



Crosscut

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

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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 14th April 2010 from 18h00 at the WWA clubhouse at REEA. Talk on Municipal Harvested Trees.

Next Turner's monthly meeting is on Monday, the 12th April 2010 at 18h00 at the WWA clubhouse at REEA (The 5th is Easter Monday). The demonstration will be on finishing of turnings by Dries Bignaut.

News

Turners' Meeting.

Wood of the month – Chris presented Melia Azederach, better known as Syringa. In Afrikaans, it is known as Mak Sering, to differentiate it from Wilde or Rooi Sering, which is used to identify Burkea Africana. Syringa was first introduced from the east to Barberton in 1906 as a decorative tree. This can be seen from the attractive mauve flowers which have a pleasing scent. It is classified as a category 3 invader, so it may not be sold or propagated, but need not be removed. It is an attractive wood for turning, although it can be badly behaved as it shrinks during drying, so attention must be paid to the location of the pith.

John Speedy demonstrated the making of caddy spoons. These were first shown by Phil Irons on his visit. John follows the same techniques, and has made up the same fixtures. Like Phil, John has made hundreds, and this was evident in the skill with which he makes these. They are well suited for measuring out dry goods such as sugar or tea.

Herman introduced an 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.

Background: To join an UNISA/VrijeUniversity of Amsterdam initiative to coincide with the World Cup. This initiative will include an exhibition contextualised in South African soccer history. Alongside a photographic exhibition, craft and printmaking artworks will be displayed. We have been asked to submit crafted Vuvuzelas for this display. We surmise that this could be used to symbolise how the "old South Africa" has been drawn into the new dispensation by the World Cup. It will be held in the UNISA Art Gallery during the month of June. The exhibition may be taken overseas. Take this opportunity to gain some exposure for the WWA by submitting a piece.

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

PEG – Poly ethylene glycol has been used for stabilizing wood to avoid cracking during drying for many years. Sculptors use it and some wood turners has used in the past. Herman wants to buy some to experiment with, but the smallest quantity he has located is a 200l drum, so he would like know if there is interest from other turners in sharing the purchase of the drum. He is looking at 1000 (medium) molecular weight PEG which comes in flakes and is diluted 3 to 1 with water. PEG acts by replacing the water in the cells of the wood to reduce shrinkage. It does restrict the finishing options, as some categories of finishes will have adhesion problems.

Main Club Meeting.

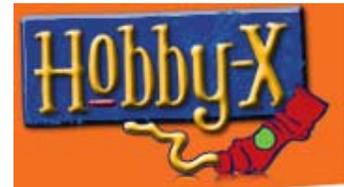
Tom Howden gave a talk on old tools. He focused mostly on Stanley tools, which have a keen following of collectors and are well documented. He borrowed some examples from a collector to show some particularly interesting and rare examples.

From the committee:

Tree walk. As consumers of wood, you must be curious about the trees that grow it? Here is a chance to learn more about some of our indigenous trees on a guided walk in the Melville Koppies on the 17th April 2010 with a well-known tree expert Walter Barker. Donation R50- More details to follow when they become available. 08:30 - 11:30 - Booking 011 482 4797

Hobby-X took place on the first weekend of March at the Dome, Northgate.

There were the usual turning demonstrations by the Wits Woodworkers, together with the Pretoria turners. Thanks to Hardware Centre who supplied a Nova DVR XP and a Nova 1624-44. Together with the club's Jet Mini 1014 and At Smit's Jet 1220, we had four lathes running the whole weekend. Most of Hobby-X seems to consist of scrap-booking and beads, so we provided refuge for a few husbands while their wives toured the show. There was interest throughout the weekend and we hope that some of the visitors will join us or the Pretoria club at future meetings. Thanks to all those who helped man the stand, demonstrate, and set up and take down, in particular Karen Fairfield, John Speedy, Barries Badenhorst and Frans Joubert.



Festival Day of Turning and Sharpening at Hardware Centre, Rand burg on the Sunday, 28th March from 8h30 to 15h00. Demonstrations by some well-known turners on novel techniques will be happening though the day. Contact Kishore on 011-791-0844 or 082-456-6432 for more information.

The club **Vuvuzela Challenge** will have prizes for Best on show; Best craftsmanship and finish; and Most original design (for an instrument that works)

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The exhibition maybe taken overseas

Take this opportunity to gain some exposure for the WWA by submitting a piece.

Frans asked where he could find **small barrel hinges** that he uses for pen boxes, specifically the 5mm size.

These can apparently be found at Décor City Hardware at 262 Market Street opposite the Jeppe Police station. 011-618-1064 or www.decorcity.co.za

No Volt Release switch fitted to 6" jointer. The club's 6" jointer has finally been upgraded with a No-Volt-Release (NVR) switch, so that it will not switch on automatically again after a power failure. The NVR switch installed also has a prominent Emergency Stop button, making it easier to cut the power in an emergency. After an extensive search locally, a unit was imported from Axminster in the UK (See www.axminster.co.uk – part number 200093 - lists at £23.) If you know of a local source for these, please let us know.



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 April 2010 meeting, membership subscriptions for 2010 / 2011 are due on 1 May 2010 for R290- per year (less than R25- a month).

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 Much 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: 197905. Account No: 1979-321833 – Put your name in the comment line, so that the treasurer can identify the source of the payment.	

