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NEXT MEETING

JANUARY 28, 2004
 Sapperton Pensioners Hall
 318 Keary St, New Westminster
 Meeting starts at 6.30

More information in our January newsletter

Remember, the President’s challenge for January is to make something from the pieces of fruitwood passed out at the November meeting. Don’t forget them! (If you’d like to play along and didn’t get any of the wood, just pick a green branch about 3” in diameter and 8” long.)

A reminder to food providers – keep some of that Christmas baking for the January meeting! Bill Olsen, Bill Ophoff, Gregg Parsons, Wayne Pilchak, Aymeric Ronse, Gordon Rosenthal, Lance Rossington and.....oh yes, me

PRESIDENT’S COLUMN

Art Liestman

Although I missed the November meeting, I understand that we have several new members. Welcome to all!

On December 13th, we held our December meeting, an all-day demonstration by segmented turner Curt Theobald from Wyoming. Those in attendance were treated to a snapshot of the tremendous amount of work involved in producing world-class segmented turnings. The level of detail needed in fitting the precise joinery was staggering. Curt showed us the various steps needed to produce such work and shared many interesting tips that can be used in other situations, as well. It was an extremely informative presentation. Several members participated in classes with Curt during the week after the meeting. I look forward to seeing the results of those classes.

We will hold our annual general meeting during the February meeting. Among some other items on the agenda, we will be holding elections for President, Secretary, and Member-At-Large. As I have reached the limit of my term as President I’ll be handing over the reins to a new President that month. I’m looking forward to participating as a regular member in the near future.

We will be offering a demo and some classes with English woodturner Jimmy Clewes in February. There are more details elsewhere in the newsletter.

JIMMY CLEWES DEMO

Art Liestman

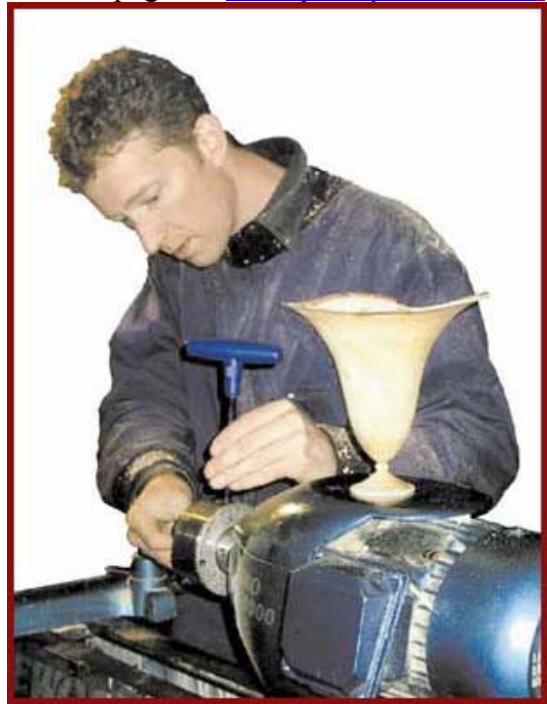
Jimmy Clewes, a professional woodturning demonstrator and instructor from the north east of England, will present a full-day demonstration at the Sapperton Pensioners Hall on Saturday, February 7th. The demo will run from 9:30 am to approximately 4:30 p.m. Please bring along a lunch so you don't miss any of the fun. There is a \$25 charge to attend the demo. (If you can pay in advance at the January meeting, it would be appreciated.)

Jimmy Clewes has 20 years of experience at woodturning. He studied three-dimensional design at Manchester Polytechnic, specializing in designing and making furniture. During this time, he developed his interest in woodturning.

In Jimmy's Saturday demo, he will show a wide range of turning projects including a tall, natural edge vase, a platter/bowl with a colored rim, and a turned "oyster" box. Jimmy is an entertaining demonstrator with a lot of information to share. This will be well worth attending.

On Sunday, February 8th and Monday, February 9th (if there is enough demand), Jimmy will be teaching hands-on classes for up to 6 participants at KMS Tools in Coquitlam. In the classes, he will combine information on tooling techniques (such as a long grind bowl gouge) with understanding how and why tools sharpened at different angles and bevels are needed for different forms. The class will include work on design, shape, form and aesthetics. This may include coloring, texturing, carving and surface decoration. Students will leave the class inspired and excited to further develop the skills and techniques learned. The classes are open to people of any ability and different students can focus on different projects or different aspects of

the same project. Turning blanks will be provided. The class fee is \$150. If you are interested in taking the class, please contact Art Liestman (artliestman@shaw.ca or 604-939-3843) as soon as possible to ensure a space. For more information on Jimmy, check his web pages at www.jimmyclewes.com.



Jimmy demonstrating to a class



NOVEMBER'S DEMO

Anne Rostvig

The main event at November's meeting was a demonstration and talk from the president of Mohawk Finishing Products, Vijay Narayan.

Vijay has a huge range of knowledge on the subject of finishing wood and members were quick to take advantage of that. Although not specifically geared to woodturning, the information he gave was extremely valuable to all of us.

