

## 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, September 7, 2025 at 2:00 PM

At the September meeting:  
Greetings to members new and old  
Stephen Zwerling and the skew  
Show and Tell

## The President's Report

It's hard to believe that the summer is over and we will be starting a new season. This year the Guild will be celebrating it's 30th year. We have started planning for the upcoming meetings with several (what I believe are interesting) topics. We start with a demonstration by life member Stephen Zwerling doing a rundown of the infamous skew. Other topics include texturing and bowl savers.

On another topic this year we are trying a public service announcement (PSA) to increase our membership. I sent a PSA to Seaside FM and hopefully we will see some results. We'll know on Sunday so keep your fingers crossed.

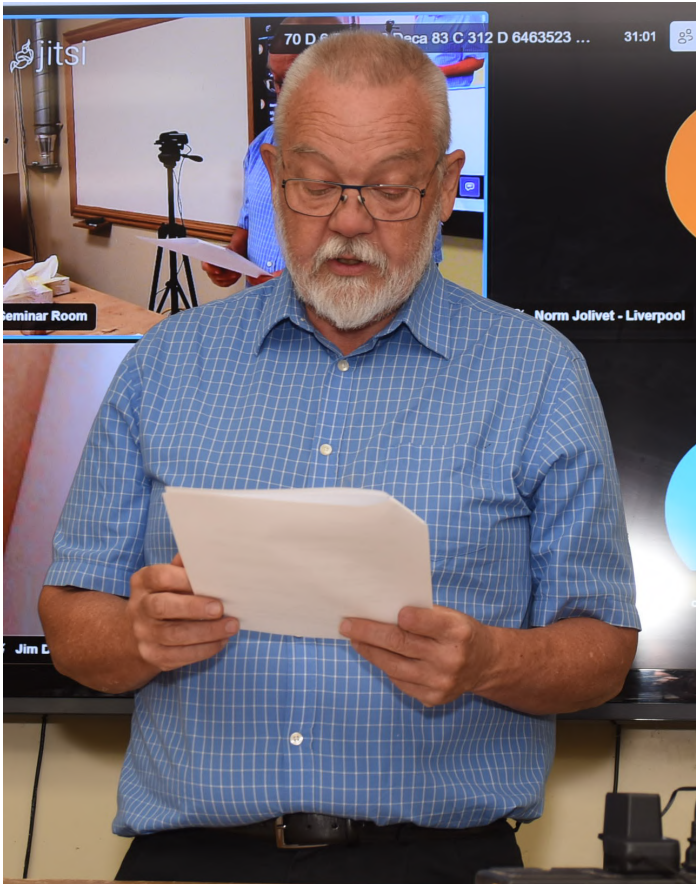
Last but not least, if you have a topic you would like to see addressed please let us know.

