The Journal of the Nova Woodturners' Guild

Volume 29 Issue 7
March 2025

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, March 16, 2025 at 2:00 PM

At the March meeting:
Working lighthouse ornaments
Show and tell
Upcoming turning competition

The President's Report

As we approach spring we're heading toward a busy couple of months. The annual woodturning competition is fast approaching and is something to look forward to; more information will follow soon. Speaking of upcoming events, Lee Valley has invited the Guild to participate in an artisan weekend event April 5 & 6. They are looking for volunteers to do turning demos. This is also open to any Guild member to sell any items they have produced. It is also an opportunity to showcase the Guild.

Bill Maes has an interesting event coming up that involves the Guild, more details will be released at Sunday's meeting.

This month's demo will be by Richard Ford on an item that he showed us at the last meeting, a tealight lighthouse, which was a variation of the tealight lantern that was demoed in November; don't worry if you don't have access to a laser, another method will be shown.

In honour of St Patrick's day here is my take on a special day gnome. I'd like you to meet Patty O'Turner:

That's all for now and I looking forward to seeing you on Sunday.

Bob Earle – President

Notes from the February Meeting

Unfortunately, detailed meeting notes were not available by publication time. However, here are a some few photos from the meeting, with most details provided by last month's presenter. — Editor

Pre-meeting Demonstration:

Dave McLachlan demonstrates the Sorby sharpening system during the pre-meeting demo time with Louise Plourde looking on. In the photo on the right Dave is reprofiling a roughing gouge using a coarse 60 Grit Ceramic belt... The first step (not shown) was to set the sander table to 90° and use the guide block to grind back the gouge until the wings are square. This leaves a horseshoe shape reflection on the end of the gouge which must be ground back with the table set to 45°until there is no reflection left from the blunt end (a sharpened end doesn't reflect light). Once there is no longer a reflection the belt is changed to a 120 Grit Zirconium (blue) belt to give a better finish to the sharpened end as seen in the left image. The gouge is rotated back and forth in the V-block guide ensuring a straight edge is maintained.

Welcome:

El Presidente Bob Earle starting off the official portion meeting.

Main Demonstration:

Dave showing one of his newest wave bowls. This is a variable recessed wave bowl which has the wave painted with a metallic copper acrylic paint. The interior of the bowl is also painted with the same acrylic paint and the result has a “copper bowl within an ash bowl” look. In Dave's right hand is the bowl's walnut lid.

The jig Dave has designed and constructed for making wave bowls. The newer jig for making wave ornaments, which is a smaller version, was not photographed. It was similarly constructed but on a much smaller scale and uses an ER20 collet system to hold the ornament for slicing on the bandsaw instead of the scroll chuck.

(Like almost all other photos, you can zoom in a fair bit should you want a closer look at the jig. Also, kudos to Chris for photographing Dave with a perfect "deer in the headlights" look. – Editor)

Dave working away, Step 1. The first step is to take a square blank and turn it into a round cylinder and put a $^5/_8''$ tenon on one end. This is done between centers with a Oneway friction drive in the headstock. Once this was done, an ER25-MT2 collet holder replaced the Oneway friction drive and the cylinder was mounted in the ER25 16mm collet, ready to partially bore it out with a $^5/_8''$ MT2 twist drill in the tailstock. The final step was to change out the $^5/_8''$ twist drill for a $^5/_8''$ Forstner bit to give a flat interior end to the bore. The cylinder is now ready to go on the wave jig and cut the radius wave out.

