

CALGARY WOODTURNERS GUILD NEWSLETTER



September 6th Meeting

"Instant Gallery" picture of the month



Imaginative bowl by Dennis Milbrandt titled "Conception".

Size is 10" X 1.2" and is Maple with dyes with 23k gold leaf.

Issue 13, September 2011

Instant Gallery

2



Last Meeting

3

Interesting Websites

7



For Sale

9

Lathe Safety

10

Events

12

From the Editor...

I hope everyone has enjoyed summer. Though the good weather recently seems to make me think it is not quite over just yet, it feels good to be meeting again.

It promises to be an interesting year, beginning with a Sawdust Session organized by Mike Swendson; more about that in this newsletter.

From the Instant Gallery



September 6th Meeting

Minutes of meeting – September 6, 2011

President Duncan Robertson called the meeting to order at 7PM and welcomed everyone back for another season.

No visitors were present.

Duncan mentioned that he is trying to set up a visit to the Museum of Making near Cochrane. He is trying to arrange a group visit for the club.

He also asked if someone is interested in arranging shop tours similar to the SAWS group. It was proposed that there be morning and afternoon tours and the last tour would involve refreshments. This is in the works for sometime during the next season.

Mike Swendson reminded us of the bowl turning challenge and that we could continue with the bowl #3 template, and turn a bowl using this form and bring it to next month's meeting.

Dwayne Sims will be moving and has asked for someone to take over the charitable events position. The responsibilities consist of asking event organizers if they would like donations, collecting donations from club members and distributing them to the organizers. They will pick up at your house. John Beal has offered to take up this position.

Library: Carl Smith reported that he is pleased to say DVD's are being returned within 30 days. He also said that the library has been expanded over the summer. Thanks were offered to Carl for all his hard work over the years maintaining the library.

Andy Lockhart said that the SAWS exhibition is on from September 9th to the 25th. The CWT is well represented at this event and everyone is encouraged to visit South Center Mall to have a look.

Mike Swendson is busy trying to arrange another Sawdust Session and will report back soon with a date.

Jim Jones is looking for someone to do a woodturning demo at the Lethbridge club. Remuneration and expenses were offered. Please contact [Jim Jones](#) directly for additional information on this opportunity to share your skills with fellow wood turners.

At the last meeting in June, member Don West asked for someone to saw up a large piece of wood for him. He would not recommend the person that finally helped him to do that, as the results were not satisfactory. Contact Don for additional information. He also asked that with Spruce Meadows coming up fast, a meeting is held soon to discuss product to make. Eggcups were one idea as an example. He also had some wood to give away at the meeting. Others were cutting boards and candleholders with coasters.

Congratulations were offered to Terry Golbeck for winning the Calgary Stampede exhibition.

Following the break, Terry Golbeck gave a presentation on “Making an Expressive Piece”.

Terry began by discussing the concept of what an expressive piece means to him. An expressive piece conveys an idea that you want to reveal and it can inspire an observer to reflect on what your piece means to them. It may not be required that they comprehend what you are trying to express, nor may it necessarily matter to you that they fully understand it. This abstract concept was supported by the example of a piece entitled “Long Stem Cherry Holder” that Terry had made previously. The piece “expresses” the fragility of the food supply and how we may one day celebrate and revere the food that we now have so abundantly available to us.



Terry is a beginner with making an object that conveys an idea. He thought that when it comes to observing and explaining the process of making an expressive piece, the beginner who has fresh eyes, will see things that could be useful to others who also want to get started with expressing their ideas in what they make. A more experienced person may have forgotten what it took to get started.

Some common impediments that may hinder us from understanding the process and making an expressive piece is simply a lack of confidence, or believing that we are fundamentally not creative in the first place. Or perhaps being overly concerned at what others may think of our initial attempts at making an expressive piece. Creative expression is derived more from play than actual focused work. Terry then related a process where he was influenced by Stephen Hogbin: it begins of course with a desire to make a piece that will express an idea you have. Then the idea is transformed into a particular object. This step from idea to actual object may require some iteration based on material options available. Following the actual making of the piece, where some of us may stop, the final step is taking time for us to appreciate our work – to actually take time to appreciate our creation. When we examine what we like about a piece and determine what we might change we further develop our capabilities to make objects that express the ideas that are important to us.

