



The Turning Point

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Member since 2012

*The next meeting of the Nova Woodturners' Guild is
On Zoom
SUNDAY, February 20, 2022. 1:00 p.m.*

*The next meeting will feature
Richard Ford "Making Birdhouses: pt 2"
The Bird.*

The President's Workshop February 2022

Gary Landry

Well we have made it to the midpoint of 'official' winter. Hopefully the weather will be uneventful for us in the Maritimes.

The major event in our collective experience continues to be the effects of COVID-19 and its' seemingly never ending lineup of variants. We can only make the best of it by adapting and overcoming.

As announced at the January meeting, we are going to hold a Fun Turn Event this year.

The rules are:

- you supply a 1 1/2" by 3 1/2" by 12" piece of wood of any species or laminated species (i.e. dimensions chosen so you can even use construction lumber if you wish)
- you can turn anything from it resulting in one, to a max of three, individual piece(s)
- your entry is/are photos and/or videos of the piece(s) emailed to Secretary **Calum Ewing** up to the week before our April 10th meeting (last day for entries will be Friday the 8th giving Calum time to prepare the entries for presentation)
- prizes will be awarded by random draw (prizes to be determined by the Executive) during the April 10th meeting

*Fun Turn
Fun Turn
Fun Turn*

We continue to use Zoom and I thank **Mark Hazen** for using his personal Zoom account to set up links before each of our meetings. As a backup the Exec have tested the "Jitsi" platform and it works well with no time limits and a limit of 100 attendees. Should Mark's account not be available we will shift to Jitsi and inform you as far in advance as possible. The one difference between the two platforms is Jitsi is web-driven which means you do not have to download and use a new program but just click on the link provided in an email.

I would ask all members to consider a date for a new Turning Competition during our 2022-2023 meeting year. Would you like it early in our meeting year (say October or November) or later (say March or April)? This item will come up for voting at our AGM in June.

This month's meeting demo will be part two of **Richard Ford's Birdhouse Ornament** presentation. Part one was in January and showed the birdhouse and this month's second part will be the turning of the small bird to mount on the perch of the birdhouse itself. Those who read my January letter will note that the expected demo was to be **Dave McLachlan's** presentation on Mandrels. However an emergency in Dave's shop (no injuries involved) prevented him from finishing the video in time so we moved Richard up in the schedule. Dave's demo should be ready for our March meeting.

I wish you all good health and ask you to turn some wood...and then enter the results in our Fun Turn or one of our monthly Show and Tell sessions.

Gary Landry – President

Show & Tell

William R. Maes

I was intrigued by the idea of ebonizing wood by looking at the work of Irish turner **Liam Flynn** who used a lot of ebonizing on his pieces. Unfortunately, I was unable to find any information on his technique.

I, therefore, looked it up on the internet along with some advice from **Norm Jolivet**. I made a solution of white vinegar and two pieces of steel wool letting it steep for 4 days. The iron acetate created reacts with the tannin in the wood. Some woods have more tannins than others with walnut and oak being among the highest and ash with none.

I chose a piece of red oak which I turned into a plate and sanded to 320 grit. (it is recommended you only sand to 220 to allow for better penetration of the solution).



The solution was strained through a coffee filter and had a light tea colour. When applied to the oak it turned completely black as you see in the picture within less than 30 seconds. Amazing to see.



Show & Tell continued

You will note that the solution did not penetrate some of the deep end grain. This did not change even with further applications.

The plate was finished with Tried and True and a further coat of bees wax. This had no effect on the colour created by the iron acetate.

As an added note, to increase tannins in the wood, first apply a coat of very strong tea (e.g., 10 tea bags of black tea to a pot) followed by the iron acetate to increase the darkness of the colour in woods with fewer tannins. This was not necessary in my project.

Try it, you will be amazed!

William R. Maes, 41 Forest Lane, Bedford NS

David McLachlan

Curly maple, Walnut, African Blackwood and polished aluminum. 8" diameter.



The NWG Woodcut Bowlsaver

Richard Ford

The club recently purchased new stellite tips for our Bowlsaver. The plan was to replace the current tips. When I received the unit, I looked at the old tips and after reading Woodcut's recommendations for how to sharpen the tips thought it would be worth trying before removing them.

Woodcut says you should be able to core 500 bowls before replacing the tips.

