

TURNERS ANONYMOUS

An Association of Wood Turners in Western Pennsylvania

NEWSLETTER

No 65

March 2003

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NEXT MEETING:

Saturday, March 15th.

**Location: Center for Contemporary Arts,
Smallman Street in the Strip District**

Time: Doors open 9 am
Meeting starts 9.30am

We will break for lunch from 12.30 to 1.30 when you may go out to one of the Strip District Restaurants or sign up for a lunch to be brought in to the center. The session will wrap up at 5 pm

This will be the first of our series of demonstrations by famous turners and a good opportunity to shake off all vestiges of that cabin fever that has gripped us all so firmly this year.

Mark St Leger will be there to show us how he makes lidded boxes, offset turnings and other open secrets of the trade. Our TV camera and monitors will be there to help you see exactly how this master turner approaches the wood surface.

Buying a ticket in advance (at \$20) helps us plan the event, but tickets will still be available at the door for \$25 on Saturday March 14th.

We will hold our monthly raffle but there will NOT be time for the Show and Tell this month. Each person will be given one raffle ticket at the door and can purchase more to better their chances to win a SupaNova Chuck, two gift certificates, two Klingspor Sandpaper gift packs, a quilted maple or Osage Orange turning block or a face shield

The February Meeting was held in Max Peterson's shop and was attended by a record number of old and new members who showed great interest in the varied presentations illustrating different ways of holding odd shapes of wood so that they would stay on the lathe and not try to emulate Icarus. So many members were present that I almost wondered if I really needed to list what happened for those who didn't attend!

Bill Groll showed his Vacuum chuck equipment and answered many questions regarding its use.

Craig Smith showed how he made his Longworth Chuck to hold Bowls for the finishing cuts and handed out information sheets about it.

Jack Brown explained how he set about making an eccentric chuck for decorating box lids.

Dave Berringer's subject was fixing blanks to a waste block with either double sided tape or super glue. He had a variety of wood species showing that this method can conserve expensive wood by eliminating the need for a base or wood screw holes.

John Bridges showed a purpose made chuck for hollowing the bowls of small spoons. This consisted of a hollowed cradle and wood screw fastened strap plus a steel nut to act as a balancing counterweight as shown in this month's drawing.

Also a whimsical plant stand with legs and shoes which were turned in pairs on either side of a waste block to obtain the desired profile.

This Month the Spotlight is focussed on a new member, **Joe Cynkar** whose interest in wood turning was developed at High School. Since then, and until recently this interest has remained dormant. Looking after his camping ground in Butler County alongside lake Arthur keeps his woodworking skills busy and active, but little time or space for lathe work. Now he finds more time available and has a garage which can be used as a workshop. He started turning again on a Shoptsmith Universal Woodworking machine and now has a Jet Mini-lathe. He is able to get ample supplies for turning as trees fall or are felled on the campground and these include Cherry, Oak, Walnut and Sassafras. Up to the present Joe has not used much Sassafras but when I told him how I love working it for its perfume, ability to take a smooth surface and durability he intends to use it more often.

When he does find the time to turn he produces bowls, Bottle stoppers, Oil Lamps and other items which can be displayed in the Camp store. When I asked Joe of any humorous incidents he commented that often a finished turning does not look anything like what he had I mind when he started.

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By now you should have paid your dues for the current season. If not, you have two choices:- Pay Dave Berringer quickly or, Stop receiving the Newsletter, stop attending the meetings and mope at home wondering why you have lost all incentive to turn wood without contact with fellow wood turners.

What more can I say to encourage you to join, even famous characters were admonished e.g."Turn again Whittington!". And he twice became Lord Mayor of London, so there is hope for you'ns yet!

Then having joined or re-joined we need your help to keep the club alive, maybe you don't want to give a two hour demonstration in front of the whole crowd, but could show us some trick you have learned at one of the additional meetings. Gary Fournier collects the donuts, Max Peterson lets us use his shop (and upset his production plans) Rich Evans is looking after our monthly raffles these are just a few of the members who don't just sit back but are active members that keep the club alive.

PREPARE FOR THE WORST.....AND EXPECT THE BEST.

