



# TURNINGS

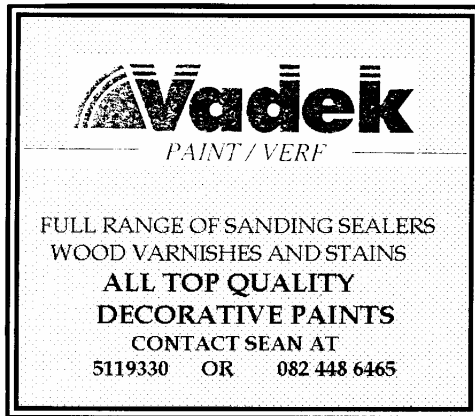
March 2000

WCWA, Pinelands Hobbies Club, Nursery Way, Pinelands  
<http://www.angelfire.com/ct/wcwa/index.html>

## NEXT MEETING

Greeting fellow turners!

Time has certainly caught up with me again. Those of you who do not receive their copy by e-mail will have got it at the meeting of 15 March.



## EDITORIAL

It is difficult to believe that another month has passed since the last newsletter was in progress. Time, that magic little four-letter word that spells both the bane and the joy of life seems to catch up with me every month. I have actually spent 2 days turning this month and have spent a couple of evenings finishing pieces I did some months ago. I have been turning some wonderful Camphor as well as one lovely piece of Jacaranda. I popped in to the beginner's evening on Wednesday last week and am pleased to report that there was a very good turnout and lots of shavings. All four lathes were on the go - wonderful. If one is not using a lathe its very relaxing to gently quaff a beer and chat, the calm atmosphere only occasionally punctuated by the sound of steel on tortured wood and passing by of inadvertently scored bowl as it seeks the darker recesses of the room.

Remember that the draw for the Arbourtech will be made at the next meeting. You will have an opportunity to buy some last raffle tickets before the

draw so remember to bring some small change with you.

The Association has not renewed its post office box as the facility has been virtually unused for the past few months. So please remember that PO Box 4103 does not belong to us any more.

A large Silky Oak bowl blank approximately 500mm x 400mm will be auctioned at the next meeting. Bring your bakkie!

## FROM THE CHAIR

The club will be exhibiting at the Bellville Arts Centre from the 6<sup>th</sup> September for a three week period. We are awaiting official confirmation of the dates but that seems to be a matter of formality. Ed Brymer took a selection of photographs that were taken at the club, outside demonstrations and at the symposiums, to the B.A.C. selection committee. These people were very impressed but they then requested to view some finished turned wooden items as they had no experience of this art/craft form.



Bowl by Thys Carstens - approx 250mm diam

Ed then arranged with Thys, (seeing as nobody had submitted any items for Ed to take along) for the two of them to meet the officials of B.A.C. and for them to view some of the work completed by Thys. The

B.A.C. committee was most impressed by the samples presented and with what Ed and Thys had to say about the club and the standard of work produced by the members. The result of this meeting was an invitation for the W.C.W.A. to exhibit and sell high quality wood turnings at the B.A.C. for a three week period starting 6<sup>th</sup> September 2000.

The cost of this exhibition will be paid for by the members participating, NOT the W.C.W.A. Costs will be for advertising, posting and printing invitations (B.A.C. have an extensive mailing list) and the opening night function. We will be approaching various business people who have an interest in the art/craft movement to obtain a sponsorship. If this is done correctly, there may be no costs for the participating members to bear.

Please remember this project is still at the early stages of planning. The main criteria for any items submitted for exhibition is that it is to be a turned article designed and finished to a standard suitable for sale in a gallery. It is up to the individual to decide if he/she wants to enhance the turning with carving, burning, painting, dyeing, or even sticking a few nails or what have you into it. The idea is to make the public aware of the high standard of wood turning and to give some public exposure to members of W.C.W.A. If you want to call it art or craft that is your decision; nobody to the best of my knowledge is aware of the position of that demarcation line. At the March meeting we will be asking for volunteers to form a committee to run this project. Let's hear from you. Incidentally, the only costs will be 20% of the sale price of any items "sold".

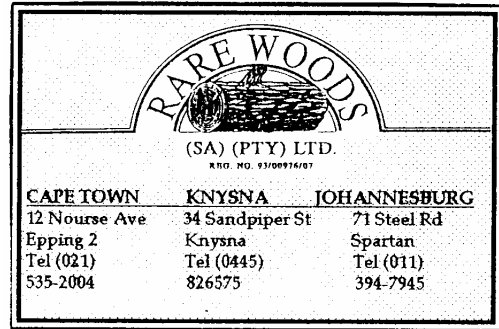
Eric has been busy obtaining quotations for the purchase of a chainsaw and Triton Superjaws as was discussed at the last meeting. He will present the facts at the March meeting and a decision will then be made from the floor, as to whether we purchase these items or not. Your input is required.

