



Inside this Issue:

Pat Walsh gets ready for Christmas and



Charlie Ryan spices things up!



▷ The Woodcutters of Larch Hill. Page 4.

▷ Bee Patient Honey! Page 5.

▷ Spalting in a nutshell - John O'Sullivan Page 8.

Who was winning 10 years ago?

Pictures of competition winners 10 years ago this month? There were none - it was the AGM. Last month's winners are on page 6.



THE WOOD DATABASE

You may remember the Wood Database as a source of several pieces that have been included in the Newsletter. Well, they have recently released "The Wood Book" - featuring facts and pictures of over 350 woods. A brief review of content looks good. Take a look at the book at <http://www.wood-database.com/book/>

Upcoming Events

- Dublin Chapter AGM - November 7th.
- Tallaght Library Exhibition / Show - Friday 27th and Saturday 28th of November
- Chapter Trade Stands: -
- * December - The Hut.

*Qu: What do you call two crows?
Ans: An attempted murder.*

Pat Walsh Decorates our October Saturday Demo.

The demonstration for October related to Decorations for the Christmas. Pat turned several items under the above heading: firstly a decorative backing disc onto which is glued a split-turned half Christmas tree, then three fully rounded hanging items; a snowman, a fairy-light and bulb-holder and a Christmas tree.

Choice of wood

Either choose plain wood, (eg sycamore), and embellish it by colouring, or use a wood which already has an attractive figure, and forget about colouring. Today Pat is using beech. All dimensions are a matter of personal choice.



Backing disc

The blank is sufficient to make about six thin discs. For roughing to round, it is mounted between centres, using a step centre at both ends. It is orientated side grain on as in bowl turning. If the end grain were along the axis, the resulting discs would be very likely to crack at some point. The centres are marked on both ends. Pat uses the bowl gouge tip for roughing. A spigot is formed at the headstock end and dovetailed with the skew, to give optimal hold. The end is slightly dished for good shoulder contact against the chuck. The blank is now mounted in the chuck. The rounded surface is finished using a 10mm bowl gouge, with a very light touch. Pat now changes to faceplate mode. "The front needs to be perfectly flat for best holding of the relief form when completed." He removes the centre 'pip' with a scraper. "The scraper is nothing to be ashamed of, just like 80 grit abrasive!" He uses a flat scraper with a negative rake angle at the top. With this he softens the disc-edge. He cuts a decorative groove near the edge, burning it nicely with a piece of Formica. He now applies some colour with Pro-Markers, (available in Art & Hobbies). Use of contrasting colours either side of the groove enhances the attractiveness of the disc.

Chairman: Bob Finley
086 8323730
DWT.Chair@gmail.com

Secretary: Joe O'Neill
087 623 0162
DWT.Secretary@gmail.com

Treasurer: Vincent Whelan
087 760 4918
DWT.Treasurer@gmail.com

Vice-Chairman: Joe McLoughlin
087 261 0803

Membership: Michael Clarke
087 252 2637
DWT.Membership@gmail.com

Competitions/W/shops: John Doran
087 639 3081
DWT.Competitions@gmail.com

Books & Video: Eamonn Boland
086 274 7600
DWT.Library@gmail.com

Exhibitions: Paul Murtagh
087 133 1292
01 456 5509

Audio/Visual: Tony Hartney
087 681 4912
DWT.Video@gmail.com

Newsletter: Mike Sims
087 989 8793
DWT.Newsletter@gmail.com

Parting off

The parting tool action is a 'peeling' one rather than going in too directly. The task is completed with a junior hacksaw. The disc is now reversed using four pieces of double sided tape. The back of the disc is completed as with the opposite side. Caution! Use only very light cuts as the tape has a spongy aspect which could easily throw the disc off-centre. Pat uses a carpenters' chisel also, as a scraper. The piece is now re-reversed to the original orientation. Great care is needed when detaching the disc from the tape (cracking!). Detach initially along the grain. It is now time to tackle the decorative piece to be mounted in relief on the disc.

