

THE CHIP FLYER

Golden Horseshoe Woodturners Guild Newsletter

NO. 50

July 2000

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In House Meetings
7:00 P.M.

Hands-on Night
September 14
Regular Meeting
September 21

A Treasured Moment

The following is an excerpt from an e-mail sent to Mary Lacer-Administrator of the AAW from Ken Goldspink and reprinted with his permission:

Please bear with me as I share my most recent turning experience with you. Just recently our club President Marilyn Campbell and I were invited into a local Elementary School by the shop teacher, to talk about and demonstrate woodturning to Grade 8 Students enrolled in the wood/shop programme. Following my brief demonstration on the lathe I invited students up to try their hand. With a little help from me they all succeeded in producing shavings and I was rewarded with great big smiles all around and the usual comments of "cool" or "awesome". At the end of the lesson I volunteered to come back to the school each Tuesday and Thursday (in our community only one school has a shop and consequently Grade 8 students from other schools are bussed in to this shop). The following week I had a different class which contained a couple of "Special Needs" students. After each of the regular students had tried their hand at turning I asked their teaching assistant if either one of them would like to try. The one little girl was in a wheelchair and although sitting too low, with help from me "we" made shavings fly. Once again I was rewarded with a beautiful smile. The other "Special Needs" child suffered brain damage at birth due to the umbilical cord being around her neck which cut off oxygen to her brain. The teaching assistant coaxed her to have a try and with words of encouragement from me "we" once again made shavings fly, and once again I was rewarded with an enormous smile. At the end of the lesson as I was packing away my tools I felt a tug at my elbow. When I turned around there stood the little girl with brain damage and behind her stood her teaching assistant. The teacher whispered "She wants to say Thank You" where upon the little girl "signed thank you" with her hands and then extended her right hand to shake hands all the while exhibiting a great big beautiful smile. Mary, At that moment I melted and instinctively opened my arms to give her a hug. That was a moment I will remember and cherish for the rest of my life and I left that school feeling as if I had "won the lottery". Since that time, I have received a donation of turning tools from Robert Sorby Tools for that class and will be trying to obtain a donation of a small Oneway or similar style chuck. I made a personal donation of a new live and drive centre for the class General 160 lathe and will be setting up a good grinding system for the newly donated tools. I have also committed to the teacher that I will return to the school in September when school resumes. I don't think that I have ever had such a rewarding experience before and I look forward to September.

Yours in Turning, Ken Goldspink

WELCOME NEW MEMBER!

Please make an effort to say hello to Randall Hodge of Lockport, New York

MANY THANKS!

To Charles Robertson for his recent donation to our library.

CLIFF HANGER AT GENERAL BROCK

Cliff Rose and the GHWG were welcomed by Mr. Bob Uhler, and introduced to 23 students and 5 members of the teaching staff. With only 45 minutes available for his presentation, Cliff concentrated on creating a dynamic awareness of the art of Woodturning. A table of samples, ranging from rough wood to finished items was displayed accompanied by a brief explanation of each item. Using his well organized portable Carbitech demo set-up, Cliff proceeded to make chips fly, using the Skew Chisel to create beads, coves and various spindle shapes. The audience was held in rapt attention by his tool handling skill and his unique ability to produce a "baby bottom smooth" surface with the Skew, obviating the need for sanding. This demonstration by Cliff Rose (representing the GHWG) was a resounding success judging by the applause and requests for more of the same at a later date. He certainly fulfilled our Guild mandate: "to educate and promote the art of woodturning".

