

TURNERS ANONYMOUS

An Association of Wood Turners in Western Pennsylvania

NEWSLETTER

No 111

December 2007

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December Meeting: Christmas Festivities

Location: Society for Contemporary Craft

Date: Saturday December 15, 2007

Time: Doors open 9:30 am

As has become tradition our Christmas Meeting is all about fun. We will have a few lathes available to help provide tips and instruction. The feature however will be YOU!!! Your work will be center stage. Be sure to fill out a card that tells everyone who turned it, what wood(s) was used and a title if you have one. A few pieces will be picked to be discussed in a little more detail. If you see something you like be sure to tell the maker. The idea is to enjoy and maybe even pick up a few ideas by observing and asking some questions. Please bring in your work. Hopefully some of you will carry on the holiday themes presented by Bill Hayes last month. Enjoy the christmas cookies and feel free to bring some you have baked with you. Spouses are always welcome. See you there. Let me take this opportunity to wish each of you and your families a safe and Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from the entire Board of Directors. May your Christmas stocking be full of all the turning tools and equipment that your heart desires.

November Meeting: The Christmas Ornaments of Bill Hayes

November's meeting took place at Max's woodshop, and by the attendance most of you were there to see Bill's demo (over 60 members and guests). Bill did a fantastic job. He was very organized and covered a lot of material from turning to painting. He even



provided some facts on glitter. Bill started by dipping



a previously turned outer piece. He quickly changed lacquer for colored acrylics and painted 3 different inserts, a snowman, an angel complete with wings and a Christmas tree topped by a tiny angel. Bill roughs

up the tree with the tip of his gouge to provide some bushy branch detail. Bill kept the demo moving by next talking about how he creates the outside piece, where he drills and how deep he drills. The piece according to Bill must be very square so that the window drill holes are aligned to one another. He also mentioned that he only drills into the middle and not always through. He noted that his favorite wood to use for ornaments is cherry because his brother-in-law provided it to him for free. He also made it clear his brother-in-law's sawing techniques were responsible for the size of his ornaments (kind of hard to add length to a cut board).



Bill demonstrated he can actually turn by turning the outside of the ornament and because of the drill holes he dazzled those in attendance with his hollowing techniques using the Bill Hayes special hollowing tool and round a nose scraper. Bill used a piece of wooden dowel with a saw kerf in the end in which he inserts sand paper. He inserts the dowel in the piece,

mounts the sand paper and turns on the lathe. The sand paper wraps around the dowel rod and sands the inside of the ornament. Pretty slick I must admit. Bill passed on a few jokes to those in attendance and finished by turning one of the inserts (the tree) and the icicle bottom. He also talked through how he fits the insert in the outer shell. Bill provided a number of copies of a handout with a more extensive description of his techniques. He indicated he can make available more for those interested.



Christmas Tops and Bowl/Platter Drive

As mentioned in November's newsletter we will be collecting both tops and bowls/platters at the Christmas meeting. Many thanks to Jack Brown for providing the top blanks and opening his shop for a late November hands on. Please don't forget your tops and bowls when you come to the Christmas meeting. We will be collecting them at that time. As mentioned all those who participate will be eligible for the special prize that has been donated by our friends at Rockler on McKnight Road. They have kindly provided a Crown Pro-PM 3/8" bowl gouge. The only way to be eligible for this prize is to donate tops and /or a bowl (hopefully both). I am always amazed at your response to these charitable endeavors.

From Rich Evans Bowl Drive Chairman: As you already know the Board of Directors at the November board meeting have once again decided to have a Christmas bowl program for the three retirement homes that the club donated to at Christmas 2006.

