



Crosscut

Newsletter of the Witwatersrand Woodworkers' Association
PO Box 411346, Craighall, 2024

Wooden, skew rebate plane

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Go to <http://mysite.mweb.co.za/residents/tpope/homepage.html> for back issues of *Crosscut*.

Next General Club Meeting on Wednesday, the 12th May 2010 from 18h00 at the WWA clubhouse at REEA. AGM.

Next Turner's monthly meeting is on Monday, the 3rd May 2010 at 18h00 at the WWA clubhouse at REEA. Vuvuzela project and a talk by Lionel Soekoe on grinding wheel technology with an emphasis on balancing wheels.

News

Turners' Meeting.

Wood of the month – Chris presented the wood of the month which was *Ligustrum vulgare*, known as the common privet. Chris van Heeswijk showed pictures and sample leaves from a variety of privets. Privet is a very even, fine grained wood that takes fine detail, making it suitable for turning fine objects. It is also traditionally used for fighting staves in martial arts, due to its straight grain and toughness, so it will probably make good axe or hammer handles.

Turner's AGM : Herman Potgieter was elected chairman, with Steven Barrett standing down after several years to serve as an ordinary committee member again. The other committee members are Ken Mutch, Chris van Heeswijk, George Simpson, Leanne Cardoso-Lopes, and John Somers Vine. The portfolios will be assigned at the first committee meeting.

Herman was awarded the trophy for the most improved turner of the year.

Buddy Lawson showed a Longworth chuck that he made. It is used for reverse-chucking bowls for finishing off the foot. He showed how to cut the spiral slots on the two plates and how they work together to move the 8 pins on the same radius to centralize the work piece. The construction is covered in the April 2010 issue of **The Woodturner**. Also there are several articles on the internet describing how to make one in detail – use Google to locate these.

Dries Blignaut described the techniques he uses for finishing his turnings. He explained the importance of using the correct sequence of sanding grits. He reverses the direction for each sanding grit used and blows down the work-piece between grits to stop coarse grits remaining to cause scratches. It is also important not obliterate fine details when sanding. He prefers a speed of 300 to 600 rpm for sanding larger pieces.

He makes repeated applications of Danish oil over a period of time, smoothing down between coats with steel wool. He finishes off by buffing the work-piece with a light coating of carnauba wax. Thinning the Danish oil to 50% with white spirits (methylated spirits without the purple dye) improves penetration.

Steven reminded the members of the Exhibition of turned objects – create items with a Soccer World Cup theme for display in a gallery at Unisa. As part of this, the club **Vuvuzela Challenge** will have prizes for Best on show; Best craftsmanship and finish; and Most original design (for an instrument that works) for the 3rd May Turner's meeting.

Willie requires souvenirs for sale to 120 guests who will be visiting for a certain sports event in June. Please approach him with ideas. The items must be complete by 15th June.

Main Club Meeting.

Paul Rae showed a bending fixture he made for laminating curved table legs from cherry strips. He explained how he cut up the laminations and glued them together into curved shapes.

He also showed his router table made from melamine faced chip-board. He used iron-on edging to finish all the raw edges. The feather board hold-downs, T-tracks and router table insert were all sourced from Hardware Centre.

Kenny Lazarus showed pictures of his wall unit and shelving units, made from a combination of veneered MDF and solid mahogany. He showed how he made the moldings using a combination of router cutters. A simple jig for gluing up door frames was held together with elastic. The MDF panels were veneered by Mitre Veneering. The mahogany used was African mahogany from Maple Street Timbers.

Kenny emphasized the importance of allowing any wood to settle after initial machining, so that any warping can take place before final machining is done. He didn't allow enough time before machining the doors on the first unit to the final size and is unhappy with the way they warped after being installed. On the second unit, he allowed time and the doors have remained straight.

From the committee:

At the AGM, nominations are requested for all the posts on the committee, in particular, for the chairman, treasurer and some ordinary committee members who wish to stand down. You may volunteer or nominate other members at the AGM – your contribution will be most appreciated!

AGM and New Committee. Notice is hereby given of the annual general meeting for the Wits Woodworking Association that will take place on Wednesday, the 12th May 2010 at the REEA Clubhouse at 18h00. Items on the agenda:

- Report from the 2009/2010 chair.
- Acceptance of the treasurer's report for 2009/2010. Approval of the budget for 2010/2011.
- Election of office bearers and committee members for 2010/2011. Volunteers for all the positions are welcome, as some of the committee will step down. Others will remain, subject to being re-elected, in order to ensure continuity. Having fun is definitely part of the job description!
- Address from the 2010/2011 chair.

Membership Fees for 2010/2011 year. The proposal to raise the annual subs for the year 2010/2011 to R290 per year will be raised for discussion and approval at the April 2010 meeting.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS: 2010 / 2011 year

Subject to approval at the meeting, membership subscriptions for 2010 / 2011 are due on 1 May 2010 for R290- per year (less than R25- a month). Delivery of Crosscut by email is included, postal delivery of Crosscut is R80- extra per year.

Please pay the Treasurer before the end of April to maintain continuity of your membership. Post cheques to the address in the masthead of this newsletter. Details for direct deposits are on your *personal* invoice below. Thank you.

Ken Mutch Secretary

Payment of subs. We have experienced difficulty with the tracking down of all subs paid. Please can members ensure that they pay directly to the treasurer of the main club (Glenn) and that they receive a receipt for future reference. Please send all changes of address direct to the secretary.

