



# The Turning Point

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*The next meeting of the Nova Woodturners' Guild is at*

*Lee Valley Tools*

*100 Susie Lake Crescent, Halifax, N.S.*

*April 15, 2019. 6:15 p.m.*

The next meeting will feature

**Software for Turners**

**Steven Parsons / Gordon Marshall**

**Show & tell – competition pieces**

**The President's Message    April 2019****Gary Landry**

I am not aware of any responses from members about a replacement venue for our annual Summer Social/BBQ. It would be a shame to lose this event as it is a great way to keep up to date with members' activities both in front of a lathe and beyond. Please send suggestions to any of the exec through the contact list on our website (or directly if you have our personal email addresses).

I have received a couple of comments from members about the new seating arrangement during the social time before meetings and all have been in favour of the change. Comments about a easier movement around the room enabling interaction with fellow members are the main things mentioned to me. We will continue this practice.

Once again I would encourage all members to remember to wear their name tags at all events held by the Guild whether it is a meeting, a BBQ's, an off-site demos, etc. Please consider our newer members when you do this as it is the best way for them to link a face to a name. And, for those who are 'old hands', please take the time to greet new members by name and engage them in conversation about their turning efforts and if they have any problems or questions that you could help them resolve. We were all there and those efforts at outreach really made each of us feel at home and welcome.

At the time of this writing the Annual Turning Competition is still going on and results have not been released. That being said, I would like to acknowledge the Committee and its Chair (Dave McLachlan) for all the hard work so far. Having been in this position before I can appreciate the nail-biting that goes into making this a smooth event. Also, we are once again greatly indebted to our sponsors and donors who allow the event to be just that much more enjoyable and meaningful. Some of these companies and persons continue to make substantial contributions for this event and I ask all of you to acknowledge their support of the Guild when you interact with them in person, online or by phone.

Okay that is enough babbling from me for this month's Newsletter. Get back to your lathes and spin some wood.

Stay safe,

Gary Landry

## Meeting Notes

March 18, 2018

Calum Ewing

President **Gary Landry** Opened the meeting at 6:45 pm; with 32 members present

**Announcements:**

- Welcome back to VP **Bill Maes** who has been out of commission for a bit.
- Elections for executive positions will be coming up at the June AGM. We have a few vacancies and still need to hear from a couple of people to see if they are interested in continuing in their current roles for another year. Please consider putting your name forward to **Bill Maes** or **Gary Landry** if you are interested, or you can nominate someone for a position as well.
- For those that participated in the Abranet™ bulk purchase, **Ted Monk** has your abrasives.
- Gary reported that the Guild was offered a **Warman Castle** bowl by a collection in the US. As the Guild does not have the facilities to properly display such an item, the Executive will be referring the donors to museums and historical societies in Cumberland County, where Warman lived, as a more appropriate home for this piece.
- We are still open to short ‘pre-meeting’ demos. If anyone has a short topic that can be demonstrated in 5 to 15 minutes in an informal approach, please let **Gary Landry** know to arrange a time.
- Annual Turning Competition:
  - Rules, Guidelines and entry forms are all available on the Guild website.
  - The deadline for entry drop-off is **6pm March 23rd** at the Lee Valley Store
  - Awards will be presented April 13<sup>th</sup> starting at 1:00pm in the Seminar Room at Lee Valley
  - We need volunteers to staff the demo table during the run of the Competition show. This is a great opportunity to connect with potential new members for the Guild and the table will be staffed from Mar 25<sup>th</sup> to April 12. **David McLachlan** will be compiling the roster for demonstrators, so please let Dave know which days / times you can staff the table (mclachlandg@gmail.com).
  - **David McLachlan** is chairing this year’s Competition but need some assistance with some tasks. These include:
    - Set Up March 25<sup>th</sup> – registering the entries and setting pieces in display cases
    - Photography support March 27<sup>th</sup> – fetching and returning pieces during the photography day
    - Judging Support - also March 27<sup>th</sup> – retrieving entries for the judges and returning them to the cases following judging

Please let Dave know if you can help out for a few hours to support the competition

- **Gary Landry** reminded members that there is a listing of the Library contents (Books, DVD’s, magazines and tools) on the Guild website. We will be putting together a ‘Welcome’ package for new members and will include descriptions of the Library holdings in this package.

