

TURNERS ANONYMOUS

An Association of Wood Turners in Western Pennsylvania

NEWSLETTER

No 76

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NEXT MEETING:

Saturday, April 17th

Location: Max Peterson's Workshop

Time: 10.00 am. Coffee & Donuts from 9.30

Musical Easter Eggs



Everybody, but Everybody will have a chance to turn and receive hands on help from experts. On arrival you will be given a numbered ticket allocating you to one of the 6 teams. When the music starts the first member of each team will start turning an egg. When the music stops the lathe will stop and the next person take over as soon as the music starts. This will continue until the first team crows like a cock to indicate that an egg has been laid (finished)

SHOW AND TELL will be limited to three items, one by Craig Smith and there is room for two more to be critiqued by a small team headed by Doug Trembath. The objective is for an instructive and positive appreciation. If this proves successful we will repeat it on a larger scale, but only for those members with broad shoulders that can accept criticism of their proffered best work

The usual popular raffle will be held with valuable and not so valuable prizes.

LAST MEETING

The weather outside was rainy and dreary while the climate inside was cheery. Alan warmed up on the lathe by turning two tops with a 1 inch skew. They were so small that it was difficult to even pick them up, also they both spun beautifully.

After passing around handouts on skew chisels and a homemade hook tool, Alan went on to demonstrate the many techniques he uses in his work. He demonstrated how to turn the pommel both square and curved shoulders. He also demonstrated how to use the rolling cut to form beads (using a skew, naturally). Alan talked about the concerns with end grain hollowing and actually went on to make, from scratch, a hook tool which he then used to demonstrate its use. He was very pleased with the way that this tool cut and promptly named it the Pittsburgh tool. He was later coerced to add it to the long list of prizes to be raffled.

Alan spent much time explaining the skew chisel, its various shapes and the pros and cons of each. He went into the sharpening of them and also the contouring of the bottom and top edges.

The Demonstration was over by 4.30 and I think all left with a great appreciation for the skew chisel, the work it can produce, and, most of all, Alan Lacer who uses this tool to create works of art much the same way that a violinist uses his bow to create beautiful music.

(Contributed by Jim Talerico)

MAY MEETING. Saturday, 15th.

Andi Wolfe will be showing us how she decorates her turnings with botanical motifs using varied and interesting techniques

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Lights! Music! Action! CUT!

The spotlight will now be focussed on how tools can or should cut.

If you are new to turning try this little experiment. Take a wood chisel and hold it on a piece of wood. Figure 1 shows the handle too low so that the heel is skating across the wood and the sharp point cannot reach the surface to cut.

In Figure 2 the handle has been raised too high and the point is digging in.

The handle has been lowered in Fig 3 so that the bevel is absolutely parallel with the wood surface and the chisel slides across without cutting.

The handle has been lowered just a little bit in Figure 4 so that the point can cut a fine shaving, but the bevel is rubbing on the newly cut wood surface and preventing a dig in.

If you are an experienced turner and finding a problem with some new tool or difficult cut, think about these 4 figures and relate them to your turning tool contacting your wood.

A carpenter's plane is shown in Figure 5 with its backing iron to break the wood chip and force it away without tear out of remaining wood fibres. A Backing iron is always used in plywood factories when peeling veneers.

