

# THE CHIP FLYER



## *From the President's Notebook*

Merry Christmas everyone. Although we are engulfed in the second wave of Covid, we can still prepare and enjoy the coming holiday season. Don't let Covid take away from enjoying the company of your immediate family. Keep in touch with the rest of the family through email, Facetime, Zoom or Skype. Stay safe and bring in the New Year healthy.

We have started Zoom meetings in place of our in person meetings and they are well attended and interesting. Still need your ideas for more themes of these meetings. Nothing that needs complicated preparation, just things you would like to hear about and discuss. Questions are also welcome. I am sure we have someone who can answer even the most complicated question.

Our next Zoom meeting theme is Christmas Ornaments. So, bring your latest ornaments and show them off. Keep in the spirit of Christmas. And if you have an ugly Christmas Sweater, mode it for us!

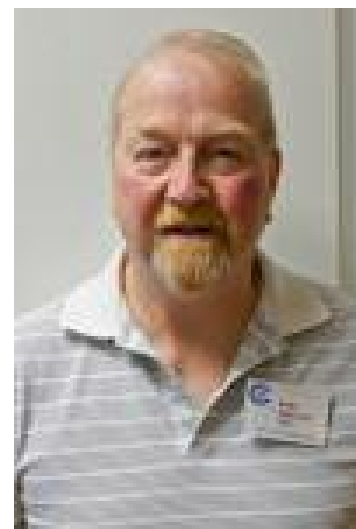
The Guild still has silver maple and some ambrosia maple for sale at great prices. As well, we have some wood donated by Yknot Woodturning fo making pen blanks, finials and knobs. If you are interested, let me know.

Membership is coming due and Sandy is taking renewal monies. I know we have not been able to meet like normal and you are probably wondering why you would renew. The simple answer is ....we need you! Without membership dues, we will not be able to continue the Guild when Covid is finally beat and we can start meeting. Renewal dues have been reduced to \$45 for the interim of Covid for 2021. That is not a lot of money for an opportunity to socialize with other turners, learn new skills and obtain cheap wood! So, we need your help. Renew your membership with Sandy.

That is it for now. See you at the Zoom meeting.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Keith Robinson  
President GHWG



Keith Robinson

**Coming up**  
**December 10th**  
**Meeting via Zoom.**



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## Membership Fees

Greetings to each of our GHWG members! If you are anything like me, you sorely missed our gatherings after Covid 19 put a stop to all such events. I feel particularly for our novice turners and newer members who benefited most from our one-on-one nights. I hope you have been able to access the growing availability of YouTube videos and virtual demonstrations by many talented woodturners around the world. As the saying goes, “where there is a will, there is a way”! Your GHWG executive committee has taken this adage to heart through our many discussions over the past few months about how to best provide our members with the tools they need to grow their love of turning in the absence of in-person social and learning opportunities.

In more normal times, this would be the time that members would start paying their 2021 membership dues, hoping to get in on the “early bird” draw in December to win a free membership for the year. So what will we do this year, given that we likely will not be meeting at East Plains United Church any time soon? Well, we’ve already started! Perhaps you were one of the lucky participants in the summer workshops held at Hugh Widdup’s and Kevin Ellis’ shops or perhaps you struck it rich in the wood auctions that Tony Osman organized so well (I know that I certainly did!). In the coming months, we hope to arrange Zoom meetings, virtual demonstrations and other fun events for you. Of course, if you have any ideas for such activities, please let one of the Executive members know. Our names and email addresses are listed in each issue of the Chip Flyer, our monthly newsletter that each of you receives from editor Tony Osman. We’d love to hear from you.

Because we know we can’t provide the usual level of activities, and to encourage your continued support and participation during these difficult times, we have reduced fees for membership renewal for 2021 from \$60 to \$45 and for new members from \$75 to \$60. Please keep in mind that we continue to have to pay for fixed expenses, such as insurance and tool storage. Payment will be accepted via a call to me with your credit card number (I promise to destroy it immediately after) and you will receive an electronic receipt. Alternatively, you can complete an E transfer through your bank. Use the email, [treasurer@ghwg.ca](mailto:treasurer@ghwg.ca) with the password “woodturner”. If you can do neither option, just give me a ring.

I’ll be sending out further details, so keep tuned. We appreciate your continued support and participation until, as another saying goes, “we meet again”.

Sandy Zimmerman  
GHWG Membership Secretary  
905-920-0720  
Email: [members@ghwg.ca](mailto:members@ghwg.ca)

Here is an article written by Scott Millard, giving the perspective of one of our long standing Woodturning 101 instructors.

## **Woodturning 101 – An Instructors Perspective**

**By**  
**Scott Millard**

It was the end of September 2014 when past president Lloyd Butler who was then in charge of the Woodturning 101 program, sent me an email telling me he was looking for new instructors. Did I have an interest in taking on one of the classes? My reply was, “Gee Lloyd, I am an experienced turner but I don’t consider myself expert enough to be instructing others.” His reply put me at ease with the idea. He said, “They’re beginners, you just need to know more than them.” With that thought in mind, I accepted the challenge and prepared for my first 101 class on spindle turning in October 2014. One of the first things I did was practice. I had just returned from my annual two week fly fishing trip to Alberta and had not turned for months. In fact at the time, woodturning had taken a bit of a back seat to my other passion, fly fishing. I was rusty and needed practice. In fact to this day, I stress practice to all of the 101 students. Many are surprised to hear that I practice a lot myself, particularly when I haven’t turned for a while, and especially right before a class.

I scoured the internet for instructional videos and informative articles that I thought might help those just starting out. There was an overwhelming amount of information so I organized the most pertinent aspects of spindle turning into a handbook that I still send out to all students before I teach the class. I still constantly seek out videos and pass links to students that might explain things like rolling beads or cutting coves better than I can. As I pursue my own projects I often ask myself, how I would explain what I am doing to a new turner.

So now after 6 years, 24 classes and instructing close to 90 members, **what has it all meant?** From my perspective it has been nothing but a positive experience both personally and as a woodturner. I have found it extremely gratifying to look back and think that I might have had even a small positive influence on members as they started their journey into the hobby. Many of the students in the earlier classes I instructed have gone on to be very proficient turners and active members of the guild. I attribute this more to their dedication than the 90 minutes they spent with me but perhaps it played a small part. Helping the guild out in this small way is also very gratifying.

**Perhaps the single biggest benefit as I continued to instruct was that my own spindle turning skills grew and dedication to improving returned.** I became more of a student of the craft. Up to that point, I had turned for about 10 years but had plateaued. I have heard it said, “If you want to improve at something, teach it.” Truer words were never spoken. I still don’t consider myself an expert but I am far more proficient than I was in 2014. Although I would advise any proficient guild member to get involved in 101 instructing, I am not quite ready to give up instructing just yet!

My primary goal that I joke about with each class was that I wanted to prevent them all from becoming just “Bowl Turners.”

## **Challenges**

Instructing doesn't come without challenges. Here are the biggest ones I have faced during my tenure as a 101 instructor.

1. Teaching a left-hander.
2. Teaching classes with turners of varying degrees of experience. I have had classes where the first time a student has touched a tool to wood was in my class. Combine this type of student with those more experienced and it is a definite challenge for an instructor. I always seek input before a class on the experience level of each student in order to better plan an approach.
3. Trying to get through an introduction to spindle roughing gouge, skew, parting tool and turning beads and coves with the spindle or detail gouge in 90 minutes.
4. Teaching under less than ideal conditions, poor lighting, wobbly tables, background noise and under-powered lathes.
5. Putting people at ease about turning in front of myself, other class members and onlookers.
6. Perhaps the biggest challenge is trying to get beginners to relax at the lathe and not be afraid of the spinning wood and potential catches.

## **Observations and Most Common Mistakes**

After instructing for this long, there are definitely some common mistakes that I have observed and tried to correct so they didn't become a habit.

1. Holding the tool too tightly.
2. Not using the body enough and just turning only with the lower arms and hands.
3. Raising the elbows too high and not maintaining a relaxed position with elbows dropped at the side. Correcting mistakes 1-3 is important because they lead to fatigue and worse yet, repetitive strain injuries. I speak from experience!
4. Not rubbing the bevel and pointing the flute in the direction of the cut.
5. Awkward stance which interferes with proper tool presentation. Standing too far back from the lathe.
6. Difficulty cutting a V-groove with the long point of the skew. Of all the aspects of spindle turning that I cover, the difficulty with what to me is a fairly simple cut, has consistently challenged new turners. I have really worked at finding better ways and videos to explain this cut.

## **Most Common Questions.**

In no way am I trying to demean the questions asked. I thought it might be of interest to let new turners know, they are not alone in the questions they ask. There have never been any dumb questions.

1. By far, the most common question asked has been, "What is the proper height for the tool rest?"
2. I have some tools that I inherited, found etc. but I don't know what they are or how to sharpen them.
3. What tools do I need to buy?
4. How often do I need to sharpen my tools?
5. What point on the gouge should I be cutting with?
6. More of a statement than a question but one I hear from even experienced turners, "I don't use the skew."



### **Last Bits of Advice to Beginner Spindle Turners**

Practice, practice, practice! Spindle turning doesn't come naturally to many people. If you have watched someone executes cuts with ease and envied their skill, rest assured they didn't get there without putting in many hours of work.

Second, don't try to complete a project right away. Get some moderately hard wood that is relatively inexpensive such as Ash, Cherry or Birch and practice cutting V-grooves, planing with the skew and make beads and coves until you are tired of it. Then turn around and make some more. That way when you have that important project you are trying to complete and have to make one more pass on a steep curve or round, the muscle memory will kick in and allow you to complete it with ease.

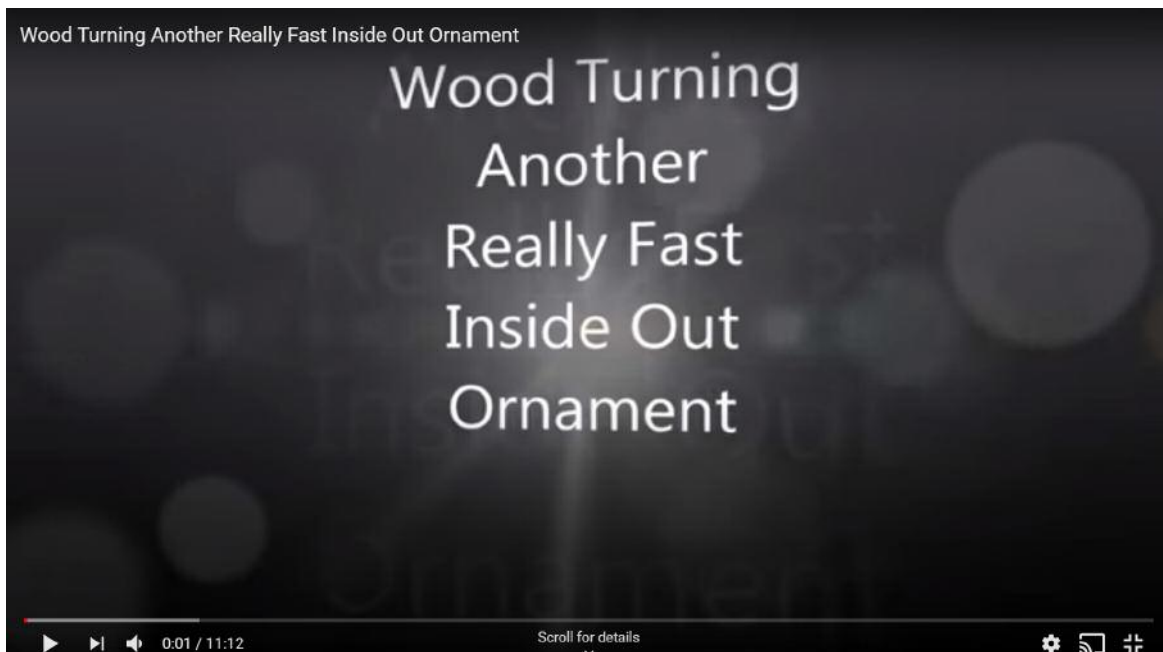
Happy and Safe Turning Everyone.



In line with the theme for our next Zoom meeting (Christmas Ornaments), here are a couple of links I found on Youtube that you may find interesting. Most of these are easily handled on any size lathe.



Link is: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C\\_5Ti9dGINk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C_5Ti9dGINk)



Link is: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OEGBx0jL1Ec>



Link is: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mmekli7cUKk>



**Wanted:**

Suzanne Wood has a friend looking for the following two items. If you can help, please use contact information below.

- 1). Beaver 6 inch disk and belt sander.
- 2). 115v 1/2 or 1 hp motor.

contact info: **Dennis Calmeira - 647-993-9174**

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Mini Lathe wanted

My son-in-law and granddaughter make working replicas(!?! ) of historic swords. Till now he has carved handles, but would like to at least partially turn them instead. Can you please ask the membership if anyone has a mini lathe for sale? Ideally it would have a 1" x 8tpi drive with a #2 morse taper at both headstock and tailstock, but we're willing to consider any bench top model if the price is reasonable.

People can communicate with me directly,

**Ozzie Tatone - email:** [otatone@hotmail.com](mailto:otatone@hotmail.com)

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Information wanted:

If anyone has any information on converting a Nova 16-24 lathe to variable speed, David Senecal would be very interested to hear. There is a conversion kit for this lathe from Nova, but it is very expensive and not available in Canada, plus suppliers will not ship to Canada - it is believed that the unit is not CSA approved??

If anyone can help, please contact David Senecal at [davidr.senecal@gmail.com](mailto:davidr.senecal@gmail.com)

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1). 8” Dial-in Dado set by Freud. Used once only.  
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3). 6 inch Jet Jointer. Lightly used.  
\$300.00 obo.



For these three items, please **contact Sandy Zimmerman** - email: [sandra.lee.zim@gmail.com](mailto:sandra.lee.zim@gmail.com)

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**For Sale:** Two Nova Chucks. One is an older Super Nova and the other is a G3. Both have #2 Jaws sets and inserts for 1-1/4” x 8.

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