



The Turning Point

In this issue:

President's Message	2
Meeting Notes	3
Show and tell	7
Raffle results	8
Library Report	9
Call for nominations	9
From the editor	10
Calendar	11
Executive	12



Chestnut piece
turned and carved and burned
by Don Moore



Member since 2012

*The next meeting of the Nova Woodturners' Guild is at
Lee Valley Tools
100 Susie Lake Crescent, Halifax, N.S.
April 16, 2018. 6:45 p.m.*

The next meeting will feature

Zalman Amit

*Thin walled vessels and piercing.
Show and tell theme is "Colour"*

The President's Message April 2018

Dave McLachlan

This year's Annual NWG Turning Competition has been a great success so far; we had 43 entries, which will be on display at Lee Valley until April 20th. Thanks to everyone who entered the competition, including two turners from New Brunswick. The judging took place on April 9th, along with the photography of all of the pieces. A special thanks goes out to Gary Landry who organized the running of the competition and everyone who helped out so far - Harold McLellan, Darrell Eisner, Glenn McCarron, William Maes, and Calum Ewing who was an invaluable source of information on running past competitions. The Awards ceremony will be held in the Lee Valley seminar room, April 21st from 1:00 to 4:00 pm, everyone is welcome to come.

Thanks to everyone who signed up for the Guild's Demo booth. We had a great out pouring of assistance in this regard, with all but two slots filled for the two-week period.



A special thanks goes out to Lee Valley for hosting the competition this year and everyone there who helped out in some way, but especially to Scott Croucher who organized the Turning seminars being held over this period, and for bringing in Ashley Harwood from South Carolina for three Lee Valley seminars, one of which was an all women's turning event. (The first only women's event that Ashley has done; good on Lee Valley and Scott Croucher for being ahead of the game when it comes to women's inclusiveness in turning.) I heard rave reviews from participants of the Ashley Harwood/Lee Valley seminars (myself included).



The Guild was fortunate to be able to take advantage of Lee Valley bringing in Ashley to organize our own April 6th evening Demonstration with Ashley. Ashley is a very accomplished turner and she imparted a lot of information on her turning techniques during her bowl turning demo, which focused on how she creates her bowl rim and foot designs. We had a great turn out of 21 members and the admission fees completely covered all of the costs associated with having Ashley speak to us.



Finally, on a sadder note, Bill Fisher, a Guild member from Stewiacke, passed away April 5th at home surrounded by family and friends, and will be greatly missed. Woodturning and the Guild were important parts of his life later in life, as well as being a life-long volunteer Fire Fighter. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family at this sad time.

David McLachlan, NWG President

Meeting Notes

March 19, 2018

Calum Ewing

President **David McLachlan** called the meeting to order at 6:40 pm with 29 members and 7 visitors present

Visitors:

Scott DeCoste is an experienced woodworker looking at exploring turning;

Carl Leatherhead has turned a few items and is looking to get more into the hobby;

Gerald Glover has just acquired a lathe and is learning what he can about turning;

Brett Glover is also learning about turning wood;

John McIntosh started turning 70 years ago and spent most of his career in metal working and turning on metal lathes. He has a copier attachment that fits an old Beaver lathe that is up for grabs if anyone is interested;

John Ashton has been into woodworking for a while and is interested in learning more about turning;

Joe Crouse is a former Guild member and back for a visit.

Announcements

- Volunteers are needed for the demo table during the competition display at Lee Valley. There is a sign-up sheet circulating or those interested can contact Dave McLachlan to select a shift or two.
- The annual competition is fast approaching and we are accepting competition entries tonight. The deadline for competition entries is **April 3rd** at the close of business (6pm) at Lee Valley Tools in Halifax.
- We have arranged for a demo for Guild members by Ashley Harwood from South Carolina. This special demo will be Thursday April 5th from 7:00 to 8:30 and the cost is \$30. The focus will be on rim and foot design on bowls and push cut techniques in faceplate turning. A sign-up sheet is circulating.
- We have had some feedback from competition sponsors that Gift Certificates are not being used. It is important that we recognize the support of our donors and use the donated certificates. If you win a certificate that you may not use, let Dave McLachlan, or our newsletter editor Dianne Looker, know as there will be other members who may want it to use.

Main Presentation: Gary Landry – Making Pens

Gary provided an interesting and tid-bit filled demo on making pens. He cautions that your first pen will seem quite expensive with the required tooling and accessories, but after the first one, they are much less costly.

Basic needs (for all pens):

- A pen kit with the required hardware parts
- A blank of material for the pen body
- A drill of the correct size for the pen tubes
- Mandrel to hold the blanks during turning
- Bushings to hold the blanks(s) parallel to the mandrel and ensure the blanks are turned to the correct diameters. Bushings are sold in sets and are specific to each pen kit type.

