



# IWG News

The Newsletter of the Island Woodturners Guild

April 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

**President:**  
**Tim Karpiak**

**Vice President:**  
**Vik Peck**

**Secretary:**  
**Michael McEwan**

**Treasurer:**  
**Peter Pardee**

**Member at Large:**  
**Emma Banner**

**Member at Large:**  
**John Kilcoyne**

**Member at Large:**  
**Virginia Lee**

**Past President:**  
**Steve Werner**

**Newsletter Editor:**  
**John Kilcoyne**

The IWG gratefully acknowledges the support of the following companies:

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## THE PRESIDENT'S TURN

I hope everyone is staying healthy and getting out to the shop. This new world certainly takes a little getting used to and I think we all feel a bit disconnected.

One of the things that has come to the forefront in these times is the use of Zoom for meetings and keeping in touch. As a Guild, we had just started working on remote demos and now we find ourselves embracing and learning the technology at a rapid pace. Our Group 4 has had a couple of very successful meetings using Zoom and this edition of the newsletter contains some tips on using Zoom which you may find helpful.

Our next few events will also be "Zoom-based". The first is the AGM which is normally held at the May meeting, but this year will be a stand-alone event on May 16th. Next up will be Vik doing a presentation on finishing on May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 1:00 p.m. Finally, in June we have set up a remote demo with Mike Mahoney! Mike has been at the leading edge of the remote demo movement and he is an amazing demonstrator. I am really looking forward to this.

I will be sending out the Zoom invites as the dates get closer. If you are not confident with the Zoom application, feel free to contact me for a test meeting.

One last thing, a lot of information will be on our website in the members area. If you are not familiar with logging in now would be a good time to give it a go. If you have a problem, contact Virginia (webmaster extraordinaire) or give me a shout. Plus, there is now a forum that is available to all members. And a buy and sell section!

I hope to see everyone soon, if only virtually! Have fun in your shops and make lots of shavings!

Cheers!

Tim Karpiak

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **APRIL 25 MEETING**

**CANCELLED**

### **MAY 16: AGM**

On Saturday May 16, the Guild will hold an electronic Annual General Meeting on Zoom. Relevant information (Minutes of the 2019 AGM, President's Report, Treasurer's Report) will be posted in the Members Area of our website as well as log in details. (FYI: Pursuant to s.82(1) of the B.C. Societies Act, the required quorum is three members.)

It is expected that the current members of the Executive will "attend" and be nominated, namely

President	Tim Karpiak	Vice-President	Vik Peck
Treasurer	Peter Pardee	Secretary	Mike McEwan
Members at Large	Emma Banner, John Kilcoyne, Virginia Lee		
Past President	Steve Werner		

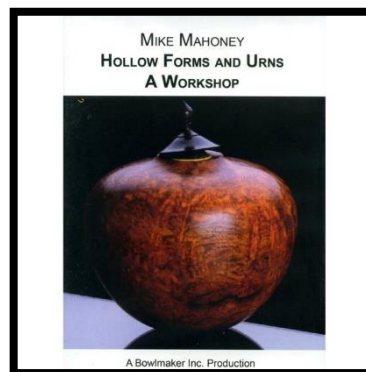
**Note:** This in no way is intended to prevent any one else from seeking to serve in one of these positions. If you are interested, please contact Tim Karpiak.

### **MAY 23 FINISHING**

Beginning at 1:00 p.m., Vik Peck will offer a Zoom presentation on Finishing. Log in details will be posted in the Members Area of our website.

### **JUNE 27 REMOTE DEMO: MIKE MAHONEY**

On Saturday June 27 at 1:00 p.m., there will be a remote demonstration by Mike Mahoney which can be accessed from your home using Zoom. Further details will be provided in the future.



## TURNING A TREMBLEUR: ANDRE'S ODYSSEY

In 2013, Andre Robin took a week-long course at the internationally renowned *Ecole Escoulen* in France. The class was tailored to allow each participant to pursue their own turning interests. While Andre opted to focus on multi-axis turning, he was intrigued by the project of one of his classmates which involved turning a *trembleur*. Seven years later, he decided to tackle this project.

