



TURNINGS

June 2007

WCWA (Physical address), Pinelands Hobbies Club, Nursery Way, Pinelands

WCWA (Internet home page), www.wcwa.za.net

AWSA (Home page), www.awsa.org.za

Central Ohio Woodturners (WCWA Sister Club): <http://www.biosci.ohiostate.edu/~awolfe/COW/cow.html>

SALE AND PURCHASE OF LATHES

As was requested by members at our General Meeting of 16th, May 2007 the Committee herewith presents a written motivation for the proposal tabled by the Chair.

The Committee is of the opinion that there are two main factors to consider when discussing this issue.

1. Firstly there is the WCWA's commitment to present woodturning to as wide a sector of the public as possible. This wider exposure is intended, in the first place, attract new members to the WCWA and, in the second place, to increase the selling opportunities for those members of the WCWA who wish to make their hobby pay for itself.
2. Secondly there is the shortage of space in the Hobbies Club's workshop.

The perception of the Committee is that the lathes of the WCWA have three main uses;

1. turning at shows and exhibitions,
2. demonstrations by Club members and visiting turners and,
3. training of members at all levels.

As regards the first of these uses, replacing the Record™-lathes with Jet™-lathes will greatly facilitate all aspects of turning at shows or exhibitions. The proposed new lathes have smaller footprints, they are not nearly as bulky and therefore much easier to load, unload and transport. In addition tools can be transported in their custom built casings, instead of in separate containers. It is, on this point; necessary to point out to members of the WCWA that it is generally the same hardy group of individuals that packs, unpacks and transports the lathes to and from each and every one of these venues. On this specific issue, therefore, the WCWA should accept this group's opinions as being authoritative and informed; The Jet™-lathes have a huge advantage when compared to the larger and bulkier Record™-lathes and this will also become a major factor in the Club's proposed outreach-objectives.

As far as the second and third applications are concerned the smaller footprint of the Jet™-lathes gives them an obvious advantage over the Record™-lathes in respect of the space they occupy. This also applies when considering the deployment of the lathes in the clubhouse for training

purposes or collaboration exercises. At the previous General Meeting members raised the valid objection that, for some types of work, one does in fact need a larger lathe. To meet this requirement the Committee suggests that the WCWA should keep the Toolmate™-lathe and plan ahead, should the need arise, to purchase a lathe which will give the WCWA the capacity to effectively turn the larger pieces that concerned members envisage.

The collective memory of the Committee could not recall a significant number of occasions when demonstrations by WCWA members had not been carried out on the Toolmate™- or Jet™-lathes, since these became available. In fact, it would seem that the Record™-lathes were seldom, if ever, used for this purpose. By the same token, much of the work by our overseas visitors was done on the Toolmate™- and recently on the Jet™-lathes.

Taking all of the above into consideration, the Committee recommends strongly to the members of the WCWA that it would be to the definite advantage of the Club to dispose of the larger lathes, purchase the smaller lathes and plan ahead to acquire a lathe specifically for very large objects. In addition to the motivation given above, members should consider the fact that the WCWA has been offered an attractive purchase price for Jet™-lathes, if the Club were to purchase a number of them.

This replacement exercise is, in the opinion of the Committee, a highly recommendable step as it has both long and short term advantages for the WCWA. The Committee intends putting the matter to the vote at the next General Meeting and asks that members should consider the matter very thoroughly prior to the meeting.

WCWA-committee, June 2007



FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The action has been fast, furious and the shavings a plenty since our last meeting.

Turning wet wood took on a completely different dimension whilst we demonstrated at the Model Engineers 10th Anniversary week-end in Rondebosch on the 19th and 20th of May. A well orchestrated but unplanned storm and torrential downpours were the order of the day on both Saturday and Sunday.