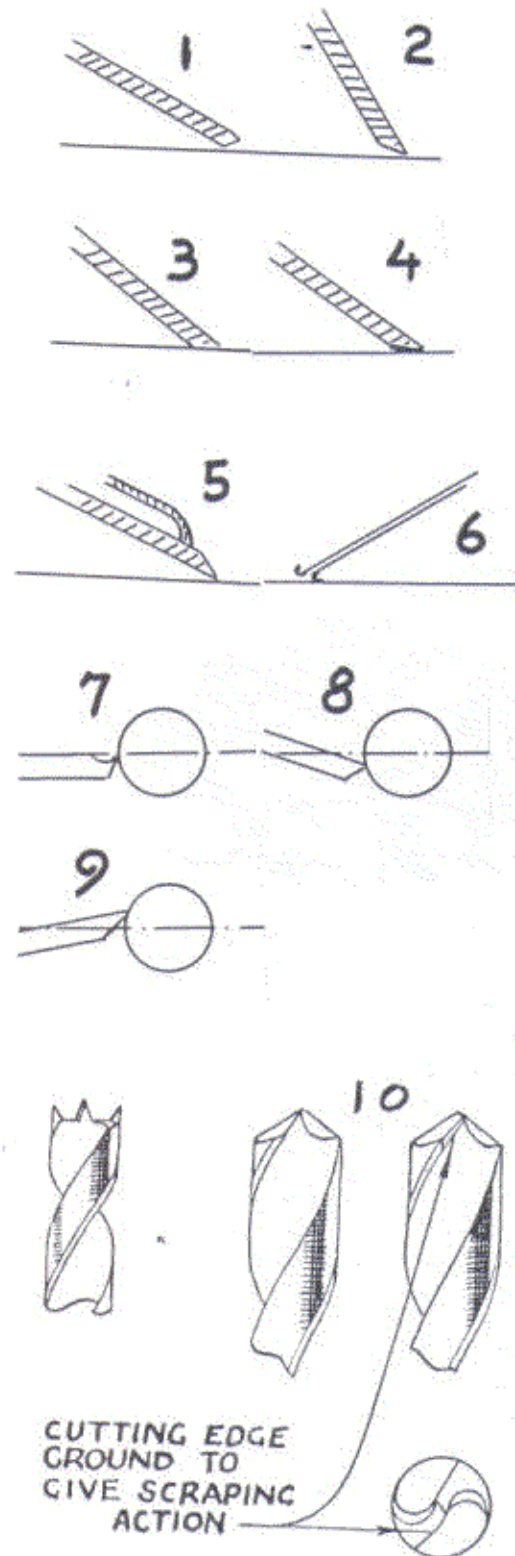
The action of a Cabinet Scraper with turned back edge is shown in Figure 6. This is sometimes called a "ticketed edge".

A tool used to cut on a metal turning lathe is shown in Figure 7 with the cutting edge just about on the diameter.

When Scraping wood the tool should be presented sloping down and with the cutting edge below the diameter as shown on Figure 8.

And finally in Figure 9 we see a chisel or gouge cutting wood with the bevel rubbing and the cutting edge above the diameter.

If you purchase a new drill bit (say, 1" diameter), place it in the Tail Stock with a Morse Taper and try to drill an end grain blank rotating in the Head Stock; you will probably find that it pulls out of the Tail Stock. This because it grabs just like the chisel in Figure 2. The solution is to grind a flat to enable bevel to rub on the wood as indicated in Figure 10. In case you don't understand my sketch I'll bring along a new and an altered drill bit to the next meeting to show the difference.



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Not...A Five minute project !

Are you tired of turning Bowls?

Do you need some practice turning Spindles?

This Portuguese Bed contains an intriguing number of turnings.

Like the idea? Feel inspired to start right away?

Or, do you want to sleep on it?

For Sale:

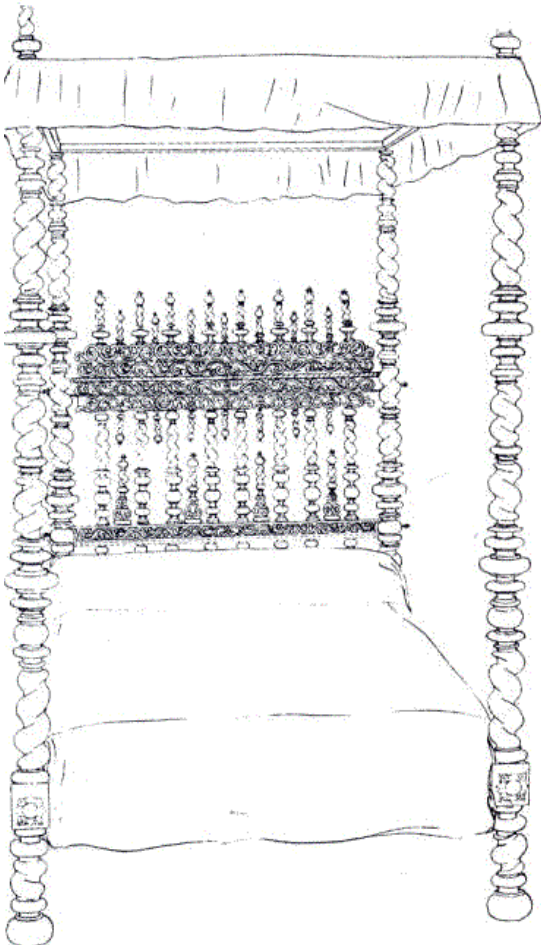
Kiln dried wood Hard and Soft woods from Steve Morovich before or after the meeting or call him at 724 341 1980

