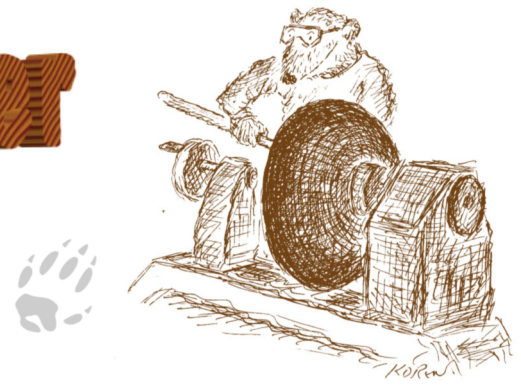


Woodchuck Chatter

The Newsletter of Woodchuck Turners of Northern Vermont

An Affiliate of American Association of Woodturners

Website: WWW.WOODCHUCKSVT.org



September 10, 2019

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September Meeting—9/18/2019

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Directions to the September 18th meeting at the home and studio of Russ Fellows (Skunk Hollow Studios, LLC) 26 John Davis Dr., Jericho, Vermont, 802-899-3059.

From the east/I-89: Take exit 11, Richmond, Essex Jct. Turn right at end of ramp. Right again immediately at the light. This is the River Rd/ Rt. 117. Go 3 1/2 miles, turn right on Skunk Hollow Rd. Go 2 1/2 miles, turn left on John Davis. Go all the way to the end, number 26.

From the Burlington area: Take Route 15 from Winooski going east. Go past St Mike's College and Ft Ethan Allen (both on left) and continue on to Essex Junction. At the Five Corners bear left, staying on Rt. 15. Stay on Rt. 15 through Essex Center and on to Jericho. There are signs. Once you are in the village of Jeri-

cho, (look for the big Red Mill at the bridge) you will see the world-famous Joe's Snack Bar.....turn right. Turn right again at the stop sign. Turn right again at the next stop sign.....about 1/2 mile. This is the start of Skunk Hollow Rd.....turn right yet again! The first drive on the right is John Davis Dr....take it! Go to the end, number 26.

At the business meeting, we will accept nominations for all positions on the Board; President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and three At Large Representatives. All positions are considered open according to the Bylaws. The Demonstration scheduled is for bowl coring. If you have a coring set you would like to demonstrate, bring it along. We will see how they work.

August Picnic Meeting, 8/25/2019

My thanks to Karen Drennen, Russ Fellows, and others who supplied all the photos for this issue of Woodchuck Chatter. As we were not there to enjoy the warm fellowship this year, we had to interpret the photos from experience. Our apologies if we missed on anything. That said, we'll start with some photos of the presentation of gifts to Russ from the Woodchucks for his many years of giving to us.



Janet starts the presentations.

Woodchuck Turners of Northern Vermont Board of Directors

President: and Web Master Jay Bailey 22 Cobble Hill Meadows Barre, VT 05641 (802) 479-1458 tjaybailey@yahoo.com

Vice-President: Janet Collins 134 S. Bailey-Hazen Rd. Ryegate, VT 05042 curlyacer@gmail.com 802-584-4341

Secretary: Harvie Porter 39 Randolph Ave. Randolph, VT 05060 802-728-4265 weltradler@gmail.com

Treasurer: Karen Drennen 12 Winters Court Swanton, VT 05488 kdu@myfairpoint.net 802 868 6161

Member-At-Large Andrew Duling 2432 Ballard Rd. Georgia, VT 05478 AEDuling@gmail.com 802 999 4491

Member-At-Large: Sal Chiarelli 20 Cabot Dr. Essex, VT 05452 Schiareli@uvm.edu 802-316-0054

Member-At-Large: Bob Martin 36 Calais Rd. Worcester, VT 05682 Phone: 802-223-7475 martrlm@yahoo.com

Newsletter Editor: Arny Spahn Reporter, Assistant Editor, and Proof Reader: Cil Spahn 89 Tom Wicker Lane #229 Randolph CTR., VT 05061 802-728-4799 apspahn@comcast.net

We had a great Road Scholar trip to the Inner Passage of Alaska. It involved multiple stops from Sitka to Juneau, aboard a small ship with just 40 of us. I may describe more of my impressions in later months, but for now, the craft of totem carving is on my mind. We visited the town of Kake, population 500 Tlinglits.

