

NEWSLETTER

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December 2010

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 4



Message from Jack Wallace, President



The season has started again and we have some wonderful activities planned for you to enjoy. I expect you have been busy turning this summer so I do look forward to a great season of show and tell.

In September I travelled west to Vancouver to attend the West Coast Roundup. I declare it as a great success. I took a day of hands on with Michael Husaluk and we did thin wall bowls, baseballs and strange boxes. He is very much interested in what he calls Beyond the Box. Lots of fun, a great teacher and I do hope we can have him visit this season.

I sat in on sessions with Nick Cook, Art Liestman, Jason Marlow Alain Millard and others, and came home with more Ideas than I can handle in a lifetime. Over time I hope to be able to show some of these myself.

After the Roundup Anne and I traveled north to Klemtu, a native lodge 200 KM south of Prince Rupert and located on the edge of the Ocean. We spent a week with Guides travelling by launch through the fiords of the last remaining original temperate rain forest in the World searching for the Spirit Bears. According to legend when the Lord made the world and created Black Bears He made the last one white to remind people that He also made snow. This is the only location in the world where these White Spirit bears live. One in ten is born white because of a recessive gene.

To find them we travelled by boat 65 KM into the wilderness and believe me that is what it is! On the way we found whales, porpoises in the water and grizzlies all feasting on the salmon navigating to spawning grounds. We even watched from 50 ft away a sow and her cub sitting in the middle of an estuary pulling a 20 pound salmon apart. And then we found our target. (See Photo on page 2)

This year I am pleased to tell you that we will now have each demo recorded to DVD immediately and it can be available from the library when you want. We are also setting up the library with bar-coding for record keeping. Many thanks to Dave Rive, Tom Mathews and Shawn Herman for making all this happen.

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See page 11 for a full list of WGO Executive Officers and volunteers

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



Isn't he cuddly

Thanks to Dave Rive for a job well done and welcome Richard Pikul as the new webmaster.

Don't forget the Christmas Party on December 9, 2010 and finally we will repeat the "oops Table" again this Year.

We had a great year and I look forward to serving you as President in 2011

A Call To All Pen Turners

Joseph Kappy



Hello Gentleturners:::)))

PEN TURNING:

Making a pen: something you hold and use daily, an exhibit of your interest and talent, or a gift to others, is very satisfying. Today, there are too many choices of materials and styles to fully absorb.

The final pen is a product of these choices and no two should be identical.

If there is an interest in discussing and sharing materials, approaches, procedures and special revelations, then we should schedule a Sunday meeting at Humber



John Andruskiw Obituary Mark Salusbury



John was about as quiet a guy as you'd ever meet, though a big man physically he could enter a room and leave and you'd hardly notice. I'm writing this down to remember him myself and to give him substance and presence for you which he's unable to.

John was a member for decades, always sat in the seat at the best vantage point so he could see and understand in detail, along with Denis Lalonde who he traveled with from Oshawa. He seldom spoke and probably only contributed when he felt it was appropriate or needed. He participated in the competitions, usually platters and treen which he made for the event but were always meant as gifts for his wife or other family members.

John always strived for the best and spent the time and money to try almost everything at least once or until he was satisfied with the results, then it was time to try something else.

Before he was diagnosed with cancer / mesothelioma, about a year ago, he'd been trying to perfect his finishes; he'd improved the quantity and quality of light around his work areas and taking sanding and refining to new levels.

Lately, I understand from Denis that he'd bought a smaller lathe that he kept in his garage so he could keep active, as he couldn't get downstairs to his woodshop which was his private pride and joy.

As a fellow Stubby lathe owner I got to know him a bit better than most. I helped with the purchase of his lathe (I'm the Canadian agent) and he helped me understand vacuum chucking and assisted greatly on an article I wrote on the subject for the Stubby Owners Group. Later, John did the lions share of research and legwork to commission custom alterations to our lathes.

He'll be greatly missed.



Fluids Used To Finish Your Turning Projects Mark Salusbury



Water and Colour and Sealer, Oh My

In the last two newsletters I discussed surface preparation, followed by an inventory of the fluids and films I've used over the years in a process we loosely call 'finishing'.

Sorry 'bout that...Last time, "Fluids and Finishes...What Works With What", I'll admit was pretty dry. Keeping a 'step-by-step' presentation orderly and structured was my first goal. Keeping it concise so it was readable was my next goal. Making it entertaining kinda fell by the wayside...sorry, sorry, sorry.

