The Journal of the Nova Woodturners' Guild

Volume 31 Issue 3
November 2026

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, November 1, 2026 at 2:00 PM

At the November meeting:
Cam Levers on pepper mills, followed by a quick demo by Dave M
The great walnut give-away of 2026 (!)
Show and tell (your umbrella ornaments or your other turnings)

The President's Report

The year seems to be flying past as we're approaching the holiday season. This month's demo will be a video demonstrating the Crushgrind drill for drilling the multi diameter holes for pepper mills. It will be given by Cam Lavers of Crushgrind Canada. Just a reminder that the following meeting will be our annual Christmas get-together, so make sure you have your items ready for the ornament exchange and the wreath draw.

See you on Sunday and happy turning.

Bob Earle – President

Notes from the September Meeting

As you might recall, the photos from the September meeting were presented in the October newsletter. So if you were wondering about any of them, now you can read here and look there. — *Editor*

The meeting was called to order by President **Bob Earle** at 2:00 PM with 9 members and 1 visitor present in person, and 3 participating online.

Announcements:

- Membership forms and dues are now being accepted. Dues remain at $40 for the year and can be paid in cash, cheque, credit or debit cards, or e-transfer to treasurer@novawoodturnersguild.com.
- We have received a club offer from Clapham's Beeswax Products where their products can be purchased at wholesale prices, provided certain conditions are met:
  - one full case of any product must be purchased; and
  - then any other products may be added to the order at wholesale prices.

  We can likely create a bulk order for members if some are interested but it will require some coordination.
- William Wood-Write has offered a 10% discount and free shipping on bulk orders for the Guild. A special code has been created for the Guild ('NV10'). When ordering, members can enter the discount code and will receive the 10% discount. All orders for the Guild will be shipped each month as a single shipment.

Spurtle Challenge:

David McLachlan is proposing a challenge to get members working with their skew chisels. He is providing Cherry blanks and is asking members to turn a spurtle — a cooking tool of Scottish origin, ideal for stirring your porridge (or soups or stews). Spurtles are to be turned using a skew chisel and brought to the October meeting to show off.

IRD Proposal:

On behalf of the Guild Executive, President **Bob Earle** is putting a motion before the members present to authorize the expenditure of funds for an Internet remote Demonstration (IRD) in this meeting year:

Motion: Be it resolved that the membership supports the expenditure of funds to obtain an IRD for he 2026–2027 meeting year. Such funds not to exceed $500 CDN.

Moved: **Bob Earle**; Seconded: **Mark Hazen**

Discussion: Would we ensure the presenter is from Canada? That is certainly our priority to support Canadian turners offering such demonstrations.

Motion Carried.

Main Presentation:

The main presentation this month is *Turning Pens,* with Past President **Gary Landry**.

Gary demonstrated the whole process of turning a pen from starting blank to finished writing instrument.

Each pen will require a specific set of parts and fittings, usually provided as a full kit from a manufacturer. Each kit will come with detailed instructions. Just follow the instructions closely to ensure success of your project.

Pen Project Requirements:

Lathes:
Any lathe can be used for pen turning. Pens and similar projects make an ideal project for smaller or bench-top lathes.

Blanks:
Any material that can be turned on your lathe can be used to make pens. Wood, bone, horn or antler, acrylic and other composites are common materials used for pens. Following the kit instructions, cut your blank(s) to the correct size, leaving each blank segment a little longer than the desired final length.

Drilling Blanks:
A hole needs to be drilled through the centre of each blank. This can be done on a drill press holding the blank in a clamp. The hole needs to be very close to exactly centred along the blank. Specialized pen blank clamps are available for holding blanks on the drill press. Kit instructions will give the required diameter of the holes needed. Drill bits with parabolic flutes are best as they clear shavings well and help prevent heat build up, which can cause blanks to split. Drill slowly in small increments, clearing shavings frequently to prevent heat build up.

Blanks can also be drilled on the lathe and specialized pen blank jaws are available from some chuck manufacturers. Drilling on the lathe will ensure that the holes are exactly centred.

Mandrels:
Pen blanks are typically held on a mandrel for turning. Mandrels come in two sizes: 'A', with a 5mm shaft is very common (about 90% of kits) and 'B' with an 8mm shaft. Some mandrels have shafts that are adjustable in length to ensure a good fit for the kit blanks. For fixed-length mandrels, "spacer" bushings will be needed to fill up excess space on the shaft and ensure blanks are held securely.

Bushings:
Specific bushings are needed for each type of kit. The bushings ensure that pen bodies are turned to the correct diameters for the kit parts and design.

Assembly Presses:
Specialized presses are available tor pressing pen fittings into the body parts. You can also use parallel acting clamps or a vise if you line the clamp jaws with a material that won't damage the kit parts or blanks.

