



TURNINGS

October 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>

Minutes of the General Meeting of the WCWA held on the 19th of September 2007 at the Pinelands Hobbies Club.

Present

30 members including the committee

Apologies

John Atkins, Phillip Antrobus, Ed Brymer, Steve Bull, Izak Cronje, Gert Ferreira, Ed Foster, Peter Nicolle, Ken Turner

Resignation

Ed Foster has unfortunately had to resign his post due unforeseen pressure of work. The committee wish to thank him for his valuable contributions during his short term of office.

Durbanville Art Gallery Exhibition

Mike Bester has been given the go ahead to negotiate and arrange this event. He will report back to us at the next meeting.

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Cape Town Flower Show.

25th to 28th October at Lourensford, Somerset West. Due to SAA withdrawing their sponsorship the cost of stands had gone up very considerably and thus the handing out of free space has been drastically reduced. We

will still have our stand but at this stage we have not been advised the exact size of it. Volunteers still required to man the stand

Raffle

As Gert was away on business this event was cancelled.

General meeting 17th October.

Agenda has been changed: instead of a trade demonstration, Dennis will give us the second episode of his USA trip.

COMMITTEE DETAILS

Eric Thornton (Chairman) / 021 531 1559,
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Bernie Swanepoel (Workshop/Training) /
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FROM THE CHAIR

Due to technical all sorts of gremlins creeping in to the various PC's used in compiling the newsletter this article has followed the route usually adopted by one's shavings.

The fairly new incorporation of the business section of the newsletter – *minutes of the general meetings* – have adequately covered most of what would have been covered in the missing article.

The activities of our meetings were however not placed on record.

July saw Darryl Bailey giving us a very interesting and expertly presented talk on ornamental lathes. For most of the members it was fascinating insight into the workings and how to use such a lathe. The mind still boggles at times. Thanks Darryl



A close-up of Darryl's ornamental jig



Darryl demonstrating his ornamental jig on one of our Jet™ lathes

August was the turn of Dennis and Gigi Laidler to let out all their bottled excitement and experiences of their trip to the USA. The presentation of the trip had the making of a National Geographic article, first of all getting you there maps, areal photographs, route maps until you get to the crux of the voyage the halls, the turned items and the joy of meeting the artists. Thanks for sharing this with us putting so much effort into this presentation, we thoroughly enjoyed watching it, as much I am sure you enjoyed compiling it

(see reprint of a report-back on the trip, given in the AWSA Newsletter *Turnaround*, elsewhere in this newsletter).

September was the turn of Mike Bester to leave his bobbins to one side and to show us that with a bit of imagination and perseverance you can make anything you really need to achieve your objectives. This time was how to manufacture a set of wooden jaws. Shows you don't have to get all your requirements from a tool or machinery shop. Thanks Mike.

Remember **November showcase** is once again just around the corner. Let's make this one a really super one. Guys and Dolls start your pieces now if you have not yet done so. Adjudication and handing in of items date is the 14th of November. Good luck to you all.

Till the next meeting on the 17th of October
Happy turnings.

Eric



SUBSCRIPTIONS

Members are reminded that subscriptions are due and should be paid to the treasurer ASAP or by 31/07/07, whichever is earlier. **WCWA** subs for the year ending 2007-2008 are R240.00 pp.

Family Membership of WCWA is R195.00 pp.

AWSA subs are R100.00 pp.

Any member who is experiencing cash-flow problems is invited to discuss the matter with the Chairperson, in order to come to an interim arrangement.

The Committee would like to remind members who do allow their membership to **lapse** that they will be expected to pay the **visitors fee (R25)** for each meeting that they might attend thereafter.

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.



BANKING DETAILS

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

Proposed WCWA Programme for 2007/8

- October 17th Dennis Laidler will present the second half of his USA trip.
- November 14th Items for summer showcase to be handed in for assessing.
- 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.

FROM THE MARKET PLACE

3-in-1-Multi purpose table (Planer, Circular saw and horizontal borer) R 2 000-00
Contact Dennis Laidler 021 797 7755 or 082 365 2755

2007 AWSA Congress thermal mugs R55-00 each. Contact Gigi Laidler 021 797 7755 or 082 485 8399

USA INSPIRATION ... and some thoughts about AWSA

Hi All, Here I sit on a plane again! This time only for a 24 hour return trip to Pretoria. What will I need to do to offset the carbon emissions of this trip? Planting one or two trees may work for this short trip (wishful thinking) but I fear I've really sinned by taking that carbon unfriendly return trip to the Pacific coast of the USA. I'll have to spend the rest of my life planting trees to compensate for that one. But notwithstanding the unhealthy inflation of my normally acceptable carbon footprint Gigi and my trip to the two woodturning symposia in Provo, Utah and Portland, Oregon, has been the highlight of my woodturning experience to date.