But now that I've laid out the "nuts and bolts" I might use to create a good finish and seen how they fit together, we can take some time and have some fun. Drawing on the last two installments for reference, lets discuss water, dye and shellac this time and I'll follow that up in future newsletters.

Moving along...

Water is pretty cool stuff...and valuable all through the turning process. It's a coolant, a lubricant, a softener, an expansion agent and a base for pigments and topcoats.

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Distilled water is the only stuff to use... Water from other sources will contain metals and chemicals that may stain or alter your wood in ways you don't want. You can buy jugs of distilled water at any grocery store for a couple of bucks (it's also best for steam irons and steam curlers I'm told).



Keep a spray bottle of distilled water beside the lathe... When sanding and/or sheer scraping or nery grain, a light spritz of water on the offending area softens the wood, raises the fibres and cools the surface. Waiting for it to dry before continuing sanding also gives us time to inspect the piece in progress critically or appreciatively. We can see the piece better at this point in time, after turning and before finishing, and make open-minded changes in our process or creative path or confirm our course of action to achieve the best for piece.



Either way, please wait for the piece to dry thoroughly or you'll wind up with a sanding disc or scraper too clogged with slurry to do any cutting!! By keeping the spritzing light, not saturating and using a hair drier with no heat or compressed air it won't take more than a minute or so until you're back to refining.

I could dye for a touch of colour... Once your piece is off the lathe, if you feel dye would enhance the figure or add to the piece through toning or colouring, a water based dye is an excellent choice. I use Dylon fabric dyes myself, available most anywhere fabric is sold, simply mixing the dye with warm distilled water per the instructions. I also like G&S Dyes (See references)



But first.... Before applying the dye solution, moisten the surface of the piece overall, let it dry thoroughly then lightly sand it back by hand with the last grit you used on the lathe (240 or finer) to raise the fibres and remove the fuzz. *This is a good step to take if you're just going to skip straight to applying a water based topcoat too.* If you skip this step, the dye solution will raise the grain and you'll have to re-dye the piece after scuff sanding the first.

Getting back to your dye.... Your dye solution will mix to about a liter of dye at full strength. I recommend you pour out a small amount of this strength and dilute it 50%, 30%, 20% or whatever you want and apply a swash of these reduced solutions to a sample board in the same cut, colour and species as the piece you're working with to see how it looks once it's dry, noting on each swatch the solution strength. A cheap hand hair drier set on "low" will help your pace. You can always add more dye in the same or higher strength to deepen the affect you want...going the other way to reduce the effect is possible but way more work than adding colour bit-by-bit!

Your piece is calling and it has a question.... So now you've spritzed your piece, dried it, sanded it lightly and tested your chosen dye solution on a sample board. Now it's decision time...apply your dye solution to bare wood or moisten the wood first to resist absorption?

More dye will be absorbed by the exposed endgrain surfaces than other areas, making them prone to becoming more deeply coloured. Woods with irregular undulating grain such as cherry and pine may appear "blotchy" if dyed overall, while others like figured maple which is more uniformly figured may benefit dramatically, the dye solution causing the figure to "pop", turning a nice piece of wood into a real eye-catcher.

Spritz first or forever hold your piece... If you want a gentler colour effect, rather than applying dye to dry wood, add it to wet wood. Just before you apply dye, remoisten the wood with distilled water to fill the endgrain pores; thoroughly wet but not dripping. As you apply the dye solution to the moistened surface, you'll find its effect on the wood is uniform over the entire surface because you filled the endgrain pores with water first. Consequently, the water/dye mix will penetrate the woods fibres equally. The result will be a subtle coloration; a less dramatic emphasis on the woods grain and a more natural end result. Blotch prone woods will benefit from this approach.

Give it a kick or add punch... If instead, you let the woods surface dry after scuff sanding and apply the water/dye solution to thirsty fibres, you'll find more colour is absorbed by the 'open' endgrain surfaces and less by the 'closed' side grain areas. The colour will be more pronounced and the piece totally transformed instantly and forever.

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Like Momma told you...“Everything in moderation”! Remember to only apply water *to the surface* of the wood, don't saturate the wood deeply and avoid the temptation to apply too much colour all at once, working with nature not dominating it. Dyed wood will look bland when it's dry but will become much more vibrant once you apply your sealing topcoats and wax.

