

Dublin Chapter
Irish Woodturners Guild



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Newsletter Vol 6, No 1

Feb/March 99

This is really the first newsletter of 1999 in the sense that since our last publication we have held our AGM and elected a new committee and agreed on a few changes to how we do things. Thanks and much appreciation is due to the retiring committee members, in particular Des McMahon who as chairman guided our Chapter so capably and with such good humour for the past two years. We owe a debt of gratitude to him and to Peter Mulvanney, Ned Farrell and Christine Bradshaw who all gave unstintingly of their time on so many occasions.

The new chairman is Jim Molloy who is well known already as a member of the committee and who had been writing up the demos for the newsletter in his imitable fashion. Give him your full support and indeed all the newer committee members such as Seamus Carter, Irene Christie and Maurice Boyle who succeeds Ned as librarian. The full list is in the box below.

The exhibition committee are retiring en masse and again these are a group of skilled turners who have gone to considerable trouble for the past few years in organising and supervising displays of our members work. A vote of thanks to Tom McDonagh, Tom Hayes, Seamus O'Reilly and Mick Healy. Now, who would like to take their places?

So for 1999 lets see a revival of interest in the competitions, the committee will as usual try to find interesting and challenging items to make. However if you have a suggestion lets hear from you. The committee is only 8 strong, there are another 120 brains elsewhere in the Chapter.

Chris Hayes-editor

Demos

April - Tony Rea
May - Tom Hayes
June - Seamus Carter - open barley twist
July - Question and Answer- see inside

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AGM - summary of reports
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Competitions

April - Matching napkin rings, 3 only for beginners,
6 for others
(with suitable stand in each case)
May - Open, anything you fancy
June- Tom Newman Perpetual Trophy

Reminder

Have you paid your subs? Its really great value at 23punts. If you have not paid by April you may be refused admission to the meetings - this is an insurance rule.

Committee

Chairman- Jim Molloy, 39 Glenbrook Park, Rathfarnham, D14, 493 4477; **Vice-Chairman and Competitions**- Frank Gallagher, 3 Rossmore Park, Templeogue, D6W, 4902879; **Hon. Sec**- Owen Furniss, 40 Broadford Crescent, Ballinteer, D16.4941262. **Treasurer**- Harry O' Riordan, Acer Glade, Burnaby Park, Greystones, 2875345. **Editor**- Chris Hayes, 85 Willow Park Grove, Glasnevin, D11, 8422525. **Librarian**- Maurice Boyle, 2 Pinewood Drive, Glasnevin, D11, 8422535; Also, Seamus Carter, 15 Woodlands Road, Johnstown Estate, Dun Laoire, 2850087; Irene Christie, 15 Woodlands Close Rathfarnham D16, 493 6435

AGM, Dublin Chapter 1999

The chairman, Hon. secretary and treasurer all gave their reports to the meeting followed by a few words from Tom McDonagh on behalf of the exhibition committee who are all retiring as of now. Des McMahon our chairman for the past two years and also retiring this month, thanked everybody and in particular, the committee, for their support. He introduced the proposed changes to the system of judging and marking the competitions and gave everybody ample time to discuss the issue. The proposals were carried comfortably on a vote with one amendment approved. Details of the new system are included in this newsletter.

Finances: At the end of 1998 our bank balance was over 1400 punts. (note to self, ask for raise)

Competitions: Over the past year about 40 members overall submitted competition entries but only half that number did so more than 6 times! So the chairman's remarks about supporting this aspect of our meetings is worth consideration. The winners in 1998 are:

Beginners ----1st Sean Dunne
2nd Pacelli O'Rourke
3rd Peter Kennedy

Experienced--1st Chris Hayes
2nd Frank Gallagher
3rd Geoffrey Cronin

Advanced-- 1st Phillip Kerr
2nd Des McMahon
3rd Owen Furness

Letters to the editor ;

Dear Ed,

As a relatively new member it would be helpful to me if those members with hand, arm or facial injuries could identify the cause of the injury. It is a source of considerable worry to me as to whether or not these are lathe/tool injuries!

