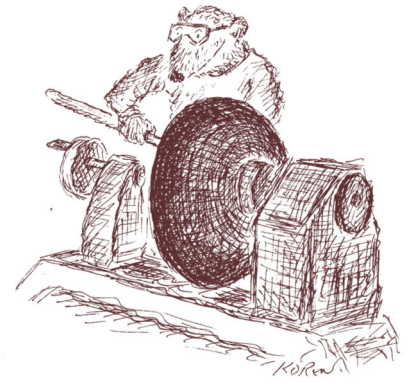


# Woodchuck Chatter

The Newsletter of Woodchuck Turners of Northern Vermont

An Affiliate of American Association of Woodturners

Website: [WWW.WOODCHUCKSVT.org](http://WWW.WOODCHUCKSVT.org)



January 8th, 2020

Volume 17, Number 1

## Meeting January 15th, 2020

### Inside this issue:

Woodchuck Board Info	2
Random Shots—One Tool Away From Greatness	2
Treasurer's Report -Karen Drennen	3
December Meeting continued	4-6
Common Red Cedar—D. Edwards Smith	7
From Skunk Hollow South— Russ Fellows	8,9
Recommended Reading—Ted Fink	10
Resource Page	10
Want Ads	11
Call For Mentors	11
Liability Insurance	11
Upcoming Demos	11
Mentor List	11

Directions to CVU: From the NW, exit I-89 at Exit 14 (Burlington) and head east on Williston Rd. (Rte. 2) for 1.2 miles. Turn right onto Hinesburg Rd (Rte. 116). Proceed 9.7 miles to CVU Rd., turn left at the light and CVU will be on you left at 0.4 miles. From the East: Exit I-89 at exit 12 ( Williston/Essex) Turn left onto Rte. 2A (St George Rd.) and proceed 5.0 miles. Turn left onto Rte. 116 and proceed 2.1 miles to CVU Rd. Turn left, school is 0.4 miles on left. After turning onto driveway, take immediate left. Drive around the left side of the building to a parking lot with large garage door and exterior

dust collection system. There is a door beside the garage door to enter the woodshop. This meeting is going to be devoted to - -"What I Learned in 2019." Please bring along anything that helped your wood work. There are many tools you use to perform the magic which turns lumber into beauty. Share some of that with us.

**NOTE: Anchorseal will be available on request. Harvie can be contacted at 802-728-465 or [weltradler@gmail.com](mailto:weltradler@gmail.com) before the meeting date to let him know to bring the Anchorseal to the meeting.**

Thanks, Harvie

## December 11th meeting—PARTY!!!

Jay started us off by inviting us to enjoy the many food items. After, we did a round of "Yankee Swaps" - some gifts went through several hands, either through their novelty or usefulness as tools.



### 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](mailto:tjaybailey@yahoo.com)

Vice-President:  
Dave Buchholz  
5 Randolph Road  
Keeseville, NY, 12944  
518 834 9524  
[dbuchholz@northwestern.edu](mailto:dbuchholz@northwestern.edu)

Secretary: Harvie Porter  
39 Randolph Ave.  
Randolph, VT 05060  
802-728-4265  
[weltrader@gmail.com](mailto:weltrader@gmail.com)

Treasurer: Karen Drennen  
12 Winters Court  
Swanton, VT 05488  
[kdu@myfairpoint.net](mailto:kdu@myfairpoint.net)  
802 868 6161

Member-At-Large  
Andrew Duling  
2432 Ballard Rd.  
Georgia, VT 05478  
[AEDuling@gmail.com](mailto:AEDuling@gmail.com)  
802 999 4491

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

Member-At-large &  
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](mailto:apspahn@comcast.net)

Cil asked me to make presents for our two grandkids. They are both in their 20's and living on their own.

I have some wood in my shop, so it wasn't hard planning projects. I had some pen kits I had not tried before; kind of fancy works I thought might tickle them. And there were some nice tree ornaments I had not brought to Chandler Music Hall for the annual sale. But there was also the challenge to do something bigger, something nice enough for them to really treasure.

I started with some smaller blanks and did a few bowls, just sort of warming up to the task. The English Walnut natural edge oval bowl came out OK—a very rustic dish fit for a few nuts on a side table.

