

The Turning Point

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The next meeting of the Nova Woodturners' Guild
will be held at Lee Valley Tools, 150 Susie Lake Crescent, Halifax
Sunday, June 22, 2025 at 2:00 PM

At the June meeting:
The results of the annual turning competition.
The Annual General Meeting.
Show and tell, social time.

The President's Report

The final meeting of the year is fast approaching and it's hard to believe that the year is almost over. Reflecting back on the last year and thinking of the topics and procedures that were discussed and demonstrated brings back a flood of memories. Hopefully we all learned a little and enjoyed what was presented.

The annual turning competition has finished with the judging having taken place on May 30. We had entries from 11 turners submitting 20 items. The results of the competition will be announced at this Sunday's meeting.

I wish to thank the executive for all their work. If it wasn't for their contribution we would not be able to carry on. Their knowledge of the Guild and the in and outs of our organization has made it possible for me to make it through my first term. It is my great pleasure to announce that the team has agreement to one more trip around the sun.

That's all for now and I look forward to see you on Sunday.

Bob Earle – President

Notes from the May Meeting

Our thorough and diligent note-taker was not available for the last meeting. Here are some photos with a small bit of commentary.

Main Presentation: The main presentation was given by **Bob Earle**, who talked about (and demonstrated) “Prepping a Bowl Blank from Green Wood”. Bob submitted some comments for inclusion in the newsletter, and Chris submitted a few photos. (If you squint just right you can match up the words with the photos.)

- The rough blank is first checked for splits, knots or other conditions that can affect the final finish.
- The blank is trimmed with a bandsaw to form a circular workpiece.
- A hole is drilled into the center of what will eventually become the top of the finished piece.
- The blank is then mounted on a woodworm screw according to your chuck’s specification.
- Start turning the piece at a speed that is appropriate to its size and does not vibrate while turning.
- Start removing material by using a bowl gouge of your choice.



During this process turn a tenon or recess into what will be the bottom of the finished piece. At this point you don't have to worry if it does not perfectly fit your chuck jaws. This will be dealt with after the blank has finished drying.

When you are happy with the shape of the outside of the piece, remove the blank from the woodworm screw and reverse the blank and mount it using the tenon or recess.

Using the hole left by the woodworm screw, drill a hole to a depth that goes into the piece deep enough to allow removal of unwanted material but not down to what will become the finished bottom.

You can use a number of different instruments to remove material. I used a bowl gouge, bowl scraper, square end scraper.



Once you have removed the bulk of material set it aside until it has reached a moisture content that is suitable to allow you to finish turning the piece.

What I like to do is weigh the piece and write the weight on the piece and date it. Every few weeks I'll weigh it again and continue until the weight stays constant.

Editor's note: two more pictures, the latter one showing the recess Bill made to hold the blank in the chuck's "expansion" mode.



Show and tell: May's show-and-tell included turnings made for the “baseball bat challenge”.



Bob with some recent turnings.



Martin with his new slide whistle.



Yogi wondering what to hit with this.



Greg with his remanufactured bat..



Charlie with something too warm and fuzzy to have come from a baseball bat. Or did it?



Brian holding something which probably didn't start off as a baseball bat.



Bill with a transformed hitting tool.



Gary with a baseball bat flower vase.

Since the above photo is a bit fuzzy, I asked Gary for another picture, and he sent these pictures showing that his vase has a collar which locks the (normally out of sight) test tube in place. – Editor



DaveM's Fireside Chat

Well here we are the last meeting before our summer break... It has been a sad year with the passing of Dr. Andrew Watson and Dr. Zalman Amit. Over the years more than a few members have passed on and many more have left the Guild after Covid. We have all grown older a few more years, with many of us in our 70's and 80's and less mobile than we once were. Our membership has never been lower, and I would like to make a Summer Challenge to our members: Over the summer when you chat with non-member turners bring up the benefits of joining the Guild. I know this sometimes seems fruitless, but it might help to offer to introduce them at the September meeting to other members and get their contact information to Calum so he can add their names to the meeting announcement list. Make a point of doing a follow up contact with them at the end of the summer. If we have their contact info, we will also make sure they get an invite to the Guild meeting in September. It is so important that we build up our membership numbers again if we are to continue to have a vibrant group. I think that we can all agree that the Guild has been a great venue for new ideas for both new and seasoned turners. I know for myself, being in the Guild has pushed me to try many new things and I have learned so much from my fellow members. This is a chance for all of us to give back to the Guild, and get some new members to make the Guild the best it can be.