Josh Pichanick

MALCOLM THE MAGNIFICENT

OK, OK, maybe Malcolm was showing off a little when he turned a bead using a skew chisel with only one hand, but he did get the point across. Malcolm Cumming was the demonstrator at the June 15 meeting, and did a great job of demonstrating the use of the dreaded skew chisel. He presented some convincing arguments that the skew chisel is a very versatile tool, capable of much more than just planing spindles. He demonstrated cutting beads, pummels, negative cuts, v cuts, and even roughing cuts. The purpose of the one handed use was to show the stability of using the long point instead of the short point. Using the long point with one hand, he was able to hold the tool on the wood and, by moving the handle up, was able to control the cut without skating. Only when he moved the tool handle to an extreme angle did the tip catch and slide sideways. With the short point held with one hand, it was almost impossible to hold the tool without skating, there was no allowance for error. With a second hand to help stabilize the angle, the short point can be used and in fact has been used historically by most turners, but it has also gained a reputation as a difficult tool to master. Malcolm is convinced that using the long point is much more forgiving to small errors in alignment.

Malcolm passed along a number of important tips as part of his demonstration. One was to learn to be ambidextrous so that you can switch back and forth quickly when changing the direction of cut. This eliminates the usual contortions one would go through trying to cut to the right while holding the tool handle with the right hand. By reversing your grip and holding your tool handle with the left hand, you have much better control and more speed. The second tip was to practice, practice, practice. Malcolm showed a few dozen "ego sticks" that he uses to practice with the skew. It is only with practice that one can teach the body to make the correct motions automatically. For example; to turn a bead one must simultaneously lift and swing the handle, rotate the tip, slide the chisel sideways on the rest, and apply a slight amount of pressure in. All these motions cannot be accomplished smoothly if one has to think about it. They have to become automatic by practice. As to sharpening the skew, he normally hones the skew with an oil stone, only grinding when necessary. He uses a round grinding stone which gives him a hollow grind allowing more honings before regrinding.

To top off the evening and to demonstrate that the skew is not as difficult as it's reputation implies, Malcolm pulled out a hatchet which had been sharpened a little to get a good cutting edge. He then proceeded to turn a bead with the hatchet. Actually, it was quite an effective demonstration tool because you could easily see the angle of the cutting edge as the tool handle swung through a large arc above the wood.

Those who have seen the high quality of Malcolm's work and know that he does all this on a homemade lathe, can appreciate that the quality must come from excellent tool use. His mastery of the skew was ample evidence of this. Thanks Malcolm for a very educational and enjoyable demonstration.

Frank Ditomaso

HANDS-ON NIGHT



Dear Fellow Woodturners,

As you are aware I have made the decision to step down as the co-ordinator of the Hands-on night. In January I took on a new position with the company I work for and I have found that it is taking an increasing amount of my time. You may have noticed that I have been unable to attend the last two sessions due to business related commitments. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many volunteers who have helped me over the last year and a half to set up, tear down and attend. Most of all I would like to thank the many members who have graciously given their time to instruct. We have all gained from their knowledge and love of this hobby.

Thank you, Jim Wright.

Greetings Fellow Turners,

Over the past few years we have had a successful Hands-on night and many of us have gained knowledge and even dared to try other things such as the Skew etc... It has taken thought, effort and time on the part of those members who participated in running the lathes and so on, for which I would like to say a big Thank You. For this coming year I have volunteered to serve as Hands-on Night co-ordinator. This is a job that is impossible to do without the help of all our members. I do need lots of feed back, requests, and volunteers to teach. Please contact me any time at the following: 411 Maplehurst Ave, Oakville, Ont, L6L 4Y3 905 844 2650 nkemp1@home.com Norm Kemp

EVENTS AND DEMONSTRATIONS AT THE GHWG

<p style="text-align: center;">SEPTEMBER 21 Exotic Woods Seminar and Sales Table</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Multiple Simultaneous Demonstrations by Members of the GHWG</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Josh Pichanick—hollowing with the Hook Tool Cliff Rose—Spinning Tops</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Brian Graham—Pens and related items Norm Kemp—Spiral turning</p> <p style="text-align: center;">"Have it your way" Woodturning Competition Judging</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">OCTOBER 20 to 22 GHWG Weekend Workshop Featuring Frank Sudol and Clay Foster</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Friday evening Regular GHWG Meeting with Slide Presentations Saturday and Sunday All Day Workshop</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">NOVEMBER 16</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Paul Ross Turning Christmas gifts</p>
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COMING EVENTS

