



IWVG News

The Newsletter of the Island Woodturners Guild

February 2010



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About the IWVG:

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.

Newsletter Editor:
[Andre Robin](#)

Executive Committee

Member at large:
[Derek Wentworth](#)

President:
[Donald Porter](#)

Memberships & Treasurer:
[Doug McBeath](#)

Vice President:
[Graeme Evans](#)

Secretary
[Max Uhlemann](#)

The IWVG gratefully acknowledges the support of the following companies:

[Craft supplies USA](#)
[KMS Tools](#)
[Lee Valley](#)
[Skookum Tools](#)

The President's Turn

I would like to welcome you to, this, our first IWG newsletter.

As IWG president, it is my job is to act on the IWG's behalf. I enjoy being active and I enjoy solving problems but they have asked me to write an editorial. Me! You've got to be kidding! Nevertheless, our trusty newsletter creators and editors, Andre Robin, Tom Benham and Jeremy Brown keep on gently insisting that I write a "Presidents Corner" message.

Don't get me wrong, I am more than pleased to see this newsletter come into existence. A newsletter has been the topic of nearly every monthly executive meeting since the inception of the IWG but, me, write!

Well, it is in the interests of the IWG so I guess I have to do it. Here goes:

I am glad you have come in to join us at the IWG.

We started this guild in order to be able to improve our turning knowledge and skills. That is all we wanted to do – get better at turning. Most of us did not have the time, the energy or the personal resources to be able to travel and take classes. So, for me, at least, there I was stumbling around in my shop, teaching myself to turn out of books, rumor and hearsay. We did have two small, living room, groups – the first one started by our own Ray Franklin- which were very helpful as far as they went but they did not give us a structure from which to access professionals or, since we could not go to them, a way to bring them to us. We bumbled around for about five years forming various committees, trying to get organized. People came and people went but things did not gel until the combination of Charles Smith and Harvey Brooks hit the bricks. Those guys lit a fire that ignited the IWG -and here we are.

As you can see, since our inception, we have grown to 65 strong. We have been able to bring in the best turning teachers several times a year and produce, from our own ranks, excellent demonstrations on topics that members have asked for. Our instant galleries are on a par with the best I have seen anywhere and the eagerness of our members to participate and help each other is a thrill to see.

So, from the bottom of my heart, I welcome you and I welcome this news letter as another big step in making our turning travels more interesting, productive and satisfying. I look forward, with great satisfaction and eagerness, to the days we work, grow and play together as friends and members of the IWG.

Thank You All.

Love and Joy

Donald Porter

From the Editors

Welcome to the first edition of our newsletter! We hope that we can add value to the IWG by providing informative articles, news, and reviews.

Please feel welcome to contact us with your thoughts on this newsletter, the IWG, and on woodturning in general. We would especially like to receive your articles, long or short, including:

- tips and techniques
- product reviews
- news from other clubs
- classified ads
- health and safety tips
- stories and photos

The newsletter is published on the second Saturday of each month.

Please contact [Andre Robin](#), [Tom Benham](#), or [Jeremy Brown](#) to contribute. Deadline for submissions is the first Saturday of each month. Submissions may be edited for brevity or style (but trust us, we don't plant to do more editing than is truly necessary.)

Library Corner

by Phil Cottell

Welcome, fellow woodturners, to your library corner. The library is a useful and growing resource for finding answers to woodturning questions, and gathering new ideas. Max Uhlmann did a fine job of getting our library started, and it will continue to evolve to meet our needs. We currently have 75 items in the library, comprising 19 books, 28 DVDs or DVD sets, 22 videos or video sets, 5 magazines/articles, and one item of equipment (inside-outside ornament turning jig). These have all been donated or loaned by our members; more items are always welcome.

We are changing over to a pocket and card system for library loans, in an attempt to expedite the checkout process while keeping track of the collection. So far, 44 items have received pockets and cards -- the rest are still out there on loan. The loan period is one month. Please bring any borrowed items that you have to the next meeting (Feb. 27/10), and these will be incorporated into the new system. When checking library items out, just print your name and phone number on the card from the pocket, and drop it into the small metal box.



Product Review: Rockler Snakelight by Tom Benham

I recently got tired of not having enough lighting. The problem is that once you have solved this deficiency it is hard to blame imperfections on lack of lighting. I'm also reluctant to spend a lot of money on a really fancy shop light when it seems that a light is a light and why should it cost a fortune?

