



GALWAY CHAPTER NEWS

Issue 56
March 2007

AGM very well supported

The AGM on the 25th was well supported. It was good to see all the familiar faces and some of the less regular attendees also. It is a great start to the new year.

The outgoing committee summarised their years work. Ambrose recapped the years activities, Roger presented the finances and John rallied up enthusiasm of the current year.

We have a busy Spring ahead. The Eyre Square Project is close to fruition. That will certainly be a major event on our calendars. The spin offs will be great of turning in Galway.

There has been a great deal of hard work, and fantastic turning, done in the Galway Chapter over the years. Unfortunately only the members of

the Chapter are aware of it! The exhibition in the City museum will expose our work to the public at large.

To date, much of the chapters turnings have never been seen outside of our club, family circles or home bookshelves. That's a pity.

I would hazard a guess that most people in Galway have never heard of the wood turning guild and what it has to offer.

We will be talking about this for many years to come!

Quite exciting really !!!!!!!

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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 on January 1st

Ordinary membership €48
 Family membership €52
 Student membership €10
 Associate membership €10

Great Workshop at Brid & Ambrose O'Hallorans



We all had an excellent workshop in Cregboy. Thank you Brid and Ambrose for your hospitality. The evening was a very informative woodturning lesson. Ambrose demonstrated the use of the skew and bedan. Both tools are versatile and leave little or no torn fibres (in the right hands). Ambrose always gives straightforward practical advice. In this game perseverance is rewarded. To gain confidence we must practice, practice, practice! For the majority of amateur turners these tools have the upper hand (and probably remain on the upper shelf!). Ambrose's encouraging words give us great hope. More shavings will mean more success. So get those big chisels down and get shaving!!!

We enjoyed a lovely cup of tea, coffee and biscuits before settling back into the second half of the evening. Again Ambrose shared his turning secrets and discoveries freely with all present. I would hate to miss any of the monthly workshops. There is always a mine of information on tap. I learned a lot from Ambrose's examination of wood finishes. Brid and Ambrose had prepared several identical bud vases for the test. All were turned and sanded to a fine finish. Each was then finished with a different finish. They were

handed around for scrutiny. It was a great opportunity to ask questions and to look for advice.

The workshop environment offers tips for the beginner and experienced. My summary has only scratched the surface of information covered on the evening. Thanks again from all of the Galway Chapter.



Chapter Events 2007

- **January 25th** **A.G.M.**
- **February 8th** **Monthly Meeting**
- **February 22nd** **Workshop Brid & Ambrose O'Halloran**
- **March 1st** **Monthly Meeting in Quality Hotel Oranmore**
- **April 5th** **Monthly Meeting**
- **April 19th** **Workshop Yutaka & George Anderson Venue TBA**
- **May 3rd** **Monthly Meeting**
- **May 12th** **One Day Seminar 2007 in Gort (Book early !)**
- **May 13th** **Master-class with David Ellsworth**
- **May 24th** **Workshop Martin Lodge/Eddie Collins, venue Corofin**
- **June 7th** **Monthly Meeting**

**Congratulations to the winners of the
2006 monthly Challenge**

1st place Clare Gurley

2nd place Ambrose O'Halloran

3rd place Brid O'Halloran

Ginkgo



Ginkgo seeds and leaves

While walking around the grounds of NUIG last summer we met some remarkable trees! The Ginkgo is one of the most unusual trees alive in the world and NUIG has one of the largest examples in Ireland. I had a little look around on the WEB and found out a few interesting facts. I would hazard a guess that few have ever turned a bowl from the tree. It is however a very interesting plant.

Ginkgo (*Ginkgo biloba*) sometimes known as the **Maidenhair Tree**, is a unique tree with no close living relatives. It is one of the best known examples of a living fossil. For centuries it was thought to be extinct in the wild, but is now known to grow wild in at least two small areas in eastern China.