Gary's Typical Process:

- Open the kit and review the instructions. Make sure you have all the required parts and nothing is missing.
- Cut the chosen blank(s) to the required length, plus about $1/8''$ longer for squaring the ends. The kit brass tubes can be used to get the required length measurements.
- Mark the centre of the blank ends using a centre finder or a straight edge if using a square blank. Drill the required hole through the centre of the blank — typically 5mm diameter.
- Using a good adhesive, glue the brass tubes into the blank(s). Common adhesives include thick cyanoacrylate (CA), polyurethane (e.g., Gorilla Glue™) and epoxy adhesives. The outside of the brass tube should be roughened slightly with coarse sandpaper. Apply glue to the inside of the hole in the blank and to the outside of the tube. Plugging the ends of the tubes (with dental base wax, modeling clay or slices of potato) will prevent adhesive getting inside the tube when it is inserted. Glue inside the tube can prevent kit parts from inserting fully into the tube and ruin the project.
- Once the adhesive is fully set, square off the ends of the blank(s) ensuring that the blank ends are exactly 90° to the brass tubes glued in. This can be done using a pen blank end mill with a guide shaft of the correct diameter. It can also be done using a bench disk sander if you create a jig to hold the blank at 90° to the disk. Remove blank stock until you just touch the end of the brass tube. Taking more material off in squaring may make the blank too short and the kit may not go together correctly.
- Mount the blank(s) on the mandrel with the bushings in place. Tighten the mandrel nut to secure all the parts and bushings in place. Do not over-tighten as this can cause the shaft or parts to deflect. Bring the lathe tail stock up to support the end of the mandrel. Again, do not apply too much pressure with the tail stock or the mandrel shaft can bend making it impossible to get a good turned finish.
- Turn the blanks down to near the desired diameters (indicated by the bushings). Typically small spindle or detail gouges and/or skew chisels are typically used.
- Sand the blanks working through the grits to the desired level of sanding. Between each grit, turn the lathe off and sand along the axis of the blank, turning the blank by hand, to remove any concentric scratches before moving to the next finer grit. Sand right to the bushings but be careful not to sand the bushings themselves. Sanding the bushings may cause metal staining to transfer onto your blank and can reduce the diameter of the bushings making them too small for future projects.
- Apply your desired finish to the blanks. Friction polishes, wax mixtures (e.g., Shel-a-Wax™) and CA glue are commonly used finishes. Good finishes for pens will tolerate frequent handling and resist skin oils.
- Once turning and finishing is complete it is time to assemble your pen:
  - Lay out all kit parts — including your turned blanks — in the correct places and orientation for the pen (check your kit instructions for placement).
  - Fit the first part into the blank end and, using the assembly press or clamp, press the part into the blank. Blanks and kit parts are fragile so don't use too much force or you can break the blank or fitting.
  - Continue to press all kit parts into the blanks or fittings until the pen parts are complete.

  - Insert the pen refill and spring, and then assemble the pen components according to the kit instructions.
- Congratulations, your pen is complete.

Pen Accessories:

A variety of accessories are available for pens, often used to complete or enhance the pen. These include:

- display stands;
- storage boxes; and
- presentation boxes.

Spurtle Demonstration:

David McLachlan provided a short demonstration on turning a spurtle from a square blank:

- The blank was mounted between centres, the blank was rough-turned to a round cylinder, using a skew chisel making peeling cuts.
- The positions of the handle, top finial and any shape transitions are marked out using a pencil.
- Using slicing cuts with a skew chisel, the spurtle is shaped. A final shaft diameter of about 15mm works well.
- Once the desired shape is achieved, the spurtle is sanded to the desired finish.
- Dave applies a finish of pure linseed oil (food safe), then parts off the finished spurtle.

Show & Tell:

Mark Hazen	showed off an assortment of wood samples from a course he recently took while visiting Western Australia. He also presented a Wizard's staff for a costume. It was assembled from various pieces of assorted woods — a great way to use up offcuts from around the shop!
Bob Earle	presented a bowl in Pine from a blank in a previous raffle. He also presented a small bowl in pine with wood inserts glued in.
Bill Maes	showed off an interesting "acorn" box in Ash with a contrasting top in roasted Maple.
Dave McLachlan	presented a small "umbrella" ornament in Sumac with a Cherry finial. He then presented a carbide hollower that he made for hollowing small spheres when making ornaments. It uses small (6mm) carbide cup cutters. ave also showed a Pin Mandrel that he made in stainless steel to use in a collet chuck.

He also showed off a MT2 Collet set that he purchased on Amazon for $37.00. It has collets from $1/8''$ to $1/2''$ by eighths and is used with a draw bar to keep the collets in place.

Raffle Results:

Gary Landry	took home a large bag of shop rags.
Bob Earle	added a Maple blank to his wood collection.
Tom McCluskey	added a bundle of magazines to his library.
Dave McLachlan	won a Cherry branch with two burls.
Glen Greencorn	collected a bundle of magazines for his reading time.
Chris Palmer	collected a handy shop apron.

The meeting wrapped up at 4:40 PM. The next meeting is October 4 at 2:00 PM.

