

TURNERS ANONYMOUS

An Association of Wood Turners in Western Pennsylvania

NEWSLETTER

No 96

May 2006

President Dave Berringer 412 655 8524	Vice-President Tim Janeway 412 761 3518	Treasurer Rich Evans 412 653 6214	Secretary Ted Owen 724 615 1038
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NEXT MEETING:

Saturday, May 20th

Location: Center for Contemporary Arts,
Smallman Street, Strip District

Time: 10.00 am. Coffee & Donuts from 9.30

Jack Brown will be demonstrating how he makes all those intriguing, imaginative and artistic **Off Center Turnings**.

FUTURE MEETINGS:

A **SUMMER PICNIC** will be organised. Watch our for further details in the next News Letter.

September 16th. Grain Balancing and Orientation for Bowls. This will be a presentation by our own **Dr Tim Janeway**.

October 21st. A Hands-On Meeting with several lathes up and running to demonstrate turned Holiday gifts and donations.

November 18th. **Bill Grumbine** will be demonstrating his ideas for **Bowl Turning**. An all day event free to members with lunch provided.

November 19th. On Sunday Bill will be teaching a small class. Fee \$ 100 for the all day event limited to 6 students.

Saturday December 16th will be our by now almost traditional **Christmas Party** for members and spouses

March 17th David Ellsworth returns after an absence of years. Make sure to note this date in your diary NOW!

SHOW AND TELL provides our own INSTANT GALLERY at each of our regular meetings. Whilst you are of course invited to bring in your latest creation, we will in future be suggesting a theme for each month so that you can compare more easily.

Since the last meeting was on Lidded Boxes we are anxious to see your efforts, good or bad, finished or part turned, unusual or given up in exasperation for insurmountable defects or un planned exits.

ARTS FESTIVAL

June 2nd, 3rd and 4th.

We can always do with more volunteers to help staff our stand and demonstrate. Please contact Dave Berringer if you can help

A FAIR IN THE PARK.

This upscale event will be held on the first weekend after labor Day i.e. **8, 9 & 10th September**

Again volunteers are wanted, please contact:-

Bob Zetnor if you can help on the Friday

Bill Henry for Saturday

TerryMorrill for Sunday.

Meeting Announcement:

Our meeting May 20 is being held at the Society for Contemporary Craft. A couple of other events will be taking place in the downstairs area. I would ask our members so as not to be too disruptive to these events and that we use only the Main entrance to enter and leave our meeting. The door at the bottom of the outside steps will be locked. The main Entrance is on 21st at the corner of Smallman. Also since our space will be more limited please arrive no earlier than 9:30 am. Our meeting will start at 10:00am. This will give us a chance to setup the room. Thanks for your cooperation. Dave Berringer

Editorial.

Meeting old friends is always a pleasure, especially if you have not seen them for a number of years, and doubly so if they turn wood. Whilst in Germany recently I took the opportunity to spend a couple of days with Carl Heinz whom I had known in Ghana some 15 years ago whilst he was manager of a Sawmill.

He has recently bought a new German lathe that is like a bigger version of Jack Brown's General, has an 8 foot bed that enabled him to turn a set of painted whimsical markers for the Parking Lot outside his apartment. At the other end of the scale he uses the same lathe to turn Christmas Ornaments, Mushrooms and lidded boxes. I particularly liked his Wenge bowls and boxes inlaid with that startlingly green Malachite.

However, even more impressive than his lathe and the quality of his turning were the stacks and stacks of African and European turning blanks, logs and pieces of wood in general. 15 years running sawmills in Africa and the rest of a career working with an agent for tropical woods in Germany gave many opportunities to hang on to interesting specimens. Enough to turn me green with envy and enough to last a turner several life times!

Meeting fellow turners gives an opportunity to exchange items like a Dry Flower vase glued up with various Pennsylvania woods for a Night Light holder made of German Plum. Incidentally Plum trees are scattered all over the local farm lands either for the fruit or to distil into Schnapps, thus Plum Wood is almost as readily available as Cherry in our Pennsylvania woods.

Apart from general conversation, meeting fellow turners enables us to glean new tips or even warnings. Carl's hand was still not fully mobile after a bowl he was turning several weeks ago exploded and flew in all directions, hitting his arm, hand and badly gouging the top of his head. Returning to the scene after visiting the local hospital he was horrified to see the high speed setting that he had been using for this green 14" diameter bowl that had contained a hidden defect. Let that be a warning to always carefully check the speed before turning a large green bowl.

Why do boards contain knots?

I found the answer in an amusing folk tale during a visit to the Alsace Region of France. (I understand that a similar folk tale exists in Hungary)

"Jesus and St Peter were walking in the country and came across a group of carpenters celebrating outside an Inn. An invitation to join the singing and dancing was refused and this refusal caused an angry reaction amongst the drunken carpenters so that instead of a happy occasion a serious confrontation ensued. Jesus wanted to punish them harshly, but St Peter thought that the proposed punishment was too severe and persuaded Jesus to just make their wood hard in parts so that they would never know whether it would be easy or hard to cut."

And so to this day we suffer from the actions of an inebriated bunch of carpenters

APRIL MEETING SUMMARY:

Craig Smith entertained a packed house at the Society for Contemporary Craft with his box turning demo. Craig was very well prepared and had a "**box full**" of examples from his collection of boxes. A number of his examples were from noteworthy turners including Richard Raffan, Ray Key and Bonnie Kline. Craig graciously passed them through the audience. He explained he turns most boxes in 2 stages. First, he roughs out blanks and numbers them so when they dry he can easily identify a matching top and bottom pair. Craig explained he even allows blanks turned from dry wood, time to relax before the final turning. Warping is a definite enemy that will ruin the smooth snug, not tight, fit he establishes between the box top and bottom. He began his demo by finish turning a previously roughed out pair into a capsule style box. The goal, as he stated, was to give an overview of the process and also talk about some of the subtle nuisances of box making, including design considerations and establishing the proper fit between the top and bottom.

