



GREATER VANCOUVER

WOODTURNERS
GUILD

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Art Liestman

Our April meeting focused on coloring as we prepare our Chapter Collaborative project for the Pasadena symposium. We began with an interesting presentation on tole painting on wood by Sharka Leigh. After a break, the colorfest continued as Gina Myhill-Jones and I discussed various coloring techniques that we have tried. Several members met over the next few days to continue work on the collaborative project. We will see the finished project at the May meeting before it leaves for Pasadena.

With this issue, I'd like to welcome Anne Rostvig as our new newsletter editor. Anne is stepping into the mighty big shoes of Thom Chadwick. Thanks for your time at the helm, Thom! Putting a newsletter together is a daunting task. Anne will, I'm sure, welcome contributions of articles and other forms of assistance.

Coming up this month, we have a great treat – a visit from New Zealand woodturner Graeme Priddle. More details are elsewhere in the newsletter.

Remember, the President's challenge for May is something made of plywood.

NEXT MEETING ON MAY 28th, 2003

At the Sapperton Pensioners Hall
318 Keary St., New Westminster

Focus on Fundamentals

(Starts at 6:30 p.m.)

The Discussion Forum on Finished Pieces

Bring in your finished pieces and get
involved in the group discussion.

Mounting Systems

3jam chucks. Mandrels, glue and 2-sided tape

Sanding

Selecting and using sandpaper on the lathe

Main Event:

Phil Laliberte will demonstrate turning
soapstone on the lathe and give us some
pointers on using this material

Food providers for May

We ask that the following members please provide food for the
meeting on May 28th

Gary Cormier, Mike Dawson, Colin Delory, Marion
Dobson, Stephen Dobson, David Donnan, Neil Elmer,
Steve Fairbairn, John Flanagan.

It doesn't have to be fancy, a box of cookies will do fine.

DEMONSTRATOR SHARKA LEIGH

Doug Schop

This presentation was a bit different from our usual demonstrations. Sharka Leigh, a tole-painting instructor, was on hand to explain the painting process. I have seen this technique before but had never really had it fully explained to me. Sharka has been painting for 12 years. About six years ago she was approached and asked to do some instructing in the art, and she now has her own studio in North Vancouver where she works and teaches. Sharka handed around several of the items she had painted, explained the processes involved, and showed the materials required.

Most woodworkers that I know have not experimented with the tole painting process. Many woodturners are staining, texturing and otherwise decorating their bowls, and some go even further, so that the species of wood in the vessel is not distinguishable. Traditionally cabinet-makers and carpenters have used tricks of the trade to allow less costly woods to replace expensive varieties without any loss in appearance. Painters and other trades-people often use cheaper materials and finish them to represent more exotic species. It is common practice to finish birch or poplar to give the appearance of oak or mahogany. Most expensive cabinets use thin exotic veneers on less expensive woods to control costs. So painting and staining woods to simulate other varieties is not new.

The tole painting technique, however, is used to decorate items that are in everyday use and the woods are often common, inexpensive and easily available, eg pine, birch, poplar and spruce. Originally tole painting was used by tinsmiths in Europe to protect their goods from corrosion and increase sales by making the product more attractive. Most of the early painting that we see in North America came from the New England area and much of it was produced by the Pennsylvania Dutch. In the early and now collectable Folk Art era, the construction of the base item was often crude and the painting was primitive. With a resurgence of the use of Folk Art in homes the

tradition has grown to a different level. New types of paints and stains and new techniques now available have revolutionized the tole painting hobby. I found the demonstration very interesting. I am sure much of the art created by Sharka and her students will be collectibles in the future, with us for a very long time.

Thanks Sharka.

SANDER STORY

Doug Prinse

Recently my half sheet Makita orbital vibrating sander model 9046 stopped its steady movement of rotation. I bought this sander at least 2 years ago so the warranty was up plus the receipt could not be found. I brought it into the dealer for a diagnosis and a few days later I was told that the gear on the armature was toast and it may cost the same to repair as to purchase a new sander. I spoke with the technician and we agreed that I had bought a lemon, you could clearly see that it hadn't been used much as the casing looked fairly new.

Well you can imagine my reaction to this news, I picked up the disassembled parts, went home and called Makita in Richmond. I spoke with Charlie in repairs and told him what happened to my sander. He asked what I was sanding, what grit and how I might have used it differently than normal. I politely answered his questions, making sure he was not aware of the steam exiting my ears. He said to send it to his office and he would check into it. With no proof of purchase I sent it collect (Why pay for shipping if I might end up burying it anyway.)

