

The Chip Flyer

Golden Horseshoe Woodturners Guild Newsletter



No. 37

April 1999

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IN HOUSE MEETINGS

Regular Meeting

Thursday April 15
7.00 p.m.

Hands on Night

Thursday April 8
7.00 p.m.

EDITORIAL RAMBLINGS

It was brought to my attention at the last meeting by a concerned member, that it appeared as though some of the material being brought in for the raffle table was cracked, flawed or otherwise structurally compromised. While this type of material can often provide interesting possibilities for the experienced artisan, it can also be a hazard to the inexperienced or otherwise unwary.

The point of all this (and I usually have one), is that we should all make an effort to insure that the materials we donate are solid stock, and not just one step away from ending up in the fireplace. Or, if you do bring in something that may contain a flaw which you are aware of, please make a note of it on the object itself.

I was fortunate enough to witness an informal critique session that occurred at the last hands-on night of a platter turned by the Guild's illustrious president. Not only did he have the gumption to show his turning where he knew that it would draw everyone's focus, but he then proceeded to approach a few of the more accomplished turners on hand to ask for their no-holds-barred critique.

This led me to thinking about the nature of criticism, and how it is often perceived by the public at large. Once upon a time, in a land far, far away (St. Catharines to be exact), I was a student enrolled in the Fine Arts program in an institution of higher learning (or so they claimed). While the study of Fine Arts is typically not held in the same esteem as say engineering or molecular biology, you can rest assured that everyone there was extremely committed to their chosen discipline. Among the professors, I experienced some who were exceptionally gifted artists/mentors, and others that could best be described as a walking-talking poster child for the dangers of working with solvents in an enclosed area.

But of the first group, there was one in particular that I admired and consider to be one of the preeminent influences to my developing eye. During a year's worth of studio courses under his tutelage, the nearest thing to a compliment that he had ever muttered in my general direction was, "this is kind of interesting," and, "there are no major problems with this."

Now, it is not that I was totally incompetent when it comes to these matters, it is just that he didn't believe in stoking one's ego, pointless flattery or pin-

ning our pictures on the refrigerator door in a motherly fashion. He was there to make us better, to point out what we had missed, and impart his experienced eye to refining our developing talents.

All of this relates equally as well to the world of turning. When Brian asked for criticism of his platter, he did not need to hear how well he had maximized the inherent properties of the wood in his design, or that his technical execution and tool manipulation were skillfully applied - he knew all this. What he wanted to know, was how, from a design perspective, could he make a fine turning even better.

What he found, is that all of the pieces were in place, that there were no glaring problems, and basically, that it was only a matter of further refining what he had already accomplished (once he completes the base, that is!).

Criticism, it is centrally important to any developing artisan, and something that we are sure to hear more about in the future.

Comments, suggestions, or, dare I say it, criticisms, should all be forwarded to the editor in writing for inclusion in future issues of the Chip Flyer.

Busy Bee Demonstration

Robert Sorby will have a demonstration at Busy Bee Tools at 355 Norfinch Drive, North York on April 19th. The demonstrator will be Keith Rowley who is the author of the book "Woodturning Projects".

For detailed information please contact Zul Virani at (416) 665-8008 ext. 111

Keith Rowley

Keith Rowley is one of the most prominent of today's British woodturners. Having been actively involved in the craft for over 50 years. He is just as comfortable with spindle work as face-plate work.

Having served his formative years undertaking a joinery apprenticeship, Keith, who hails from Derbyshire in the English midlands produced functional pieces for the local mining community. However, the decline in the coal industry caused him to change career and as a consequence he spent many years in the local police force. However, when he took early retirement, Keith decided to return to his roots and become a professional woodturner. In that capacity he has undertaken commissions from customers worldwide as well as teaching a stream of aspiring woodturners at his workshop. Keith's presentation style is very easy on the ear as he mingles tips and hints on his craft with stories of his past. Yet through all that skill of the craftsman with his innate love of wood shines through.

His book "Woodturning - A Foundation Course" first published in 1990 has not only be-

come a best seller but remains the source of knowledge and inspiration for many taking their first steps in woodturning.

Keith is now undertaking his second visit to the USA / first visit to Canada as part of the popular Robert Sorby demonstration tour. During his visit Keith will be passing on many of the tips learnt over 50 years as well as demonstrating many of Robert Sorby's woodturning tools.

Do you have e-mail?

Do you sit pensively by the mail slot every month, waiting for your much cherished copy of the Chip Flyer to be delivered? Well then, have we got a deal for you. If you are one of the first 150 members to reply to this offer, we will e-mail you your copy of the newsletter at absolutely no cost to you! That's right, no charge!

All that you have to do, is send us your name and e-mail address letting us know that you are interested in this exclusive

offer, and then sit back and relax, secure in the knowledge that you will receive your copy as soon as it is available.

