

TURNERS ANONYMOUS

An Association of Wood Turners in Western Pennsylvania
NEWSLETTER

No 101

December 2006

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MEETING NOTICE

NOTE:

The December meeting will be at the Society for Contemporary Craft. **Spouses are welcome.**

Meeting Date: December 16, 2006

Meeting Location: Society for Contemporary Craft

Meeting Time: 9:30 AM for socializing
Meeting Starts at 10.

Meeting Topic:

As in past years we get a chance in December to enjoy the fruits of one another's labor. Please make this meeting successful by bringing in some of your latest work for all to enjoy. Please see Nick Bodnar when you arrive to register your pieces so other members can ask questions and pick your brain for tips. As in past year the atmosphere will be festive with coffee and Christmas cookies to snack on. **Feel free to bring cookies to share.**

END OF ANOTHER YEAR

I don't know how you feel but it seems to me that time goes by at a whopping 3600 rpm. It's like there is about 1 week rest between meetings. Yeah, it's that time of the year when some people make resolutions that last a week or two. I would like to propose that we all take stock of our turning talents. What skills do you want to add to or hone in your turning arsenal by this time next year. One thing I am convinced of is that there are no

miracle tools being sold. I have collected enough tools over the years to attest to that. There is no substitute for practice. My question is how can Turners Anonymous help you in adding these skills? I personally want to concentrate on hollow forms over the next year. I am interested in developing a better eye regarding shape and form. I look forward to David Ellsworth's Demo in March. What about you? Do you have ideas for ways TA can help you? I would be interested in talking to you in person or by e-mail. Maybe we can help. Our club has a great number of resources available. Happy Holidays.

--contributed by Dave Beringer

BOWLS FOR RETIREES

Hello to all our turners out there. As some of you are aware I am chairing a committee to make bowls for some folks at three local retirement homes. I need over 20 Bowls to be turned for this project. Right now I have pledges from some of you for 17 Bowls. I need some more however. Please try to bring at least one bowl to the December meeting. Before the week of Christmas I will fill the bowls with candy and wrap them up for delivery before Christmas. The recipients are patients that have little or no family at all. All of us on the Board of Directors felt this was a really good project for the club to be involved in. So bring a Bowl to the December meeting and put a big smile on someone's face this Holiday Season. Best Wishes for A wonderful Holiday

--Contributed by Rich Evans

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THANKS TO JOHN BRIDGES

After writing and editing 100 newsletters for our club, John Bridges has decided to take a well deserved break. Please express your appreciation and gratitude to John for all his tireless work.

DAVID ELLSWORTH DEMONSTRATION

David Ellsworth will be returning on March 17th after an absence of 9 years. This will be your chance to see the wonderful work of this master turner and demonstrator. Space will be limited and is already filling up so apply now to reserve your spot. Tickets are \$20 now or \$30 at the door (if there are any tickets left).

DUES ARE DUE

Annual dues of \$20.00 are due prior to January 1, 2007. Please make checks payable to "Turners Anonymous".

NOVEMBER MEETING REPORT: BILL GRUMBINE

Our November meeting was by all accounts a very successful event. I am sure Nick Bodnar, winner of the Fein Drill donated by Woodcraft, would agree. Kudos go out to Ted Owen for bringing Bill Grumbine to our club. Kudos also to Joe Rostas for the great job of handling the video equipment, allowing the event to be viewed in great detail even from the back of the room. Bill entertained us all with his turning talents and quick wit. It's not easy to get by Bill, either physically or verbally. His approach to turning is simple. He uses very few tools and easy to understand methods. I personally paid particular attention when Bill discussed the shape/form of the outside of the Bowl. After roughing out the shape he marked with a parting tool the top of the bowl below the pith. He then proceeded to shape his tenon

on the bottom. Doing so disturbed his flowing curve which he solved by re-blending from the bottom to the newly marked rim. Bill demonstrated a rough out of a wet bowl left thick enough to be returned when dried; a finished unsanded natural edge bowl and a winged bowl. The winged bowl was designed to look as though a bowl had been pushed through a rectangular board. The thickness of the board matched the thickness and height of the projected rim. Bill said he found these proportions most pleasing to his eye and his customers. Both of Bill's videos are available in our video library and you will find his presentation and information mirror his demonstration.



Our guest demonstrator from November **Bill Grumbine** in action. You can't see the tool in this picture but I can assure you that Bill has the gouge tucked up against his "Turning Muscle".

--contributed by Dave Beringer

MEET THE NEW EDITOR

With much fear and trepidation, Ralph Sprang assumes the role of newsletter editor with this issue. John has "set the bar" very high and will be a tough act to follow, but I shall do my best.