Yours nervously,
Irene Christie

Ps. Anybody got ideas on how to prevent wood splitting, particularly laburnum (and no, you're not getting any of mine)

Dear Ed,

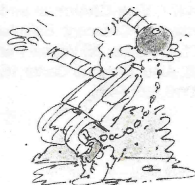
I am writing to you to air an idea that I floated at the AGM this year. It had occurred to me that other woodturners like myself who like to teach turning skills to others might like to run a seminar or workshop to develop their own teaching abilities. I am not aware of any woodturning course that would give a qualifying participant a qualification to teach. If we could develop an event such as I suggest it might be structured or designed to provide some type of certificate for delegates. This event could be run under the umbrella of the Guild or with the approval of the Guild committee, but without expense to the Guild. I would see this as a platform for woodturners who currently teach on a regular basis and who would be known to have experience in this field. I would not see this as an opportunity for members who aspire to teach or who have no teaching experience.

There are many members in the Guild who teach woodturning; they may or may not have formal teaching qualifications but they might like to air their views on teaching and perhaps share and exchange teaching techniques. I would expect this to be self financing in that as we would be teaching each other there would be no fees charged or paid. The curriculum for such an event could be discussed in advance and a programme arranged.

There could be several approaches to this idea. One would be to have interested parties in the chapters hold preliminary meetings locally and then arrange a national meeting. Or a national meeting could be organised from the outset. Since I first broached the suggestion three people have expressed an interest in the idea and one has offered a prominent location (subject to approval) to hold such a seminar or workshop. At the moment this innovation is in the embryo stage and I am certain that it will take some time to get off the ground.

This letter is the second step in setting it up and the third step cannot take place until the next issue of the Journal is published. I feel that this could be a start in establishing a degree of professionalism our craft and it might lead to a national register of woodturning teachers. If there are any other members who teach on a regular basis and who are interested in this scheme would you please contact me at this number ---- 01- 280 2745

Yours sincerely
Peter Mulvaney (Journal editor, retired)



Some ideas on clock design -by Joe O' Neill

The usual problem facing most turners when starting a project is what design to use. I wish to suggest a procedure that works for me. There are volumes on the subject but the ultimate decision is yours.

First, if making for someone else consider what the customer wants. If it's a clock what wood to use. How large should it be and where will it live. A lot of your inspiration will come from what kind of customer you are dealing with. Are they traditional with fixed ideas of what the clock should look like. For this preference you can refer to the kind seen in catalogues and books. If you are making for an artistic type your imagination will have to soar as they will require a one-off special usually. The natural form is normally what they like. Nice burr or spalted wood is probably very acceptable and its helpful if you have some samples of wood to show. With the design in mind and the wood selected now you can get started.

Make sure your lathe will take the wood you wish to turn. Make a drawing or sketch of what you want your clock to look like and keep to it as much as possible. It is very easy to spoil a piece of wood and render it useless unless you concentrate on the shape you are after. Going idly at it will guarantee failure. Always have a plan and it will succeed.

The meetings at **North Strand VEC** on the last Thursday of the month continue to attract a goodly number of people, even from as far away as Enniskerry. Its mainly a discussion group giving members a chance to bring and show, seek and give advice on things to do with turning and generally avail of the opportunity denied to them at the Terenure meetings because of the larger numbers and formal structure. I learnt two useful tips at the January meeting, a) if the Jacob's chuck tends to eject from the headstock due to vibration try jamming the toolrest hard up against the chuck; b) Slots filed in a ring centre increases the amount of grip.

Mount the blank on a screw chuck and true up the face, mark the centre, reverse and true up the other side. Cut a recess for the clock mechanism which for the standard quartz movement is 31/8 in. dia. to a depth of 5/8 to 3/4 in. This will be the back of the clock and it is worth taking a little extra trouble with this. Check that the movement fits snugly in the recess (this has to be done in reverse as the screw chuck gets in the way of the shaft). Now remove from the chuck and check that the recess is deep enough- there should be about 1/4 in between the movement in the recess

