



The Turning Point

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Member since 2012

*The next meeting of the Nova Woodturners' Guild is
At Lee Valley Tools, 150 Susie Lake Crescent, Halifax
SUNDAY, May 7, 2023. 1:00 p.m.*

*The next meeting will feature
Competition Dropoff
Favourite tools and jigs.*

The President's Workshop May 2023

Gary Landry

This report sees us all, or at least many of us, preparing for the Annual Turning Competition.

The two important things to keep in mind for this competition are:

1- You can drop off your competition pieces at our monthly meeting (May 7th) or to a Guild member in the Seminar Room at Lee Valley – Halifax on May 18, 19 or 20th from 10 AM to 2 PM. You cannot drop pieces off at any other time. Lee Valley staff are not authorized to receive pieces and have been instructed not to do so. By the way, someone can drop pieces off for you. You do not have to do it in person as long as you have included the proper documents (see point 2 below).

2- You must be in compliance with the entry guidelines to be found under the “Documents” tab and then the “Competition Entry Documents” which, among other things, explain what documents you need to submit and the mandatory characteristics of your entries.

Display of entries is planned to begin on May 29th and continue through June 10th. Results will be announced and prizes passed out at our monthly meeting on June 11th. Entrants must take their entries and trophies home on June 11th or arrange for an attendee to bring them home for them.

Our IRD by **Kai Muenzer** was well attended. I believe the total number of viewers was 20. Kai gave permission for the IRD to be recorded for use of our members only. In other words the IRD is not for posting to the internet in any way. A copy will be put in our library for checkout by our members.

We have not been able to get a member to present a demo or talk for our May meeting. So, for a demo this month we are asking you to bring in your most useful turning tool or accessory...portable of course. Please don't drag in your Oneway lathe as we cannot treat hernias :-)

Since this month's meeting will be in person we will be able to hold a Show and Tell and Raffle. Please come prepared.

One final request. We have a number of new members and to make them more comfortable when talking to us long-time members I would ask you all to bring in and use your Guild name tag. Also, not a few of us old timers could use some help in linking a name to some of the faces we have not seen for a while due to COVID restrictions...I won't say who but one of us is typing this.

Keep turning, stay safe and have some fun.

Gary Landry – President

Competition Awards

Bill Maes

Just received two complete pen turning kits from **William Wood-Write.Ltd**

By complete I mean wood blocks, brass tubes, drills, glue, etc. and some heavy duty mandrels.



Received 50 sanding packs and bags thanks to **Abrasifs J.J.S.Inc. Sia Canada** today.

Competition Awards

Bill Maes



Stellar Industrial Sales Ltd. (thank you **Chris Maher**) donated a General 25-010M1 Mini Wood Lathe

Nova Chuck coming from **Woodturners Specialties** in BC.

\$50 gift certificates from **Halifax Specialty Hardwoods**

With trophy storage, my basement is starting to get a little full.

Turning Multi-axis Bud Vases

Calum Ewing

Introduction

I have long been fascinated by some of the unusual effects that can be achieved by creating turnings on multiple axes of rotation. Even slight shifts in the centre of rotation can create unusual shapes – often leaving experienced turners wondering, 'how did they do that?' Experienced turners like Mark Sfirri and Barbara Dill have created a distinct art form with turnings on multiple axes.

The 2023 Fun Turn had a starting point of a blank that had dimensions of 8 x 4 x 2 inches and it was while I was pondering how to cut up such a blank that I decided to try some small multi-axis bud vases that I had seen images of online a few times.

