



# The Turning Point

In this issue:

President's Message	2
<b>We need a president!</b>	3
Resources – Stave calculator	3
Turning 150	3
Meeting Notes	4
Show and tell	7
Raffle results	8
Using “Pledge” to stabilize wood	9
Hollowing	10
From the forest to the lathe	11
Library Report	16
From the editor	16
Calendar	18
Executive	19



Member since 2012

*The next meeting of the Nova Woodturners' Guild is at  
**Lee Valley Tools**  
 100 Susie Lake Crescent, Halifax, N.S.  
 June 18, 2018. 6:45 p.m.*

The next meeting will feature  
**Annual General Meeting**  
*Show and tell theme is “Finials”*

**The President's Message June 2018****Dave McLachlan**

I want to thank all of the executive members who I have worked with this year, without all of your dedicated work the Guild could not exist. This is an important thing to remember, that in any non-profit organization like ours, it is these volunteer executive positions and committee chairs that make it all possible for the organization to exist. I encourage everyone to consider what they can do to enrich the collective experience we have at our meetings and events. Please consider being part of the executive. Even though I am stepping down as President I will continue to be part of the Executive, to do what I can to make the Guild the best it can be. What you put into the Guild makes the Guild what it is supposed to be - a place of learning and sharing. In these times there are so many things that take up our time and draw our attention; many traditional skills are being lost, like the art of wood turning.

Without an Executive the Guild will cease to exist and that would truly be a great loss, so please consider being part of the Executive, especially the positions of President and Vice-President. Without the four executive positions filled we will cease to be eligible to be a registered company, and without that we will not be able to have insurance and without that we will not be able to hold meetings and events at Lee Valley.

I feel the Guild is at a crossroad, I am hoping that we can take the high road and build the Guild up to be the best it can be. Everyone has something that they can bring to the Guild, and the most important thing to bring is engagement. Bring that latest experience you had at the lathe to share with others, write up something for the Newsletter to share with members, bring that latest URL for a website that you may have stumbled upon on the Internet that you think is interesting. Ask questions, engage with other members at the meeting, offer to do a demonstration of a technique you may have. We have been a Guild for twenty years; I imagine that in the early days there was a lot of engagement between members, and it is time to up our game so to speak, make engagement a priority, to make the Guild an even better experience than it already is. I have been in the Guild for some five years; I have made a lot of friends here and learned so much, even though I had been actively turning for fifty years. And I think I have so much more to learn and experience as a turner; and I hope so much to share with all of you along the way.

So here is the challenge – talk about the Guild to anyone who has an interest in becoming a turner, young and old; or is already a turner but would like to up his or her craft. There are countless people out there with lathes that hardly use them or would like to take up turning or were members and might be interested in coming back. In our conversations this summer with the public and friends let's try to find these people who might be interested in sharing in a learning experience about wood turning... Encourage them to come to our September meeting and see what we are all about.

A couple of housekeeping things: Ted and Debbie Monk have graciously offered to hold our **annual summer BBQ**, the date is **August 11<sup>th</sup>** (rain date August 12<sup>th</sup>). This is always a great social event and a chance for our partners to come along... it is a Pot Luck event so please bring along your favorite food item to share. I encourage members to come out for a fun time. And a special thanks to Ted and Debbie, for once again hosting the event. Ted will be sending out more information this summer closer to BBQ the date.

There will be a Show and Tell at the June AGM meeting (June 18<sup>th</sup>). There is a theme – **Finials**; so if you have some item you have made with finials bring it along...

And of course we encourage you to bring along any other items that you may have been working on.

Finally, I will be doing a pre-meeting demo of a chuck jaw storage system I have been working on lately to keep my jaws organized that might be of interest to members... I won't actually be turning but I will go through the processes I use to create the customized storage containers.

Sincerely, David McLachlan

**IMPORTANT – WE NEED A PRESIDENT!**

It's crunch time!

It's June and our Annual General Meeting (AGM) is looming – less than a week away.

