



# Greater Vancouver Woodturners Guild

130<sup>th</sup> chapter of the  
American Association of Woodturners



Newsletter

Vol. 1 Issue 1

October 1999

## At the Last Meeting

Dave Martin

Fifty-four woodturners attended the first meeting of the Greater Vancouver Woodturners Guild (GVWG) on Wednesday, September 22, 1999. Those who came ranged in experience from well seasoned turners to those who had just bought their first lathe. GVWG meetings are scheduled for the fourth Wednesday of each month from September to June at the Royal Canadian Legion, 1025 Ridgeway Avenue in Coquitlam.

The GVWG is a society incorporated under the *Societies Act* of British Columbia and the 130th local chapter of the American Association of Woodturners (AAW), an organization with over 7,500 members worldwide whose mission is to provide education, information and organization to those interested in woodturning.

President Art Liestman opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. by welcoming those in attendance and by outlining the purposes of the GVWG. Art emphasized the importance of learning from each other's experience and pointed out that one

### October 27 meeting:

Focus on Fundamentals – Neno Catania on “Which tool for which job?”

Speaker – John Bese on “Spindle-handled Bowls”

of the GVWG's purposes is to provide a forum where people of all skill levels can exchange knowledge, ideas and information about woodturning. The GVWG is also actively exploring ways to promote the art and craft of woodturning in the community.

In his opening remarks, Art also encouraged members to become involved in the development of the GVWG by volunteering. Volunteering gives you the opportunity to meet new people, to explore new areas of interest, and to be a part of the team helping to build the GVWG.

At each meeting, the president will invite GVWG members to try the *President's Challenge*. The President's Challenge involves small, quick projects, presented by the president, designed to encourage members to try different techniques and to learn new skills. The first challenge will be

issued at the October meeting. Please remember to bring your efforts to the following meeting to share with the membership.

Vice-President John Bese gave a summary of the history of the group. The Greater Vancouver Woodturners Guild began with a series of informal meetings in the spring of 1999. The founding members agreed to apply for incorporation under the *Societies Act* and to seek status as an AAW chapter. They also elected officers to establish the GVWG. A new set of officers will be elected at our annual general meeting to be held in February of 2000.

Member at Large Ted Fromson reported that the two main expenses in the GVWG's budget will be the rental of meeting space and the cost of insurance while the major sources of income are membership dues and monies raised through monthly raffles. The executive set membership dues at thirty dollars for the period between September 1999 to June 2000, inclusive.

Those attending the September meeting had the opportunity to join the Greater Vancouver Woodturners Guild. The organization now has forty paid members. Further opportunities to join the GVWG will be provided prior to the start of and during the coffee break of the meetings.

Future GVWG meetings will begin at 6:30 p.m. with *Focus on Fundamentals*, a one-hour session concentrating on

woodturning topics specifically geared towards the interests of beginners, although all members are welcome to participate. Bruce Campbell will coordinate these sessions. At the October meeting the focus will be on "Which tool for which job?" presented by Neno Catania. Be sure to arrive early to learn the basics of using roughing gouges, parting tools, skew chisels, spindle gouges, bowl gouges, and scrapers.

A number of members brought samples of their work for the *Instant Gallery* segment of the program. For those who are not familiar with this concept, the Instant Gallery is your opportunity to share your successes and failures with the rest of the group. You are invited to bring along pieces that you are especially proud of as well as projects that did not work out. Our thanks to Andrew Forrest, Bill Luck, Bill Kennedy, Tony Ditmars, Ludger Paus, Colin Delory, Rick Schmid, Bruce Campbell, Neno Catania, Art Liestman and John Bese for sharing their work with us in September.

Just prior to the main presentation, Phil Laliberte conducted a raffle of the more than twenty interesting pieces of wood that had been donated. Members will be pleased to learn that the GVWG earned \$111.00 from the September raffle. Thanks for buying tickets, and remember your next chance to win some interesting stuff will be at the October meeting.