<p style="text-align: center;">Turning on Furnishings 2000 June 2-July 19 Harbourfront "Uncommon Objects" display July 15-August 12 Edward Day Gallery, Kingston</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">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 style="text-align: center;">GHWG has received official membership status as 150th chapter of the American Association of Woodturners</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Woodstock Wood Show September 29, 30, October 1 Woodstock Fairgrounds Woodstock, Ontario Website: bmts.com/~woodshow</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">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 style="text-align: center;">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 style="text-align: center;">Durham Wood Show August 11, 12 and 13 Durham, Ontario 519-369-6902 Website: bmts.com/~woodshow</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">The Brantford Wood and Craft Show November 3, 4 and 5 Brantford Civic Centre Brantford, Ontario</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">The Muskoka Woodworking Show August 18, 19 and 20 Bracebridge Fairgrounds Bracebridge, Ontario Contact: Brad Bowes at 705-646-2394</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">The Hamilton Wood Show January 26-28, 2001 Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum Hamilton, Ont (905)575-0450 website: www.ontario-woodshows.com</p>

UPDATE ON THE FALL WORKSHOP

As we announced at the last meeting, the Guild is putting together a weekend workshop with two of the best international turners available. Frank Sudol and Clay Foster will be coming to Burlington in October to present "**A Collaboration in Woodturning**". This will be a very unique event not likely to be repeated.

Frank Sudol, of Paddockwood, Saskatchewan creates delicate thin-walled hollow vessels decorated with beautiful images of animals and plants. These images, created by piercing the piece with a dental drill, are so fine they look like thin sheets of lace. Frank is a mix of environmentalist, botanist and woodturner. This combination of interests enables Frank to produce unique works and has put him in demand all over the world. He is making a special detour to be with us in October, partly because he has a special fondness for Canadian guilds and partly for the opportunity to work with Clay Foster again. His slide presenta-

tion is very moving as it deals with past works and his strong views on the environment.

Clay Foster of Texas was one of the founding members of the AAW. He held various positions within that executive, sat on the board of directors and has been involved with woodturning all his life. Throughout his career he has continued to expand his turning and artistic skills, always coming up with innovative designs. As if this wasn't enough, he is a very entertaining demonstrator who somehow manages to keep the audience in stitches while making complicated cuts on the lathe. He has been looking forward to coming to eastern Canada since last winter and was very pleased with the opportunity to once again work with Frank Sudol.

These two turners are going to prepare a joint program when they meet at the AAW symposium and again at Emma Lake this year, so you can count on something very special for this weekend workshop.

In searching for biographical information on Frank and Clay, I visited

many web sites and read many turning books. I found references to demonstrations and workshops all over the U.S., Australia, New Zealand, Canada and Britain. They seem to have been everywhere! In each case the editorial comments were positive. Both Frank and Clay are articulate, intelligent, and very creative turners. They also seem to possess something common to all great people, a wonderful sense of humour.

A note to all GHWG members.:

This weekend workshop has been very expensive to put together. We need 40 attendees on both days to break even. Please come out and support this initiative. It's been a bit of a gamble for the executive to approve, but the success of this workshop will pave the way for future endeavors. I've already bought my ticket. How about you?

Frank Ditomaso

BED AND BOARD WANTED

We expect many turners from other guilds who would like to attend the "Collaboration in Woodturning" workshop on October 20 - 22 will have to travel long distances to get here and then bear the additional cost of a motel over the weekend. This additional cost may be too much for many turners, putting the workshop out of their reach. We are asking any members of the guild who have a spare room and could take in a visiting turner for the weekend to contact me and let me know. I am compiling a list and will contact distant guilds to let them know how many spaces are available, but I need to know soon so I can send this information along before they make other plans. Let me know if you can offer a bed, or bed and board. This will help the guild by making it easier for visiting turners to attend and you get the opportunity to meet turners from other guilds. Please contact me at work at 905 548-7014 or at home at 905 335 5391.

