

Chapter 130 of the AAW

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Next Monthly Meetings:

April 2025

- Thursday, Apr. 24 at 6:30pm
- [Sapperton Pensioners Hall](#) and Zoom (Hybrid meeting)
- **Main Speaker:** Chris Stiles - Twisted, three sided pepper mill.
- **President's Challenge:** For the Garden

May 2025

- Thursday, May. 22 at 6:30pm
- [Sapperton Pensioners Hall](#) and Zoom (Hybrid meeting)
- **Main Speaker:** Larry Stevenson demonstrates his method of making urns
- **President's Challenge:** Two piece hollow form OR a shrink box

AAW

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
OF WOODTURNERS

WE ARE TEACHING THE WORLD TO TURN.

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Presidential Ramblings

By Steve Hansen

This is YOUR Guild! Great to see Dex Hallwood getting the ball rolling, or tops spinning as it were, for Operation Rainbow. Also, in the works is a Guild Exhibition spear-headed by Matt Lo as well as the upcoming (June 7) Guild Flea Market. Each of these things are championed by someone that picked up the phone, made a contact, and otherwise instigated something worthwhile. It's your Guild – you too can make things happen!

A big shout out to Dan Breck, Brian Lunt, Matt Lo, Claudia Hayward, and Scott Morgan for cutting up and organizing wood for the upcoming Mark Gardner classes.

As mentioned last month, we will need a new venue in the near future. Your help and expertise is essential in securing a suitable place to carry on our meetings.

We have a group discount of \$20 off of \$99 for the Summer AAW virtual Symposium. We are awaiting the lineup of which demos/talks will be included in the offer. Contact the president@gvwc.ca for the code.

President's challenge is a two piece hollow form OR a shrink box.

Safety tip for you: Fingers do not make suitable turning chisels! In other words keep your digits safe by avoiding getting them in between the tool rest and the spinning timber.

Steve

President's Challenge:

- **April** - "Sphere"
- **May** - Two piece hollow form OR a shrink box.

Editor's Notes

By Steve Fairbairn

This month's cover photo is an off-center turning of a bird and toothpick holder turned by Wynand du Toit. Thanks, Wynand!

Our newsletter is a pretty quick read this month as we had no articles other than Tech Talk submitted.

If you would like to submit an article for the newsletter, please email it to editor@gvwc.ca at least one week before our monthly meetings.

Steve



Tech Talk

By Bruce Campbell

Tech Talk is held on the Monday evening following the Guild ZOOM session. The credentials for the session are sent to all registered Guild members and all are encouraged to participate in the free-flowing discussion centered on technical aspects of woodturning.

Editor's Note: This article was intended to be published in last month's newsletter however, due to the editor moving the deadline up by a day due to other commitments, the article arrived hours too late to be included.

Our regularly scheduled Tech Talk ZOOM session was held at 7:00PM on Monday, March 10th – the Monday after our Guild meeting. We had about 10 attendees and, as usual, the discussion was wide-ranging and informative.

Is Emtech Water-Based Lacquer waterproof and foodsafe?

Brian had finished a honey dipper with Emtech lacquer and wondered if it was waterproof. In a simple test of dipping it in water he noticed some discoloration in the finish.

Steve H suggested that any traditional finish other than an oil or wax had the risk of any scratch allowing moisture under the finish and thus ruining it. Chris suggested that a better way would be to sand it to final grit, wet it to raise the grain, re-sand it and then finish it with oil. He recommended telling the recipient/purchaser that it will never be better looking than it is right now.

As to whether Emtech is food safe, the current rules are that 30 days after the drying time of the finish it is considered food safe although it is perhaps not the prettiest choice. The general agreement with the group was that, for kitchen items, oils such as olive oil or mineral oil are a good choice.

Increasing wood colour intensity with heat

Fraser shared how he noticed when his daughter over-sanded a piece of Purpleheart the heat appears to have increased the colour intensity. He thought about his experience with heat treating Purpleheart to intensify the colour. He found that he could use a heat gun, of the paint stripper variety, to cook the wood with much more control than you could get with an open flame. It is also much safer in our dusty shop environments. He found that he could also feather the colour much like an airbrush.

