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THE CHIP FLYER

ISSUE: 21

NOVEMBER 1997

NEXT MEETING

Casual Evening - Members only - November 6 - 7:00 pm to 10:30 pm
 Formal Evening - Members and Guests - November 20 - 7:00 pm to 11:00 pm

MESSAGE FROM THE PRES.

We are on the move again - Yes we are - no, it wasn't our original plan - more like plan B.

For our many new members information, the GHWG reformed in late 1995 and rented the woodshop at Lord Elgin High School early in 1996.

It was far from ideal, actually very dusty and awkward for the 35 or so members - but, they had a lathe, we did not. In early 1997 we graduated to our own lathe and a larger hall and ample storage room at the Hockey Arena. On the afternoon before the first meeting there, I was informed by the Parks Department that they had made a mistake and we had to move - that's it.

We did, across the parking lot to the Seniors Centre, and knew from the beginning that storage space was very limited.

We all love the Centre and Laura Corbiel and staff have been just wonderful, however, with our rapid growth - storage has become critical.

The introduction of the very important casual hands-on night for our beginners, and the generous loan of extra lathes and accessories. The Centre has absolutely no more space available for us, or for themselves.

The decision to move to the new Tansley Wood Recreation

Centre, on Upper Middle Road just East of Walkers Line in January 1998, was not made lightly. In fact, the entire executive committee inspected the new venue and based on the adequate and secure storage space available to us, voted unanimously to make the move.

I am confident the GHWG members will also approve of our new and hopefully permanent new home, which is not much further than our original home at the Farrell Lumber Company.

The first occasion at Tansley Wood will be the casual hands-on meeting on the SECOND Thursday of every month - beginning January 8th, 1998.

The members meetings will still be held on the THIRD Thursday of every month - this will be January 15th, 1998.

Our Vice President and Program Coordinator - Brian Graham, has arranged for a really interesting House Warming party, to meet the staff, and also for a great but very modest demonstrator for the evening. (go figure).

The Editor, Frank Ditomaso, (his brother's name is Andy) will provide a new directional map in the next newsletter.

Finally, my thanks and appreciation to all our Executives for their dedicated efforts in resolving an awkward problem.

Josh

DECEMBER MEETING

This is just a reminder that the December meeting will be on the **second** Thursday of December, (the 11th) not the third. There will still be a Casual night on the 4th.

The Guild will be buying finger foods and refreshments and we ask that members bring your spouses and Pot Luck dessert.

WOOD RAFFLE

The wood raffle raised \$178.

The finished item was won by Robert Hitchcox

Many of the blanks brought in by members for the raffle table are difficult to identify. If possible please write the wood species on the piece, even if it's just a guess. This will make it easier for winners to choose the pieces they want, as well as educate all of us on recognising wood types.

Also, those who bring in pieces should write their names on them. After all, we should recognise those who have taken the trouble and expense of donating wood and other items for the raffle. It would also give the recipient a chance to thank the donor and even provide some feedback after the wood was turned. I think it would be great to know what finally became of pieces I have donated.

Anyway, these are just suggestions. The most important thing is to continue bringing in quality items for the raffle table.

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to our newest members.

Malcom Cumming of Stoney Creek
John Dabbs of Hamilton
Kenneth Syer of Milton
Terry McGowan of Dundas
Bob Cole of Hamilton
Don Martindale of Jordan
Brian Taylor of Grimsby
Bill Skrypka of St. Catherines

Remember, the casual night is designed for the you, the newest members, to help you build confidence and skill, as well as get a feel for the kind of equipment you want before committing any money to a purchase. You don't need any equipment, but if you have tools bring them. The members will be able to show you the best sharpening techniques. Also, bring bowl or spindle blanks. These can be purchased from commercial suppliers like Exotic Woods, Woodhaven or Woodchuckers; or you can usually get them from other club members or friends. The raffle is a great way to start picking up turning stock.

Members please help to make these new members feel at home if you see them at the next meeting.