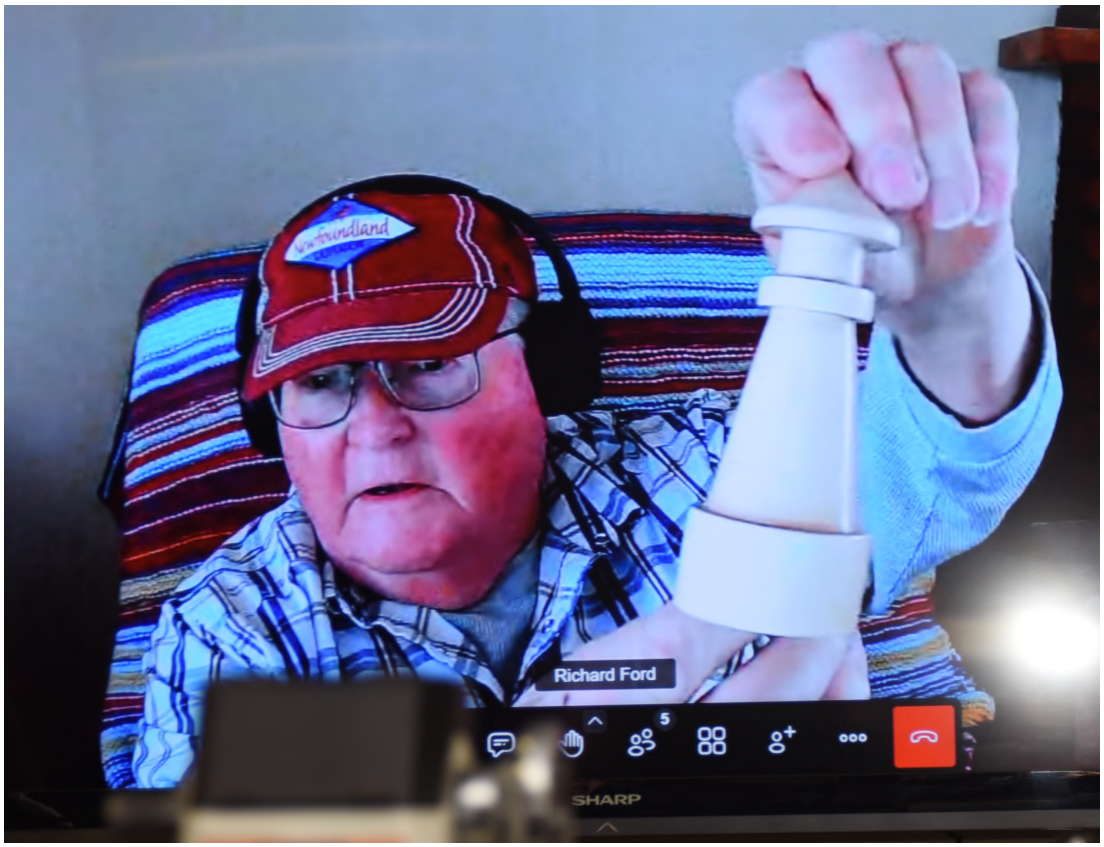
Dave working away, Step 2. The next demonstration was the actual profiling of an ornament. Dave put in a rough cherry ornament with a maple wave glued in place (prepared prior to the meeting) into the ER25-MT2 collet holder to bring the cylinder to a globe shape shown here. At this stage the outside is completely finished using a friction polish. Once the outside was done the tailstock was pulled back and the interior was hollowed out using a swan-necked carbide cutter. The globe was then ready for the finials to be made and fastened to the globe (this was not done at the meeting).

Show and Tell:

Dave is showing off a finial knob he made for a cherry lidded ceramic keepsake container. Dave and his wife Laura, who is a potter, often collaborate on pieces. This is from a recent show they did in Lunenburg this summer highlighting their work. The finial in this case was Cocobolo on the figured cherry lid.

Bob *(or is it just someone wearing his name tag??)* showing off three delicate finials.

An entry for Dave's informal “make a finial” challenge from Jim Diamond, who tried to do his best impersonation of Tim the Tool Man's neighbour Wilson.



Richard Ford talking about one of his lighthouse models.

DaveM's Fireside Chat

Welcome again to my fireside chat, it is almost the middle of March and the days are longer with the back of winter broken. It still isn't full-on spring but there is some definite warmth to the sun when it is out. March is the time for thinking about entering the Annual Woodturner's Turning Competition. We haven't discussed it much in our meetings and the details are yet to be worked out as I write this but rest assured that these details are being decided upon this week. You can expect that the end(-ish) of May will be the deadline for submission. So, get your thinking caps on and come up with some great ideas for competition projects. It would be nice if everyone could at least submit one item to the competition to get in on the great prizes available to participants. Whether you are a novice turner or a master turner your submissions will be displayed with pride in the Lee Valley Showroom.

