

The Turning Point

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The next meeting of the Nova Woodturners' Guild
will be held at Lee Valley Tools, 150 Susie Lake Crescent, Halifax
Sunday, October 20, 2024 at 2:00 PM

At the October meeting:
Show and tell
Making a biscuit cutter

The President's Report

Welcome to the second newsletter of the year. A few things have happened in the last month that I feel you should be aware of to keep people up to date.

First, we have lost two of our members Andrew Watson and Zalman Amit. Our thoughts and prayers are extended to each of their families.

Second, a notice was received from Alan Stratton and Matt Deighton concerning a Christmas Ornament Challenge. Complete information is located at ornamentchallenge.com. In short, you make an item, take a picture of it, and upload it to their website. It is then posted and people vote to choose a winner. You keep your ornament and are free to do as you wish with it.

Third, on a more serious note. . . It has been brought to my attention that during past demonstrations at least two of the presenters felt that they were not being treated with respect while trying to present their topic. Their complaints stem from too much chatter from the audience. This causes two problems: it distracts the presenter, and makes it hard for on-line viewers to hear the presenter. So I hope we can all make an effort to keep proper decorum during the presentations.

In the meantime keep the chips flying and see you at the next meeting.

Bob Earle – President

Notes from the September Meeting

The meeting was called to order by President **Bob Earle** at 2:00 PM with 11 members present and 1 member online.



Calum calmly hacking into the Kremlin's computers during Bob's introductory remarks

Announcements:

- The annual dues are now due. If any of your personal information has changed, please complete a new membership form. A new feature this year is that dues (\$40.00) can be paid by e-Transfer to Treasurer@novwoodturnersguild.com. So, dues can now be paid by cash, cheque, credit or debit card, or e-Transfer.
- Going forward we will be holding our meetings in a hybrid format (both in-person and online) for anyone who can't make the meeting in person. There were some issues with this in the past but most problems seem to be worked out now. As always, we are looking for feedback on your experiences with these hybrid meetings.
- We are looking into an Internet Remote Demo (IRD) for this winter at some point. Bob would like to propose a motion to facilitate this:
 - Motion: *Be it resolved that the membership supports the expenditure of funds to obtain an IRD for January 2025. Such funds shall not exceed \$500 CAD.*
 - ★ Moved by: **Bob Earle**; seconded by: **Mark Hazen**
 - ★ Motion carried

Main Presentation:

The main presentation was a demonstration by Treasurer **David McLachlan** on *Using a Threading Jig to Create Threaded Components of Turnings*. Dave demonstrated using the Carbatec[®] Threading Jig. Carbatec[®] no longer makes these jigs, but the jigs were available a few years ago at greatly reduced prices; several other members also have one in their workshops.

The Carbatec[®] jig is highly adjustable so can be fit to almost any turning project. It uses a small cutter turned in the lathe headstock to cut threads in the turned object mounted in the jig. The jig rotates and advances the workpiece to cut the threads in the edge.

Both inside and outside threads are cut using the jig. Dave finds it easier to cut the inside threads first, then cut the outside threads to fit.

Different thread profiles (i.e., threads per inch) will require different advance shafts to be mounted in the Carbatec[®] jig.

The Process:

- Dave demonstrated threading the lid for a small box:
 - First mount the blank for the body of the box in the chuck and make sure it is turned to a true cylinder.
 - Ensure the end that will be the top of the box (where the lid will thread on) is flat.