Small split-turned Christmas tree

Take two pieces of stock, say 50mmx25mm and glue them to each other so as to give a square section, WITH A LEAF OF NEWSPRINT between for ease of separation at the end of the process. (If PVA is the gluing agent, it is necessary to leave this clamped for about 24 hours) A ring centre is ideal in the tailstock for holding between centres as a cone live centre will simply tend to prise the two elements apart. The blank is rounded and a spigot formed as described earlier. The tree shape is best and safest turned with the point toward the tailstock end. Once more Pat's fondness for the bowl gouge is in evidence. He refines the cone shape with the skew, with a short protruding piece for the trunk.

Colouring

It is a good idea to burn one or two grooves to demark areas for contrasting colours. This will also discourage colour-bleed where it is not wanted! All that remains at this stage is to part off and separate the two half-Christmas trees, clean up the surfaces to be glued and apply a little superglue.

Hanging the Item

Pat drills a small hole at the top, and glues in a piece of light wire forming a loop through which a piece of decorative ribbon can be passed, and...Voila!

o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Three fully rounded items

Snowman with hat

Note: The hat could be turned separately, giving the option to set it at a jaunty angle!

The blank is roughed to round, then marked as to the length of the various sections; hat, head and body. Be very careful with the rim of the top-hat. But if it breaks- "make another one!" Pat is using an adapted (pointed) spindle gouge for the profiling. Tool access is the main problem. For white colour, he uses the type of aerosol available in any motor factors. For facial features and buttons, use a fairly precise black marker.



Fairy light bulb and holder/pine cone

The reason for the 'cone'- mention here is simply because the old fashioned bulb shape is very similar to a pine cone. Pat uses the skew and small-ish gouge for profiling here. Some shallow, close grooves at the bottom look quite convincing as a screw-in bulb design. Leave an extra piece below the screw thread to represent the bulb holder. Hanging is achieved as described earlier.

Free hanging/standing Christmas tree

Again, turn this item with the tree top facing the tailstock end. Remember to leave a small flat on top for hanging purposes. Round the blank and mark the bottom of the piece by going in a little with the parting tool. Now mark the various sections; foliage, trunk and tub. Pat goes for quite a straight, conical shape on the foliage section. Try to get a nice concave profile on the trunk. He cuts and burns some decorative grooves on the tub. As ever, colouring is a matter of personal choice. Hanging is as described earlier. However, this item would also be quite nice free standing on a hall table or mantelpiece.



So, some wonderful, simple ideas this morning, to enhance the Yuletide feel of your home. A delight to the eye, and as I'm sure Pat would remind everyone: **have fun actually making them!** Thanks Pat. Pacelli O'Rourke

Charlie Ryan Spices Things Up for the October Wednesday Demo.

The Wednesday demo was given by Charlie Ryan. He chose to make a salt, pepper and toothpick-holder set. A simple item that is always useful, Charlie favoured a plain design, and showed us the importance of planning something that has to be assembled from separately turned parts.



Tallaght Hospital Exhibition Report (+ a News Flash) - by Paul Murtagh.

We had another great three day show in Tallaght Hospital, in July raising a total of €1130 for the Alzheimer's Society of Ireland. This great result was due mainly to the Guild members who contributed most items for sale. We had some really top quality pieces on the table and a big thank you is due to all, with a special thanks to Pat Walsh who handed in a big box of more than 30 pieces. Of course the exhibition could not have happened without a loyal band of helpers who took turns on the tables. Many thanks to all.

The exhibitions are our link to the outside world where we can put our work on display, discuss the craft of woodturning with the public and occasionally recruit new members for the guild. We had a steady flow of visitors admiring the items and finding out all about woodturning. Most people were delighted to discover that all the items were produced right here in Dublin, often from native trees.

Once again our facilitator in the hospital arts office, Ms Hilary Moss, was most helpful in providing the space and all the assistance we needed during our three days. We hope to be back there next year.
Paul Murtagh.

News Flash.

Tallaght Library Exhibition / Show is on *Friday 27th and Saturday 28th of November*. The times are from 10 am to 4.30 pm both days. Please donate items for sale. Also I will be looking for helpers to man the display.

Many thanks, Paul (0871331292).

The Woodcutters of Larch Hill - from James (Shay) Nolan.

I found this picture recently and it brought back memories of "The wood cutters of Larch Hill" that I thought were worth sharing.

