## THE CHIP FLYER

No. 46 March 2000 Page 1

SHOW AND TELL IS ALIVE AND WELL



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In House Meetings 7:00 P.M.

**Executive Contacts** 

Map

<u>Hands-on Night</u> Thursday, March 9

Regular Meeting Thursday, March 23



work for the next show and tell. Don't forget about those bad experiences. We need to hear about them too! Your story may just save someone else from repeating that error. And it's not just finished items. Do you have a quick tip to offer? We'd love to hear it. Thank you to all those members who participated.

From the look of our show and tell table it is easy to see we really have a talented bunch of turners! The variety of work, techniques and finishes exhibited were enough to motivate us all to try something new. Here's hoping these photos encourage the rest of you to bring out your





TOP: FRANK DITOMASO FRENCH POLISHING

MIDDLE: BILL LIVINGSTON

**INLAY** 

BOTTOM: KEN McCUAIG

INLACE

# **JASON MARLOW SEMINAR**

The GHWG will be presenting Jason Marlow, of Qualicom, B.C. at an all day seminar on Sunday, April 9 at General Brock High School from 9:00 am till 4:30 pm. Tickets cost \$40 dollars and include morning coffee and a cold lunch (sandwiches, salad, dessert etc.). You can purchase tickets from Frank Ditomaso at the next hands on session or regular meeting. Attendance will be limited to 50 so don't delay. Jason Marlow has been a full time turner since 1980 and has a strong appreciation for the foundations of traditional design. He interprets contemporary forms on both the large and small scale, utilizing indigenous woods with simple surface decoration, subtraction and addition.

The workshop will consists of two parts, which Jason calls "Systems and Elements".

1. Systems: Wood selection - seeing the wood

Stance and tool handling

Open form cutting methods

2. Elements: Stylizing your work/developing personal ideas

Carving - subtraction and addition

Enjoying your turning

Tool selection and sharpening Sanding and finishing

Hollow form methods

Colouring Leafing

Slide presentation-time allowing

This is a great opportunity for turners of all abilities to learn from a master turner in this intense one day seminar. Tickets will be available from me at the next meeting.

Frank Ditomaso

# **BRIAN CROSTHWAIT: OUR MARATHON MAN**

t eighty-seven and onehalf years by his own reckoning, Brian Crosthwait is our club's most senior member. Just don't try and call him Mr. Crosthwait, or he'll correct your response to Brian with a twinkle in his lively blue eyes! Brian started woodworking as a hobby a mere ten years ago. He bought a Beaver "retirement" home and finished the interior himself, including the drywall and carpentry. This is retirement? "Sitting around watching television is not for me" says Brian. He would rather be accomplishing something, and why not wood turning?

Brian spent a good deal of his working life as a Holstein dairy farmer in the township of Lincoln, on regional road 69 (RR#1 St. Annes), now the site of Niagara College. As most of us know,

the lot of a farmer is to be selfsufficient. "I had to repair the machinery on the farm. You couldn't afford the time or money to have someone else do it. I even did my own welding! If you needed a part, you made do with what you had." When I asked Brian about his lathes, he responded he has had several, including one he made himself. Brian started on a flimsy little lathe and quickly opted for a sturdier home made number he bought. It was good for spindle work, but no good for bowls. He then rigged up his own for bowl work. Brian now owns a Carbitech for small work. "I got it on sale and it is a real power miser!" He also has a Coronet 3/4 horse for larger pieces.

Brian has been an active member over the last four years, sup-

porting the Guild as a demonstrator at wood shows and regularly attending meetings. Just as we draw inspiration from someone else's turnings, so too can we draw inspiration from Brian's dedication to learning his art.





# **HANDS-ON NIGHT**

Our since erest thanks go out to Cliff Rose and Jim Wright for their dedica-

tion and willingness to help out. Without their help our February hands-on night would have been a total bust for those brave souls who ventured out in the snow. All of our instructors were unable to make it in because of the weather. Cliff and Jim spent the time teaching us about the use of a skew. For Cliff, it was a preview of what is to come in the following months. He will be teaching us

the skew in the April, May and June sessions. Jim Fretz will instruct hollow turning. Wayne Cardinal of *Lee Valley* fame will be running a sharpening session for a future hands-on night. Do you have a skill to pass on? Instructors are requested to speak with Jim Wright.

# FRANK CICCARELLI - OFFSET PLATTERS

The guest turner for the February meeting was Frank Ciccarelli, another active member of the GHWG. Frank has recently been developing techniques for turning platters with offset bowl recesses, with both normal flat bottoms and canted bottoms that shift the plane of the platter off the horizontal. Frank presented these techniques accompanied by a well laid out handout.