You see here a gentleman working on a totem commemorating his father. He's been

working on this for about 8 months. The design has elements telling a story of significance of the father's life. The wood is cedar. The tree was originally about 3 feet in diameter and a section was cut out oversized in the eventual U-shape of the totem. The figures were drawn on and then the shaping was started. This gentleman is a contractor, so the totem carving is done a few hours at a time.

These are two of the adzes he uses. The several adzes were given to him by his father, who was also a totem carver. He does all his carving with adzes of different sizes and shapes until only a gouge and mallet will take out a fine detail. His adzes use handles made from branches of native hardwood trees. The edges I felt were already worn from the day's work but had a mirror finish and were barely dulled. The steel is from a company called "Kestrel Tools" and the handles are made by the craftsman and now bound on with stainless pipe clamps. The tools may be as much as 40 years old and probably replace traditional tools handed down in the family. "Kiyee", his name, uses a number of modern methods to maintain the edges on his tools. Reading the web pages of the Kestrel Tool company explains much of the reason why adzes are used for this style of carving. With practice, the tools provide power and accuracy. The shape allows precise removal of chips. The geometry of the tool gives great control over the length of the chip.

The totem tree is cut so that the pith is exposed and can shrink out without cracking the body of the memorial itself. A stranger may never know the story behind a totem, as the figures can be enigmatic. The Tlinglit people are Athabaskans, part of the same group as the Apache and Navajo and others who migrated over the Bering land bridge in our prehistory to populate our continent. It's part of their oral history and not to be ignored.

A lesson I learned from my trip was to listen harder. There may be more to learn.

And all that talk about global warming? It's hitting harder the further North you go. This trip turned me from a doubter to a believer.

Got to go sharpen my tools.

Arny



Balance forward

\$4300.82
 Dues \$00.00
 Raffle \$00.00
 CA glue \$45.00
 Sawdust Donations \$66.00
 T-shirts & hats \$60.00
 Anchor Seal \$44.00
 Total Income \$215.00
 Picnic includes: Gift, Al Stirt Presentation, soda, paper products, misc. picnic items Total \$886.36
 Total expenses \$886.36
 Balance ending \$3629.46
 Karen Drennen/Treasurer

Reminder: Unless you have paid your annual dues by April 1st your name must be removed from the discount list.

Dues through July 2019

The Board of Directors of The Woodchuck Turners of Northern Vermont gratefully acknowledges the payment of dues from the following members for **2019**:

Jay Bailey, Ted Beebe, Dale Bergdahl, Chris Bishop, Brad Blaisdell, Joyce Blaisdell, Jason Brunault, Tom Brunault, Dave Buchholz, Sal Chiarelli, Janet Collins, Karen Cutler, Mike Deweese, Brad Dinwiddie, Karen Drennen, Andrew Duling, Tom Dunn, Cheryl Ferry, David Ferry, Joe Fortin, Toby Fulwiler, Joe Gaines, Barry Genzlinger, George Gibson, Dan Gleason, Susan Gleason, Jim Goodwin, Rick Hamilton, Peter Hebert, Linda Hollingdale, Jim Holzschuh, Brad Jackson, Joe Laferriere, Luc Lefebvre, Chris Lumbr, Bob Martin, Tim Montgomery, Ted Nelson, William Nestork, Mickey Palmer, Mike Papin, Harvie Porter, Randy Ramsden, Brian Reed, Larry Rice, Sam Sanderson, Edwards Smith, Army Spahn, Cil Spahn, Marilyn Stolberg, Adam Wager, Gary Walz (52)

(Scott Bennett, Russ Fellows, Ted Fink, Dick Montague, Michael Mode, Nick Rosato, Hav Smith and Al Stirt are Honorary Lifetime members, (8)

If you have paid your dues for the year but do not see your name listed here please contact me to correct that error of omission.

