

# TURNERS ANONYMOUS

An Association of Wood Turners in Western Pennsylvania

NEWSLETTER

No 110

November 2007

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**November Meeting:** Bill Hayes  
Christmas Ornaments

**Location:** Max's Workshop, Bethel Park

**Date:** Saturday November 17, 2007

**Time:** Doors open 9:30 am meeting to start 10:30 am

Bill Hayes has agreed to turn over the raffle tickets this month so that he can demo the entire process of making his style of christmas ornaments. Bill has



published an elaborate article on this process in **MORE WOODTURNING** in a 2006 issue. After drilling viewing windows and hollowing the ornament Bill will show us his neat method of sanding the inside. He will also show us how he turns an angel, snowman and christmas tree which he then paints and decorates before mounting in the ornament. With the holidays on their way Bill's demo will surely provide some good ideas making your own holiday ornaments.

**October Meeting: Jimmy Clewes**

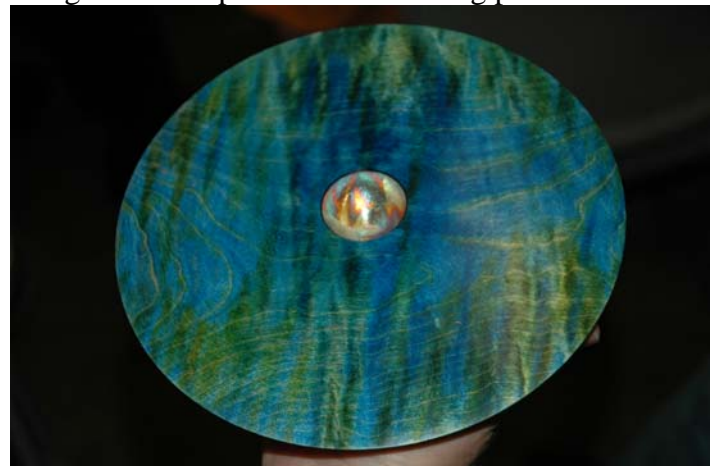
If you missed the Jimmy Clewes's Saturday demo then as Mike Lange (voice of the Penguins) would say shame on you for six years. Jimmy got the day off to a whizzing start with his oriental style box demo. It was like a giant fan was turned on in the room. I was sitting in the back of the room and could really feel the breeze created by the 5"w, 10"l, 3" thick block rotating around faster than most in attendance could believe. Jimmy's wake-up demo was all of that. He like to turn as fast as possible in this case turning with

the rpm's cranked up allowed for better intermittent cutting. His lid fitting techniques I believe were pretty similar to those used by our own Craig Smith. Jimmy stressed the design process during his entire demo. He also believes in using grinding jigs to sharpen. He uses the Oneway vari-grind jig and the wolverine system.



His objective is the quality of the piece he is producing and he will use whatever method that gives the best results and allow him to be most efficient. Whether that means sanding with a coarser grit or taking an extra pass with a gouge. The end result is all that the person who ends up with the piece sees, not the methods used to get there.

The second piece he demo was what I think the audience found most interesting. He used a figured piece of maple and some alcohol based dyes and gold leaf to produce the stunning piece below.



Even those in the audience who object to coloring wood had to admit the dyes made the figure in the wood pop. He used blue green and yellow dyes. The green and yellow were dabbed into the figure areas as highlights. This piece was also a good turning exercise it contains no flats everything is a curve. He even flows the curve on the bottom through the foot making this piece footless. After lunch Jimmy produced a thin stemmed goblet and Arabic style box. The thinned stem goblet is a turning exercise worth trying.



It is all about tool control and using just enough force to cut with deflecting and destroying the piece.

Jimmy puts a lot of energy in his demos and teaching. He was truly concerned that his students in both one day sessions got value from him. Whether it was by showing how to sharpen, make a cut or talk about or correct mistakes, (I mean design challenges). Thanks Jimmy for a job well done and also to Craig Smith our program director who made the weekend happen.

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### **Christmas Tops and Bowl/Platter Drive**

We will again this year collect both tops and bowls/platters at the Christmas meeting. Our tops last year went to support the children's room at the Allegheny county court house. The bowls went to several residents at area elderly homes any to the vets. We received many warm wishes from all of these groups. Rich Evans has again volunteered to chair the Bowl Drive and distribution. He will be helped by fellow board member Bob Zentner. To entice your participation we will be have a special drawing for a nice bowl gouge at our Christmas meeting. The only way to enter this drawing will be to bring tops and

bowls in for donation. I know we all have some turning around that we could donate to this worthy cause. We will take care of placing some goodies in the bowls or platters for distribution to those who otherwise may not have a present this Christmas.