Calum Ewing — Secretary

Notes from the October Meeting

The meeting was called to order by President **Bob Earle** at 2:04 PM with 10 members present in person and 3 participating online.

Announcements:

- Membership forms and dues are now being accepted. Dues remain at $40 for the year and can be paid in cash, cheque, credit or debit cards or e-Transfer to `treasurer@novawoodturnersguild.com`.

Main Presentation:

The main presentation this month is *Turning Umbrella Ornaments*, with Treasurer **David McLachlan**.

Due to time constraints, Dave will not be demonstrating turning finials for the ornaments as the finials are interchangeable. He will demonstrate the turning of the "umbrella" component using Sumac with a screw chuck and Walnut using a pin mandrel.

Dave is providing sumac and walnut blanks for the umbrellas for each member and is also providing a 3″ GRK screw for use in a screw chuck.



The Screw Chuck:

The screw chuck is made with a waste block, just a little over 2″ thick, that can be mounted in your chuck or on a faceplate and a #10 3″ construction screw (e.g., a GRK screw). A $^{5}/_{32}$″, or ideally a 4mm, hole is drilled in the centre of the waste block so that you have an exactly centred hole for the screw. Drill the hole all the way through the waste block. Then insert the screw from the back of the waste block and make sure the screw is driven all the way in and fully seated. Remount the waste block, now screw chuck, in your chuck.

To prepare the blank for mounting, drill a $^{5}/_{32}$″, or 4mm, hole through the centre on the drill press.



Turning the Outside of the Umbrella:



- The most interesting blanks for these ornaments are sections of branch cut so they are as long as they are wide.
- Mount your blank by turning it onto the screw with the bark side of the blank facing the headstock, making sure it is fully seated.
- With the lathe running at 1000 to 1200 rpm, begin shaping the blank into a smooth rounded dome using a small detail or spindle gouge. Make sure any of the pith in the blank is turned away.
- When getting to the bark edge, make sure you turn right to the wood of the screw chuck, otherwise you will get a small 'flare-out' at the bark edge that will be difficult to deal with later.
- Sand the dome to the desired grit, typically 400 to 600 grit. Make sure you slow the lathe down for sanding or you can overheat the wood and cause cracks.
- Apply your desired finish to the outside. Dave's finishing process involves:
  - a coat of KingsFleet boiled Linseed oil;
  - then polish with a polishing wax, like NovaSilk™;
  - Then a finish coating of friction polish. Dave uses Doctor's Woodshop Pens Plus for his ornaments. This is built up in several coats to get the desired finish sheen.

Turning the Inside of the Umbrella:



- Remove the blank from the screw chuck and reverse it on the screw. Place a folded piece of paper towel (a couple of layers) between the screw chuck and the blank to protect your finish on the upper side (outside).
- Begin hollowing the inside starting near the screw hole and working outward. Be careful as the end of the screw will be very close to the surface of the wood.
- **Note**: for safety, leave an approximately 1/2 inch "post" of wood around the screw
- When hollowing, be aware of the presentation angle of your gouge: the tips or wings of the umbrella are hard to see and contact with the shaft of the gouge will snap them off.

- Once hollowed to the desired wall thickness, sand the interior to the desired grit.
- Finish the inside using the same process as above.
- Using the tip of a small skew chisel, cut the "base" of the wood post to make it a little smaller, but don't touch the screw!
- Remove the "umbrella" from the screw chuck and snap off the wood "post". Using a small carving gouge with a shallow sweep, remove any remaining wood of the "post" to get a smooth bottom of the umbrella.

Completing the Ornament:

- Add a top and lower finial in a contrasting wood. Dave uses Walnut or Cherry to contrast the distinct grain of the Sumac.
- The top and lower finials can be threaded together through the existing centre hole, using a short piece of 4mm threaded rod. The easiest source for short threaded rods is to buy the "snap-off" screws used for mounting cabinet hardware in 4mm diameter. Just snap off the desired length of screw shaft to mount your finials together.



Article continues on the next page. . .

Dave then demonstrated the process again, using a Walnut blank and mounting it on a pin chuck.



- Mount the pin chuck in your headstock (e.g., mount the shaft in a collet chuck).
- Mount the blank on the pin chuck using an appropriate size hole (which depends on your pin chuck) and lock into place by twisting the blank on the pin chuck to lock the pin in place. Do not fully seat the blank on the pin chuck, so that you can drill the centre hole in the blank and the tip of the drill can exit your blank into the small air space between the blank and the end of the pin chuck shaft.



- Drill the $^{5}/_{32}''$, or 4mm, hole as above.
- Turn the outside shape of the umbrella, then sand and finish as above.
- Dave then removes the partly completed umbrella, reverses it and mounts it using using a 4mm bolt and a round $^{5}/_{8}''$ nut. The nut fits into the hole used to mount the blank on the pin chuck, and is threaded onto a 4mm bolt that is fit through a small extension shaft with a centre hole. The shaft is held in a collet chuck in the lathe headstock.
- The umbrella interior is then turned and finished as above.