I thought you might like to know a little more about me. I started woodturning in high school, back in 1975. Like many of us, my first experience was scraping a straight sided wood bowl with a dull scraper in the school

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shop. The lathe has always fascinated me, and in 1982 I got my first “real” lathe and began turning bed posts and other turnings for the local Austin Hardwoods.

When the AAW started up, I eagerly joined and have been a member ever since. I helped start chapters in Washington DC, Dayton Ohio, and Cincinnati Ohio. Some of you may be familiar with the “Tri-State Woodturners” club, now known as the “Ohio Valley Woodturners Guild”. The club had 7 members back in 1990 when I joined and now has grown into the hundreds. When I served that club as vice president and program chairperson, I arranged club contests where everyone who entered received a prize. These contests really boosted the skill level of the members – the competition to win the best prizes motivated the members to improve their skills. Those contests raised enough funds that the club was able to buy a lathe and start a fund to acquire a permanent location.

My current turning interests are ornamental turning and spindle turning. As an engineer, I’m particularly fascinated by ornamental turning and enjoy developing equipment and modifications to do this work on conventional lathes. I do primarily spindle turning – I still do the occasional bedpost, but mostly do ornaments, boxes, and other small objects.

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

One important difference to note between John and I is that John contributed content as well as serving as editor. While I may publish my own content at times, as editor I will be much more dependent on YOUR contributions to provide content for the newsletter. Thanks in advance for all the wonderful articles you will contribute.

This newsletter is YOUR newsletter – I’m just the editor. Please submit your article, thoughts, ideas, photographs, and other items of interest to our club. It would be helpful if you could submit contributions as follows whenever possible:

1. Submit articles by email to woodturner9@yahoo.com
2. Please type in your article without any carriage returns.
3. Unless otherwise directed, all submissions will be attributed to the author.
4. Newsletter deadline is the first Wednesday of each month.

A CHRISTMAS STORY

The TA Christmas Story is just a little different from the original. We do believe in generosity, well being and fun with our friends. Generosity this begins with Rockler of Cranberry and they not only give us all 10% off our purchase just for being a member but this year they have given us a mini lathe for our holiday raffle. We are also generous, as we will be adding a \$50 cash prize to the raffle. Other prizes will be gift certificates from Packard Woodworks Inc. and Craft Supplies. To this long list of prizes, we will add three nice pieces of wood to be crafted using your special talents. In past years we have given a ticket for each top and car that you make as a gift for the children. This year we will give three tickets for turning tops and cars, so if you turn twenty tops and twenty cars, and we hope that you will, you will receive three tickets for tops and three tickets for cars. That way the members that are just starting and can only manage one top and one car will also get three tickets for each and have the same chance to win one of the nice prizes. Please remember we need bowls, so if you turn a bowl or three, or four, you will also get three

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tickets for your help with our bowl project. In addition, if that's not enough, we will give everyone a ticket just for coming to the Christmas Party. As always more raffle tickets will be available for the same low price of \$1 each or 6 for \$5 and, in the spirit of Christmas, please consider buying 12 tickets for just \$10. Dave did last meeting and won the \$50 prize.

--Contributed by Bill Hayes

VENDOR DISCOUNTS:

di legno Woodshop Supply

1452 Fleming Avenue

McKees Rocks, PA 15136

1-877-208-4298

Discount varies by item, generally 10%

Rockler

7402 McKnight Road (location)

412-364-7751

10 % except on Sales items

Woodcraft

The Pointe at North Fayette (location)

620 Chauvet Drive

Pittsburgh, PA 15275

412-494-9663

Discount 10 %

Harbor Freight Tools

639A Clairton Blvd.

Pittsburgh, PA 15236

(412)650-9691

10 % discount not combinable with other coupons

Klingspor

www.woodworkingshop.com

1-800-228-0000

10 % except on power tools and sale items.

You must set up a customer number and password

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EDITORS NOTE: The following article was inadvertently omitted from the December 2006 newsletter. I'd like to sincerely apologize to Jack Brown for this omission. -- RS

JACK BROWN RETURNS TO HIGH SCHOOL

During my demonstration for Rockler Woodworking and Hardware's North Hills store on November 11, I was given the name of a contact from the Mars Area Senior High School who was interested in talking to me about doing a demonstration for the wood working classes at the School. After meeting with the teacher, it was agreed that I would demonstrate for five classes on Monday, December 4, 2006.

So, after 53 years, I returned to High School and to what turned out to be a very interesting day. All the students (or almost all) seemed to be very enthused with what they learned. The demonstration was spin tops and a one-piece ornament, both with color and chatter. The school has two old Delta lathes and has just recently purchased two Delta midi-lathes. The teacher was also very enthused with the sessions and wants to try to keep woodworking alive in the schools. He has asked me to return at a later date to demonstrate other items.

– contributed by Jack Brown