Thanks

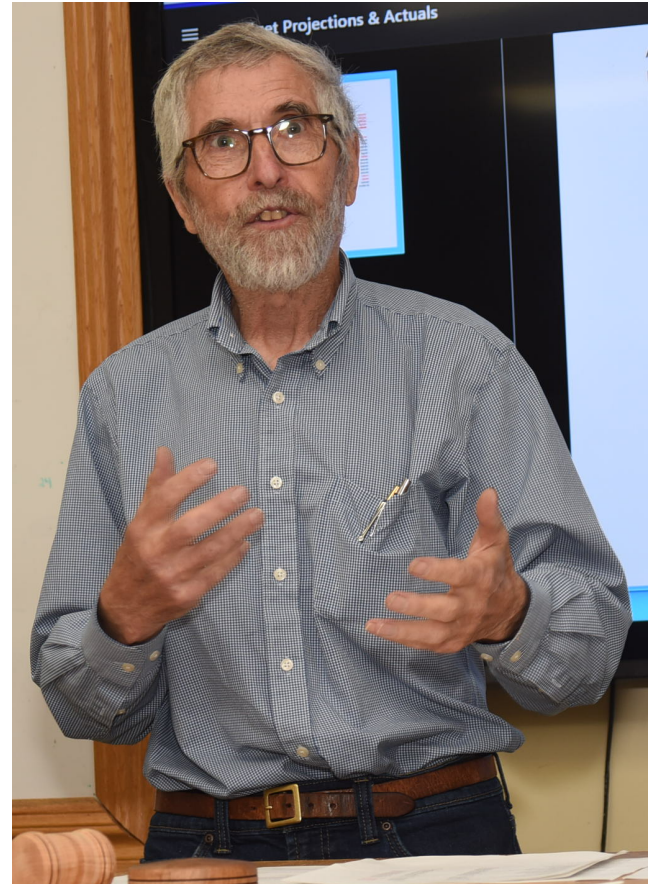
Bob Earle – President

## Notes from the June Meeting

*The minutes of the June meeting were not available at press time. However, aside from the AGM portion of the meeting, the main meeting topic was the presentation of the annual turning competition results, which is the next article in this newsletter. However, our intrepid Guild photographer Chris captured a number of moments, which are reproduced here in chronological order but with little commentary. The diligent reader will no doubt realize that most (but not all!) of the photos are prize winners accepting their award certificate (with one awardee doing so via Jitsi). — Editor*



Calum



Dave

*Someone with a good memory probably knows what Calum and Dave were talking about at this part of the meeting. Regrettably, I do not. — Editor*

*Four members maybe talking about their competition entries. Or maybe not.*



Jim (much redder than in real life)



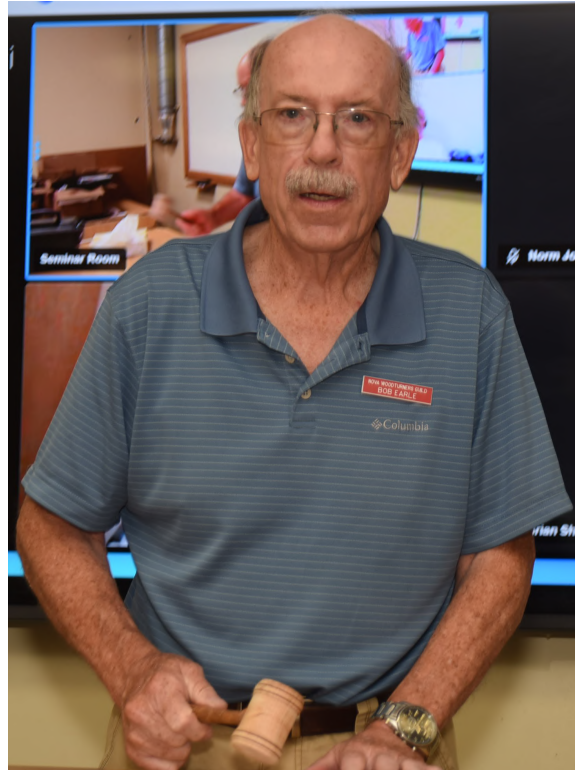
Richard



Bill



Dianne



Bob showing off a new mallet he made? Or was he banging a gavel to bring order to the chaos?



Competition entries



Competition entries viewed from a bit more to the left



Bill looking very serious about his entry



Bill looking much happier about his other entry



Bob with a mandrel entry



Bill pitch-hitting for Jim, who was not there in person



Bob going to town with more winning entries

*Notwithstanding the fact that Bob has exactly the same expression and posture in all three photos on this page, he is not AI-generated, contrary to popular opinion.*



