



IWG News

The Newsletter of the Island Woodturners Guild

June 2021



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:
John Kilcoyne

Member at Large:
Virginia Lee

Member at Large:
Marlene Speckert

Past President:
Steve Werner

Newsletter Editor:
John Kilcoyne

The IWG gratefully acknowledges the support of the following companies:

[Artisan Wood to Works](#)
[Chipping Away](#)
[Industrial Plastics & Paints](#)
[Island Blue Print](#)
[KMS Tools](#)
[PJ White Hardwoods](#)
[Richelieu Hardware](#)

THE PRESIDENT'S TURN

Wow, it's June already. This has been a year we won't soon forget. As I have said many times this last year, I think our Guild has done remarkably well. I would like to thank all the people who have helped keep us active and growing. We have added quite a few new members despite not having any in-person meetings. The downside is we have not met the new members face to face. But we will soon.

I have been reading a lot of articles recently about what in-person meetings might look like. I suspect that they will most likely be a hybrid of in-person and Zoom. While the Zoom meetings have run well, I'm sure that we all miss the companionship of meeting in person. So, if we can combine the two then everyone will be able to attend the meeting one way or another.

However, this will require volunteers to run the Zoom meetings which will become part of the audio/video setup we have been using for our in-person meetings.

Speaking of this month's meeting, I'm looking forward to watching Carl Jacobson do his demo. I am sure it'll be one more thing to add to my list of things to make. Unfortunately, that list keeps getting longer and not shorter.

I hope everyone has a great summer. Enjoy the weather and activities. If you can, get out to the shop and make something. I'll look forward to the Show and Tell at September's meeting!

Cheers!

Tim Karpiak

NEXT MEETING: JUNE 26

Our next meeting on Saturday June 26th will feature a live remote demonstration by Carl Jacobson. He will demonstrate how to turn a Cryptex.



FALL MEETINGS

The Executive is obviously in a difficult position planning meetings for next fall. Despite encouraging signs, the reality is that it will be some time before we know whether we can return to in-person meetings and if so whether there will be limitations on the number of persons who can attend. Moreover, we recognize that there may be some members who will be reluctant to attend.



Accordingly, the Executive has decided that it is going to arrange live remote demonstrations for both September and October. This will deal with the possibility of continued restrictions. On the other hand, if it turns out that we can meet in person, we hope to live stream the demonstration in our meeting hall which would provide the opportunity for those members who are interested to get together in person.

VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY NEEDED

With the prospect of a return to in-person meetings in the near future, we are urgently in need of volunteers for two tasks.

Photography

With the passing of Stu Carmichael, we need someone to step up and agree to take pictures of demonstrations and “*Show and Tell*” offerings at our monthly meetings. Ideally, we hope that a few members will agree to take this on so that the work can be shared.



(While no experience is required, an understanding of how a camera works would be a distinct asset!)

Audio-Visual

We also need one or more members to agree to assume responsibility for A/V work which includes equipment operation during in-person demonstrations and Zoom events.



For the past year, these tasks have been assumed by Tim Karpiak and Vik Peck. They have done so while also undertaking the time-consuming tasks that are associated with their positions as President and Vice-President. This cannot continue.

Tim and Vik have indicated that they are willing to offer training and assistance to volunteers.

MAY RECAP

Our May meeting featured a presentation by Jay Mapson of the Fraser Valley Woodturners on his Salt/Pepper shakers in the form of Japanese Kokeshi dolls.

Introduction

a. Kokeshi Dolls



For those who are not familiar with them, Kokeshi dolls date back to the early 1800's. Turned from a single piece of wood, they were initially sold as souvenirs to visitors at hot springs in Northern Japan. Said to bring good fortune, they quickly became popular as children's toys.

Modern Kokeshi doll-making emerged in the early 1940's. While retaining the limb-less form, this era saw an increasing emphasis on decoration using iconic scenes as well as themes and motifs in Japanese history and literature. This in turn prompted growing interest in Kokeshi dolls amongst national and international art collectors.