Dave truing up the box end before doing some boring work

- Then using a Forstner bit mounted in the tailstock drill out the interior of the box to the desired depth. Remember to back the bit out of the body frequently to avoid overheating the bit and blank.
- Carefully measure the inside diameter of the finished body. Dave uses an “internal measurement gauge” for this to ensure accurate sizing (<https://www.amazon.ca/Pteanecay-16Inch-6Inch-Telescoping-Internal-Measurements/dp/B0CLRLR25F>).
- Next remove the chuck with the box body and install a second chuck. The use of two chuck prevents anything moving and getting out of alignment during the threading process. Then mount the blank for the lid in the second chuck
- Flatten the base of the lid to ensure a good joint. Then set a pair of outside calipers to the diameter of the inside of the box body to use as a guide. Using a parting tool, turn down a tenon on the end of the lid. This will be the threaded portion of the lid. **Important:** the diameter of this tenon must be the diameter of the box inside, plus two times the depth of the thread. For example, with a 2” box diameter (internal) and a $1/16$ ” thread depth, the tenon must be turned to $2\frac{1}{8}$ ”:
$$2 + (1/16 \times 2) = 2\frac{1}{8}$$
- Make a relief cut at the upper end of the threaded portion to provide the cutter head clearance. Turning is now complete and the chuck with the lid blank is then removed.
- The cutter bit is mounted in the headstock using a collet with the appropriate Morse taper for your lathe headstock.
- Next, the Carbatec[®] jig is assembled and mounted on the lathe bed. Then the chuck with the box body is mounted on the threading jig. The jig is aligned exactly parallel to the lathe bed so that it will advance the blank in exact alignment and cut straight threads.
- With the cutter set at the start of the portion to be threaded, turn the lathe on (at 300 RPM or higher). Then turning the drive handle on the jig advance the box blank into the cutter. The jig simultaneously rotates and advances the blank so that consistent threads are cut around the interior of the body of the box.



Internal threads: Dave carefully advancing the box into the thread cutter

- Threads are best cut in multiple light passes to avoid chip out. CA glue can be applied between passes to help solidify the wood.
- Once the box interior threads are cut, remove the chuck with the box body and mount the chuck with the lid blank. The jig should still be correctly aligned if its mounting has not been altered. Again align the cutter with the start of the portion to be threaded and turning the advance handle on the jig, rotate/advance the lid blank to cut the threads on the lid.



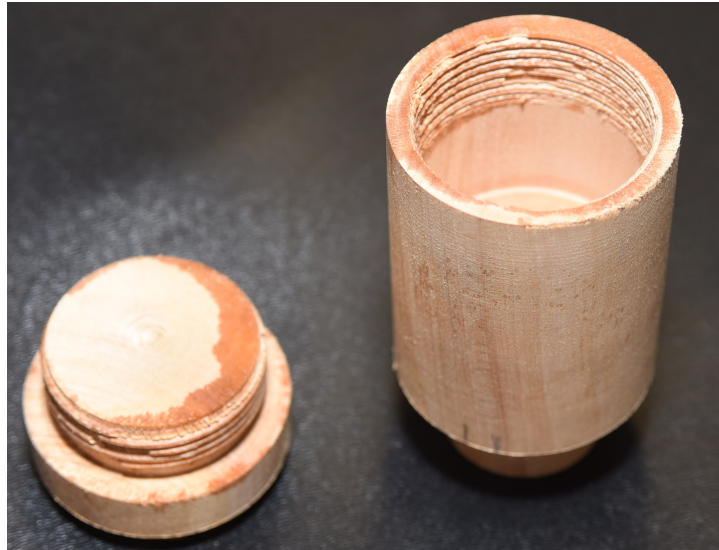
External threads: advancing the lid into the thread cutter

- The threading is now complete. Check the lid for fit and smoothness of threading. If desired, the box (with lid threaded on) can be mounted between centres on the lathe and the exterior turned to thin the walls slightly to the desired thickness and ensure a smooth flow to the lid joint.

Hints and Tips:

- Different woods will vary as to how well they will accept threading. Thoroughly dry, fine-grained, hard species are best. Hard Maple works very well but Birch can typically have some chip-out in the threads.
- A small relief cut is needed below the end of the threads to accommodate the head of the cutter bit and allow it to fully cut the threads.
- Saturating the wood with CA glue or mineral oil before cutting the threads will help to prevent chip-out of the threads.

- Once complete, you can get the grain to match up when the lid is fully threaded on by turning down the shoulder gradually in stages until the grain aligns with the lid fully seated.
- Make sure you cut the threads on the interior a bit deeper than the threaded portion of the lid so that the lid will not “bottom out” in the threads before it is fully seated.



