



Information Package for New Members

Message from the President:

On behalf of all the members, welcome to the Golden Horseshoe Woodturners Guild.

We are a fellowship of turners “dedicated to providing **practical facilities, education and information** to those interested in advancing and promoting woodturning”. That, by the way, is directly from the first line of our constitution which is available on our web site (<http://www.ghwg.ca>) or hard copy upon request along with our by-laws.

The **practical facilities** consist of five lathes, a grinder, and tools kept at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Burlington for use by our members and demonstrators. This equipment has been slowly built up over the years and is owned by you, the membership. We use these facilities to **educate and inform** you about woodturning, by means of meetings, workshops and newsletters. In addition a **lending library** of current and past magazines, books and videos about woodturning is maintained and available to all the membership.

We meet twice a month from January to June and from September to November, on the second and third Thursday of each month. The single December meeting is reserved as a special celebration in which spouses and friends join us to welcome the Christmas Season.

The second Thursday of the month is called our “Hands-on night”. These are informal evenings, in which some of our more experienced turners will teach novice turners how to turn, or sharpen their tools, either by example or by letting the novice try it themselves, with their guidance. As well, some turners will demonstrate a new technique or project so even experienced turners have a chance to learn. If you already have woodturning tools, bring them with you, if not, we have a good selection for you to use.

The third Thursday is a regular meeting night. Usually a guest speaker or demonstrator will be invited to give a presentation on just about any aspect of woodturning, covering a broad range of subjects from turning bowls to running a woodturning business. Also, at these meetings, the business of the guild is discussed, we have a wood lottery with material supplied by members, the extensive guild library is open, and many members bring in their latest creations and share their thoughts about them with us at our “show and tell” session.

For those who can't make the meeting, the guild issues a very comprehensive newsletter called the “Chip Flyer”, which will keep you up-to-date on the guild activities, events in the woodworking world, hints and techniques, classified ads, and anything else the editor can squeeze in. For those with email, we send out notification of when the Chip Flyer is updated so that you can go to the web site to pick up the Adobe pdf file.

Wood turners are a unique lot. They approach their craft in an open, sharing manner. There are no secrets, every turner I have met is willing to share his hard won knowledge because he knows he will learn something from the experience. Welcome to the Guild. I'm sure you will be happy you have chosen to share your time with a unique group of men and women pursuing a common passion

Hands on Night

We have over the years used any excess money to buy equipment. We now own four Jet mini lathes and a General 260 with variable speed drive, accessories, a grinder and hand tools. All these are so we can offer free hands on instruction to all our members. These are offered on the Second Thursday of every month.

We try to discourage new members from buying equipment until they have had a chance to attend the hands-on sessions. There novice turners will get a chance to learn how to turn using the guild's equipment. You will also be able to talk with other turners about their experiences and equipment preferences. You may even find a bargain in used equipment. Advanced turners will pick up new techniques, discover new project ideas and, if they are willing, get a chance to tutor new turners.

The hands on sessions are coordinated by executive, of finding experienced turners to work with newer members on a particular project, tutoring the new members on tool technique, mounting methods, equipment use and everything needed to get the project from the wood pile to the display case.

The hands on sessions have been one of our most successful programs, as can be observed by the quality of the pieces brought in for the "Show and Tell" and competitions. We have a 50/50 raffle during the hands on nights as well. 50% of the funds go to the club and the other 50% is split between 2 winners.

Wood Raffle

At our regular meetings we usually have a Wood Raffle Table. Members and sometimes vendors will donate extra wood or useful materials that they have accumulated and wish to share. Tickets are sold for \$2.00 or 3 for \$5.00 and a raffle is conducted for the pieces that are there that evening. Often there are so many that almost everyone is a winner at least once. Those that have donated a piece to the table are given a ticket for a special draw for a \$20 gift certificate valid with one of our advertisers for woodcutting or woodworking materials.

Show and Tell

One of the regular features of every regular meeting is the "Show and Tell" session. All turners can bring in their pieces for display, and during this time, discuss what they did, why, what they like and don't like about it and what challenges they had along the way. These sessions are not just for successes, some colossal failures have been brought in as a reminder to all of what can go wrong in the turning process. This session is a great opportunity for turners to get reinforcement for their development as a turner, there is no negative criticism (except the occasional teasing among friends), but mostly positive support. This is always one of the favorite parts of the evening, the wealth of ideas is amazing.