From lacquers and oils, through conditioners, stains, strippers and dyes, Vijay certainly knew his stuff. He fielded numerous questions without hesitation, and had us all scribbling notes so that we didn't miss anything.

An excellent presentation, and our thanks go once again to Vijay for taking the time to visit with us.

Vijay's products can be accessed through his website at www.mohawk-finishing.com

QUICK FACTS

Homemade wood conditioner – 1 part white shellac, 5 parts methyl hydrate, do not sand after conditioning.

'Amalgamator' removes white rings from wood.

Badger hair brushes are the best for finishing.

Stain will not penetrate wood sanded beyond 220 grit.

'Quickwood' is a resin product designed to build up broken corners etc. Also useful if you have stripped screw holes. It is harder than wood and accepts stain and dye.

A LOVING SPOONFUL

Anne Rostvig

At this time of year, our thoughts always turn to people who are less fortunate than ourselves. I would like to bring to your attention a group called 'A Loving Spoonful'. This is an organization boasting over 170 active volunteers who deliver more than 100,000 free meals to men, women and children living with HIV and AIDS in the Greater Vancouver area.

Each year in March, the charity stages an event called Project Empty Bowl as a fundraiser to continue their work. Naturally wherever there are bowls, there are turners, and the guild has traditionally been a part of this event. Small bowls are given to participants as they arrive, and used at the various food tasting areas. Larger pieces (not necessarily bowls) become part of the silent auction.

Some items will be displayed at Holt Renfrew and other locations during the month of March, and the gala night takes place at the Sugar & Sugar gallery in Gastown on March 18th.

Okay, March is a long way off. But start to think now about what you can do to help. If everyone in the guild donated only one item, think about the difference we could make to this group. I encourage everyone to consider being part of this annual event. There will be more info in later newsletters, but if you have any immediate questions, speak with Robert McConnell.

LIFE AIN'T SO BAD!

Anne Rostvig

The next time you are washing your hands and complain because the water temperature isn't just how you like it, think about how things used to be.

Here are some facts about the 1500s:

Most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May and still smelled pretty good by June 20. However, they were starting to smell so brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odour. Hence the custom today of carrying a bouquet when getting married.

Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all the other sons and men, then the women and finally the children - last of all the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it. Hence the saying, "Don't throw the baby out with the bath water."

Houses had thatched roofs-thick straw-piled high, with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so all the dogs, cats and other small animals (mice, bugs) lived in the roof. When it rained, it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and fall off the roof. Hence the saying "It's raining cats and dogs."

There was nothing to stop things from falling into the house. That posed a real problem in the bedroom where bugs and other droppings could really mess up your nice clean bed. Hence, a bed with big posts and a sheet hung over the top afforded some protection. That's how canopy beds came into existence. The floor was dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt. Hence the saying "dirt poor."

The wealthy had slate floors that would get slippery in the winter when wet, so they spread thresh (straw) on the floor to help keep their footing. As the winter wore on, they kept adding more thresh until when you opened the door it would all start slipping outside. A piece of wood was placed in the entranceway. Hence the creation of a "threshold."

In those old days, they cooked in the kitchen with a big kettle that always hung over the fire. Every day they lit the fire and added things to the pot. They ate mostly vegetables and did not get much meat. They would eat the stew for dinner, leaving leftovers in the pot to get cold overnight and then start over the next day. Sometimes the stew had food in it that had been there for quite a while. Hence the rhyme, "Peas porridge hot, peas porridge cold, peas porridge in the pot nine days old."

Sometimes they could obtain pork, which made them feel quite special. When visitors came over, they would hang up their bacon to show off. It was a sign of wealth that a man could "bring home the bacon". They would cut off a little to share with guests and would all sit around and "chew the fat."

Those with money had plates made of pewter. Food with high acid content caused some of the lead to leach into the food, causing lead poisoning and death. This happened most often with tomatoes, so for the next 400 years or so, tomatoes were considered poisonous...

Bread was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle, and guests got the top, or "upper crust."

Lead cups were used to drink ale or whisky. The combination would sometimes knock a person out for a couple of days. Anyone walking along

the road would take him for dead and prepare him for burial. He was laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days and the family would gather around and eat and drink and wait to see if he would wake up. Hence the custom of holding a "wake".

The local folks started running out of places to bury people. So they would dig up coffins and would take the bones to a "bone-house" and reuse the grave. When reopening these coffins, 1 out of 25 coffins were found to have scratch marks on the inside and they realized they had been burying people alive. Someone came up with the bright idea to tie a string onto the wrist of the corpse, lead it through the coffin and up through the ground and tie it to a bell. Someone would have to sit out in the graveyard all night (the "graveyard shift") to listen for the bell; thus, someone could be "saved by the bell" or was considered a "dead ringer". And that's the truth.



Merry Christmas to all those lucky souls, both naughty and nice, who look forward to having in their stockings – maybe not a lump of coal - but certainly a lump of wood!

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