The Journal of the Nova Woodturners' Guild

Volume 29 Issue 8
April 2025

The Turning Point

In this issue:

The next meeting of the Nova Woodturners' Guild
will be held **on-line**, starting at 2:00 PM on Sunday, April 13, 2025.
Both video link URLs will be distributed via email before the meeting.

At the April meeting:
IRD: A multi-axis turned eye glasses case — Kai Munzer
A short members' meeting will be held after the IRD

The President's Report

Hopefully the last of the ice and snow is behind us and we can get outside and enjoy some nicer weather. The Artisans Weekend didn't go too badly. I attended both days, with Gary Landry joining me on Saturday. We had sales totaling $45.00. It was a great opportunity to let people know that we existed Several people indicated that they we interested in knowing more.

Bill Maes' Baseball Bat challenge submission date has been extended until the May 4 meeting due to the April 13th meeting being held in a remote format.

This month's demo will be an IRD presented by Kai Munzer. The topic will be a multi-axis turned eye glasses case. This was highlighted in the AAW August 2024 Fundamentals Journal. It seems like a challenging enough project for advanced members and yet could be done by novice turners (at least it would be a good experience for novice turners to try to turn a non-hollow handle, based on the multi-axis process as an introduction).

That's all for now and I looking forward to see you online next Sunday.

Bob Earle — President

Notes from the *February* Meeting

Editor's note: photos from the February meeting were published in the March newsletter. Pairing up those photos with these meeting notes is left as an exercise to the diligent student.

Back to Basics:

In the pre-meeting mini-demo with **Dave McLachlan**, Dave demonstrated using the Sorby ProEdge™ system for sharpening a range of turning tools.

Welcome:

The meeting was called to order by President **Bob Earle** at 2:04 PM with 12 members present and five members online.

Announcements & Discussion:

- We are trying to hold most of today's meeting both in person and online with the Jitsi platform.
- A follow-up to last month's discussion on possibly selling items on Etsy. It has been very frustrating trying to navigate the Etsy website. We hope to have more information for the March meeting.
- This month we piloted our new Back to Basics series of mini-demos before the meeting. Thanks to Dave for the interesting demo and leading the discussion that ensued. Next month, we continue the sharpening theme with a mini-demo on using PSA-backed abrasive sheets for sharpening tools.
- Our planned March meeting date has been pre-empted by Lee Valley as they need the Seminar Room. We will send out an email with a poll to determine the best alternate date.

Main Presentation:

The main demonstration was by **David McLachlan** on *Making a Wave Ornament*.

Dave has not seen any other examples of the "Wave Bowl" technique used to make tree ornaments and believes he may be the first to develop this process. To create these ornaments, Dave has built a scaled down version of the the Wave Bowl jig he previously demonstrated.

Preparing the Blank:

- Start with a suitable blank for the ornament body (approx. 2 to $2\frac{1}{2}''$ square and at least $4''$ long). Mount between centres and turn it to round, then create a tenon on one end to fit your chuck. Using Dave's Wave jig, the tenon must match the size of the collet chuck on the jig.
- Reverse the blank and mount it in your chuck (ideally a collet chuck). Next drill a $\frac{5}{8}''$ diameter hole in the centre of the blank stopping $\frac{1}{4}''$ short of the tenon, to ensure the tenon doesn't break away from the globe body. This hole will be used to keep pieces of the body aligned / indexed.

- Transfer the blank to the wave jig and mount it in the jig's collet chuck. Set the jig pivot point to create the desired radius of curve for the wave. Dave's jig has multiple pivot points on 10mm centres to allow a range of curve radii. Advance the jig to the desired point (near the mid-point of the blank) and cut the "wave" slice out, advancing the jig the desired amount before the second cut to get a slice of the desired thickness.
- Repeat this process with a blank of a contrasting wood to get contrasting bodies and "waves".

Assembling the Blank:

- Select the desired blank top, bottom and "wave" and glue them together with any good wood glue. To keep everything aligned, a short section of $1/2''$ Pex™ plumbing pipe (with a 12mm OD×6mm ID aluminum tube insert) fits the $5/8''$ centre hole perfectly, and the glue won't stick to the plastic pipe.
- Remount the blank in the collet chuck on the lathe and measure the distance from the end of the blank to the "crest" of the wave. Mark the blank at a point that will indicate the other end of the blank so that the wave is exactly in the centre of the blank.
- Using a parting tool, cut off the end of the blank at your mark using a thin parting tool.

