



# TURNINGS

November 2007

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

WCWA (Internet home page), [www.wcwa.za.net](http://www.wcwa.za.net)

AWSA (Home page), [www.awsa.org.za](http://www.awsa.org.za)

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

## NOVEMBER SHOWCASE RESULTS.

This event was sadly poorly supported only 9 members took part bringing in 24 pieces. The encouraging aspect of the showcase is that 7 members in the beginner's category brought pieces in for adjudication. Keep it up chaps.

A total of 2 Gold, 14 Silver and 3 Bronze certificates were awarded with 6 pieces not qualifying

In alphabetical order here are the certificate recipients:

Darryl Bailey: 1 Silver.

Gregory Christiaans: 3 Silver,

John Derrick: 1 Silver, 2 Bronze.

Gert Ferreira: 2 Gold, 1 Silver.

Sven Karth; 1 Silver, 1 Bronze.

Dennis Laidler: 5 Silver.

Brian McCay: 1 Silver.

Jimmy Stevenson; 1 Silver.

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Let's hope that next participation will be more fruitful.

Start thinking now and preparing pieces that you can bring along if you have not got rid of them before.

It's no use trying to get a piece done at the last moment as somewhere along the line short cuts are taken and the final result is not the best possible.

*Eric*

## FROM THE CHAIR

Well another exciting month has gone by.

First of all our Jet™ lathes have arrived and have replaced all but one Record™ lathe. An offer to purchase was received for it but when payment was tendered in the form of a cheque as opposed to the agreed hard cash the deal was not concluded. The intended purchaser promised to return the following day with hard currency and collect the lathe - that was the last we saw of him. - Close shave or good premonition?



*A year or so ago my bakkie,  
such a sight is now a thing of the past*

They now take pride of place in the Hobbies Club workshop and have each been installed on their specially designed stands. In addition to these, foldable and stackable general-purpose workbenches have been made available to add to our easily dismantlable display units. Thanks to Mike

Richards for the hard and professional work done on these items.

Moving or transporting the lathes and all the exhibition paraphernalia is now a pleasure as opposed to the body building exercise and balancing act we had to do in the past lugging those heavy Records™ with their heavy and cumbersome benches.

Strand Hardware® (Port Elizabeth) and Hardware Centre® (Cape Town) are owed a great deal of gratitude for the special deal they gave us on the lathes enabling us to proceed with our plans for our future association activities and the promotion of woodturning as was explained in our June edition of Turnings.

The WCWA show piece of the year was without a doubt our participation at the Cape Town Flower and Garden Show held at Lourensford Estate in Somerset West over the last weekend of October.

Having been advised by the organizers that our stand would be somewhat smaller due to the main sponsors having pulled out of the equation and space was at a premium.

After making sketches of the proposed stand from the dimensions given to us (6m x 2m) Mike and I went to look at the site the day before setting up day.



*An overview of our winning stand with Mike putting in the final touches.*

The weather was foul, rain, wind and the stand was muddy and on a fair slant with no flooring what so ever. How do we set up our display units? How do we steady the lathes? But on the plus side we were given a larger stand (9m x 2m) on the outside corner of a large tent which made us worry should the weather be on the wintry side.

Now a bit of head scratching and replanning was necessary.

Bernard Swanepoel came to the rescue as far as the flooring was concerned, being in the building trade he gave us three full size shutter boards to sort our flooring. That sorted out our main problem – stability for the lathes, display units and a steady floor to stand on.

Bernie thanks a stack for your generosity without this we would have been sunk.

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Despite all the last minute frustrations Mike did some fancy measuring and drawing the stand took shape on paper. Now all that had to be done is work what had to be brought on site and how. It's no good travelling 55 km to find out that you are missing some item or the other.

The following day in perfect weather and with everybody being on time our team of 7 members assembled the flooring and display units set up the workbenches and the lathes in record time and by 3pm all we were waiting for was the power to be connected.

We had glorious weather for the four days of the show and we attracted a great deal of interest.



*Mike, Jimmy and Bernie (back to us) in the engine room of our stand.*

There never was a moment when we did not have a visitor to our stand and to make things more interesting and comfortable for the public we managed to get about 20 chairs and a large umbrella (borrowed from the organizers) to form a sort of auditorium in front of our stand allowing spectators to sit down and enjoy our making shavings and allowing them to savour the invigorating aroma of camphor of which we had a ample and unending supply kindly provided by Steve Bull.

The final result of all the hard work put into this event was that the WCWA stand earned a Gold Medal as the Best Indoor Market Exhibit.

The vibe on the stand was fantastic and the enthusiasm shown by all must surely have shown the public that turning is a fun hobby. Despite the long hours we had a great time and are looking forward to next year.



*Our milliner or mad hatter (Afrikaans die poep met die hoed) enthralled many a spectator with his hat turning.*

This could not have been achieved without the help from the following members whom I wish to thank individually:

Mike Richards in particular – stand planning, construction, setting up, breaking down and Public Relations.

Bernard Swanepoel, Ken Pilkington, John Derreck for transport, setting up, breaking down and demonstrating.

Mike Bester, Jimmy Stevenson, Ken Turner, Dennis Laidler and David Burch for demonstrating.

Steve Bull, John McCay, Derek Westley, Gordon Bowers, Harold Mills, Sven Karth and Phillip Antrobus for PRO work.