Over the summer I am going to offer a couple of hands-on workshops for creating wave bowls and wave Xmas ornaments as a way for some of us to get together and create something new. I will send out (through Calum) dates and venues for these workshops throughout the summer once they are finalized. Let me know if you would be interested in attending one of these sessions: drop me a line at treasurer@novawoodturnersguild.com so I can judge the interest level. I will probably have sessions on the south shore and New Glasgow, as well as Halifax.

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On the technical side I thought I would talk about a problem I had with a Celtic Knot accented spurtle and how I saved a disaster. First off, I was recently in Scotland and saw some classic designs for spurtles, so we wanted to try our hands at making some special ones with a Celtic Knot accent. One of the designs was done with a rosewood veneer but I hadn't thought about the fact that sometimes these oily woods don't bond well: once I started to turn it the knot glue joint failed (Figure 1).



Figure 1. A failed Celtic Knot on a spurtle under construction... One of the lamination glue lines failed while on the lathe.

Obviously just regluing it probably wasn't going to rectify the problem, it would probably just fracture again in use. The solution would be to insert a small steel rod into the handle at the Celtic Knot, but

how to accomplish this? It occurred to me that I could hold the broken end in a pen chuck and bore it out like a pen blank (Figure 2). This would ensure a straight bore which could then be used as a guide to extend the bore into the rest of the shaft.



Figure 2. The broken end of the spurtle was mounted in pen jaws and drilled out on the lathe.

Once the end was drilled the next thing was how to keep the alignment of the two pieces while the bore was extended into the broken shaft portion? Since it was early in the process of turning when it broke apart, the spurtle was roughly the same diameter the entire length of the shaft. To align the two pieces, it occurred to me that I could use a piece of tubing with an appropriate internal diameter. Adding some masking tape at a few places along the shaft made the spurtle fit snugly in the tube (Figures 3 & 4).



Figure 3. The spurtle shaft had masking tape used to increase the diameter of the shaft to fit snugly in a section of carbon fiber tube.



Figure 4. The spurtle in the tube ready for re-drilling.

Inserting the spurtle in the carbon fiber tube ensured it would maintain its concentricity while extending the drilling into the rest of the spurtle with a long $\frac{3}{16}$ " drill bit (Figure 5).

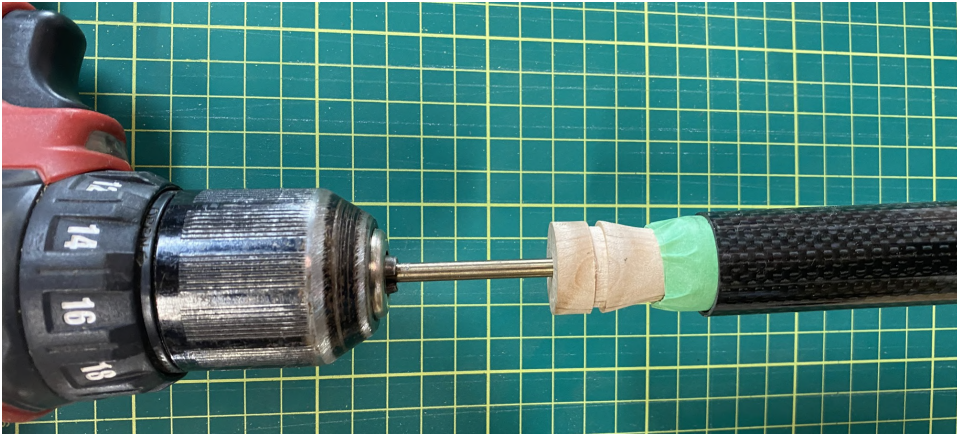


Figure 5. Using a hand drill to extend the bore into the rest of the spurtle shaft.

Now just a short section of $\frac{3}{16}$ " steel rod was needed. To facilitate glue transfer and prevent air locks, a small flat section was ground into the side of the shaft (Figure 6).



