

The Chip Flyer

Golden Horseshoe Woodturners Guild Newsletter

No. 39

June 1999



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Those of you who attended the last meeting had the pleasure of seeing Maynard Bauman show us techniques for large diameter burl turning. For this demonstration, he put our new General 260 lathe to the test. It passed with flying colours. I'm sure our future demonstrators will be pleased that we purchased this piece of equipment.

Thanks to Mr. Tim Breadner from Jet Equipment & Tool, the Guild has acquired a demonstrator Jet Mini Lathe. It is our intention to purchase this lathe along with a second lathe with monies raised from a raffle we will be holding this fall. The draw will be held at our annual Christmas party. Watch the newsletter for more information on this exciting raffle.

Tickets are available for the Mitch Wolok seminar to be held at the home(workshop) of Jim Fretz on Saturday June 19th. If you wish to attend, please see me (Brian Graham) for a ticket. The \$30.00 price of the ticket includes a B.B.Q. lunch.

The Executive has compiled an information package for all members of the Guild. The package will be available at regular meetings.

The Golden Horseshoe Woodturners Guild will be on the move again. Final arrangements with the City of Burlington for space at General Brock High School are in the works. The rapid growth of the club has necessitated multiple moves in the past but the new location we are acquiring is large enough to more than accommodate our club's future growth.

Look forward to seeing you at the June 10th hands-on night and the regular meeting on June 17th.

Brian Graham

IN HOUSE MEETINGS

Regular Meeting

Thursday June 17
7.00 p.m.

Hands on Night

Thursday June 10
7.00 p.m.



Burl Turning Techniques by Maynard Bauman

EDITORIAL RAMBLINGS

How thin is thin?

During the seventies and eighties, our fine and gentle craft of woodturning experienced a resurgence of sorts that altered our perception of what exactly a “woodturning” is supposed to be. One of the most influential turners who led us down the path, and a name recognizable to turners everywhere, is David Ellsworth. Now this is not a diatribe for or against Ellsworth and his work, but rather an examination of the net effect that his turnings have created and the after shocks that can still be felt echoing through the shops of turners today.

As anyone who is familiar with his work will know, his name is synonymous with thin walled vessels, often of the restricted or closed opening variety. He led us to believe that thin is in, and pushed us to challenge ourselves in the pursuit of near transparent wall thicknesses.

Most experienced turners, have at some point along their journey, strived to recreate the thicknesses of Ellsworth - either in a similar style, or as the good ones always do, in an application of a style all of their own. And it is not only the talented turners who attempt this, as mediocre turners such as myself have also drunk of the fountain, with a modicum of success.

Lately however, I have begun to question the merit of this exercise. With Ellsworth's work, it continues to be the perfect foil to the organic forms that he is best known for. But for a lot of the remaining turnings that I have seen, I have to wonder what exactly is the point? For some of us, it is the challenge, but once you have gone and proven to yourself that you can manage it, it simply becomes yet another tool in our design arsenal.

For others, it seems as though they are caught up in the fashion-world mantra that thinner is better, regardless of the

other factors that will ultimately determine a turnings approval

Now don't get me wrong, I'm not against the principal of thin walled turnings, I am only saying that the thin walls that you may impart on your turnings, will only play a small role in the works' success as a whole. Thin is no better, nor any worse, than thick, and cannot be viewed as an end unto itself.

As a technical challenge it remains a milestone that many novice turners keep aiming for, as it is always easier to judge if this turnings' walls are thinner than the last, than it is if you have infused your turning with the idyllic proportion of the Greek Golden Mean.

The major problem with these anorexic vessels, is that they can be extremely delicate. This is not much of a problem if you only turn for your own enjoyment, but if you should ever exhibit or sell one of your pieces, you will quickly find that not everyone is going to handle it with the reverence that you do. I have seen many wonderful thin walled turnings, some of which have irreparably suffered under the careless but well intentioned handling of others.