KD11@myfairpoint.net

Dues for 2019 are \$25. Checks should be made out to "WTNV" and sent to: Karen Drennen, 12 Winters Court, Swanton VT 05488

Please note: The following privileges are only available to dues-paying members: Video library use, mentoring program, bulk purchase discounts such as CA glue and Anchor Seal, Klingspor and Hartville Tool discount lists, (to remain on the discount lists dues must be paid by April 1st each year). Mention the club to get your discount.

I have CA glue. If you need any, please contact me!

The President's Turn—Jay Bailey

It was great to see everyone at the picnic last month, Al Stirt did a great job with his demo and then critiquing some of the pieces that people brought. I of course eat too much food but I guess that's what you do at a picnic right?

Janet Collins was officially elected to the board of the AAW, way to go Janet! Make sure to congratulate her when you see her.

Our fall board meeting is Wednesday October 2nd. We are looking for a new member of the Board as Sal is stepping down; too many "other related" activities getting in the way, so if you are interested in being on the board, please let us know.

Well, it looks and feels like we are heading into the fall; as much as we may have hoped for a little more summer warm weather, it appears the fall is right around the corner. Before you know it we will be into the holiday season. With that in mind, I have a new idea for a club project. So yeah here we go again 😊

How about we make Christmas ornaments? They can be displayed at our December holiday meeting and then donated to a to be determined cause. If each or most of us makes 2-3 (or more) we might be able to collect up to 100 ornaments to be given away. I'll bring this up at the September meeting to see if people like this idea. If we need to refine the plan, it's possible we might need to have this done by the November meeting. I know you may be thinking it's too early to be thinking of Christmas but if we are going to do this as a club we need to start the planning process and get going on making them. There are plenty of online ideas for making Christmas ornaments; the variety of ornaments is only limited by your imagination.

As the weather begins to get cooler, make sure you get into the shop and work on some turning projects. Then bring it to show and tell!

Tech Tip

And since I'm a computer guy I couldn't resist including this:

Identify that Wood

Woodworker's journal recently suggested an app that's available for Apple mobile devices (iPhones and iPads).

The American Hardwoods Species Guide app not only includes information about the 20 most abundant American hardwood species – availability, physical and working characteristics, strength and mechanical properties, and typical applications of each – but it also gives people the ability to compare two specials at a time.

Here's the link for more information: <http://www.hardwoodinfo.com/specifying-professionals/resource-guide/mobile-app/>

Safety Tip

Finishes, solvents, rags, and shavings have the potential to suddenly ignite and start a fire. Make sure to store these materials in a non-combustible container

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(continued on Page 5)



Starting with a gouge, Al prepares the bottom of a workpiece.



The bottom starts to take shape.



Now the bottom form and a tenon is visible.



This is what Al is working towards.



Nice, even grooves are formed on the back.



The plate is reversed and the front is started.



Starting the concave feature.



OK. The bowl feature is well on its way.



The chuck is used as a carving stand.



Using a rasp to roughen the face.



Back on the lathe to scribe concentric circles on the face.



Reversed again & the tenon removed.

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Now, Al uses a vacuum fixture to hold the bowl for more carving.



The bowl is mounted and the vacuum attached & turned on.



Al uses diamond burrs mounted in an air powered drill.



Here, he is etching lines into the face of the bowl.



He would use a wood rasp to deepen the lines he's made.