Forming the Body:

- Using a spindle gouge, begin to shape the body of the ornament to the desired shape (sphere, oval, etc.).
- If desiring a perfect sphere shape, a small template of the correct size will help to get the ends of the blank evenly shaped into a sphere.
- It is good to have a $1/8''$ thick spacer disk of plastic or plywood between the blank and the collet chuck to prevent tool damage if the tool should contact the chuck while forming close to the end of the blank.
- Once you are happy with the shape, use a parting tool to create small flat shoulders on both ends of the body. These will allow finial bases to sit neatly on the body with a clean joint.

For a Protruding Wave:

- To create an ornament with a protruding wave, follow the steps above but do not glue the body segments together. Insert a segment of Pex pipe (with the aluminum insert). to keep the parts aligned.
- Insert a "spacer" wave segment between the body top and bottom and tun the body down to a smaller diameter of the desired shape.
- Once the body is shaped, remove from the collet and remove the "spacer". Completely sand the surface to the desired grit.
- Complete sanding, staining (if desired) and finishing of the "wave" slice, then glue the body together with the original wave slice to create the protruding wave.

Hollowing the Body:

- Dave created a specific mandrel that grips the small "shelf" created inside the base by hollowing with the $^5/_8''$ drill. This mandrel attaches to the end of the body with a threaded piece inside against the internal "shelf" and is then held in the collet chuck to allow hollowing the body.
- Hollow the body slowly with a small swan-necked hollower. Be careful not to take heavy cuts or the body may break off the mandrel. Be careful also not to contact the internal end of the mandrel to avoid tool damage.
- Hollowing is done only to remove weight from the ornament; the body is not sanded or finished inside.

Completing the Ornament:

- Once the body is complete create upper and lower finials of your design to complete the ornament.
- The finials can be glued into the body, but Dave prefers to tap a small hole in the inside end of each finial and connect the two finials with a short segment of 4mm threaded rod. In this way, the finials can be changed if they get damaged, without risking damage to the body of the ornament.

Show & Tell:

Dave McLachlan	showed a collaborative urn: a wooden lid with finial on a ceramic urn by potter Laura Bishop (Dave's wife).
Louise Plourde	presented a similar collaboration with a ceramic urn by her spouse and wood lid with finial created by Louise.
Jim Diamond	created a finial in cherry(?) using a 6mm round skew chisel made by Dave McLachlan.
Richard Ford	showed off a lighthouse ornament inspired by Bob Earle's lantern ornament demo. A tealight in the base provides the light and Richard used his laser engraver to add details to the exterior of the lighthouse.
Dave McLachlan	presented a "tri-point" tool that he created with some 4mm HSS bar stock. These are very useful for making small grooves (e.g., for starting burn lines) or using the edges as a small scraper.

Raffle Results:

Calum Ewing	added a maple blank to his collection.
Mark Hazen	won a screwdriver kit and handle blank.
David Dansereau	collected a maple blank.
Gary Landry	scooped up a bowl blank in unknown wood.
Martin Lachance	added an assortment of Woodturning magazines (6) to his library.
Charles Neiforth	took home a set of Woodturning magazines (6).

The gathering wrapped up at 4:15 PM.

Notes from the March Meeting

Back to Basics:

In the pre-meeting mini-demo with **Dave McLachlan**, Dave demonstrated using pressure sensitive adhesive (PSA) backed abrasive sheets for "touch-up" sharpening a range of turning tools. Strips of these abrasive sheets in a range of fine grits can be stuck to a smooth ceramic tile and used to put a fine edge on tools. A quick touch up on these sheets can put a fine edge on a tool several times before you need to go back to the grinder again to do a major re-sharpening.

Welcome:

The meeting was called to order by President **Bob Earle** at 2:05 PM with 11 members present, six members online, and one guest: Greg McMullin.

Bob opening the meeting. Curiously, he later reported that he felt like he was being watched.