Ginkgo mature seeds and autumn leaf colour

Habit

Ginkgos are medium-large deciduous trees, reaching 20–35 m tall (some specimens in China being over 50 m), with an often angular crown and long, somewhat erratic branches. They are usually deep rooted and resistant to wind and snow damage. A combination of amazing disease resistance, insect-resistant wood and the ability to form aerial roots and sprouts means that ginkgos are very long-lived, with some specimens claimed to be more than 2,500 years old.

Leaves

The leaves are unique among seed plants, being fan-shaped with veins radiating out into the leaf blade, sometimes bifurcating (splitting). The leaves are 5-10 cm (rarely to 15 cm) long. The old popular name "Maidenhair tree" is because the leaves resemble those of the Maidenhair fern.

Reproduction

Ginkgos are dioecious, with separate sexes, some trees being female and others being male.

Ginkgo pollen cones

Female plants do not produce cones. The seed is 1.5-2 cm long. Its outer layer is light yellow-brown, soft, and plum-like. The seedcoat smells like rancid butter when fallen.

NAME

The name *ginkgo* means "silver apricot" in Chinese. The same characters are used in Japanese and pronunciation is *ichō*. In modern Japanese, the characters are read either *ichō* (meaning the tree) or *ginnan* (meaning the seed).

Prehistory

The Ginkgo is a living fossil, with fossils recognisably related to modern Ginkgo dating back



270 million years ago. While it may seem improbable that a species may exist as a contiguous entity for many millions of years, many of the Ginkgo's life-history parameters fit. These have extreme longevity, slow reproduction rate, and have enjoyed extreme ecological conservatism (being restricted to light soils around rivers), with low population density.

CULTIVATION AND USES

Ginkgo has long been cultivated some planted at temples in China some believed to be over 1,500 years old.

Extreme examples of the Ginkgo's tenacity may be seen in Hiroshima, Japan, where four trees growing between 1–2 km from the 1945 atom bomb explosion were among the few living things in the area to survive the blast. The trees are alive to this day.

Celtic Tree Mysteries

Oak logs will warm you well
That are old and dry

Logs of pine will sweetly smell
But the sparks will fly

Birch logs will burn too fast
Chestnut scarce at all
Hawthorn logs are good to last
Cut them in the fall

Holly logs will burn like wax
You may burn them green
Elm logs like to smouldering flax
No flame to be seen

Beech logs for winter time
Yew logs as well
Green elder logs it's a crime
For any man to sell

Pear logs and apple logs
They will scent your room
Cherry logs across the dogs
Smell like flowers of broom

Ash logs smooth and gray
Burn them green or old
Buy up all that come your way
Worth their weight in gold.

Steve Blaimires



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NEWS BITS

March Meeting
Thursday 1st March
8.00 P.M

The challenge piece
is to make
Wall
Hanging

Please notify me of any
Items you wish to sell.
A free Advertisement
Will be placed here
For one month
(or longer if requested)

Monthly Turning Challenge Items 2007

<i>January 2007</i>	<i>Kitchen Item</i>
<i>February 2007</i>	<i>Bowl</i>
<i>March 2007</i>	<i>Wall Hanging</i>
<i>April 2007</i>	<i>TBA</i>
<i>May 2007</i>	<i>TBA</i>
<i>September 2007</i>	<i>TBA</i>
<i>October 2007</i>	<i>TBA</i>
<i>November 2007</i>	<i>TBA</i>
<i>December 2007</i>	<i>TBA</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.

Guild Events 2007

March 10th **Gorey Chapter Seminar**

March 11th **Guild's A.G.M. Athlone**

April 7th **Craobh Eo Chapter Seminar**

April 21st **Limerick Chapter Seminar**

May 12th **Galway Chapter Seminar**
Gort

June 9th **Ulster Chapter Seminar**

July 14th **Kerry Chapter Seminar**

October 13th & 14th **Annual Seminar**