

TURNERS ANONYMOUS

An Association of Wood Turners in Western Pennsylvania

NEWSLETTER

No 77

May 2004

President Craig Smith 412 996 5666	Vice-President Tim Janeway 412 761-3518	Treasurer Dave Beringer 412 655 8524	Secretary Gary Fournier 412 835 0589
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NEXT MEETING:

Saturday, 15th May

**Location: Center for Contemporary Crafts,
101, Smallman St, Strip District**

Time: Doors Open at 9.00 am. Coffee & Donuts from then until 9.30 when the meeting will start promptly so that all can have the maximum opportunity to watch a fascinating all day demonstration by **Andi Wolfe**

If you attended the Alan Lacer Demo there will be no extra charge for this month. If not, and you would like to attend please call Dave Beringer who will collect your payment providing that there are still spaces available (room is limited at the Center to about 50 persons) Turners Anonymous will be providing a free lunch. There will be door prizes but no raffle nor opportunity for a Show and Tell.

You have learnt to turn a bowl, now is your opportunity to learn how to turn it into a work of art

----- 00000 -----

This will be the last meeting for the current season and we take the opportunity to wish you all an enjoyable summer as you take a rest from turning instead of using a rest for turning.

An exciting programme is already in the works for the 2004-2005 season so watch out for further details as they become available.

LAST MEETING

A Report by Dave Beringer

APRIL EGG TURNERS

John Bridges organized another interesting hands on turning event for our April meeting. With the air inside and outside of Max's shop filled with flying wood chips and John's Irish musical selections, four groups created their rendition of a turned egg box based upon the plans provided in the March newsletter. Every time the music stopped, a new turner took their place in front of the lathe and began turning. Most of those in attendance were brave enough to use their turning talents to contribute to the project. This project provided the opportunity to practice: the skew cuts demo'ed by Alan Lacer in March to create the outside of the egg; techniques to create tight fitting box lids and to use reverse chucking to finish the bottom of the egg. Although most if not all groups ended with a finished egg box, the real goal of these sessions is to share the woodturning experience with other members. During these sessions, we get a chance to observe, discuss and put into practice some different turning techniques. I know I always seem to learn a thing or two from the other members of my group. Thanks for your efforts John.

TURNERS ANONYMOUS

NEWSLETTER

SPREADING THE GOOD WORD about the fun and satisfaction obtainable through Wood Turning. Members get to know about classes and demonstrations through the Newsletter and Web-Site. But, to keep the club growing and alive we must constantly seek new members. This can be done by demonstrations open to and available to the public in general.

The **Society for Contemporary Crafts**, as you know, now has a studio with 6 lathes and a busy summer programme which includes:-

Classes for beginners and another for the Intermediate level by **Doug Trembath in June**,

Making a Windsor style foot stool by **Craig Smith in June**.

Turning Wet Wood by **Linda VanGehuchten in July**.

From Firewood to finished Box by **Craig Smith in July**

Your Editor was able to introduce an interested group at **Sherwood Oaks Retirement Home** how to turn bowls on the previously unused Delta Lathe in their shop.

Jack Brown has given another demonstration at **Hosannah Industries**

We need members to volunteer for demonstrations and staffing at **the 3 Rivers Arts Festival**. If you can find the time to participate please contact:

Doug Trembath for Friday June 4th
Dave Bringer for Saturday June 5th
Craig Smith for Sunday June 6th

and volunteers are wanted again for the **Fair in the Park September 10 – 12** i.e. the first weekend after Labour Day

The Freedom Pen Project

Has got off to a good start with 3315 pens received by 1st May and 2322 shipped to the forces overseas.

For further information log on to:-
www.freedompens.org
or
www.sawmillcreek.org

If you are not able to use a computer to get this information I suggest you call **Jack Brown** who occasionally will tear himself away from his lathes to answer the phone.

Materials are available at no cost to those unable to afford to buy them and these include red, white and blue Corian. Berea Hardwoods on the outskirts of Cleveland carry pen blanks, the metal components plus tools and mandrels. John Bridges has Walnut and Cherry pen blanks available for the asking.

Bear this project in mind during those hot summer days when a few hours spent in an air conditioned shop turning pens can give so much pleasure to the US Overseas troops.

