



Crosscut

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

◀ James Krenov: 1920 to 2009. Credit: <http://www.finewoodworking.com>

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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 October 2009** from 18h00 at the WWA clubhouse at REEA. Talk on veneering – industrial uses and veneers available – by Russel or Olsen from Mitre Veneering.

Next Turner's monthly meeting is on **Monday, the 5th October 2009** at 18h00 at the WWA clubhouse at REEA. Video on the use of Sorby texturing tools.

News

September General Club Meeting.

David Eckley from the Floors Direct franchise in the South of Johannesburg, talked on modern wooden flooring. Materials, technologies and laying techniques were explained. Developments in materials, costs and durability were explained as well as the various options and tradeoffs that could be made. Prices range from R150- to R1000- per square meter, so he explained what you get at each price point. A self-adhesive, elastomer sheet (Elastolon) is the preferred underlay and he discussed the benefits of this.

September Turner's Meeting.

Herman Potgieter showed some of his home-made texturing tools using old gears mounted to spin freely on metal bar stock. John Speedy also demonstrated his mini Sorby texturing tool. Three lathes were set up with blanks to allow members to try out the tools.

Chris van Heeswijk presented the wood of the month – *Pterocarpus Angolensis* – Kiaat. It is listed as a protected species, and is a desirable wood for cabinet making. It has a most distinctive winged seed pod with a rough, hairy centre, which is very notable.

Annual Turner's Spring Challenge. This took place on Saturday, the 12th Sept 2009. The project was a salt and pepper set of any design, with the prize for the best on the day awarded to Peter Middleton. We were pleased to see some visitors from the Pretoria club. There was also a display of turned work, including a few innovative pieces, not seen before. It was also Wally Rossini's last meeting, as he is emigrating to the Cape – where he will be retiring from furniture making and taking up turning full time. He will be exhibiting at the Scarab Market in Sedgefield with Dave Stevenson, so if you are passing through, please stop off and admire the work on show.

From the committee:

Annual Braai. The Christmas Braai will take place on the 28th November 2009 at Greenside High School. The exact format and cost are still to be decided. If you haven't already, please start making toys for donation. Simple, robust toys, safe to use are best. Toys should be painted with lead free paints and avoid sharp edges and points that can injure. Target ages range from 2 to 12 years. Pull-along or push-along toys, small cabinets or boxes, small puzzles, small wheel barrows, etc are most effective.

East Rand Woodworking Association – Annual Fair at the Northfield Methodist Church, corner Webb St and Aerodrome drive, Airfield (just off Great North Road) on Saturday the 19th September

2009 from 8h30 to 14h00. Contact Bill Parrack on 011-849-5643 or 011- 421-0411 for more information.

(Note the venue change from last year. Apparently the Timber City branch in Boksburg where last year's fair was held, has been sold to Penny Pinchers, so the special relationship that the ERWA had with them has ended. Penny Pinchers is a Cape based hardware/builders' supply group, that has tried to open branches up in Gauteng before, with no success. It will be interesting to see how they fair, as competition from the other hardware chains (Builder's Warehouse, Build Rite, Mica Home Warehouse, Timbercity, etc) has never been stronger and trading conditions are not very good at present.)

Pretoria Club Annual show. This will take place at the Lions Club off Atterbury Road on Saturday, the 17th October 2009 from 8h30 to 16h00, followed by prize giving (lucky draw and certificates). Take the Atterbury Road off-ramp from the N1 Pietersburg highway, turn to the West and left at the first robot. The Lions club building can be seen from Atterbury Road. There will be the usual exhibition of turnings, fine furniture, tools and machine tools. Contact Anton Louwrens on 012-654-5640 or Lou Coetzer on 012-991-1241 or 082-332-5786 for information.

Hobby-X. Planning well ahead this year for Hobby-X 2010, on the 4th to 7th March, Karen Fairfield will lead a sub-committee comprised of representatives of the various interest groups to co-ordinate our efforts, including Eddy Marchio – Toymakers; John Speedy – Turners; Cabinet Makers – to be confirmed.

For Sale:

Emco Star Combination Woodworking machine R1 000.00 (onco)

Festo Circular Saw R150.00

Makita 100mm **Belt Sander.** Good working condition R400.00

Elu **Orbital Sander.** Very sturdy machine. R200.00

Dovetail Jig R150.00

Small **Router** ¼" R150.00

Triton Dust Mask and Face Shield. Hardly used. R300.00.