If you have never turned a box before, Craig's demo and handout provided more than enough information to participate in our challenge and turn a box for the May Instant Gallery. Surely, everyone in attendance could see the number of skills that one must master to make a quality box. Many of these skills such as hitting sizes, establishing fits, jam chucking, hollowing, detailing are valuable skills to perfect for many turning projects. Thanks Craig for a job well done!

News from and About The Center for Contemporary Crafts:-

LATHE STANDS.

Our club has volunteered to make stands for the 6 lathes belonging to the society and that are used for classes that they organise. They give much to our club and in return we have this opportunity to help them. Please contact **Craig Smith** if you can assist with this project which will contain woodworking and assembly skills

CLASSES.

WOODEN PLATTERS – An Introduction to Wood turning by **Jack Brown.**

June 1, 8 and 15

TURNED AND TEXTURED BOWLS

Linda VanGehuchten

July 8th and 15

TURNED MUSHROOM BOXES

Craig Smith

June 17th 9-4pm with a one hour lunch break.

TURNED WALKING STICKS

An introduction to spindle turning with **Mike Stadler.**

August 6th and 12

HAND TURNED PENS.

Turning Experience not required for this opportunity to make a fine writing instrument with

Dave Berringer

July 22 from 10am to 3 pm with one hour lunch break

**For Further Information visit the
Society at 101, Smallman Street in
the Strip District and have a look
at their gallery of art in many
different forms or look up their
web site......**

www.contemporarycraft.org

Scholarships.

To promote and encourage participation in these classes your committee is discussing ways to give out scholarships to attend some of these classes for beginner or experienced turners.

Meanwhile we can announce that each member who brings a box (or boxes) to the May Show and Tell will receive a ticket to the drawing for free enrolment at one of these classes.

Also each member who has produced Worm components will receive a ticket for a drawing for another class

There is a need to get more young folks interested in wood turning and we are seeking your help and ideas as to how we can make contact with the younger generation.

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Lambton Worm Update:

Our collaborative effort is coming along nicely. We have had 34 people participate in this project. I must say I am pleased with the showing. Our worm takes up most of an eight-foot rectangular banquet table. It goes up, down, in, out, wrapping a number of times on itself. We will be sure to have pictures available on our website and at a future meeting of our completed worm. We have had several assembly meetings at Jack Brown's and I would personally like to thank all those who have attended.

A Message from The Chairman:-

As another year of meetings draws to close I can honestly say I am proud to be a member of this group. I have made many friends and always tell people who may be considering coming to a meeting just how friendly and supportive our group is. I truly believe that atmosphere makes it easier to become a better turner. Members are always willing to share their insights and newly acquired skills. Thanks again and I look forward to meeting you all again in September. Have a great summer and watch for news of our summer Picnic.

THE SURPLUS CENTER Offers many hydraulic and electrical items at a very good price; and also can supply a vacuum Pump suitable for Vacuum chucks at about \$100 compared to a similar item from Craft Supplies at \$369.

(Editor's note! I have dealt with this firm for many years and found them very reliable and good value for money.) 1 800 488 3407

DISCOUNTS FOR CLUB MEMBERS

CRAFT SUPPLIES. Are offering the club a 13% discount and free shipping on any order over \$1000. **Tim Janeway** is collecting orders in an attempt to reach the needed minimum. To date he has \$148. Please bring your requests to the meeting on Saturday with the catalogue reference number and a cheque for the full amount, Tim will refund the difference when the order is delivered at a future club meeting. If you don't have a Craft Supplies catalogue you can find them on the Internet.

All Local Vendors honour our membership cards for Discounts.

di legno Woodshop Supply

1452 Fleming Avenue
McKees Rocks, PA 15136
1-877-208-4298
Discount varies by item, generally 10%

Rockler

7402 McKnight Road (location)
412-364-7751
10 % except on Sales items

Woodcraft

The Pointe at North Fayette(location)
620 Chauvet Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15275
412-494-9663
Discount 10 %

Woodcrafter's Supply

7703 Perry Highway (Rt 19)
Pittsburgh, PA 15237
(412) 367-4330
10 % except on power tools

Harbor Freight Tools

639A Clairton Blvd.
Pittsburgh, PA 15236
(412)650-9691
10 % discount not combinable with other coupons

Mail Order

Klingspor

www.woodworkingshop.com
1-800-228-0000
10 % except on power tools and sale items

Must set up a customer number and password

SUMMER IS A TIME FOR COLLECTING.

Traditionally fall and winter were the seasons for felling trees. However turners differ from the saw millers, carpenters and cabinet makers in that whilst they want easy to work straight grained timber, we prefer knotty, splitting, half rotten, difficult to work species. So why can't we'uns garner this sort of wood whilst we have long summer days and the time to look for those special pieces that can't be found in the regular sawmill or lumber yard. We have access to many articles on how to dry wood and if we've forgotten how to read then there are always friendly members to offer advice or even help to load and carry that too-big-for-you-alone lump of potential bowl.

For Sale:

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

Cherry, Oak, Sassafras and Walnut Boards or Turning blanks. Logs sawn to your dimensions. I have several 3" thick Walnut crotches left; air dried for three years also Cherry and Walnut up to 22" wide. **John Bridges 724 625 9348**

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