The AAW Web site has been revised and is well worth looking at for information or inspiration
www.woodturner.org

For Sale:

* Kiln dried wood Hard and Soft woods from Steve Morovich before or after the meeting or call him at 724 341 1980

* Cherry, Oak, Walnut and Sassafras Boards, turning blanks or Crotches from John Bridges 724 625 9348

TURNERS ANONYMOUS

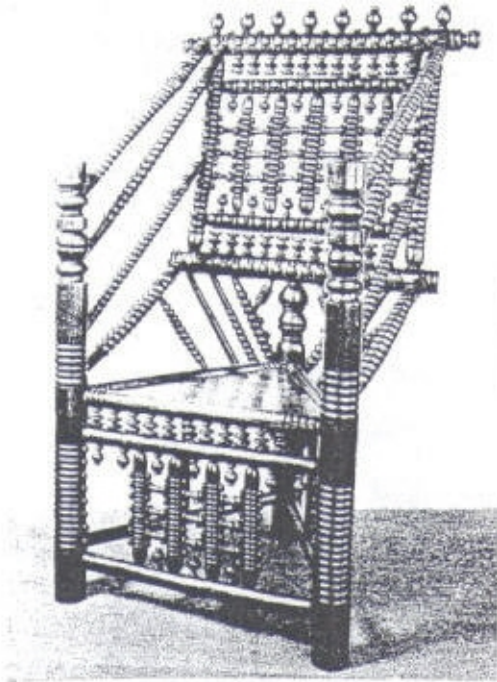
NEWSLETTER

How To Turn a Chair.

The simplest way is to pick up a Chair, rotate it through 180 degrees and put it down again.

However if you want a more complicated project consider reproducing the Turned Bobbin Chair made in England in the year 1620 and now located in the Victoria and Albert Museum, London.

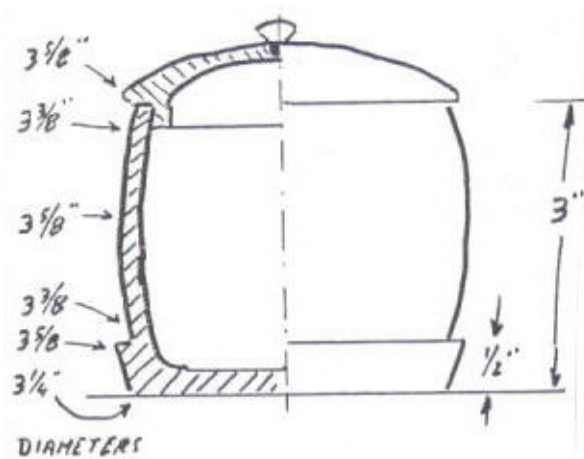
Overwhelmed? Consider suggesting it as a project for the Collaborative effort.



Turning Blocks given to T.A.

Martin Stolpe, as mentioned at the last meeting has given a quantity of kiln dried pieces of local hardwoods to our club. Historical Bird Cherry, Tree of heaven and Rough Bark Iron wood are just some of the species given from his amazing collection. The club is asking for a \$ 2.00 per piece donation for these; \$48 was raised this way for club funds on Saturday 17th April. Contact Martin or John Bridges if you want more.

All Martin asks is whether 15 club members could turn a Sugar Bowl from some of this wood, to be given to his relations at his family get-together this coming Thanksgiving. A Sign-Up Sheet will be available at the May meeting. This bowl is sketched below:-



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TURNERS ANONYMOUS

NEWSLETTER

What's in a Name ?

One of my first projects in High School woodworking class was to make a book stand from a wood called Satin Walnut.. There is another called Hazel Pine. These are in fact respectively the Heartwood and sapwood of the Southern Gum tree.

Just about every country in the world calls its hardest specie "Ironwood" and the "Ironwood" of each country is from a different tree.

To promote a hitherto unknown specie the commercial salesmen like to give it a name based on an accepted and popular wood. Thus we have African Mahogany, Honduras Mahogany, Philippine Mahogany even tho they have no claim to the name and inferior working qualities. Similarly in the case of Cherry and Teak. Rhodesian Teak and Guyana Reak, neither have much resemblance to the genuine Teak from Burma. (*Tectona grandis*)

Even if we stick to the same specie of tree we find that the plantation material cut from young immature trees is less stable, less dense and less desirable than wood from the mature trees. Teak and Radiata Pine being the classic examples

So, in a nutshell, what can we do to ensure that we get what we think we want and not some inferior substitute? Use the Scientific name. Instead of just saying "Teak" specify "Tectona grandis".

Instead of asking for American Ironwood be bold and identify what you want as *Carpinus caroliniana* and not use the other confusing name of Blue Beech.

At school I hated History lessons until I took an interest in Furniture and found myself learning dates and periods. And why the Spanish furniture was all demountable because of the constant wars with the Moors who occupied parts of the country for many years. Similarly Latin seemed a pretty useless language until I needed to identify trees and timber. There are over 400 different types of Eucalyptus trees yielding wood with different properties. Some are yellow (*microcorys*) This is the preferred one for wood carving by the craftsmen in Kenya. Others can be red, brown or white, some are relatively stable whilst others split without help from an axe. When we tried to make poles from *E.saligna* we found that they would split and stand up on four feet just like the Eiffel Tower. Choose the wrong one at your peril!

If you think that this confusion is a modern occurrence, just picture the poor child out with her father in a London Park, as drawn in a cartoon that appeared in 1852

