

## The Turning Point

### In this issue:

President's Report	2
March Meeting Notes	3
DaveM's Fireside Chat	7
Branching Out	11
User Report: the Beall Buffing System	12
The Electrical Corner	13
Cover Photo	14
Photo Credits	14
Guild Executive	15



The next meeting of the Nova Woodturners' Guild  
will be held at Lee Valley Tools, 150 Susie Lake Crescent, Halifax  
Sunday, April 21, 2024 at 2:00 PM

At the April meeting:  
⇒ "Turning an Elaborate Finial"  
⇒ Bring in your recent work for show & tell

## The President's Report

Gary Landry

Happy Spring.

Last month's seminar by Dave McLaclan was remarkable. The planning and execution of the jigs and tooling required to turn out 'wave' bowls had to require an extensive amount of work. It was obvious that all that work was worth it when we saw the final products. I must thank Dave for taking on this task and spending the time to document the process so well. I have seen some of Dave's production since the demo and I am envious. I would expect that Dave will be showing some of his recent work to us in this very newsletter. Well done.

This month we will meet on Sunday, April 21st. Doors open at 1:30 PM with the meeting going from 2 PM to 4 PM. We will have a demo by our Leo Westhaver. The title of his demo is "Turning an Elaborate Finial". Past members will have seen some Leo's competition pieces that had very detailed and delicate finials on top. Our intrepid video team of Dave McLachlan and Richard Ford went to Leo's shop to record the process. This video will be presented at our meeting and Leo will be on hand to field questions and discuss the steps in person. This is bound to be a don't-miss event. Bring your latest work for Show and Tell and some loonies for the raffle.

I need to once again mention this year's Annual Turning Competition. Now would not be too early for you to begin the process of turning your entries. Just keep in mind that the results, trophies and prizes will be announced at our meeting on June 9th. At the risk of being redundant I will repeat the info on drop off times for competition pieces. There will be four specific times for you to drop off your competition pieces in May, all at Lee Valley. The first will be here at our monthly meeting on May 5th. After that pieces can be dropped off here in the seminar room on Saturday, May 25th, from 10 AM to 1 PM, on Sunday, May 26th from noon to 3 PM and on Friday, May 31st from noon to 3 PM. At least one of the Executive will be there to meet you.

Lee Valley Halifax held a "Power Tools Event" on April 4th and 5th and our members volunteered to demonstrate woodturning using Lee Valley's Rikon lathes. I have gotten reports a good amount of interest in woodturning and our Guild was received from customers during the demos. In fact Dave McLachlan tells me he thinks he 'sold' a Rikon lathe to one customer. Many thanks to those members who stepped up to volunteer.

Please turn some wood, stay safe and have fun.

# Notes from the March Meeting

Calum Ewing

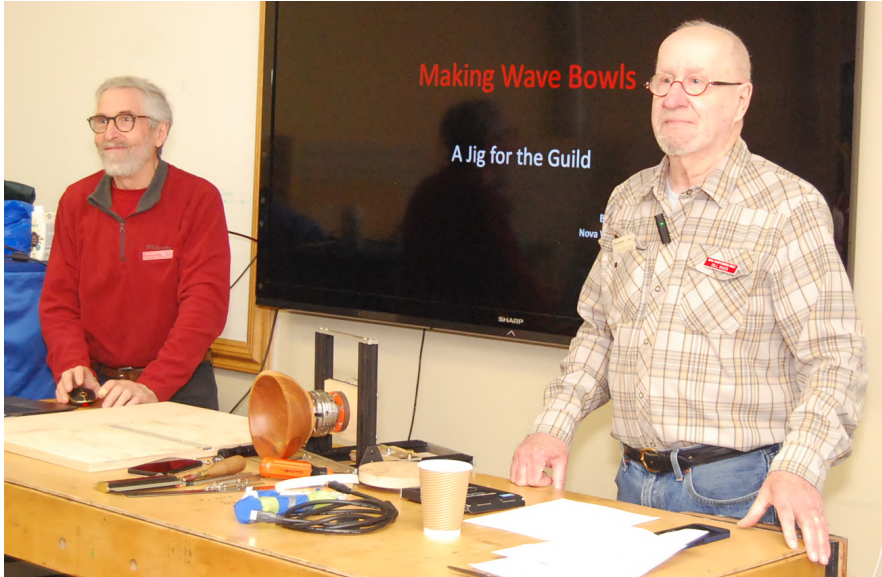
Meeting called to order by Vice-President Bill Maes at 2:05 PM with 17 members present (in person) and 6 members connected on the Jitsi platform (online participation).

