

TURNERS ANONYMOUS

An Association of Wood Turners in Western Pennsylvania

NEWSLETTER

No 81

DECEMBER 2004

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NEXT MEETING:

Saturday, 18th December

**Location: Center for Contemporary Arts
2100 Smallman Street in the Strip District**

Time: 10.00 am. Coffee & Donuts from 9.30

Show and Tell – We would like to have an instant gallery at our December meeting. Please bring 1 to 3 pieces that you would like to show to other members. (Note that these pieces are not for donation, they are simply to display to your fellow wood turners). We will have blank placards available so that you can label your pieces, and if you want to ask a member something about a piece they made, you will know who made it.

We will also be collecting tops for donation to Children's Hospital. The more tops you bring, the more chances you will have to win prizes. Speaking of the prizes... Like last year, we plan to have a terrific drawing at our December meeting. We will have a number of excellent prizes. Dan Brown from Rockler Hardware will be making a donation to the prize pool. Also, the club will be providing two Ellsworth Signature bowl gouges. There will be many additional prizes as well. Entries to the drawing will be awarded as follows:

- 1) One ticket will be awarded for attending
- 2) One ticket will be awarded for each piece you bring to display at the show and tell
- 3) One ticket will be awarded for each ornament you donated for the Society last month (honor system tally)

One ticket will be awarded for each top that you donate

In addition to the Show and Tell, we will have an assortment of chucks on display. For those of you shopping for chucks, this will provide an opportunity to view several types and compare them up close.

Also, we will have some lathes running. While we won't have any specific programs, you can bring any technique questions or issues.

Finally, if all goes well, there will be a draft version of our updated by-laws available for review at the December meeting.

LAST MEETING.

This was held at Max Peterson's shop with a slightly different format. Three lathes were up and running with Craig, Dave and Doug demonstrating their different ways of making Christmas ornaments. Members were able to watch each in turn, ask questions and more importantly, find answers! In between there was much discussion and friendly chat plus questions and answers regarding the usual display of turned items in the Show and Tell..

DUES ARE DUE!

Dave Beringer is ready, able and willing to accept your cash or cheque made out to Turners Anonymous for the 2004-2005 season. Please arrange to pay him the \$20 before the first of January. We just might give you a short period of grace before cutting you out from our Mailing List or denying you sugar and cream with our coffee! But, don't count on it!

Simple Christmas Presents

Here's an idea for some quick last minute gifts you can turn. Collect some empty glass jars with screw fitting lids and look through your scrap box for some interesting offcuts. Select some pieces and cut squares with sides about 1" longer than the diameter of a chosen jar lid. Alternatively you can glue up blocks using differently coloured woods.

I then mount them on my 4-Jaw Chuck, but you may prefer to glue them to a waste block attached by your favourite method to the Head stock. Turn a recess to suit the lid in question, sand and apply finish to what will be the bottom of the lid before you remove it from the lathe.

This recess must then be used with expanding jaws or a tenon on a waste block to turn the top of the wooden lid. Sand, apply finish, glue the original lid in your new, wooden, one and Hey Presto! You have an attractive container for colourful candies, dried beans or whatever might tickle the fancy of your friend. If you can find a jar with a plastic lid you might fill the finished container with vinegar and herbs. I'll have a few samples at the meeting on Saturday to illustrate the project in case you'uns ain't followed the procedure.

To adhere the wooden cover for the original lid I use a small tube of "Liquid Nails" being careful to control the amount applied and not to let it squeeze out when I apply pressure to force the two pieces together..

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Hosanah Industries Inc,

Is a Non Profit Charity organisation that does a lot of good work. They also could provide a way of disposing of your surplus turnings. You could donate them to this worthy cause or earn just a little wampum.

They are located at 109, Rinard Lane, Rochester PA 15074. Call Teresa at 724 777 0262 if you want more details. They have a gallery and accept craft items as donations or on consignment taking a 20% commission on any that are sold. .

A Message from AAW

I recommend that all woodturners who consider themselves to be "Professional", or aspire to become "Professional", become AAW members and enter their information in the new AAW Professional Outreach Program (POP), a new web based information system that has been created. In order for you to be included in this program or to be included on the AAW web site as a demonstrator, you need to fill out a short questionnaire that can be opened by clicking on

<http://www.woodturner.org/community/members/signup.pl>

If it does not open, cut and paste this link into your browser.

The information that you will give will help to establish a database to promote the interests of the professional members of the woodturning community and, thus, promote turned wood art as a collectable art form. All data will be used to support professional turners, craft store and gallery owners/managers, teachers, scholars, writers involved with woodturning, and collectors of turned wood art. In order to be included in the AAW Professional Outreach Program, one has to be a member of the American Association of Woodturners <http://www.woodturner.org/org/mbrship/>.

When you open the questionnaire, be sure to fill it out completely. Check any boxes that apply to you. If you are a demonstrator, be sure to click on the "Demonstrator" box and fully describe your demonstration specialty. At the end of the form, click "Submit". A screen will appear showing what you have entered. If it is correct, click "Save" and it will automatically be sent to the AAW for inclusion in the list of professional turners, craft store and gallery owners/managers, teachers, scholars, writers involved with woodturning, and collectors of turned wood art. Only those completing this form will be shown as professionals on the AAW web site and in the AAW Directory.

