



July 2016

Crosscut

Newsletter of the Witwatersrand Woodworkers' Association

◀ Three legged milking stool

P O Box 1, Randpark Ridge, 2156 Secretary: Alistair Brande [alistair.brande AT gmail.com](mailto:alistair.brande@iiafrica.com) Editor: Trevor Pope tpope AT iiafrica.com

All written content and opinions are those of the editor, unless stated. © Copyright reserved. Go to www.wwa.org.za for back issues of Crosscut.

Next Turners Meeting on Monday, the 4th July 2016 from 18h00 at WWA clubhouse at the Living Link Hall - A SURPRISE Demo by Dries Blignaut. **Wood of the Month:** Blue Gum

Next Meeting on Wednesday, the 13th July 2016 – General meeting from 18h00 at WWA clubhouse at the Living Link Hall. Bessey, Magswitch and Rive Drill by Stephan; Show & Tell – Cupboard by Bobby Bezuidenhout



News

6th June 2016 - Turner's

meeting. Making a “ $\frac{3}{4}$ Ball on a Box” on a lathe – a demonstration by John Speedy. Starting with a blank sawn from a rectangle, John glued two spigots on adjacent long sides. By mounting the spigots alternately in the chuck, John turned the central part of the blank to an approximation of a ball shape, by marking out one eighths and turning these down. Then by smoothing the individual segments by eye, he was able to approximate a sphere. He also hollowed out the sphere on the axis of one spigot. He explained how to finish off the sphere and remove the spigots.



(The topic of accurately turning a sphere was covered in the June 2013 Turners' meeting and documented in the Crosscut for that month. See <http://www.wwa.org.za/may2013.pdf> for the newsletter.)

Wood of the Month – English Oak (Chris van Heeswijk) – Quercus Robor is a white oak, one of a large family of Oaks. Depending on where you live, it may also be called French Oak or Royal Oak. It is a dense darker wood that is strong and exhibits significant shrinkage when drying. It is well suited to furniture and turning although shrinkage may be a problem if not planned for.

8th June 2016 - General Club meeting.

Rudolf demonstrated some simple techniques for installing cup hinges using a template to mark out the holes. He also showed a simple dust separator that he installs ahead of a vacuum cleaner to reduce clogging of the filter. The picture on the left shows the underside of the lid. The inlet feeds the dust to the side wall of the container, which encourages it to separate out before the air exits from the spigot in the centre.



Club Notices

Presentation on Hand Planes Winston Klein – Winston will run a Saturday workshop on “Sharpening & Maintaining Hand Planes” at the Albertskroon workshop on the 23rd July, starting at 9h00. Although he does own a few power tools, Winston prefers to use hand tools. He will be sharing some of his expertise on hand planes.

Turners jackets and Abranet. These are available for collection at the club meetings. The outstanding name tags and material for pockets will be available at the next meeting. Limited quantities of Abranet for those who didn’t place an order will also be on sale.

East Rand Woodworking Association spring show – This will take place on the 3rd Sept 2016 at the Northfield Methodist Church, Northmead, Benoni (Corner Aerodrome Ave and Webb Street) from 9am – 5pm Safe parking on the church grounds, Entrance on Hurricane Ave (GPS Coordinates: 26 09’ 59. 72 S, 28 18’ 48.93 E) Contact: Mark Lemmer on 082 775 6631 for further information

Pretoria club show – scheduled for 01 Oct 2016 – more details will be given as they become available.

Butch Smuts will be presenting to the club at the Turners meeting on Monday 1st August – on harvesting, preparation and the use of Burls for various projects. There will also be Burl, Pen and Peppermill Blanks for sale. Butch will have around 7 varieties of burls and blanks – should you be interested in any particular size or shape let Butch know your requirements i.e. burls that will take 4 men to lift or smaller sizes that weight around 50 kg. Contact him on bsmuts@vodamail.co.za or 082 771 5877



Spring Challenge. Set down for Sat, 10th September at Albertskroon. As before, there will be two competitions, a Milking Stool made beforehand and a turning challenge on the day- an egg cup that can be made in a few minutes. (Google “egg cup races”) Last year, it was a honey-dipper. Steven Barrett will co-ordinate. More details to follow.

Toys for Charity – end of year fund raising event. Reinett Potgieter would like to challenge the non-woodworking spouses to make some soft toys:

To all the ladies of the wonderful men who make toys for charity – this is our turn to do something for the girls.

Any article whether crocheted, knitted or sewn will be appreciated. Let's see if we can match the men's toys. Thank you for your support.

(Because most of the WWA members are men, a lot of toys made tend to be aimed at boys, so this is to try to restore the balance.)

Turnings with Interlocking Captive Rings. For those who were wondering how these are made, an article in Woodturning Magazine (#165) of August 2006 describes how to make them. (Hint: Lots of handwork and carving...)

