



South Saskatchewan Woodturners Guild

October 2010 – Issue 4

The South Saskatchewan Woodturners Guild is a newly formed group that meets in the third Tuesday of every month. While meetings generally begin at 7 in a meeting room at the O'Neii High School we plan on meetings outside of that location as well.

I must admit that I hadn't thought much about this until Bob Stepp threw me the curve ball at the meeting the other nite. Now it's Friday nite and you just know that I would rather be turning something. However, as I thought about this today it became quite clear and thus you will have to endure my message.

As a Guild we are closing in on our first year of existence and thinking back on where we came from I am extremely proud of our group. We have come together to share ideas, to share experiences and skills and to share found wood treasures. Everything that has happened in our first year has been positive and I would like to thank you all.

When we initially floated the idea of creating a wood turning group there were enough words of encouragement to take the leap. Our first meeting started with 9 guys and an incredible attitude of let's learn all we can and share this with whoever would be interested. We now have 33 names on our mailing list – not too bad I say.

We chose the Guild name carefully and purposely to be inclusive of all those who might be interested from the southern part of the province. Our bylaws have also been designed to include students and thus hopefully we can share our knowledge with as many young turners as possible.

We have been fortunate enough to have toured a couple of very interesting workshops, to have had demos of everything from “spiral carved goblet stems”, “sharpening bowl gouges”, “coloring”, “the basics of cutting logs for turning” and “the use of end grain turning tools”. That is a lot to digest in such a short time.

I also want to congratulate all members who have brought projects for the rest of us to see. The quality of the workmanship has improved dramatically and it is obvious that the guys who have or make the time to turn are

improving with every project. Cudos to you all. For those of you who haven't had the time or the space to turn we look forward to seeing your projects in the future.

As we have now had our first meeting in the O'Neill workshop I am excited about the new things that we will be able to do. I envision some new and more hands on demos, with this facility we may be able to bring in some Professional turners and potentially even do some longer workshops. Although we haven't discussed this with Julie as yet.

Another worthwhile project that we could work towards would be to provide O'Neill with a newer and better quality lathe and tools. I know that we haven't discussed this as a group so I am planting the seed for you all to think about.

As we are a very diverse group I encourage you to bring ideas to the table of what you would like to see in the way of demos and seminars, fund raising ideas, tool trade and sale nites, give back to the community ideas, etc. Send either myself, Rick, Mike O ,Paul Bob, John C or Glenn any ideas that you have and we will get them started.

This message column will likely be spread around to all members so I would ask that you start thinking about what you might say when it becomes your turn. Bob may have started something unique with that little curve ball.

See you in November.

Dale.

Wood Turning Symposium

The Twenty Ten Woodturning Symposium was held in July featuring numerous displays, demonstration and learning opportunities. There were six members from our club in attendance at this Symposium.



Six members from the SSWG attended the symposium.(l to r) *Paul Omilon, Dale Lowe, Peter Chernoff, Rick Murton, Bob Stepp,* and John Carter. Rick, Dale and Paul had samples of their work on display.

There were resource people and attendees from across Canada and the United States. I am sure no one in attendance at the show was disappointed with the many opportunities to observe the various sessions. The Symposium ran from Friday evening until Sunday afternoon.

There was also ample opportunity to view an enormous display of works by turners. Below are only a few samples of the beautiful and inspiring work that was on display. I am sorry now that I did not take down the names of the artists. Here are a few examples:



For Sale

Sears Craftsman Wood Lathe
 12 inch swing and about 3 foot span.
 Some Craftsman and Sorbey tools available
 Price: best reasonable offer
 Call Joyce at 543-3222 or contact by e-mail
barjoy@sasktel.net

September Meeting of the South Saskatchewan

Woodturners Guild (appearing below is an abbreviated version of the minutes of that meeting).