Frank Ditomaso

"HAVE IT YOUR WAY" COMPETITION

Thanks to some last minute entries, we now have 35 competitors for the competition. Judging will take place at the September 21 meeting, so bring in your masterpieces and hand them in at the desk. Remember, don't put your name on the bottom, all entries will be anonymous. This is a design competition. So far we have two judges lined up, one a turner with a strong design interest and possibly a potter who knows nothing about turning but a lot about shape. This will be an open competition, so you can add some additional material to the original blanks, but the dominant part of the finished piece must be the original maple blank. Of course, those who accept the additional challenge of making it all out of the original blank may get a slight leg-up in the eyes of the judges. There will be four classes, novice, intermediate, advanced and master. The Novice class is for those turning for one year or less, Intermediate for 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, and Master are those who make a living at turning, or are very good at it, you know who you are. And don't forget, if you won first place in any class in a previous competition, you must move up to the next class. There will be a prize for the best in each class, one for creativity and one "turner's choice" selected by the all the members. Pick up a ballot when you come in and select the entry that you like to best from any class. All entries will be roped off, so only the judges will be able to peek and poke at the insides. See you in September.

Frank Ditomaso

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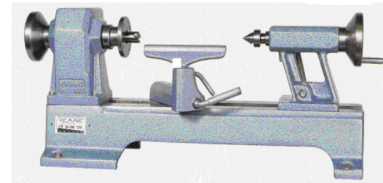
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SPARKS FLY!

While grinding a tool, the sparks from the grinder ignited a wad of 4-ott steel wool left on the grinding table. The steel wool may have had some resin or wax on it, as the first thing I noticed was flames out of the steel wool, then the fire changed to a red glow, consuming the steel wool. Fortunately I had water near by and I put the whole mess in the water. We can only surmise what would have occurred had I been called out of the shop while grinding! I had heard that 4-ott steel wool could be ignited, but never considered that sparks from the grinder could be the culprit. Keep your grinder bench/table clear (and water near by at all times)!!! Dispose of all flammable materials in a safe manner!

Sandy Graham

TIP: For those of us who occasionally cut too much wood off our jamb chucks, you can shim up small adjustments with kitchen towels or the wrist-band portion of those vinyl gloves we should be using for protection while lacquering/painting etc... The use of the vinyl glove part gives a very good fit with friction.

ON THE ROAD AGAIN!



Having arranged this trip with Ken Goldspink, three of us set out for Kincardine on June 15th, 2000. I was driving and up front was Wayne Marsden as navigator (great sense of direction) and in back was Jim Fretz as navigator (what can I say). We inspected most of the Tim Horton stores on the way, and talked so much we missed all the signs into Kincardine, ending up at the Bruce Nuclear Plant. Another u-turn and we finally arrived at Marilyn Campbell's home in a tropical downpour and convinced Jim Fretz to get wet and see if Marilyn was at home. He did and she was. We all