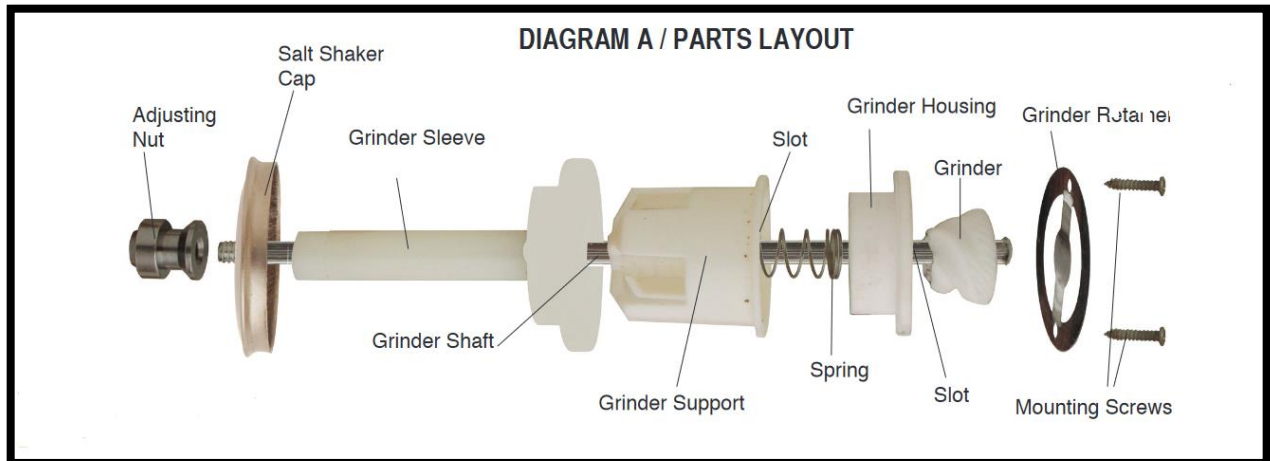


Amongst North American turners, Kokeshi dolls by Lisa Holt-Hodson and Jacob Hodson (left) and Cynthia Carden (right) are highly regarded.



b. Salt/Pepper Mill Kits

While most kits are available as single Salt or Pepper mills, Jay uses kits which have a combination of a pepper mill and a salt shaker. The following are the typical components.



1. Wood Selection

Jay uses predominantly burls or figured wood which he colours using Prismacolor pens. These contain alcohol, dye-based ink and the colours can be blended using either the pens themselves or a blender from Chart Pak.



More recently, he has experimented using natural edge burls for the hair.

2. Adjusting Nut

The nut on the top of the assembly is used to set the grind for the peppercorns. One of the obvious challenges Jay faced was how to “hide” this component.



Over the years he has experimented with a variety of forms including balls and bows which are turned and then carved.



To reduce the size, he initially ground the adjusting nut down. More recently, he has opted to replace it with a smaller hex nut.

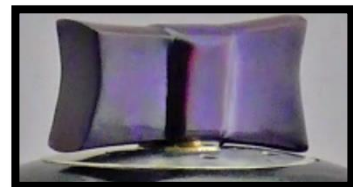
3. Body Size

He prefers a figure with a relatively narrow body. To accomplish this, he mounts the grinder sleeve, which is the widest component, in a chuck and turns the diameter down.



4. Salt Shaker Cap

As the diagram of parts above shows, the metal salt shaker cap in most kits is quite large and can distract from the overall appearance of the doll.



He has been able to find a kit from KMS tools which contains a much smaller diameter cap. In other cases, he simply discards the cap and drills holes in the “hair piece”.

5. Embellishments



More recently, he has begun to produce products with various embellishments on both the body and the head.



6. Other Styles

Jay has also begun to produce other unique forms of shakers.



ROTARY CARVING: BITS AND BURRS

Introduction

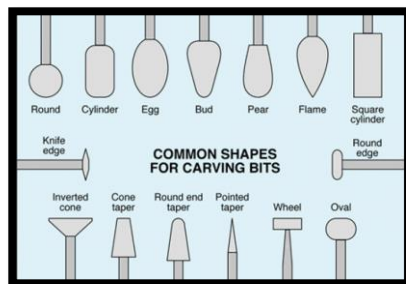
The note in the May Newsletter on Rotary Carving Tools prompted a number of requests for information on carving burrs and bits. In terms of shape, size and composition, there are literally thousands of different carving bits. The following is only a partial overview of those which are likely to be most useful for turners.



A. SHANK SIZE

The most common shank diameters are $\frac{1}{4}$ ", $\frac{1}{8}$ ", $\frac{3}{32}$ ", and $\frac{1}{16}$ ". Flexible shaft machines accept any of these diameters when equipped with the appropriate collet. Micro motors typically accept $\frac{1}{8}$ ", $\frac{3}{32}$ " and with an optional collet, $\frac{1}{16}$ "-diameter shanks. Air turbine machines use only friction bits with a $\frac{1}{16}$ "-diameter shank.

