



TURNINGS

May 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 21st May** at 19-00 hours at the Pinelands Hobbies Club.

Feedback from the new Committee on planned activities, followed by one of the Club's DVDs

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FROM THE CHAIR

Dear fellow turners,

As I am writing my first contribution for 'Turnings' as new chairman, I realise we are in May already and cannot believe the first 4 months have flown by.

I would like to thank everybody for putting their faith in me to be elected as chairman and can assure every body that I will give it 100%. All this said and done, the club does not consist of one person, but all of its members.

A concern to me is that our membership has decreased over the past few years and I would like to appeal to everybody to get involved in all activities, to try and turn this around.

In the proposed additional activities for 2008/2009, I want to suggest that we do a demo at the Panorama Primary School (1 500 kids with parents), during their annual Wheel Show in October, which runs on a Friday and Saturday. The other suggestion is that we do

a demo at the National Scout weekend, as these kids are quite hands on, seeing as they "are in touch with nature." These two outings will form part of the Youth Outreach programme.

During our first committee meeting, it was also proposed to buy additional DVD's for the club, as well as a new TV and DVD recorder to enable club members to watch these at any given Wednesday nights.

There was also a suggestion, that whoever wants to take out a DVD will pay a deposit which is refundable on return of receipt. After a two week period, a penalty will be imposed as it has come to light that some members forget to bring it back to the next meeting. Please give this some thought. Any alternative ideas would be welcome.

I would also like to urge everybody to try and sign up advertisers for our newsletter, as this will help to bolster the club's coffers. The cost is R350 / year.

The other issue I would like to address is the raffle. This cannot happen without the help of all members and I urge you all to make a note in your diaries to remember to bring something to the table. For the newer members, we have a raffle table every third Wednesday at our club meetings whereby you bring anything you want to put on the table. (i.e. an old chisel, piece of wood, drill, sand paper or a bottle of wine (preferably red for me.) The tickets are R2, 00 each, and the takings also go to the club.

We are also looking at a brainstorming session on Wednesday evening, the 28 May, at the club. I would like to encourage as many people as possible to attend, as we will be discussing ideas and get input from members as to what they would like to see and happen in the club.

Another point I would like to raise is the June show case and for that matter the November show case as well. The entries have been limited to mostly beginners and although it is encouraging to see this happen we would also like to see intermediate and advanced Turners enter. In the past this was the opportunity to come and show what the WCWA are capable of doing and hopefully we will get back to that.

Please note that all entries for the June show case must be handed in by the latest Wednesday 11th June, as this is when judging takes place.

Gert Ferreira



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SIX JAILED FOR FELLING ANCIENT YELLOWWOODS

An article on the local newspaper on Sunday made me think how important it is for us as woodturners to conserve our trees and use wood that is of a sustainable source.

Apparently a family and a local chief struck a fraudulent deal to chop down a Yellowwood forest in Umzimkulu where 89 trees, aged 300 – 400 years old, were illegally felled in late 2001. The chopped logs were valued at R389 000, but potentially worth R6 – 7 million, once they were sawn into planks.

They were sentenced to eight years of fraud, 3 years of which were suspended for 5 years. They received an additional 3 year sentence for the cutting down of indigenous protected trees in a natural forest.

Trees and forests for that matter have a huge role to play in reducing climate change, as a result of greenhouse gases.

This certainly sets a very good example and with more and more trees being declared as

invasive alien species that pose a threat to our natural flora, we should respect our environment and indigenous trees even more.