Are you going to hit the sealing?...Let your dyed surface dry totally, overnight or longer, before sealing it in with any topcoat. The base in any waterborne topcoat will reactivate under-dried dye, causing it to dissolve and lift out of the wood pores. Alternately, an oil based topcoat will not adhere properly (oil and water don't mix) and the water in the dye will take a long time to evaporate through the loose-fitting topcoat skin. But we're talking about water related stuff here so lets stay pure, shall we?

Put on a topcoat, I feel a cool draft...driven by California legislation, water based varnishes and paints are taking over the world. Soon you'll find it very difficult to buy “oil” or mineral spirits based varnishes and urethanes anywhere. Water and alcohol are taking over. (Hmmm...I've always like a bit of water in my alcohol). As byproducts of this initiative, selection is getting broader and the products getting better. Most of the notable tradition “finish” manufacturers (the folks that make topcoats not manufacturers from Finland) are offering water based products today. If you choose wisely, follow the manufacturers instructions as closely as you can and *let all applications of any water based product or solution dry thoroughly before applying another coat of anything*, you'll be just fine Grasshopper.



Get “retarded”...Oh yeah... water is not the best way to thin to thin water-based topcoats. By adding water to topcoats all you're doing is dispersing the molecules rather than dissolving them, effectively weakening the finish and that's all. To extend your working time with the product and/or increase penetration into the woods pores, buy the “retarder” additive designed to work with your finish. This will preserve the finishes chemical properties, ensuring a good finish on your work. Very affordable...very effective.

Pretty slick eh?...So now you have your gleaming piece coated in two or three (at most) deft applications of topcoat. While you can certainly do a final scuff sanding dry, water's a great lubricant and cutting fluid for final sanding. Spritzed on the surface you're going to refine, you can now sand the surface very, very gently overall to remove any tiny imperfections (runs, drips, fingerprints and the inevitable dust specks) in your final topcoat application. The water allows your abrasive to cut more efficiently and at the same time provides a microscopic film between the abrasive and the surface of the topcoat to temper the abrasive action. I use 1000 grit paper or higher if I'm going to this stage and a very light touch, avoiding all edges and details where I know I'll easily and mistakenly sand through the topcoat to bare wood.

Remove the slurry completely with water dampened lint-free clothes or a sponge and water. To get into the detail areas, a spritz of water and a soft brush with short bristles and/or a short blast of compressed air works well. I've even been known to take a piece I know is fully sealed to the sink and rinse it clean under running tap water. Then, wiping your piece down with dry clothes will perfect the surface in preparation for wax applied with 0000 oil-free steel wool for a natural appearing semi-gloss result or wax and a cotton buff for a gloss surface so gleaming it'll “knock your socks off”. A shoe shine brush works well too in some cases.

Popping a shiner...Water deftly applied during waxing is even possible, just like we'd do to bring up a shine on a pair of favored boots or “Sunday best” Buster Browns; “cept we called it “spit polishing”...and for good reason.

Shellac from start to finish...pardon the pun. I'll admit to knowing very little about shellac generally but I know what works for me and why so I'll pass that along, leaving you to explore other shellac products if you care to.

Basically, shellac is an alcohol based solution of dried flakes created from resinous secretions of a tiny insect, *Lacifer lacca*, indigenous to India and Thailand. There's an excellent article on the harvesting and making process in Fine Woodworking, December 2010, issue 215 for those that want some background.

Dewaxing poetic...While in its simplest form shellac incorporates a wax, I use the ‘dewaxed’ form for everything I do. This form is suitable for use under any other fluid or finish; the wax in the natural product resists other finishing products and solutions.



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Shellac in its natural form, with the wax, is what's used as a topcoat and often "French polished" to a rich sheen. It's available in a variety of shades from blonde through dark amber making it a very adaptable type of finish, suitable to most wood species.

You can easily make dewaxed shellac from the natural flakes by mixing a solution and letting it sit until all the wax settles out, then pouring off the wax-free top portion. It can also be made from "wax free" flakes that have already been processed for immediate use. I use the third method, a convenient Zinsser product called "Bullseye Sealcoat".

It's a very light coloured premixed solution that alters the natural tone of any wood very little. It's handy as it's already mixed to a "three pound cut" (3 lbs. of flakes dissolved in a gallon of denatured alcohol) which can be used full strength as a topcoat or diluted to be used as a sealing solution.