B. SHAPES



As the diagram shows, burrs come in a variety of shapes. While the best shape will obviously depend upon the nature of the carving, the most used shapes are the ball (round), cylinder and flame.

C. APPLICATION

Burrs are available in a variety of materials which vary in cost, cutting speed, durability, and the smoothness of the carved surface. The following is an overview of burrs depending upon the carving task.

1. Stock Removal

a. Carbide Point

Carbide-point burrs have razor-sharp carbide cutting teeth arranged in a configuration which resists loading. They are the most popular choice for aggressive stock removal although they leave a rough surface.



Brands include Kutzall, Typhoon and Saburtooth and there does not appear to be a measurable difference between these three in terms of cost, durability and performance. They are available in either a 1/8" or 1/4" shank and typically in a coarse or fine "grit". Prices range from \$20 – 30.

b. Carbide Burrs

For a slightly less aggressive burr but a smoother finish, many use conventional carbide burrs. They are available in a variety of shanks and are very long lasting.



They are available in either a single or double cut with the latter providing a smoother surface and greater control. (US\$15).

c. Stump Cutters

Finally, many wood carvers use stump cutters made from either high-speed steel or tungsten vanadium steel which have a cross-cut pattern of serrated knife edge cutters. They are easier to control than carbide cutters and provide a smoother finish. They are available in both coarse and fine. (\$13 – \$15)



d. Dura Grit

These bits are used for primarily used for cutting and shaping as opposed to stock removal. They are coated with a carbide-grit which is long lasting but not as durable as the burrs noted above. (\$16 – \$25).



2. Detailing/Texturing

Burrs for detailing or texturing are available in a wide range of materials. They all perform roughly the same with the major differences being cost and longevity. The following are some of the more popular ones.

a. Vanadium Tungsten Steel (VTS)

Recommended by many professionals including Dixie Biggs, these are perhaps the most popular burrs for texturing by woodturners. Often referred to as mini-stump burrs, they are available in ball, cylinder and cone shapes and are very inexpensive (US\$5.25/Set of 6 burrs)



While they are obviously not as durable as other materials such as HSS, diamonds or rubies, Guild members report that they will last a surprisingly long time when texturing common woods such as big leaf maple and arbutus. At a cost of CA\$1 per burr, they are cheaper than sandpaper!

b. Diamond Burrs

Diamond burrs are available in two types - plated and sintered – and both are available in a wide range of shapes.



The former has a single layer of diamonds embedded in the metal head while the latter have diamonds that are bonded to a powdered bronze matrix at very high temperatures which produce multiple layers of diamonds.

Sintered burrs are almost as durable as carbide burrs and can be sharpened with a diamond dressing stone. Most sources suggest that they will last 10 times that of plated burrs, a point which is reflected in their cost. Sintered burrs cost \$30 (KV Wood Carving Supplies) while plated burrs (from a reputable manufacturer) cost approximately US\$5 (MDI Woodcarvers)

Note: While sets of plated diamond burrs can be obtained for as little as \$18 for 20 burrs. (Amazon), reviewers report that the diamond plating is very, very thin and that some of the burrs may be so poorly machined that they produce severe oscillation. On the other hand, if you are looking to experiment, they do offer an inexpensive option even if you discard 2 or 3 burrs.



c. Ruby Burrs

Less durable than diamond burrs, these have ruby particles bonded to a steel body. They are an extremely popular choice with carvers and are available in three grits. They cut at a modest rate and leave a very smooth surface. (\$15 – \$20)



d. Ceram Cut Blue Stones

While these can be use for light texturing, they are best suited to smoothing. Composed of a ceramic and aluminum oxide abrasive, they run very cool and will not burn the wood. (\$4)



3. Sanding

a. Radial Bristle Discs



Originally developed by 3M for jewellery work, the bristles are impregnated with ceramic and aluminum-oxide particles. They are particularly useful for deburring and sanding irregular surfaces.

They are widely available in a range of grits (80X to 1,200X) and diameters (9/16" – 1"). They are mounted on a mandrel either as a single disc (for narrow sanding) or a gang of 6 discs for wider surfaces. ((\$14/6 pack: Mandrel extra).

b. Small Disc Sanders

While there are a few commercial products, they are relatively expensive, and the quality of the sandpaper is often sub-standard.

