



TURNINGS

February 2004

WCWA, Pinelands Hobbies Club, Nursery Way, Pinelands
WCWA Homepage: <http://www.angelfire.com/ct/wcwa/index.html>
AWSA home page: www.awsa.org.za

Central Ohio Woodturners (Sister club to WCWA): <http://www.biosci.ohio-state.edu/~awolfe/COW/cow.html>

NEXT MEETING

Our next formal meeting is will be on Wednesday 18th February 2004, Pinelands Hobbies Club, 19:00 sharp, as usual. Izak Cronje will show us how to turn boxes.

Our March meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 10th, when Graeme will demonstrate square turning.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given of the Annual General Meeting of the Western Cape Woodturners Association, to be held on Wednesday 21st April 2004 at 19:00, at the Pinelands Hobbies Club, Nursery Way, Pinelands.

The committee hereby calls for nominations for members to serve on the committee for 2004/2005 to be submitted in writing to any committee member, before 18:30 on Wednesday 21st April 2004.

A nomination form can be found at the end of this newsletter.

EDITORIAL

Our first "formal" meeting of the year was well attended, with a good selection of turnings on display for the instant gallery. It seems the guys have been busy over the holidays!



An interesting Instant Gallery

It's almost impossible to believe that the month of January 2004 is well behind us already and that we are half way through February already! I thought 2003 passed quickly, but 2004 seems to be whizzing by at an even faster rate. Before we know it, we will be on our way to Durban of the AWSA Seminar, and then we

will be preparing for the visit of Mick and Liz O'Donnell.

Not too long after that, it will once again be time for our AGM. I appeal to all members to please consider their availability to serve on the committee – it is a worthwhile cause, and does not take a huge amount of time, and it is a small but significant way of giving something back to the club, from which we have all benefited greatly through sharing ideas and skills.

C'mon guys, please let me have some of those contributions that were "just about ready" for me last year!

So long,

Gigi

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FROM THE CHAIR

Hello fellow turners,

A very quiet time indeed has been had after all the demos and exhibitions of the last few months. Could it be the calm before the storm?

The weather might not have been stormy but it sure did its best to discredit and confuse the poor weatherman. With temperatures reported in the 40's, it must have assisted the wet wood turners, who were brave enough to work in this searing heat, in drying their projects and saved on microwave electricity bills.

For myself, I was asked to do a small rush job by my son. With hindsight I should have told him to wait, but how can one refuse? Being in my bathing costume, I got behind the lathe and got going. The mahogany shavings and dust immediately started to cling to my perspiring body. By the time I had finished I felt most uncomfortable resembled a teddy bear that had a bad experience with a washing machine. I have drawn my

own conclusions after this silly experience and leave up to you to draw your own.

Despite the heat January meeting was very well attended. The critique of the instant gallery was very ably done by one newcomer to this daunting exercise, and one "old hand". Thank you Ken Pilkington and Bert Parker.

After the usual refreshments interval Dennis Laidler gave us a very well presented and informative demonstration on how to turn a natural edge bowl.



*"A new form of fishing, Eric?"
Eric videotaping Dennis in action*

Thank you Dennis for a wonderful evening and allowing me to hover around you whilst you were turning to enable me to video record your presentation for club records.

Later during the month, on the 28th, we changed the style of the usual workshop into a general information evening. The use and advantages of the Tormek grinder were explained and shown to us in a very uncomplicated way by Mark Ambler. Thank you for joining us on that evening and sparing us your valuable time.

Now that a few more have learnt how to handle this great machine let's hope we make proper use of it. On workshop nights the grinder will be available for use by members who are familiar with it, and they in turn will be able to assist others with its workings.

AWSA NEWS.

Just a reminder that the congress is just 5 weeks away, and that registration forms and shirt orders are now urgently required by the organizers.

Just to recap:

Friday 19th in the afternoon is registration day.

Actual congress starts on Saturday morning the 20th and ends on Monday the 22nd at lunch time.

For those of you who have filed their blank registration form in a secure place and cannot find it, I will have some spare forms with me every time I attend one of our functions.

Just to wet your appetite for this prestigious event here are the names of the guest visitors who will be demonstrating during the seminar:

- Mick and Liz O'Donnell from Scotland.

