

EL Wood News

September 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:

➤ 25 September
- Presentation on off centre turning by Gavin Knowles.

Editorial

September has proved to be a very busy month, work wise for me, so Sunday evening seems to be the only time to sit down and write the newsletter. Having spent the bulk of the month travelling around the country on business, I now find myself in Knysna, which has provided an opportunity to interact with fellow "woodies". I visited the Knysna woodturners shop (Natural Edge), at the Waterfront and spent some time chatting to Grant Marshall on all matters related to turning. A couple of observations resulting from my Knysna trip:

- There seems to be an abundance of wood all over the place, certainly creating improved access to raw materials for turners.

- Like wood, tourists abound, although I would hardly view this as peak tourist season. Tourists create opportunities for the local community - something which is definitely utilised to Knysna's best advantage (even though prices in general tend to be on the rather high side)

- While the woodturning community is relatively small compared to the East London Guild, they are certainly a far more productive group. I have already alluded to the shop on the Waterfront which contains stock of turned bowls, vases and platters by Grant and Dennis Marshall, Mike Kaplan, Dave Stephenson and Jaco Hoffman. In addition, Grant tells me that they are frantically preparing for the Knysna Art Festival and an up-coming exhibition. Add to this, regular turnings for patrons and craft markets and one can see why I make this assertion. On this point, we certainly need to step up our production of quality turned items for the East London Exhibition scheduled for November (I will deal with this matter in more detail later in the Newsletter)

- For those who have the time and inclination, I would certainly recommend a visit to Knysna. Apart from the magnificent scenery, the number of wood related industries, exhibitions and shops are well worth visiting.

What's On:

East London Woodturning Guild Exhibition

To be held at the Ann Bryant Gallery Coach House from 8 to 17 November 2002. See main body of the Newsletter for further details.

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.

On matters of travelling, I also popped in to Nico Swart's workshop in Port Elizabeth recently to see what he had turned from the driftwood blanks that I had given him when I conducted a demo for the P.E. Club a couple of months ago. Nico informed me that their club held a driftwood turning challenge subsequent to my demo and I was able to see a number of resultant products (perhaps this is something we can try in East London some time as well, especially given the current abundance of driftwood on the East London beaches following the heavy rains of the past month).

While the heavy rains in the East London area have resulted in a lot of damage to infrastructure, it has also created some opportunities for woodworkers, with some rather unusual pieces of timber washing up on the beaches. Apart from the usual pieces of wattle, coral thorn and unidentified badly decayed debris, there have been a couple of really exciting finds on the beaches. Although I haven't had as many opportunities to visit the beach as I would have liked in the past month, I have managed to find a piece of Stinkwood Burr from which I hope to turn three or four small bowls and some Red Milkwood. Milkwood, as you all know, is a protected species so pieces washing up on the beach are probably the only source of this timber. Some weeks ago Jack Hugo and myself made a trip to Hickman River to secure some blanks from a large Milkwood stump that Jack had spotted on the beach while running. This log was not ideally positioned for cutting up, being partly buried in sand, rocks and tidal pools. After spending some twenty minutes assessing the piece of wood, with growing concern of damaging my chainsaw, I took the first hesitant cuts into the wood. Within an minute or two it became apparent that this huge log was just an empty shell - apart from a 100mm outer rim, the rest of the log was either hollow or rotten. However, I did manage to cut a number of blanks for platters from this log, as well as a number from smaller pieces of wood lying on the beach. I have subsequently rough-turned one of the Milkwood blanks - what a messy business, with a mixture of Milkwood sap and salt water being flung all over the workshop at velocity. I only hope that once dry and returned, the resultant platter will make all the effort worthwhile. Elliot has also been turning a number of pieces of Milkwood salvaged from the beach and I expect that we shall shortly see the results of his endeavours at the Bring & Show Table.

Tip of the Month:

No submissions.

East London Woodturning Guild Exhibition

Our Chairman, Roly Puttle, and his Committee have made substantial progress in the planning for the Exhibition to be held at the Anne Bryant Coach House from 8-17 November 2002. Roly, Ulrich, my wife Debbie and myself had a brainstorming meeting to explore various aspects pertaining to the Exhibition, which was followed up with a visit to the venue. I am pleased to report that the Coach House venue is most suitable for the Exhibition, with plenty of space and appropriate tables and pedestals for the display of turned wood. Probably our biggest concern at this stage is to ensure that members submit an adequate quantity of potential exhibition items. Judging by the quality and quantity of submissions for the recent competition, as well as the bring and show table, we have every reason to be optimistic that we will meet our target of displaying at least 100 turnings. However, we do require the co-operation of all the members to make timely submissions for the Exhibition, Roly will be dealing with this matter in more detail at the next Club meeting.

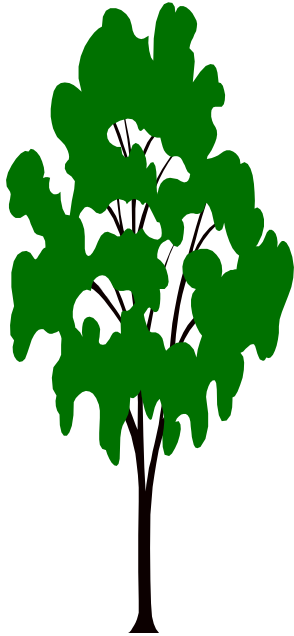
As briefly mentioned above, the August competition drew a large number of quality entries. I was pleasantly surprised by both the quality and quantity of the entries as these surpassed any previous competition entries that I have witnessed. In fact, there were a number of submissions from members whose work I have not had the pleasure of seeing before. We have all participated in setting a precedent that I trust will be maintained, and I encourage you to all actively participate in future competitions.

The Committee has decided that the next competition, scheduled for March 2003, will be turning a matching pair of candlesticks. The only limitation is that the candlesticks may not exceed a height of 300mm. Consider your options and allow your imagination to run riot - beads, coves, quills, gilding, staining, burning - whatever takes your fancy. However, do remember that this is a "pair of" competition so the judges will be scoring the "sameness" of the two items, in addition to general design, proportion, aesthetics and quality of finish criteria that are usually applied. While the Committee have not been specific in this regard, I would think that it would be a good idea to submit your candlestick together with the intended candles to be displayed, especially if the candles are unique.

Wanted:

No submissions.

Thanks to Brian Taberer for supplying me with some Juniper, as reflected in the last Wanted column.



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Some interesting facts about trees:

1. The net cooling effect of a young, healthy tree is equivalent to ten room-size air conditioners operating 20 hours a day.
2. Trees can boost the market value of your home by an average of six or seven per cent.
3. Landscaping, especially with trees, can increase property values by as much as 20 per cent.
4. One acre of forest absorbs six tons of carbon dioxide and puts out four tons of oxygen. This is enough to meet the annual needs of 18 people. This contributes to minimising the main GreenHouse Gas responsible for Global Warming and climate change.
5. Trees properly placed around buildings can reduce air conditioning needs by 30 per cent and can save 20 - 50 per cent in energy used for heating.
6. Trees can be a stimulus to economic development by attracting new business and tourism. Retail areas are more attractive to shoppers, apartments rent more quickly, tenants stay longer, and space in a wooded setting is more valuable to sell or rent.
7. The planting of trees means improved water quality, resulting in less run off and erosion. This allows more recharging of the ground water supply.
8. Wooded areas help prevent the transport of sediment and chemicals into streams.

So be wise with the resource we use!

Until next time, have fun on the lathe.

Yours in turning

Nigel Waters