The following are instructions from two professional turners on how they custom make small sanding discs.

Neil Turner



Neil uses silicone rubber wheel polishers (3/4" dia disk with 3/32" shank) that he buys from Rio Grande. (US\$12.50/pkg 10).

<https://www.riogrande.com/product/advantedge-plus-polisher-brown-fine/33277410>



The disk is relatively firm, so he sands the outer edge to reduce thickness and increase flexibility. He then glues Velcro hook pads on the face for quick change using loop-backed sandpaper. He emphasizes the importance of using these discs at a slow speed (7,000 rpm) and with a light touch.

Dixie Biggs



For smaller sanding disks, Dixie uses various sizes of rotary tool mandrels. She removes the screw and attaches small sandpaper disks to the face using double-sided tape. The coarsest grit she uses is 180 – which is surprisingly aggressive in a micro-motor.



Several Guild members who use these mandrels, prefer to attach adhesive-backed sandpaper to a sheet of adhesive-backed craft foam.



They then use hollow punches to create different sized discs of various grits.



These must also be used at a slow speed, and you should avoid applying heavy pressure. Otherwise, the heat generated will “melt” the adhesive and send the disk flying off the mandrel.

c. Cushioned Sander

Available in a 1/4" or 1/8" shank, these bits have a soft rubber backing which allows you to sand contoured work. They work best with Swiss sanding cloth (KMS) which is cut into small pieces and secured in the tool. (US\$13)



Mini Cartridge Rolls

Available in 2 sizes and 3 grits, these rolls are secured on either a screw end mandrel or a tapered split mandrel.



While they are inexpensive (US\$5/10 rolls), they do not last very long.

4. Sources

There are a few Canadian sources for carving bits including:

Chipping Away (10% discount)
KV Wood Carving Supplies
Razertip

<https://www.chippingaway.com/>
<https://kvwoodcarvingsupplies.com/>
<https://www.razertip.com/>

For a more extensive selection of bits, you may want to consider the following U.S. sources:

Rio Grande
MDI Woodcarvers Supply
Wood Carvers Supply

<https://www.riogrande.com/>
<https://mdiwoodcarvers.com/>
<http://www.woodcarverssupply.com/home.asp>

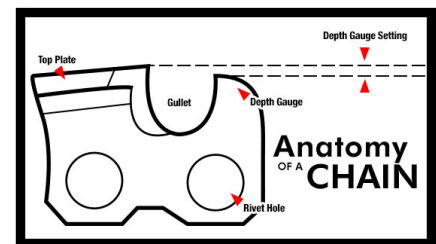
CHAINSAW SHARPENING GUIDES

Sharpening a chainsaw chain by hand is similar to free grinding a gouge. It can be done but it takes considerable practice to get a good result. Since most of us are casual users, a sharpening guide can be a useful tool. The following note offers some general sharpening points before discussing a few of the more popular guides for manual sharpening, all of which enjoy high ratings by users.

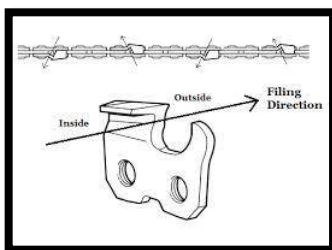
Introduction

a. Cutter Teeth

The key parts of a cutter tooth are the cutting edge at the front of the top plate, the gullet which allows for chip removal and the depth gauge which determines the depth of the cut and thus thickness of the chip.



b. Filing Direction



Always file from the inside to the outside of each tooth.

While files are milled so that the teeth will only cut on the push stroke, they can still ruin an edge if contact is made on the return stroke.

c. Keep the File Parallel

To produce an effective cutting edge, the file stroke should be parallel to the top of the bar (or perpendicular to the side of the bar). If you file right-handed, use your left hand to maintain the position of the file on the far side of the tooth.



d. Equal Strokes

File each tooth the same number of times. Al Lundgren, our resident chainsaw expert, recommends 3 strokes per tooth. The first stroke orients the file to the tooth, the second stroke files back the cutter edge and the third stroke sharpens the tooth. For routine sharpening, you do not need to apply heavy pressure. A mild stroke is sufficient and try to maintain a smooth filing stroke with equal pressure on each stroke on each tooth.