CHRISTMAS WISH LIST

Since Christmas is coming, it's important that we make sure our spouses and children are clear about our wishes for gifts without being too blatant about it. I found that circling everything I like in Lee Valley and Craft Supplies catalogs, and leaving copies of book advertising in Taunton Press magazines laying around has been very effective. I've thought of putting stick-on-tabs on the important catalog pages, but that might be pushing it. This year I'm going to suggest that I would prefer bowl blanks instead of coal in my stocking. I'll let you know if it works.

Remember that Kevin Ellis can get Taunton Press books at 20% off if he orders 5 at a time. Make sure you let your spouse know about that and give them lots of lead time. Kevin can be contacted at (905) 319-8863.

TREASURERS REPORT

In response to a question asked at the last meeting, the Treasurers report is normally available at the meeting at the front desk. It is kept current and no more than a few weeks old. If you can't find it, ask Ken McCuiag and he will get it for you.

MEMBER SALES POLICY

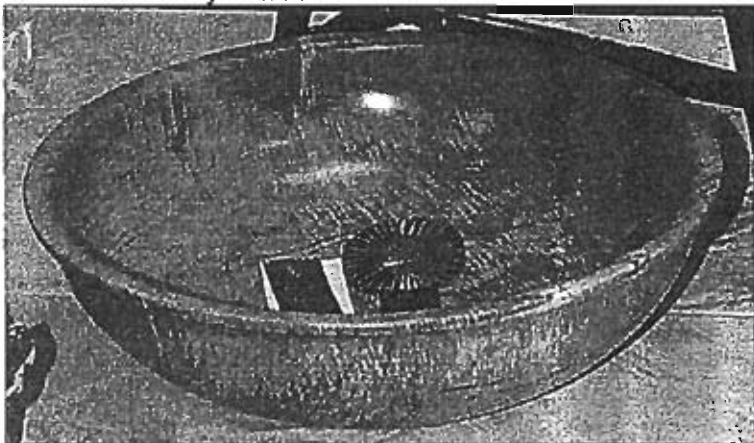
I was asked to get a clarification from the executive of the Guild policy on sales of products to members at meetings. The policy is - only demonstrators can sell their products and only on the night when they are doing a demonstration. All others are asked not to attempt to sell products during the meetings. I understand this policy was adopted to avoid situations experienced in other Guilds where there was considerable interference with the meeting by people trying to push their products, and meetings became swap meets. Demonstrators are allowed because selling their products is essentially part of their demonstration and helps defray costs. If you need further clarification, please see me or any of the executive.

If you have any items you wish to sell, phone me at 335-5391 and I will add it to the news letter.

GHWG WOODTURNING PRIZE WINNERS

As Josh noted, many GHWG members have won honours at the WGO, Durham and Woodstock wood shows. Below are photos of the items brought for display at the October meeting. I may have missed some that arrived late. If so, I apologize and will try to get them in next newsletter.

