

# TURNERS ANONYMOUS

An Association of Wood Turners in Western Pennsylvania

NEWSLETTER

No 112

January 2008

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**January Meeting:** Elections / Hands On

**Location:** Max's Workshop, Bethel Park

**Date:** Saturday January 19, 2008

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

January is once again upon us and our annual Board Elections will take place at our January meeting. We have 3 new board members that have been nominated to serve, Harold Poland, Dave Reiland and Leslie Struthers. Tim Janeway, Craig Smith and Dave Beringer have also been nominated to serve another term. It is also a time to say thank you for a job well done to Rich Evans, Ralph Sprang and Nick Bodnar. These gentlemen are retiring from the Board.

After the elections we have a hands on program that I am sure has something for everyone. There will be 4 different stations. Two will allow you to practice turning techniques. One of these will allow you to try hollow turning with simple tools. It is kind of a follow up to Bill's November Demo and it will hopefully give you the feel for as well as to help to demystify the hollowing process. The second turning station will expose you to intermittent cutting techniques. This will be an exercise to try to develop the tool control necessary to attempt a project like Jimmy Clewes' oriental box with the square cornered base. Two non-turning stations will also be available. One of these stations will be a grinding station. There will be a demo at this station. Many of you have asked to see or have asked for help in converting a standard bowl grind into a side grind gouge, well bring your notebooks and cameras because that's the demo. You may also want to bring any gouges that you seem to need help in sharpening. As soon as the side grind demo is over we will help you sharpen these tools. Lastly we will have a station for you to try the dying techniques used by Jimmy Clewes, complete with some sample figured wood pieces and dyes. You can experiment and maybe think about adding color to your work. See you at Max's.

## **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 have been on display at the last few meetings and will be available again this month. To bid on these pieces, simply enter your bid on the sheet that is associated with the appropriate piece. 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 end of this month's 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)

## **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

**Wanted:** A few people who are ~~good looking, intelligent, witty, charming, sensational writers,~~ willing to help with the newsletter. I am sure you fit the bill. Call me at 412-414-9694. Don't let someone else take your place.

### **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:

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

### **Pen Turners Corner by Harold Poland**

#### **New Pen Kits**

With a new year upon us Berea Hardwoods has introduced 3 new pen kits for this year: the Cambridge, the Ultra Cigar Pen and the Sierria Click.

The Cambridge is a closed cap pen, much like the Junior Statesman and is available as a fountain pen or roller ball. It comes in sterling silver with titanium gold accents, and is available from Berea or Beartooth woods.com for \$23.50 to \$26.00. It uses the same bushings as the El Grande, and its larger size really can show off a nice burl or figured wood blank.



The Ultra Cigar is a very nice improvement over the traditional cigar kit. It has a much heavier sculpted metal clip and features the same embellishments on the cap, center band and nib. It uses the same bushings and tubes as the standard cigar kit and comes in chrome or gold. The chrome is accented in gold and has a gold nib, The gold is accented in chrome and has a chrome nib. The jury is still out on the alternate color nib for this kit so you may want to get one in each plating; then you can switch them if you like.



And finally, the Sierria click pen. Pen turners have long sought after a click pen with a sturdy mechanism, and this may be it. The click mechanism comes pre assembled and assembly of the kit is as easy as can be. It comes in a wide variety of platings



and is priced from \$7.50 for standard gold or chrome to \$17.50 for Gold or

black Titanium. It also is the first kit to accept either a uni-ball ink refill or by using a small adapter, the parker refill (they include 2 of the adapters with the kit in case you lose one).

If you would like to try a few nicer kits give these a try. They are all available from [bereahardwoods.com](http://bereahardwoods.com) or [beartoothwoods.com](http://beartoothwoods.com)

#### **Just An Opinion:**

Maybe what appeals to me most about turning is its simplicity. I am not an old fart; my job forces me to be involved in the computer world and modern technology on a daily basis and I enjoy it. Sometimes though it seems like life is too complicated and I wonder what better are we for it.

