



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.
 May 14, 2018. 6:45 p.m.*

The next meeting will feature

Don Moore

Turning bowls.

Show and tell theme is "Competition pieces"

The President's Message April 2018

Dave McLachlan

It is official; I am stepping down as President. It has been a pleasure and honor to be the President these last two years; it has been great working with all of the executive members and bringing the membership a meaningful meeting program. As mentioned at the last meeting, we are calling for nominations or volunteers for several key positions – President, Vice-president, Webmaster, Nominations, Events committee chair; if you are interested in any of these positions or would like to nominate someone else for one of these positions please sent your nominations to dianne.looker@msvu.ca . Without a full elected executive we will cease to be able to be a registered company organization, so please consider taking on one of the available executive positions to keep the Guild going.

I want to once again thank everyone who participated in the annual NWG competition either as an entrant; a demo booth participant; or competition committee member. A special thanks to Gary Landry for stepping up to be the competition chair this year at the eleventh hour, through his dedicated hard work and attention to detail; and to everyone who volunteered to help out with the planning and organizing the event, a job well done. The competition was a great success once again this year with 43 entries. A special thanks also to everyone who was a demo booth participant, it is through your time at the booth that we get to interact with the public and let them know we exist, answering their questions and demonstrating what turning is about.

This month's presenter will be Don Moore, who will be discussing the techniques for turning bowls. This is bound to be a great presentation and of interest to both novice and experienced turners; I encourage everyone to turn out for this presentation.

The Show and Tell will be slightly extended this meeting and we encourage all of the entrants to the annual competition to bring in their competition pieces so the membership at large can get the maker's view on each piece entered in the competition. For many of the pieces entered which did not win an award this is the only time we get to have some insight from the maker on the piece. So please bring in your competition piece for this Show and Tell, as well as any new work you would like to share with the membership.

Lastly, but not least of all, Ted and Debbie Monk have offered to hold the Annual NWG BBQ this summer. The date has not been set yet but will be announced shortly. This is our biggest social event of the year and I encourage everyone to come out with their significant others for a lovely afternoon of camaraderie.

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
Member at large	Bill Luther
Photographer	Chris Palmer

That leaves us with a few – but a very important few vacancies. AND, of course, you can nominate someone, or volunteer for any of the above positions as well. Send nominations to dianne.looker@msvu.ca

**Vacant: President;
 Vice-president;
 Webmaster;
 Nominations;
 Events committee**

A weblink suggestion from Dave McLachlan. A good website for novice turners with a lot of articles that would interest our members.

<http://turnawoodbowl.com/about/>

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 Theresa Bruno at Lee Valley at 902-450-1221.

Meeting Notes

April 16, 2018

Calum Ewing

President **David McLachlan** called the meeting to order at 6:40pm with 24 members, 2 guests and 2 visitors present

Visitors:

Nancy Vaughan graduated from the NSCC Heritage Carpentry program last year and is interested in learning more about wood turning. She did some turning in the NSCC program but is keen to learn more. She also completed the seminar last week with **Ashley Harwood**.

Ron Brunton did his first turning in high school and then took a long hiatus. He is currently building a shop and plans to do more turning once he is set up in his shop.

Announcements

- A big thanks to all those who have been staffing the demo table during the competition display. There has been good interest from the public and lots of questions.
- The Competition Awards ceremony will be this Saturday, April 21st, at 1:00pm in the Seminar Room at Lee Valley Tools in Halifax.
- Gordon Marshall is hosting an “Open Shop” on May 12th from 1:00 to 4:30pm, at his shop in Upper Tantallon. All are welcome to attend. Feel free to come out and ask questions, see how Gordon works and chat with other about turning in a relaxed social atmosphere. Details will be sent out by email.
- Dianne Looker is gathering nominations for Executive positions for next year. A nomination form was distributed. There are people willing to carry on in some positions, but we have a critical need for nominations to the positions of President and Vice-President.
- The Wood Turner at Sherbrooke Village Museum is retiring and the village will be hiring a replacement soon. This is a year-round position that works on turning projects and demonstrations in the museum
- Yogi Gutz has Ni-Chrome wire available in several gauges that is excellent for making burning wires for decorative accents, or for making custom tips for wood burning. See Yogi to get some wire.

Main Presentation: Zalman Amit – Thin Turning Vessels and Piercing

Zalman provided an interesting and knowledge-filled presentation on piercing as a decorative technique and turning thin-walled vessels for piercing. The presentation was well illustrated with many photographs of key details and several examples of his work.

Piercing is used primarily as a decorative technique to:

- Add a few hints of embellishment
- Decorate whole portions of a vessel
- Decorate the entire piece, or
- Assemble a piece in which some parts are pierced, others not for interest.