Figure 6. The $\frac{3}{16}$ " diameter repair pin with a flat ground into one side to facilitate glue-ing, preventing air locks.

Glue was applied to the shaft and holes and the spurtle pieces once again inserted into the carbon fiber tube and pressed together between centres (Figure 7).



Figure 7. The spurtle was glued together, placed in the carbon fiber tube and pressed together between centers on the lathe.

Once the glue was set, the spurtle was then ready to complete the turning. . .

I hope this was an interesting solve for this problem. In the future when I am placing Celtic Knots in a handle section I will be sure to bore it out first before turning and insert a metal rod to ensure the handle doesn't separate in use.

Some Recent Work from Our Members

Greg MacMullin sent in this photo (and this month's cover page photo!) of some of his recent work:



Martin Lachance writes: “I turned this piece of wood (I don't know the species, it might be oak or ash) that I got from member **Robert Atkinson**. It is a small bowl with acrylic painted recessed lines. Removed the tenon on band saw and sanded flat. Finish is three coats of mineral oil.”



A Few Items for Sale from Dianne Looker

Hi NWGers. I have not totally given up on working on the lathe (as the song I shared last September said, “I love to play on my lathe”!). However, I am finally recognizing that many (many!) of the lovely projects I had imagined are never going to happen.

So, I am starting to part with some tools that I know I will never use. I have many of them. Right now, the trick is finding them in my very chaotic shop. It has become the storing place for just about everything — things put away by me and other members of the household.

I am just listing two types of things — two tool rests: one curved (1" post), and one with a rounded inset edge (5/8" post). Neither has been used often, if ever. \$50 or best offer for either tool rest (each retails for \$80 or thereabouts).

The other item is a hollowing tool with an “outrigger” to rest on the tool rest. I love that design. However, (a) I am not likely to hollow much these days, and (b) I have several other models along the same lines. I have a huge one that I will also be selling but I need to gather all the bits for a photo. Stay tuned! \$60 or best offer for hollowing tool with outrigger (retails for over \$100).

You can contact me at dianne.looker@msvu.ca.

See you at the June meeting.

Dianne



Cover Photo



Guild brother **Greg MacMullin** sent in this photo of a hollow form he completed recently. The turning was started by another person who abandoned the project, leaving a significant bark inclusion. Greg decided to see if he could rescue it and took the wood back to his shop, where he turned away the bark and (eventually) produced the attractive turning seen here. The wood is butternut, and the final size is about 7" in diameter and 5¹/₂" high.

Photo Credits

Thanks to **Chris Palmer** for photos from last month's meeting. The other photos were (as far as the editor knows!) all taken by the person who made the item in question and/or the person who submitted the article. (Namely: Gary, Dave, Greg, Martin and Dianne.)

Nova Woodturners' Guild — 2024/25 Executive

All members of the executive, as well as committee chairs, can be reached by using the email address associated with that position. That is, a note sent to (for example) the president will go to whomever is president at that time. The following <address>es should be followed by @novawoodturnersguild.com to send mail to the person holding that position.

A 'C' after a committee member's name indicates they are chair of that committee.

Position	<address>	Incumbent(s)	
Executive	executive (sends the message to all executive positions on the list)		
President	president (or) pres	Bob Earle	
Vice President	vice-president (or) vp	Bill Maes	
Secretary	secretary	Calum Ewing	
Treasurer	treasurer	Dave McLachlan	
Director at Large	director-at-large	vacant	
 Committees			
Library	library	Jim Diamond	C
Web Site	webmaster	Richard Ford	C
Membership & Promotion	membership	vacant	
Newsletter	newsletter (or) news	Jim Diamond	C
Competition	competition	vacant	
Guild Photographer	photographer (or) photos	Chris Palmer	C
Fund Raising	raffles	vacant	C
Members Group	members	members	

The [members](#) address forwards the email to all members who have signed up to be on the [members list](#). To add or remove yourself from the [members](#) list, email webmaster@novawoodturnersguild.com.

If you wish to send an email to **all** current members of the NWG, send your message to secretary@novawoodturnersguild.com with a request to forward your email to all members.