

Woodturning 101

2 day session

July 17 & 18, 2021

We are still not able to meet at our normal venue, the East Plains United Church in Burlington, and we may not be able to for a while longer, probably until the fall at the earliest. One of our worries is that the novices who join the club in order to learn would be disappointed at the lack of hands-on instruction. To partially remediate this problem, a special two day Woodturning 101 session was hosted by your president in the garden of his house in Dundas.



On the Friday, six portable gazebos were erected in the backyard by Keith, Brent Beacroft, and their wives Christine and Margaret. Luckily, Christine and Keith's house is located on a slopping lot with level access to the basement where Keith has located his shop. Tables were also set up, and grinders or lathes were moved in and out of the workshop as required. The gazebos were an excellent idea as it rained constantly during the first

hands-on session on the Saturday, the weather eventually turning to reasonable by the Sunday afternoon. Here are a few more pictures of the set-up:





The two days were divided into four demos and hands-on periods as follows:

Saturday am: Shaping and Sharpening with Maurice Solar

Saturday pm: Spindle gouge with Mike Brazeau

Sunday am: Attaching wood to the lathe with Keith Robinson

Sunday pm: Bowl gouge with Andy DiTomaso followed by skew with Keith Robinson

The attendees were, from left to right: Suzanne Wood, Stephen Nash, Paul Ortman, Rick Craven, Mike Dawson and Joe Love.



Brent Beacroft, Mike Brazeau and Keith Robinson couldn't help it and had to insert themselves into the picture.

Since this format (2 full days on a weekend) is new, we asked the attendees for comments and everybody responded. Here are a selected few:

- Suzanne said “I think it’s easier for people to block one weekend vs two weekends at one day per weekend. Also there is huge prep time ... and one set-up is enough.”
- Paul mentioned that he “picked up lots of important details to look for, which I was not seeing before, in the ways things are sharpened, tool control and bevel placement to the wood.”
- Stephen added “For my part, I learned a lot from the technical explanations and the patient responses to my questions. Especially effective was the hands-on approach.”
- Mike was pleased that he “ended up with sharp tools with a new profile in some cases” and “getting the feel when the cut is correct is amazing...The weekend was great and having individual stations for hands-on perfect.”
- Rick added “The atmosphere was very supportive. Loved listening to the senior members share stories over lunch.”
- And Joe summed it up perfectly when he said “the key is practice, practice, practice.”

And Keith and Christine were thanked repeatedly for sacrificing their back-lawn to this exercise.

It thus appears that this format, an intensive four sessions over a two day weekend was well received and worth repeating.

Cheers