We are asking any club members to turn at least one bowl for this most worthy cause. Please make the bowl at least four inches in diameter and deep enough to hold some candy for one patient. Remember that these will go to patients that have little or no contact with family members during the holidays. I know how happy the activity directors were when I presented the bowls filled with candy to them last year. We had an outstanding level of participation by members last year; please help in making this a success for 2007. I'm requesting that you bring the bowls to the December meeting. Before the Christmas holiday I will see that the bowls are filled with candy and have some type of decoration on them. See you at the December meeting!

Auction of Jimmy Clewes Demonstration Pieces

Four pieces that were turned by Jimmy Clewes during his October demonstration are being offered for auction to raise money for the club. The pieces will be on display at the Christmas party on December 15. The pieces will be distributed via a silent auction. To bid on these pieces, simply bid on the sheet that is associated with the appropriate pieces. We ask that you bid in increments of \$5 or more.

The four pieces up for bid include 1) a walnut oriental style box, 2) a walnut Arabic style box, 3) a maple long-stemmed goblet, and 4) a dyed and gilded platter. Each of the pieces is signed with "Jimmy Clewes", "Demo", and "07".

Each of the pieces will be sold to the highest bid – that is, there is no reserve.

The pieces will be awarded at the January meeting, so please plan to pay for and pick up the pieces at the January meeting. If you are interested in a piece and cannot attend the January meeting, please make arrangements with Craig Smith or someone else to note your maximum bid and arrange to receive your piece. (Submitted by Craig Smith)

Treasurer's Update

I haven't given a Treasurer's Report to the group in some time, so here's an update. This past year has been a very successful one financially for Turners Anonymous, Inc. Treasury goals set by the Board of Directors have been met, some well ahead of schedule. One of those was to build a treasury above \$5,000, to cover any unanticipated emergency, and

we surpassed that amount this past month. With the treasury now over that threshold level, we can now focus our attention on other projects.

Much of the increase in funding is due to the efforts of Bill Hayes. All of you are aware of the great job Bill does with the raffle, but did you know our raffle contests, including the special Holiday Raffle, have netted over \$2,200 in the past year? Some of these earnings are being set aside specifically to replace our aging turning equipment. The remainder helped achieve the \$5,000 emergency fund.

The Board is very mindful of not requesting funding from the membership more than absolutely necessary. So pricing for special events is projected, as best we are able, on a break-even basis. For example, the fees to attend our two big-name turning programs each year, such as 2007's David Ellsworth and Jimmy Clewes, usually net close to zero, perhaps \$100-200 on the plus side. Craig Smith and Dave Beringer do an excellent job of estimating and minimizing expenses for these programs, and gaining a good understanding of the costs means being able to keep attendance fees to a minimum.

Outside sources of funding are just starting to come online. The Shadyside Hospital consignment program, created by Tim Janeway, went better than anticipated, with most pieces donated by our membership selling quickly. The more funding we can gather from such outside sources, the less we need from our members.

And we are about to submit a grant application to the American Association of Woodturners, of which Turners Anonymous, Inc., is a chapter, for purchase of a large lathe and accessories.

Thanks to our healthy financial condition, 2008 membership dues will remain at only \$20, the same they've been since I became a member four years ago. It is difficult to imagine a better bargain than paying only \$20 for all the information, education, charity opportunities, purchase discounts, and social fun we enjoy each year. Dues are not actually...uh...due...until January 1, as our organization operates on a calendar year. However we started accepting them during the November meeting, and already 42 members have paid for the coming year. If you can pay dues during the December

meeting, we will be able to get your membership card to you more quickly, probably at the January meeting. The card evidences that you qualify for purchase discounts at participating area merchants. To pay your dues, please see me during a meeting or send a check payable to Turners Anonymous, Inc., to:

Turners Anonymous, Inc.
c/o Ted Owen
7021 Oak Park Drive,
Gibsonia, Pa 15044

Congratulations to everyone for making 2007 such a successful year. With the help of our active membership and the guidance from our Board of Directors, I am fully confident 2008 will bring even greater success and charitable accomplishment. (Submitted by Ted Owen, Treasurer)

Future Programs

Some of you might be wondering what programs we might be planning to follow up on the terrific presentation by Jimmy Clewes. Well the suspense is over. We are extremely fortunate to have been able to book Al Stirt for our major spring demonstration. Among other appearances this year, Al presented at the AAW, at SWAT, and at the West Coast Roundup. In addition to teaching at his studio in Vermont, Al recently taught at Arrowmont, Anderson Ranch, John C. Campbell Folk School, and Canyon Studios. You can learn more about Al by visiting his website, <http://www.alstirt.com>.

