



TURNINGS

March 2008

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>

NEXT MEETING.

The next formal meeting will be on **Wednesday 19th March** at 19-00 hours at the Pinelands Hobbies Club.

We will get together to brainstorm a WCWA entry for the AWSA collaboration entry for the seminar

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 16th April 2008** 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 2008/2009 to be submitted in writing to any committee member, by **Wednesday 19th March 2008**.

A nomination form can be found at the end of this newsletter.

FROM THE CHAIR

Hello to you all.



Here's another first for the Western Cape Woodturners Association – the first "Turnfest" in the country.

The definition of the word "Turnfest" coined by our association implies an exhibition of turned items combined with as many simultaneous turning demonstrations as possible. The latter obviously depends on the size of the venue and the number of volunteers who are prepared to give up their time to make the event a success.

Although the idea was born and germinated in the Western Cape, it was decided that this milestone be held under the auspices of the Association of Woodturners of South Africa and be hosted by the WCWA.

The idea of a National Exhibition was discussed a while ago by the present AWSA committee but the logistics and venues were a bit of a stumbling block thus the thought was put on the back burner as the annual conference was a more pressing matter at the moment.



Then Gigi Laidler miraculously secured the Old Mutual Conference Centre at Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens at the very last minute; now this sort of event could possibly be realised. This was an opportunity we could not miss under any circumstances despite the extremely short lead in time.

Seeing that Gigi put the wheels in motion she might as well drive it. She called for volunteers and got the ball rolling.

Doing it this way meant that we could invite all the members of the AWSA to participate in the exhibition or come and demonstrate if they find the time.

The response to the e-mail invitations was very positive and encouraging. The only drawback was the time factor, which meant that up-country members have found it difficult to organize timeous and safe despatch of items or find the time to travel to Cape Town.

We have none the less secured a few up country pieces from members who have relations or friends who have come Cape Town for the Argus cycle race and brought pieces with them.



The timing could not have been better, a long week end combined with the influx of visitors to the Mother City for the Two Oceans marathon which incidentally goes right past the entrance to Kirstenbosch.

The planning for this event which will take place over the Easter Weekend (21st to 24th of March) is in full swing and the final details are being finalised.

This exercise is testing the waters for possible future National Exhibitions and will hopefully serve as a guideline for any region that wishes to undertake such a venture and will help iron out some of the problems that could arise.

To make the most advantageous use of the large premises available to us, instead of woodturning being the only type of artistic discipline on show, and to attract more visitors and give them a more diverse display we will be sharing the venue with two other artists - Tony Butler –painting and June te Water –sculpture.

All we hope for now is a good turnout, good weather and trust that this will be the forerunner of what we dream will become an annual “Turnfest”

Since the acquisition of our Jet™ lathes the workshop on Wednesday nights has become a real beehive of activity.

It is really satisfying to see that the idea of obtaining extra lathes has been the right decision and the word seems to have spread as every week has seen new faces coming to visit us.

Last week we had 15 enthusiastic members and prospective members waiting in line to use a lathe or were sharing a lathe in doing similar practice turning exercises.

Besides novices practising basic skills some slightly more experienced turners were trying their hand at different things such as eggcups, candlestick holders or goblets.

I sincerely hope to see the see new members numbers going from strength to strength and their keenness build up as their skills are being honed as the weeks and months go by.

Till next meeting,

Happy shavings to you all,

Eric

IMPORTANT REMINDER.

For all AWSA members, the final date for registration without incurring additional pecuniary penalty for the Annual seminar is approaching. The Early-bird discount deadline of 29th February 2008 has now passed, and the new deadline to avoid paying an additional late-payment penalty of R50 is 30th April.

Non AWSA members, if interested, are to contact any committee member for information [or visit the AWSA website:

<http://www.awsa.org.za/Symposium.htm>. – “virtual ed.”]



YELLOWWOOD RESPROUTS

THE ‘MAGIC TREE’ OF KIRSTENBOSCH – DOWN BUT NOT OUT!

On Tuesday 1 November 2005 a gale force North West wind hit Cape Town, blowing down one of the most loved and famous trees of Kirstenbosch. The ‘Magic Tree’ was a great big, nearly 100 year old Breede River Yellowwood (*Podocarpus elongatus*) with a crown that

reached all the way to the ground, five massive trunks and many sturdy horizontal branches near the ground, creating a magical secret hideaway and climbing tree, well known to generations of children. The wind split it in two pieces, exposing the roots and breaking many of the branches.



This event was met with much sadness by everyone that knew and loved the tree. But, instead of chopping it up and consigning it to the compost heap and woodstack, like its twin that blew down in 1984, Kirstenbosch staff decided to try to save it. It was cordoned off from the public to prevent both additional damage to the tree and potential accidents as we were not sure how stable it was. Tree experts were consulted, a percentage of the crown was cut back, some of the boughs were braced, the exposed roots were covered with soil and regularly watered, and we watched and waited.