INVOICE		01 April 2010
DUE DATE		AMOUNT
1/5/2010	SUBS for the Witwatersrand Woodworkers Association - 2010/2011 year	R290-00
	Direct deposits to: Witwatersrand Woodworkers Association. Nedbank Main St. branch - Code: 198765. Account No: 1979-321833 – Put your name in the comment line, so that the treasurer can identify the source of the payment.	

For Sale:

Chisels: 13 Marples and some other chisels and 9 no name turning tools – see pictures on right. Offers? Contact Bruce Morgan on 011-622-2569 or 082-414-3588

Please Note:

Toymakers. The toymakers meet on the first and third Mondays of every month, at 09h00 till 12h00 at the clubhouse. Contact Eddie Marchio on 011-678-8062 or renato AT pixie.co.za for more information. The last meeting for 2009, was 16th November. We restart on Monday, the 1st of Feb 2010.

Wednesday Workshop. The Wednesday evening workshops are on the first and third Wednesdays of every month, from 18h00 till 20h00. Contact Winston Klein on 011-674-1513 for more information. The last meeting for 2009 was Wednesday, the 2nd December. We restart on Wednesday, the 20th January 2010.



A Safety Culture for Woodworking

Woodworking is inherently dangerous, so we need to constantly emphasise safety. The most dangerous tool, by far is the table saw. This is borne out by the regularity with which WWA club members injure their fingers. I guess there has been at least one injury every year. So, with another casualty in April this year, we need to continually remind each of other of the need to work safely.

I found this article on the Fine Woodworking web site (<http://www.finewoodworking.com/item/25540/when-you-have-your-accident>) that I think is a very good safety awareness talk:

When You Have Your Accident...

By **Gary Rogowski** who is a Contributing Editor for **Fine Woodworking** Magazine and teaches at The Northwest Woodworking Studio in Portland, Oregon.
<http://www.NorthwestWoodworking.com>

My apologies for being so upfront with the news. Most new woodworkers show surprise on their faces when they hear this. But it's true. It's not a question of if you'll have an accident. It is only a question of when. So many factors are at work here of course.

There is your inexperience working against you. If you've had more time in the shop, then you have your experience working against you. You see, as I tell my students, there are two people most at risk here on the [insert name of tool], the newest student and me. The newest student often doesn't know what he's about to do wrong. I, on the other hand, am at risk after so many years that I can grow complacent and let my guard down. Either way you can end up doing something stupid and avoidable. Therefore I have instituted rules for myself that I adhere to as religiously as any ex-altar boy can.

Your Stupid Days

On your Smart Days, when the Sudoku melts away in a blur of numbers before you or Will Shortz is taking it in his for the speed of your puzzle solving, on those days, you could push boards through the machines with your elbows and get away with it. You're sharp, you're alert, you're focused on the work in front of you. Those days you have some general safety habits and you're good to go.

But it's on your Stupid Days that you need diligence. It is on your worst days, your triple low days, when you are distracted and not all there that you need iron clad habits. Those days when you're still cursing the idiot that cut you off in traffic. Or you're worrying about your taxes or dinner or why the banks want to charge you for too low a balance or any number of things except the imminent danger you have placed yourself into by walking into the wood-shop.

It is on those days you need habits in place. Habits that even with a hangover the size of Rhode Island you will not disobey. For it is those habits that will save you when you have your accident.

Habits for Your Stupid Days

Here are some simple habits to adopt around machinery. When these conditions occur, then a little bell must go off in your head and you must pay attention. As I also tell my students around a band saw, your butcher uses one of these. Pay attention.

No sudden movements around a blade. Do not dust off the table of any machine when it is running. Always use a brush and not your hand to brush away sawdust. It seems simple but you'd be surprised how many people brush off their table with the blade running.

Wear eye protection. *Wear eye protection.* ***Wear eye protection.*** Not a misprint. You cannot blink fast enough. Something in your eye all day long is better than a Zen retreat when it comes to focusing your attention. You will be in pain all day and every time you blink. **Wear eye protection.**

When using chisels, always stay behind the business end of the tool. That way you can't poke yourself. Get in front and you're at risk no matter how smart you think you are.

Use push-sticks when pieces get too small. When is too small? On the table saw when ripping, if the fence is closer to the blade than the width of my fist, I get a push stick. Even in the middle of a cut, if I discover my mistake, I stop and get a push stick. I stop the feed, hold the work carefully and having my push sticks always close by, I can reach for one and use it.

On the jointer, if my hand will even graze the jointer blade guard, I get a push stick. I have four push sticks of different sizes close by for use. Use them for thin pieces, long pieces that need to be held flat, extra thin pieces and extra long pieces. But have something between you and the blade if you're going to get close to it.

I never get my fingers close enough to touch the housing of the planer while it's running. That's too close to the blades. I stand out of the way of the planer when it's running and never, ever, look inside it while it's cutting to see just how things are going.

Go head laugh. Like that gal with the long hair who turned on the drill press and yanked out a top knot because she wasn't wearing a hat or hadn't tucked her hair in. Remove your jewellery, men take off those neckties, get rid of the rings, bracelets, amulets, and charms you wear throughout the work day to ward off evil spirits. Take them off and be safe. Use a fence on a drill press to prevent pieces from spinning if you cannot clamp them down.

On the table saw, stand out of the way of kickback but stay on the left side of the fence so you can see what's happening there. Usually a problem starts at the fence and ends up with kickback at the blade. Always know where your hands are at on a table saw jig, crosscut sled, or rip cut. Never get them behind the blade.

These are just a few things that I try to remember when I walk into the shop. It's like knowing which hand is your left one. Have that information always at the ready and you will protect yourself the day you do something stupid. You probably have other methods for keeping yourself safe. I've just scratched the surface here. Let me know your habits for your stupid days and we'll all be safer.