Gert Ferreira

PROPOSED WCWA PROGRAMME FOR 2008

- May (21/05) – TBC, DVD
- June Monday 16th. Forest walk
- June (18/06) – June Showcase / Aids and Gadgets
- July (16/07) – Talk on National Congress, Dennis Laidler
- August (20/08) – TBC
- September (17/09) – Sandblasting Demo, Gert Ferreira
- October (16/10) – Airbrush Technique Demo, TBC, Bernie Swanepoel to arrange.
- November (20/11) – November Showcase and Demo – Product - Bulldog Abrasives plus Finishing Products (Woodoc.)
- December (06/12) – Turnathon and End of Year Braai

PROPOSED WCWA PROGRAMME FOR 2009:

- January (15/01) – Photography, Ken Turner. TBC
- February (19/02) – Pewter Demo, John Wessels. (Possibility of demo on Saturday – 2 sessions.)
- March (19/03) – TBC
- April (16/04) – AGM

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR 2008/2009

- May – Model Engineering Weekend.
- 16 June – Forest/Tree Walk, if weather permits in Kirstenbosch with Dennis and Gigi. Contact Dennis (082 365 2755 – dennis.laidler@lando.co.za) or Gigi (082 485 8399 – Gigi.laidler@lando.co.za) to confirm your participation, as a permit needs to be arranged in advance..
- June – Hobby X
- Sawmill outing. TBC (Mike Bester)

- Barrel making / repairing outing. See how barrels are made / repaired. Worcester Brandy Cellar. TBC.
 - Turning weekend with John Wessels in Knysna(27/28 September 08)- Details to follow. Confirmed by John Wessels.
 - Attending ceramics / pottery / carving exhibitions. Dates and venues TBC.
 - Saturday morning demos: TBC
 - Turn apple boxes – P. Nicolle
 - Turn platters – J. Mills
 - Open house – once a quarter. TBC
 - 4 – 6 July – AWSA Congress in Pietermaritzburg.
 - 1.) October - Wheel Show demo (Panorama Primary School.) TBC
 - 2.) Western Cape Scout demo – TBC.
- (1 and 2, to form part of the Outreach Programme)**
- October – Flower Show, Lourensford Estate.
 - October / November – Beyerskloof Wine Estate demo. Juri to confirm.
 - November – Exhibition at Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens (TBC).



**TIMBER SEASONING PART TWO
ARTIFICIAL SEASONING:**

by Bert Parker

There are several methods of Artificial Seasoning, mainly Kiln Seasoning and Chemical Seasoning:

KILN SEASONING

Unlike natural air seasoning Kiln Seasoning is a highly skilled process and needs competent operators.

The essentials of a timber drying kiln.

Kiln drying implies the use of temperatures considerably in excess of atmospheric shade temperatures. Speedier drying than occurs in air-seasoning is only effected because higher temperatures are employed and a positive circulation of air is maintained. The higher temperatures cause the moisture in the wood to move more rapidly to the surface, whence it is evaporated by the circulating air. If the air in the Kiln were merely heated up it would become exceedingly dry, and the moisture would be evaporated from the timber more rapidly than it moved there, with the result that there would generally be a grave risk of the outer layers of the timber becoming very dry whilst the inner ones still remained relatively wet. The outer parts of the timber would then tend to shrink peripherally, but would be partly restrained from doing so by the wetter core, which would have shrunk so much as a result, these drier layers would become stressed and splitting might develop. It is therefore necessary to humidify the circulating air artificially by introducing live steam or some other means, in order to maintain the rate of evaporation at a safe level. It is true that the moisture evaporating from the timber will tend to humidify the circulating air, especially if the latter is re-circulated through the timber pile, but there may not always be sufficient moisture to raise the humidity to such a point as to keep the rate of evaporation within safe limits. Even saturated atmospheric air (air at 100 per cent. humidity) when heated from the average temperature say 10°C to quite moderate kiln- drying temperatures (say 55°C will be dried to a humidity of less than 10 per cent. Certainly no species of timber when green, and very few when thoroughly air-seasoned, would withstand such severe drying conditions without serious splitting. Different species of timber will withstand different initial kiln temperatures even in green conditions, and that, as drying proceeds, these temperatures can generally be increased, just the humidity can be lowered. A kiln should therefore be provided with means for controlling the temperature and humidity of the circulating air.

