

TURNERS ANONYMOUS

An Association of Wood Turners in Western Pennsylvania

NEWSLETTER

No 56

March 2002

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NEXT MEETING:

Saturday, March 19th Location: Max Peterson's Workshop

Time: 10.00 am. Coffee & Donuts from 9.30

Demonstrator: Dave Haut

Topics: Metal Spinning

And Bowl Turning in a manner to Eliminate sanding.

We have all talked about Metal Spinning and said that we want to see it done, now is your chance to see an expert make it look easy.

FUTURE MEETINGS:

April 20th Inside Out turning. Several members have been experimenting with this technique, one method being explained at length in the Winter 2001 issue of the 'American Woodturner'. Bring along your successful or unsuccessful trials for the Show & Tell or watch our in house experts such as Bill Groll, producing these lacy turnings.

May 18th Thread Chasing. Having been excitedly practising for many weeks, our members will be showing how they make thread chasers out of nuts, bolts and taps, or where they buy them and how they use them

SMALL GROUPS AND EVENING MEETINGS.

Whilst we were obviously happy to see such a large turn out at the last meeting we have to admit that Jack's shop was almost bursting at the seams and your committee keeps on thinking around the ideas for small meetings in members houses and evening meetings in small workshops.

Jack Brown's shop will be open again at 7pm on Monday March 18th for a Thread Chasing session and Collaborative effort discussion.

___Would you be willing to open your shop one evening and invite a few members to join you, maybe just for a Show-and-Tell session over a cup of coffee? I believe that it would be better to arrange such a meeting by telephone or internet rather than a formal announcement in the NewsLetter in case you are shy or frightened that too many turners might turn up.

THE ARTS FESTIVAL Will be held on June 8th and 9th. Linda Vangehuchten will have a stand there and invites members to take the opportunity to demonstrate various turning techniques on her Mini Lathe which will be up and hopefully running.

LAST MEETING:

About 50 members crowded into Jack Brown's shop and saw a wide variety of alternative materials to wood being turned, or that had been turned. Dust was seen to be a problem with some of the harder materials, but a solution was to hand in the presentation by Jim Duxbury who demonstrated his Resporator (he also showed some of his beautiful Kaleidascope.)

Dust was not a problem when the Smuckers Jam Chuck was demonstrated, using a Spew Chisel to spread jam onto a slowly rotating slice of bread.

Cabbage stalks, copper and recycled plastic bags in the form of a Fence Post yielded a bowl which was promptly named "Wormy Plastic". Sources for Corian offcuts were given together which much other useful information.

At one stage the topic of conversation almost got stuck on Thread Chasing which will be the subject of a future meeting, meanwhile several members are hooked and enthusiastically practising this, to them, new technique

ABRASIVES.

Jamestown Distributors (1-800 423 0030) are the leading suppliers of fastenings, hardware and other marine gear to boat builders. In their latest catalogue they include "JD Decoders" about various subjects. I found the following most informative and would like to share it with fellow woodturners.

"Believe it or not.....Sandpaper has become so confusing that it is now referred to as "Abrasive Technology". It is confusing because there are so many different offerings. Here's what you need to know to tell them apart:-

Sandpaper layout. The construction of your abrasive (disc, belt or sheet) is pretty simple.

1 Backing. A flexible or semi-rigid backing (paper, cloth or film) to which the minerals are attached by adhesive. There is a designation for flexibility and durability ranging from 'A' weight (most flexible) to 'F' weight (least flexible)

2 Adhesive. Abrasives usually have two adhesive layers:-

(a) Make coat- Initial layer of adhesive to anchor the mineral to the backing.

(b) Size coat- Secondary layer of adhesive to lock the minerals in place.

3 Minerals. There are five basic types of minerals:-

(a) Aluminium Oxide- brown or blue and is the Industry standard for metals, wood, plastics and composites.

(b) Silicon carbide black. Is used for sanding primers, sealers and paints, non ferrous metals and finishing.

(c) Ceramic Aluminium Oxide. A synthetic mineral that is very durable and with extremely uniform crystalline structure.

(d) Alumina Zirconia – Primarily for heavy stock removal of both metal and wood

One of the things that strikes new members to any of the Wood turning groups is the way in which expert turners are prepared to show all that they know to those who are less experienced. Any new techniques or tools are quickly

QUIZ.

Here is one to test your knowledge of the trees that yield wood you turn.

- 1. What trees do we put away in summer?

Anti-Loading Features:

Abrasives sometimes load-up with dust before the mineral is actually worn out.

Open vs Closed Coat Open coats have less mineral to create more space between abrasives to reduce loading. Whilst closed coats have 100% mineral application with hardly any voids. Closed coats have a longer life – as long as they do not load up with dust (a major problem with composite and woodworking abrasion).

Supersize Coat There are some coatings applied to the abrasive that act as anti loading agents e.g. 3M's Frecut.

Diagnosing Sandpaper Problems

The biggest complaint about sandpaper is that it "Wears Out" too quickly. But this could mean a number of things and it is important to diagnose what is really meant by "Wearing Out".

- 1 Is the abrasive "Dulling" too quickly? A more aggressive mineral is required.
- 2 Is the backing falling apart? A more durable backing is needed.
- 3 Are the minerals falling off the backing? The Adhesive is failing.
- 4 Is the abrasive so clogged withjunk that it no longer cuts? You need to look for an "Open Coat" paper.

