



TURNINGS

July 2005

WCWA, Pinelands Hobbies Club, Nursery Way, Pinelands
www.lando.co.za/dlaidler/wcwa.htm
AWSA home page: www.awsa.org.za

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

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Hi to all

It is mid-winter and I'm still working in a short sleeve shirt; strange weather! I haven't yet had a chance to burn the decorative firewood I so carefully turned for winter. Let's hope there's still more rain coming!

Since our previous meeting, a lot of energy has gone into the finalization of the year's program. We were fortunate that so many members were willing to contribute by giving their input, thus broadening participation. The program is aimed at addressing the diverse needs of our members and contributing to the growth of woodturning in the Western Cape.

Over and above the normal third-Wednesday-of-the-month program, we are going to arrange for special activities on some of the other Wednesdays and also introduce structured training activities on every second Saturday. The trainers will be experienced club members. There will be a small fee attached to Saturday sessions to cover the expenses of the trainer. We hope that the program satisfies your needs.

The feeling was expressed that a larger portion of the formal meeting should be spent on the demo and less on the meeting. I will try my utmost to cut down on the talking so we see more shavings during our meetings.

The Rolly Munro Hollowing tools are on their way and may even be at the Club by Wednesday. Let's keep fingers crossed.

Looking forward to see you all on Wednesday evening.

Louis

EDITORIAL

We have two interesting travel contributions from members this month, as well as a report-back from Eric. My thanks to Thys and Gordon as well as Eric.

I found Thys's comment about the ease with which the turners of Seattle get input from others in their area particularly interesting.

When I think about it, some of the most enjoyable mornings I've had since joining the club have been the "sawdust sessions" at others' workshops. I feel we all need to become more relaxed about opening our doors and taking a day off to share our experiences and our own particular ways of solving problems.

Having a permanent venue is definitely a double-edged sword, as we easily get too locked-in to that being the only place to share ideas. It shouldn't be so. What about making a concerted effort in the next 12 months to get out and about and get to know more about how our buddies work? It must start on our doorstep, but at a later stage, wouldn't it be great to have a weekend away sharing ideas with country members who seldom make it to the club?

Herewith, please add my name to the list of members who'd be happy to host an "Open Workshop Day" (preferably before the weather gets too hot.)

Ken



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BANKING DETAILS -

Western Cape Woodturners Association

Bank: **Peoples Bank**

Savings Account Number: **2204012882**

Branch Code: **120405**

Important Note

When making out a cheque, please make it payable to “Western Cape Woodturners Association” (And not just the initials “WCWA”) It costs the club money if it’s incorrect since the bank will no longer accept it.

On the subject of money, here is the list of members who have paid their subs for 2005/6 –

Phillip Antrobus, Nico Bantjes, Andre Beyers, Gordon Bowers, James Brophy, Ed Brymer, Thys Carstens, Neil Carter, Edward Forster, Alan Jackson, Sven Karth, Gigi Laidler, Dennis Laidler, Peter L'Estrange, Manuel Miranda, Frank Maunder, Brian Mc Cay, Harold Mills, Peter Morris, Lenette Morris, Hein Muller, Dave Nathan, Peter Nicolle, Bert Parker, Kenneth Pilkington, Jonathan Reed, Michael Richards, Hugh Scholtz, Eric Thornton, Juri Van Den Heever, Johan M Van Zyl, Derek Westley, Dave Nutter, Ronein Shena, Wendel Du Buy, Sulayman Peck, Bernie Swanepoel, Peter Flanagan, John Derrick, David Burch, Jimmy Stevenson.



After that an auction was held with items donated by hardware stores. A Jet Mini Lathe and dust filter unit plus tools and unused items donated by the club members.



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Thanks to all concerned. If you've not yet renewed, please let Hugh have your payment as soon as possible. Looks like I need to do add something to my to-do list too!

THYS'S TRAVELS

These are notes from Thys about his trip to Seattle

earlier this year.

How it Started

Sally Mussetter visited CT last year and was looking for someone to house-sit while she was in Russia. We decided to go for it. She organised a whole program to keep us occupied and it worked well.

Largest club in the area Puget Sound with ~ 150 members. Seattle has ~120 and the other two 40 and 60. The club organisation is much like ours but the meetings are held in various halls, making ours more convenient.

Puget Sound

They also have a fund-raising raffle. We could improve here. They do have a timber merchant (and turner) who comes round with a pickup full of timber from Mexico... How convenient!



These were auctioned by lively club chairman Jack Wayne (a la Izak.)



Then it was down to a turning race on five mini lathes by five groups of three. The object to turn an item from a piece of plane in 20 minutes. A second group then had a go. Great fun



The Instant Gallery had the same problem as ours. Considering the number of people at the meeting there were relatively few pieces on the instant gallery. Procedure is also different in that apparently members do not like to be critted. Each member explains his piece from the floor, what it is, how he went about it and the finish. I prefer our system. What was heartening was the number of family members present.