- Mike Lewis an ex-Natalian now residing in New Zealand.
- Chris Pouncy from the UK. He is the Sorby demonstrator.

Please try and take part in Schalk's Van Niekerk's challenge. In his own words:

Make, turn or burn or what have you from a blank measuring 250x250x38mm

Anyone requiring accommodation in Durban can contact me as I have a list of B&B within close proximity of the Glenwood high school were the event will take place.

This month's demonstration will be the ever popular Izak Cronje, who will keep us spell bound with his "Turning a Box".

Here's looking forward to seeing you all on the 18th of February.

Cheers,

Eric



FROM THE WEB

A couple of months ago, you might remember I reproduced an article by Russ Fairfield. I found the following article by the same author, and believe that it contains some relevant, and some interesting "food for thought" – that could spark some debate here. Enjoy...

I hereby acknowledge with thanks, Russ Fairfield as the original author, and the article can be found at: <http://www.woodcentral.com/russ/russ5.shtml>

THE "UNIVERSAL TRUTHS" OF WOODTURNING (AS I KNOW THEM)

by Russ Fairfield

These Truths I hold as self-evident. These are the things about woodturning that I have learned to accept without question. They are above argument. I have no doubt that many more can be added as I become more proficient in the art/craft of woodturning. I also have no doubt that there will be arguments on the merits of some of those that I

have included. There is no importance in their listed order; I wrote them down as I thought of them.

1. There are only three ways to become an accomplished woodturner, and they are practice, practice, and more practice.

That practice will be easier with a copy of Keith Rowley's book, "*Woodturning: A Foundation Course*", and learning to do everything that he discusses. Follow that with his book, "Keith Rowley's Woodturning Projects", and make all 20 of them. If you do these things, you will be well on your way to becoming a woodturner. There are comparable books and videos, but I happen to like these.

2. It takes years to become an expert woodturner. Standing in front of a lathe, all day, every day, for 20 years would be a good start. Others may be faster than that, but most of the real experts have a lot of gray hair.
3. Woodturning is both an "art" and a "craft." The "craft" is in how the wood is cut, the tools we use, and how we use them. The shape of the finished piece is the "art." Learning about other art forms (pottery, glass, sculpture, etc.) will improve the "art" of our woodturning.
4. Continue being challenged to learn new things. One year's experience repeated ten (10) times is not the same as having ten (10) years of experience.



5. Never lose sight of the customer/user. Anything that is intended to be used must be usable.
6. You can't cut wood with dull tools. The corollary is that the sharper the tool is, the better it cuts.
7. Consistency is more important than the actual profile of the cutting tool. Otherwise we are using a different tool after every trip to the grinder.

It doesn't matter what the grinding wheel is made of, how fast it spins, whether the tool is held in a jig or freehand, or if we use a belt sander or a rock, so long as the same edge profile is repeated every time we use it.

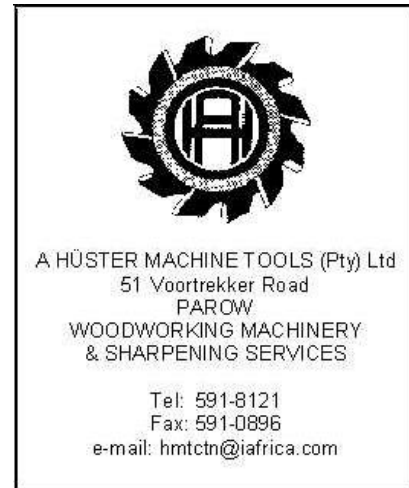
8. The speed of the grinding wheel doesn't matter. They all remove metal. The faster wheel removes it faster. There is some justification for the new woodturner to use the slower wheel.
9. It doesn't matter what color grinding wheel is used. It can be pink, gray, white, violet, blue, green, or whatever color. It can be made from Aluminum Oxide, Silicone Carbide, sandpaper, or a rock. They all remove metal.