**WE NEED A PRESIDENT!**

We have “possibles” or “definites” for most other vacant positions on the executive. Richard Ford has kindly agreed to take over the position of webmaster. We have some people thinking about the VP position. BUT

**WE NEED A PRESIDENT!**

The executive has tried very hard to find someone. So far, with no success. Now it's up to you, the members, to volunteer or find a nominee.

If we don't find a president **the sky will, in fact, fall...**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Resources:**

Richard Ford has put some Excel spreadsheets on the NWG website that allow you to calculate the cuts and dimensions for straight and tapered staves. Check them out on the Documents page:

<http://www.novawoodturnersguild.com/documents.php>

**Turning 150**

We now have 134 items that have been turned and donated to good causes over the last year, since we took on this challenge.

Only 16 more to go! Preferably by July1.

Please send your photos to Richard Ford as webmaster. [webmaster@novawoodturnersguild.com](mailto:webmaster@novawoodturnersguild.com)

## Meeting Notes

May 14, 2018

Gary Landry

President, Dave McLachlan formally opened the meeting at 6:40PM, Monday, May 14, 2018

Visitor (wishing to join) was Brian Harder.

Visitor (wishing to join) arrived too late to get his name in all the confusion.

### Announcements

Dave announced there is still a need for a nominees for President, Vice President and Webmaster. Members are reminded that without these positions being filled the Guild cannot be registered with Joint Stocks as a legal entity, cannot be affiliated with the AAW and, because this impacts our ability to get insurance, may jeopardize our ability to use the facilities of Lee Valley for our meetings. PLEASE, step up and run.

Dave announced that Ted Monk is now casting acrylic pen blanks. He had samples at the back of the meeting room for sale at \$8 each.

Dave announced that Ted and Debbie Monk have set the date for our Guild's summer BBQ. The date is Saturday, August 11<sup>th</sup> with a rain date of August 12<sup>th</sup>. Particulars are to follow.

Brian Sharp announced that the IWK has informed him that they are now ready to receive any donations of Bravery Boxes we can produce. Brian will be forwarding dimensions and further information in the future.

### Demonstration:

This month's demonstration was given by Don Moore. The theme was 'Tree to Finished Product'.

Don prepared a 'cheat sheet' of helpful hints and techniques for the members. As copies were scarce a copy was given to Dianne so she may post it in our Newsletter. See below in this newsletter.

Some general hints were:

- Your source log should be cut up in sections/lengths to yield the most valuable portions first
- Cut sections into lengths that are two to four inches longer than the widest diameter of the log
- With proper planning one large bowl and two smaller bowls can be turned out of each section
- Your chainsaw bar should be longer than the section's length to cut lengthwise (down the pith)
- File your chainsaw teeth to an angle of about 15 degrees to get more efficient cuts

Don then turned a bowl out of pin cherry (bark on, 7 to 8 inches in length) mounted on a faceplate with the bark facing the cutting tools. Some of his hints were:

- Safe turning can be achieved if you keep your bevel rubbing while cutting
- Cut using a pull cut from the centre towards yourself and continue off the piece ('cutting air' and sound goes away)
- Catches were discussed; backstopping the tool with a thumb can minimize catches by restraining tool from kickback
- Catches result in a cutting tool wanting to 'jump to the centre'
- Speed rotation should be where vibration is eliminated or reduced to minimum, you may have to speed up in some situations or slow down in others
- Turn the outside and bottom of bowl first and make a tenon



for chuck attachment

- Reverse the bowl on the chuck and turn the inside
- Tool rest height should be where the turner is comfortable.
- Conventional method for cutting inside a bowl is to keep tool level and cut in from the edge
- Don's preferred method is to cut in as above but take the tool up to the 10 o'clock position on the piece and then rotate the cutting edge down to produce a shear cut
- As the bowl gets deeper rotate the tool rest so it is inserted into bowl cavity to provide support closer to the cutting edge
- To deal with tearout on end grain use a cabinet scraper and then, if needed, return to a light shear cut with the bowl gouge

At this point Don moved on to spindle turning by mounting a piece between a live centre and a chuck.