The next effort was a 5" Maple bowl—good curve to the exterior, no dimple inside. I used walnut oil to finish it in a low sheen. I don't think the various discolorations in the piece were due to my technique. Various areas in and near the endgrain sucked in the walnut oil more than the side grain. I had sanded to 400 grit and the surface was even and shiny. Finally, I had a nice Cherry blank, about 4" high by 8" wide, with some bark on one side. I tried to follow the basics of good turning with this piece:



Proportion.

Good, continuous curves.

Pressure control.

Graceful motions.

Sanding each grade until the surface is right.

The right finish for the vessel.

I have the first bowl I turned, courtesy of Nick Cook and Arrowmont. I thought then that



it was a good effort, but now I see it as a dog dish with poor proportions, interrupted curves, and an incomplete inside bottom.

20 years later, I have a gift for my kids which I am pretty sure surpasses any of my previous work. I see its imperfections, but I am happy with it.

I have mentioned my ailment before—essential tremors—shaking hands and head at times. I am worried that the tremors might affect my abilities. Perhaps concentration on the wood has tamed the shakes for now. Maybe all the hours I have spent on the lathe has overcome the unconscious tremors. At any rate, some of my recent work has been better than most of my older work.

The last several pieces I have made were deliberately done with my new carbide tools. There are still some cuts which I like standard tools for. I like the spindle roughing gouge for the initial work on a spindle turning. I need a detail gouge to take off the remaining tenon on the bottom of a bowl.

What I am working on now, is learning the various cuts with the carbide tools. Essentially, they are all scrapers. They have to attack the wood flat on. Change the pressure and angle of the tool to the wood, and you have a shear scraper. Tilt the tool above horizontal, and you probably get a catch. That could ruin a piece with one slight change of attack.

I'm almost there now. One tool away from greatness—

*Arny*

**January 2020 Treasurer's Report****Balance forward**

\$3948.46  
 Dues \$25.00  
 Raffle \$0.00  
 CA glue \$0.00  
 Sawdust Donations \$0.00  
 Anchor Seal \$0.00  
 Total Income \$25.00  
 Total expenses \$00.00  
 Balance ending \$3948.46  
 Karen Drennen/Treasurer

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

The Board of Directors of The Woodchuck Turners of Northern Vermont gratefully acknowledges the payment of dues from the following members for **2020**: Ted Beebe, Mike Deweese, Greg Drew, George Gibson, Brad Jackson, Eddie

Krasnow, Randy Ramsden

(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](mailto:KD11@myfairpoint.net)

Dues for 2020 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 1<sup>st</sup> each year). Mention the club to get your discount.

**Expenses**

Bosch presentation	\$347.77
VT Sec update officers	\$25.00
SUT	\$6.00
Pen Demo	\$69.45
Hartford Ins	\$525.00
CA Glue Starbond	\$251.80
Web hosting	\$235.92
picnic, Al Stirt, gift	\$608.64
add. Picnic supplies	\$277.72

Total Expenses \$ 2,347.30

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

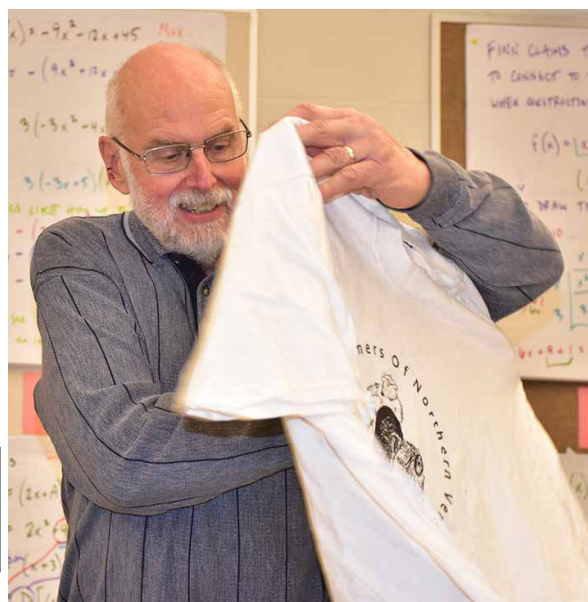
New member:

