



IWG News

The Newsletter of the Island Woodturners Guild

November 2024



About the IWG:

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

Visitors are welcome.

Executive Committee

President:
Don Costello

Vice President:
Don Robinson

Treasurer:
Chris Leach

Secretary:
Michael McEwan

Members at Large:
Hovan Baghdassarian
John Kilcoyne
Virginia Lee

Past President:
Tim Karpiak

The IWG gratefully acknowledges the support of the following companies:

- [Artisan Wood to Works](#)
- [Chipping Away](#)
- [Industrial Plastics & Paints](#)
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THE PRESIDENT'S TURN

Hello guild members.

It is that busy time of year for us. I found myself just getting back into normal routine after summer relaxation and vacation and all of a sudden it was Thanksgiving then Remembrance Day and bam, it is time for Christmas and all that it brings. Not just the decorating and visiting but for us turners it is a very busy time of the year either getting ready for Christmas markets, retail outlets, friends and family requests for an item or two or the most important task, creating our shopping list of must have tools and trinkets for the workshop that Santa must certainly have room in his sleigh for.

As president I have been given plenty of opportunities to meet guild members, new (to me) woodturners and have found all of you to be fantastic people that make me want to give back!

No one makes me feel this more than our own John Kilcoyne, who from my first day at the guild hall welcomed me with his sense of humour and welcoming smile. Today, I must share with you all that, for personal reasons, John has decided to step away from the guild and all guild activities. He will be missed as a very active member of the guild.

Finally, we have number of new members and urge everyone to welcome them to our community.

Hope to see you on Saturday.

Don Costello

NEXT MEETING: SATURDAY November 23: 1:00 p.m.



This meeting will feature a demonstration by Gord Kifiak on how he turns his two and three-dimensional flowers and the modifications he made in both tools and techniques.



This will be followed by a presentation of the *Show and Tell*.

REMINDER: FINAL CALL FOR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

The deadline for renewal was September 30th. Please note that there are **two** steps to do so.



First, you must complete online the application form which can be found here: <https://www.islandwoodturners.ca/membership-application/>.

Secondly, annual dues of \$50 must be paid either by e-transfer or cheque/cash. If you plan on paying your dues at the November meeting, cheques should be payable to "Island Woodturners Guild" and if by cash, exact amount would be appreciated.

SEPTEMBER RECAP

John Kilcoyne gave a presentation on pyrography and outlined the selection of woodburners and tips and demonstrated various techniques.

An unedited video of his presentation can be found here: <https://youtu.be/yvYj5vzd9kk> We were experiencing some video technical difficulties so the quality of the video may not be the best.

A recap of John's previous presentation on pyrography can be found in the Members' Area of our website here: [February-2021-Newsletter.pdf \(islandwoodturners.ca\)](#)

MINI 101: INTRODUCTION TO WOODTURNING?

We are in the process of offering (a **minimum of 6 members**), an introductory course for novice members – **those who have little or no turning experience.**

The 4-hour session, which would take place in the new year, would cover safety issues, sharpening techniques, demonstrations by senior turners and an opportunity for new members to practice various cutting techniques under the guidance of senior members of the Guild. The latter would focus on turning techniques and would not involve turning a finished product. It would take place on a Saturday in February 2025 at our regular meeting place. There would be charge of \$40 to cover the cost of hall rental and wood.



Before proceeding, we need to have a rough idea of whether there is sufficient interest. **If you are interested in attending such a session, please let Neil Bosdet know (neil@acresaway.ca)**

RECAP OF OCTOBER DEMONSTRATION



Kevin Jesequel is a woodturner living in Portland, Oregon. Taking an interest in hollow forms after the passing of his mother in 2020, he has quickly become recognized as one of the top hollow form artists today. His work has been published several times in *American Woodturner* and he has been a juried and invited artist to numerous exhibitions. He was selected by the American Association of Woodturner's POP Committee to receive the 2024 Artist Showcase at their annual symposium and enjoys demonstrating and teaching at clubs across the country. He is an active member of two local woodturning clubs and has served as president of Cascade Woodturner's Association in 2024.

He demonstrated his process for creating hollow forms with clean lines and small openings. Through a combination of hands-on turning and discussion, the demonstration included everything from selecting the wood to mounting it on the lathe and shaping the form to hollowing and finishing. Kevin also covered tool selection and use, ergonomics and body mechanics. He showed that hollow forms do not need to be complex or require expensive tooling.



