

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, September 13, 2026 at 2:00 PM

At the September meeting:
Reconnecting after the summer break
Pen Turning with Gary Landry
Skew Spurtleing with Dave McLachlan
Show and tell — Let's see what you made over the summer!

The President's Report

Welcome back to our 31st year. I hope everyone survived the summer and is looking forward to the upcoming year. This year we are planning to hold the meeting on the first Sunday of the month, with the exception of September and January, which are planned for the second Sunday. One of the hardest aspect of planning meeting demos is choosing a topic which will appeal to members of different skill levels. The first demo this year will be pen turning by Gary Landry, October's is a session on turning an ornament by Dave McLachlan, November's is a remote session by Crushgrind Canada's Cam Levers on turning a pepper mill. December is the annual ornament exchange and wreath draw. What we would like to hear from the members is what would you like to see in the new year in the way of topics.

There are two things that may be of interest to members. The first is an offer from Clapham's Beeswax Products to buy their products at wholesale prices. In order to get wholesale prices certain conditions must be met. The order minimum is one case of any product (e.g., 12 × 200g Salad Bowl Finish or 4 × Cutting & Sanding Compound), and from there you are welcome to add extra items in quantities of your choice at the wholesale rates. Members can order as a group or individually as long as the order minimum is met. Orders can be placed any time using their wholesale order form: <https://claphams.com/wholesale-order-form/>.

As you can see, this may take a bit of coordination to reap the benefits of this offer.

The second item is an offer from William Wood-Write, which works as follows. Make up your order on their website, and when you go to the checkout enter the code NV10 and your order will be added to any other orders placed by other Guild members. The Guild order will be shipped once a month to the Guild for distribution. The NV10 code entered at checkout will give you 10% off your order, as well as omitting the shipping charge, as your order will be opted into the monthly group order.

You can also place orders as normal (that is, not as part of the group order program) by not entering the above code, but in this case you won't be gaining the 10% discount or the free shipping.

Thanks.

Bob Earle – President

AGM Minutes (draft)

Nova Woodturners' Guild Annual General Meeting

Date: June 14, 2026

The Annual General Meeting of the Nova Woodturners' Guild was called to order by President Bob Earle at 2:04 PM with 11 members and 1 visitor present and 3 attending online. Bob announced that a quorum (20%) had been reached

1. Agenda:

The Agenda for the AGM was presented and approved with no additions. Motion to accept: Gary Landry; seconded David McLachlan — approved.

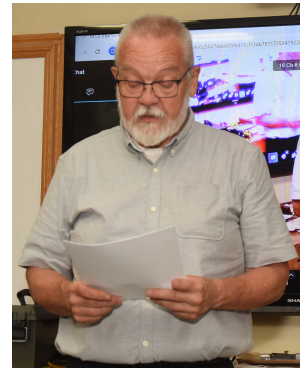
2. 2025 AGM Minutes:

The minutes of the 2025 Annual General Meeting were read. No additions or corrections were raised. Motion to Accept the 2025 AGM Minutes as presented: Gary Landry; seconded Bill Maes — approved.

a. Business Arising from the Minutes:

- Charitable Status

No action has been taken on this issue as yet. The Executive was encouraged to look into this as there are some members who would like to make donations to the Guild in future but would need tax receipts.

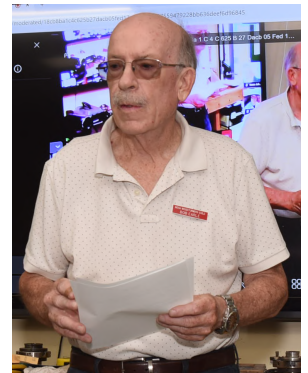


3. Reports:

a. President's Report

President Bob Earle presented his report on the 2025–26 year. Highlighted items:

- All meetings, with the exception of our IRD meeting, were presented both in person and live-streamed online with steady online participation.
- Demonstrations through the year included:
 - Mastering the Skew with Stephen Zwerling
 - Turning a Cell Phone Speaker with Bob Earle
 - Turning and Designing Finials with Dave McLachlan
 - Turning Acrylic Pens with Richard Ford
 - Making Turned Tree Ornaments with Mark Hazen
 - An IRD with Emma Cook, AKA The Tiny Turner, on turning a