The completed box, showing a bit of tear-out in the threads of this quickly-completed box



Another box with threads done more carefully, showing considerably less tearout

Show & Tell:

- **Dianne Looker** has been plagued with some health issues recently that have prevented her from spending much time turning. Dianne treated us to a delightful performance of her original song, *I Want to Play on My Lathe*.
- **Dave McLachlan** showed off an impressive “wave” bowl made using the cutting jig that he demonstrated before the summer. This bowl, in Maple, had an offset wave and had the inner portions of the wave painted with metallic acrylic paint to create the illusion of a “bowl within a bowl” — a green bowl with a wood skin on the outside. A coat of gesso was applied before the paint and lightly sanded to give the paint a good base.



Norm pontificating on two “wave” bowls



Dave showing the inside of the larger wave bowl

The meeting wrapped at 3:50 PM.

Calum Ewing — Secretary
(photo captions by someone else)

Puttering in the workshop

Well, it started out with watching Leo Westhaver making one of his Elaborate Finials.

I wondered if I could use my laser to cut out the openings. To do this I would need a chuck rotary to laser a cylinder (more tools, this has to be good).

So I developed a plan to hollow the finial in two sections then join them together and laser the cutout design through the wall of the hollow form.

About this time SWMBO decided she wanted some more wooden flowers; great, now I had to get the chuck rotary for the flowers.

Well, I am still perfecting the method and thought you might like to see my progress to date.



Above you can see a flower body turned with the petals laser cut using the chuck rotary.



Here you can see part of the learning process.

Designs too fine = walls too thin.

A very light touch is needed to hollow out the inside.



Here you can see some successful flowers.

Now I have made one finial so far: here it is.



All the work so far has been using soft spruce 2x4s. I'm hoping to be able to have some more intricate designs when I get some better wood; maple or birch would be nice.

Richard Ford, 11th October 2024

DaveM's Fireside Chat

Sorry I missed last month's submission date, I hadn't realized that the meeting would be a week earlier than normal. That being said, I want to welcome all of our members back to our Guild. For those members who have not paid the \$40.00 membership fee for this year and would like to do so by e-transfer please sent the transfer to treasurer@novawoodturnersguild.com. The money will be automatically transferred to the Guild's chequing account.

I would like to make an announcement about a duo of Christmas Ornament Challenges. We usually have a Christmas Ornament exchange at our Christmas Social, and make ornaments for the Christmas Wreath raffle, but it makes sense that we have a formal Guild Christmas Ornament Challenge to accommodate this social event. To make it even more interesting and killing several birds with one stone the Guild Challenge will be in tandem with a Christmas Ornament Challenge being offered up by Allan Stratton (which has been running for 14 years to date).

Details on the Allen Stratton challenge are at www.OrnamentChallenge.com, but here are the highlights:

- You enter the contest by submitting (only) one photo per ornament, and you can submit up to five ornament entries.
- The deadline for submission is November 30, 2024.
- There will be an online submission form available on the above website from November 1 to November 30 in order to submit the entry photos and maker details.
- There are participation and grand prizes being offered by this challenge.

To make it easier to enter the above challenge our Guild Challenge will also allow up to five entries per person; the submission deadline will be our November 17th meeting. All entries will be photographed by myself the following day and sent out to each participant that evening. Lee Valley has agreed to let us use the glass cabinets we normally use for our annual competition but they will be fitted with a "tree" stand inside the cabinet to display the ornaments. The Ornaments will be on display in the LV showroom from November 18 to our Christmas Social. There will not be a formal judging, but there will be participation prizes offered up as well as a couple of carbon fiber tool handles as door prizes open to participants.

The ornaments can be collected at the December social and used for the Guild's Christmas Ornament Exchange if you so wish to participate; or they could be donated to the Christmas Ornament Wreath Raffle; or you can just take them home to offer up as Christmas gifts to friends and family.

I am hoping that there will be a good rate of participation in both of these challenges and give you a worthwhile turning challenge for the upcoming month... All of the photos taken of the entries will be posted on our website and in the December newsletter.

On to the technical aspect of my chat...