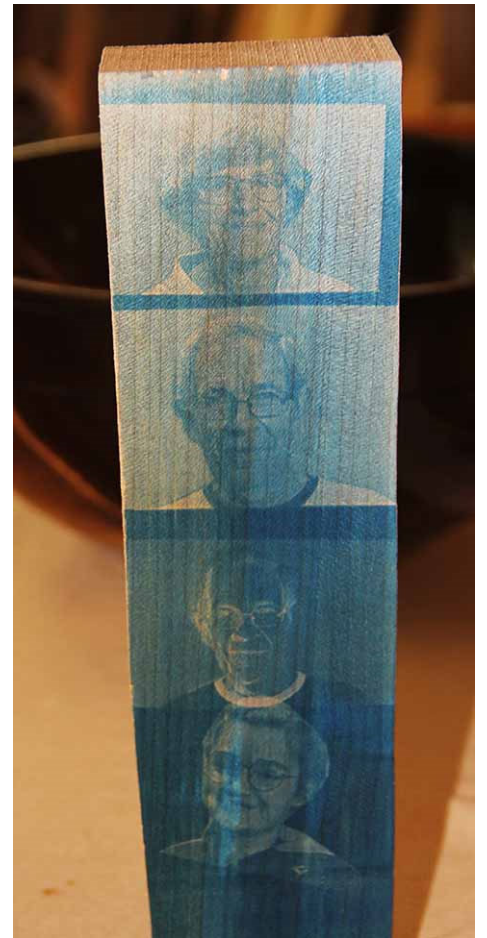
After he has decorated the surface and distressed it to his satisfaction, he paints it with milk paint.



When the milk paint has dried, he uses a Scotch type pad to further work on the surface.



Here is the final concept; a square bowl with texture emphasized by milk paint.



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Bowl from a Board—Ted Beebe

We recently had a demonstration at my shop going through the process of making a 'bowl from a board'. The board ends up being 1½ inches thick and comprised of several types (colors) of wood. I enjoyed the gathering and am pleased to hear that several have made one of these in their shop. I was left with a few incomplete bowls from the sessions,

so I had a drawing of the participants and Chris Lumbr has won the project pictured. Chris, see me at the meeting and I will have your project for you to complete.

Ted Beebe



More From the Show & Tell Table



The languid days of summer ended and a gorgeous Fall harbinger dawned to hear the sounds of over 60 Woodchucks, spouses, kids, and friends gathering again in Skunk Hollow for the Woodchuck annual picnic. I think it now makes ten years that Bob and I have hosted this event and it always amazes us that with virtually no planning or assignments, we always have a great balance of food offerings! Such is the nature of a ‘potluck’ format, it always seems to work! A big thanks to all who came, contributed, AND helped out afterwards!

After the meal we all adjourned to the shop for Al Stirt’s presentation. This year he mixed it up a little and made a



square bowl, taking it all the way from a square chunk of cherry to chucking it (well, of course, that’s what Woodchucks do don’t they?), to turning it, to embellishing it, to painting it with a milk paint wash. After his demo Al did his critique of work we mere mortals had brought in. This is always both fun and helpful! Al is gentle with his comments and there is always good takeaway to assist us in becoming better Woodchucks. See more, elsewhere in Chatter about our picnic.

A big THANK YOU goes out from Bob and me for the recognition given us



in hosting all the Woodchuck events over the years.....card, gift card to our favorite Florida restaurant(thank you Janet for the detective work on this one!) and for me, a beautiful new Thompson bowl gouge! (Bob is welcome to use it of course, just not in the kitchen!). We have loved doing this, and ‘yes’, there may be some credence to the rumor that is could continue into 2020!!??

On Tuesday, August 27, by request, we had an informal hollowing workshop. Thanks to those who could come on rather short notice. In Florida our club does quite a bit of this and I was happy to demonstrate the Simon Hope system most of us use. For those who could not make it, there are several good YouTube videos showing essentially what we covered. I am happy to have more of these workshops as our schedules permit.

We had a great turnout for the September ‘Sawdust Session’ on Wednesday, Sept 4th! This is just what these gatherings are intended to be, where we meet, engage in lots of Woodchuck chatter, and try to answer each other’s questions? The subjects ranged from more on hollowing, to tool types, to techniques, to what finishes for what wood types, to “what th’ hell is this wood” (I think Joe’s nose decided it was birch??☹). A few pix below show how scholarly these sessions really can be! Our next....and last, session for 2019 will be on Wednesday, October 9th.

Last word: many of you have already availed yourselves of the Skunk Hollow “freebies”.....wood, tools, and woodworking books and magazines. We have only two more meetings and one Sawdust Session left for 2019! I really want every-

thing gone before I head south! Even if you don’t want any more “stuff” yourself, maybe you have a “Woodchuck in training” in your family or circle of friends?? Thanks!

Hope to see you on September 18 for our regular meeting!