Speaking about the competition we have many sponsors donating awards to participants... I want to give a shout out to one of the sponsors this month: Robert Gadd, the head of Woodworkers Specialties out of Coquitlam, BC. Woodworkers Specialties has a wide range of wood turning gear including their own in-house brand RGWood. One of their new products are the carbon fiber tool handles that I designed (**https://woodworkerspecialties.com/product/rgwood-carbon-fiber-collet-style-turning-tool-handles/**). Check out their writeup on the handles and consider them if you are thinking of having a multi-use handle for use in the shop. They also have their own line of handled and unhandled M42 HSS gouges, skews and scrapers.

Woodworkers Specialties is also the Nova/Teknatool distributor in Canada. I wanted to draw your attention to a couple of new jaw sets designed for Greenwood turning... I recently purchased a set and wanted to review them here. These come in two sizes (50mm and 112mm) and have a chrome type finish that resists rusting... an important feature if you are turning wet wood. They also have a deep serrated grip which can be seen in the photo below.

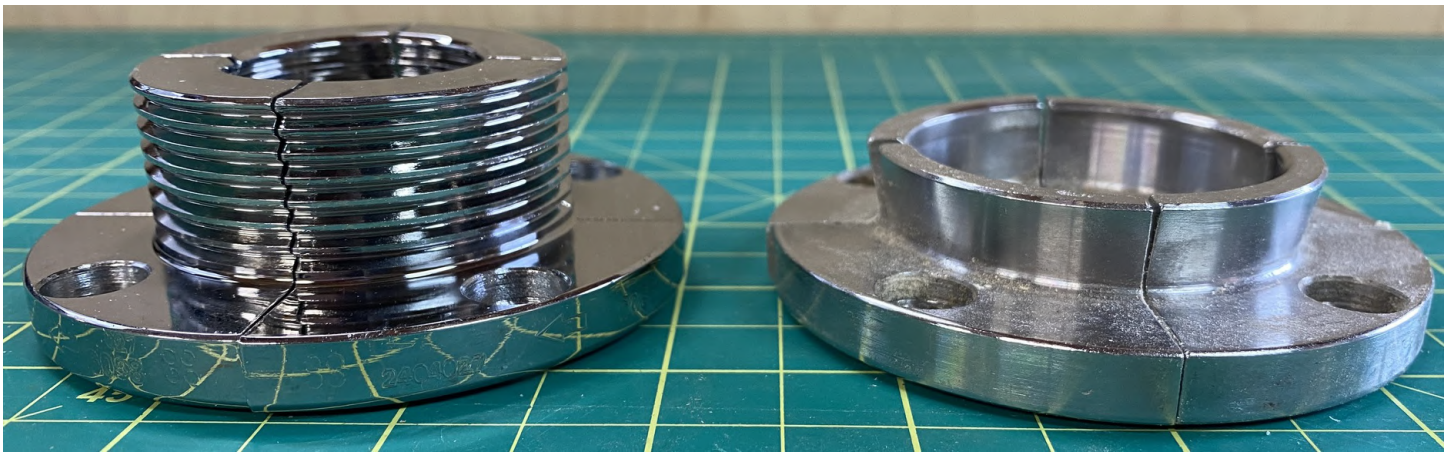


Figure 1. The new 50mm Greenwood Jaw set (left), beside the conventional 50mm dovetail jaw. Both have dovetails, but the Greenwood Jaw Set JS6088 has a deep serrated pocket to grip greenwood spigots or expand into a recess.
(**https://woodworkerspecialties.com/product/nova-50mm-2-greenwood-jaw-set/**)

I highly recommend this jaw set if you have a Nova chuck body and are turning greenwood, due to their superior gripping power on wet wood. Greenwood often is softer than dried wood and tends to squish, so the small contact area of a regular dovetail jaw set isn't sufficient to hold a greenwood piece on the lathe securely. That is where these new jaws excel, giving you a much more secure grip or expansion. The new finish also ensures that your jaws won't rust if they are gripping a greenwood project over several days. (A problem I have had with some of my regular jaws when attached to greenwood overnight). This type of jaw has been missing from the Nova Jaw line-up for some time and is a welcomed addition.