Library

The guild has an extensive library of wood turning magazines, books and videos, both professionally made and of our own presenters and workshops. These are available for loan during the regular meeting nights. All materials taken out are to be returned at the following meeting.

Efforts are in progress to catalogue and make available to the membership a list of the library materials.

The American Association of Wood Turners (AAW) Lathe Safety Guidelines

1. Safe, effective use of a wood lathe requires study and knowledge of procedures for using this tool. Read and thoroughly understand the label warnings on the lathe and in the owner's/operators manual.
2. Always wear safety goggles or safety glasses that include side protectors and a full face shield when needed. Wood dust can be harmful to your respiratory system. Use a dust mask or helmet and proper ventilation (dust collection system) in dusty work conditions. Wear hearing protection during extended periods of operation.
3. Tie back long hair, do not wear gloves, loose clothing, jewelry or any dangling objects that may catch in rotating parts or accessories.
4. Check the owner/operator's manual for proper speed recommendations. Use slower speeds for larger diameter or rough pieces and increased speed for smaller diameters and pieces that are balanced. If the lathe is shaking or vibrating, lower the speed. If the work piece vibrates, always stop the machine to check the reason.
5. Make certain that the belt guard or cover is in place. Check that all clamping devices (locks), such as on the tailstock and tool rest are tight.
6. Rotate your work piece by hand to make sure it clears the tool rest and bed before turning the lathe "on". Be sure that the work piece turns freely and is firmly mounted. It is always safest to turn the lathe "off" before adjusting the tool rest.
7. Exercise caution when using stock with cracks, splits, checks, bark, knots, irregular shapes or protuberances.
8. Hold turning tools securely on the tool rest and hold the tool in a controlled but comfortable manner. Always use a slower speed when starting until the work piece is balanced. This helps avoid the possibility of an unbalanced piece jumping out of the lathe and striking the operator.
9. When running a lathe in reverse, it is possible for a chuck or faceplate to unscrew unless it is securely tightened on the lathe spindle.
10. Know your capabilities and limits. An experienced wood turner may be capable of techniques and procedures not recommended for beginning turners.
11. When using a faceplate, be certain the work piece is solidly mounted. When turning between centers, be certain the work piece is secure.
12. Always remove the tool rest before sanding or polishing operations.
13. Don't overreach, keep proper footing and balance at all times.
14. Keep lathe in good repair. Check for damaged parts, alignment, binding of moving parts and other conditions that may affect its operation.
15. Keep tools sharp and clean for better and safer performance. Don't force a dull tool. Don't use a tool for a purpose not intended. Keep tools out of reach of children.
16. Consider your work environment. Don't use lathe in damp or wet locations. Do not use in presence of flammable liquids or gases. Keep work area well lit.
17. Stay alert. Watch what you are doing, use common sense. Don't operate tool when you are tired or under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
18. Guard against electric shock. Inspect electric cords for damage. Avoid the use of extension cords.
19. Remove chuck keys and adjusting wrenches. Form a habit of checking for these before switching on the lathe.
20. Never leave the lathe running unattended. Turn power off. Don't leave the lathe until it comes to a complete stop.

Privacy Statement adopted as part of by-laws .

"The GHWG collects personal information for the purpose of distributing the Chip Flyer and keeping members informed about activities at the Guild. This information includes name, address, phone number and email address. This information will only be used for official GHWG business by the Executive and will not be distributed outside the general membership. The membership secretary will maintain this information. A list of previous members will be maintained for historical purposes.

By providing us with this information, members are granting permission to use this information only for the above stated purposes. You can opt out of the general distribution list by advising the membership secretary of your wishes, in writing. Anyone can access their personal information for the purpose of updating and correcting. Complaints can be addressed to the membership secretary about the collection and use of this information." Please see our contacts page to contact the membership secretary (members@ghwg.ca) .

Visit the guild's web page at: <http://www.ghwg.ca>

Upon becoming a member be sure to have your picture taken for the member's gallery as seen at our web site.

Wear your name tag at 'ALL' meetings and place it back on the membership name tag board at the end of each meeting.

Be sure to visit our extensive library.

Happy and Safe Turning.....