Russ Fellows
(Skunkmen@gmail.com)

802-343-0393

Sent from my iPad



This summer, I had the good fortune to attend a week long woodturning workshop at the Center for Furniture Craftsmanship in Rockport, Maine. The primary focus of the Center is the training of aspiring professional level furniture makers. The length of those sessions range from 8-12 week intensives to 9 months of comprehensive training. It is during the summer and fall, that they offer one or two week sessions for hobbyists on a variety of topics, including basic wood working, cabinets and case pieces, chair making, and bowl turning.

The workshop I attended, entitled "Bowls, Bowls, Bowls" was taught by Mark Gardner from Saluda, North Carolina. Mark is a full-time turner and sculptor whose work has been exhibited nationally, and has been acquired for the permanent collections of a number of distinguished venues including the Museum of Arts and Design in New York, the Yale University Art Gallery and the Minneapolis Institute of Art.

The workshop was a deep immersion in the art of bowl turning, starting the basics of turning a simple bowl,

tool selection and sharpening, and venturing into more complex bowl shapes, texturing with carving tools, and coloring with dyes and milk paint.

We were a diverse class of twelve students, ranging in age from 28 to 78. Many of the class of two women and ten men were from New England, but also represented were Arizona, Florida, Arkansas and New Zealand.

A typical day in the turning studio included both lectures and wood turning. While the class day is 8 to 5, the studios were open and available for use 24 hours a day. Ken, a local highly skilled wood turner served as Mark's teaching assistant, resulting in a teacher to student ratio of 1 to 6.

Prior to attending the course, we received a supply list of the tools and other equipment we were asked to bring. There were also tools available for use at the Center, for those who did not bring their own. We were supplied green wood, but were also allowed to bring our own wood, and encouraged to bring any half fin-

ished or particularly challenging projects from home.

On Monday evening the Center enjoyed presentations from several of the week's teachers who discussed their work. Thursday evening was the staff and student potluck which included whole lobster and sweet corn.

The Center is not a residential facility, but has partnered with community members who rent out rooms in their homes to workshop attendees. Our group also quickly learned from each other where the best seafood restaurants were located.

Being shut off from the rest of the world with a group of like minded, delightful people all practicing a craft for a week was an exceptional experience, and I hope to have an opportunity to attend another class at the Center in the future.

Marilyn Stolberg

- 1) Lathrop Maple Supply, Hewitt Rd, Bristol, Vermont, 802-453-2897. With a newly expanded inventory area, Tom has a fantastic supply of local and imported wood. His new division, "Exclusively Vermont, LLC, specializes in high quality Vermont lumber and mill products and FSC stock is available.
- 2) Hayley Wood Products in Colchester. (<http://www.hayleywoodproducts.com/>).
- 3) Sutherland Welles Ltd., No. Hyde Park, VT, 800-322-1245. (www.sutherlandwelles.com). Right here in our own backyard, they make the best Tung oil products in the U S. Call with an order and it goes out the same day!
- 4) Johnson Lumber, Route 116 in Bristol, VT. 802-453-4884. Another good "local" source for hardwood lumber of all kinds.
- 5) www.exoticwoodsusa.com. They offer a 15% discount to any member of an AAW chapter. Type in 'exoticwoodsusaaw' in the coupon code box.
- 6) Griffin Exotic Woods These folks came up in a search for something else, and I ended up buying a couple things from them. Their prices were fair and the service was good. <http://www.exoticwood.biz/>
- 7) Sinclair Mill Works in North Danville VT <http://www.sinclairmillworks.com/home.htm>. 802-748-0948. He specializes in figure Vermont species. His prices are very reasonable.
- 8) Mike Jackofsky—hollowing tools. www.mikejackofsky.com. Also sells thru Craft Supply.
- 9) Business cards and other printed goods: Vistaprint.com
- 10) Laser engraving—Maple Land Mark Woodcraft. 800-421-4223 They are in Middlebury. www.maplelandmark.com
- 11) Les Dougherty & Susan Curington Owners, North Woods Figured Wood North Woods,. LLC PO Box 808 Forest Grove OR 97116 [800-556-3106](tel:800-556-3106), [503-357-9953](tel:503-357-9953) www.nwfiguredwoods.com offers lifetime 15% discount on any website wood purchase. Use "WOODTURNERS" coupon code at checkout. www.nwfiguredwoods.com
- 12) Paw Prints Printing WWW.paw-prints.com 802 865 2872 Gregory Drive South Burlington, VT 05403
- 13) Your NEW colored plywood source. trethaway@comcast.net. Has scraps of colored plywood for resale. Listed on eBay as scratch10to12. *(That's an email address. Try it.)*
- 14) The Tree House, hardwoods & mill shop. Native woods, priced from \$5.00. 1891 Williston Rd., 802-497-3530. www.treehousehardwoods.com
- 15) Suffolk Saw of New England, Jeff & Danielle Mellott; 33 Gaudet Dr., Belmont, NH, 03220 877-550-7297