Announcements & Discussion:

- We are trying to hold most of today's meeting both in person and online with the Jitsi platform.
- Next month's meeting will be held April 13h and the main topic will be an Internet Remote Demo (IRD) with a Canadian turner. More details will come by email once the details are finalized.
- A follow-up to last month's discussion on possibly selling items on Etsy. It has been very frustrating trying to navigate the Etsy website. We hope to have more information for the March meeting.
- This month it's time for some friendly competition. VP **Bill Maes** has acquired some maple bat ends that are for this year's Fun Turn. Make sure you get a piece before you go and get your creativity going. The finished pieces are to be brought to the April meeting for the big reveal.
- Life member **Don Moore** has donated a bunch of turning accessories that will be used for future raffle prizes. Thank you Don!

Competition 2025:

The annual turning competition of the NWG will be held in May. Competition entry forms and rules are on the website in the Documents section.

Entries can be dropped off at the May meeting on May 4th, or in the Seminar room at Lee Valley on May 16th and 17th from 12:00 to 3:00 PM.

The deadline for entries is May 17th at 3:00 PM.

Pieces will be on display in the Lee Valley showroom from May 17th to June 8th. Prize presentation will be at the June Guild meeting.

Main Presentation:

The main demonstration was a video demonstration by **Richard Ford** on "Making a Working Lighthouse Ornament".

Richard was inspired by President **Bob Earle**'s demo in November on making a working lantern ornament and wondered if he could extend the idea to create a working lighthouse. He has developed models of lighthouses that can be plain (i.e., using the lathe only), or after turning can be embellished with details using a laser engraver.

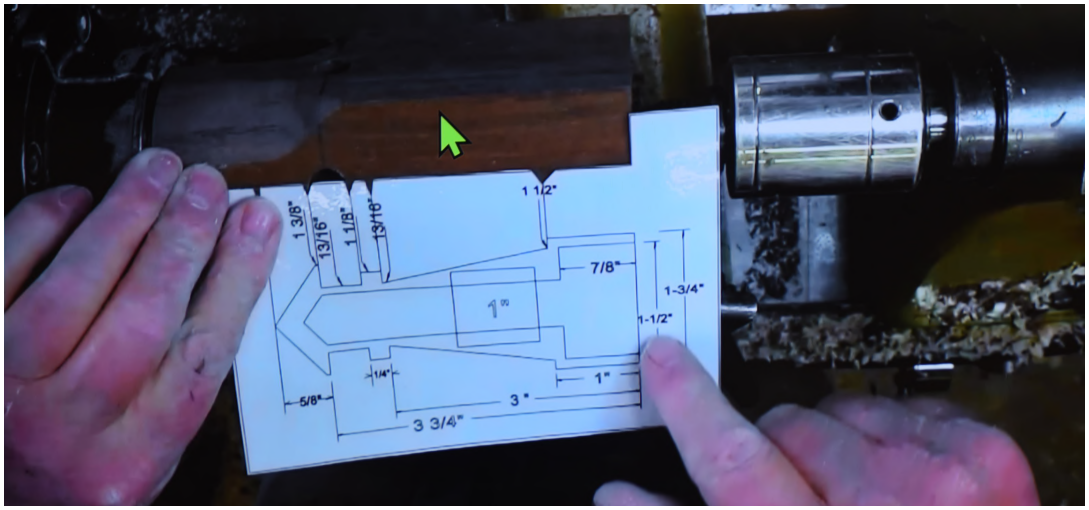
Preparing the Blank:

- Start with a blank (species of your choice) 6″ inches long and $2\frac{1}{4}$″ square. For the "drilled window" version it needs to be exactly square.
- Mark a point just under $3\frac{1}{2}$″ from one end on each face and mark the centre point of the blank at each of these marks. Drill a $\frac{7}{16}$″ hole completely through the blank at this point, then turn the blank 90° and drill again. This will result in a centred hole in each face of the blank. These holes will become the windows at the top of the lighthouse.
- Note: if you are planning to embellish the ornament with a laser engraver, you can cut the windows with the laser so these drilled holes are not necessary. For the laser-cut version the blank can be any shape, it doesn't have to be perfectly square.

