



South Saskatchewan Woodturners Guild

February 2011 – Issue 6

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 woodworking shop at the O'Neill High School we plan on meetings outside of that location as well.

South Sask Woodturners Guild News

- 15 members and guests attended the January meeting.
- Glenn Bird gave us an update regarding the website. Dale, Rick and Glenn are listed as contacts for the SSWG.
- Please contact John (jcarter@sasktel.net) if you have not been receiving copies of then newsletter.
- Dale Lowe mentioned that anyone ordering supplies from Wood Chuckers in Toronto should mention they are members of the SSWG and the club would receive a 3% credit toward the purchase of DVD's or books etc.
- Dale Lowe brought up the idea of having some turning collaboration between members. Dale, Paul and Rick offered their shops for anyone who would like to get together with them for this unique experience.
- Mike O'Kraney reminded everyone that he is now collecting membership dues for 2011 at \$35.00.

-Next meeting is February 22nd, 2011 at O'Neill High School at 7PM

January Demo by Peter Sawchyn

Peter Sawchyn was this meetings guest presenter. Peter has been making guitars and mandolins since 1972. The main focus for our group was the use of inlay and decorative work as it applies to musical instruments, and ultimately woodturning. Peter has been invited back to show us more on how he applies his instrument finishes.



Peter discusses decorative work techniques



Members watch Peter and soak up information

Group Purchase Opportunity

Paul obtained a piece of Arbutus wood that Mike Hosaluk gets from a supplier (Jan Parmenter) in Oregon. He spoke with Jan Parmenter and was advised that the wood he has been supplying to Mike Hosaluk for some time and would be pleased to add us to his list of clients. Jan refers to the wood as Madrone which is a common name for Arbutus.

Please note that Jan Parmenter DOES NOT HAVE A WEBSITE nor does he use EMAIL. The Arbutus (Madrone) tree grows naturally along the west coast of North America from Vancouver BC to southern California. The tree is much larger in the Oregon area and reaches heights of 30 meters or more. The wood is quite heavy and when turned on a lathe shows a sap that appears like blood. The blood red color in the wood and shavings quickly turns to a light brown when exposed to the air. The sap is very sticky and should be cleaned regularly from your tool to keep it from hardening (it's hard to remove once dried on your cutting tools). The wood also changes shape dramatically when turned green and left to dry. To sand you must use a cloth backed sandpaper that can be used with water otherwise the sand paper will simply clog up almost instantly.

My thoughts are that if there is some interest in our guild, we could order a few pounds at a time. Jay charges the following prices: Standard madrone - \$1.30 to \$1.50 per pound. Burls are \$1.20 per pound which seems strange that it is cheaper. Cost of shipping he estimates is \$0.90 per pound. A cubic foot of Arbutus(madrone) is 40 to 60 pounds. The wood varies considerably in density and my guess is that the burl would be heavier and therefore more expensive by volume. Jan can supply the wood in various shapes and sizes.

Those who might be interested in a group purchase should contact Paul or Dale.

The contact information for Jay Parmenter is as follows:

Jay Parmenter
Grants Pass, OR USA
tel: 1- 541-659-4388

Tips and Hints

- To revive green wood wax emulsions (like Anchorseal) that have become lumpy or separated during storage, use a high speed mixing paddle (like the kind sold for mixing sheetrock mud), to thoroughly re-mix the emulsion. Simply attach the mixer to your drill and mix for a few minutes and voila, you're back in business!
- Use 4" paint rollers to apply end grain sealers to rough-cut surfaces on logs and turning blanks. Rollers are significantly more efficient than brushes and provide better coverage on rough-cut/chain sawn surfaces.
- Are you tired of having your glasses and face masks fog up on you when turning? Use automotive wipe-on, wipe-off anti-fog treatments to prevent fogging on the inside of your face shield masks, passive respirators and safety goggles. Automotive anti-fog treatments are available at any auto parts store.
- If your studio floor is a hard surface like concrete, purchase an anti-fatigue floor mat for the floor in front of your lathe. Anti-fatigue mats make standing at the lathe all day much easier on your legs, feet and back. For safety, anti-fatigue mats should be taped to the floor with double sided tape to prevent slipping on dusty floors.

