



# South Saskatchewan Woodturners Guild

**Nov/Dec 2011 – Issue 10**

*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'Neil High School we hold meetings away from that location as well.*

## **South Sask Woodturners Guild**

### **Guild News**

22 members attended the November meeting of the Guild.

### **Group Order Opportunity**

Paul/Dale have suggested Woodchuckers as a good place to order turning accessories such as bottle stoppers, key chain holders, pen parts etc. Anyone interested in ordering anything should check out what Woodchuckers have to offer by going to <http://www.pennstateind.com> Dale usually coordinates orders so if you are interested in placing an order give Dale a call.

Paul also is looking at purchasing some 12 quarter cherry at a really good price. Those interested should let him know ASAP.

### **2011 Memberships Due**

Memberships are now being accepted for 2012. Membership fees remain at \$35.00. Mike will be taking memberships at our next meeting on December 13.

### **Video Library**

Mike O'Kraney raised the issue of setting up a video library. He is looking at having one set up on his home computer that could be accessible by the membership with a special password. He will advise us at the next meeting if this is possible.

### **Turning Demos**

Paul thanked Dale, John and Rick for bringing their lathes to the school for a woodturning lesson being offered at O'Neil High School Paul and Rick conducted the session in late November for students at O'Neil.

### **November demo by Mike O'Kraney**

Mike gave an excellent demonstration on how to turn a wobbly goblet. He also provided a complete set of instructions. A nice outline of the program is also provided on our web page ([southsaskwoodturners.ca](http://southsaskwoodturners.ca)). Thanks Mike for a great demo.



**Mike's wobbly goblet on display**

## **Show and Tell**

Thanks to Roy who produced a Moses walking stick, Bryan with his flute and Dale with a cherry wobbly goblet. There were several other show and tell items brought to the meeting for all to enjoy. Thanks for the samples guys. By bringing you items we are all provided with inspiration on our future turnings.

Discussion regarding the types of finish used by the members and the differences between oil based and water based products was also very helpful.

Dale also showed off his entry into the “Seeds Show” in Saskatoon, which was turned tomatoes attached to real life tomato vines. He is also working on a bunch of turned grapes, which will also be attached to real life grape vines.

## **Tips and Hints**

To reduce “orange peel” and subsequent wet sanding on cured lacquers, spray light coats of lacquer thinner onto the surface, whilst you slowly rotate the project on the lathe. Small disposable sprayers like the Preval unit are ideal for this application. (Respirators with organic vapor cartridges must be worn when spraying thinners).

If you enjoy colouring your projects with dyes and stains, but you’re tired of using expensive disposable containers for your mixing cups, use ramekins instead. Ramekins are sold in cooking supply stores (ceramic material with a white smooth finish glaze) in varying sizes. The fired glaze on ramekins will not stain or discolour when using colouring products and can be reused indefinitely. Any residual colour on the ramekin is easily cleaned with the appropriate thinner and a paper towel.

When applying or using finishes, or products that create hazardous fumes always wear a half mask, or full face respirator outfitted with the proper vapor cartridge to protect against any dangerous fumes. Ordinary dust masks do nothing to protect you against fumes.

To keep the water in the reservoir of your wet grinder as clean as possible, use two rare earth magnets (one inside – one on the same spot on the outside) to remove residual metal shavings from the water when sharpening your tools. When the metal builds up on the surface of the magnet, rinse the magnet under running water and you’re back in business.

Here’s an inexpensive way to use paper backed abrasives for power sanding on the lathe using 3M Super 77 spray adhesive... Cut circles out of each abrasive sheet with an old pair of scissors to make sanding disks in various sizes. Use an old worn out Velcro sanding mandrel that has lost its grip and sand the face of the Velcro smooth. When you want to use the paper backed abrasives for power sanding, simply spray a bit of the adhesive onto the surface of the pad. Quickly place the abrasive paper disk onto the glue and pull it on and off three or four times, as you evenly spread the adhesive across the mandrel face. Then, sand your project. When you finish sanding, IMMEDIATELY remove the paper disk from the mandrel. If you wait, it will tear off in strips. If you happen to forget, simply sand the abrasive against a piece of scrap wood until it heats up a little and it will be easy to remove.

## **Chairs Challenge**

The Chairs Challenge for December was to turn a “Christmas Ornament or Toy”

Need a few hints on turning Christmas ornaments go to [www.marleyturned.com](http://www.marleyturned.com) then click on the menu item *videos*.

Or as an alternative try YouTube and go to *Christmas Tree Ornament m4v*. There are a number of interesting and useful videos on this site as well

## **A Day with Mike Hosaluk**

Mike is recognized in Canada and internationally as one of the world’s most creative wood turners. He will spend the day of Jan 14 with us at Campbell Collegiate. The

session will start a 9 a.m. and finish at 5 p.m.



*Mike in his studio in Saskatoon*

Information has been circulated to the membership with further information being available from Paul Omilon. You can reach him at 584-2196 or send him an e-mail [pmo@sasktel.net](mailto:pmo@sasktel.net) .

This event is open not only to members, but to other interested persons as well.

Don't miss this opportunity, as Mike is a very knowledgeable and entertaining presenter.

## **Dale Lowe - It's Your Turn**



I had a chance to visit with Dale recently to discuss a variety of issues. We started our discussion looking back over the history of the South Saskatchewan Woodturners Guild (SSWG). The SSWG started a couple of years ago with informal discussions between Dale, Len Sheldon and Mike O'Kraney. It wasn't long before Paul Omilon and Rick Murton became part of the founding group. The first meeting of the Guild was just over a year ago with 9 people in attendance. We now have about 35 paid up members and a total mailing list of about 55 people. SSWG has come a long way. It is far bigger and better than he ever imagined when he first got the guild movement going.