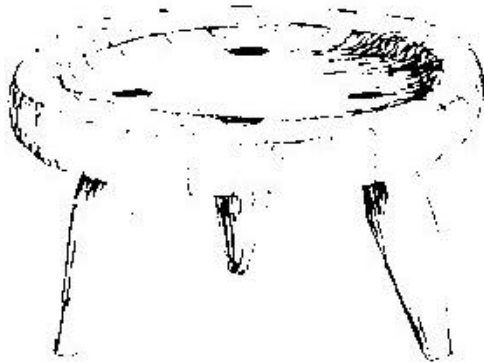
If you have any trouble or questions, please contact John Hill at 828-645-6633 or johnrhill@charter.net

Make A Welsh Milking Stool

(Bore da genethod a bechgyn, mae mam eisio dwy botel o lefrith heddiw)

OK! OK! I know you don't get up at 4 am each morning to milk the cows and probably don't even own a cow, but if you don't know whether you want to use a Face Plate or turn between centers, here is a simple project that involves both methods of holding the wood.

You will need a disc of hardwood 12" diameter and 2" thick plus three 12" long pieces 2" x 2". The holes for the legs will be drilled at about a 75° and the legs will be held in place by wedges driven into slots sawn in the top of the legs. Make sure that these are positioned across the grain of the top and not along the grain to avoid the risk of splitting that top that you so carefully turned sanded and finished.



I have heard that in old Welsh farmhouses the table was sometimes like an overgrown milking stool with a thick round top and three legs. Bowls were said to be carved into the top at each place "setting" to be filled with the traditional stew, "Lobscows" constantly added to in its cast iron pot hanging over the kitchen stove

Nadolig Llawen!

***And a Happy New Year to
all of you***

Yet Another Chance to Win a Lathe!

During the Orlando AAW Symposium, Delta International Machinery donated two new Delta X5 full size Model 46-756 lathes valued at \$2250 each. They were used as demo lathes during the Symposium. Your chapter can win one of these lathes. The AAW Board of Directors has decided that as an added bonus for our members, that one lathe will be awarded to an individual who either renews his/her AAW membership or joins the AAW between September 1, 2004 and January 15, 2005. The winner will be selected by a random drawing from a pool of members joining or renewing during this period. The winner will be called and asked the name of his/her chapter. That chapter will win the other lathe. That could be your chapter

What's in a Name?

Jack Brown was recently in Atlantic City where he saw workmen repairing the Boardwalk. Like any good wood turner he asked for a few offcuts and was told they were "African Blue Gum". Jack wondered if they were pulling his leg with that name. He turned some ornaments which you will be able to see at the next meeting. The botanical name is probably *Eucalyptus saligna*

Blue Gum is an Australian tree and it is the leaves that give it its name. The wood is heavy weighing about 50 – 55 lbs/Cub.Ft and tending to show a reddish colour. The tree splits as soon as felled but can be sawn and kiln dried without too much problem and then remains fairly stable.

It has been widely planted in plantations in Africa and South America and Jack's samples probably come from one of the African plantations. There are about 400 species of Eucalyptus and many have hybridised. The carvings of lions and other animals from Kenya in gift shops around the world are carved by members of the Wakamba tribe. They use another species, *Eucalyptus Microcorys*, which has a more yellow colour. These were planted on the hill tops, to prevent erosion back in the 1930's.

For Sale:

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

Cherry, Oak, Sassafras and Walnut Boards or Turning blanks from John Bridges 724 625 9348

Christmas Gifts.

Here is an idea for simple and quick gifts you can make and will use up those small offcuts of special woods that you couldn't bear to throw away.

First you will need to select, save and clean some empty glass jars with screw fitting lids. Then you will prepare some wood blanks that will be perhaps a square or disc about 1" bigger in diameter than the jar lid you have selected. These may be solid or glued up from different width strips perhaps about 3/4" wide.

I use a four jaw chuck to mount these on the lathe but you may prefer other methods such as gluing them to a waste block. Face off what will become the bottom of the lid and turn a recess to fit the chosen lid. Before removing it, sand and finish what will be the underside of the lid.

When dry remove your lid-to-be and re mount it either using expanding jaws in the recess or forming a tenon on a waste block to fit this recess. Use your imagination as to whether to just round the top, cut grooves, use a chatter tool before applying a chosen finish.

The wooden cover for the original lid can then be glued in place ("Liquid Nails" seems to work quite well)

The jar can then be filled with colourful Candies or nuts. Or, maybe if it's a large jar, a cook in the family would use it for dry beans or other supplies. Another idea is to use it for special vinegars, but the original jar lid should in this case be plastic and not metal. Part fill the jar with cheap apple cider vinegar and add herbs to produce an epicurean delight.

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A Point to Remember. When you sharpen a pencil with a pocket knife or chisel you automatically go from the large diameter down to the lead. Remember this when you are turning a spindle, always cut down from the larger diameter to the smaller and think what would happen if you tried to sharpen that pencil the other way.

C.A. Glue.

Craig has ordered a new supply which will hopefully arrive before the next meeting and be available for purchase by any member wanting to glue cracks in the wood or apply as a finish. The club takes no responsibility to separate any fingers that you might glue one to the other.

C. D.'s will be on sale at the next and future meetings containing all the pictures and Newsletters that are now posted on the club's Website. These are offered to club members at \$10 each with all proceeds going to the club funds. If you don't have internet access, this is your chance to review and rave over all the wonderful turnings produced by club members.

A New Year's Resolution.

This is just a suggestion from your editor. Tie a knot in your handkerchief and promise to send a contribution each month for inclusion in the newsletters. This may be notes on a turning course you have attended, where you bought that special tool, how you solved a problem to make a special cut or ??????

Any contributions are welcome camera ready or rough pencilled idea on a scrap of paper. I just ain't fussy

Turning and Wood Density.

The grain of light woods tends to tear out unless the turning tools are really sharp. Heavy woods are often difficult to turn unless the tools are really sharp. Answer. Always use sharp tools and keep them sharp. Brute force is not the answer!

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