

CALGARY WOODTURNERS GUILD NEWSLETTER



January 4th Meeting

"Instant Gallery" picture of the month

From our last meeting:

A pierced and textured hollow turning by Jim Jones



Issue 7, January 2011



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From the Editor...

Another year is underway! One of my New Year resolutions is to turn more. I like to pick easy ones that I can keep....

This edition continues with the fifth of a multipart series on design. Thanks to Barbara Hall of the Northwest Woodturners in Oregon for passing this on to us.

And we have 3 new members for 2011:

Lindsay Barr, Mac Corrie, and Albert Daniels. Welcome to the club!

If there is anything you'd like to see included in the newsletter such as announcements of some event, items for sale, tips, or even an interesting website you have come across, just send it to me and I'll include it here.

From the Instant Gallery



January 4th Meeting

Minutes of CWTG – January 4, 2011

Dennis Milbrandt presiding and called the meeting to order at 7PM.

There were no visitors this month, which was a record of sorts.

Motion to accept last months meeting minutes was moved and seconded.

A date to note, July 23rd for the Woodturners of Olympia Symposium. Information, registration is here: http://www.woodturnersofolympia.org/?page_id=598

Jim Osenton presented the finance information. Our account balance as of December 31st/2010 was \$3841.52

Carl Smith gave us an update on the DVD library. A few new DVD's are available but also some are missing. If anyone still has some out, there was a request to return them. He also reminded us that dues for 2011 were "due" and he will accept them along with a completed membership application.

Website update; Tim Dorcas was not present, but a quick check shows that it is running. Have a look at it here: <http://www.woodturnersofolympia.org>

Dennis is still working at the CWG logo and is narrowing down the candidates.

Mike Swendson is looking into arranging another sawdust session with a tentative date of January 15th. News will be forthcoming.

Ron Falconer will be changing out some store displays. He has 5 new pieces to update them with.

Don James reported that the turnout at the SAWS holiday fest last month was a success.

Jim Jones offered to have a joint get together and sawdust session at his shop in a few months. This would be in combination with the Lethbridge woodturners and is a great way to meet fellow guild members. More news will follow when a date is selected. A motion was made to endeavor to do this joint sawdust session and was carried.

New Business: nominations for the club executive will be made at the February meeting and elections will be held at the March meeting.

We need to prepay if we plan to attend the Spruce Meadows event this year. A motion to attend was made and seconded. Look for further news on this from Neil Proctor.

Jim Jones let the club know that there is no news yet on the Okotoks turning event at the High School. He has sent emails requesting information, but still waiting for a response. An email will be sent as soon as it is finalized.

There was interest to try to get others involved in the CWG, specifically to interest more women and students. This is an ongoing effort and further attempts will be made to interest others in taking part in the club.

Ron Falconer hosted the instant gallery “show and tell” part of the meeting and 4 excellent pieces were discussed. The makers were Wilf Talbot, Greg Dahl, Jim Jones and Don James. Photos are elsewhere in this edition.

Dennis Milbrandt then turned the meeting over to Peter Eddy who demonstrated and discussed spindle turning.

Peter started by mentioning that turning spindles is a great way to learn woodturning. Unlike bowls, the grain in spindles is never end grain. He showed how to use the skew and the gouge to turn some practice shapes on spindles including coves and fillets. The sizes he uses most of the time is ½ and 1 inch; these 2 sizes seem to satisfy almost all spindle turning requirements. Peter even showed how to rough turn a blank round using the chisel.

As he was turning some spindle shapes with a skew, the subject of catches came up. Peter said that most catches occur when the turner does not follow through a cut and pulls back. It is better in almost all cases to push forward and follow through the cut. While Peter said that in most cases the skew is the best tool for spindle turning, he also showed the use of a spindle gouge including a quick example of using a roughing gouge. Peter said that practice is everything to develop a “muscle memory” and that each cut is a rehearsal for the next cut.

Thanks to Peter for a great demo. Also if anyone is interested in furthering his or her knowledge on the subject of spindle turning, Fine Woodworking magazine #63 has an article by Rude Osolnik called “Spindle Turning – fine points for the beginner”. Also see Peter’s list for spindle turning uses on the following page.

The Dave Beeman draw was held and many lucky members won some wood. This month, the 50/50 draw pot of \$90.00 went to Jim Somers.

41 Uses for Spindle Turning

(Thanks to Peter Eddy)

- [1] Stairway spindles
- [1a] Newel posts
- [2] Table legs
- [2a] Table pedestal leg
- [3] Chair legs
- [3a] Struts between legs and struts between struts
- [3b] Spindles above the seat, back and armrest supports
- [4] Decorative spindles eg: furniture and architecture
- [5] Purely ornamental spindles; artsy objects
- [6] Spoons, scoops and ladles
- [7] Tool handles
- [8] Door and drawer knobs
- [9] Spinning tops
- [10] Diablo
- [11] Stoppers/Plugs
- [12] Dowels
- [13] Rattles
- [14] Dibbler
- [15] Nostepinnes (for yarn)
- [16] Knobs for pull cords (lights, drapes, etc)
- [17] Goblets
- [18] Vases
- [19] Candleholders
- [20] Pool cue
- [21] Chess pieces
- [22] Finials for bowls and vessels
- [23] Musical Instruments, ex: recorders, flutes
- [24] Spike holder for cello
- [25] Tuning pegs for stringed instruments
- [26] Salt and pepper grinders/shakers
- [27] Endgrain boxes
- [28] Ring/necklace stand racks
- [29] Coat and hat stand Racks
- [30] Rolling Pins
- [31] Parts for models
- [32] Table or floor lamps
- [33] Bow staff
- [34] Pots and pan handles
- [35] Spurtle
- [36] Hair stick
- [37] Mallet
- [38] Various workshop jigs
- [39] Fun things
- [40] Take a look around your home, shop, and garage for more ideas
- [41] Uses in sports equipment

Design - Part 5

Principles of Design

By Barb Hall – Northwest Woodturners

Last month we learned about the Golden Mean (Golden ratio), a measuring system we can use to check the balance of the proportions of our pieces. This month I want to discuss line and form.

