



150th Chapter of the AAW

THE CHIP FLYER

Golden Horseshoe Woodturners Guild Newsletter

NO. 75

January 2003

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Message from the President



I hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas break. I would like to wish Happy New Year to all my fellow Guild members.

The last year has been very busy for the Guild, we have a new meeting facility, new equipment with the addition of another Jet mini lathe, two turning competitions, and a busy Hands-on program with the startup of the Woodturning 101 program.

It's important to remember those who made it possible. Robin Lesage has done a great job of preparing equipment for all the meetings, putting in extra hours to keep everything together and picking up all the various pieces we needed, he even found a real tree for the Christmas party. With about 40 new members in 2002 alone, Glen Mott has been kept hopping all year. Brian Taylor has raised the Newsletter to a new level of quality, even adding colour photos for those who receive email. John Hinds has been there to help at all the meetings, despite a new job that has made it difficult for him to get to the meetings from Cambridge. George Daer has kept on top of all the finances for the Guild, but still managed to find extra money for events such as the September competition. Al McBurney, a founding Guild member and secretary since its inception has kept the rest of us on the straight and narrow at meetings, maintained business correspondence for the Guild and made sure I followed Roberts Rules (sort of). He will be retired from his position this year, but I think I speak for all the Guild members in saying a big thank you for all his efforts.

Lets not forget the indispensable volunteers such as Norm Kemp who has kept the Hands-On session and the Woodturning 101 Program going so successfully. As well, we had help from Gary Cornell, Steve Darley, and George Jacquemain on the Library, Bob Saunders on the camera, Gord Polych and Phil McGee on the coffee and cookies, Sandy Graham on the competition, and all those turners who helped with instruction on the Hands-on and Woodturning 101 sessions, and many who helped with setup and cleanup.

In January, you will have a new President, 1st Vice President and Secretary and assistants to help them out. Please give them and all the existing executives all your support.

Time to start turning. The weather is cold and it gets dark early so you can't work outside. What a pleasure it is to spend a quiet evening in a cozy shop. No distractions, just lots of wood chips. The Guild has a full program planned for the winter. In January, Doug Newlove has prepared an in-depth slide show covering bowl making from start to finish. Then in February, we have Vince Lebert who will show how to turn miniatures, and how to make your own tools for this work, Leon Michal in March with dyeing and epoxy treatment, Jack Brown in April with inlaid and sculpted ornaments and a Saturday workshop with Art Leistman. We will also continue with a full Hands-on program, and start up new Woodturning 101 sessions if we can get enough instructors.

I hope to see you at the Annual Meeting on January 16. Your attendance is vital so we can get the new executives in place and deal with Guild business. See you there.

Frank Ditomaso

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GHWG 2002 CHRISTMAS PARTY

We had about 110 members and guests at our annual Christmas party this year and I believe everyone had a good time. Food was catered by Choice Cuisine and the Knights of Columbus Hall provided a cash bar. We even had music thanks to Robin LeSage. Robin also brought in a real tree for the Christmas Ornaments, and we had enough that every guest received at least one, some got two. Door prizes consisted of a finished bowl, donated by Jim Vasi, that he had started at the October meeting; two bottles of wines acquired by Jim Fretz, and a number of Poinsettias on the tables, which were give to the person who's birthday was closest to December 25.

The competition was again full, with 20 entries in the three classes. The winners were:

Open	1st	Guy Mechan
	2nd	Eugen Schlaak
	3rd	Doug Bremner
Intermediate	1st	Brian Graham
	2nd	Joanne Hallman
	3rd	Robin Lesage
Novice	1st	Peter Wright
	2nd	Wayne Marsden
	3rd	Kevin Gillespie

Congratulations to the winners and all those who entered.



We also had the Jet Lathe raffle, which was won by Malcolm Cumming. Congratulations Malcolm. This is the third Jet raffle we have had, the profits for which have allowed the Guild to acquire three Jets for Hands-On use.

The Toy table was loaded with a large variety including trucks, building blocks, dolls, tops, a large ride on plane and much more. Andy Ditomaso (sometimes known as Santa) and Len Kaufman took them to the Hamilton Sick Children's Hospital the following week and personally gave them out to the girls and boys who were receiving treatment. The toys were well received by the kids, and the parents were very grateful and appreciative. I'm sure these toys will be played with well after the plastic junk is broken and tossed away. It's quite likely the children will especially cherish the toys they received while they were sick and pass them on to their own children in time.