Our weekend with Al will be held on April 19th (demonstration) and 20th (hands-on workshop), and most likely 21st (also workshop). Tickets for both the demonstration and the workshop will be going on sale at our January meeting. If you are interested in a workshop spot, please consider signing up early because our spots filled quickly with Jimmy Clewes. (Submitted by Craig Smith, Program Chairman)

Large pieces of Cherry

Ralph Sprang has generously made available to the club some huge pieces of cherry. The cherry logs are as large as 4 feet in diameter. Dave Beringer and Craig Smith will be looking to harvest some of this material. There is plenty available if you are interested in helping and in getting some large pieces

of cherry. Please contact Craig Smith if you are interested in participating.

Christmas Raffle

Yes the time is finally here to find out if you are the winner of our 1st Annual Christmas Raffle. The drawing will take place at the Christmas meeting. Bill Hayes deserves our thanks for making this event so successful. Thanks again to all of you that have purchased tickets for our Christmas raffle in response to our mailing. If you have not gotten tickets there will be some at our Christmas meeting. We now have collected almost \$900 as of 11-30-07. Even with our expenses we have almost \$700 net and tickets will be available up to the drawing. If there are any questions please feel free to call Bill Hayes 412-741-5150. Let's not forget our friends at Woodcraft in Robinson who have come through with the wonderful prize for our Christmas raffle.

Preliminary Reports from Shadyside Hospital Sale:

We are happy to announce another very successful event for Turners Anonymous. Although the final numbers are not yet available (they will be reported in more depth in January's newsletter) we are quite pleased with the results. Most of the pieces that were donated by our members have been sold and we have already been invited back by Shadyside Ladies Auxiliary for the same time next year. Thanks again Tim Janeway for a job well done and to all those who donated pieces.

We are still collecting pieces for future opportunities so please see Dave Beringer with your donations or list the items as a donation when you fill out the card for the instant gallery. The beauty of this idea is it allows TA to generate funds from outside our group. Please consider donating some of your work. Please sign, date and identify the wood used on each piece. When you bring in your pieces consider packing them in a box for transit by TA. The same box can then be provided to the buyer for safe transit to their home.

50/50

Bill is back after a month off (we gave Bill a break last month to demonstrate). We will still have our normal lucrative raffle with \$50 cash some gift certificate for special wood along with a good light for your lathe. Dave will also donate two tools he made using the Ellsworth tips for your next hollowing project.

Pen Turners Corner By Harold Poland Dying Pen Blanks with Food Coloring

Want to make some red and green pens for Christmas or maybe someone's school colors? You can use dyes or even food coloring to achieve some striking colors. Here are instructions for using food coloring to dye pen blanks.

First, use a wood that will allow the grain to show through. Some of the ones I have had success with are tiger maple, buckeye burl, lacewood, briar burl



and corncob. Cut and drill your blanks glue in the tubes and face the barrels as usual, mount and turn to size. Only

sand 600 grit. I tuned the lace wood blank below and sanded it to dye.