The email will be forwarded as an Adobe PDF file that can be opened using the Adobe Acrobat Reader Version 3.0. If you do not have this free program on your computer you can download it from the Adobe web site (www.adobe.com) or failing this by contacting us for a copy. The reader is a very small file and requires only 4 megs ram to run. You can view, and print the file. We hope to have some of the photos we take of the turned items displayed in colour in future publications.

April Demonstrator

Al McBurney will be discussing the Identification of Canadian Trees and Understanding the nature of wood. Al has a B.A. in Biology and a Masters in Physiology which gives him the knowledge to understand the subject. His background as

a science teacher and high school Vice Principle gives him the teaching skills to get the subject across in an understandable way. He also has over 10 years of turning experience, so he can relate to the actual hands on experience of working with different woods.

This should be a very informative session, especially for those of us who harvest some of our own wood. Al's discussion will touch on identifying the species (a difficult proposition sometimes), the nature of wood, it's characteristics (how it dries, stability, workability, etc) and a general discussion of this fascinating medium.

Frank Ditomaso

Membership Update

All right, we admit it. The membership roster may contain one or two small typographical errors, but with your assistance, we will endeavor to correct them. If you know of an error (for instance, misspelling St. Catharines), please, let us know. If we have left something out, again, let us know. While we are at it, we would also like to increase our database to include your e-mail address (for the technophiles out there).

Another addition that I would like to see with the membership database, is to create a networking guide whereby one would be able to approach other members for a particular trade or service. For example, if I needed the services of an accountant, all that I would have to do is refer to the list, and possibly find someone



And the winner is "Angela Horley"

there who will fit the bill. The member would obviously charge me for their services, but the point being that I would at least have a starting point for mysearch. This list could be comprised of both professional trades and services, and since our guild has a large contingent of retired members, "post-professional" skills as well. I can see a lot of possibilities for this, and hopefully we can develop it over the coming months. If you would like to be included in this, please send me a note, e-mail or phone call detailing your services.

GHWG Hands on Session

The March session was very well attended and I think that everyone is getting some good information and training.

I have to make one correction to last months article. Al Mcburney will be teaching hollow turning for novices - not deep hollow turning as stated in the newsletter. That was my error in reading Josh's handwriting. Sorry Al! This is the only session that will be held in May, June and July (at Al's home). Al has a good program lined up and it's nearly full.

The April sessions are nearly all booked up except for a few spaces in the sharpening session and one opening in advanced bowl turning with Josh.

For May and June we have some additional information. The topics are as follows: Natural Edge bowls with Dennis Crow, Hollow Turning for the Novice with Al Mcburney, Lidded Boxes or Bowls with Cliff

Rose, Curved Lip bowls with Josh Pichanick and Bottle Stoppers with Brian McIntosh.

We will take a break for the summer and then start with a new slate of topics in Sept. I will have more on that in an upcoming newsletter.

If you want to get in on a session please call Jim Wright at (905) 681-2691 and leave a message if I'm not home as to which session you want, which time slot and your phone number just in case I have to call you back with a change.

Remember, the instructors are volunteers, so remember which session you are attending and be on time.

Thanks, Jim Wright

WEBSITE OF THE MONTH

April's Site of the Month is actually a newsgroup - rec.crafts.woodturning.

If you are new to the web, or a veteran of the surfing scene, this should be regular stop on your surfing safari.

To get there, enter **www.dejanews.com** in your browsers address bar, and then from the dejanews menu, enter **rec.crafts.woodturning** in the search box.

On a typical day, I found 2204 recent messages posted, ranging from "what is the best woodturning magazine subscription," to "what is the best pen mandrel."

On the plus side, there is a quite a lot of useful information to be gleaned here, and all of it free for the asking. If you have a particular problem that has

"HAVE IT YOUR WAY"

WOODTURNING COMPETITION

As I mentioned in an earlier newsletter, the Guild would like to have a woodturning competition in the fall. All those who enter would be given a wood blank measuring either 3" x 3" x 12" or 3" x 6" x 6", your choice. All pieces would be of the same species, we are looking at using hard maple, soft maple or ash and kiln dried. The exact species hasn't been decided yet, we are still talking to suppliers.

From there on you're on your own. Use your creative instincts and imagination and make whatever you want out of it. You can slice it up, glue it, dye it, paint it, your choice, the only real rule is that in the final analysis, it must be turned, after all we are woodturners.

Since some turners enjoy the challenge of making something with only the blank supplied them, while others would prefer to add something to it such as knobs, veneer, rings etc, we have come up with two categories. The first is for purists; the finished item must not have anything added to it except glue and finish (which could be a clear finish, dye, paint etc.). The second category is for those who like variety, the piece could contain up to 20% of the original volume added to it in the form of metal, veneer, additional wood etc. One could start a long argument as to which category would be more difficult.