Some may be softer and require dressing more often to make them flat again. Others, like the hard gray wheels that came with grinder, will require dressing more often to remove the glaze of embedded metal and "sharpen" the wheel.
10. The color of the grinding wheel has no meaning. While all white wheels may be Aluminum Oxide, not all Aluminum Oxide wheels are white. They also come in a pale green, violet, pink, blue, and yellow, depending on the manufacturer and the dyes they use in the binders that hold the abrasive particles together.
11. There is no truth to the myth that the gray wheels will damage the steel.
12. A cheap grinding wheel is a cheap grinding wheel, whatever color it is. Good quality is more expensive. Lacking any other knowledge and specifications, the price is a good indicator of quality.
13. A 46-grit is a coarse wheel, and a 120-grit is a fine wheel. Take your pick for those in between. There isn't enough difference between 60, 80, and 100-grit to worry about it.
14. Getting HSS to turn blue or even red-hot while grinding is not a problem. But, if you do, let it cool in the air. Don't shock it by submerging it in cold water because that can start micro-cracks in the thin cutting edge.
15. Getting carbon steel hot enough to turn blue can be a problem. That temperature allows the Carbon to move around in the steel and it loses its temper. All is not lost when this happens, just get it hot again, immediately dip it in cold water, and then grind away the blue steel, keeping it cool this time with frequent dipping in cold water.
16. Real woodturners do use scrapers.
17. You can turn an entire bowl or anything else, inside and out, with a scraper. It just takes

longer and there is no reason for the tooled finish to be any different from that of a gouge.

18. Any wood can be turned. Some is just easier than others. On a scale of 1-to-10, I have yet to find a "Zero", but I have had some that came close.
19. Don't turn bad wood. There is good wood and there is bad wood. Experience will teach us the difference. And, a high purchase price is not a measure of wood quality.
20. Some wood will crack, no matter what you do with it. Neither soap, nor bags, nor magic potions, or prayer will save it. And you will never know until after it happens.
21. Cracking in wood started long before we turn it in the lathe. How it was handled before is more important than what we do with it after it is turned.
22. There are only two kinds of people. Those who are allergic to Cocobolo and those that will be.
23. Measuring the height of the tool-rest *is not* important. Riding the bevel of the gouge on the wood *is* important. The tool rest has to be at whatever height makes that happen while the handle of the tool is held in a comfortable working position.
24. Learning to use a skew chisel will teach us how wood is cut, and that will make all other turning tools easier to use.
25. The walls of bowls and other vessels will become thinner and more uniform with practice, automatically. We will know when we are getting there because we "just know it" and can hear it. Cracking and other drying problems will start to disappear at the same time. Some folks will never get there, and that's OK too. There is nothing wrong with using calipers.
26. Don't make turning tools from old files, even if you understand the heat treatment of steel, know how to do it, and have the facilities for it. Every groove on the surface of the file is a stress concentration waiting to crack. Many will have already started to propagate microscopic cracks through the file. No amount of grinding the grooves away, annealing or tempering the file will weld these cracks back together.
27. Sanding is important. No finish can be any better than the surface that it is applied to.
28. The finish will accent your mistakes and torn grain. It will not hide them.
29. Sanding and finishing takes at least as long as the turning, and often longer. If it doesn't, you

are either very good and don't need to be reading this, or your standards are too low.



30. Wood cannot be made into something that it is not: waterproof. If you want waterproof, consider making the vessel from glass or porcelain.
31. Before using Mineral Oil, keep the customer in mind (again). Ask yourself if you would want to use a salad bowl that was covered with the same thing that your mother gave you as a laxative when you were a child.
32. That didn't do it? If you wouldn't put motor oil on the wood, why would you want to use Mineral Oil? They are the same thing. (This one always gets an argument!)
33. There is no such thing as a "food-safe" finish. Somewhere, sometime, someone will be found who has an allergy to anything that we can put on the surface of a piece of wood, or to the wood itself. If it considered as being safe, it's because that person hasn't been found, yet.
34. Woodturners and chemical companies are the only people who believe that, "All finishes are food-safe after the solvents have evaporated." Try explaining this logic to a generation of folks who believe that their health has suffered from "Better living through chemistry."
35. If the bottom isn't finished, the piece isn't finished. And, a flat surface from a belt sander, or a glued-on piece of felt, is not a finish.
36. If it isn't signed, it isn't finished. If you don't think enough of it to sign your name, nobody else will think much of it either.
37. Always wear face and eye protection, even while sanding. You never know when a piece of wood will explode, and the heat from sanding can be enough to do it.
38. Do not sand without covering your nose and mouth with a respirator or air filter that is

approved for fine wood dust. A cheap paper mask is neither. If you think that this isn't important, come back in 20 years and tell me again that it isn't.