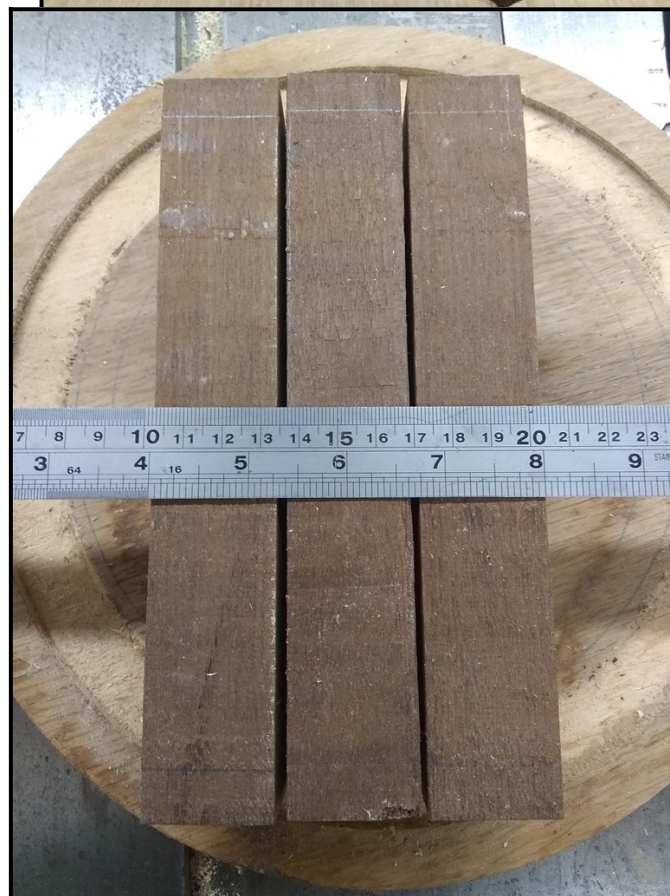
Design

These bud vases are essentially square and each side surface is turned with a series of concentric beads, coves, grooves and other shapes to create a unique pattern on each face. So it is important to start with square stock for the best results. The stock also needs to be 2 to 3 inches longer than your desired height for the vases. I feel the vases look best being approximately 3 times higher than they are wide so for 2 inch stock, you would want blanks approximately 8 to 9 inches long (with the additional length added):

eg. 2 inch x 3 + 2 or 3 = 8 or 9 inches long

It also works best if you have blanks to make 3 vases (or another odd number). You could make them with even numbers of blanks, but none of the resulting vases will have a centred pattern if using an even number of blanks.

Note: for the Fun Turn rules, the largest blanks I could get from the starting block were 2 inches by 1.25 inches in dimension (see Photo 1). Ideally, a wider blank to start with would give you three blanks of 2 x 2 inch dimensions.



Preparing the Blanks

Once you have your blanks cut, you will need to prepare a base plate to secure them on. I used a 12 inch circle of plywood with a recess in the back so that it can be held with the chuck jaws in expansion mode.



For mounting, each blank needs to have two holes drilled through each end to allow you to secure the blanks to the base plate. These holes only need to be clearance holes for the screws you will use to secure the blanks. Drill a hole through the end of the blank approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ inch from each end. Next turn the blank 90° and drill a second hole in each end at the same point. Then each hole needs to be deeply countersunk on all four faces so that the screw heads are well below the surface of the wood – you can imagine how I figured this one out!

It is also helpful to cut a few pieces of sacrificial scrap wood (any species – I used pine) the same thickness as the blanks. These can be secured on either side of your blanks so that your tool stays in contact with wood through the entire revolution, and you are not 'turning air' where the tool is in contact with the wood then out in the air at times as the blanks rotate. Note: I also used $\frac{3}{4}$ inch stock to fill in spaces between the blanks when turning the narrow ($1\frac{1}{4}$ inch faces). The sacrificial wood needs to have mounting holes drilled in it as well.

Mount the blanks and any sacrificial wood together and parallel on your base plate using good quality wood screws (Photo 2). Never use 'deck' screws to secure turning blanks – they do not have the required shear strength to hold turning blanks safely.

Turning the Faces

Using gouges, scrapers or other tools of your choice. Turn the face of the blanks flat then create a series of coves, beads, v-grooves or other shapes to create an interesting pattern of concentric shapes. Get creative and use a variety of shapes for interest. Make sure the pattern extends to the full length of the centre blank and off the sides of your blanks onto the sacrificial wood at the sides (Photo 3). Once you are happy with your pattern, sand the faces to 320 or 400 grit. Be very careful during sanding that you don't round over and sand away any crisp detail in your decoration. This is also the time to add any texturing to desired areas with a



spiralling tool or chatter tool.

When the first face is complete, unscrew the blanks, then rotate them 90° and remount them with screws to the base plate. You may also need to add new sacrificial wood to the sides as well. Turn a new pattern on the next face. Different patterns on each face add a lot of visual interest in the finished vases. Repeat this 90° rotation / turning / sanding / decorating process for each the remaining faces of the vases.