We were situated in our usual spot on the covered veranda of their clubhouse but the fibreglass sheeting decided that it had put up with enough exposure to the Cape's variable weather and decided to let go in slow drips in crucial areas. The lathes got attacked first so they were relocated only for the turners to be set upon and thereafter the toolboxes and the timber we had brought along had their turns. Depending on the strength of the wind and quantity of rain directed at the venue the leaks tended to shift from place to place making for impromptu stoppages and reshuffling the stand.

The inclement weather did not seem to deter the public in any way whatsoever. There was hardly place to stand and view the exhibits and the vibe during the whole show was fantastic the rain in actual fact seemed to have added something to the atmosphere.

We were inundated with spectators some of whom have already come to join the Association and our charity box yielded R 570-00. This is more than double the highest we have ever made at this event!

Ten days break and we were setting up for Hobby-X, this time minus the rain. Once again we were allocated a huge corner stand that gave us plenty of room to manoeuvre (7x3m).

We were kindly lent a Nova™ lathe by Hardware Centre. This gave us great deal of relief, as it meant we did not have to transport extra lathes to the show. The vibes during the exhibition were, as usual, uplifting and we had a number of enquiries some of which have already borne fruit.

Usually this show goes on without a hitch but on the first day we did have our fair share of trials and tribulations. On set up day all went according to plan and once all the machinery was wired up we tested the system – no problems the four lathes whirred happily, the grinder got up to speed and the chain saw screamed merrily. The stand now ready, we packed up and went home.

The following morning we had no power. The local electrician sorted things out and we started operating and a few minutes later – zap, the went lights out!

- The return of the electrician.
- A few minutes later same scenario.

After another encore the electrician told us in no uncertain terms that our machines were f...faulty and needed seeing to. Not to be deterred we took an extension cord and plugged it into the next-door stall's outlet and that was the end of our troubles, much to the dismay of "Sparky".

Next we received a justified complaint from the next door stall that our sawdust and some stray shavings were damaging their exhibit and their product; a self adhesive coloured paper to make decorations on any type of clean

surface. Our dust formed a thin film on the surface to be decorated, which prevented the adhesive from working properly. So we moved the lathes around.

Later on the organisers approached us again and requested us to please change the stand around completely, as the problem still persisted. We complied and told them that, although we did try and avoid pollution, it was difficult and that we fully understood the situation.

At that particular moment, it could not have been planned better (or worse?), Bernie started a wet camphor bowl and produced the perfect continuous shaving. It rose up from the lathe like a striking cobra and then floated across the width of our stall, like the tail of a Chinese kite, and disappeared over the 2.5 m high partition of the adjacent stall, where it slowly settled. Despite our efforts to keep a straight face we could not but have a darn good laugh.

We changed the stand around once more!

Once again we generated a lot of interest and had positive comments and approaches. As usual there was great enthusiasm during the show and the charity box grew by another R 1281-00.

Eric

COMMITTEE CONTACT DETAILS

Eric Thornton (Chairman) / 021 531 1559, 082 465 4237 / notnorth@mweb.co.za

Darryl Bailey (Vice Chairman) / 021 531 3709(H), 021 552 2095(O), 082-818 2824(C) / suebailey@polka.co.za

Edward Foster (Secretary) / 021 8870 0792, 083 787 0792(C) / edward@biospoor.co.za

Mike Bester (Treasurer) / 021 976 3606(H), 021 692 1107(O), 083-285 7277(C) / bozo@iafrica.com

Mike Richards (PRO) / 021 552 5572, 073 660 1282(C) / leerichards@wam.co.za

Bernie Swanepoel (Workshop/Training) / 082-381 0304(C) / bernies@vodamail.co.za

BANKING DETAILS -

- **Western Cape Woodturners Association**
- Bank: **Nedbank**
- Savings Account Number: **2204012882**
- Branch Code: **120405**

CLUB NEWS

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Members are reminded that subscriptions are due and should be paid to the treasurer ASAP or by 31/07/07, whichever is earlier. This is the 2nd last edition of *TURNINGS* for those in arrears. Subscriptions are as follows;

WCWA subs year ending 2006-2007	R240.00
AWSA dues	R100.00
Family Membership of WCWA pp	R195.00

Important Note

- When making out a cheque, please make it payable

to the "**Western Cape Woodturner's Association**" (**NOT** just the **initials** "**WCWA**"). It costs the Club money if not done correctly, since the bank will no longer accept these cheques or altered cheques.

