

The Turning Point

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The next meeting of the Nova Woodturners' Guild
will be held **on-line**, starting at 2:00 PM on Sunday, January 21, 2024.
Both video link URLs will be distributed via email before the meeting.

At the January meeting:
— first, an IRD via Zoom with Jeff Hornung
— second, an NWG on-line meeting via Jitsi
Get your webcam and some recent work ready for the Show and Tell!

The President's Report

Gary Landry

Happy New Year to you all!

We continue to work on our hybrid meeting format. While there are still some 'bugs' in the system it does function pretty well. We have to work on our audio feed from the meeting room to those viewing at home. There is still a timing lag between the audio and video but it is minor, in the range of a second or less. Also, room noise is still affecting the audio from the presenter. We may have to move to a microphone system to fix that particular problem.

All of the above is a segue to announcing that this month we will not be meeting in person. We are in the last stages (payment transfer) for an IRD directly to your home from Jeff Hornung on January 21st. The topic is a square plate with a beaded foot. Some important items to note:

- a. Please log on well in advance of 2 PM (our time) to avoid last minute panics and logjams.
- b. Please ensure you have the latest version of Zoom installed on your device.
- c. Please use your real name in your opening page. Jeff would like to address you properly in response to your questions and comments.
- d. There will be a Guild moderator to pass questions along to Jeff as they come in.
- e. You will log in using a link provided by Jeff. It may come directly from him or from Calum. Keep an eye on your email (including Spam and Junk) in the days before the IRD.
- f. After the IRD is over you are asked to log off that session and immediately log into a virtual meeting using a link to Jitsi's website provided in advance by Calum. We will make announcements and hold a show and tell.

Thank you to all who attended our Christmas Social in December either in person or virtually by video link. I believe that some photos of the event will be in the other pages of this Newsletter. Dave and Don were able to attend virtually and they gave us an update on their medical situations. It was reassuring to see that they are making progress and we all hope to see them in person soon.

Please turn some wood, stay safe and have fun.

Notes from the December Meeting

Calum Ewing

The annual Christmas Social gathering was called to order at 2:00 PM by President Gary Landry with 11 members and 4 guests present in person and 4 members online.

Announcements

- We have been having ongoing problems with the mail forwarding on our HostGator hosting service. **Jim Diamand** and **Richard Ford** continue to work diligently with the HostGator support team to resolve the issues and have made some progress, but we are not out of the woods yet. Please be aware that emails sent to specific executive positions or the whole executive may not be getting through consistently.
- We had a very successful two days of sales at the **Scott Manor House Celebration of Lights** in Bedford. Sales went well on both the Saturday and Sunday with over 600 people attending. Altogether we sold about \$460 of turnings — mostly small items (only two bowls sold) and Christmas ornaments were quite popular. A huge thank you to VP **Bill Maes** for his efforts coordinating things with Scott Manor House.
- The Saturday turning demos at **Lee Valley** have been continuing and wrap up on the 16th. We still need a volunteer to cover the morning slot on the 16th from 10:00 to noon.
- **Dianne Looker** recently took 3rd prize in online voting in a competition hosted by a woodturning supply house. Her entry was the pizza cutter that she showed off at the November meeting and Dianne thanks everyone who took the time to vote for her entry.
- Both **David McLachlan** and **Don Moore** were able to join online and provide updates on their health situations. Both are doing well and improving, hoping to return to meetings soon.

There followed much socializing and merriment with a fantastic spread of contributed snacks, savories and sweets. Thanks to all who attended and contributed.

Raffle Results

The monthly raffle was held for a number of prizes:

Bill Maes	took away a bottle opener kit and wood blank
Kevin Foucault	won a book: Woodturning Wizardry
Joe Crouse	added a book to his library: Woodturning Projects
Charles Neiforth	took home a pepper / salt mill mechanism and a book
Dianne Looker	won some notebooks and packs of pencils

Annual Wreath Raffle

The annual raffle for a wreath with contributed ornaments was held with 14 lovely ornaments decorating the wreath. The raffle was won by **Sue Gutz** and she graciously offered to split the many ornaments with another winner and a second draw was held where **Joe Crouse** collected half the ornaments.