Design Note:

- If you keep the centre blank always in the centre position, it will always have the centre of the pattern on its faces.
- If you move the positions of the blank (ie. Move the centre one for face 'A' when you rotate them so it is on the left side for face 'B', for example), the individual bud vases will need to be in different positions to recreate the pattern on a given face. This makes the set of vases like a puzzle as when you turn them around, they will need to be re-positioned in order to reassemble the face pattern. This can add a fair bit of both visual and interactive interest to the finished project. However, make sure you do not flip any blanks end-for-end during this rotation or you will end up with some faces that cannot be reassembled into their pattern (as you will have two right sides and no left side for that face, for example).

Completing the Turning

Remove the blanks from the base plate and mount a blank in the chuck in spindle orientation. Bring up the tail stock to provide support (Photo 4). Using a spindle gouge slowly turn the end at the tail stock to round (Photo 5). Speed is your friend here, so run the lathe as fast as you are comfortable to reduce chattering of the tool and give you the smoothest cuts. Take



small cuts to avoid any chip out of details at the square edges of the blanks. Take your time and form a 'pommel' – the bead-like transition from the square body of the vase to the round top.

Once your pommel is formed to your desired shape, form a small rim at the top of the vase (Photo 6). You can sand the rim with the lathe turning, but it is best to turn the lathe off and sand the pommel by hand to avoid rounding over the edges of the pommel where it meets the square section of the vases.



You can form a small round-over of the corners (like the start of a pommel) at the base to give the bottom corners a rounded transition into the base. Or, you can leave them square.

Next, mount a drill (eg. ¼ inch diameter) in a Jacobs chuck in the tail stock and drill a deep hole in the centre of the vase (Photo 7). Remember to turn down the lathe speed for drilling.

Finally, use a narrow parting tool to part off the vase. Cut the vase off at a point that is just clear of your mounting screw holes to ensure a flat smooth base.

Finishing

Do any final sanding that is needed. You can also add embellishments to any of your decorations on the faces such as adding metal leaf, acrylic colours or pyrography.

Finish with the desired finish of your choice. Add a few sprigs of dry flowers or similar and, voila, you are done (Photo 8).



Calendar of Events

Date	Subject	Location
September 18, 2022	Registration Meet-n'-Greet / Various Developments	Lee Valley Tools
October 16, 2022	Dave McLachlan Sanding Tools	Lee Valley Tools
November 20, 2022	Richard Ford "Not Jimmy's Platter"	Lee Valley Tools
December 11, 2022	Xmas Social Food, Talking and stuff	Lee Valley Tools
January 15, 2023	Meeting Cancelled due Winter Storm	-
February 19, 2023	Stephen Zwerling Considerations Raised by the Wood and Matters of Technique and Process.	Lee Valley Tools
March 19, 2023	David McLachlan Photographing your work and a Tool Sale	Lee Valley Tools
April 17, 2023	Kai Muenzer via Zoom "Dented Cube Box"	Your Home via Zoom
May 7, 2023	Competition Drop Off Favourite tools and jigs.	Lee Valley Tools
June 11, 2023	Awards Night and AGM	Lee Valley Tools

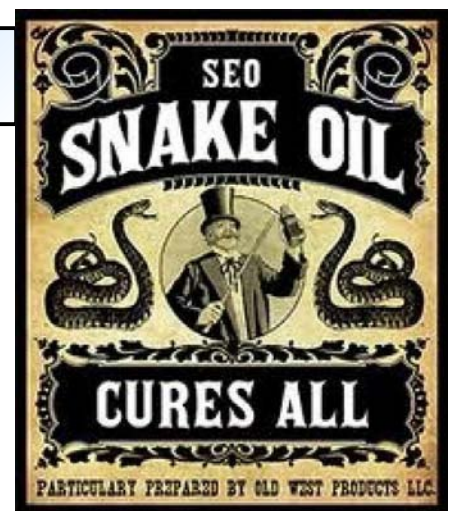
(Third Sunday of the month, 1:00 pm.)

The Raffle Booth

Norm Jolivet / Yogi Gutz

No raffle last month because, if you remember,
we were meeting under Zoom

Maybe this month.



Nova Woodturners' Guild – 2022/23 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 C Yogi Gutz
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.