. . . . . .

Now on to the technical side of things; one thing that is often missing in people's turning kit is a small handle for the micro tools that I have been describing and writing about lately. Small gouges, skews, etc., need smaller handles and preferably handles from which the tool bits can be removed to be sharpened, because the tools are shorter and may need special jigs to sharpen them. So, a removable handle is handy to have and I thought I would share how I make such handles so you could make your own as they are not readily available commercially.

I start out with two purchased items: the first is a C20-ER16 collet holder meant for attaching to a 10mm motor shaft (**https://www.amazon.ca/C20-ER16-40L-Spindle-Clamping-Toolchuck-Fafeicyvsh3pzu2cr-03/dp/B0CY3KWXJL/**), and the second is a carbon fiber (CF) tube, 22mm od × 20mm id. It just so happens that this combination means that the collet holder can be glued directly into the carbon fiber tube using epoxy glue. In order to protect your hands and the CF tube I also glue on a brass ring of the appropriate size. I find that a brass $^3/_4''$ PEX to $^3/_4''$ copper tube fitting is almost exactly the right outside diameter to match the outside diameter of the 22mm CF tube. The inside of the fitting is just a bit too tight to fit over the C20-ER16-40L holder, so it needs to be hollowed out a bit. (I can get three of these bands out of one PEX fitting). I turn these out using a Taig lathe, but it could be done on your regular lathe with some care. I use a small section of a $^3/_4''$ id bushing to slip over the M19 threaded portion of the collet holder to line up the brass ring and the CF tube to ensure it all stays aligned during the glue up. These components can be seen in Figure 2 below.

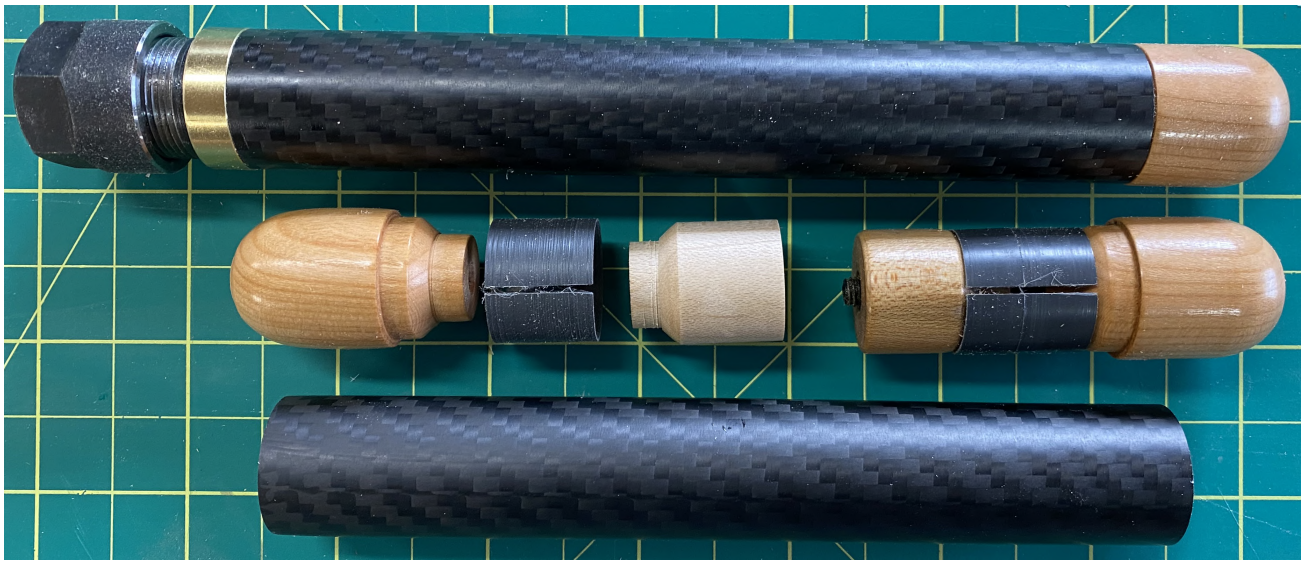


Figure 2. A completed handle and its components.

