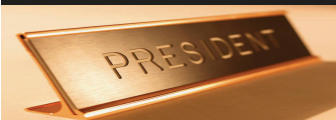


NEWSLETTER

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December 2012

VOLUME 8



Message from Colleen Samila, President



Well, time is flying as we seem to always say. I can't believe we are prepping for the December newsletter, where did 2012 go? For me it has been a year of ups and downs, good health, bad health, a wonderful vacation, a happy wedding day and mixed in there a number of funerals. It just seems to be that type of year is what I am hearing from everyone.



The bride. Photo included
at request of the Editor

After Rays funeral service I was all gung ho to write the article for the newsletter; the warmth I felt at the reception in Little Britain, all the members that attended – seeing the great display of Rays woodturnings, family photos, carvings. I didn't know he carved! Any way, it was all a bit overwhelming and yet such an incredibly warm atmosphere. Lois held in there like a trooper welcoming everyone, and knowing everyone at the door! What a wonderful lady, Ray will be missed! Please see page 10 for obituaries written by Richard. We also lost Greg Mathieu and Al Siwak. It has been a sad year for the WGO.

I can't help but reiterate the desire to have the biographies in the newsletter. We come to the meetings every month, sometimes twice if you go to skills night and I still don't know enough about everyone. We are such a great group of people, all with the same hobby and yet so many other diverse interests. We need to share!! Okay, enough about that!

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Trinela is working hard on finding some wonderful turners for the next year.

This Newsletter will be coming out after the 18th of November; I do hope everyone got out to see Judy Ditmer.

If there are turners you would like to see, or if you have a topic you would like covered in either our monthly meeting or our skills night, let us know. Between Max, Trinela and the rest of the gang, we are willing and able to accommo-

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IT's YOUR GUILD - BE INVOLVED !

Share your talent and learn from others at
the same time.

Do you have ideas for us ?
Please tell us how you can help -
e-mail the editor at:
WGOeditor@gmail.com

Jack Gelber, Biography

He graduated university as an engineer. Jack reported that he was always interested in 'building stuff' but was never very creative. He preferred straight lines and simple styles.

He took a cabinet making course in Alberta at the Apprentice college to learn complex components and refine his skills. With these new skills under his belt he embarked on new projects: dining tables, wall units, beds, and other case goods for his family and friends.

Jack was introduced to wood turning several years ago by the WGO display at a Wood show. The WGO displayers got him hooked on woodturning. Michael Bonnycastle and Penny McCahill were his first mentors. He claims to still be a novice turner but soon expects to take more time to practise and get better,



He inherited an original Beaver lathe that still sits in his garage but is rarely used because the gravity driven belt does not have much power.

A few years ago Jack purchased a Steel City mini lathe that lets him do stuff up to 9" diameter and is good for now.

He has experimented with many kinds of bowls, even some with lids. He keeps learning and turns mostly for the pleasure and making gifts for friends and family. It is fun to make these things and to try many different styles.

The piece he likes to make the most is a Spurtle^{**}; something Richard Pikul had demonstrated a while back. They have been a lot of fun to make and give away. Thanks to Peter S. Jack gets many different wood species for the variety.

Like many of us Jack is a tool junkie and keeps trying different ones for the experience. He thinks the easiest tool to use is the 3/4 roughing gouge and it probably gets used more than any other except the 1/2 bowl gouge with a finger-nail grind. He learned to bowl gouge using a 'push' cut from a few seminars we have had and a few tips he obtained from Bruce Campbell who demonstrated a few years ago.

He has no favourite tool because he likes them all, even some of the thick scrapers.

His shop is primarily in the basement where all construction occurs except for the major table saw in the garage.

Jack says the only thing he is missing right now is a chain saw to cut down logs he acquires from time to time. He also needs more space to store inventory while it is drying. He has very little inventory compared to our avid turners but the new Peter/John outlet always has what he might want. Jack would like it known that if some of the readers want to dispose of their excess wood he would be pleased to make a deal.

Jack still works full time as a sales person working from home and turning has become his therapy after a full day with customers. It is a wonderful and relaxing experience that has tangible results that are very satisfying even if his efforts are not perfect.

Unfortunately and fortunately, WGO has shown him what could be possible and it keeps him pushing to do better. One day he may have to make it to the AAW symposium but is afraid it might blow his credit limit and he would not make it back with purchases.

So for the time being he will have to plan to get an almost full size lathe with a necessary dust extractor when he has the skill, time and space to do it more regularly.

His membership in the WGO has been very rewarding, he reports. The Guild has operated as a guild of old; helping new people learn new skills and sharing. He hopes to be able to do the same for others when asked.

