

TURNERS ANONYMOUS

An Association of Wood Turners in Western Pennsylvania

NEWSLETTER

No 89

October 2005

President Craig Smith 412 996 5666	Vice-President Ted Owen 724 625 1038	Treasurer Dave Beringer 412 655 8524	Secretary Tim Janeway 412 761 3518
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NEXT MEETING:

Saturday, October 8th

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

Time: **9:30 am. Doors open 9.00**

**Break for lunch provided around
12:00 pm, Terminating 4pm**

Stuart Batty will be demonstrating his methods of turning bowls boxes and goblets. This is a unique chance to study with this world famous turner right here in Pittsburgh.

We still have room for a few more members, but space is limited at the center so please let Dave Beringer know NOW if you plan to attend. Tickets are just \$25 including lunch.....compare this to classes offered by a local tool firm for \$100 per session. As if this was not enough incentive to attend, don't forget that there will also be valuable prizes to be won

Due to a cancellation there is just one spot open for the one on six tutorial on Sunday at \$ 140

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FUTURE MEETINGS.

NOVEMBER

Our own **John Columbini** has at last consented to show us how he produces all those wonderfully intricate and beautiful turned objects.

His artistry, skill and precision are a joy to behold and an incentive for all of us to improve our work. From Bowls to Walking Sticks and everything in between, John will show you how.

DECEMBER

A show and tell of bowls, Christmas ornaments and toys turned for donation to Children's hospital; a party atmosphere with spouses invited to see what we do in our spare time in the basement avoiding all those Honey

Dos. We will be handing out bowl blanks at the November meeting for you to turn and finish in a different way to any other. This is a repeat of the exercise we carried out a few years ago and we want to show our new members just how the finish can affect the result, stains, paint, carving, sandblasting will all be included.

I guess that by now you all know how to turn tops, but may have forgotten how to turn cars. I'll include a drawing with this newsletter and if you want to make some let me know and I will place a bulk order for wheels and axles.

JANUARY

SKILL BUILDING We will have several lathes up and running at the same time with each one set up to demonstrate some of the skills needed to produce our Collaborative Effort for the AAW.

You will be invited to try your hand at each operation or your questions answered in a practical manner. Carrying a serious turning related problem with you will definitely not prevent entry to this event!

FEBRUARY

TEXTURING. Again we will have several lathes up and running so that you can try your hand after watching a demonstration by several of our experienced members showing their methods and the tools they use

CLUB ELECTIONS Will be held in January and we will be forming a Nominating Committee to help select new Board Members. It is not too early for you to start thinking about who you would like to see arranging the programmes and generally organising the club events. Perhaps you would consider serving in one capacity or the other. Like all the other clubs we need new blood if we are to survive

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MISSING CLUB PROPERTY.

The club has many very good tapes and DVDs that members can take home to view for a month and return at the end of that month. After going through the cards that were signed when the tapes and DVDs were taken, I see that some have been out for over a couple years and others a few months. We need to have these returned so that other members may be able to enjoy them. If you have any of these that are out-standing please bring them to the next meeting or call 724- 845-6611 or e-mail ktmorrill@alltel to make arrangements for their return.

Notes on the last meeting.

{Terry Morrill}

Our September meeting featured REVERSE TUNING. **Jack Brown** did his usual fine demos of many ways of doing the bottoms of many different turnings, **Dave Beringer** showed the ins and outs of vacuum chucking, **Bob Zentner** demonstrated how to use the Cole jaws and **Bob Rice** showed how he gets the great finishes on the bottom of his bowls by using the Longworth chuck and also with just tailstock. If you missed it then you missed some of our best turners displaying their skills. Many thanks to them for volunteering without any hesitation.

(Contributed by **Terry Morrill** who also arranged the programme)

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

John Bridges

The Collaborative Challenge 2006

Turners Anonymous has not submitted an entry for the past two years and we are determined to do so in 2006. We have an idea that will enable ALL of our members, new, old, young experienced or novice to participate by contributing one component.

Maybe you have another idea and we would welcome it for consideration, but it had better be quick because we think that we have hit upon an ideal project. Watch out for details in the next Newsletter and future meetings. We propose to devote the January meeting to this project with hands on demonstrations at half a dozen lathes to help you master the techniques required

What makes a good wood for Turning?

