

THE CHIP FLYER

Golden Horseshoe Woodturners Guild Newsletter

No. 48

May 2000

Page 1



Inside This Issue

McNichol Walnut	1
Jason Marlow	2
Hands-on	2
New Members	2
Coming Events	3
Demonstrations	3
Profile—Bowls	4
Supplier's Forum	5-6
President's Message	6
Frogs	6
Show and Tell	7
Competition	7
Marketplace	8
Map	8
Executive Contacts	8

In House Meetings

7:00 P.M.

Hands-on Night
Thursday, May 12

Regular Meeting
Thursday, May 19

McNichol Walnut

The McNichol Property is a piece of land on Lakeshore Road between Walkers Line and Appleby Line, with 14 acres of waterfront, a large mansion, barn and gardener's house. The property was purchased by the City of Burlington and is currently undergoing renovation. Mary Osborne, the person responsible for the project's fundraising efforts was a guest at the April 20 meeting, and she outlined the extensive plans the city has for the property. It is a "node" on the Waterfront Trail, which means it is accessible to cyclists and pedestrians on the trail, as well as by car. The 14 acres will have park space, a sensitive wetland circumvented by bike and walking trails, an artist's studio, day camp facilities, gardens, etc... The Mansion itself will be restored in order to allow public access for events such as dances, meetings, weddings etc...including catering facilities. In all it sounds like a sensitive and creative use of this unique public resource.

In order to develop the property and add space for parking, a few mature trees had to come down. While this is a loss, it will hardly be noticed due to the hundreds of trees on the estate. One of the felled trees is a Black Walnut, about 20 inches in diameter and 25 feet to the first crotch. Mary approached the Guild about a month ago to see if we would be interested in converting some of the Walnut to furniture or turned items for use on the property. In this way, some of the tree would always remain part of the property. What a great idea! We gave her an emphatic yes. To date all the branch wood has been removed, salvaging the larger pieces for turning. The main crotch and about 20 inches of the top part of the trunk have also been roughed out for turning. The rest of the trunk, some 18 feet, is going to be band sawn and dried for lumber.

Norm Kemp has offered to make a reception stand for use at weddings and other formal events. The design is still tentative, but the concept would be similar to a dictionary stand with turned legs and an

angled top that flips up for storage. With the remaining wood, we'd like to make some small boxes as gifts for individuals and companies who have donated time and material to the project. So far the private sector has pledged over 1 million dollars, and Mary says there is more to come! A small box made from the McNichol Walnut would be a real keepsake. The turning blanks could be made into any number of beautiful objects, which could either be displayed on site at a later date, or be sold with the proceeds donated on behalf of the GHWG to help pay for some of the restoration.

What can you as a member do to help? We are looking for volunteers to assist with all aspects of this project. Jim Fretz and myself are working out a plan to have the cabinet wood sawn for drying. We need to find a place to store the wood and a facility to kiln dry it. We also need woodworkers to build small boxes from whatever is left after Norm finishes his masterpiece. Norm may also need help, but he will let us know after he gets started. Last, but certainly not least, we need turners to convert the numerous blanks into beautiful turnings. We have a chance to show Burlington what our Guild's talent can do with what would otherwise have been firewood. The turning blanks have been cut up and are stored at Jim Campbell's and at my house. If you want to get involved, please contact Jim Campbell or me as soon as possible. This is a great opportunity for the Guild to show off and get some publicity, but more importantly a chance to give something back to the community. Even those who don't live in Burlington enjoy this beautiful city when they visit.

Oh, did I mention you get to keep some of the pieces? Those taking part should be able to get some of this unique wood for themselves (while quantities last). Please contact Jim or me at the following numbers:

Frank-Burlington 905 548 7014 (day)
905 335 5391 (night)

Jim-Mississauga 905 824 4435
(night and day, he's retired)
Frank Ditomaso

JASON MARLOW



About 40 GHWG members and guests (from the Grey Bruce Woodturners, Thames Valley Woodturners and Woodturners Guild of Ontario), were treated to approximately 8 hours of entertaining, informative and creative woodturning by master turner Jason Marlow at the April 9 workshop.