- The meeting was called to order by Dale Lowe with 16 members and guests in attendance.
- Mike O'Kraney reported that a bank acct. has been set up. Memberships will be from January to December at a fee of \$35.00 per year. To date we have 16 paid memberships. Membership cards are still a work in progress, but coming along nicely.
- A report on the Saskatoon Woodturners Symposium held from July 23rd to 25th in Saskatoon was given by Rick.
- Paul Omilon reported that the 25th Anniversary of the AAW is being held in Minneapolis the coming summer.
- Dale Lowe reported that he had purchased 6 pails of Anchorseal and still has a little left for those who are interested.
- Mike reported that he has made a contact with O'Neil High School, in hopes of using there facilities for meeting etc. in the future.

Late Note: We started meeting in the shop at O'Neill for our October meeting.

- Glenn Bird reported on our web site. It can be found at www.southsaskwoodturners.ca.
- An ad appears in this newsletter for the lathe a lady was asking us to provide a price on..

September Meetings Demo

Dale Lowe introduced Lloyd Dyer, who took center stage and put on an excellent demo on creating a spiral flute on a wine goblet. It was a very interesting and spellbinding demonstration., which was of great interest to all in attendance.



Lloyd Dyer and his spiral goblet creation

Thanks to Lloyd for a great demo. Thanks to Brian Milne for the pictures.

Tips and Hints

This will be a new section that will appear in our newsletter from time to time. Brief hints, tips and ideas will appear in this segment. Being as many long time turners have different perspectives on how to do things, this section might provide us with some interesting discussion at future meetings.

Here are a few ideas for your consideration:

- try storing green wood or wet wood in freezer. It will dry the wood faster than leaving it sit out.
 - feel free to paint outside of a wood bowl but inside must always be natural if you will be using it for food products.
 - taking time with sanding is a very good idea and perhaps it could be better stated that you sand until all previous tool marks or sanding marks have disappeared. Also use light pressure when sanding to ensure a better surface job and extend the life of your sanding medium.
 - always have a vacuum by grinder as material coming off can be quite toxic
 - a 2 prong spur works as well as a 4 prong
 - drill a hole for your spur drive to fit into. That reduces chance of a spinoff and helps you get past bark for safer turning.
 - always seal wood to get a better highlight
 - try using wipe on poly as an undercoat for your dye or stain
 - tung oil and varnish makes a nice mixture
 - If you are considering the purchase of a vacuum pump give serious thought to the oil less one. The ones that use oil often give off an oily mist that can be toxic for the turner and make have an adverse effect on wood and or tools in the shop.
 - round the corners on your scrapers in an effort to cut down on catches
 - Something to ponder: once you can do spindles you can do bowls. They are really only big coves.
- These ideas are offered as a challenge for members to think about and to bring forth questions for other members at future meetings.

Breaking News

Paul was talking to Mick West, the Regina rep for Great Western Saw, and he advised that the company will be opening a Regina outlet on or around the 1st of November, 2010. It will be located on Winnipeg Street just south of 4th Avenue near the Regina Qu'Appelle Regional office. The new General Manager will be Mike Olynlnk. Mike used to work for Mr. Tool and stayed on for awhile under the take over by House of Tools. He left their employ before that company went bankrupt. Paul will approach him to see about getting our SSWG on a better than straight retail pricing.

Paul suggests our members might be interested in getting on Brian McEvoy's email list for the "*The Latheest News*" newsletter. There is no charge for this service. The newsletter is a sales document with turning "tips" that could be helpful to the membership.

An additional note: *Canadian Woodworker* has also announced that they plan on opening a store in Regina in March.

Wow, lots of places to spend more money. Love it.

For your consideration

Rick Murton sent in the following abbreviated highlights of an article he found in the October issue of *American Woodturner*. The article was too extensive to include in its entirety so here a few highlights that Rick pulled from the article to peak our interest.

In the latest issue of that magazine, *Art Scott*, wrote an article called *Sandpaper The Nitty-Gritty*.

