

TURNERS ANONYMOUS

An Association of Wood Turners in Western Pennsylvania

NEWSLETTER

No 113

February 2008

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Meeting Location Change

The Board of Directors has decided as of the February Meeting to make The Society for Contemporary Craft our default meeting site. This means that unless otherwise stated our meetings will be held at the Society. The Board has been aware for some time that our growing club has reached the physical limits of Max's shop. Max supports our move and wanted to let us know that he will always welcome our club to his shop. In fact we have tentatively scheduled our May 2008 meeting to take place at Max's shop. That program is scheduled to be a green wood processing demonstration and will involve the use of a chain saw and therefore will require access to the outdoors. The goal of the Board is to provide you the members with the best possible meeting experience possible.

The Society offers a central location to our membership with adequate meeting space, parking and storage for our equipment. Another benefit of the Society is that we can offer post meeting workshop time. In the future we look to organize themed workshops based on that meeting's program. For a small donation we can provide our members with the ability to get some hands on experience of the ideas presented during the demonstration. This time can also be used as open workshop time to allow members to collaborate and work through turning issues. Members can also bring in problem pieces and get help with techniques that are causing them problems. The idea is to allow time and the use of the equipment at the Society to enable all of us to become better turners by sharing our skills and ideas.

As always the Board and I are interested in what you think we do well and areas you think need to be improved. Please feel free to contact me anytime.

Dave Beringer, Chairman

February Meeting: Vacuum Chucking

Location: Society for Contemporary Craft, Strip District 21st and Smallman

Date: Saturday February 16, 2008

Time: Doors open 9:30 am meeting to start 10:00 am

Our February program will be at the Society for Contemporary Craft in the Strip District. During this program, you will have the opportunity to observe, and even try, different forms of vacuum chucking. Various setups for vacuum chucking, both commercial and shop-made, will be available for you to see how others approach this useful function. All aspects of vacuum chucking are fair game for this workshop, including the pumps, integration with the lathe, and methods of attaching the work piece. The format for the meeting will be between a regular program and a show and tell. We plan to have a few short presentations on topics including a shop made set up and a shop made vacuum drum. We will then take some time to allow everyone to view the equipment up close, ask questions, and try out equipment. If you have vacuum chucking equipment or experience that you think would benefit the group, please either contact Craig Smith (craig@turnersanonymous.org or 412 996 5666) or just bring it to the meeting. Hopefully, this meeting will offer something for all who are interested in vacuum chucking to those who don't fully understand what it is to those experts who may just pick up a few tips. (Contributed by Craig Smith)

Open Shop Time after the Meeting

One of the advantages of holding our meetings at the Society for Contemporary Craft is that we will be able to hold some open shop time after meetings. There will not be any set topic after this month's meeting. However, we do plan to have some open time. In future months, we are planning to have workshop time that may be related to the topic of the meeting. Our plan is to offer this shop time as inexpensively as possible, however, we may ask for small donations to

help off-set the cost of using the facility. This month during the open shop time, we will again offer sharpening assistance for anyone who still is looking for some help. We will have the added benefit of being able to try our tools before and after the sharpening. We will also have some of the vacuum equipment still available, and will be able to just try and work through any general problems and questions about turning. Since this is a new idea, we still have to work out some details like whether to break for lunch. This month, we are going to try to work and not break, and we will see how it works. Hope to see you at this meeting! (Contributed by Craig Smith)

Thanks from the Vets Hospital

This is a very special thank you to all who contributed items for the Vets Hospital drive. We received over 50 items and all will be very much appreciated. The things made by members of Turners Anonymous are much different than the things donated by stores and are the things that make very nice gifts. Everyone involved in the program can't stop talking about how nice it is for the Vets to be able to get something that is hand made by a local artist. So once again thank you for all your hard work.

Sit Down Lathe Stand for Mini Lathe by Jack Brown



Sometimes in life we develop aches and pains that prevent us from standing at the lathe for any length of time - unfortunately I have reached that time. While reading a woodturning forum on the computer I read a post about a man that made a sit-down lathe stand for a handicapped person. Eventually I did find a picture of this stand but it did not fit my needs but did get my

inventive mind working. After running several ideas around in my mind (no drawings, I don't draw well) I did come up with a design that is working very well for me and, hopefully, will work for others. This project is not expensive and the materials can be purchased at your local lumber supply yard or big box store. Following is a photo with some measurements. You will notice in the photo I used casters on this one. This is not necessary if you don't need to move it around. I would suggest putting a 1/2" pad on each end of the foot so it will set evenly on the floor, plus you will need to add 4 more inches to the leg lengths. If you decide to use casters this will be the biggest expense of the project. They are double locking casters with one 1/2" hole for attaching and are very sturdy. I believe they can be purchased at Woodcraft or, I bought mine at castercity.com. I mentioned earlier the casters were the most expensive part; they run about \$60 to \$70 for the four. I don't recommend cheaper casters; they don't work well and in my mind are not safe for this project. You will notice I have used an angle iron to attach the table and stretcher but some other method could possibly be used. For bolting this together I have used 5/16 dia. carriage bolts except for the pivot bolt on each end of the table and they are 3/8 dia. carriage bolts.