- bowl with a textured and decorated band
 - Bowl Savers and other Tools with Mark Hazen and Dave McLachlan
 - Food-safe Finishing Techniques with Richard Ford
- The major fundraiser event this year was a significant auction of tools. Special thanks to Chris Palmer, Mark Hazen and Calum Ewing for donating tools to this event. Thanks also to Stephen Parsons and the Atlantic Woodworkers' Association for hosting the auction on their web platform.

Bob Earle moved acceptance of the President's Report; seconded by Gary Landry — approved.

b. Treasurer's Report

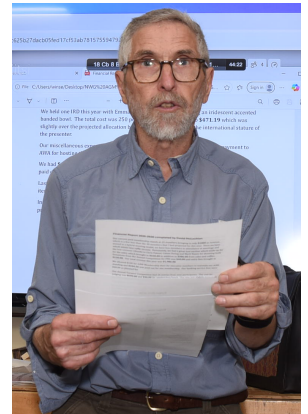
David McLachlan presented his 2025–26 Financial Report for the Guild:

- Revenues:
 - Membership now stands at only 25 paid members and 4 life members. This is down significantly from the 30 members budgeted. Dues revenue was \$1000.
 - Fund raising efforts were also down:
 - Tool Auction brought in \$430.00.
 - Sales and Raffles raised \$386.00.
 - Donations for FeedNS and the Competition fees brought in \$40 and \$130, respectively.
 - Total revenues raised were \$1,986.00.
- Expenses:
 - AAW Memberships were \$104.56 (\$100 was budgeted for this).
 - The Competition cost \$646.00 for judging and lunch/refreshments.
 - Costs for the social events were \$53.99 (Christmas gathering).
 - Library costs were \$104.81 to continue the American Woodturner subscription.
 - Website costs were low, with the new Canadian hosting service at \$189.93 which included domain registration and three years of hosting.
 - There was one IRD with Emma Cook at \$471.19 after conversion to Canadian funds.
 - Miscellaneous costs were \$105.00 — a \$50 donation to the AWA for hosting the tool auction and a \$55 pay out for private member sales.
 - The \$40 was donated to FeedNS from the Competition donations.
 - Total expenses were \$1,763.48, leaving a net surplus of \$222.52 for the year.
- For cash assets, we have \$2,268.32 in the Savings account, \$5,540.23 in the chequing account and \$10 in the Credit Union Equity Shares account.

Acceptance of the 2025–26 Financial Report was moved by David McLachlan; seconded by Brian Sharp — approved.

David then presented the 2026–27 Budget:

- We are conservatively estimating an increase in membership at 30 members. Dues revenue set at \$1,200.
- Total Revenues are budgeted at \$1,850.00.



- For expenses:
 - We are budgeting costs for one IRD at some point in the year at \$350.00.
 - Other expenses are consistent with previous years: Library acquisitions: \$250; Competition: \$600; Raffle expenses \$150.
 - Total expenses are budgeted at \$2,479.50
- We are projecting a loss of \$629.50 for 2026–27.

A question was raised as to how members participating online could participate in the raffles. This would be possible as online participants could e-transfer funds to cover ticket costs to the Treasurer. The problem would remain, however, of how to get prizes to the winners if they were not present — postage would be too expensive to mail them.

David McLachlan moved acceptance of the Budget; seconded by Bob Earle — approved.