To begin the turning process, Frank first calculated the important dimensions he would use to cut the rim, offset the blank, etc. He started with a trued up blank, 11.75" diameter and wanted to cut a 6" diameter

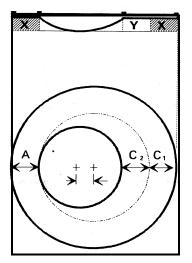
bowl recess into the blank. He also wanted to add a 1/4" raised rim (rim treatment) around the top surface of the platter. Using the formula maximum offset = (blank diameter (platter) - 2 x rim treatment - bowl diameter)

This value, offset, becomes very important to all the operations that follow, so keep track of it.

Frank began the process by first mounting the blank on a faceplate and cutting a recess in the bottom to receive the scroll chuck.

He then reversed the blank, remounting it on a chuck. He flattened the face of the blank as true as possible. He stressed that if this moved due to slippage or





shrinkage, the whole process would be thrown out of whack, so start with stable stock and take light cuts. He then mounted a faceplate on the face side, ensuring that it was as close to true center as possible. He cut in a recess  $(A-C_1)$  across the face leaving the rim proud (the depth of the recess in this case was about 1/8"). This rim is very delicate, so be very careful with tool use.

The blank was again reversed onto the faceplate and the waste (X) removed from the bottom to a width of twice the offset (1 3/4"). He also incised a small line detail at this point, which will give a nice contrast to the offset detail he will incise later.

The blank was then removed and the faceplate moved by the offset distance (7/8") in the direction of the grain. The blank was remounted with the bottom out

and carefully tested for clearance before starting the lathe. The whole blank was now offset by 7/8", but by running fairly slowly and taking careful cuts, the lathe didn't complain too much. He cut a new recess on the bottom for the chuck (now in the offset center) and cut away the waste (Y) on the back to form the bowl. Finally he incised a line to contrast with the line he added near the rim earlier.

Again, he remounted the blank on the chuck so he could work on the top of the platter. At this point, if the platter was not going to be canted, he would remove the faceplate, otherwise the faceplate will be needed later. He first turned away the second half of the recess  $(A-C_2)$  up to the edge of the bowl and added the bowl edge detail. He then started the first part of the bowl hollowing up to the faceplate. If you were not doing a canted bowl, the interior could be completed now, the platter reversed on a jam-chuck or vacuum chuck and the bottom finished.

To cant the bowl, he loosened the faceplate and placed a .25" shim under one of the screws. Frank was careful here to pick the screw that would cant the platter in the most appealing direction. He mounted the faceplate and re cut a new recess at the new canted angle. He then reshaped the bottom of the bowl, blending the old and new lines.

He then flipped the blank back onto the chuck, removed the faceplate and finished hollowing out the bowl. It will be necessary to sand out the transition line between the original cuts and the ones made after canting. Finally, he removed the platter and finished the bottom.

For those who weren't counting the blank had to be mounted 8 times, but the result was well worth it. Frank brought in some finished platters to show variations in the technique. They included broad rims with a center offset bowl, some canted to show off the interior of the bowl to better effect, and some that he had veneered to allow the beautiful, yet unstable woods like burl to be used.

Frank ended his presentation with a discussion of sanding techniques. Unfortunately, talking about sanding is like talking religion (It rubs people the wrong way?). Everyone has their own method. The conclusion, I think, is that one should do whatever works.

Frank was thanked by Doug Newlove, who had a real appreciation for Frank's efforts since he just sweated through his own presentation in January. Thanks Frank for a very well prepared and well-delivered presentation, and thanks for the effort you put into preparing the handout.

Frank Ditomaso

## **COMING EVENTS**

#### CANADIAN HOME WORKSHOP SHOW March 3, 4, 5

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www.homeworkshopshow.com/
Note: some GHWG members will be demonstrating at the WGO booth
Please drop by and say hello!

#### KITCHENER WATERLOO WOOD SHOW

March 17, 18, 19
1380 Victoria St. N (Hwy 7)
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June 30 to July 2 Charlotte Convention Centre Charlotte, North Carolina

# **Events and Demonstrations at the GHWG**

MARCH 23 (please note date change) Michael Hofstetter Turning legs for furniture

APRIL
Sunday the 9
Jason Marlow
all day seminar
(see write up for details)

MAY 18 Marilyn Campbell Decorating with Coloured Epoxy

# **BETTY SCARPINO WORKSHOP**

On Saturday February 5th 2000, the W.G.O. hosted a workshop at Markham District High School featuring Betty Scarpino, a well known artist and wood turner from Indianapolis, Indiana. She is also the former editor of the A.A.W. Journal. She and her work were the subject of an article in the February 2000 issue of *Woodwork* Magazine.