### Introduction



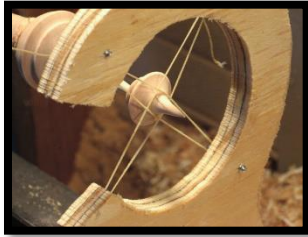
A *trembleur* (aka *wobbler*) consists of a series of small ornamental forms that are separated by very thin sections of consistent diameter. The name derives from the fact that the turning will vibrate or “tremble” at the slightest touch.

Originating in France in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, these spindle forms were initially turned from ivory which was sufficiently strong to allow very narrow spindle diameters (Photo left). While originally embraced as works of art, over time the incredibly demanding nature of their creation became a “badge of honour” that the creator had achieved the rank of master turner. They remain a popular project in France and are even the subject of turning competitions.

### 2. Steady Rests

Similar to turning a finial, a *trembleur* is turned from the top down beginning at the tail stock end. Initially, a conventional steady rest can be used to support the cylinder as the first ornament and spindle are turned (Photo right).

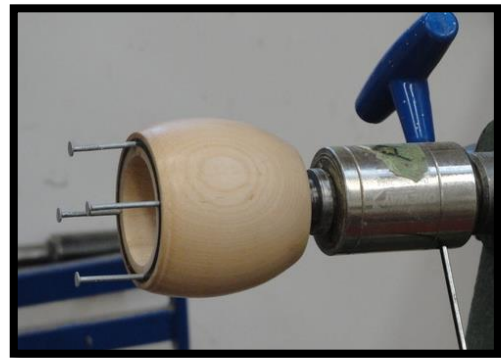




However, as the turning proceeds, it becomes necessary to provide support at the narrow spindle areas. For this purpose, a set of string steady rests are required in which the piece is stabilised by string as opposed to wheels.

While there are many different styles, Andre chose two types that were developed by Escoulen.

The first of these which is mounted in the tailstock is used to secure the turning once the topmost ornament has been turned. (Photo right)



Akin to a jam chuck, it is sized to allow the top ornament to fit inside such that the string wrapped around the nails will support the narrow spindle just below it.

The other type of string rest is used to support the turning at various points along its length. Andre made three of these which are fully adjustable depending upon the circumstances.

Four rare earth magnets recessed in the base hold it securely to the lathe bed.



The following photos show these rests in place at different stages of the turning process.



## Trembleur #1



While Escoulen recommends holly for these turnings, Andre did not have any and so opted for Eastern Maple. (He is thankful that he stocked up on baseball bat blanks from Lee Valley some years ago!)

After turning the top ornament and top spindle, he secured it in the "jam chuck" string steady rest.

However, within seconds of starting to turn the next section, the top ornament separated.



He had mistakenly believed that he was using waxed nylon string! As you can see in the photo, the unwaxed string quickly burned through the narrow cylinder.

While waxed string is available from shoemakers, he decided that this was not an essential item which required leaving home during these times.

Instead, he used some thin necklace cord that he had purchased from Michaels some time ago and ran it through a block of paraffin. To be safe, he also applied wax to the wood at frequent intervals. While this worked reasonably well, he did find that the cord tended to loosen, and had to be replaced frequently.

Nonetheless, he was able to complete this 16" turning with the narrow spindles measuring just over 5/32"!!!!

He estimates that the total turning time was less than 2 hours.



## Trembleur #2



His second effort which is 19" long was also turned from Eastern Maple.

While Andre had successfully resolved the technical challenges encountered with the first effort, he found that the process became increasingly demanding.

He indicates that it is impossible to convey just how exhausting it was, both physically and mentally. As the turning progressed the vibration increased dramatically which meant that extreme care and vigilance were required at all times.

Ultimately, he elected to turn only one segment and then take a break for a few hours before returning.

Once again, he was able to turn the narrow portions down to just over  $5/32''$ ,

Andre reports that he is pleased with the result – as well he should be!

### Trembleur #3



Eager to test the limits of his lathe, in a moment of bravery (or madness?) he decided to turn one that is 31" long.