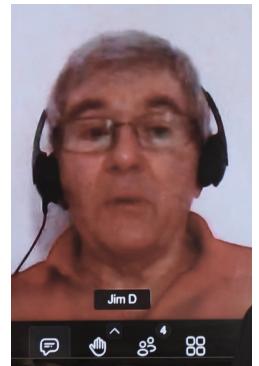
Appointment of auditors:

Gary Landry and Mark Hazen have volunteered to continue to act as auditors for the coming year. Acceptance of auditors moved by Dave McLachlan; seconded by Bob Earle — approved.

c. Library Report

Jim Diamond gave his report for the library:

- There are roughly 1,270 items available for loan to members including 70 books, 90 DVD's and issues of various magazines.
- Brian Sharp stepped up this year to help out on the Library committee and circulation has greatly improved thanks to his efforts.
- Although the Library has a small budget for acquisitions, we are always open to suggestions from members of items that could be acquired for the library holdings.



Acceptance of the Library report was moved by David McLachlan; seconded by Gary Landry — approved.

d. Website Report

Richard Ford gave the Website report for the year:

- We have successfully migrated the website from the old Hostgator service to a Canadian service, Web Hosting Canada, in January 2026 and things have worked well since then.
- Strong use of the website and its resources continues.
- The projected cost for website hosting on the old service was \$470. The new costs for 3 years on WHC is \$160 as an introductory special and this cost includes the domain name registration. So we have realized a significant savings of \$310. Our next hosting renewal will be in 2029.
- Big thanks to Jim Diamond for his efforts keeping the old system functioning with work-arounds and his work in actually migrating the files to the new host service.



Acceptance moved by Richard Ford; seconded by David McLachlan — approved.

e. Nominations Committee

Bill Maes chaired the Nomination Committee and reported that the existing Executive had agreed to stay on for another year. No nominations were received in response to an email request for nominations. The slate is the same as 2025–26 with vacancies in Membership Chair and Fundraising Chair.

Bill called for nominations for any positions, making three calls for nominations.

- Gary Landry volunteered to take on the Fundraising Chair role.
- No other nominations were made.

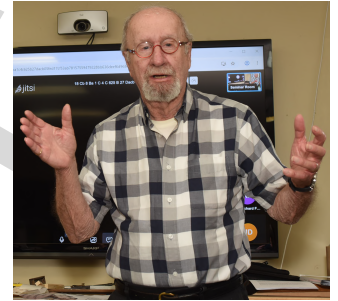
The slate of officers for 2025–26 is as follows:

Directors

President	Bob Earle
Vice-President	Bill Maes
Treasurer	David McLachlan
Secretary	Calum Ewing
Director at Large	Mark Hazen

Other Positions

Library Chair	Jim Diamond
Newsletter	Jim Diamond
Competition Chair	Bill Maes
Membership Chair	vacant
Nominations Chair	Bill Maes
Website Chair	Richard Ford
Fundraising Chair	Gary Landry
Photographer	Chris Palmer



Bill Maes moved acceptance of the slate of officers as presented; seconded by Bob Earle — approved.

4. Old Business:

a. Action Items

- With all the things the Executive needs to keep track of, it is easy for things to fall through the cracks. The Executive needs to form a list of Action Items following the AGM so that progress can be made on issues and they stay on the radar.
- Also, committee reports from the AGM can be posted on the website for members to view.
- The Executive will look into this at the first meeting.

b. Charitable Status

- In order for Charitable status to be pursued, the Guild status with the NS Registry of Joint Stocks need to be in good standing. Calum Ewing reported that significant progress has been made on this issue. He is now officially listed as the Agent of Record and has prepared all of

the documents required for reinstatement. The final documents needed are the new slate of officers and Financial statements from today's meeting.

- The Executive was cautioned that the pathway to achieving charitable status with CRA is long and complicated and may be more arduous for a small organization than it would be worth in terms of effort.

5. New Business:

a. Website Forum

- A question was raised about having a discussion forum on the website. Ideally, it would have three areas:
 - an Executive area for discussion of Board business;
 - a Members-only area for member discussions; and
 - a Public area where new turners or interested public could post questions or comments.
- Our Webmaster reported that it would be as good idea, but setting it up and maintaining such a forum is beyond his abilities, so would need someone else with more technical expertise to take over.

b. AAW Costs

- We could save on AAW membership costs if everyone had the electronic only membership. Only the Library needs the full membership to get the physical magazines.

c. Library Holdings

- It would be helpful if we had a complete listing of the magazine holdings in the Library so that we could track down specific articles when needed by members. Brian Sharp and Jim Diamond are working on a full inventory of the library holdings that will incorporate earlier work by Richard Ford. When complete, this will be available in the Documents section of the website for all to access.

d. Competition Judging

- During the competition, judges raised an issue concerning the “Difficulty” score on the judging form: does it relate to
 - a) the difficulty of the shape chosen, or
 - b) to assessing if the degree to which the difficult task was met?
- The Competition committee will need to examine the forms and report back to the membership at a future meeting.

