



IWG News

The Newsletter of the Island Woodturners Guild

April 2015



About the IWG:

The [Island Woodturners Guild](#) meets from 1:00 - 4:00 PM on the 4th Saturday of each month (except for July and August) at the Central Saanich Senior Citizens' Centre, [1229 Clarke Road](#), Brentwood Bay, BC.

Visitors are welcome.

Executive Committee

President:
Steve Werner

Vice President:
Gorden Kifiak

Secretary:
Michael McEwan

Treasurer:
John Carelli

Member at Large:
Brian Hayes

Member at Large:
John Gayfer

Member at Large:
Bob Pederson

Past President:
Mark Taylor

Newsletter Editor:
John Gayfer

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The President's Turn

The AI Stirt demonstration was very attended and enjoyed by all and the two one day workshops were most successful. I was in the Sunday workshop and learned a lot: AI is a great and very patient instructor. Thanks to Gorden Kifiak for the use of his shop and thanks are also due to John Kilcoyne for hosting AI and his wife. Of course especial thanks are also due to the crew who always ensure these functions go off smoothly, The setup, cleanup, camera work and collection of entrance fees don't just happen, there is a lot of unsung heroes in our Guild that are hidden behind the scenes. Thank you!

Four of us went down to Anacortes last month to see the Michael Hosaluk demonstration put on by the Northwest Washington Woodturners. We enjoyed it so much that we contacted Michael to see if we could have a supernumerary external demonstrator for the Guild. Try not to make plans for the fourth Saturday of next February: He is great. The only negative was a two hour wait at the border which made us miss the 7:00 o'clock ferry by 10 minutes.

There is a Richard Raffan demonstration in July in Lacey Washington, Some of us have already registered to attend this. Why not consider joining us. Apparently this will be the last opportunity we will have to see him in North America.

May is the month of the Annual General meeting where you get to pay your dues for next year and nominate new Executive members, but you should attend anyway as there will be other more exciting things going on.

This Saturday's meeting includes the second challenge of the year, the theme is "embellishment." So it is a very open challenge, allowing you to be as creative as you wish. Let's have lots of items presented, we have some extremely talented members so I expect we will see some fine works of art. I'll bring in a piece or two myself to keep the average down so there is no need to feel insecure: turn something, embellish it and show it. Bring any failed project, if you are familiar with the concept, and explain why it didn't work. We will also have Doug MacBeath demonstrating using a vacuum press and Barrie Baptie presenting on "Filling Voids." We strongly encourage all members, especially the new

President's Turn continued



turners to bring a piece to the challenge and/or to the Show and Tell.

A few of us got together to help Cheryl move to her new place. At lunch the idea came up of having a group lunch on a monthly basis. You've received the email by now suggesting you join our lunch group, please consider it if you haven't already signed up: should be fun. So far more than 1/4 of the Guild members have already signed up.

The logo'd Island Woodturners Guild shirts are a go, although the prices mentioned in last month's newsletter have had to be revisited. The price for the T-shirt will be \$15.00 and the golf shirt will be \$25.00. These prices include GST and PST. There will be a

sign up sheet available and you can choose from colours: Red, Gray, Black and Navy. There will be Men's and Women's sizes in S,M,L, XL and XXL. Payment will be required at the time.

See you Saturday,
Steve Werner
President

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**March Meeting**

I was very pleased to receive the input from Jim Thomson. One, just to get someone else saying the things I have been trying to say and two, all levels of turners can benefit from learning from an advanced turner. I found Al Stirt to be a very enjoyable demonstrator, giving us some sound basics and also some innovative ideas, all of this presented in a relaxed and clear manner. It is obvious that Al is at home at the lathe confident in knowing how his tools will react with the wood and the correct speed at which to approach to get the best results. Often I have heard people ask a demonstrator at what speed is he/she turning at, usually the answer is " I don't know, the right speed". This is something I learned in the Jimmy Clewes workshop, I was turning too slow. He showed me how different the cut was at a faster speed and how much better it was as well. Now I turn much faster but not nearly as fast as Jimmy does. There is always something to learn, you don't have to like the style or the shape but there will be some technique and tip that will help you get the results you want. Now Jim is a believer so don't hold back get in there, up front and learn something.

Our next meeting is about embellishing and a demonstration about filling voids. When I first started turning I wanted the wood to be perfect, I kept turning away the parts I didn't like until I got to wood that had no blemishes. The end result was that I turned very small items and lots of wood chips, which was good to learn tool techniques but a waste of some nice wood. All wood is never perfect, the challenge is how to take advantage of that to create something interesting or eye catching. I have started using fluorite as my go to material to fill voids, I use it so much that now I look for wood that will have imperfections or bark inclusions just to enhance it with fluorite. But there is lots of other materials and I'm sure we will see them used next

**March Meeting** continued

meeting. Both Doug and Barrie have lots of experience and will give good advice and probably a little humour as well.

I hope you will get out to our next meeting, even though the gardens and yards are calling. Don't forget to think about the upcoming AGM and positions available on the executive, a wonderful chance to help out and get involved.



**To Go or Not to Go ??**

The Guild periodically arranges for a world class turner to come and give us a one day seminar on the techniques that they have developed. These are always well attended and very informative, and worth the nominal cost for the day. Also, if you are a beginner like me, you can sit in the crowd and be anonymous. (it's safe).

But then there is the opportunity to take a one day workshop for a hands-on experience with the demonstrator. So, as a beginner, do you GO or NOT GO??

I tested this at the last seminar, swallowed my apprehension about my capabilities, and decided to GO.

As expected, there were some very experienced turners in attendance, as well as others at various levels. But the amazing thing was that we were all equal in wanting to learn and experiment. The small group as always was very congenial and supportive. There was no whiff of competitiveness or showmanship, so the comfort level was very high.

At the end of the day, we all ended up just about even in our practice pieces, and we all learned a lot from the instructor and each other.

So was it worth it?? A resounding YES! Would I recommend that a wider group of the guild take advantage of this opportunity? Again, a resounding YES!

So I will not be timid about doing this again. For just the price of one good tool, it is a long lasting bargain.

The hardest thing about diving is leaving the diving board. After that, everything happens very automatically. So at the next opportunity, dive in!

Jim Thomson



**Show and Tell Table from March**

Be sure to check out all the show and tell pictures on the IWG website..  
[http://www.islandwoodturners.ca/documents/show\\_and\\_tell.html](http://www.islandwoodturners.ca/documents/show_and_tell.html)



continued

### **Library Materials Return**

Thank you to those who have searched their libraries and found and returned items to the Guild Library. There are still quite a few items not accounted for so please keep looking. The Library listing on the website details those items that are AWOL.



### **Parting Off**

Thanks to Stew Carmichael for taking photographs for the newsletter. Thanks also to Hew Lines for running the website. And of course thanks to our hard-working executive for their hard work and creativity.