While perusing a [Rockler](#) catalogue I noticed they offered a new 24-inch snake light which came with both a magnetic and clamp -on base. I had previously purchased a similar Moffat lamp, but I was getting a bit tired of moving it between my two lathes. I was also not terribly satisfied with the magnetic base of the Moffat lamp. It was easy for me to take a chance on this new product as it cost \$29.99, shipping was free, and Rockler has a friendly return policy. I did have to pay sales tax as Rockler has a retail store in Georgia; otherwise sales tax would have been omitted as well.

In my opinion the Rockler product is better than my Moffat lamp. While the product review section of the Rockler web site has some complaints about the magnet, I find it to be very strong and much better than the Moffat lamp. I ended up buying two of them and the enclosed photo shows the lamp using both mounts which come with the product.

Highlights of the January meeting:

In case you weren't able to attend last month's meeting, here are some of the things you missed...

- [Doug McBeath](#) demonstrated various hollowing tools, including some that he has made. Look for his summary in this issue.
- [Cheryl Samuel](#) presented the next shape challenge: the Ogee curve. Templates and handouts may still be available. The deadline for this challenge is the March meeting.
- [John Gayfer](#) showed us how he made a homemade hollowing tool complete with handle.
- [Graeme Evans](#) also demonstrated a selection of hollowing tools.
- [Tim Soutar](#) presented a review of some new types of sandpaper that he's been testing. Look for his review elsewhere in this issue.

Riding the Bevel: Tools and Techniques

Hand-held Hollowing Tools

by Doug McBeath

At the January meeting I demonstrated some hand-held hollowing tools. I indicated that most hollowing tools act as scrapers, and are probably most effective when cutting end grain. I showed that some hollowing tools come in sets of 2 or 3 tools with different shaped goose-necked shafts. This accomplishes two things while hollowing: a) it keeps the cutting edge of the tool aligned with the shaft in order to minimize the rotational torque on the handle, and b) it permits the various tools in the set to effectively reach different parts of the interior of the vessel being hollowed.

Both commercial and home-made tools can be used for hollowing. Two small home-made tools were demonstrated. These had been fabricated from a small Allen wrench and from a concrete nail. Both had been set into handles made from sections of broom handles, and with ferrules made from copper tubing connectors. The cutting end of each had been shaped at the grinder. A small vessel was hollowed using these two tools.

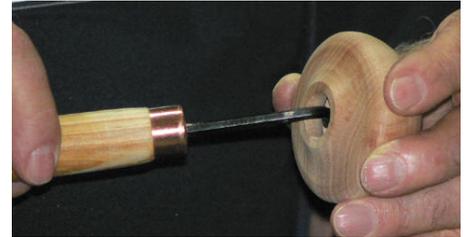
The use of one tool from a set of Kelton hollowers was also demonstrated.

The tool developed by Don Derry was also shown and its use described. This tool has a restraining arm which rests on the tool rest to one side of the cutter shaft in order to counteract the rotational torque of cutting.

This was followed by a discussion of the hollower developed by Dave Schweitzer, also with a restraining arm, but on the opposite side of the cutter shaft from that on the Derry tool. The Schweitzer tool was designed to hollow with the lathe turning in reverse, and providing a much more comfortable stance for the operator.

[Editor's Note: Perhaps it is obvious to all of us, but if you decide to use Dave Schweitzer's system or construct your own hollowing system following his design, please keep in mind that the chuck must be very secure as the reverse rotation facilitates loosening the chuck; whereas, the forward (traditionally used) rotation deters the chuck from unscrewing.]

Photos: Peter Robin



A Homemade Hollowing Tool

By John Gayfer

Being a new turner primarily turning bowls, I decided that I should venture out a little and try some hollow forms.

The first thing I did was read David Ellsworth's book "Ellsworth on Woodturning: How a Master Creates Bowls, Pots, and Vessels" and got a vague idea how it was done, then of course I needed some tools. Many times I had seen that other turners had made their own tools and saved a fair bit of money at the same time. So my new venture had to incorporate making my own tools because a quick look at buying tools showed me that \$200 could easily be spent.

The few pictures I have included show that this is not a difficult undertaking. I started with 3/8" bar which I shaped in a vise cut with a Zip cutter on my angle grinder and drilled and tapped a hole to hold the cutter. The cutter was cut from an old planer blade. This metal is very hard and you can't drill it so I just cut a notch again with the Zip cutter.