6. Adjournment

Dianne Looker moved to adjourn the AGM; seconded by David McLachlan; meeting adjourned at 3:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Calum Ewing — Secretary

Notes from the June Meeting

Following the 2026 Annual General Meeting (see draft minutes in this newsletter issue) the regular monthly meeting was called to order by President **Bob Earle** at 3:10 PM with 11 members present in person and 3 participating online.

There was one visitor present, **Doug Large**, who had seen the turning competition pieces on display at Lee Valley and inquired about the Guild.

Main Topic: Annual Competition Results:

Bill Maes, acting as Competition Chair, presented his report on the 2026 turning competition.

First of all, as Chair of the Competition Committee, there are several persons and organizations that we should thank and acknowledge.

Personally, I must thank **Gary Landry**, **David McLaughlin** and **Bob Earle** for all their assistance during the display setup, the judging event and this presentation.

Business support is essential for our awards ceremony to be as successful as it is. This year is no exception and we are indebted to:

- **Lee Valley Tools** for hosting this event, as in past years
- **East Coast Specialty Hardwoods**
- **Halifax Specialty Hardwoods**
- **R&D Bandsaws**
- **SIA Abrasives**
- **Carter Tools**, Seattle
- **Wood Chuckers**
- **William Wood-Write**
- **Craft Supplies USA**
- **Mill Supply**
- **Branches to Bowls**, Calgary
- **Woodworker Specialties**, Port Coquitlam, BC
- **Stellar Industries**

Many of these have been long-time supporters of the Guild and are deeply appreciated.



The competition entries on display

Please, when doing business with these companies take the time to let them know that you appreciate the support they give to our Guild. Perhaps you could, if it is true, even let them know that you learned of their business as a result of being a supporter of our annual competition.

Now we have some housekeeping issues to bring up related to our ceremony.

1. A number of the prizes that winners will receive are in the form of gift cards. PLEASE read the cards as some of them have expiry dates. Some learned this one the hard way last year.
2. For the purposes of the prize draw, all names are pooled together and for each prize one name will be drawn, followed by a draw for the prize. This name is then retired from the draw and the next draw done with the remaining names. This process will be followed until the nine prizes are distributed. As last year, the Committee decided to award prizes roughly equally to all participants rather than just the winners.
3. Finally, each Category and Level winner is encouraged to discuss their winning piece. If you wish you may pick up your piece and bring it forward when your win is announced. To assist everyone in seeing your piece we will have the video camera set up and you may put your piece on the designated spot on the bench so everyone can see it on the big screen.

Some basic statistics about our competition this year:

- We had 26 pieces entered by 9 turners compared to 29 pieces submitted by 13 turners in the previous competition.
- We raised \$130 in entry fees.
- We raised \$40 in donations to the Food Bank.
- Donations (products and gift cards) were just short north of \$2300.

JUDGED AWARDS BY CATEGORY AND LEVEL

First of all, the Committee and the Guild would be remiss if we did not acknowledge and thank profusely the three judges who spent several hours studiously considering each entry against criteria provided by the Guild. Considerable discussions were involved in producing the results we are about to disclose.

So... many thanks to **Steven Kennard** (life member of the Guild), **Patrick Rapati** from NSCAD University, and **Don Moore** (life member of the Guild).