The pieces will be separated into 8 groups for judging, 4 for the purists and 4 for variety, each having classes for Novice, Intermediate, Advanced and Master. You decide which class you want to enter, but remember, if you have won in a competition before, you must move up a class.

Prizes will be given for the best piece in each of the eight groups and well as one for the most creative and another for the best use of material.

Judging will take place at the October 21 meeting with 3 judges. **Do not** identify the piece with your name on the bottom, you can do that after you take it home again. The judges will critique the winning entries after the competition. The entry must be brought to the October 21 meeting by 7:30 so the judging can take place.

To enter, fill in the entry form in this newsletter or pick one up at the April 15 or May 20 general meeting. Get the entry form to me (Frank Ditomaso) at one of the meetings. The wood blanks will be handed out at the June 17 meeting. We need to have the entry forms in at the May 20 meeting at the latest so we know how much wood to order. The entry fee is \$10 which must accompany the entry form. The entry fee will pay for the wood and leave us a little extra to buy prizes.

You will have all summer to convert your humble blank of wood into something really special. I think with over 100 members we will have over 100 unique and interesting entries.

Go for it and have fun.

Frank Ditomaso

Continued on page 6

Suppliers Forum

FREE! Robert Porby's DEMO
ON LATEST IN WOOD-TURNING!
An Event Worth Attending!
Busy Bee Tools
Toronto Location
 355 Norfinch Drive
 North York, Ont. M3N 1Y7
DATE:
 Monday April 19th '99
TIME: Noon - 5:00p.m.



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The Marketplace

Items will appear in the Journal for three consecutive months, if you sell it before then let us know

The club is selling its Rockwell (Delta) lathe. This 10 year old lathe is in excellent condition (only driven on Sundays by little old lady turners), with a 1 hp motor, 110-220 volt, magnetic starter, mechanical variable speed drive, 1" X 8" inboard/outboard spindle, # 2 morse taper, new bearings, drive belts, motor pulley, 12" swing X 36" bed, with accoutrements, only \$975.00 Contact Cliff Rose, 905-388-6164.

Box Trailer, ½ ton \$225
Eugene Schlaak 905-356-1845

Rockwell Light Industrial Lathe (identical to the Guilds) Variable speed, 400-2300 RPM & reverse 36" bed, 11" capacity, #2 Morse taper 3 faceplates, spur drive, screw chuck, live center, 2 drill chucks, 5 tool rests Completely rebuilt, Excellent condition \$ 1500 Jim Fretz 905-562-4397

Yellow Birch Burl approx. 500 lbs. \$350-\$400
Derek Rolf 705-754-3564 (Haliburton)

Burls, various types
Peter Schleifenbaum 705-754-2198
Haliburton Forest & Wildlife Reserve

Edge Sander 6" X 42" Belt, 1 HP motor, 3 extra belts \$300
Doug Newlove 416-622-3248

Radial Arm Saw Black and Decker 10" wired for 220 Planer Moulding guard, stand and extras \$550 or best offer
John 905-389-2645

Craftsman Vacuum System Comes complete with gates, pipes, etc. \$50
Joe Golfi 905-765-1863 (home) 905-523-4103 (work)

Delta 14" Bandsaw, 6" depth of cut, complete with motor, stand, mitre and fence, including 5 blades. Excellent condition. \$400 Al
McBurney 905-332-6343

Set of Hosolock Hollowing Tools and extension, (used once), and video. Includes ext. handle, long steel handle, 3 tool bars. \$125
Airmate 2 Airstream (never used, includes warranty) \$350
Tecknatool Ring Tool plus 3 tips \$35
Set of Cole Jaws for Nova Chuck (new) \$75

Sorby Scraper \$55 Richard
Stonehouse 519-824-3276 (Guelph)

Delta Dust Collector - 110 volt - 600 CFM capacity - with upgrade heavy duty topbag, 6' heavy duty 4" hose. \$180.00 Josh Pichanick 905-335-3275

Continued from page 3

been niggling away at you, then this is usually a good source to at least point you in the right direction.

On the down side, I find that it can be a little repetitive at times, and that some of the messages can be choppy or a one line answer to another, which can be annoying if that is the one that you happen to look in first.

On a positive note, the site appears to have been cleaned up quite a bit from a year ago, and I haven't seen any advertising for "offensive" sites here for quite some time.

RATING

3 ½ mouse clicks out of five.

HINTS

Upon finding a topic of interest, I prefer to open it up, and then select "thread," which will show me all of the posts for that one topic. From there, I select the first or top one, and then progressively work my way through all of the responses.



So this is the end you sharpen



A lonely little pot



I wonder what this is?



"Sparky" Wayne Cardinal