



TURNINGS

February/March 2007

WCWA, Pinelands Hobbies Club, Nursery Way, Pinelands

Internet home page www.wcwa.za.net

AWSA home page: www.awsa.org.za

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

Scribbles from the Scribe.

New Year has been and gone, the festive season is all but forgotten save for the outstanding balances on our credit cards. It is time to think ahead to the Annual General Meeting and consider whom we wish to install as the committee to lead the Club for the next year.

Annual general Meeting

All living and vibrant clubs are by nature growing and "morphing" with different activities and programmes. To this end it is necessary for different people to serve on the committee and influence, guide and work towards their own philosophy. Whilst "Institutional memory" in any organisation is vital it is also essential that the committee be formed from different groups of members from time to time.

Last year we had to circumvent a constitutional problem by urgently co-opting a member to serve on the committee, let us this time around see some competition for positions and new faces with new ideas.

AWSA Conference 2007

During discussion at a recent meeting it struck me that the responsibilities for this event might have been missed. It is my recollection that our Club had **offered** to host this event in Cape Town for 2 years and that this had been agreed and ratified at a general meeting. This being so, this event carries a commitment from the full Club, including those who are not paid up members of the AWSA (why they are not is a separate discussion matter). Let us remember this when the volunteers are being rostered for different duties. Our colleagues in other centres do this for us when it is their turn to host the event.

Graeme Hill

P.S. Telkom was unable to repair a cable fault in our area at the time of the February newsletter. It is for this reason that I have combined the 2 months newsletter as at that time had I had ZERO contributions for the newsletter. I again wish to draw the members attention that the newsletter is a collection of contributions from the members and the editor is the compiler and consolidator of those contributions. I have seen criticism in e-mails recently of the lack of newsletters and this this is

possibly justified however the matter remains that if there are no contributions there will be no newsletter.

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 18th April 2007 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 2006/2007 to be submitted in writing to any committee member, **before 21st March 2007** (30 days before the AGM).

Future Woods
SHAPING THE FUTURE WITH WOOD
TIMBER SUPPLIERS

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Future Woods
SHAPING THE FUTURE WITH WOOD

**NO.4 FISHER AVENUE
EPPING INDUSTRIA 1
SECOND BUILDING ON
RIGHT**

STOCKIST OF:
AFRICAN MAHOGANY, KIAAT, OBECH, WALNUT, MAPLE, CHERRY, OAK,
ASH, BEECH, AFRICAN ROSEWOOD, IROKO, JIMBUIA, POPLAR, SA PINE ETC.

From the Chairman

Conversations at Club meetings, but especially during Show and Tell sessions, often contain interesting anecdotes on how individual turners decide to approach a special piece of wood and its ultimate fate on the lathe.

Informal comments at club meetings reveal how different members accumulate or generate ideas that find expression in the final piece. Leaving the bowl turning-spindle turning question aside for the moment, I recall Butch Smuts, at a demo a few years ago, entreating each of us to find our own distinctive

voice at the lathe. Butch has clearly achieved this, but where does it leave the rest of us mortals.

It seems that different members have different approaches. One member pointed out to me that after mounting a blank on the lathe, he starts turning without any prior planning. He lets the wood "speak" to him and this determines the final shape.

On the other hand, some members keep a meticulous record of their ideas by making drawings and consequently devote a large portion of time to carefully planning each project. Another way would be to download and file illustrations of interesting pieces from the thousands of examples on the internet.

It is also patently clear that many of the highly intricate pieces produced by the Waterfront Group could only have resulted from precise advance planning and a clear understanding of what the finished piece should look like.

In their book, *Decorating Turned Wood*, Liz and Mick O'Donnell take this idea a whole lot further by advocating the creation of an extensive library of images. They favour gathering information by taking photographs of natural and man-made objects, making sketches, collecting post cards, cuttings illustrations from magazines and gathering objects of interest from beaches and other locations.

These materials are then analysed and interpreted, thereby generating ideas for future projects. Probably not all of us will go as far as the O'Donnells, but all these approaches to turning will bear thinking about as each of us strives to find our particular voice at the lathe.

The upcoming National Congress affords us an ideal podium to let our turned treasures speak for us at the Congress. Please read this as an invitation to exhibit at the Congress and show the rest of South Africa that we have not only found our collective voice at the lathe, but that the Western Cape Woodturners are singing in a choir.

Juri van den Heever



COMMITTEE CONTACT DETAILS

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SUBSCRIPTIONS

Members are reminded that subscriptions are due and should be paid to the treasurer ASAP. The date when your name falls off the mailing list is drawing near – this is the last edition for those in arrears. Subscription rates are as follows

WCWA subs year ending 2006-2007	R 240.00
AWSA dues	R 80.00
Family membership of WCWA per person	R 195.00

BANKING DETAILS -

Western Cape Woodturners Association

Bank: **Nedbank**

Savings Account Number:

2204012882

Branch Code: **120405**

Important Note

When making out a cheque, please make it payable to

“Western Cape Woodturner’s Association”

(And not just the initials “WCWA”) It costs the club money if it’s incorrect since the bank will no longer accept it.

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 the editor or treasurer. Rates for an advert placed in the monthly newsletter, are R350 per annum. The adverts are rotated monthly to make it fair to all.

COMMITTEE NEWS

Wednesday 21 February 2007 Club meeting 1900

Louis van Niekerk has agreed to share with us some of his workshop tips and tricks

Wednesday 21st March 2007 Club meeting 1900

In spite of it being a public holiday, we will hold our regular monthly meeting. Dennis Laidler will demonstrate bowl shape and small bases.