**GVWG Officers, Appointees, and Volunteers**

President – Art Liestman  
Vice President – John Bese  
Secretary – Dave Martin  
Treasurer – Don Hoskins  
Member at Large – Ted Fromson  
Focus on Fundamentals  
    Coordinator – Bruce Campbell  
Librarian – Dave Armatage  
Raffler – Phil Laliberte  
Instant Gallery Manager – Neno Catania  
Food Chief – Rich Schmid  
Digital Photo Guy – John Flanagan  
Website Committee – Bob Dechaux  
Newsletter Editor – Amie Hillaby

**Following the raffle, Bruce Campbell presented a most informative discussion and demonstration titled “Taming of the Skew.” In his presentation he demonstrated the use of the skew to rough out and plane a cylinder, to make V-cuts and roll beads, and to part off. The finished piece was a meat tenderizer created by using these elements of skew-work.**

**The first meeting of the GVWG concluded around 9:45 p.m. after a successful evening of generating new membership, introducing the framework and organization of the GVWG, sharing ideas and techniques, and in general, learning much from our fellow woodturners.**

**Executive Meeting Highlights****Dave Martin**

**To save time at the monthly meetings, most of the “business” of GVWG will be handled at executive meetings. If you have concerns that you would like the executive to consider, please speak to one of the officers. If you wish to attend an executive meeting, please contact the President.**

**The executive met on September 27 to review the meeting of September 22 and to discuss future plans for the GVWG.**

**A number of possible topics for the Focus on Fundamentals segment of the meetings were discussed. In the coming months, watch for presentations on sharpening tools, mounting work on the lathe, buying a lathe, finishing your projects, and turning green wood. If you have topics that you would like to see included in this segment of the program, be sure to contact Bruce Campbell.**

**As the regular members’ meeting for December would fall on December 22, the executive decided to cancel this meeting. In place of the December meeting a field trip has been arranged for Saturday, December 4 to learn about metal spinning. Further details on this field trip will be published in the November newsletter.**

**The executive agreed to begin preparing for an entry the Chapter**

**Collaborative Challenge at the American Association of Woodturners 14<sup>th</sup> Annual National Symposium in Charlotte, North Carolina from June 30 to July 2, 2000.** Each AAW chapter is invited to submit one collaborative work created by as many chapter members as possible. There must be at least six participants collaborating on the project to qualify. The work can be any turned object, functional or decorative but must be smaller than a two-foot cube and weigh less than twenty-five pounds.

The executive plan to apply for an AAW Educational Opportunity Grant this year, although it is still undecided exactly what to request. For those of you not familiar with this program, it is a mechanism for members or chapters to obtain funding from the AAW for special projects. Some of the suggestions for this funding are to build up our library, purchase a club lathe for use at meetings and public demos, or to purchase sound equipment and a video camera for use at meetings. The deadline for the application is November 30. If you have any suggestions, please contact Art Liestman.

## **AAW NEWS**

Art Liestman

The first Canadian chapter of the AAW was the Prince Albert Woodturners Guild of Prince Albert, Saskatchewan.

The Calgary Woodturners and our guild were admitted as the 129<sup>th</sup> and 130<sup>th</sup> chapters, respectively, at the AAW Symposium in Tacoma during this past summer. Since then, two more Canadian chapters have been admitted – the Hub City Turners of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan in September and the Woodturners Guild of Ontario (of Markham, Ontario) in October. Currently, there are 138 AAW chapters. At least two other Canadian clubs are considering applying for chapter status. This is long overdue and will make the AAW and our local guilds stronger.

The AAW members among us should have received AAW Board of Directors election ballots by now. Be sure to vote! Also, it's time to renew your membership for 2000.

The Tacoma Symposium videotapes (two techniques videos and one gallery video) are available for purchase from the AAW office.

For information on the  
American Association of  
Woodturners:  
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3499 Lexington Avenue N., Suite 103  
Shoreview, MN  
55126 USA  
Telephone: (651) 484-9094  
Fax: (651) 484-1724  
email: aaw@citilink.com  
or visit their website at:  
[www.woodturner.org](http://www.woodturner.org)

The AAW has an extensive website with lots of information. It is moving to a new URL - [www.woodturner.org](http://www.woodturner.org). The old site will remain active, but new information is only being added to the new site.

If you're not an AAW member, you may want to consider joining. More details can be found on their website or at the October meeting.