AWARD WINNERS

Novice Faceplate	1st place	William Maes
Novice Faceplate	2nd place	William Maes
Novice Faceplate	3rd place	Louise Plourde
Novice Spindle	1st place	William Maes
Novice Spindle	2nd place	William Maes



Novice winners Louise and Bill

Intermediate Faceplate
Intermediate Faceplate
Intermediate Faceplate

1st place
2nd place
3rd place

Gary Landry
Mark Hazen
Bob Earle

Intermediate Spindle
Intermediate Spindle
Intermediate Spindle
Intermediate Spindle

1st place
2nd place
3rd place
3rd place

Gary Landry
Mark Hazen
Bob Earle
Gary Landry

Intermediate Mandrel

1st place

Bob Earle



Intermediate winners Gary, Mark (Dave standing in for the absent Mark) and Bob

Open Faceplate	1st place
Open Faceplate	2nd place
Open Faceplate	3rd place
Open Spindle	1st place
Open Spindle	2nd place
Open Spindle	3rd place
Open Mandrel	1st place
Open Mandrel	2nd place
Open Mandrel	3rd place

Dave McLachlan
Richard Ford
Dianne Looker
Dave McLachlan
Richard Ford
Dave McLachlan
Dave McLachlan
Darrell Eisner
Darrell Eisner



Open winners Dave and Dianne



Open winners Richard (Dave standing in for the teleconferencing Richard) and Darrell

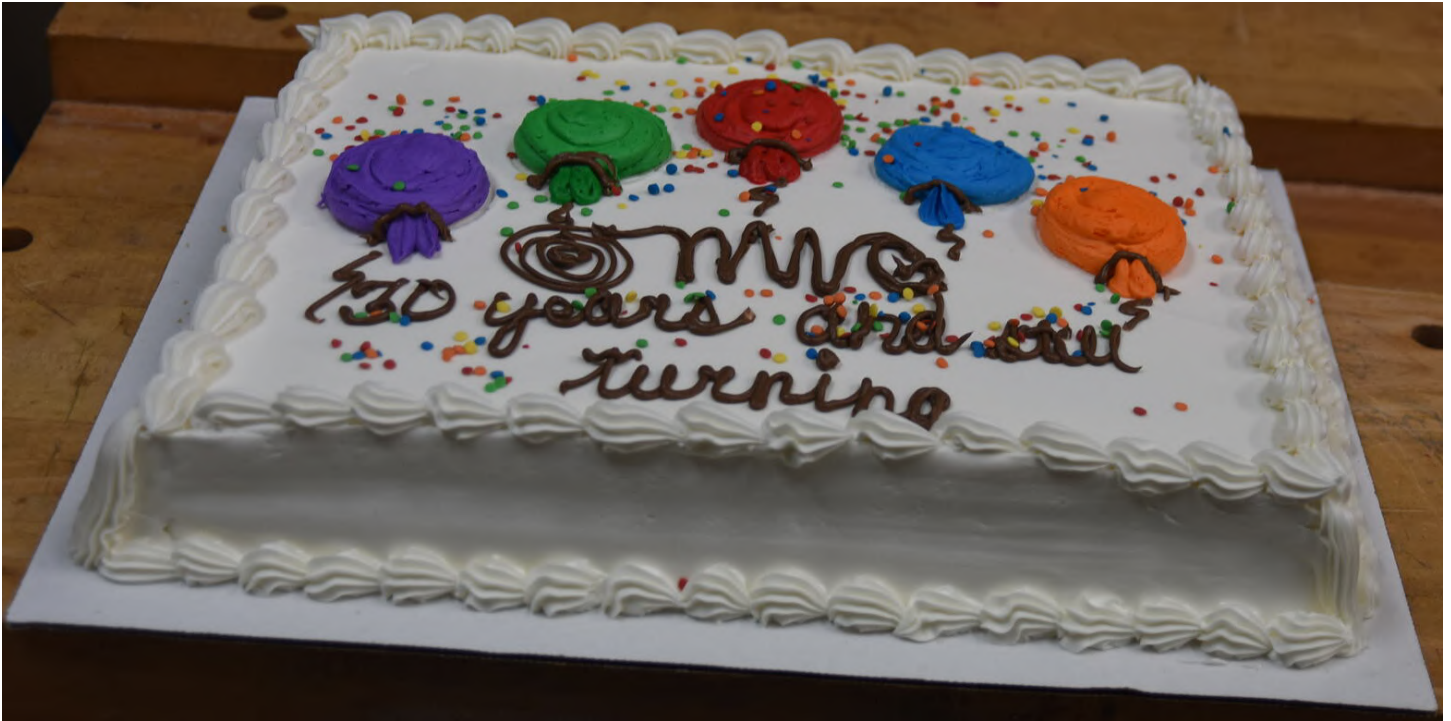
The Warman Castle Award was not presented this year.