It was a nice way to start the Christmas season.

Frank Ditomaso

Volunteers Needed

for 8th Annual Hamilton Wood Show

The sign-up sheet is ready to go, so if you can spare some time to represent our Guild at the show, see Robin LeSage at the next meeting or call him at home. Volunteers needed for setup, take-down, greeters and demonstrators for the dates and times below:

January 24, 25, 26, 2003
Friday Noon to 9 PM
Sat & Sun 9 AM to 5 PM



Next
**Hands-On
 Night**

Thursday January 9



Next
**General
 Meeting T**

Thursday, January 16

Imagine. . . .

Imagine there is a bank that credits your account each morning with \$86,400. It carries over no balance from day to day. Every evening deletes whatever part of the balance you failed to use during the day. What would you do? Draw out ALL OF IT, of course!!!!

Each of us has such a bank. It's name is TIME. Every morning, it credits you with 86,400 seconds. Every night it writes off, as lost, whatever of this you have failed to invest to good purpose. It carries over no balance. It allows no overdraft.

Each day it opens a new account for you. Each night it burns the remains of the day. If you fail to use the day's deposits, the loss is yours.

There is no going back. There is no drawing against the "tomorrow." You must live in the present on today's deposits. Invest it so as to get from it the utmost in health, happiness, and success! The clock is running. Make the most of today.

To realize the value of ONE YEAR, ask a student who failed a grade.

To realize the value of ONE MONTH, ask a mother who gave birth to a premature baby.

To realize the value of ONE WEEK, ask the editor of a weekly newspaper.

To realize the value of ONE HOUR, ask the lovers who are waiting to meet.

To realize the value of ONE MINUTE, ask a person who missed the train.

To realize the value of ONE-SECOND, ask a person who just avoided an accident.

To realize the value of ONE MILLISECOND, ask the person who won a silver medal in the Olympics.

Treasure every moment that you have! And treasure it more because you shared it with someone special, special enough to spend your time. And remember that time waits for no one.

Yesterday is history. Tomorrow is a mystery. Today is a gift. That's why it's called the present!!!

Thanks to Dan Braniff for finding this article on the web.

Annual Meeting January 16

Our annual meeting will take place on January 16, just before our regular January meeting. It's important that you attend. This is your guild, the Treasurer will present his summary for the year proceeding and the year ahead, the Membership Secretary will review the membership for the year, and we will vote on the amendment to allow executive assistants. Finally, new executives will be elected for vacant positions. Here is your chance to have a say in how the guild is functioning. The Annual Meeting is necessary to the proper functioning of the guild, we cannot proceed into 2003 without it. We will try to keep it as short as possible so we can get on with the fun.

After the business is over, Doug Newlove will present his slide show which covers the whole bowl turning process from log to finished bowl. Anyone who knows Doug will know that it will be a well prepared and interesting presentation.

Please be sure to attend this important function.

Also, remember dues for 2003 are now due. You can pay Glen Mott at the Jan. 9 Hands-On session, or at the Jan. 16 meeting. Please pay up as soon as possible, it's a very frustrating task for Glen to have to keep chasing members for \$40. Cash or cheques are OK, sorry we don't accept wood in exchange.

Frank Ditomaso

2003 Schedule

Jan 16	Doug Newlove	Slide show, "From tree to bowl"
Feb. 20	Vince Lebert	Turning miniatures Making your own tools
March 20	Leon Michal	Dying and epoxy treatment
April 12	Art Leistman	Saturday workshop
April 17	Jack Brown	Christmas Ornaments, inlaid and sculpted



Identifying Your Work

By Paul Burri

When it comes to identifying or "signing" one's work I guess the first question that needs to be answered is,

"Why do I need to?"

There are at least three reasons:

1. If you take pride in your work you should be willing to put your name on it. Just from that point of view alone, should be sufficient reason to identify whatever you produce. Your skill, your devotion to detail, your hours of loving patience, your hours of design time and thought that went into the piece all cry out for putting your identity on the work. You sign it because you are proud of it.