## Announcements:

- Planning for the Annual Turning Competition is underway:
  - Need to make sure that we get plenty of competitors. It is not a great experience if only a few turners compete.
  - Last year over \$3000 in prizes were awarded.
  - Entries can be dropped off in the Seminar Room at Lee Valley:
    - May 5th at the regular Guild meeting;
    - Saturday May 25th — 10:00–1:00 PM;
    - Sunday May 26th — noon–3:00 PM;
    - Friday May 31st — noon–3:00 PM (last day to drop off entries).
  - Working to recruit judges.
  - There will be turning demonstrations at Lee Valley during the competition display. Watch emails for a call for volunteers to demo turning and promote the Guild.
  - The Warman Castle Trophy (People's Choice Award) has not been awarded for the past few years due to pandemic restrictions. We still need to consider how voting can be done safely. We will need to have a decent number of entries to make the peoples choice voting worthwhile.
- We are still experiencing problems with the emails sent to Executive members and the 'members' email list. The problem appears to be with Gmail addresses only, in that Gmail is sometimes putting such messages into “All mail” rather than “Inbox”. Jim Diamond says to check your “All Mail” every now and then to look for unread messages, and that it is unclear how to convince Gmail to not do this.
- Lee Valley hosting a two-day Power Tool event and has asked for volunteers from the Guild to demonstrate turning on one of the Rikon lathes. This will be April 5th and 6th and we are looking for volunteers to staff two hour shifts 10:00 AM–noon and 1:00–3:00 PM. Watch emails for more information and sign-ups to demonstrate.
- Upcoming meeting topics:
  - April: Leo Westhaver — Turning Elaborate Finials (pre-recorded demo); Leo will be in attendance for discussion.
- Yogi Gutz has brought in a number of issues of American Woodturner magazine that are free for the taking by anyone interested.

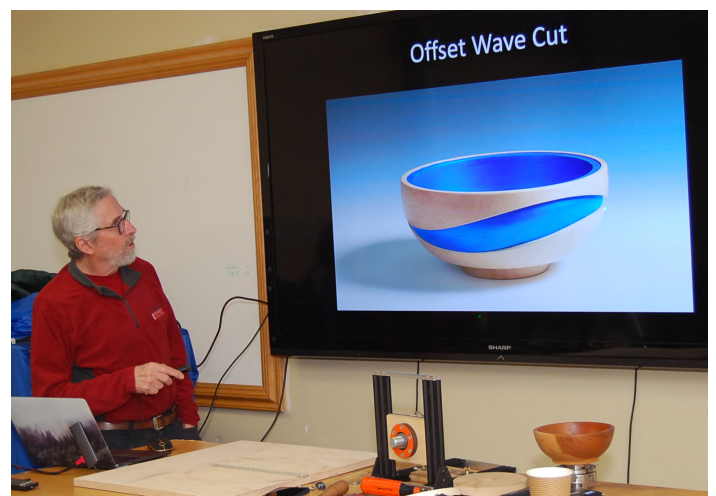
## Main Presentation:

The main presentation was a presentation on Turning a 'Wave' Bowl by Dave McLachlan. Dave covered various types of 'wave' bowls and how they are made. He has also made a robust jig to assist with the making of these interesting bowls.



