



## 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 who come together to “provide its members with unique and practical facilities, opportunities and meaningful education that will promote improved skills and personal enjoyment in woodturning.” That, by the way, is directly from the first line of our Memorandum of Association which is available on our web site (<http://www.ghwg.ca/contactUs.aspx>) or hard copy upon request along with our by-laws.

The **practical facilities** consist of several midi-lathes, a full-size lathe, a grinder, and variety of tools for use at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Burlington, our present home. 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” as well as web site, which will keep you up-to-date on the guild activities, events in the woodworking world, hints and techniques, classified adds, 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 and 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 a number of variable speed midi-lathes and a full sized General 260 with EVS, 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 organized by the Hands-On Coordinator, who is responsible for creating the opportunity for 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 Chip Flyer 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.

## **Privacy Statement adopted as part of by-laws.**

The Golden Horseshoe Woodturners Guild 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, and telephone number and email address. This information will only be used for official Guild business by the Executive Committee and will not be distributed outside the general membership.

The Membership Secretary will maintain this information. A list of previous members is maintained for historical purposes only.

Any member wishing to have his/her data removed from the membership records shall advise the Chairman of the membership sub-committee.

Please see our *contacts* page to contact the membership secretary, [members@ghwg.ca](mailto: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. As a member of the guild, please be aware that your photo may be taken during meetings either as part of the monthly "show and tell" or during demonstrations and during our Spring competition and the Christmas Party/competition or at other times. These photographs may be shown on the website ([www.ghwg.ca](http://www.ghwg.ca)). As a member, you implicitly agree to having your photograph taken and displayed on the website. Should you not wish to have your photograph taken, please advise the President, in writing, of the same.

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.....***

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

### Safety is YOUR responsibility.

1. Always wear safety goggles or safety glasses that include side protectors. Use a full faceshield for bowl, vessel, or any turning involving chucks and faceplates.
2. Fine particles from a grinder and wood dust are harmful to your respiratory system. Use a dust mask, air filtration helmet, proper ventilation, dust collection system, or a combination of these to deal with this serious issue. Be especially mindful of dust from many exotic woods, spalted woods, or any wood from which you notice a skin or respiratory reaction.
3. Wear hearing protection during extended periods of turning.
4. Turn the lathe off before adjusting the tool rest or tool rest base, i.e., banjo.
5. Remove chuck keys, adjusting wrenches, and knockout bars. Form a habit of checking for these before turning on the lathe.
6. Tie back long hair; do not wear gloves; and avoid loose clothing, jewelry, or any dangling objects that may catch on rotating parts or accessories.
7. When using a faceplate, be certain the workpiece is solidly mounted with stout screws (#10 or #12 sheet metal screws as a minimum). Do not use dry wall or deck screws. When turning between centers, be certain the workpiece is firmly mounted between the headstock driving center and tailstock center.
8. Ensure the belt guard or cover is in place.
9. Check that all locking devices on the tailstock and tool rest assembly (rest and base) are tight before operating the lathe.
10. Ensure the blank is securely fastened.
11. Rotate your workpiece by hand to make sure it clears the toolrest and bed before turning the lathe on. Be certain that the workpiece turns freely and is firmly mounted. A handwheel on the headstock simplifies this process of spinning the lathe by hand before turning on the switch.
12. Be aware of what turners call the “red zone” or “firing zone.” This is the area directly behind and in front of the workpiece, the areas most likely for a piece to travel as it comes off the lathe. A good safety habit is to step out of this zone when turning on the lathe, keeping your hand on the switch in case you need to turn the machine off. When observing someone else turn, stay out of this zone.
13. Always **check the speed** of the lathe before turning it on. Use slower speeds for larger diameters or rough pieces and higher speeds for smaller diameters and pieces that are balanced. Always start a piece at a slower speed until the workpiece is balanced. If the lathe is shaking or vibrating, lower the speed. If the workpiece vibrates, always stop the machine to verify why. As a starting point, consult your operator’s manual for recommended speeds for a particular lathe. Ensure the lathe speed is compatible with the size of the blank.
14. Exercise extra caution when using stock with cracks, splits, checks, bark pockets, knots, irregular shapes, or protuberances. Beginners should avoid these types of stock until they have greater knowledge of working such wood.
15. Hold turning tools securely on the toolrest, holding the tool in a controlled but comfortable manner. Always contact the tool rest with the tool before contacting the wood.
16. Note that, when running a lathe in reverse, it is possible for a chuck or faceplate to unscrew unless it is securely tightened or locked on the lathe spindle.
17. Know your capabilities and limitations. An experienced woodturner is capable of lathe speeds, techniques, and procedures not recommended for beginning turners.
18. Always remove the tool rest before sanding, finishing, or polishing operations.
19. Don’t overreach, keep proper footing, and keep your balance at all times.

20. Keep lathe in good repair. Check for damaged parts, alignment, binding of moving parts, and other conditions that may affect its operation.
21. Keep tools sharp and clean for better and safer performance. Don't force a dull tool. Don't use a tool for a purpose that it was not designed for or intended for.
22. Consider your work environment. Don't use a lathe in damp or wet locations. Do not use in presence of inflammable liquids or gases, and always keep a fully-charged fire extinguisher close at hand. Keep your work area well lit.
23. Stay alert. Watch what you are doing. Pay close attention to unusual sounds or vibrations. Stop the lathe to investigate the cause. Don't operate machines when you are tired or under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
24. Guard against electric shock. Inspect electric cords for damage. Avoid the use of extension cords.
25. Never leave the lathe running unattended. Turn power off. Don't leave lathe until it comes to a complete stop.
26. Many accidents to woodturners occur while using saws, especially band and chain saws. Learn and follow the safety guidelines for this equipment.