It is very important that the air circulating should be fairly uniform over the face of the timber at which it enters, and the rate of circulation, of the air through the kiln should be sufficiently high to be consistent throughout the operation.

To assist in the control of the humidity of the circulating air, it is important and expedient to exhaust some of the air from the system from time to time, as and when required, and to replace it with fresh air from outside, any deficiency in water vapour being supplied by means of carefully regulated steam sprays.

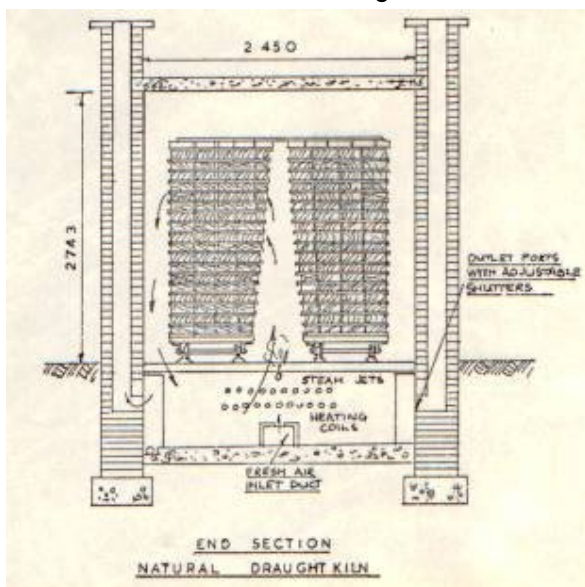
The essentials of a kiln are therefore:

- (1) **Heat.** Under proper control and sufficient to raise the temperature to the maximum required.
- (2) **Humidification.** Again under proper control and sufficient to meet all requirements.
- (3) **Air- circulation.** Uniform and of sufficient velocity
- (4) **Air- Interchange.** Controlled at will.

Types of kilns

Timber drying kilns may be divided into two categories:

- (1) Those in which the air is circulated by making use of the natural tendency of hot air to rise and the cold air to fall, known as Natural Draught Kilns; and
- (2) Those in which mechanical means, i.e. fans, are employed to drive the air, known as Forced Draught Kilns.



Progressive Kilns

In the most usual form of progressive kiln, the wet timber enters at one end and gradually moves along towards the other end, the air

being arranged to flow in the opposite direction to that of the movement of the timber, so that the timber, which has been in longest in the kiln, receives the air when it is hottest and driest.

As the air passes along the kiln it absorbs moisture from the timber and becomes cooled in the progress, so that by the time it arrives at the loading end it is sufficiently cool and moist to offer no danger to the wetter timber. The advantage of this type of kiln may be summarized as follows:

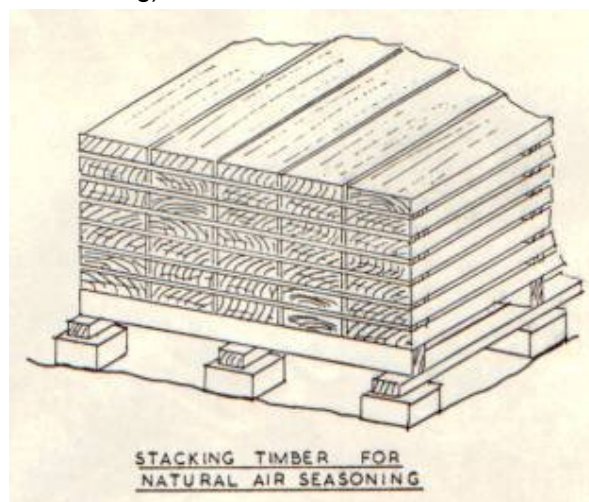
- (a) The kiln is continually discharging dry timber which fits in well with the requirements of manufacture.
- (b) It is more or less self-controlling, as the necessary rise in temperature and fall in humidity are obtained by moving the timber forward as it dries.