A few days later Charlie called and said that perhaps the failed parts were not tempered properly and they would repair it at no charge to me. With some humor in his voice he said he would send it back collect! As most of you know, I spend most of my time cutting logs or loading my kiln and not too much time working in my shop sanding the spectacular slabs of hardwood that grow in BC so it is very likely that I may have used the sander for less than a week's work. For your info the parts they replaced on my sander were the armature assembly, ball bearing, needle bearing, helical gear, felt ring, O ring and gearbox.

They didn't even charge me the GST or the return shipping. BIG SMILE

Perhaps the fact that I told Charlie that I brought the broken sander to a guild meeting to show other tool buyers what happened may have influenced his decision to keep me and my fellow guild members as happy customers.

THE UTAH SYMPOSIUM

Art Liestman

This year I attended the Utah Symposium in Provo for the first time. I had a great time and learned a lot.

For me, the highlights of the symposium were demonstrations by several woodturners that I had not seen before –Stephen Hughes of Australia (known for his wonderful turned boxes that seem impossible to make), Jimmy Clewes of England (known for coloring, texturing, and excellent forms), and Phil Irons of England (also known for coloring and texturing). I was also able to attend the first demo on a national stage by Michael Werner – our speaker at the upcoming June meeting.

Other woodturners demonstrating at the symposium included Trent Bosch, David Nittmann, Cindy Drozda, Phil Brennon, Stuart Mortimer, Stuart Batty, Mike Mahoney, Peter Herud, Kelly Dunn, Graeme Priddle, Ron Gerton, Martin Pidgen, Jerry Kermode, Kip Christensen, Dale Nish, and Nick Cook – not enough time to see all of them. In attendance, but not demonstrating, were lots of other big-name woodturners.

The instant gallery was of very high quality and merited several visits each day. In addition to the main presentations, each evening included several events. Some of these were additional presentations much like the daytime demos, but others included the famous eggcup races (where the current record for a 2 person team was set at 6 seconds by Stuart Batty and Mike Mahoney!) and a great swap meet.

Attending demos and meeting with so many woodturners kept me busy from 7 am to 10 pm

for four days and I still missed a lot of fun stuff. If you have any inclination to attend next year, give it some serious thought. It was a wonderful few days.

GRAEME PRIDDLE DEMO

Art Liestman

We are happy to announce that Graeme Priddle, a woodturner from Whangarei, New Zealand, will be here June 7th and 8th for a demonstration and a hands-on class.

After a short career as a radio technician, Graeme began woodturning in 1990. Since that time, he has rapidly become known around the world, having demonstrated in New Zealand, Australia, the US, Canada, Israel, and France. His work has traveled even further afield in various juried exhibitions and in private collections. Graeme was a participant in the prestigious International Turning Exchange in 2000. In 2002, he became the first woodturner to have his work (one of his Starfish vessels) pictured on a stamp (40c New Zealand).

I was lucky enough to meet Graeme at the 2002 AAW Symposium in Providence where he was one of the featured international demonstrators. His demos were easily one of the highlights of the symposium. His demonstrations at this year's Utah Woodturning Symposium were also highly rated by the attendees. He is a most entertaining and inspiring demonstrator.

On Saturday, June 7th, Graeme will give a demo at the Evergreen Cultural Centre (1205 Pinetree Way in Coquitlam) from 9:30 am to around 4 pm. We will arrange for free parking for the event. 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 May meeting, it would be appreciated.) In the demo, Graeme will present his "Vessels of the South Pacific". He will cover design and influences and show us his techniques for turning, hollowing, and carving. The demo is intended for turners of all skill levels.

On Sunday, June 8th, Graeme will teach a hands-on class for up to 6 participants at KMS Tools in Coquitlam. Participants will make a carved and decorated hollow vessel and should be somewhat experienced. 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 Graeme, check his website at www.graemepriddle.co.nz



A CHANCE FOR FAME?

Thanks to Steve Hansen for this information.

Call for entry: For 500 Wood Bowls (to be published in 2004), the sixth book in the series, we're seeking original works in wood that range from traditional, functional bowls to conceptual interpretations of the form.

The images will be juried and selected for the book by Ray Leier and Jan Peters of del Mano Gallery in Los Angeles as well as Kevin Wallace, an independent curator and writer in the field of contemporary art.

No entry fee is required. Accepted artists receive full credit, a complimentary copy of the book, and a discount on purchased books.

Carefully read the guidelines below before you open, print out, and fill out the Entry Form with information on up to five pieces. Then sign the Artist's Agreement.

Guidelines

Domestic entries must be postmarked no later than July

10, 2003; International deadline is June 26. website:

<http://www.larkbooks.com/submissions/ArtistsEntryForms-500bowls.asp>

EDITOR'S NOTE

Anne Rostvig

Wow!

My first gig as an editor.