I encourage people to try this especially on different species. I'm thinking Paduk, to intensify the orange or brown, and Osage Orange to intensify the orange or yellow colour. Then, of course, we would have to try it on our local species like Cherry, Yew, Cedar and Maple. Thanks for sharing that Fraser.

This will be an interesting addition to our body of knowledge. I have one small caution and that is the risk of shocking the wood, especially something like a bowl once it's finished. Cracking the bowl through thermal stress is a fairly common thing that you will find when people leave a solid bowl in a hot window or in the backseat of a car. Suddenly you've grown cracks that you didn't know were there before, so would caution people not to do it too intentionally or perhaps even on a finished piece rather than a solid piece.

Fixing lathe power switch

Phil asked if anyone had a suggestion to fix his stuck power switch on his lathe. My first suggestion was to check the safety lockout switches on his lathe. He assured us that he had already done that. I suggested he try blowing out the switch with compressed air. Steve D recommended spraying it

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with electrical lubricant, something I had never heard of before, but Steve assures us that it was a regular part of his maintenance kit when he worked on aircraft. As it happens, I have a spray can of lubricant so while we were on the call he popped down to the shop and sprayed the switch. He reported that it did not work right away however he later told me that it took a moment to work its way into the contacts and that fixed the problem. He jokingly suggested that spraying your contacts with any kind of finish is probably not the best idea.

Finishing inside of peppermill

Lucas asked about finishing the inside of a Peppermill. The general feeling was that that would be unnecessary and might even interfere with the pepper itself. Better to just let it season the wood naturally with use.

Gouge sizing

Scott commented that his newly purchased 5/8" RG Wood gouge feels a bit small and he feels like he is getting more vibration than he expected. This prompted some discussion about the reasons why this might be but little was resolved. Dan, who also own one of these tools as well as other 5/8" gouges, took the time to measure them and reported that the RG Wood tool is made from 15mm round stock while competitors measure 16mm. This is likely to do with metric vs Imperial "standards". Scott must have been turning a lot lately to "feel" that difference.

Parting tool purchase advice

Diana asked advice on which beading and parting tool to buy; a 3/8" or a 1/2". If she were planning on using it as a beading tool then I would advise she choose the one closer to the size of bead she would most commonly be turning. While both can be used on any sized bead, one that is closer to the size of the bead being cut is easier to use. If it is intended to be used mostly as a wide parting tool then I would suggest the 3/8" size as it will be easier to control. Another way to decide is to visit a member near you try theirs.

Pipettes for detail finishing/gluing

Someone showed an inexpensive package of pipettes that can be used for administering very detailed applications of finishes and glue. These plastic pipettes have a rubber ball and are available at Princess Auto and similar retailers. For the budget conscious among us Dan Breck shared how he had made such pipettes by heating and stretching a piece of plastic pipe. See previous issues of tech talk in our newsletter archive.

Bandsaw choice

Pippa asked if anyone had experience with Rikon bandsaws versus Laguna. Pippa is looking to purchase a bandsaw. She's looking at a 14 inch and was asking the group if anyone had experience with the product. One person reported reasonably good results with some minor difficulties. One person suggested that he had purchased at 1 hp saw and wished he had gotten the 2 hp option. Pippa said she needed it to be 120V rather than 220V so she could more easily move in the future. I suggested that she look into the possibility of a switchable 110/220 V motor. Thus, leaving her with more options should she have to move her studio.

This led to a discussion of bandsaws. Phil has discovered Skookum band saw blades which appear to be good quality. I have used them myself and I also am quite happy with them. They come with an interesting warning on the blade. They suggest that they be worn in by not pushing on them too hard the first few hours of use. Perhaps I have just been lucky but since I have the been doing that I have not broken a blade.

Phil talked about buying heavier blades that are thicker and says a slightly thicker blade that is a couple of thousands of an inch thicker has given him much better performance.

