

# TURNERS ANONYMOUS

An Association of WoodTurners in Western Pennsylvania

## NEWSLETTER

No 46

March 2001

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### **NEXT MEETING:**

**Saturday, March 17th.**

**Location:** Jack Brown's Workshop

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

**Theme:** Egg Cups and Easter Eggs.

" Which came first, the Chicken or the Egg ?" This question can lead to endless arguments but for turning these seasonally appropriate items a definite sequence must be followed. John Bridges will discuss the possibilities and ask members to demonstrate how they would perform some of the operations.

After a brief explanation of why English people need Egg Cups for their Sunday morning Breakfast and why English Craft Catalogues include 3 minute glass and sand timers the theme will elaborate the turning of these and other small items.

**SHOW & TELL:** We want to see some of those small items you have turned for our Collaborative Effort.

### **Last Meeting**

by Max Peterson

The February 17th meeting focused on jigs and fixtures for the lathe using a router. There proved to be a wealth of innovative devises demonstrated by various members. These included a demonstration of the Sears Router Crafter improvements that John Colombini had developed to make that devise do more accurate work, a jig that rides on the lathe bed for fluting both cylindrical and tapered columns, a similar jig for mortising in turned columns,

Jim Vandzura's adaptation of a pivoting cutter for truing up spheres on the lathe, and Linda VanGehuchten and Jack Brown's most versatile devise for turning spheres using a lazy susan bearing for the rotating router carrier. There was much lively discussion. I'm sure that these innovative devises will provide the spark for many more adaptations, variations, and new inventions.

### **HOW TO GET THERE.**

I 79 North to Cranberry. Route 228 East to Route 8. Go North 1.2 miles. Jack's shop will be on the Left hand side (Turn from the Center Lane)

**Before** you get to Starr Lumber and the continuation of Route 228 East.

Turnpike to Route 8. Exit 4. Go North on Route 8 7.3 miles. (See above)

Route 8. North from the river where it starts from Route 28. Pass the Turnpike. Pass Orange and Red Belts. Pass route 228 which joins from the left. Jack's shop will be on the Left before you get to the bottom of the Hill and Starr Lumber.

## **ATTENTION !**

**Note change of location for this meeting.**

## **THE MONROEVILLE WOOD SHOW.**

### **A Report by John M. Schlueter.**

One of the events that I look forward to each year is the Pittsburgh Woodworking Show. It gives a great opportunity to see what's new, see live demonstrations, put your hands on items you've previously just seen in the catalogues and get bargains to boot. Most importantly to me it's a chance to save my wife the gruelling task of trying to figure out what to get me for Christmas, or Birthday, depending on the timing of the show.

The show, as the name implies is targeted to woodworkers and not wood turners, But, heh, any chance to see all these tools under one roof is well worth the time. But, before I give you an overview of the show let me tell you about the great interest that we had at our booth. We were located at the far end of the first aisle, so, people got to us before they were tired. This increased traffic and the interest because, as the saying goes, there are three things that make a retail business prosper, location, location and location. Within half an hour of the show opening on Saturday, we didn't have a chance to stop talking to people who were interested in turning. They were particularly interested in how turnings with inlays and hollow forms were made, what finishes were applied and how did those tops keep spinning? Most of the people I spoke to had never turned or had tried either spindles or bowls, but wanted to know more. We signed up over 100 names who will receive a mailing telling them more about the club.

On to the Show! If my review smacks of a product testimonial to you, at ease, it's truly an account of the demonstrations that stood out in my mind. Incra's demonstration of their router indexing jig to make triple layer dovetails flawlessly is always a crowd pleaser. They now also have a Miter gauge that has 1<sup>o</sup> increments that allow the user to make extremely accurate miter cuts. There was also a Laguna tool demo of their expensive bandsaw that made cuts 6" deep for 1/16" Veneer. One item for ornamental wood turners was a complex gear driven device with a router mounted on a carriage that could movethe length of the device to turn either straight or tapered spindles with a wide range of patterns including rope, flutes and double helix. It occupied a 2' x 6' area and I didn't dare to ask the price because I knew that I just couldn't tell my wife, "That is what I want for Christmas!"

There were drill bits that that could drill holes in files ( I presume that they had not been annealed!)

There was also a Zyliss vice which could, according to the silver tongued salesman, replace all of your remaining vices - well almost all!

### **ANNOUNCEMENT.**

**(Contributed by Christopher Weiland)**

I have some sad news to share with all members of the AWA and Turners Anonymous. Jack Mathews, one of our loyal members, passed away recently due to complications following surgery. His death occurred whilst he and his wife, Hannah, were spending the winter in Sarasota, Florida, as they have for several years.

Jack will be remembered by many for his sincere interest in all things that had to do with wood working and turning. He attended many of the regional and national woodworking and turning conferences and always enjoyed sharing what he had learned with so many others. As one of the founding members of Turners Anonymous he was always generous with his time in helping to establish a strong fellowship among members. His enthusiasm, support and friendship will surely be missed.

For Sale: Hardwood and softwood lumber , specialising in small pieces for that special project.

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**Editorial:**

On one side of the coin we have parents acting as almost full time taxi drivers, taking their children to games, piano lessons, or other activities

On the other we can see on many street corners completely bored youths just wondering what they can do to fill in the time.

Should Turners Anonymous be doing something about this? Let me know what you think. Should we be arranging to give a short talk and demonstration to schools?

The International Wood Collectors Society is already doing their bit and have an interesting Editorial by the President in the latest issue of their Monthly Journal. The following is an excerpt that I think will interest you:-

*Last month I wrote of a student and his science project; I requested that the student keep me informed on his project and to send me a write-up with photographs for a possible article in WOW. More recently I was visited by Bob Henry who was searching for a piece of Mahogany. He had with him his 8th. Grade daughter, Jessica, working along with her dad in their shop, she is a bright youngster with enthusiasm that cannot be overlooked. I was shown some of the projects she completed on the lathe; these will be exhibited at our Annual meeting in August"*

*Well done Jessica, let's try and find some more like you!*

**TOPS.**

We have received a letter of appreciation from the Children's Hospital thanking us for the 30 + tops that were made by members and donated just before Christmas to this worthy cause. Let us try and do even better next year.....more tops?, or do you have another idea?.

For example in the latest issue of the Journal of the American Wood Turners there is a report on a meeting in Ireland with a photograph of some of the Candlesticks made and donated by members. The range of sizes and designs is positively amazing and inspiring.

**WEBSITE GALLERY:**

OK Turners, now is your chance to show off to the rest of the world. The Turners Anonymous website will start posting photos of member's favorite pieces. Every participant will have his/her own spot to showcase their pride and joys. Dave Beringer has graciously volunteered to snap a few with his digital camera at upcoming meetings. So... bring a few of your favorites along and we'll get them out there for all to admire. The photo sessions begin with this meeting. If the response is good we may start scheduling the shoots. Those who participated in the Expo Woodworking Show know how much interest your pieces generated. Let's have a good turn out!