I teach that we use line and form to create, and if that creative process and the creation itself in our own eyes comes together, we find a completeness and we view the piece as an integrated whole and not just its parts.

Line and form: Look at the directions that the eye naturally follows in your piece. Place an invisible line sort of a clock hand that points in these directions.

Make each deviation from this natural line count. Look at your inspirational ideas for areas that do not follow these lines. Answer the questions "Is this a cutesy area that I want to add that is only serving as a sort of texture decoration?" "Does it take away from the line and block the flow throughout the whole piece?" If it does not add to seeing the piece as a complete whole, it does not belong. Tough to put aside; I struggled for days with an area I wanted to add that I truly thought was inspired. When I decided I could not make this little area work, and realized it was a deviation that took away from the direction of the lines of the piece, order was restored. I learned an important lesson...little inspirational (labeled cutesy by my teacher) areas should not be used if they obstruct the line and flow of the piece. I wanted my pieces to flow as a total entity...to feel complete

Test: Squint your eyes, stand back from your piece (as a painter looking at his canvas does) and you can recognize more easily the parts that don't work or fit. You can see if the parts flow or need smoothing. This is what is so difficult about answering the questions where and how do I add texturing. The answer is does your carving, piercing, painting or burning really contribute to the beauty and completeness of the piece. If it is there only to add questionable interest and if viewers concentrate on the textures and do not see the piece as a whole; you've lost the very important dynamic impact of your piece.

We recently had an amazing opportunity to see furniture designed and crafted by Sam Maloof thirty-five plus years ago. Sam Maloof was a celebrated wood worker whose furniture has withstood the test of time; an artist and a wood worker whose work is owned by presidents and is in the permanent collection of major museums. From the beginning of his career, Sam Maloof's pieces were minimal with clean lines and blended sculpted edges. I found it impossible to simply touch the edges of the chairs. They are so sensual that one almost caresses the curvilinear surfaces.

Feel your pieces as you create them. Do you run your fingers over the surfaces of your turnings, feeling the subtle curves, smoothing over the rough spots, equalizing the thickness of the sides. Are you creating smooth unbroken curves that blend together seamlessly? Turning is not all that easy...a three dimensional piece presents many obstacles and a major one is that both you and your viewers can get lost in the details. Look around you. Find inspiration in the beauty of well crafted forms. Find grace of line in your own work.

I have included a couple of my design drawings because I believe this is the best way I can show you line and form so you can better understand what I am talking about. If I cannot mentally determine the 3 dimensional aspect, I make a 3D model in clay or wax before I start the piece. You may find the inspiration for the design you want to create in the shape of a hunk of wood, or the grain pattern. You can begin your turning process by letting the wood dictate the form; but what happens when you want to change the shape and you've removed a piece you need...into the fire wood pile goes what could have been a masterpiece. It may not be as spontaneous; but planning ahead with measurements or drawings really helps keep you on track. Especially if you want to maintain balance or direction in your piece.

Interesting Websites

The Northwest Woodturners: Source of the "Design" series complements of Barb Hall. Look for an update to this site soon.

<http://www.northwestwoodturners.com/>

A search for spindle turning surprised me! Would you believe there is a Facebook page for spindle turning? However it had only 3 "Likes"!

Also see Chapter 8 to 11 links on this site for spindle turning info:

<http://www.turningtools.co.uk/wtintro/wtintro.html>

For Sale

Delta thickness planer model 22-540C with dust collector adaptor. Not used much; still on the original knife side as purchased [ie: not yet reversed]. With a spare, unopened package of reversible knives, manual etc. \$175 or best.

Please call or email:

Jim 403-226-5933 or galoot@shaw.ca



About the guild...

MEETINGS

The Guild meets on the first Tuesday, each month (except July and August) at 7:00 PM at Black Forest Wood Co., Bay 7, 603 – 77th Avenue SE, Calgary. Visitors are welcome.

WEBSITE

<http://www.calgarywoodturners.com>

CLUB OFFICERS

President and Director	Dennis Milbrandt	403 605-8420
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Vice President and Director	Duncan Robertson	403-870-7331
Assistant Treasurer	Peter Eddy	403-650-4979
Director	Jim Leslie	403- 226-5933
Assistant Secretary	??	
Director	Tim Dorcas	403-650-9177
Director	Mike Swendsen	403-651-4806

COMMITTEES

AUDITORS	Henri Lefebvre, CGA, and Lyle Cuthbert
BAR-B-QUE (ANNUAL)	Ron Falconer
CHARITABLE CO-ORDINATOR	Dwayne Sims and Andy Lockhart
LIBRARIAN	Carl Smith
NEWSLETTER	Jim Leslie
MEMBERSHIP RECORDS	Carl Smith
PHOTOGRAPHER/ TECHNICAL DIRECTOR/WEBSITE	Tim Dorcas and Norm Olsen