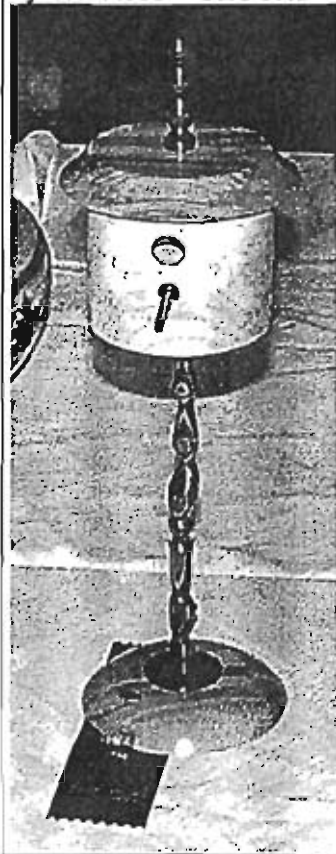
MAPLE BOWL by Don Martindale - FIRST



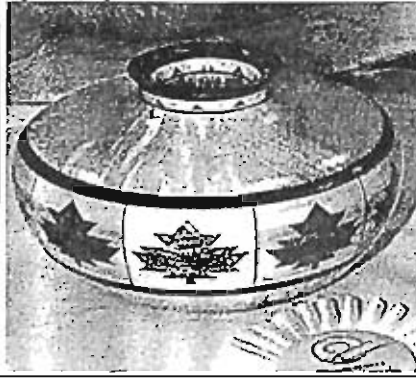
BOX ELDER VASE by Sandy Graham - SECOND



BIRDHOUSE (OFFSET
TURNING)
by Cliff Rose - SECOND



LAMINATED HOLLOW FORM
by Sandy Graham - THIRD



RUSSIAN OLIVE VASE by
Sandy Graham - SECOND



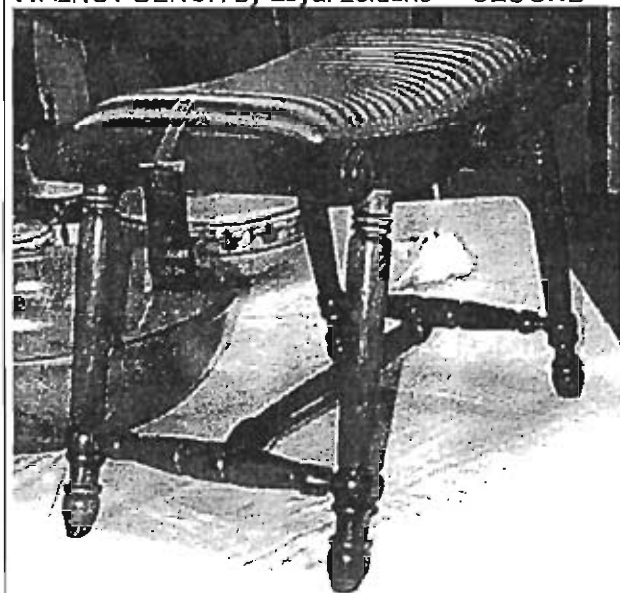
LAMINATED HOLLOW FORM by Sandy Graham - SECOND



B.C. JUNIPER VASE
by Sandy Graham - THIRD



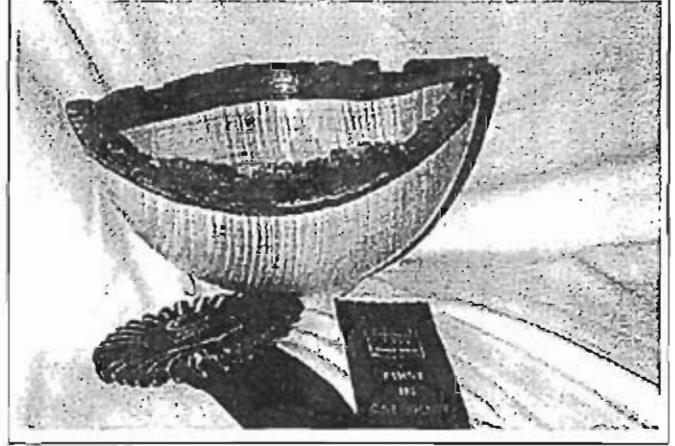
WALNUT BENCH by Loyal Leidens - SECOND



BIRCH BURL SHALLOW BOWL
by Brian McIntosh - FIRST



CURLY MAPLE BOWL by Brian McIntosh - FIRST



BOB HASTINGS

We were honoured to have Bob Hastings of the Grey Bruce Woodturners Guild as the guest speaker at this month's meeting. Bob centered his talk on various finishing techniques, outlining their positive and negative qualities as to application, durability, appearance, customer acceptance, toxicity etc.



Bob's favorite finish is what he refers to as "Gallery-Quality Lacquer Finish". This is the finish he uses on most of his pieces, especially the more artistic pieces where the finish is as important as the form. Bob has kindly handed out copies of his lacquer technique so rather than repeating what he said I have reprinted his handout at the end of this item so please read that article for more details. Bob uses Deft brushing lacquer which he buys for about \$33.50 per gallon in two gallon lots. Now that's a lot of lacquer for most of us, but the same stuff is available from Exotic Woods in smaller quantities. He applies the finish by brush in a home made finishing box that is vented through a window with a small muffin fan (the small fan has no brushes or starting contacts, so it is less likely to generate sparks and ignite the exhaust gas). He uses a Plexiglas front loosely fitted so he can reach around and apply the finish and then leave until dry. The small muffin fan keeps a small amount of air moving from the shop, through the box and outside without letting the fumes into the shop but still doesn't deposit too much dust on the finish. A small lamp is used to help visibility but also to bake on the finish. The rest of the information on this technique is in Bob's note.