It's just not possible to explain the full impact of the three week trip, most of which Gigi and I shared with John Wessels of Wilderness, Western Cape and Andi Wolfe of Columbus, Ohio (no introductions necessary) and her husband Steve and daughter Meghan. Andi treated her 'Wolfe pack' just as one would expect of a real wolf pack mother. I'm sure that we must have all tried her patience more than somewhat on occasion. She not only introduced us to many of the top woodturning luminaries who allowed us to examine many of their works or art up close and personal but we also got to visit the homes and workshops of many of them such as Dale Nish, Mike Mahoney, Kip Christensen and Bonnie Klein.

What a privilege and education it was to examine the private collections of all these turners. They have grown their collections over many years and I don't believe there was a known collector who did not have pieces represented in at least one of those collections.

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In Provo we also spent quite a bit of time in the company of J. Paul Fennell. To hold one of Paul's magnificent basket weave or other superlative turned and carved vessels in ones own hands is a special privilege indeed. And Paul is such a gentleman and generous to a fault. He has given the WCWA the moving and thought provoking DVD video "Start Your Creative Engine", by the late Frank Sudol. I wholeheartedly recommend this video to all and every one of you, both those who are actively applying their artistic talents and more especially to those of you who have no artistic pretensions whatever – don't believe it for a moment according to Frank.



Two of J. Paul Fennell's pieces on exhibit at the USA Woodturning Symposia

I couldn't possibly list all the top turners who we had the privilege to meet or watch demonstrate. That would be ill-mannered! Suffice to say if you can think of a well known turner we very likely had the opportunity to meet and chat to them. Many turners did as we did and took the opportunity to attend both the Provo and Portland symposia due to their relative proximity in both time and distance. We met Derek Wentworth, a South African expat of some four years, now based in British Columbia and at both symposia, Gorst du Plessis, a doctor from New Orleans who left SA shortly after he finished school. Gorst

is a wonderful person with an absolute heart of gold who is clearly much loved by the USA turning community. Gorst's speciality is ornamental turning. He seems to have an enviable collection of ornamental lathes and a store of fine woods only rivalled by his endless fund of interesting stories.



Some of Gorst du Plessis's ornamental turnings as Provo

This of course all this follows closely on our own very successful AWSA Conference held in Cape Town during April. I would sincerely like to thank Juri van den Heever, the conference committee chairperson and his team of formal committee members, 'co-optees' and volunteers very much for a most successful event. Bonnie Klein and Robert Purdy asked me to pass on her thanks to all who were involved in arrangements for their trip throughout the country. If we can keep up the standard I'm sure that we will have top turners flocking to our shores, not withstanding the long distances involved.

I can also let you know that Clyde Neumann and Winston French are already preparing next year's AWSA event that will be held in Pietermaritzburg. The dates will be 4th to 6th July 2008.

At recent AWSA committee meetings we discussed a range of topics, primarily centred on how we can add value to AWSA membership other than merely organising the annual conference and providing a quarterly newsletter. Some of the ideas we discussed have included the holding regional and a

national exhibitions and development/ outreach programmes.

Gigi, John and I picked up many ideas during our visit that we will discuss locally with a view to feeding back benefits to the local woodturning community. Once we have organised some of our copious slides into a presentation we'll offer to give slideshows to some of the local clubs. The 'boot sale' at Provo was quite an experience. One afternoon, after the demo sessions, all and sundry got together in a section of the parking lot, opened their boots, hauled out tables and chairs and set about hawking their wares. There were burls and bowl blanks to absolutely die for. People were selling jigs, tools, tool holders, carving burrs, DVD's, finishing oil and the like. Weight restrictions – weight restrictions – weight restrictions!!! Damn!



Almost anything your heart could desire...

Of course Portland was bigger than Provo. Only about 400 delegates in Provo while about 1800 attended the Portland event. The day before the Provo event was not to be missed. Craft Supplies (USA), Dale Nish's firm and Treeline, his son Brian's firm, both in the same street, hold open days of note. Top line demonstrators gave demonstrations of all sorts of equipment and techniques.

The trade show at Portland was to die for. Anything and everything related to turning was for sale. To be able to examine much of the stuff one sees in the leading woodturning catalogues

I must remind everyone of the competition for the next conference. John Wessels has offered a very generous prize to be divided between three or four winners. We will base the competition on the Del Mano Gallery's 'Turned Wood – Small Treasures' exhibition for pieces less than 6 inches greatest dimension. See the Del Mano Website at <http://www.delmano.com/> and look under the 'Past Exhibitions' menu item.