Show & Tell:

Other than the competition items, there were no items presented for Show & Tell.

Special Celebration:

Coffee, tea and a cake were shared to celebrate the close of the 30th year of the Nova Woodturners' Guild activities.



The meeting wrapped up at 4:00 PM. The next meeting is September 13 at 2:00 PM.

Calum Ewing — Secretary

Turning Down Under

Twenty-five years ago a friend and I went to a local school in Adelaide, South Australia to try out wood-turning. It was a two-day course; and I was hooked. We bought an entry level lathe, grinder and tools; the rest, as they say, is history.

Last autumn my wife suggested that I look at wood-turning courses to take in conjunction with travel; she was thinking maybe Ireland. I started looking in Tasmania (beautiful wood there), then South Australia (five wood turning guilds, no courses), then Western Australia – found one! So in April, as part of a trip to Australia, my friend and I took another wood-turning course. This time in Margaret River, Western Australia – a land of big trees, limestone caves and big surf.

The instructor was Ian Thwaites (found at <https://www.facebook.com/ian.thwaites.90>, as well as <https://www.ianthwaites.com.au/>, and reachable at thwaity@hotmail.com). Ian has been turning for years while teaching woodworking and furniture design in the local high schools. Today he turns and teaches in between abseiling into caves, mountain biking and travel. We did his advanced course looking at turning green wood, and hollow forms. The course also included learning about the local hardwoods: jarrah, marri, black butt, sheoak and cork oak.



Left: cork oak logs — note the layer of cork under the bark

Right: curly black butt and jarrah

We started with green-turning cork oak mushrooms. The green cork oak needs to be turned fairly thin in order to avoid cracks, but bends into interesting shapes as it dries. The cork gives an interesting edge to the turnings. You can see in the photo above the layer of cork bark. Ian tends to do three mushrooms that are then displayed on a half-log.

The mushrooms are turned between centres, or chuck and tail-stock; with the head turned first near the tail-stock and then the stem turned in increments of about a 1 centimetre. My second mushroom broke where a branch had left an imperfection.

After a break we then turned a green bowl, also from cork oak. See below. It is now quite an oval, and I am contemplating how to finish it.



On the second day we looked at hollow form turning. I have done a couple in the past but my friend had not. We got to choose between a number of different woods. I chose silky oak for its grain. Ian has a unique way of mounting wood for turning smaller bowls. He uses small steel face-plates and hot glue; but does not glue around the edge of the faceplate. Instead he heats the faceplate on an old iron (see picture), puts the glue on the heated faceplate and then attaches to the blank. On finishing the piece he reverses the process: he puts the faceplate down on the iron until the glue melts, then he removes the faceplate and scrapes off the remaining hot glue from the piece and faceplate. He maintains he has never had a failure and now does not have to worry about screw-holes, etc., in the pieces.



Like some of our members Ian has also developed a few tools for himself. First is his hollowing tool. It consists of a piece of square steel tubing mounted in a cored wooden handle. The cutting piece is a shorter piece of high-speed steel that he has ground to his preferred shape. This is then mounted in the square tube with hardwood pegs. The handle is cored so a rod can be inserted to push out the cutter; he made this adjustment after a student dropped the tool end down and the cutter was driven totally up inside the square tube. The tool shown in the photo has the cutter on the right side, but sometimes he shifts it to the left in order to get into the shoulder of a hollow form. The nice thing about this tool is that the square tube keeps it from rotating on the tool rest allowing steady regular cuts. The second tool shown is scraper made from an old file and is meant for getting into the bottom of a reverse chucked bowl next to a foot.