Another finish Bob uses on occasion is Waterlox Tung Oil. He uses this where the piece may receive a lot of wear such as on handles, since this finish is very easy to repair and stays flexible. He applies many coats while still on the lathe, burnishing each layer hard while turning.

Another finish he uses for such items as Salad bowls is Mineral Oil, since it is totally non toxic and can be restored easily.

Bob uses a non powered rotating sander for some of his sanding. This tool has a handle with a ball bearing at about 75 degrees at the end, upon which a Velcro sanding block is attached. It is very similar to the Velcro blocks designed for powered sanding, but with a handle designed for holding instead of a shaft designed for a drill chuck. This allows him to quickly go through the full range of sanding grits.

Bob then reviewed the large variety of pieces he had on display to show the variety of items he turns. I will briefly describe some of these, but I couldn't catch them all.

He had some vases turned from burls with the usual cracks you usually see. These he simply sealed with cyanoacrylate glue.

Some vases had natural edge with bark still attached. He typically saturates the bark with cyanoacrylate before turning to make sure the bark stays put. Bob's a big fan of cyanoacrylate.

Bob also had a spinning top. He pointed out that giving this piece a good finish and putting it in a cloth carrying bag, put this piece into the "executive toy" category and raised the price.

He also showed a Yellow Cedar Burl platter which he made from a single thin precious piece of burl someone had given him.

Bob didn't confine himself to turned bowls, but also showed some containers that were turned inside and out and then the outside faceted on a saw.

He also had some pendants made from Pakansia Nuts that were turned and sectioned. He had a number of pendent clocks made from very small pieces of exotic wood, nothing goes to waste.

As well there were perfume bottle holders made from apple root, beech burl bowls, and on and on.. The

display was very impressive and showed the range of items Bob produces. Like many of us, Bob doesn't like turning the same thing twice.

Throughout the talk, Bob answered many questions from the floor on his techniques and gave his opinion of techniques that he has tried in the past but given up on as he moved on. The members in attendance found Bob's answers enlightening as he outlined his experiences and reasons for his answers.

Thanks Bob for an enjoyable and educational discussion.

Unfortunately, Ken Goldspink was not able to attend this meeting since he was ill. I'm sure I speak for all members of the GHWG in wishing Ken a speedy recovery and invite him down anytime. Hopefully, we can reschedule Ken's visit in a few months, assuming he is able to snowshoe down from the Great White North.

Gallery-Quality Finish with Brushing Lacquer

by Bob Hastings

There are finishes and then there are finishes. Some look like the finish has been applied with an old wool sock while others would do justice to a Stradivarius violin. The following process will attempt to equal the latter as it painstakingly takes you through the steps in finishing a small wooden object worthy of any gallery.

It goes without saying, but I'll say it anyway, that a finish is no better than the quality of the sanding that precedes it. I would recommend Garnet as the grit and #120, #180, #220, and #280 as the grades.

Now for the lacquer. Over the past two decades I have jumped on just about all the bandwagons when a new finish hit the market. Invariably, I have returned to Deft's interior semi-gloss Clear Wood Finish. It just seems to produce a classic quality that I have been unable to achieve with any other finish. For works destined for the shelves of exclusive shops, I apply between fifteen and twenty coats.

Deft dries in about a half-hour under ideal conditions which include adequate ventilation, but I leave a minimum of two hours between coats between applications and never apply more than four coats in any twenty-four hour period. This allows the curing process to begin.

I know that the instructions on the label recommend sanding between coats but my experience is that if the coats are applied consistently over a period of successive days this is not necessary. If you are unable to be this consistent, follow the rules and sand between applications with #400 sandpaper.

