



IWG News

The Newsletter of the Island Woodturners Guild

March 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

Interim Newsletter Editor:
Virginia Lee

The IWG gratefully acknowledges the support of the following companies:

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THE PRESIDENT'S TURN



Happy St. Patrick's Day, Island Woodturning Guild!



May your day be as vibrant and full of life as the lush green fields of Ireland.

As we celebrate this day, let's take a moment to appreciate the beauty in every piece of wood we turn, just as the Irish appreciate the richness of their culture and heritage. Here's to the creativity, craftsmanship, and camaraderie that bind us together.

A Woodturner's Tale: The Luck of the Irish Tree

In a small village in Ireland, there stood an ancient oak tree known as the "Lucky Tree." Legend had it that this tree possessed magical properties, and anyone who crafted something from its wood would be blessed with extraordinary luck. The villagers revered the tree and only used its wood for special occasions.

One day, a skilled woodturner named Kate, who was a proud member of our woodturning guild, stumbled upon a fallen branch from the Lucky Tree.

Excited by the opportunity, she brought it back to her workshop and began to craft a beautiful bowl. As she turned the wood, she felt a sense of connection with the tree and the generations of craftsmen who had worked with its wood before her.

When Kate finished the bowl, she noticed something extraordinary. The grain patterns formed intricate Celtic knots, and the bowl seemed to shimmer with a golden hue. She brought the bowl to the village, and it quickly became a symbol of luck and prosperity.

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PRESIDENT'S TURN....cont.

From that day on, Kate's craftsmanship was celebrated far and wide, and she shared her story with our guild. The tale of the Lucky Tree reminds us that there is magic in our work and that each piece we create carries a bit of our passion and skill.

Wishing you all a joyful St. Patrick's Day filled with inspiration and creativity. Sláinte!



Also, a reminder that we are still looking for lucky people to join our guild executive as president and vice-president.

Hope to see you on Saturday.



Don Costello

NEXT MEETING: SATURDAY March 22nd: 1:00 p.m.



This meeting will feature a hybrid demonstration by Craig Timmerman who will be showing us how to turn a **Flying Bowl**. Turning bowls from parallelogram shapes (square, rectangle, rhombus, rhomboid), Craig typically turns a rhombus shaped bowl with wings that curve down, but in this demo, will demonstrate the flying bowl shape. This demo is best done on a lathe with a 16" or

larger swing. On smaller lathes he demonstrates a basic winged bowl using a square blank.

The Zoom invite to the meeting will be sent out on Thursday, March 20th. The demo will be followed by a presentation of the *Show and Tell*.

RECAP OF FEBRUARY DEMONSTRATION



This meeting featured a hybrid demonstration by Kai Munzer who showed us how to turn an elegant cube shaped box with winged corners that has a sphere shaped inside. He explored a unique box shape and taught us how to build a dedicated wooden clamp in addition to many other skills.

You can find the video and handout on our website in the [Member's Only Area](#).

NEWBIES' CORNER

We are very pleased to introduce a new regular contributor to the newsletter, A.M. Turner. A.M. Turner will be contributing articles aimed primarily at the newer turners in our Guild but the "oldsters" may even learn a thing or two.

Sourcing Free Wood for Woodturning: Your Ultimate Guide

Woodturning is a delightful craft that transforms raw wood into beautiful, intricate pieces. But let's be honest, wood can be expensive! Fortunately, there are numerous ways to source free wood for your projects. Here are some top tips:

1. Local Tree Services

Reach out to local arborists and tree removal services. Often, they're more than happy to give away wood rather than pay disposal fees. Build a relationship with them, and you might become their go-to person for leftover wood—think of it as a mutual "wood-en" friendship.

2. Storm Damage

After storms, many homeowners have fallen trees or branches that they need to dispose of. Post on local community boards or social media groups offering to help clean up in exchange for the wood. It's like a win-win: you get wood, and they get to avoid a headache—stormy weather, stormy friendships!

3. Construction Sites

Construction and demolition sites can be treasure troves for free wood. Ask site managers if you can take offcuts, beams, or other wood that's otherwise destined for the landfill. Ensure you have permission and follow safety guidelines. Just don't be surprised if you start seeing them eyeing your coffee and donut.

4. Craigslist and Freecycle

Websites like Craigslist and Freecycle often have listings for free wood. Keep an eye on the "free" section and be ready to act quickly when something good pops up. If you blink, you might miss it—just remember to keep those refresh skills sharp!

5. Firewood Sellers

Contact firewood sellers and ask if they have any pieces unsuitable for splitting. These often include unique shapes and sizes that are perfect for woodturning. You might get

the oddest looks, but hey, one man's trash is another man's crafting treasure!

6. Recycling Centers

Some recycling centers or transfer stations allow people to take wood and other materials for free. Call ahead to see if they have a program like this. It's like a scavenger hunt for grown-ups, with the bonus of helping out Mother Earth.