Special Raffle

A special raffle was held for a new carbon fibre tool handle created and donated by **David McLachlan**. At Dave's request every member present at the meeting or online received a complimentary ticket and the draw was won by **Charles Neiforth**.

Annual Ornament Exchange

This annual tradition saw strong participation with many ornaments arriving in paper bags or wrapping for the blind exchange. For each ornament contributed a turner selected another ornament and then each ornament was revealed and discussed.

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Charles Neiforth | contributed a Globe ornament with a Walnut globe and Oak finials (won by Calum Ewing) |
| Ted Monk | provided a small Penguin ornament in Walnut and Maple (won by Charles Neiforth) |
| Louise Plourde | turned a Tree ornament in live edge Wisteria wood (won by Ted Monk) |
| Ted Monk | turned a Penguin ornament in Walnut and Maple (won by Louise Plourde) |
| Bob Earle | contributed a Bell ornament in Maple (won by Ted Monk) |
| Calum Ewing | provided a Jellyfish ornament in Maple with tentacles of garland and fuzzy yarn (won by Bob Earle) |
| Gary Landry | turned three Snowman icicle ornaments in Maple — from a reject baseball bat handle (won by Kevin Foucault) |
| Ted Monk | turned a Globe ornament in Maple and Walnut decorated with pyrography snowflakes and with a dried bean from his garden inside to make to rattle (won by Gary Landry) |
| Joe Crouse | turned a Globe ornament with finials in Purpleheart and Maple. The arrangement of the wood colours represents the Canadian Military Engineers' flag (won by Ted Monk) |
| Bob Earle | contributed a painted Snowman ornament in Maple with acrylic paints (won by Joe Crouse) |

Mark Hazen provided a Tree ornament in various woods — using several offcuts (won by **Norm Jolivet**)

Bill Maes contributed a Bell ornament with working clapper in Maple (won by **Mark Hazen**)

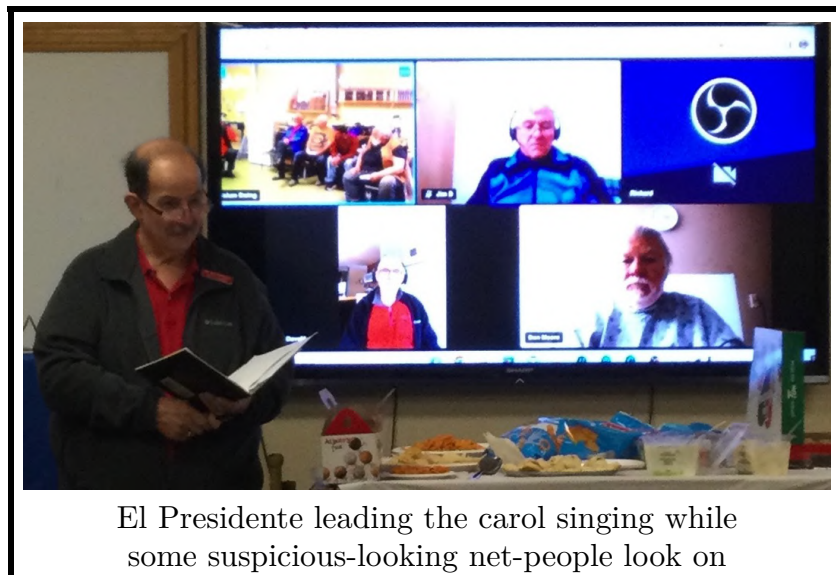
Mark Hazen contributed at Tree ornament made from several offcuts of different woods (won by **Bill Maes**)

