

Dublin Chapter Newsletter

Dec 2016



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What do you get if you eat Christmas decorations? Tinselitis!

NOVEMBER 2016 DEMO

November's demo was a "Practical Look at the Chainsaw and its Use" given by Francis Corr.

As the main business of the morning was the AGM, Francis had less than an hour to go through his demo. His immediate focus was on SAFETY. The following is merely a 'cut down' version of his many wise words.

Do not attempt to use a chainsaw unless you are wearing appropriate KEVLAR clothing, which will almost immediately arrest a flailing chain, should it become embedded in the fabric.

Use the proper face/eye protection.

Upcoming Events:

- Next DWT Meeting - 7th January 2017.
- The first demo in 2017 will be John Killoran.
- The May Seminar 2017 will feature Robert O'Conner.

If you are not in peak physical and emotional condition, STAY AWAY FROM THE CHAINSAW! Any mental preoccupation could be disastrous.

Francis describes the chainsaw as "an angry machine." It is an extremely powerful piece of kit with lethal potential even in experienced hands. If you are using a chainsaw anywhere to which other people have access, you should organise some signage or barrier to warn others of the danger. Branch wood contains tensions which are built up over years of growth on the tree. These are released when cutting takes place sometimes causing the wood to 'fly'.

Francis had two Stihl products with him, both designed for commercial use. (He consistently distinguishes between 'professional' and 'consumer' products) His saws are powered by 2 stroke engines capable of unleashing 6.5 horsepower of energy!

The Chain

There are two kinds: cross-cutting (across the grain) and ripping (in line with the grain). The chain has three link-features: depth of cut, actual cutting edge and drive-link.

Sharpening

Ensure you have the right file for the particular chain and try to preserve the original angle of the cutting teeth. An Oregon sharpening file is most often used for this purpose. Unlike the woodturning principle, once sharpened, the burrs need to be lightly filed off the cutting edges. This will lengthen the period between sharpening.

Setting up

Firstly, when fitting the chain, make sure it is facing the correct way in relation to the direction of rotation of the drive sprocket. If the machine is petrol driven, clean the filter regularly. Ensure that the chain lubricant reservoir is topped up with



Who was winning 10 years ago?

Pictures of Competition winners ten years ago this month. Recognise any of them?

Answers towards the back.



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Experienced



Beginners

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new, recommended oil (**not** old engine oil!!)

'Kickback'

This is the reaction of the chain if the point of it comes in contact with the wood- a sudden, violent jerking movement. Therefore always engage the dog-spikes in the timber.

Finally, Francis took us outside where he ripped and cross-cut a number of heavy branches into bowl blanks of exquisite figure. Once that screaming 'motorbike' noise filled the air, I could only hear one thing: "THE CHAINSAW IS AN ANGRY MACHINE."



I hope that these few notes might serve to instil in those who missed this demo, a healthy fear of the potentially catastrophic consequences of a too-casual approach to this wonderful piece of kit. If they do that, a major part of Francis' purpose in giving this demo will have been served. Thank you very much Francis

Pacelli O'Rourke

Wood for the Winter

One day in early September the chief of a Native American tribe was asked by his tribal elders if the winter was going to be cold or mild. The chief asked his medicine man, but he too had lost touch with the reading signs from the natural world around the Great Lakes. In truth, neither of them had idea about how to predict the coming winter.

However, the chief decided to take a modern approach, and the chief rang the National Weather Service. 'Yes, it is going to be a cold winter,' the meteorological officer told the chief. Consequently, he went back to his tribe and told the men to collect plenty of firewood.

A fortnight later the chief called the Weather Service and asked for an update. 'Are you still forecasting a cold winter?' he asked.

'Yes, very cold', the weather officer told him. As a result of this brief conversation the chief went back to the tribe and told his people to collect every bit of wood they could find.

A month later the chief called the National Weather Service once more and asked about the coming winter. 'Yes,' he was told, 'it is going to be one of the coldest winters ever.'

'How can you be so sure?' the chief asked.

The weatherman replied: 'Because the Native Americans are collecting wood like crazy.'



DWT Entry for the National Chapter Challenge.

The Chapter completed the chess set shown here, for our entry into the Chapter Challenge.

The board made by John Killoran. David Sweeney, the bishops. Stephen Coffe & Paul Murtagh, the knights. Martin Boyle, the kings and queens. Peter Mulvanney, the pawns. Eamonn Boland, the castles. Joe O'Neill, the box. Other people contributed wood. These members will decide what will will done with the set.