The disadvantages are:

- (a) A continuous supply of wet timber of the same species, thickness and initial moisture content is essential to the efficient operation of the kiln.

Compartment Kilns

The compartment kiln is found in many forms. The simplest type which is cheapest to construct, though not necessarily to operate, is the Natural Air Circulating Kiln (as shown in the drawing).



Fresh air as required enters the kiln along the centre of the basement and passes up through steam heated coils, which rises between the stacks of timber.

The advantages of this design are that the Kiln is simple to construct and has no moving parts. The disadvantages are that the circulation is slow and rather difficult to control.

External Fan Kiln

The external fan kiln is a form of forced draught type compartment kiln in which the air is heated, humidified and set in motion by fans outside the kiln. The fans may be mounted on top of the kiln or at the side, and the heating and humidifying system may be separated from the fan system and may even be inside the kiln chamber. One difficulty with type of kiln, is the securing of uniform air circulating along the length of the kiln.

The air enters the kiln at one end and is withdrawn at the same end, which creates a tendency for the bulk of the air to short-circuit through that end of the kiln.

Another difficulty with this type of kiln is providing reversal direction of the air circulation.

The advantages of the external fan kiln are the compactness of heating and fan units and accessibility of the plant.

Bert Parker

COMMITTEE DETAILS

Gert Ferreira (Chairman) / 021 559 1409 (H),
083 265 5835 (C) /

Gert.F.Ferreira@gsk.com

Bernie Swanepoel (Secretary) /
082 381 0304(C)/ bernies@vodamail.co.za

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

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

David Burch (Workshop/Training)
021 447 9514

SUBSCRIPTIONS

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

Family Membership of WCWA was R195.00pp.

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

FROM THE MARKET PLACE

Record CL3 lathe with bowl turning attachment and other accessories R4500.00

Bandsaw good condition R1000.00

Phone: **Brian McCay** 082-8709086

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

Woodturners Masterpiece Variable Speed Lathe 4 Sale.

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Contact: **John Derrick**: 021 558 3317 / 072 851 7115

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



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AWSA CONGRESS REMINDERS

AWSA Congress 2008 takes place from Thursday evening **3rd July** (Registration) to

lunchtime on Sunday the 6th July, in Pietermaritzburg.

The programme promises to be really interesting, and features Nick Arnall from the UK as Guest Turner. Apart from the regular events of the critique, auction, raffle and congress dinner, there will also be a collaboration turning session – “fast and fun”. Highlights will be a demonstration turning a celestial bowl, and several sessions incorporating design and various surface decoration techniques. As teasers to wet your appetite, amongst our South African turners will be Butch Smuts (design), John Wessels (pewter), Ashwin Ramhith (resin), John Speedy (spiral), Fred Wright (lidded box), Tony Lewis (preparation for segmented turning), John Mills (natural edge bowl), Alan Ferguson (jewellery), and a demo of a Holtzapfel type lathe by Robin Reynolds, amongst others.

So go on, make a plan to take a bit of a break at the beginning of July, and head up to Pietermaritzburg for a weekend of meeting old friends, making new ones, and learning some new turning tips and techniques.

For further details contact Clyde Neumann: Clyde Neumann –AWSA 2008/09 Symposium Organising Committee Convenor.

cmneumann@telkomsa.net.co.za
(033) 343 4433 (h) or visit the AWSA Website and click on the link to the Symposium Website.

<http://www.awsa.org.za/Symposium.htm>

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.

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.

A FINAL WORD

If you enjoy reading about what other tuners do, why don't you reciprocate by sharing your experiences with other members? This newsletter is the communications channel for your club – please do your bit for the club by sending articles, news, pictures, etc. to Gert, to share your knowledge and experiences with other turners. The old saying “you get out what you put in” holds true – the more you can contribute, the more you can benefit.