The Journal of the Nova Woodturners' Guild

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March 2026

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, March 1, 2026.
Video link URLs will be distributed via email before the meeting.

At the March meeting:
IRD with The Tiny Turner (a.k.a. Emma Cook)
A short on-line meeting following the IRD
Show and tell — via your web cam

The President's Report

I hope everyone is well rested after the last snowstorm that came through. With spring fast approaching hopefully we will be able to see the grass sooner than later.

Last month's demo by Mark Hazen showed what can be done with those little bits of wood left over from completed projects, it's amazing what can be done with a little imagination and some strong wood glue. This months meeting will be an IRD with Emma Cook, also known as "The Tiny Turner". I've taken the time to watch several of her videos and she has a very pleasant way of explaining her method of woodturning; each video was a nice learning experience.

The auction of wood working equipment will soon take place, so keep an eye on your email for an invitation to participate.

See you on Sunday on the video conference.

Happy turnings and let the chips fly.

Bob Earle – President

Notes from the February Meeting

The meeting was called to order by President **Bob Earle** at 2:02 PM with 12 members and 5 members online.

Some say Bob was guilty, but others say he was framed.

Announcements:

- 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.
- The auction of donated workshop tools is almost ready to go live:
  - **Dave McLachlan** has all the photos done.
  - The auction will be hosted online by the AWA and will be open to all NWG and AWA members.
  - Information on the timing of the auction and links to the auction site should be in emails soon.
- **Martin Lachance** has a neighbour that took down a large Walnut tree. Martin has several chunks of the tree and has sealed the ends of the blanks. If anyone is interested in getting a piece or two, please contact Martin directly.

Main Presentation:

The main presentation by Director **Mark Hazen**, on *Turning Tree Ornaments for the Table or Mantle.* This project is a fun way to make nice, sellable ornaments and get some solid practice with the skew chisel.

Preparation:

- Mark uses a small section of tree branch, approximately 3–4″ in diameter and 12″ long. Any hardwood will do, but Mark often uses Hard Maple for these ornaments. For a pleasing outcome, the blank should be 2 to $2\frac{1}{2}$ times as long as the diameter. Taller trees often look better than shorter, squat ones. This project is also a great way to use up offcuts or scraps around the workshop.
- Mount the blank between centres and turn down to a smooth cylinder using a spindle roughing gouge with the lathe running at about 900 rpm.
- If the branch blank is uneven, it is fine to leave a little of the bark in place for interest points on the finished ornament.

Turning:

- Using the roughing gouge or a skew chisel, turn the blank down to a pointed cone shape.

- Use a parting tool to take down the diameter at the top of the tree (tailstock end) and mark the end point of the finished tree.

- Refine the shape to a smooth, straight cone to get the best-looking end result.

- Once happy with the overall shape, mark out the “branches” with the tip of a skew chisel. These are the lower edges of the concentric cones that will form the branch layers of the tree. Cut in with the skew chisel to get a smooth edge to the groove and avoid splintering as you cut the branch layer later.

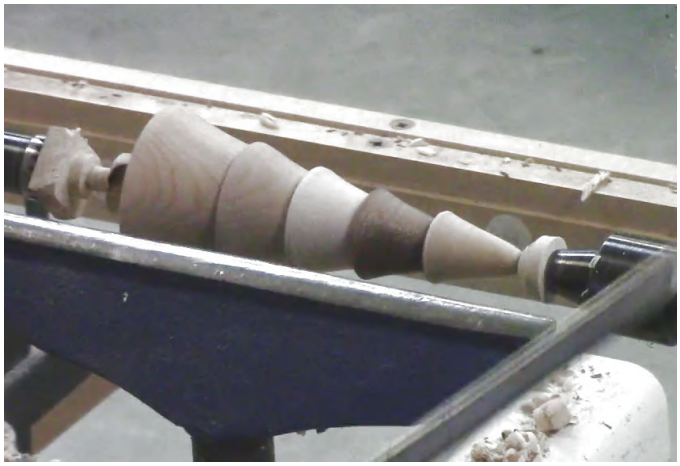
- It is good to undercut the "top" side of each branch layer with a parting tool to give a neater looking finished edge that will look like it is hanging over the layer below.
- Once each branch layer if defined, use a skew chisel to turn down the layer below the mark as a smooth cone section. The desired end result is that the upper 'branch' layer will look like a short cone section sitting on top of and hanging over the layer below it.
- Repeat to turn down each branch layer, starting at the bottom edge of the layer and turning down to form a 'step' at each branch layer. Stop the lathe and check your work regularly to make sure you don't have any layers that are bulging out compared to the rest of the tree.
- The "trunk" is formed by turning down the lowest layer into a straight cylinder section using a gouge of skew. The trunk should taper slightly so that it is wider at the base than where it disappears into the "branches" to look natural and give the ornament good stability.