What kind of brush? A one inch brush with polyester bristles works well. One with camel hair works great. Unless you are doing a large amount of finishing and the quality is of utmost concern, I would recommend the polyester bristle brush. This finish works best when laid on gently with the brush, rather than exerting too much pressure and causing brush marks.

Oh yes. Cleaning the brush. Well, I must confess, I don't. Because I lacquer almost daily, I simply store it in a tennis ball tin the bristles down. The bristles never stiffen. Seems crazy but it works. I honestly haven't cleaned my camel hair brush in over ten years. If you plan to have several days between use, clean with lacquer thinners, soak in mild detergent, rinse and then wrap in a paper towel until next time.

If possible, let your work cure at or above room temperature for five to seven days. Better still, bake it in the sunlight or under a sixty watt bulb for three to five days.

No, it's not over yet. A Stradivarius finish. Remember?

Sand carefully with #400 and #600 Aluminum Oxide or Silicon Carbide sand paper to remove any imperfections in the finish - drips, runs, etc.

If you wish to end with a matte finish, complete this task with 0000 steel wool, not 000, but 0000 grade.

If you wish to produce a classic gloss finish, buy a red finishing compound and a white polishing compound manufactured by Turtle Wax or Simonize. There are designed for auto body buffing. With your fingers, apply a light coating and then rub with your hands or a clean, soft cloth until the luster matches the luster in your eyes.

This finish, if you have followed the steps seriously should last at least one hundred years. I guarantee it.

If you have any questions, call Bob Hastings at (519) 797-5698.

Critiquing Your Entry in Competition

by Ken Goldspink

A year ago I was asked by the Project Manager of the Durham Woodshow, to assist the guest turner Mr. Melvyn Firmager of Somerset, England, in writing up the critique notes as he carried out the judging of the entries in the Woodturning Competition. This year I was again asked to assist Mr. Stephen Zwerling of Nova Scotia who was this years guest turner. Each of these occasions have given me a greater understanding or appreciation of what areas specifically the judges are looking for in a prize winning entry and are set out as follows:

(1) Overall external form (shape) - Is it pleasing to the eye? Refer to "Turned Bowl Design" by Richard Raffan for examples of forms which work and those which don't.

(2) Does the internal shape follow the external shape? ie. Is the wall thickness even or consistent from top to bottom? (In some natural edge burl forms this does not apply)

(3) Good Technical Execution - Look for lack of tool marks, no evidence of grain tearout, no over-sanding (indicated by uneven rim thickness), no sanding scratches (indicates skipping of sandpaper grits).

(4) Examine bottom treatment - No evidence of attachment should remain, fine detail work here a definite plus. Does the raised foot compliment the piece or detract from it?

(5) Finish - Nice even finish (No Finish Rings) complimentary to use of piece eg. A high gloss on a salad bowl would probably not be practical, a more suitable finish would be a non toxic food safe oil/wax finish. However a more artistic or highly figured piece would probably look better with a gloss finish eg. Marilyn Campbells work.

(7) With Polychromatic entries or Stack Laminated entries judges look for perfect joints, use of fillers or excessive glue in joints is frowned upon. Accurate assembly is also important so that the design is not misaligned in subsequent layers. Choice of various woods to compliment one another is also important.

(8) With Hollow Turnings, the judges immediately check the wall thickness near the neck for evenness or consistency, peer inside to examine the interior tool finish especially the centre of the bottom. By gently tapping the exterior from top to bottom they can get a general idea of how consistent your wall thickness is by listening to the changing sound.

(9) With lidded forms the most important feature is a snug fitting lid and crisp detail. Where the lid and base are made from the same piece of wood there should be an accurate grain match where lid and base join. In these forms tool work needs to be flawless as excessive sanding to correct poor tool work can ruin the detail and fit.

(10) Finally, the "originality of design" also enters into the judges final decision, if you attempt to produce a "Frank Sudol look a like" then it had better be as good as or better than the original! if you wish to score highly with the judge. Avoid copying someone else's work if at all possible, let your entry be your creation.

