

**FRASER VALLEY  
WOODTURNERS  
GUILD**



**Special points of interest:**

- ? Registration this month
- ? Rose Engine Demo
- ? West Coast Roundup

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# Turner's Corner

Volume 2. Issue 2

October 2007

## President's Corner

Welcome to the new members and new turners to the Guild. We encourage you to register and receive a one pager on what our guild is all about and the different initiatives such as the library, members gallery and wood raffle. The main purpose of getting together is to learn about the craft of woodturning so we can get a little better at it. Everyone has a little they can offer someone else and bit by bit we grow in this skill. While we learn we also like to have fun so we have imported a few special members just for that. You see if you can find them.

Our demonstrator last month, Perry Niehaus pointed out that he once started as a new turner like all of us. Then began on his adventure with minimal knowledge, some new tools and a book on how to turn bowls. Now he offers his expertise to the rest of us.

All of the executive positions and helpers are volunteers with the same passion to create beautiful turned items and make wood shavings of course. No one is getting paid for this. We rely on your participation to make it what it is.

If you have any questions, ideas or concerns about the Guild, please contact me or anyone else on the executive. We are open to new ideas and want you fix any problems quickly. Thanks and enjoy the experience.

Murray Sluys

## **Next Meeting, October 11**

**Focus on Fundamentals** Ed Pretty

**Demo Topic:** Rose Engine Lathe by Jon Magill of Widbey Is WA

**President's Challenge:** A roll of 12 beads and 12 coves

## **November 08, Meeting**

**Focus on Fundamentals** Ed Pretty

**Demo Topic:** Hands On Turning-Small Platter

**President's Challenge:** A turned article with colour in the design or Something with two or more different pieces of wood



## FVWG Executive

|                               |                      |              |                        |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|--------------|------------------------|
| <b>President</b>              | Murray Sluys         | 604-794-3108 | mjsluys@shaw.ca        |
| <b>Vice President</b>         | Lance Murphy         | 604-796-2700 |                        |
| <b>Past President</b>         | Ian Fulford          | 604-820-2227 |                        |
| <b>FOA Coordinator</b>        | Ed Pretty            |              |                        |
| <b>Newsletter Editor</b>      | Gerald Blenkarn      | 604-858-9162 | gerthebear@hotmail.com |
| <b>Web Master</b>             | Colin Delory         | 604-576-1172 | cdelory@telus.net      |
| <b>Membership Chairperson</b> | Wayne Cunningham     | 604-855-5690 | wayne04@telus.net      |
| <b>Treasurer</b>              | George Geurts        |              |                        |
| <b>Librarian</b>              | Lance Murphy         | 604-796-270  |                        |
| <b>Program Coordinator</b>    | Adam Christiaanse    |              |                        |
| <b>Social Conveners</b>       | Marian Maynard       |              |                        |
| <b>Raffle</b>                 | Roger Pitts & Robert |              |                        |

**FOF**  
*is a basic  
 program for  
 those new to  
 Woodturning. It  
 meets 6:30 to  
 7:00*

## Mentors

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Wayne Cunningham(Abbotsford)604-855-5690 | Colin Delory(Surrey)604-576-1172            |
| Ian Fulford-(Abbotsford)604-613-4830     | Joel Elder ( Pitt Meadows)604-317-3416      |
| Jim Peardon(Abbotsford)604-852-1645      | Ross Paterson(Chilliwack)604-858-3953       |
| Jim McMath(Abbotsford)604-870-0467       | Bob Burke (Chilliwack) 604-796-9678         |
| Bill Olsen(Surrey)604-574-4548           | Sam Nelsom (Agassiz & Harrison)604-796-9678 |

### Focus on Fundamentals

Nov 07—Jam chuck project

Oct 07—Faceplate project

### Quick Tips

Annual dues and registration are now due.

#### Rates:

Adults - \$35.00

Students \$10.00

80 Years Young—No Charge

The secret to getting better as

A woodturner is to stand at

the lathe and T U R N

Wood will absorb and release moisture depending on the ambient humidity of the environment.

Be aware of this when applying finishes or combining other materials with it.

Before buffing Lacquer, Polyurethane, varnishes or any other film building finish, make sure it is completely dry, or else it may bunch up.

## Kamloops Woodturners Guild Show & Sale Notice

Hello all:

Please be advised the KWG will holding a Show & Sale in Kamloops on Nov 2, 3, & 4th, 2007. If you go to the KWG website <[www.kwwg.net](http://www.kwwg.net)> you will find the 2007 Show & Sale button. Go there and you can download the poster and/or brochure for all the info on the Show and Sale.

If you have any problems, or questions on the S & S, please contact me at <[s-efgar@shaw.ca](mailto:s-efgar@shaw.ca)> and I'll try to help you out.

