

TURNERS ANONYMOUS

An Association of Wood Turners in Western Pennsylvania

NEWSLETTER

No 80

NOVEMBER 2004

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

Saturday, 20th November

Location: Max Peterson's Workshop

Time: 10.00 am. Coffee & Donuts from 9.30

For those of you who need a little help or suggestions on turning ornaments, the November meeting will be for you! The Show and Tell at the November meeting will be a collection of those ornaments that have already been completed, so for those of you who can, please bring your completed ornaments to the meeting and share your designs with your fellow turners who need some ideas. The program for the meeting will consist of several stations with brief demonstrations of several styles of ornaments. Members will rotate through the stations to brush up on some techniques for turning your ornaments. Also, an additional workshop will be scheduled for the SCC prior to the end of November for anyone who would like a little last-minute help on their ornaments.

October Program

For our October meeting, Dave Beringer arranged an entertaining and informative program. Ron Juliette, a professional photographer, discussed a variety of topics related to photography.

Both Ron and Dave brought in photographic enclosures made of rip-stop nylon and PVC pipe. Ron's assembly slipped together into a tent shape and was easily disassembled for transport. Dave's setup utilized Velcro and required no sewing and was made of a series of square panels that could be hooked together.

Ron provided information on cameras, lighting, composition, and other topics in a very interesting way. He also provided a handout which is available on the club website. If you missed the meeting, and are interested in one of the handouts, please get it from the website, or see Craig Smith.

Holiday Ornaments

The group agreed to donate Holiday Ornaments for sale in collaboration between Turners Anonymous, the Society for Contemporary Craft, and the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy. Our club will donate 50 or more ornaments for sale. The proceeds from the sale will be divided among the three organizations.

We would like to have every member donate two or three ornaments. They can be a little fancy or they can be quite simple. A variety of styles and price ranges are desirable, but it is best if a majority of the ornaments are "affordable". We would like to get a start on collecting these ornaments at the November meeting. They all need to be collected by the end of November

December Program

Like last year, we are planning to hold a bit of a Christmas party for our December meeting. And once again we would like to collect tops for donation to Children's Hospital. Please plan to bring as many as you can to the December meeting. We also are planning to have an extensive Show and Tell at that meeting, so plan to bring in your best show pieces for the December meeting!

News from the Treasurer:

- We plan to hold over RAY KEY for another hands-on workshop day. The added day will be on Monday, April 11, 2005 and is being done in conjunction with the Indiana club. We currently have openings for this session. Also, there maybe an additional spot open for the Sunday hands-on workshop. The cost for either of these sessions is \$125.00 and a spot can be reserved with a \$65 deposit. We need to finalize our Monday roster by Wednesday November 24, 2005. Please see or call Dave Beringer (412-655-8524) for more information.
- I will start collecting dues for 2005 at the November meeting. Our dues are still a very reasonable \$20. If you are paying by check, please make the check payable to Turners Anonymous. If you like, you can mail your payment to:
David Beringer
1632Queens Drive
South Park, PA 15129
- Lastly, I will also begin selling reservations to the RAY KEY DEMO that will be held on Saturday, April 9, 2005. This demo will be held at the Society for Contemporary Crafts in the strip district. The cost of the Saturday all day demo is \$15.00. As was the case last year, because of space limitations, we will be limiting ticket sales to 50 participants so reserve your spot early.

Sugar Bowls.

Thanks to all those who contributed Sugar Bowls to the Show and Tell last month (and curses bestowed on those that promised to turn them but didn't) A score of bowls have been handed over to Martin Stolpe who has so generously given turning blanks to our Club. In a letter of thanks he says "that he couldn't be more pleased to receive them" and that they will be handed out to members of his family at their traditional and 39th get-together for Thanksgiving at Lake Naomi in the Poconos. He says that they will "be a big hit and treasured for years to come".

The original has been in his family for several generations, handed down from parents to children. At their reunion Martin will endeavour to obtain more of the history of this particular bowl and will be looking at the other one in the Detroit Interstate Museum next week.

Watch for further historical details as they are discovered! Were the originals used for sugar? Does this design exist in European countries or is it uniquely American? What species were used by these early turners? Did they use a Skew? History buffs, we need your help to expand this interesting saga.

Several years ago I was given drawings of a Spice Mill by one of the TA members. When in England a few years later I visited the museum in Portsmouth of the Mary Rose where I found the original Spice mill salvaged from the sea bed after having lain there for 300+ years. Answers can be found to most problems if you keep your ears and eyes open, even in the most unexpected places.

Wow! Now I have found a similar bowl illustrated in a magazine. Not quite the same shape but approximately the same size and fitted with a lid but called a "Nut Bowl" Why? Made to store a small quantity of nuts? Made of wood from a nut bearing tree? What do you think?