An unedited video of his demonstration at our meeting can be found here: <https://youtu.be/gszZsdXgBcl>

Kevin makes his own tools.



A close up of the interior of the hollowform showing the reach of his hollowing tool.



HISTORY OF THE GUILD

Thanks to Andre Robin who started a project to document the beginning of our Guild so that we would remember where we came from. Andre gathered some info then procrastinated on it for a period of time. He wanted to continue to do some research before finalizing this project but he has come to realize that time is running out. A lot of our senior members are getting less active and some sadly have even passed away.

Andre decided the time is right to complete his version of this document and hope that your recollections of our early years mirror his. Some important information may have been missed and some members who contributed to the growth of the guild and were there from the beginning or some accomplishments that have occurred since may have been missed.

Being part of our Guild has been and is an incredible experience. Andre is not alone in feeling that the learning, the teaching, the connections, the camaraderie has been a very fulfilling experience and to be able to learn from one another and share the knowledge is most satisfying.

Lots has happened in the last 17 years.

PART 1

Island Woodturners Guild History *as recalled by André Robin*

Where did we come from?

I am not sure how many remember the humble beginnings of the Island Woodturners Guild. I had been wanting to document our history for years and had discussed this with a few of our past Presidents, all giving me the same answer that it was a great idea and wished me luck. Not quite the answer I was hoping for but nevertheless, I thought it was an important undertaking.

With the passing of time, it is hard to recollect exactly or even accurately. As our memory fades some facts may differ from what we think we remember. With that in mind I will take the first step and hopefully as this document develops, those that have knowledge of our history will chime in with more facts and stories.

Before the Guild

It was about 27 years ago, I am guessing 1997, or so that three enthusiastic turners, Ray Franklin, Phil Cottell and Mike Neal were at a Vancouver Island Woodworkers Guild meeting where they had a discussion about woodturning.

One of them proposed starting a Woodturning Group. Ray Franklin organized the Group and hosted the first meeting. I believe Ray, Phil, Mike and John Elmquist were amongst the first to participate in Group 1. This was the birth of what is now known as Woodturning in our area.

As time progressed the group grew in members and popularity. Claude Mury approached Ray Franklin about joining Group 1. Due to the increasing numbers wanting to join and the fact that the meetings took place in their private residences where space was limited, Ray suggested to Claude to organize a second group. Enthusiasts like Claude, Tim Soutar, Donald Porter, Graham Cox and a few others got together and Group 2 was born.

Around 2002 I met Christine Davidson and she invited me to a Group 2 meeting. At that time it was coordinated by Graham Cox. A few years later, out of necessity, as numbers were growing faster than could be accommodated in our small groups, Donald offered to form Group 3 which came about 2006.

As more and more enthusiasts were hearing about these Groups more wanted to join. We continued to grow and after few short years we had 5 active groups each having monthly meetings in each other's homes. Age and Covid took its toll on members. For a period of time some groups stopped meeting and restarted later.

Group 2 continued to meet outdoor in the summer and in the winter months indoor in my workshop.

In around 2008, during the period of growth and popularity of woodturning, an additional smaller Group of turners got together and formed Group 6. The original members for that Group were Brian Hayes, Hew Lines, Donald Porter and André.

This was organized as a hands-on group. Each member had a lathe and the project was determined ahead of time each one of us taking a turn at selecting the next project. The Group met weekly. Since then participating members have changed but the group remains active to this day. The projects have gotten a little more complex but the best part is about the socializing and camaraderie. This group is comprised of Lin Bayford, Mike Neal, Steve Werner and myself and meets in my workshop.

To be continued....

PARTING OFF

We are looking for members who are interested in doing a demo at our meetings or who can contribute an article for future newsletters.

Have you made a jig for a particular turning or do you have some tips on turning, sanding,

finishing, creating original turnings or anything that would be interesting to woodturners?
Identifying wood always makes for a fun discussion and would make for an interesting article.

The guild depends on members contributing and sharing their knowledge. Without members stepping up and contributing to the guild, we won't have a Guild!

Contact Don Robinson (tycondon@shaw.ca) for demos and Virginia (remoteva@gmail.com) for newsletter contributions.

CONCLUDING THOT