Regular Events:

Toymakers. The toymakers meet on the first and third Mondays of every month, at 09h00 till 12h00 at the Albertskroon workshop. Meetings will be cancelled if they coincide with a public holiday. Contact Eddie Marchio on 011-678-8062 or rm22@ATmweb.co.za for more information.

Wednesday workshop. 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, from 17h30 to 20h00 at Albertskroon. Contact John Allen on 083 457 4801 or Clive Stacey (See below)

Ken’s Saturday Workshop. Ken Bullivant holds a Saturday workshop at his house in Boksburg. The location is 13 Franklin Avenue, Comet, Boksburg on the first Saturday of the month from 09:00 to 12:00. They decide on an annual project and work throughout the year making it. Individual projects are discussed and problems solved. Ken also offers private lessons too. Contact Ken on 082 809 0020 if you wish to take part.

Friday Morning workshop - Winston Klein will be convening a workshop at the Albertskroon work shop on the 1st and 3rd

Fridays monthly from 09:00 to 12:00. Contact Winston at 072 553 5045 or kleins AT iburst.co.za

SPIRIT OF THE WOOD - WOODTURNERS

Offering Woodturning lessons, One-on One Training, Classes and Club, Willing to assist persons with limited physical/intellectual abilities. Contact Johan Kramer on 083 251 0183 or Johankramer300@gmail.com

Saturday meetings

1. Second Saturday of month - Eddie will open the workshop – 011 678 8062 rm22 AT mweb.co.za
2. Third Saturday of month – Clive will open the workshop – 083 407 8008 stacey AT netactive.co.za Clive will also open the workshop during the week “BY ARRANGEMENT”
3. Fourth Saturday of month – Graham will open the workshop – 082 900 0242 grahamcr AT mweb.co.za

Please can the conveners complete the attendance register on the bar counter, so we can gauge attendance?

Milking Stools

A milking stool is typically a roughly made, robust stool that is about knee high for use in the milking shed. Intended for use in a harsh, dirty environment, these were strictly functional items. They mostly had three legs for stability on the uneven floor of the milking shed. Being locally made, from materials to hand, to local traditional designs, there are a variety of designs. A basic one is quick and easy to make for a skilled woodworker with only a few hand tools necessary. A large variety of designs are published, as spending some time on a Google search will show.