Ron Baker  
 168 Old Orchard Lane  
 Shelburne VT 05482  
 802-343-9024

Reminder: We have a wonderful opportunity to receive \$300.00 in gift certificates for raffles if we order \$1500.00 in orders from Woodturners Wonders. They would ship for free (unless grinders are ordered). They have available: CBN wheels, Rikon grinders, sanding products, lamps, hand hones, and more. Check out what they have at: [WoodTurnersWonders.com](http://WoodTurnersWonders.com). Several club members have purchased from them and are very satisfied (I am one of them!). CBN wheels come in the following grits: 60, 80, 180, 220, 350, 600, & 1000. You need to know what size your wheel is: 6, 7, or 8 and what size arbor: 5/8 inch, 3/4, or 1/2.



Going for the gifts—a bottle of Champagne



Got a new shirt!

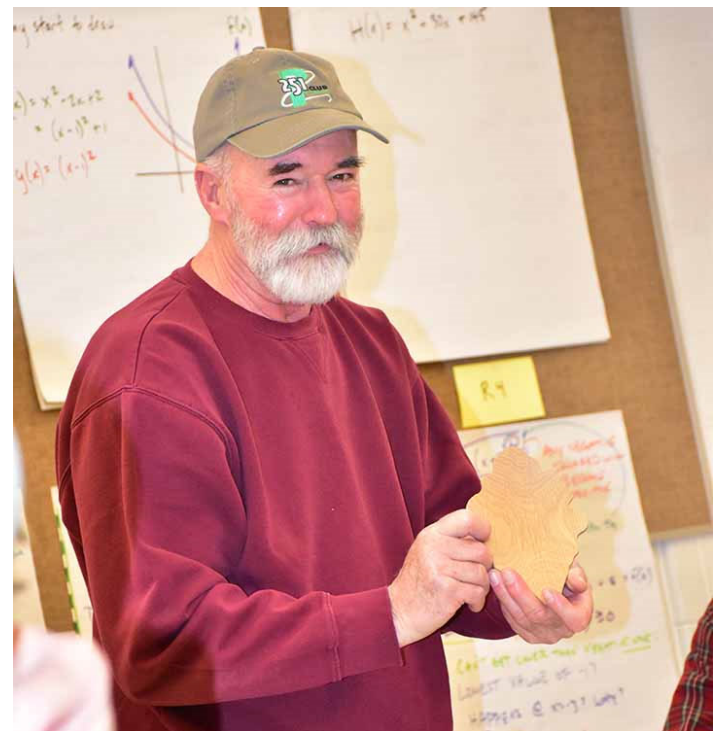
(continued on Page 5)



Cil got a dust mask—didn't last long.



How about a bottle of Bob Martin honey?



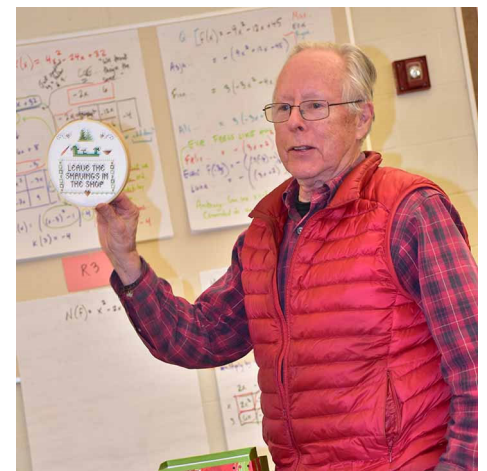
A Ted Fink Oak leaf.

(continued on Page 6)





Andy got a complete "Harry's" shaving kit! Not sure he'll get much use from it!



46. *Juniperus virginianis*: Common Red Cedar

Many turners new to wood turning go to lumber shops or on-line supply firms and purchase dimensioned wood for their turning projects. Most lumber companies just sell what I call saw timber, wood that has been sawn into long thin planks for carpentry. Those that do carry blanks suitable for turning tend to be expensive. Their imported exotic woods may not be responsibly harvested.

I would urge turners to look in their own neighborhood. For those who live in the eastern half of the U.S, there is a tree which is often overlooked by turners. It is common red cedar. Its proper botanical name is *Juniperus virginianis*. This is the strongly aromatic wood used to make cedar chests.