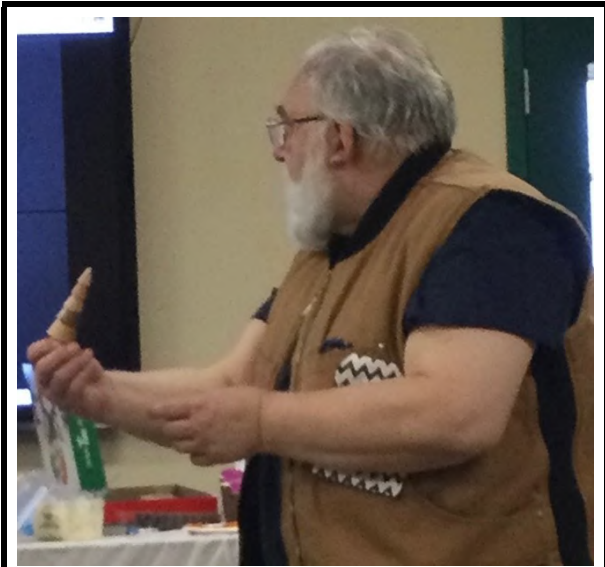
Norm Jolivet contributed a Droplet ornament made from two pen blanks by laminating scales of one blank onto the four sides of the other (won by **Mark Hazen**)

Norm Jolivet turned a Droplet ornament in Maple and Walnut with dyed Maple veneer between the woods (won by **Norm Jolivet**)

The meeting wrapped up at 3:30 PM after more social banter and munching.

Here is a random selection of the many photos taken at the meeting.





Curious artifact #1



Curious artifact #2



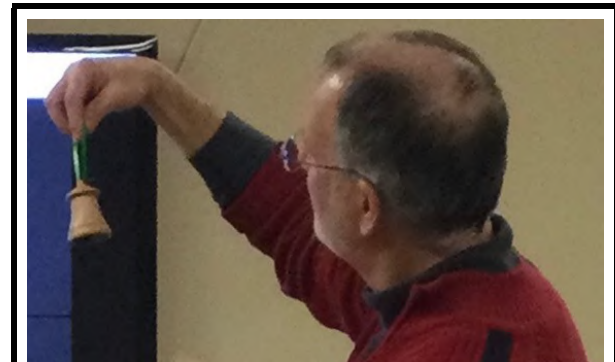
Curious artifact #3



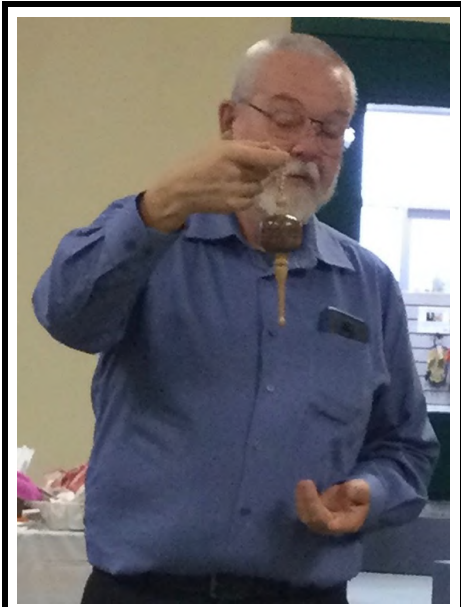
Curious artifacts #4 and #5



Not sure what this is...