7. Roadside Finds

While driving around, keep an eye out for wood left by the curb. People often put out branches, logs, or even furniture they no longer want. Always make sure it's okay to take it. Just make sure you have enough room in your car—because nothing says "I love woodturning" quite like driving home with a log in the passenger seat.

8. Community Gardens or Farms

These places often have prunings and branches they need to dispose of. You might be the superhero they never knew they needed, swooping in to save the day (and take the wood).

9. Other Guild Members and Woodturners

Woodturners, in my experience, tend to be generous with not only their time but also their wood supply. Don't be afraid to occasionally put an ask out for a piece of wood or two, especially if you have a specific project in mind. Just be prepared for them to ask you to reciprocate with your finest finished pieces!

Conclusion: With a bit of resourcefulness and a keen eye, you can find an abundance of free wood for your woodturning projects. Just remember to always ask for permission when taking wood from private property or business premises and follow safety protocols when handling reclaimed wood.

So go forth, fellow woodturner, and may your shavings be plentiful and your wood always free!

Happy turning!

A.M. Turner

P.S. If you have a specific topic you would like me to write about just let the guild know, they will pass it along to me.

A.M. Turner – Bio



woodworkers alike into a world where imagination and tradition intertwine.

Nestled in the serene forests of Vancouver Island, **A.M. Turner** is an artisan, storyteller, and master of craftsmanship. With a cozy workshop filled with well-loved tools and the scent of fresh cedar, Turner finds magic in the details and loves to share them with others who are interested in the delicate art of turning wood and the quiet beauty of handmade things. A.M. Turner celebrates the connection between craft and storytelling, inviting readers and

FOR NEWBIE TURNERS: SOURCES FOR INSPIRATION

Bowl Shaping Guide



From Pinterest comes a handy Bowl Shaping Guide. Pinterest is also a great “time waster” for getting ideas for woodturning.

Another source for “How To’s” is [Richard Raffan’s](#) books and videos.

We also have Mentors who are willing to spend time with new turners either in their workshop or your workshop. You can find them on the Member’s List on our website in the Member’s Only Area.

[World of Woodturners](#) (see February’s issue for full description) You do not have to be an experienced woodturner to join. You will find the website to be a great source of inspiration. Some of our members are “lurkers” and some are participants, sharing photos of their turnings.

RAFFLE

We have a raffle at each meeting. The \$5 tickets can win you a prize AND help us pay for the hall rental. Look for the member with the coffee can to purchase your tickets. Tickets are drawn during the Show & Tell.

FYI...Member’s Only Area on the website

At the end of each October, anyone who hasn’t paid their membership dues is marked expired in the Member’s Area of our website. If you try to log in, you won’t be able to. If you were a member and pay late, when you try to log in, you may not be able to if your online registration hasn’t been re-activated. Pop an email to membership@islandwoodturners.ca or Virginia at webmaster@islandwoodturners.ca to be re-activated.

THIRD CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS IT'S YOUR TURN

Again, we are asking members to step up to volunteer. The hard-working core group of members feel the pressure of keeping the Guild going and have the constant worry that *if enough members don't step up, the Guild will cease to exist*. 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.

Volunteering for these positions really won't take up a lot of your time. The Executive meet once a month (online). Frankly put, if the two positions are not filled, we won't have a Guild.

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 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.

Volunteer Positions


- **Newsletter Editor** and/or to contribute articles or ideas for the Newsletter. *Happily, a few members have stepped up to contribute articles to the Newsletter but we can always use more.*
- Help with the Audio/Visual setup and take down for the in-person meetings. Training will be provided. **This position is a fill in position to cover for the A/V volunteer(s) in the case of absence.**
- Mentoring
- Assisting with workshops
- People to assist with the set up and take down of the meeting room.
- 101 Workshop Mentors and Assistants – this is for next year 2026

- 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)
 - an “in the can” demo where your demo is videoed in advance and you appear in person at a meeting to narrate it and answer questions
 - or at in-person at the meetings.
 - If you can’t or don’t want to demo, your ideas for demonstrators/demonstrations are welcomed.

Benefits of Turning Up: *Keeping the Guild active!*

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.

PARTING OFF



NEW

Arbutus Hollow Vessel

19
Photo of Day

Congratulations to Tim Soutar. Not only did he have several **WoW** Cover Photos for a day, but he earned the Artist of the Month!



NEW

Maple Burl Bowl

24
Photo of Day



Dogwood Pieces

23
Photo of Day

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Tim Soutar - Artist of the Month - March 2025

This month's featured artist is Tim Soutar. I met Tim for the first time in person at the 2024 Portland AAW Symposium. Of course, I was already familiar with his work, but if I hadn't I would have simply thought he was a genuinely nice and charming guy. I say that to emphasize that Tim, as a person, is on the same level as his art work. When you look through [his album](#), you see one winner after another. He is meticulous with his details and finishes, and is a creative, highly skilled, form-first woodturner. I'm certainly excited whenever he posts new work...we all are!

CONCLUDING THOT