Betty uses turned pieces as a starting point. Cutting, carving, texturing, painting and manipulating the work to produce a finished object. In many cases she also makes a stand as part of the finished piece in order to control the way in which the work is presented and displayed.

The session began with a brief slide show overview of her work, what she did and the motivation behind the pieces. She then moved to the lathe to demonstrate some of the techniques that she uses, including an unusual way of using a skew to cut grooves in the face of the work. She deliberately did not create a piece from start to finish as she feels this could lead to copying or plagiarism, and could stifle individual creativity. Instead, she urged us to incorporate her techniques and ideas into our own designs. Grooves and bleaching are signatures of her work and she

devoted considerable time to demonstrating and discussing how to do these operations. The balance of the morning was spent illustrating various ways of colouring wood with milk paint, acrylics or by ebonizing. The afternoon session consisted of a discussion/demonstration of texturing and carving on turnings using a variety of power carvers, rasps, wood burners and sanding pads. She concluded with an informal question and answer session and an opportunity to try some of the tools she employs.

While her presentation was informative and her speaking style entertaining, some felt the workshop could have been compressed into a half day. During the afternoon session one got the impression she was trying to stretch her material out to fill the time. I would have preferred to see some of her work first hand rather than solely in slide form. She could have discussed the design elements of those pieces in greater detail. A more in depth demonstration of her carving and texturing techniques would also have been preferred. However, in spite of these criticisms, it was an interesting day.

Doug Kurtz

# WOODTURNING MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS

For those of you who are about to renew your subscriptions, or anyone who is thinking of getting it for the first time, this is a good deal for Woodturning Magazine. Two years ago when I renewed my subscription, it cost over \$100 for one year. That was dealing directly with England. Last year I got the subscription through the company listed below and paid under \$80. If you purchase Woodturning locally it will cost up to \$12 per issue. The prices have gone up since last year, but they are still very good. The two year subscription is an even better deal. Contact them for a subscription form. They also have similar deals on Furniture & Cabinetmaking, The Router, The Scroll Saw, and Woodcarving.

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Brian McIntosh

# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Our club has grown again! Please take the time to make our newest members feel welcome.

Angus MacLennan Philip Magee Theresa Morganty Alex Vance Brian Vickers Charles Street Gord Carter

# THANKS MEL!

M el Hordyk from Exotic Woods donated a large selection of wood for our raffle table. It was greatly appreciated. Brian McIntosh graciously arranged for the wood to arrive at the school. Thanks to everyone else who regularly donates to the raffle table. Lately we have seen bottle-stopper blanks, tools and tool handles

in addition to the wood. Doug Kurtz informed The Chip Flyer that our revenues from the raffle table have improved over last month, but we still have a way to go to beat previous year's numbers. Consideration is being given to changing from a wood raffle to a draw for gift certificates purchased from our sponsors.

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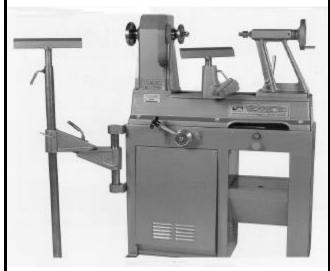
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# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

We had a great turn out at our February meeting with three new members and nine guests in attendance. Welcome to all! We all had the pleasure of watching Frank Ciccarelli demonstrate how to create an offset turned platter. This was a highly technical demonstration which Frank obviously put a great deal of time and effort into. I trust we will see some offset platters on the show and tell table next month. Thank you Frank.

Tickets will be available at the next meeting for the Jason Marlow seminar to be held on Sunday April 9th at Brock High School. The seminar has space for approximately 50 people and 34 interested turners have already signed up. Space is limited. Don't be disappointed. Sign up now!

We are still looking for an interested volunteer to run the video camera during the regular meetings. Support the Guild members by helping everyone "see" our guest demonstrators, and record the demonstrations for future reference.

I would like to thank Mel Hordyk from Exotic Woods for his generous donation to our raffle table. The Guild did very well with \$172.00 coming in. We can do better.

The show and tell table was excellent and the variety of items displayed is improving every meeting. Let's keep it up!

Our next regular meeting is on **March 23rd** (one week later due to the school closure over March break).

Please remember, if you have any suggestions for improving the Guild in any way, speak to one of the executive and make your voice heard.



O.K., BUT THAT'S IT! ABSOLUTELY NO SOFAS!

