IWG News

The Newsletter of the Island Woodturners Guild January 2020

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

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Tim Karpiak

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Vik Peck

Secretary:
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Treasurer:
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Member at Large:
Emma Banner

Member at Large:
John Kilcoyne

Member at Large:
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The IWG gratefully acknowledges the support of the following companies:
Artisan Wood to Works
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Richelieu Hardware

THE PRESIDENT'S TURN

Happy New Year Everyone! I hope everybody had a relaxing and enjoyable holiday. And maybe even received a few woodturning tools, jigs, books, blanks, etc. in their Christmas stocking.

Over the holidays it seemed that I was always eating one Christmas goody or another and now must get used to eating a more proper diet. And hopefully dropping the added poundage.

I'm excited about our first meeting of the year. We're going to try a remote demo with Ed Pretty in Vancouver. We'll be trying out the equipment and connections in an effort to avoid any technical problems.

Remote demonstrating seems to be the wave of the future. The advantages include getting great demonstrators without having to wait until their travel schedule matches up with our schedule and substantially lower costs because we don't incur transportation and other expenses.

The downside is that we don't get the opportunity to have workshops with our guests and, accordingly, we will continue to have on-site demonstrators each year.

I'd would like to start the new year off by thanking all the people who help keep our Guild up and running. It may not seem like it but there are a lot of people doing all sorts of behind the scenes tasks that make our organization what it is. Having said that, there's always room for more help. If you feel like you'd like to get more involved come and talk to me. .

I'll see everyone on Saturday the 25th. Hopefully all the snow will be gone by then and we won't have to worry about getting there.

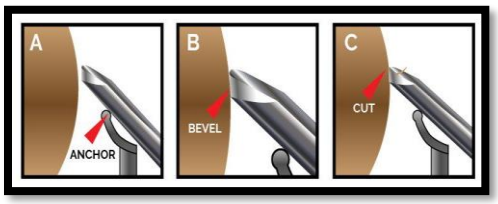
Now, I have to go shovel my driveway. For the fourth time today!

Tim Karpiak

NEXT MEETING: SATURDAY JANUARY 25: 1:00 – 4:00

The next meeting will feature a **remote live demonstration** by Ed Pretty from Vancouver.

Entitled **Beyond ABC**, Ed will explore issues and techniques not normally addressed by the familiar direction of *Anchor, Bevel Cut*. It will also include an analysis of various causes of catches as well as advice on how to avoid them. This will be a particularly valuable demonstration for beginner and intermediate turners.



A previous demonstrator here, Ed has been turning for more than 30 years.

He is a founding member of the Fraser Valley Woodturners Guild, has demonstrated at AAW Symposium as well as guilds throughout Canada and the U.S. and his work has been featured in the AAW Woodturner magazine.

REMOTE DEMONSTRATION

For those who are not familiar with this type of demonstration, cameras in Ed's workshop will feed audio and video that we will view on our two large screens. We will also have a camera at our site to allow Ed to see and hear us which will enable questions to be put to Ed in real time.

As these involve new computer technologies, there is no way that anything can go wrong!

NOTE: FALL CHALLENGE MOVED: Due to the length of Ed's demonstration, the results of the Fall Challenge – Turning a Sphere – is moved to the February meeting.

NOVEMBER RECAP

The November meeting saw two presentations: Don Hargreaves on making Nautilus Shells and Phil Cottell on making Neil Turner spoons.

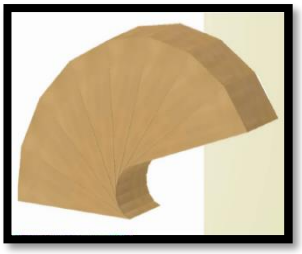
NAUTILUS SHELLS

Don provided a highly entertaining Powerpoint presentation on making Nautilus Shells. He was inspired to try these after viewing the work of Steve Garrison (left) who is an expert on shell construction. The following are the highlights from Don's talk.