Wednesday 18 April 2007 Club Annual General meeting 1900

This is a vital meeting for all members to attend and participate in. Your committee encourages and cajoles you most earnestly to give thought to who you wish to lead the Club in the new year to approach your choices and nominate them for office. Nomination forms will be available with the February newsletter.



Barking up *Melia azedarach*.



NAMES

Melia is the Greek name for the "Manna ash" (*Fraxinus* sp.) and given here because of the similarities between the leaves. *Melia azedarach* has quite a number of vernacular names such as "Syringa tree", "China-berry", "China berry tree", "Chinese umbrella tree", "Umbrella

tree", "Common bead tree", "Bead tree", "Pride of China", "Persian lilac", "Cape syringa", "Cape lilac (W. Australia)", "Syringa berry tree", "Tame syringa", "White cedar", "Mak-seringboom", "Bessieboom", "Sering", "Kaapse sering", "Makboom", "Seringboom" and in Zulu "umSilinga".

DISTRIBUTION

Syringa is indigenous to an area stretching from the Indian sub-continent to Australia. By 1894 it was well already established in KwaZulu-Natal and has since become naturalised in the greater part of Southern Africa. It has also become widespread in tropical and subtropical areas throughout the world. The names "Persian lilac" and "Syringa tree" originate from the resemblance of its flowers to those of the unrelated genus *Syringa* (the true lilac). *Melia* has been planted in many gardens and is a common street tree in towns all over South African. Mature trees are very hardy, making it highly invasive, especially in the damper, warmer regions. It has been declared an invader in South Africa. The Syringa is in the family *Meliaceae* and some of its indigenous relations are the "Cape-ash / Essenhout" (*Ekebergia capensis*) and the "Natal-mahogany / Rooiessenhout" (*Trichilia emetica*).

APPEARANCE

Melia azedarach is deciduous, commonly reaching 12 m and it quickly develops a fairly thick trunk and spreading branches. The leaves are doubly compound with leaflets up to 4 cm long, oval to elliptic in shape with toothed or lobed margins. The flowers are bluish mauve, very fragrant and borne in open inflorescences at the ends of the branches. The fruit is a small, round, green berry that turns yellowish-brown and becomes wrinkled when it ripens. The berries often persist long after the leaves have fallen. The bark is smooth and reddish-brown. Some birds, such as the Red-winged Starling (*Onychognathus morio*), seem to thrive on the berries.

USES

Melia azedarach has a variety of medical applications. Cold water infusions are taken for abdominal pains and are also reported to be effective anthelmintics. Heartwood extracts are reported to relieve asthma attacks and leaf and fruit infusions are used as a local application for eczema. It does not appear to be used

structurally or for making utility items. The leaves stem and bark all have insecticidal properties and triterpenoids from the fruit have insect repellent properties. An official drug, Cortex azedarach[®], prepared from the plant, was included in the US Dispensary as an anthelmintic against tapeworm and ascarides and as an antiparasitic. Aqueous extracts from the leaves have been shown to have strong anti-inflammatory activity in laboratory experiments, which may explain some of the effects traditionally claimed for these preparations. The dried berries have in the past been used as rosary beads!



PHYSIOLOGICAL EFFECTS

Some researchers have reported that all parts of the plant are toxic. Others consider the ripe fruit more toxic than the green fruit or other parts of the plant. Instances of poisoning have been recorded in a variety of livestock. The berries are, in fact, one of the most common causes of human poisoning in South Africa with infants and children making up the bulk of the cases. The greater majority of these cases recover after hospitalization and treatment. Human fatalities have occurred. Poisoning was thought to only occur after large amounts of the fruit had been ingested but fatal human poisoning has reportedly occurred after administration of an enema prepared from the bark. Human symptoms may start within an hour after ingestion or take several hours to develop. Symptoms include nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea, followed by faintness, mental confusion and stupor, respiratory difficulties, convulsions and partial to complete paralysis. Death results from asphyxiation. It has also often been noted that only some berries from a

tree or trees from some areas are toxic. The two major compounds associated with toxicity in *Melia* are melinon and melianol. Their toxicity, in turn, seems to be closely linked to the presence of four different meliatoxins. Analysis of berries has shown that some berries in fact contained none of these meliatoxins which probably accounts, at least in part, for the variation in toxicity encountered.

TURNING

The wood is soft and does not, as a rule, exhibit attractive or pronounced figuring. The growth rings are widely separated and the difference in texture and density between the earlywood and latewood is such that it makes it difficult to get a good, even finish on the wood. The endgrain seems to be particularly susceptible to tearing. Because many woodturners consider it a bland wood it is often coloured in some way or decorated or embellished to make up for its perceived lack of natural interest. A good example of a natural Syringa bowl was sold at the WCWA stall during the Cape Town flower show at Lourensford last year.

ANOBIOM

Market place

Renee and I have sold our house and will shortly start packing up and moving home. I am forced to dispose of my large equipment and invite interested parties to contact me regarding the following equipment.

Woodfast 6 speed lathe on stand and with additional tool rests and centre steady.

Multimate 5 speed lathe on stand and with additional tool rests, face plates and numerous accessories.

A purpose built variable-speed lathe based on an engineering lathe bed, on stand and includes face plates and accessories. This lathe has numerous features that are better demonstrated than described.

All the above is in regular use and in good condition. Please contact me for further information and prices.

Graeme Hill 021 794 1639 or 083 252 4642