Note: Remember to mark the first tooth you are going to sharpen to know when to stop.

e. Clamp the Bar

While not essential, clamping the bar will make it easier to develop consistency of stroke and angle. If you don't have a vice, a secured 2x4 and two C-clamps will work just fine.

f. Depth Gauge

As noted above, the depth gauge determines the depth of cut – which generally should be about 0.020 – 0.025". As the cutter is sharpened, it will eventually reduce the depth of cut, which means that the depth gauge must be filed down for best performance. You may also need to file the leading edge of the gauge to ensure that it is rounded over.

Note: Never lower the rakers more than 0.025" as the chain will become too aggressive and hard to handle which could lead to a kickback.

SHARPENING GUIDES

1. Basic Kit

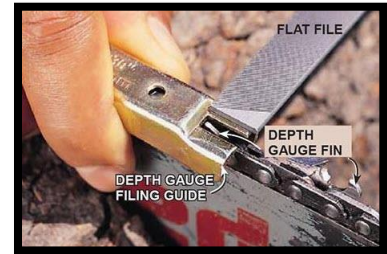
A basic kit consists of sharpening and depth gauge guides. The former consists of a flat bar with handle in which the round file is secured.





This tool makes it easier to maintain a parallel position and the indent lines (typically 25 and 30 degrees) assist in maintaining the required angle. More importantly, these guides position the file at the appropriate height on the cutting edge (approximately 1/5th of the file above the top plate) thereby avoiding the common problem of the file being set too low in the gullet.

The depth gauge guide is a simple bar with a slot which fits over the depth gauge and allows you to file the gauge to the prescribed setting of .025".



Kits including both the sharpening and depth gauge tools as well as a round and flat file are available for \$20 (Cdn Tire).

Note: If you are going to purchase one of these, you should buy one from a recognized chainsaw manufacturer (e.g., Oregon, Stihl). The cost is roughly the same as no-name brands and on-line reviewers report that they are sturdier and have better quality files.

2. "2 in 1" Guides

Husqvarna, Stihl and Pferd all offer guides which will simultaneously sharpen the cutter and lower the depth gauge to its proper height. They all enjoy high on-line ratings. They are available in various sizes depending upon the diameter of the round file.

Caution: If you own a different manufacturer's chainsaw, ensure that the round file size matches your chain before purchasing.

a. Husqvarna Sharpforce

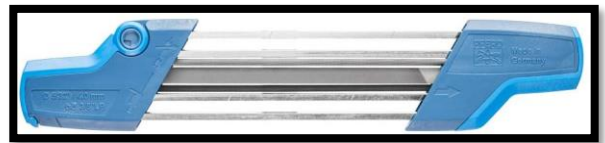
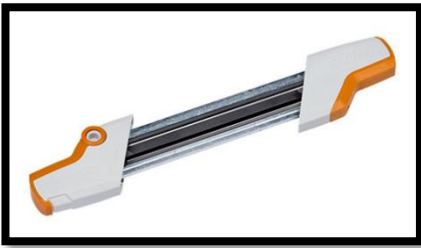
Available in 5/32", 3/16" and 7/32" (\$50 Integrity Sales)



The only quibble with this guide is that to sharpen the teeth on the opposite side, you need to unlock the top and bottom of the handles and reverse the round and flat files.

For a short video on how to use this tool, visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MI-22E5Jj4>

b. Stihl 2 in 1/ Pferd CS-X Sharpener



These tools appear to be nearly identical and there is a rumour that both are made in Germany by Pferd.

They are available in 5/32", 3/16", 13/64" and 7/32" and unlike the Husqvarna they both have two round files which means you can simply flip the tool over to sharpen the "opposite" teeth. (i.e., there is no need to remove and reverse the files.)

Stihl: \$61 (Western Equipment)

Pferd: \$66 (Amazon)

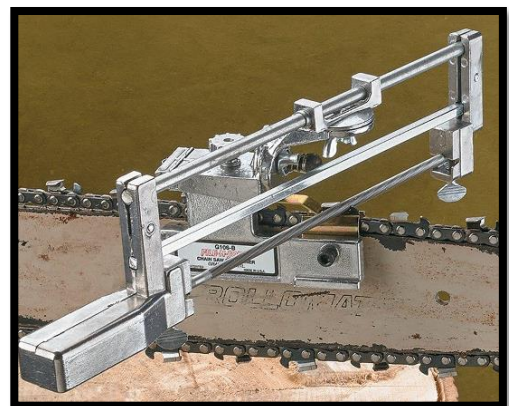
Stihl review: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fNHlvx70aBY>

Pferd review: <https://diymyway.net/2020/07/08/best-chainsaw-sharpener-ever/>

3. Granberg Bar-Mount

This guide allows a wide range of adjustments for different chains and unlike the "2 in 1" guides, will hold range of round file diameters. As a result, if you use different chains on your saw or have multiple chainsaws, this is a significant advantage.