Final Steps:

- When satisfied with the overall shape, sand all surfaces. Mark prefers to use AbraNet™ abrasives; work through the grits to get the desired finish.
- Then finish with your favorite finish like tung oil, friction polish or other choice.
- When done, part off at the top of the tree and then remove the stub from the trunk base and sand smooth.

Alternatives:

- Mark then repeated the project but using a blank made by gluing together small offcuts of different species. The branch layers are then formed at the joining point between the segments of the blank for an interesting and colourful look to your finished tree.



A Puzzle:

- Mark also showed off a tree ornament in Mahogany with uneven edges to the branch layers asking of those present could determine how it was made. It has the appearance of the result of off-centre or multi-axis turning, but the shapes can't be formed that way without cutting into the layer below significantly. Mark has seen several such ornaments for sale online.
- Suggestions for methods to create such a turning included:
  - using a CNC carving machine with a rotating chuck to carve out the layers with the uneven edges; and
  - carving the uneven edges by hand after turning is complete.
- Mark's method involved turning the finished ornament, then carving the edges of the branch layers with a Dremel™ tool to the desired depth. He then used a narrow carpenter's chisel to pare away the unwanted wood *(see the next page — ed.)* and sanded the resulting layer smooth.

(Bonus photos provided by Mark, showing how a chisel can be used to used to create uneven edges, as well as a small forest (with varying amounts of bark inclusions) on a table.)

Show & Tell:

Gary Landry showed off a set of carbide turning tools that he just recently purchased. The brand is "Deefiine" and the set includes a handle, two swan-necked hollower tools with different curves and four straight shafts with different carbide tip shapes. Gary's main interest was in the hollowing tools, but he now has a full set. He also purchased a set of replacement carbide inserts for the tools at the same time.

Mark Hazen checked his lathe for alignment following up on Dave McLachlan's article in the last newsletter. He found his lathe had a significant twist in the bed after moving it to its new location in his shop. By shimming up the feet of the lathe, he was able to remove the twist and get his lathe aligned perfectly.

Greg McMullen showed off two bowls, one with a laminated rim in a different species. The other was a shallow square plate. Greg learned that square bowls must be sanded with the lathe off to avoid risk of injury and a disk sander is a big help for this task.

Raffle Results:

Mark Hazen took home a bundle of *Woodturning* magazines.
Gary Landry took home a book, *The Craftsman Woodturner,* by Peter Child to his library.
Bob Earle took away a maple bowl blank.
Glen Greencorn added a bundle of *Woodturning* magazines to his library.
Chris Palmer won a book, *Challenge Six: Roots — Insights on Contemporary Turning.*

The meeting wrapped up at 3:40 PM. The next meeting is March 1st at 2:00 PM (**online only**).