Accidents have a way of happening at the most unexpected moments and as the American Association of Wood Turners reminds us each year, "Wood Turning can be dangerous to your Health" unless sensible safety precautions are taken and a basic First Aid Box is kept in every workshop ready for use. This was brought home to me at the last meeting in Max Peterson's shop where sharp chisels, gouges, saws and other potentially dangerous tools abound. I cut my finger unexpectedly and was promptly offered a Band Aid by Max. How did this accident occur? By an act of unselfish co-operation for the good of the club by opening the box of those delicious donuts when I was viciously attacked by the edge of the cardboard. (Contributed by Iva Scarr)

A Record Crowd of 25 turners and would-be turners showed up at Jack Brown's shop on Tuesday evening 25th February where Dianne's coffee and cookies vied for attention with the host of partial and completed turnings with their attendant jigs made by Jack. He graciously allowed folks not only to look at, but also to use his famous OneWay lathe. The General and Mini Lathe were also kept busy.

These additional or satellite sessions give newcomers a chance to receive one on one instruction or to study at close hand some new technique that had been bothering them. They also give members a chance to attend who can't for one reason or another, get to the Saturday meetings. Jack has kindly offered his shop for yet another session, but what we need is a volunteer to open a shop even a very small shop from time to time south of the river so that a small group of keen turners could meet from time to time without travelling to the snowy North.

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If you were a wood turner in the year 1866 and wanted a blue colour you would have to Dissolve copper filings in aqua fortis. Brush the wood with it and then go over the turning with a hot solution of pearlsh (two ounces to a pint of water). Or if you think that is too easy try boiling a pound of Indigo, two pounds of woad and three ounces of alum in a gallon of water.

COMMUNICATING With other turners is an important way to improve your skills.

The varied programs at the Turners Anonymous Meetings can help and give you the all important chance to chat with other turners over a cup or coffee in a relaxed atmosphere.

Joining the National Association of Wood Turners is a must for seeing what goes on in the world of wood turning and to learn where other clubs and turners are located so that, if you travel, you can contact others with similar interests. The coloured illustrations now appearing with each issue of the magazine are wonderful incentives to learn new techniques. (woodturner@qwest.net)

Visit other clubs in the region. The following are only about two hour's drive from Pittsburgh.

Presque Isle Wood turners meet on the First Wednesday evening of each month in Erie (micollier_1@msn.com)

Buckeye Turners meet (as we do) on the third Saturday of each month in Akron (Kodiak@gwis.com)

North coast Woodturners met on the first Saturday of each month in Cleveland. (kingheiple@ameritech.net.newt.org)

Attend Symposiums, lectures, demonstrations etc put on by different turning organisations:-

* AAW Symposium, Pasadena CA June 27-29

* Ohio October 17-19

* Anderson Ranch, Colorado Summer Workshops

* Texas Turn or two August 29-31 at Wichita Falls, Texas.

(www.texasturnortwo.com)

Ohio Valley Symposium at West Harrison near Cincinnati October 17-19

(www.ovwg.org)

Chat on the Internet with other wood turners

(<http://groups.google.com/groups=rec.crafts.woodturning>)

or

(<http://talk.woodmagazine.com>)

If all else fails visit our own web site which is packed with information. Or maybe you should have started off here and utilised the links provided by our Webmaster.

DUES This is the last time I am going to mention that they should be paid by now. If you are still in doubt as to whether to pay let me add that we will be handing out membership cards on Saturday that will give you club discounts at places like Klingspor's where you can take advantage of their bargain boxes of sandpapers.

FUTURE MEETINGS:

April 26th. Yes! That is correct. The 4th instead of the 3rd Saturday because of Easter.

Bob Rosand will be with us to demonstrate the making of lathe tools at Max Peterson's shop.

May 17th **Linda VanGehuchten** is scheduled to demonstrate her angels (No! I am not referring to her two sons!) This meeting will be held at Hosanna Industries in the North near Cranberry.

Now is not too early to start thinking about your entry to our May Show and Tell. Every member will be asked to turn an object from a different wood specie. We will have a sign up sheet at our March meeting and again in April to ensure that no two members pick the same specie. Turning blanks will be provided, or you can supply your own.

Other exciting programs are being arranged right through to the summer of 2004 and of course we will again be participating at the Fair in the Park and Three Rivers Arts Festival on **June 6, 7 & 8**

There will be a group picnic sometime in the summer when the snow finally goes away and another opportunity to see a Portable Bandmill in action and have your own logs sawn to your specifications. Watch out for more exciting details in future Newsletters!