...but this one rings a bell



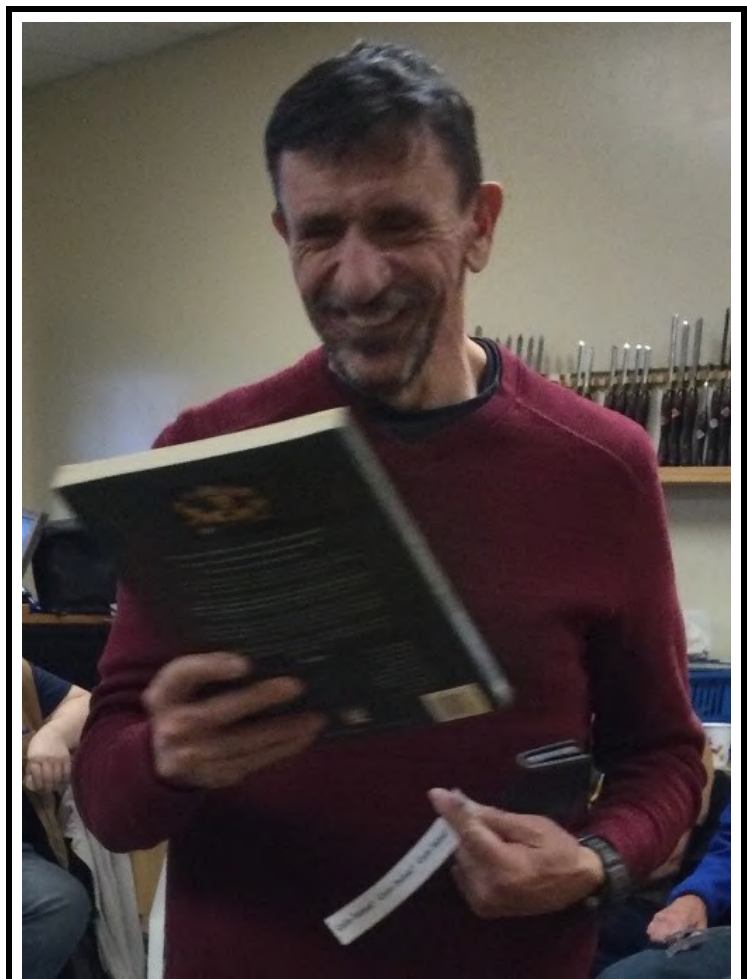
Curious artifact #6



...and its reverse-video version



Making off with some raffle booty



Some funnier raffle booty



A handle waiting for some suitable HSS



Got the munchies?



Annual NWG tug-o-war



Whoever controls the bucket controls the raffle!



An intense woodturning discussion



Much less intense discussion



A workbench so clean that you could eat off of it; only at LV!

MT2 dead center — An integral drive center for fine spindle work

David McLachlan

One very useful item for our lathe is a Morse Taper 60° dead center to be used in your headstock as a drive center. To the right is shown a very nice MT2 drive center with a substantial carbide 60° point. These can be quite cheap additions for the lathe. This particular one is from Amazon for \$15: <https://a.co/d/2FPBNQa>.

In use for pen turners it allows you to mount your bushings between centers as a friction drive to turn pen blanks. Some pen blank bushings such as the Beaufort pen kit bushings actually have 60° tapers machined into the bushings so they can be used between a 60° drive center like this one and a 60° live center. (See the photo below to show how the centers are arranged on the lathe.) If your current bushings don't already have a 60° recess in the ends you can add this using a machinist's 60° counter sink. The Taig Lathe is perfect for putting a true center on your pen bushings.



Using a Morse taper center is especially useful for single barrel pens. The alignment of the drive center and the live center means that the pen blank bushing is perfectly centered and you don't have to worry about an over pressured mandrel shaft bending and offsetting the pen blank. For those bushings that you may have that do not have the 60° recesses in the ends can have them added easily on your existing bushings using a Taig lathe with a collet chuck to center the bushing and a 60° machinist's countersink, taking a 3 mm deep counter bore on the end of the bushing.

Once you try this method I am sure you will find it most useful as a spindle drive system. For small spindle work I find myself using a 60° center drill to mark the centers of the spindle and turn between these 60° center recesses; it is often an easier method of holding the work than using a stub center or spur drive and has the advantage of being a friction slip drive so that if you have a catch it won't be as serious as it might have been with a spur drive.

The other advantage of having one of these centers is ensuring that your headstock and tailstock are perfectly aligned by bringing the two points together, if the points are perfectly aligned then you are golden. Small variations between the points can often be made by adjusting either the tailstock or head stock. On my own Nova 3000 lathe I found that I had to shim up the tailstock a small amount to get perfect alignment and ensure that boring operations ran true.

This is one of the cheapest additions you can make to your lathe, and one you will never regret.



DaveM's Fireside Chat

David McLachlan

Well we are entering a new year and I hope that you are making future woodturning plans and maybe have some New Year's Resolutions with turning in mind. I certainly have been giving it some thought over the holidays. This year I have to get into some production work making my carbon fiber handles, 50 units at a crack. To this end I have to streamline the processes to turn the end caps and have them all identical. I am well on my way to getting this going with several lathe additions in the works, which I hope to share with you in the coming months.