In my pursuit of miniature tools for making smaller tools for making fine finials, I have been working on a number of tool shafts in smaller diameters and square blanks from 8mm to 5mm. In particular I

have made some bedans using square M2 high speed steel blanks, in 5, 6 and 8mm and 1/4" M35 high cobalt HSS. As well, I have made some miniature round shaft skew chisels in 6, 7 & 8mm diameters. See Figure 1. The round skews were an idea I got from Roland Kanne (a Dutch turner on YouTube), and I must admit they are easier to control than I thought they might be and can get you into tight places where large skews might present a problem. There are also some smaller diameter handles also seen in Figure 1. These allow one to work with a single hand on finials allowing the opposite hand to support the work.



Figure 1: From the top down tools — a handled 6mm round skew, 4mm bedan with round adapter, 1/4 bedan and a short ER16 colleted handle.



Figure 2: This shows the size of the small handle in respect to hand size (used single handedly).

The problem with the square and rectangular stock is that it doesn't fit easily into the collets. To this end I developed a two-piece circular holder, which was much easier to produce than a one-piece holder. The holder starts out as a round short billet, which is drilled out on the lathe to the diameter of the square shaft. Then a slot is milled the length of the billet and a small collar is attached with opposing set screws to hold the shaft in the slot. The manufacture of these holders can be seen in Figures 3, 4 & 5. The bedan is an excellent tool for making small beads and is somewhat easier to use than a conventional bead tool or small skew.



Figure 3: Drilling the short billet to the diameter of the square shaft width.

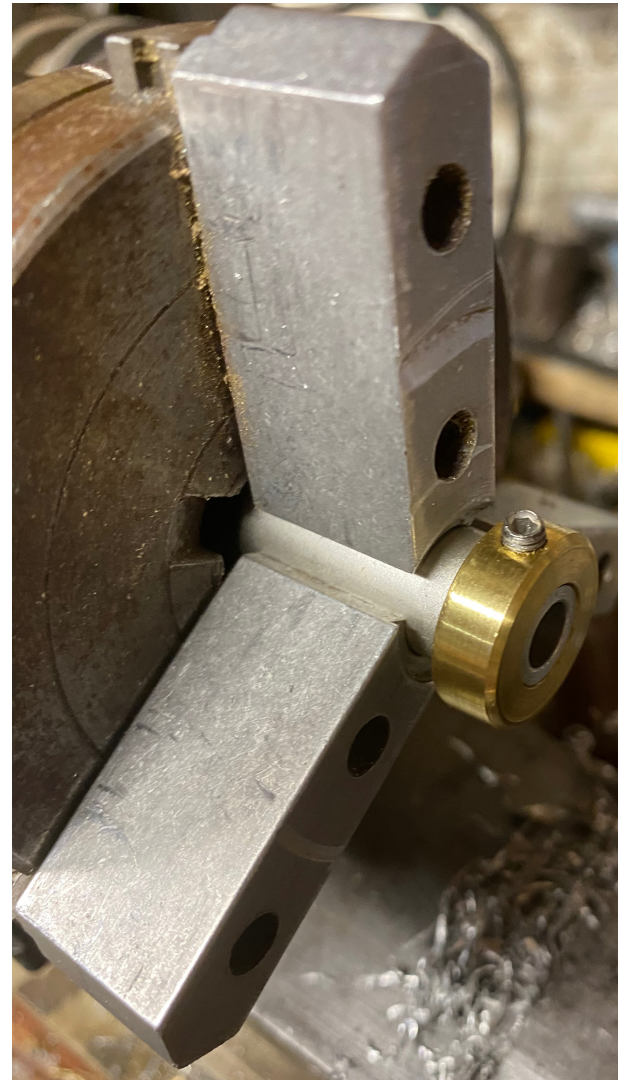


Figure 4: Fitting the brass collar to a recessed shoulder on the billet.