Recently I entered in the world of HD (high definition) TV. I did so only after throwing my hands up in disgust on several occasions. In many ways I felt like I needed to get another college degree just to buy and watch a TV. I kept saying to myself this isn't supposed to be like work where I need to keep abreast with the technology and jargon necessary to make a living, this is for entertainment. It is about leisure. If you're not quite sure what I mean just take a look at the back of a new TV. There are somewhere in the neighborhood of 25-40 connectors, video in, video out, right and left audio, HDMI in, HDMI out. What wire goes to the DVD? Look at the on screen menus. They go on and on. You could spend hours trying to understand half of what they do. What happened to the days of appliances where all you had to do was plug it in and turn it on?

It seems very little is simple anymore. If you disagree with me wait until you have the slightest problem with one of your technological necessities. In this world where technology changes before the user

manual is off the press and technical support just isn't what is used to be, where ulcers and curse words flourish when your HDMI signal drops out on your TV or your internet connection suddenly disappears or worse the dreaded blue screen appears on your computer. Why should I need to know whether a program or channel is in 480i, 720p or 1080i?

Boy how relaxing it is to throw a piece of wood on the lathe, use a few simple tools and create a pleasing shape. Maybe turn a bowl or a spindle or just make toothpicks and bury your lower body in wood shavings. Yes that's right DEAR (my wife) that huge pile of shavings in ~~the garage~~ my shop helps me feel relaxed. You would not want me to clean that up and become stressed out would you DEAR?

You know it is amazing but what has become more appealing to me are projects, both turning and woodworking, that are more hand skills oriented and less mechanized. Maybe it is my personal revolt to modern life.

I got home late as usual from the office the other night and turned on that big new boob flat screen (can't call it a boob tube anymore) and watched the PA Farm Show. A replay of a cool contest called Sheep to Shawl was on. I found it very interesting. Teams of people competed by weaving a uniquely patterned shawl. The contest started with each team shearing a sheep. The team gathered the wool and carded it (a process that removes dirt particles from the fleece and also separates and combs the fibers) to allow the wool to be taken to a foot power spinning wheel to be spun into a yarn. With a useable yarn each team turned to the loom where they used their feet to operate pedals and their hands to pass the shuttle of yarn back and forth to weave the shawl. The whole process, sheep to shawl, was completed in about 3 hrs. Here I was watching a process that has been done by hand for 1000's of years on my high tech HD TV. It almost made me want to put aside my chain saw for an axe and buck saw, take the motor off my lathe and attach a pole, rope and treadle. On the other hand that also sounds like too much work and very little fun. I guess a little technology is a good thing after all.

### **Christmas Raffle Updates:**

Thanks to all of you that have purchased tickets for our Christmas raffle. We collected just over \$700. The lucky winner of our big prize was one of our members

from Ohio, Andrew Hutyera and Andy picked up the hollowing system from Woodcraft in Robinson. Please make sure to support our friends at Woodcraft with your business. Their donation of the hollowing system was very generous and made our Christmas raffle a big success. If there are any questions feel free to call Bill Hayes 412-741-5150.

### **Newsletter Ideas and Comments**

Can be e-mailed to [djibber@comcast.net](mailto:djibber@comcast.net) or feel free to phone me at 412-414-9694.

### **Monthly Raffle:**

This January we will have our normal lucrative raffle with \$50 cash and a \$15 gift certificate from Craft Supplies USA ([www.woodturnerscatalog.com](http://www.woodturnerscatalog.com)) and a gift certificate for special wood. This month we will have a great prize; it is an angle drill. The one you always wanted for the sanding of the great bowl you are going to make for our sale next year. 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 good piece of wood to make something you can be proud of.

