

EL Wood News

March 2002

What's On:

Club Meetings

➤ Club meetings are held at Hudson Park High School Woodworking Centre on the 4th Wednesday of every month. Members gather from 17:15 and proceedings usually commence by 17:30. Meetings officially end by approximately 19:00, but members are welcome to chat for a while thereafter (while they assist with the tidying of the venue!). Basic skill session for members new to turning are usually held on the first Wednesday of the month. Details of specific dates, times and focus area are announced at Club meetings.

Detail of content of forthcoming meetings is as follows:

➤ 27 March
- Demonstration -
finishing techniques by
Elliot

Editorial

I was invited to do a demonstration at the AWSA stand at the HOBBY-X exhibition held at the MTN Sundome in Randburg earlier this month, which afforded me a wonderful opportunity to chat to a number of the good friends I had made at the AWSA Congresses held in East London over the last two years. I was very impressed with the level of commitment from AWSA members. Five lathes were being used for non stop demo's and a number of other members were available at all times to interact with the public and supervise the display of turnings. This type of exercise does wonders for enhancing the profile of woodturning in South Africa as many thousands of show goers visited the stand over the four days. Schalk Van Niekerk and Andrew Rielly need to be congratulated on organising an event of this magnitude - well done guys.

While at HOBBY-X, I had the opportunity to wander around and see all the woodworking machinery and tools on display. I also had a chat to the people from Country Woods, one of the largest timber merchants in South Africa. They had a wonderful display of samples of the various woods that they stock, which I found fascinating. What was disappointing was to see how few of the indigenous timbers are commercially available - only five or so of the 30 odd timber species that they stock. The other point I noted with some surprise was the price of the timber. While I accept that they are offering prime quality wood already sawn into 25 or 50mm thicknesses, the prices are prohibitive for the average woodworker. For example, Yellowwood ranges between R12 000 and R14 000 a cube depending on dimensions and Wild Olive, when available, sells for R22 000 a cube. However, compared to some of the exotics, these prices are reasonable, with Zebrano priced at R40 000, Burmese Teak at R 55 000 and Cocobola at R 55 000! Elliot, look after that stockpile of wood you have in your garden!

On a more local note, Gavin has been doing demo's at the Balfour Park Craft Market once a month. I have included his feedback from the March Craft Market in the What's On section.

What's On:

Bathurst Show from 05 to 07 April

The organisers have invited entries in the turning category. Turn a bowl, table lamp or any other small item in exotic or indigenous wood. The Committee would like to encourage all members to participate to heighten the profile of the Guild. Please contact Elliot for further details.

Feedback on the Balfour Park Craft Market of 03 March (Gavin Knowles)

Gavin says that he had a good demo at the Craft Market. Elliot visited the stall along with approximately 25 other interested persons. He handed out 10 new members applications forms, a lady enquired about a beginners course and another about a woodworking commission. The next demo will be held on 07 April when Gavin will be doing some bowl turning. Please try to support Gavin in his endeavours on behalf of the Club

Note

The activities mentioned in this column are subject to change without prior notice. Attend club meetings to ensure that you are up to date with What's On.

Finishing by Elliot Murray

Elliot has provided me with a synopsis of the demo he will be doing at this months club meeting which we thought appropriate to include in the newsletter. This is a synopsis rather than an article, so please attend the club meeting to get maximum value from Elliot's submission.

Tools

- Sharpen often
- Cut with the grain
- Last cut very fine with a freshly sharpened tool

Skew Scraping

- Sharp tool
- Light touch
- Tool-rest support often not necessary

Power Sanding

- Start as coarse as necessary
- Go through grades of abrasive as far as necessary
- Paper must cut-this is shown by making the wood lighter with the dust that is produced. If the paper burnishes the work (makes it shine), it must be replaced
- Might need to power sand some spots with the lathe stationary, but must then sand with the lathe rotating to ease in the flats created
- Check in good light
- Rubbing between grades with fine 3M pads shows up any defects

Hand Sanding

- Move paper rapidly to reduce sanding rings
- Work through the grades
- After each abrasive grade, sand in grain direction with the lathe stationary

Sealer

- Sealer on open grain
- Apply with brush or paper
- Allow to dry
- Fine abrasive/3M pad on lathe the with grain
- Apply coats as necessary