I found the members I had contact with extremely helpful. Initially they came to fetch me for a visit and took to me to club meetings. They also organised it so that I could meet fellow woodturners by having supper with the group before a meeting. This way, I got to meet turners on a more personal level than at a club meeting. Thanks here to Hal Johnson, John Mo and Jack Wayne.



Bonnie Klein took us out to the tulip county, O Conner, for the day. To miss the evening traffic, we spent some time at her house where she gave us a demo on her ornamental lathe. To my wife's delight Bonnie turned and signed a coloured top for her. We had supper at a Mexican restaurant before being taken home. A very pleasant day thanks to Bonnie and Robert.

The sawdust sessions are held regularly on Saturdays at different venues where anybody can attend.



This session at Jack McDaniel's place attracted about 40 visitors during the course of the morning. You can turn on your own, demonstrate or have supervised sessions. The workroom is so well stocked that you only need your material to turn. Beverages were on the house. This was an enjoyable one thanks to Jack.


Other times, we went in a group to visit somebody's workroom where we looked at the layout, latest magoodies etc. and just being generally informed about the tools machinery, lighting etc. As a lot of the guys I visited are retired and woodturning is a serious hobby they treat themselves with the best equipment available. I would like to do the same if I could. Very few sell on the open market so turning is essentially a hobby.



As Hal mentioned, "Retirement is something I can get used to..." Good spirit Hal.

John Mo organises international and other demonstrators for all four clubs. It seems to work well as the expense can be shared by ~400 turners.

Demos are held at centrally situated venues. The net result is that they have had virtually every turner of note demonstrate. Apart from that, they have a number of well-know turners in adjacent states and they easily nip over for a week's tuition with Dale Nish, or David Ellsworth. This has led to a broad knowledge base of tools, techniques, surface enhancements, materials etc..



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ASH, BEECH, AFRICAN ROSEWOOD, IRUWO, MBILUA, FORLAR, SAIPBE ETC.

I had the good fortune of spending time with Stephen Hatcher.



He demonstrated his technique for inlaying stone and took us through the whole routine. Very informative and impressive.

The afternoon I spent with Bill Luci. I felt very much at home as his was the only workshop that remotely resembled mine. His work is really in a different league and very impressive.

GORDON BOWERS

Greetings from a travel weary member recently returned from a June holiday in the UK and Netherlands. Gordon and Marietjie are glad to be back, having missed the London disaster by a week.

We find the Cape winter just now like a summer's day in the UK, though it did vary quite a lot. In England, some mornings were quite overcast, the sun appeared mid afternoon and it stayed light till 11.30, which played havoc with our biological clocks.

It's time to be back among trees we can recognise and occasionally name. In Kew gardens we came across a

giant red leafed tree, a magnificent specimen of the Purple Beech, *Fagus Sylvatica-Purpurea*, a Turner's dream.

At the Isabella Garden, in Richmond Park, we photographed an interesting tree for your identification. It has a bright red trunk, with lots of brown bandings. No its' not a Cow-Itch (name to be published in next edition)



Mail order is big business in the UK and now I can understand why. I was disappointed not to be able to find hardware stores, as we know them to be. Although geared to the DIY home improvements market, the specialist stores (engineering items and such-like are just not found in the "High Street" of the local town shopping centre.

Having compiled a want list from the Axminster catalogue, I had one chance at getting to their south East Tool Centre, near Sittingbourn on the way to Kent. If you should motor down that way take the turning indicating the industrial area at Bobbing, not the one to Sittingbourn. I found the warehouse newly erected inside a fenced plot all on its own in the English countryside.

The staff were very helpful but the store was evidently in the process of being set up, and did not have everything I wanted. Thus it pays to phone ahead so they can draw from stock at the Devon head office: Tel 01795 437143. Thinking I could find the sundry items elsewhere, I missed out on their offer to deliver if I paid up front. Hence, the mail order service does exist in a big way over there.

Coming home my overweight suitcase was an embarrassment. Firstly, we borrowed the neighbour's bathroom scale, only to discover that it registered in Stone (14lbs.) Then, with a wavering indicator – it had never been so high before (me plus case) we



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approximated each case weighing between 3 – 4 stone, converted to lbs and then estimated the kgs. Our saving grace was getting to Heathrow early, on account of processing the VAT – cheque still in the post. Both cases were accepted, although both topped 26kgs.

Flying to Doha at 39,800feet we watched the sun come up at 3.30 in the morning. We landed at 6am with the temperature already at 90!



On the homeward leg the stewardess handed us the dreaded SARS forms to complete. I agonised over the description and value of “purchases and gifts.” I then remembered someone advising me that it was quite in order to

say these were replacement spares for own use. Thankfully, all customs asked for was the completed form.

I am now happily unwrapping all the ironmongery in the garage

Gordon

TOYS FOR BOYS.

We had barely recovered from the very successful Hobby X exhibition when the wheels were set in motion to organize another show.

This was at the Blue Shed at the V&A Waterfront between the 16th and 19th of June. It incorporated Fathers Day and is intended to get dads and sons to view various activities which are of the masculine type. When viewing the stand allocated to us a few days before we were very restricted in terms of space 3x3 meters. So plans were made to suit the space.