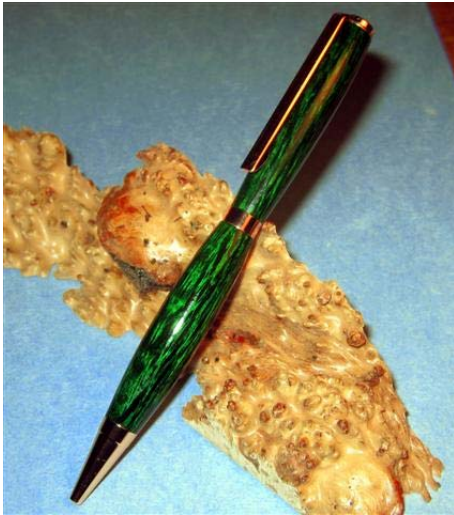
To the left is the brand of food coloring I use. It is available from sugar craft and is used by commercial bakeries

<http://sugarcraft.com> . Place only a few drops on a paper towel.

Apply the food coloring until the blank is a uniform color. Allow to dry for a few minutes then give it a light coat of boiled linseed oil.(see 1st picture below)

Then proceed with the boiled linseed oil and ca glue finish that I outlined in last month's newsletter

This is the finished pen (see second picture below).



Note from Editor

I had prepared an article on how Jimmy Clewes turns the inside of his bowls but again ran out of space this month. Please look for it in January, I promise. More content than room is a nice problem for the editor. Thanks to all of you who submitted information.

AAW News

Kip Christensen has informed the AAW that the Utah Symposium will no longer be held at Brigham Young University. In 2008 the Utah Symposium will be held at the Utah Valley State College, which is close to BYU, on May 22 - 24, 2008. This change in dates is important to the entire woodturning community because the dates no longer conflict with the AAW Richmond Symposium on June 20-22, 2008.

Attendees and demonstrators are now free to attend both Symposia instead of having to choose between one or the other.

The AAW has offered us 1 free 2008 Symposium ticket for every 5 members who become first time AAW members. This offer ends 12/31/2007, if you are interested contact Dave Beringer (412-414-9694). We will use any free symposium tickets as raffle prizes. The AAW magazine published quarterly

provides more than enough value to justify your membership, so please consider becoming a member.

Also note I have been informed by the AAW board that Banquet Tickets will be sold separately from all symposium tickets this year. Apparently there is not enough space to handle everyone at this year banquet, so if you plan on attending the symposium and banquet you may want to register early to ensure you get tickets to the banquet.

Board Meeting Schedule:

The Board and I invite all members who wish, to attend any or all of our board meetings. They are open to our members. If you wish to attend I would ask that you contact me no later than 2 days before the meeting so that I can make sure enough space is available. If you have an issue that you feel the board should address please call me to have that item added to the agenda. All meetings begin at 7:30 pm and are on the 1st Wednesday of each month:

January 2, 2008 at Kings Bridgeville
February 6, 2008 at Perkins Cranberry
March 5, 2008 at Kings Monroeville
April 2, 2008 at Kings Bridgeville
May 7, 2008 at Perkins Cranberry

Dave Beringer

Newsletter Ideas and Comments

Can be e-mailed to djibber@comcast.net or feel free to phone me at 412-414-9694.

For Sale:

Lathe Jet 1236 includes extra faceplate and set of tools \$300 call Gary Fournier 412-835-0589

Vendors who offer discounts to Turners Anonymous Members

di legno Woodshop

Supply

1452 Fleming Ave
McKees Rocks, PA 15136
1 877 208 4298

<http://www.dlws.com>

*discounts vary, but are
generally 10%*

Woodcraft

The Pointe at North
Fayette
620 Chauvet Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15275
412 494 9663

<http://www.woodcraft.com>

Discount 10%

Klingspor

1 800 228 0000

<http://www.woodworkingshop.com/>

*Discount 10% except on
power tools and sale
items. Must set up a
customer number and
password*

Rockler

7402 McKnight Road
412 364 7751

<http://www.rockler.com>

*10% discount except on
sale items*

Harbor Freight Tools

639A Clairton Blvd.
Pittsburgh, PA 15236
412 650 9691

*Discount 10%, cannot
be combined with other
coupons*