Design

- Choose a pen kit that you like and select the desired style, finish or colour
- Choose a blank of desired material (wood, acrylic, antler, or other materials)

Before you start, read the instructions for the pen kit fully and make sure that all the required parts are included in the kit you purchased.

Preparing the blanks

Before turning, the blanks must be prepared so that you will get a successful outcome. Care is needed at this stage to ensure that the pen goes together well and you get a good fit between parts. To prepare the blanks:

- Lay out the blanks for the pen tubes and cut to length. Leave 2-3mm extra material at each end to allow for squaring up the ends of the blanks.
- Mark the mating ends of the cut blanks so that you can re-align the grain later
- Mark the centres of the end of each blank
- Drilling the blanks:
 - You must ensure that the blanks are securely held (clamped) during drilling so that there is no wobble of the drill bit in the hole. The blank must be carefully aligned with the drill to ensure that hole passes through the centre of the blank and you have enough material at the sides to turn the pen components.
 - Use the correct drill bit for the tubes. Brad point bits are good for this and leave clean entry and exit holes. Tapered point bits can cause ‘chip out’ at the exit hole and may not leave you enough material to fully embed the tube in the blank.
 - Drill the blanks using:
 - a) a drill press with the blank securely clamped to the table
 - b) a 4-Jaw chuck with spigot jaws or pen blank jaws and a Jacobs chuck in the tail stock
 - Drill slowly in stages and clear chips frequently to prevent overheating the drill. Heating can easily cause the blank to crack making it useless for a pen. Acrylic or resin blanks can melt if heated too much by aggressive drilling.



- Gluing the tubes:

Glue the tubes into the blanks using polyurethane, cyanoacrylate or epoxy. Allow the glue to cure fully.

 - Plug one end of each tube to keep the glue from getting inside using dental ‘base’ wax or a thin slice of potato or carrot
 - Rough the surface of the tube with 120 grit sandpaper to remove oxidation and ensure a good glue bond
 - Coat inside of blank with glue and run a small bead of glue along the tube

- Carefully insert the tube into the blank (plugged end first) using a twisting motion to spread the glue around the tube. Inserting a tapered punch into the tube can make it easier to hold and guide the tube into the blank.
- Allow the glue to cure fully before proceeding
- Squaring the blanks:

Once the tubes are glued in, the ends of the blanks must be made exactly 90 degrees to the pen tubes to ensure a good clean fit of parts that will be inserted into the tubes. Trim the ends of the blanks just until bright brass can be seen all the way around the end of the tube. This can be done by:

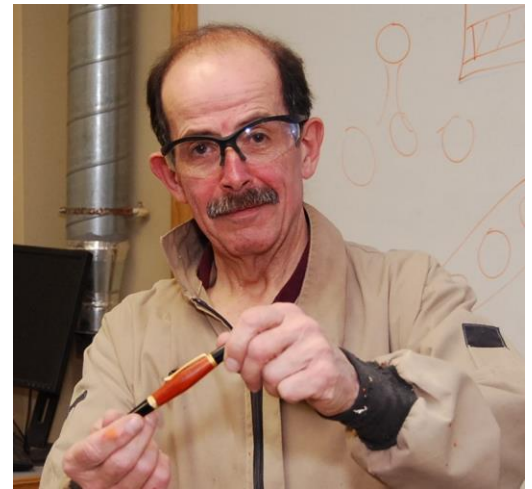
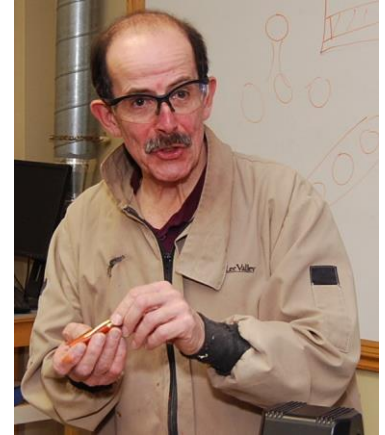
 - a) Trimming the ends with an End Mill. This does a clean job but can be expensive as you need the correct sized shaft for each size of pen tube used.
 - b) Turn the blanks to a straight cylinder then sand the ends square on a disk sander with a table and mitre gauge. Careful set up of the sander is needed to ensure the ends are at 90 degrees.
 - c) Mount the blank on the correct sized transfer punch (for the pen tube) held in a Jacobs chuck in the tail stock and mount a sanding disk on the headstock. Sand by sliding the blank along the transfer punch until the end contacts the sanding disk and is sanded square.

Once squared up check the blanks for any glue or metal burrs inside the tube and carefully clean out using a thin blade. Remove the plug from the tube end.