Hints/techniques covered:

- A skew is very useful in spindle turning and Don has had great success since making his skew edge into a curved profile instead of the standard 45 degree edge with sharp points.
- At the very least the skew can make efficient and fast peeling cuts in the rough blank
- “If it is working for your, you are doing it right” and keep the tool in contact with the tool rest
- Make planing cuts with the point down and leading
- A skew can also cut beads and coves (yes coves !!) by taking advantage of the curved profile



Another topics covered was:

- There are several ways to use a bowl gouge inside a piece ranging from cuts in and down from the edge, in at the centre and pulled out to the edge and using the gouge as a drill to bore to depth and then making pull cuts back out of the hole toward the edge.

Don then discussed his 'lances'. Long handled and long shafted cutting tools that can reach far inside a hollow form to remove wood. Typically he drills a 3/16 inch hole in the end of a 1/2 inch rod and epoxies in a HSS cutter (drill shaft, flattened at the end and profiled round) to make these tools. As these tools are often way inside a vessel and the tip is not visible Don puts an orientation mark on the shaft near the handle so he can visualize how the cutter is being presented to the wood. The cuts are made with the cutting edge level (or slightly below) centre of the piece. Don also showed how it is possible to 'shroud' the cutting edge to limit the amount of cutter engaging the wood during a cut thereby minimizing tearout and vibration.



End grain cutting with the lances was described by use of diagrams (a copy of these diagrams are in the newsletter).

Burls are more friendly for turning than typical wood. As grain is going everywhere at once there is usually less tearout. However, burls present challenges such as inclusions and voids.

Don showed a large hollow vase which had many, large voids and discussed his use of bridging and a steady rest to stabilize the piece and allow for turning and sanding. While discussing this vessel he use it as a way to elaborate on his rig to allow for deep hollow sanding.

There also was a discussion about the real benefit that Pledge wax has for stabilizing wood that is soft or 'punky'. Sponge it on, remove it where it beads up (indicates wood is saturated) and add more where it did not. Repeat until all surfaces shows signs of beading. At this point the wood will be ready to turn.

Don received a good round of applause for his very informative demonstration.

---

**Show and Tell**

Norm, Harold, Dave M., Dianne, Yogi and Gary all showed their competition pieces and discussed how they were done, what challenges they presented and what the judges had to say about them.



Dianne also presented three bowls that were not in the competition and asked for suggestions about dealing with issues regarding one of them...which she got.



**Raffle:**

Eight prizes were drawn for. Five large, green bowl blanks were won by John Ashton, Harold McLellan (2), Joe Crouse, Edmund Benoit. A dried blank of ash (?) was won by Dianne Looker, a book was won by Brian Sharp and a mahogany board (about 2”X18”X3/4”) was won by Dave McLachlan.

Meeting ended at 8:50PM with clean up of the seminar room.



**The Day I took my “Pledge”, by Don Moore**

Actually it was long before I took my “Pledge” that I looked into my “Future”. Future was a liquid floor wax that possessed a chemical that would harden wood. This product was that good that Johnson and Johnson bought the company and this formula, so now J&J Pledge now stated “with Future”. Several years later, dropping this added fact. However I always kept some of the original Future and compared it to J&J’s standalone Pledge. The test results indicated that the J&J formula was still using Future in their Pledge.

So how do I use this miracle wood product??? I won’t burden you with the trial and error aspect, just the outcome resulting in the method I continue using to date.