When we arrived to set up at midday the day before the show we found out that we had to compete with the “n” gauge model railway club, a radio controlled racing car association and a radio controlled aircraft/helicopters business.

Much to our relief neither of our neighbouring stall holders pitched up so we were more than happy to accept the extra room as the organizers only allowed for an aisle a meter and a half wide between the front of our stand and the model railways - a bit of a squash for spectators.

The extra room was put to good use. Half the stand was workshop the other half gallery and the use of some potted trees and some wrought iron furniture that was

left by a non-participating exhibitor made our stand look very respectable.

Our machinery consisted of two Jet Mini Lathes which besides being a pleasure to turn on, attracted a lot of interest. Their size and quietness not to mention affordability were the main points of discussion. I am sure that these factors will entice more people to take up woodturning.

I am glad to say that of the few stands that formed the Toys for Boys exhibition ours kept more spectators interested and for a longer time. Making sawdust and shavings definitely had the edge on the competition. I would like at this point apologize to the model railways for adding a bit of “snow” to their mountain scenery although they did not complain. There is nothing that a good blower cannot do.

All in all it was worth the effort to participate in this event that I am told by the organizers it will take place again next year.

The members who took part thoroughly enjoyed themselves and will no doubt be there again in 2006. Thanks to all the volunteers who made this possible. Setting up and transport: Bernard

Demonstrating: Bernard, Hugh, Jimmy, Lenette, Nico, Derek and Mike Bester.

PRO: Andre, Brian, Derek, Ed, Jim, Peter, Sven, James, David, Louis and Jurie.

Closing down and Transport: Nico, James, Hugh and Mike.

As some members pitched up un-announced and were not on my schedule I may have forgotten to include them in the above list. Please accept my apologies if I left you out.

As usual items turned during the exhibition were sold for charity and this event raised R730.

Thanks to all you avid turners for your cooperation and enthusiasm.

Cheers for now,

Eric

FOR YOUR DIARY

Wed 20th July - Formal meeting, raffle, instant gallery and demo by Bert Parker on SEGMENTED TURNING. Thanks Bert. We all look forward to understanding more about this demanding art form.

Wed 27th July - Open Workshop

Wed 3rd Aug – Open workshop 7pm plus committee meeting 07h30.

Wed 10th Aug Open Workshop

Wed 17th Aug - Formal meeting including instant gallery, raffle and a Demo / Talk on "Photographing your Work" by Ken Turner (who's still trying to work out how he was conned into it.)

Wed 24th Aug - Open Workshop

Wed 31st Aug Open Workshop

WINTER WOOD

I've had a couple of responses to the June article on Winter Wood, but to date, not enough to set up anything more than the current "word of mouth to a buddy" system.

The suggestion is still on the table, but it's up to you to respond if you want something more structured.

THE MARKET PLACE

We run commercial adverts in our newsletter. If you wish to advertise, or know of a company or person who might like to advertise, please contact Hugh Scholtz or Ken Turner. Rates for an advert placed in the monthly newsletter, are R350 per annum. The adverts are rotated monthly to make it fair to all.

Those who have memories rather than forgetories might notice that in the course of the last month, Dennis has sold both his lathes and Derek found a buyer for his fluorescents so our adverts do work!



Last month I posed a question.

"Who knows what *Cow Itch* is?"

Total response? Zero.

I get to keep my glue sticks.

For anyone who's interested, it's one of the common names for *Lagunaria patersonia*, Tulip tree or Norfolk Island Hibiscus. It came to mind only because I was given a piece of it by a tree feller friend.

To quote from "The Lagunaria Page" on the Internet, it is widely cultivated as an ornamental tree. The genus was named after Andres de Laguna, a Spanish botanist and the species in honour of a Colonel W Paterson who first sent the seeds of the species to England.

The showy flowers are succeeded by fuzzy brown capsules that are retained on the tree for some months.

The interior of these is filled with white "fibre-glass" hairs which are irritant and responsible for some of the common names – Cow Itch, Itch Tree, Itchy Pod Tree.

The wood, for the record turns easily, is very pale in colour, rather featureless but might be good with a touch of Stuart King.

How it seasons is still to be seen. The first and only piece I've turned to date hollowed very easily but split slightly round the collar. Not unexpected, considering the ridiculously dry hot weather we've had of late!

THIS MONTH'S TAILPIECE

A couple of overseas visitors dropped in at our Waterfront stall. I rapidly realized that I was chatting to someone who knew a good deal more about African woods than the average Joe Soap.

When I asked him how he'd recognized red ivory he mentioned that he'd just missed buying a piece turned by "Smuts Butch" in London! So, Smuts Butch, your fame spreads. He was in fact based in London and his colleague in Kazakhstan. Both in banking. Which explained why I couldn't even guess at the language they spoke between themselves...

Good guys with excellent taste though, as they proved by walking out clutching a number of Izak's pieces.