1. The Early Method

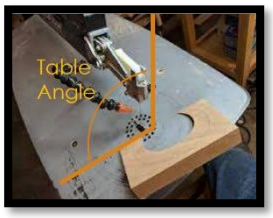
Broadly speaking, the process developed by Steve Garrison is a modification of the technique for creating segmented blanks.

However, as opposed to radial symmetry (left), the segments are flipped on edge to produce a shell shape (right).



The process begins with a number of wedges.

Using a scroll saw, a small 1/2 circle is cut in the center of the tapered edge of one wedge. In order to have the diameter narrow along the length of the shell, the cut is made with a 10-degree taper on the sides



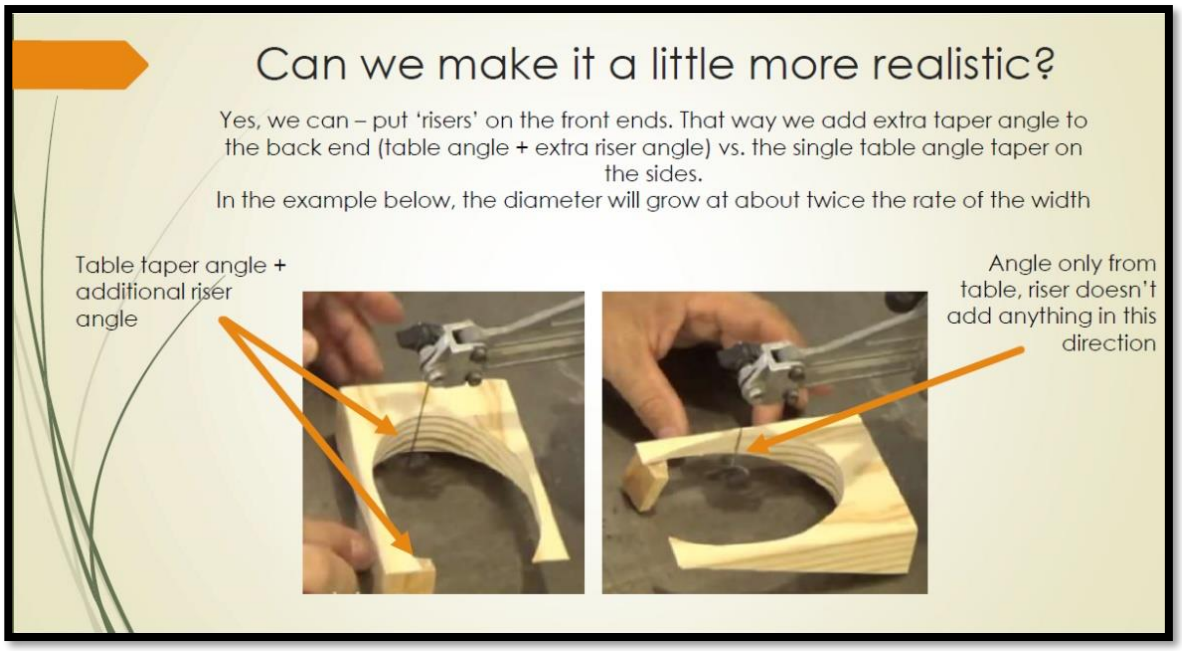
This wedge cut-out is then used a template to mark the next cut on a second wedge.

This process continues until all wedge pieces are used up.

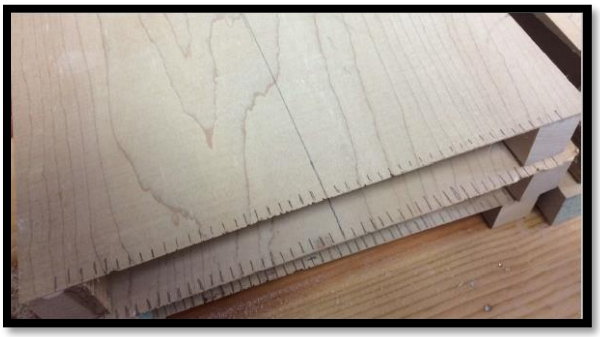
The pieces are then glued up – pairs, quads, octets, etc. – until the blank is complete. After many, many hours of sanding, you end with something that looks like this:

2. The Modified Method

Since the two “outer” side walls taper at the same angle as the “back” wall, the shell grows in width and height equally which produces a “ball-shaped” shell. The following modification produces a more realistic looking shell.