But first I would like to share a memory from the past, it was from the mid-70's. Every year in the spring I would spend about a month helping a trapper on his 500 square mile trap-line to finish out his trapping season. As a student of Biology I considered it part of the learning experience being out in the wilds of Northwestern Ontario with someone who lived the life in the wilds and had so much practical knowledge. Now what does this have to do with turning you might ask. Well, while I was living with the trapper's family an acquaintance of his was building a new home and had the need of some architectural newel posts for a staircase. Three in fact, one of which would be cut in half and be mounted on the wall and one at the top and bottom of the staircase. I said I could do it but I needed access to a long bed lathe. He eventually found someone who had a wooden lathe that had once been part of a commercial operation back in the 1930's; it was driven by a 2" leather belt that got it's power from an overhead jackshaft. The lathe only had 3 speeds and the speeds were changed by sliding the leather belt over wooden hubs of different sizes on the jackshaft and at the lathe. (No small feat as you had to slacken off the belt and use a long pole to move the belt to a different size hub on the jackshaft.) This situation had been replicated in someone's shop with an overhead electric motor and was where I spent a few afternoons and evenings turning the newel posts. This was of particular interest to me as I longed to have a water-powered woodworking shop with just such a jackshaft running through the building to power the tools. (The dreams of youth!) Anyway, the project proceeded well and in the end I made the three identical newel posts from laminated white pine. The biggest challenge was the lack of good gouges and skewes... all of the tools were just carbon steel and needed to be sharpened often, which was done free hand on a stationary belt sander. The experience though encouraged me to think more about that off the grid workshop, which never got built because I moved from the north to further my education. Eventually I ended up working in a federal government laboratory for my working career and that off-the-grid workshop dream, was just that, a dream!

Back to present day reality. As I have mentioned to some of you, I have a woodworking retailer who is interested in carrying my carbon fiber tool handles, so I have to get busy and be ready to produce them in quantity. I have been thinking about this for sometime and have tried several iterations for making the wooden end caps. Finally over the holidays I came up with a brilliant plan, which I will put into action.

I had long ago decided that the best way to proceed with the end cap was to use a 60° drive center in the headstock and use an aluminum plug with a recessed 60° socket for the live center to engage. The aluminum plug was made to fit snugly in the socket bolt head recess in the end of the blank; see Figure 1. It worked okay but the aluminum plug meant that I had to be extremely careful with the rounding off

process so that I didn't hit it with the gouge. It also didn't lend itself well to a radius cutting tool post arrangement, as there was no clearance at the plug and the bolt recess shoulder on the blank. (This can be seen in Figure 2 of the roughed out end cap (center-left), where there is a small flat section beside the socket hole.) It occurred to me that I could overcome this if I had a 6 mm shaft with a small stop integrated in it that could plug into the socket head hole. It also occurred to me that I could integrate this into the OneWay live center as it has a tapered socket I could utilize to hold this shaft.