Jack is on the WGO Executive as a member at large and is our Guild's equipment manager.

^{**} Click on [Spurtle](#) in case you are like the editor and do not know what it is.



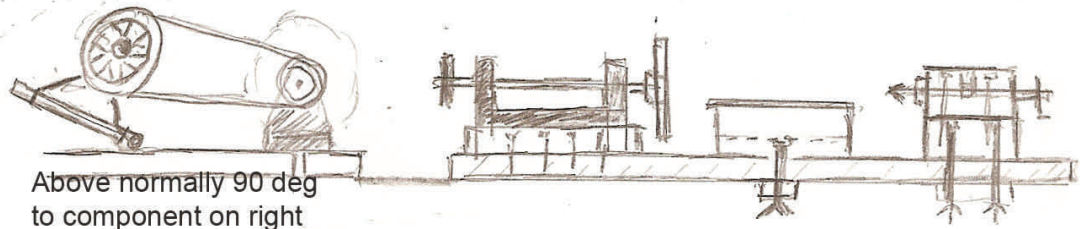
Robin Bryan Autobiography

I was introduced to woodworking in school in the 1940's and worked with hand tools in the basement with my father. In the early 50's I went away to school, and then to military college and the army, and woodworking ended. In 1973 while serving in London Ont. I started again in the hobby shop where I was introduced to power tools and I started to make furniture from walnut trees I salvaged from a storm. I still have some walnut planks in my wood pile.



In 1976, in Ottawa, one of my children brought home a turning they had made at school and I decided that I should give it a go. My first lathe (see sketch) was made on top of a converted picnic table/work bench in my basement shop. The 2x6" top boards had 3/8" spaces between them and the first one from the front became the tailstock slot. I mounted an old

furnace motor to a board on large a hinge to drive a 1/2" Canadian Tire threaded mandrel onto a plumbing fixture as a face plate. The tail stock was made of



2 4x4s - 6" long, the lower drilled with 2 - 3/8" centered holes to take 3/8" a threaded rod to anchor it through the bench top slots with wing nuts when tightened. The top 4x4 - 6" was center drilled through its' length and a 1/2" threaded rod with a cone point ground on one end inserted through a nut and washer for locking, and a nail hole drilled in the other for tightening, and screwed through a nut imbedded in the centre. The tail stock base 4x4" was moved forward and the cone point centered on the face plate, and it was then screwed onto the bottom one. My tool rest was made from 2 - 2x6" pieces, again anchored through the bench slot with a steel bar fastened to its' top. I now had my first lathe with a 6" swing. A friend had a shop with a table saw and I was able to saw my "London" walnut into segments and I started scraping my first bowls screwed to the face plate. My scrapers were ground files that I had collected and I still use some of them which I grind to specific shapes.

In 1982, after retiring from the army and going to work at U of T, I moved into my current house in Markham, where a good portion of the basement became my shop and I started collecting power tools, many ancient quality giveaways from acquaintances. I bought a Canada Tire 12x36 Delta lathe, a universal tool stand that had to have the legs extended with 2x4's to raise it, a set of tools in a wooden box and continued to teach myself to turn.

In 1994 I retired again, semi permanently. I registered Robin Wood Innovations and provided services related to woodworking and equipment. I worked part time at Busy Bee Machine Tools, then for a couple of years as a cabinet-maker in the showroom of a small Shaker Furniture shop, making custom furniture, entering craft sales and enjoying putting my hobby of woodworking to work. While at Busy Bee I met Martin Groneng who introduced me to the WGO which at the time met at the Markham District High School, and Dave Moore who lived nearby became my first of many mentors. Some time in this period, Canadian Tire got rid of their stock of Record mini lathes for \$200 and a lot of us invested in "Travel/Demo" lathes (picture above). Mine still sits in my garage and gets a few workouts each year.

My wife and I belong to the local Markham "Older Adults in Action" club where I exercise for 1 hour each on Tuesday and Thursday mornings and do watercolour painting on Mondays and acrylic painting on Thursdays for 2 hours each morning. In addition there is normally a day trip of interest each month. I/we take July and August off to maintain the swimming pool.

In my spare time I enjoy cooking, gardening and fixing things. I have enjoyed doing volunteer work with the local Evergreen Hospice for the 25 years, and also being the Treasurer of the Woodturning Guild of Ontario for many years.

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

I travel to Australia every year to visit my wife's family and travel there and around the world with a singing group we joined there called "Sing Australia", for those who like to sing but not necessarily any good at it. We would probably retire there if it weren't for three Canadian children and nine grand-children, 3 in Ottawa and 6 in Calgary requiring numerous family visits, and a largish house that would require emptying.