Square tube hollowing tool



Scraper for next to a foot

For the bottom of some of his bowls and around the opening of a hollow form we used a set of bead scrapers. Now I will admit that I was sceptical of the usefulness of bead scrapers; I mean, if you need a bead just grab your skew and make one. But, for beads on the top or bottom of a piece . . . well, I was impressed enough with how easy it was that I have bought myself a set.



Sarah (Ian's wife) and a visitor



Me working the hollow form



Here is my completed hollow form. You can see the beads around the opening, but there is also a bead for the foot. There were a bunch of cracks that we did not think would go in so far, but we filled them with cryo/sawdust — and now they provide character. I really like the silky oak, but there are so many other great woods down under.

I also realized that I have a problem with my long-bed Nova lathe — it is really hard to get to the right-hand side to really get into the shoulder of a hollow form. I may have to re-arrange the shop, again!!!

Mark Hazen

DaveM's Fireside Chat

Another year in the Guild is about to start; I am looking forward to meeting up with everyone for the 2026–27 season. First off, the Guild dues are still \$40 for the year, if you wish to pay your dues by e-Transfer the email address to send them to is treasurer@novawoodturnersguild.com; this ensures your dues go directly to the Guild's bank account. We will also be accepting cash payments at meetings.

This year we hope to have a few more skill building demonstrations and challenges throughout the year. The first one will be at the September meeting on using the skew to make a spurtle. This challenge will start off with a spurtle turning demonstration at the end of the meeting, done largely with a skew. Cherrywood blanks will be made available to anyone wishing to participate in the challenge.

In addition, we hope there will be some hands-on workshops held at various locations outside of normal Guild meeting times. The first one will be later in October on making hollow globe Xmas ornaments at my workshop for up to 6 participants, with three lathes available.

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On the technical side I wanted to let members know that I am having a number of $\frac{5}{8}$ " 316 stainless steel pin mandrels made, which I will be selling for just a little more than cost. These mandrels are very useful for creating hollow ornaments and making game calls. The basic pin mandrel is seen in Figure 1.