So the next time that you see one of your woodturning colleagues examining a bowl/vessel (what's the difference between a bowl and a vessel - a zero is added onto the price of the vessel), watch closely to see how long it takes for them to do the old thumb/forefinger test of thickness and ask yourself, “what does it really matter?”

WD

BOOK REVIEW

This month's book review is a blast from the past with a pair of classics; *Hand or Simple Turning, Principles and Practice*; and *The Principles & Practice of Ornamental or Complex Turning*.

These titles were originally published in 1881 and 1884 respectively, as part of the five volume set by John Jacob Holtzapffel affectionately entitled “Turning and Mechanical Manipulation, Intended as a Work of General Reference

and Practical instruction, on the Lathe, and the Various Mechanical Pursuits Followed by Amateurs.” The original sets are now a hot commodity on the antique book market, and I recently saw a complete set listed on the net for a little better than \$900.00 American. The two volumes in this review are full reprints by Dover, and can be ordered at your favourite bookstore.

Of the two, *Hand or Simple Turning* will find a much greater audience among the turners of today. While I have managed to slog through the *Ornamental or Complex Turning* book, it was difficult reading in spots, and certainly not for the faint of heart. Holtzapffel (both generations) was a true master of ornamental turning, and perhaps the best known manufacturer of ornamental lathes and equipment (fully outfitted examples of the lathes have been offered for \$50,000+). The *Ornamental* book is written for those with at least a familiarity with the art (if you find Bill Jones difficult to follow, you ain't seen nothin yet), but if you have ever pondered what the difference is between an epicycloidal cutting frame and a rectilinear chuck, then this is the book for you.

But even in it's complexity, there are still many parts of the book that I enjoyed, and know that some of you will also find interesting. The illustrations include work that defy the imagination, and have to be seen to be believed.

Hand or Simple Turning, is easier to read and a much more useful reference. It truly is a comprehensive manual on “simple” turning (not to be confused with simple turners, who can often be found writing editorials) with a vast store of practical information. The first time through, I was amazed at the number of century old tools and apparatuses that are once again being offered by the mainstream manufacturers.

In addition to the extremely useful chapters on chucks and tools, Holtzapffel includes some projects worthy of any intrepid turner. His explanation on how to turn Chinese balls

is as relevant today, as it was a couple of hundred years ago (and very similar to some of the modern descriptions that I have read).

In a day and age where it seems like any nincompoop is able to write and publish a book on woodturning, it is endearing to know that works like these are available for those of us willing to rise to the occasion.

WD

VIDEOGRAPHER

Starting in September, we need an intrepid volunteer to assume the duty of video taping the meetings. Our current director/producer/cameraperson, Andy B. DeMille, has to give it up due to work obligations (but he assures us that it is the best volunteer position in the club).

If you are interested, contact Andy or any of the other execs.

Andy Ditomaso

JUNE GUEST DEMONSTRATOR

The guest demonstrator for June 17 will be Paul Ross of Chalet Woodcraft. Paul is well know to most of the GHWG membership, and is an excellent turner and woodturning instructor. He operates Chalet Woodcraft out of his studio/workshop in Boston, Ontario. You have likely met him at one of the many wood shows, where he always has a booth and is usually giving one of the seminars.

Paul will be demonstrator mostly spindle turning, which will include use of the skew, and well as some bowl work.

Please note that we will be in the Child Care Center instead of Room 2 for **this night only**. This room is at the south end of the building, across from the Gymnasium.

FD

JET EQUIPMENT RAFFLE

Jet Equipment & Tools have graciously agreed to subsidize the clubs acquisition of not one, but a pair of their mini-lathes. The first will be delivered shortly, and will be for use on casual nights, demonstrations, and at other GHWG endorsed events. The second, will be held in reserve and raffled off to one lucky member of the GHWG! Raffle tickets will be priced at \$10.00 each, and will be available shortly. The draw will be held in the fall, with the exact date still to be decided.

WD

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

The Burlington Sound of Music Festival fireworks display - sponsored by our twin city in Japan, Itabashi is on June 10th, 1999.