The aromatic compounds in the wood repel moths. Farmers use this tree for fenceposts as the resins in the wood cause it to strongly resist decay when the ends of the posts are buried in the wet ground.

While capable of making a huge tree when open grown, it does not fare well with competition from climax forest species like oak, beech and hickory. So the only ones you find in deep forest are stunted or dead ones.

Where I live in Vermont people are very kind. I had some of my turned wood items displayed in a health food store in St. Albans. A man came in the shop and inquired about the maker of the items. Then he called me and said he had recently cleared some of his land and had no use for the cedar he cut and was I interested. To this question it is my habit to always say yes. Before I could drive 45 minutes to St. Albans to see the wood he brought a load of it to my house and left it. Later I visited his home and got more wood. He did not want anything for the wood. He just didn't want it to go to waste. I find this happening frequently. People appreciate what nature has created and while they have no use for it, they want to put it in the hands of someone who does. I feel like this is an indication of rising consciousness in the world and it really encourages me about the future.

The trees he had ranged from 2 inches to slightly over 12 inches in diameter. Due to the cedar's growth habit of frequent knots and irregular trunk growth with deep furrows with bark inclusions it does not lend itself well to turning bowls from a log section split in half along the pith. The strengths of this wood are what a turner might call the defects. There are abundant knots. The other strength is the

deeply red colored heart wood with an irregular outline in cross section. In addition, the knots are as deeply red colored as the heart wood.

This lucky combination allows for great contrasts on the surface as the sap wood is very white. So what I like to do is end grain turnings. If I have a thick piece I will cross cut a section of the log about two to three inches thick, put it between centers on the lathe and use a bedan chisel to turn a tenon and then a skew to turn the tenon into a dovetail and mount in my dovetail jaw chuck. Now I can turn a shallow dish or small platter. When you look down on this finished piece you see the irregular deep red heart wood surrounded by very white sap wood and the outer diameter may have some interesting indentations with bark inclusions. Whether you make the pith the exact center or have it slightly off center to make better use of the wood you have does not matter. When the wood is turned fresh (green) and it is finished turned to a uniform somewhat thin dimension it dries without checking. Even if thin cracks develop they are not very objectionable as there are so many colors and contrasts in the wood that they are not noticed or objectionable. Below is a picture of a small dish made this way and next to it is a small cup made with just the red heart wood. It's lighter color is due to it not having the finish (I use tung oil) on it yet. The second picture shows the fun you can have with varying the design slightly. The results may be strikingly different.

For those logs with diameter of four to six inches I like to mount them between centers with the direction of the grain parallel to the lathe bed to get them round. With the bark off I can see the knots more clearly and can consider how to use them to best advantage in the design shape I choose. It is lots of fun because you don't know what it will look like until you do this step. It also means that you need to have a library of shapes in your head ready to apply appropriately to what appears in the log. Design is a key element in wood turning and it is good to study design. Richard Raffin has an excellent book on the subject. I also suggest going to art museums and looking at ancient pottery shapes. I use a book on southwest Native American pottery regularly for inspiration. When you are at the lathe, there won't be time to look around for design shapes. They need to be filled in your head.

Again, in my experience, end grain turning of green (wet) cedar does not result in much



checking as long as the wall diameter of the vessel you turn is relatively uniform. Put the drive center and the tail stock center right in the pith or slightly off center to make better use of the wood, depending on how the log grew. In some logs the pith is a long way from the center of mass of the cross section of the log. It doesn't seem to matter much. Here are some shapes which emerged from my lathe. As you turn off the sap wood you begin to reveal the deep red heart wood. Since the heart wood is not laid down in even concentric circles of growth rings, as you remove sap wood the heart wood appears here and there, not evenly. This makes for some interesting design possibilities. See what you can find in this versatile wood that is generally shunned by wood turners.

D. Edwards Smith  
[edwardsmithfinewoodworking.com](http://edwardsmithfinewoodworking.com)

Florida Greetings again fellow Woodchucks.....that's woodchucks with a capital 'W'!

Yes folks, it is the start of decade number three of the 21st Century! It seems like the great Y2K panic was only a couple years ago!

I have mentioned many times in my Chatter messages how much I am enjoying my work with our club down here, now numbering nearly 170!! And in addition to getting to know great folks from all over the USA who have retired here, I am learning a lot about the various kinds of wood we have that we don't have in the woods of Vermont. This Fall, along with the usual Norfolk Island Pine, photo #1370, a few new ones have appeared in our club log yard.