While visions of one day taking over the reins of the Globe and Mail may seem a mite premature, I am nonetheless excited – not to mention terrified – about this opportunity. Thom is a hard act to follow. I didn't realize quite how hard until I tried to convert his sophisticated Mac graphics into my lowly Word program. So, plan B was born. I would be the first to admit that my initial issue leaves a lot to be desired, but I fully intend to improve as time goes on.

As a novice woodturner, I consider it an honour to be part of this group. Its tolerance, encouragement and support are exceptional and I'm hoping that extends to novice editors as well. Over the next few months there will be changes in both format and content. Please let me know what you think. Feedback is important and this is not my newsletter, it's ours.

I would like to thank Thom for his advice and instructions. I think he was getting a little panicky when he hadn't heard from me by mid-month. Thanks also to Art for his encouragement, and a special thank-you to Pam Murray who traveled all the way to Surrey to help me with the formatting, and who has volunteered to be assistant editor. I appreciate all those who called with advice and comments. Keep them coming. The new e-mail address is gvwgnews@telus.net and I have also set up a secondary address at gvwgnews@yahoo.ca. I will be moving in the summertime and am uncertain yet which server I will be using. The second address will give us some continuity, and prevent any break in contact.

Thanks everyone,

Anne

COLLABORATIVE CHALLENGE

Larry Stevenson

Our collaborative challenge entry is just about complete and I'll be bringing it to the May meeting. I would like to thank all members that participated in this year's entry. I hope all participants learned something and enjoyed the project as much as I did. Our entry is awesome. It will definitely be noticed and may cause some concern for our sanity by other clubs. For those who are not able to go to Pasadena for the symposium this will be a good opportunity to get some pictures. So bring your camera and click away to your heart's content. With the project there will be a list of people who participated. Make sure that if you participated your name is on the list. This list will be included in the dedication plaque that accompanies our entry in the AAW symposium and I would hate to see any names missed

ONEWAY LIVE CENTRE REHAB

Dave Broomhead

If your Oneway live centre has radial play due to much use (Bruce) or like my new one, and several replacements, due to improper or low quality bearings, then you can upgrade or replace relatively easily. However, I am still irritated that Oneway didn't care about the play in a new live centre and basically shrugged it off on to their bearing supplier - up to 7 thou wasn't unusual they said - time to change your supplier I thought! No amount of discussion would change their view that nothing could be done and it was no big deal anyway. Talk about mistaking them for people who care. Doubly irritating is the fact that "el cheapo" live centres from Lee Valley made in China also have no detectable play. Yes, I know they donated a lathe to the club, but that's beside the point.

Enquiries at Kaman Bearings in Port Kells and at NSK in Burnaby led to the selection of a radial ball bearing (NSK 6202 DDU). There is NO detectable play with this bearing and providing you don't turn at 10k it will not overheat. Runs great!

The cost of the bearings was the princely sum of \$8.76 plus tax, no more than the inferior 'Nachi' brand they replaced. Unfortunately, the bearing puller required, off and back on, was almost \$14 - you will definitely need

a puller.

If any one has any questions on my experience, please feel free to contact me.

David Broomhead - embittered turner, who is feeling better already.

THE MISSING LINK

Did anybody notice that there was nothing about last month's president challenge or gallery items?

Unfortunately there was no-one there to take pictures and no write-up about the entries. Although I picked up all the description slips I did not feel qualified to comment on what was presented. I just know there was some really great stuff. Sorry folks!

The one item I do remember has to be the best one there, and undoubtedly the most unique - the terrific photograph of Andy Forrest and his brand-new daughter. Congratulations from all of us to Andy and his wife. A future woodturner is born! Forget the silver spoon, just buy her a chisel.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tom Byrom – Educational Co-ordinator

Guest presenters for upcoming meetings are as follows:

MAY 28 – Have you ever seen soapstone turned on a Lathe? Phil Laliberte will demonstrate and give us pointers on using this stone.

JUNE 25 – Michael Werner from the North West Wood turners will do a presentation on offset turning.
I have asked Michael to show us the “hands” he did for the AAW symposium.

That’s all so far. For future meetings if you have any suggestions please give me a call – 604-929-1766

INVITATION

All club members are invited to enter their turnings in the Richmond Carvers Society Annual Carving Show on the May 24-25 weekend at the Steveston Community Centre. If you entered last year, you should have received a prospectus by now, but if you need one, phone me and I will put one in the mail.
Len Sawyer, 604-266-3913

WEB SITES TO CHECK

Good sites for wood identification:

www.thewoodbox.com

www.hibdonhardwood.com

Want to learn decorative painting?

www.onestroke.com

Love woodworking but have a disability?

www.ableworkshop.com

Good informative sites

www.woodturns.com

www.green-alan.tripod.com

www.turningtools.co.uk

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