The hosts, the City of Burlington, wanted to purchase two appropriate gifts for the Japanese delegation from "Art Etc," the gift store at the Burlington Art Centre. They chose two wooden bowls, made by Josh Pichanick, to be presented to the Mayor of Itabashi and the Association Chairman, by his Worship, the Mayor of Burlington- Mr. Robert MacIsaac.

The bowls were turned from Ambrosia Silver Maple and Black Walnut and signed "by Josh of Burlington."

WD

EXECUTIVE CONTACTS

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WGO COMPETITION

**1999 ONTARIO OPEN
WOODTURNING
COMPETITION & DEMONSTRATION
PRESENTED BY THE
WOODTURNERS GUILD OF
ONTARIO
AND
LEE VALLEY TOOLS LTD**

OCTOBER 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 1999

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. Each entry must be made primarily of wood (except for Specialty Class)

2. Entries, entry forms and entry fees must be at the Lee Valley store on or before 12 noon Wed. Oct. 20th 1999. All entries remain until 4p.m. on Sat. 23rd, and may be picked up after that time. Winning entries will be held for one week for photographic purposes and possible promotional uses.

3. Turners must arrange for the delivery of their entries to the Scarborough Lee Valley store and must pick up entries after the show. Arrangements for delivery and pickup are the responsibility of the entrant. The delivery and mailing address is:

**Turning Competition
c/o Lee Valley Tools Ltd.
1275 Morningside Ave.
Scarborough ON,
CANADA, M1B 3W1**

4. It is understood and agreed that the Woodturners Guild of Ontario & Lee Valley Tools Ltd. and their employees and representatives will not be responsible for loss or damage to any entries. The entries will be displayed for the duration of the show and reasonable efforts for security will be arranged.

5. Entered pieces must have been made by the signing turner within twelve months of the date of the competition.

6. Judging will take place on Wednesday Oct. 20, 1999.

7. No piece having won a prize of monetary value in a sanctioned competition is eligible for this competition.

8. All pieces will be tagged upon receipt and a claim check will be issued at time of entry. Your claim check MUST be presented to receive your pieces at end of show.

9. The Woodturners Guild of Ontario reserves the right to accept or reject any entry in all Classes and to display only those entries that are of acceptable quality or that space may allow.

10. Turners must make their own choice as to the class or category in which they enter pieces: however, The Woodturners Guild of Ontario reserves the right to transfer any entry from one class to another, or to combine classes where the total entry is not sufficient to provide competition.

11. In the absence of competition in any class, or in the opinion of the judges, the entries do not meet the standards of the class, a full set of prizes may not be awarded.

12. The decisions of the judges will be final.

Competition Classes General Rules Prizes

NOVICE

For Beginners, NOT having won a prize in competition before (excluding club competitions)

1st \$100.00Cdn
2nd \$50.00Cdn
3rd \$ 25.00Cdn

INTERMEDIATE

For those who have won a prize at the Novice level

1st \$150.00Cdn
2nd \$100.00Cdn
3rd \$ 50.00Cdn

OPEN

For experienced turners, who have won in the Intermediate or higher before. This is open to all BUT if you enter this Class, you may not enter Novice or Intermediate Class

1st \$250.00Cdn
2nd \$150.00Cdn
3rd \$100.00Cdn

SPECIALTY CLASS

This is an open class. Three pieces may be entered by any turner (regardless of class chosen above). Each piece must contain at least five elements including a NON-WOOD element, e.g. a laminated bowl with pewter inlay, or epoxy rim would qualify in this Class. The "wood majority" rule does not apply in this class.

1st \$200.00Cdn
2nd \$100.00Cdn

All prizes will be in the form of Gift Certificates redeemable at Lee Valley stores and are donated by

**THE WOODTURNERS GUILD OF
ONTARIO & LEE VALLEY TOOLS
LTD.**

Ribbons may be awarded for Honourable Mention.

A prize of \$100.00Cdn will be awarded for The Peoples Choice.