Mark



Gary



Yet another Bob sighting



Mark take 2



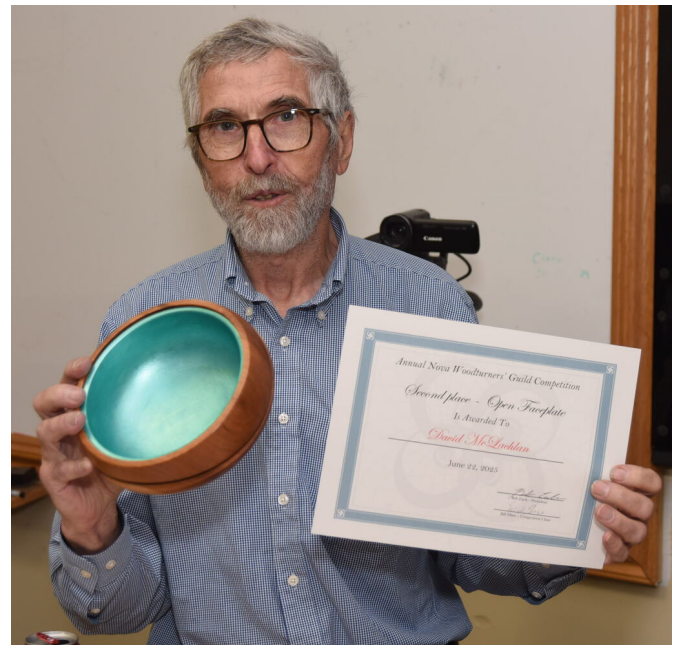
Richard attempting to go incognito



Richard being less shy



Leo



Dave



Dave



Leo take 2



Yet more Dave



Yet more Richard



Grinning Dianne



Serious Charlie

# Annual NWG Turning Competition Awards Ceremony

*This is a more-or-less verbatim transcript of the event. — Editor*

Welcome to the Awards Ceremony for the 2025 Annual Turning Competition of the Nova Woodturners' Guild.

First of all, as Chair of the Competition Committee, there are several persons and organizations that we should thank and acknowledge:

- Personally, I must thank Gary Landry and David McLaughlin, for all their assistance during the display setup, the judging event and this presentation.
- Business support is essential for our awards ceremony to be as successful as it is. This year is no exception, and we are indebted to:
  - Lee Valley for hosting this event as in past years;
  - East Coast Specialty Hardwoods;
  - Halifax Specialty Hardwoods;
  - R&D Bandsaws;
  - SIA Abrasives;
  - Wood Chuckers;
  - William Wood-Write;
  - Craft Supplies USA;
  - Mill Supply;
  - Stellar Industries, Dartmouth;
  - Woodworker Specialties, Port Coquitlam; and
  - Carter and Son Toolworks, Seattle.

Many of these have been long-time supporters of the Guild and are deeply appreciated.

Please, when doing business with these companies, take the time to let them know that you appreciate the support they give to our Guild. Perhaps you could, if it is true, even let them know that you learned of their business as a result of being a supporter of our annual competition.

Now we have some housekeeping issues to bring up related to our ceremony.

1. The boxes and containers you used to submit your competition pieces have been brought into this room so you can repack your pieces for transport back home today.
2. A number of the prizes that winners will receive are in the form of gift cards. PLEASE read the cards as some of them have expiry dates. I learned this one the hard way last year.
3. For the purposes of this draw, all names are pooled together and for each prize one name will be drawn, followed by a draw for the prize. This name is then retired from the draw and the next draw done with the remaining names. This process will be followed until the 11 prizes are distributed. As last year, the Committee decided to award prizes equally to all participants rather than just the winners.
4. Finally, each Category and Level winner is encouraged to discuss their winning piece. If you wish you may pick up your piece and bring it forward when your win is announced. To assist everyone in

seeing your piece we will have the video camera set up and you may put your piece on the designated spot on the bench so everyone can see it on the big screen.

Some basic statistics about our competition this year:

- We had 20 pieces entered by 11 turners, compared to 15 pieces submitted by 6 turners in the previous competition.
- We raised \$100 in entry fees.
- We raised \$60 in donations to the Food Bank.
- Donations (products and gift cards) were just north of \$2500.

Now, let's get to the results part of this event.

### JUDGED AWARDS BY CATEGORY AND LEVEL

First of all, the Committee and the Guild would be remiss if we did not acknowledge and thank profusely the two judges who spent several hours studiously considering each entry against criteria provided by the Guild. So... many thanks to Steven Kennard (life member of the Guild) and Patrick Rapati from NSCAD University.