Myself, Barry Dunne, Henry East, and the late Michael Kenny went to Larch Hill where Michael attended his beloved Walnut trees. Michael made a mixture at home which he added to water and as he said "I need to feed the trees this will help them."

The Walnut trees were planted a few years back and Michael loved to tend to them every time he was invited to Larch Hill by Barry Dunne. Barry would look for volunteers at our meetings in Terenure to attend to the planting and maintenance of the trees at Larch Hill. It was on one of our visits to Larch Hill that we discovered an Elm tree in an adjacent field.

We made contact with the farmer and acquired the tree after some haggling by myself we agreed a price. We got such fun out of cutting the tree and dividing the loot among ourselves. Many visits were made to the site over several weekends. I myself got great enjoyment and distraction from events which were happening in my own life when my wife Linda took ill that year.

I visited Michael at his home in Woodlawn Churchtown many times over the years and got some fascinating tips on wood and the use of many tools he had in his studio at the end of his garden.

The photograph, from 2004, was taken by Barry Dunne. The line up from left to right is myself; the late Michael Kenny and Henry East.

In memory of Owen Furniss, who passed away recently.

"A man who could turn his hand to anything" - that is how many people remember Owen. Stained glass maker; radio ham; scouter; canal longboater; webmaster. He designed and built our first website, that opened with a spindle-turning animation. He will be remembered locally for his contribution to woodturning. He was an accomplished turner, demonstrator and competition judge who urged his fellow judges to "look beyond the glossy finish". You may recall his famous "apple" with the secret drawer or his banksia and pewter cruet items. He taught evening classes and introduced several current Chapter members to woodturning. He also made the Turner of the Year trophy that is awarded for the advanced category, so now we can remember him every year. Thankyou Owen.



(Compiled from conversations with various members, including Paddy Finn, Rich Varney and James Gallagher). Mike Sims.

Caption Competition - November

If you can think of a good caption for this picture, it will be published in the next issue.

Suggestions to the editor or the committee please. →



Last months caption: -

* James Gallagher suggested "The TV picture is perfect, but I don't understand why there is no sound".

* Gerry Ryan suggested "Who put the teapot up there?".



Demonstrators 2015

Saturday

November - Bob Finley
December - Joe O'Neill

Wednesday

November - Malcolm Hill
December - Joe O'Neill

Useful Links - Interesting and useful items related to wood.



Did you know that it is reckoned that trees are masters of both self-defense and communication!

Look at this and other amazing facts about trees at: -

<http://landarchs.com/8-amazing-facts-trees-didnt-know/>



October Competition Entrants



Entries for Individual categories were not photographed. The picture is of all categories (and some pieces escaped).

*How can you tell the difference between a plumber and a chemist?
Ask them to say "unionized".*

Bee Patient Honey

The Central Mental Hospital, Dundrum, is using a novel beekeeping initiative to improve the quality of life among patients. And they use the services of Liam McGarry, a member of the Dublin Chapter of the IWG, who is also of the Secretary of the County Dublin Association of Irish Beekeepers.

Liam was responsible for delivering a training course in Dundrum which resulted in the setting up of bee hives that were tended by patients.

"In the first summer they harvested 57 jars of honey and the team made their own labels. They called it Patient Bee Honey, and sold it to friends and staff. Now they have five hives in partnership with the Kiltarnan Beekeeping group and the HSE".

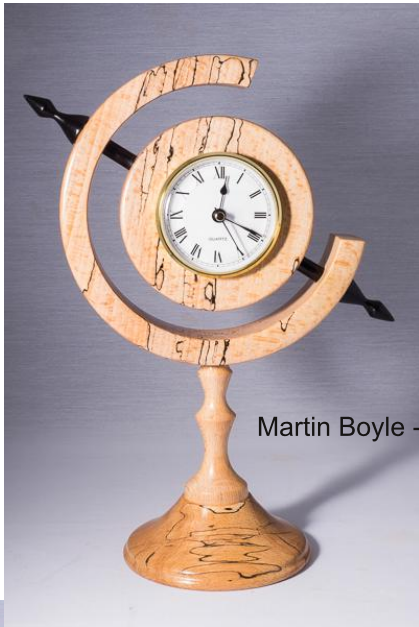
The project won the patient education award at the 2014 Irish Healthcare Awards, and some of the patients were at the awards.