Otherwise, the process remains the same in cutting out and assembling the component segments.

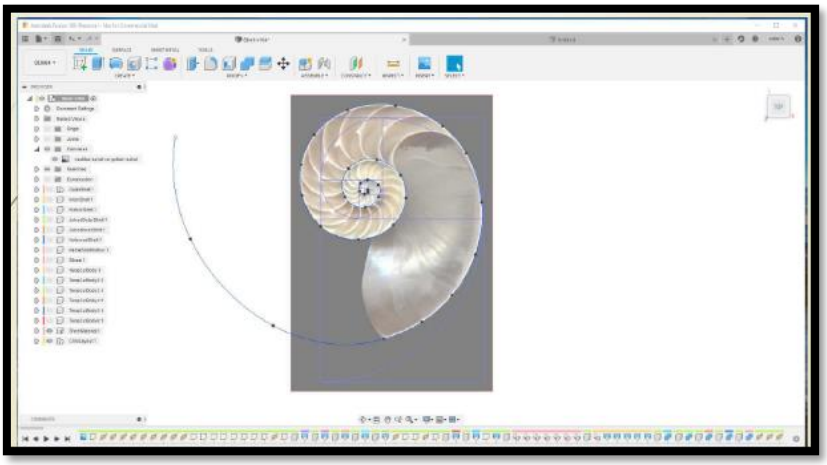


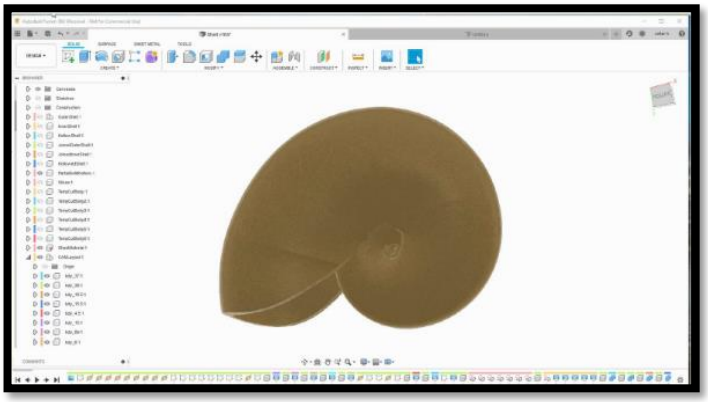
And after a lifetime of sanding, the final product looks much more “shell-like”:

3. The DH Advanced Tech Method

Unfortunately, Don does not own a scroll saw. However, fortunately he does own a CNC machine!!! Never one to pass up an engineering challenge, he proceeded to develop an alternative method of making shells

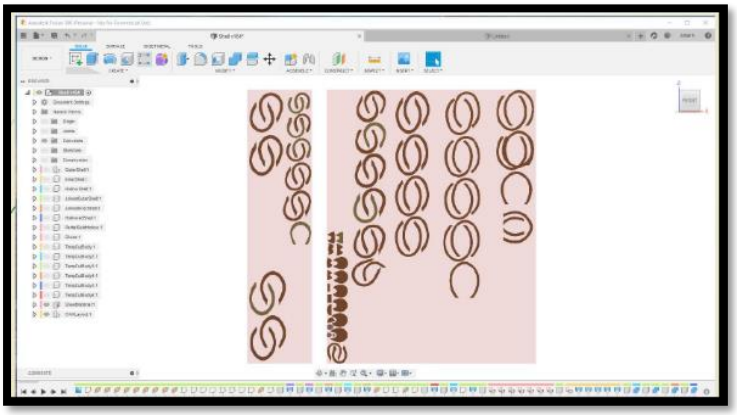
Using a CAD programme, he first designed an attractive shell form.