Brian mentioned that he takes a small stone and rounds the back edge of each new blade to ease the pressure when turning circles. He simply presses the back edges of the blade against the stone while the saw is running. It just takes a moment and need only be done once, much the same as softening the edge of a new tool to guard against

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damage to the total rest.

Once again, I recommend people check the newsletter archive for an article on how to sharpen bandsaw blades: <https://gvwg.ca/docs/Newsletter2012/July2012.pdf>

A former member's article on the dangers of dull blades:

<https://gvwg.ca/docs/Newsletter2006/Jan2006.pdf>

Pen finishing

Bill turns a lot of pens and has been experimenting

with various finishes. He reports that Emtech lacquer gives him a great finish but does not last. His test pen began to dull within a month of regular use. Knowing Bill, he will keep looking but, meanwhile, he is sticking with CA glue as a pen finish.

Many thanks to all that took part and I hope the see more of you at our next session. Watch your email for an invitation including the ZOOM credentials.

Until then, I wish you safe and happy turning.



Tech

Talk



7pm on the Monday after each monthly guild meeting

Bring your problems - Show off a new tool or invention - Share your knowledge



15% Discount for GVWG Members!

How to Qualify:

- Stop** giving your phone number at the cashier counter. (Will be hard because we have been doing this for years).
- Only** tell them you are with the GVWG or Greater Vancouver Woodturners Guild.
- Either** statement will link your purchase to your new 15% discount.

If you give the cashier your phone number, you will only get the store 5% non-guild price.

By saying GVWG instead you get 15% guild price

If you are buying something that needs a warranty, you just give them your Name and Address and that

will go on the electronic file.

If the item you are buying has a flyer sale that is better than the 15%, then you will automatically get the better price.

Every purchase you make in the store by doing the above process adds to our GVWG Credit account. We use this credit account to buy KMS Gift certificate prizes and even bought our Laguna lathe for Sapperton Hall with this credit account. By doing this you are giving yourself a better discount and helping the guild at the same time.

If you are an out of town guild member, all you have to do is type in GVWG as the customer name when buying, and type in your full name, address etc. in the ship to and you will get the 15% discount.

The 15% is an average savings and is based on the cost margins from that manufacturer. This does not apply to published special flyer items.

If we all do this, we can even get up to a bigger discount level in future!



WOODWORKER SPECIALTIES

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March 2025



Wynand du Toit - Off Center Bird
Toothpick Holder



Wynand du Toit - Captured Ring
Goblet

Instant Gallery

March 2025



Scott Belway - Pedestal Bowl



Chris Stiles - Travel Mug

Walnut

Tung Oil finish

Instant Gallery

March 2025



Keith Ruttan - Two Square Bowls

One with just a circle

The circle was calculated slightly.

One with the four individual corners

The effect was to have 4 feet



March 2025



Jim Worden - Hollow Form

Maple

3.5 x 4.5"