Regards to all

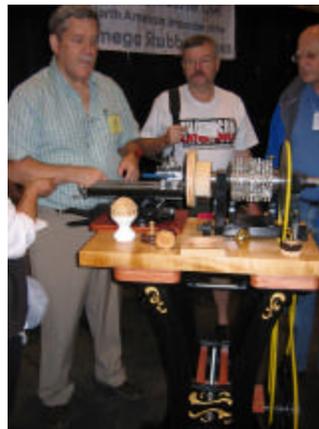
Steve Edgar

KWG Secretart



## Rose Engine Lathe Demo

Jon Magill of Widbey Island Washington designed a kit for building the rather complex Rose Engine Lathe, making it affordable to more turners. He will be our guest next month. The Lathe in the picture is not the one he designed. His kit is mostly made from MDF. Jon gave a number of presentations at the Portland AAW symposium



Small box made with Rose Engine Lathe



## Vacant Positions

**A sound technician and back-up videographer** are vacant.

This person would set up sound and handle the

Video projection when Peter is away.

**A Still photographer** is needed to take

Photos of the members gallery and post

Them to the website. Ross will show you

The ropes. Contact Murray, Peter or Ross

### Goodies—Nov 07

Blenkarn, Burton, Bryon, Caffrey, Clarkson, Christiaanse

### Goodies—Oct 07

Allen, Armour, Axeison, Bird, Birch, Burke

**FRASER VALLEY  
WOODTURNERS  
GUILD**

We meet at  
Robert Bateman School  
35045 Exbury Ave.  
Abbotsford BC  
Room N-103 (Wood Shop)  
Your Address Line 3

Phone: 604-794-3108  
Email: mjsluys@shaw.ca

Web Site  
[www.fvwg.ca](http://www.fvwg.ca)



**Calendar of Events**

|               |          |                 |                               |
|---------------|----------|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| 11 Oct 07     | Thursday | FVWG Meeting    | Jon Magill—Ornamental Turning |
| 2, 3 4 Nov 07 | Fri-Sun  | KWG Show & Sale |                               |
| 08 Nov 07     | Thursday | FVWG Meeting    | Hands on Turning              |

**WEBSTER'S CORNER:** Club Website: <http://www.fvwg.ca>

Check out our interesting sites. Click on LINKS and check them out.

The education page is always looking for more Woodturning articles. If anyone has articles he or she would like published, e-mail copy to Colin at: [cdelory@telus.net](mailto:cdelory@telus.net) or mail him a copy.

Address: Colin Delory, 192511—76th Avenue, Surrey, BC V4N 3G5

**EDITORS CORNER:** Hope everyone has had a good summer. As you can see we have changed the look of the newsletter. If you have any comments on the NL, please don't hesitate to let me know. If you have any articles, wanted or For Sale Ads, that you would like published in the Newsletter, then e-mail to [gerthebear@hoymail.com](mailto:gerthebear@hoymail.com) or phone 604-858-9162. All classifieds or articles must be in my possession no later than the 30th each month to be published in the next Consecutive Newsletter. Thank You

**Classified Section**

**Woodturning Classes** taught by Murray Sluys are held the third Saturday morning of every month at 49950 Patterson Road, Chilliwack, Next one is "Pepper Grinding Project" October, 15th 9am-12pm. November is "turning a decorative platter", see [www.murraysluys.com](http://www.murraysluys.com) for details.

**End Sealer.**

The Guild is offering wax end sealer to its members and friends as a fund raiser. It will save a lot of green wood from cracking and the price is substantially lower than anywhere else. A cost at \$17 for 4 litres and \$10 for 2 litres. This effort was supported by Bow River Specialty Woods. Call Murray at 604-794-3108 or email [mjsluys@shaw.ca](mailto:mjsluys@shaw.ca)

**3 Black Walnut bowl blanks** 5x12-\$50; 4x9-\$22; 5x11-\$42 requires rough turning first. Walnut finishes well with Min-wax wipe on Poly. call Murray at 604-794-3108

## West Coast Roundup Report

By Ed Pretty

The West Coast Roundup was a three-day event in Richmond hosted by the Greater Vancouver Woodturners Guild. It was a first for me since the AAW national symposium in Tacoma in 1999. The event was well organized with a good rotation schedule, making it easy to select a presenter sequence that worked for anyone's personal interests. Registrations, the instant gallery, vendor area and presentation rooms were in the same area making it easy to navigate. Lunch was provided and a fine dinner was included on Saturday evening.

My personal objective was to learn more about texturing (particularly some of John Jordan's techniques) and ebonizing as well as to see how things had evolved in the last eight years. I was not disappointed. Richard Raffan's demo on suction fit boxes was very interesting. Unfortunately I was not present to see him turn the bottom out of a pot - arguably the highlight of the show. Al Stirt had very interesting (for me) demos on square turning, texturing, balancing grain and milk paint ebonizing. Betty Scarpino's talk on free forms and texturing was very informative. Molly Winton did a treatise on design and forming a style (picked her brain on her ebonizing techniques). It was interesting to note that Molly has only been turning seriously for 5 or 6 years and is already an internationally recognized artist. Of course John Jordan's hollow forms, texturizing and free-hand fluting layout demo was excellent. Dave Schweitzer (very funny guy) showed us how he does hollow forms and does geometric fluting layout. Bonnie Klein, the queen of itty bitty turnings, presented a slide show on turning boxes out of bone as well as how to prepare bone for turning.