You will notice the table is slightly tilted. I have tried several angles and have settled on a 22-1/2 deg. tilt. If you go more, the angle of the tool rest is too great when doing face work turning. The legs have several holes drilled vertically for attaching the table at a height to accommodate individual needs. With 1 - 2x10x10' and 1 - 2x6x10' you can get all the necessary pieces.

Windsor Chair Class

This summer, Craig Smith will be teaching a class on Windsor Chair making. The subject chair will be a Windsor bow back side chair. The class will be offered through the Society for Contemporary Craft and will take place the week of July 21st during the daytime. The total fee will be LESS THAN \$500. More details will be forthcoming as the class date becomes closer, but mark your calendar now! For more information, contact Craig Smith (craig@no-wood-untuned.com or 412 996 5666) or Laura Rundell (thestudio@contemporarycraft.org or 412 261 7003)

Monthly Raffle

Once again this February we will have our lucrative raffle with \$50 cash. It's a new year and our friends from Packard Wood Works have sent gift certificates. They are always a good prize to win. To that we will add a gift certificate for special wood. This month we will have another angle drill, the one we all find so helpful for the big sanding jobs. We are able to offer this drill as a prize in our raffle through the generosity of Harbor Freight Tools, and they also give us a discount when we shop there. Please stop in when you are in the South Hills. We will also have a beautiful piece of cocobolo wood to make something you can be proud of.

Let's not forget our friends at Woodcraft in Robinson. They give us all a 10% discount for just being a member of Turners Anonymous. The other companies that also give us a 10% discount are Rockler in the North Hills, di legnoWoodshop Supply, Kingsport and Harbor Freight Tools. We look forward to seeing all of you at the February meeting at the Society for Contemporary Craft.

New Raffle

For all of you who don't know we are running a new raffle that is much different from our normal raffles. This idea came from Bob Zentner and I was the Guinea pig. Here is how it works. I turned a bowl and the members who wanted to have the bowl took a chance for \$1 and Dave Reiland won it. Now the fun begins Dave will turn something for the next meeting and we will all have a chance to win a piece of Dave's work. The lucky winner will be asked to turn something for the following meeting. In this way we will have an opportunity to get some of our other

members' work. It should be fun. The money will go in our general fund.

Christmas Bowl Project 2007

I would like to thank all the TA members who contributed bowls for our Nursing home project this year. It was a great success due to the participation of our members. The week before Christmas I delivered 28 bowls filled with candy to residents of two local nursing homes here in the South Hills. Both of the program directors were extremely happy by this gesture of our club. As I have said in the past all the bowls went to residents who have little or no family at all. During the holidays not everyone is blessed with someone who cares about them. Once again thanks to all of you for putting a smile on a senior citizen's face. Rich Evans

Instant Gallery



For the upcoming instant gallery in February we'd like to see one of your most recent projects, either bowl, box, or hollow vessel that you've created since our last meeting.

For the March gallery we'd like to stretch ourselves a little and try something new. For those of us who also belong to Western PA Woodworkers and were lucky enough to experience Ernie Conover's presentation on how to make Barley-twist candlesticks, we may have a small advantage. Not much though.

The Jan/Feb (issue no. 189) of Fine Woodworking magazine has a very detailed description of making these candlesticks on pages 96-100 with excellent illustrations. For those of you who don't subscribe to Fine Woodworking, but have access to the Internet, you can view this article online with FW's 14 day free trial. (www.Finewoodworking.com)

I'll also have a limited number of sketches at the February meeting, including the dimensions, so if you don't have either of the above resources you're welcome to take one and please join in the fun.

We're not looking for perfection, just a challenge to try something new, so bring your finished candlestick and any attempts that you made to get there, and we can talk amongst ourselves about it at the March meeting. Good Luck. (Contributed by Dave Reiland)

Pen Turners Corner

By Harold Poland

Segmented Pen and Matching Desk Set

This simple to make desk set makes an attractive display stand to show off your segmented pen. For the pen barrels, rip 2 pieces of cherry (or other light colored wood) to 3/4 inch wide by 1/4 inch thick. Rip 1 piece of walnut (or other dark colored wood) to the same size. Glue them together with the dark wood sandwiched in between the light wood.

I also place a strip of black veneer in between the laminations for added contrast. Cut the lamination into 2 pieces, glue a small piece of the black veneer to the ends of both pieces, then a piece of cherry to both ends of both pieces and trim to the needed length for the pen barrels. When finished your blank should look something like this:



Drill the blanks and insert the brass tubes. Be very careful to drill the exact center and be sure to drill straight; if you are off it will make the lamination look crooked.