Zalman prefers to work in Cherry or Walnut, but any wood can be used. Close-grained woods that are not too hard or too soft will work best for piercing.

Thin Turning

Zalman turns vessel walls to not less than 1/8" (3mm) when using piercing to decorate pieces. Below 3/32" (2mm) the pierced areas are too fragile and pieces often don't last long.



When turning a thin-walled vessel:

- decide on the overall shape desired and turn the outside of the vessel and complete any sanding required on the outside. It won't be possible to do much sanding once the vessel walls have been turned very thin.
- Once the outside is completed, reverse the blank for turning the inside
- Start at the rim and turn the rim to near the desired finished thickness, working only about 1" (2.5cm) into the vessel.
- Use a micrometer to measure the rim thickness and turn it down until you get to the desired thickness.
- Use a set of calipers and measure the rim thickness and lock the calipers at that thickness. These calipers will be used from here on to assess the correct wall thickness.
- As you are tuning the inside of the vessel, use these calipers frequently to check the wall thickness and ensure a consistent wall thickness throughout the vessel.
- Once the wall thickness has been turned to the desired point down 1", clear out the centre of the vessel down to the 1" point to give yourself clearance to work. Don't hollow the vessel out at this stage as the thicker wood in the centre is



needed to give the vessel stability during the subsequent turning.

- Continue working down the sides of the vessel in 1" steps until get the inside hollowed out and the wall to the desired thickness.
- Check to ensure a consistent wall thickness has been achieved. The wall thickness can be a little thicker at the bottom of the vessel for added strength.
- Once the inside turning is completed, sand the interior to a good finish

Piercing

For piercing, carbide cutters, or burrs, are used and driven by a rotary tool. Many different rotary tools can be used, but the higher the speed of the tool, the better control you will have and the better the finished cut of the piercings will be.

- Zalman uses an air-driven tool, the Presto NSK, that turns at 250,000 rpm at 40 psi air pressure. Others use Dremel™ tools or other rotary carvers like the Foredom™ tools.
- Lower speed tools (like the Dremel™ tools running at up to 35,000 rpm) tend to have a lot of torque which can lead to troubles controlling the workpiece while piercing and carving.
- Start by drawing out your design or pattern for piercing with a pencil and use this as a guide. Don't worry about following your design exactly, just use it as a guide and adjust as you go.



- In creating the piercing design, it is good to leave a solid (unpierced) rim on vessels to provide added strength and stability to the rim. Leave an unpierced area of the same width at the foot for a balanced design.

- When piercing, make sure the tool is held at 90 degrees to the wood surface to ensure easier and clean cuts.

- Use good carbide cutters. Dentist drills (cutters) are also carbide, but often have cutter sections

that are too short for effective piercing of wood vessels.

- As you work, burned residue will build up in the cutter teeth. Clean the cutter with a fine brass wire brush to clear out the cutter teeth and ensure efficient cutting.
- Thicker walls may require two passes to cut all the way through. Make your first cut all around the hole to be made, then follow the groove of the first cut to complete the cutting of the hole.
- Work in patches as you go around the vessel, rather than pierce all the way around, then pierce the next area down all the way around. Working



in patches will help to keep strength in the vessel as you are piercing and let you see how your design is taking shape.

- The cutter tool will tend to scorch or burn the sides of the hole. This can be left for decorative effect or removed by going over your cuts a second time with a diamond burr in the rotary tool.
- Piercing generates a lot of smoke, so make sure you have a fan taking the smoke away from your work area. A kitchen range exhaust hood is good if it can be installed to push the smoke outside and to prevent the smoke from accumulating in your workshop.

Finishing

Once piercing is completed:

- You can also use pyrography with piercing to further embellish your pieces to great effect.
- Gently sand the interior and exterior of the vessel to remove any minor tearing or marks from the piercing tool.
- Any pencil marks can be removed with soapy water and a soft cloth.
- Soaking the vessel in Pledge™ floor polish and letting it dry thoroughly will harden the wood and make the finished piece much stronger.
- Finish with Tung oil or other desired finish.



There are two excellent articles on piercing by Malcolm Zander in the current (April 2018) issue of *American Woodturner*, the journal of the American Association of Woodturners. They are definitely worth reading if you are interested in piercing and design. This journal is available through the Guild library.

The 'theme' for this month's Show & Tell was "Colour".



- **Don Moore** presented a large sculptural piece with both large and small piercings in different areas to give different effects and "textures".



- **Yogi Gutz** showed off a small needle case in Apple wood.

