

EL Wood News

June 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:

➤ 26 June
-Demo by Rodney Offord on how to turn a pen.

Awaiting information from the Committee on details of forthcoming meetings.

Editorial

Great news for the the Guild. The Committee has decided to explore the possibility of a woodturning exhibition in East London later this year. Preliminary discussions with the Ann Bryant Gallery have proved very positive and it looks like all systems go for the latter part of October.

The intention is to have a fully fledged exhibition with a display of at least one hundred turned objects, including examples of both spindle and faceplate work, with a focus primarily on the aesthetic and artistic, although this does not preclude the display of functional items.

What does this mean for Guild members?

This will be the first real opportunity that I am aware of for Guild members to display their turnings publicly in a Gallery type setting. With the opportunity comes a challenge to ensure that we make best use of the opportunity afforded us, both in terms of quality and quantity of turnings submitted for display. As the display will be open to public scrutiny and the expectation will be "artistic", given the gallery context, we will need to ensure that the turnings selected meet the expectations. To this end, a selection committee will be established to ensure that all items submitted meet the criteria for display. I do not wish to discourage you from submitting items by these comments, but rather wish to share the rules of the game up front so that we are all aware of what we are aiming at. As discussed at the last meeting, there were at least three or four turnings at the bring and show table that would easily have qualified for the exhibition - the challenge of having one hundred pieces available for display is thus quite achievable.

What should we all be doing in preparation for the exhibition?

The committee is currently dealing with the preliminary arrangements, and in due course, members will be expected

What's On:

**AWSA Congress
09 to 11 August
Glenwood High
School, Durban**

I have just received further information on the programme, which I have reflected in the body of the newsletter. Please speak to fellow members concerning travel and other arrangements where sharing could make the trip more affordable.

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.

to get involved in assisting with tasks ranging from media communication and publicity through to collecting and cataloguing of exhibits.

Perhaps more importantly at this juncture, members need to be focusing on producing a body of work to be considered by the selection committee for the exhibition. My personal views on preparation are as follows:

- Start off by producing a number of turnings of the type that you are familiar with, but do pay special attention to factors such as wood selection (Again I would personally like to see the majority of the exhibits turned from indigenous woods, although at this stage I am not sure whether the committee/gallery have any prerequisites in this regard), form or shape and quality of finish. In particular, quality finish is a non negotiable for gallery pieces (as it should be for all of our turnings), but do spend the extra bit of time and effort to ensure that tool marks and sanding lines have all been removed. Remember Elliot's tip of examining the turning in daylight to ensure that nothing is overlooked.

- For the more adventurous, consider producing a number of turnings that may be viewed as more artistic than functional. These could include off centre pieces, carving on the turned item, addition of embellishments of any description etc. Remember in all instances, the basics of form and finish remain - don't compromise these values in the quest for the "artistic".

In all instances consider a range of size, shape and woods used as part of the purpose of the exhibition is to educate the public as to what it is possible to produce on the lathe.

I will provide more details in future newsletters as such becomes available from the committee.

On a more personal level, I had the opportunity to visit Don Wood last week and got to see the lathe that he has built (as mentioned in the last newsletter). Don has done a really good job and has used "scrap" pieces of machinery in really ingenious ways to add functionality to the lathe. For example, the cast iron head housing the shaft and bearing was rescued from a milling machine and the tool rest is made from an adapted heavy duty radial arm saw, mounted upside down - very clever and deceptively simple. Don tells

**Tip of the Month:
Tightening Objects
in chucks requiring
the use of Tommy
bars. Submitted by
Gavin Knowles**

If you own a Record lathe and an older version of the Nova scroll chuck, you may find it easier to tighten the article in the chuck if you use the bed bars of the lathe to stop the tommy bar or C spanner from turning while you use the other tommy bar to tighten the article. This method also works with the Masterchuck as it has the same size tommy bar holes as the Nova.

As a related tip, may I remind readers of Phil Iron's comments at last year's AWSA Congress, with respect to mounting an article on any chuck. It is far easier to get an accurate fit by offering the chuck to the article off the lathe than the article to the chuck on the lathe. This alleviates the problem of needing three hands (which not many of us possess!), and avoids the need to lift heavy items onto their side and still attach the item to the chuck without dropping such. Alternatively, mount the chuck in the recess whilst the article is still mounted on the faceplate on the lathe, which allows you to switch on the lathe and check that the chuck is running true. (Ed.)

me that he has made a number of adjustments and refinements to the original design, but given that this is his first attempt at building a lathe, he has done a really good job.

The Grahamstown Festival is now less than a week away and I am in the final throes of what has been rather an exhausting couple of months of production woodworking. In fact, the only reason I am able to get to writing this newsletter is because I am sitting at St Dom's with my daughter, waiting for her turn to go into theatre to have a plate removed from her collar bone (the lasting evidence of a long forgotten, ill judged rugby match with the boys in October last year!) The 08:00 theatre appointment is now only four hours ten minutes late and counting...

Back to the Festival. Last year I was a rather naïve newcomer, expecting all patrons to be as passionate about wood as I am. This year, I am a little wiser and hope that the change in my production strategy will yield more positive returns. No doubt there will be some disappointments along the way, but I am looking forward to interacting with my fellow "woodies" and just taking in the Festival vibe. I will provide an update on lessons learnt in the next newsletter.

I have just received more information on the AWSA Congress and thought it appropriate to include the essentials in the newsletter for you information and ACTION!

PROGRAMME

Thursday 8 August (Afternoon only)

Registration starts at 16h00 + informal drinks

Friday 9 August

- § Morning - Registration, Opening & demos
- § LUNCH
- § Afternoon - Demonstrations
- § Evening - Supper & Instant Gallery Crit

Saturday 10 August

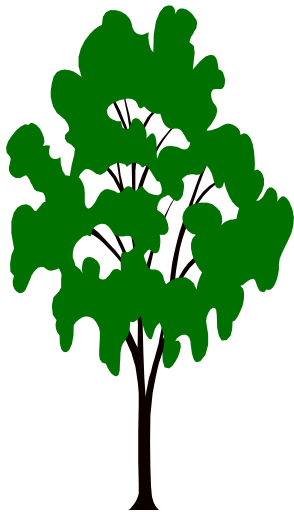
- § Morning - Demonstrations
- § LUNCH
- § Demo & AGM
- § Evening - Dinner at Point Yacht Club

Sunday 11 August

- § Morning - Panel discussion, raffle & auction
- § Closure and LUNCH

Wanted:

Ken Herbert is looking for a reasonably priced thicknesser for his workshop. If any member can help him he can be contacted on 043-7321344



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CONGRESS COST

Covers the following:

- § Entrance to all Demonstrations / lectures
- § Social evening
- § All meals and teas Fri, Sat & Sun

SPECIAL OFFER

§ Good quality shirts with AWSA logo

Kindly indicate your size overleaf,
Viz: M, L, XL, XXL (pre-ordering with your application is essential to secure a shirt)

LADIES PROGRAMME

A separate programme of activities hosted by the Durban wives will be sent to those who are attending. Total cost, including all lunches and supper at Glenwood and the Social evening is:

R110,00

CONGRESS CONTACTS

CONGRESS CONVENOR: John Mills

031- 208 0504, Cell 082- 831 5252 Email:

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I have heard that a number of the EL members have indicated that they will be attending the AWSA Congress. Please ensure that you comply with the administrative requirements as soon as possible to make things easier for the organisers.

Until next time, have fun on the lathe.

Yours in turning

Nigel Waters