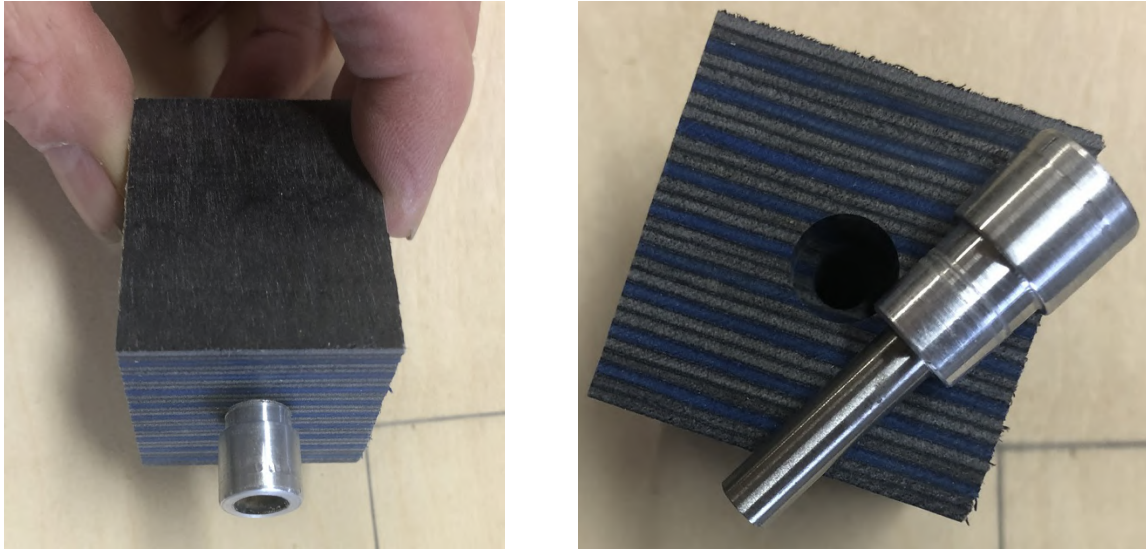


Figure 1 The original aluminum plug.

I went down to my friend, who has a fantastically equipped machine shop, and asked him if he could make me this fixture for my OneWay live center, and together we made one up in 316 stainless steel. The finished shaft can be seen in Figure 2.



Figure 2 In the lower left you can see the tapered adapter/6 mm shaft we machined to fit in the tapered end of the OneWay live center. The stop was machined into the shaft and is a perfect fit in the socket head recess cut into each blank (top center). In the lower-right you can see the replaceable 60° center from the OneWay live center. Center-left shows the roughed out end cap with the M6 socket head bolt inserted in the blank part way. Top center shows the bored rough blank, ready for roughing out.



Figure 3 Shows how the shaft fits into the socket recess and 6 mm bolt shaft hole. This allows the radius-cutting tool to make a completely smooth cut right up to the socket recess. The blank here is bubinga, I work on 50 of these at a time.

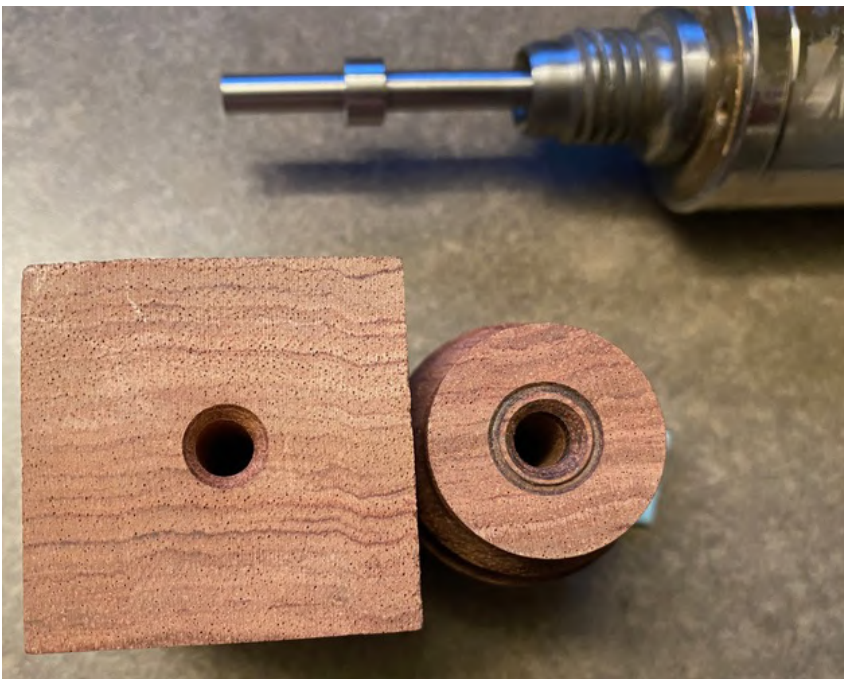


Figure 4 Shows how the shaft fits into the OneWay live center and the 60° recess at the drive center end of the blank at the 6 mm bolt shaft hole. This allows the blank to be mounted on the lathe in perfect alignment every time for multiple operations on a 60° friction drive center.