- **George LaFontaine** showed off a large 'Flame' bowl with a carved rim. He tried and removed several different finishes before settling on wipe on polyurethane.

- **Dianne Looker** explored the idea of "colour" in several pieces:

- A hollow form vessel with texturing and contrasting colours of milk paint. One colour of paint is applied over the other then sanded to reveal patches of the colour underneath. Using a 'pumpkin' colour over creamy white, the effect looked very much like terra cotta.

- A wide-rimmed bowl in spalted curly Maple with the rim dyed with several colours of aniline dyes in a stippled pattern. The rim was dyed and finished with spray lacquer before turning the inside to get a good crisp edge to the coloured rim at the interior of the rim.

- A band-sawn and assembled platter in Maple with Padouk accents. The pieces are





glued with thickened black epoxy to create a bold outline to the parts.

- **David McLachlan** showed off several pens made with different materials:
 - A two-tone red and black Ebonite, a rubber-based material that turns well



- Polyester – a plastic that is not as hard as somewhat stringy in texture while turning
- Acetate in a colour mix called “Lava” that has and greys, some with iridescence.
- -Redwood Burl with Tung oil then cyanoacrylate glue as a finish. The Tung oil first to bring up the figure in the wood.
- Spectraply™, a laminated “plywood” type different coloured veneers.



acrylic, but various reds was applied material with

- **Calum Ewing** showed off:



- a pencil made with an Acrylic blank from Penn State called “Healing Waters”. He found some of the more translucent parts of the blank allowed the brass colour of the pen tubes to show through the finished surface.

- An ornamental bowl with a textured, painted rim coloured with metallic acrylic paints, textured with rock salt. The bowl was finished with Tung oil and spray lacquer on the painted rim.

- Three small tea light holders in Walnut finished with Shel-a-Wax™ that he turned while on the demo table at Lee valley.



- **Norm Jolivet** presented:

- Several shawl brooches made from laminated blanks in a variety of woods.

- A number of pendants made from similar laminated blanks to use different coloured woods for interest.



Raffle:

Leo Westhaver took home a large bowl blank; **Dianne Looker** won a large grab bag of small blanks in a variety of woods; **Yogi Gutz** won a turning book and **Joe Crouse** won a pair of Ash blanks.

Meeting wrapped up at 8:40pm.

Nova Woodturners' Guild 2018 Annual Turning Competition

There were 43 pieces entered by 19 turners. Four pieces were entered by two turners who were not Guild members.

We raised \$255 in entry fees and spent just slightly more than \$795 (\$600 of which was paid to the judges for almost 3 hours of work) or, stated another way, about \$540 out of Guild funds were used to subsidize the competition.

We had 16 volunteers who took shifts, some multiple times, at our Lee Valley demo booth. Each volunteer received a SIA Abrasive gift pack for their efforts. They were Harold McLellan, Richard Ford, Edmund Benoit, Calum Ewing, Gordon Marshall, Stuart Taylor, Don Shubaly, Robert Atkinson, Yogi Gutz, Jim Diamond, Dave McLachlan, Gil Pacheco, Leo Westhaver, Don Moore, Bill Maes and Jordan Crowell.

Donations made along with the competition entries raised \$140 for the Food Bank.

We received just short of \$1900 in donations of product and gift cards/certificates from our sponsors:

Lee Valley (\$225 in gift cards as well as hosting the event)

Busy Bee (\$100 in gift cards)

East Coast Speciality Hardwoods (\$225 in gift certificates)

Halifax Speciality Hardwoods (\$75 in gift cards)

Scotia Pens (Darrell Eisner) (\$60 in Lee Valley gift cards)

Wood Chuckers (\$75 in gift cards)

R&D Bandsaws (\$75 in gift cards)

Canadian Woodworking and Home Improvements Magazine (one year subscriptions, approx \$225)

Branches to Bowls (\$200 in gift certificates and a bowl gouge worth \$160US)

Wood Turningz (\$100US in gift codes)

Craft Supply (\$50 in gift codes)

William WoodWrite (two pen packs – kit, drill, bushings and blank in each)

Stellar Industries (a set of three Marples chisels)

Gordon Marshall (a certificate for a half day of turning instruction worth \$150)

SIA Abrasives (a “guesstimate” of about \$25 per sample pack of abrasives)



Warman Castle/People's Choice award

We had a total of 242 votes received for the People's Choice Award and the winner of the prize bowl went to Steve Higgins (drawn for at the awards ceremony). As a result of the vote compilation we had a tie for top spot. However the tie was between Glenn McCarron's “Tornado Bowl” and his “Interwoven” with each receiving 35 votes. The next nearest competitor was not far out of the running either, with 32 votes. Pretty tight competition for the top spot but a clear indication of the tastes of the voters when you consider that these three pieces accounted for just over 42 percent of all votes received.