# **March Guest Demonstrator: Michael Hofstetter**

I ichael Hofstetter has been the past-president and secretary of the WGO during seven of it's ten years in existence. He was directly involved in the development of that large Guild and is a regular instructor at their beginner nights. He was also secretary of the CWA and then editor of their journal for five years. He is also a very busy guy. Trying to arrange to get

him to join us for an evening between trips to Texas, Ottawa, North Carolina and many other points has been a real challenge. He has been to our Guild a few times as a visitor and is looking forward to visiting with us again.

Michael will be demonstrating turning furniture legs on the lathe. His latest project involved turning legs for a pool table which were some 20" in diameter. He will do something a little more modest for us, and it should be very instructional to see how the pros do it.

Please note that since the school will be closed for March break, we will have the meeting on the fourth Thursday instead of the usual third. The date for the meeting will be March 23.

Frank Ditomaso

# Reviews & Previews

#### **CONTEMPORARY TURNED WOOD**

By Ray Leier, Jan Peters, Kevin Wallace

Published by Hand Books Press, Madison, Wisconsin

Distributed by Popular Woodworking books, Cincinnati, Ohio

This hard cover book (126 pages) is primarily a picture book showcasing the work of eighty contributing artists from around the world (U.S. 56, Australia 7, Great Britain 7, Canada 3). The authors operate a gallery, presenting American Craft, and are considered "authorities in the field of turned and sculptured wood."

The theme of the book shows how woodturning has progressed from a largely functional mode to an art form, through sculpturing, carving, sand-blasting, texturing, painting, bleaching and segmentation. The chapters cover an historical perspective; the union of form with beautiful wood; the vessel transformed by carving, painting, piercing, lamination and segmentation; woodturning as a medium for sculpturing, and smaller creations.

The excellent photography enhances each artist's presentation. Each photograph lists the name of the wood-turning artist, the title of the piece, the wood or material used, and the dimensions. The written work is minimal, but covers some historical perspective with comments on or by many of the contributing artists.

If you enjoy studying artistic woodturner's designs, this reference

book merits your attention. Hopefully it will provide stimulation and inspiration for all Woodturners to progress artistically. You will find this book in your local Chapters Bookstore. With a Chapters membership card, you may purchase it for ap-



proximately \$45.00 with tax. If you prefer free inspiration, you can browse for an hour, but don't spill your coffee on this excellent reference!

Al McBurney

# NOTIFICATION OF SPECIAL MEETING OF GHWG RE CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION

Members of the GHWG are hereby notified of a Special meeting being called for April 20, 2000 at General Brock High School at 7:00 P.M. The purpose of the Special Meeting is to present the following changes to the Constitution for approval by the membership. We request members to read these proposed changes to the Constitution and to attend the April 20 meeting at 7:00 P.M. on time. The intent is that these changes can be approved, and that the Special meeting will only require a few minutes of time from the regular meeting.

Al McBurney

**PROPOSED MOTION**: that the following changes be made to the Constitution of the GHWG at the Special Meeting on April 20, 2000 at General Brock High School. Moved by A. McBurney Seconded by D. Kurtz

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON EACH AMENDMENT WILL BE PROVIDED AT THE MARCH 23 MEETING

ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP

add D. Chapter membership of the GHWG in the American Association of Woodturners

- 1) that the GHWG may apply for a Chapter membership in the AAW
- 2) that the GHWG agrees to the requirements of the AAW By-laws with respect to that membership

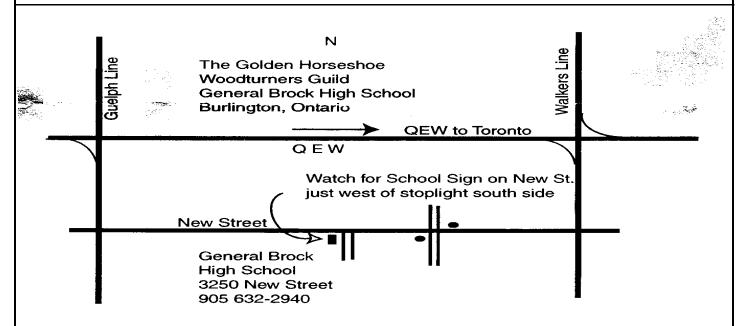
ARTICLE V #5 QUORUM

omit the phrase "for the purpose of voting on amendments"

- b) change 50% to 30%
- c) change 50% to 30%

#### ARTICLE VI

- 1. insert after Annual Meeting, the words "Special Meeting"
- 2. insert after Annual Meeting, the words "Special Meeting"



# **EXECUTIVE CONTACTS**

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# THE **MARKETPLACE**

tems will appear in this column for two consecutive months. If you sell them before that, please let us know.

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