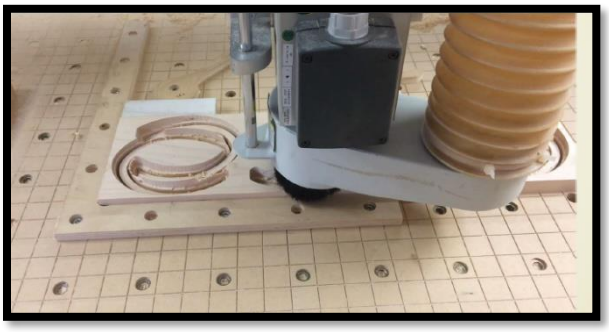




He then used the programme to “slice” the shell into component segments (below).

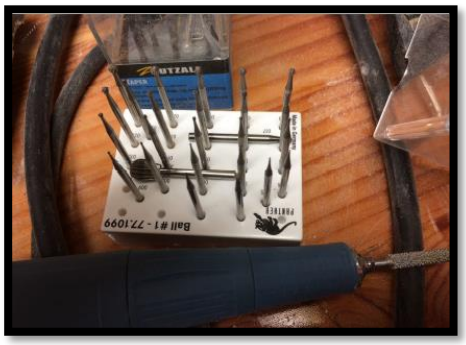
The segments are then arranged to fit on a piece of dimensioned wood to maximize its usage.





Instructions are then sent to a CNC machine which cuts out the segments.

The segments are then glued up in the conventional manner. Approximately 5,853 hours were then spent sanding the pieces and texturing the exterior outside using a rotary carver and an assortment of burrs.



And the final product – a stunning piece.

More Information

For those few members who do not own a CNC machine, you can obtain more information on how to make these shells using a scroll saw at Steve Garrison's website: http://www.spiralsbysteve.com/).

SPOONS A LA NEIL TURNER

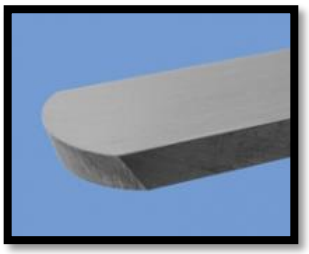
Phil gave an informative and engaging demonstration on making spoons which was inspired by a visit to Neil Turner's shop in Western Australia. (Neil was a guest demonstrator here in 2017). During the visit, Neil graciously showed Phil how he makes his uniquely shaped spoons.

Phil began with a length of bocote which was approximately 7/8" thick. He indicated that 3/4" is likely the minimum thickness you would want to use.

Using templates from Neil, Phil marked out a series of spoons using a white pencil on the dark wood. He then cut out the blanks at the bandsaw.

A blank is mounted in a 4-jaw chuck with one jaw removed to make room for the handle. Phil checks the grain of the blank to determine which side to hollow.

He then uses a 3/8” bowl gouge to hollow the bowl portion and extends this slightly onto the handle which enables him to produce a modest curve. To check the depth, he simply uses a pencil and “eye balls” it.



To smooth the inside of the spoon bowl, he first uses a 3/4" round-nose scraper with a slight negative rake.

He then sands from 80 – 320 grit (Abranet abrasive) using a 1.5” sanding disk holder with Velcro hooks (WtoW).

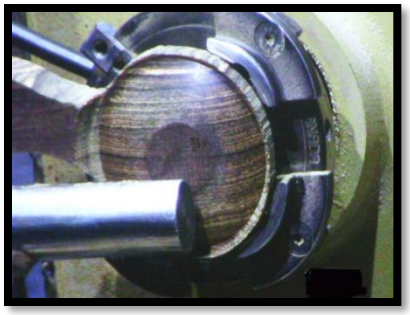
Note: The heat from sanding can melt the hooks on Velcro material. To prevent this, Phil uses what are termed interface or innerface pads which are placed between the Velcro on the disk holder and the sandpaper. (WtoW) Essentially, these are sacrificial items which mean one does not have to undertake the difficult task of replacing the Velcro on the holder.

A finish is then applied to the bowl area of the spoon.

Phil uses Osmo TopOil #3056 Clear which is a blend of natural oils (sunflower, soybean, thistle), waxes (carnauba, candelilla) and white spirit ($49 less 10%/500 ml: WtoW). It is safe for humans, animal and plants when cured and provides a nice low-level sheen.

Following Neil’s recommendation, he applies two coats, wiping off the surface each time, and allowing at least 12 hours between coats. While white spirit is less toxic than kerosene, you should still wear disposable gloves.

The blank is then reverse mounted in the chuck and the underside of the spoon bowl is formed using a 3/8" bowl gouge. He is careful to stop well short of the jaws and leaves the bottom flat.

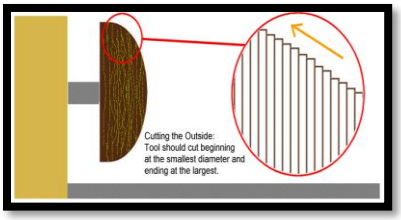


The piece is then removed from the chuck and the balance of the work is done by power carving.

Phil uses a Foredom Flex Shaft unit (Model 8303 Kit: Chipping Away: $385 less 10%) with Saburtooth burrs.

He finds the cylinder burr which has a smooth top particularly useful to avoid marring the surface.

In order to maintain control when cutting, he draws the burr towards himself. While he tried using a "golf" glove to protect his hands, the burr caught in the fabric and tore it up. Vigilance is his preferred practice now.



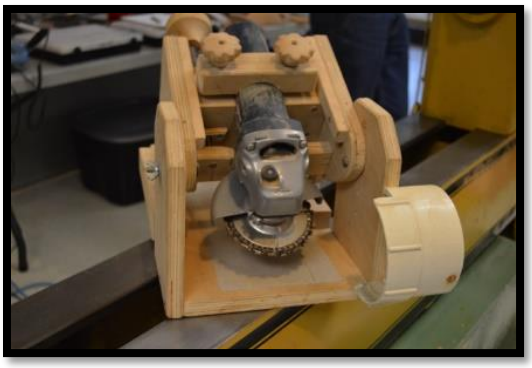
Phil also emphasized the importance of cutting with the grain on the bowl of the spoon. As is the case when turning side grain, cutting "downhill" means that the wood fibres are supported which minimizes tear out and produces a much better finish.

To sand the piece Phil uses a cushioned sanding drum. Pieces of cloth backed sandpaper are cut, slide into a vertical slot and then secured with a cam nut. LV (1/4" shank: $15) or Chipping Away (1/8" shank: $17 less 10%).

He starts with 120x and continues up to 320x followed by a finish coat of Osmo TopOil.

Post Script: Rob Dunlop's Spoon Shovel

In 2016 Rob Dunlop demonstrated a jig that he made for hollowing spoon bowls prior to turning. It consists of an angle grinder which is mounted to a "swing" arm inside a plywood frame.



Once the spoon blank is secured using toggle clamps, the angle grinder is rotated in a swinging motion which carves out the bowl portion of the blank.

If the angle grinder is located in the vertical position in the frame, it will cut a round bowl while rotating it to the side will produce an oval shaped bowl.

For more details, see the note in the April 2016 Newsletter.

2019 XMAS SOCIAL

A great time was had by all...

Great food including Beryl/Graeme's famous punch…

beautiful ornaments for exchange…

spectacular turnings…

amazing art by partners …

and a bunch of people in hats.

Mature and appropriate…but needs to stop shaving!

Canadian Association of Turners????

Our Prez (Channeling his inner Trump?)