The only blank he had was long enough was Garry Oak. As it turned out, this was unfortunate. In his words, this caused more grief than the other two put together.

This wood is not as tight grained as eastern maple and he found that it chipped easily. This was exacerbated by the fact that as the turning progressed, he experienced more and more vibration. As a result, he reports that he was ONLY able to turn the narrow portions down to just over 3/16".

While he fully expected it to break off, to his immense surprise he was able to complete it. He modestly attributes this to luck rather than skill!

Beyond the selection of wood, he also had a problem with the diameter of the blank. At 2 1/4" square, he ended up with a very small base. While he may add a secondary base in the future, for now he is enjoying the result.

He indicates that it truly does "tremble" at the slightest touch (which, of course, makes it a great early warning instrument for the next earthquake.)

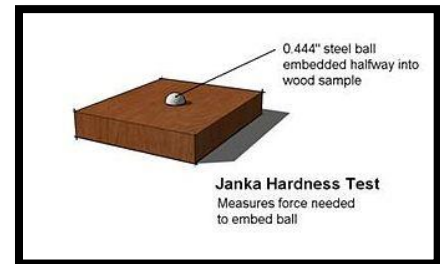


## Note

While the 3<sup>rd</sup> *trembleur* is a beautiful work of art, research reveals how impressive this turning is from a technical perspective.

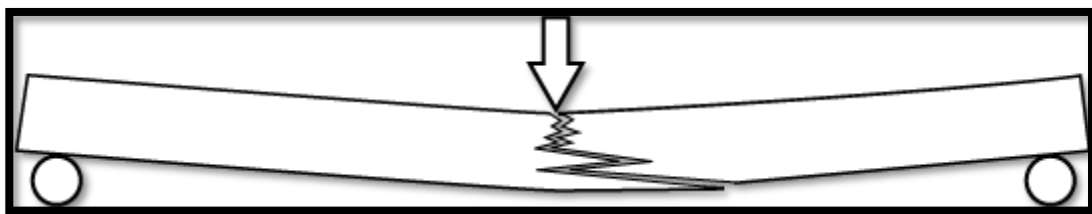
With a Janka rating of 1640, Garry Oak is harder than Eastern Maple at 1450.

However, Eastern maple has very tight grain whereas Garry Oak is very “ring porous”. Hence, the latter is much more prone to chip out which is what Andre experienced.



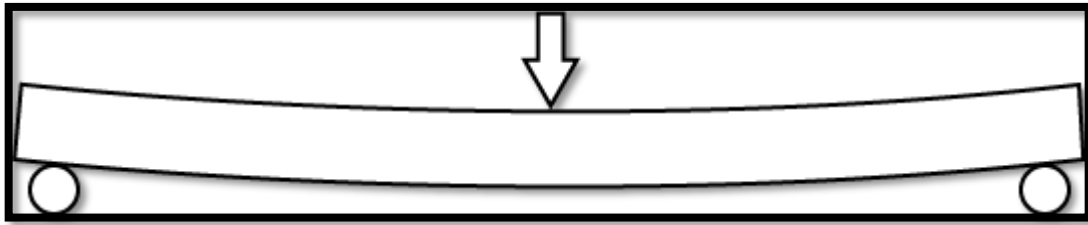
There are two other related attributes of Garry Oak, that Andre had to overcome: strength and elasticity.

The bending strength of wood (before breaking) is referred to as the Modulus of Rupture (MOR) which is measured in terms of pounds per square inch.



The MOR for Garry Oak is 10,200 lb<sub>f</sub>/in<sup>2</sup> while the rating for Eastern Maple at 15,800lb<sub>f</sub>/in<sup>2</sup> is more than 50% greater.

The stiffness of wood is referred to as the Modulus of Elasticity (MOE). It measures the force required to produce a degree of deformation along the length of a piece of wood.



A higher rating means more stiffness and less vibration. Once again, the MOE of Garry Oak ( $1,090,000 \text{ lb}_f/\text{in}^2$ ) is substantially less than that of Eastern Maple ( $1,830,000 \text{ lb}_f/\text{in}^2$ ).