He then shared the story that led to the making of a recent expressive piece. His inspiration for this came from a trip to Shanghai, China where he saw a calligraphy displayed in a temple. It captivated him and inspired him to find out what it meant. Upon discovering that it is the traditional Chinese word for “Dust” he investigated what it meant and the significance behind it. Terry found that “Dust” is an important part of Zen Philosophy. It is a metaphor that refers to various intrusions and interference in our daily lives; we live in a dusty, imperfect world. People respond to dust in their lives in a number of ways. There is meaning behind the concept that we can contemplate and pursue for ourselves as Chinese intellectuals have done since ancient times.





His next step was to take this idea and “express” it in an object. Terry was inspired by Doug Fisher’s approach to making wall plaques, which by their nature, provide a “canvas” to express an idea.

He then led us through the techniques and technical steps that resulted in the final result shown here.

The last phase is appreciation of the resulting “expressive piece” which in this case portrays Chinese culture and is a reminder of his visit to China. The appreciation process provides encouragement for him to experiment further with other symbols that have meaning and to try other construction

techniques. He also reflected on what he had learned from others in order to make the piece.

Thanks to Terry for an excellent and inspirational presentation on a complex topic.

Following the presentation, Duncan hosted the Instant Gallery critique. Among the pieces shown were Dwayne Sims’s segmented turning and inlay work. Dwayne explained how he made them on the bandsaw from the cutting stage through to inserting colored epoxy and re-turning them.

Another piece shown was a bowl by Joe Van Keulen with Celtic symbols on the outside. In making the bowl, he said he used what the bowl had to offer.

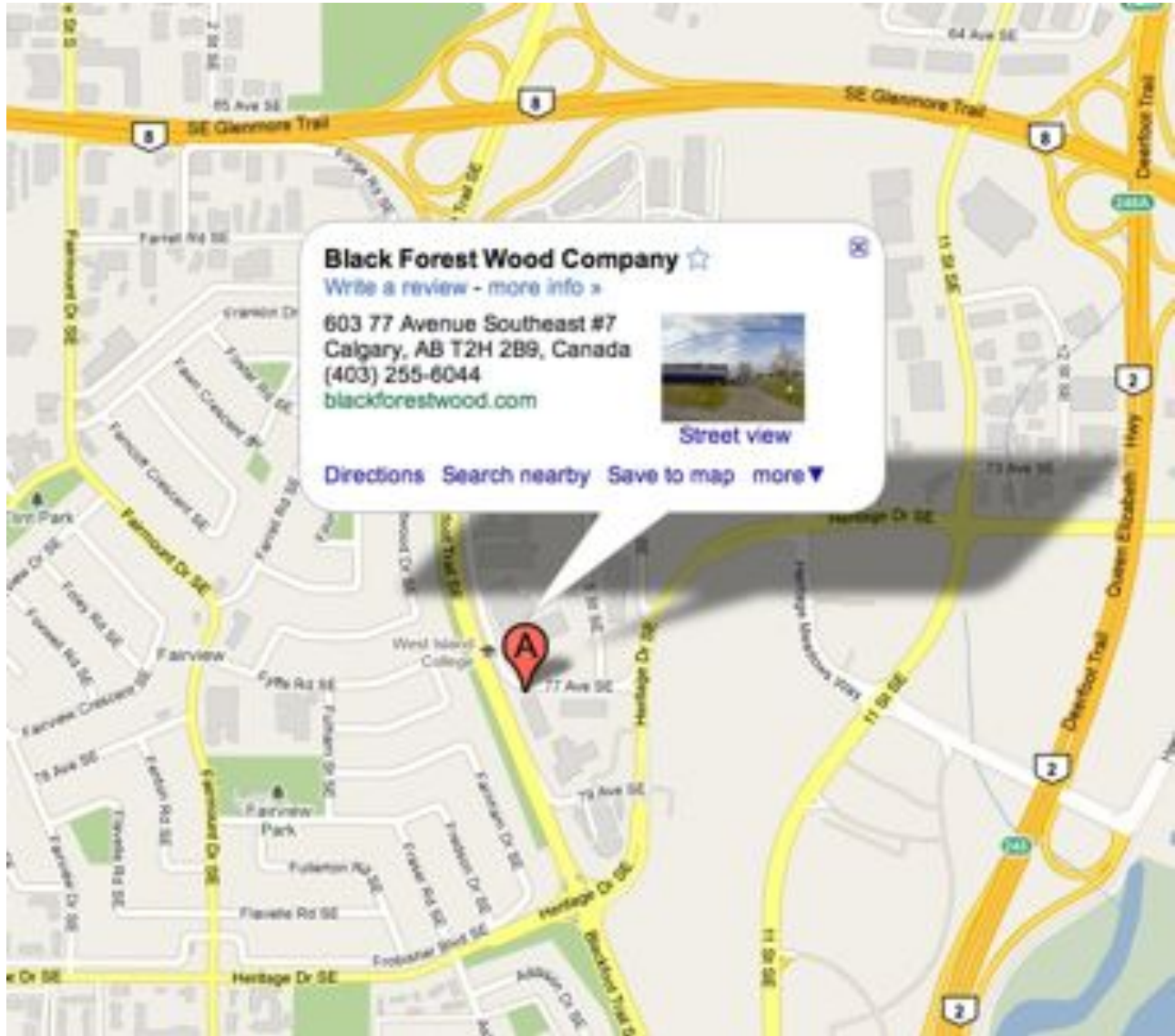
The Dave Beeman draw was then held, and a lot of wood was won. This month the 50/50 draw pot of \$55.00 went to Vern Steinbrecker.