The SSWG has lots to offer in terms of camaraderie but also offers the opportunity to learn more about the process of turning. We have an excellent group of people with members bringing a wide range of experience and turning skills to the Guild. Those same guys bring an abundance of talent and so he is comfortable we will continue to move in a positive direction. An early objective he had for the Guild was that members would recognize what good work looked and felt like and to provide demos that would help members achieve that goal. Show and Tell has worked wonderfully as a tool not only to inspire turners to try new things in their shops but also to provide them with new things they might like to try themselves. It provides members with an opportunity to learn more about how things were made and finished.

We have had a very solid start and we seem to be heading in the right direction. Hopefully we will see a new executive elected at our next

Annual Meeting and with more guys getting involved in the work of the SSWG he sees the group continuing to move forward.

Our visit then moved on to more turning related topics. When Dale was asked about tips for new and experienced turners his focus moved quickly to safety. While Dale has had no major accidents he feels that safety is extremely important to turners. He feels turners have to look carefully at safety. There must be a culture that you build for yourself when you are around the lathe. Simple things like face shields, turning off the lathe when moving the banjo, and moving the banjo away when sanding are only a few of the areas to which turners must pay attention. It is also important that we not be afraid to make suggestions to fellow turners when we see them doing something dangerous. Hopefully, they will be open to receiving those safety hints thus ensuring that co-workers and friends are also safe.

Suggestions for new turners might include working on lots and lots of bowls and when you have good tool control, move on from there. Also practice, practice, practice. Have fun and make stuff. Everyone should learn to use every tool not just a few of his or her favourites.

And for the more experienced turner he suggests that you should keep challenging yourself by turning new items. Expand your body of work trying new ways of doing things. Dale tried a little something different that helped open his eyes to new ideas and shapes. He actually took a sculpting class. It even changed his way of thinking when it came to design and turning different objects.

It is important to keep learning and thinking about new ways to turn. One guy to watch, who is very creative in what he does is Mike Hosaluk our guest at next month's symposium. Wherever you are, be it stores, galleries or window-shopping look for interesting shapes and designs that you might be able to incorporate into your turnings. Maybe even look beyond turning magazines for new and original ideas.

Dale has a nicely appointed shop with ample room to store a wealth of accessories and parts for completing a wide range of future projects.

Like any good turner he has bowl blanks and lots of wood stored in and around the house.

He does a lot of his turning on a Oneway 1640 lathe but he also has a second large lathe dedicated to turning bowls.

He has an area away from the main turning area for doing his finishing.

Dale got into turning as a natural step from doing intarsia where one focuses on the wood grain and the colouring in different woods.



*A sample of an Intarsia project*

During an annual trip to the Boreal forest he found and harvested a dozen large birch burls and knew that the rich grain and color would be ideal turning material.

The move to real turning happened when he met Lloyd Dyer. Dale had been displaying some of his intarsia at a woodcarving show in Regina when Lloyd offered to teach him the basics of how to turn a bowl. Lloyd's offer opened up a whole new world for him and for which he is extremely grateful. Dale then tackled a couple of the birch burls and he was hooked.

He has been turning for 4 years and has produced over 400 bowls and numerous other turnings in that time period. That is a very impressive collection of bowls and other objects. When he gets the urge he also delves into turning bottle stoppers, key chains, shaving brushes, pepper mills and the list goes on. Dale gets inspiration from books, magazines and stores. He is always on lookout for new ideas and shapes. While he enjoys turning many kinds of wood he prefers maple and birch. The grain inside maple and birch burls continues to amaze him every time he turns it.



Dale's turning career took a big turn during a show he attended in Fort Qu'Appelle. A fellow participant who was a glass artist suggested he look into being juried by the Saskatchewan Craft Council. Dale went through the jurying process and a new world opened to him. It lifted his level of work and changed his idea of what he wanted to achieve. He now felt that he wanted to refine the look and design of his turned work.

He decided he wanted to try producing what he calls "gallery quality work". To Dale, gallery quality work means attempting to turn a product that is both creative and as close to flawless as possible. His turned tomatoes and grapes are examples of what he feels is approaching gallery quality.



*Turned tomatoes*



*Turned grapes*

He takes only his absolute best objects to a show. If he is not happy with a turning it goes back on the shelf for future refining, refinishing or to the recycle bin. His goal is to do the absolute best he can do with no exceptions. He feels strongly that you have to set standards you are comfortable with and then maintain or enhance those standards.

When asked what his most satisfying or favorite project was, he responded, "I always hope my next piece will be my favorite". He hopes some day to get to the level where people who collect art recognize his work. In my mind he has got to be close to fulfilling that goal. The next thing on Dale's list is to get heavier into carving. He also wants to turn more hollow forms.



*Hollow form with carving started*

Archery is another passion of Dale's. His passion is shown around his house as he displays his ample collection of hunting trophies. Deer, elk, antelope and bear are among the trophies he has mounted on the walls.

The opportunity to spend an afternoon with Dale was a tremendous experience. Little did I know when I showed up at Dale's shop in the early afternoon that I would still be there 3 hours later soaking up knowledge with a never ending supply of tips and hints on how I might improve my work or use my tools better. One of the perks of the job. Thanks Dale.