### Taming of the Skew

Bruce Campbell

Thanks to all of you for your support and attention during my presentation at the September meeting. Here is a brief summary of the basic techniques that helped me to "tame" my skew:

#### 1. Sharpen your skew approximately

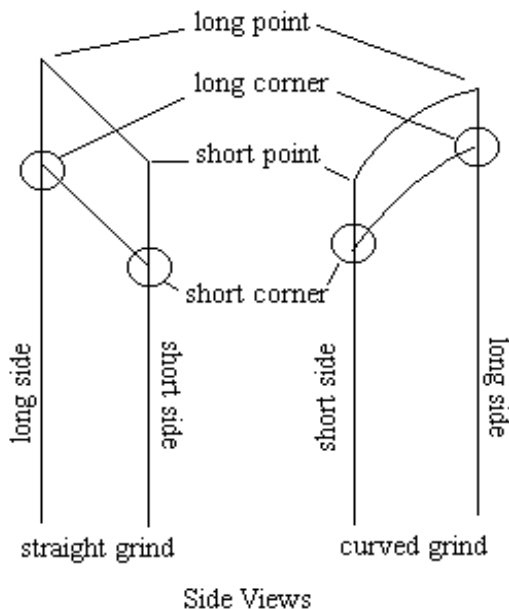


Fig. 1 - Side views of skew grinds

75° evenly on both sides. I grind my skew edges slightly curved as I find it gives me better clearance and control (Fig. 1).

2. Heel into the work - that is, present the heel edge of the bevel to the work and slowly draw the skew outward while lifting the handle (Fig. 2.). This will cause the bevel to rub against the work. Continue until the edge begins to cut. This technique will help to give you a more controlled entry to your cut, even on rough material.

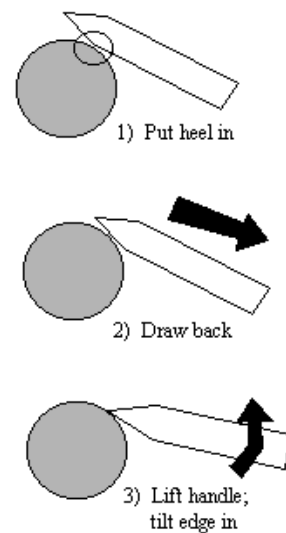


Fig 2. - Heeling into the Work

3. A catch occurs either when the cutting part of the tool is unsupported or when the tool is jammed into the wood. Always take care to place the tool firmly on the tool rest and to move slowly to bring the wood to your tool, rather than forcing the tool into the wood.

4. As the bevel of the skew is rubbing the piece, the cutting edge of the skew should be at 45° or steeper. A flatter angle takes too big a bite and is difficult to control. The steeper the angle of the cut, the finer the cut becomes.
5. For V-grooves, use the skew with the long point up. This allows you to use the top edge of the long point as a scraper while you are cutting.
6. I prefer to use the short point for plane cuts. I find that it gives me better control; however, in narrow spaces, like near a shoulder, the long point is useful for reaching in.
7. A trick that I use when planing is to put a small groove where I want the plane cut to stop. This prevents any tear-out beyond the groove.
8. When planing, I try to achieve a smooth cut by moving from my hips rather my shoulders or hands.
9. When parting off, slow the lathe and release the tailstock pressure a little. As you reach the centre of the wood, slow your cut down and try not to go beyond the centre of the wood. This will reduce tear-out.

For those of you who were unable to attend this presentation, I will place copies of the presentation material in the GVWG library.

## Tips from the Web

Art Liestman

A recent discussion on the internet news group [rec.crafts.woodturning](mailto:rec.crafts.woodturning) concerned the use of the freezer and refrigerator to dry green wood.

Jim Gott contributed: "I have done the following with success, both with finished and unfinished items: Put the piece in a plastic bag, then in the freezer for 24 hours. Then, take it out of the bag and put it in the fridge for 2 weeks. At the end of 2 weeks time you should have a completed bowl. I have not had to coat endgrain, since I turn to a finished thickness of 1/4 inch or less, but you may want to seal the endgrain if you're going to freeze dry a roughout.

"The logic of freeze-drying is that the freezing ruptures the internal wood cells by expanding the water molecules. Then, the refrigerator acts as a dehumidifier, sucking out the moisture from the wood. To see how this works, put a piece of bread on the fridge shelf and see how it quickly dries out.