Turn and finish the pen as usual.

Glue up a 2 1/4 inch cherry, walnut, cherry lamination about 3 inches long, and turn into a small lidded box (see picture). Make a small funnel shape for the pen holder, drill out the center with a step drill bit for a cone shaped hole, turn a 1/4 inch tenon on the end to fit in a hole you will drill in the stand.

For the stand, again repeat the lamination; plane or sand to a smooth finish. If desired you can add finishing touches with a router and a roman ogee or round over bit.

Finish with wipe on poly or a finish of your choice.

For the card holder, cut a 1/4 wide dado in a piece of cherry that is 3/4 square by 3 1/2 inches long, then round off the edges with a belt sander.

Sand and finish all pieces as desired, drill a 1/4 hole to accept the pen funnel, and glue the card holder in place. You can glue the bottom of the lidded box in place or drill a shallow hole in the stand with a forstner bit for the box to fit into.



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:

March 5, 2008 at Kings Monroeville

April 2, 2008 at Kings Bridgeville

May 7, 2008 at Perkins Cranberry

Dave Beringer, Chairman

Al Stirt TA's Spring Guest Demonstrator

Our featured program with Vermont wood turner, Al Stirt will be held on April 19 at the Society for Contemporary Craft. Al is a well-known teacher and demonstrator. In addition to our demonstration in

Pittsburgh, Al will be featured at this year's AAW symposium. Visit his web site, www.alstirt.com, to look at some of Al's work. If you purchase your tickets by our March 15 meeting, the ticket price will be \$25. The ticket price includes coffee, drinks, and lunch. Tickets after March 15 and at the door will be \$35. The Sunday and Monday hands-on demos on April 20 and 21 are now sold out. Ted is accepting waiting list signups for both days. If you are interested and we can generate enough support we can schedule Al for a third day of hands-on on Tuesday April 22.

Our member Tim Janeway, who took a weeklong class with Al a few years ago at Arrowmont, shares these thoughts and pictures.

You are going to like Al's Program in April. I spent a week at Arrowmont 2 years ago with him and I can tell you that he is a very talented turner doing beautiful innovative work. He also is very entertaining and a friendly person and a non-critical patient teacher. He was one of the founding members of the AAW and has his work in 16 museums and the permanent collection in the White House. Don't miss him, guys!

His program will include grain balancing to give a pleasing appearance in the bottom of the bowl. He will instruct you in the use of his home-made jig, which makes doing this relatively easy.

His platter work will feature texturing and the use of carving through milk paints. In both round and square platters there are extraordinary possibilities that he will show and you can do.

And the fluting! The fluting was why I took the Arrowmont course. You can admire some of my poor efforts below. In April you will see what the master can do! Don't miss it!!!



These pictures show fluting and bowl grain balancing that are a regular part of Al's repertoire.

Walnut Outing

At our January meeting I announced a planned trip to harvest a large walnut tree trunk that remained from a tree that Craig Smith, Bob Zentner and I felled late last November. The weather cooperated, the ground was frozen solid and no precipitation was called for, so on Saturday January 26, 2008 the group, who shall remain nameless in order to protect their wood stashes, met at 9:30 in the morning at a Sheetz outside of Connellsville, PA. The group of 9 worked together so that by 12:30 we were all on our way home. Each of us loaded down with as much walnut as we wanted and could haul. Everyone enjoyed the experience. No one worked too hard and most importantly no one was injured, a successful outing by any standards.

Cherry Outing

As announced a few meetings ago, we have been made aware by Ralph Sprang of an opportunity to get

our mitts on some rather large pieces of cherry. Craig Smith made a visit to the site and confirmed the logs were very large diameters. Craig showed me a picture he took on his cell phone with his hat sitting atop the diameter of one of the logs. They are huge. With that in mind Craig called an old friend of the club, Martin Stolpe. For those of you who don't know Martin, he is quite a character and also a wizard with a chain saw. Martin now lives in the Lancaster area. He has graciously agreed to lend his expertise and help us process these logs. Martin also has the equipment that will enable these logs to be processed efficiently and without the risk of scrapping much of the wood. We are in the process of scheduling this outing to take place on a Saturday between our February and March meetings. Since this is an outside event we will need the weather to cooperate. If you are interested in participating in the outing and getting your mitts on some cherry, please contact Dave Beringer (djbber@comcast.net) or Craig Smith (craig@turnersanonymous.org). This promises to be a fun, informative and profitable experience. Join us!!!

Wanted: A used mini lathe at a good price.

Call Bill Hayes 412-741-5150

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
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<http://www.rockler.com>

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Harbor Freight Tools

639A Clairton Blvd.
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412 650 9691

Discount 10%, cannot be combined with other coupons