Beekeeping is seen as another tool that can be used aid the recovery process for patients, along with such things as music, sports, art and caring for animals.

Congratulations to Liam.



**October
Competition Winners**



Martin Boyle - Beg



Jonathan Wigham - Exp



Seamus McKeefry - Adv



Michael Fay - Art

Who were the winners 10 years ago October?



Martin O'Halloran - exp



Richard Murphy - beg



Colm Hyland - adv

Overall Competition Results



Competition 2015.

Advanced

Name	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Total Points
Seamus McKeefry	15	13	15	13	15	13							129
James Gallagher	13												13
Bob Finley	11		13		7				13				44
Paddy Finn	9	5	5	5	5	5	5	7					46
Paul Murtagh	7	11	5	5	9	5	9	15	11	7			84
David Sweeney	6		9	15									30
Tony Hartney	5	9	11	11	13	11	13	5	6	13	9		106
Gerry Ryan	5	6	5	5	5	5	7		7				45
Pat Walsh		15				15							30
Joe Oneill		7	5	5	5	5							27
Tony Lally		5	7	6	11			9		9	11		58
Fran Lavelle			6	9	6								21
Adrian Finley				7			6						13
John Ryan					5								5
Jack O'Rourke						9							9
Cecil Barron						7							7
Albert Slone						6							19
Seamus Carter							15	6	9	11	13		54
Pat Walsh[Enn]							11						11
James Nolan								11					11
Malcolm Hill								5					5
Rich Varney											7		7

Experienced

Name	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Total Points
Jonathan Wigham	15	13	15	15	15	15		15		15	15		133
Michael Jordan	13												13
Willie Edwards	11	15		13			15		15	13			82
Peter Curran		11											11
Frank McCarthy		9	13	11	13	11	11		9				77
Michael Jordan		7		7	7								21
Frank Maguire		6		6	11	13	13	11	13				73
John Duff		5			6								11
John Ownes				9									9
Pat Costigan					9			13					22
John doran									11	11			22

Beginners

Name	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Total Points
Kevin McCormack	15	9		9	9	11	15	13	11	13	11		116
Gary Deegan		15	9										24
Vincent Wheelan		11	13										24
George Madden		13		11	13		11	9	7	9			73
Martin Boyle			15	15	11	9	13	15	15	15	15		123
Ruth Wallace			11				9		13				33
Ronnie Butler				13	15			11					39
Alan Smyth				7						11	13		31
Peter Hoare						15							15
Mike Sims						13							13
Dicey Reilly									9				9

