



The Turning Point

In this issue:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----|
| President's Message | 2 |
| Meeting Notes | 3 |
| Show and tell | 7 |
| Raffle results | 7 |
| Library Report | 7 |
| From Members | 8 |
| A simple flexible workbench design. | 8 |
| Two by two challenge | 8 |
| Calendar | 9 |
| Executive | 10 |



*The next meeting of the Nova Woodturners' Guild is at
Lee Valley Tools
100 Susie Lake Crescent, Halifax, N.S.
November 19, 2018. 6:15 p.m.*

The next meeting will feature
Steven Kennard
Fitting Boxes: Lids & Liners

The President's Message November 2018**Gary Landry**

The fall is upon us and planning is in the works for our Christmas party to be held at Halifax Specialty Hardwoods. Any suggestions for the festivities should be sent to Dave McLachlan, our Events Chair. I would assume that at the very least we will once again be encouraging a Christmas ornament exchange. For every one ornament you put in for the draw (fully wrapped) you are entitled to pick one out for yourself. Start your lathes and prepare some ornaments. Another reminder will go out in early December.

We have received two requests for the Guild to remove wood from private residences. One was the removal of limbs only because the tree removal company took all the large sections of trunk. There was some talk of a 'small fee' for the wood. The second request was for us to cut down, section and remove an entire tree of 30 to 40 feet in height. A request for further info re diameter, nearness to property, etc. was not forthcoming but it did not matter much because the exec decided we could not take the risk of liability for damage or injury. We are awaiting further info on the first request and may be putting out a call for volunteers, especially ones with trucks, trailers and chainsaws, to participate in a cutting party. If anything comes of it, expect a notice from our Secretary for volunteers.

All this kind leads to a question we should ask: Should we have a 'standing committee' of volunteers to more immediately respond to these types of requests? A topic for an upcoming meeting, I guess.

Our Vice President, Bill Maes, is going to have serious surgery soon if not already done. Please keep him in your thoughts. Hope to see you back at the meetings very soon, Bill.

Our next meeting is Monday, November 19th and our keynote presenter is Steven Kennard. He will be discussing fitting of box lids and if time permits he may be able to get into the fitting of box liners too. This will be a masterclass in precision turning. See you all there.

As a final note please remember to bring and wear your name badges to all our functions. We have several new members and it would be a great help to them to put names to faces. This will increase the chances for meaningful dialogue among all members. Besides, we are getting older...this could avoid the inevitable "what is his/her name" conundrum we have all suffered through at one point or another.

Keep turning and stay safe.

Gary Landry

Meeting Notes

October 15, 2018

Calum Ewing

President **Gary Landry** Opened the meeting at 6:40pm; with 30 members and 1 visitor present

Visitors: **Shawna Mitchell** has been turning for about 20 years and has been encouraged for some time by **Bill Luther** to come out and check out the Guild. Welcome Shauna!

Announcements:

- Treasurer **David McLachlan** has looked at a number of options for accounting software to help manage the Guild finances and concluded that spreadsheets made in MS Excel is the most cost-effective option. The Guild finances are not particularly complex so don't need a sophisticated accounting package.
- The creative challenge for the fall will be the “**2x2 Challenge**” so get thinking and be creative. The parameters are:
 - Any wood may be used, but cannot be larger than a standard construction 2x2 (2 x 2 x 96” long)
 - A maximum of 2 2/3 board feet of wood may be used (the size of a standard 2x2)
 - It is up to your interpretation of what “2x2” means:
 - Could be 2 of the same thing
 - Could be a 2” x 2” x 2” block as a starting point
 - Etc.
 - The ‘Show & Tell’ for challenge results will be at the January Guild meeting
- The annual **Fun Turn** will be run through the fall & spring. Wood blanks will be given out at the November meeting and finished pieces are due back for showing at the **May** meeting. Dave McLachlan has some dry maple and will look at getting 6x6x2 inch blanks for this Fun Turn.
- The **2019 Turning Competition** will be held at Lee Valley Tools in Halifax. The deadline for entry submissions will be **Saturday March 23th** and the Awards presentation will be Saturday, April 13th. Watch the NWG Newsletter for more info.
- The Christmas social will be held at **Halifax Specialty Hardwoods Ltd** on Bluewater Road, Bedford. The tentative date is Monday Dec. 10th and will be confirmed. [Editor's note: Dec 10 has been confirmed as the date.]
- The **Craft NS Christmas Show** is being held Nov 16th to 18th at the Cunard Centre. The Guild will again have an information table and turning demonstrations. This show is a great opportunity to engage with people interested in distinct, handmade crafts and art. A quick poll indicated the strongest desire was for a demo day on Saturday Nov 17th. Timing will be confirmed. Anyone interested in taking a shift please contact **Calum Ewing** (Secretary@novawoodturnersguild.com) to sign up. [Editor's note: Our participation was cancelled because there were not enough volunteers.]
- Membership Chair, **Brian Larter**, mentioned that the Guild Facebook page is getting more traffic, so make sure you check it out and Like and Share the page. Some people have been contacting him about equipment for sale and the info will be passed along to the membership soon.