Once the collet holder is glued in place then one needs to add an end cap . . . this could be just a glued-in wooden plug with an appropriate outer and inner diameters or you could make a removable end cap. The advantage of the removable end cap is that you can easily recover a tool bit that happens to slip into the CF tube by accident.

I start out with a 1″ square blank put into the pen jaws to bore it out 5mm and add a countersunk hole for the M5 hex cap socket screw that draws the components together and expands the PVC pipe to lock it in place. A second shorter block of $^7/_8$″ maple is also bored out to 5.1mm with a 6mm short hole to retain the brass insert. See Figure 3 for the components.

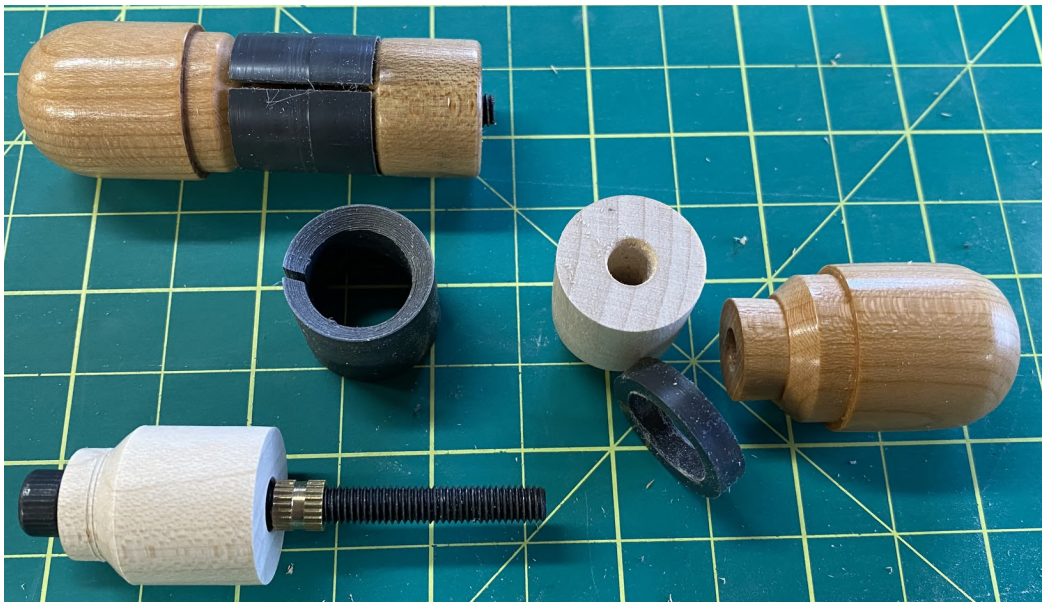


Figure 3. A completed end cap and its components below. PVC collet with 45° bevels on each end, slit on the band saw. The detailed profile for the end cap and the maple retainer plug with the M5 brass insert ready to be drawn in with the cap screw. The small PVC ring is used to get the diameters right for the wooden pieces.

Figure 4 shows the 45° bevel of the PVC bushing being made on the Taig lathe. This is just a short length of $^1/_2$″ PVC threaded pipe (same diameter as $^1/_2$″ iron pipe) which has been turned down to 20mm od and the bevels added.

Figure 4. The bevel being added to the PVC pipe using a cross-slide set at 45° and a HSS cutter with a round relieved bottom edge to get into the pipe.

Next, we need to make the wooden pieces the right diameters. I will show the making of the threaded insert end, but the same procedure is used for the wooden end cap.

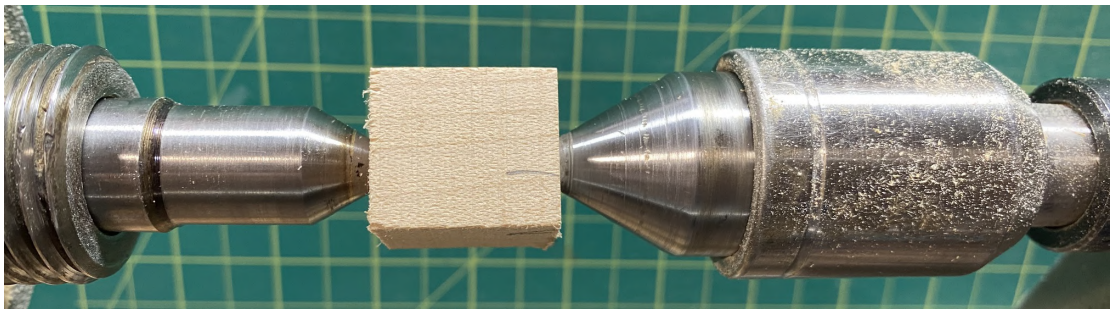


Figure 5. The bored retaining block is mounted between centers ready to be turned down.

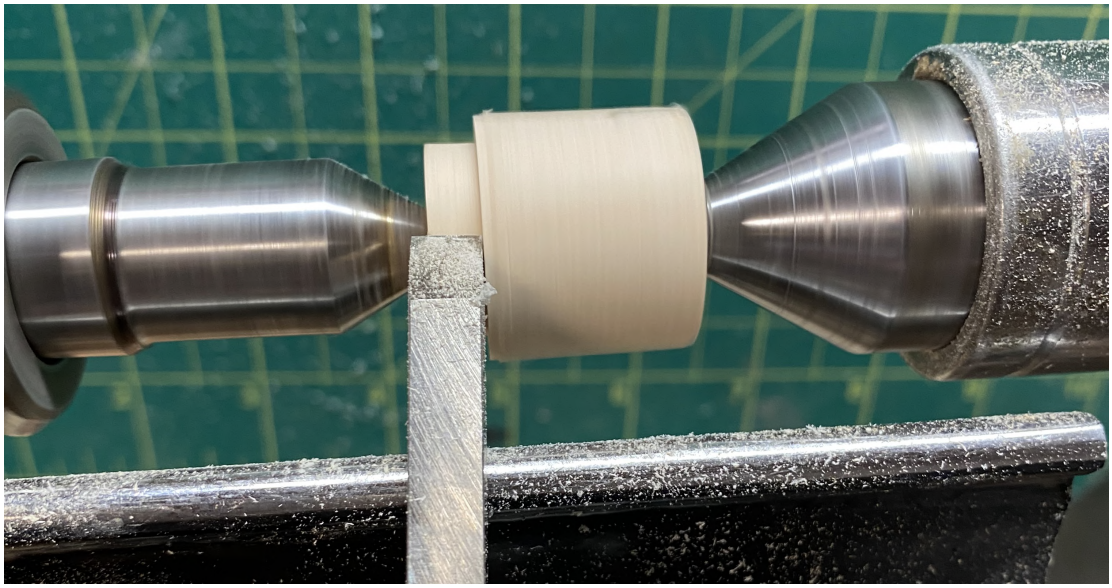


Figure 6. A small 6mm beading tool (basically a 90° skew with a 30° bevel) is used to make a small tenon with the inner diameter of the PVC collet.

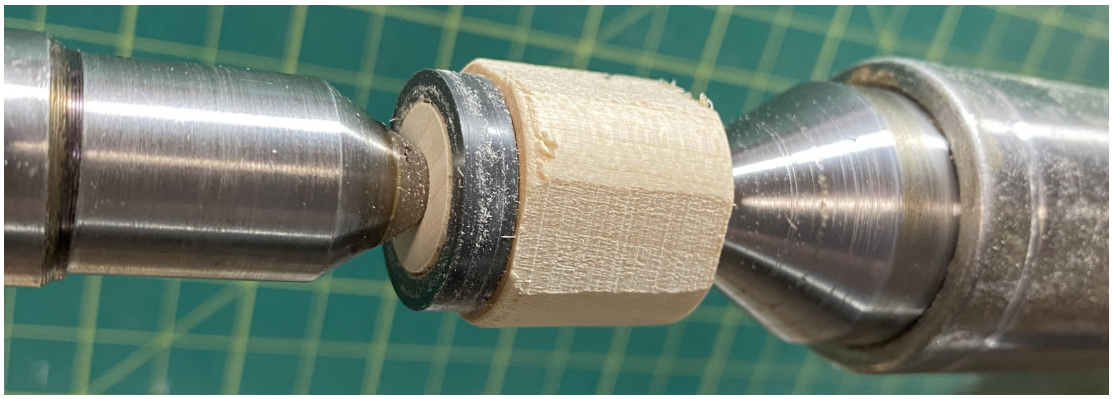


Figure 7. The PVC sizing ring is slipped onto the tenon ready to turn down the retainer to its final diameter to fit inside the CF tube.

Figure 8. A final skew planing cut is used to size the blank using the PVC bushing ring for dimensions. Once turned down to size, a small $^1/_4''$ beading tool is used to cut in the bevel shoulder (not shown).

The turned retaining end is now ready for the insertion of the M5 brass insert which is done with the M5 cap screw drawing in the insert. The three pieces are then put together as in Figure 2, then inserted in the end of the CF tube and the M5 cap screw tightened up to expand the PVC bushing, locking in the end cap to the handle.

Hopefully this will encourage others to make similar handles, or at least give you an idea of the processes that go into making such a handle.

Dave McLachlan

Some Recent Pen Work

Christmas came and went and so did a large part of the inventory of pens that I had made for gifts. So, to take care of the reduced inventory I recently spent a couple of days making ten pens. The down side of that effort is that when my wife sees them she shares the pictures with her family and my inventory takes another hit. Here are some pictures of the new pen kits I made in this batch:

The three on the left are Maple Leaf kits. The middle one is made with Cocobolo and the other two are made using Hard Maple. The two on the right are Etesia kits made using acrylic acetate blanks. The light blue blank ("Seafoam") has some very transparent sections so I had to pre-paint the brass tube with white paint. This made the tube less obvious after assembly.

These five pens are all made from SnapCap kits. From left to right they were made from Hard Maple, Acrylic Acetate, Padauk, Stabilized Maple Burl and Cocobolo. The pen kit on the right is a coloured kit. The colour is some type of lacquer coating applied to the metal parts by the manufacturer. This was the only pen that gave me any problems. After completion when I attempted to place the snap cap on the nib end or the finial end it would not fully seat in place (did not 'snap' into place). I don't know if the lacquer coating was the cause of this or the cap was not made correctly. In any event I now have a new 'shop' pen and one less pen to use as a gift.

So, after all this, my inventory only increased by four pens since five were immediately sent off as gifts and, as mentioned, one was a dud. Back to the lathe in the near future I guess!

All kits were from William Wood-Write in Ontario.

Gary Landry

Goosed by the Swan

This week I experimented with the #5 Hunter Swan Neck hollowing tool. The cutter head is extremely small and I had great difficulty engaging it to make a decent cut.

Watching the YouTube video about properly positioning the cutter did not prove helpful as the tool produced a lot of chatter and less than a smooth cut. The platter was saved using a regular bowl gouge rather than continuing to hack at it with the #5.

I suspect the problem is with me and I will just need to continue experimenting until I get things right.

William R. Maes

Editor's note: this sounds like a good meeting topic: is there any member who is good with swan-necked tools who would like to do a demo?

March Meeting Preview

Here is a photo from Richard Ford showing an example of what he will be talking about at the next meeting. How did he do this? All secrets will be revealed at the meeting!

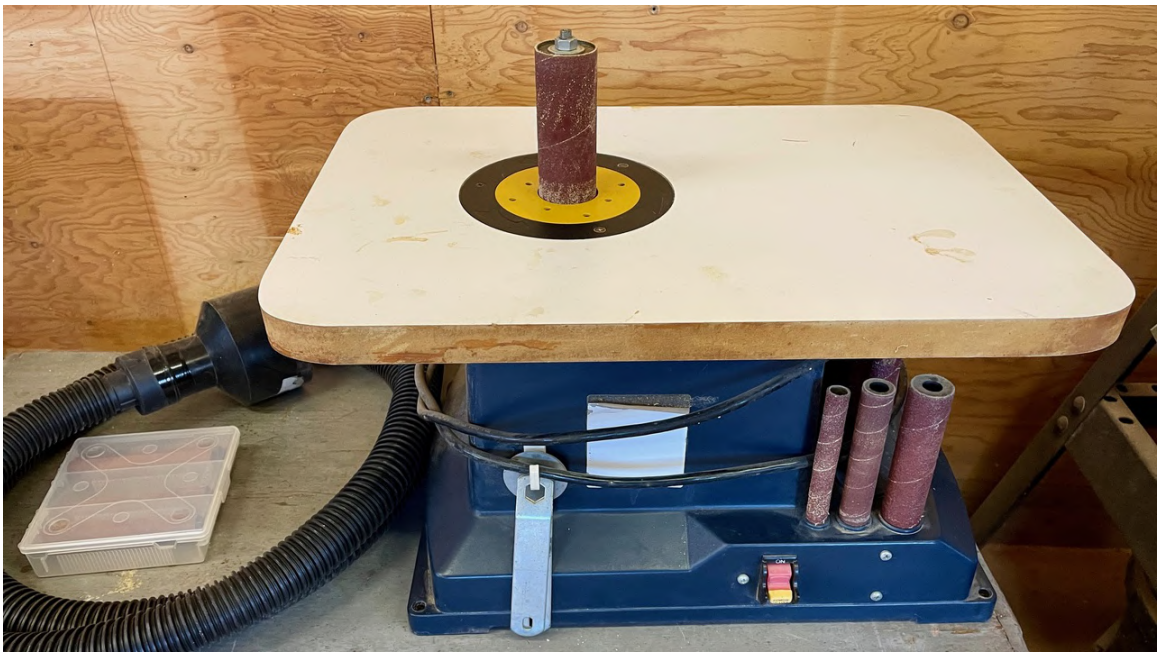
Yet More Moore Items For Sale

Don Moore has another batch of items for sale. Should you be interested in any of these, please contact him directly. He tells me that if you send him an e-transfer (or equivalent) he can bring the item to the meeting this week.

This Lot contains an 8″ grinder, one CBN 180 grit 8″ grinding wheel, four 1″ × 8″ grinding wheels, a Oneway balancing unit, a sharpening jig, two extension arms for bowl and Irish grinds, two jigs to produce Irish and bowl grinds, diamond dressing wheel and diamond sharpening stones. A $1,000 value for $350.00.

Makita LS1011 10″ compound sliding mitre saw and PortAmate stand: $300.00

Oneway 16″ banjo: $135.00.



Mastercraft oscillating spindle sander #55-3511-6: $90.00

Oneway chuck and carving vise: $150.00

Oneway Vari-Grind jigs: $30.00 each

One General slow-speed grinder, Oneway balancing system, two Veritas grinder tool rests: $180.00

Three 130″ R and D Bandsaw blades: two $\frac{1}{2}$″ 3H and one $\frac{3}{8}$″ 4H; $60.00 for all three

Dial Indicator with Magnetic Base: $35.00

Cover Photo

The cover shows a better photo of one of Dave's wave bowls, as he presented at the February meeting. Here it is again, with another photo giving a better view of the interior of the bowl.

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 (or their spouse!) 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)	Bob Earle	
Vice President	**vice-president** (or)	Bill Maes	
Secretary	**secretary**	Calum Ewing	
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.