Below are some of my turnings.



Wig Stand– Threaded Post Connections Robin Bryan

With the right tools it is very simple to have thread post connections for wig stands. Turn a $\frac{3}{4}$ " long $\frac{1}{2}$ " dowel on each end of the post, and then feed them through the die to cut the threads. Drill a $\frac{7}{16}$ " hole in the stand top and base to just over the length of the dowel. Start the interior thread with the tapered tap then thread to the bottom with the none-tapered one. They work best on close grained hardwoods.

We could have a "Tap and Die" night at a meeting where those who want to can bring their stands in for threading.

The tools to perform the threading are shown on the right.



EWT Turning Tools, A Review

Peter K. Kaiser



I've read several positive reviews of EWT turning tools with carbide cutters. These reviews were written by master turners. I thought perhaps it might be of interest to have a review from a novice turner.

In order to learn about and see these tools click on the following EWT website. <http://www.easywoodtools.com>

My experience is with the following EWT turning tools:

- Easy Rougher with the Ci3 cutter
- Easy Finisher with the Ci0 cutter
- Easy Finisher with the Ci3 cutter
- Easy Detailer with the Ci4M cutter
- Easy Hollower with the Ci0 cutter

Previous to using the EWT tools I have had experience with many of the tools turners use including bowl gouges, spindle gouges, various hollowing tools, parting tools and scrapers.

When I first used the Easy Finisher I was struck by how simple it was to use and how quickly it removed wood. When I used the tool with the Ci0 cutter running the lathe at recommended high speeds, the inside and especially the bottom of bowls was left with a very smooth finish, requiring only 320 or higher grit sand paper to complete the bowl before final polishing it with appropriate finishing chemical.

Talking about bowls, I used to hollow them out using a bowl gouge. Now I find it much easier to drill a hole using a forstner bit almost to the bottom of the bowl. Then I use the Easy Rougher to remove most of the remaining wood. This leaves the inside of the bowl rather rough. EWT demos claim you can use the Finishing tool to remove the remainder of the wood. I found it easier to use my bowl gouge to complete the wood removal and then use the Easy Finisher tool to fine tune the inside before sanding.

I have made a few hollow form pieces and always found it difficult to do a good job getting a decent finish on the inside. However, with the Easy Hollower I found it much easier to clear out wood and leave a nice finish. This is useful when the opening to the hollow form is small and one can not easily sand the inside.

The Easy Detailer can be used for many intricate cuts. I found it especially useful when it is difficult to turn the item around and set it in the chuck so the bottom could be finished. To part the turned piece from the end in the chuck, I used the Easy Detailer in such a way that the base of the piece is under cut a bit. The Easy Detailer leaves a nice enough finish of the bottom so that final finishing is easily accomplished by hand.

In summary, for a novice most of the turning is more easily accomplished with the EWT tools than with ordinary gouges, scrapers and hollowing tools. I suppose that is why the name of the company is Easy Wood Tools. Purchasing the EWT turning tools was also very easy, I just went to Woodchuckers.



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Views, comments and recommendations expressed by individuals contributing to this newsletter do not necessarily represent those of the Woodturners Guild of Ontario.

WARNING! Woodturning is an inherently dangerous active activity. Readers should not attempt any process or procedure described in this publication without seeking proper training and detailed information on the safe use of tools and machines.