Warmth

Like many wood turners you have probably carefully considered which species of wood you are going to use for your next project. But, how many have carefully considered what wood they are going to burn this winter to “keep the home fires burning”?

Logs to burn, logs to burn!

Logs to save the coal a turn!

Here’s a word to make you wise

When you hear the woodsman cries.

Beechwood fires burn bright and clear,

Hornbeam blazes too,

If the logs are kept a year

To season through and through.

Oak logs will warm you well

If they’re old and dry

Larch logs of Pinewood smell

But the sparks will fly.

Pine is good and so is yew

For warmth thro’ wintry days

But Poplar and Willow too

Take long to dry and blaze.

Birch logs will burn too fast,

Alder scarce at all

Chestnut logs are good to last

If cut in the fall.

Holly logs will burn like wax-

You should burn them green.

Elm wood burns like smouldering flax,

No flame is seen.

Pear logs and Apple logs

They will scent your room

Cherry logs across the dogs

Smell like flowers in bloom

But Ash logs smooth and grey

Burn them green or old,

Buy up all that come your way

They’re worth their weight in gold.

Or

Wampum

This could be sub-titled “Burn or Earn” or “What to do with your surplus turnings”. Here follow a few ideas for them other than tossing them in the wood stove. Yes Lignum Vitae and Purpleheart will burn and keep you warm, but surely such beautiful woods deserve a better end!

The Presque Isle Turners booked a booth at the

Craft Fair where their members were able to sell surplus turnings. Let’s get some feed back as to whether you think Turners Anonymous should participate in an event to enable our members to sell some of their turnings.

Clearly Creative Innovations has a new showroom in Mars and invite wood turners to display their work. Shelf Display space is available for \$5.00 per month (and up depending on size required) and they keep 20% of the selling price to defray their expenses. For further information call and visit their showroom at 135, Grand Avenue Mars or call them at 724 625 7230

In a village with a name like Mars all items of an “Alien” nature have especial appeal to the buying public. Have you turned a Sputnik lately?

They also have a classroom at the rear of the shop where various classes are held for small groups in painting and various craft projects. They would also be open to holding wood turning classes. If any member who has a portable mini lathe is interested in earning just a little wampum, they will find this co operative very flexible.

Only children without hordes of siblings and cousins on which to off load surplus turnings need help to avoid loading the wood stove with our sort of round wood. Please tell the editor if you know of any outlets that might help other members so that we can include the information in future newsletters

Turners Anonymous NEEDS YOU!

Two long time board members, Jack Brown and Gary Fournier, have decided to take a well-earned rest from the activities of the board. They deserve many kudos for their years of faithful service to the club. Please offer each your personal thanks when you see them.

We now must look for members to step in to carry on their efforts and fill new board seats. I know many members question their qualifications to be a member of the board; I did when I was asked to serve. Some members might have the impression the board is a hallowed ground occupied by the most advanced turners of the club. Nothing could be further from the truth. I believe the board should reflect the skill levels of the club members, which vary widely. After all the board's primary responsibility is to act in the interest of the members. The most beneficial qualities board members can have are enthusiasm and a desire and commitment to make the club better as the result of their service.

Board members serve 2-year terms. Serving on the board requires the regular attendance at monthly board meetings, which are approximately two hours in length and are held only during the months that we meet. Some board members have specific roles as officers of the club (President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer). Board members who are not officers do not have defined tasks and like all board members do whatever is necessary to facilitate the needs of the club. Truly not a great deal of time is required. I must admit I have had a great time serving so far.

We have such a great group of members, whenever we ask for help with tasks (setting up for meeting, cleaning up after meeting, ...) members always seem to step forward. Please consider stepping forward in a more regular way by joining the board. If you are interested or have questions, please contact either Craig Smith or me, our phone numbers can be found at the top of the newsletter. Thanks for your consideration and please don't assume some else will step forward and steal your fun!

Dave Beringer.

Change in club status

The club membership voted unanimously to proceed with making application to becoming a 501c3 not for profit organization. In support of this a revised set of by-laws is under development. We anticipate these revised bylaws will be available for review by the December meeting, and plan to vote for their adoption at the January meeting. More details will be available in the next newsletter.

Windsor Chair Classes

Max Peterson and Craig Smith will be offering a Windsor chair class starting in January. The chair will be a braced, bow back side chair. Classes will be Tuesday evenings 7:00 – 10:00 starting on January 11 and running for 10 weeks. Please see Max or Craig for more details.

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 from
John Bridges 724 625 9348

Editor:

John F. Bridges
1743, Old State Road
GIBSONIA PA 15044
brimor@aol.com
724 625 9348