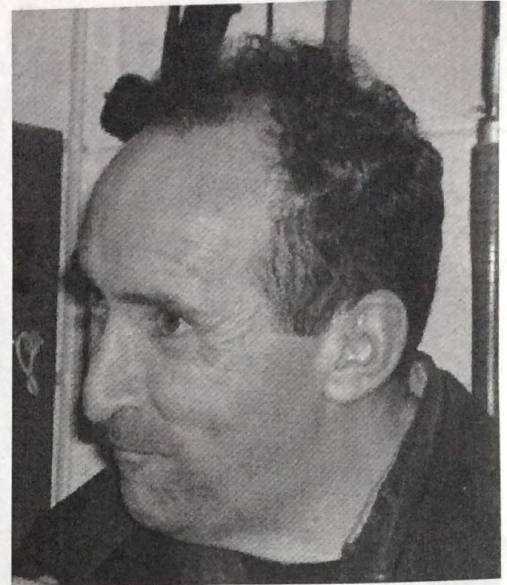
Artistic

Name	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Total Points
Henry East	15					9							24
Bob Finley	13	15	9						9	7			53
Pat Walsh Enn	11												11
Cecil Barron	9		7	11	15	11	9	7	11	13	13		106
Paul Murtagh	7		13	13	13	5	5		6	9			71
Tony Hartney	6		11	15	6	13	13	9	5	11			89
Fran Lavelle	5												5
John Ownes	5		6			5	5						21
Kevin McCormack	5												5
Gerry Ryan		13	5	7	11	5	5						46
Gary Deegan		11											11
Ruth Wallace		9					7						16
Michael Fay			15					15	15	15	15		75
Joe Oneill			5		5	5							21
George Madden				9			6		5	5			25
Sean McMorrow					9								9
Mike Sims					7								7
Seamus McKeefry						15							15
Albert Slone						7							7
Pat Walsh						6							6
Tony Lally							15		7	6			28
Malcom Hill							11						11
Dicey Rilly							5						5
Martin Boyle								13					13
Ronnie Buttler								11	13				24
Pat Costigan								6					6
Frank Maguire										5			5



SPALTING IN A NUTSHELL

by John O'Sullivan



Spalted wood, to me, is like an uncut Diamond that years and nature have formed. Waiting for the artist to harvest at just the right time and turn into a masterpiece.

I have this friend I often visit; a retired woodwork teacher who was amazed that I should use spalted wood - or rotten wood as he describes it - for turning. He was telling me that when he trained as a woodwork teacher back in the forties, if they came upon a piece of spalted wood, it was regarded as rubbish and was discarded and burned. Times have changed. He now keeps a look out for nice pieces of spalted wood and gives them to me.

What is spalted wood.? Spalting is staining of the wood by a fungus. Fungi are low forms of plant life incapable of producing their own food like green plants. So the fungi attach themselves to a host plant by invading the cell structure and living off the carbohydrates stored in the cells of the tree. In order for fungi to thrive, the temperature has to be right, ideally between 20 and 30 degrees centigrade. Fungi also need oxygen - waterlogged wood does not decay easily, hence the longevity of our bog oak. But it does need moisture content of 20% to 30%. Keeping wood dry at below 20% moisture should inhibit fungal attack. Food is the fourth requirement and the host tree supplies this.

The black lines and different colours found in spalted wood are caused by different fungi families, the mineral content of the soil surrounding the tree, and the mineral content of the sap in the tree. The black lines are said to be barriers between the different fungi families.

Different timbers react differently to spalting. Most of the white hard woods show good

spalting. The timber we are most familiar with is beech; it spalts easily and is in plentiful supply.

Elm spalts but not as easily. Apple can be nice but the best of all spalted wood are the Maples, especially Sugar Maple.

Identifying a tree that may get spalted comes with experience. Your best bet is a tree that is lying on the ground for a number of years in damp condition on the forest floor; it may have mushrooms growing on it. The bark will be loose, but the real test is when you cut into it with your chainsaw.

Finding spalted wood at just the right point of decay is critical; if the wood is decayed too far it is unworkable and if it is not decayed enough it is dull and has no character. Spalted wood that is too soft and spongy is nearly impossible to work with. It will not cut right and when you sand it the soft places will sand away and the hard spots remain leaving your piece uneven. One way of minimizing this problem is by soaking the piece in a bonding agent.

One word of warning:

When working with spalted wood, be sure to wear a mask when turning or sanding as we don't want you decaying before your time...

John O'Sullivan
Sligo Chapter

IWG National Seminar – A personal view by Rich Varney.

When Mike asked me to write a review of the national seminar for the newsletter, my reply was that it would be difficult to give a review from the standpoint of a delegate. As with the last few years since I took over co-ordinating the seminar competitions from Joe Laird, much of my time was spent in a room adjacent to the competition area cataloging entries and photographs, sorting out slide shows and arranging certificates. So instead here is my personal view of the seminar:

There is a duty of care to the pieces that are entered into the competitions which means that they have to be kept at arms length from visitors and delegates. It is also important that the pieces are photographed and can be attributed to the correct turner in the Journal and on the website as well as at the slide show of winners at the Saturday dinner. My worst nightmare of getting names mixed up on pieces and announcing the wrong winner thankfully, once again, did not materialise this year. That is in no small part thanks to the team from Craobh Cuig



Deag who worked taking in the entries and to Peter Lyons who photographed them as they arrived. My only disappointment with this year's competition was the poor turnout. It was the lowest I have seen at a National Seminar. In one respect it made my workload lighter, and for once I was ready for the Saturday evening meal on time, but the room looked sparse and we could certainly have done with another 30 – 40 pieces. While the quantity fell short, the quality of the pieces that were on display was magnificent. The photos of all of the pieces entered are up on the IWG website – www.irishwoodturnersguild.com and many will appear in the Winter Journal. Congratulations to Michael Fay who's bowl in a cube was one of the pieces bought by the Daniel Collection.