And in the background our respective wives who gave us all time off especially Annette Richards and my wife Yvonne who allowed

the two of us to stay in our holiday house in Gordon's Bay to avoid daily trips to and from Cape Town during rush hour traffic. Our sales were the best yet with

R16.600 and so was our Red Cross Charity box (for items turned and sold during the show) which totalled R 1600. It is quite odd but looking at the previous figures the charity box always collects about 10% of the sales!

Till next year- we have already been invited again- we will have a hard act to match!



Just a reminder of our next two events:

Old Mutual Conference Centre Kirstenbosch 26, 27, 28<sup>th</sup> November exhibition of members work.

Bring the pieces you wish to exhibit to the 21<sup>st</sup> November meeting,

Please tell your friends about it. Entrance to the gallery is free and items are on sale with 10% of sales going to Kirstenbosch.

8<sup>th</sup> December at the Hobbies Club.

A "Turnathon" or a day of collaborative turning from 09:00 till whenever.

Timber for turning will be provided.

A braai will be organized for lunch- bring your own meat – final details to be announced at the general meeting.

We are hoping to have a chainsaw demonstration sometime during the day.

Till the 21<sup>st</sup> keep on turning,

Cheers, *Eric.*

## TIMBER SEASONING

by Bert Parker

### Part One

The seasoning of timber prior to use is a very ancient practice; it therefore surprising that so little is generally known of the principles

involved, even by those who are continually handling timber.

### **The Dryness or Moisture Content of Wood**

Seasoning is essentially a partial drying of the wood and its progress can be best gauged by measuring the amount of moisture remaining in the wood at any time, since the dryness can only be assessed very roughly by the feel, the appearance, the weight, or the time it has been cut, and its subsequent history. It is therefore very desirable to have a standard method of test and to express the results of such a test in standard terms.

The best and most commonly adopted test is that which the actual weight of the moisture in the wood is determined and expressed as a percentage of the weight of the dry wood.

The result so obtained is known as the moisture content per cent.

Determination of the moisture content of timber immediately it is cut from the log (even though the log has been laying under cover for years will reveal values ranging from 30% up to 200% in the case of heartwood of some softwoods. The majority of common hardwoods have a moisture of from 60- 100% , where as for the sapwood of softwood will range from 100 – 200%



### **The Moisture Content of Timber in Use**

When timber-work is kept in any particular environment it will attain a fairly steady state of moisture content. There will be slight fluctuations as air conditions vary, but these changes will be relatively small. For example, the average moisture content attained by wooden furniture in a living room will be about 12%. Some fluctuation is inevitable, but provided that the timber at the time of manufacture and installation is seasoned to a moisture content approximating to the

average condition where it will used any slight variation of temperature change will not be troublesome as a rule.

### **The shrinkage of Timber During Seasoning**

It is generally desirable that the unnecessary moisture should be removed as quickly as possible and it is essential that the timber should suffer a minimum of damage in the progress.

The damage that is likely to result, if care is not taken to prevent it, may take the form of splitting, checking, warping and staining or discolouration.

Little or no shrinkage occurs in timber during the early stages of drying, but later, at a moisture content of about 30 per cent, when marked dimensional changes take place.

The greatest shrinkage occurs in the direction of the growth rings (at right angles to the grain) about half this amount is in the radial direction, i.e., at right angles to the growth ring and the grain, and a very small amount in a longitudinal direction or along the grain.

It is these differences in shrinkage that that are mainly responsible for the warping of timber during drying. Whenever the grain does not run parallel to the edges and sides of the board, warping of some form is probable because the same differential shrinkage factor will tend to pull the board out of shape.

### **Case Hardening of Timber (When Timber is seasoned on the out side and wet on the inside)**

The most serious forms of trouble experienced during drying of timber are caused most often by drying stresses, which if excessive, will produce case hardening, checking, honey combing, and many other evils. Rapid drying of the surface will eventually tend to cause the surface layers to shrink in excess of the interior and may eventually cause the timber to check or split on the surface. Even if the timber appears to be dry or well seasoned these rapid stresses may cause a serious defect when the timber has to be resawn or machined.

### **Formula to Determine the Moisture Content**

$$\text{Moisture content} = \frac{\text{Initial (wet) weight} - \text{Dry weight}}{\text{Dry weight}} \times 100\text{percent}$$

Suppose a sample of wood had an initial wet weight of 28,34 gms, and its weight when dry was 22,60gms., the difference of 5,74 gms is

the weight of moisture formerly in the timber ,  
the moisture content would therefore be:

$\frac{28,34 \text{ gms min } 22,60 \text{ gms}}{22,60 \text{ gms}} \times 100 \text{ per cent} = 25,4 \text{ per cent}$

### COMMITTEE DETAILS

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### 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

- November 14<sup>th</sup> handing in of items for the summer showcase.
- November 21<sup>st</sup> summer showcase plus DVD (DVD details to be announced later).
- December 8<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) collaboration turning and braai.
- January 16<sup>th</sup> sharpening jig demonstration by Graeme Hill.
- February 20<sup>th</sup> video on oval turning.
- March 19<sup>th</sup> product demonstration (details to be announced later).
- April 16<sup>th</sup> 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.

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### FROM THE MARKET PLACE

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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

Woodturners Masterpiece Variable Speed Lathe 4 Sale.

Tool Mate MC 36 as new ( - 3 yrs old not+).  
Contact: John Derrick: 021 558 3317 / 072 851 7115