Jason hails from Qualicum Beach on Vancouver Island where he and other crafts people and artists operate the "Old School House", a cooperative studio which makes and sells crafts of all descriptions. My wife and I had the pleasure of hosting Jason at our home the night before his workshop, and we had a thoroughly enjoyable evening. Jason is simply a very nice guy without any pretence. He enjoys his craft and has a great appreciation for the work of other turners.

If you get a chance to meet him, please do so.

Jason began with an amazing slide presentation, which traced his development in turning through his early works to some of his current pieces. He then proceeded throughout the day to give us a crash course in turning, covering such topics as wood selection, tools, grinding, stance, finishing and decorating on both open and closed form turnings. This was not a workshop for beginners alone. His techniques and information were just as interesting to the advanced turner as the novice. Actually, he could of used about 3 days to cover everything he attempted.

Jason has also organised "Turn West 2000", which is a two day woodturning/teaching symposium at Qualicum Beach on August 11 and 12, featuring such turners as Judy Dimer, Christian Buchard, and Kip Christensen. If anyone is lucky enough to be in the area at that time, be sure to take it in. It sounds like a great event. For more information call 250-752-6133.

Thanks to all the members who helped put this event together: Andy Ditomaso for his great video work, Jim Fretz for cutting the blanks, Al McBurney, Brian

McIntosh, and Doug Newlove for bringing in their tools for Jason to use, and Brian Graham and his efficient and early set-up crew. The workshop also owes a dept to Ken Goldspink for making the initial contacts to set up the event and the WGO for their cooperation and assistance in chauffeuring Jason around. Bob Saunders was kind enough to drive Jason directly to my door after the workshop at the WGO. Wayne Dunn of Bradley's Catering provided morning coffee and a very nice lunch. Those who missed the workshop can still catch part of it by borrowing the video from the Guild library as soon as Andy finishes editing it. Be sure to watch for future all day workshops this fall and next spring.

Frank Ditomaso



HANDS-ON NIGHT



What a fantastic turnout! We barely had room to hold everyone last month. If

you missed out, don't worry. We'll be continuing with the same demonstrators in May. Cliff had a captive audience teaching us all about the skew. Everyone who wanted to had a turn making digs in the practice wood. Wayne had them lined up out the door with his sharpening abilities. I think your going to have to charge time and a half Wayne. And even though he was a little late (coming directly from the airport—now that is dedication!) Brian

Graham had a good many of us turning pens. Come out and join in the fun! For all you novice turners, this is what you joined up for. Get that hands-on experience only Guild members enjoy!

If anyone is interested in becoming the Hands-on coordinator starting this fall, please speak with William Duce.

NEW MEMBERS

Please take the time to welcome our two newest members:

Don Henry

Guy Harbec

EVENTS AND DEMONSTRATIONS AT THE GHWG

<p>MAY 18 Marilyn Campbell Decorating with Coloured Epoxy and Sign up for the "Have it your way" Woodturning Competition</p>	<p>JUNE 15 John Falls "Turning and decorating Furniture Legs" and Pick up your blanks for the "Have it your way" Woodturning Competition</p>
<p>SEPTEMBER 21 Multiple Simultaneous Demonstrations by Members of the GHWG and "Have it your way" Woodturning Competition Judging</p>	<p>SEPTEMBER 21 Exotic Woods "Seminar on wood" and Exotic Woods sales table</p>

