



Crosscut

Newsletter of the Witwatersrand Woodworkers' Association

◀ Sculptural turning by Butch Smuts, from his presentation

P O Box 1, Randpark Ridge, 2156 Secretary: Alistair Brande [alastair.brande AT gmail.com](mailto:alastair.brande@tiscali.co.uk) Editor: Trevor Pope [tpope AT iafrica.com](mailto:tpope@iafrica.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 5th September 2016 from 18h00 at the Living Link Hall – **Steven Barrett** will demonstrate how to make an egg cup for the Spring Challenge.

Wood of the Month: Mulga 🐜

Next Meeting on Wednesday, the 14th September 2016 – General meeting from 18h00 at the Living Link Hall. **Greg de Villiers** from Vermont tools will demonstrate how to make a step stool using some of the Triton, Kreg and Sawstop tools.

News



1st August 2016 - Turner's meeting. Butch Smuts spoke on the harvesting, preparation and the use of burls for various projects. He showed examples of burls and how to identify them on trees. He only harvests dead trees that were often damaged by cutting or fire. Butch showed some of his previous turned work, some of which has been sold in overseas galleries, and the creative processes that he used. Butch lives in Nelspruit, but previously was

an important leader of the creative thought processes in the WWA in woodturning.

Wood of the Month – Oleander 🐜 is a common street and garden shrub, that is known for it's toxicity. Avoid!

10th August 2016 - General Club meeting. Presentation - Chest of Drawers by Graham Rudings. Graham described how he made a cabinet for his workshop using pocket-hole joinery. He used MDF for the carcass and solid wood for the fronts. He explained how to avoid some of the shortcomings of pocket-hole joinery.

Granite top repair - Michael Minassian described a restoration project where he repaired a granite worktop. He fabricated a bracket under the worktop and to join it he screwed it to the worktop. He explained the difficult process of drilling holes in the granite to accept the screws.

Saw sharpening talk and demo. Sharpening handsaws is a useful skill for woodworkers, as most have at least one handsaw. This Saturday morning talk explained the types of saws and the necessary skills for sharpening them by hand. This was followed by a hands-on demonstration and tutorial on sharpening handsaws for those that brought examples to be sharpened. The different types of handsaw teeth were shown and the basics of sharpening and setting them demonstrated.



Chris Pouncy demo at Hardware Centre. In the tradition of african time, when Chris Pouncy started his demo at 9h00 on Saturday, the 20th August 2016 at Hardware Centre, Randburg, there weren't many people sitting down. He said, he had been told there would be 50+ people, however it soon filled up. (Most of the audience were 50+ as you can see.) Chris was full of bounce, and even the experienced turners learned new things. Even some of his jokes were new since his last visit. It is always interesting to listen to experienced turners from overseas, as they bring new ideas to our shores.



Mine is bigger than yours...

Alistair Brande took this picture of Dave Walkley in front of the bandsaw he uses to plank logs at his factory in Muldersdrift



Club Notices

Talk on Plough and Moulding planes. Following the success of Winston's presentation on planes he has offered to follow this up with a presentation on plough and moulding planes and incorporate his horizontal drilling system. We can advise members that the presentation will take place on Saturday 17th September at Albertskroon starting at 09h00.

Pretoria club show – Saturday, 1st Oct 2016 at the New Hope School, from 8h00 to 14h00. See furniture and turned items, as well as demonstrations and tools and equipment for sale. The New Hope School is for children with special needs. It can be found off Cecilia Road across the highway from the Menlyn Mall. Take the Atterbury Road off ramp and go west. For more information and directions go to http://ptawoodworkers.com/?page_id=2189 or contact 082 410 8360. Adult admission R20-

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. Steven Barrett will demonstrate the making of an egg cup at the September Turner's meeting, so you can see how easy it is and can practise making one to impress us all on the day.

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 AT mweb.co.za](mailto:rm22@ptawoodworkers.com) 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](mailto:kleins@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](mailto:rm22@ptawoodworkers.com)
 2. Third Saturday of month – Clive will open the workshop – 083 407 8008 [stacey AT netactive.co.za](mailto:stacey@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](mailto:grahamcr@ptawoodworkers.com)
- Please can the conveners complete the attendance register on the bar counter, so we can gauge attendance?

Some thoughts on becoming a professional woodworker – many of us may have harboured thoughts of becoming a professional woodworker or wood turner. The romantic notion of spending time in your workshop creating masterpieces for the eager cognoscenti is tempered with some more practical aspects, such as that it is really hard work and not very lucrative. This excerpt from an interview with Nancy Hiller in Popular Woodworking sums it up very well.

See more of the interview at <http://www.popularwoodworking.com/woodworking-blogs/editors-blog/woodworking-america-interview-nancy-hiller>



Woodworking In America: An Interview with Nancy Hiller

By: [Scott Francis](#) | August 11, 2016

Nancy R. Hiller earned a City & Guilds of London certificate in furniture making in 1980. She's been a professional designer and cabinetmaker ever since and specializes in period-authentic work. Her work has appeared in Fine Woodworking, Fine Homebuilding, Popular Woodworking Magazine, Old-House Journal, American Bungalow and many other publications. Hiller took a few moments to speak to us about her work and her upcoming appearance at [Woodworking in America](#).

You've been a professional designer and cabinetmaker for more than 30 years. How has your woodworking approach evolved during that time?

Being a professional woodworker is radically different from woodworking as a hobby or after retirement. When your livelihood depends on designing and building furniture or cabinetry for paying clients, you're faced with economic, interpersonal and existential realities that require you to develop discipline and skills beyond those typically associated with the workshop. For the overwhelming majority of professional furniture makers I know, this is a massively humbling exercise. The honeymoon period, as my first employer called it, comes to an end; as you launch into your tenth bureau or your sixteenth dining table, you're hit with the realization that even in the world of genuinely custom, one-off work, most commissions involve the same basic techniques, arranged in what you come to recognize as a routine sequence. At first I found this dimension of professional woodworking soul-crushingly monotonous. I attempted escape—ultimately, three times over the years. But each time I came back. I have learned to approach the repetitious aspects of my work, which in some jobs can last for days at a time, as opportunities to cultivate patience. And at the end of every job, there's an object of beauty that came out of my mind and hands.

100%design® south africa

If you have more than a passing interest in furniture design, this expo was worth a visit, if only to see what is trending. Blonde CNC router-cut furniture is still very much in evidence, although there were more examples of pastel coloured highlights or inserts to create a visual interest.

The Scandinavian school of design of minimalist furniture using blonde straight-grained wood or plywood was still popular. The use of contrasting coloured inserts or cushions in plain or textured fabrics seemed popular as well.



The desk is from *Brak* furniture, made from Kiaat with white drawers. <http://brak-furniture.myshopify.com/> List R6400-

The bench is a “Ribcage Bench” from *Made By Architects* and is made from laminated bamboo.



(<http://www.madebyarchitects.co.za/products.html>)



Traditional Ndele patterns in pastel colours using water-based inks are printed on birch plywood on the designs from the Into collection from *De Steyl* (<http://www.desteyl.co.za/portfolio-item/into-collection/>)