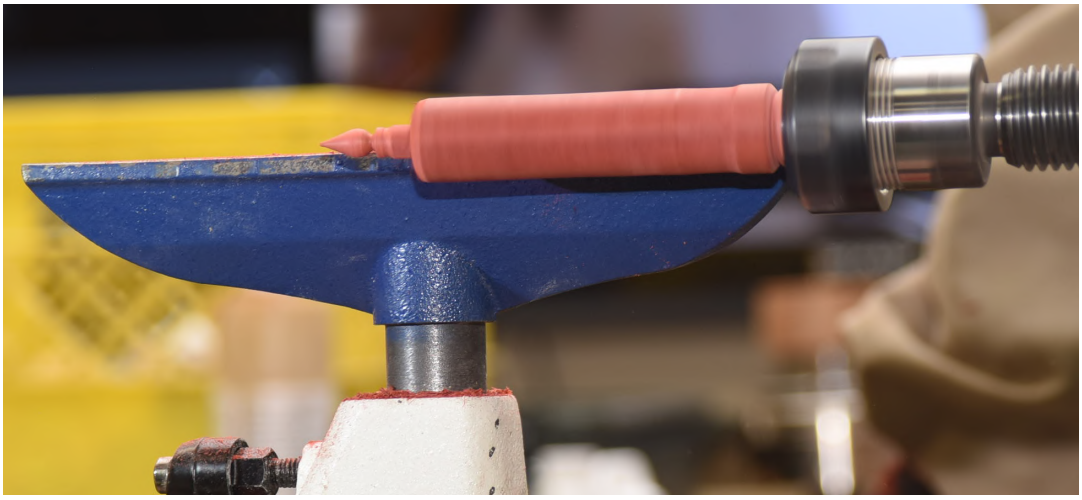
- Using this mounting system, the lower finial is turned with a short $^{5}/_{8}''$ tenon that will centre it in the mounting hole in the blank.

Dave next demonstrated turning a finial in Redwood:

- Mount the blank in a collet chuck



- Begin shaping the finial using high lathe speed and a small gouge. Dave uses special one-handed small gouges, so that his other hand can be used to steady the finial blank.
- Start with the end detail (will be the lower end of the finial), and finish turn and sand it before moving on to the next shape. This ensures that the wood being turned has the full support of a robust blank. Turning the blank down to a rough shape will leave too little wood to support turning at the outer end of the finial.



- Gradually work your way along the finial from tip to towards the headstock, completely shaping and sanding each segment before moving to the net section.
- You can turn to a pre-determined design, or you can “design-as-you-go”.

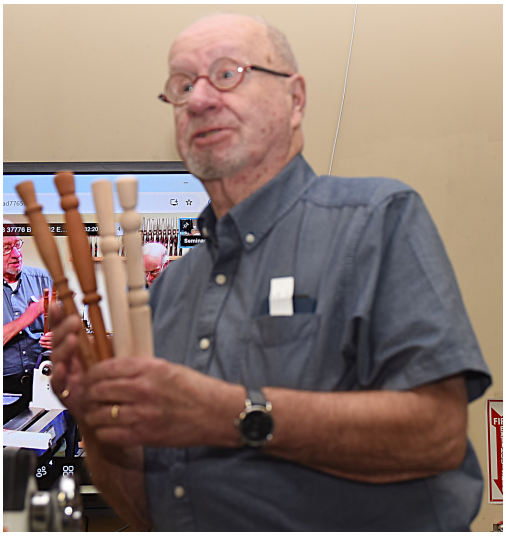
Show & Tell:

Spurtle Homework Results:

Glen Greencorn turned two spurtles: one in cherry and one in Maple. To enhance the transitions at beads, he used burn lines to emphasize the transitions. To honour the traditional "thistle" finial at the top, he inserted a piece of Purpleheart at the top of the Maple spurtle before forming the thistle.



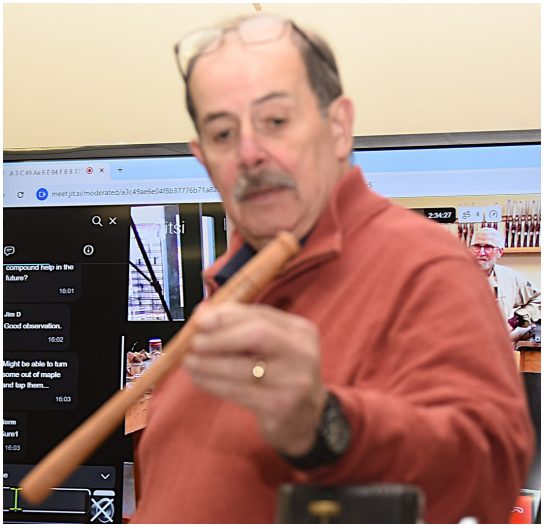
Bill Maes completed 4 spurtles. It was good practice with the skew, and he also used a gouge to clean up some areas at the transitions.