Main Presentation: Sharpening Turning Tools – Stephen Zwerling

Guild life member, Stephen Zwerling, presented an informative and clearly explained presentation on sharpening a range of turning tools. His focus was on the use of grinding jigs to sharpen different tools and an extensive discussion on the newer CBN grinding wheels.



In the early years of turning, many turners – especially production turners – would attach a grinding wheel to the outboard side of the headstock so that they could sharpen tools right at the lathe with a simple sideways step to the grinding wheel. This often required sharpening free-hand or, if the tool rest could be swing around, resting the tool on the tool rest for support while grinding.

Relating to sharpening, there are two basic questions:

- What shape do you want the tool to be?
- How do you get it sharp?

Shapes:

In terms of shapes, the nomenclature relating to gouges, scrapers, etc. is not standardized and very confused and mixed. It is best to ignore specific names

It is best not to worry too much about specific grinding angles. As long as the extremes are avoided, the tools will cut the wood. If angles get very high (e.g. 80-90 degrees) the tool cannot cut the wood well and will

simple tear or smash wood fibers out. If angles are too low (e.g. 15-20 degrees) the metal is just too thin and the spinning wood will wear away or break the cutting edge quickly so the tools cannot hold its edge for long and will dull quickly

There seems to be much more variation in gouges than other groups of tools and variations include:

- Width of the tool stock
- Depth of the flute
- Shape of the flute ('U', 'V' parabolic, etc)
- Angle of grind on the cutting edge
- Whether the wings are ground back
- Etc.

Bowl gouges ground with a steeper angle (e.g. ~60 degrees) allow the turner to make a continuous cut from the rim of the bowl to the centre without the tool handle contacting the rim. With shallower grind angles (e.g. 40 degrees) the handle may meet the rim of the form before the cutting edge gets to the bottom of the bowl, except in very shallow forms.

Peter Child developed the deep flute bowl gouge with a parabolic flute and this revolutionized bowl gouges. It meant that the turner had a full range of cutting edge to work with as the tool moved across the form of the bowl.

Making it Sharp:

Grinding jigs are very beneficial when sharpening

- To help steady the tool and avoid vibrations,
- To get consistent results – especially when learning to sharpen tools
- To get a repeatable grind on the tool so that you are not changing the shape each time you sharpen

The most commonly available jigs consist of an adjustable arm to hold the tool, a clamp to secure the arm in position, and some may have a flat table to support certain types of tools.

A few thoughts on grinders:

- The ideal weapon is a quality grinder with 8 inch wheels. The 8" wheel diameter gives a nice shallow hollow grind
- 6" grinding wheels give a deeper hollow grind on the ground face and it can get tricky to use tools well if the face is ground too hollow. This is especially true when wheels get worn down and the effective diameter may be as low as 5 inches or lower – time to replace the wheel!
- Grind stones need to be dressed well so that they are both flat across the face and perfectly round on the grinder shaft to ensure the tool stays in contact with the wheel
- Half-speed grinders (1725 rpm) are much better as they grind more slowly, creating less heat and avoiding overheating the steel. As well they are slower to create problems if you do something wrong.
- Making sure wheels are well balanced is important to avoid vibration which makes getting a good grind surface challenging.

CBN Wheels:

- These are quite new and come in a variety of sizes, widths and grits.
- The wheels are finely machined to be perfectly balanced and run very smoothly without vibration
- They run much cooler so do not overheat the tool
- If getting only one grit, 120x is best
- Ideally you would have 80x grit for shaping tools and 120x grit for sharpening.
- When grinding, place the tool on the wheel using only enough pressure to maintain contact, making sure you let the grinder do the grinding.