A breakdown of the **winners** by Category and Level is:

Faceplate Novice	1st Place	“Bowl – Cherry Burl”	by Gary Landry
Faceplate Novice	2nd Place	“Small Mulberry Bowl”	by George Lafontaine
Faceplate Novice	3rd Place	“Collection Plate”	by Jim Wood



Faceplate Intermediate	1st Place	“Japanese Lidded Bowl”	by Harold McLellan
Faceplate Intermediate	2nd Place	“Yarn Bowl”	by Harold McLellan
Faceplate Intermediate	3rd Place	No other entries	



Faceplate Open	1st Place	“Tornado Bowl”	by Glenn McCarron
Faceplate Open	2nd Place	“Interwoven”	by Glenn McCarron
Faceplate Open	3rd Place	“Raised Serving Tray”	by Robert Atkinson



Mandrel Novice 1st Place "Glacia Pen – Maple Burl" by Gary Landry
 Mandrel Novice 2nd Place "Pen" by Ross Sampson
 Mandrel Novice 3rd Place No other entries



Mandrel Intermediate 1st Place "Gothic Metal" by Yogi Gutz
 Mandrel Intermediate 2nd Place "Pen and Stand" by Dave McLachlan
 Mandrel Intermediate 3rd Place "Virage Fountain Pen" by Harold McLellan



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Mandrel Open 1st Place
Mandrel Open 2nd Place
Mandrel Open 3rd Place

“Mightier than a Sword”
“Crochet Hook”
“The Huntsville”

by Dianne Looker
by Richard Ford
by Darrell Eisner



Spindle Novice 1st Place
Spindle Novice 2nd Place
Spindle Novice 3rd Place

“Vase”
“Turned Box”
“Dining in Style”

by George Lafontaine
by Ross Sampson
by Bill Maes



Spindle Intermediate 1st Place
Spindle Intermediate 2nd Place
Spindle Intermediate 3rd Place

“Christmas Ornament”
“Finial Box”
“Coffee Scoop”

by Mike Parker
by Mike Parker
by Dave McLachlan



Spindle Open	1st Place	“Hollow Form with Finial”	by Leo Westhaver
Spindle Open	2nd Place	“The Ties that Bind”	by Richard Ford
Spindle Open	3rd Place	“Double Goblet with Captured Rings”	by Stuart Taylor



Trophies, certificates and prizes were distributed to those present and notifications were sent out by email to absent winners to advise that they would be available at the next meeting (May at LV). Trophy recipients are reminded that the trophies and their cases are due back in early 2019, probably in March.

Judges this year, recruited by Harold McLellan, were Steven Kennard, John McNab (both life members of the Guild) and Patrick Repati from NSCAD.

Committee chair was Gary Landry most ably assisted by Darrell Eisner, Glenn McCarron and Bill Maes.

Report dated 2018/04/24

Library Report

Richard Ford

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

From the editor

Dianne Looker

This month's newsletter is *full* of photos! So many the file was too large to send as one. So, **we have an appendix.** The appendix is a series of photos of **Ashley Harwood's** four days of hands on instruction, and the NWG demo night.

These photos very much enhance the newsletter (despite the headaches they create for the editor!), so I really do need to express my ongoing appreciation to the photographers. Chris Palmer dutifully takes photo after photo at all the meetings and events. Goes through them and send them on. That's a lot of work, and it's much appreciated. This month I also have photos of Ashley Harwood's class – most sent to me by Steven Kennard, who is an excellent photographer as well as a world class turner (and judge and ...) I have also included some photos from Ashley's Facebook page – including some from the "Woodturning for Women" day and the bowl turning days when no other photographer was there.

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.. ;-)

I am off to Stuart Batty's class May 21-25 in Las Vegas. I'm hoping to solidify what I learned from Ashley Harwood. There are still spaces in this class if others are interested.

I had hoped to write up my notes from Ashley's classes, but that didn't happen. Nor did the write-up I'd planned from the Saratoga Springs event. Hopefully I'll get something written from the Stuart Batty classes. No promises, though...

And a reminder that Stuart Batty has a whole series of videos that show his techniques at: vimeo.com/woodturning

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>.

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 – competition pieces	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
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Events	events		C
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Competition		Gary Landry	C
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Guild Photographer		Chris Palmer	
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Fund Raising		Vacant	C
		Norm Jolivet (Raffles) Yogi Gutz	

Nominating		Vacant	C
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