

# TURNERS ANONYMOUS

An Association of Wood Turners in Western Pennsylvania

## NEWSLETTER

No 73

January 2004

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### **NEXT MEETING:**

**Saturday,**

**Location:** Max Peterson's Workshop

**Time:** 10.00 am. Coffee & Donuts from 9.30

Demonstration by Doug Trembath a new member and professional turner recently moved from California

*Let's make a bowl!*

*We'll take a tree section, and determine the best way to harvest the blank to show off the grain and figure. Next we'll demonstrate the rough cutting and rounding of the blank, and how to store the roughed-out blank for final turning after it's dry. We'll have a dried rough blank as well, which we'll use to turn a finished bowl showing the best techniques to avoid catches and other difficulties many turners experience. We'll touch on shapes, curves, rim treatments, sanding and finishing. The finished bowl will be donated to the club for auction at one of our fund-raising efforts.*

We will be holding our usual raffle and promise that the drawing of the winning numbers will be before 12.30. Money and other valuable prizes will be the reward for the winning tickets.

Your DUES became due on the 1<sup>st</sup> January. If you are one of those who haven't coughed up as yet please see Dave, our Treasurer at the next meeting or send the \$20 to him as soon as possible.

Yes! We agree that the Club is not a profit making organisation but it does need income in order to keep running, sending news letters, buying donuts and coffee, paying demonstrators fees etc etc.

**The Christmas Meeting** was held at the Center for Contemporary Arts when members enjoyed chatting and winning some of the fabulous prizes.

**Paul Gallick** walked away excitedly with the grand prize of a Mini Lathe. Some of the Center's lathes were whizzing round as members inspected the Christmas Ornaments on display. Since 40 sets of wood were handed out for the Challenge, it was a little disappointing that only 7 entries showed up, but this was possibly due to the splendid efforts made to produce tops, and tops there were, more than 300, which Craig Smith presented to The Children's Hospital

Thanks are due once again to **Gary Fournier** for his work behind the scenes, without him there would be no Coffee, no Donuts nor, at this meeting any Christmas Cookies.

If you do finish your challenge after indulging in all the Christmas goodies, why not bring it along to the January meeting? and let us see the results

### **FUTURE MEETINGS:**

**February** Shop Built Tools and Fixtures

**March** Alan Lacer

**APRIL** Building Skills

**MAY** Andi Wolfe

We wish you all the best for the coming year and to see you at future meetings. Keep the windows closed, keep healthy and remember the person who opened their window and in flew Enza.

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### PARTING AND SCRAPING.

One of the advantages of the recent flurry of top turning in different workshops was the opportunity to learn new wrinkles, see other members' shops and to note where methods could be improved.

Tops are small and involve repeated use of a Parting Tool. There are basically two types and if the one meant to be used as a Chisel is used as a Scraper its life will be short due to repeated sharpening.

The Chisel type Parting Tool should be used in the tangent position on top of the wood being turned, with the tool sloping up from the handle. The other type should be used on the diameter, with the handle and tool in the horizontal position.

If a chisel is used as a Scraper the cutting edge has little support and will quickly bend or crumble and need re-sharpening. With a scraper there is a lot of metal below the cutting edge to give support and thus avoid the need for excessively frequent sharpening.

These points are illustrated by the drawings on the other side of this page.

### ADDITIONAL MEETINGS

We want to hold small Additional Meetings from time to time in Members homes. These can range from tutored Learn-to-Turn sessions to advanced techniques with demonstrations and hands on practice. It is one thing to watch a demonstrator in action with never a mistake or catch and quite another to try it out in your shop and realise that you didn't quite grasp an important point.

Perhaps you want to learn to use a Thread Chaser, or make a hollow vessel. If so why not tell the committee that you would be willing to invite two? Three? half a dozen? members to watch one of our in house experts show you how to solve the problem.

These proposed sessions could take place on a weekday evening and thus suit members unable to attend our regular monthly Saturday morning meetings

### The February Challenge.

At the November meeting there was a lengthy and lively discussion on finishes, how to apply them and what they look like or do to the wood. Never let it be said that the Club does not react to members needs. We are asking members to sign a sheet at the January meeting indicating what finish they choose to use from our list (or a concoction of their own) to finish anything they like to turn, but each must be finished in a different way.

Then, at the February meeting we can examine all the different finishes and compare them. We did this to Oak Bowls a couple of years ago and the results were very interesting and educational.

To avoid presentation of excuses such as "I don't have any wood to turn" we will have lots of blanks on hand for distribution to make a goblet, platter, bowl or Easter egg. The choice is yours.

### **For Sale:**

SHOPSMITH with Lathe, Table Saw, Blades, Inserts and many extras. \$300 OR best Offer  
Contact: JOE CYNKAR  
724 794 9901

Kiln dried wood Hard and Soft woods from Steve Morovich before or after the meeting or call him at 412 341 1980

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

### *Editor.*

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## NEWSLETTER

### DEALING WITH DEFECTS.

Most Foresters think of the ideal tree as being one with a straight trunk moderately free of branches. Wood turners intentionally look for interesting grain produced by mother nature in the form of forked or bent branches, or scars resulting from storm or insect damage, fungal attack etc.