Figure 5 Shows how the shaft mounts on the lathe onto the OneWay live center and the 60° drive center. One only has to mount the blank on the shaft and advance the tailstock hand crank to engage the blank to the headstock.



Figure 6 The square blank has been roughed down with a roughing gouge and skew to within a few millimeters of its final dimension and is ready to be taken off. Fifty of these will be rough turned and replaced on the lathe at a later time when a mechanical stage has been installed on the lathe to do the final dimensional cuts for the shoulders and radius.



Figure 7 Once the end cap is roughed out one only needs to back off the tailstock hand crank and slip off the completed piece. Then replace it with a new blank ready for turning. There is no need to adjust the tail stock position on the lathe bed.

With this set up it is possible to always have the drive shaft and the tailstock shaft in perfect alignment and the blank change over takes only seconds. This same set up will also facilitate the use of the mechanical stage on the lathe, which I will describe next month. . . The whole idea of these setups is to facilitate accurate repositioning of the work piece on the lathe multiple times to complete the many steps involved in the end-cap production. I hope you found this an interesting exercise in work holding for production work.

Turn It or Burn It

Richard Ford

(Editor's note: The main presentation scheduled for February's meeting has a very similar title to that of this article, but (as I understand it) the meaning of "burn" is completely different.)

This year I made a change from my usual turned family Christmas gifts: I bought a Creality Falcon 2 engraver about 10 months ago and have been learning how to run it, using Lightburn. I had been using a small cantilever Ortur Laser for a few years to identify my turnings (name, date, material, etc. on the bottom). But I wanted to do more. I especially wanted to be able to cut 1/4" wood and make finger joint boxes. The Falcon 2 has a 20 watt laser and lets me do that.

So this Christmas I made eight personalized decorated boxes for daughters and grandkids. The boxes are for the recipe cards my wife has gathered over the years. Making the boxes turned out to be the easy part, the personalisation a bit more work, but making 8 sets of 69 laminated recipe cards turned out to be a much bigger job. I bought a guillotine in the end after I got blisters on my thumb from using scissors. when you calculate it, there are a minimum of 8,840 cuts needed. Wow, it took over a month to make the cards. Well it kept me out of trouble apart from me cluttering up the dining room table, and I learned a bunch more about my laser. I also made a few Jewelry boxes along the way. Here are a few photos of some of the boxes.

What next: my youngest granddaughter has some interest in making earrings and I want to try using hardwood for my boxes and also try some inlay designs with different woods. Now there are also rims of platters and bowls to consider . . .







Well, you get the idea...

Cover Photo



This year's annual raffle wreath. See Calum's meeting notes for a bit more information.

Photo Credits

Normally our intrepid Guild photographer Chris Palmer takes the photos at the meeting. This month Chris was unable to make the meeting, and a number of people contributed photos. Thanks to everyone who submitted one or more photos.

Nova Woodturners' Guild — 2023/24 Executive

All members of the executive, as well as committee chairs, can be reached by using the email address associated with that position. That is, a note sent to (for example) the president will go to who ever is president at that time. The following <address>es should be followed by @novawoodturnersguild.com to send mail to the person holding that position.

A 'C' after a committee member's name indicates they are chair of the committee.

Position	<address>	Incumbent(s)	
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	vacant	
 Committees			
Library	library	Jim Diamond Richard Ford	C
Web Site	webmaster	Richard Ford	C
Membership & Promotion	membership	vacant	
Newsletter	newsletter (or) news	Jim Diamond	C
Competition	competition	vacant	
Guild Photographer	photographer (or) photos	Chris Palmer	C
Fund Raising	raffles	vacant	C
Members Group	members	members	

The [members](#) address forwards the email to all members who have signed up to be on the [members list](#). To add or remove yourself from the [members](#) list, email webmaster@novawoodturnersguild.com.

If you wish to send an email to **all** current members of the NWG, send your message to secretary@novawoodturnersguild.com with a request to forward your email to all members.