### What is a 'Wave' Bowl?:

- A 'wave' bowl is simply a segmented bowl made with one or more concentric 'rings' cut from the blank on a radius to produce a continuous wave around the bowl.
- John Beaver (California) and one of his students, John Vaeth, are considered the current masters of this style of turning.
- Dave showed a wide range of photographs of wave bowls, that included:
  - bowls with waves proud of the surface
  - bowls with multiple waves
  - bowls with recessed waves
  - a number of bowls with dyes or decorated (e.g., painted) waves or waves in contrasting woods
  - bowls with offset waves (cuts rotated to create sense of motion)



- A rounded, 'bellied' shape for the bowl is best as it accentuates the wave shape effect better than some other profiles.
- By creating a recessed wave, and a small groove around the rim edge, you can create the illusion of a bowl sitting within a bowl, especially if the bowl interior is dyed or coloured.
- Very interesting effects can be created by combining different parts of two different bowls (e.g., different species, turning embellishments, decoration, etc.).
- Wave bowls are typically in the 5 to 8 inch diameter range.

#### **Preparing the bowl for making 'waves':**

- Start off by turning a thick-walled, rounded bowl where the sides curve back in as they come towards the rim. Walls are typically  $\frac{3}{4}$  to 1 inch thick. Native woods often work best (e.g., Maple, Birch, Cherry, etc.).
- The wall thickness needs to be fairly thick at this stage to allow recessing the bowl or the wave. Consistent wall thickness is very important.
- Create 'indexing' blocks (usually MDF) that fit precisely on the inside of the bowl. Each needs to have a  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch hole drilled through the centre vertically. These are then glued into the bowl interior on opposite sides with hot melt glue — glue securely.

#### **Creating the 'wave':**

- Remove the chuck from the lathe with bowl attached. Mount chuck / bowl combo in cutting jig. Set the jig pivot point to get desired radius of cut.
- Mount the jig on the band saw positioned so that front edge of blade teeth are just touching centre line of jig.
- Make first cut through the bowl being careful to catch the segment cut-off before it falls.
- Adjust position of the jig towards the blade by the desired amount and make the second cut.
- Make the same two cuts in a block of scrap wood to create a 'spacer' block (or 'waste rings') that will hold the segments apart the correct distance.
- Glue the bowl segments back together using the scrap piece as a filler replacing the 'wave' segment. Gluing is done on the lathe, using the tail-stock to provide desired clamping pressure.
- Insert a  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch dowel into each indexing block to get the segments correctly aligned.
- To create a protruding wave, turn down the bowl to the desired protrusion. To create a recessed wave, turn down the scrap block with the wave glued in it.
- To ensure that the bowl profile is maintained while it is being reduced in size, drill a series of holes into the bowl from rim to foot using a small drill bit with a stop collar on it (or drilled out dowel) to keep depth of holes consistent. Then the bowl is turned down until all of the holes just disappear.
- Take the bowl apart and reinsert the 'wave' segment, then glue all parts back together.
- To create offset waves, rotate the bowl slightly between cuts when cutting the 'wave' segment.

## Show & Tell

**Dave McLachlin** showed off a small one-handed skew with a carbon fibre handle, for fine turning (e.g., finials) so the other hand can be used to support the work piece.

and displayed a small 'universal' handle in carbon fibre with a small collet holder in the end allowing small gouges or custom tools profiles to be held in as a one-handed tool.



**Raffle Results:** No raffle was held this month.

The meeting wrapped up at 4:05 PM.

## DaveM's Fireside Chat

David McLachlan

I thought this month I would talk about the presentation I gave last month with a bit of follow up. First of all I would like to thank everyone who showed up last month for the presentation . . . it was so great to see so many show up. I hope it gave you an idea of what was possible to accomplish with a wave bowl jig and introduce you to the new jig that all Guild members will have access to.

The presentation was meant to be an introduction to the concept of wave bowls, and I will admit it isn't sometimes all that evident how you get to these finished pieces. The concept of a wave bowl is to cut a series of arcs from a bowl and replace them after either reducing the diameter of the bowl or the arc section.