and the face side. Now screw a waste piece on and turn to 31/8 in dia. as a jam chuck. Take some time to get a good snug fit with the blank using tissues if it helps. However if your first attempt to make a jam chuck fails discard it and make another. Save the first for something else. With the wood mounted securely continue to shape the clock, keeping to your plan as far as possible. Small changes are inevitable of course and may well be essential. A useful way to mark the hours is by cutting plugs from a contrasting wood and gluing into the face. Ensure that the positions of the hours are accurate with the aid of a compass. On a strongly grained wood 12 and 6 should be in line with the grain as it looks better. It doesn't matter on burrs of course. When satisfied with the turning sand from 100g finishing with 400. Do the back as this time also and finish according to your preference Remove from the chuck and drill a hole to accept the locking brass nut for the movement. Assemble the mechanism to the clock case and tighten this nut. Fit the hour hand at 12 o'clock -Its pressed on, Next secure the minute hand with a small round nut, also at 12. Fit a battery and run for a few hours as a test. If made to hang on a wall buy the special 1in keyhole disc for insertion in the back. It's best to drill a recess with a Forstener or flat bit to suit the disc and afterwards scoop out enough wood to allow room for a hanging screw.

Look !!!!

Irish Timber Products

O'Growney St. Athboy,

Co. Meath

tel. 046-32110/30260

Fax 046- 32832

We will be at the Terenure meeting on Sat April 3rd next with timber for sale at 10% discount to Chapter members.

You may order anything special beforehand, to be available on the day or send for a price list by contacting the above.

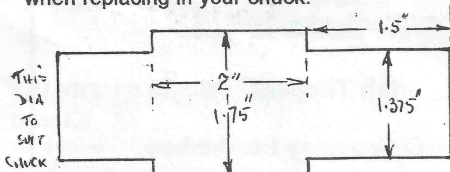
Web site sponsor required

Until about a year ago the previous editor Phillip Murray had looked after a web page featuring Chapter activities but it has not been maintained for some time. The committee feel we should restart this but we need a sponsor to assist with the funding. If your know of anyone who might be interested let me know.

The January demos -No.1- Napkin rings by Tom McDonagh

What a pity Tom wasn't engaged earlier for this exercise.. Some of us could have enhanced our tables at Christmas thereby impressing our friends and relations with neatly turned rings. The following is partly how I saw the demonstration supported or complemented by Tom's notes :

Prepare a mandrel first in suitable close grained timber as below- it will be used later for finishing the outside of the rings. Make the spigot to suit your particular chuck but the other dimensions shown are appropriate for the purpose. Unless working between centres for this don't forget to mark the centre of the exposed end- it helps later when replacing in your chuck.



Select a nice piece of timber- sycamore or yew are fine- that will yield a cylinder 3.5 in. long by

2in dia. with a little extra for a spigot. This gives 2 rings.

Mount between centres and turn the required size spigot, one end. Turn remainder to 2in dia. Prepare a number of similar pieces, sufficient to give the number of rings required. Consider doing a few extra in case!

Mount on a chuck and open up the centre using a gouge or ideally, a Jacob's chuck and 0.5in to 1in drill mounted in the tailstock, to a depth of 3.25in, at the slowest lathe speed

Widen to 1.375in dia to a depth of about 1.75in checking regularly for fit with the prepared mandrel.

Sand inside to a smooth finish and polish.. Extreme care is needed if you use a finger to hold the sandpaper. Much better to wrap the paper around a dowel spiral fashion and stick with hot glue if needed.

Part off cleanly at 1.5in width.

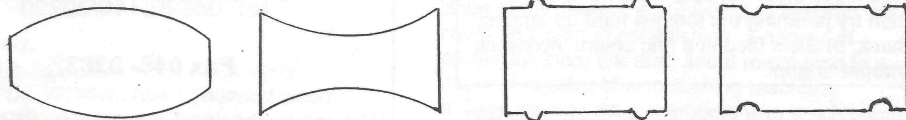
Repeat for subsequent ring(s)

To finish mount the mandrel in the chuck centring with the aid of the tailstock but then remove the tailstock altogether.

Mount a ring on the end of the mandrel. If the fit is too loose try a tissue or coat the mandrel with soft wax.

Turn down outside of ring until flush with 1.75 shoulder on the mandrel. Shape to whatever design you fancy including the edge. You will need to remove the ring and replace other way around to finish the other edge.