know Marilyn from her two super presentations to the GHWG, and her nationally acclaimed epoxied platters, but we were totally overwhelmed by her new art direction. Perhaps I could describe them as thin walled Holly platters, which were turned and cut, but this does not even come close to depicting the intricate beauty of the new art form. Next, on to Ken Goldspink's shop, where we had the pleasure of meeting the grand old man of New Zealand turning himself, Mr. Ken Sagar. Now you all know that Jim Fretz's Orca and my Poolewood lathe are large super heavy duty machines, but we immediately lost all bragging rights when we saw the Honourable Sir Ken Goldspink's WB-36 lathe from England-WOW! It isn't so much that it is BIG. It is a massive yet delicate cast iron machine with electronic variable speed running in phosphor bronze bearing, and at all speeds it just purred like a kitten, whisper quiet and smooooooth. On now to Port Elgin, where the GBWG hold their meetings. You didn't hear this from me, it was Wayne's 53rd birthday, so Jim and I offered to treat him to dinner, but all of a sudden Tim Horton's wasn't good enough. Just kidding, we had a great dinner, complete with a candle in Wayne's pie and happy birthday sung by our waitress. For a relatively small Guild, we were very impressed by the quantity and quality of the members' pieces on the display table, which included pieces by Marilyn herself and Don Braniff whom we've all met. Marilyn, as President of their guild, welcomed the three of us from the GHWG, and introduced internationally known Ken Sagar of New Zealand. Ken, who is a young 80 plus, started his slide presentation by showing the works of a number of very talented New Zealand turners, and then on to his own creations. Man oh man, you have to see these for yourself. They ranged from huge 4 foot platters and wall sconces---attached to a large diameter face plate with double sided sticky tape (I kid you not) to numerous natural edge and conventional bowls with perfect form, finish and function. As I cannot possibly do justice to his expertise here, let me tell you of his equipment and comments. His first lathe, still in use, is a 14 year old Tecknitool 1100 lathe, and his heavy duty homemade lathe consists of a 4"x4" pine stand, double butted, glued and secured with 4" nails. It was intended as a prototype but worked so well, it is now permanent. It has a 2" diameter shaft running in pillow block bearings, driven and counterweight balance by a very heavy 2 HP motor which was salvaged from his father-in-law's cowshed in 1928 (not a misprint). The lathe is not bolted to the floor and when first put into use with an out of balance blank on board, it would "wobble a bit". Ken's solution---he strapped the lathe to the wall of his old wooden workshop and now the building wobbles with the lathe. The dust clearing system is an ordinary household fan on a stand, behind him and to his left, which blows the dust from the lathe, through an open window behind it. Ken Sagar's work is truly amazing, and he concluded his presentation with a slide of the smallest piece he has ever made,---and I quote---"I was taken to hospital and this is the kidney stone I made" A great presentation by a great turner and an inspiration to us all. We covered a total of 600 km, plenty doing u-turns not to mention frequent use of reverse gear, but now we know where they all live.



Josh Pichanick

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

We had a great turn out at our June meeting and had one guest in attendance. I would like to thank Malcolm Cumming for a giving a great demonstration on such short notice. His skill with the skew chisel is outstanding, but when he brought out the axe, that took the cake. How many of you went home and tried to use the skew with one hand? I don't know about you, but I still got a catch! So thanks again for a fantastic job Malcolm. We had a very good raffle table again this month with donations from many members. We added \$145.00 to the treasury. We could always do better. Remember, if you have any items that you would like to donate please bring them in. It would also help the beginners if the items could be identified as to type of wood. If you want to get rid of any excess tools or other turning related items please bring them in. We are still looking for a volunteer to operate the video camera at our regular meetings. Come on guys! This is an ideal job for someone who wants to get close up to the demonstrators. Our new coordinator for our hands-on night is Norm Kemp. I am sure Norm will bring us a varied line up of skillful hands-on sessions. Thank you Norm for volunteering. This is your Guild. I would like to thank those who help set up at the start of the meeting and clean up when it's over. New faces are always welcome. Coffee and cookies remain on the honour system. We sell them at cost. Remember if you want any of the McNichol walnut contact Frank Ditomaso or myself. Turn a piece for the estate and keep one for your self. The workshop with Clay Foster and Frank Sudol is set for the weekend of October 20-22, 2000. Get your tickets early to avoid disappointment. This should be a great show! If you would like to order your tickets by mail, fill out the form in the newsletter. I will get the tickets to you. We hope to have a large turn out of our members at this event as this could lead to bigger and better workshops in the next years. Lets show the other guilds that we know how to be good hosts with a large turnout of our members. As this was the last meeting until September I hope you all have a good summer of turning and don't forget to get to work on your entries for the "Have It Your Way" Competition.