The first video here (*right*) shows the attachment of the bowl to the jig with the jig on the bandsaw table and the cutting of the first arc. Things to note are the indexing blocks that are hot melt glued in place. The first arc was cut  $\frac{3}{4}$ " from the rim of the bowl to the apex of the arc. The bowl is swung through the bandsaw blade to remove the top section of the bowl. The end of the video shows the cross section of this section. (*If your PDF reader can't display the video, and/or you would like to see a much larger version, click [here](#).*)

Click here if you don't see a video player. If you still don't see a video after clicking, you will have to use the "here" link in the text.

**Woodworking machinery can cause serious injury.** *Always read and understand the user manuals for all equipment used. Remember dust, fumes, liquids, sharp or heavy moving equipment can be deadly. Always wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE). Any omission of PPE during these presentations is to aid communication and is not an endorsement of the practice. The Nova Woodturners' Guild (NWG), its authors, presenters and producers assume no responsibility or liability for accidents or damages resulting from the information conveyed within this presentation. Only you can keep yourself safe. Please do. **If you are unsure don't do it...***

The second video (*left*) shows the cutting of the wave band which is  $\frac{1}{4}$ " thick; the end of the video shows the profile of the wave. (A larger version of the second video can be found [here](#).)

Click here if you don't see a video player. If you still don't see a video after clicking, you will have to use the "here" link in the text.

Once the bowl is cut we mount it back onto the lathe with a sheet of 1/4" thick foam core, Photo 1.

A series of small holes are drilled into the body of the bowl using a stopped 3mm drill bit. The index pins are inserted into the index blocks to keep the alignment of the two sections of the bowl, and the whole unit is held together with a MDF backing plate retained by the tailstock. Photo 2 shows the bowl turned down to the bottoms of the 3mm drill holes.



**Photo 1:** Back on the lathe with 1/4" foam-core.



**Photo 2:** Bowl turned down 3mm.

The bowl then has the outside sanded and an initial coat of Tried & True finish applied. Photo 3 shows the bowl put together loosely with the protruding wave in place. The exposed edge of the wave has been hand sanded.



**Photo 3:** Sanded bowl lightly held together.



Before gluing up the bowl the wave was dyed a burgundy colour. The glue up was done on the lathe with pressure from the tailstock against an MDF backing plate. Once the bowl was glued up then it was time to remove the index pins, which was done with a small M3 tap, Photo 4, and the index blocks removed with an adjustable wrench, Photo 5.



**Photo 4:** Extracting the pins.



**Photo 5:** Removing the index blocks.

The bowl is mounted back on the lathe and the interior profile reduced to its final size. Photos 6 & 7 show the completed profile of the wave bowl and the inside of the bowl.



**Photo 6:** Completed bowl outside.



**Photo 7:** Completed bowl inside.

## Branching Out

Lynn-Marie Richard

Recently I was given some apple, cherry and pear branches from my uncle's fruit trees. I decided to have some fun turning them into bird house tree ornaments. A couple of the tops were made with cedar.



## User Report: the Beall Buffing System

Bill Maes

I just finished using the Beall Buffing System for the first time and was truly impressed by the results on a couple of pepper mills I had turned previously. The shine turned out to be a high gloss which unfortunately is not fully captured in the picture.

The system, specifically for the lathe, uses three differently-constituted cotton/flannel wheels and three different compounds: Tripoli, white diamond, and carnuba wax, each used in succession. It has an M2 taper at one end and works much like a mandrel for pen turners (except it's  $\frac{3}{4}$ " in diameter). Other systems and wheel sizes are available from Beall using only one interchangeable wheel at a time and are therefore less expensive.

Give it a try. You will be impressed!