For Sale:

Hardwoods and White Pine.... Call Steve Morovich for species and prices .
412 341 1980

QUIZ.

Here is one to test your knowledge of the trees that yield wood you turn.

- 21. What trees do we put away in summer?
- 22. What tree remains after a fire?
- 23. Under which tree would you seek shelter from the

disseminated throughout the community.

The following letter is taken from a contribution to the Northumberland BagPipers Newsletter. I think is very true and interesting.

"It is human nature to feel threatened by people who are better than you are. I usually do not contribute much to this list but this topic is too tempting.

When I first started my woodworking career it was in a yacht yard working on beautiful, floating works of wooden art. I was lucky enough to get under the wing of a good shipwright who was not intimidated by a young and enthusiastic guy. He would teach you anything and held back nothing. There were others who would not show you anything except the most menial of work. They were fearful of anyone who exhibited any talent and aspiration that might conflict with theirs.

I have come across a number of these types in the last 30 years and they can be found in all manner of vocations. It is probably a survival technique as the younger in any society are always coming along and unseating the older and many of them/us really don't want to go quietly when that time comes, as it must. Information is much more available now and people learn faster because of it and that can really be a source of frustration for those that had to do it "the hard way."

I think that the worst of this lot can actually be of some

2. What tree remains after a fire?
3. Under which tree would you seek shelter from the rain?
4. Which tree give a nickname to an American General?
5. Which trees are always sad?
6. If asked by your girl friend whom you loved, which tree would you give for an answer?
7. The Old Story tree
8. Which trees are straight to the line?
9. The Hero's tree
10. What tree is a good churchman?
11. The Quivering tree
12. What tree do you have in your hand?
13. The garden of Eden tree
14. Which trees stick together?
15. Which trees jump up and down?
16. Which trees are always well dressed?
17. Which tree is part of a dress and part of a dood?
18. Which tree is part of a deep breath and part of a printing machine?
19. What tree do we like to see stuffed?
20. What tree is a body of water
21. you seek shelter from the rain?
22. Which tree give a nickname to an American General?
23. Which trees are always sad?
24. If asked by your girl friend whom you loved, which tree would you give for an answer?
25. The Old Story tree
26. Which trees are straight to the line?
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32. Which trees stick together?
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34. Which trees are always well dressed?
35. Which tree is part of a dress and part of a dood?
36. Which tree is part of a deep breath and part of a printing machine?
37. What tree do we like to see stuffed?
38. What tree is a body of water

Answers next month

For Sale:

Green or air dried straight grain boards, curly crotches and turning blanks in Oak, Cherry, Willow, Sassafras, or logs cut to your dimensions.
John Bridges 724 625 9348

benefit, other than being held up as a bad example. They will inspire many to dig down a little deeper and work a little harder. Inspiration, no matter it's source, is always a good thing."

TURNING THE SPOTLIGHT ON:-

I thought it would be interesting for members to learn a little about other members' shops and started including descriptions under this heading. We were able to learn what sorts of lathes people had, what they preferred to turn, how they obtained their wood, how big (or small) was their shop and details perhaps as to how it was heated.

The other day we heard of a new member who said that they couldn't start turning or even buy a lathe because they only had a 100 amp circuit in the house!!! A mini lathe with a ½HP motor only draws about 4 amps, in other words one could run 3 mini lathes off one common 15 amp outlet

In November I asked for contributions or notes that I could elaborate into an article. I only received one reply which I copy below:-

"Sorry John, I have to admit that I am an imposter. I am not a turner but a carver. When my friend Bill Lieb, who is a turner, asked me to go with him to one of your meetings to keep him company, I said "OK" Tha was a couple of years ago and I was impressed with all the talent in the club and enjoyed being around people who liked wood as much as I do; so I joined. So, you see I can't help you with 'As to why I turn wood' because I don't.

Take Care,

Dick Andrews"

I hope that more of you will tell me about your shop and interests so that I can pass them on to the members in general. Your committee needs to know wot you'uns want, and silence does not help me or them.

In the Winter edition of the American Wood Turner there were many pictures (for the first time in colour) and a wonderful feast for the ideas was there; but, from the comments by readers in the latest, Spring issue there seem to be several turners upset by the small amount of turning involved in some of the artistic creations.

For many years many wood turners produced practical objects such as bowls or spindles for the Bannister rails of staircases. Care was taken to create a satisfying outline and sometimes flutes or carvings were added.

Recently and in our life time the art of wood turning has suddenly blossomed into an art form and many beautiful objects are produced which have no practical purpose except to give pleasure in the eyes of the beholder.

A club such as Turners Anonymous has to cater to many tastes and our members are interested in faux finishes, wood carving, sandblasting and other unexpected techniques. Some of these will interest one member and bore another to tears as evidenced by the reactions to articles and photographs in the American Wood Turner, Journal of the National Association.

We try to vary the programmes so that there is something of interest to everyone some time in the year; but with a club as large and spread out as much as ours the idea of small meetings in members home is one that should be persued more fully.

We welcome members like Dick Andrews who can reciprocate, not only enjoying our enthusiasm but also able to contribute new ideas.