In the article his opening line is "Who knew that P400 was the same as 320 grit". Well I discovered this little piece of info at a trade show last month when asked the question "what does the P stand for on your sanding disk". To my surprise I found out that it referred to European standards in sanding grit and that they differed from the US standards.

Now I'm sure that all of us have both US and European sand paper in our shops. It is not that they are not interchangeable it's a matter of knowing when they are the same and when they are not.

As an example, at 180 grit they are a perfect match, but that is where it ends. As you move down to 80 there is no significant change, nothing compared to the high end where you see that 800 grit US is a close match to P1500.

In my sanding I like to follow a sequence of P80, P120, P180, P240, P320, P400 and in the process I have been told, by who else, Dale, that alternating the direction on your lathe from forward to reverse also make a big difference and guess what, he is right again.

There are also 3 types of sanding disks to choose from:

Aluminum Oxide: which is available in paper, cloth, or a synthetic backing, all of which work well.

Garnet: breaks down quickly but produces a finer scratch pattern and is better at the high end grits to create that elusive mirror finish.

Silicon Dioxide: it is commonly referred to as wet and dry and is not one that most would use on a regular basis. It's more for metal and creates a hard finish to allow oils and stains to work well.

To get the best result in your sanding process remember NEVER SKIP A STEP, if you jump from 80 grit to 240 grit chances are you are not going to get rid of the scratches left behind by the 80 grit.

This article also reviews backing material on sandpaper and how they are graded.

The 8 page article is worth the read and offers a number of comparison charts outlining progression of US versus European grits.

October meeting

Notes of the October 19, 2010 meeting, held at O'Neil High School. Notes for the meeting have already been circulated to the membership. If for some reason you did not receive a copy get a hold of Rick Murton.

Here are some meeting highlights:

- 1.) 17 members and guests in attendance.
- 2.) Julie welcomed the Guild to the school and outlined the rules for use of the facilities.
- 3.) No report on the web site at this time.
- 4.) All members are encouraged to provide input to John for inclusion in future newsletters.
- 5.) Paul Omilon is in the process of setting up a link with the Sask Craft Council,
- 6.) Paul also reported that he had a spindle turning class set up at the Neil Balkwell had been cancelled.
- 6.) It was agreed that anyone with magazines, DVDs, CDs, books or VHS tapes that they would be willing to share with membership should advertise in our newsletter or bring them to future meetings..
- 7.) Bob Dawson, a member of the Wood Carvers Guild, advised that they are holding a Wood Show on April 30th and May 1st at the Highland Curling Club. Members interested in this event should contact Bob at bob.dawson@sasktel.net or call 789-2945.

- 8.) It was agreed that we should proceed with becoming an affiliated Chapter Member of the AAW.
- 9.) The 25th Anniversary of the AAW is being held in St Paul Minnesota this summer.
- 10.) Next meeting date is set for November 16th at the O'Neill High School at 7 pm.

Rick Murton, Secretary

Membership Fees

Membership fees are due. Fees are \$35. Mike O'Kraney is collecting the cash. He would like to get all the fees in so we have money to pay rental for meeting rooms and the shop. Thanks.

October Demonstration

Bob Stepp took the lead at the October meeting demonstrating the initial steps in preparing blanks for turning. With his high tech equipment (a homemade log holder and a chainsaw) Bob proceeded to show members in attendance his steps in preparing a log.



Bob prepares to shape a piece of wood



A discussion is led by Bob on choosing the best cut for making a more appealing bowl



Dale Lowe gives some pointers on getting the most out of a log

Interesting web sites

www.woodturningonline.com

www.woodburywoodturners.org.uk

October Show and Tell.

During the Show and Tell time, all those who had brought pieces to the meeting described their work and how it was finished. Thanks to all who brought their Works of Art. As you will see in the picture below there were a wide range of turnings on display.



An impressive display of members work