The biggest success of the weekend was the chapter challenge. The bicycles that were on display in the foyer of the Radisson Blu at Dublin Airport were a fabulous advert for the IWG and woodturning. The display looked stunning, indeed the management at the Radisson were so impressed that they hurriedly organised extra lighting to show off the bikes. The location certainly gave us a large foot fall of members of the public and there was a marvelous buzz around the foyer on Saturday and Sunday. A cycling enthusiast who happened to be at the hotel over the weekend was so taken with the display that he negotiated buying the Limerick and District Chapter's racing bike. The delay to the Autumn Journal gave me the opportunity to include photos of the bikes close up and show off some of the fantastic detail in them.



As for demonstrations, I only got to see a little of Mark Baker who I always find excellent value for money. The feedback I have had on the demonstrations was very good. Once again there will be more on this end of things in the next Journal. The hotel had a number of advantages from the point of view of running the seminar over Sligo and Killarney. The demonstration rooms were all in the same area making them easy to find and navigate between. The competitions area

was separate from the trade stands which was a massive help to me. The trade stand area was a little smaller than in the last few years, but was still filled with plenty for delegates to buy. I thought the food was the best I had had at any recent seminar and the staff were extremely helpful. Craobh Cuig Deag did a great job in hosting the seminar and deserve congratulations.

There were a number of additions at this year's Seminar. These included screens in front of each lathe which are now a necessity given the insurance constraints on running the seminar. All demonstrations were wired up for sound which made it easier for both demonstrators and delegates alike. All of our demonstrators seemed happy with the weekend and we have had some great feedback.

My biggest disappointment of the weekend was the noticeable drop in attendance. I would estimate that the numbers were down by at least 40 from recent seminars. There are a number of factors that may have affected this year's seminar attendance. For one, the accommodation at the hotel was more expensive than in Sligo. Having said that, Sligo was an exception. The price of a room in Dublin matched that in Killarney three years ago. While that may be a factor for some IWG members, those from Dublin had the opportunity to attend as cheap a seminar as any in the last 10 years. I travelled to the hotel daily (on some days I did the trip several times) and found it was an easy 15-20 minute trip from Lucan even in Friday rush hour traffic. Parking at the hotel was free. The hotel was extremely easy to find and get to – Dublin Airport is well signposted and well connected. Worry's about the location traffic and motorways may have been a worry for some, but it is worth bearing in mind that it is possible to reach the hotel via back roads easily.

I have not seen exact figures as yet for seminar numbers. They will be analysed by the executive committee as will any feedback from chapters and members. Feedback is important from both those who attended as to what was good and bad and those who did not as to why. There were a lot of faces who are normally seen at our national seminars particularly from the Dublin Chapter that did not attend this year. Whether members choose to attend seminars or meetings is of course their prerogative and there is of course an onus on the executive committee to make the seminar attractive to members by listening to and where possible acting on feedback. However there also needs to be a realisation on the part of members that the committee are acting in the best interests of the organisation and are doing this on an entirely voluntary basis. It is easy to take the effort that goes into the seminar all year round for granted. I've been guilty of this myself in the past. Planning and managing cost for an event such as our seminar is a difficult task, even more so when exact numbers attending are not known until very close to or during the seminar. The reality is that a significant drop in numbers will mean a significant drop in income. And ultimately this can only be addressed by either cutting costs (i.e. scaling back the seminar) or by increasing income (i.e. raising the price). We have a seminar that is the envy of many other organisations, but its viability is dependent on the support it gets.



After 2016 I do not expect the Seminar will be in Dublin again for some considerable time. I would therefore encourage as many members of the Dublin Chapter as possible to support the IWG and our neighbours in Craobh Cuig Deag by coming to next year's seminar to enjoy a wonderful weekend of woodturning.

Rich Varney