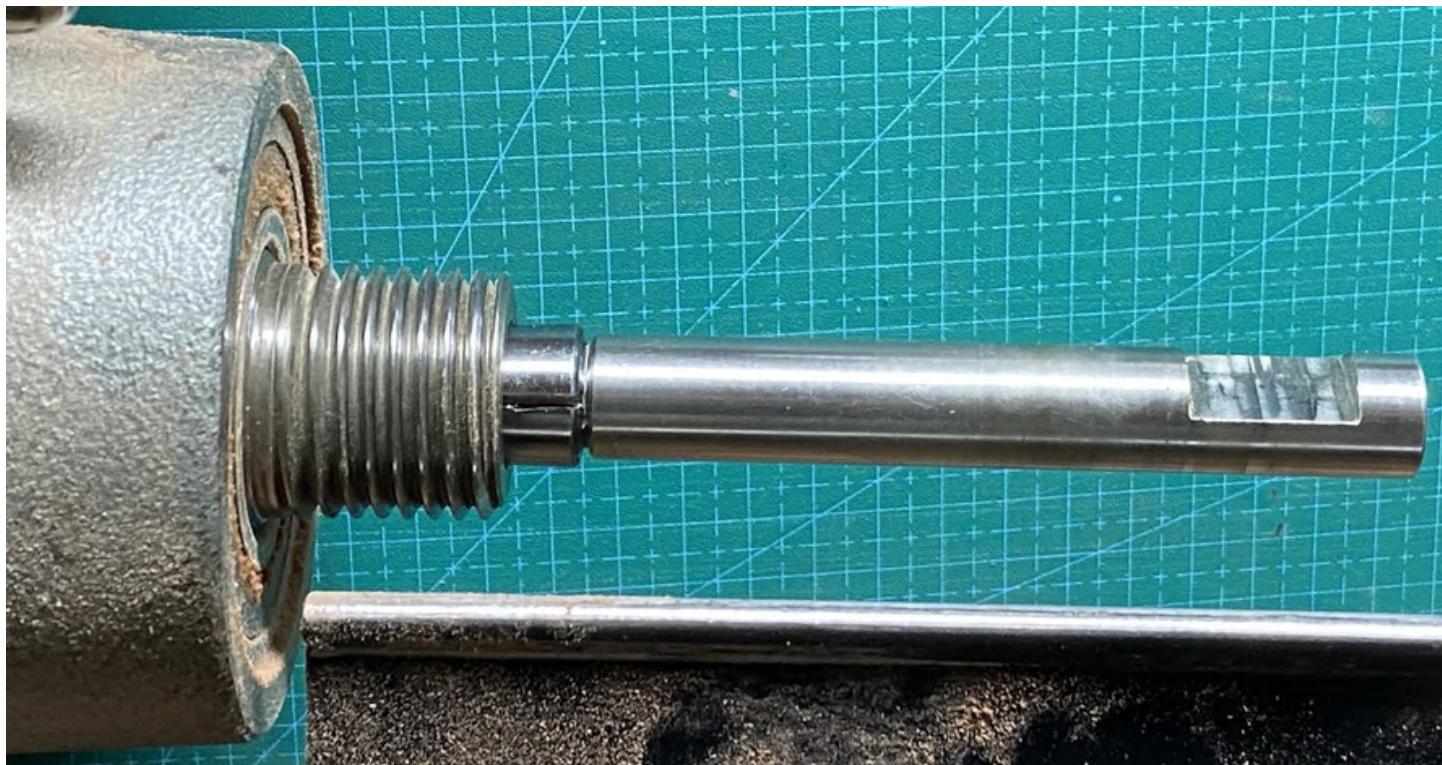


Figure 1: a $\frac{5}{8}$ " pin mandrel mounted in the headstock of a lathe.

In order to mount the shaft (it has a $\frac{1}{2}$ " shank) in the lathe the best option is to use an MT2 $\times \frac{1}{2}$ " collet. This ensures that there is absolute concentricity with the headstock. At the moment a set of imperial MT2 collets ($\frac{1}{8}$ " to $\frac{1}{2}$ ") can be had for \$37 from Amazon ([<click or hover here>](#)), the set can be seen in Figure 2.



Figure 2: a $\frac{5}{8}$ " pin mandrel mounted in the headstock of a lathe.

In order to use these collets, you will need a $\frac{3}{8}$ " $\times$ 16TPI threaded rod the length of the headstock shaft. Tightening the drawbar pulls the collet deeper into the MT2 socket of the headstock and increases the gripping power of the collet. It is preferred not to use a Jacobs chuck to hold the pin mandrels in the headstock as the jaws damage the pin mandrel shaft and this reduces the concentricity of the shaft. Having a MT2 collet set is useful for holding drills and mandrels on the lathe and can prove to be invaluable accessory to the lathe (especially at this price).

Dave McLachlan

Cover Photo



Could be an ent, could be a tree. Could be a desperate last-minute choice for a cover photo. But it is local!

Reader's Corner

As many of you know, life member Don Moore has redeployed his hands from turning wood to turning phrases. Don's fourth book, *The Adventures of a Woodturner*, launches on September 11. This is available now for pre-order from [Austin Macauley](#), [Amazon](#), [Barnes and Noble](#), and [Waterstones \(UK\)](#). (Those are links which you can click on, or hover your mouse over to see the actual URLs.)

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 wrote the article.

Nova Woodturners' Guild 2026/27 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	director1	Mark Hazen

Committees

Library	library	Jim Diamond Brian Sharp	C
Web Site	webmaster	Richard Ford	C
Membership & Promotion	membership	vacant	
Newsletter	newsletter (or) news	Jim Diamond	C
Competition	competition	Bill Maes	C
Guild Photographer	photographer (or) photos	Chris Palmer	C
Fund Raising	raffles	Gary Landry	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.