- The Club will in future bill offenders with the charges incurred.



ARTICLE REPRINT

The following article, by Russ Fairfield, was originally published as, "*Sanding Savvy*", in the *American Woodturner Magazine*, Spring 1999 issue.

Sanding Is Important

Sanding is the second of the three steps in the turning process - turning, sanding, and finishing. These steps are not independent. A poorly turned surface will require more time sanding, a poorly sanded surface will result in a poor final finish, and sometimes the finish and sanding are done at the same time.

We are overwhelmed with information on turning tools and finishing products. Everyone wants to know about the latest tools and techniques; or the merits of various finishing products, and which ones will give them that elusive "perfect finish". But nobody wants to hear about sanding, and very little is ever published about it. In fact, it is more important than the finishing because the final finish will only be as good as the surface under it.

Sandpaper, the tool

We can't discuss sanding without some knowledge about sandpaper (or cloth). The commonly used abrasives can be listed in the order of their hardness, sharpness, and durability: Ceramics, Aluminium Oxide, Silicone Carbide, and Garnet. Aluminium Oxide will remove wood faster than Garnet because it is harder and sharper, making a deep V-grooved scratch pattern on the surface, while the softer Garnet wears faster and leaves a pattern of shallow U-shaped grooves. It makes sense to start sanding with Aluminium Oxide and finish with Garnet. It also makes sense that the surface from garnet will appear to have a higher gloss because of the more rounded reflective areas in the surface scratches.

Don't buy cheap sandpaper. The grit designations of sandpaper do not represent a uniform fixed particle size. Rather, they are a range of particle sizes; with the majority of them being the stated size. The number and size of the

particles that are different from that designated depends on the equipment and the quality specifications of the abrasive manufacturer. A tighter grit specification costs more. Unless we have access to their product specifications, we have to rely on either price or experience to determine quality. Cheap sandpaper isn't necessarily a bargain because it usually has a broader range of particle sizes within a designated grit size, and it is the big ones that we don't want because they leave deep scratches.

I use and recommend the sanding medium, both sheet and discs, available from **Industrial Abrasives**©. Their prices may be lower, but their quality is every bit as good as any of the major suppliers. They also have large 36" X 39" sheets of flannel backed Aluminium Oxide medium so we can cut our own sanding discs and really save some money.

The "Five Rules" of sanding

Everything that I know about sanding can be reduced to "The Five Rules of Sanding". These "5 Rules" will shorten the time between laying down the turning tool and realizing a museum quality finish. Since sanding can't be ignored, we can try to make it an easier task.

Two prerequisites to sanding should be obvious. We can't see in the dark, and we can't work when we can't breathe. Always use a bright incandescent light, the brighter the better, while sanding so that the scratch pattern on the wood surface is clearly visible. Aiming the light at a shallow angle to the wood will make them even more visible.

Fluorescent light has no shadows, and the surface texture can be almost invisible until you take the finished piece outside the shop lighting.

Always wear a dust mask while sanding, or better yet, use both a dust mask and a dust collector.

Rule 1 - Sandpaper is a cutting tool, keep it sharp and keep it clean.

Throw it away when it gets dull. Don't use a worn-out coarser grit as a substitute for a finer grit. Worn-out 120-grit is just that, and it cannot be used as a substitute for 220-grit.

- Keep it clean.

