



GALWAY CHAPTER NEWS

Issue 59

June 2007

Presentation about turning in Japan

There was a lovely display of challenge pieces at the last meeting. There were joint winners. The results are overleaf. Box making! A most efficient use of timber. Of course it takes a lot of time and care to make a box. A box makes the perfect special gift.

In a short presentation Ambrose talked about the work of Japanese turner Yamagata. The working lathe shown in the slides was

simple, the variety of tools basic, yet the end products lovely. Turning equipment in Japan has not changed in decades. I'm beginning to question my grá for more tools. We were then given an outline of the impressive works of Eli Avisera's. The art of woodturning is forever being pushed further.

George

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CONTACT INFORMATION

Chairman: John McGann 091-635354

Hon. Secretary: Ambrose O'Halloran 091-798225

Hon. Treasurer: Brid O'Halloran 091-798225

Committee members

George Anderson, Roger Greally, Martin Lodge

www.galwaywoodturners.com

Membership fees were due January 1st

Ordinary membership €48

Family membership €52

Student membership €10

Associate membership €10

Chapter Events 2007

- January 25th A.G.M.
- February 8th Monthly Meeting
- February 22nd Workshop Brid & Ambrose O'Halaran
- March 1st Monthly Meeting in Quality Hotel Oranmore
- March 22nd Workshop in Des O'Halloran
- April 5th Monthly Meeting
- April 12th Workshop at George Anderson's
- April 22nd Launch of Exhibition
- May 3rd Monthly Meeting
- May 6th closed workshop with Elie
- May 12th One Day Seminar 2006 in Gort (Book now)
- May 13th Master-class with David Ellsworth
- **June 7th Monthly Meeting**

CHALLENGE RESULTS MAY 2007



Joint 1st Place

Clair Gurley and Roger Greally

2nd Place

A O'halloran

3rd Place

G. Anderson

Eli Avisera captivates his audience all day



The Galway chapter were treated to a most enjoyable day of turning. Eli kicked off the morning by turning a candle stick from a blank of kiln seasoned maple. He worked from a 1:1 scale drawing or template. He showed us all the basic cuts and outlined the best approach to organize our work. The end product was perfectly proportioned and finished. While turning Eli emphasized the importance of avoiding all vibration on the final cut. This can be achieved by using sharp tools and by removing the sources of vibration when first noticed. Many of Elis tools are sharpened in a convex bevel. The convex portion is honed smooth. A short 2mm final bevel

provides the cutting bevel and edge. The honed surface is gentle on wood fibers. The shorter cutting bevel edge allows for greater control. Novel ideas.

Next he turned a maple platter. Again, perfectly executed. One of the techniques, that Eli was kind enough to share with us, involves sanding with a paraffin oil /bees wax combo to keep the dust at bay. Very affective too. The platter was beautifully finished with renaissance wax. Eli passed around many of his own tools. One tool that caught every ones' eye was a shear scraper for finishing the inside surface of bowls and platters. John Jordan uses a similar shear scraper to finish the outside of his pieces. Both tools were able to roll fine shavings off the surface. Very interesting stuff.

Another little gem that he demonstrated was a Dreidel spinning top on a box. The design included quite a bit of texturing. Eli has developed his own texturing tools for the job. The effects were magic. One of the tricks that Eli often uses, is to add detail at the centre of box to draw the viewers eyes inside. Concentric circles, dimples, bumps etc. For the box he used carnauba wax over a melamine sealer.

Nylon collets had been fashioned to reduce the scroll chucks jaw size while making some of the smaller pieces. That's another project for me one day! Eli demonstrated a fascinating trembler to commemorate one of his turning sessions in France. The African blackwood was transformed into a drop of wine, a barrel, a bottle and a glass of wine. Miracles like that are not performed everyday!

How about making a Georges Baudot lady style ball point pen? Pas problem. A little bit of eccentric turning does a man (or lady) good. Eli did this one without any special chuck. It looked easy!!!! If I could only remember exactly how he did it!

Finally we watched a hollow mushroom being made from a log of green beech. Eli can certainly make shavings dance. During the day of turning Eli gave endless practical advice and tips. His approach to solving problems is practical and down to earth. His subtlety is intriguing. The man is a truly gifted. May I say a big THANK YOU to the committee for organizing the workshop. Especially to Ambrose, Brid and John.

George

A day with David Elsworth

Sunday 13th May saw David Ellsworth finish his week in Ireland conducting a masterclass in John McGann's workshop, organised for members of the Galway Chapter.

Many of us who attend master-classes are used to the format whereby the demonstrator spends the day at the lathe and the audience look on as the use of the tools are demonstrated. We then go away and attempt to replicate the cuts we saw demonstrated but may feel demoralized when we are not able to get the best out of the tool. This masterclass did away with the myth that the audience could not participate. All attendees were invited to the lathe where under the watchful and beady eye of David, were handed the tools and made to achieve the cuts properly.