We did not win (Limerick Chapter did), but a splendid effort nonetheless.

Thanks to all who contributed.



The Annual Awards

November being the month of the AGM, and the Awards were given as follows: -

- Advanced - Bob Finley,
- Experienced - Martin Boyle,
- Beginner - Jack Wright,
- Artistic - Cecil Barron.

These are some pictures.



Trade Stands at the Saturday Meetings for 2016/17.

Dec. The Hut

Jan17. The Woodshed

AGM Update!

The 2016 AGM saw only one change to the committee of DWT.

Willie Edards is now librarian.

All other positions remained the same.

Thanks to all the people who have served on the committee during 2015/2016.

What do you call a kid who doesn't believe in Santa? A rebel without a Claus!

November Competition Entrants

Given that November is the AGM, the competition was open.



Why We Put Angels On Top Of Christmas Trees

One Christmas, a long time ago, Santa Claus was getting ready for his annual trip; but there were problems everywhere. Four of his elves were away sick and the trainee elves did not produce the toys as fast as the regular ones. So, Santa was beginning to feel the pressure of being behind schedule. Then, Mrs. Claus popped in to tell Santa that her mother was coming to stay for Christmas; which stressed him even more. After a while, he went to harness the reindeer, he found that three of them were about to give birth and two had jumped the fence and run away, heaven knows where to.

Then, when he began to load the sleigh one of the boards broke and several large toy- bags fell to the ground, scattering their contents all over the place. Needless to say, Santa was not in the best of moods. Suddenly, the doorbell rang and he went to the door expecting another problem. But when he opened it, there was a little angel with a great big Christmas tree that she had brought especially to cheer him up. The angel greeted him very cheerfully, "Merry Christmas Santa Claus. Isn't it just a wonderful day? I have a beautiful tree for you. See, isn't it just the loveliest Christmas tree you've ever seen? Where would you like me to put it?" Thus began the tradition of the little angel on top of the Christmas tree.

Author Unknown

Who were the winners 10 years ago - Dec 2006?



Adv - Seamus O'Reilly



Exp - Michael McNamara



Beg - Tony Hartney

The December Demo by Joe O'Neill An Unusual Saltshaker.

I was amused by this saltshaker, which I saw Keith Gotschall make one at his demos at the Utah Symposium many years ago. Keith is a good friend of mine and now lives in Colorado. Having made a few, it became an item of conversation at the dinner table.

This is an afternoon project and an item any turner worth his *salt* could make in a few hours.

The shaker is filled at the bottom through a small hole and turned over. A shake or two dispenses the salt out through the same hole it was filled by. Salt in this container will be kept dry, as it will be put flat on its bottom.

To make the saltshaker I have used dry beech wood but any dry hardwood will do. Do not use wet timber as the moisture will make the salt soggy and won't come out the bottom.

Starting with a blank 3 inches diameter by 6 inches in length, turn to a cylinder 2 1/2 inches diameter and make a spigot to take your chuck at each end. Part off in the middle while holding it in the chuck as this prevents binding.

I am using a simple design making the bottom first. I use a spindle gouge to rough out the middle leaving the end concave. A scraper can be used to do the concave at the bottom. Wall thickness is important and check your distance as you cut away the wood so you won't come out the other end. A small recess is made at the opening of the cylinder to take the inner piece later. Finish the inside with sanding paper to a smooth finish. Do not finish the outside as this is done later.

Now you put the other cylinder into the chuck and start the funnel making the tip about 3/8 inches or 10 mm. Fit the body into the funnel, making sure the top does not hit the top of the cylinder. If it does, then remove wood until all fits neatly in place.

Now use the cylinder in the chuck to hold the funnel while you are making the interior recess. A small 3.5 mm drill is used to make the hole for the funnel.

There should be enough spare wood to make a jam chuck to hold the cylinder, which is then finished, being sanded and then polished. On such a small item I would use a coat of sand and sealer followed by sanding with 350 grit and dust off with paper towel and then apply super glue finish. About 3 or 4 coats is sufficient using wire wool to remove any nibs. I use the polishing mops to finish off, starting with Tripoli and then white diamond. The mops are loose and not stitched as you have more control with the loose mops.

You can use your imagination in designing your own special saltshaker.

What a nice gift to make for someone who will use it. Do take your time and enjoy the process.

Joe O'Neill