The spaces between the grit particles are like the gullets of a saw blade. The grit can't remove wood when these spaces are full. Clean both sheet and disc abrasives with a block of crepe rubber. (Yes, it works on sheet when we lay it on a flat surface and rub the rubber block across it). Some turners glue a piece of rubber to a block of wood that is then attached to their lathe. Blocks of natural coloured crepe rubber are available through most of the woodworking catalogues, a \$10.00 purchase that will last for years. Do not use coloured rubber, white rubber, or any caulking materials because they contain dyes and silicones that can interfere with many finishes.

A small brass bristle brush, such as would be used for cleaning vegetables, is an effective cleaner for removing stubborn materials from the abrasive.

Remember those big grits we talked about??

They can be removed by dragging the sanding sheet across the edge of a piece of steel. This dressing of the sheet will break off those big particles that are sticking out above the surrounding grit. We can do the same thing to a disc with a

brief spin against the same edge of a piece of steel, but have to be careful that we remove only the big ones and not the ones we want to keep.

Rule 2 - Refine the shape, remove all tool damage and torn grain, and repair the surface with as coarse an abrasive as necessary to do the job - BEFORE moving through the finer grits...

The only purpose for all subsequent sanding with finer abrasives should be to refine and remove the scratch pattern made by the coarsest paper. Go straight to the 60-grit if there is torn grain or other tool damage on the surface, and don't fool around with anything finer. It makes no sense to brag about never using anything coarser than 180-grit, and then spend two hours to do the same job that could have been done in ten minutes with 60-grit. The finer grit can be used, and for a shorter time, when we have improved our tool handling skills during the turning phase of our work.

Rule 3 - Sand through all of the progressively finer grits in as fine an increment as available.

- Don't skip any grits, and don't quit before 320.

It is much faster to use all of the abrasive grits in the smallest increments possible, than to make large jumps in grit size. This is particularly true at the coarse end of the scale. I assure you that it is quicker to go from a 100-grit to a 320-grit in several steps than it is to go directly from the 100 to 320 grit.

For hand sanding, I usually start with 60 or 80, and proceed through 100, 120, 150, 180, 220, 280, 320, and stop at 400. Did I miss any? Several grits can be eliminated while using the more aggressive power sanding, and I typically use 60, 100, 150, 180, 240, 320, and 400 for power sanding. I prefer to use the 2" discs because there is less torque and they are easier to control.

Rule 4 - Remove all of the scratches from the previous grit, and all of the dust from the present grit before going to the next finer grit.

This step is faster when Rule 3 is also observed. If we leave the scratches from the previous grit, we will be making it more difficult to remove them with the next finer grit. If we don't remove the trash from the present grit we will still be abrading the wood surface with it when we go to the next finer grit.

Rule 5 - Slow is good, and slower is even better.

- Patience is a virtue.

There is a universal tendency to sand too fast. There is an ancient rule that we should be sanding at twice the speed that we used for the turning. It is even worse for power sanding because we think we can get it over with faster by running everything wide open.

Heat is the enemy. Keep the sanding medium cool by sanding slowly. And, the slower moving abrasive will remove more material than one that quickly "skates" across the wood surface.

Don't spin the piece in the lathe so fast that the paper gets hot. If it burns your fingers, it is also burning the wood surface, and casehardening rather than cutting it. We have all experienced the situation where the sandpaper quit cutting, and it took a coarser grade to break through the

surface glaze, only to have the same problem when we used the finer sandpaper. When this happens, slow down. I typically sand with a maximum lathe speed of 250 RPM for most work.

It is very easy to generate too much heat when power sanding because we have no direct touch with the abrasive. Heat will clog the disc, and destroy either the cloth backing or the sponge rubber on the arbour. Just because we have an electric drill with a top speed of 2400 RPM doesn't mean that wide-open is the best speed for sanding.

The slower speed will remove more wood faster, the disc is easier to control, there is very little airborne dust, and the sanding discs will last longer. I use a 3/8" Black and Decker Magnum drill for power sanding wherever it will reach because it has an excellent trigger control and it will run continuously at less than 150 RPM. I use a Milwaukee (same as Sioux) angle drill for those areas that I can't get at with the old B&D. And I have a 1200 RPM air powered right-angle drill for the insides of things that nothing else will fit into.