2. Identifying a piece immediately increases its value. (I prefer the word "piece" to project. The word "project" makes me think of road or dam building or low cost housing; things like that.) Think of it this way. Would you buy a painting that was unsigned? Why then would you hesitate to sign your work?

3. I can almost guarantee that your work will outlast you. Given that, I believe that it is important to sign your work for your posterity. Someday one of your grandchildren or great grandchildren will proudly show a piece that you made and say, "My great grandfather (or grandmother) made this. See? His signature is right here."

"OK, so how do I identify my work?" Let's look at the possibilities.



One way is to literally sign it using a ball point pen, a felt tipped pen or even by using a sharp stylus. Many people use this method and it is adequate, quick and easy. One problem with this method is that your signature probably

won't last more than a few years. It surely will be illegible before your grandchildren need to find out who made it.

Another way is to use an ordinary rubber stamp such as you use to stamp your return address on your envelopes. This is probably the least expensive and surely the quickest way to identify your work but in my personal opinion this is the least desirable method. You

have just spent many, many hours of your time - not to mention the cost of the materials - and now you cheapen the piece with a rubber stamp signature. Secondly, the ink will surely fade with time.

Another method is to use a hand grinder with a small ball-shaped burr that you will use as if it were a pen. This is certainly a permanent method that will last the life of the piece. It is the method that Sam Maloof - of rocking chair fame - uses to sign his work. As a little side note, he not only signs every one of his pieces but he also has whichever of his apprentices worked with him on the piece sign it also. A very nice practice, I think. I have tried using this method and I gave it up because I couldn't get used to using a relatively bulky grinder as a pen.

Still another way to sign your work is by using a pre-printed stick-on label as is frequently also used for your return address on envelopes. This is another quick and easy way to identify your work. The problem here is that it is probably the least permanent method. Labels soon dry up and peel off. Or they get peeled off by "persons unknown."

A more expensive way to identify your work is to have it laser engraved. This is an elegant and certainly permanent marking method. Any design, logo or signature - even pictures - can be engraved onto your work. For one of a kind work I think it will be pretty expensive. For volume work it may be the way to go because the piece price will drop somewhat. In any event you get what you pay for. You get very high quality but it's expensive.

Probably equally as expensive as laser engraving is to have brass plates engraved at a local trophy shop and then attach them to your work using small brass screws. This is a truly elegant method but is also a bit pricey. In addition, there is the extra work of drilling small holes and mounting the plate.

The last method - and in my opinion the best - is by branding your name, logo, signature or other design permanently into your work.



Branding

Already I have discussed several of the ways to identify your work; some better than others. In my humble opinion branding your work is the easiest and fastest way in addition to being permanent and inexpensive.

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Branding involves using a branding iron made of any temperature resistant metal with raised lines. The branding is heated by one of two ways. A gas heated branding iron can be heated using an old fashioned blow torch, a butane torch, an ordinary kitchen gas stove or a propane camping stove.



An electrically heated branding iron is usually furnished with a heating element that you plug into any convenient power outlet. After about 10 or 15 minutes, the branding iron will be hot enough to brand even the hardest woods.



When the branding iron reaches the proper temperature (about 800° F) – usually determined by testing a piece of scrap material – you simply press it against the work for about 1 to 2 seconds and your piece is permanently marked. It's that simple.

You can make your own branding iron one of several ways. One way is to take an ordinary large nail and file an interesting pattern into it. You then mount this nail into a suitable wooden handle that you make or buy and you're ready to go. Another method is a bit more time consuming but equally effective. You can use some fine copper or soft steel wire about 1/32" to 1/16" in diameter and carefully shape it into whatever design you like. Once you are satisfied with your design, silver braze the wire onto a small brass or copper mounting plate which is, in turn, mounted on a large nail. Still another way to make your own branding iron is to buy a set of steel letter stamps from any machinists supply store. By cutting and brazing these together carefully, you can now spell out whatever name or words you like. Here are some points to consider when buying or making a branding iron. The first consideration is whether to use a gas heated or an electrically heated branding

iron. If you are buying a branding iron and cost is a consideration a gas heated branding iron will be less expensive because you will not have the expense of the heating element. On the other hand, a gas heated branding iron is less convenient because you will only be able to brand about 4 or 5 pieces before you need to heat it again. With an electrically heated branding iron you will be able to brand continuously once it reaches temperature. (There are some other advantages to an electrically heated branding iron that I'll discuss later.) An electrically heated branding iron is also safer because you don't have the danger of an open flame in a wood shop. Wood dust and wood chips don't mix well with an open flame.

The quality of the brand will be equal whether you choose to heat it electrically or with gas. If you choose to buy one be sure to consider the reputation of the company you are dealing with. Some branding iron companies are small and cannot handle more than a few orders at a time. This means that it may take them several weeks to make your branding iron – not to mention two to three weeks before they get back to you with a quote. Many of them are limited to the amount of fine detail that they can reproduce or to the size they can make. Many companies will respond with, "Your design is too small." or "Your design is too large." Some companies have very competitive prices (read "cheap") but will only produce a very sterile two line, block letter branding iron.

There are several other uses for your branding iron once you have purchased it. You can use it to emboss leather using it "cold" as a leather stamp. You can also use it to actually brand the leather but in this case you will need an accessory temperature controller because the normal operating temperature for wood will be too high for leather.

Another use for your branding iron is to permanently mark plastics, particularly such things as computers, keyboards, laptops, projectors, etc. For most plastics you will need a temperature controller as with leather.

For those who are making large quantities of parts or who want to generate extra income by making and selling small street fair or tourist items another simple attachment is available – a drill press attachment. The standard heating element is modified to fit into the chuck of an ordinary drill press. A few simple stops are clamped onto the drill press table and it is now possible to brand parts rapidly and uniformly using inexperienced labour at a relatively high rate up to about 300 parts per hour. Using this sort of a system, various parts can be quickly branded.



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The GHWG Marketplace

The Marketplace Column is a free service for all Guild members. Woodturning, woodworking or related items are welcome for the Sale and Wanted Sections. Contact: Brian at tmt@vaxxine.com or phone (905) 945 7061. Items appear in this column for two consecutive months, or extended by request. If you sell your item, please let us know

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Woodshow Events

Hamilton Woodshow

January 24-26, 2003

Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum
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Buffalo Woodworking Show

January 31—Feb 2, 2003

Western New York Event Centre
Clarence (Buffalo) N.Y.

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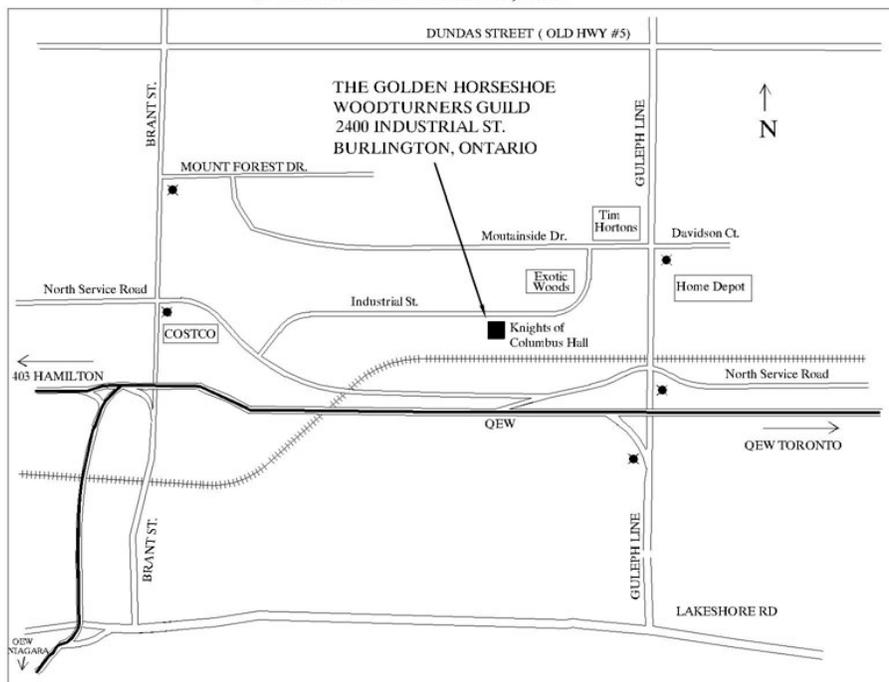
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Annual Fees run from January to December at a cost of \$40.00. There is a one time membership fee of \$10.00. Meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month for Hands-on night (members welcome), and the third Thursday of the month for Demonstrations. 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.