Collaboration and Cooperation



Collaboration has been one of the exciting benefits of the SSWG as members often get together to share ideas, techniques and offer advice. Above Paul Omilon and Rick Murton discuss some of Rick's innovations related to his vacuum pump.

Lathe for Sale

General 160 18, variable speed, just like new, with a few tools, etc. Contact Ryan Wilkinson at 501-5760 directly for more information.

Show and Tell

As is common practice at SSWG meetings, member brought in some of their work for the show and tell session. Sorry I have no names of the turners.



Forthcoming Events

- The Prince Albert Woodturners Guild, is holding a workshop” *Turning for Cancer*” in PA on January 22, 23. Anyone interested should contact Rod Peterson ASAP. If you need a registration form contact Dale for a copy.
- They are also having a spring workshop with Brian McEvoy as their featured turner in PA on April 15 – 17 . Dale also has registration forms for that event.
- The Hub City Turners are having a workshop “*Matisho Memorial Woodturning for Cancer Research*” in Waldheim March 18th, 19th, and 20th. For more info check it out at www.turnersforcancerresearch.org.
- The AAW Annual Symposium is being held in Saint Paul MN. from June 24th to 26th and anyone interested should check out the website at www.woodturners.org.
- Paul Omilon is holding *spindle turning courses* at the Balkwill Center
- JD Industrial is having a *Tool Show* on February 26th and 27th at the Turvey Centre. They are going to have a small King Lathe and would like members of the guild to do some demos on the lathe. Those interested in helping with this should send Dale an email at dalowe@sasktel.net and he will set up a schedule, etc.
- *Totally Turning 2011*, March 26 and 27, 2011. Saratoga Springs City Center, Saratoga Springs NY
Presenters: Richard Raffan - Dale Nish - Curt Theobald - Jennifer Shirley- Giles Gilson - Kurt Hertzog- Paul Petrie- John Franklin - Rick Angus- George Guadiane - Andy DiPietro. More info at www.TotallyTurning.com

John C Resources

Listed below are resources John has on hand:

- Creative Woodturning – Dale L. Nish
- Wood Turning – Phil Irons
- Turning Wood – Richard Raffin
- Artistic Wood Turning – Dale L. Nish
- The Craftsman Wood Turner- Peter Child
- Bowl Turning with Del Stubbs – VHS
- Turning Wood – Richard Raffin

Interesting Sites

Here is a link to an article by Steve Mickley on the use of transparent stain.

<http://www.hardwoodlumberandmore.com/Articles/ArticleViewPage/tabid/75/ArticleId/31/Dyes-The-Transparent-Alternative-to-Pigment-Stains.aspx>

Submitted by Glenn Bird.

Chairs Challenge

The Chairs Challenge for this meeting was turning a round sphere. After a showdown of a best of three roll off Paul Omilon was the winner with the best balls in the class.



Members check on how true their turned spheres roll.

For the next meeting members should bring a chunk of wood, and get ideas as to how best to utilize it to get the best bowl blank.

It's Your Turn – Rick Murton

I met Rick in his shop, an attached two car garage now full of turning equipment and other woodworking essentials. He was busy finishing a bowl on his Oneway 1640 lathe. He has his lathe and most of his turning stuff set up in one half of the garage and the other half is for his wife's car. Actually as you look more closely you will see he has taken over a pretty fair portion of the second half of the garage as well. Scattered in amongst the purchased tools you will find evidence of his innovative talents. Several of his inventions and unique ideas can be seen readily. He doesn't hoard away his ideas and is quick to share them with others who are interested.

