



IWG News

The Newsletter of the Island Woodturners Guild

January 2025



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
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](#)
[Island Blue Print](#)
[KMS Tools](#)
[PJ White Hardwoods](#)
[Richelieu Hardware](#)
[William Wood-Write](#)

THE PRESIDENT'S TURN

Hello guild members.

As we turn the calendar to another year, I find myself reflecting on the incredible journey we've taken together as a guild. Each meeting, every project, and all the hours we've spent sharing our passion for woodturning have been nothing short of inspiring. It is this shared dedication and camaraderie that makes our guild truly special.

As many of you know, my term as President of the Guild will soon come to an end. I have decided to leave the position of President and Don Robinson has also decided that it is time for a new Vice President, we will both remain on the guild executive but feel it is time for some new leadership. It has been an honor to serve in this role, and I am grateful for the support and collaboration from each one of you. Now, the time has come for us to welcome new leadership—fresh ideas, new energy, and a continued commitment to our craft.

We are calling for nominations for the positions of President and Vice President for the upcoming term. If you have a passion for woodturning, a desire to contribute to our guild's growth, and the willingness to lead, I encourage you to step forward. Serving as a leader in our guild is an enriching experience, offering opportunities to shape the future of our community and inspire fellow woodturners.

To nominate yourself or another member, please send an email to me at President@islandwoodturners.ca. Include a brief statement about the nominee's background, which role you are nominating them for and why

We will hold elections during our next AGM on May 24th, 2025. I urge everyone to participate in this important process, as your voice and vote are vital to our guild's continued success. Thank you for your unwavering support and dedication. I look forward to seeing our guild flourish under new leadership and to continuing our journey together as a community of passionate woodturners.

Hope to see you on Saturday.

Don Costello

NEXT MEETING: SATURDAY January 25: 1:00 p.m.



This meeting will feature a remote Zoom demonstration by Dave Landers on turning a Kuska – Camper’s Coffee Cup.

A Kuksa (or Guksi) is a Scandinavian drinking cup for outdoorsmen traditionally carved from birch burl by its owner.

In this demo, Dave will show you his woodturners version of a Kuksa: a multi-axis turned cup.

The invite to the meeting will be sent out on Thursday, January 23rd. The demo will be followed by a presentation of the *Show and Tell*.

MINI 101: INTRODUCTION TO WOODTURNING

Thank You!

We have successfully filled two Mini 101 Workshops that will take place in February. Thank you to the organizer, Neil Bosdet, the mentors and assistants who have contributed their time to this project. We are

looking forward to meeting the new turners and encourage them to bring their first pieces to the February Show & Tell.

RECAP OF NOVEMBER DEMONSTRATION



Gord Kifiak demonstrated how he turns his very realistic looking flowers at our November meeting.

For a full write-up, you can read the in-depth article written by John Kilcoyne in a previous newsletter here: [Gord's Green Thumb](#). You will have to log into the Member’s Area as it is an archived newsletter.

Gord also turns beautiful vases to hold his realistic turned flowers.



Starting with a square blank, he uses a skew to create the flower's petals.

He describes how to get the longer, more realistic petals.

After dipping the "flower" into hot water for a minute, the flower is now ready for trimming.



Gord also covered how to dye the flowers.

An unedited video of his demonstration at our meeting can be found here: [link removed] *Email webmaster for link to video. Your membership will be verified.*

Thank you to Gord for doing this demonstration. It will be interesting

to see the members' attempts to replicate these flowers at the Show & Tells.

HISTORY OF THE GUILD...Part 2 continued

Thanks to Andre Robin who started a project to document the beginning of our Guild so that we would remember where we came from. If you missed it, you can read Part 1 in the [November 2024 Newsletter](#).

PART 2

Island Woodturners Guild History *as recalled by André Robin*

Leading up to our beginning

Early 2000 Woodturning had started to take hold in the area and many woodturners had joined smaller groups.

Around 2005, Graeme Evans had organized an art exhibition at the Royal Colwood Golf course where he was a member. This event was the first time local woodturners met together to display their work and socialize. It was very well attended and an opportunity for Harvey Brooks to present an idea of establishing a formal Guild associated with the American Association of Woodturners (AAW).

Harvey was asking members to show their interest by writing their names on a sign up a sheet that he was circulating. Around that time he had also gone to Tools and Space to drop off another sign up sheet to try to attract more members. In addition, he had asked if he could come to a Group 1 and a Group 2 meeting to inform members and draw up more interest. Fast forward to late 2006 or early 2007, Harvey contacted the AAW organization requesting a Guild information package.

The Guild was born

It was early 2007 when I was invited to a meeting with Group 3 at an apartment complex in Colwood. The name of the person living there was Harrold. Interestingly enough he had been given a corner of the basement of the building which he had transformed into his personal workshop with a lathe, small workbench, tools etcetera

At that meeting Harvey announced that he had finalized the details to formalize the group and subsequently a committee was formed to get the Guild registered as "The Island Woodturners Guild".

On May 5th 2007, the Executive of the day signed the original request to extend the AAW privileges to our Guild. The Guild was incorporated by the Province of British Columbia and registered with the Province Society Act on 12 September 2007.

