



**FRASER VALLEY
WOODTURNERS
GUILD**

P.O. Box 716
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Turner's Corner

Volume 1, Issue 7

March, 2008

President's Corner

President's Corner

Coffee is ordered, agendas are circulated and our executive meeting gets under way promptly at Ricky's. The first item is a review of what went right at our last meeting and any opportunities for improvement. Conclusion – metal spinning demo went well. Planning for the next two meetings are tackled next. We are concerned with the low interest in the youth turning night and have extended an invitation to the shop students.

Adam updates us on a Saturday event he is planning at Martin Thorne's shop in Squamish. The long weekend in May is best for Martin but a better turnout is expected on a regular weekend. A second Saturday event is training session at Ed's shop for beginners (details in this issue).

Murray provides a progress report on guild T-shirts and hats to promote the guild to the public. Keen interest is shown in a variety of products. We are hoping for something in April. A lot of interest and discussion happened around the topic of "What can be done to help new turners?" The main concern is to encourage learning and participation for those that are just starting out. A variety of ideas were tossed around from changing the member's gallery and producing a guild DVD "Turning 101" in addition to the events we currently are planning. Further though and research is needed on this subject.

The upcoming Abbotsford Woodcarvers Competition is discussed and an organisation team is struck for our guild's participation. We plan to have a table for turning demos and guild exposure. Additional support will be requested at the monthly meeting.

The meeting concludes with a brief report on all portfolios and financials.

Another day in the life of your executive- thought you would be interested. Your input is welcome.

Murray Sluys

Next Meeting, April 10

Focus on Fundamentals Ed Pretty

Demo Topic: Fresh fish from the lathe
with Marco Berera

President's Challenge: Various Mushrooms

March 13, Meeting

Focus on Fundamentals Ed Pretty

Demo Topic: Egg Cup race and Youth
Turning

President's Challenge: Pepper Mill or
salt shaker, Be creative

FVWG Executive

President	Murray Sluys	604-794-3108	mjsluys@shaw.ca
Vice President	Lance Murphy	604-796-2700	
Past President	Ian Fulford	604-820-2227	
FOA Coordinator	Ed Pretty		
Newsletter Editor	Gerald Blenkarn	604-858-9162	gerthebear@hotmail.com
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Membership Chairperson	Wayne Cunningham	604-855-5690	waynec04@telus.net
Treasurer	George Geurts		
Librarian	Lance Murphy	604-796-270	
Program Coordinator	Adam Christiaanse		
Social Conveners	Marian Maynard		
Raffle	Roger Pitts & Robert Caffrey		

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) 604-792-2866
Bill Olsen (Surrey) 604-574-4548	Sam Nelsom (Agassiz & Harrison)604-796-9678

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

Focus on Fundamentals

Feb —Scraping, sharpening and use	Mar—Sharpening and various grinds for face and center turning
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Annual dues and registration are now due.

After New Year-Rates:

Adults - \$17.50

Students \$5.00

80 Years Young—

Quick Tips

In general, cut from outside to inside with sidegrain bowls and from inside to outside with endgrain bowls, boxes, Goblets.

A consistent method of grinding/sharpening your tools is important. Otherwise, you're always Using a new tool and must learn it over and over again

Never pick a tool up by it's sharp end. Always by the handle end. If not, you may slip and slice your fingers.

Announcement's

For those who were unable to attend the very interesting session at Vern Leibrant's shop last December we now have put a few movie clips on the gallery page of the web site.

The annual Youth Turning night will be held at our Mar 13 meeting. We ask all youth turners to be registered by Mar 06.

Contact Adam Christiaanse @ 604-855-4252

Tool Problem

There have been a few fellows who have asked for help with one thing or another—usually tool issues— For those who are having problems bring the tools to the meeting. There are a number of experts who will gladly give you advise to help solve your problems.

Martin Thorne shop visit

Location: Squamish, BC Date: May 24, 2008 Time: 10:00 am in Squamish at Martin's shop

Lunch and coffee will not be served by Martin.