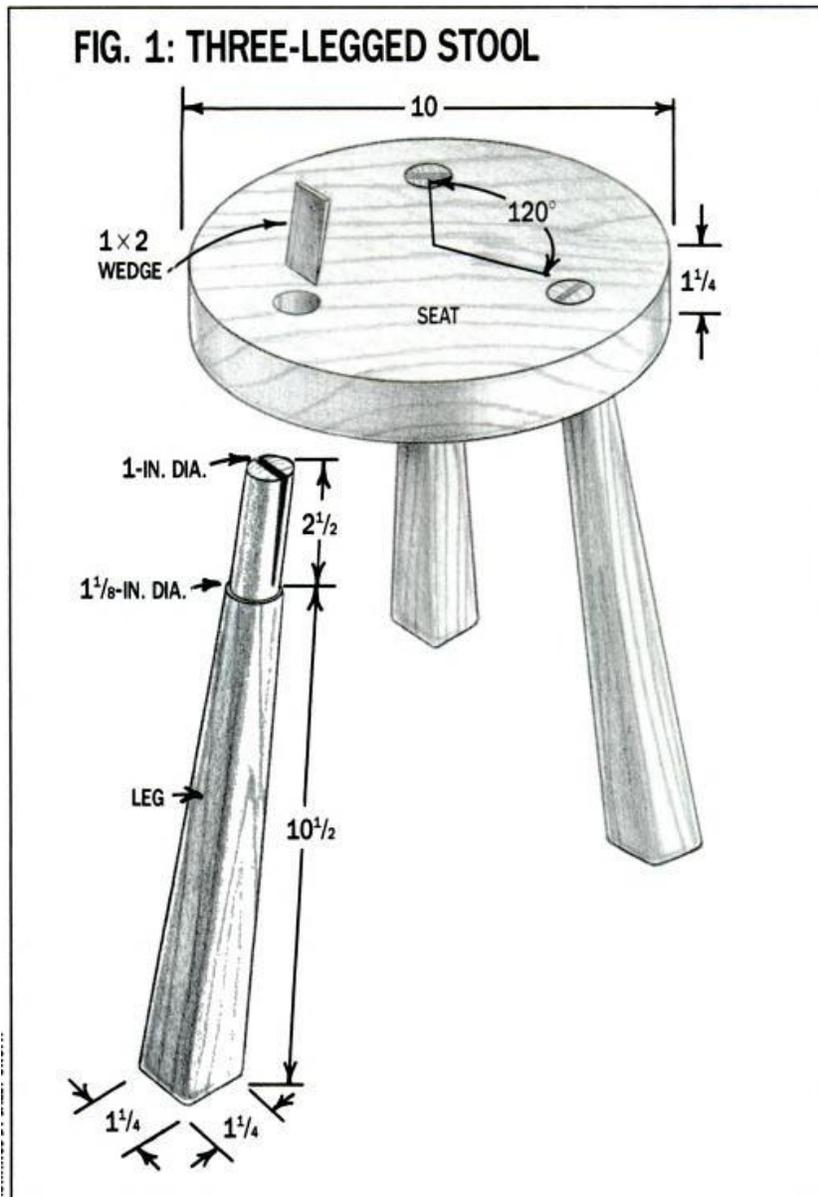


FIG. 1: THREE-LEGGED STOOL

This plan from American Woodworker, Feb 1992 gives the basic dimensions. The complete article “Three Legged Stool” is available on books.google.com if you need more guidance.

The dimensions are in inches, so what I do is print out a large version and write the millimeter equivalents on the plan to use in the workshop. It is also useful to write notes on the plan and calculated or actual measurements to record changes you made to the plan as you built it. You can then file the plan in case you need to make more in the future.

Some dimensions are not shown on the plan, but are given in the article. The legs are angled at 10° from the vertical, and the centers of holes in the seat are set in 1 1/4 ” from the outer edge. (The link to the article is here:

https://books.google.co.za/books?id=cPsDAAAAMBAJ&pg=PA25&redir_esc=y#v=onepage&q&f=false

Despite the suggestion to use jigs, machine tools and power tools in the article, probably the only essentials are a lathe to turn the tenons for the tops of the legs and drill press to accurately bore mortises for the legs in seat to size and at the correct 10° angle. All the rest can be done with hand tools if you wish.

For those who have not had the privilege of seeing where milk comes from, I thought this account from rec.woodworking by Jack-of-all-trades is worth reading:



“ ... And I got to wondering how many people here even know what a milking stool is, let alone seen one. And I don't mean those new ones that will never see the inside of a barn or come within a mile of a cow except maybe when it goes from the store to someone's house. When I was a kid I used to visit my great uncle and great grandfather on their farm. They used a milking machine but "stripped" the cows after using it.

"Stripping" a cow is when you milk it by hand to get the last of the milk, that the machine didn't get. You sat on a three legged stool (most milk stools were three legged, I never saw a four legged milking stool), held a stainless steel bucket between your legs and stripped out or milked the last of the milk, often several pints. You didn't want to try to get all the milk with the machine, it would probably not be good for the cow at all.

You ALWAYS tucked your head down and into the cow's side if you were smart. The cow's tail was normally moving, and it often was coated with a wad of manure.

Unpleasant to get whapped in the face with the end of the cow's tail, but in winter when it froze up it could be actually dangerous. Sometimes the cow would be restless and kick the bucket over, and sometimes the milker too, so you had to be ready to move fast (and if you think it a joke about milking a cow with cold hand, just try it once). You would have to (try) stand and move back at the same time because you not only didn't want to land on the floor, but you might go back and startle the cow behind you and get stepped on. This meant you had to avoid the milking stool at the same time. All of the stools I saw were homemade and wood except one, it was a small metal stool, and I believe that it was three legged, so was probably a factory made milking stool. One was made of a section of tree, cut off just below the crotch where three limbs sprouted, making the legs.

There were one or two more homemade three legged stools too. ...”

Also from rec.woodworking: by CRS: Speaking of milking cows...

Some Things You Just Can't Explain (off topic and off colour)

A farmer was sitting in the neighbourhood bar getting hammered. A man came in and asked the farmer, "Hey, why are you sitting here on this beautiful day, getting drunk?"

The farmer shook his head and replied, "Some things you just can't explain."

"So what happened that's so horrible?" the man asked as he sat down next to the farmer.

"Well," the farmer said, "today I was sitting by my cow, milking her. Just as I got the bucket 'bout full, she lifted her left leg and kicked over the bucket."

"Okay," said the man, "but that's not so bad."

"Some things you just can't explain," the farmer replied.

"So what happened then?" the man asked.

The farmer said, "I took her left leg and tied it to the post on the left."

"And then?"

"Well, I sat back down and continued to milk her. Just as I got the bucket 'bout full, she took her right leg and kicked over the bucket."

Man laughed and said, "Again?"

The farmer replied, "Some things you just can't explain."

"So, what did you do then?" the man asked.

"I took her right leg this time and tied it to the post on the right."

"And then?" "Well, I sat back down and began milking her again. Just as I got the bucket about full, the stupid cow knocked over the bucket with her tail."

"Hmmm..." the man said and nodded his head.

"Some things you just can't explain," the farmer said.

"So, what did you do?" the man asked.

"Well," the farmer said, "I didn't have anymore rope, so I took off my belt and tied her tail to the rafter. In that moment, my pants fell down and my wife walked in....Some things you just can't explain."