Bob Earle turned two spurtles in Cherry, but found the two pieces very different in characteristics when turning.



Gary Landry turned a spurtle in Cherry with beads turned mid-handle to enhance the grip on the handle. The shaft of Gary's spurtle is turned thinner at the top and wider in the lower third to get more effective stirring.



Tom McCluskey made a spurtle (his first) using a skew chisel for the first time (!) as well.



Mark Hazen made a spurtle with an enlarged "bulb" at the bottom. He makes spurtles often and finds the bulb tip enhances stirring effectiveness in soups and stews (as well as his porridge).



Regular Show & Tell:

Mark Hazen presented a bowl in Maple and Walnut. The blank was assembled from 8 Maple staves with thin segments of Walnut between them, with a Maple bottom applied.
He also showed off a lidded box from his "Trap Series" of boxes. The body of the box was made with staves from the ends of oak pieces used to make wooden lobster traps. The bottom and lid are in Oak with a Walnut finial/knob.





Raffle Results:

Chris Palmer	took home a Maple blank.
Tom McCluskey	added a bundle of magazines to his library.
Mark Hazen	won a Maple blank.
Calum Ewing	collected a large Spruce blank
Tom McCluskey	added a second bundle of magazines to his library

Members collected Sumac and Walnut blanks as well as a GRK construction screw to make a screw chuck.

The meeting wrapped up at 4:35 PM. The next meeting is November 1 at 2:00 PM.

Calum Ewing — Secretary

Recent Turnings: Part 1

First, Gary Landry not only shows us what he has been doing, but tells us a bit about it as well. . .

My inventory of pens has been dwindling of late so I thought it would be a good time to turn some kits. In the photo you will see nine completed kits of which one (in the middle) is a dud. When putting together that specific pen I found out that the nib assembly had not been properly formed at the factory. The part that had to be inserted into the brass tube actually tapered, unlike all the others that had straight sides with a small reduction for the first half millimeter to assist with alignment and insertion. As a "fix" I applied some CA adhesive to the part before insertion. This appeared to work BUT I must have laid it down too soon and the CA flowed and fused the moving parts that allowed the nib to be advanced and retracted. In other words, the pen would not budge and had to be scrapped for parts. Live and learn.

So, shortly after finishing the kits, I attended a family gathering to celebrate my grandson's birthday. I brought my complete selection of finished pens so my daughter-in-law could pick out a gift she wanted for her boss. Long story short, there was a run on my inventory among all the attendees. Some attendees had not received one of my pens and others wanted pens for gifts to their family and friends. This resulted in my total inventory dropping from about 20 pens to six, and two of those my wife had already designated as gifts to her sister in Quebec. I see another kit order in my near future as well as several days of turning and assembly so I can meet the need for gifts and favours for my extended family at Christmas.

So it goes. Build, give away, order, build, give away, order. . . rinse and repeat.



Recent Turnings: Part 2

Next, we see that Gary is not the only one turning pens. Richard Ford sent in the following picture with a few descriptive words about it as well. (And I think Richard has been playing with his laser beams again.)

These Kits came from William Wood-Write. Maple Leaf rollerball pen kit, chrome & gun metal, SKU MAPLF-RB-CHR-GM. Buy 1 For $12.09, 5 for $11.09 each, 10 for $10.09 each, or 25 for $9.19 each.

I accumulated the acrylic blanks over a number of years. I designed and cut the pen boxes on my laser engraver. They are gifts for graduating grandchildren and retiring children.



Recent Turnings: Part 3

Finally (for this month, that is), to provide a bit of variety in the contributed photos, Bill Maes sent this in.

A cherry and birch lidded box.

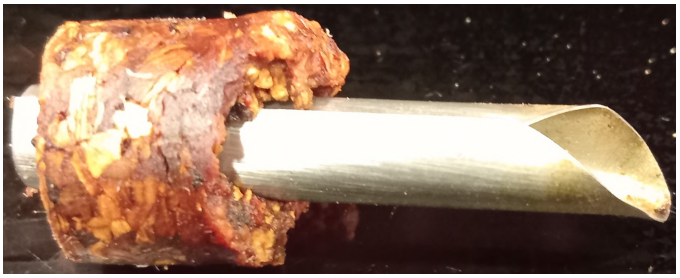


Turning (Not) Wood

The Issue:

As most of my turning efforts focus on more artistic creations and working almost exclusively in wood, I don't often find myself turning materials other than wood, or creating purely functional items. This most often occurs when I think, "Hey, this might be easier on the lathe." Sometimes it is, sometimes, it isn't. This was the case recently when I tried turning some pieces of cork.

