



South Saskatchewan Woodturners Guild

Sept/Oct 2011 – Issue 9

The South Saskatchewan Woodturners Guild is a group that meets on the third Tuesday of every month. While meetings generally begin at 7 p.m. in the woodworking shop at O'Nei High School we hold meetings away of that location as well.

AAW Chapter Application Approved

Discussion regarding our application for a chapter status in the AAW have been going on for many months. SSWG members voted to pursue this path at one of our meetings prior to the summer. Appearing below is an excerpt from a letter from Kurt Hertzog, Chairperson, Membership and Chapter Liaison:

Let me congratulate you on the formation of the newest AAW Chapter. I'd like to welcome you and your fellow members. Please let me know if there is anything that you need assistance with now or in the future with regards to your chapter. If I am not able to help you directly, I'll do my best to connect you with someone who can.

Included with this email is a list of AAW symposium DVD's for you to select three for starting your club library. After you have made your selection we will mail you the DVD's, an AAW canvas banner, and a local chapter certificate.

The AAW will be communicating with you and your chapter through monthly emails. Your chapter will be listed on the AAW website at [this link](http://www.woodturner.org/community/chapters/LocalChapters.asp).

<http://www.woodturner.org/community/chapters/LocalChapters.asp>

Kurt Hertzog Chairperson - Membership and Chapter Liaison

Quick fact: there are 351 chapters of AAW and of those 20 are in Canada.



Members in attendance at September meeting display new chapter banner

Club Activities and News.

-It was agreed that perhaps the best approach for raising funds would be to have each member donate a turning each year, which would then be sold at a “show” such as the woodcarvers annual event.

– An inquiry had been made by Martin Collegiate to explore our clubs interest in doing a demo or class with their grade 12 students. They were to contact Dale for further information.

-Whittler/Carvers Club – Dale is a member of this group and as you may recall we exhibited at their last annual show in Regina in 2010. Their meeting minutes suggest they might ask us again to join them for their 2011 annual show held this year in Moose Jaw.

-Dale announced that Rick Murton had just

become a juried member of the Saskatchewan Craft Council. Other members of the guild who are also juried members include Paul Omilon who was juried last year and Dale who was juried a couple of years ago. Congratulations to them all.

-Paul Omilon reported that he is putting on classes at O'Neill, Martin, and Millar High Schools during the next few months.

-Meetings have been well attended over the last few months. We have had 16 to 22 people at every meeting and usually a guest or two as well.

Chair's Challenge - "Turning a Toy".

Thanks to all those who brought their creations to share with the group.



Lloyd Dyer describes his creation to the group

Dale Lowe Recognized

Dale Lowe received the "Award for Excellence in Functional and Production Ware" for his entry in this year's Dimensions show. Dale has also had a piece accepted for the "Root, Branch, Twig and Flower" show now on at the Affinity Gallery in Saskatoon. Great job, Dale.

Ideas for the fall:

We are always looking for new ideas that we can use in the development and delivery of education sessions for the members. A few on

the list for the upcoming year include:

- a) Laying out spindles and spindle design.
- b) Roughing out bowls.
- c) Natural edge bowls.
- d) Skewing with a skew.
- e) Sharpening tools: bowl gouges, detail gouges, skewers, scrapers.
- f) Bowl gouge basics.
- g) Hollow form tools and techniques.
- h) Making Boxes.

Anyone who has things to add to this list please send Dale an email so that they can be included.

Discounts available

JD Industrial will give us a 10% discount on some merchandise. Windsor Plywood will give us 15%. Dale will be talking to other businesses for possible discounts in the future for members. You will have to show your membership card to receive these discounts.

Future Meetings of the Guild

We will once again be meeting in the O'Neil High school shop. A special thank you to Julie Lemire and O'Neil for the use of the school for our meetings.

Upcoming Events

- Lee Valley in Saskatoon is presenting some wood turning classes. To find the info and/or register go to the Lee Valley web site (www.leevalley.com). Mike Hosaluk will be doing a one-day class as well as other presenters for pen turning, etc. Register early, as these classes will fill up quite quickly.