Mike Swendson asked that members make more tops for Spruce Meadows. We can never have too many tops!



Club Meetings

The Calgary Woodturners Guild meets at Black Forest Wood the first Tuesday of each month at 7PM. Visitors are welcome.



Interesting Websites

If you are drawing a blank and looking for a place to start for ideas on what to make for Spruce Meadows, here is a source of ideas:

http://www.sydneywoodturners.com.au/site/articles/designs/turning_projects/turning_projects.html

Spruce Meadows website: This year the dates are November 18-20 and 25-27 for a total of 6 shopping days.

http://www.sprucemeadows.com/christmas_market.jsp

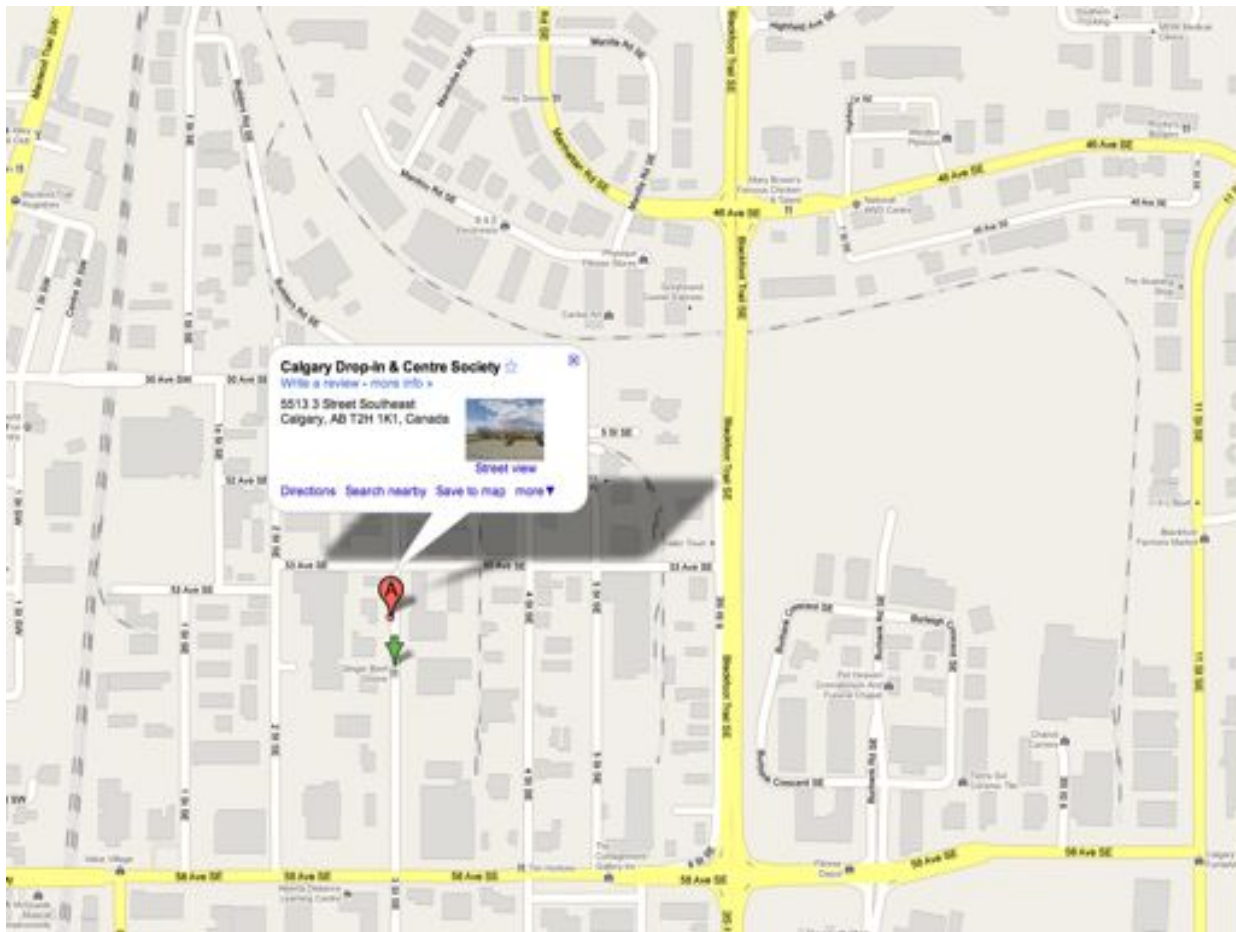
Lathe News

It's not every day we see such a step change in lathe design. With Christmas just around the corner, you may want to add this to your wish list. Recently, Vicmarc Machinery was awarded a commercial grant of \$433,979 for the development of a new versatile and innovative lathe. I think they succeeded beyond my wildest dreams with the new VL600 – yes 600!



Can't wait to see this one in person at our local Vicmarc dealer!

By request - for upcoming sawdust sessions, here is the location of the Calgary Drop In Center:



NewtUrn Studio
...decorative arts and design
506 - 20 Ave NW
Calgary Ab T2M 1C6
(403) 605-8420

Dennis Milbrandt
principal
dennis.milbrandt@newturnstudio.com
www.newturnstudio.com

VJ's Turning Supplies Ltd

Supplies for pen making, bottle stoppers, key rings etc.