For Sale:

Kiln Dried Hardwoods and softwoods before or after the meetings or call Steve Morovich at 412 341 1980.

Air dried Walnut, Cherry, Oak and Sassafras 1" – 4" plus figured crotches for turning.

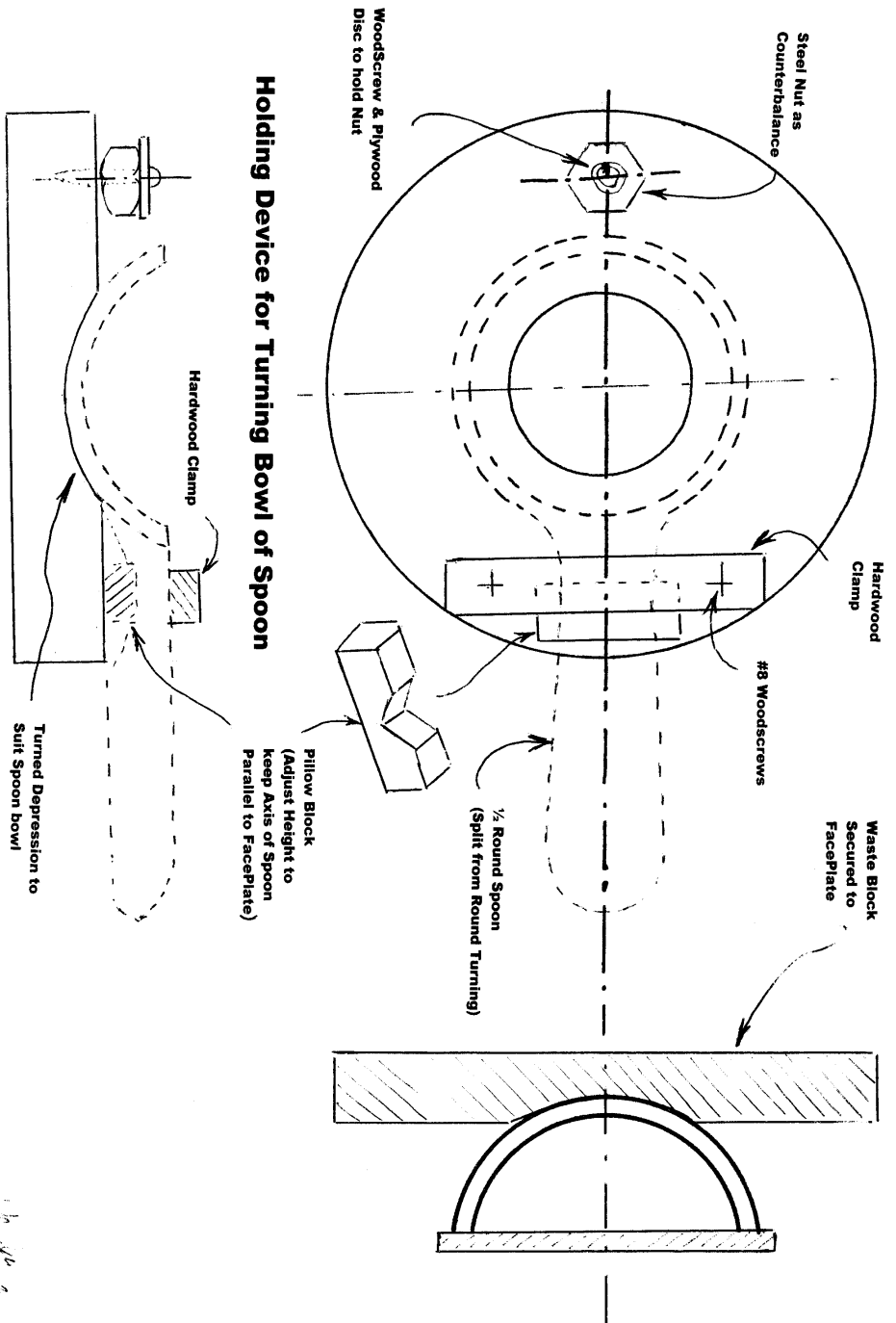
Gilliom Band Saw, 18" wheels, New tires, wood frame. As is for \$25

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Editor.

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Holding Device for Turning Bowl of Spoon

Handwritten note:
 1. 1/2" plywood
 2. 1/2" plywood
 3. 1/2" plywood