- Saskatoon Woodturning Symposium 2012. Wood turners Guild of Saskatoon are considering putting on a symposium next year, and they would like anyone who is interested to register as soon as possible. Space is limited so please register if you are interested; the cost is \$295.00 for the three-day event.

It's Your Turn - John Raine

I travelled to John's farm south of Regina to visit and gather some information for this issue of Its Your Turn. The farm is about 20 minutes out but it was a lovely day so the trip was a great way to start off the afternoon. John

raises sheep and does a bit of grain farming. He has always farmed but got into trucking a few years back to help supplement his winter income. An injury left him with chronic neck problems, an issue he deals with to this day.

When I arrived John was meandering across the yard and we went immediately to the barn now converted to a large shop or maybe we can call it a work area as it is much larger than what one might call a shop and serves as a multi purpose space. Upon walking into the work area we were in what John has designated as the metal section of his work area. It was filled with all the tools and materials one might need to cut, mould, weld or do whatever you might like to do with metal. We walked a little further into shop, which John shares with a number of cats, to arrive in the back area of his workspace where his wood section located.

This space houses his lathe and all the accessories, many of which he designed and built himself. Tools, chucks and specialty items are all in his arsenal of homemade metal items he has made. John has designed and built his sharpening jig, his curved tool rest and vacuum chuck out of materials from around the farmyard. He has also made many of his own turning tools, chucks etc. JR showed me a grind that he puts on some of his turning tools patterned after an Israeli turner he follows. The lathe bench itself is 3/8" metal with two tool trays underneath that are well designed and convenient. Just looking at the various items around his lathe is a clear demonstration of John's metalworking and design skills.



The lathe sits waiting with a partially turned bowl in place. The outside is finished to perfection with the inside now the primary focus.

As a typical turner JR has salvaged a good deal of his wood from peoples firewood pile or discard box. He has a stockpile he has hoarded away for future projects. He also has a substantial collection of branches, which he will eventually use in making pens. You will see many of the pen blanks JR is presently turning sitting close to his lathe waiting for finishing.

Somewhere in the course of our discussion I mentioned to John that I was planning on buying a curved tool rest to make working in the bottom of a deep bowl easier. And it was off to the metal section we went where he immediately began working on a curved tool rest for my lathe. A bit of searching for the 2 pieces he needed, a couple of last measurements and he was cutting pieces to size. Then came the bending, welding and polishing and he was done...about 45 minutes or so plus cool down time. The only thing left was to polish the new tool rest to a shine. Just as I was about to leave John presented me with my new curved tool rest. Thanks, John it will come in very handy. The only problem is it will limit the excuses I have been using for the poorly turned bottoms on the insides of my bowls.

John tells me he has been turning steel since 1969. He bought his current wood turning lathe and began turning wood in about 2009.

Like many turners he finds turning very relaxing. He tries to turn for a while each day if all goes well. He has never tried carving as yet nor has he had an opportunity to turn exotic wood. On his list of things to do...hollow turning.



We had an interesting discussion on working with metal and turning wood. I tried to pin him down on which he preferred. I think I heard him say he leaned more toward the turning side. He is very good at both so it is a tough call I am sure.

We took some time to discuss challenges of different woods when making pens and the process of turning a pen. Much of what John makes is given away as gifts at Christmas or for other special occasions. He finds that Christmas ornaments are popular with friends and relatives.

He has been trying to convince his wife that he would like a One-way lathe but to this point it is a tough sell. John is also second guessing himself wondering if it would be a practical purchase for him.

John is an avid supporter of the SSWG. He believes the secret of learning is listening to other guys who are turners no matter what level they are at in their turning. His advice to new turners was to pay attention to a bunch of old guys...not just one. Of course lots of practice is key. He also suggested that new turners need not go out and buy a bunch of tools. Three or four tools should be sufficient for most beginners. Talk to a few turners and see what they might suggest would be best to start with and go from there.