Turning the Lighthouse:

- Richard created a template drawing with all of the required diameters and dimensions of each part of the lighthouse (a PDF of Richard's template is available in the *Hints* section of the Guild website). The end of the blank that is $3\frac{1}{2}''$ from the holes will be the base of the ornament. Mount the blank between centres with the base end at the headstock.
- Using a spindle gouge, turn a tenon on the top end that will fit your chuck jaws. Then reverse the blank and mount in your chuck.

A blank after drilling out the holes, mounting on the lathe, and beginning to turn the tenon at the top.



After reversing the blank, Richard's template is held against the blank to show where the sizing points will eventually be located.

- Using a $1\frac{1}{2}''$ Forstner bit drill a hole in the base end $\frac{7}{8}''$ deep. This will accommodate the LED tealight candle that will be used to provide the light.
- Next drill a $\frac{5}{8}''$ diameter hole $3\frac{3}{4}''$ deep. You may need a longer than standard drill bit for this. This will put the shoulders of the drill bit just a bit above the window holes drilled in the blank. This completes the hollowing of the lighthouse.

- Bring up the tailstock with a cone centre into the hole in the base of the lighthouse and turn the body to round with a roughing gouge at 1000–1500 RPM.
- With the lathe running in reverse at slow speed, mark off all of the required transition points. Richard's template drawing is very helpful for this stage. Using a parting tool, cut in to the desired diameter at each transition point.
- Starting at the base, turn down the blank to create each segment of the lighthouse. Turn the base down to about $^1/_8$″ wall thickness. Then turn down the tapered body of the lighthouse using a small skew chisel or spindle gouge. Be careful when sizing the segment with the window holes to avoid catching the tip of the calipers in the window openings: stop the lathe to size this diameter.

Turning the tapered middle section of the lighthouse.

- Clean up all surfaces with a scraper to remove tool marks. Begin to turn the taper for the roof but leave a good amount of wood to support the blank at this stage.
- Sand the whole lighthouse to your desired grit and apply your favorite finish. Richard uses *Tried & True Original*™, then polishes with *NovaSilk* abrasive paste (see the *Documents* section of the Guild website for instructions on how to make this).
- Finish turning the taper of the roof, sand and apply finish, then part off the lighthouse with a small spindle gouge or skew chisel.

Engraving the Lighthouse:

- Richard uses a Creality Falcon II™ 23 watt laser engraver fitted with an Ortur™ chuck rotary device to rotate the workpiece around the long axis. He uses LightBurn™ software to control the laser.
- The desired pattern is a repeating pattern to create identical elements on the lighthouse. These can be windows, doors and shingles for the walls and roof, as desired. The length of the design (with all its repetitions) must be exactly the same as the circumference of the lighthouse at the segment being engraved. So the size of the pattern must be adjusted to this dimension in the software.
- The cutting / engraving pattern can be made of several layers and will be cut in order. The speed and power of the laser is set for each layer to get the desired cutting or engraving effect. Each segment of the lighthouse (base, tower, walkway, windows and roof) have a different design and are engraved as separate jobs for the engraver. The engraving work can be previewed in the software to check the order of cutting tasks.

- The lighthouse is then mounted in the chuck rotary unit held between the chuck and its live center.
- The laser is head is aligned with the “zero” point over the blank and it is ready to go.
- Once the laser is set, the extraction fan is turned on — a good enclosure with effective smoke extraction is essential.

The lighthouse after one door has been engraved.

- **Note:** it is critical not to look at the laser while it is cutting as it can cause blindness instantly. It is also important to ensure that pets are not around so they are not impacted by the laser light.
- Once the engraving is complete, remove the lighthouse from the laser unit and remove any waste wood parts remaining (e.g., around the window openings).

Completing:

- Form a small tinfoil reflector over a small wooden cone, and then glue the reflector point side down on the roof of the lighthouse (see picture below right).
- Use hot melt glue or five minute epoxy to glue an LED tealight into the bottom and your ornament is complete!

A close-up of the finished lighthouse.

The tealight's light bouncing off the conical reflector attached to the lighthouse roof.

Recognition for Gary Landry:

President **Bob Earle** wished to recognize the contributions of Past President **Gary Landry**. Gary served as President for six years, serving the Guild faithfully throughout. He steered the Guild through the difficult times created by the COVID-19 pandemic and led the rejuvenation of Guild activities following the lifting of Public Health restrictions. His efforts and determination are very much appreciated by all.