Although the newly exposed parts of the canopy showed signs of sunburn, it was not long before new shoots sprung up all over the now exposed old trunks. If it had been any one of our other species of yellowwood it would probably have died but *Podocarpus elongatus* has the ability to resprout from epicormic buds – i.e. buds on the trunk of the tree. In nature, this yellowwood grows beside the rivers and streams in the rugged, fire-prone mountains of the South Western Cape. It has evolved the ability to

resprout as a survival strategy to cope with the unstable nature of its habitat. In an undamaged tree with a full canopy the epicormic buds lie dormant under the bark, but if the tree falls over or the canopy is damaged and the trunks are exposed to the sun they spring to life sending out shoots to repair the damage.

We have every reason to expect that our Magic Tree will make a full recovery and that in time the newly sprouted shoots will fill the huge hole in the crown making it as big and as magical as ever. Bad news for kids is that they will have to stay off it for a while to allow the new shoots to grow.



Keep an eye on this page as we monitor its progress and log the recovery of the Magic Tree of Kirstenbosch.

Read more about this yellowwood, *Podocarpus elongatus*

Authors

Christien Malan & Alice Notten
Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden
January 2006

Sourced from the SANBI website:
<http://www.plantzafrica.com/>

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COMMITTEE DETAILS

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SUBSCRIPTIONS

WCWA subs for the year ending 30 April 2008 are R240.00 pp.

Family Membership of WCWA is R195.00 pp.

AWSA subs are R100.00 pp.

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

- March 19th Brainstorming session for AWSA collaboration project.
- 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

Stihl 017 petrol chainsaw



Excellent condition. 350 mm bar (between sprocket centers) gives a comfortable 250 mm deep cut. Complete with sharpening kit, multi-tool, spare chain, spare air filters, instruction manual and safety manual.

R1250 Cash

(Having bought a larger Stihl some two years ago, I find I'm not using this one enough to justify keeping it. A new Stihl this size would set you back just on R2000)

Regards as always –

Ken - 083 651 4993

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

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

AWSA 2008 CONGRESS:

REMINDER

AWSA Congress 2008 takes place from Thursday evening **3rd July** (Registration) to lunchtime on Sunday the 6th July.


Schalk's Challenge

As for "Schalk's challenge for 2008" lets make it a relatively easy one this year. Turn a platter with some sort of embellishment. Carving, scorching, painting and ja even feathers, anything goes. What I'm looking for is a platter where the "whole" comes together to form a piece that is quirky and interesting, Due to inflation and the state of the nation and economy in general the prize money will be R150.00.

“Tiny Treasures” Challenge

John Wessels has put up a “Tiny Treasures” challenge along the lines of the “Tiny Treasures” exhibition at the Del Mano Gallery in Los Angeles. This challenge will carry a prize money of R500 for the best entry, R250 for the runner-up, R150 for second runner-up, and R100 for the best novice turner showing promise. Up to three entries per member will be accepted.

The criteria for entering are to turn an exquisite piece to fit within the dimensions of a 150mm x 150mm cube.



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Regional Collaborative Challenge

The regional collaborative challenge was announced in the September 2007 Turnaround. Two or more AWSA members from each region are encouraged to enter a collaboratively turned piece or installation, at the 2008 Congress in Pietermaritzburg, one piece from each region. All those that work on the piece must be members of the AWSA. The theme is ‘Climate Change’ which you may apply to the piece in any way that you see fit. As this is the first collaborative challenge no limitations on the size or any other aspect of the project will be made, so the participants can give full rein to their collective imaginations.

Rules:

1. The work can be any turned object, functional or not.
2. The names of all participants must be on the work or on an accompanying nameplate.
3. At least one regional representative must be in attendance at the symposium to be responsible for displaying and return shipping of the entry.

4. Any electrical/electronic device in the piece must have an obvious power switch for safety. However, the AWSA cannot ensure that electricity will be available where the Collaborative Challenge is set up.

The pieces will be displayed during the symposium in an area near the Instant Gallery. During the symposium, attendees will be invited to select, by ballot, their choice for Best in Show. Votes will be tallied prior to the Annual Banquet and Auction, where the winner will be announced. Collaborative pieces may be donated to the auction, with the provision that no minimum bid is allowed. A region whose entry is donated will receive 50 percent of the selling price. Any donated entry must be accompanied by a box and packing materials for shipment to its new home. Shipping the work to the buyer is the joint responsibility of the region and the buyer.

If you want some inspiration see some images of the AAW 2007 Collaborative Challenge alongside, and visit the AAW Symposium website:

<http://www.woodturner.org/sym/sym2007/photos/cc/index.htm>.

Some of the pieces entered for the AAW Collaborative at Portland Oregon, July 2007





Nomination Form (WCWA Committee) 2008/2009:

I hereby nominate:
 as a committee member for the Western Cape Woodturners' Association to serve for the 2008/2009
 term of office.

Signed Proposer: Date

Signed Seconder: Date

Signed Nominated: Date

Please note that all nominations must be with a current committee member before Wednesday 19th
 March 2007.