## Main Presentation: Turning Jigs, Tips & Hacks

### *Don Moore*

Don presented a number of tips, tools and approaches he uses for specific situations:



#### **Dremel Sanding**

Don (With help from Richard Ford) created several custom sanding shafts for use in Dremel or other rotary tools. The original jig was a straight metal shaft (held in the Dremel collet) with a slot cut in the end. This slot accepted small strips of sandpaper passed through the slot. With the sandpaper protruding on both sides of the shaft, it would tend to wrap around the shaft a few times and the ends of the sandpaper would create two ‘bumps’ in the abrasive surface as the shaft rotated, making it difficult to get a smooth finish.

Don’s modification involved drilling a hole along the axis of the shaft in the end of the shaft before the slot is cut. Then to insert the sandpaper strip, a small fold is created in the end of the strip (approximately 2 mm of the sandpaper is folded over). Once folded over the sandpaper is inserted into the slot so that the folded end sits in the hole drilled in the end of the shaft. The folded end in the hole prevents the sandpaper from sliding out and results in it

protruding out only one side of the shaft (like a small flag on a pole) eliminating the ‘double bump’ problem.

Don modified a pair of Linesman’s Pliers by grinding away a lot of the back of one of the jaws to allow the paper to be folded more acutely making it easier to insert into the shaft.

Sandpaper with the fabric backing tends to work better staying in the shaft securely.

In use, you need to consider the area of the paper that will be exposed to wood when sanding so that the rotary tool is not overpowered. So longer strips need to be narrower to reduce the total area. Don uses sanding strips about 10 x 25mm in size with the narrow end held in the shaft.



#### **Pledge™ Floor Finish**

Don uses Pledge™ Acrylic floor finish to harden wood in a variety of situations. For Don’s finely carved turnings, Pledge finish hardens the wood allowing Don to carve and sand the wood much smaller than without the Pledge. The hardened wood sands more slowly so it is less likely that parts will be made too thin before you realize it, so it gives better control of the finished piece.

The Pledge™ is applied with an artist's paintbrush in a heavy coat and allowed to soak in for 3 to 5 minutes. Then any excess (looks wet or shiny) is wiped off thoroughly and allowed to dry overnight. Then the piece can be carved and sanded as desired. Once any significant amounts of wood have been removed, the Pledge™ will need to be reapplied as it will have been lost with the wood removed.

Pledge is also very good for hardening soft areas in spalted wood allowing effective cutting or sanding of the softer areas.

### **Sanding Sticks**

Don uses bamboo and wood food skewers as custom sanding sticks. The broad, flat ends of the skewers can be shaped as desired and sandpaper is glued to one side of the shaped end. These allow reaching into tight spaces or at awkward angles to get effective sanding.

Fabric-backed sandpaper is glued onto the stick with thick cyanoacrylate (CA) glue. The thin CA glue does not last as long, and sandpaper tends to come off in use. Don puts the glue on the skewer and sprays accelerator on the back of the paper. The two can then be pressed together exactly as desired for an 'instant' bond.

In a similar way, Don also makes 'micro saws' by gluing sections of jigsaw blades into the ends of dowels. These allow him to reach into tight spaces to cut away excess material before beginning the sanding and final shaping stage.

### **Dremel™ Extenders**

Don showed some shaft extenders he has made up for using with Dremel™-type rotary tools (eg. the Freedom™ MicroMotor carver) that allow him to reach into tight spots when carving work pieces without the rotatory tool getting in the way. The extenders are steel shafts sized to fit in the collet of the rotary tool and drilled in the outboard end to accept the cutter or burr shaft. The inboard end of the shaft replaces the collet in the rotary tool and is held in place with the tool's collet nut.