Walnut Oil & Beeswax finish



Jim Worden - Hollow Form

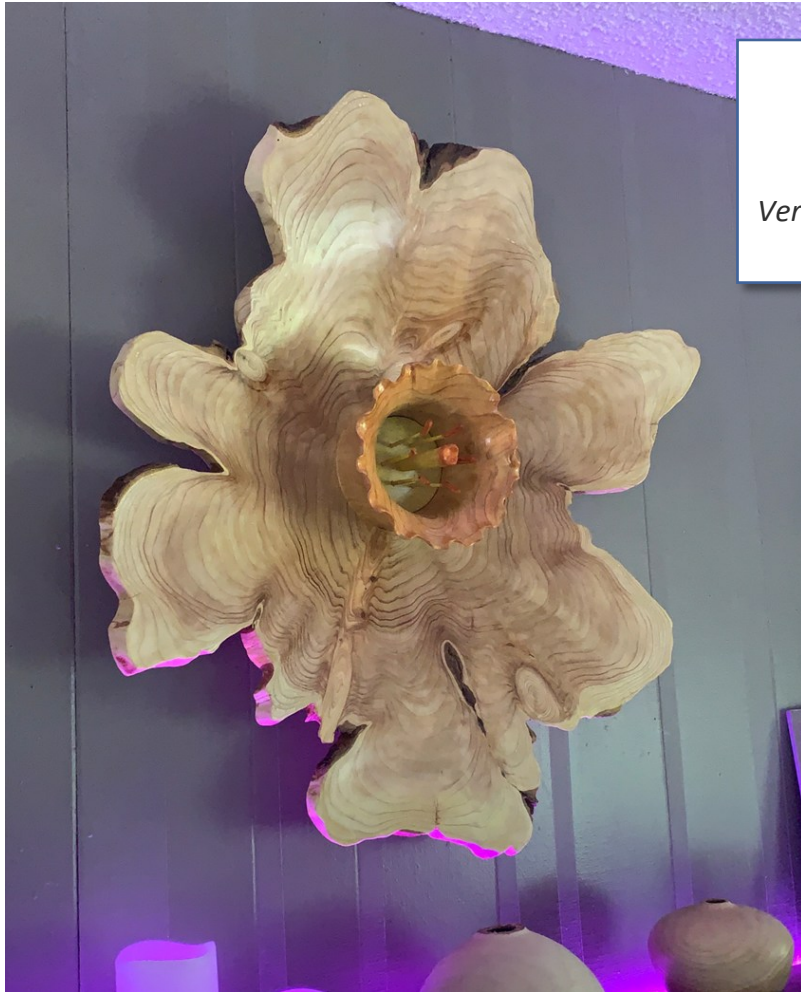
Walnut

4 x 3"

Beall Buff finish

President's Challenge Gallery

March 2025 - "Juxtapose"



Phil Vetra - Wall Flower

Maple & Cherry

28 x 26 x 6"

Very light yellow and orange stain

Acrylic finishes



Marco Berera - "Carved or Turned"

Imitation maple

Brown eyes dyed in Microwave oven

4-1/2" high on pine stand

7-7/8" long

2-1/16" diameter

Wax finish

President's Challenge Gallery

March 2025 - "Juxtapose"

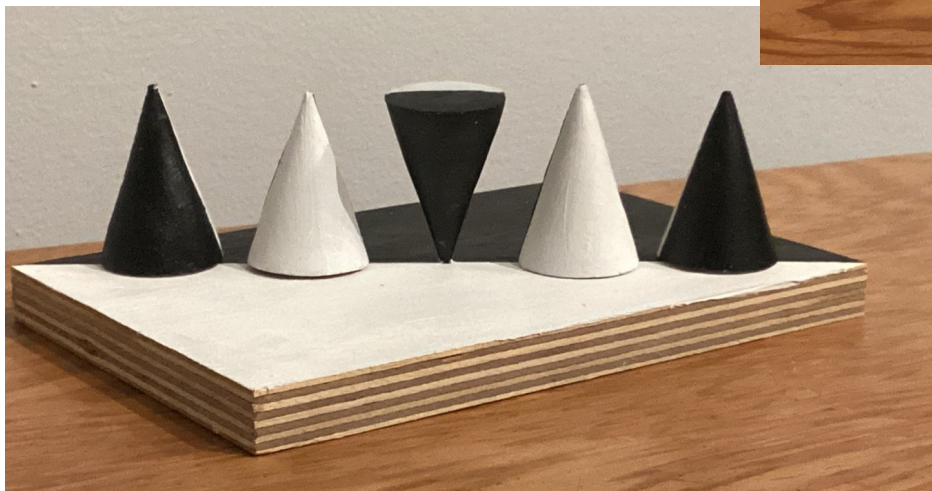
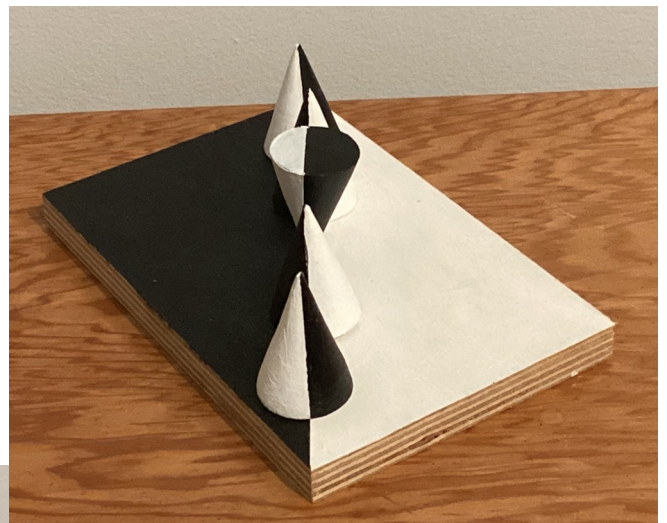