COMING EVENTS

<p>The 14th Annual National AAW Symposium June 30 to July 2 Charlotte Convention Centre Charlotte, North Carolina</p>	<p>Durham Wood Show August 11, 12 and 13 Durham, Ontario 519-369-6902 Website: bmts.com/~woodshow</p>
<p>Turn West 2000 August 11,12,13, 2000 Two-day Turning, Teaching Symposium Old School House Arts Center Qualicum Beach, B. C. Tel: 250-752-6133 Fax: 250-752-2600 Website: http://macn.bc.ca/~tosh</p>	<p>The Muskoka Woodworking Show August 18, 19 and 20 Bracebridge Fairgrounds Bracebridge, Ontario Contact: Brad Bowes at 705-646-2394</p>
<p>Central Ontario Woodworking & Hobby Show September 8 - 10 At the 400 Trade Centre Hwy 400 just south of Barrie At exit 85 - Innisfil Beach Road</p>	<p>Woodstock Wood Show September 29, 30, October 1 Woodstock Fairgrounds Woodstock, Ontario Website: bmts.com/~woodshow</p>
<p>3rd Annual Wood Show and Competition October 21 and 22 Lion's Hall on Mill Street Kingsville, Ontario Contact: Julie Lawrence at 519-977-0823</p>	<p>The Brantford Wood and Craft Show November 3, 4 and 5 Brantford Civic Centre Brantford, Ontario</p>

Basic Bowls with Doug Newlove and Brian McIntosh

The GHWG members were treated to another episode of the Doug and Brian show at the April 20 meeting. These two talented and entertaining turners took us back to basics in the bowl turning process.

Doug started by showing the four different ways of getting a bowl blank from a log. The first, which he called the "regular rim" bowl, requires the bowl blank be cut out of one half of the log, with the top toward the pith. This provides a good stable bowl, just slightly smaller than about one half the diameter of the log and gives the largest bowl from a given log. Doug stressed the importance of avoiding the pith and balancing the blank so it does not distort too much when it dries. With this orientation the final bowl will have an arrow pattern on the inside.

The second type, the "natural edge" bowl, is cut with the bottom toward the pith and the top incorporating the bark into the final shape. The bark tends to stay on better if the tree is cut in the winter, rather than the summer. The grain pattern in this case would be oval shaped.

The third type has a regular rim, but with the top oriented toward the bark as in the natural edge bowl. This provides a nice oval grain pattern but does not make the best use of the wood.

The fourth type involves turning the log "end grain", leaving the pith in the bottom of the bowl. This renders a large bowl with a circular pattern, but there is usually considerable cracking at the pith. For a decorative bowl this is acceptable, but not desirable for something like a salad bowl.

Doug supported all this with overheads and actual cross sectional slices of wood showing the various orientations. He then went on to demonstrate the initial turning of what he termed a "banana bowl", which was in this case a natural edge bowl from a fairly small Ash tree. The final bowl had a scooped oval rim with the bark intact. He began with the blank between centres and adjusted the position of the drive and tailstock centres to get the best balance in the grain pattern. This step is important as it affects the appearance of the final bowl. He then shaped the outside of the bowl from the bark to the bottom, leaving a stub for mounting on a chuck. With the blank reversed on the chuck, the

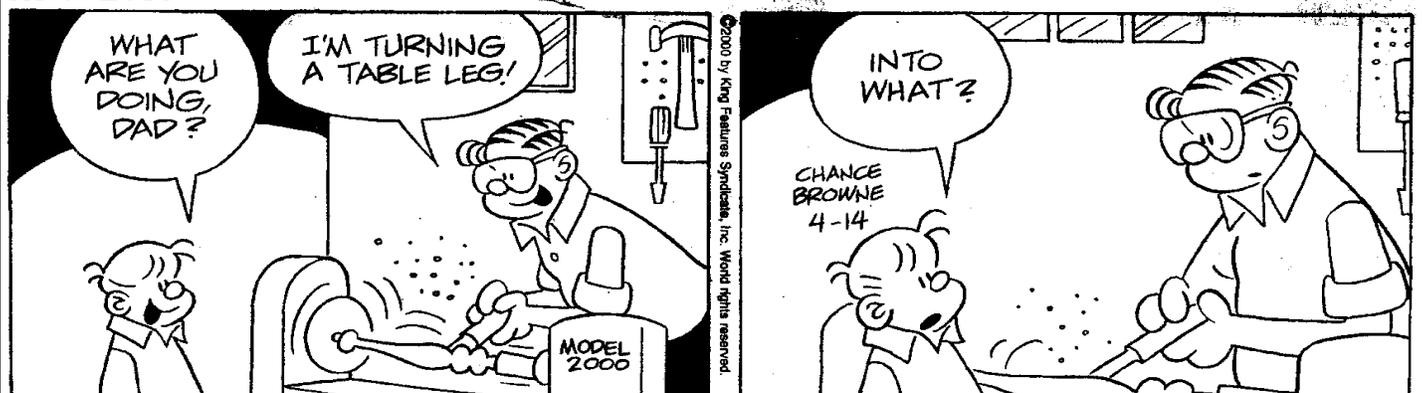
inside was carefully hollowed with a long bevel gouge near the rim and a shorter bevel gouge toward the bottom. Doug uses a very radical grind that should not be used by novices until they are comfortable with the gouge. The most difficult part of this process is determining where the edge is, since with the oval shape the gouge is cutting air for half of the time. Doug finds it by starting the gouge about midway into the bowl on solid wood and slowly feeling his way back to the edge. Once the inside is shaped and finished, he would normally reverse the bowl onto a pressure chuck and complete the shaping of the foot. However, much to Brian McIntosh's chagrin, Doug cut his demo short so that Brian would have a chance to demonstrate turning a regular edge bowl.

Brian chose to show the roughing out of a large regular edge bowl from an Ash blank. He started with what would be the top of the bowl screwed to a faceplate. The outside had been roughly shaped round with the chainsaw. While shaping the outside, Brian talked about the various aspects of turning this piece such as the advantages of turning green wood, the use of gloves to protect his hands from splinters, the advantages of very sharp tools, the best tools to use for the cuts, cutting downhill on the grain to get a clean cut, etc. All the while he was entertaining himself by spraying the first three rows of guests with great sprays of shavings. He then reversed the blank and hollowed out the inside. Brian recommends leaving a wall thickness of about 1/10 the diameter of the blank. With the bowl roughed out, the whole piece is coated with wax sealer and stored for about 2 months to finish drying.

Overall, it was a great demonstration, which covered a lot of material. It gave an overview for newer turners as well as many tips and ideas for the more seasoned turner. Thanks Doug and Brian. I have lost track of how many times you have both demonstrated for us, but every time has been an education and much appreciated by the members.

Frank Ditomaso

Hi & Lois



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PLAN TO ATTEND ROBERT SORBY'S
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FOLLOW IN FUTURE PUBLICATIONS

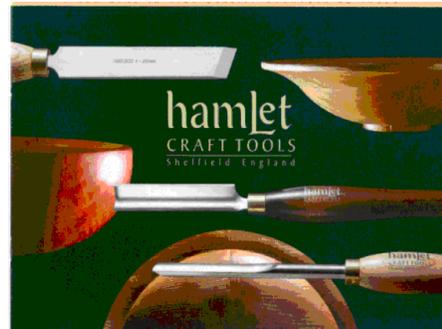
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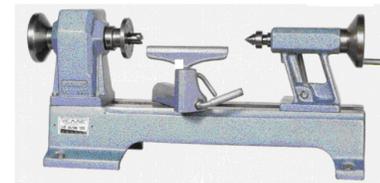
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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

We had a great turn out at our April meeting with one new member and four guests in attendance. Welcome to all. We achieved a quorum early, so we were able to vote on and accept the changes to the Guild's constitution allowing us to apply for chapter membership in the AAW, and refining the definition of a Quorum for future meetings. Thanks to all who attended early so we could get on with the good stuff.

I would also like to thank Mary Osborne for her insight on the McNichol Estate restoration project. Anyone interested in doing some turning on wood from the estate walnut tree should speak to Frank Ditomaso or myself.

I would like to thank both Doug Newlove and Brian McIntosh for a great night on basic bowl turning. It is nice to revisit the basics and relearn all that we take for granted. It gets you to rethink your approach to the subject and makes you a better turner. Great job guys.

I would like to remind all members to take care when you are looking at items on the Show and Tell table. PLEASE, do not take

your coffee or pop up to the table. As you all saw at the last meeting we had a spill directly on one of the tables. LUCKILY it did not get on any of the turned items, but it could have. We have set up a two table system: the roped off area is for items members would prefer not to have handled. Please RESPECT THEIR WISHES! If you wish to handle an item, please ask the turner for permission. Also, please identify your work with the cards located on the table. This will make it easier for me to call you up during the Show and Tell section of the meeting. This way I won't miss anyone and other members will know who made what..

We had a very good raffle table again this month with donations from many members.. Thanks to Dave Page and his daughter Joanne Hallman for bringing in sufficient copies of *The Woodturner's Catalogue* for the membership. If you have any items you would like to donate, please bring them in. It would also help the beginners if wood items could be identified as to type. This month's raffle garnered \$215.00. Thank you for your continued support.

The next meeting is on May 18th, with our guest demonstrator

Marilyn Campbell from the Grey Bruce Club. Many of you will remember Marilyn's last visit to the Guild, and what an excellent demonstration she gave. So come on out.

We are still looking for a volunteer to operate the video camera during our regular meetings. If you have a video camera and an interest in taping our demonstrators, please speak with me. We will also be looking for a coordinator for our hands-on night to replace Jim Wright who is retiring in September after giving us some great hands-on events.

Please make an effort to help set up at the start of the meeting and clean up when it's over. Many hands make light work. Remember, if you have any suggestions on programmes or changes to improve our Guild, please speak with any of the Executive present at the meetings.

Don't forget to wear your name tag. It helps our new members and our guests get to know us better. If your tag is missing, tell either Cliff or myself and we will have a new one made up for the next meeting. See you there.

JIM CAMPBELL



There is a frog in my workshop! Did you know frogs breathe

through their skin? Imagine a frog sitting beside you while you work at the lathe, sanding up a storm. How long would it take to kill that frog? Now, consider your lungs. They are

no less sensitive than that living, breathing frog. You just can't see them.

PROTECT YOURSELF

SHOW AND TELL

Due to circumstances beyond the editor's control, there are no photos available from last month's show and tell (I broke Frank's camera). Actually Frank tells me it turned out to be a faulty memory (not mine) and is being replaced. This does give me the opportunity to discuss a couple of issues surrounding show and tell. I am very pleased to see the way in which this part of our regular meetings has taken off. Everyone has the opportunity to take centre stage and either show something they have made or tried to make, or talk about a problem or success they have had. This increased interest comes with a price however, and in the case of show and tell it means some guidelines are necessary to ensure everyone

has an opportunity to be heard. A time limit of two to three minutes per person should be respected. Bring in as many items as you wish to display, but limit your discussion to the time allotted. Please fill out a card to identify your work. It makes my job easier (remember that faulty memory). Use the microphone! Everyone starts out speaking loudly and clearly, but as they go on their voice tends to lower. It is also more difficult to hear over other members talking among themselves. Please don't be so rude as to speak while someone is trying to muster the courage to talk about their turnings. If you are not interested, simply remove yourself. It's a big school! This is such a valuable

part of our meetings. If there is a way to improve it, let's do it. I would like to ask Malcolm to bring in his hollow form vessel again from a few weeks ago. Many of us would like to hear about it, and we simply ran out of time. I would also like to thank everyone who brought in items last month. The one item which really stands out in my mind was the candle stand Doug Kurtz turned for the family church on his sister's request as a dedication to his parents. The wood used was salvaged by his father from an earlier restoration within the church. Well done Doug.

I hope we are all rewarded with a full table next meeting.

Joanne

"HAVE IT YOUR WAY" WOODTURNING COMPETITION

Let's do it again! The response from the membership for last year's competition was so great; we thought we would do it again. The blanks will be kiln dried Hard Maple in the two sizes: a 3"x 3" x 12" spindle blank or a 6" x 6" x 3" bowl blank. Some members wanted larger blanks, but this would make it difficult for those with small lathes to take part, so we are going to try the same sizes again. We will have to increase the cost of the blanks to \$12 because we will have to pay more for them this time around. But please, don't let two dollars deter you. The variety and creativity shown by the members last year was tremendous, and with that experience under our belts, we hope to see even better pieces this year!