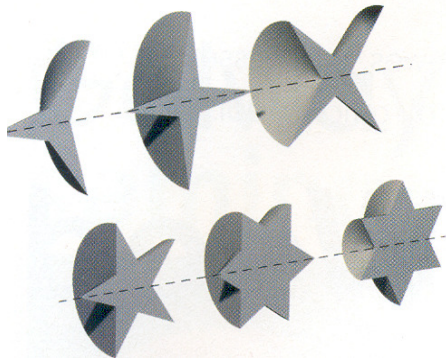
David "supervised" each participant in a very easy and relaxed manner so that at the end of the session, we were all comfortable using a bowl gouge with the "Irish Grind" and David's hollowing tool. Whether or not we ever put into practice what was demonstrated that day is another question but we will no longer wonder "how did he do that"?

It was a pity that so few of the members of the Chapter availed of the opportunity to attend this masterclass. All who attended agreed that it was a chance in a lifetime.

Roger Greally

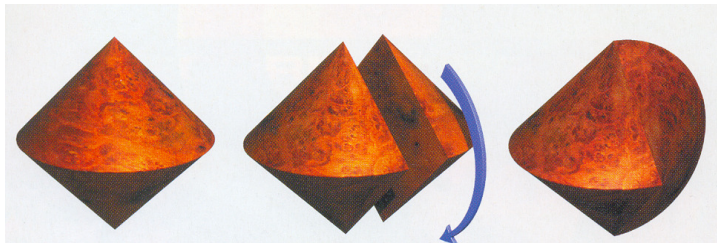


Sphericons and Streptohedrons at Gort



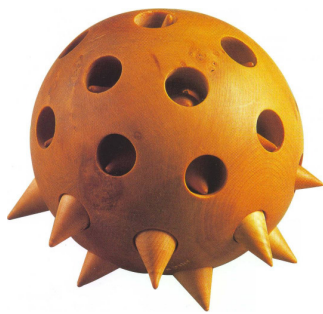
The 2007 one day seminar at Gort had a top class array of turning talent on display. The event ran smoothly and all attendees left smiling, eager to get back to their workshops. As with all undertakings of this scale a great deal of work goes on behind the scenes, both on the day and, particularly, in preparation. The Galway chapter have pulled together year after year to deliver turning excellence. We all play our part, from arranging demonstrators, advertising, taking booking, moving equipment, lunches, coffee breaks, competition, stalls, arranging classrooms, cleaning up, moving equipment again, providing accommodation for demonstrators, shuttling guests around, entertaining and much, much more.

I spent much of the day in David Springett's room. Although David modestly describes his own work as "small", everyone who has seen his pieces described them as impossible, amazing, magic, incredible, etc. David showed us how to recreate some of his magic in our own workshops. He explained how to make the tools and gigs needed to complete many of the projects described in his brilliant book "Turning Wizardry".



Decorative turning opens up a vast new area of turning opportunities. He demonstrated how to turn lattice work into a box, a spiked star inside a cube of wood, how to make an arrow pierce a glass apple, to turn an exact sphere, to insert socket and ball joints into a ball and hence produce a harlequin ball. Prior to

David's demonstration I thought that making a ball was an impressive achievement. It is good to see what is happening out there in the greater turning spheres.



His last session on making streptohedrons was a mind blower.

By gluing blocks of wood together, turning them into regular shapes, splitting the joint, twisting and regluing, it was possible to make shapes never imagined before. The secret to David's success is to ensure that the cross sectional area, when split, is a regular polygon or star. A scaled drawing and careful measurements are a must. By cutting thin shavings with a narrow skew you can accurately work up to the final finished surface.

Personally I gained a great deal from David's advice. Hopefully I will manage to make something to baffle my friends with, some day!

George





Contact
Hon. Secretary
Ambrose O'Halloran
Aisling
Cregboy
Claregalway
Co. Galway
Ireland
Phone: 091-798225 Mobile 086 803 3323
E-mail: cregboy@hotmail.com

NEWS BITS

June Meeting

Thursday 7th June

8.00 P.M

Quality Hotel Oranmore

The challenge piece is
to make

A piece using two
different Woods

Please notify me of any
Items you wish to sell.

A free Advertisement

Will be placed here

For one month

Monthly Turning Challenge Items 2007

<i>January</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>Kitchen Item</i>
<i>February</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>Bowl</i>
<i>March</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>Wall Hanging</i>
<i>April</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>Bowl</i>
<i>May</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>Box</i>
<i>June</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>Piece from two different woods</i>

For this years Challenge the best of your 8 entries
will be considered. It's never too late to bring in a
piece for this year's Challenge.

Bog oak. Creative
workshop for sculpting
and carving with
Pieter Koning
July 3rd–6th
July 23rd–27th
October 1st–5th
091 523871

Guild Events 2007

June 9th Ulster Chapter Seminar

July 14th Kerry Chapter Seminar

October 13th Ballina National Seminar