- Turning the blanks:
 - Mount the mandrel in the headstock
 - Refer to your kit instructions and mount the blanks on the bushings and then on the mandrel using the correct bushings for the kit.
 - Check for your alignment marks to keep the grain pattern matched up as you mount the parts on the mandrel
 - Use space bushings to use up any additional space on the mandrel and clamp the assembly on the mandrel using the nut and washer supplied.
 - Do not overtighten the mandrel nut more than $\frac{1}{4}$ turn past snug or you may risk cracking the blanks or damaging the tubes.
 - Bring up the tailstock and make sure the live centre point is sitting in the 'dimple' in the end of the mandrel. Do not apply too much pressure with the tailstock or you may bend the mandrel resulting in oval pens of too little material on one side of the tube.
 - Turn the blanks to the desired profile. Small beads or coves will help provide a grip on the pen, but be careful as there is not a lot of material around the brass tube.
 - Turn the blanks down using the bushings as a guide for the correct diameter.



- Do not turn down to completely flush with the bushings, but leave a few thousandths of an inch of material to allow for sanding and finishing so that the finished blank will be exactly flush with the bushings.
- Sanding and Finishing:
 - Sand through the grits to your desired finish
 - After each grit, stop the lathe and sand along the length of the blanks to remove any concentric sanding scratches. Wipe off the blanks and proceed to the next grit.
 - Apply the desired finish. Common finishes for pens include friction polish like Turners' Polish or Shel-a-Wax™, lacquer or thin CA glue. Apply a few coats to ensure a durable finish. Pens receive a lot of use and it is important to select a finish that will stand up to the oils from people's hands.
- Assembling the Pen:
 - Remove the blanks and bushings from the mandrel and refer to the instructions to lay out all the parts in order.
 - Keep you blanks oriented as they were on the mandrel to make sure the grain lines up
 - Check the ends of the tubes again for any glue, wood chips or metal burrs. Any obstructions in the tubes will make assembly difficult and could cause the tube to stretch, cracking the blank material.
 - Assemble the parts as described in the kit instructions by inserting the parts into the tubes and pressing together. Use a pen press or bench vice to press parts together. Be careful not to apply too much pressure or you can damage the parts or blanks.
 - Give the pen a final buff with a cloth to remove any fingerprints and, you're done!



- **Stuart Taylor** showed off an impressive platter in Cherry crotch. Stuart feels that flat open shapes like plates and platters show off interesting crotch grain very well;



Stuart also showed off a plate stand made from turned knobs and body connected with 3/16 in. stainless steel rod. It was shown in a couple of photographs in the February *American Woodturner* journal. *The steel rod is available from Metals R Us in Burnside and is quite reasonably priced.*



- **Lowell Jenkins** presented a lidded box in spalted Beech, and

A tall vase in Cherry. He turned it quite thin and the side split during drying. A few members suggested some possible fixes.



- **Harold McLellan** was in the spirit of Easter and showed a series of eggs he turned in Boxwood, Cherry and Walnut. Harold also showed off an egg-shaped box on a pedestal base, and an egg-shaped box decorated with texturing and coloured inks.



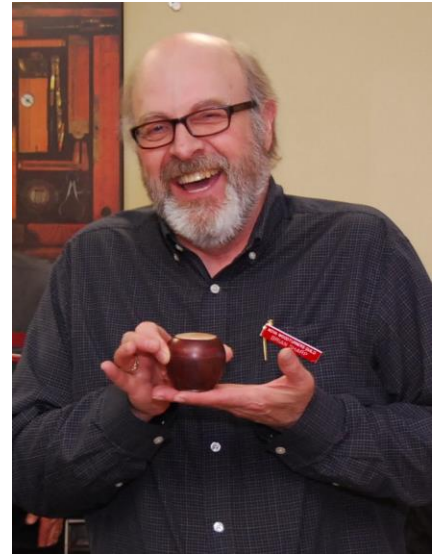
- **Gordon Marshall** showed off two hollow forms that he finished. These were the pieces shown during his January demo as partly completed. Gordon also presented his 'Fun Turn' piece – a small hollow form made in two halves using the method he demonstrated.



- **Brian Sharp** presented a circular box with stained exterior.



- **Don Moore** presented a challenging sculptural piece in Jatoba. He reported it was very hard and took a lot of patience and effort to shape and sand. Don also showed an intricate sculptural piece in Chestnut that featured a centre core charred with flame for contrast. (See photo Page 1.)



Raffle:

Yogi Gutz won a bag of small turning blanks in several woods; **Dianne Looker** won a turning book; **Harold McLellan** won a bag of assorted small blanks, and **Darrell Eisan** won a turning book.

Meeting wrapped up at 8:50pm.