I then had a friend drill a hole in a piece of 3/4" bar to hold the 3/8" bar and the attached cutter. With the help of a piece of pipe from Donald's table saw and an old table leg I made the handle to hold the 3/4" bar, which was also drilled and tapped to allow a set screw to hold the bar in place. The machine screws and the set screws were purchased from Canadian Tire for about \$1.50 and the metal bars were from Home Depot for about \$15 (of which I have enough left over to make at least 3 more tools if I need to). None of this was very difficult and I am not in any way an experienced metal worker.

The tool is adjustable by turning the cutter head and can be reshaped to suit a variety of hollow forms. Then by using the tool you have made you can decide what you like about it and what you don't and make changes as you see fit. In the end I have a functional tool which was made for under \$20 and I can make some hollow forms without the worry of feeling that I have to do this because I spent \$200.



Next Month's Meeting

The IWG is proud to present our Guest Demonstrator, Christian Burchard.

Born in Hamburg, Germany in 1955, Christian has been living in the United States since 1978. Starting out as a furniture maker's apprenticeship in Germany in the middle seventies, he studied sculpture and drawing at the Museum School in Boston then at the Emily Carr College of Art and Design in Vancouver BC.

In 1982 he opened Cold Mountain Studio in Southern Oregon. His early focus was on furniture and interiors, but he gradually shifted to woodturning and sculpture, moving between vessel oriented forms and sculptural turning. His work has been included in most of the major turning related exhibits of the last ten years and is exhibited widely throughout the US. His pieces are part of many public and private collections. His current work includes wall sculptures and freestanding sculptural objects. He is also sought after as a teacher and demonstrator at craft schools and conferences and related turning events. He currently resides with his wife at the outskirts of Ashland, Oregon. His website is at

<http://www.burchardstudio.com/>

The meeting will be Saturday the 27th of February from 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM. Admission for IWG members is \$35.

There will also be a hands-on session with Christian on Friday February 26th. The cost is \$150, which includes admission to Christian's presentation on Saturday. Please contact [Donald Porter](#) for more information.

Product Review: Coghlan's Squeeze Tubes

by Jeremy Brown

Tired of your expensive wood finishing products turning to glop before you're halfway through the container? I sure was. I tried various remedies including a can of Argon (\$14 / 0.4 ounce container) which was depleted after 6 applications, probably due to a leaky valve.

Then I remembered the [tubes](#) that we used for carrying peanut butter on backpacking trips. They're cheap, reusable, and they make it easy to evacuate almost all the air each time you use the contents. Since they're made of food-grade plastic, they should be fairly unlikely to react with whatever you put in them. I've only found one size - almost big enough to hold a small can of Tung oil, for example - but at 2 / \$3 you can buy a bunch of them before you get close to the cost of Argon.

The tubes are available at outdoor stores, such as the [Mountain Equipment Co-op](#).



Trading Post - items to buy, sell or trade

The Guild is selling sandpaper. There is 120 and 180 grit left. It is a very good aluminum oxide paper. The cost is \$10.00 for 12 sheets. The sandpaper was kindly donated by [Skookum Tools Ltd.](#) Ask [Ray Franklin](#) or any of the Executive members.

Two baseball caps with the IWG logo are available from [Don Porter](#). \$15.00 ea

For sale: a General International "Maxi Lathe" - maximum 10" diameter over the bed, 15" between centers, belt drive, 6 speed. Excellent condition, gently used. \$150, contact [Jeremy Brown](#)

Wanted:

Andre and Ray have been assisting students in the turning program at Stellys High School. There is very little turning material therefore we are hoping that a few members who have plenty could assist us in collecting a few bowl blanks for the turning program. Bowl blanks can be any size between 6 to 10 inches and a few can be larger since there is now a new 16" General lathe in the shop. If you can assist, contact [Ray Franklin](#) (250-656-5234) or [Andre Robin](#) (250-652-9677).