The Canadian Woodturners' Association trophy

"CWA AWARD OF EXCELLENCE
IN ORIGINALITY"

will also be awarded to the most applicable entry.

Judges will be independent of the sponsoring organizations.

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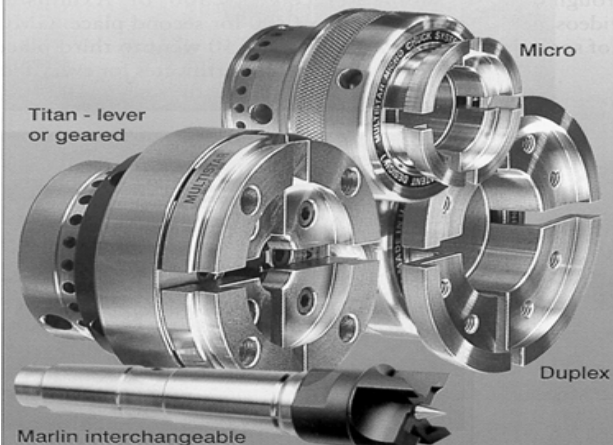


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"HAVE IT YOUR WAY" WOODTURNING COMPETITION

The "Have it your way woodturning competition" has had a good response from the members. So far we have 41 contestants signed up. We have arranged with Woodhaven to supply us with kiln dried Hard Maple blanks in the two sizes noted on the entry form. These blanks will be full dimension, that is a full 3" x 3" x 12" spindle blank or 6" x 6" x 3" bowl blank (not 2 1/2" or 2 3/4"). The blanks will be left square so you can slice it up if you wish and make optimum use of the available wood.

I will have the blanks on hand for the next meeting on June 17, but I will also try to get them early for the June 10 hands on session. If you have entered, please see me on either of these nights and I will give you the blank and your entry form. The entry

form has the contest rules and dates. If you cannot make either of these dates, I will contact you afterwards by telephone and arrange for you to pick the blank up at some other time.

If you didn't sign up yet but still wish to, contact me as soon as possible so I can adjust the order for the blanks. I will have a few extra on hand at the meeting, but these will be on a first come, first go basis.

New turners please note, if you need access to a bandsaw, lathe, guidance, etc, contact me and I will put you in touch with another turner if I can't help you myself. This contest is to get you involved with turning, not to show what a great turner you are. The winners are all those who take part.

Remember, the finished item must be submitted on October 21.

Good luck.

Frank Ditomaso
905 548 7014 (weekdays)
905 335 5391 (nights and weekends)



Frank's first Burl Bowl

DEMONSTRATIONS SEMINARS

**JUNE 17
Paul Ross
Spindle Turning**

**JUNE 19
Mitch Wolok
Hands on seminar at Jim Fretz's workshop,
see Brian Graham for tickets**

**SEPTEMBER 16
Robert Rosand
Turning small items**

Coming Events

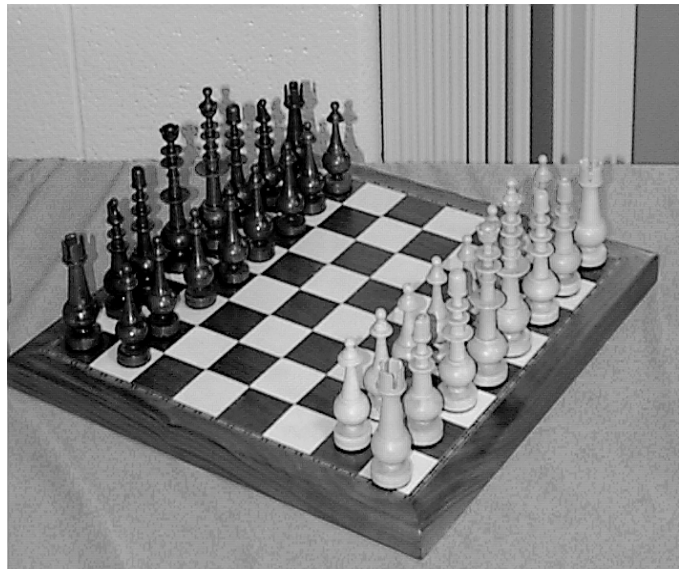
Exotic Woods
20th Anniversary Celebration
June 12, 1999
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Special Guests and Demonstrations all day
No PST or GST
905 335 8066