*Editor's note: if you do a web search for "Beall buffing system instructions" you will get links to lots of videos demonstrating the system as well as web pages with written instructions.*



## The Electrical Corner

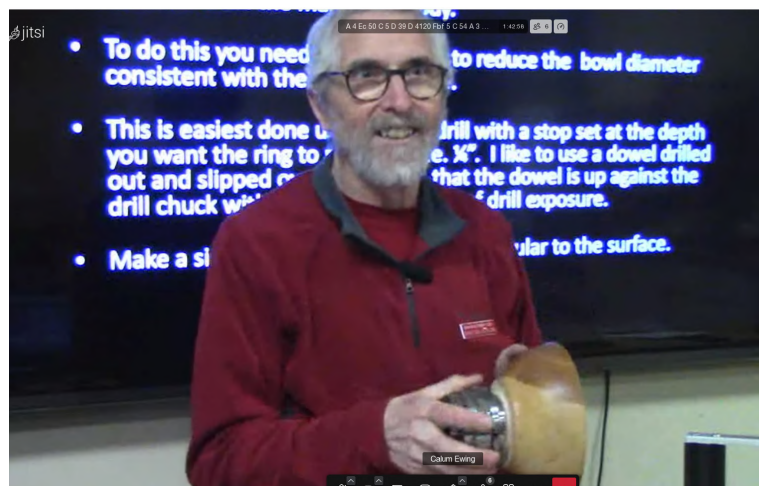
Jim Diamond

(This month's topic hasn't got much to do with electricity, other than the fact that it uses electricity.)

For a variety of reasons it may not always be convenient to come to a meeting in person, as nice as an in-person appearance is. As you have probably already heard (unless you are a brand-new member or a not-quite-yet member), we have been “broadcasting” our meetings over the internet using the “Jitsi” software (which is just a program that runs in your web browser, so no program download and installation is needed). And kudos to Lee Valley for letting us use their internet service!

If, for any reason, you would like to join the meeting using Jitsi, and you aren't familiar with Jitsi, look at the Hints/Tips tab of our web site ([www.novawoodturnersguild.com](http://www.novawoodturnersguild.com)) and you should find a document called “Some Notes on Using Jitsi”. This document describes how to use Jitsi and should get you up and running in five or ten minutes.

Here are a couple of screen captures from last month's meeting. There is also a chat box available, but I cropped it out in case any chatters didn't want their words permanently recorded. In the lower shot I retained the column of attendees on the right side.



## Cover Photo

Jim Diamond



Sometimes while walking in Shubie Park, I look up to see what burls are hanging around waiting to be turned. But one day in March I looked down and saw a lot more burl sitting on the ground than anything I've seen higher up in the trees. I can't decide whether it looks more like the tree is melting downwards into a pool of burl or whether it looks like Jabba the Hutt has a tree stuck in his head.

## Photo Credits

Thanks to Chris Palmer for the photos from last month's meeting. The photos in the contributed articles were (as far as the newsletter editor knows!) all taken by the respective authors.

## 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 whomever is president at that time. The following <address>es should be followed by [@novawoodturnersguild.com](mailto:@novawoodturnersguild.com) to send mail to the person holding that position.

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

Position	<address>	Incumbent(s)	
<b>Executive</b>	<a href="#">executive</a> (sends the message to all executive positions on the list)		
<b>President</b>	<a href="#">president</a> (or) <a href="#">pres</a>	Gary Landry	
<b>Vice President</b>	<a href="#">vice-president</a> (or) <a href="#">vp</a>	Bill Maes	
<b>Secretary</b>	<a href="#">secretary</a>	Calum Ewing	
<b>Treasurer</b>	<a href="#">treasurer</a>	Dave McLachlan	
<b>Director at Large</b>	<a href="#">director-at-large</a>	vacant	
 <b>Committees</b>			
<b>Library</b>	<a href="#">library</a>	Jim Diamond Richard Ford	C
<b>Web Site</b>	<a href="#">webmaster</a>	Richard Ford	C
<b>Membership &amp; Promotion</b>	<a href="#">membership</a>	vacant	
<b>Newsletter</b>	<a href="#">newsletter</a> (or) <a href="#">news</a>	Jim Diamond	C
<b>Competition</b>	<a href="#">competition</a>	vacant	
<b>Guild Photographer</b>	<a href="#">photographer</a> (or) <a href="#">photos</a>	Chris Palmer	C
<b>Fund Raising</b>	<a href="#">raffles</a>	vacant	C
<b>Members Group</b>	<a href="#">members</a>	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](mailto:webmaster@novawoodturnersguild.com).

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