



IWG News

The Newsletter of the Island Woodturners Guild

September 2010



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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.

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The IWG gratefully acknowledges the support of the following companies:

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The President's Turn: Busting the "I am not good enough" Myth

"guild (gild) n. 1. an association of people for mutual aid or the pursuit of a common goal. 2. In medieval times, an association of artisans, formed for mutual aid"

The theme of this message is directed to those of you who sometimes feel that you have not progressed far enough in your turning skills to take advantage of Guest demonstrator hands on sessions. Unfortunately, I have personally heard comments like "I would embarrass myself" or "I am just a beginner compared to other members of the guild".

Well folks, the best way to "progress your skills" is to challenge your skills by learning from those guest demonstrators who are brought to the club for your benefit. Without exception, every guest demonstrator has emphasized he is not there to show you how to turn something that he specializes in, but to show you new and proven techniques which he has found successful. They have all stated that members should bring any problems they may have to the hand on sessions and they will work one on one with you to solve those problems.

In the coming years, we have booked Doug Fisher for this Oct, Johannes Michelsen for Mar 2011, Bonnie Klein for Oct 2011, and Stephen Hatcher for April 2012. We hope, by organizing these guest demonstrators, we will provide you with a challenge which will make you a better turner.

Let's work together to bust that myth – everyone of all skill levels is "good enough" to learn from these guest demonstrators.

Graeme Evans

IWG president

A Gift from Diane Looker

Sincere apologies to Diane, who generously donated a McNaughton Center Saver to the Guild during the June meeting. We neglected to acknowledge the gift in the previous edition of the newsletter. Thanks, Diane! Come back and visit us!

Members wishing to borrow the Center Saver should contact the Guild Librarian, [Phil Cottell](mailto:Phil.Cottell@leevalley.com). Those who don't know what a Center Saver is can find out here: <http://www.leevalley.com>

Raffan on The Challenges

Any of you who have participated in the Guild's series of Form Challenges will be aware that they were inspired by Richard Raffan's book [The Art of Turned Bowls: Designing Bowls with a World-Class Turner](#). The Challenges were brought to us by Guild member Cheryl Samuel, who has attended symposiums presented by Mr Raffan. After the last Challenge, Cheryl asked Guild members to bring all of the bowls they had created during the series so that she could photograph them and show them to Richard. Cheryl thought it would be interesting to share the reply that she received from him.

Isn't it interesting, Cheryl, how the bowls vary although obviously from the same family. Did the discussion get as far as trying to work out why some might be more appealing than others, and why? Looking at the pair of out-flowing segmented bowls to the left in the close-up, the left of the two is my preference because of its shorter stem.



The enclosed forms on the middle row are even more interesting and more successful as forms. Out-flowing shapes are incredibly difficult to get looking even half decent, whereas these never seem to present quite the same difficulties. In this collection there seems to be only one that looks a bit slumped and another a tiny bit top-heavy if you're getting picky. It's a wonderful achievement and I really must get my local group on to this and see how we go. At present we are more interested in a collaborative weekend when we make all kinds of stuff from bits and pieces of a range of materials. A couple of slides below from such a weekend I attended last November when I had a great time making this boat with Terry Baker. I'll send more in another email from another computer.

Ability is what you're capable of doing.
Motivation determines what you do.
Attitude determines how well you do it.

-Lou Holtz

Raffan on the Challenges continued

I think the bonding aspect of your Form Challenge is wonderful; people tend to be very reticent about showing their work and appearing foolish or whatever, then have great fun once they get over that and then they start learning as well. In our group we have enormous problems getting guys (especially guys) on the lathe when there are other people about. The girls are far less inhibited..... must be something to do with ensuring the survival of the species in your DNA.



I'm assuming you'll have no objections if I edit your email slightly and send it round our Turning Special Interest Group (SIG) at the ACTWG. <<http://www.woodcraftguild.org.au/>>

And finally, of course I've no objection to your writing this up for the AAW. I'm sure Betty Scarpino will be delighted to have it. And apart from that it can't be a bad promo for The art of Turned Bowls..... so very many thanks for that. I'll look forward to seeing your piece in the journal. RR.

Thanks again to Cheryl for organizing the Form Challenges. For many of us, this was a unique and valuable way to improve our skills.

As a footnote to this article we'll mention that Cheryl has recently redesigned her website, which you can see at www.ravenstail.com . Look carefully and you'll see Cheryl's own bowls from the Form Challenges.

Forthcoming Meetings

September: Saturday 24th

- Welcome back after the summer break!
- Don't forget to bring something to show

October: Saturday 30th

- **Note:** this is the **fifth** Saturday in the month, not the fourth as is our usual meeting time
- All-day presentation by Doug Fisher (see next page for details)

We are contacting other "high-end" turners to come as Guest Demonstrators for 2011. Johannes Michelsen, the "hat man" www.woodhat.com has agreed to come in 2011 - exact date TBD.

Guest Presenter Doug Fisher

Doug Fisher will be our guest demonstrator for the October General meeting on Saturday Oct 30 2010. He has agreed to give an all day hands on session on Sunday 31 Oct for up to nine members and, if numbers warrant, a second all day hands on session Monday Nov 1st. Please NOTE These dates are one week later than our normal fourth Saturday of the Month as Doug is tied up with another commitment on the 23 Oct.



We require commitments from you the members for the hands on session(s) as soon as possible so we can book the dates with Doug.

This is an excellent opportunity to produce an offset turning, learn some carving techniques, and have fun with colouring and staining enhancement. Take a look at Doug's website www.douglasfisher.com



Those wishing to take Doug's hands on sessions are requested to e-mail me by Sept 15 and be prepared to give a minimum deposit of \$50 at the September meeting. Total cost for the Saturday demonstration and the full day hands on session is \$150.00

Graeme Evans
IWG President
gnbevans@shaw.ca

Parting Off

Thanks to the many IWG members who have provided articles and photos for the newsletter. We're always happy to receive your articles, photos, and comments. Keep 'em coming!

We are always looking for suggestions for our in house demonstrations and for volunteers to demonstrate. Contact Graeme Evans at 250-361-2646 e-mail gnbevans@shaw.ca

All the best,

Andre, Tom, and Jeremy