As thanks to Gary, the Guild presented him with:

- a set of large and small tool handles made by Dave McLachlan;
- a set of collets for each handle;
- a "Tri-Point" tool in HSS;
- a $^{3}/_{8}''$ Spindle Gouge (unhandled) from Woodturners Specialties in BC; and
- cake!

Show & Tell:

David McLachlan showed off his set of "green wood" jaws for the Nova™ chuck line. These jaws have a deep recess and are serrated inside and out to enhance the holding of green wood. They also have a chrome finish to resist corrosion from the moisture in the wood.

He also presented his new small carbon fibre handle that has an ER-16 collet holder in the end. Collets are available for 1 to 10mm shanks.

Raffle Results:

Greg McMullin	took home a parting tool.
Gary Landry	added a Butternut blank to his collection.
Calum Ewing	won a $25 gift certificate from R&D Bandsaws.
Martin Lachance	took home a set of *Woodturning* magazines (6).
Greg McMullin	won a face shield for his workshop.
Bob Earle	collected a batch of Woodturning magazines (6) for his library.

The meeting wrapped up at 4:05 PM.

Calum Ewing — Secretary

Bonus photo: Dave (subbing in for Bill who couldn't make today's meeting) showing a couple of the blanks for the fun turn.

DaveM's Fireside Chat

This seems like a fast turnaround from March but here we are getting ready for another NWG meeting. The next meeting will be an on-line meeting for a IRD with Kai Muenzer from Calgary. The topic will be a multi-axis turning of a glasses case. This makes a great project for a non-rolling glasses case that we can make on the lathe. For less experienced turners it at least gives one the introduction to doing a multi-axis turning which could be used to make a three sided tool handle. This is sure to be an enlightening IRD.

I also wanted to remind everyone to think about entering the NWG annual turning competition (final submissions Sunday 1:00 to 3:00 May 18th at Lee Valley). I thought I would share a previous submission to the competition entered by myself a few years back. I had always wanted to make a mantle clock, but wanted to do something out of the ordinary. I had a 2″ insert clock mechanism on hand (no longer available from Lee Valley) which I thought could work out well. The whole project consisted of nine separate turnings all combined into one final piece. The columns and finial were cocobolo, the base and roof pieces were cherry and the case for the clock mechanism was figured Nova Scotia apple. I called the piece *Time Suspended*.

Figure 1. A winning submission *Time Suspended* by myself to the annual NWG turners competition several years back.

I hope this encourages you to think about submitting some of your work to the competition.

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On the technical side: at the last meeting there was some discussion about using carbide insert swan-necked tools for hollowing so I thought I would focus on that. The ornaments I have been working on lend themselves to this. I use two tools mainly for this: a #1 C-hook tool made by Hunter Systems available from "Branches to Bowls" out of Calgary... (**https://branchestobowls.com/product/1-c-hook-tool**) and a home built straight cutter built around a $^3/_8$″ stainless shaft milled for a 10mm carbide cup cutter.

In Figure 2 you can see the Hunter C-hook tool with its 6mm cup insert. The best way to use this tool is to hold it slightly below center and the hook angled downwards about 15° rubbing the bevel of the cup. This gives an angled shearing cut that results in fine curls.

Figure 2. The Hunter C-hook tool. Note the upper face of the carbide insert is angled downwards so to give a shear cut in a globe hollowing operation.

This tool is used primarily for hollowing out small globes. It does well under-cutting the globe, especially for the back to front operation. In use one starts the cut near the back of the globe and draws it forwards, slightly below the center line of the piece, keeping the hook about 10 to 15° down from the main shaft. After each pass use an air gun to blast out the shavings as they can really accumulate inside these small globes.

The other tool is a homemade one, seen in Figures 3 & 4; it has a $^3/_8''$ stainless shaft with a milled end to accommodate a 10mm carbide cupped round insert meant for cutting aluminum (insert code: RCGT0803MO-LHC BU810). This tool is also best used just below center and rotated so the cutter faces the cut at a 30° downward angle seen in Figures 4 & 5.