#### AWARD WINNERS

Novice Faceplate	1st place	William Meas
Novice Faceplate	2nd place	William Meas
Novice Faceplate	3rd place	Louise Plourde
Intermediate Mandrel	1st place	Bob Earle
Intermediate Faceplate	1st place	Jim Diamond
Intermediate Faceplate	2nd place	Bob Earle
Intermediate Faceplate	3rd place	Mark Hazen
Intermediate Faceplate	3rd place	Bob Earle
Intermediate Spindle	1st place	Gary Landry
Intermediate Spindle	2nd place	Bob Earle
Intermediate Spindle	3rd place	Mark Hazen
Open Mandrel	1st place	Dianne Looker
Open Faceplate	1st place	Richard Ford
Open Faceplate	2nd place	Leo Westhaver
Open Faceplate	2nd place	David McLachlan
Open Faceplate	3rd place	David McLachlan
Open Spindle	1st place	Leo Westhaver
Open Spindle	2nd place	David McLaughlin
Open Spindle	3rd place	Richard Ford

The Warman Castle Award was not presented this year.

## DaveM's Fireside Chat

Well, where did the summer go... I spent most of mine re-building the upper and lower decks and staircase which included putting in proper 4 foot deep sonotubes (these were never installed initially) and 6×6 posts. So, as it turned out I never got a chance to hold those hands-on workshops this summer as I had planned. Hopefully I can make some of those happen this fall and winter.

Well, this is a new year for the Guild, in fact our 30th Anniversary. We have a great lineup of meeting topics for the year, and hopefully we will have some workshop visits incorporated as well (If you would like to host some members coming around to your shop, please let me know and we will try to facilitate it.).

The other thing I have been doing this summer is working on some more mini tools for finial turning which I will be bringing in to Show and Tell.



Here is a better photo of an ornament I turned last fall, which now resides with Gary Landry, who received it as part of the annual ornament exchange. What I didn't realize at the time of the ornament exchange was that it had been recognized by Allan Stratton (see <https://www.aswoodturns.com/2024/12/2024-challenge-results/>) in his 2024 Christmas Ornament Challenge.

Here are two photos of the finished spurtle from my article in the last news letter; it didn't turn out too badly. The top of the handle represents a thistle flower head which is the national flower for Scotland (nice curly figure in this one!).



Dave McLaughlin

## Summer Vacation(?) Turning

In the spring I won a walnut blank in the guild raffle and in late July I got it on the lathe. I think it came out fairly well and will bring it along to the Guild meeting. Those raffles can be pretty great. I also finally got a piece of spalted Birch onto the lathe. In between I am building inventory of biscuit cutters, crochet hooks etc.



Oh, and Dave and I spent some time at LeeValley demo-  
ing wood turning!

Mark Hazen

## Yet Another Turner's Circle-Cutting Jig

One part of woodturning which I do **not** find enjoyable is roughing out a bowl blank, after having sliced a section of log in half on the bandsaw. For a long time I did a very rough job of rounding off the corners with the bandsaw after halving the log section, but my rudimentary bandsaw skills produced correspondingly rudimentary results. I decided it was time to make yet another jig.

You don't have to hunt long on the internet (or maybe even in those paper things called books and magazines, if you still have any) to find a number of different ways to make circle-cutting jigs for bandsaws. I decided to write this article for two reasons. First, I made my jig a bit differently than any I found on the internet (although I didn't look at every last web site on the internet, so maybe the idea is out there already), and I thought someone might get some use out of this idea. Second, there weren't a lot of articles for the newsletter this month, so having to skim over a boring jig article looking for the interesting part is punishment for all those who didn't send in something more interesting. (Haha!)

I am going to assume that you already know the general idea (if not all the specifics) of how bandsaw circle-cutting jigs work. If not, you might want to do a quick web search to see one in action.

At left is what the underside of many (most? all?) bandsaw circle-cutting jigs look like: a sheet of scrap plywood (water stains not required!), a runner for the bandsaw table's miter slot, and a stop (at the right side in this photo) so that when slid forward on the bandsaw table, the jig always stops in the same place.

In my case I let the runner protrude a small amount, and rounded the end, to make it easy to get the jig aligned when putting it on the bandsaw table. I could have used a smaller stop, but I decided to go for one the width of the jig.

I picked the size of the scrap plywood roughly based on the size of my bandsaw table, and partially on my guess of the maximum size of circle I would ever want to cut. Some jigs shown on the internet have little or no support to the left of the blade, but I decided I wanted enough support so there was no chance of the half-log (or waste pieces when they are just barely hanging on) tilting during the cutting process.