I keep a small amount of Pledge and a “small sponge” in an air tight container, this keeps the sponge applicator from hardening. After turning the splated wood within approximately 1/8” its’ finished size I start to apply Pledge to the entire surface of the piece via my sponge, just enough to thoroughly dampen/wet, the entire surface. (For instance in turning a bowl, use the following “hardening” method while completing the turning stage of the outside of your bowl, then apply your “finish” before starting the inside portion. This method gives you added strength before you start turning the inside.) Any area where the product beads up, I remove with a paper towel, let dry for a day. Re-apply the liquid, again removing any beaded liquid, let dry for another day. Continue this process until there is no area absorbing liquid. Once dry I shear-cut the piece down to the area where there is no “Pull Out / Tear Out”. If you should encounter an area void of Pledge, stop and re-apply more liquid, let dry and continue your final cut, you should have no tear-out at this stage. The “punky” area of the wood will actually seem to be harder than the “good” wood, perhaps because of the “blotter” effect of these splated/ decaying areas and the amount of extra absorbing. Then again, perhaps it’s just me . . . Because this is an “acrylic” it seems to bring out a lot of colour that would not normally appear when your method of finishing is applied. I have found that using this method of Pledge leaves your piece still capable of using any finish you would normally apply on untreated wood.

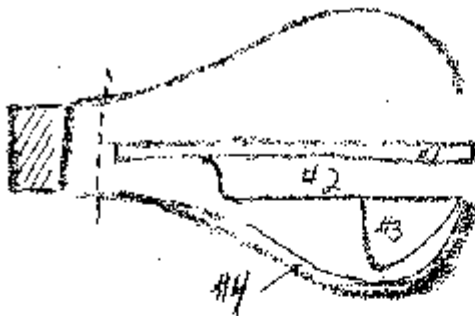
I have found this Pledge to be extremely beneficial for added strength to my more delicate pieces of Wood Art. As I turn and shape these pieces I’ll apply Pledge at various stages with a small Artist’s Brush and leave the piece to dry and harden during the creation process, this again will enhance the colour spectrum significantly, giving the piece much more character and definition, again at least to me . . .

A NWG member asked if I could do a write-up on my method, this is not a scientific study, it’s not the “right” or the only “way”, it’s not a Law, it simply works for me. Here’s hoping that it might work for you too...

Don Moore

EDITOR’S NOTE: The next few pages were copied from scanned documents provided by Don Moore.

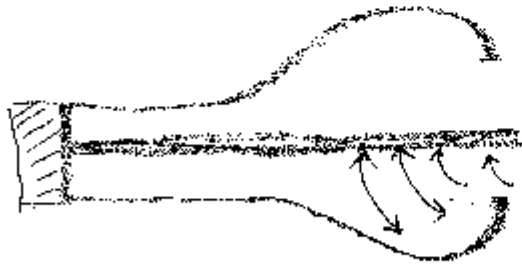
# Ho Hollowing - Don Moore



- # (1) drill a hole to desired depth.
- # (2) hollow out this area
- # (3) hollow out this area leaving 1/2" wall thickness
- # (4) reduce wall thickness to approx 1/4" to 1/8"

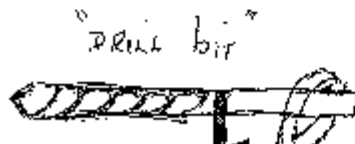


"End Grain Hollowing"  
cut towards the outside of the work  
Producing small "saw dust" like  
showings.



"Side Grain Hollowing"  
cut towards the center, as  
you would for plate turning/  
bowl turning

Producing deeper / longer  
showings.



Vise Grips  
"high torque handle"  
micro adjuster  
"precision depth gauge"  
piece of tape



*From the Forest to Your  
Wood Lathe  
Don Moore*

Most of the material contained here either comes from books or articles that I've read, or by trial and error. Probably a lot more from trial and error, while strongly favouring the error column. What follows are mostly some points to consider.

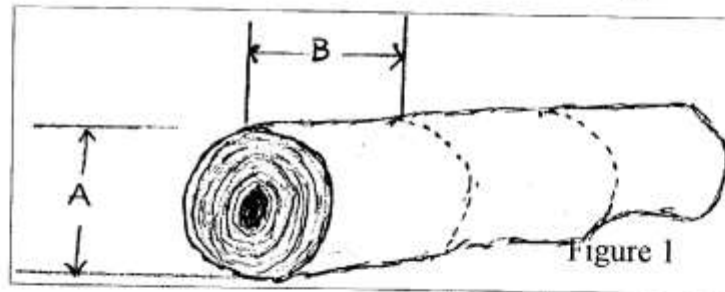
The first thing you need is a friend or two with a willingness to help. In the early spring while the trees are in their dormant stage, Dave (my willing friend) and I usually take a walk to scout and tag trees. This is the time of the year when you'll have the clearest vision in the woods, before the foliage appears.