Art of the Carver Show

The Central Fraser Valley Woodcarvers "Art of the Carver" show will be held on May 3rd, 2008, At the Ag-Rec Bldg, 32470 Haida Drive, Abbotsford, BC. For more details call Rick (604) 824-9891 or e-mail Bonnie at sorenson@shaw.ca. All woodturners are welcome.

Vacant Positions

A sound technician and , videographer

are vacant.

The person would set up and handle the Video projection.

A Still Photographer is needed to

Take Photos of the members gallery

And post them on the website.

Goodies—Mar 08

Huston, Kreiger,
Libby, Liebrechts,
Lightfoot, McMath

Goodies— April 08

Mantta, Maynard
B. Murphy,
L. Murphy. Niehaus
Don Nelson

Fraser Valley Woodturners Guild

We meet at
Robert Bateman School,
35045 Exbury Ave,
Abbotsford, BC
Room # 103 (Wood
Shop)

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

Web Site
www.fvwg.ca



Turnings by:
Martin Thorne



Calendar of Events

13 March	Thursday	FVWG Meeting	Egg cup race, youth turning night
10 April	Thursday	FVWG Meeting	Fresh fish from the lathe-Marco
08 May	Thursday	FVWG Meeting	Hands on turning—spindle

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 or mail him a copy.

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

Note from WEBSTER'S CORNER:

I have had the privilege of looking after the guilds website for the past six years and have found it both enjoyable and educational. However the time has come for me to step down and pass the baton to another lucky guild member. With the elections coming in a few short months all interested members should consider letting the executive know of your interest. I will be available to assist the new webmaster briefly and show him/her the ropes so we have a smooth Transition.

Colin

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 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



For Sale: Rockwell Beaver 12" x36" lathe.

Complete with 3 Live Centres, 2 wenchers,
Banjo with 10" tool rest, 5" faceplate and 7"
outboard faceplate. Motor not included.

Asking price \$125.00, OBO.

For Sale: Craftsman 10" contractor style table saw. Cast aluminum table with steel extensions. Good condition. \$125.00 OBO

Delta 12" band saw. Good condition with three new blades. \$300.00 OBO

Delta 10" table saw and jointer. These tools are on a common 110 volt motor so they must be sold together. The table saw is Tilt table. Both are older, very commercial units. \$500.00. OBO

I can deliver if needed. Contact Ed Pretty at 604-888-5967

Walnut platter blanks—2" x 14" \$25, requires rough turning first. Walnut finishes well with Minwax wipe on Poly. Call 604-794-3108

Turning 101, Session # 1, Small Bowl

Date: Saturday, 05 April, 2008, Time: 9:00 to 4:00 Venue: Ed Pretty's home workshop

Leader—Allan Cusworth Helpers: Ed pretty, Adam Christiaanse Cost \$25.00 (this cost will provide the project wood "A" grade Maple bowl blanks from Bow river, finishing supplies donated by Adam Christiaanse, Jamb chuck wood donated by Allan Cusworth. Lunch: Bring your own, coffee and tea will be available. At this Turning 101 session we will be turning and finishing a small bowl with a foot. Some of the subjects covered will be mounting including face plates, 4 jaw chucks and jamb chucks, ways of hollowing out and getting a smooth surface, sanding and finishing on the lathe. Items required for being able to attend this session: Mini lathe, Faceplate, Chuck, not a necessity, but if you have your own it would be appreciated if you could bring it, we currently have 4 lathes available. Sandpaper: Bring grits to provide desired finish. Cutting tools; Bowl gouge and Parting tool, Spindle gouge, Bowl scraper. Bonus item if time permits: Do you have any tools that you are having a hard time cutting with? Bring them along and we will advise on how to "fix" the tool or the method of cutting. This session is limited to 6 participants. Signup sheet will be available at the March 13th meeting, participants will not be considered signed up until \$ has been received.

Focus on Fundamentals

A prime mandate of the Fraser Valley Woodturners Guild is to provide training and inspiration to new turners. We accomplish in sessions that begin ½ hour prior to the regular meeting. Handouts accompany these sessions and an accompanying text is used, Turning Wood by Richard Raffan.

