

TURNERS ANONYMOUS

An Association of Wood Turners in Western Pennsylvania

NEWSLETTER

No 83

February 2005

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NEXT MEETING:

**Saturday,
February 26th**

Location: Max Peterson's Workshop

Time: 10.00 am. Coffee & Donuts from 9.30

Demonstrator: **Doug Trembath** who will be showing how he turns hollow vessels with different orientations of the grain. He would like you to bring along any tools that you use for hollowing so that we can have a demonstration/discussion on the various types available.

SHOW AND TELL will be with the new format outlined in the January newsletter. Bring along you best, worst or most interesting work to energise, discourage or otherwise affect your fellow members. We are particularly keen to see some spheres that you many have turned as a result of wastching **Rita** at work during the last meeting

DIARY DATES:

March 5th **Linda VanGehuchten** will be demonstrating **Woodturning Bowls** at the Society for Contemporary Craft from 9 am – 4pm.

March 20th, Our next regular meeting when members who attended their weekend at the David Ellsworth School will relate their experiences.

April 9, 10 and 11th The RAY KEY programme. Watch for further details of the Internationally known turner's visit to Pittsburgh. Numbers will be limited. Send your \$15 to Dave Berringer NOW to reserve your place.

April 16th **Craig Smith** will bedemonstrating the processes from **Firewood to Finished Box**” at the Society for Contemporary Craft from 9 am –4m

April 30th. **Doug Trembath** is holding a workshop for experienced turners at the Society for

Contemporary Craft from 9 am – 4pm. The title will be **“Trouble shooting and Critiquing”**.

CLUB DUES.

It is now two months into the new year and you should have paid your contribution to **Dave Beringer** by now. If not, and you still wish to attend meetings, enjoy all that the club has to offer and please make a point to send him a cheque (payable to Turners anonymous) or give him the cash at the next meeting

Bereavement.

Our sympathies go out to Dave on learning that his mother has passed on. We all wish him well in this difficult period.

DEMONSTRATIONS.

Examination of our web site, reading the News Letters or attending meetings will show just how many opportunities are arising for us to see demonstrations by visiting experts.

However in between these we need *in-house* demonstrators from the ranks of our own membership. Have YOU thought about showing others how you do this or that? If you feel hesitant about standing up in front of the crowd then how about practicing in your own shop? Invite a couple, or small group, of turners living in your area to visit your shop one evening for a couple of hours. We can all benefit from watching others and seeing their shop. Let the motto for 2005 be to reciprocate and give.

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Notes after visiting New Zealand.

The magnificent scenery proves to be a magnet for artists and crafts persons from all over the world.

The quantity of galleries ensures that they can put exquisite works of art on display in many different media from Painting, Sculpture through Quilting to Wood Turning and Carving. Some are open air and others in conventional buildings located in towns or small villages visited by tourists, or remote studios where the artist is unfazed by the arrival of a coachload following directions given in a brochure which could be found in Motels and Information Centers. At the other end of the scale for sculptures selling for \$24,00 are the more humdrum but well finished bowls, bottle stoppers, dry flower vases etc available in most of the "touristy" shops selling postcards and woollen socks. Bowls are turned from native woods and sell for around \$40 and are often decorated with sea shell inserts or simple repetitive router cuts.

The Kauri trees are immense (with 5 friends we often couldn't join outstretched arms around them (a five nose tree?) They have straight branch-free trunks for some 80 feet up from the ground and then branch out to a mass of branches and leaves. Some of the turners are seeking out the tops left by the sawmillers and I saw some magnificent 48" diameter wall hangings turned from one of these crotches. Incidentally the tops of these trees are often host to heavy bunches of epiphytes commonly known as "Widow makers"!

I was in Auckland only at the time of holiday closings and was therefore unable to visit the home of New Zealand made Lathes, Chucks and accessories. However, I was able to use an old one recently acquired by a friend and demonstrate correct use of a skew, turning tops and mushrooms. Also had fun producing a bowl from a lump of English Yew that my cousin had taken out with him 30 years ago.

A Woodworkers saying from the days of yore.

"In glue and in dust we put our trust
If that won't do then putty we must"

Nowadays there are many other ways of hiding bad workmanship or, as we wood turners are won't to say "Hiding defects".

What Turns You On?

Some folks like to turn pens or Lace making bobbins whilst at the other end of the scale are those who enjoy producing large hollow "Works of Art" in which turning forms a small part of the whole procedure. My interest in sailing and sail boats means that I am constantly looking out for interesting turnings with a nautical flavour.

I visited a small country museum located in the, well I'll call it a town, of Takaka in the Golden Bay area of the South Island of New Zealand.

Like many small town museums, the volunteers had collected many varied and interesting items from local residents. The one that caught my attention is shown in the photo below. It was labelled "Rope Splicer" but I, and the curator, have no idea how it could be used for that purpose. Any Ideas anyone?

Of course that will be my next turning project to reproduce it. I was allowed to take it out of the case into the sunshine and laid it on 3 1/2" wide deck boards to get an idea of scale. The tapered "stick" fits in a tapered hole and has a flat along its length to leave it about 3/4 round. The saw cut goes half way through to provide a little "give" as the *stick* is driven tight. I surmise that it could be used to hold wire rope, but then that has not been in existence for all that period of time and in any case if the tool has two handles how can you splice with your toes or your tongue?

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The Lathe

Wood to
Turn.....
Good
Design.....
Known, Reputable Manufacturer....

Oil for Lubricating.....
A Headstock to hold the wood.....
A Tail Stock to keep the work
steady.....
...

A Tool Rest to support the
tools.....

Instructions on how to use it.....

Tools.....
.

Designs.....
.

Mass to keep the lathe still.....
Electricity to keep things turning....

A bed as a strong
foundation.....
Chucks and Face
plates.....

The Club.

Members to Turn
Practical By-Laws
Parent organisation behind the club

Coffee and Donuts
A President to hold the club
together
A Treasurer to keep the club on an
even keel

Active Membership supporting the
club

An Informative newsletter about
activities

Input from members

Programmes
Quantities of Active, fertile ideas
Membership participation

A Meeting Place
Board of Directors

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

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