The classes remain the same: Novice, Intermediate, Advanced and Master in the categories "Purist" and "Variety". For those who don't remember let me review the differences. Purist means the finished item must be made from the blank supplied with nothing added but glue, stain or paint, and finish. The blank can be cut up and reassembled as much as you like. Variety means you can add up to 20% by original volume of another material such as other wood, metal, epoxy, and/or anything else your imagination can dream up. Again, the blank can be sliced and diced to your hearts content.

Novice class is for those turners who have been turning for one year or less. Intermediates are those who are still learning, but have been at it longer than one year. Advanced are those turners who have mastered the basic skills and are developing their sense of form and design. Masters are those who make a living at, or are accomplished at turning. You know who you are.

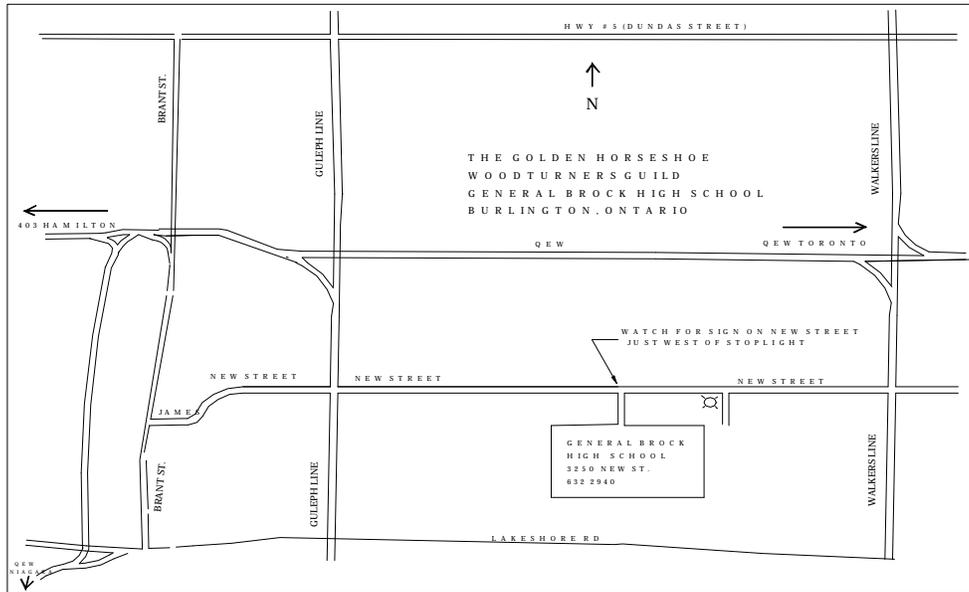
Remember, if you won first place in Novice, Intermediate or Advanced last year, you must move up to the next class. Big Brother will be watching.

There will be prizes for each class in each category. As well, we will also have one prize for the most creative entry. This year we would like to add one more prize for "turner's choice". We would like the members to vote on their favorite piece from among all the entries.

I will have entry forms available at the April 20 meeting. Please come and see me at the meeting or call me at home or at work. The blanks will be handed out at the June 15 meeting. If you can't make the meeting, contact me and I will arrange to get a blank to you.

New turners please note: if you need access to equipment, such as a band saw or lathe, or just want guidance, etc, contact me and I will put you in touch with another turner if I can't help you myself. The purpose of this competition is to get you involved with turning. Everyone who takes part is a winner! The contest will be held at the September 21 meeting. Good luck to everyone!

Frank Ditomaso
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Annual Fees run from January to December at a cost of \$40.00. There is a one time membership fee of \$10.00. Meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month for Hands-on night (members welcome), and the third Thursday of the month for Demonstrations. Contact any member of the executive for more information about becoming a member. The Golden Horseshoe Woodturners Guild extends an invitation to all members to become more involved within the Guild. The deadline for submissions to The Chip Flyer is the 25th of each month.

THE MARKETPLACE

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

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