Tip of the Month:

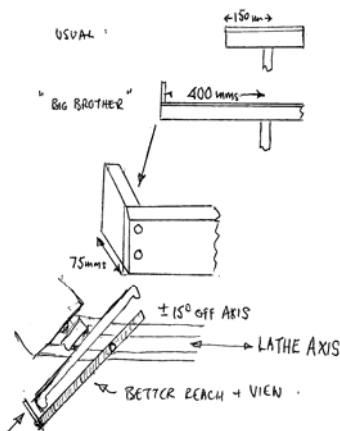
Building a "Big Brother" toolrest. Submitted by Geoff Howes

For those with a lathe headstock that can rotate out of the axis of the tail stock, an extra tool rest is a big help. Extend the left side of the rest to a length of about 40 cms from the central pivot, and attach to this an extension at a right angle of about 75 mms, held in place with allen screws.

This allows access to much larger diameter bowls or trays, including the edge, and provides a better view of the inside.

It does not replace the 'normal' rest, length + - 15cms, as this shorter arm is necessary for short lengths of wood, so the engineering workshop must make up a separate toolrest.

Obviously higher tangential wood speeds and force vectors occur, so appropriate lathe speeds and tool choice must be exercised to avoid disaster. This is quicker and simpler than a free standing rest, but article size / diameter,



Woodoc 10

- Before application, check in good light(preferably external daylight)
- Apply with brush or paper
- Rub off with dry paper straight away
- Next day sand down with fine paper(360 grit) or 3M pad on lathe and the stationary
- Continue with as many coats as necessary, with a minimum of three

Polish

- Before application, check in good light(preferably external daylight)
- Shoe polish is tougher than paste wax
- Apply with paper, cloth or 3M pad on the lathe the stationary
- When dry, buff with a soft cloth or kitchen paper, firstly on the lathe and finally stationary
- Check in good light
- Apply as many coats as necessary

Finally

- Remove the chuck holding spigot and finish the base as above

Basic working techniques with chain saws (Part Two) by Nigel Waters

As promised in last months newsletter, here is the second part of the article on using chain saws, focusing on basic cutting techniques.

1. Felling

Felling is the term used when cutting down a standing tree:

- The first cut is made at 45 degrees on the side where the intended direction of fall will be.
- The second cut should be parallel to the ground to meet with the first cut to form a wedge known as the directional notch. The wedge depth should be between a quarter and a third of the diameter of the tree and must be removed.
- The final cut is made from the back of the tree at a slightly higher level than the second cut.

Wanted:

Don Bryce is looking for a copy attachment for his lathe. If any member can help him he can be contacted on 043-726 0093 (home) or 043-7059303 (business)



Please address all correspondence to:

The Editor
(Nigel Waters)
EL Woodnews
6 Epsom Place
Stirling Extension
5241
Telephone:043-
7354669(h)
7032550(b)
0836574090(cell)
e mail: nigel.waters
@eskom.co.za

- This final cut, also known as the felling cut, must not be completed all the way through. An adequate piece of holding wood (approximately 10% of the diameter), known as the hinge, is left.

- A wedge is then knocked into the back of the felling cut to control the direction of fall.

2. Cross cutting

Cross cutting is the term used when a log or branch is cut up into pieces across the wood grain:

- Avoid cutting into the ground by elevating the log where practical

- Avoid the risk of the guide bar pinching or jamming in the log by using two cuts - one from the top and one from underneath.

3. Ripping

Ripping is a cut made with the grain. Chain saws are more effective in cross cutting than ripping and while I have heard that chains specifically designed for ripping are available, I have yet to see one:

- Ensure that the wood is properly balanced and secure between wedges.

- Try to make one cut through the log to ensure a reasonably flat surface for mounting the face plate.

4. Cutting a turning blank

- Place the freshly cut flat section on a piece of flat scrap timber to do the trimming into a turning blank.

- A circle can be marked with a large compass or light chain/string rotated on the centre point. I find white chalk marks better on wet timber than a timber crayon.

- Trim the blank carefully, using a larger number of small cuts rather than a few large cuts, as this produces a rounder blank.

Only use this technique if the blank is too large for your band saw as band sawing is a more controlled, accurate and above all, safer process.

Until next time, have fun on the lathe.

Yours in turning
Nigel Waters