Besides my personal objectives, there were several bonuses. There were opposing thoughts on hollow vs. rounded bevel grinds between John Jordan and Dave Schweitzer. I hollow grind my bevels but saw the advantage in the rounded bevel (although still with a short straight section on the bevel). I see where both have their place and will make a few changes. I learned a new (to me) grind for hollowing as well as using reverse for the initial stages of hollowing. All of this unfortunately means the purchase of a couple more bowl gouges but I'll just figure that into the cost of the symposium. I saw new (again, to me) developments in design that gave me some ideas and inspiration as well. Probably the biggest bonus was meeting, talking and just plain visiting with the presenters. This is something that would not normally happen at a larger event such as the AAW Symposiums.

All in all, I am very happy that I decided to take the time and spend a few bucks for this symposium. It has motivated me, inspired me and brought me up to speed with what's going on "out there" in the turning world

# A Historical Look at Woodturning (Part 1)

Traditionally, it was thought that the ancient Egyptians introduced lathe turning. Perhaps as much as 4,000 years ago. Despite a lack of hard evidence, it was assumed that a civilization as advanced as Egypt's—known to develop the potter's wheel and bow drill—possessed the technical know-how and skill to have made the invention of the lathe inevitable. Instead, scholars now believe that the lathe was invented later, around a thousand years B.C., and that its development may have occurred simultaneously among the Etruscans in Italy, the Celts in Great Britain, and the inhabitants of the Crimea. By the second century B.C., the lathe was known to most of the peoples of the Near East and Europe.

One of the reasons that lathe turning of wood was thought to be an older craft was the assumption that it represented only a slight modification of either the bow drill or, more significantly, the potter's wheel. Although we know that the potter's wheel was invented more than a millennium before the lathe, there are nonetheless strong affinities between the two crafts that have always had relevance to working craftspeople.

Both are based on the working of a piece of material that is shaped while revolving on a fixed point or points. Originally, the lathe was vertically oriented, like the potter's wheel. With both devices the form of the material can change shape with great speed. Indeed, speed and regularity were the primary advantages that each apparatus offered. With both techniques additional work is necessary to prepare the finished product.

The interchangeable use of the terms "thrown" and "turned" to describe turned chairs up until the eighteenth century demonstrates the traditional association of the two crafts; in fact, the words "turner" and "thrower" mean exactly the same thing. One definition of the verb "to throw" offered by the Oxford English Dictionary is "to form or fashion by means of a rotary or twisting motion. To turn (wood, etc.) in a lathe." As Victor Chinnery recently pointed out, the word "turner" is from the Latin, a southern European term, while "thrower" is from Old German and northern Europe. "Throwing a pot" refers not to the physical action of forming clay on the wheel but, rather, to the revolving action of the wheel, as well as the counter-force applied by the craftsman to the spin. Both actions also clearly apply to the woodturning lathe.

## Ancient turning

It is not known for certain what the earliest lathes looked like. Not until the third century B.C. is there a representation of a lathe. An Egyptian papyrus painting shows a vertical lathe being operated by two men. An assistant, who pulls on a cord to revolve the piece, being shaped by the turner. Pulling alternately with each hand rotates the work clockwise, then counterclockwise; cutting is done in only one of these directions. Eastern cultures craftsmen traditionally sat on the ground (as many still do), while most Western societies adopted an erect sitting posture. In the case of turning, the lathe was eventually mounted on a table frame, to be used mainly in a standing position. But because of the dearth of representations of turning, it is not clear when this change occurred.

Virtually all early lathes were powered by cord and required that a helper assist the craftsman. The early turners made bowls, platters, beads, among other things, and in the case of Etruscans and later Roman turners, furniture parts. Legs and stiles for couches or thrones were often turned from wood or ivory.

The turned bowl or platter became the most common turned object. Any type of similar metal implement did not supplant it—at least among the lower classes—for nearly two thousand years.

## Medieval times

By the early Middle Ages, the turner had apparently become an accepted independent craftsman. Around 1150 a significant improvement was made by introducing the pole lathe. Although still driven by a cord, the new lathe used the tension of a bent tree branch or cut pole to provide a stronger and more convenient way of turning.

Coordinated with the pole was a treadle, which pulled down on the cord wrapped around the work itself, or on a spindle attached to the work. The treadle regulated the speed at which the piece turned. This arrangement dispensed with the need for an assistant. The pole lathe was one of the major technological innovations of medieval times; it remained the dominant type of lathe well into the nineteenth century.

The one troublesome feature of early lathes that the pole-and-treadle system did not address was the need for continuous motion. With these lathes, the craftsman could still work only when the work turned in one direction. It was necessary to wait until the piece revolved back and started turning in the correct direction before again applying tool to wood.

By David Schneider