Collectively, these attributes meant that Andre had to contend with far greater vibration and chip out in the Garry Oak blank – challenges that were exacerbated by the greater length of the piece.

That he was able to complete this piece is a remarkable technical achievement!

### Parting Off

To remove the piece from the lathe, he reduced the speed and used a thin parting tool to cut most of the way through. He then moved his tool rest under the turning for support and used a hand saw to finish the cut.

### Finish

The pieces were sanded and finished as each segment (ornament and spindle) was turned.



He used EEE-Ultra Shine followed by a coat of shellac (Zinssers SealCoat). He then applied a top coat of a soft wax mix (bees wax + carnauba).



## The Trio



## More Information

For more information on turning *trembleurs*, see this article in American Woodturning:  
[http://aawcontentsource.org/aaw\\_cs1\\_pdf/AW1704p17-19.pdf](http://aawcontentsource.org/aaw_cs1_pdf/AW1704p17-19.pdf)

## Postscript

As noted above, there are frequent competitions in France, in which turners compete to turn the longest *trembleurs* (up to 48") with the narrowest diameters (down to 1/8").

The photo at right shows Ruby Cler a turner from Windsor with her creation.



While turnings of this size clearly represent an impressive technical achievement, they are so fragile that they must be kept in a plastic or glass tube. An unfortunate requirement for an otherwise impressive piece of art.

For a video of a *Trembleur* competition, see: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t4JdA9zdUeI>

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## **UPDATE: HOMEMADE STEADY REST**



Further to the article in the February newsletter on Hollowing Tools, Alan Cusworth of the Greater Vancouver Woodturners Guild recently designed and built an impressive custom steady rest. You can find pictures and a detailed description of how to build it in the February edition of the Vancouver Guild's newsletter:

<https://www.gvwg.ca/docs/LatestNewsletter/GVWGNewsletter.pdf>

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## **CALVERT/TRIQUET BOWL: RICK BAILEY**

This beautiful turning was inspired by two recent discoveries on the central B.C. coast by archaeologists working with the Hakai Institute and the University of Victoria.

The first of these was the 2014 discovery of 29 human footprints in 3 sizes on Calvert Island. Carbon residue in some of the prints has been dated to 13,000 years old which makes them the oldest human footprints ever found in North America. Experts speculate that they may have been made by a family foraging for food at the seashore.

The second event was the 2016 discovery of a fire pit on nearby Triquet Island which may mark the location of an ancient village site. It has been dated to 14,000 years old.



Rick selected yellow cedar since it is native to the B.C. coast. The centre "fire pit" was textured using a Dremel rotary tool and then dyed with India Ink. Pyrography was used to create the 20 footprints on the rim. (With a diameter of 8", 29 footprints were too crowded). An excellent effort!

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## **REQUEST FOR SUBMISSIONS**

If you have a unique turning which you believe could inspire or educate members, I would be grateful if you would forward a picture along with a note detailing size and specie, inspiration, methodology, etc. to me at [jrk@uvic.ca](mailto:jrk@uvic.ca). If appropriate, photos of the work in progress would be appreciated.



## ZOOM TIPS

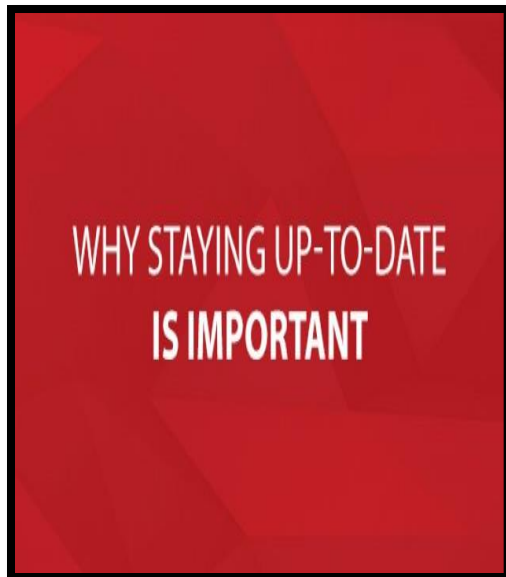
As many members are using Zoom for their small group meetings (and this platform will be used for the May and June meetings), the following are some tips that may be helpful. While Zoom is an extremely sophisticated programme, our needs are relatively simple and only basic issues are considered in this note.