Instant Gallery at the January meeting

Photo: Peter Robin

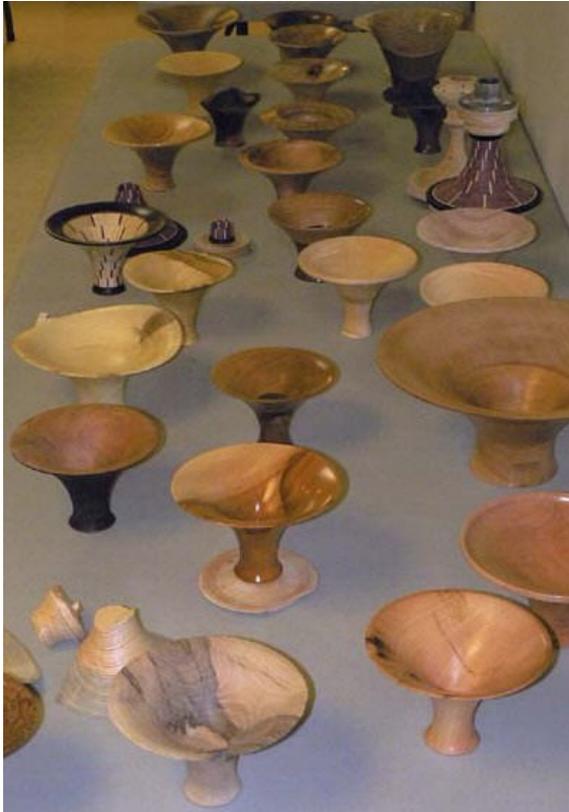
Challenge Bowl

by Cheryl Samuel

Often times we get caught up in the techniques of woodturning: which tool to use, what finish, how to cut, when to scrape... Curves are really fun to make, but we do not have to simply accept whatever happens when we put a piece of wood on the lathe.

The IWG Challenge this year is to learn about form: grace, proportion, and beautiful curves. Inspiration for this Challenge has come from the book [Turned Bowl Design](#) by Richard Raffan. Over the year, we will create bowls which encourage us to look at the basic curves and feel what it means to create them. Using templates taken from Raffan's book, we shall make a series of bowls which will help us understand what Shape, or Form, really means.

The Challenge started with a simple concave bowl. For the second one we worked with the opposite, or convex, curve. We are now on the third challenge, which is to combine these two curves into an ogee shape. The bowls are brought to the club meeting in brown paper bags, and each participant presents his or her work, sharing the triumphs and disasters.



Product Review: Two Excellent Abrasives

by Tim Soutar

I have recently acquired 2 new abrasive materials and highly recommend both.

Norton "Dry Ice" is a ceramic velcro backed abrasive. I have used it for dry sanding with great success. It stays sharp and cleans easily with a crepe block which translates to longer life. The grit size is reported to be very consistent so there are less erroneous scratches to deal with. It is relatively expensive (3" \$.70 each and 2" \$.50 each in quantity) but I feel that it is really a bargain given its performance.

The second is Mirka Abranet which is a mesh that is impregnated with abrasive and has a velcro back. It can be used wet or dry; I have used it mainly for wet sanding green wood. It should be used with a protector pad because it would be vulnerable to damage without it. The slurry that is created flows through the mesh and is easily cleaned under running water with a brush. Abranet is also quite expensive (about \$1.10 per 3" disk) but works better than anything I've tried.

A tip: When used on drill or orbital sander, sandpaper disks get damaged first on the outside edges. When a 3" disk becomes worn, it can be cut down to be used as a 2" disk, and when the edge on this one is worn, it can be cut again to become a 1" disk.

I purchased both from [The Sanding Glove](#) and found the folks there to be very helpful and knowledgeable. The Sanding Glove has a downloadable catalog but Dry Ice isn't in it. You have to ask for it.

Shop Talk

by Tom Benham

I really like to recycle old items. The stand that I use for my gouges and other frequently used wood turning tools is an example of giving new life to a very old item.

It was originally created in 1953 by my father as a stand for a 25 hp outboard motor. For many years it continued serving this purpose, but after I started wood turning it occurred to me that the original structure provided a platform for additional old pieces of wood which could hold my turning supplies. The original design included wheels. This was perfect for my situation as I do not have any convenient wall space for holding tools.....the customary design for most wood turners. It also allows me to move my tools to be within easy reach in any situation and between two different lathes.

This platform is a continuing design as I add more and more of those useful things that we continue to buy. Originally, I just used it to hold tools, but the convenience that I experienced while turning wood made me quickly realize that I could modify it further to provide space for sanding supplies. Currently, it is designed to have a two-sided function. Most of the things that I use when I turn are on one side, and my sanding supplies are on the other side. This makes switching paper grades as easy as changing gouges.



Parting Off

We sincerely hope you've enjoyed this first edition of the IWG News. We'd love to hear from you and we'll take one last opportunity to remind you that we rely on IWG members for articles, reviews, news, and pictures. Let us know what you'd like to see in your newsletter - or better still, write it up and send it to us!

All the best,

Andre, Tom, and Jeremy