A fool's hat! (Art imitating life?)

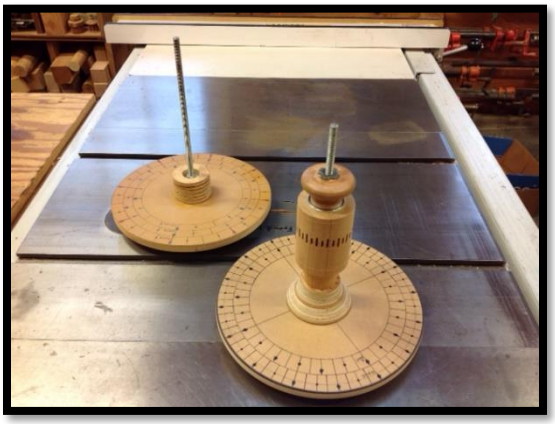
For more photos of the event, check out the following on our website: http://www.islandwoodturners.ca/calendars/general-meetings/)

AMAZING SLOT MACHINE

At the November Show and Tell, Gil Heise displayed three unique ornaments that he created and discussed how he created the “slots”.

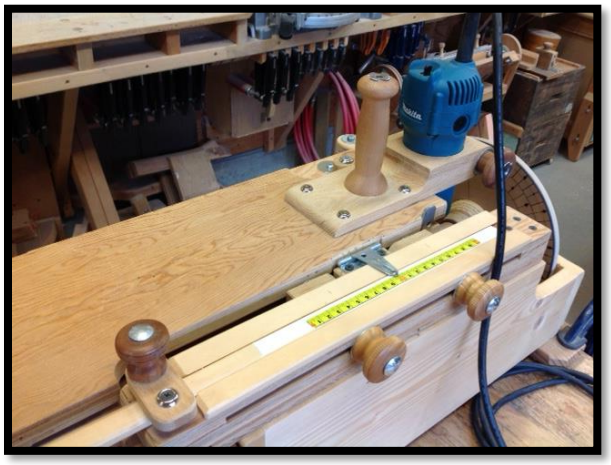
An outstanding jig maker, Gil has out done himself with this beauty!!!

He begins with 2 equal sized, solid cylinders which have a centre hole drilled through them. They are bolted on an index wheel and secured in the front of the jig.



The slots are cut using a trim router which is mounted in a “top plate”.

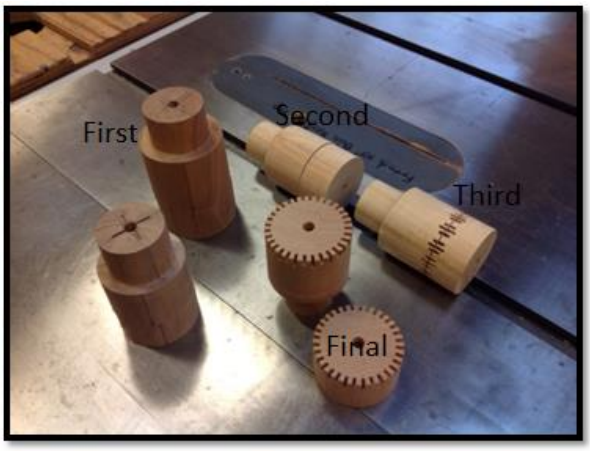
The top plate slides “fore and aft” with the amount of movement regulated by two locking knobs using the on-board measuring tape.

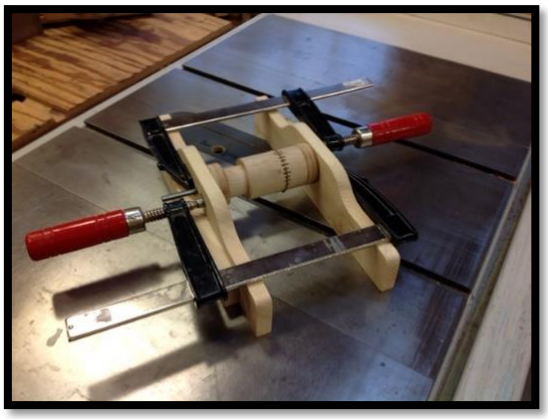


The number and location of the slots is determined using a pointer and the index wheel.