### **Extra Top Turning Meetings**

In order to support our annual Christmas top campaign we are having 2 weekday hands on turning session meeting. We have in the past had a great response from the membership for these meetings. The first meeting will be held on Tuesday November 27, 2007 at Jack Brown's workshop. This meeting will begin at 7:00 PM. The second meeting will take place at the Society for Contemporary Craft on Thursday December 6, 2007. This meeting will begin at 6pm. Try to attend one or both of these events. You don't have to be there at the start come when you can make it. Tools will be available at the society but please bring yours. Top blanks will be supplied. Come for the fun and maybe pickup a few hints and tips. If you have never turned a top these are events not to be missed. Mark your calendars and we see you there. For more information contact Dave Beringer at 412-414-9694 or djbber@comcast.net.

### **Pen Turners Corner By Harold Poland CA/Blo Finish**

If you're looking for a High gloss durable finish for your pens that will stand up well to daily use, a combination of CA (cyanoacrylic) or super glue and boiled linseed oil might be just the finish for you. The Ca glue cures very hard and the boiled linseed oil is used as both an accelerant and a lubricant in the application process. There are probably as many different methods of applying this finish as there are people that use it, but this is the method that I've found to give the best results.

Turn your pen blanks to size and sand. I sand with 220,320,400.then Micromesh through 12000grit. Micromesh is an abrasive product that is available from suppliers like Rockler, and Woodcrafter Craft to name a few. Micromesh may be machine washed and used over and over.

Once your blanks are sanded and polished with Micromesh, I like to apply a light coat of Boiled Linseed oil to "pop" the grain...I put about 4 drops of

the oil on a paper towel and apply to the blank with the lathe running, then burnish it in with a dry paper towel.

To apply the Ca glue, first fold a sheet of paper towel lengthwise into a 1 inch wide strip and moisten the end with 3 or 4 drops of boiled linseed oil, hold the paper towel strip to the spinning blank, just below the oil moistened part and with the other hand drizzle one thin ribbon of ca glue where the blank and paper towel meet(I use medium but thick and thin works also) move the paper towel back and forth along the blank to smooth out the glue, gradually moving the paper towel down so you are using the oiled part, continue to move it back and forth along the blank until you get that little puff of gas that tells you the ca is curing. You should be doing this with a dust collector running or at least set up a fan so you're not breathing this gas, or wear a respirator.



Cut off the glue soaked part of the paper towel, apply 3 or 4 drops of boiled linseed oil to the fresh section and repeat this process with the next blank. Repeat this sequence until you have applied about 6 coats of ca to each barrel. Some woods will take more and some will take less. Its best to let this cure now for about an hour or longer or you can apply a very light amount of ca accelerator

The next step is to sand the ca finish smooth. Where you start this sanding process depends on how smooth your application is but generally 400 grit should do it, sand very lightly. Sand the blanks lengthwise with the lathe stopped, proceed through all the grits of the micromesh. The trick here is to not sand all the way through the finish to bare wood, but if you do, you can just reapply. By now you should have a very high

gloss finish. If you wish you can now buff the blank with a automotive polishing compound. I use McGuire's Scratch and Swirl Remover. I use a small buffing wheel that is made to be used in a drill, held with a drill chuck in the head stock of the lathe. Just apply a drop the size of a pea to the blank, smooth it out with your finger, wait about 45 seconds then buff.



If you prefer you can add a top coat like Ren wax or caranuba wax and then buff, just let this cure for a half an hour before you assemble the pen  
Here is the finished pen, a Honey Locust slimline



If you have any questions feel free to contact me at [splinter99@comcast.net](mailto:splinter99@comcast.net)

### **Instant Gallery for November and December Meetings:**

The Instant Gallery November theme will be turnings inspired by the Jimmy Clewes demo last month. So please bring your version of the Asian box, dyed platter, thin-stemmed goblet and Arabic box for display. Those who attended Jimmy's sessions on

Sunday or Monday are asked to bring their pieces. All your other recent turnings are also welcomed.

The December meeting will feature Christmas themed items. So practice the procedures Bill will demonstrate during the November meeting. You should bring any Holiday themed turning (ornaments, platters, bowls, etc) to this meeting. We will also have our usual holiday Gallery extravaganza at which we seem to always have some fabulous work. So bring in your turnings of any kind.

Also you are invited to bring any "extra" cookies and goodies to our annual Christmas meeting.

Lastly we are still collecting pieces for our fund drive to benefit our club. If you would like to donate a piece please mark your card to be placed with each piece a piece being donated. Also be sure to sign your piece and list the wood type and year made.