"This will work with unfinished items, or even with finished ones, as the moisture will still come out through the finish. I have used shellac or polyurethane with this process, and the worst to happen was a slight raising of the grain, which is corrected by steel wool and application of a final coat.

“Some experimentation may be necessary, as this is not an exact science. The above has worked for me. Play around with it and see what works for you.”

Terry Hemmings suggests the following process: “Rough turn the item to even thickness of between 20–25 mm. Put in freezer for 24–48 hrs (some say they put it in a plastic bag but I don’t). Remove from freezer (and if necessary from bag) and weigh it. Place in a frost-free fridge. At intervals of about a week weigh – repeat this until there is no further weight loss. Leave out of fridge for approximately 24 hrs to allow item to stabilize at room temp. The item can now be turned to final form and finished. This process is widely used here in ... Australia.”

## How You Can Help

Dave Martin

The success of our organization depends on members contributing their talents and knowledge. Our hope is that every member will take an active part in GVWG events and will contribute to the growth of the group.

Here are some of the ways you can help the GVWG improve.

**Newsletter** – We need *writers* to contribute material to the newsletter and *mailers* to help in getting the newsletter sent out. If you would be willing to help with the newsletter,

please call Amie Hillaby at 469–0221 or by e-mail at [amiemh@dowco.com](mailto:amiemh@dowco.com).

**Meeting Programs** – We need an *Educational Coordinator* to schedule the speakers for our meetings. This involves seeking out speakers from within the GVWG and from further afield. The executive will assist the coordinator. You are also encouraged to volunteer as a *speaker* for meetings and as a *Focus on Fundamentals (FOF) demonstrator*. To volunteer to be the Educational Coordinator or to speak at an upcoming meeting, contact Art Liestman by phone at 939–3843 or by e-mail at [art@cs.sfu.ca](mailto:art@cs.sfu.ca). To volunteer as an FOF demonstrator, contact Bruce Campbell by phone at 469–0221 or via e-mail at [bruce\\_campbell@bctel.com](mailto:bruce_campbell@bctel.com).

**Raffle** – We always need donations of wood, woodturning tools, shop supplies, or equipment for the monthly raffle. If you can help, contact John Bese by phone at 581–8807 or via e-mail at [johnbese@home.com](mailto:johnbese@home.com).

**Library** – We are building a library of materials that can be borrowed by members. If you have woodturning books, magazines, or videos that you would be willing to donate, please contact Dave Armatage at 936–0705.

**Website** – We would like to develop a website for the GVWG. If you would like to be involved in this, contact any of the officers.

**Wranglers – People are needed to help set up the room and carry in equipment before meetings. If you can help, please arrive about 6:00 p.m. Following the meeting we need to clean up the room and put chairs and other equipment away. Your assistance would be appreciated.**

### **Did You Know?**

**Dave Martin**

**Did you know that woodturning was invented about 3000 years ago in the Middle East. Among the earliest records are those at Persepolis, the capital of Iran around 600 BC. (from Mike Darlow's book *Fundamentals of Woodturning*)**

### **What would you like to see in the Newsletter?**

**Amie Hillaby**

**The newsletter is one of our best tools for sharing information within the GVWG. For this issue, we put together some text that was necessary for our new venture. In the future, we'd like to expand the scope to include such things as pictures from meetings, shop tips, articles on techniques, reviews of tools, books, or videos, bios of members, interesting anecdotes, want ads, and favorite websites.**

**If you have any ideas of what you'd like to see, please let us know. Even better, suggest some story ideas or**

**write something. You definitely don't have to be a great writer to contribute – send it in and chances are, we'll put it in!**

### **THANKS!**

**The following fine folks have donated raffle items and otherwise helped us to get the GVWG going. Please support them!**

**KMS Tools (Coquitlam) 522-5599**

**Mount Cheam Woodworking  
(Chilliwack) 795-9297**

**Neufeld Brothers Hardwoods  
(Chilliwack) 795-7886**

**We'd also like to thank Phil Laliberte and Dave Armatage for burning our logo on the nametags and to Amie Hillaby for putting our names on them.**

#### **REMINDER**

### **Surrey B.C. Woodshow**

**October 22 – 24, 1999  
Cloverdale Fairgrounds  
at 176<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Cloverdale**

**Friday: 1 p.m. – 8 p.m.  
Saturday: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.  
Sunday: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.**