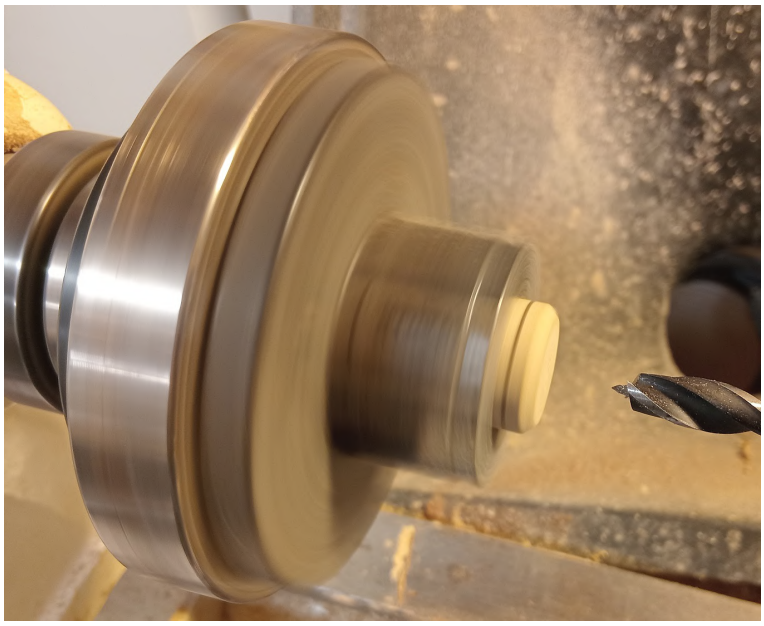
We keep a ceramic bottle filled with olive oil on the kitchen counter next to the stove and it is our "go-to" source of oil when cooking. It came with a small steel tube spout in a cork that fits into the opening. Over the years, said cork has deteriorated and crumbled to the point where it needed to be replaced. Rather than replace the bottle (part of a set with a more rarely used balsamic vinegar bottle), I set about making a new spout / cork combo for the bottle.

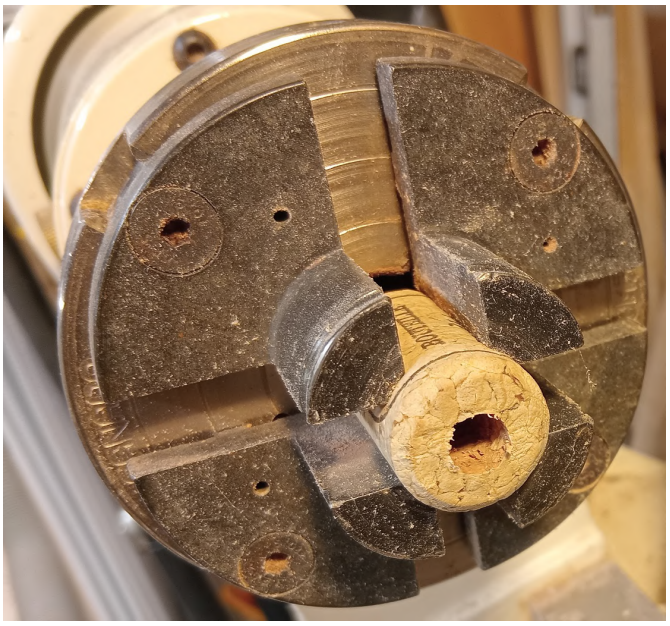


The Project:

I first set out by measuring the diameter of the existing steel spout tube and selecting an appropriate drill. Clamping a new, unused wine cork in a set of wooden jaw clamps I attempted drilling the centre hole on the drill press. The result was a nice smooth hole that was off centre significantly by the time it exited the bottom of the cork. Then the thought occurred, "I could dill a hole exactly through the centre of the cork if I used the lathe".

First, how to hold the cork? I pondered different possibilities and settled on simply holding the cork (gently) in the #1 post jaws on my Oneway™ chuck. With the lathe running at about 700 rpm, the cork drilled nicely with a brad point drill.





The wine bottle cork (meant to be compressed and forced into a full bottle of wine would not fit into the opening of the oil bottle. So, I needed to reduce the diameter a bit. Again, "How to hold the cork?" I ended up deciding that mounting it on a pen mandrel (size 'A' worked best) was the best approach.



With the lathe running at approximately 1200 rpm, I took light cuts off the surface using a $^1/_4''$ round skew chisel. With the lathe running at high speed, the cork actually turned quite well for a very soft and brittle material. I left a small shoulder on the cork to prevent the cork stopper from popping down inside the bottle – a persistent issue with the original, especially once saturated with oil.



Once turned, I inserted the steel tube and installed the new stopper. All in all, it worked fairly well and was a great way to effect a repair and get 10 minutes of turning at the lathe!



Calum Ewing

DaveM's Fireside Chat

We are getting close to Christmas and the Christmas Social, so it is time to think about making some Xmas ornaments for the Annual Christmas Ornament Challenge. Last month I gave a demonstration of making some Christmas ornaments, including the hollowing of a wave globe which didn't get to the final finishing stage. If you remember, the walls of the ornament were taken down to about 2mm making a very light globe... Well I had a chance to finish that ornament back in my shop since then and I thought I would share the image with you...