Before we simply say that Mahogany is a good wood for turning, let's make quite sure that we are referring to Mahogany. The original imported to Europe by the Spaniards came from Cuba and the best mahogany is still reputed to come from that island. Its Botanical name is "Swietenia mahogoni". Related species with similar properties grow throughout the Caribbean Islands and lands such as Honduras and have the botanical name "Swietenia macropylla". These are the only true Mahoganies.

Trees with similar properties grow in Africa and are sold in the timber trade as *African Mahogany* with the scientific name of *Khaya ivorensis*. There is an amusing story told regarding this. The first explorers were said to have asked the natives the name of this tree and were told "Khaya" It was only later when the African languages were studied that it was realised that Khaya means "I don't know"

Enthusiastic timber salesmen often try to use an established name to introduce a *new* species to the market. This leads to confusion and is not to be recommended. We have for instance Surinam Teak, Brazilian Teak and Rhodesian Teak; none of which are as good as the genuine Teak (*Tectona grandis*) and botanically are in no way related to the true Teak from Burma.

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Sapele with its distinctive stripes can stand on its own without being called African Mahogany

Similarly Makore is certainly reddish, but coarser, tougher and different and should not be referred to as a Mahogany.

In the USA we often come across the term Phillipine Mahogany that can refer to Meranti from Malaya or Lauan from the Philippines. Both are weaker, softer, less stable and more perishable than Mahogany.

A Message from the AAW President

I want to extend my heart felt thanks to all of the AAW chapters and their members for supporting the AAW. Much was accomplished this past year in our ongoing mission of education and awareness of woodturning.

New and existing programs for members, from youth to professionals, continue to flourish within the AAW.

October brings our election for board members, as well as our membership renewal. I hope that each member carefully reads the candidate statements in the

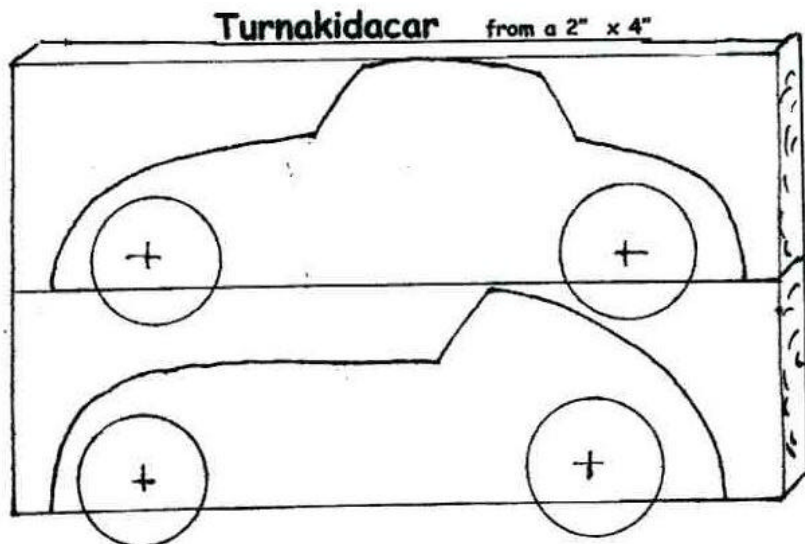
American Wood turner, and votes for the persons that best represent their concerns.

You can renew your membership online, at www.woodturner.org or with the form in the AAW Journal.

Since sharpening is a key skill to woodturning, we are mailing the AAW's most popular DVD on sharpening tools (\$24.95 value) free to every new or renewing member along with their membership resource directory. We feel this is just another great reason to join AAW. We look forward to offering turners the best services and programs available in woodturning today and into the future.

If you are new to woodturning and haven't checked out all of the reasons to join AAW, give our website www.woodturner.org or our AAW Journal a look. If you're a current member, you know the value of your organization, and I'm sure you are looking forward to another great year of camaraderie, articles and exciting programs.

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What Lathe was used to turn this ?

In these days of Mini Lathes it is difficult to imagine how these 10 Ft high x 18" Diameter Oak Pillars were turned back in the year 1550. I found them in the entrance to a Castle in Jagsburg Germany. The original castle was started in the year 160 AD but the present structure was built by Gotz Von Berlichingen (1480 – 1562)

I can't imagine a pedal pushing apprentice turning such heavyweights and believe it must have been a water powered lathe to turn these monsters; unless prisoners were used in a treadmill. It is interesting to note how the roof has protected and preserved the upper portions of this row of supporting pillars, whereas the base has suffered from exposure to the elements during the past 500 years.

Will your turned masterpieces still be around 500 years hence?