Photos From Skills Night

Colleen Samila, Photographer



Just a small cut on my ring finger

Show and Tell



Russell Wilson



Shawn Hermans



Jogi Makhani Demo With Epoxy Coloring



Jogi mixes his colors



Dilapidated bowl completing with coloured epoxy



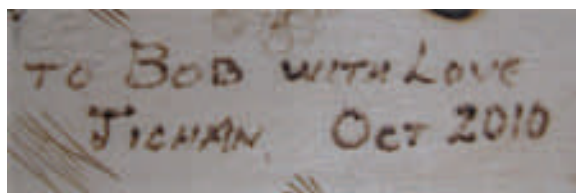
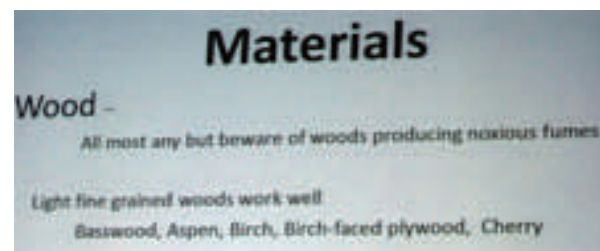
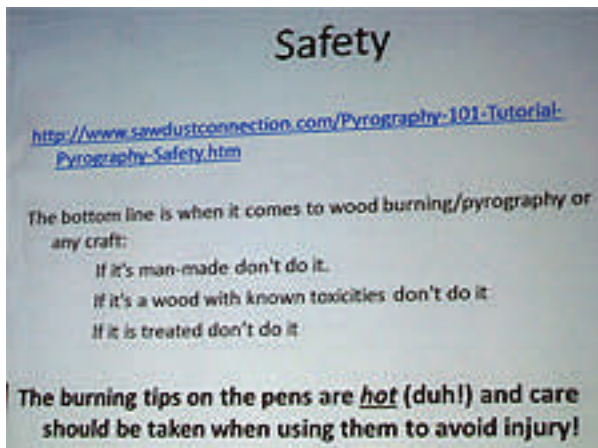
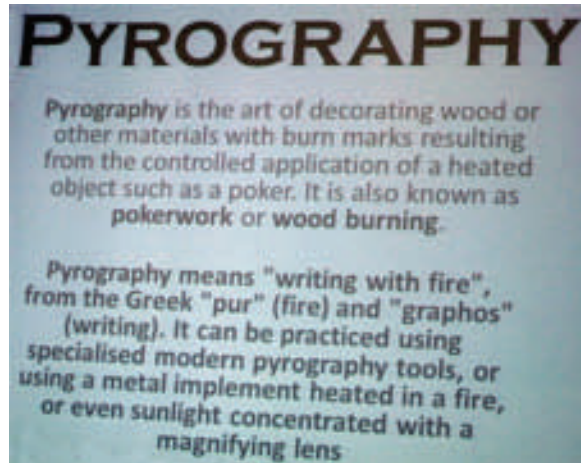
Dilapidated bowl restored



Tom Matthews Demonstrates Pyrography



Tom wood burns small animal. See complete drawing bottom center



Random Photos From September Meeting



Collecting Annual Dues



Show and Tell Table Starting To Fill



Members waiting for Jogi's Demo to Start



More Show and Tell



⇐ Items for purchase ⇒



It has been a sad year for the WGO

Richard Pikul

We lost our President, Jack Wallace in December 2011 ([March 2012 newsletter](#)). Since this past August, we have also said goodbye to three more of our members. The following is a tribute to them, and a record of some of their contributions to our guild.

GREG MATHIEU, AUGUST 2, 2012

Greg died working on his pet project, a restored 1967 Plymouth Barracuda. Greg was one of those rare individuals who could do almost anything he attempted. Within a year of learning to turn, he won a ribbon for his efforts against tough competition.

He leaves behind his wife Daniella and two children.

Greg was always one to step forward to contribute his skills to support our guild's activities. He was not a WGO member for very many years, but his tenure with us left a mark. Greg and his family lived in the west end of Toronto, and for a while he was a member of both the WGO and the Toronto Woodturner's Guild.

Like many of our other gifted members, Greg also had other interests. He could share a good tune on a guitar and meticulously restored a 1967 Plymouth Barracuda sports car - in time for his wedding to Daniella. Greg was working on a similar restoration of a 1969 Dodge Charger RT.



ALEXANDER (AL) SIWAK, October 7, 2012

Family was number one, a stairway wall filled with family photos greeted him and visitors on the way to the workshop. Al leaves behind his wife and Ronnie's two daughters, sons-in-law, five grandchildren and their families.

Al was gifted with a straight forward and generous personality, always willing to advance the skills of novice turners. He was willing to share his immaculate, well cared for and impressive workshop to those who needed to practise and learn.

In addition to woodturning, Al was also a knowledgeable photographer and a collector of woodworking hand tools. Beautiful pieces of wood and the best tools graced his shop – the Cocobolo shelves caught all visitor's eyes.

Al shared his shop, equipment and knowledge with more than a few fellow turners – sharpening skills, tools and friendships.

His daughter's words are the best description anyone could write about Al: "A life filled with love, laughter, artistry, adventure, family and friends is a life well-lived."



(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

RAY YOUNG, October 17, 2012

Ray's bright personality, quick wit, turning knowledge and generosity will be missed by all.

He was a member of many Ontario guilds, an excellent turner with a natural sense of design, composure and presentation. He was a regular at our guild meetings, moderating the Show and Tell, calling for members to buy raffle tickets, selling sandpaper or just making sure we didn't take ourselves too seriously.

He was a wonderful resource for bowl turning techniques, wood characteristics, and just about anyone in the woodturning community. Most of all, he was generous with his time and his sense of humour.