When grinding tools to sharpen them:

Single Bevel Tools (e.g. Roughing Gouges)

- Set the jig arm length so that the bevel on the tool matches the curve of the surface of the wheel at the contact point
- You can mark the bevel with ink so that you can easily see what has been removed by the grinder
- You can turn the grinder by hand with the tool contacting the wheel to see where the contact is happening on the bevel and adjust / tweak as needed to get the right angle
- Lift the tool off and turn on the grinder, letting the grinder come fully up to speed before proceeding
- Place the handle of the tool in the jig arm and run the cutting edge on the wheel running the bevel on the wheel in a smooth continuous motion



- Use only enough pressure to maintain contact as any more pressure will wear groves in the wheel
- Once the bevel has been fully ground across its whole surface the tool is ready to go – for most shaping and roughing out



- For final cuts to ensure the best cutting edge, after grinding you can lightly hone the cutting edge with a diamond hone
- For spindle and bowl gouges, it can be a good idea to grind away the back (heel) of the bevel to avoid a sharp back edge on the bevel so it does not cut into the wood when making turns – e.g. at the bottom of a bowl or cove

Skew Chisels

- Skews come with either flat (rectangular) or oval section tool stock. Oval skews are harder to sharpen as it is harder to keep the skew lying flat on the grinder tool rest at a consistent angle
 - Set up the grinder tool rest / table so that the grind angle matches the curve of the wheel (as above)
 - Place the skew flat on the table and pass one face of the bevel fully across the wheel in a smooth motion
- Flip the skew over and grind the face on the other side. Grinding the two bevels alternately is important to ensure the cutting edge stays in the mid line of the shaft – important for consistent cuts in both directions
- Once ground, you need to hone the cutting edge with a diamond hone to remove the burr that will have formed on one side of the cutting edge from the grinding

Parting Tools

- Match the bevel angle to the curve of the wheel as above
- With the tool held securely on the table so that it is at 90 degrees to the table and 90 degrees to the face of the wheel, move the tool across the wheel, grinding the bevel face
- Flip the tool over and grind the other bevel making sure to keep the cutting edge at 90 degrees to the tool shaft when viewed from above.

Bowl Gouge

- For gouges with swept back wings at the cutting edge (e.g. fingernail grind, Irish grind, etc.) it is best to use an additional jig such as the “Vari-Grind’ jig to hold the tool at a consistent angle to the wheel
- Set the projection of the tool in the Vari-Grind jig and clamp it securely. A stop block attached to the grinder base will allow you to set this projection exactly the same every time.
- With the grinder off, set the tool on the surface of the wheel so that the gouge is lying on its side (back of wing contacting wheel) and adjust the jig arm length so that the bevel angle matches the surface of the wheel
- Flip the tool over and check the angle on the other wing, tweaking the arm as needed
- Rotate the tool so the nose of the cutting edge is contacting the wheel and adjust the Vari-Grind leg to get the bevel to match at the nose.
- Repeat the above steps, tweaking as needed until all three bevel areas (nose and both wings) are touching the wheel correctly.



- Remove the tool from the wheel and turn on the grinder, letting it come up to speed fully
- Grind the tool in a smooth arc starting at one wing and rotating the tool smoothly through the nose and to the end of the opposite wing
- Don't dwell in any one area or you will grind a flat spot in that area giving an uneven cutting edge
- For final cuts at the lathe, you can hone the cutting edge with a diamond hone

Show & Tell



Calum Ewing showed off a couple of test pieces, experimenting with different alcohol-based dyes. The dyes are the Artistic Non-grain Raising dyes from Woodchuckers and come in a range of colours. They are quick to use and can be mixed to get custom colours as desired. Diluting the dyes with alcohol gives lighter intensity, but too much dilution (e.g. 1 part stain to 9 parts alcohol) resulted in fairly blotchy colour on raw maple.

Glenn McCarron presented a very nice segmented bowl with a flower pattern in Maple, Walnut and Padouk. This is the piece that Glenn plans to donate as the public draw prize for the voting for the Warman Castle memorial trophy in the



upcoming competition. Glenn won the trophy last year.

Raffle Results – John Ashton won a bundle of small blanks; Leo Westhaver added a new book to his library; Ken Riles won a bundle of small blanks; **Dianne Looker** won a bundle Cedar off-cuts / small blanks and **Leo Westhaver** won a second book.