Extra collet nuts can be purchased from online suppliers like [www.banggod.com](http://www.banggod.com).

Don uses two small 'o'-rings slid onto the shaft inside the collet nut to keep the shaft from sliding out of the collet nut.

The cutter or burr shaft is held in the outboard end of the shaft with a small drop of cyanoacrylate (CA) glue. To change bits, just heat the end of the shaft with a flame and this melts the CA glue releasing the burr shaft.

### **Wet Sanding**

Wet sanding for turned objects is essentially just sanding with a liquid lubricant on the abrasive. This can be water (eg. for acrylics), oil, wax or sanding paste. The lubricant lubricates the sandpaper reducing heat buildup. It also greatly reduces dust in the air as most of the dust produced is trapped in the lubricant.

Don uses "UltraShine™" sanding wax that comes from Australia.

Gordon shared some additional thoughts on a few similar topics:

### **Pledge™ Floor Finish**

Gordon reminded us all that Pledge™ was developed and marketed as a floor finish. As such it is designed to be hard wearing, easy to apply and clear. It makes an excellent finish for wood objects – not just floors. Gordon showed a piece of maple straight from the planer, finished with Pledge™. One side had been buffed with wax and had a superb shine.

When using as a finish:

- Let the first coat soak in then wipe off any excess and let dry thoroughly
- Lightly sand with 600 grit after the first coat is fully dried
- Then add additional coats as desired.
- Gordon find a sponge applicator tends to put too much finish on so uses paper towel to apply the liquid finish
- Any excess must be wiped off before it dries, or any drops left on the surface will cure to hard ‘knobs’ that will need to be sanded off before the next coat.

### **How much Shine is Desired?**

It is important to consider how much shine or gloss we want on our finished pieces.

Some finishes can create such a high gloss that it is hard to see the underlying grain, figure and character of the wood as we see only the reflections of the lights in the room.

Consider the wood species and the grain of a particular piece when deciding on a finish and how much gloss you want – often a soft lustre finish will show the wood’s characteristics better.

### **Wet Sanding**

When wet sanding, Gordon prefers to use the finish that he will eventually use on the piece as the lubricant. For example, on pieces that he will finish with Danish Oil finish, he will wet sand using Danish Oil to lubricate the sandpaper during sanding.

In this way, you are always assured that the finish that goes on at the end will be completely compatible with the surface of your piece.

Gordon showed a thin walled vase in Spruce. The very subtle grain and character of the light-coloured spruce required a soft sheen on the finish to allow the viewer to see the features of the wood. The inside was tricky to get smooth, so Gordon applied a layer of diluted wood filler to the inside (diluted with Danish Oil) then sanded it smooth. The inside was then painted with acrylic paint to cover the wood filler. This causes the eye to focus on the form of the piece and the smoothness of its shape inside and out, rather than any filler used to fix tear-out, etc.



***Gary Landry***

Gary showed off a 1-ton arbor press that he picked up for assembling pen kits:

- He has tried using quick action clamps but finds the jaws are soft and tend to be damaged by the metal parts of the pen kits
- Using a horizontal pen press the whole press tends to migrate down the bench in use due to the horizontal push required to operate it
- The vertical arbor press is heavy and does not move around in use
- Gary made a couple of simple modifications to make it easier to use on pen kits:
  - He uses a small plate of phenolic plastic as a 'base' for the pen parts
  - Added a small square to UMHW plastic (cut from a ¼" thick plastic cutting board) to the face of the ram in the press to prevent damage to pen parts
  - Both the phenolic plate and the UMHW liner on the ram are dimpled with a large drill bit to create a depression. This helps to register the pen parts make sure that parts don't move around when pressure is applied and make sure all the parts stay aligned vertically.