Figure 1. Wave Globe Ornament, maple and walnut with walnut finials.

I am hoping that everyone had a chance to work on some Xmas ornaments from the branch blanks that were provided at the last meeting and that you will bring them in for Show and Tell. Please remember that the Xmas Ornament Challenge submissions have to be brought in by November 22.

. . . . . .

On the technical side this month, I thought I would focus on more holding options for doing ornaments. In last month's demo we looked at making a small diameter screw chuck for making umbrella-type live-edge ornaments. One of the issues, of course, was the screw shaft being present during the inside hollowing and sanding (seen in Figure 2). We got around that by leaving a small amount of wood around the screw. For smaller ornaments this can be a problem getting your fingers in to sand.



Figure 2. Hollowing and sanding the inside of the umbrella. Note the wood left around the screw to protect the tools and fingers.

Instead of trying to sand this interior with the central post in place, another option is to make a second holder that uses a M4 machine screw to hold the ornament in a chuck. To do this just remove the ornament from the original screw chuck and remove the central post, paring down the remnants to the base of the ornament, and fasten it to the machine screw chuck. The machine screw chuck is simply made, similar to the regular screw chuck we made last month, except that a M4 threaded insert is screwed into the base of the dovetailed faceplate (Figure 3). In practice since we used a 4mm hole through the ornament to start with, remounting the ornament with a M4 machine bolt recenters the ornament on this new faceplate, your fingers are protected, and there is little chance of the ornament breaking free of the chuck. In Figure 4 we see how a very small ornament is easily sanded without risk of hurting your fingers and Figure 5 shows the finished cap still mounted on the faceplate.

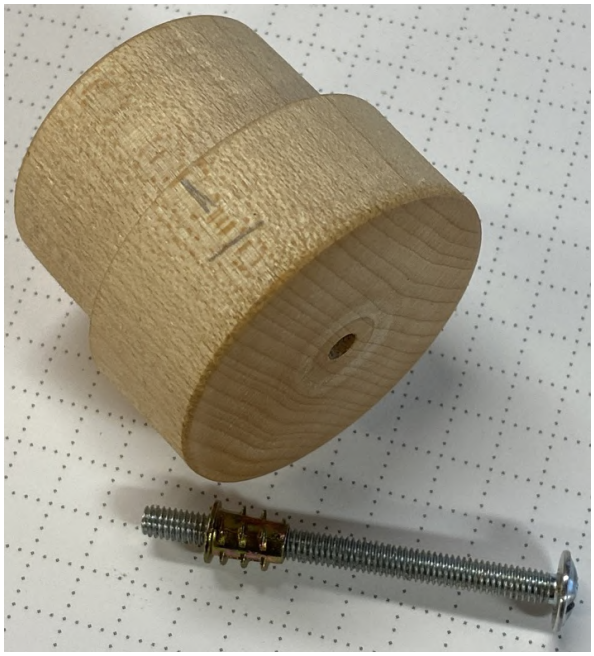


Figure 3. The basic components of a machine screw faceplate. The threaded insert is mounted on the backside of the faceplate and the 4mm through hole accommodates the M4 machine screw.



Figure 4. The machine-screw faceplate mounted in a 4-jaw chuck with the small fairy umbrella mounted and being sanded.



Figure 5. The small fairy umbrella has been fully finished, and is ready to be removed from the holder faceplate.

In the last demo we made a $^5/_8''$ tenon on the finial blanks, which we drilled and tapped for M4 machine screws, and held them in a collet chuck. This is great if we have a globe type ornament with a $^5/_8''$ bore, but for making the small top finials that need to sit on the surface there are other ways of holding them for turning. There are lots of other options but one that I like is to make a M4 screw chuck using a $2''$ M4 machine bolt held in an ER16 collet chuck, with a threaded $^5/_8''$ diameter wooden spacer that a small blank can be threaded on to (as seen in Figure 6). (In this case the spacer was a repurposed $^5/_8''$ tenon that had been removed from a long finial so that the finial could be mounted flush to the underside of the fairy umbrella ornament.) The amount of screw protrusion can be adjusted by loosening the ER collet nut to extend the screw, tighten the collet nut and then back the threaded insert tightly to the face of the collet.



Figure 6. The threaded spacer and M4 threaded shaft mounted in an ER16 collet chuck with a 4mm collet.

Mount the finial blank onto the machine screw (the M4 threads should be accurately cut in the blank and the face squared off before mounting) as seen in Figure 7. Note this type of holder is not satisfactory to hold a long finial for turning; in order to do that you must have a tenon held firmly in a chuck, as I showed in last month's demo. Once the small finial blank is mounted you can turn it as you normally would without danger to your tools or the blank coming loose, as seen in Figure 8. Figure 9 shows the finished finial... note the finial was threaded on extremely tight and not easy to unthread. The solution was to loosen the collet nut, advance the threaded shaft a few millimeters, retighten the collet nut, and then back off the threaded spacer to the collet nut and free the finial.