There are many woodturners who will argue that running the disc sander at a high speed while the work is spinning slowly in the lathe is the best way to go, and there are still some who believe that running everything wide open is the best way to go. To them I say, try running both at a lower speed and see if the sanding isn't just as fast and easier to control. Two other benefits will be less airborne dust and the sanding discs will last longer.

It is most difficult to convince someone to try sanding at slower speeds. Once convinced to try it, they usually become advocates of sanding SLOW.

© 2002 by Russ Fairfield. All rights reserved. This publication is reproduced here with the written permission of the author.

WOODTRADERS
**STOCKISTS OF IMPORTED & INDIGENOUS
TIMBERS, PLYWOOD & MACHINING**

Flooring • Decking • Veneer • Moulding • Balau
African Timbers • Meranti • Pine • Oak • Beech

TRADE IN BULK AS WELL AS IN LOOSE PLANKS

Wetton: Tel: (021) 762 9590 Wetton Park, Dolphin Way, Wetton
Email: desridley@icon.co.za Website: www.woodtraders.co.za

COMMITTEE NEWS

Open Workshop evenings

- Please check with Eric Thornton or Bernie Swanepoel.

Wednesday 13th June 2007

- Handing in of items for the June Showcase from 19:00 at the Clubhouse.

Wednesday 20th June 2007

- June Showcase proceedings start at 19:00.

Proceeds from sales at exhibitions

- R1851-00 has been realised from Hobby-X and the Model Engineers. The money, as agreed upon, will

go toward the WCWA's contribution to the Red Cross Children's Hospital.

Proposed WCWA program for 2007/2008 (The venue for all meetings is the Hobbies Club in Pinelands at 19:00 unless an alternate venue and time are given.)

- July 18th, ornamental turning demonstration by Darryl Bailey.
- August 15th, video and/or slides and talk by Dennis Laidler on his overseas trip.
- September 8th, (Saturday) 14:00 for 14:30 visit to Darryl Bailey's workshop.
- September 19th, demonstration on making wooden jaws by Mike Bester.
- October 17th, product demonstration (details to be announced later).
- November 14th, handing in of items for the summer showcase.
- November 21st, summer showcase plus DVD (DVD details to be announced later).
- December 8th, (Saturday) collaboration turning and braai.
- January 16th, sharpening jig demonstration by Graeme Hill.
- February 20th, video on oval turning.
- March 19th, product demonstration (details to be announced later).
- April 16th, AGM and turning challenge.
- Forest walk date still to be finalized.
- Possible family outing, suggestions from members will be welcomed. The final details will be given once they have been finalized.

Proposed dates for WCWA Committee meetings 2007/2008 (The venue for all meetings is the Hobbies Club in Pinelands at 19:30 unless an alternate venue and time are given.)

- Monday June 25th.
- Monday July 23rd.
- Monday August 20th.
- Tuesday September 25th.
- Monday October 22nd.
- Monday November 26th.
- Monday December 10th.
- Monday January 21st.
- Monday February 25th.
- Tuesday March 25th.

TREES OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Barking up "Kwar" or "Quar".

Names

I wanted to write about the favourite wood of our latest Honorary Member, Attie van der Colff, to welcome him in the WCWA and I ran into all sorts of trouble. Firstly there was the spelling of the vernacular name which, as you see in the title can be a problem if one is looking for the Afrikaans spelling, as I was. The confusion does not stop there, as it is

also known as a "Kwarboom", "Kwarhout", "Basterolienhout" and "Black Alder". Armed with this information I started looking for more information and ascertained that it belonged in the family *Rubiaceae* (The coffee and gardenia family) and was in the genus *Canthium* (From a Malabar name *canti*, for a species of this genus.) and species *obovatum*. The distribution looked correct but it was when I started looking around for descriptions of the timber and medicinal applications that I found that this tree had also fallen foul of the recent, widespread reclassification of plants by the Botanists. This tree is now in the genus *Psydrax* (From the Greek *psydrax*, blister on the tongue??), species *obovata* subsp. *obovata* and there is also a subsp. *elliptica*. There are several other "Quar" but they do not appear to occur in the Western Cape so I will not discuss them.