The raffle for the Arbortech and sharpening stone has been very successful and the committee considered having a regular raffle. Again, let's have some input into this method of raising funds, do you have any objections or any different ideas?

I have been reading a very interesting book lately called *Making the most of Indigenous Trees*. It was written by Fanie and Juley-Ann Venter, and published by Briza Publication, ISBN 1 875093 05 2. Cost of the book at Exclusive Books is R165-00. The book covers about 280 indigenous trees, giving a wealth of information and some superb photographs.

Cheers

*Tom Allan*



## FORTHCOMING PROGRAMME

### **15 March 2000:**

Demo by Thys Carstens.

### **19 April 2000:**

AGM and Jan Saunders video on colouring turnings.

### **17 May 2000:**

Box turning demo by Izak Cronje and Peter Nicolle.

### **21 June 2000:**

Mid-year showcase.

### **July 2000:**

Sharpening and forming tools by Alan Jackson.

### **August 2000:**

Segmented turning by Thys Carstens.

### **September 2000:**

Jigs and things by Bert Parker.

### **October 2000:**

Pens by Dennis Laidler.

### **November 2000:**

End of year Exhibition and braai.

## FROM THE WEB

### VEGETABLE IVORY

#### "THE STORY OF THE "TAGUA NUT"

#### PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

A palm like tree which grows to a height of 20 to 30 feet in several tropical regions of South America produce a vegetable ivory nut. They range in size from a cherry to a grapefruit and average about the size of a walnut. It usually takes from 15 to 20 to make a pound. Chemically they are pure cellulose and before the nut mature have a milky sweet liquid in the centre. When ripe the nuts fall to the ground and are gathered and



dried from four to eight weeks after which they become extremely hard. The nut is not toxic. Colour varies from blue-white to amber with most nuts ivory-amber.

The ivory nut is close grain and very hard. The cellular structure and grain is similar to that of elephant ivory, but is more dense and resilient. It resembles the finest ivory in texture and colour and is slightly softer than mammal ivory and usually contains a void in the centre of the nut.



There are several names for this vegetable ivory nut, but the most common is the "Tagua Nut". Its similarity to elephant ivory has been known by craftsmen for years and is frequently passed as elephant ivory on objects fashioned from it and can be very deceptive. It being so much like mammal ivory that pieces carved from it are sold at the same price as elephant ivory and in some carvings much more.

### HISTORY

For over two hundred years vegetable ivory has been used by ivory carvers in the making of netsuke, dice, dominoes, and chess pieces. Other uses found were cane and umbrella handles, pipes, mah-jongg tiles, sewing needle cases and the fine art of scrimshaw. Religious figurines were carved as were many toys. In the late eighteenth century up through World War II this ivory nut was used to make some of the finest buttons in the clothing industry. Some were even used on United States Army uniforms.

For close to eighty years the ivory nut was a commodity of global importance and factories on three continents used to manufacture articles of utility and luxury. The coming of synthetics killed the world ivory nut market.

The vegetable ivory nut has began a come back because of the slaughter and near extinction of mammal ivory, e.g., elephant, whales, walrus and other species.

### Additional Information

The Vegetable Ivory Nut is called a Tagua Nut.

Some times it is called:

Corozo Nut: (British)(Spelled Corrozzo sometimes)

Binroji Nut:(Japanese)

Coquilla Nut:

Steinnuss:(German)

It has several different names in the different countries where it grows. It grows in Southern Panama, Columbia, Ecuador, and Peru. The Botanical name is: *Phytelephas Macrocarpa Palmae*. There are several sub species of palms that produce similar nuts. Columbia produces the most, and even plantations have been planted to produce a viable product. The Indians of Columbia along the Magdalena River gave the name "Tagua". In the coastal area they are called "Anta". In Peru its

called "Pullipunta" and, also sometimes "Homero". The palm tree is found in damp and moist locations along the coastal region. The palm tree is also found at elevations

above sea level in the Andes. The palm tree grows to about 30 to 40 feet. Size of nut: Small chicken egg to as large as a

grapefruit,(Rare). Average about 1 1/2" to 2" in diameter. The above information has been compiled from several sources over the past 20 years. Robert Spragg Sr.