### 1. Security

Recent concerns with Zoom security and privacy have prompted changes to the software as well as general suggestions on how to promote the safe use of this product.

#### a. Keep Up to Date

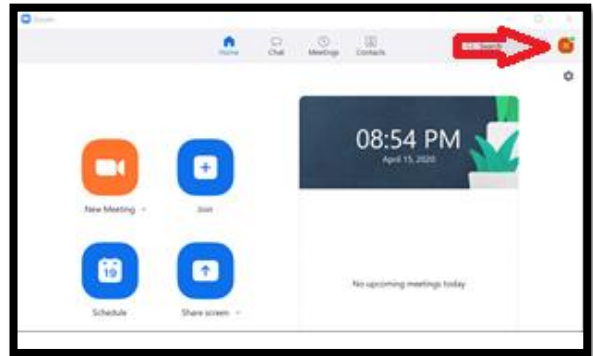


Changes to the software have included an update in January that disabled a feature that allowed persons to scan for meetings to join. On March 27<sup>th</sup>, Zoom removed a feature which transferred analytics data (e.g. when a user opened the app, a user's time zone, device OS, device model and carrier, screen size, processor cores and disk space) to Facebook when users logged on using the Facebook connection (as opposed to an email log in). An update on April 1 resolved issues that could allow a hacker to take over a Mac's microphone or a Windows problem that could allow the theft of logins. On April 5<sup>th</sup>, default security provisions were added to prevent unwanted participants.

The key point is that Zoom is continuing to develop new security measures. Accordingly, if you have downloaded Zoom to your computer or the app to your phone, always check **that you have the latest updates**.



To do so, click the personal icon in the top right of the home screen (red arrow) and select *Check for Updates*.



**b. Do not Share the Link/Meeting ID on line**



To avoid intrusions or “Zoom Bombing”, do not post the link or meeting number on social media or websites. Use only email to notify participants.

**Note:**

The changes on April 5<sup>th</sup> include a default *Waiting Room* provision which means that the host must manually permit an “applicant” to enter. Other provisions allow a host to *Lock a Meeting* once it starts to prevent any new participants. (Hosts should click on the Participants tab at the bottom of the Zoom screen and then select the Lock Meeting option on the pop-up menu.)

Additional measures for a host include the ability to *Block a Participant’s Screen* or *Mute their Audio* and the capacity to quickly *Remove a Participant*.

(For more information, see: [https://zoom.us/docs/en-us/privacy-and-security.html?zcid=3736&creative=430738469002&keyword=zoom%20security&matchtype=e&network=g&device=c&gclid=EAlaIQobChMI06bX6sLk6AIVHBitBh2aOwECEAAAYASAAEgJ9vvD\\_BwE](https://zoom.us/docs/en-us/privacy-and-security.html?zcid=3736&creative=430738469002&keyword=zoom%20security&matchtype=e&network=g&device=c&gclid=EAlaIQobChMI06bX6sLk6AIVHBitBh2aOwECEAAAYASAAEgJ9vvD_BwE))

### **c. Beware of Phishing**

There are reports of attackers learning of an intended meeting and sending false meeting invite links which direct a person to a harmful site. Always take a moment to ensure that the source of the invite is legitimate. If you are suspicious, simply copy the ID from the link provided and enter it in the official application to join on the Zoom site.



### **d. Avoid Confidential Information**

As is the case with any contemporary computer communication, never assume that the contents will remain private. If you choose to disclose the location of your toilet paper stash, you do so at your peril!

## **2. Meeting Suggestions**

### **a. Prior to the Meeting (Special Circumstances)**

If you are using the video feature on a phone, you should download the Zoom app in advance (when you can quickly access your IOS password....Steve!)