The topics covered are listed below. Members joining after September may obtain all previous handouts. The handouts are designed for inserting into a binder for review. Following are the topics covered in the program, although it may be altered to prepare novices for upcoming demonstrations – particularly hands-on sessions. The sessions are short (30 minutes). Some are simply Q&A sessions and others incorporate a project that prepares the learner for a practice project at home.

1. Lathe basics; set up, safety, grinding set up
2. Turn between center project – practice pieces using gouge and skew
3. Copying. Includes turning transitions from square to round
4. Faceplate project
5. Jam chuck project – finish turn bowl
6. Scrapers: sharpening and use
7. Sharpening and various grinds for face and center turning
8. Mandrel project – napkin rings
9. Selecting and storing wood. Grain orientation
Sanding: wet, dry, grain raising, on and off lathe

Is Watco Oil dangerous? You bet. Sneaky, too.

At a guild meeting during a session on finishing, a cautionary note was mentioned to be aware that rags soaked in Watco oil were a fire hazard. A few turners offered various safety tips on how to deal with them – all sound. Clearly there were some who understood the hazard, but probably some who didn't. There is much more to be understood about this hazard so that those of us using this product and others like it can fully understand this hazard and better deal with it.

I recently retired as a firefighter after 36 years. During that time I personally responded to four incidents and have heard of others where Watco Oil was deemed the culprit. Watco was the medium, spontaneous combustion was the mechanism. Spontaneous combustion occurs when organic material decomposes. Heat is generated when this occurs and if that heat is allowed to be retained and build up, forming one side of the "fire triangle". Oxygen and fuel are generally also present in the form of air and the rag respectively, making up the other two sides. In this small amount of information there are the seeds of understanding what is happening and how to deal sensibly with the hazard.

Any natural product contains bacteria and given the right conditions will decay and generate heat. When I was a kid on the farm (you know... back in the day) it was not unusual to hear of someone's barn that burned down when hay ignited spontaneously after getting wet. We shoveled our oats and wheat feed from one crib to another so that heat wouldn't build up too much. Knowing what I know now, I'm sure that occasionally spontaneous combustion took the heat for financial combustion J (sorry, I have to do that now and again). If you've ever seen a load of mushroom manure steaming as it goes by or steam coming off the compost pile, you have witnessed the kind of heat that can build up when things decompose and are kept bunched together.

Back to Watco. Watco contains raw linseed oil. Linseed oil on its own is normally purchased as boiled linseed oil. The heat does two things: it kills the bacteria so that decomposition doesn't occur and also essentially "polymerizes" it so that it will cure. Raw linseed oil simply leaves a gummy mess and perhaps dries but never cures. As far as I have been able to learn, Watco Oil contains raw linseed oil to which they have added driers (petroleum based solvents) to cause it to cure...so the bugs are still in there. Knowing this, if one looks at a product it is possible to determine if it may be a hazard or not depending on whether or not it is a natural product and what process it has been put through. Tung oil, for example, is a natural product. It also is "polymerized" by either heating or adding solvents. I have never personally heard of a fire related to tung oil but that may be due to two things: it is not nearly as widely used as Watco and/or it may be inherently more stable than linseed oil. Nevertheless knowledge is power, and understanding how something can generate its own heat is important.

The mechanism isn't complete without the right conditions. The heat generated is insignificant unless it is allowed to build up. If the oily rag is left crumpled up and in some fashion insulated, this can happen – just like the barn full of hay or the crib full of grain. The conditions are definitely the wild card in my view, since I have tried to replicate the situation (in an isolated garbage can, OK) but have never been successful. Obviously things like ambient temperature, humidity, whether or not the bugs are having a good day and who knows what else, plays a part.