Meeting wrapped up at 8:40pm

Library Report

Richard Ford

No due items this month.

From members

A Simple Flexible Design Workbench

-Norm Jolivet

The basis of the design is a square cut on the ends of the timber used. Common construction 2 x 4s are used throughout with a plywood top.

Start with 2 end frames then connect them with 4 rails. Note that the rail pairs will be of different lengths. The basic joint is a butt joint held with a single bolt (strength) and a screw or dowel (preferred) prevents twisting.

You can see in the photos a 1/4" hole with a 3/4" counterbore to hold the bolt head meets up with a 1" cross bore which holds the nut. Notice the 3/8" dowel driven in to prevent the rail from twisting.

Each hardware set consists of

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| 1/4"-20 bolt 3" long | 1 |
| 1/4" flat washer | 2 |
| 1/4" spring washer | 1 |
| 1/4" nut | 1 |

You will need 16 sets.

The nice thing is that if the bench ends up in a damp location, the joints get tighter. If it dries out, a couple pulls on a socket wrench pulls it tight again.

A 3" x 3" pad of 1/4" plywood is glued to the bottom of each end of the feet. A 45 deg. cut on the ends eases the look. Leave the end frames short of the edge if you want to use the top for clamping.

Cut the top to size and attach. Shelves can be added if desired.



Two by Two Challenge. Dianne Looker

The "Challenge" **due in January** is "2 by 2". This can mean: something from a 2x2 piece of wood; two items made from two different types of wood; a piece made from two types of wood, using two types of texturing...

Use your imagination – this is a conceptual as well as a turning challenge....

Calendar of Events

| Date | Subject | Location |
|--------------------|--|---|
| September 17, 2018 | Financial statement Review Lathe & Workshop Setup & Maintenance Bill Luther | Lee Valley Tools, 100 Susie Lake Crescent |
| October 15, 2018 | Sharpening Turning Tools, Steven Zwerling | Lee Valley Tools, 100 Susie Lake Crescent |
| November 19, 2018 | Fitting Boxes: Lids & Liners Steven Kennard | Lee Valley Tools, 100 Susie Lake Crescent |
| December 10, 2018 | Christmas Social | Halifax Specialty Hardwoods, 112 Bluewater Rd. Bedford |
| January 21, 2019 | "2x2" challenge due Jigs for Segmented Turning Dave McLachlan | Lee Valley Tools, 100 Susie Lake Crescent |
| February 11, 2019 | Finishing Well: Finishes and Sanding TBA | Lee Valley Tools, 100 Susie Lake Crescent |
| March 18, 2019 | Jigs, Fixtures, Hacks & Tips TBA | Lee Valley Tools, 100 Susie Lake Crescent |
| April 13, 2018 | Awards Day Lee Valley | Lee Valley Tools, 100 Susie Lake Crescent |
| April 15, 2019 | Software for Turners Steven Parsons / Gordon Marshall Show & tell – competition pieces | Lee Valley Tools, 100 Susie Lake Crescent |
| May 13, 2019 | Bandsaw Epoxy Inlays Dianne Looker | Lee Valley Tools, 100 Susie Lake Crescent |
| June 19, 2018 | AGM | 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 | Gary Landry | |
| Vice President | vice-president | Bill Maes | |
| Secretary | secretary | Calum Ewing | |
| Treasurer | treasurer | Dave McLachlan | |

| | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|-------------|--|
| Members at Large | members-at-large | Bill Luther | |
|-------------------------|------------------|-------------|--|

Committees

| | | | |
|----------------|---------|--------------|----------|
| Library | library | Jim Diamond | C |
| | | Richard Ford | |

| | | | |
|----------------|-----------|--------------|----------|
| Website | webmaster | Richard Ford | C |
|----------------|-----------|--------------|----------|

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|--------------|----------|
| Membership & Promotion | membership-chair | Brian Larter | C |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|--------------|----------|

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

| | | | |
|--------------------|--|----------------|----------|
| Competition | | Dave McLachlan | C |
|--------------------|--|----------------|----------|

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

| | | | |
|---------------------|--|----------------------------------|--|
| Fund Raising | | Norm Jolivet (Raffles) Yogi Gutz | |
|---------------------|--|----------------------------------|--|

| | | | |
|-------------------|--|-----------|----------|
| Nominating | | Bill Maes | C |
|-------------------|--|-----------|----------|