### Here's Some Tips On Turning Tagua Nuts

Select the so called bottom of the nut, other end is pointed in most cases. I then grind the bottom flat (using a belt sander) to about the size of a dime, but you can position the nut any way you want by studying the character of the nut for optimum usage for what you are trying to turn. I then use a hot glue gun. Using Hi Temp glue sticks, not the low temp craft type sticks. I have several small cheap face plates made from a nut(the size of your arbor thread, mine is 3/4 x 16 and a large washer. I find large washers (2 - 2 1/2" dia.) with a hole large enough for the nut to fit the hole. Then tack braze or weld the nut to the washer. Drill 4 holes in the outer washer and screw it to a piece of two by four and mount it on the lathe and turn it round. Even if your face plates are a little off round or wobble some, the end with the wood surface will be true. I then squirt hot glue on the wood face plate and press the tagua nut into it.

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Let it cool or dry for a couple of minutes. Then screw the face plate on the lathe. I turn these nuts at about 2500-3000 rpm. Lets say I start out to make a small vase. I break through the centre void and now the vase

is ruined. Don't give up, just continue on for a small bowl, if this don't work, I still have a small piece left on the face plate, I make a dish out of it. I cut the wood down just a little and re-use the face plate over and over. I don't think I have ever had two items alike in the hundreds of turnings I have made, because of the centre void is the main factor you have to work around and contend with. I finish the vegetable ivory with sand paper and polish on a cotton wheel with any white polish compound. Making miniatures in vegetable ivory is a rewarding experience. Bob Spragg Sr.

Below are a few places to purchase Tagua Nuts.

Craft Supplies Provo Utah 1-800-551-8876

Packard Woodworks Tryon, NC 1-800-683-8876

Woodcraft Parkersburg, WV 1-800-225-1153

Most Rock & Gem Stores

Large quantities:

Conservation International Washington, DC 1-202-429-5660 (Dennis Macray) Thirty pound sack for \$90.00. Can order in small, medium, or large size nuts. Maybe they will mix? They also sell flat slices at 150 for \$25.00.

Hiltary Agricultural Products Scottsdale, Arizona 1-800-872-5263 110 lbs large tagua nuts (50 kilo) \$330.00 66 lbs smaller \$210.00 (Approx 15 per pound).

Please tell the above dealers about this Web Page and where you got their names on the availability of tagua nuts.

Robert Spragg Sr. [rspragg@worldnet.att.net](mailto:rspragg@worldnet.att.net)

## **REMINDERS**

The committee members for 1999 / 2000 are:

Tom Allan	Chairman	712 7160 (h)
Mike Bester	Treasurer	96 3606 (h)
Eric Thornton	Secretary	531 1559(h)
Alan Jackson	Library	58 1296 (h)
Dennis Laidler	News Letter	797 7755 (h)

Mike Bester	<a href="mailto:bozo@iafrica.com">bozo@iafrica.com</a>
Eric Thornton	<a href="mailto:notnorth@mweb.co.za">notnorth@mweb.co.za</a>
Alan Jackson	<a href="mailto:alanj@global.co.za">alanj@global.co.za</a>
Dennis Laidler	<a href="mailto:dlaidler@pawc.wcape.gov.za">dlaidler@pawc.wcape.gov.za</a>

1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday is an informal affair where members are welcome to use the association's equipment, receive guidance from experienced members and generally discuss matters turning. (Also the committee meeting)

2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday is specifically targeted at assisting beginners.

3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday is the more formal evening comprising discussion of association matters, demonstrations, videos and in June and November the biannual showcases.

4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday same as 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday.

## **THE MARKET PLACE**

### **FOR SALE**

#### **LATHE - TRISTAR**

Outstanding condition. Swing 200 mm.  
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#### **LATHE - ROCKWELL 4 SPEED**

Model 46-111, complete with chisels, rests, faceplates, collet and chuck, as new, R2000  
Contact Vic Johnson on 083 629 4274

#### **MYFORD ML8 COMPOUND CROSS SLIDE**

R500, phone Brian George on 082 895 8144

#### **BANDSAW - TAIWANESE EMCO LOOK ALIKE**

3 speed, 3 wheel, good condition, including 6 blades  
Phone Jon Hide at 082 402 1444

#### **HYDROWAX**

R18 per 5 litre container – Speak to any committee member at the meeting.

#### **CORKS**

Corks with hole to take an 8mm dowel. R10 for 10 corks. Contact Tom Allan at 712 7160.

### **TAILPIECE**

Cheers until Wednesday evening,

*Dennis*