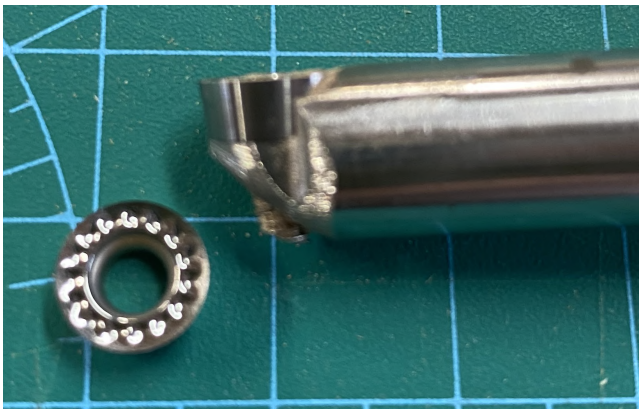


Figure 3. The pocket cut into the shaft to hold the insert with the edges relieved to allow internal hollowing.

Figure 4. The same tool shown from the top side, the insert angled slightly downwards to facilitate a sheer cutting action.

Figure 5. The tool angled ready for insertion into the globe in order to hollow it out. Note the angle of attack to the globe wall. When hollowing the bottom of the globe the cut starts from the center and moves along the inner wall.

In Figure 5 we can see the angle of attack for the insert to give a shear cut. The cutting action is from the back of the globe towards the front. In this case the tool rest is set at about the height of the bottom of the $^5/_8''$ bore of the globe and the shaft at about 25° to the long axis of the globe on the tool rest.

The other tool that could be used is the OneWay #1 termite ring tool which would be used in a similar fashion to the homemade tool above.

I hope this helps with proper use of these hollowing tools on small globes.

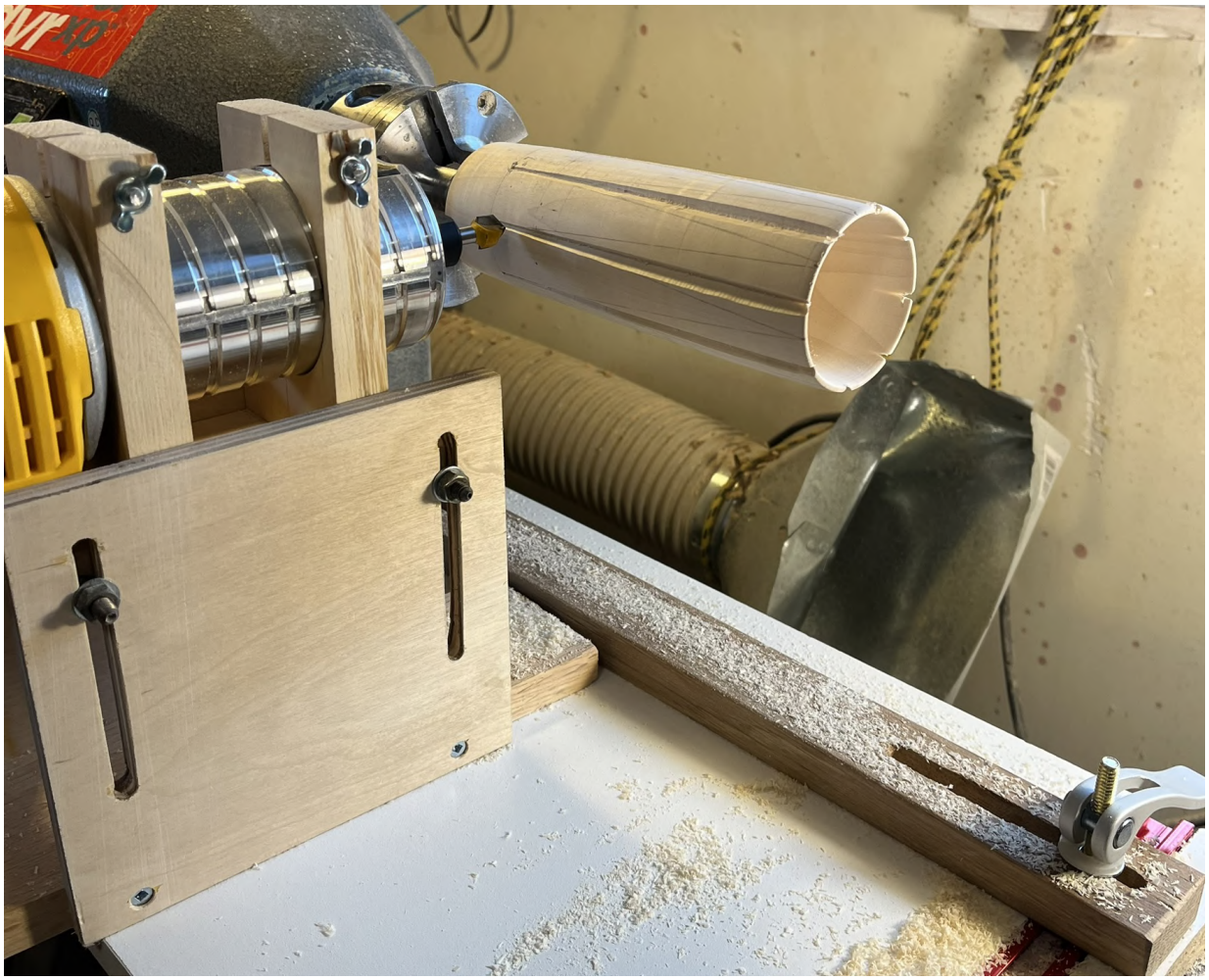
Dave McLachlan

Baseball Bat Challenge

Some members who don't put things off until the last second (what's up with that??) have submitted some photos of what they made.

Guild brother Mark H reports: “A week or so ago I saw a neat video of someone turning a cherry vase/art piece with multiple arms, and since we have the baseball bat challenge I decided I would try something like it. Well, like all initial attempts it is less than perfect. I started by taking the top off to provide a wider base for the vase. Then since I needed to reattach it, I decided to turn a tenon on the main piece and add a piece of contrasting wood.”

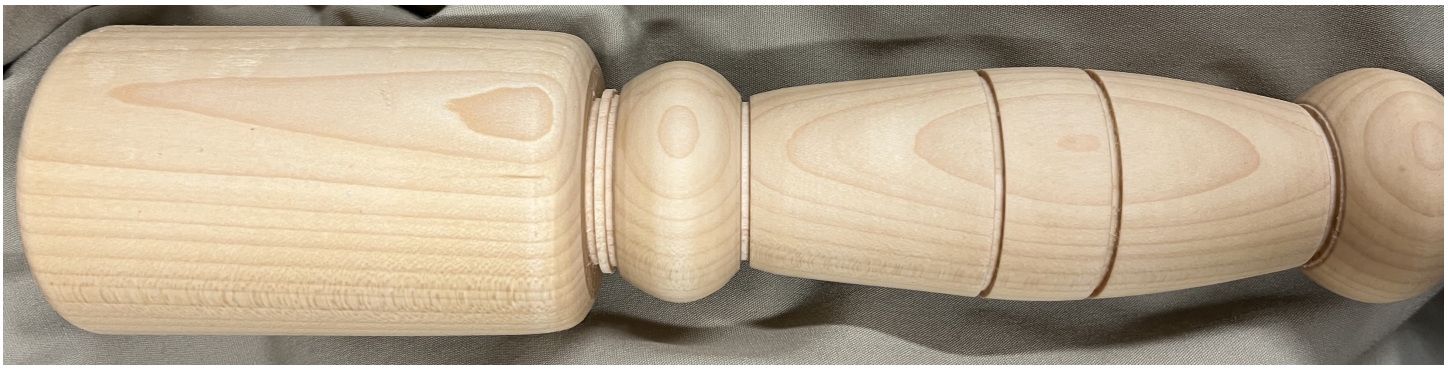
“The main piece was deep drilled (got to use my deep boring kit!) to 5″ and then hollowed out to provide a thinner wall. I probably should have just left it, but instead carried on. In the video, they used a V chisel to start the gap between the arms, but since I had just built a jig for my router and a table to use it with my lathe I decided to use a pointed router bit. See picture below. This worked quite well, and I actually think I would be happier if I had left the piece with the grooves, although not so deep or not as close to the top.”



“The next step was to draw out the V-grooves on the piece and use a Japanese saw to cut them out. This was a lot harder than I expected and I had a hard time getting the vees all the same length. I thought I could sand them out to the same depth or cut them out. But this was ash!! And the vase is too small a diameter to get the sand paper in. So frustrating! But I did get the arms sanded reasonably well.”

“'Oh well I thought, lets put the bottom on and finish things off.' Unfortunately when I drilled the base to fit the tenon the first time the hole was not deep enough, and when I deepened it I went too far (cracked the bottom). Since I had already done the main piece I had to continue on, and hope no one looks at the bottom. Compounded was the difficulty of getting the glued piece trued on the lathe with the arms not being able to support the piece. Another time, I think I would glue up the whole piece first before creating the arms. Anyways, here is a picture of the finished piece on the lathe.”

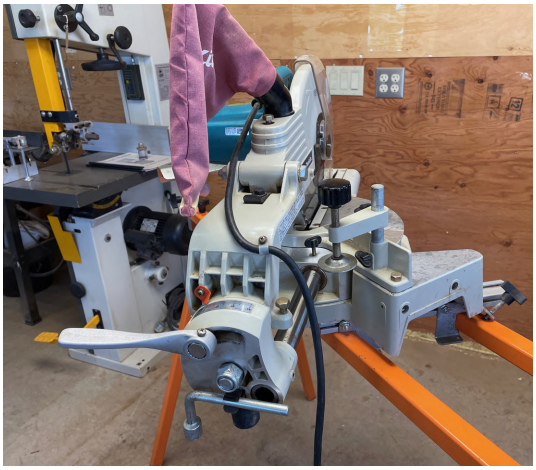
Guild brother Bill M has made a mallet for a friend who carves wood:



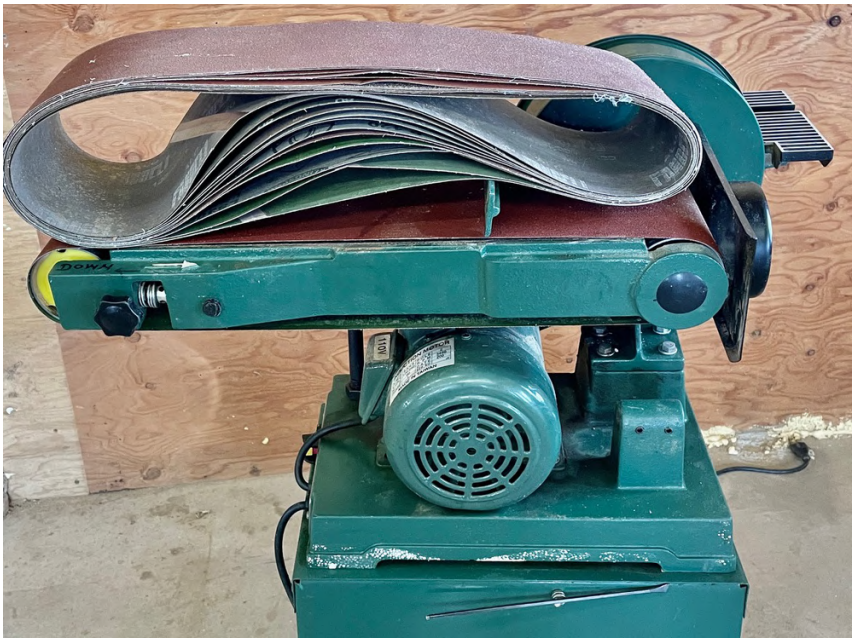
Tools For Sale

Don Moore has a few more tools for sale.

Makita 10″ Sliding Compound Mitre Saw Model LS1011 with “Port a Mate” Stand; $225.00.



Craftex 6″×48″ Belt and 9″ Disk Sander, this unit comes with 12 belts; $225.00. (Needs new sticky backed disk.)



Please contact Don directly if you are interested in either of these tools.

Cover Photo

Noted abstract artist M. Nature has created this abstract form from a number of burls and other wood fibers. This installation is found in Point Pleasant Park and is anticipated to remain there throughout the summer. Woodturners are cautioned to remove ideas of burl harvesting from their minds.

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 — 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.