Library Report

Richard Ford

ISSUE DATE	NAME	ID #	DESCRIPTION	AUTHOR
19. Mar. 2018	Harold McLellan	022BN	The Pen Turners Bible –	Richard Kleinhenz

IMPORTANT – WE NEED EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS!

We need to be thinking about nominations for next year's executive. Guild members are encouraged to nominate someone - or to volunteer for a position.

The following individuals have said they are willing to take on the following positions next year:

Secretary	Calum Ewing
Treasurer	Brenna Swinamer
Library	Jim Diamond
Newsletter	Dianne Looker
Membership	Gary Landry
Competition	Dave McLachlan
Photographer	Chris Palmer

That leaves us with a few – but a very important few vacancies. (The last two on the list, below, are less critical.)

AND, of course, you can nominate someone, or volunteer for any of the above positions as well.

Vacant:

- President;**
- Vice-president;**
- Member-at-large;**
- Webmaster;**
- Nominations;**
- Events committee**

Demo Opportunity

Like to demo wood turning? Know a youth that would like to show off their skills?

Lee Valley Tools is starting a series of demonstrations on Saturday mornings that will involve youth demonstrating woodworking in the stores. The Halifax store has suggested that some NWG members might be interested in showing off woodturning during the upcoming turning showcase in April. Lee Valley will supply all needed tools, and supplies for a youth (or two) to demo some turning in the store. If you are interested, please contact Kevin Hurst at Lee Valley at 902-450-1221.

From the editor**Dianne Looker**

Apologies for the delay this month. My computer seemed to resist receiving the attachments that people like Calum were sending me and that material is essential to have....

I welcome articles/reports/ discussions – do send them to me if you have things that might interest our members.

I had a grand time at the Totally Turning event in Saratoga Springs. I will do a writeup at some point, if I get the time and energy. (I even won “honorable mention” for one of my turnings.. ;-)

And don't forget the symposium in **2018 Saskatchewan Woodturners Symposium**, Friday, July 20 - Sunday, July 22, 2018 in Saskatoon. <https://www.picatic.com/2018SaskWoodturnersSymposium>.

I and others also learned a LOT from Ashley Harwood. I did all four days (and was exhausted by the end of it, I'll admit.) There will be details and maybe even more photos in a future newsletter.

Calendar of Events

Date	Subject	Location
September 18, 2017	Budget Review Shaving Brush Demo – Richard Ford	Lee Valley Tools, 100 Susie Lake Crescent
October 16, 2017	X-mas ornament Turning demo Gary Landry, Dave Dugan	Lee Valley Tools, 100 Susie Lake Crescent
November 20, 2017	Closed Form Turning – Gordon Marshal	Lee Valley Tools, 100 Susie Lake Crescent
December 11, 2017	Christmas Social	Halifax Specialty Hardwoods, 112 Bluewater Rd. Bedford
January 15, 2018	Gordon Marshall Hollowing a closed vessel Show & tell challenge: “Food”	Lee Valley Tools, 100 Susie Lake Crescent
February 12, 2018	Making and using a donut chuck to finish bowl bottoms Dave McLachlan Fun turn due	Lee Valley Tools, 100 Susie Lake Crescent
March 19, 2018	Making pens Gary Landry	Lee Valley Tools, 100 Susie Lake Crescent
April 16, 2018	Thin walled vessels and piercing Zalman Amit Show & tell challenge: “Colour”:	Lee Valley Tools, 100 Susie Lake Crescent
April 21, 2018	Awards Day Lee Valley	Lee Valley Tools, 100 Susie Lake Crescent
May 14, 2018	Bowl turning Don Moore Show & tell challenge: “2 by 2”	Lee Valley Tools, 100 Susie Lake Crescent
June 18, 2018	AGM Show & tell challenge: “Finial”	Lee Valley Tools, 100 Susie Lake Crescent

Nova Woodturners' Guild – 2017/18 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 whoever 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

ADDRESS

Executive executive (sends the message to all positions on the list)

President	president	David Mclachlan	
Vice President	vice-president	Gordon Marshal	
Secretary	secretary	Calum Ewing	
Treasurer	treasurer	Brenna Swinamer	

Members at Large members-at-large Dianne Looker

Committees

Library	library	Jim Diamond	C
		Richard Ford	

Web Site Website	webmaster	Trevor Edis	C
		Norm Jolivet	

Membership & Promotion	membership-chair	Gary Landry	C
		Norm Jolivet	

Newsletter	newsletter	Dianne Looker	C
-------------------	------------	---------------	----------

Events	events		C
---------------	--------	--	----------

Competition		Gary Landry	C
--------------------	--	-------------	----------

Guild Photographer		Chris Palmer	
---------------------------	--	--------------	--

Fund Raising		Vacant	C
		Norm Jolivet (Raffles) Yogi Gutz	

Nominating		Vacant	C
-------------------	--	--------	----------