President's Turn Continued

(Continued from page 3)

and location. It's also possible for steel wool to be easily ignited by any source of electrical power in the shop so be careful with what is stored next to your tools and materials. Remember steel wool heats up rapidly and can ignite anything that it's touching like paper towels or rags. It also burns with a high intensity that can ignite other things around it. There are better ways to get new tools than having to replace them because of a shop fire! Here are a few tips to stay safe in the workshop:

- Install smoke detectors.
- Clean up the shop every once in a while
- Store flammables properly and away from other tools
- Properly dispose of rags, saw dust, and other waste.
- Use properly constructed spray

rooms or spray booths.

- Don't smoke in the shop

Always wear your face shield when turning at the lathe

Jay



Here's a couple of photos from the Sawdust Session on Sept. 4th. There were 16 people there that evening.



News on Mentoring

In House

Demos:

All demos and dates are tentative until they appear on Page 1 of the newsletter.

September 18 – Bowl Coring.

Nominations for the Board

October 2 – Board Meeting in Randolph at Morgan Orchards. Members invited. Tell Army if you wish to come. Meal is \$15.00

October 16– Remote Demo -Mike Mahoney (tentative)

November 20 – Making Holiday Gifts

December 11 – Holiday Party – Yankee exchange

As of this month, we are rebuilding the Mentor column. The Board decided that it is time to renew our list and add a listing for instructors who wish to offer paid, long-term lessons.

As Mentors are covered for liability by our blanket policy, they must be members of WTNV. Other Instructors should have their own insurance coverage.

A notice has gone out to the membership and as they reply, we will list them in the columns.

Instructors For Hire

Nick Rosato-
802-999-2976
nickrosato@gmail.com

Once and twice turned bowls
Coring with the Oneway Coring system
Understanding and using gouges
Spindle turning and duplication
Hollow Turning
One-on-one instruction at my shop or your shop.
Flexible scheduling. \$250 half day. \$400 full day.

WTNV Liability Insurance

Liability Insurance Policy

As of April 2013 we are covered by a liability policy with the following limits:

Each occurrence: 2M; Damage to rented premises: 1M; Med expenses: 10K;

Personal injury: 2M; General aggregate: 4M; Products aggregate:4M.

The Hartford; Agent; Michael George:
(317) 735 4072; mgeorge@amj.ins.com

This policy covers all members at all

WTNV events.

If you are demonstrating, this policy will not cover any claim if you are being compensated either by commission or sale of your turnings. In other words, this does not serve as an individual business policy.

Woodchuck Mentors

These Woodchucks are able and willing to help other Woodchucks wanting some hands-on instruction.

Dick Montague: General turning, all aspects plus tool sharpening.
802-584-3486

Montagueturn@gmail.com
Groton

Russ Fellows: General, segmented, & multi-axis turning
802-899-3059

skunkmen@gmail.com
Jericho

Ted Beebe: Segmented work.
802-849-2436

Teddy.beebe@gmail.com
Fletcher

Tom Dunne: Hollow turning, etc.
802-388-6981

jthomasdunne@gmail.com
Middlebury

Brad Dinwiddie: General turning, peppermills, utensils, pens
802-275-7185

brad@frogpondwoodturning.com
Underhill