2017	AGM Fun Turn Show & Tell	Lee Valley Tools, 100 Susie Lake Crescent

The Raffle Booth

Norm Jolivet / Yogi Gutz

George LaFontaine took home a large cherry burl slab.
(donated by **Stuart Taylor**).
Brian Sharp won a grab bag of surprises.
Dianne Looker took home a bowl blank and a grab bag.
Leo Westhaver won a book.



Nova Woodturners' Guild – 2016/17 Executive

Our e-mail now reflects a more consistent method of communicating with the various offices in the Nova Woodturners' Guild. The recipients will change as the need arises but a note sent to the president will go to who ever is president at that time. All the following addresses should be followed by @novawoodturnersguild.com to send mail to that person

Position	<address>@novawoodturnersguild.com	Name	Chairperson?
EXECUTIVE	executive	(sends the message to all positions on the list)	
President	president	David McLachlan	
Vice President	vice-president	Harold McLellan	
Secretary	secretary	Calum Ewing	
Treasurer	treasurer	Brenna Swinamer	
Members at Large	members-at-large	Dianne Looker	
COMMITTEES			
Library	library	Jim Diamond Richard Ford	C
Web Site	webmaster	Trevor Edis	C
Website Forum		Norm Jolivet	
Membership & Promotion	membership-chair	Gary Landry Norm Jolivet	C
Newsletter	newsletter	Norm Jolivet	C
Events	events	Brian Sharp Dave McLachlan	C
Competition		Calum Ewing Edmund Benoit Harold McLellan	C
Guild Photographer		Chris Palmer	
Fund Raising		Norm Jolivet (Raffles) Yogi Gutz	C
Nominating			C