Calum Ewing — Secretary

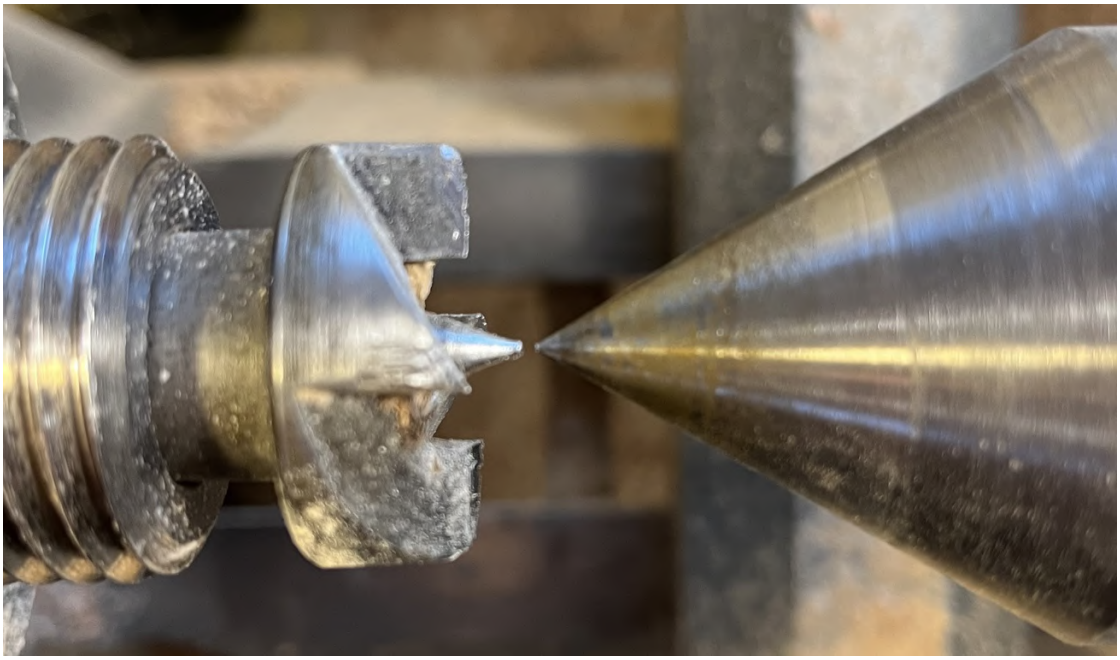
Drill Press to Pen Press

I was given this old drill press attachment for a portable drill motor and decided it would make a pen press. I attached a couple of pieces of UHMW I had lying around. It works great and is fully adjustable. You could also use plywood or whatever scraps you have lying around as pads for pressing the pens together. These drill press attachments can be picked up at yard sales and flea markets very cheap.

Leo Westhaver

Lathe Leveling Learnings

Thanks to Dave McLachlan for the article on truing up a lathe — I had the vague feeling something was off, so went out to check. Yep, just like Dave's there was a twist in the lathe bed! And my 2′ carpenter's level was enough to confirm it. Wedges fore and aft and all is good now!!!



Mark Hazen

DaveM's Fireside Chat

We are just a few days away from our IRD with Emma Cook (the Tiny Turner from the UK), March meeting. This will be a special demo on making a bowl with outside carving and embellishing with an iridescent flake finish. These techniques will be widely practical for many turning applications.

Looking forward to our April meeting *Show and Tell,* I am wondering if anyone is taking up the challenge to produce some turned fishing lures? I thought I would share some photos of my effort producing one type of lure that I am making. . .

I started out with a $1'' \times 1'' \times 5''$cherry blank and turned it similar to the photos in the reference article (**https://www.woodcraft.com/blogs/woodturning/turned-fishing-lures**). Unfortunately, I didn't take a photo of this, but it was turned between centers and center-bored with a long $^1/_8''$ drill on the lathe. I then cut it at a 30° angle through the center to make two lure bodies (Figure 1).

Figure 1. The cut lure body shape before hollowing the mouth section, showing how the MT2 stub center will hold the tail section and keep it centered.

The next step was to make a MT2 holder to center the tail section. This was made from an existing maple MT2 stub center, with the end turned down and a tapered bore cut in to accept the end of the lure, as seen in Figure 1. The stub was made to extend to the face of the chuck jaws as seen in Figure 2.

Figure 2. Showing the position of the MT2 tail section holder when mounted in the headstock and with the chuck attached.

Next, I wanted to make a tapered holder that fits in the jaws and allows me to grip the lure body with the lure tail section aligned in the MT2 holder. The jaw sleeve was made from a short section of maple, trued up to approximately the jaw inner diameter where the jaws are most circular (Figure 3). (This is when the jaws are about 4mm from being fully closed.)

Figure 3. Making the rough blank between centers to match the internal diameter of the Nova Greenwood Jaws. Note there is a recessed shoulder at the end of the holder to allow the jaws to compress the outer section without bottoming out the chuck jaws on the rear unslotted section.

This lure-holder blank was then held in the jaws and drilled out with a $^3/_4''$ drill. After being drilled it was further hollowed out to approximately the taper of the lure body with a small round skew used as a negative rake scraper (Figures 4 & 5). Then the lure sleeve was cut on the bandsaw to make kerfs 90° from each other to mate with the chuck jaws (Figure 6). Figure 7 shows the lure held in the jaws with the mouth of the popper lure partially hollowed out. This didn't go exactly to plan as I thought I could completely hollow out the mouth on the lathe. I finally had to use a burr rotary file to fully open up the mouth (Figure 8).