If you want to remove the bark or have it come off later, cut the trees in the spring. If you want to try to keep the bark, cut your trees in the late fall or winter. At this time of the year I leave the trees in full length and don't bother to apply end sealer as the frost forming will only push the sealer out. In the spring re-dress both ends of the log to get an area void of checks and a fresh surface on which to apply your end sealer. All trees cut in the spring should have end sealer applied ASAP. Store your wood out of the "sun and wind", either covered over, placed in a wooded area, or, if you can, inside an old barn and off the ground; unless you want your wood to spalt. If so, lay it directly on the ground.

In some instances we cut, seal and pile the wood until the terrain dries sufficiently to more easily remove it from the forest. Always leave the area neat and tidy, and you'll probably be invited back.

You won't be able to save all the features in your tree, so look for the richest pieces as your starting point. Look for burls, crotches, areas under compression or tension. Check the roots and buttress (area between the roots). Leave a couple of inches on either side of the area you want to save, and seal the ends.

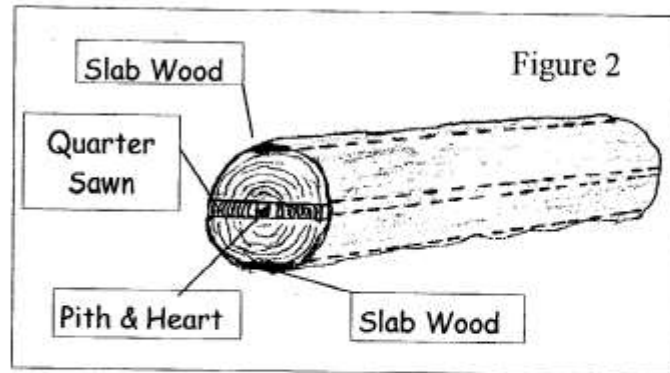
Once the "select" areas have been removed the rest of your tree could be cut as follows (see Figure 1). The diameter "A" plus 2 inches or so should equal "B" which is the length of your first cut. Continue along the entire length of the log while always referring to your new



diameter for your next length. Keep an eye out for any interesting area that might have been initially overlooked. A misplaced cut has been known to drop the hardest of turners to their knees in pain. This is usually when a pretty good debate about the "where & why" to cut will start if the friends helping you are fellow-turners. Remember to put end sealer on all pieces.

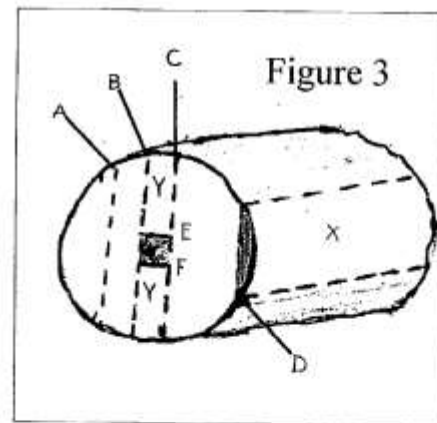
I usually hire a portable mill to come and cut my logs if I have any volume to do. Here is the system we presently use (see Figure 2). Take a slab cut from one

side, rotate  $180^\circ$  and take a second slab cut. Then parallel the center of the log to the mill and cut 1 to 2 inches above the pith, then an equal distance below the pith. This will produce