Chris Stiles - Salt/Pepper Mills

*Ebonized arbutus
Bleached holly
With opposite twists
Emtech lacquer and
Tung oil finishes*

**Bruce & Shirley Campbell and Alan Jones -
"Just the Position"**

*Maple
2" wide x 4.25" deep x 2.25" tall
Gesso*



Safety Guidelines for Woodturning

You mostly turn alone so safety is YOUR responsibility

- ⇒ Always wear safety goggles or safety glasses that include side protectors. Use a full face shield for bowl, vessel, or any turning involving chucks and faceplates.
- ⇒ Use a combination of dust mask, air filtration helmet, proper ventilation, and/or dust collection system as appropriate. Fine particles from a grinder and wood dust are harmful to your respiratory system.
- ⇒ Wear hearing protection during extended periods of turning.
- ⇒ Turn the lathe off before adjusting the tool rest or tool rest base, i.e., banjo.
- ⇒ Always remove chuck keys, adjusting wrenches, and knockout bars immediately after use. Never leave them in place, even for a moment.
- ⇒ Tie back long hair and avoid loose clothing, jewelry, or any dangling objects that may catch on rotating parts or accessories.
- ⇒ When using a faceplate, be certain the workpiece is solidly mounted with stout screws (#10 or #12 sheet metal screws as a minimum). Do not use dry wall or deck screws.
- ⇒ When turning between centres, be certain the workpiece is firmly mounted between the headstock driving centre and tailstock centre.
- ⇒ Ensure the belt guard or cover is in place.
- ⇒ Check that all locking devices on the tailstock and tool rest assembly (rest and base) are tight before operating the lathe.
- ⇒ Ensure the blank is securely fastened.
- ⇒ Rotate your workpiece backwards by hand to make sure it clears the toolrest and bed before turning the lathe on.
- ⇒ Stay clear of the areas directly behind and in front of the workpiece, they are the most likely areas for a piece to travel as it comes off the lathe. A good safety habit is to step out of this zone when turning on the lathe, keeping your hand on the switch in case you need to turn the machine off. When observing someone else turn, stay out of these zones.
- ⇒ Always check the speed of the lathe before turning it on. Use slower speeds for larger diameters or rough pieces and higher speeds for smaller diameters and pieces that are balanced. Always start a piece at a slower speed until the workpiece is balanced. If the lathe is shaking or vibrating, lower the speed. If the workpiece vibrates, always stop the machine to verify why. As a starting point, consult your operator's manual for recommended speeds for a particular lathe. Ensure the lathe speed is compatible with the size of the blank.
- ⇒ Exercise extra caution when using stock

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with cracks, splits, checks, bark pockets, knots, irregular shapes, or protuberances. Beginners should avoid these types of stock until they have greater knowledge of working such wood.