I hope that these personal observations and the feedback judges have passed on to me, will help you improve the quality of your work and make you strive for

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excellence as well as encourage you to enter the very next Turning Competition you club organizes. Remember, the whole purpose of critique notes is to record and highlight all that is good about your entry, to offer encouragement to you the maker, that by paying a little more attention to detail you can turn an okay entry into an award winning entry.

In other words, the critique is intended to be a learning experience for you the turner and should not be viewed as an attack on your turning ability, remember the judge doesn't know you. I remember the very first time I entered the Durham Woodshow, I was somewhat self conscious about my creations when I saw some of the other work being entered. However, on opening day as I walked around the Turning Exhibit, my entries did not seem to be so out of place and I actually overheard kind comments about them from members of the general public!

Yours in Turning
Ken Goldspink

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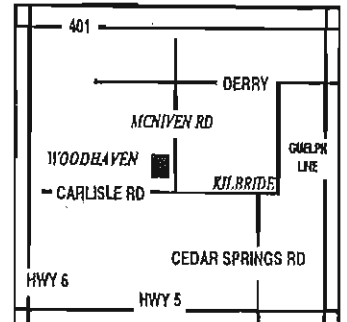
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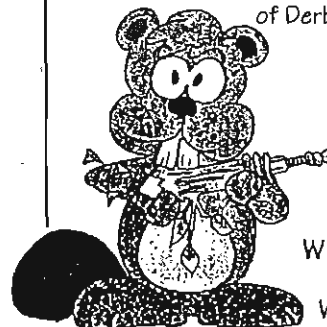
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UPCOMING EVENTS

- BRANTFORD WOOD SHOW** Nov. 7 (4pm-9pm), Nov 8 (10am-6pm), Nov 9 (10am-5pm)
Brantford Civic Center
- CHALET WOODCRAFT OPEN HOUSE**
Nov 15 (9am-5pm)
Cockshutt Rd., Boston (15 min. south of Brantford)
Paul Ross (519) 443-5369
- ONE OF A KIND CRAFT FAIR** Nov. 27 to Dec. 7
National Trade Center, Exhibition Place, Toronto
Note: Brian Mc Intosh will have a booth at this craft fair, please visit him.
- HAMILTON WOOD SHOW** Jan 30 (1pm-9pm), Jan 31 (9am-5pm), Feb 1 (9am-5pm), 1998
Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum
Hamilton International Airport
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TURNING DEMONSTRATIONS AND SEMINARS AT THE GHWG THIS YEAR and NEXT

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| NOVEMBER 20 | <p>CHESTER VAN NESS DUST COLLECTION
JOHN BEECH RACAL INDUSTRIES
LUNG PROTECTION SPECIALISTS
ANDY POYNTER A&M WOOD on WOOD</p> |
| DECEMBER 11 | PARTY TIME and a sad farewell to the Seniors Centre. |
| 1998
JANUARY 15 | <p>At TANSLEY WOOD
House warming get together to meet their supervisor, Chris Glenn;
the facility officers, and all the staff.
Turning demonstration by Josh Pichanick. He will make a Curled Lip Bowl
(be sure to wear your name tags)</p> |
| FEBRUARY 19 | ROWLEY ANDERSON of the CWA
Deep Hollow Form |
| MARCH 19 | <i>TENTATIVE</i> SORBY TOOLS OF ENGLAND. |
| APRIL 16 | KEN GOLDSPINK of the GBWG
and a surprise turner (in other words, we don't know who yet) |
| MAY 21 | VICTOR BURVILLE of the GHWG
Stacked Laminated Bowl |
| JUNE 18 | MARK SALUSBURY of the CWA
Split Turning and Offset Turning |

SHOW AND TELL

As you can see, the newsletter is full and I have no room left for pictures of the fantastic array of items brought for Show and Tell. I will print the pictures in colour and have them available at the next Casual and General meeting.

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

If you have any articles, ideas, items (wood, tools, etc.) for sale, articles wanted, etc., please contact me and I will add it to the next newsletter. Please try to get this to me by the end of the month.

Frank Ditomaso, Editor
905-335-5391 (Evening)
905-548-7014 (Weekdays)