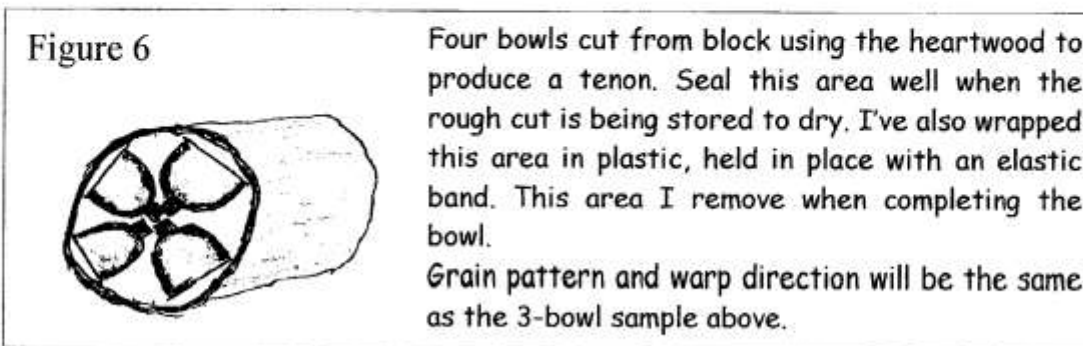
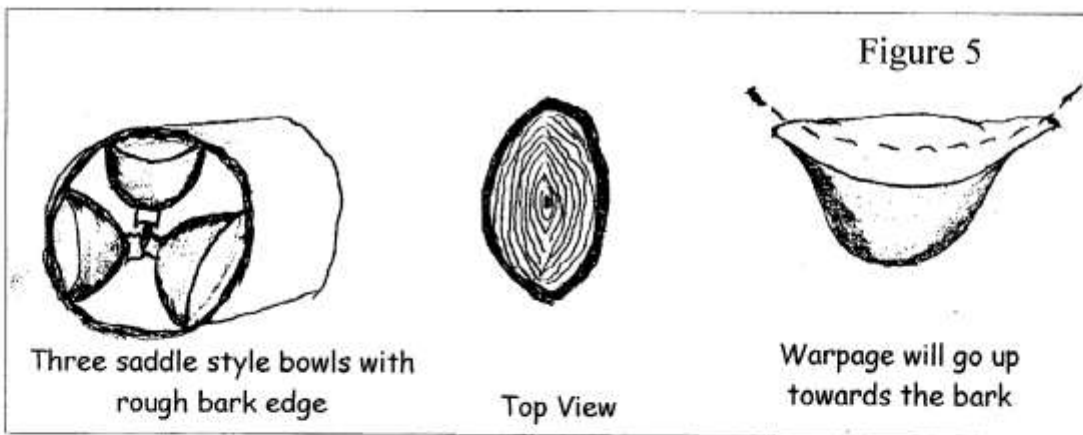
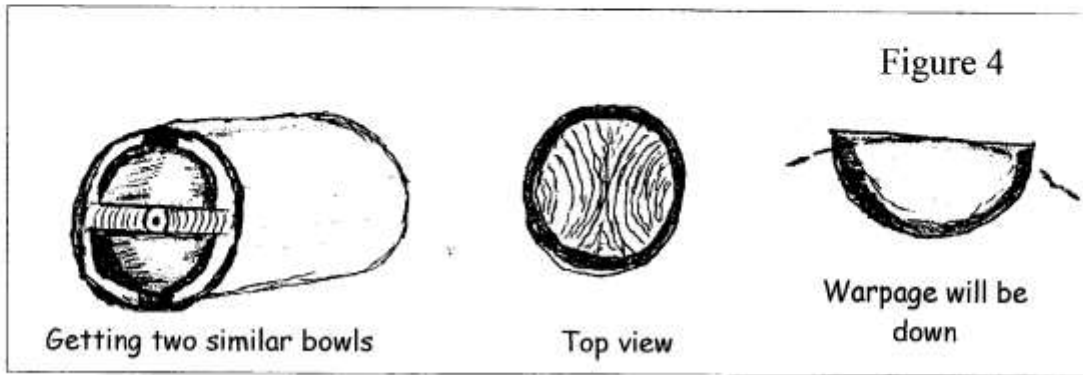
two large slabs for storage. Take the middle section and rotate  $90^\circ$  and cut 1 or 2 inches above and then below the pith. The waste area in the middle is firewood and the two quarter-sawn pieces are saved for spindle turning or kept for boards. These pieces are of poor quality grain-wise for face work.