Jim Campbell

A SPECIAL HANDS-ON WORKSHOP

Clay Foster has offered to conduct a special one day "hands-on" workshop for up to four turners on the Monday following the weekend workshop (that's October 23rd). This will be an all day event, hosted by Josh Pichanick at his home workshop. The cost will be \$85 U.S. per turner. You not only get to work directly with Clay, but you also get to experience Josh's Poolewood Lathe. If interested contact me at 905 548-7014 during the day, or 905 335-5391 at night. Spaces are available on a first come first serve basis. One spot is already gone. Firm commitments only please.

Frank Ditomaso

CHRISTMAS TOYS

This Christmas, the GHWG would like to help out children in the Burlington area by bringing back an old fashioned idea; hand-made wooden toys. In a world full of plastic throwaways and computerized gadgets that hold their attention for about 3 seconds, but don't fire their imagination, there is a shortage of good quality, well thought-out toys for children. Have you ever noticed that the kids get more fun playing with a huge cardboard box than with the overpriced junk that came in it? We, as craftspeople, have an opportunity to revitalize their interest by giving toys which allow them to use their imaginations in creative ways.

We would ask, on a voluntary basis, that members either send or bring a hand made toy to our annual Christmas party in December. The Burlington Salvation Army will be on hand to receive the toys, and will look after making sure they get distributed to needy children in the area. The Salvation Army asks only that few simple rules be followed (mostly common sense): No weapons (such as bows and arrows or toy guns). No toxic or treated woods (use non-toxic finishes). Toys intended for small children should not have any small, removable parts which could be swallowed.

Herman Kamstra brought in a number of his toy vehicles to the June 15 meeting and discussed some of his construction techniques. He also made himself available during the break to answer questions about toy making. Thanks Herman for a great display.

I copied a number of toy making plans from Herman's books and other sources and made them available to the members during the break. Most of them went to interested members fairly quickly, so I will bring in more for the September meeting, along with any new ideas I can find during the summer. The library is another excellent resource with many good books on toy making.

The Salvation Army will accept toys for children off all ages, just make sure they are safe for the age group. They also remind us not to forget the most difficult "kids" to buy for - young teens. While they may not want toys, teenage girls would love a turned jewel box for their treasures. Boys would like book ends or coat racks. Use you imagination and think about what your children and grandchildren like to play with. This is a chance to give a Christmas gift to the whole community. I will have more information as we get closer to December. Have a great summer and I'll see you in September.

Frank Ditomaso

A COLLABORATION IN WOODTURNING
FALL SEMINAR PRESENTED BY THE GHWG AND FEATURING
FRANK SUDOL AND CLAY FOSTER

Saturday October 21 and Sunday October 22 - 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

TWO DAY SEMINAR.....price includes lunch \$90.00
DAY ONE OR DAY TWO OF SEMINAR....price includes lunch \$50.00
(Please specify which day) _____

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EXECUTIVE CONTACTS

President

Jim Campbell
 3083 Augusta Drive
 Mississauga, Ont.
 L5N 5E1
 905-824-4435
 jim.campbell@sympatico.ca

1st VP.

Frank Ditomaso
 2387 Hereford Cr.
 Burlington, Ont.
 L7P 1X2
 905-335-5391
 frank_ditomaso@dofasco.ca

2nd VP.

William Duce
 707-705 Bold St.
 Hamilton, Ont.
 L8P 1T7
 905-525-7994
 wrduce@acglobal.net

Treasurer

Doug Kurtz
 851 Teal Dr.
 Burlington, Ont.
 L7T 2Y8
 905-632-1923

Secretary

AlMcBurney
 2121 Canterbury Dr.
 Burlington, Ont.
 L7P 1N7
 905-332-6343

Membership

Cliff Rose
 33 Golden Orchard
 Hamilton, Ont.
 L9C 6J2
 905-388-6164

Editor

Joanne Hallman
 RR#22
 Cambridge, Ont.
 N3C2V4
 519-658-6572
 lakefrontliving@sympatico.ca

Member at Large

Robin LeSage
 1-218 Gladstone Ave.
 Hamilton, Ont.
 L8M 2H6
 905-522-2839

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.

FOR SALE

Mastercraft 6" bench grinder Nearly new
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