### **New Raffle:**

We will be having a new "fun" raffle that is much different from our normal raffles. This idea came from Bob Zentner and I am going to be the Guinea Pig. Here is how it works. I will turn a bowl and if you would like to have it you will be able to purchase a raffle ticket to win it. The tickets will be two for \$1 so we don't expect to make much money from this effort but you know how you sometimes see a piece in our show and tell, and say to yourself, I would like to have that? Well now you can but if you don't collect or you don't care for the piece, don't purchase a ticket. The money will go in our general fund. There is one additional twist, when you win the one I made you will be obligated to make a piece for next month's raffle. In this way we will have an opportunity to get some of our other members' work. It should be fun.

### **Helping Our Hospitalized Veterans**

Members, I know that it seems that we are asking for more and more items this time of year but we need more for our hospitalized vets. We have a special gift day for Valentines Day. So we only have our January

meeting to collect them. Will you please make whatever you can and bring them to our January meeting? Thank you. Bill Hayes

### Golden Rules of Woodturning

The following information comes from Tim Janeway. He found some interesting rules while reading William Duce's "The Fine Art of Small-scale Woodturning":

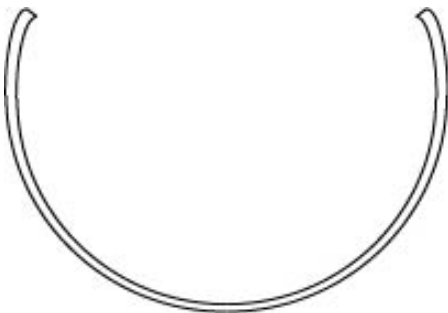
#### Golden Rules of Woodturning

1. Turning should always be fun.
2. Turning is a personal exploration, so satisfy your inner muse first.
3. A successful turning is an equal balance between technique and design.
4. The success of your project is dependent upon a positive attitude, not expensive tools or secret tricks.
5. There is no shame in making a mistake; just try not to make the same one twice.
6. Never stop looking for inspiration, especially outside the world of turning.
7. A finished turning will always look better than one only half turned. By finishing what you start you just may surprise yourself.
8. The proper way to use any tool is whichever way works best for you.
9. Never be discouraged by people saying, "That's pretty, what is it?"
10. Design gimmicks and fads have the approximate life span of free burl at a turner's convention. Avoid them at all costs.

Interesting... Thanks Tim.

### Jimmy Clewes Bowl and Grinds

Let me start off by saying that this article is not meant to be a reference on how Jimmy turns or grinds. I intend to provide a few points to peak your interest. I would suggest reviewing Jimmy's DVD's for more complete information. After all this is a newsletter and not a book.



I had the pleasure of attending a class with Jimmy in which we turned a bowl that looks simple but to do properly is a good exercise in

shape and tool control. The bowl is a continuous curve that returns on itself at the top. The inside



shape mirrors the outside curve. The final bowl doesn't even have a flat foot bottom, it is one continuous curve.

The outside of the bowl is turned with a Side Grind gouge as we have all seen done before. He makes a finish cut using a push cut and a standard ground gouge. Most of this we all have probably heard before. Jimmy's techniques inside the bowl are what I found interesting. I want to discuss 2 points: his grinds and his methods.

Jimmy talked about bevel length on his gouge when he moved to the inside. When he talks about bevel length he is referring to length of the bevel at the tip. This length is only an important point on the inside because the curve is concave. His major point is the shorter the bevel the more control you have during the cut. The trade off is how much material can be removed. The tighter the curve the shorter the bevel needed to do a push cut riding the bevel. If your bevel is too long you will never be able to maintain proper contact and what will result is a wavy or bumpy surface resulting from the cutting edge diving and rising in the wall of the bowl. Jimmy suggests there are a number of ways to shorten the bevel:

1. Alter the angle. As the angle becomes more acute the bevel gets longer; as it gets blunter it shortens. Jimmy uses approximately a 60 degree angle on his side grind gouges and a 45 degree on his standard grind gouges.
2. Grinding the heel off the gouges will shorten the bevel length.
3. Creating a micro bevel at the cutting edge of the gouge also will shorten the bevel and allow you to turn tighter curves.