Contact Vern Steinbrecker <mailto:vernjs@shaw.ca>

Phone: 403-281-2077
403-650-8706

For Sale

Band Saw: Rockwell/Delta; Made in CANADA, 14 inch

Enclosed steel base, mounted on mobile base;

Adjustable fence;

Dust collection set-up to 4 inch output;

Extra saw blades;

Extra pair of wheels.

This is a nice made in Canada vintage saw with low mileage.

Price: \$450.00

Belt Sander: Marson;

6 X 48 Inch belt with 9 inch disc;

Steel base, mounted on mobile base.

Price: \$250.00

Dovetail Jig by Craftsman:

Easy dovetails for less!

This has been gathering dust in my shop for a long time!

Instruction book included.

Price: \$ 20.00 or a case of Newcastle Brown Ale!

Contact: Dean Sinnott

Phone: 403-246-1071

Email: deansinnott@shaw.ca

Lathe Safety

I hope everyone has read about the tragic recent accident and near death situation of Dennis Deobler sent out recently by Terry. Though technically not a lathe accident, many of us embellish our work with power tools, which are capable of inflicting as much damage as a lathe. As a reminder, here are some important points Terry outlined in his email. They are worth reading:

It is important to understand what learnings can be gained from such an incident. Otherwise we are left with a fear response to not use power tools instead of the awareness required to prevent such occurrences in the first place. On just seeing the image of the accident it is easy to "blame the tool" and not evaluate how the tool was used.