Grinding a concave surface on the top of the stellite tip is a little tricky and you need a diamond or CBN wheel. They also recommend a zero rake angle for softwood and a 5 degrees negative angle for hardwood. I ground a zero rake for softwood..

Once profiled as recommended, future sharpening should only be done with a diamond card on the front vertical face, match the angle and with a gentle rotational motion sharpening until the top edge is sharp. Well time passed and eventually I got some maple blanks not too big about 11 inches dia. And I got the chance to try the reprofiled & sharpened knives in the Bowlsaver.

While testing the Bowlsaver I thought it was a good opportunity to make a video on coring. I thought the Bowlsaver worked as well as it could. The reprofiled/sharpened tips were a success. My video on coring should be on my Youtube channel by 20th February.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOTRcb1HvkBppKwSKwZ7K3Q/videos>

I am spoiled with a Oneway Coring system which I find is a more solid system and surprisingly, today is less expensive than the Bowlsaver. Here are some pictures of the Bowlsaver in action:



1: Identifying where the base of the bowl will be relative to the face of the tennon



2: Flattening the top surface of the bowl for layingout and positioning.



3: Layingout the cut Lines.



4: Set the cut depth & start position



5: Center core removed



6: Coring 1st Bowl



7: 1st bowl done



8: Setting the next depth & start position.



9: Chips flying on last core.



10: Bowl Flies Free.



11: Result 3 Bowls and less wood chips.

Tool Guide

DRILL PRESS:

A tall upright machine useful for suddenly snatching flat metal bar stock out of your hands so that it smacks you in the chest and flings your beer across the room, denting the freshly-painted project which you had carefully set in the corner where nothing could get to it.

WIRE WHEEL:

Cleans paint off bolts and then throws them somewhere under the workbench with the speed of light. Also removes fingerprints and hard-earned calluses from fingers in about the time it takes you to say, 'Oh damn'

BELT SANDER:

An electric sanding tool commonly used to convert minor touch-up jobs into major refinishing jobs.

Calendar of Events

Date	Subject	Location
September 19, 2021	Richard Ford Video presentation "Turn a Chess Piece"	Online via Zoom
October 17, 2021	Phil Rose presentation via Zoom Embellishing Techniques	Online via Zoom
November 21, 2021	Competition Show and Tell	Online via Zoom
December 19, 2021	"Things I Have Learned" Submitted videos	Online via Zoom
January 16, 2022	Richard Ford Making Birdhouses	Online via Zoom
February 20, 2022	Richard Ford Making Small Birds for Birdhouses	Online via Zoom
March 20, 2022	Dave McLachlan - Mandrels Types, Uses and Designs	Online via Zoom
April 10, 2022	To Be Announced Triangle Box	Online via Zoom
May 15, 2022	To Be Announced An Elegant Spiral Finial	Online via Zoom
June 12, 2022	AGM	Online via Zoom

(Third Sunday of the month, 1:00 pm.)

What's on the Web?

Norm Jolivet

G Landry

Hi Norm,

A lot of our members turn pens. Some are beginners and some are professionals. The **AAW** is promoting an online tutorial for all skill levels ranging from starting penmaking to advanced techniques such as casting blanks and customizing kits. Perhaps we could share the link to the info and registration in the Newsletter if it is sent to members before the 18th of February.

<https://www.woodturner.org/Woodturner/Virtual-Events/MarkDreyerJohnUnderhill-FromPenturningtoPenMaking-February-19-2022.aspx>

Those registered before February 18th will be able to replay the stream through March 13th.

Wobbles and Woes

Dianne Looker

First a follow up on the lovely African Blackwood spinning top I made for our fall competition. In an earlier newsletter article, I described some of the process in creating it. What I didn't get into was the perennial obsessing I get into as I try to design something "new" (or new for me). I researched articles, watched videos, read about the physics of spinning tops....

I have made lots of spinning tops in my day and they are, after all, not that complicated, you'd think. But this was to be a special one, made for a very special person, my sister and friend. And using special, moderately expensive wood. And she wanted a nice big one. So, I wanted to get it "right".

It is very difficult for me to let go of the misconception that there is a "right" answer to a question, a "right" decision about plans, a "right" design for a particular turning. And so, I obsess...

But I finally settled on a design (the deadline for the competition was looming, after all). Tall, straight handle, some dipsy doodles near the main body, a low center of gravity, weight at the bottom. Good. Sketched it out. Did a practice piece in plasticine (I know, ridiculous – what can I say?!)