- ⇒ Hold turning tools securely on the toolrest, holding the tool in a controlled but comfortable manner. Always contact the tool rest with the tool before contacting the wood.
 - ⇒ Note that, when running a lathe in reverse, it is possible for a chuck or faceplate to unscrew unless it is securely tightened or locked on the lathe spindle.
 - ⇒ Know your capabilities and limitations. An experienced woodturner is capable of lathe speeds, techniques, and procedures not recommended for beginning turners.
 - ⇒ Always remove the tool rest before sanding, finishing, or polishing operations.
 - ⇒ Don't overreach, keep proper footing, and keep your balance at all times.
 - ⇒ Keep your lathe in good repair. Check for damaged parts, alignment, binding of moving parts, and other conditions that may affect its operation.
 - ⇒ Keep tools sharp and clean for better and safer performance. Don't force a dull tool. Don't use a tool for a purpose for which it was not designed or intended.
 - ⇒ Consider your work environment. Don't
- use a lathe in damp or wet locations. Do not use in presence of flammable liquids or gases, and always keep a fully-charged fire extinguisher close at hand. Keep your work area well lit.
 - ⇒ Stay alert. Watch what you are doing. Pay close attention to unusual sounds or vibrations. Stop the lathe to investigate the cause. Don't operate machines when you are tired or under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
 - ⇒ Guard against electric shock. Inspect electric cords for damage. Avoid the use of extension cords.
 - ⇒ Never leave the lathe running unattended. Turn power off. Don't leave lathe until it comes to a complete stop.
 - ⇒ Many accidents to woodturners occur while using saws, especially band and chain saws. Learn and follow the safety guidelines for this equipment.

For more information on woodturning safety please visit the [AAW's Woodturning Safety webpage](#) and [GVWG Safety webpage](#).



Upcoming Events

Date	Time	Location	Event
2025			
Apr. 24th, 2025	6:30pm	Sapperton Hall and Zoom Meeting	Chris Styles - "Pepper Mills with a Twist"
26-Apr-25	9am to 4pm	Sapperton Hall	Full day demonstration with Mark Gardner turning a split hollow form, a shrink box and details on his embellishment methods. Class to follow on Sunday the 27th.
Apr. 28th, 2025	7:00pm	Zoom Meeting	Tech Talk
May 22nd, 2025	6:30pm	Sapperton Hall and Zoom Meeting	Club Meeting - Larry Stevenson - Urns
May 24th, 2025	9am to 4pm	Sapperton Hall	Craig Timmerman Demo & Class - A full day demonstration with Craig - program TBA
May 26th, 2025	7:00pm	Zoom Meeting	Tech Talk
Jun. 26th, 2025	6:30pm	Sapperton Hall and Zoom Meeting	Club Meeting - Topic TBA
Jun. 7th, 2025		Sapperton Hall	GVWG Members Flea Market
Jun. 30th, 2025	7:00pm	Zoom Meeting	Tech Talk
Oct. 25th, 2025	6:30pm	Sapperton Hall and Zoom Meeting	Club Meeting - featuring Kevin Jesequel showing us how he turns hollow forms.
2026			
Jan. 25th, 2026	6:30pm	Sapperton Hall and Zoom Meeting	Club Meeting - featuring Elizabeth Weber who will show us something amazing.
Mar. 14th, 2026	9am to 4pm	Sapperton Hall	Kim Winkle - Demo & Classes. A full day demonstration with Kim
May 30th, 2026	9am to 4pm	Sapperton Hall	Matt Monaco - Demo & Classes A full day demonstration with Matt.
Denotes guest speakers.			

Monthly Meeting Schedule

Monthly Meeting - 4th Thursday of the month at 6:30pm - Sapperton Pensioners Hall and Zoom (Hybrid In-Person/Online Meeting)

Tech Talk - Monday after the Monthly Meeting at 7pm - Zoom Meeting

Turner Talk - Every Thursday at 7:00pm except Monthly Meeting nights - Zoom Meeting

GVWG Officers, Appointees & Volunteers

President:	Steve Hansen	<i>president@gvwg.ca</i>
Vice President:	Steve Fairbairn	
Secretary:	Peter Hill	<i>secretary@gvwg.ca</i>
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	Don Gamble	
	Matt Lo	
	Scott Morgan	
	Chris Stiles	
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