Distribution

Psydrax obovata subsp. *obovata* occurs in coastal forest and on coastal dunes in bush and scrub as well as inland in forest and at forest margins. It is found from the Tsitsikama along the coast and immediately adjacent interior, through Kwa-Zulu-Natal, Swaziland and coastal Mozambique as far as Maputo. The distribution area extends into Mpumalanga along the escarpment, northward into the Limpopo Province and westward through Southern Mpumalanga as far as Gauteng. It is also found in Eastern and South-Eastern Zimbabwe and immediately adjacent areas of Mozambique.

Appearance

Quar is a shrub or tree between 2 and 17 m in height. It is often somewhat dwarfed, twisted and gnarled but also occurs as large forest specimens. The bark is grey to very dark grey, rather rough and, in larger forest trees, sometimes fluted. The leaves are leathery, hairless, glossy dark green above and paler but hairless below. The flowers are small, heavily scented, cream or white and borne in dense corymbs of between 2 and 70 flowers at the ends of the branches from November to April. The small, black fruit is born in clusters on a long stalk between April and August. The wood is yellow or reddish brown, very hard and heavy, close grained, tough and slightly aromatic. It is a good general purpose timber and the tree is especially useful in consolidating sand dunes.



Future Woods
SHAPING THE FUTURE WITH WOOD
TIMBER SUPPLIERS

PIERRE FOURIE
CELL: 073 643 7747
Email Address: futurewoods@iafrica.com

CONTACT DETAILS:
TEL: (021) 534 0536
FAX: (021) 534 0784

Future Woods
SHAPING THE FUTURE WITH WOOD

NO.4 FISHER AVENUE
EPPING INDUSTRIAL 1
SECOND BUILDING ON
RIGHT

STOCKIST OF:
AFRICAN MAHOGANY, KIAAT, OBECHE, WALNUT, MAPLE, CHERRY, OAK,
ASH, BEECH, AFRICAN ROSEWOOD, IROKO, IMBUJA, POPLAR, SA PINA ETC.

Uses

Psydrax obovata subsp. *obovata* has a good figure, especially in older wood, takes a reasonable polish and turns well. Because large, straight boled trees are not plentiful most of the available wood is gnarled and twisted, making it unsuitable for use in furniture manufacture. It has been used for fencing, pick handles, axe handles and smaller household articles. No medicinal uses are recorded for this species but others that were previously in this genus

do have medicinal uses, which I will not go into here.

Turning

As mentioned earlier, Quar is Attie van der Colff's favourite wood. He maintains that it is often left in the forest after felling because it's twisted and gnarled appearance result in it not being much sought after and therefore not considered commercially important. Even when it is available it is often included with other wood and sold as a single lot at the auctions. Those of you who saw Attie's work will know that it is an attractive wood and, as you probably remember from his demonstration, also a very hard wood.

Anobiom



THE MARKET PLACE

Items for sale

- 10 inch Record® Disc Sander R450-00. Contact: Bert Parker 021 914 0927 or 072 271 1637

Competition

- Hardware Centre®: MAKE A WOODEN TOY FOR CHARITY COMPETITION.

Competition forms and details are available from the store. The closing date for the submission of entries is the 31st of July 2007. A Delta™ Scroll Saw and various other prizes can be won and winners will be announced at a Cheese and Wine Evening.

TALE PIECE

Couple of city slickers set off to the great outdoors.

They arrive at their campsite and shortly afterwards notice a crocodile with a guy's head sticking out of the thing's mouth.

"Hey!" the one shouts--"Look at that dude!--he's got a Lacoste sleeping bag!"