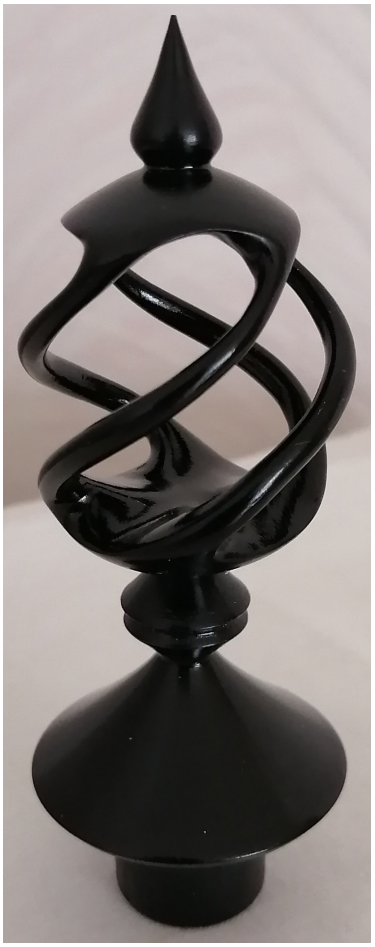
The Journal of the Nova Woodturners' Guild

Volume 28 Issue 9
May 2024

The Turning Point

In this issue:



The next meeting of the Nova Woodturners' Guild
will be held **in-person only** (sorry!) at Lee Valley Tools
starting at 2:00 PM on Sunday, May 5, 2024.

At the May meeting:
$\Longrightarrow$ "Using a laser engraver on woodturnings"
$\Longrightarrow$ Bring in your recent work for show & tell

The President's Report

Gary Landry

Hello all.

Well, our next meeting is only two weeks since our last one so there is little new for me to discuss here. However there are some points of note so here I go.

Leo Westhaver's demo on turning an elaborate finial was great! Such an artistic item resulting from a sophisticated method! Leo did himself proud. I am not only envious of his talent but also of his patience to carryout all those steps to achieve the end result. Well done.

This month's demo is to be given by Steve Gutz. The title is "Using a Laser Engraver on Woodturnings". Steve's donation of a laser engraver to the Guild to be used in a fund raising auction garnered a lot of discussion on how they are used specifically in woodturning. The round surfaces natural to woodturnings raise questions about the techniques involved and the equipment needed. Steve will enlighten us.

One complication has arisen in relation to Steve's demo. It appears that our experts in broadcasting to your houses via Jitsi are not available for that Sunday due to family commitments that were unseen when this demo was scheduled. So please consider this as advice to attend in person if this is a topic you really want to learn about.

As usual our meeting on the 5th will open at 1:30 PM with the meeting going from 2 PM to 4 PM. We will have some opening remarks followed by Steve's demo on lasers followed by a Q&A session. After that we will have Show and Tell followed by a raffle.

PLEASE REMEMBER: This meeting is the first opportunity for you to drop off your competition pieces. After this you only can drop off pieces 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 here to meet you.

Our June meeting is at LV on Sunday, June 9th. The results of the competition will be announced and prizes/trophies given out. This will be followed by the Annual General Meeting. Keep the date open!

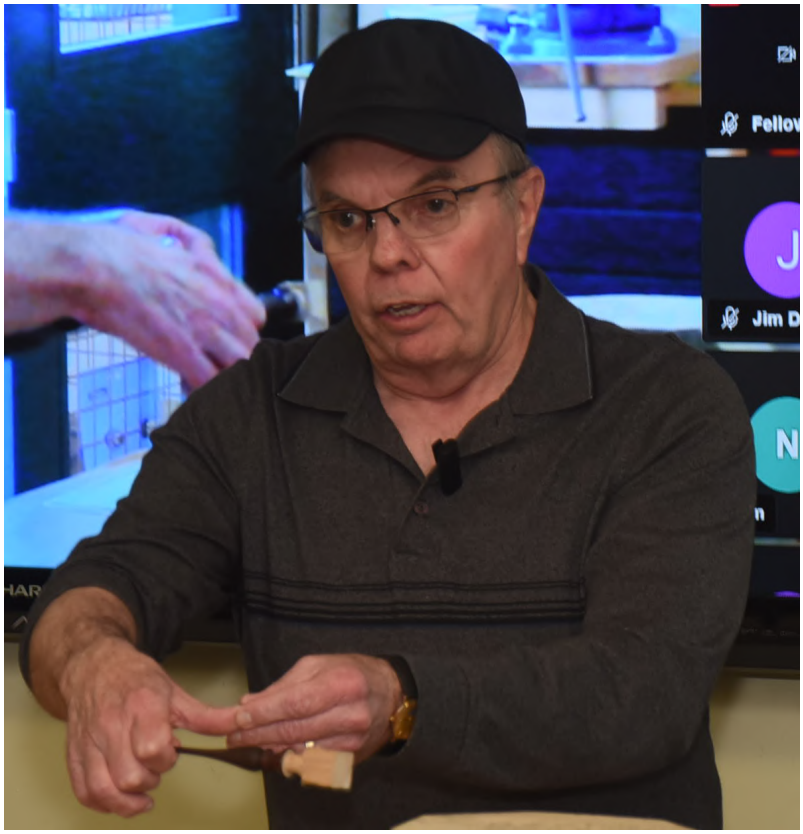
Please turn some wood, stay safe and have fun.

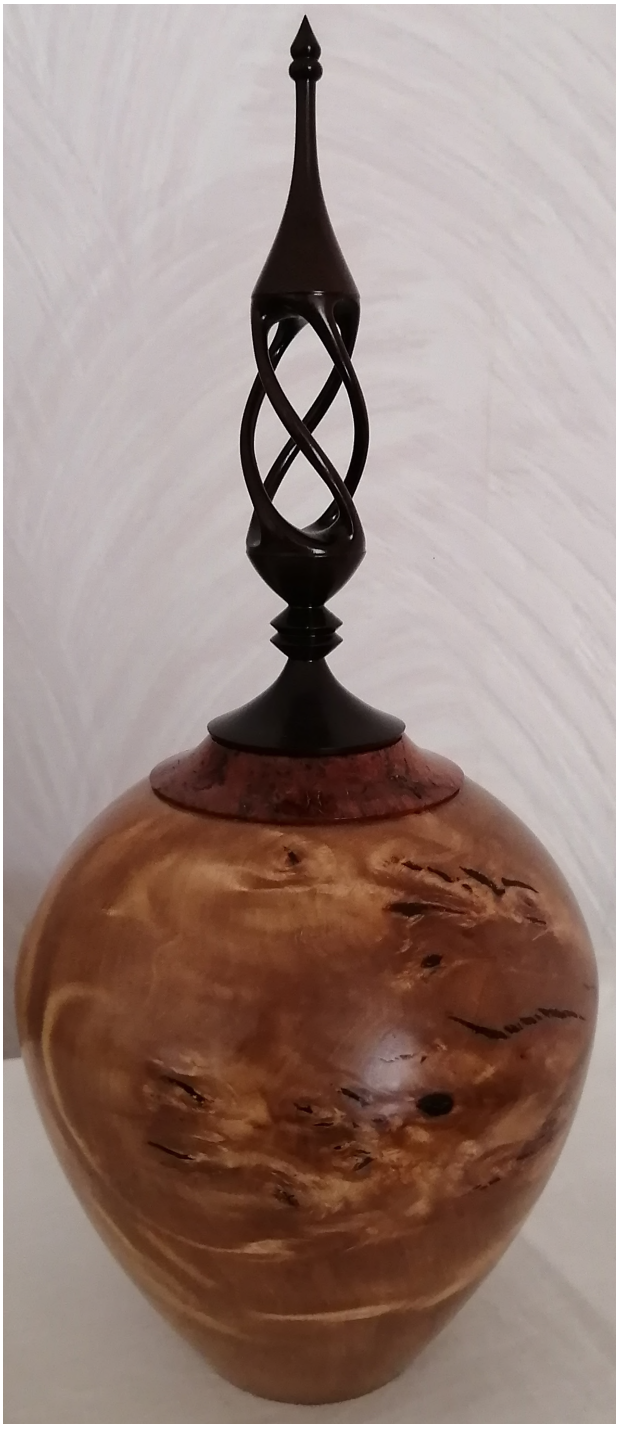
Non-Notes from the April Meeting

Jim Diamond

Due to an unanticipated scheduling conflict, the notes from the last meeting were not available in time for the newsletter this month. We plan to publish these notes in the June newsletter.

In the interim, as a brief reminder of April's main topic, here is a photo of Leo answering a question as well as a photo of one of his finials topping a hollow form.





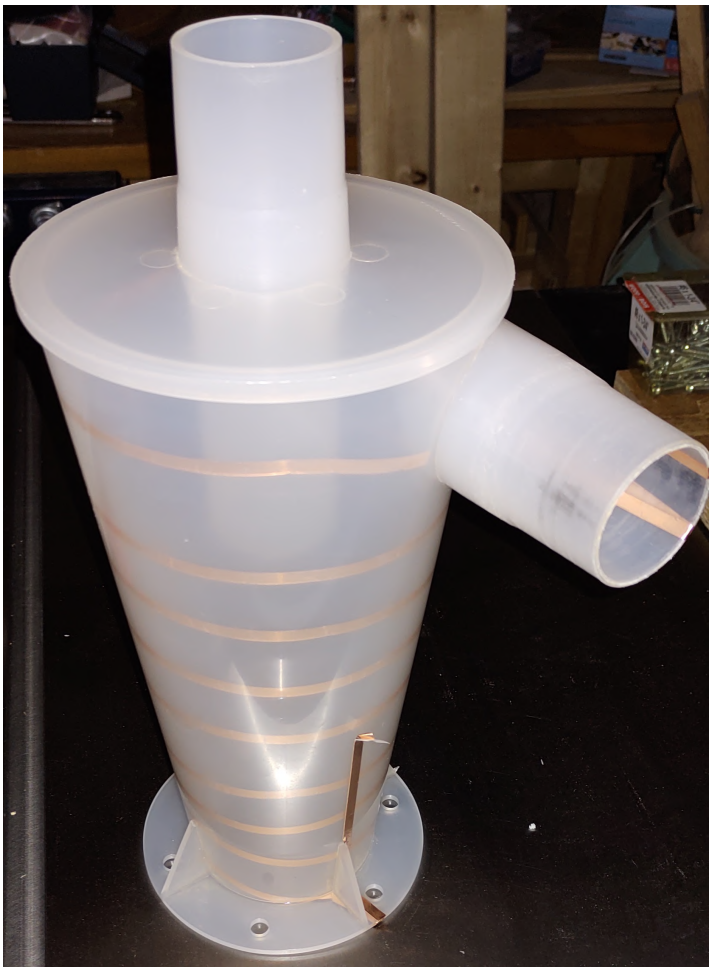
The Electrical Corner

Jim Diamond

If you read woodworking magazines or on-line articles, sooner or later you will come across the discussion of grounding dust collectors (and related plumbing) to avoid the dreaded dust explosion. But you will also come across articles which claim that home woodworking equipment can't produce fine dust at a sufficiently high rate to cause an explosion. I believe that none of my machines can produce fine dust at a rate high enough to create an explosion. But I'm not as convinced that a large pile of sanding dust (and very fine shavings?) doesn't provide enough of a dust concentration to allow an explosion to happen when it is vacuumed up.

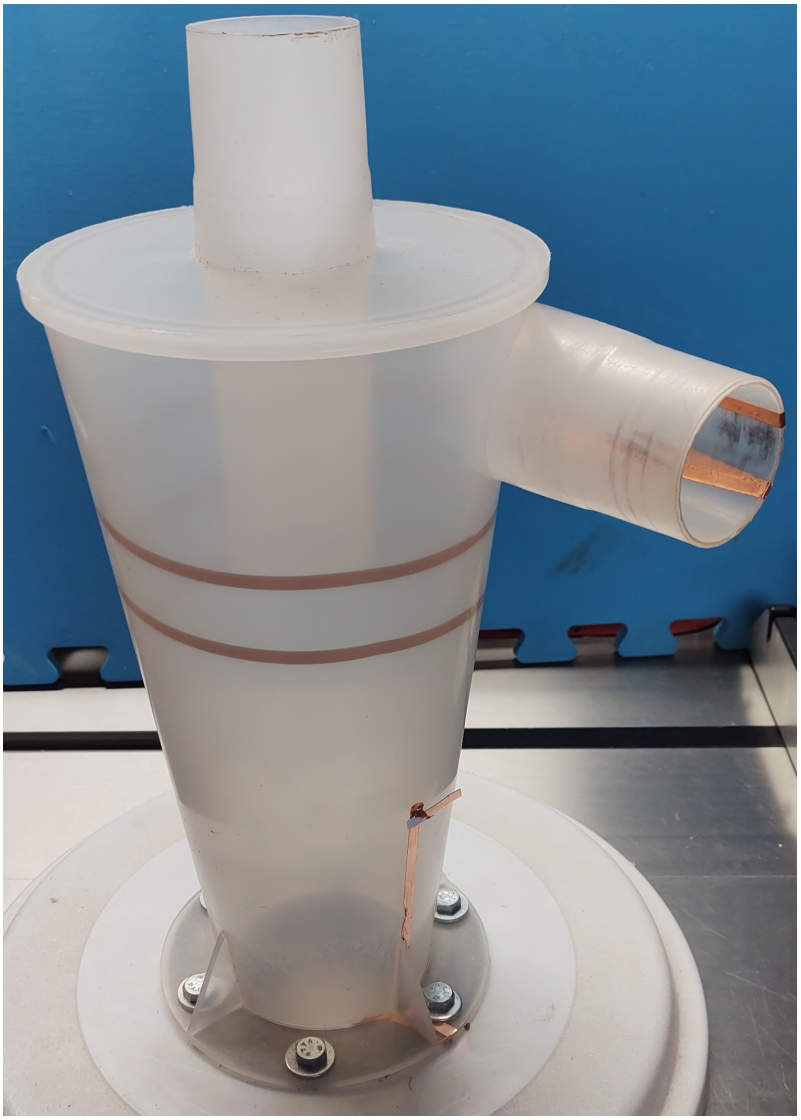
In the spirit of *"What? Me worry?"* I blissfully carry on vacuuming up my shop. Every now and then, that is. However, I do not like getting static electricity blasts from the plastic cyclone separator I use between my shop vac and the business end of the shop vac hose. A discussion with the neighbourhood chemist about how to copper-coat the inside of a plastic cyclone went nowhere (yes, my bad, I should have asked the NWG chemistry team, but I didn't).

One day I spied some adhesive-backed copper tape on some sketchy mail order site, so I decided to try running a spiral strip inside the cyclone with the idea of bringing the tape outside where I could ground it. I didn't expect this to make the "zapped by static electricity" problem go completely away, but I hoped it would help. The opening at the bottom of the cyclone is just barely big enough for me to get my hand through, and, after a suitable number of Bad Words were uttered, I ended up with the result shown at the right.



I started by attaching the tape to the outside of the air inlet (at far right). This not only got the spiral started, but also provided an option for attaching a ground wire. I ran the spiral in the same direction as the air (and dust) flows: counter-clockwise, as seen from above. At the bottom I brought the end of the copper tape out for another grounding possibility. If you are thinking that that the workmanship of my spiral lacked perfection, I refer you to the last sentence of the paragraph above.

I didn't run any tests which you could call "scientific", even if you generously squint just right. However, the first few times I used the cyclone after this copper tape application, I believe there was noticeably less static electricity on the outside of the cyclone, and a lot less dust sticking to the inside of the cyclone after the shop vac was shut off. I was almost ready to declare success... But read on.



At the right you see a picture of the cyclone after some extended usage. As you can see, the copper tape has been soundly defeated by the dust and chips that my shop vac has drawn into (and out of) the cyclone. On the good side, the two remaining pieces of tape are evenly spaced and a casual observer might think I was going for racing stripes.

Most people like to write about their glorious successes, but I wrote this “dismal failure” article for two reasons. First, I thought if anyone else wanted to try something like this, they would know that they might need stronger tape. (Note: since the inside of the cyclone is tapered, using wider tape might not work well because the tape has to to be curved or bent as it goes around the cone. That is one of the reasons I had a hard time making a nice tidy spiral down the inside of the cone.)

Second, perhaps someone seeing this will be induced to tell me The Right Way to do it. At least on various internet forums, the best way to find out how to do something is to write about doing it the wrong way.

You might be wondering why I put the tape around the inside, where it is subject to damage. I had two reasons for this. First, the static is generated on the inside, and hoping to bleed it off through the insulating plastic is doomed to failure (or so I have read, but maybe now I'll give it a try). Second, some people suggest putting a screw through plastic material and grounding the screw from the outside; but others claim that sticking a metal screw through an air passage will concentrate static electricity at that point, increasing the likelihood of an actual spark, so I didn't want to go that route, just in case these people actually know what they are talking about. (Those of you schooled in the sciences probably know Newton's First Law of Experts: “For every 'expert' opinion, there is an equal and opposite 'expert' opinion”.)

Bonus third reason for writing this article: the publication deadline for this newsletter snuck up on all the regular contributors, and so I needed some filler. That's why the photos are so big!

The (Almost) Final Word

Guild brother Norm has passed on these two video links. He believes the first one is a variation on a Swash Plate lathe. I (JD) have no idea what a Swash Plate lathe is, so I'll take his word for it. However, I will note that anyone intrigued by the wave bowl idea that Guild brother Dave told us about in March might find these videos equally interesting.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YzD2wHzEQHo
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hvImk0QQ77U

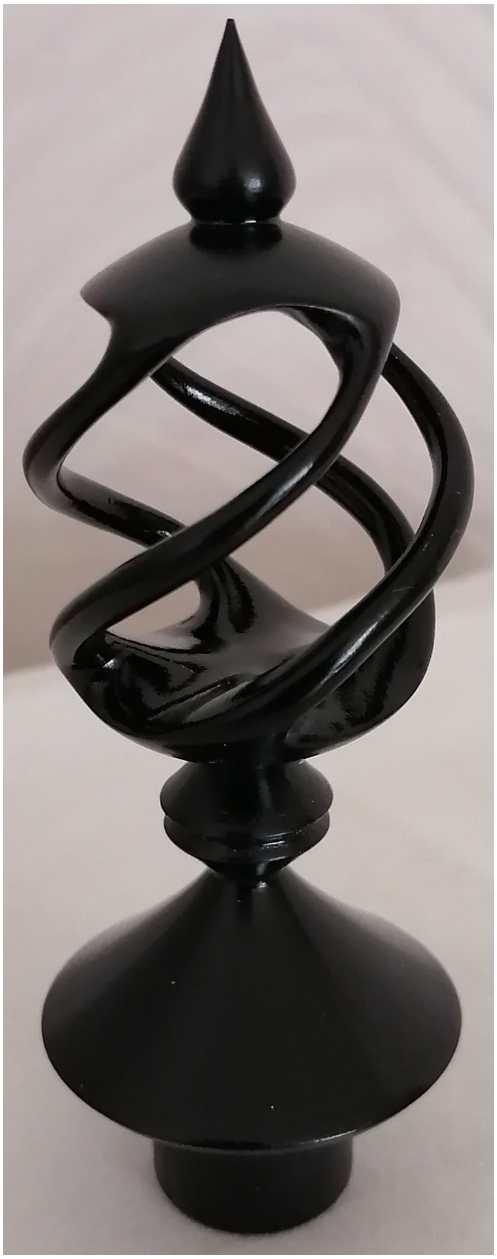
In completely unrelated news (or maybe not), Norm, selflessly acting in unofficial capacity as the Guild Philosopher this month, passed this quote on for your consideration:

> "Here's to the crazy ones. The misfits. The rebels. The troublemakers. The round pegs in the square holes. The ones who see things differently. They're not fond of rules. And they have no respect for the status quo. You can quote them, disagree with them, glorify or vilify them. About the only thing you can't do is ignore them. Because they change things. They push the human race forward. And while some may see them as the crazy ones, we see genius. Because the people who are crazy enough to think they can change the world are the ones who do."
>
> Walter Isaacson

Or perhaps Norm was making some suggestions as to what sort of things you might submit to this year's turning competition. (Don't forget, the deadline for submission is approaching quickly!)

Regular readers are probably wondering where DaveM's Fireside Chat is. Alas, another scheduling issue got in the way of Dave's article being ready in time for this month's issue. I expect Dave will continue his series next month.

Cover Photo



At April's meeting a video detailing Guild brother Leo's process of making finials was shown, and Leo was on hand to answer questions. The video allowed us to see the process from beginning to end, and yet the miracle of modern video technology meant that Leo did not have to do **lots** (hours?) of careful sanding in front of a crowd.

I have included a high-resolution version of this photo both here and on the front page. I encourage you to zoom in by a factor of 5 or 10 to get a close look at the details of this finial. Some more photos should follow in next month's newsletter if all goes according to plan.

Photo Credits

Thanks to Chris Palmer for photos from last month's meeting. The other photos were (as far as the editor knows!) all taken by the person who made the item in question and/or the person who wrote the article.

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` *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)	
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.