SSWG has been absolutely useful to John. There is such a wealth of info among various club members. Somebody will say something

and it will twig a thought that can be followed up. Once you hear something you can do further research on Internet to further enhance your learning. The Guild is a great opportunity for both new and more experienced turners. John found last year's collaboration project to be a great learning experience. I think any turner could learn a lot from John not only in woodturning but also in metal design and in working with metal. I found my afternoon at John's farm and "shop" very interesting to say the least.

Tips and Hints

- When using accelerators or kickers to speed the curing of cyanoacrylate (CA or Super Glue) adhesives, always use pressurized aerosols instead of pump sprays. Aerosols produce a vastly superior atomized spray pattern versus a pump spray unit and will not leak out of the can during storage.

- When using finishes from compressed spray cans (lacquer, shellac, plastic finishes etc.), always thoroughly shake the can for 2 minutes before using the finish. The quality of your sprayed finishes will be greatly improved if the finish is properly mixed prior to application.

- To make sanding smaller projects easier on the lathe, use an old pair of scissors, or a disposable razor blade to cut strips of varying widths from folded sheets of abrasive paper. Thin strips of abrasive paper are much easier to use in tight quarters than folded sheets of abrasives.

- To extend the life of micro turning tools when sharpening on a dry grinder, use the turn-on - turn-off sharpening technique. Turn the grinder on and then quickly off, as the grinder starts spinning down, sharpen your tools. You will be amazed how much longer your micro tools will last using this procedure.

- To quickly clean abrasive disks when power sanding, mount a crepe abrasive cleaner near your headstock. When your abrasive disk

begins to clog, sand the crepe cleaner block for a second or two and resume sanding. Crepe abrasive blocks can be purchased at any home centre.

Demos Popular with Members

Peter Sawchyn returned in June as a guest presenter. He gave us all an excellent demo on creating the sun burst design he creates on his mandolins. He walked us through his experiences with dyes, colors, and finishes that he has used in the 35 years in his craft. A big THANK YOU to Peter for sharing his time and expertise.

Paul Omilon conducted a spindle turning demo at our September meeting. It was a demo packed with techniques and ideas on how to turn creative spindles

Lloyd Dyer invited members to his shop for our October meeting where he conducted a very informative demonstration of the various steps involved in segmented turning. The presentation by Lloyd was well received by those attending and gave us all a few things to think about.

(A detailed description and pictures can be found on our web page. Special thanks to Brian Milne for making the presentation available to members and others through our web page.)



Segmented bowls demo by Lloyd Dyer

Mike Hosaluk. Dale gave us an update on the proposed demo by Mike Hosaluk who indicated that he had some time in January would work

for him. It was agreed by those in attendance that this would work with 14 members indicating through a show of hands that they would be interested in this demo. It was decided that we should make this demo available for high school students, and allow one student from each high school to attend free of charge. No fixed price was set at this time. Bryan Milne advised that he has contacts with the schools and could help with that, as well as a camera and projection screen for the demo.

Show and Tell

The opportunity to see and hear about members turnings is a special part of each meeting. Members have an opportunity to look at, handle and ask questions about objects on display. The overall woodturning skills of our members continue to evolve.



Some of the items on display at our Sept meeting.



October display of turnings

Objectives of the Guild

Promote and facilitate the sharing of ideas among members.

Education; primarily for members, promoting wood turning in the community, and to potentially extend to education within the school system.

Create a vehicle whereby the guild may bring in skilled instructors for the membership.

Develop an information base or library for the membership.

Promote projects and participation among members whereby project ideas,

Future Newsletters

Please send in articles, ideas and web links to John Carter for inclusion in future newsletters. It makes the letter more fun and a bit easier for me if I can get your input and assistance. Thanks in advance. Also please feel free to point out any errors or omissions that appear in this or future issues of the SSWG Newsletter.