Repeat for all rings sanding and finishing as required. The following are suggested designs:



Obituary

We regret the passing of Victor Lowe who died on 3rd January 1999. Victor, who had been suffering from cancer, lived in Greystones for many years and was a well known and popular figure at our monthly meetings. He had taken up turning about 9 or 10 years ago and loved the craft, contributing to the meetings and entering the competitions as often as possible and never missing the annual seminar if he could help it. His son Richard told me how together they had constructed a workshop in the garden so his father could turn without bothering anyone. We sympathise with his widow and family on their great loss.

The January demo-no. 2 - Small vases by Owen Furniss

Owen commenced by baring his soul and telling us that he has had some failures in the workshop. This makes the rest of us feel more normal. For therapy and to restore his confidence Owen drags out his box of odds and ends of various wood from under the bench. On occasions like this it is simply a question of turning something, anything, usually a small bud vase and finishing it before leaving the workshop.

As well as displaying a number of well designed miniature vases, Owen did a rapid fire demo of a vase in mountain ash. He turned a spigot for the chuck with the opening tool. The natural bark on the bowl of the vase was retained. To avoid tearing the bark Owen opened with a skew rather than the opening tool which is a useful tip for us all. He drilled a 12mm hole centrally with the bit in a Jacob's chuck at a slow speed and then shaped the edge to a near bevel or crater using a small gouge.

Well finished miniatures in quality wood can adorn many a shelf or corner cabinet.

Thanks to Tom and Owen for well presented demos-

-Maurice Boyle

Woodturning Courses

Available from

Peter Mulvaney, 33 Ardmore Park, Dun Laoire, tel. 280 2745

who provides one and two-day courses, 9 to 5 and on a one-to-one basis.

Also from

Joe O'Neill, 27Ballinteer Drive, D16, tel. 454 1822 (6to8 pm), 298 9441(after 8 and at weekends) Basic, intermediate or advanced courses or to suit your requirements.

Tree lore

What's in a leaf unfolding?

When the Ash is before the Oak
We are sure to have a soak
When the Oak is before the Ash,
We shall only have a splash.

Thus said the ancient weather prophets in the conviction that if the Oak buds opened before those of the Ash there would be a fine summer. Records kept in the middle of the eighteenth century supported their theory, for in eighteen years, when the Oak was several weeks ahead of the Ash, warm sunny summers and excellent harvests followed, whereas in twelve years, when the order of the trees was reversed, the summers and harvests were disappointing. Anyway the Oak should leaf first in normal years in this example according to the accepted order of trees coming into leaf, which is as follows:

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Poplar - | March 6 to April 19 |
| Horse Chestnut | ---March 17 to April 19 |
| Larch ----- | March 21 to April 14 |
| Sycamore----- | March 28 to April 23 |
| Lime ----- | April 6 to May 2 |
| Oak ----- | April 10 to May 26 |
| Beech ----- | April 19 to May 7 |
| Spanish Chestnut- | April 20 to May 20 |
| Ash ----- | ---May 13 to June 14 |

(from the Gardener's Good Companion)



The Interview

This month I went to talk to one of the founder members of our Chapter and whose turned pieces are the envy of everyone. You can be sure that when his entry for the competition appears on the table it is instantly recognisable, putting his name on it afterwards is to help the uninitiated only! I found him where you can find him most days, in his well equipped workshop hard at work on several projects at once. After a tour of the different areas of his mini- factory we settled down to talk about his interest in turning.

Editor : Tell us, Tim McGill, how you got started in this craft.

Tim : After a lifetime in my own plumbing and heating business I had to give this up when my wife, who was succumbing to Alzheimer's disease, needed more care and attention. When she died I needed a diversion badly. My home help suggested the local library for ideas and a book I found there started me off indirectly on turning. I had many tools and machines from my days in the plumbing business including a Myford combination machine which incorporated a lathe of sorts. I had used this on and off for modifying pipe unions and I now I had found a new use for it. It was all trial and error, lots of errors, but with the help of books and watching how the professionals did things, gradually I got it together and even began to sell items.

Ed : You said you never took lessons but surely you needed to meet others like yourself?

Tim : I did when I joined the group in Larch Hill which was the meeting place for the Guild then (the Chapter developed from those meetings as the numbers steadily grew) People like Comerford were regular sights then and were an invaluable source for ideas and techniques, as were many others not so well known. This meeting place was also a great supplier of timber, it was literally felled on the spot and cut up and

Future attractions

As mentioned briefly on Page 1 the committee plan something different for July instead of the usual demo. A question and answer session , you prepare the questions in advance ,in writing preferably, and we shall invite a panel to answer, or perhaps encourage members from the audience-as they say on the best quiz shows- to provide the replies. So its up to you now, the field is open with no restrictions being imposed other than confining queries to turning, carving or routing.

sold to our members, the proceeds helping to fund the Guild activities.