If you have only one chainsaw and use only one type of chain, you will simply set the various adjustments and leave them in place.



Some users do report a few concerns with this guide.

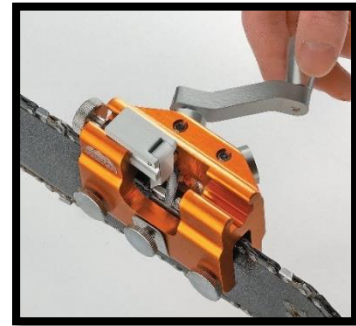
The written instructions leave much to be desired and accordingly you will want to view one or more YouTube videos for more precise direction. (A good one to start with can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=thS7y72QAa8>). While the file rails are steel, most of the guide is made from relatively weak die cast aluminum which can break in rough use. The filing angle and depth markers on the cast are difficult to read and not very precise. Finally, this tool relies upon two wing nuts for securing the most important settings. Many users report that these are difficult to access- even by those with relatively small fingers.

Having said that, none of these concerns are fatal and overall users report a very high level of satisfaction. (LV: \$55)

4. Timberline Chainsaw Sharpener

At over \$200 for the sharpener and carbide burr \$(LV), this is not for the casual user. However, if you do a lot of sawing and are looking for a “Cadillac” guide, this is the one.

Somewhat akin to a pencil sharpener, each tooth is sharpened with a carbide cutter fitted on a hand crank. An adjustable pawl pushes the chain forward and thus sets a consistent tooth length. It can be used on virtually any chainsaw chain.



The following video (at minute 1:30) shows how to set up this guide: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BBJOtkqUnEI>

Users offer the following tips:

- i. Make sure that the unit is parallel to the bar. After setting the tool in position, move to another tooth to check whether there is the same clearance.
- ii. Do not set the guide for an aggressive cut. Set the pawl so that only a light cut is taken.
- iii. Always wear gloves. The carbide burr produces barb-like shards of metal.

CHAINSAW SAFETY

For information on chainsaw safety, see the note in the February 2018 Newsletter.

RAY SAPERGIA: RICHMOND CARVERS SHOW

Congratulations to Ray who was awarded First Place, First in Division and Best of Show (Woodturning) at the 2021 Richmond Carvers Show for the following basket weave illusion bowl. A very impressive piece of work.



AAW VIRTUAL SYMPOSIUM 2021

The 2021 AAW on-line symposium will take place on July 17th and 18th. While the live sessions run from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (Eastern Daylight Time), they will be recorded to allow registrants to view them at their leisure. The cost is US\$45 for AAW members and US\$60 for all others.



The demonstrators and topics include:

- Nick Agar, Turning Platters with Decorated Rims
- Stuart Batty, Bowl Turning: The 40/40 Grind
- Dixie Biggs, Need Some Relief?
- Trent Bosch, Sienna Series Hollow Forms
- Bruce Campbell, Managing Green Wood
- Pat Carroll, Square Box with Pewter Inserts
- Art Liestman, Flame Texturing of Highly Figured Hardwoods

More information and registration procedures can be found at:

https://www.woodturner.org/Woodturner/2021-Virtual-Symposium/2021-Virtual-Symposium-Home.aspx?New_ContentCollectionOrganizerCommon=1#New_ContentCollectionOrganizerCommon

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL: NO RUSH BUT....

Your current Guild membership does not expire until September 30, 2021. However, each year the President and Treasurer are faced with a flood of applications in September which imposes a considerable workload. Accordingly, if you intend to renew your membership, would you please consider doing it before September. You can find the on-line form at:

[Membership Application/Renewal Form – Island Woodturners Guild](#)

PARTING OFF

Thanks to everyone who made this such a good year in such trying circumstances. And a special thanks to Marlene Speckert for volunteering to serve on the Executive. (A clear future President in the making!).

CONCLUDING THOT