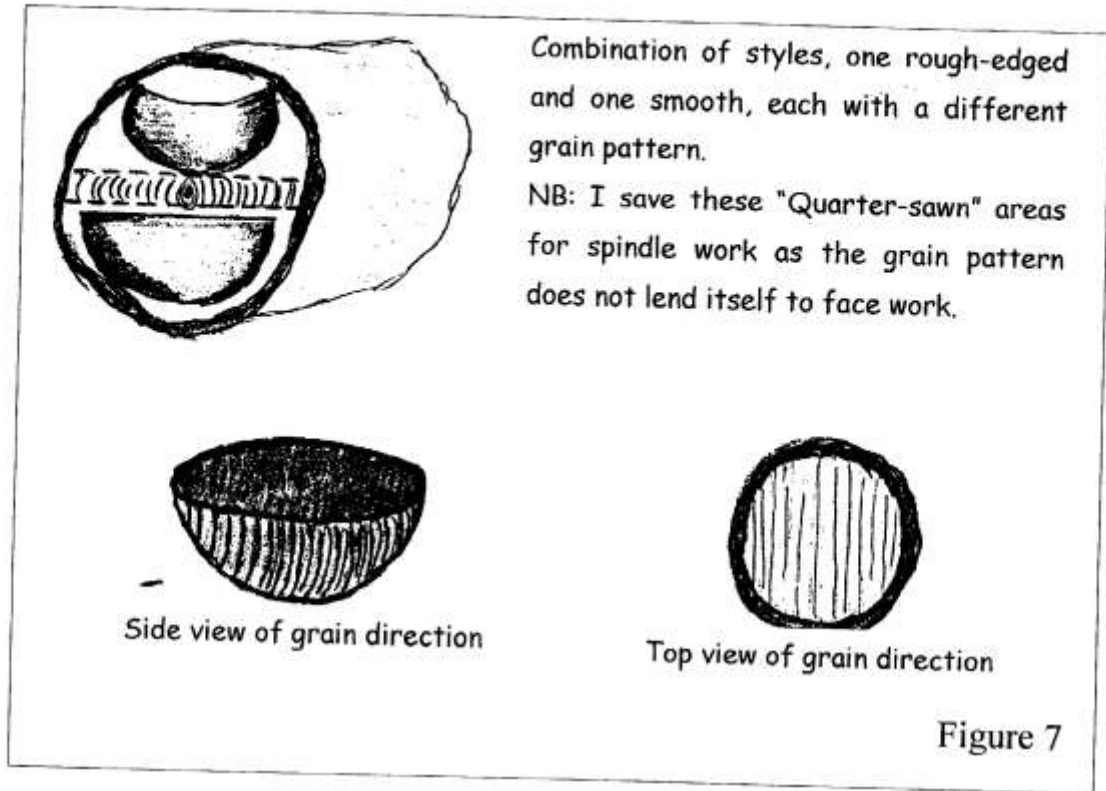
Now examine your first “block” for areas that will naturally split etc!!! Use this for your first cut (See Figure 3). The pith and heart areas will again become firewood as these areas tend to split and crack and could continue to split into the balance of your block if left in place. Cut “A” would be made if you wanted your turning to be rough-edged with the bark remaining. If not, make cut “D” on both sides of the



block. This will give you a flat area to mount a face plate etc!!! I use the scrap pieces “X” as wedges to prop up the blocks and keep the sections together while they are being cut. NB: This “rip cut” is best made with a bar and chain that is longer than the cut being made. This will enable the shavings to be ejected rather than being carried back into the cutting area where it will start to plug up.

Cuts “B” and “C” (Figure 3) are both made in this manner, followed by “E” and “F” to remove the pith and heart area from the center. These flat blocks can now be band-sawn into disks (with end sealer being applied to the entire outer edge) and stored to dry.





This is a very rewarding part of woodturning for me. It gives me a great reason to spend time roaming the forests, seeking out Nature's next treasure. The day I get the portable mill over I try to have two friends (minimum) to help, with the mill operator being the fourth member.