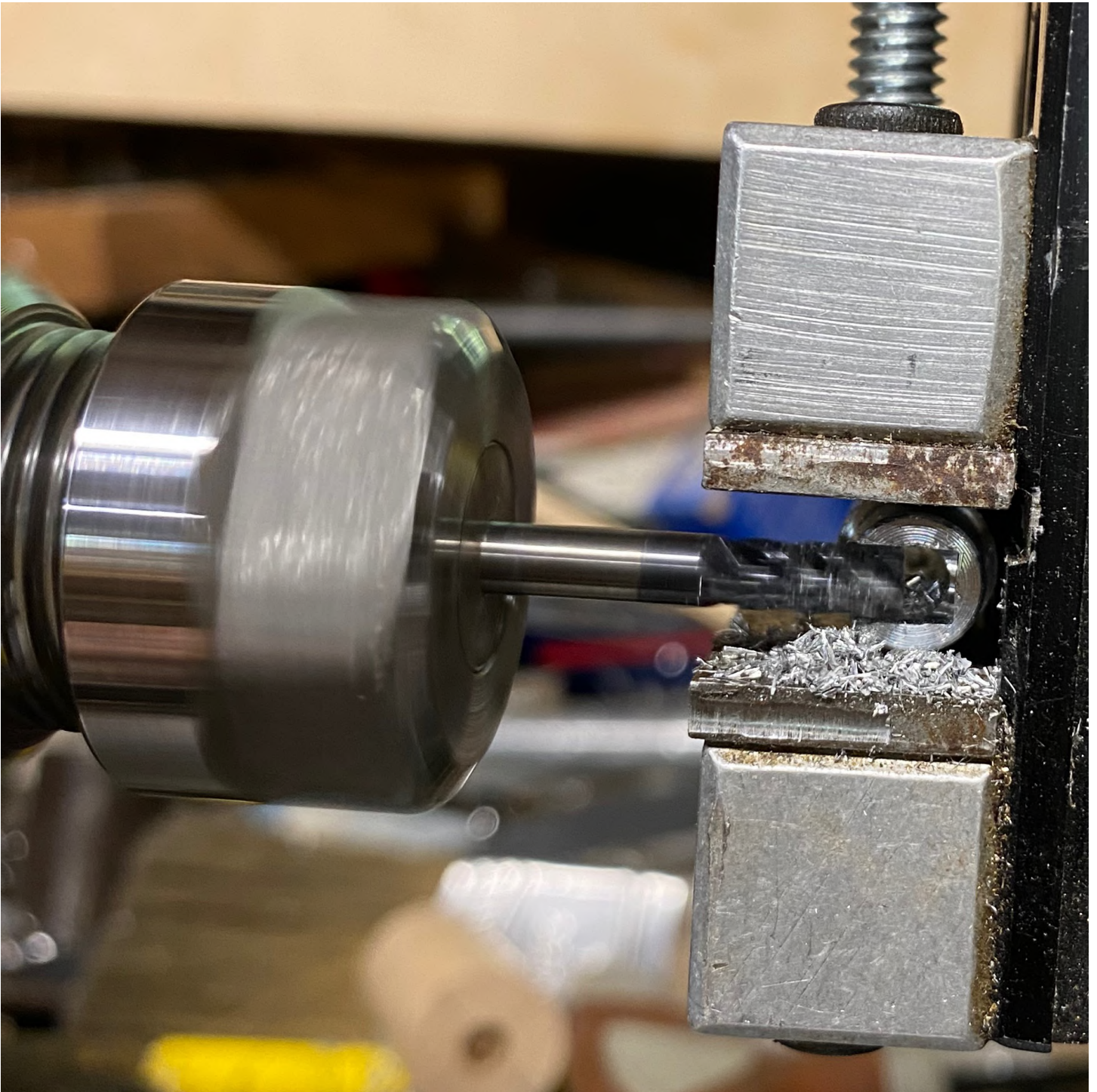


Figure 5: Milling the slot in the billet for the square shaft centered on the pre-drilled hole.

Dave McLachlan

I love to play on my lathe

As some members of NWG know, I have a number of minor medical issues that make getting to my lathe difficult. One of them is basically chronic fatigue, which means I have very little energy. The advice I've been given to help deal with the frustrations this creates is to focus on what I can do and not what I can't, and to find joy where I can. Easier said than done, but I try.

So, in keeping with that advice, I decided I'd write what I call a "little ditty" to express how I love to "play on my lathe". I had hoped to make a short video with my son accompanying me on the guitar, but he was unable to do that this summer.

I "performed" it at the September NWG meeting, and thankfully, those present joined me in the chorus and/or be-bopped along.