Not wanting to be preachy or run on about it -- here are the learnings that occur to me.

The most obvious learning is that the whole incident was easily preventable by securing the workpiece and using two hands to control the tool.

I think, at least for me, there is a lesson about focus. When using a tool for the first time it is better to focus on tool control and safe use by practicing on some waste wood first. When using any new tool for the first time on an "art piece" it is very natural to focus on doing the right thing to the piece and miss the focus on the need to develop safe tool control. It is just so easy to get excited about making the piece and lose the focus on safe practice or take a short cut to "get on with it".

In the write-up, I didn't see any reference to safety devices being used: a face shield, protective gloves or if the guard was on the tool.

We often work alone in our shops. This incident reinforces the need to have a phone on hand in the shop to be able to quickly contact others if we need immediate help.

I very much appreciate that Dennis Deobler, the person injured, is willing to share the incident in order help prevent a possible reoccurrence. The real value comes to each of us if we extract the learnings for safe tool use and then take the time and focus to practice safe tool control in the privacy of our own shops.

I should relate a personal experience especially for Foredom users:

Over the weekend, I was embellishing a bowl with my Foredom and started to change the carving bit. I had the wrench attached and was just about to insert the locking pin when I accidentally stepped right down hard on the speed control. The wrench on the collet started spinning instantly at about 10,000 RPM with the locking pin still attached at the other end of a chain that holds the two together; I hadn't yet inserted the pin in the handpiece which at least would have kept it from spinning! It whipped the back of my left hand hard many times, breaking the chain across my knuckles before I knew what happened, and hard enough to break the chain in many bits. Later, I found pieces of it all over the shop, but still have not found the locking pin. My hand was cut in several places and quite swollen. It's very sore, but fortunately nothing broke and it should be back to normal in a week or two. Fortunate too, that I was wearing face protection.

I learned from this experience that is definitely safer to unplug the tool before changing bits. It would have saved me time in the long run and I'd be woodworking instead of changing my bandages...

Please take time to review the safety notes here:

<http://www.woodturner.org/resources/safety.htm>

Let's all try to work safely....

Workshop Schedule Black Forest Wood Co.

Detail Workshop descriptions at:

www.blackforestwood.com

All Workshops are held at the:

Black Forest Wood Co.
Bay 7, 603-77th Ave. SE
Calgary, Alberta, T2H 2B9
Phone 403 255-6044 to register or for more information

Fundamentals of Woodturning

Weekend with Terry Golbeck \$255

9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

October 29-30 OR December 3-4

OR January 21-22/12

Evenings with Peter Eddy \$255

6 Thursday Evenings, 7:00 PM to 10:00 PM

Starting November 10 OR January 12/12

Gold Gilding with Jarvis Hall \$175

3 Tuesday Evenings, 7:00 PM to 9:30 PM

Starting November 8, Includes Gold Leaf

Bowl Turning with Terry Golbeck \$255

Saturday & Sunday, November 26-27

9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Introduction to Air Brushing with Terry Golbeck \$35

Saturday, November 12, 9:30 AM-Noon

Sharpening Turning Tools & Carving Chisels with Terry Golbeck \$35.00

Saturday, December 10, 9:30 AM-Noon

Anatomy of a Chair with Doug Haslam Learn how to design, prototype and build your own chair. \$275

Saturday & Sunday, February 4-5/12

9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Advance Notice:

Woodturning with Richard Raffan from Australia

Demonstration \$75

Sunday, May 27/12, 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM

3 Day Woodturning Workshop \$450

June 2-4/12, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

5 Day Woodturning Workshop \$750

May 28-June 1/12, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Raffan Workshops \$100.00 deposit to reserve your place.

Events

There will be a Sawdust Session Saturday, October 1st at 9AM at the Calgary Drop In Center. See the map elsewhere in this newsletter for directions. Thanks to Mike Swendson for arranging this for us.