***Richard Ford***

Richard presented a couple of items he has made to make his turning life easier:

**Buffing Table**

This plywood 'table' has a post on the underside so that it can mount in the banjo of the lathe. It is covered in a layer of thick shag carpet both for comfort in use and to protect workpieces.

One face has a curved section cut out to allow the table to be set closer to a buffing wheel.

In use, the table provides comfortable support for the arms when buffing which helps to resist the downward force on the piece caused by contact with the buffing wheel.

It can also be used to rest larger pieces during the buffing process with one side on the table and the other in contact with the buffing wheel.

**Negative Rake Scraper**

Richard makes small finishing scrapers from old planer blades. One end is ground with a radius, the other end square

An angled bevel is ground on the top surface of the scraping edge to create the negative rake angle where the top bevel and bottom bevel meet.

These are excellent for removing tool marks and making gentle refinements to shapes in both wood and acrylics.



*Mike Parker*

### Spindle Steady Rest

Mike showed off a steady rest that he created to help in turning longer spindles:

- It mounts to the lathe bed (one end of the base of the rest bolt to the ways on the lathe bed).
- A plywood support, notched out to accept the spindle, is held on the base by a large pin and by an adjustable arm at the top
- The spindle support is waxed in the notch to allow the spindle to turn freely.
- Multiple plywood support plates can be made for different diameter spindles
- A threaded eye bolt in the end of the arm allows adjusting of the spindle support plate as the diameter of the spindle changes.
- The steady arm was salvaged from a drywall sanding pole, so it has a universal joint mounting it to the base allowing complete freedom of movement in use.



### Show & Tell

**Don Shubaly**



Don presented three lidded boxes with liners. Two were walnut with Cherry burl liners and one was in Cherry with a Walnut liner.



These were made using the process demonstrated by Steve Kennard in November and are intended as ring boxes for holding rings or other small jewelry items.

In one, the liner passes completely through the lid so from the outside it appears as a cherry 'inlay' in the top of the lid. This was done by boring out the box blank and fitting the liner plug before parting off the lid. The top of the lid in this case has no finial but is slightly 'dished' so that rings will sit securely on the top of the box.

### Raffle Results

**Brian Sharp** won a pair of wood blanks; **Leo Westhaver** took home a turning book; **Richard Ford** added a book to his personal library, and **Edmund Benoit** took home a couple of blanks.

Meeting wrapped up at 8:25pm.



**Library Report****Richard Ford**

Nothing due this month.

**From members**

Norm Jolivet notes that there is a bowl, turned by Ashley Harwood, which was left of the NWG. If no one comes up with a better idea, he plans to include it in an upcoming raffle. The shavings are included! A real bargain!

And, he'd welcome suggestions – and donations - for raffles.



<b>Calendar of Events</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Location</b>
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
NOTE DATE!!! February 25, 2019	Finishing Well: Finishes and Sanding Richard Ford	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 17, 2019	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 officers in the Nova Woodturners' Guild. The recipients will change as the need arises but a note sent to the president will go to whomever 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	Gary Landry	
<b>Vice President</b>	vice-president	Bill Maes	
<b>Secretary</b>	secretary	Calum Ewing	
<b>Treasurer</b>	treasurer	Dave McLachlan	

<b>Members at Large</b>	members-at-large	Bill Luther	
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### Committees

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

<b>Website</b>	webmaster	Richard Ford	<b>C</b>
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<b>Membership &amp; Promotion</b>	membership-chair	Brian Larter	<b>C</b>
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<b>Newsletter</b>	newsletter	Dianne Looker	<b>C</b>
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<b>Competition</b>		Dave McLachlan	<b>C</b>
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<b>Guild Photographer</b>		Chris Palmer	
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<b>Fund Raising</b>		Norm Jolivet (Raffles) Yogi Gutz	
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<b>Nominating</b>		Bill Maes	<b>C</b>
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