So, now to using this stuff in a safe manner: you want to be able to leave the shop and sleep when you go to bed. You may recall that I mentioned something about a fire triangle: heat, fuel and oxygen. All three are required for a fire; take one away and the fire goes out – or doesn't start. Knowing that, one can use any of the sides to achieve your goal of... no fire. Removing the fuel is not all that practical unless you have some type of incredible centrifuge to take the oil from the rag – 100%. Removing the heat is easy enough by simply spreading the rag out – I open the rag and hang it - but that can be messy and doesn't truly leave my mind free to enjoy happy hour at the end of the day. It's sure OK for in between applications, though and not a bad habit, just in case you forget about them. There was one suggestion to put them in a bucket of water. That works but is even messier. The absolute best, easiest and neatest solution is to exclude oxygen by placing them in an air tight, non-combustible container. While special waste cans exactly for this are available, they are expensive. I have an empty paint can that I drop them into and just lightly tap the top on to exclude the oxygen. Even bunched together, the small amount of oxygen is insignificant and in any case would be used up before things got out of hand. Don't put them in the garbage until you take it to the curb.

I didn't want to bore you with war stories until I got the information down, but here are the four incidents, so you have something to think about. The first incident involved a fellow who "Watco-ed" his cedar around his hot tub every year (so he had done exactly this before with no problems). He finished the job, piled the rags in the corner, ready for the big clean-up the next day. He went inside, cracked a beer and sat down in the big easy to watch the game, but instead watched his deck almost explode in flames (Freshly oiled vertical T&G cedar? Yep, that'll do it). The second occurred when a van parked in the shop of a cabinet company on Friday at quitting time went up in flames on Sunday afternoon. A hurried clean-up at a job site left a pile of Watco soaked rags in the center of the van's floor. Vans don't count as an air tight container. The third didn't result in a fire but was oh, so close. We were investigating an alarm at a school that turned out to be an intrusion alarm from a break-in in the school shop. While checking the place to ensure it was secure from our standpoint, I just happened to lean against a bench and could feel heat radiating from a pile of oily rags – and a gallon can of Watco. The fourth was a fellow who put a new deck in a restored '40's pick up and oiled the wood with Watco. Same as all the others – he left the rags in a pile under the bench in his attached garage and they took off. It seems that took a few hours, thankfully before they turned in for the night.

That's only four times in 36 years, but it happens...

By Ed Pretty

Martin Thorn

Martin Thorne:

Martin is a professional turner and is well known for his bird houses and hollow forms and frequently incorporates turning into the furniture he makes. Martin brings a passion and common sense approach to turning as well as innovation into shop environment.

Martin has been making objects since childhood. His first turning experience was in his father's workshop—the lathe, a “Wolfe” electric drill—the tailstock, a block of wood and a sharpened screw—the cutting tool, a boxwood handled Marples paring chisel. That was fifty years ago and his lifelong passion for making fine objects continues unabated—his favorite tool, the lathe!

Today Martin's work is influenced by his surroundings, the Squamish Estuary, Howe Sound, and the mountains. He uses local materials, recycled, found on the beaches or rivers or salvaged from the logging industry.

Martin has owned and operated a custom woodworking studio in Squamish, BC for thirty years. His work can be found in private collections worldwide and galleries in the Pacific Northwest.

“My work is all about texture and form. The pieces I create fill a basic need to say what I cannot say in words. My creativity comes from observing the action of the landscape around me. I am a passionate “maker”, using materials provided by nature that have been textured by sun, wind and rain. Destruction, decay and disorder have as much to do with the creative process as construction and growth, one leads to the other, it never ends. I seldom title my work, choosing to let my pieces be explored without preconceived notions.”

I visited Martin's workshop on an “artwalk” being held in Squamish. Martin's shop shows his innovative nature, he built his own lathe and other non conventional low tech methods of working with wood are shown in many areas of his shop. Martin uses any materials that have previously been used or are leftovers from other Processes. He lives up to his name (Thorne) by incorporating rose thorns in his more creative work to create a contrast between the smooth wood and sharp thorns. Creativity abounds in all the work he does. A visit to his shop will surely be an eye opener to all who are interested in creativity in their workings with wood.