Durham Wood Show
Durham, Ontario
Friday - Sunday, August 6, 7 & 8th, 1999
Friday and Saturday: 9:00a.m. to 6:00p.m. Sunday:
10:00a.m. to 6:00p.m.
phone: 519 369 6902
fax: 519 369 5005
<http://www.bmts.com/~woodshow/>

The Muskoka Woodworking Show
Bracebridge Fairgrounds
August 20, 21, 22, 1999
indoor & outdoor display

Woodstock Wood Show
Woodstock, Ontario
October 1, 2, 3, 1999
Phone 519-539-7772

Brantford Wood Show
Brantford, Ontario
November 5, 6, 7, 1999
Phone: 1-800-563-6858



Victor Burville's chess set Plans available



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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

Do you have a tool that you no longer use? A pen mandrel that is acting more like a dust magnet? Don't be shy, just let us know and we will put it before a market of over 100 turners, one or two who are almost guaranteed to be looking for exactly what you are no longer using. Nothing is too small, and the only rule is that you have to let us know once you have found it a new home.

FOR SALE



Custom made, heavy duty bowl lathe, 2" diam. main shaft, variable speed mechanical transmission, 3 HP, 230 Volt motor, 28" swing. \$1000 firm, separate 8' bed \$50. no tax

Maynard Bauman
519-664-2828 (St. Jacobs)

8" Ryobi grinder, 1/2 hp., no wheels \$60

Brian
905-227-2408

Rockwell Light Industrial Lathe (identical to the one that the Guild had) 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 \$ 1100

Jim Fretz
905-562-4397

Custom built lathe bench. All wood, 19" x 63" top, 39" high, can be lowered 6". Full length box in bottom for sand (sand not included). Price \$25, must be picked up in the great City of Thorold

General 160 \$850.00 110/220 variable speed, face plates, live centre, indexer, set of chisels.

Rick Cullis
333-5409

Carba-Tec mini lathe, 4 speed - with accessories, very good condition. \$375.00

Brian Graham
905-339-3872

Black & Decker radial arm saw, \$375.00

Andy
318-7916

Fresh Cut Elm. Wax Check Sealed. Logs 24 to 45 in. long by 12 to 18 in. in diameter. Sawn in half. Reasonably priced. Sample will be found on Raffle Table marked "Don" at each meeting. Dial 6278# at new dial tone after first dialing any one of the following numbers that are local to you. Toronto 416-214-1411, Hamilton 528-3933, Hespler 654-9723 or St. Catherines 704-1315. If Stoney Creek is local to you call 662-5866

Don Veri
guild member

WANTED

An amateur home photographer in Burlington, with lights, camera and accessories. Josh Pichinick will supply the action...in the form of his turned pieces. Perhaps once per week, more or less, he would like to bring his latest creations over to be photographed for a catalogue. Initially it may be necessary to take on site pictures of his pieces at two or three local retail outlets. If you would like to SNAP up this add, call

Josh
335-3275.

Jack Armstrong (member #177) writes that he has access to a freshly felled butternut log, 25' long by 18" diameter. It currently resides in a farmer's woods near Stratford, but the farmer will cut to suit and assist loading with his tractor - the transportation is up to you. If you are interested, call

Jack
905-358-8595

Drill chuck for the tailstock of a lathe, preferably with a #2 morse taper, but a #1 is acceptable as well.

David Lewis
945-2801

SERVICES

Need photos, an advertisement or small brochure to sell your turning or woodworking products? Give me a call and I will be pleased to give you a quote on doing imaging and or page layout in B&W or Colour for your project. Competitive rates for fellow members.

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Gary Shennette
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