The bevel angle of each gouge pictured from left to right gets more acute. The middle gouge has its heel ground away. The gouge farthest to the right is Jimmy's side grind. Notice the wings of his side



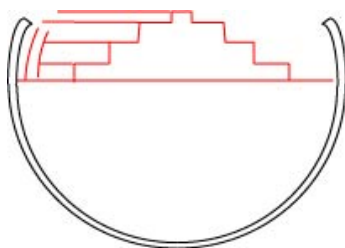
grind are more up and down and don't roll back into the flute as much as David Ellsworth's. His wings



gently curve from the tip to the top of the wing. The next picture shows a gouge ground with a micro bevel. To grind his gouges Jimmy believes in using a jig; he favors the wolverine. He also recommends the

Oneway vari-grind jig to grind his side grind profile. For consistency he uses the bail to measure how far out his gouge will protrude from the vari-grind jig, extending the gouge until the heel of the grind is at the end of the bale.

Cutting the inside of the bowl starts by leveling and establishing the rim of the bowl. Jimmy uses a parting tool to set the wall thickness of the bowl. Jimmy proceeds to remove the inside core by working from this parting cut toward the center of the bowl. He creates a stepped center in



the bowl. This center waste is left in until he finishes that section of the bowl. He works down to the bottom section by section. His final cuts on each section are the finish cut on the side wall of each section. He uses a push cut and a gouge that will allow him to ride the bevel .



He only removes a "hair" as he said with each finishing cut. He is more concerned with a clean cut than speedy removal of material. The same steps are repeated each time. Jimmy's reasoning for leaving the center in is to eliminate distortion. He is concerned with matching the inside and outside curve and having the wall of the bowl be equally thick all the way around. If you have ever had your side wall be thicker on one side than another a reason may be that you released stress in the bowl and it went out of round before you made the final cuts on the inside wall. When Jimmy gets near the bottom he alters his method and works the center of the bowl bottom to final thickness. You then will have a finished side and a finished bottom depth. You have defined a starting point, the finished side and an end point the finished bottom depth to shoot for. To complete the inside you just need to remove the stock between the two.

### Spring Guest Demonstrator

The Program Committee is extremely pleased and excited to announce our featured Spring Demonstration...

At our January meeting, tickets will go on sale for our featured demonstration and workshop with Vermont wood turner, Al Stirt. Al is a well-known teacher and demonstrator. In addition to our demonstration in Pittsburgh, Al will be a featured demonstrator at the AAW symposium this June. For a look at some of Al's work, surf to [www.alstirt.com](http://www.alstirt.com). Our featured program will be held on April 19 at the Society for Contemporary Craft. 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.

In addition to the featured demonstration on April 19, we will be offering two days of workshops with Al on April 20 and April 21. Topics for each day are yet to be finalized, but are likely to include combinations of open bowl/grain balancing, a painted & carved platter, and square platter turning. The content for the two days will be distinct, so if you are interested in both days of workshops, you will experience different content. As sign-ups progress, the topics for each day will be sorted out based on the interests of the students attending. The cost to attend the workshop each day will be \$150. A \$75 deposit will be required to reserve a spot.

Tickets for the fall workshops with Jimmy Clewes went very quickly, so if you are interested, don't delay in purchasing your tickets.

**Wanted:** A used mini lathe at a good price.  
Call Bill Hayes 412-741-5150

**For Sale:** Jet 1236 Lathe 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%*

**Rockler**  
7402 McKnight Road  
412 364 7751  
<http://www.rockler.com>  
*10% discount except on sale items*

**Woodcraft**  
The Pointe at North  
Fayette  
620 Chauvet Drive  
Pittsburgh, PA 15275  
412 494 9663  
<http://www.woodcraft.com>  
*Discount 10%*

**Harbor Freight Tools**  
639A Clairton Blvd.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15236  
412 650 9691  
*Discount 10%, cannot be combined with other coupons*

**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*