39. I have never met a woodturner that I didn't like. There have been a few that have pushed that statement to the limit, but in the end, they are all good folks.
40. Never do anything that you wouldn't want to read about in the next morning's newspaper.

FROM THE COMMITTEE

CHANGE IN PROGRAMME

Please note that the "formal" meeting for March has been moved to 10th March, as very many members (including Graeme who is scheduled to demonstrate) will be travelling to Durban for the AWSA Annual Seminar.

REMINDERS

Contributions to this newsletter are always welcome. Please forward any comment, article or digital image to me at my email address: gigi.laidler@lando.co.za, or snailmail me at PO Box 308, Plumstead 7801.

The deadline for the next newsletter is 5th March 2004.

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COMMITTEE

The committee members for 2003 / 2004 are:

| | | |
|---------------|------------------|-------------|
| Eric Thornton | Chairman | 531 1559(h) |
| Ken Turner | Secretary | 689 9251(h) |
| Bert Parker | Treasurer | 914 0927(h) |
| Gert Ferreira | PR | 559 1409(h) |
| Jim Douglas | Workshop Manager | 705 1280(h) |
| Gigi Laidler | Newsletter | 797 7755(h) |
| Nico Bantjes | Library | 913 0296(h) |

Email contacts for committee members are:

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Eric Thornton | notnorth@mweb.co.za |
| Gert Ferreira | gskc@mweb.co.za |
| Gigi Laidler | gigi.laidler@lando.co.za |
| Bert Parker | nimbus@yebo.co.za |
| Ken Turner | kturner@iafrica.com |

Monthly programme for meetings:

The workshop will be open from 19:00 – 21:00 for the "working" meetings. The workshop must be tidied at the end of the evening by those using the facilities.

- 1st 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)
- 2nd Wednesday is specifically targeted at assisting beginners. Subject of demo or videos to be advised in programme. Let Workshop Duty Manager know if you wish to book a lathe.
- 3rd Wednesday is the regular formal meeting, comprising discussion of Association matters, an Instant Gallery critique, as well as demonstrations, and in June and November, the biannual Showcases.
- 4th / 5th Wednesday same as 1st Wednesday.

NB Remember to bring your own chisels and other accessories for the "working" Wednesdays.

Please could all members who have access to email let us know, in order for us to send you the electronic version of the newsletter, which allows you to see it and print it out (if you have a colour printer) in glorious Technicolor. The newsletter is available in MS Word and PDF format so please let me know in which format you would prefer to receive the newsletter. For .PDF format you will require Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is readily available on the internet.

FORTHCOMING PROGRAMME

The proposed programme for the next year is as follows:

18th February 2004

Boxes. Co-ordinator: Izak Cronje.



"hot off the lathe" – one of Izak's boxes

10th March 2004 (10th March ?)

Square turning. Co-ordinator: Graeme Hill.

19th – 22nd March 2004

National Seminar of AWSA in Durban.

9th-19th April

Visit to Cape Town by Mick O'Donnell

21st April 2004

AGM. 10th Anniversary of WCWA.

Forthcoming attractions: Paper joints, Segmented turning and Involuting turning.

The committee plans to hold another brainstorming session to plan the programme of the year ahead, and we would appreciate volunteers and suggestions for demonstrations. Please send (or give) your suggestions to our Club secretary, Ken Turner.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Annual Subs for 2003/2004.

NB: A request from Bert Parker: Several members have renewed their membership through direct deposit, and have not yet sent their membership form or proof of payment to Bert, so WCWA does not know who all the paid-up members are. **Please remember** to let Bert have your payment and membership details.