And so, it was created. The brass design modified when I discovered the deep hole and accompanying crack, but hey, I can work with that. And so I did.

I fine tuned the shape, inserted brass balls at the top and bottom, and sanded. And examined it close up under different lights and sanded some more, and some more. OK. That's as good as it gets and off it went. Not good enough for the judges, but hey, no one is perfect.

I'd asked the judges not to spin it, so it wouldn't get banged up. Apparently they took the chance and I was told it spun well. Great. After the competition, I tried spinning it a few times myself – twirling it between finger and thumb as one does with a spinning top. Hmm... Wobbly. Not much of a spin. Damnation! Oh well. Too late. It has to be shipped off to get to BC in time for Christmas.

And it did.

But, much as they admired the beauty of the glowing piece of blackwood, they couldn't get it to spin. Well, double damnation! So, we agreed they'd mail it back and I'd try to take some weight off the bottom, to see if that helped. I worried about being able to recenter it properly although I do still have



the jam chuck I made to hold it.

And then – they told me they figured it out! Use two hands to spin it and - wow! It spins! Not only does it spin, it spins perfectly – for a solid two or sometimes three minutes. Just sitting there silently twirling on the brass ball I so carefully inserted in the tip. Hooray!

No more wobbles.

But some recent woes.

I don't know about the rest of you, but I have, many times over the last two years, fallen prey to what I call the "pandemic blahs". I just feel like I am dragging myself through the day. I can't find the energy to even do things I enjoy – like playing on my lathe.

So, I was pleased when, a week or two ago, I managed to get myself out to my workshop and start on a few pieces. I noticed that it was getting to be a regular issue that, when I pushed the "on" button, the lathe would start, but not stay on. Push it again. And again. Often the third or fourth time, it stayed on. But I knew something was awry.

The last time this had happened, it turned out it was a buildup of dust in the on/off switch. So, with I talked my trusty partner, **Ray**, into dismantling the on/off switch. (I avoid anything electrical, myself.) Hmm... No dust. OK. Let's put it back together. Hmm... Now no power at all when I turn it on.

OK, so Ray's not a qualified electrician. Let's call one. They come and confirm that the switch had, in fact, burned out. OK. Off they went to get a new one. They install it, turn it on. It starts and won't stay on. What the...?! Wrong switch design, they conclude. And off they go promising to return "soon" with the proper switch.

That was Monday. This is Friday. They aren't back. I just have to hope they return before the pandemic blahs do.

Oh, woe is me....



BAND SAW:

A large stationary power saw primarily used by most shops to cut good plywood sheet into smaller pieces that more easily fit into the trash can after you cut on the inside of the line instead of the outside edge.

PLIERS:

Used to round off bolt heads. Sometimes used in the creation of blood-blisters

WISE-GRIPS:

Generally used after pliers to completely round off bolt heads. If nothing else is available, they can also be used to transfer intense welding heat to the palm of your hand.

HACKSAW:

One of a family of cutting tools built on the Ouija board principle... It transforms human energy into a crooked, unpredictable motion, and the more you attempt to influence its course, the more dismal your future becomes.

Nova Woodturners' Guild – 2021/22 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 who ever is president at that time. All the following <address> should be followed by @novawoodturnersguild.com to send mail to that person

<address>@novawoodturnersguild.com

Position	<address>		
Executive	executive (sends the message to all executive positions on the list)		
President	president	(or) pres	Gary Landry
Vice President	vice-president	(or) vp	Bill Maes
Secretary	secretary		Calum Ewing
Treasurer	treasurer		Dave McLachlan
Director at Large	director-at-large		Brian Sharp

Committees

Library	library	Jim Diamond Richard Ford	C	
Web Site	webmaster	Richard Ford	C	
Membership & Promotion	membership	Vacant	C	
Newsletter	newsletter	(or) news	Norm Jolivet	C
Competition	competition	Vacant	C	
Guild Photographer	photographer	(or) photos	Chris Palmer	
Fund Raising	Raffles	Norm Jolivet Yogi Gutz	C	
Nominating	nominations	Bill Maes	C	
Members Group	members	30+ members		

To add or remove yourself from the group email: webmaster@novawoodturnersguild.com

Note: to email all NWG members you must go via the club secretary.