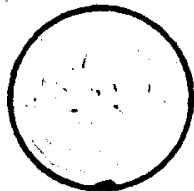
Crotches are formed when a trunk branches into two or more stems. These are prized by boat builders for the *Breasthook* that holds the planking together at the bow of a ship and by Cabinet makers for veneers or matched thin planks in cupboard doors. Care must be taken in the case of Cherry since the wind will often open up the crotch to produce a vertical split that over the years will fill with dark resin. This is weak in tension and will fly apart if spun on a lathe.

As we have learned from various books or lectures, wood shrinks differently in the radial, tangential and longitudinal directions. Therefore around a knot, or in a crotch where we have many distortions in the grain, we can expect a tendency to split and shake. For turners, the answer is to turn green to a rough shape, take out the center of a bowl blank as soon as possible to allow the wood to shrink towards the center and thus avoid excessive stresses and strains in the wood

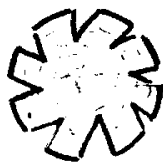
I expect you all recall that old schoolboy joke about when is a door not a door; similarly we are talking this month about when is a defect not a defect? A defect to a Forester may be an added attraction to a wood turner, however it should be born in mind that these features (freaks?) of nature do present possible problems and need for extra care, sharp tools and shallow cuts. Knots can fall out or prove to have a much harder texture than surrounding wood tissue. In the case of Birds Eye Maple it will be found very difficult to avoid a "tear out" of the tissue surrounding the eye.

If you are staining your finished turning it will be difficult to obtain an even colour on both the side grain and end grain as you look around the circumference of a bowl. But than perhaps you should ask yourself if you really do want an even colour all over to avoid the turning looking like a mass produced plastic object.

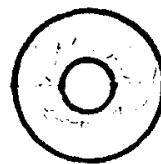
When selecting segments for a laminated bowl care should be taken to choose adjacent pieces that will have about the same shrinkage coefficient. This can be done by the choice of species; but even in the case of the same species, avoid selecting one that was fast grown with wide growth rings and another slow grown with narrow growth rings



GREEN  
WOOD



DRY WOOD  
SMALLER DIAMETER  
RADIAL SHRINKAGE  
ATTEMPTED  
TANGENTIAL SPLITS  
SOLID CENTER



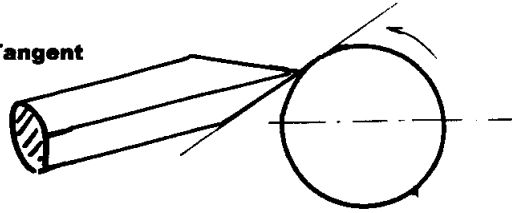
DRY WOOD  
SMALLER DIAMETER  
RADIAL SHRINKAGE  
BORED OUT CENTRE  
ALLOWS THIS  
NO TANGENTIAL SPLITS

### CROSS SECTIONS THRO' LOG

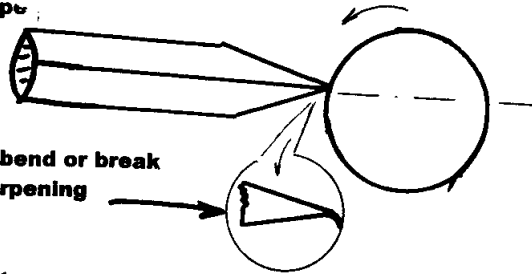
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**Correct Use of Chisel type  
Parting Tool  
Cutting above Centre on Tangent**

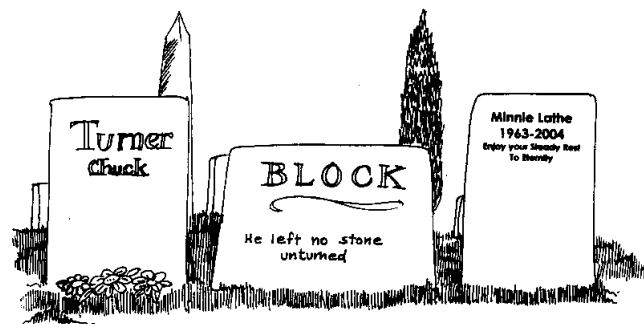
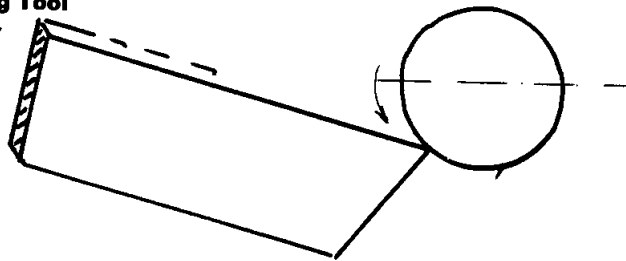


**Wrong Use of Chisel type  
Parting Tool  
Cutting on Diameter**



**Thin Cutting edge will bend or break  
And need frequent sharpening**

**Correct Use of "Knife" type  
Scraping Parting Tool  
Below Diameter**



Parting is such sweet sorrow