The "verses" are spoken and the chorus is sung. Here it is for your future enjoyment (slightly modified from what I did in September).

I love to play on my lathe

© E. Dianne Looker, 2024

Now, there's all kinds of wood out there.
 There's maple and apple, and cherry and pear.
 And if you want a fancier look, there's purpleheart or padauk.
 And if you're lucky you'll find a burl.
 Put it on your lathe, and give it a whirl.
 Go ahead, be brave,
 And play on your lathe!

Chorus:

I love to play on my lathe; I love to play on my la-a-athe;
 I can't give you the attention you crave;
 I wanna play on my la-athe.

You can turn a bowl; you can turn a plate.
 You can turn a spindle with that skew we all hate.
 You can turn a box with a lid that goes "pop".
 You can turn a fancy finial for the top.
 You can turn many things with a mandrel and kit.
 You can leave the wood plain or embellish it!
 You can even turn a bowl with a wave,
 When you play on your lathe.

Chorus

I have all kinds of chucks with matching jaws
And at Lee Valley there's a tool I saw
I figured I'd buy and it and give it a spin.
'Cause the one who dies with the most tools wins!
There are tools that let you core; There are tools that help you hollow.
There are lots of fancy tools our group'll let you borrow.
Just think of all the money you'll save!
And go play on your lathe.

Chorus

Now my legs are getting weak, and my back is getting sore.
I can't stay very long in my shop anymore.
And the day will come, I have no doubt,
When I have to turn the lights in my workshop out.
But if there's a heaven, I hope when I die,
I'll go to that great workshop in the sky.
And it'll say right there on my grave:
I loved to play with my lathe.

Chorus x 2, once “with angelic voices”, then heartily.

E. Dianne Looker



Cover Photo



Richard's recent finial: is it made of ebony? Is it some other species he ebonized? Or did he have his laser turned up way too high? At this point only Richard knows for sure, but if asked nicely he may divulge some more details.

Photo Credits

Thanks to Chris Palmer for the photos from last month's meeting. Thanks also to Richard Ford and Dave McLachlan for supplying the photos for their contributed articles, as well as photos of Dave's turned box with the improved threads.

In Memoriam

We are sad to report the recent passing of two long-term members of the NWG.

Andrew Watson, a member since 1999, passed away on August 1, 2024.

In an email to Calum, Andrew's son, Phil, said "Andrew passed away yesterday afternoon. He is finally at peace and free of pain. Dad has elected to return to Dalhousie Dept of Anatomy for the benefit of research and medical students. A final selfless gift to those who helped him."

"Mum is doing well and is here with our family. There will be a more formal notice later but I wanted to write to you whose friendship meant so much to him."

Calum notes: Many of us will remember Andrew as an active and supportive participant in the Guild over the years, always quick to share his knowledge, who enjoyed competing in the annual completion and participating in our group shows.

Andrew's obituary can be found at <https://www.online-tribute.com/AndrewWatson>. A celebration of life will be held at the Mahone Bay Legion (21 Pond St, Mahone Bay) on October 19, 2024 from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM.

Zalman Amit, a member since 2013, passed away on October 5, 2024.

Calum notes: Zalman will be remembered as a skilled and creative turner, always ready to discuss various points in the art of creating in wood. He supported our annual competition acting as a judge for several years and was known for his turnings with pierced embellishments. Zalman was a prolific turner and had shows of his work at the Peer Gallery of Contemporary Art in Lunenburg, the Atlantic School of Theology Art Gallery in Halifax and the Craig Gallery in Dartmouth. There is a great article about Zalman and his work by fellow Guild member Ted Monk here: An Evening With Woodturner Zalman Amit — Ravenview <https://ravenview.com/an-evening-with-woodturner-zalman-amit/>.

Zalman's obituary can be found at <https://www.echovita.com/ca/obituaries/ns/lunenburg/zalman-amit-18722411>. A celebration of life will be held at the Peer Gallery (166 Lincoln St, Lunenburg) on November 9, 2024 from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM.

Andrew and Zalman will both be missed.

Nova Woodturners' Guild — 2024/25 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	Bob Earle	
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	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.