Figure 7. The pre-threaded walnut blank mounted on the shaft against the spacer. Make sure the blank has been faced off square at the threaded end before mounting.



Figure 8. Turning the blank into the finial.

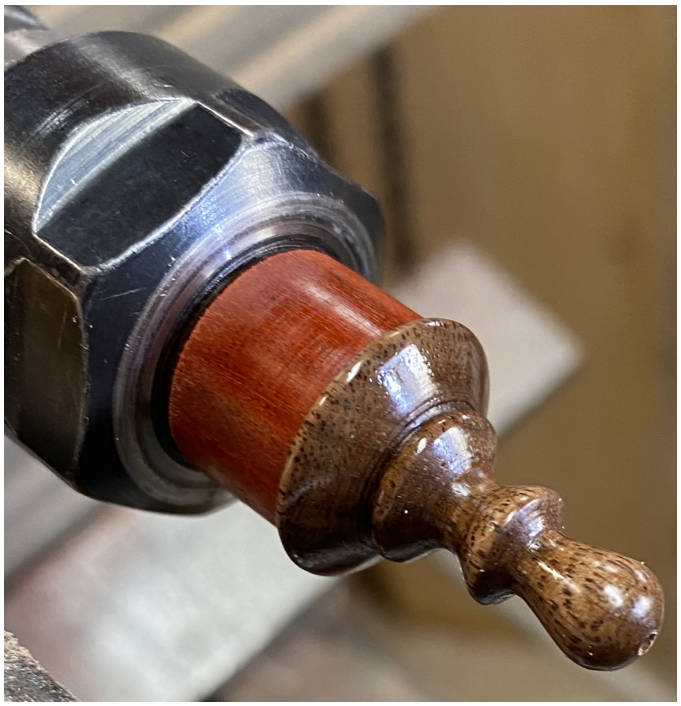


Figure 9. The final finial finish applied.

This same setup can come in handy to remount a top finial with a $^{5}/_{8}''$ tenon in order to bore the fine hole for the eye, as seen in Figure 10.



Figure 10. A previously made blank with a tenon attached was turned into this finial and then bored for the eye.

Likewise, one of the globe umbrellas can be mounted on a M5 shaft similarly held and the umbrella tapped to M5 after removing it from the original screw chuck we used last month. If there is about $^{1}/_{4}''$ of thickness remaining at the base of the ornament this is enough to allow one to hold the ornament on the screw and still be able to make light cuts to hollow out the ornament even further, as seen in Figure 11. In this case I added an aluminum shaft instead of holding the M5 bolt in a 5mm collet. As seen in this figure the aluminum shaft extension is ready to be inserted in the 12mm collet.



Figure 11. A threaded aluminum shaft has been added to a dome to refine the interior some more.

In this case, without any protruding screw being in the way, I was able to further refine and more easily sand the inside surface of the ornament, as seen in Figure 12.



Figure 12. The umbrella threaded on the shaft and mounted in the collet chuck. Note the screw shaft does not extend into the body, giving full access to the interior surface for turning and sanding.

I hope that this has been useful to see other holding options for making ornaments and will encourage you to develop other work holding options when making ornaments.

Dave McLachlan

Notes from Members

***** DOWNSIZING SALE *****

No, I'm not selling my lathe or giving up woodturning. But I do have LOT of tools I'm not using nor ever going to use. Some are woodworking (tell your woodworking buddies), many are woodturning. Many are duplicates, or things I bought thinking I'd learn or use a new technique, but never did. Many never used. I'm selling them at 50% to 60% of new value.

November 22, 2 PM to 5:30 PM. Gaspereau Hall (2806 Greenfield Rd., Gaspereau).

There will also be a lot of other items. I'm selling my lifetime collection of fine jewelry; hundreds of CDs; quality household items (pottery, etc.); fiction and non-fiction books — as well as a lot of tools.

Enjoy a Sunday afternoon drive to the lovely Annapolis Valley and do some quality Christmas shopping.

For more information contact:
Dianne Looker
dianne.looker@msvu.ca

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Norm Jolivet recommends the following video, in the spirit of the season:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6bTgnkpe96I

Cover Photo

Your long-suffering newsletter editor was trolling the photo archives and membership looking for a cover photo. Dave M helped me out by providing a photo of a cherry burl ornament with cocobolo finials; he tells me that he is already thinking of the Christmas Ornament Challenge.



Production Assistance

Your humble newsletter editor hates word processors with a passion. Since he receives some contributions as word processor documents, he has to hold his nose while incorporating them into the newsletter. This month he used a tool which converts word processor documents into his preferred form, saving considerable gagging and gasping. This tool was generously provided by Keith McKay from (old) Scotland, who recently developed it in partnership with some friend of his by the name of Claude.

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		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.