* Cherry, Oak, Walnut and Sassafras Boards, turning blanks or Crotches from John Bridges 724 625 9348

* - Tormek Supergrind 2000. This package includes the starter set-up, the complete turners package and a knife jig. The wheel is worn to about 8-1/2 inches in diameter. Wheels are 10 inches when new and require replacement when they get to 7 inches. Replacement wheels are \$129.

If you want more information on new Tormeks visit www.SharpToolsUSA.com. The various package options are basically still the same.

The cost for this set-up was \$625 when new. I will now sell it for \$300. Craig Smith - 412-996-5666 or craig@no-wood-untuned.com



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The Anonymous Wall of Fame:

by David Beringer

First, I want to thank you, the members, for your support of Turners Anonymous this year, and especially for the wonderful support and attendance at our March meeting. The number of very positive comments received on the Alan Lacer Demo was truly greatly appreciated by me and the rest of the board.

I think however as another year of club activity winds down it is important to call to your attention some people and organizations that help make Turner's Anonymous the group it is. None of them has sought recognition for the services rendered to the club. I also know that every member joins me in saying "**Thank You**" to:-

Our friends at the Woodcraft store located at the Pointe at North Fayette: We have received a number of donated door prizes from them over the last two years. Last year, we received a Supernova Chuck and jaws and this year we received the Beal Buffing System given away at the Christmas meeting and an 8 piece Sorby Turning set which was raffled off at the last meeting. All club members have the added benefit of receiving 10% off hand tools purchased simply by showing their current membership card. This store, which is a privately owned franchise, has never turned us down nor have they ever asked for any recognition for their efforts. We can thank them by keeping their store in mind when our tool purchases are made.

Craig Smith our energetic president who is also our Webmaster: I mention Craig not for the wonderful job he does as President but for a service that most of you are unaware of. Craig's company Magic Shirt donates the website space, time and skills to make our website a really enjoyable place. Yes Virginia, website design, maintenance and space cost money, usually \$30-\$50 a month. Craig has recently founded Magic Shirt to do web design and website management for small businesses and artisans. Check out his business site by clicking on the Magic Shirt logo at the bottom of the Turners Anonymous homepage.

Max Peterson who makes his living at what many of us see as our hobby; woodturning and woodworking. Max always has his shop ready for our meetings. He never fails to make us feel at home and spends many hours before each meeting cleaning up his shop and putting away his business so we can hold our meeting. Just think of what it would cost to rent a hall or shop for 4-5 hours. Max graciously shuts down his business on our meeting days and donates his space, utilities, machinery and of course his valuable know-how for our benefit.

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The Society for Contemporary Crafts: Have graciously provided their facility and resources in hosting 3 Saturday meetings this year and 2 week-night sessions to turn tops. They promote woodturning not only by helping our group but also by hosting turning classes for various skill levels. TA club members teach most of these classes.

Letters to the Editor.

A note of appreciation received from **Sam Entwistle** thanking **Jack Brown** for opening his shop to a group of would-be Pen Turners on March 30th. They enjoyed a demonstration by Jack of how he turns pens plus a talk on where and how he obtains the necessary supplies for this particular branch of the wood turning craft.

Editor's Note! I get the impression that they really did go there to learn how to turn pens and not just for the delicious coffee and cookies prepared by Diane.

Appearances.

We have been invited to demonstrate wood turning at the **3 Rivers Art Festival on June 4,5 &6th**. Watch out for further details and meanwhile mark you calendar to volunteer to man the stand or demonstrate.

We will also be participating at the **Fair-In-The-Park**