Ordinary member:

| | |
|--------------|----------------|
| WCWA | R90.00 |
| Hobbies Club | 40.00 |
| Total | R130.00 |

Family member:

(Same surname – living under same roof)

| | |
|--------------|---------------|
| WCWA | R50.00 |
| Hobbies Club | R35.00 |
| Total | R85.00 |

Country member:

(No Hobbies Club fee)

| | |
|------|---------------|
| WCWA | R90.00 |
|------|---------------|

Guest Fee:

A guest fee of R10 per visit will apply to members who have failed to renew their membership, and guests attending more than two club meetings.

Note: AWSA membership (R45) should be paid together with WCWA subs. The National Body prefers to have clubs pay for their members as a group payment, rather than individuals paying directly to the AWSA. Bert Parker will remit all AWSA memberships to the National Body.

Banking details:

For members who are not able to come to the club on a regular basis, the bank details for the Association are included to facilitate direct payment of subs. Please **forward a copy of the deposit slip to Bert** for his records.

Bank: NBS

Account name: Western Cape Woodturners Association
Savings Account Number: 9226243397
Branch Code: 720026

THE MARKET PLACE

We have been running a couple of commercial adverts in our newsletter. If you wish to advertise, or know of

a company or person who wishes to advertise, please contact Bert Parker. Rates for an advert placed in the newsletter monthly, are R350 per annum. The adverts are rotated monthly, with the ad appearing last this month appearing first next month, etc.

Items for "the Market Place" are a free service, however the editor would appreciate feedback when items have been sold.

HYDROWAX

Another drum of Hydrowax has been purchased, thanks to one of our members putting up the necessary funding, which is to be paid back as the Hydrowax is sold. The price is R40 per 5l container.

BANDSAW FOR SALE

"Meatmaster". On stand with wheels. No other frills. R900.

Contact David Nathan on: Tel: 7948729

LATHE FOR SALE.

New Woodfast 280 6-speed lathe. Features include

1. Cast iron bed, head and tail-stock.
2. Ratchet handle adjustment.
3. 160mm swing over the bed.
4. Approximately 950mm between centres.
5. 2 morse taper revolving tail-stock
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Price R 4 450.00

Graeme Hill 083 252 4642 or evenings 794 1639

LATHE FOR SALE.

Ruben du Plessis has a Record CL-1 for sale at R2 500. Ruben can be contacted at 082 697 2806.



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THE SA WOODWORKER

A special price of R 85-00 including VAT for a one-year (6 issues) subscription, or two years (12 issues) @ R160-00 including VAT, subscription to SA Woodworker has been negotiated for club members. Copies of the magazine purchased at this concession price can **only be collected** at the club, and will **not be posted**. Please contact Eric for your subscription form and for further details. From January this year, the subscription rate will be calculated for the annual rate from January to December, and adjusted *pro rata* if paid for any other period.

To facilitate matters, subscriptions can be paid directly, and details of the deposit and subscriber must then faxed to the SA Woodworker at (021) 559 7199 or posted to Postnet, Suite 10, Private Bag X21, Howard Place, 7450.

Banking Details: South African Woodworker
ABSA Bank
Account no: 405 249 2360
Branch Code: 421109.

SECOND-HAND TABLE

Please remember to bring along old tools to the "formal" meeting". This offers the newer members an opportunity of acquiring affordable tools, while you have some extra cash for that next bowl gouge you are hankering after.

TWINFLEX

Peter Nicolle has provided the club with 2½m-lengths of twinflex, ideal for table lamps. Minimum R2 donation per piece to the Club.

TURNING JACKETS

Nico Bantjies is producing workshop jackets, blue with the club logo.

R35 for apron and R55 for the full jacket.

Tel: (021) 913 0296

WCWA CLUB T-SHIRTS

Smart royal blue golf shirts, bearing the club name are available to members.

R45 for sizes small to large, and R50 for XXL.

SUPERGLUE

Glue available from Bert Parker.

MASKS

The committee has a supply of masks available from Bert Parker.

TAILPIECE



*A tisket, a tasket, a basket of Izak,s boxes
Cheers, and safe, happy turnings till we meet again,*

Gigi



Nomination Form (WCWA Committee) 2004/2005:

I hereby nominate:
as a committee member for the Western Cape Woodturners' Association to serve for the 2004/2005 term of office.

Signed Nominee: Date:

Signed Nominated: Date: