The Journal of the Nova Woodturners' Guild

Volume 29 Issue 4
December 2024

The Turning Point

In this issue:

The next meeting of the Nova Woodturners' Guild
will be held at Lee Valley Tools, 150 Susie Lake Crescent, Halifax
Sunday, December 15, 2024 at 2:00 PM

At the December meeting:
Ornament Exchange; Show and Tell; Raffles
Food and drink (pot luck!); Spouses and friends welcome!
Good Cheer (but none of the liquid variety for the drivers!)

The President's Report

The last meeting was the debut of our Blackmagic Atem video controller. It was a very successful start for our new piece of tech. As I haven't heard of any complaints I'm assuming that the on-line viewers had a more enjoyable experience. We still have to fine tune the microphones so that the sound pickup is better and hopefully we can solve that in due time.

We had a good turnout for the Ornament Challenge and Dave's display of the ornaments at Lee Valley was well received with a number of customers wondering where they could acquire some. Speaking of ornaments, here is an update of last month's biscuit cutter mishap. Following the adage that "if life gives you lemons, make lemonade", I took my battered biscuit cutter and turned it into a hat for a Santa gonk as shown below.

Remember to bring in your ornaments for the wreath draw and the ornament exchange. I won't be able to make the meeting myself and I would like to take the opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Happy turnings!

Bob Earle – President

Notes from the November Meeting

At press time the notes from the last meeting were not available. Consequently you, dear reader, are stuck with only Chris' photos and facetious comments from someone who shall remain nameless.

Some people prefer “light theme” Bob, others like him better in “dark theme”.
The NWG is proud to cater to all preferences.

Bob at the beginning stages of turning, after holes were drilled through the sides of the blank.

Rounding the blank.

The partially finished turning plus
a finished turning showing the top.

Reverse chucking.

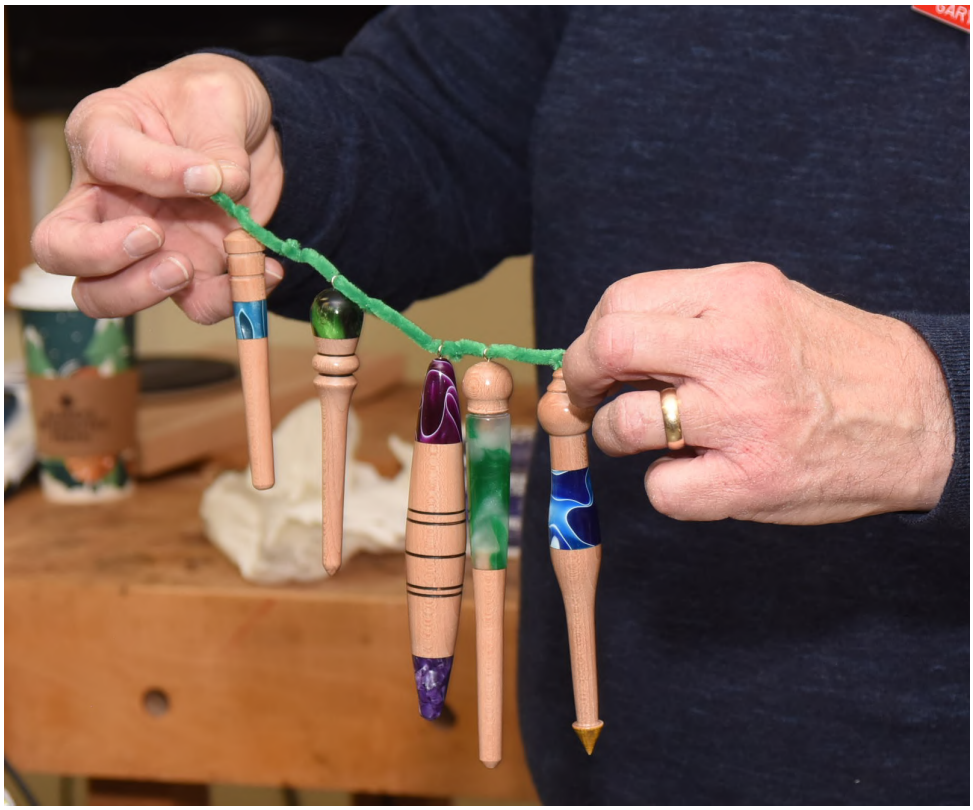
Bob with the finished ornament.
(Except the finish isn't yet finished. Or even started.)

Mark with two ornaments.

Charlie with one ornament.

Charlie trying to decide which ornament he likes more.

Gary with a string of ornaments.



Gary's string of ornaments up close.

Ted holding what appears to be a domed birdhouse.
Or is it a beehive?

Ted holding a small woodland creature.

Ornament, spinning top, or both? Who's to say?

The finial photo from the meeting.
(See what I did there?)

DaveM's Fireside Chat

First of all, I want to wish everyone a wonderful Holiday Season. I want to thank everyone who made and submitted Christmas ornaments for our NWG Christmas Ornament Challenge. I photographed all of those ornaments and sent the photos to the makers for submission to Alan Stratton's **As Wood Turns** — Ornament Challenge. We had a total of eight participants who entered our NWG challenge with a total of 28 ornaments, which I put up in a display in the Lee Valley Showroom. Six members entered their photos in the Stratton Challenge and can be view along with all of the other submissions at **www.ornamentchallenge.com**. It is still possible to vote for the five ornaments you liked best at the website. The following are the submission numbers from our members, **Bob Earle** (#s 154–158); **Bill Maes** (#s 159, 160, 232, 233); **Charles Neiforth** (#s 169, 170); **Gary Landry** (# 198); **Ted Monk** (#s 209–213) and **David McLachlan** (#s 216–218). We had a good showing, probably the Canadian club with the most submissions and we rivaled submission numbers for many USA clubs, but I think The Cape Cod Woodturners Guild probably had the highest submission rate. I encourage our members to go to the website listed above and check out all the submissions in that challenge; there were a lot of creative ideas and there just might be an inspiration for your own creations in the future. In addition to our members that submitted to the **As Wood Turns** — Ornament Challenge, **Leo Westhaver** and **Mark Hazen** also had submissions to our own NWG challenge.

I thought this month, that I would talk a bit about making an ornament as it is that time of year when we think about these things. In particular, the making of a Celtic knot accented ornament.

The making of a Celtic knot is not all that difficult but if you haven't done it there are a few tips that will help you along. The set up for making the knot is simply to cut a thin kerf at some angle and rotate the square block after each cut. The secret is to not cut all the way through the block but leave a small uncut portion to keep the block in alignment, and secondly to have a filler piece exactly the thickness of the cut. See Figures 1–4 for details of the setup.

Figure 1. Setting up the thin kerf blade to leave a shallow hinge.

Figure 2. Using a standard angle gauge on the table saw set to 20° and a stop block clamped to the fence. The first cut is made (it helps to indicate the placement of the block in the jig and to measure up the block placement so that the Celtic knot is central to the ornament).

Figure 3. The angle of the first cut ready for the insertion of the veneer sandwich.

Figure 4. The cut block showing the small alignment hinge and the markings to indicate placement in the jig. *(The supporting block at the top demonstrates what happens when you use a blade wider than the filler and not utilize a cut shallower than the blank width. The second cut throws off the alignment of the previous cut.)*

In my case I used a very thin kerf Freud Diablo $7\,1/2''$ blade to make my kerf. This accommodated three layers of red dyed veneer which were sandwiched together with epoxy resin and inserted in the slot before the resin had a chance to set up. The small uncut portion of cut acts a sort of hinge to facilitate the insertion of the sandwich and keep the block aligned, (See Figure 5).

Figure 5. Insertion of the veneer sandwich into the slot . . . The excess veneer is sliced off once the epoxy has set, before the next cut is made to the block. All four sides of the block are cleaned up before each subsequent cut, so that the block stays in proper alignment in the angled sled.

Once the block is all glued up, it is turned round between centres as in Figure 6, which has it turned to a straight cylinder ready to be placed in the duck call jaws to be drilled with a $5/8''$ MT2 shanked drill (Figure 7). The $5/8''$ hole is then squared off inside using a $5/8''$ Forstner bit (Figure 8) leaving at least a $1/4''$ end wall on the blank for mounting a $1/2''$ shaft to an inside $1/4$-20 threaded $5/8''$ brass slug/nut to facilitate the hollowing of the globe. The final drilling operation is with a $1/4''$ drill to the end of the globe while it is being held on the $5/8''$ diameter pin chuck (Figures 6–9).

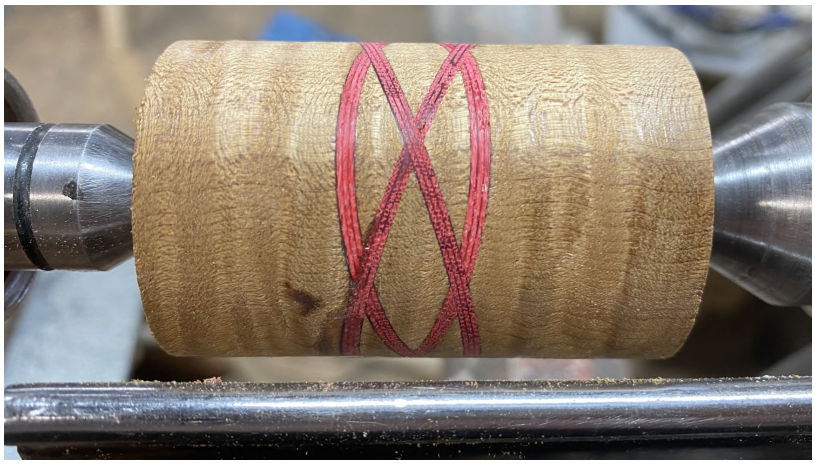


Figure 6. The blank is turned to a cylinder between centers. The ends are drilled with a 60° centre drill before mounting on the lathe.

Figure 7. The cylinder blank is held in duck call jaws (Nova) and set up for drilling with a $^{5}/_{8}''$ MT2 shafted drill in the tailstock. It is drilled leaving about $^{3}/_{8}''$ at the bottom.

Figure 8. The depth of cut evident from the swarf on the drill bit.

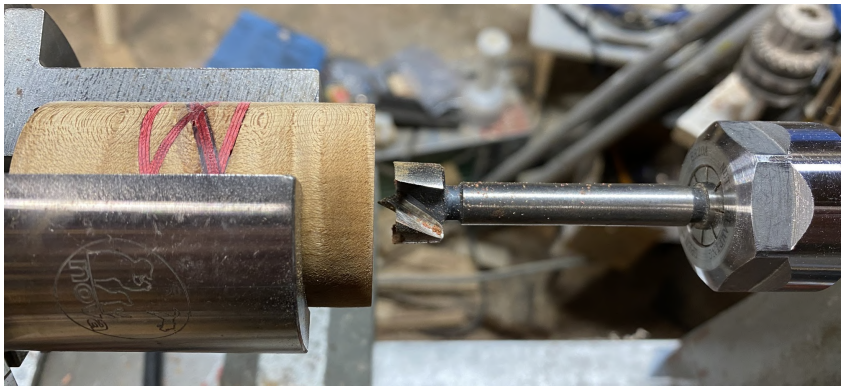


Figure 9. The twist drill is switched out for a $^{5}/_{8}''$ Forstner bit held in an ER20 collet holder to square up the hole at the bottom to accommodate the brass retainer seen in Figure 13.

Once everything is drilled it is time to mount the blank on the pin chuck (Figures 10–13).

Figure 10. The MT2-$^{1}/_{2}''$ collet holder and the $^{5}/_{8}''$ pin mandrel used to turn the outer shape of the globe. (The collet uses a $^{3}/_{8}''\times$16tpi retainer/drawbar).

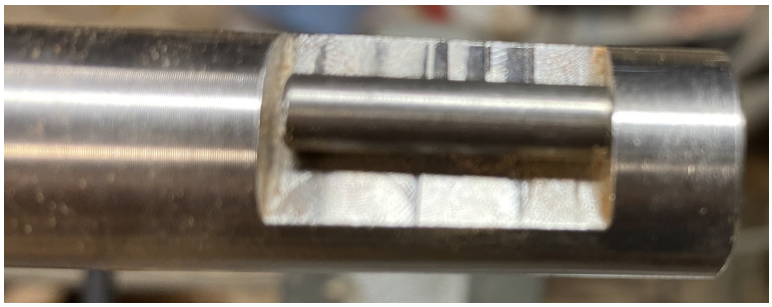


Figure 11. The pin placement before insertion into the blank.

Figure 12. Mounting the blank on the pin chuck. Turn the blank away from the turner to lock it onto the shaft.

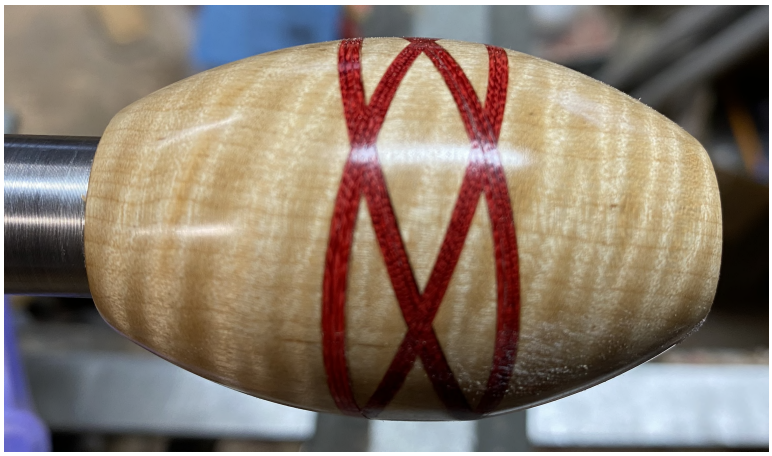


Figure 13. The turned and finished outer shell of the globe.

Once the globe outside is turned to its final dimensions and finished it is removed from the pin chuck and is ready for the attachment of the aluminum stub tenon, (Figures 14–16) and mounted on the lathe.

Figure 14. The $^{5}/_{8}''$ brass retainer to be inserted into the bore of the globe with a stub $^{1}/_{2}''$ aluminum bushing outside for mounting the globe.

Figure 15. The aluminum shaft bolted in place to the globe. (One needs at least $1/4''$ of wood at the end to ensure it doesn't break free.)

Figure 16. The globe mounted in the MT2 collet chuck ready for hollowing through the $5/8''$ bore hole.

The outside dimensions are turned on the $5/8''$ pin chuck, sanded and finished. The globe is now ready for the finials (Figure 17). The finials are turned in this case from Holly. The upper finial has a base diameter equal to that of the globe end, with an 8mm tenon, the lower finial has a $5/8''$ tenon. The two tenons are connected by a M4 threaded shaft which draws them together against the globe and facilitates any future need to replace a damaged finial.

Figure 17. The finial fitted to the $5/8''$ bore. *(The finial itself is held in an ER25 × 16mm collet & holder in the headstock for turning, utilizing a $5/8''$ tenon on the Holly blank.)*

I realize all of this sounds like a lot of work to make a Xmas ornament with a lot of different fixtures to facilitate the holding and turning. But all of these steps and fixtures lend themselves to a mass production run of ornaments. One could make 5 or 10 blanks, these are all turned to cylinders between centres; then they are all bored using the duck call jaws with the $5/8''$ MT2 drill, then the next drilling operation is with the $5/8''$ Forstner drill. The drilled blanks are then each mounted on the $5/8''$ pin mandrel to be shaped and finished. Then they are hollowed in the next operation using an ER collet chuck holding on to the $1/2''$ shaft threaded into the interior $5/8''$ brass threaded nut which ensures concentricity with the globe body exterior. The switch up between all of the bodies for each operation only takes seconds; with concentricity guaranteed between each operation. I hope you found this useful & interesting.

Dave McLachlan

Some Recent Turnings by Members

Bob Earle said "Here is a candy cane holder I turned as a modification of the snowman ornaments I've turned in the past."

From **Mark Hazen:** "A friend is making a woodland themed baby mobile with felted animals. This is my contribution of a hub for the mobile."

Ted Monk reports: “We did something a bit different this year decorating our tree, perhaps even started a new Christmas tradition!”

“Each year we lament that we just don't have enough room on the tree for all our handcrafted ornaments, especially the turned ones we got each year from the Guild ornament exchange. So this year we had the bright idea to use our large cactus to display them! What do you think? :)”

Video of the Month

Richard Raffan may be the most well-known woodturner in the world. But regardless of whether or not that's true, Raffan has a lot of experience and skill, and fortunately he is happy to share that with the woodturning community at large. Guild brother Richard Ford recommends a recent Raffan video and passed on this link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u_1xBv0hvIY

The video is entitled *Richard Raffan on gouge entry cuts when turning wood*. The video begins with Raffan describing two ways to begin the cut, and continues with excellent camera work and the demonstrations of many points. If you aren't 100% confident when beginning your gouge entry (or maybe even if you are!) this video is well worth a look.

Have you seen an on-line video lately that you think other Guild members could benefit from watching? If so, don't be shy: let the newsletter editor know!

Tools for Sale

Don Moore is one of the few remaining original members of the NWG (I believe Steve Z, Chris P and your humble newsletter editor are the others). It is with a heavy heart that I report that Don has decided to sell his shop equipment. As I understand it, Don is selling all of his equipment, but to start, here are pictures of his lathe and associated equipment. His lathe is a "large swing" General 260 (the inboard bed is 38″ long, with 16″ over the banjo and 20″ over the bed; outboard is 32″×16″), variable speed, forward and reverse. Don is offering all of the items seen in the photos below for $4,500.

This is a robust outboard turning bed Don designed and manufactured, with the extra banjo and large tool rest.

Here are the 24 accessories that are part and parcel of this lathe sale, including the bowl saver.

Here is the backrest Don designed and manufactured, ensuring proper tool height for deep hollowing.

Here is a side view of the lathe and the remote control box.

Here is the robust “steady rest” that Don designed and manufactured to safely turn and hollow burls, etc.

Here is a close-up photo of the T-shaped outboard turning unit.

Note the two long, extended curved tool rests at the bottom of this photo; Don designed and manufactured them for ease of more extensive deep hollowing.

Here is a close-up of the outboard and the banjo assembly.

Here is a close-up of the deep hollowing backrest.

Cover Photo

Thanks to Dave McLachlan for this photo of some NWG members' Christmas ornaments on display at Lee Valley.

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, the person selling the item(s), and/or the person who wrote the article.

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.