

TURNERS ANONYMOUS

An Association of Wood Turners in Western Pennsylvania

NEWSLETTER

No 58

May 2002

President
Bob Henry
724 248 3537

Vice-President
Jim Stauffer
412 279 7352

Treasurer
Craig Smith
412 996 5666

Secretary
Gary Fournier
412 835 0589

NEXT MEETING:

Saturday, May 18th.

Location: Max Peterson's Workshop

Time: 10.00 am. Coffee & Donuts from 9.30

Jack Brown will be **Chasing Threads** and not Dominican ladies on this occasion, so don't expect any more lurid photos, but rather learn how to produce boxes with threaded lids, nuts, bolts etc with conventional tap and die, the Beall system and how to make and use thread chasers on your lathe.

As with all Lathe Tools the method sharpening them is important and will be demonstrated.

COLLABORATIVE EFFORT.

Our entry is slowly taking shape at the Monday evening meetings held at either Linda VanGehuchten or Jack Brown's Workshops with serious efforts alternating with fun, food and fancy flights of imagination. We still need more contributions to fill the Container (naturally made of turned wood) Please bring yours to the meeting on Saturday

Portable Band Mill Demonstration.

Sunday 23rd June is the date for you to be able to see a Mill cutting my logs or your logs into boards or Turning blanks to any particular size. Please don't bring any logs longer than Nine feet or more than 30" diameter since they won't fit in the Trunk of most cars and might damage the roof rack!

This will be held on a dry Sunny day at 1743, Old State Road, Gibsonia with a Barbecue fire burning offcuts, so plan ahead to bring the family for a day out in the country. If you really feel that it would be difficult to be parted from your workshop for a whole day, don't despair, we plan to have couple of Mini Lathes up and running in the Barn.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

March – July.

Wood Turning since 1930. Is the title of an exhibition D.C. Brochures were handed out at our last meeting. Further information by calling 202 633 8070

June 8th and 9th.

Three Rivers Arts Festival. We are looking for volunteers to demonstrate and man the booth. Linda VanGehuchten will also have a booth there. Come and support your Club and see all the other exhibits.

June 28th, 29th and 30th.

A A W Symposium. Rhode Island is not quite as close as Akron, but is still your chance to see lots of interesting demonstrations and exhibits this side of the USA. Call Bob Henry if you are interested in Car Pooling for the trip to Providence

September 7th and 8th. Fair in the Park, Shadyside. Once again we will be looking for club members to demonstrate Wood turning to an appreciative and artistic section of the public.

September 21st. Will be the date of our first meeting of the next season and will feature a presentation by our own **Craig Smith** on turning **Furniture Squares.**

November 9th and 10th

Turning Symposium in Akron. More details to be announced as the time draws near, but meanwhile you should know that demonstrators will include Dale Nish and Bonnie Klein

Editorial.

Just as no man can be all things to all people, so no meeting program can please all members.

The Coffee and Donut session before each meeting gets under way is important in that it gives each member to discuss turning with other members and find out what others are producing on their lathes.

Similarly, the Show and Tell can, but does not always serve the same purpose. It can degenerate into "I turned this bowl" and "I turned that bowl"

Obviously each member is proud of their latest piece, but the Show and Tell session should be educational to show problems and how they were overcome. Last year we focussed on a theme for each meeting such as "Turned Animals", "Weed Pots" or "Turned Lids". This limited the number of entries and left more time for the rest of the programme and made members put on their thinking caps. Tell us what you want next year.

There have been suggestions that we should cater more for beginners, the problem is that if we lay on a complete programme of the basics, the experienced turners will not attend that meeting.

Last year we successfully had a few lathes up and running before and after each meeting so that an experienced turner could give a hands on demonstration to beginners. This worked and I think should be repeated.

Mini meetings in members' Workshops are much better for beginners to that they can try each manoeuvre for themselves and be corrected as they go wrong. Watching an experienced turner in front of a large audience use a Skew with never a catch or dig in does not really help a novice.

The WoodWorkers Club have a programme of Mentors who will give one on one instruction in their shop to beginners. We propose having a Sign-Up Sheet at each meeting to put mentors and (if there is such a word?) mentees in touch with each other.

SWAP BOX This popular item will be full at the start of the next meeting, take what you want or bring along any pieces that might interest other members, small scraps of exotic woods for inlay work or large lumps for potential bowls.

DOOR PRIZES Are on hand to be given away at each meeting due to the generosity of various suppliers.

At the **LAST MEETING** our members were treated to another excellent programme put on by **Bill Groll** who generously shared his methods of producing **INSIDEOUT** Turnings, whilst he prefers starting with one square block he also explained the other method of commencing with four perfect squares glued together at their ends.

He showed us lamps and vases with glass inserts and one of his Walnut examples was donated for an immediate Raffle

METAL SPINNING.

Bob Fischer is a retired Wood Working Teacher who builds and repairs both Church and Theatre Organs from his Valencia Workshop. When I visited him the other day I was fascinated to see him trueing up the flared ends of a set of Trumpet pipes using typical wood Turning techniques.

The small end of each pipe was held in the Concentric Headstock Chuck, and the middle supported by a steady rest. Then, by using two conventional metal spinning tools, one inside and the other outside, he was able to remove all the dings and dents before shining to a wonderful finish on the tin/lead alloy.

REQUEST FOR DONATIONS.

Max Peterson is asking if any members have any spare tools, accessories, old lathes or other items that could be donated to the **Center For The Arts** who, as you probably already know, are in the process of setting up a Turning Centre.

For Sale:

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

Air dried Cherry, Sassafras, Hickory, Oak, Walnut and Willow from 1" clear Boards to 4" Crotches for Turning etc.

Contact John Bridges 724 625 9348