Ed : So, moving on, you are now one of the exalted, to me at any rate. How do you view the arrangements presently in Terenure, nearly 8 years after you helped to set it up?

Tim: Like many others I feel our success has become a handicap inasmuch as the large numbers make it very difficult to meet and talk with others, not to mention the problems associated with marking competitions. I have reservations about the new marking system but I hope it works well and encourages greater participation.

Ed : I know that you have demonstrated at many different venues. What was the most often asked question?

Tim: Somebody's wife would seek advice on how to get her husband interested in turning. I usually said a) watch a turner in action, b) take lessons if still intrigued, private or in a class with others , c) only after lessons should he consider buying a lathe and get plenty of advice before doing so, d) buy the best you can afford rather than the cheapest, most who do buy a smaller lathe to start with soon find it restricting in one way or another, e) four chisels are plenty to start with, save your money until you really know what you need rather than what you think you need, f) get a bandsaw as soon as you can followed by a good dust extractor. Above all keep turning, trying different things to get experience.

Ed: Thanks Tim for telling us something about yourself. Anything further to add?

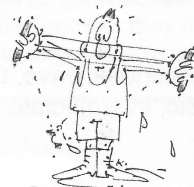
Tim : I encourage the Chapter to support the Alzheimers Society as often as they can. I contribute myself to the charity from whatever I make from turning and others in the Chapter do too. Everything helps this worthy cause. Please do too if you can.

AGM reminder

Saturday March 27th 1999 2pm

Irish Woodturners Guild AGM

Venue - Aisling Hotel, near Heuston station



MONTHLY COMPETITION
LEAGUE TABLE RESULTS, MARCH 1998 TO JANUARY 1999

| | Score | March | April | May | June | July | August | September | October | November | December | January |
|--------------------|-------|-------|-------|-----|------|------|--------|-----------|---------|----------|----------|---------|
| Advanced | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Phil Kerr | 2651 | 251 | 0 | 232 | 326 | 323 | 270 | 280 | 251 | 271 | 201 | 246 |
| Des McMahon | 2618 | 311 | 209 | 210 | 316 | 296 | 221 | 268 | 256 | 283 | 0 | 248 |
| Owen Furniss | 2209 | 262 | 213 | 238 | 298 | 250 | 217 | 0 | 249 | 312 | 170 | 0 |
| Eddie O'Reilly | 1928 | 298 | 139 | 159 | 280 | 0 | 211 | 0 | 219 | 238 | 186 | 198 |
| Seamus Carter | 1905 | 0 | 123 | 199 | 250 | 283 | 0 | 265 | 201 | 200 | 176 | 208 |
| Tony Lally | 1744 | 293 | 162 | 196 | 224 | 0 | 0 | 252 | 217 | 232 | 168 | 0 |
| John Wetherill | 1647 | 217 | 191 | 240 | 0 | 295 | 257 | 202 | 245 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Peadar McArdle | 1550 | 195 | 151 | 167 | 0 | 237 | 164 | 224 | 207 | 205 | 0 | 0 |
| Mick Deegan | 1109 | 217 | 157 | 200 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 248 | 287 | 0 | 0 |
| Harry Kampff | 805 | 285 | 0 | 284 | 0 | 236 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Albert Sloane | 779 | 0 | 155 | 0 | 0 | 229 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 252 | 143 | 0 |
| Garoid Hogan | 774 | 0 | 0 | 162 | 0 | 0 | 158 | 218 | 236 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Henry East | 706 | 0 | 0 | 237 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 265 | 204 | 0 | 0 |
| Aidrian Finly | 405 | 0 | 0 | 205 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 200 | 0 | 0 |
| Tim McGill | 265 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 265 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Peter Mulvaney | 246 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 246 |
| Joe O'Neill | 222 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 222 | 0 | 0 |
| Mick Healy | 210 | 0 | 0 | 210 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Experienced | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Chris Hayes | 1619 | 0 | 0 | 246 | 214 | 0 | 0 | 250 | 254 | 289 | 156 | 210 |
| Frank Gallagher | 1236 | 222 | 160 | 186 | 270 | 241 | 157 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Geoff Cronin | 488 | 0 | 199 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 289 | 0 | 0 |
| John Wigham | 380 | 0 | 176 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 204 | 0 |
| Bill Kilpatrick | 227 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 227 |