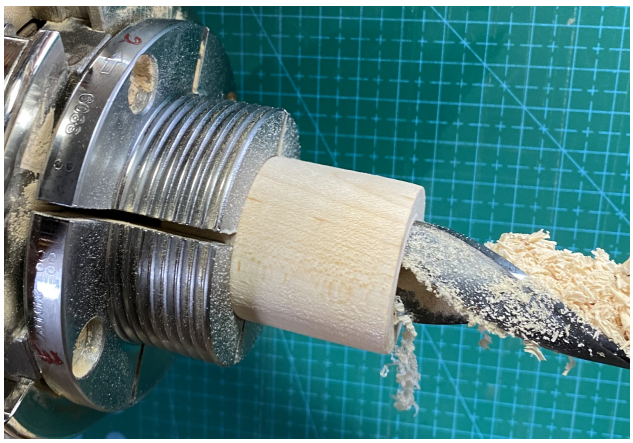


Figure 4. Drilling out the lure-sleeve gripper with a $^3/_4''$ MT2 drill on the lathe.

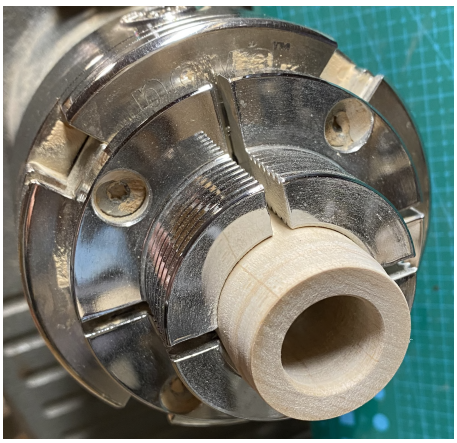


Figure 5. Hollowing out the taper for the lure body before cutting the slots to allow it to grip the lure. (Just the beginning of the taper process)

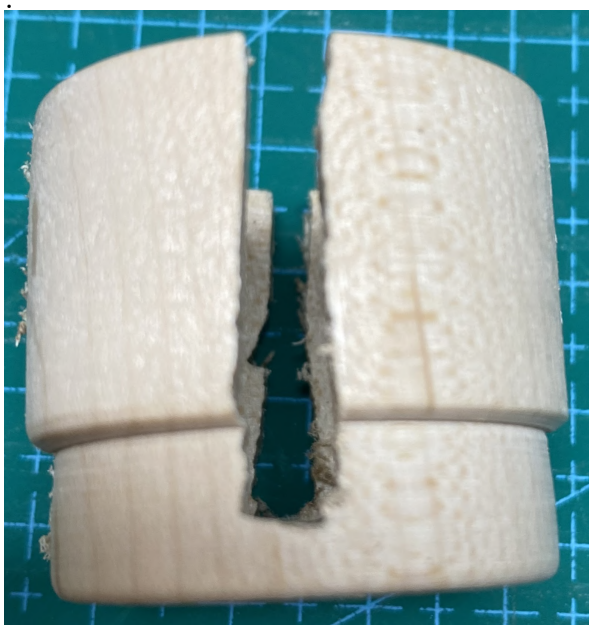


Figure 6. The lure-holder sleeve with the slots cut to allow it to grip the lure body. This allows slight variations in the lure body diameters and tapers when making multiple lures so that the lures are securely held without the metal jaws marring the lure body.

Figure 7. The extent of the hollowing that could be done with a $^{3}/_{8}''$ bowl gouge. Note there is still a significant portion of the angled mouth that cannot be hollowed on the lathe with a gouge.