### **2008 Membership Dues**

Please consider paying your dues this month, dues are now being collected. In an effort to get membership cards distributed in January dues should be paid as soon as possible. See our treasurer Ted Owen at the meeting remember our dues are only \$20. What a deal. That is about \$2.20 a month. It probably cost most of us more in gas to get back and forth to each meeting. Dues can be mailed to

Ted Owen,  
7021 Oak Park Drive,  
Gibsonia, Pa 15044

Make checks payable to "Turners Anonymous"

### **Christmas Raffle**

Everyone should have or have already purchased a book of tickets for our Christmas Raffle fundraiser. If you are still in possession of un-purchased tickets please support our efforts and purchase the tickets by sending or giving Bill Hayes your money, checks should be made payable to Turners Anonymous., and completed ticket stubs. If you want more tickets Bill is also the man to contact. To date ticket sales are going along quite well.. If you are not able to purchase all the tickets please send them back so other members will have a chance to get more tickets. If

there are any questions please feel free to call Bill Hayes 412-741-5150.

### **Donation a Pieces for Fund Raising**

We are now selling the pieces we have collected from our member's generous donations at ShadySide Hospital. This sale will go on through early December. Tim Janeway deserves our thanks for putting this opportunity together for us. He and Bill Hayes have worked hard at organizing this sale. We are still collecting pieces for future opportunities so please see Dave Beringer with your donations or list the items as a donation when you fill out the card for the instant gallery. The beauty of this idea is it allows TA to generate funds from outside our group. Please consider donating some of your work. You get the satisfaction of turning a nice piece and the club reaps the rewards of your labor. Your cost? A piece of wood and your time spent doing something you enjoy! Please sign, date and identify the wood used on each piece. When you bring in your pieces consider packing them in a box for transit by TA. The same box can then be provided to the buyer for safe transit to their home.

### **50/50**

Bill can't demo and run the 50/50 but we still will have our normal lucrative raffle with \$50 cash and a \$20 gift certificate from Packard Wood Works along with two more really good lights for your lathe. Dave will donate a great piece of wood and the die needed to make a plate like you saw demonstrated last month. Dave will also donate the gold to put in the middle of your project. Support the raffle even though Bill will not be putting the pressure on to buy more tickets.

Let's not forget our friends at Woodcraft in Robinson have come through with the wonderful prize for our Christmas raffle. They also give us all a 10% discount for just being a member of Turners Anonymous. We all get a 10% discount from Rockler in the North Hills, di legnoWoodshop Supply, Kingsport and Harbor Freight Tools just for being a member of TA. We look forward to seeing all of you at the November meeting at Max's shop.

### **Taunton Press Magazines**

John Francis can get your Fine Woodworking, Fine Homebuilding, and other publications at a 15%

discount. The deadline is 11/30/2007. Contact John Francis 724-775-6036 for details.

### **Some Quick Notes:**

I had prepared an article on how Jimmy Clewes turns the inside of his bowls but ran out of space this month. Please look for it next month.

Jimmy uses a mist container and Alcohol to spray his pieces during and after sanding and in between finish coats. He does this to initially raise the grain and also to clean the wood pores of sanding dust. Alcohol evaporates quickly unlike water which can also be used. Care must be given since it is quite flammable and will dissolve some solvent based finishes such as wax or shellacs. Jimmy ignites his pieces in a large part to please and awe the crowd. This is not necessary, the alcohol will evaporate fast enough on its own.

Maybe the following will put the prices on your work in prospective. Last summer I admired some of Mike Mahoney's work at Utah. I talked to Mike and ask him if he would sell me a bowl made out of the most beautiful quilted poplar I have ever seen. For those of your not familiar with Mike, he is a world known turner (he considers himself a production turner) and demonstrator. He specializes in kitchenware, bowls plates, canisters, etc. I came to find out that he charges \$10 an inch for his bowls. He sold me that beautiful bowl for a measly \$100. Again Mike makes his living by turning. If I had to compete with his prices forget about quality I would starve. Oh on top of that he shipped that bowl to me back in Pittsburgh at no charge!

Dave Beringer

### **Newsletter Ideas and Comments**

Can be e-mailed to [djber@comcast.net](mailto:djber@comcast.net) or feel free to phone me at 412-414-9694

## **Vendors who offer discounts to Turners Anonymous Members**

### **di legno Woodshop**

**Supply**  
1452 Fleming Ave  
McKees Rocks, PA 15136  
1 877 208 4298

<http://www.dlws.com>  
*discounts vary, but are generally 10%*

### **Woodcraft**

The Pointe at North  
Fayette  
620 Chauvet Drive  
Pittsburgh, PA 15275  
412 494 9663

<http://www.woodcraft.com>  
*Discount 10%*

### **Klingspor**

1 800 228 0000  
<http://www.woodworkingshop.com/>

*Discount 10% except on power tools and sale items. Must set up a customer number and password*

### **Rockler**

7402 McKnight Road  
412 364 7751  
<http://www.rockler.com>

*10% discount except on sale items*

### **Harbor Freight Tools**

639A Clairton Blvd.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15236  
412 650 9691

*Discount 10%, cannot be combined with other coupons*