The wheel is secured with a clamp to prevent movement while routing.

The sequences.





The glue up.

The crowning glory!

SPINDLE GOUGE: CINDY DROZDA GRIND

If you are interested in doing fine spindle work such as making finials, you may want to consider adopting the grind employed by Cindy Drozda. A visitor here in 2012, she is widely acknowledged as an expert at fine spindle work.

Her tool of choice is a 3/8” spindle gouge. She finds that the weight of this size provides support and thus stability behind the cutting edge.

In order to provide clearance in tight spaces, she grinds generous swept back wings on the tool.

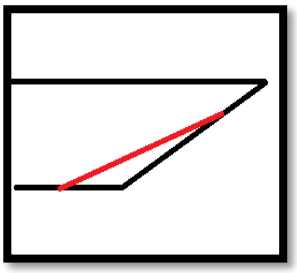
Note: It also enables her to use the wings as both a skew and a scraper depending upon how the tool is presented to the work.

She then grinds a relatively narrow/sharp tip (1/8” semi-circle) which facilitates control and fine detailing.

The bevel angle at the cutting edge on the tip and wings is 40 degrees.

However, to get a smooth cut in fine coves, Cindy reduces the width of the cutting bevel to approximately 1/8” on the wings and 1/16” at the tip (Photo left: blackened portion).

She achieves this by grinding away a portion of the heel (right) which also provides clearance for the tool.



Note: For new turners, this narrow bevel will be more difficult to control. You may want to begin with a wider bevel and reduce it once you are more experienced.

To learn more about this grind and to see the tool in operation, check out her video at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0ZOVj2Pb0y0

NICK AGAR DEMONSTRATION: ANACORTES, WA

The Northwest Washington Woodturners is sponsoring a day-long demonstration by Nick Agar on March 21, 2020 in Anacortes, WA.

Nick is one of the leading turners in the world and is an outstanding demonstrator. While perhaps best known for his Viking Sunset pattern, he is a remarkably innovative turner who is an expert in various texturing techniques as well as colouring and gilding.

For more information, check out their website notice at: https://www.nwwwt.org/news/

WHAT CAN YOU BRING TO THE TABLE?

At every meeting, there are two side tables in the room.

RAFFLE TABLE

In recent months, the “pickings” of raffle prizes have been somewhat sparse. Fulfill your New Year’s resolution of cleaning up your shop! Donations of wood (must be dry) or turning related items would be much appreciated.

FOR SALE TABLE

This table is an important therapeutic device. It provides an opportunity to lessen the pain of having purchased a turning item in the belief that it was essential to your future woodturning endeavours only to discover years later that it is still in its original box. Heal Thy Self!

DUMB QUESTIONS

Most of us at one time or another have chosen not to ask a turning question for fear that it is dumb. Since there is no such thing (unless the question comes from you-know-who), the Executive has decided to introduce a new feature to our meetings.

Beginning in February, members can write out a question and deposit it in a “Dunce Box”. Each meeting, two or three questions will be drawn to be answered by the collective wisdom (???) of the multitude.

IN MEMORIAM: ED TRAFF

This was the last turning that Ed completed which he brought to the September Show and Tell. It is based on an incredibly demanding technique developed by Hans Weissflog. He worked on mastering the technique for over 4 months! A fitting triumph by a remarkable turner and member.

PARTING OFF

Many thanks to Don H, Phil C and Gil H for their help with this edition of the newsletter, Stu and Barrie for the photos and the members of the Executive for keeping us all entertained every meeting.

Special thanks this edition goes to Don Hargreaves who invested a huge amount of time and energy preparing his outstanding presentation.

CONCLUDING THOT