*Keep your bevel rubbing, Ken*

*Ken*

## Library Report

Richard Ford

No items due this month

## From the editor

Dianne Looker

**Woodturning with Stuart Batty** by Dianne Looker

I was fortunate enough to be able to take a five day hands on course with Stuart Batty in late May. The venue was Las Vegas – a very weird and wonderful place, but that’s another story...;-) We did take in a performance by Celine Dion, and a Cirque du Soleil show – absolutely marvelous they were. We passed on the gambling opportunities...

As most of you know, Stuart has made a series of videos, available at <https://vimeo.com/137484615> as well as through the AAW website. In those videos he outlines a lot of his approach – so you can access it as well.

Of course, doing a hands-on class takes it another step further, where you actually try to apply his words of wisdom. It was quite the experience, made none the less intense by the fact that things started at 8 AM every morning. Saying I am not a morning person is rather an understatement, so it was a challenge. I managed only by pretending I was still in Nova Scotia and going to bed very early...

Then there was the challenge of these aging legs standing for hours and hours a day. I sat whenever possible, but still suffered from such fatigue that I was still recovering a week or more afterwards.

Despite these challenges, it was wonderful! He is a great teacher, and is very clear about *what* he is doing, *how* he is doing it, and *why* he is doing this and not that.

We did bring home a bowl or two, but his main goal was for us to just make shavings – and repeat techniques over and over (and over!) And make shavings we did!



A key part of his approach is that the hand closest to the lathe/toolrest should not be the guiding hand. It can serve as a brake or as downward pressure, but it is the hand on the handle (usually the right hand) that guides the tool. That’s a hard lesson to learn for those of us who picked up the bad habit of using the close hand to guide, and/or to have both hands pushing one way or the other.







Stance is also very important. For the first time, someone was explaining to me not only how to stand for different cuts, but *why* that was the case. Understanding “why” meant I could, in fact, replicate the appropriate stance – trying to memorize “do this then and that the other” has proved impossible – despite years of trying!

“Peel side grain, slice endgrain” was another mantra. Easier said than done sometimes, but a good principal to keep in mind.

Stuart has some definite ideas on optimal angles for grinding various tools. Some of you will be familiar

for his preference for a “40/40” grind on his bowl gouge (which he uses for the majority of faceplate and spindle cutting). That said, he recognizes that there are times when different angles are needed – for accessing the bottom of a bowl, for cutting the sides of a box, for accessing narrow spindle cuts.

He doesn’t like traditional scrapers but is a big fan of negative rake scrapers. He showed us how effectively the burr on a negative rake can cut and clean torn grain (but for use not on endgrain!).

Stuart prefers finishing the outside of a bowl using a jam chuck so one can make a continuous cut for the final cut. My attempt at jam chucking this time was more successful than when I took Ashley Harwood’s class – put I still have a few skills to perfect!



Nonetheless it was a grand time – and my shavings created some interesting “installation art” in the nearby window...



<b>Calendar of Events</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Location</b>
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)

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

**Members at Large**      members-at-large      Dianne Looker

### Committees

<b>Library</b>	library	Jim Diamond	<b>C</b>
		Richard Ford	

<b>Web Site Website</b>	webmaster	Trevor Edis	<b>C</b>
		Norm Jolivet	

<b>Membership &amp; Promotion</b>	membership-chair	Gary Landry	<b>C</b>
		Norm Jolivet	

<b>Newsletter</b>	newsletter	Dianne Looker	<b>C</b>
-------------------	------------	---------------	----------

<b>Events</b>	events		<b>C</b>
---------------	--------	--	----------

<b>Competition</b>		Gary Landry	<b>C</b>
--------------------	--	-------------	----------

<b>Guild Photographer</b>		Chris Palmer	
---------------------------	--	--------------	--

<b>Fund Raising</b>		Vacant	<b>C</b>
		Norm Jolivet (Raffles) Yogi Gutz	

<b>Nominating</b>		Vacant	<b>C</b>
-------------------	--	--------	----------