**MONTHLY COMPETITION
LEAGUE TABLE RESULTS , MARCH 1998 TO JANUARY 1999**

| Score | March | April | May | June | July | August | September | October | November | December | January |
|------------------|-------|-------|-----|------|------|--------|-----------|---------|----------|----------|---------|
| Beginners | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sean Dunne | 246 | 191 | 151 | 283 | 228 | 237 | 233 | 231 | 237 | 0 | 216 |
| Pacelli O'Rourke | 0 | 0 | 200 | 0 | 228 | 0 | 278 | 0 | 0 | 184 | 215 |
| Peter Kennedy | 0 | 0 | 226 | 0 | 309 | 246 | 246 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Thomas Mangan | 209 | 0 | 236 | 295 | 266 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Tom McCourt | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 273 | 0 | 233 | 224 | 239 | 0 | 0 |
| David Dunne | 209 | 176 | 200 | 270 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Michael Kenny | 210 | 0 | 131 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 267 | 178 | 0 |
| Victor Lowe | 290 | 0 | 0 | 243 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 234 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| James Nolan | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 275 | 246 | 0 | 235 |
| Stephen Wright | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 272 | 276 | 0 | 0 |
| Donal Browne | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 257 | 271 | 271 | 0 | 0 |
| Irene Christie | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 246 | 181 | 0 |
| Sean O'Neill | 194 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 209 | 0 | 0 |
| Denis Carey | 0 | 0 | 0 | 293 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Morris Boyle | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 259 | 0 | 0 |
| Norah Castle | 227 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Gay McGrane | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 197 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Richard Sheridan | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 189 | 0 |

The new method of marking the monthly competitions

Note : This is reproduced for the benefit of members who missed the AGM on February 6th

1. Marking will be carried out by three members who have not entered the competition on the month in question.
2. The judges will be selected on the morning of the competition by the committee from Experienced and Advanced members.
3. Judging will be on the basis of the 3Fs, Form, Function and Finish.
4. The judges will determine the winner and two runners up in each section.
5. The judges will comment to the meeting on the winner in each section and make general constructive comments on the overall entries.
6. The competitions secretary will compile marking for Turner of the Year in each section as follows:
 - * each entry receives 5 points (total 5)
 - * the winner in each section receives an additional 10 points (total 15)
 - * second in each section receives additional 8 points (total 13)
 - * third, extra 6points, total 11,
 - * fourth, extra 4points, total 9, ✓
 - * fifth, extra 2 points, total 7,
 - * sixth, extra 1point, total 6.
7. The effectiveness of these changes to be reviewed by the committee on a ongoing basis.

A conclusion is the place you ended up when you got tired of thinking

--Ohio Guild

RECIPE CORNER

Or, how to force spalting!

Ingredients include :

can of beer, 11/2 tablespoons of ammonia, cup of "Miracle Grow" (mixed double strength) , oak leaves with grass clippings, (there was no mention of eye of a newt but I suppose it couldn't hurt)

Chop all the above in your wife's food processor (when she's out of course) to create a paste like consistency. Cover the entire surface area of the roughed out piece with the paste. Place in a plastic bag and keep in a warm place for a few weeks.

--American Woodturner

National Tree Week

7th to 13th March 1999

I attended the launch of this years Tree Week in Newcastle West, Co. Limerick at the invitation of the Tree Council treasurer, our own Joe O'Neill. It was graced by President McAleese who planted a native ash tree and gave a speech emphasising the importance of getting the whole country involved in broadleaf tree planting. Among the presentations to the President was a well executed set of goblets and tray by a young Dublin turner. The Dublin Chapter will, no doubt, be doing their usual tree maintenance at Larch Hill during this period.

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Thanks to the kind person who explained the term "furring strip" . It means battens when used as a framework for a duckboard. I suppose you know what a duckboard is?

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