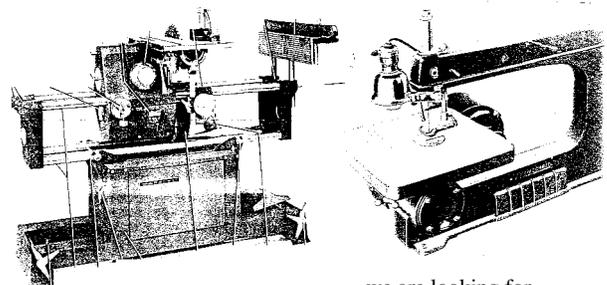
Turner’s Committee AGM. The turner’s section will hold their AGM at the turner’s meeting on the 3rd of May 2010. Nominations for all positions on the turner’s committee are invited beforehand or at the meeting.

For Sale:

Scroll Saw. Delta Homecraft, 16" / 400mm. Price R700.00 neg
Shopsmith MKVII Woodworking combination. Basic machine plus accessories bandsaw, planer, saw blades, circular face plate, sanding disc and other bits. Includes instruction booklet. Price R5000.00 neg
 Contact: Aldon on 011-326-4279 or 076-775-5700

Wild Olive. Approximately 1/6 cube of Wild Olive for sale in Westdene. Contact Pedro Victor on 083 703 3966.

Wanted. Skilled cabinet / furniture maker within the Johannesburg area. We previously worked with Wally Rossini who was able to produce amazing work, but he has recently moved to Knysna and so someone else we can work with. The furniture we make is highly specialised and requires someone who has immense skill. If you’d like to see the type of furniture we design, please visit our website: www.reis.co.za. Contact Nathalie on 011-442-5252
orinfo@reis.co.za



we are looking for

- Table saw.** Kity 10" with sliding table and spare blades.. R12,000-
- Bandsaw.** Kity 12" throat and spare blades. R6,000-
- Spindle Moulder.** Kity with various cutters. R6,000-
- Thicknesser/planer.** Veba 12" 3 blade cutter block, cast iron in/out feed tables 1440mm. R14,000-
- Dust Extractor.** Coral (Austro) 120mm diam hose. R1,800-
- Wood lathe.** Rockwell 42" bed with various chucks and out board tool rest. ±18 turning tools. R2,500-
- Combination 12"disc/6" belt sander.** Rockwell. R3,500-
- Drill press.** Pedestal, Mac Olive ½". R2,500-
- Bench Grinder.** 6" double wheel Carborundum. R110-
- Woodwork Bench** with 275mm record quick release vice. 2300 x 750mm with tool well. R3,000-
- Router table,** small Dewalt R200-
- Compressor.** Supreme Air, 150 liter tank and spray equipment. R5,000-
- Ladder.** 6m aluminum extension. R1,200-
- Dovetail workstation.** G-WALD with VHS tape. R3,000-

Scroll Saw. Ryobi fixed speed. R1,300-

Quick Release Vices x 4. Record 180mm with clamping dog, all new. R900- each

Cramps. T-bar Record. 1100mm x 1 R400-, 1400mm x 2 R600- each

Extraction fan – Xpel Air 12". R200-

Chemical Fire Extinguisher – dry, large, needs recharging. R100-

Welding machine. 70/150 Amp with movable current adjustment, cables and helmet. R400-

Lawnmower, Tandem with aluminum chassis, large, nearly new. R1,600-

Lawnmower. Southern Cross 2.2 kW, nearly new. R900-

Bolt cutter, Record, large model 604, 1100mm long. R100-

Contact Val Valentin on 011-680-7117 or 083-951-6553

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](mailto:renato@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.

Member Profile – Peter Middleton

Peter Middleton was born in London, and completed his schooling at Leighton County High School, after which he started work in the printing industry in sales. He and his wife came to SA in 1966.

He has been woodworking since age 15 when he completed a project for the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme. He does both turning and cabinet making. He also has interests in metal working. His workshop is a double garage on his property, which is crammed full of machinery and tools. To make space for working, he opens the garage doors and wheels some of his machines out onto the driveway. Pride of place is taken by a Felder combination machine that is also on casters, so that it can be wheeled out to make space around it for working on large pieces of wood.

He has a variety of wood lathes, from a SAM mini lathe (with a capacity of 10" swing by 15" long), a Wadkin fixed head, cast iron bed lathe, a home-made bowl lathe and pride of place – a Stubby (model S1000) (If you want a Stubby, speak to Peter to import one. They are quite pricey at AUD\$ 7700-)

Why does he need so many lathes? Having more than one, allows him to have several jobs in progress at once, without having to change setups. His band saw is an ElektraBeckum BAS450 (250mm depth of cut) which allows substantial blanks to cut for the lathe. He also has a couple of drill presses that allow him to avoid changes to setups.

On the metal working side he started with a small Chinese metal turning lathe, until he upgraded to a Colchester Bantam with a 5" centre height, and 20" between centres. His milling machine is a Chinese geared-head machine.

Having recently retired, Peter keeps himself busy in his workshop. He makes a variety of wood articles such as a ceremonial flag pole of which he has sold many. He has an encyclopaedic knowledge of wood working and is able to answer most questions and offer advice in most areas. He is one of those people that members consult when they have a difficult woodworking problem, as he very approachable. He is a capable demonstrator and communicates in a logical fashion, making difficult subjects and techniques simple and accessible. The picture was taken many years ago, and appeared in the Star newspaper, showing Peter demonstrating at Hardware Centre when they were still in Main St.

He also makes accessories for his machines such as special tool rests for his lathes, custom centres, turning tools and handles.

Peter was the chairman of the WWA in 1990 and also served as the chairman of the AWSA for the first time the WWA turners congress was held in Johannesburg in 1999 at the printer's college.