Born and raised in the east end of Toronto, Ray always enjoyed nature and the outdoors and harboured a strong desire to live in the country. Once their family had matured, Ray and his wife Lois turned the desire into reality by relocating in 1998 to Little Britain, Ontario, northeast of Toronto.

Originally a wood carver, he started turning wood about 17 years ago and has never ceased to be challenged and fulfilled by the creativity that this art permits. He enjoyed working with many different types of wood, but by far the most interesting were burls, which he turned into nested sets of bowls.

He exhibited his creations at various competitions across Ontario, and the proud recipient of many awards for his well crafted (often large) platters and bowls. All of our meetings, for years, were generously provided with turning wood for the draw table from his magical source.

Ray's work, always impressive, well made, with a gleaming finish.

Some Interesting Links

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| An eccentric goblet | http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IW7IG_z2q1U |
| How to color woodturning | http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N9dmkDhBp0w |
| Turn a natural edge bowl | http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ih25sOxxLhw |
| Preparing a log for turning | http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=55ma85jWM18 |
| Cyanoacrylate glue | http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SMYHrYleN2Y |

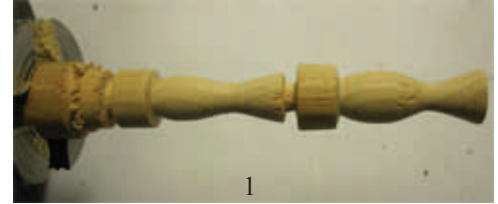
Editor's Note: It would be much appreciated if when members find interesting links that they send them to wgoeditor@gmail.com and he will post them in this Newsletter for everyone to enjoy.

Turning A Bird

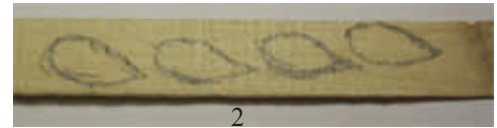
Robin Bryan



Blanks and Birds – Between centers, turn down your blank to the largest width of the body or the tail of the birds and to a length to accommodate the number of your birds and the parting of them off. (See Figure 1) Start at the tail stock end and turn a concave cone to the left, to the length of the tail and down to the width to fit the top view of the bird's tail where it meets the body. Then turn a convex ellipse to the left to the neck/head junction, to fit the side view of the bird's body. End the ellipse as vertically as possible to assist in the shaping of the back of the head (cardinal or blue jay), and mark off the tip of the beak for parting off. Repeat for the number of birds you are turning, changing profiles as needed to fit the sizes and shapes of your next birds. Sand the tails and bodies as necessary and part off the individual birds.



WINGS– Cut a piece of your chosen wood 1/16" thick and wider than your wing. (See Figure 2) Sand as necessary, sketch on the wing profiles and then cut them out with scissors.



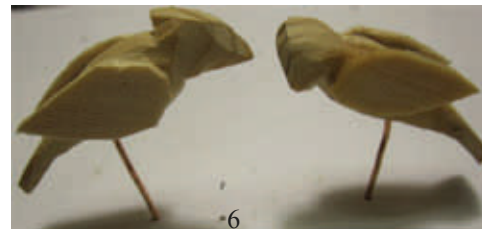
SIDE PROFILE– Using a 1" belt sander or rasps, shape the tail down as in the photograph below, or to the angle wanted. (See Figure 3) Sand the head profile for the bird facing forward looking up or down, or to a new centre line if you want the head turned as is the bird on the right.



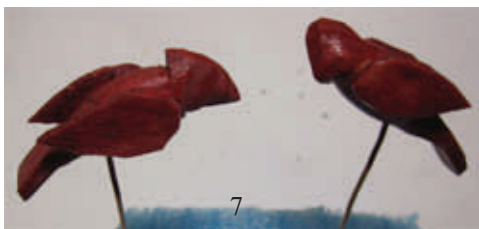
BOTTOM PROFILE– Sand a small flat spot on each side of the body for gluing on the wings. (See Figure 4) Shape the width of the tail as in the photograph below, or to the shape wanted. Shape the head top/bottom profile for the bird facing forward or to a new centre line if you want the head turned to the left, as is the bird on the right in the photograph below, or to the right.



WINGS AND LEGS – Drill a small hole for the leg wire and glue in if necessary. Glue on the wings and let glue set. (See Figures 5 and 6)



PAINTING and COLOURING– Paint the whole bird with the base colour and stand it in a piece of Styrofoam to dry. When dry, use black and coloured markers/pencils/paints to put on the remaining details. (See Figures 7 and 8)



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