Another idea has been sparked by an exhibition we saw at Portland. In February 2007, Angelo lafrate, president of the AAW attended the exhibit Genuine Japan, in New York. The exhibit featured urushi ware, made using an ancient Japanese lacquering technique that originated over 6 000 years ago. Urushi is still being practiced today, and both Japanese woodturning and the application of urushi were demonstrated by turners from Yamanaka, Japan, a town famed for this technique.



The "rice bowl blank" and one example of a "finished product" by Jacques Vessery

At the end of the exhibit several dozen rough turned bowls remained and Ms. Atsuko Yanai of the Japanese contingent offered them to Angelo lafrate for the AAW. After some brainstorming, the bowls were given to studio artists to finish in a style of their choosing and then would be auctioned to raise funds for the AAW Professional outreach programme (POP). You can download a pdf catalogue of the full story and pieces that the studio artists produced at http://www.woodturner.org/sym/sym2007/photos/day_minus_one/JapaneseBowls.pdf . Maybe we could develop a project along similar lines in our country, but with a theme more relevant to South Africa.

I'd also like to propose that each regional group of members tackles a collaborative 'piece' that can also be exhibited at the next conference. Let me have some feedback on this idea or if you like the idea just 'do it'. I'll make the theme for the collaborative competition 'climate change'. No constraints will be imposed on this 'piece' That should give you all some real food for thought –

coming up with an idea and then executing (I mean turning) it.

I'm going to try and get SA Woodturning Yahoo discussion group reinvigorated so please join the group and participate. If you want instructions on joining the group please drop me an e-mail and I'll forward them to you.

I'd like to wish you all happy turning.

Dennis Laidler

AWSA Chair

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AWSA CONGRESS 2008

Calling all Woodturners – your next AWSA congress will take place in the Natal Midlands from Friday 4th to Sunday 6th July 2008.

Please make a note of this date.

Although the venue charges at Hilton College were very reasonable we were restricted to one caterer and add-on admin and staff costs meant that the cost of holding our conference there became prohibitive.

We have subsequently secured the use of the Jack Heath Gallery in the Visual Arts department of the University of UKZN and have finalized catering arrangements, Senior residence accommodation for those wanting to stay on campus and secure parking facilities.

For those who are unfamiliar with the area the Natal midlands is only a four and a half hour trip by car from Gauteng. For those members from the Cape provinces we would suggest that you incorporate the conference into a holiday.

This area has much to offer visitors. Pietermaritzburg is situated at the heart of the Natal Midlands just over an hour from Durban, an hour and a half from the Southern

Drakensberg, has battlefield sites and nature reserves on its doorstep, and the Midlands Meander for those interested in a broad range of crafts. Having 7 private schools in the area, there is an abundance of B&B accommodation ranging from reasonably priced comfortable to ultra luxurious.

The Midlands Meander was started in the 1970's and became the model which many other tourist routes endeavoured to follow. There is much to see and do so you are encouraged to bring your wives along.

Crafts on the Meander include Woodturning, Stained Glass, Glass works, Furniture manufacture, Leather goods, Art studios, Ceramic Studios and potteries, Weaving, Wrought iron work, Wind Chimes, Bronze Sculptures.

Interspersed along the route are many good and reasonable restaurants, pubs and breweries and for those from the Cape we even have the Stables Wine Estate that produced an award winning Shiraz in 2005.

For the more adventurous we can offer Canopy tours of the Karkloof forests by foefie-slide or Quad bike trips up Sani Pass where you reach an altitude of over 9 000ft.

On the conference side we are already looking for a suitable overseas presenter. We would also be very interested to hear from members if they have any ideas on possible presentations that they would like to see or if you have a member of your club that does something different or unique. Contact me at neumann@mweb.co.za. We are here to cater for the needs and wants of all turners and for the congress to be effective it must promote growth in woodturning and expand your skills, knowledge and artistic flair.

To help us with our planning we would like to encourage you all to register as soon as possible. To this end we are offering a R50.00 discount to all who have registered and paid by the 29th February 2008. There is no good news without some bad news – To also encourage early registration there will be a penalty of an additional R50.00 if you register after the 30th April 2008.

So please send us your money and registration forms before you spend it on Christmas .

Happy Turning,

Clyde Neumann

2008 Conference Convenor

(033) 343 4433 ; neumann@mweb.co.za