A circle-cutting jig likes this needs to have some pivot point about which the blank is rotated. In order to be able to cut disks of varying diameter, the pivot point must be adjustable to the radius of the circle you want to cut. This is where jigs vary considerably in design. For example, I saw one which used a sliding dovetail assembly; although I like sliding dovetails as much as the next person, this one looked fiddly to construct and the sliding dovetail part stuck out from the side of the jig a fair distance, which looked like an accident waiting to happen. Other people just drill a number of small holes (into which a nail or other pivot pin will be inserted) at regular intervals (e.g.,  $1/2''$ ) from the bandsaw blade, but I didn't like that (as explained further below).

A long time ago, I bought the center-locating tool shown to the right (inserted into a face plate in this photo). This is a  $5/16''$  rod with a sharp point at one end and a collar (the black cylinder) sized to fit snugly into the center hole of a face plate. The tool is used by pressing the point into the intended center of the work, lowering the face plate (with collar) onto the work, and then transferring the location of the face plate holes onto the work.



It occurred to me that, if a  $5/16''$  pivot pin was used in the circle-cutting jig, the hole in the work piece drilled to accept the pivot pin could later be used to center the face plate locating tool. But drilling a line of  $5/16''$  holes into the circle-cutting jig, with a bit of room between them for strength, didn't appeal to me at the time (partially since it doesn't allow me to choose a radius part way between two already-drilled holes, partially because I just didn't like that idea).

Instead, I routed a slot for a length of T-track (see the photo to the right). (A more diligent and traditional woodworker might want to get out his or her router plane, or even a chisel and mallet . . . each to his/her own taste.) Above the T-track in the photo is a T-track nut, a washer (placed above the T-track, to better grip the T-track) and a screw. I used T-track designed for  $1/4''$ -20 hardware, so I took a  $5/16''$  bolt and ground the threads off, which leaves just enough metal to cut  $1/4''$ -20 threads. (Dave M may be pleased to know I held the  $5/16''$  bolt in an ER16 collet chuck while grinding the threads off.) Not visible in the photo is a slot I cut in the top of this pivot pin so that it can be firmly locked in place in the T-track.



An advantage to this approach is that should I want to use a different size of pivot pin for some other project, all I need do is change the screw that goes into the T-track nut. A  $1/4''$  pin could be made trivially from a  $1/4''$  bolt, other sizes (such as the pilot hole needed for a woodworm screw) would require a bit more work. Or a friend with a metal lathe.

Jim Diamond

## Cover Photo



As mentioned in his article, this is a bowl Mark turned from a blank won in a meeting raffle.

## 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 2025/26 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](mailto:@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)	
<b>Executive</b>	<a href="#">executive</a> (sends the message to all executive positions on the list)		
<b>President</b>	<a href="#">president</a> (or) <a href="#">pres</a>	Bob Earle	
<b>Vice President</b>	<a href="#">vice-president</a> (or) <a href="#">vp</a>	Bill Maes	
<b>Secretary</b>	<a href="#">secretary</a>	Calum Ewing	
<b>Treasurer</b>	<a href="#">treasurer</a>	Dave McLachlan	
<b>Director at Large</b>	<a href="#">director1</a>	Mark Hazen	
<b>Committees</b>			
<b>Library</b>	<a href="#">library</a>	Jim Diamond Brian Sharp	C
<b>Web Site</b>	<a href="#">webmaster</a>	Richard Ford	C
<b>Membership &amp; Promotion</b>	<a href="#">membership</a>	vacant	
<b>Newsletter</b>	<a href="#">newsletter</a> (or) <a href="#">news</a>	Jim Diamond	C
<b>Competition</b>	<a href="#">competition</a>	Bill Maes	C
<b>Guild Photographer</b>	<a href="#">photographer</a> (or) <a href="#">photos</a>	Chris Palmer	C
<b>Fund Raising</b>	<a href="#">raffles</a>	vacant	C
<b>Members Group</b>	<a href="#">members</a>	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](mailto:webmaster@novawoodturnersguild.com).

If you wish to send an email to **all** current members of the NWG, send your message to [secretary@novawoodturnersguild.com](mailto:secretary@novawoodturnersguild.com) with a request to forward your email to all members.