Contact **Syd Marshall** on 011-477-1115 or 083-457-4421

Shop Made Woodturning Lathe. Similar to Stubby (i.e. Bed can be extended and swivelled.) Max swing 1000mm, Max centre distance (1000mm with 500 swing) 300mm with 1000 swing, Power 1.5 kw (2 hp) 220 volt 3 phase motor via an inverter, 220 Volt single phase A.C. supply. Poly Vee Drive between motor and headstock. Lathe is mounted on a steel stand fitted with castors. Head stock and tail stock have no. 2 morse tapers. Head stock threaded to suit nova chuck with large jaws. Complete with faceplate, step drive, live centre, Vacuum chuck with vacuum pump. Large dia 4 wheel steady. Various tool rests. Deep hollowing jig. (articulated type similar to Vicmark design). Moving to retirement village and I cannot take the unit. It would suit a mechanically minded person who fabricates his own equipment. The unit took me approx 8 months to build and material costs approximated R8 000.00. A commercially made unit of similar capabilities would cost approx seven times this amount. I believe the unit is worth quite a lot but I am open to offers. Must Be Seen To Be Appreciated.

Contact Syd Marshall on 011-477-1115 or 083-457-4421

Ryobi 10" Combination Home workshop – **circular saw** only R600-

SIP **Welder** – Weldmate 140 R500-

Stanley **Hand drill** R50-

Hobbycraft **drill press** – 1.5" chuck R250-

Bench grinder comprising a separate spindle and electric motor mounted below. R250-

Contact **Mike Rankin** on 011-788-6162

Workbench: Steel frame American make, 1.22 M long 0.58 M wide, 0.88 M high, with 32 mm thick chipboard top, a single steel central drawer and a steel back tool rack R400.00

Record vices: Genuine unused number W105 quick release vice R1000.00 Steel Record vice "7 1/4 inch" quick release in use R350.00 Record Junior No 51 vice, clamp on to end of bench R50.00

Black & Decker Deluxe **Power Shop** model 7740 **radial arm saw.** Has not been used much, about 30 years old with several accessories (sanding plates, sabre saw attachment, several new blades etc) R1500.00 Fitted onto a Rockwell steel stand with castors and with a fitted lockable cabinet underneath which will be an extra R500.00 NOT included with the radial

saw; can be used for any other machine e.g. cutoff saw, bench grinder, sharpening system, small bench saw, band saw, etc

Bahco **Wood turning chisels**: 15 chisels in all, all new, never been used and still in original packaging #925 10mm, 12mm (x2), 20mm chisel; #926 10mm, 19mm, 12mm, gouge; #964 10mm, 22mm, & 16mm double edge gouge; #965 13mm, 22mm, & 12mm V nose double edge gouge; #966 22mm round nosed double edge chisel; #967 22mm inside turning tool R150.00 each, negotiable depending on size.

Two Original B&D **Workmate** solid beech tops, one unused, other used but both in good condition; top size 68.5 cm long, 12.2 cm wide, 42 mm thick Definitely NOT like the modern cheapies! R150.00 each

Zyliss woodworkers 4-in-1 vice 65mm wide Two never been used complete in original boxes R600.00 Neg

Barrus Shapercraft Universal **Shaper Table** #1120 Fits all drill stands, never been used, in good condition R150.00

Heavy duty foldable "W" shape aluminium and steel **ladder** with extensions. This is a heavier than those available from regular suppliers and LONGER, by about another 2 meters. Its will last almost "forever". Ideal for the tradesman. R1000.00

Shopsmith Mark iv: Complete Shopsmith system, used but in excellent working condition. Includes 2 end rests, band-saw attachment (never used), planer attachment (never used), belt sander attachment (never used), many other accessories in two specially fitted large drawers for all the accessories under the machine, with a dust cover. Several saw blades also available Offers?

Norton Arkansas **sharpening stones**: Several sizes; please enquire with me; all never used in original boxes. R negotiable

Circular saw blade cabinet Home made wood cabinet with several saw blades of different sizes, eg carbide tipped, plywood, crosscutting, dado cutting, etc; most of the blades are new. R150.00 each neg.

Wood screws, various sizes: I have a large number of wood screws of almost all sizes from gauge 4 up to 12/14 from short lengths to long lengths. **Wood dowels** – assorted woods and sizes.

Record No 51 plane set, not used, a little rusty, offers?

Various quality **hand saws** eg Diston, Spear & Jackson (including a Centennial back saw)

Various Stanley and Record **planes** eg very long bed corrugated plane

Iroko **boards** from approx 2 to 3 meters long, about 75mm to 300mm wide, all rough cut, about 7/8 lengths in all.