He started turning many years ago but was more into metal projects on the farm. His life changed when he met and took a class from Mike Hosaluk in 2009. Since then has done a great deal of



turning but really got into high gear when he got his new lathe in May of last year.



Rick's Oneway 1640

Actually it was a surprise from his son and the rest of Rick's family who bought the new lathe for him as a retirement gift. Prior to that Rick did his turning on a much smaller General lathe. It might typically be referred to as a beginners or learners lathe. His work now indicates a person who is well beyond a beginner level. But as with any turner he quickly admits that he will be in learning mode for a long time to come.

Rick has socked away an ample supply of wood for "winter turning" projects. To be more specific he had 5 - 4x4 pallets of wood of various species. He has turned his pile down to a couple of pallets. Maple, russian olive, ash, cotton wood, elm, juniper as well as others were piled on the pallets located neatly beside his garage. He is trying to get it turned to blanks in an effort to salvage the wood. In his shed out behind the garage he has over 90 bowl blanks waiting to be finish turned, sanded and polished. I expect at the spring meetings we will begin seeing some of his completed projects.



Some of the bowl blanks waiting for the next step of the

finishing process

A true sign of a dedicated turner is seen when you go into the house. Samples of Rick's work can be seen throughout. Bowls and a variety of other turnings dot every corner of the the house. It would appear that he has been doing some quality turning for quite some time.



Bowls turned from Arbutus



A few more of Rick's many creations

Rick recently had samples of his works on display at the Wood Turning Symposium in Saskatoon. He has some of his work nicely displayed in a glass case that very adequately shows off some of his talent and creations.

Rick retired about a year ago. He farmed for 30 years before taking on a position as a land negotiator primarily with Sask Power but later with private land consultation firms. He has enjoyed his retirement not missing the old work life for a minute. As with many retirees, he misses the people but finds the time in his shop and life very rewarding.

Everything about wood turning keeps Rick interested and inspired. He is a self taught turner picking up most of his information from reading but now has many more opportunities to learn since he joined the SSWG. The class he took from Mike also proved extremely rewarding and helpful. He has learned that patience and paying attention are key elements in turning. Use of all your senses is essential. The feel, look and the sound of the product as you turn a piece of wood are all part of the process. Safety is key. Always wear a face shield and use a vacuum faithfully. As has every turner he has had a few bowls attempt flight but he takes safety very seriously. Other than a few nicks here and there all has gone very well for him.



A lovely bowl of Russian Olive

Rick has not found any particular type of wood that he enjoys working with more than any other. He just enjoys watching wood come to life as it turns on the lathe. He doesn't really use anything as inspiration for his turnings but instead gets his direction from the wood itself. He is more interested in finding beauty of wood and then demonstrating that to others. Watching the beauty of the wood coming to life is most satisfying part of turning. Every wood has its own inner beauty. Birch and maple have proven very satisfying due to the interesting grain. He feels he enjoys making pieces that are more artistic than functional. As you look over his turnings you will quickly realize that this is the goal he turns by.

He keeps a careful record of his pieces. Pieces are photographed, numbered and given a brief

description.

They are then added to a computer file. He also keeps an album of his work so that he can show interested parties samples of his work.

Rick was one of those in attendance at the first meeting of the SSWG. He feels the guild has been a great thing for him. The opportunity to meet a number of good people and discuss various aspects of turning is great. Our group is made up of unselfish individuals who constantly share their experiences, both good and bad. Every meeting is a learning experience and an opportunity to bounce ideas off others. The sharing of knowledge is a great part of the guild. Everything at meetings is positive. You never stop learning with every disaster making up another learning experience. People he has met have been super. Even as Rick and I sat around casually chatting there was a constant sharing of ideas. Tools, woods, finishes etc all came up during our time together. It was another great experience getting to meet and chat with a dedicated and inspired turner. Thanks Rick.

Future Newsletters

Please continue to send in articles, ideas and web links to John Carter for inclusion in future newsletters. It make the letter more fun and a bit easier for me if I can get your inout 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.

John