The first Executive was comprised of Harvey Brooks as the President, Donald Porter as the Vice president, André Robin as the Secretary, Christine Davidson as Treasurer and Derek Wentworth as Member-At-Large. The first Executive meeting was held in Brentwood Bay at Smitty's Pancake House. This first Executive actively worked to set up the foundation for the Guild of today.

The **Mission Statement** was adopted as follows:

"Giving Back to the Community" which involves a commitment by the Guild to work alone or with other like-minded groups to use resources for charity in the Community.

Thank you to Andre for recording the history of the Guild.

IT'S YOUR TURN

Today the Guild can only exist with member involvement. This year comes with changes to our Executive and we need more members to step forward to contribute to the continued growth of the Guild. Currently, there is a small core of members who regularly contribute to the Guild and we would like to see that increase.

Are you looking for a way to give back and make a real impact? Join us in supporting our Guild as a volunteer and help us fulfill our mission of *Giving Back to the Community*.

We are currently seeking passionate, dedicated individuals who are eager to contribute their time, skills, and energy to help us achieve our goals. Whether you have a few hours to spare or can commit more regularly, your involvement will make a meaningful difference.

Who We're Looking For:

Executive Positions

- The current President is stepping down. We are looking for an enthusiastic individual who can lead our meetings and collaborate with the Executive team members.
- Our Vice President is also stepping down. This position holds the duties of responsibility for Programs – in person demonstrations and Interactive Remote Demonstrations (IRDs).

Our AGM takes place in May when we will be electing the 2025 Executive. The Executive Team meets once a month on the first Thursday of each month except for July and August.

Volunteer Positions

- **Newsletter Editor** and/or to contribute articles for the Newsletter
- Help with the Audio/Visual setup and take down for the in-person meetings. Training will be provided.
- Mentoring

- Assisting with workshops
- Photographer for the Show & Tell and the editing photos for the website. Training will be provided.
- People to assist with the set up and take down of the meeting room.
- 101 Workshop Mentors and Assistants
- Demonstrate a skill you have learned as a woodturner or provide ideas for demonstrations you would like to see. The demonstrations can be in your workshop as a remote demo (we come to you) or in person at the meetings.

Benefits of Turning Up:

- Gain hands-on experience in a nonprofit environment
- Meet like-minded individuals and become part of a supportive community
- Make a real impact and help us create lasting change

How to Turn Up: To learn more or to offer your time, contact Don Constello at president@islandwoodturners.ca. Contact Don Robinson (tycondon@shaw.ca) for demos and Virginia (remoteva@gmail.com) for newsletter contributions or volunteer to become the Newsletter Editor.

We rely on members contributing and sharing their knowledge. Without members turning up and contributing to the guild, we won't have a Guild!

As John Kilcoyne once so succinctly stated, *“The majority of the membership is content to accept the hard work of the few but are not interested in contributing.”* It was one of his biggest concerns that the Guild would cease to exist without more members turning up. It is not that hard to volunteer.

Together, we can keep the Guild active and interesting for the members. We can't wait to welcome you to our team!

15 MINUTES OF FAME



These are Don Robinson's own words...his 15 minutes of fame. Don's turnings were featured in the December 2024 AAW Magazine, page 56. Well earned 15 minutes of fame!

KMS TOOLS AND THE ISLAND WOODTURNERS GUILD

If you shop at KMS Tools make sure you sign up for a KMS Club account. There is no cost involved and you will save money on your purchases. Bear in mind that this is NOT a charge account.

KMS Tools has a program called Group Rewards which assists organizations such as our Guild. The Island Woodturners Guild participates in this program. Through this program KMS contributes a small percentage of members' purchases to an account in the Guild's name. The funds contributed to this account are used by the Guild to purchase items to fulfill operational requirements. This program benefits the Guild but does not benefit the individual member.

In order for your purchases to count toward this program your KMS Club account needs to be connected to the Guild Group rewards account. On your next visit to KMS, before the cashier rings through your purchases, please ask that they "confirm that your KMS Club account is linked to the Island Woodturners Guild Group Rewards account" (*NOT the Island Woodworkers Guild*). If it isn't already linked please ask them to link it.

The Guild has used funds generated through this program to purchase such as chucks, jaws, supplies needed for workshops and Gift Cards used as prizes.

If anyone has any questions please email secretary@islandwoodturners.ca or see Mike McEwan at a Guild meeting.

THE TURNING WORLD HAS LOST ANOTHER MASTER

Contributed by Andre Robin and Steve Werner



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of John Kilcoyne, a long-time member of our Guild. John joined the Island Woodturners Guild many years ago and was recognized immediately as a leader in our craft. Standing out for his intricate and complicated turnings, he was also highly regarded for his amazing pyrographic skill.

As a member of the Executive, one of many of his contributions was as the Editor of the newsletter for the past 10 years. John put his heart and soul in this project and countless hours

of his time to ensure that we would have an informative and meaningful document to read each month.

John was very generous with his time and offered many private workshop sessions to Guild members and one on-one-sessions to anyone who would ask. John will be long remembered as having left an indelible mark on the Guild and an undeniably nice guy.

PARTING OFF



Thanks to the Executive and all the volunteers for their continued work to keep the Guild operating.

CONCLUDING THOT