If you are using a headset with a microphone, please do a soundcheck in advance. Vik Peck, who has been using Zoom at work for over 4 years, reports that a great deal of time is wasted when dealing with poor sound quality.

### **b. Your Meeting Location: Isolation**

Log on in a location free of background noise (TV, dishwasher, spouse, kids, dogs barking) Noise from these sources is disruptive and makes it difficult for other participants to hear.



### c. Virtual Background



Zoom allows you to set a Virtual Background which may consist of a solid colour, a pattern, a photo or even a video. While it may be tempting to prevent participants from seeing the clutter in your room, it can be distracting for other participants and may make it difficult for them to see you or your turnings. The better option is to clean your room!

### d. Lighting

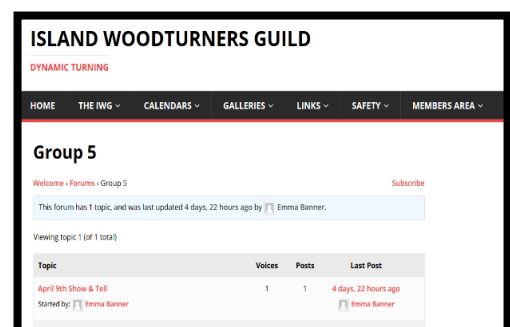
While a dark room may make it easier for you to see your screen, it also makes it impossible for others to see your turnings.



Also, avoid backlighting which makes it difficult if not impossible for you and your turnings to be seen. The camera should point away from a window or a bright light source. While not essential, ideally you should have a good source of light in front of you and behind the camera on your computer.

**Note:** The resolution of some webcams is extremely limited which makes it difficult for participants to see fine details in turnings. Consider posting photos of your work in advance on the new Guild Forum (Guild Website: Members Only Area) to assist other participants.

(There are designated sites on the forum for each small group).



### e. At the Start of a Meeting

At the outset of each meeting, every participant should test their microphone and speakers to ensure they are working. It is easier to resolve any problems before the session starts.

Once the call has started, check to see if everyone can hear and see each other. A good way to do this is by having the host make a “roll call”.

Finally, it is helpful if the host selects the order of presenters and informs the group.

### f. Display Turnings: Slow Down

Don't rush the display of your work. Keep in mind that at a conventional meeting, most participants will take at least 10 or 15 seconds to view a turning.



### g. Noise Problems During Meeting

#### House Noise



If you cannot control noises in your home (e.g. typing or slurping your martini), please consider “muting” yourself by touching the Mute button at the left end of the lower tool bar (Left: arrow). When you want to make a comment, simply touch the button to “unmute”.

### Echo/Feedback

If you are hearing an echo it means that one (or more) of the participants has a device that is channeling the audio back.



The most common cause is that a participant's microphone is too close to their speakers and is picking up the sound. There are a few possible solutions.

- i. If the “culprit” has headphones, they should use them. This is the best solution since headphone microphones will rarely pick up sound from speakers. (They are in your ears!!!).
- ii. Turn down the volume on your speakers.
- iii. Move the speakers further away from the microphone although the speaker sound may still “bounce” around the room and produce an echo.
- iv. Failing these, the person in question should “mute” themselves when not speaking. (If they refuse, the host can mute a participant!).

## **h. Hiding Out**

Finally, if you need to use the washroom during a meeting, PLEASE ensure that you have stopped your video by selecting the Start Video button on the bottom menu.



The following link shows what might happen otherwise:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O-tjwY9BIJA>

**(Thankfully for the person involved, this video has only been viewed a mere 4.5 million times.)**

## **i. Zoom Tutorials**



For more information on how to participate in a Zoom session, see the resources at:

<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/206618765-Zoom-Video-Tutorials>

## **PARTING OFF**

Many thanks to Andre, Rick, Vik and Gord K for their help with this edition of the newsletter and to the members of the Executive for their efforts to keep us engaged during these trying times.

Special thanks this edition goes to Virginia – our webmistress - for the immense amount of work she undertook to provide us with an outstanding Guild Forum.

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## **CONCLUDING THOT (THOUGHT!)**