Long lengths of thin meranti **timber**, vary from 12mm sq to other sizes. Other wood lengths of pine, meranti shelving, some plywood, chipboard shelving. Offers.

Spray guns. Sprayit make, unused, with some spares

Car **roof rack**. Steel roof rack in good condition, can be adjusted to suite different car widths, made by Volvo, size about 110cm by 112cm, clamps onto edge of roof, has not been used much. R250.00

Contact **Eric Jacobson** on ericshop@gmail.com or 011 6403487 or 0825726176 (Johannesburg, Northern Suburbs)

Kitchen Installer's Course – 5 days, 50 hours of instruction, R6232- at Austro starting on the 12th October 2009, under the auspices of the Kitchen Specialists Association. See www.ksa.co.za for more information

Wanted: Somebody to manufacture and install a magazine display cabinet for our school? Contact Ivan Wermuth at the School Of Mines, University of Johannesburg, on 011-559-6408 or 084 7547 090 or ivanw@uj.ac.za

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.

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.

Early 20th Century Farm Workshop

Article and photos by Roy Gibbs

For many years I have lived in the Magaliesberg area, initially near the Magaliesburg village and latterly near Hartbeespoort. Inevitably I have become involved with aspects of life in the area, from the preservation of the natural flora and fauna to its rich history where early game hunters and many Voortrekkers settled.

A good friend, Charles Gotthard, the well-known sculptor, has been the driving force behind the Magaliesburg Historical Society, whose aims are to preserve artefacts and records of the old ways of life in the area. Recently, the Society was presented with the contents of a farm workshop which was established by the owners' Grandfather after the end of the Anglo-Boer War. The shop was used to repair and supply products for agricultural equipment and transport, especially ox wagons. The

workshop was closed in the 1930's and remained virtually untouched until the present day. The main pieces of equipment were a forge complete with blacksmith tools, a woodturning lathe and a band saw. Both the lathe and saw were operated by an overhead shaft which initially was run by a steam engine but later by diesel. Both pieces of machinery were manufactured by an unknown carpenter in Monkey Thorn (*Acacia galpinii*), a bushveld tree which is more common north of the Magaliesburg. I have two good specimens in my garden but have never seen it growing wild in the area. The timber is dark brown, coarse grained and according to Coates-Palgrave, heavy and difficult to work. It is an interesting choice, but I believe the carpenter knew that it would be stable enough to maintain the accuracy required from both pieces of equipment. I think that in Europe, such a project would have used beech or perhaps ash. I wonder how the timber would have been seasoned as many of the sections are 80 mm thick and must have taken several years to air dry.



The first picture on the left was taken from the tailstock end and shows the lathe in position, set into the floor. The drive belt can be seen loosely hanging from the pulley. The drive shaft runs along the wall to the band-saw behind me. The tool-rest height is fixed just below centre suggesting that gouges rather than hook tools were used although no turning chisels remained. The next picture illustrates the tool-rest and the headstock. The swing is about 380 mm and the bed length 1.8 metres. Unfortunately we could not find a drive spur for the



headstock. It was suggested that the owner obtained tools that were used by patternmakers in the Reef foundries. It is interesting to note that the tool-rest is set on the opposite side to standard lathes. Perhaps the owner was left handed and specified it but it may also have been because the shaft ran in one direction so that was the way the lathe turned.



[Note from the editor: To change direction, the belt could have been run in a figure-of-eight, so the left-handed explanation is more likely.]

Note that there is a hand-turned grindstone mounted on the lathe bed and this is seen in the photo on the left.

This picture below shows the band-saw and you can immediately see what a remarkable construction it is. One can only speculate whether the carpenter had plans for this or, as I suspect, access to one in a patternmakers shop which he copied. The throat is 700 mm and the maximum height of cut 500 mm.



This picture gives an



indication of the size as the man is about six feet tall. It also illustrates the drive pulley at the bottom.

The photo on the right shows a close up of the top blade guide, all constructed from monkey thorn. There is no bottom guide. The blade is original.

The last picture illustrates the top wheel which has height adjustment to tension the blade. Both wheels are clad with rubber automobile tyre sections. The wheel cover and blade cover are made from Oregon Pine.



The machines are now on display in The Magaliesburg Historical Society's Museum which is situated in Charles' old house "Out of Africa" a



couple of kilometres out of Magaliesburg towards Rustenburg. The museum is well worth a visit and has some fascinating exhibits on local bushman art. The area is rich in carved rocks and also memorabilia from the Anglo-Boer War. Arrangements can be made at the museum to visit these sites.