As a 'wash coat'... I cut "Sealcoat" about 25 % by pouring a small amount into a wide mouthed jar or plastic tub with a snap on lid and adding methyl hydrate (available in any paint store or department) to suit. What I'm aiming for is a thin fluid to use as a wash coat to seal the endgrain pores of my wood so they'll accept stain or topcoat to the same extent as the sidegrain. Where I used water as a "resist" before dye, I use a wash coat of dewaxed shellac as a resist before stain or any subsequent topcoat.

As a 'sanding sealer'... If I'm making a sanding sealer, I'll reduce the Sealcoat only about 10% which will aid in penetration into the woods pores yet keep a bit of body (solids) for sanding and grain filling. Subsequently, once fully dried and sanded lightly to my satisfaction, I'm ready to apply a topcoat; either more Sealcoat at full strength or any other finish I'd prefer.



There are some cool benefits to this approach. Once fully dry (overnight usually), the shellac is a 'sanding sealer' that raises and stiffens the woods grain and acts as a dry lubricant for scuff sanding the surface to smoothness. It seals the woods pores as mentioned, so any stain or finish will dry uniformly, ending blotchiness. Sealing and sanding to this level, goes a long way toward removing any sanding scratches missed earlier in our haste to complete the piece. Finally, you'll use less stain or finish from here on in with the added 'plus' that drying times will shorten too!!!

Now you can 'glaze' with stain or apply any finish of your choice as dewaxed shellac is compatible with any water or oil based finish, epoxy or lacquer.

Websites re: products noted above

<http://www.gsdye.com/>
<http://www.woodessence.com/Dry-Shellac-P54C13.aspx>
<http://www.shellac.net/ShellacFlake.html>
http://www.promega.com/pnotes/71/7807_18/7807_18.html (Transfast)
<https://www.woodessence.com/Mixol-Pigments-C11.aspx>
http://www.mixol.de/front_content.php?idcat=1&lang=2&changelang=2
<http://www.rockler.com/product.cfm?page=10310> (Zinsser Sealcoat)
<http://www.targetcoatings.com/emtech-2000.html> (water based varnish)
<http://www.getpainting.com> (Dynamic Paintware sells Sealcoat in Canada)

Stay tuned...next time we'll get into the "hard stuff" (but so much fun!!!!)



Editor's Notes-

Mark Salusbury is a good friend to the WGO. Not only was he a founding member, but also a frequent contributor to our Newsletter, as evidenced by his current series of articles on how to finish one's turnings. He has been involved with other society's newsletters, as have I, so he knows the problems of enticing members to contribute articles.

Many WGO's members probably feel inadequate to write articles for our Newsletter. However, I would be willing to bet that conversations over a cup of coffee would yield much information worthy of sharing with fellow wood turners. I have previously offered to help members put their ideas in proper publishable form. That offer still stands.

Below find an interesting suggestion Mark made to help me get more input to our Newsletter. Unfortunately, my sense of humour does not match that of Mark's. As seen in his current finishing article, he is a funny guy.

In order to solicit some content from the members, how about asking them to send in humorous stories, jokes or limericks.

Everyone has one or two of these to tell and share. Maybe if you used the space on page 7 to make such a suggestion, in a light-hearted way, some would heed the call and share an anecdote or two.

I'll get you started:

There once was a turner from Perth,
Who'd been keen on the craft since his birth,
Small pens or large platters, it didn't much matter,
Making shavings t'was what gave him mirth.

Or

There once was a lass from Nantucket,
Kept her turning tools all in a bucket,
She'd turned it you see, from staves cut from a tree,
and was too proud of her work to just chuck it!

Editor's note

I have had some experience with the **bowl saw**. Click on the following link to see if it interests you. It is particularly useful for turners with small lathes who want to make less saw dust when turning a bowl.

<http://www.bowlsaw.com/how.html>



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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.

Demonstrations at Upcoming Meetings

January 6, 2011	Robin Bryan	Inside Out Turning
January 23, 2011	Andre Martel	End Grain on Large Logs
February 10, 2011	Shawn Hermanns	Chinese Balls
March 10, 2011	Jack Wallace	Ring Turning German Style
March 27, 2011	Cindy Drozda	Delicate Turnings
April 8, 2011	Ron Katz	CNC Turning
June 10, 2011	Ray Prince	Hollow Forms (or Bowls)

Come to these events, you'll enjoy yourselves and learn a great deal

On May 12, 2011 we have our annual WGO Salon. It is never too early to start turning for this event.