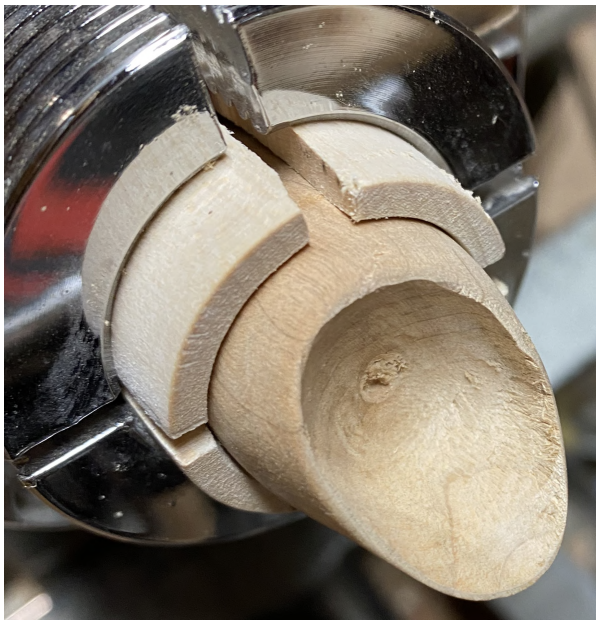


Figure 8. The lure body mouth hollowing completed with a carbide rotary file burr, done with the lathe chuck used as a stationary holder for the lure.

The lure was then fitted with stainless steel grommets ($1/8'' \times 3/8''$ SS pop rivets with the pop rivet expansion shafts removed) and 20-gauge stainless steel wire with eyes at each end as seen in Figure 9. The lure is ready for treble hooks on the tail and at mid-body at the X-mark. The mouth will be smoothed up using a small diamond teardrop burr before applying epoxy and final air brushing. I hope to make several of these poppers as well as some longer bodied torpedo-shaped lures before setting up to epoxy the bodies and do the painting.

Figure 9. The lure body with the grommets and though-wire eyelets in place, almost ready for epoxy and painting.

Hopefully this will encourage you to give making lures a try . . . it isn't necessary to go to all the lengths I went to make these fancy holders to hollow the mouth. The hollowing out could be just as easily have been done with a rotary file burr as demonstrated in the original reference article. I probably wouldn't have made these extra holders if I had realized I couldn't get the mouth exactly as I had hoped using a gouge on the lathe in one step.

These poppers are used mainly as surface lures for Bass, Pickerel and Northern Pike. The tail hook could be embellished with a bucktail streamer or some synthetic streamer material as a further attractant. (Anyone wanting some small stainless screw eyes for the mid-body hooks, drop me an email and I will send you some small eyes in a Canada Post letter.)

Dave McLachlan

Notes From Afar

Members who have made it all the way to the end of the top button bar at our web site have seen the "Contact Us" button. Unfortunately, this attracts a surprising amount of spam. But occasionally valid information or questions is deposited there, and with the reliable email of our new web host, we even get to see it. Here is one such blurb of possible interest to all members, given more or less verbatim. — Editor

Below is some great news for fellow woodturners. Hopefully you can share this with your club members.

The Valley Woodturners will be hosting our first Ottawa TurnFest 2026 here in the nation's capital on Saturday May 23 & Sunday May 24, 2026 (this is *not* the long weekend). We have a spectacular lineup of three exceptional world-class wood artists — Dale Larson, Art Liestman and Elizabeth Weber — for this 2-day event. It will be held at the Confederation Education Centre (formerly Confederation High School), in the Cafetorium, 1645 Woodroffe Ave, Ottawa, Ontario, K2G 1W2.

More complete information is now up on our web-site. **https://www.valleywoodturners.com/turnfest.html**

Notification has been sent to all Canadian clubs and is posted in the AAW Journal (under Calendar). Space is limited so we encourage everyone to register early to avoid disappointment. Registration will open on Mar 1st, 2026 when attendees can register through an on-line registration form.

We will send out a reminder to all clubs on March 1st.

Contacts:
Murray Cameron: **ovw.president@gmail.com**
Malcolm Zander: **malcolmzander@gmail.com**

Cover Photo

This photo (provided by Emma Cook) shows a bowl with a horizontal band carved and decorated with iridescent paint. All will be explained at this month's meeting, where we will see Emma demonstrate techniques to make a bowl like this.

Photo Credits

Thanks to Chris Palmer for photos from last month's meeting, as well as Calum Ewing for extracting some close-ups of the demo from the video feed. 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` *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	**director1**	Mark Hazen	
Committees			
Library	**library**	Jim Diamond Brian Sharp	C
Web Site	**webmaster**	Richard Ford	C
Membership & Promotion	membership	vacant	
Newsletter	**newsletter** (or) **news**	Jim Diamond	C
Competition	**competition**	Bill Maes	C
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.