Of course you do not want to forget the [annual Christmas Party on December 9, 2010](#)

Show and Tell



Mark Salusbury calls the above my "Bon Bon" bowls. They're about 7" to 11" diameter. and 3" to 4" tall. They incorporate shellac, dye, stain and varnish as finishing agents.

Editor's note— Show and Tell is a new addition to the Newsletter. Everyone is invited to send their favourite piece with a short description.

A Lesson On Turning Videos

Richard Pikul



Most of us have looked through some of the videos available on sites such as You-tube. Sometimes even the best search words do not collect the appropriate content and considerable time can be wasted looking through a long list of recommended sites that are not what is wanted. Of course we have all gone through a large number of videos that are just terrible and others that are just advertising one thing or another.

If you have been only searching for videos on You-tube - try Google.com and select 'videos'. Searching this way you can get results from multiple sources such as ehov, expertvillage, ehov uk, google, metacafe, vodpod, daily-motion and other sites.

Below are videos that I have enjoyed, they cover a variety of subjects - hope you like them. Please note that I cannot be held responsible for the teaser videos that you will encounter and then visit and visit and visit.....

Spindle turning with a difference! How about making a 14 foot column on your lathe! Watch a great turner use tools to the max. This video is NOT slow and boring, but you may want to turn down the volume.

Link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hxoXiHbhTFs>

A great video of a group of French turners having fun making phenomenal tops! The introduction is a bit long, but it's worth a look. Pay attention and get some ideas for unusual tops, and some games to play with tops.

Link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ulx13ohwsqM&NR=1>

For those who would like to make one of the spin tops, this site is quite good:

Link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JOv1Jm1-cds>

And for those who would like to actually learn how to throw one, here is an instructional video:

Link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lbmBhuKBH-k&NR=1>

If you think that woodturners around the world are different, watch this video of the group in Bedford, England. Looks just like one of our meetings.... This video is of a club evening competition, make something in 10 minutes - no sandpaper! This group has a lot of fun - maybe we could try this? They have a really cool trophy for the event.

Link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fsmfa5zyCRQ>

Are you interested in making baseball bats? What if you could turn one in less than 2 minutes? Just buy the lathe that's for sale on this video. Have to watch a furniture turning first.....

Link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eEt6dFmcZYU>

You bought a Bedan tool and don't use it because nobody showed you how. Here are a couple of videos that could get you going. The Bedan is a great tool for spindle work, can be used like a Skew chisel and/or a parting tool.

Link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7TEeHoZM9Vk&NR=1>

How to make a round ball - Mexican style. Check out the wooden bandsaw! And - later on, a wooden table saw! Neat ball making tool, maybe Len will make you one.....

Link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gNCT7Yu-oRc&feature=related>

Just for fun! A complete turning shop on a single bench, including a robot turner.....

Link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-dENzhGwoY0>

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Do you own a Stubby Lathe? Here's a project for you! Don't own a Stubby? Adapt the project to your equipment.

Link: http://www.metacafe.com/watch/1581792/making_phoenix/

Here is an oldie (filmed in 1926), but goodie – worth watching more than once! I have recommended this link before, but it's sooo good, that repeating is worthwhile. Wouldn't you like to be able to put a log through a band saw like this turner does? Check out the tools used; two spindle gouges, a skew chisel and an unusual hook tool. The film shows the turner making a lidded bowl (including a knob for the lid) from log to table. It's the oldest, and one of the best instructional videos (oops - films) I've ever watched.

Link: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-z_Ph6nZfGE

If you want to find more on your own, put "videos woodturning" in the search window – all kinds of interesting sites will pop up, enough to keep you busy when the workshop is too cold this winter....

Editor's notes- When you first see the videos they are rather small. But if you look in the lower right hand corner of the video you will find a button that will give you a full screen view.

The turner in the "oldie (filmed in 1926) but goodie" violates a number of safety rules considered essential today, especially for the less experienced turners. Send all the violations you found to the Editor and I will post them in the next Newsletter.

WGO'ers, if you come across woodturning videos that others would enjoy, send it to me (wgoeditor@gmail.com) and I will post it in the following Newsletter.

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