1370

One very gnarly one is Chinese elm. Photo #1372 shows what is left of a much larger pile. Next to the last butt piece you can see several crotch pieces, which are a challenge to turn, but do invite the creative use of resin for the many voids!

In photo #1369 I am splitting one of them to make a heart shaped natural edge bowl. Another new one is Bishovia, locally called Bishops wood. We only got the butt log and it was a huge one!

In photo #3248 I am slicing it for big coring blanks and hollow forms. It is a beautiful red color, not unlike



1372

our cherry, but dries to a soft pink. It is extremely heavy and loaded with a very gummy sap that quickly gums up the groove in the bar of the saw, necessitating frequent disassembly and cleaning with a wire brush and denatured alcohol! Yuk! After going through this drill several times, we decided to let the rest of the log sit for a while to see if it would dry out and cut a little easier? I did bring home one slab that I am turning into a platter. If



1369

(Continued on page 9)



all goes well, I'll send a pic of it next month.

Photo #1374 shows the last of a big mango log. It is light in color with a rather plain pattern to the grain, and has consistent color down



3248

to a very small heart. The best part may be the two burls that are sitting on top of the log. They are actually healed over branches, but have grown out with very solid burl-like grain. I'll report back with this one as well. I have talked about our Florida rose-



1374

wood many times, and brought some back to Vermont. It is our premium wood down here.

Our latest acquisition, photo #1375, is far and away the largest one

we have ever gotten! It is so spectacular in the deeply furrowed way it has grown that we are slabbing much of it for making tables! And the butt portion is so wide it requires cutting from both sides with our 28 inch saw to get through all the way. We will be doing more cutting on this monster later this week and I will do a more in-depth report on what we do with it. I want to make an end table of one of the smallest parts.....and if I encase it with resin, it will be over two feet wide! Photo #1371 shows our burn pile! Yes, burn pile! Scraps of all kinds of stuff from recent finds that have too much rot or checking to bother with. Many of us have pawed through this pile of "waste" looking for buried treasure! Photo #1432 is a hollow form, "Peace



1375



1362

Vessel", I just finished for an upcoming show, made from a chunk of Florida red maple that I rescued from this pile!

And finally, from the "last but not least" department, Danny asked me to send this picture, #1362, to show all his Woodchuck friends that he just celebrated his 11th birthday, and is doing well in Florida with all the other retirees!!

Coming in a future "missive from Flahreedah", a report on a new way to speed-dry bowls using silica beads! We have just started using them on some experimental pieces!



1371



1432

That's it for now!  
Cheers!

- 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](http://www.sutherlandwelles.com)). Right here in our own back yard, 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](http://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](http://www.mikejackofsky.com). Also sells thru Craft Supply.
- 9) Business cards and other printed goods: [Vistaprint.com](http://Vistaprint.com)
- 10) Laser engraving—Maple Land Mark Woodcraft. 800-421-4223 They are in Middlebury. [www.maplelandmark.com](http://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](http://www.nwfiguredwoods.com) offers lifetime 15% discount on any website wood purchase. Use "WOODTURNERS" coupon code at checkout. [www.nwfiguredwoods.com](http://www.nwfiguredwoods.com)
- 12) Paw Prints Printing [WWW.paw-prints.com](http://WWW.paw-prints.com) 802 865 2872 Gregory Drive South Burlington, VT 05403
- 13) Your NEW colored plywood source. [trethaway@comcast.net](mailto:trethaway@comcast.net). Has scraps of colored plywood for resale. Listed on eBay as scratch101012. *(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](http://www.treehousehardwoods.com)
- 15) Suffolk Saw of New England, Jeff & Danielle Mellott; 33 Gaudet Dr., Belmont, NH, 03220 877-550-7297

## Woodchuck Reading Suggestions—Ted Fink



SIMPLE PROCESSES CAN MAKE WOOD TOUGH, IMPACT-RESISTANT—OR EVEN TRANSPARENT.

*Copy AND PAST THE links INTO YOUR BROWSER TO READ THE ARTICLES.*

[https://getpocket.com/explore/item/stronger-than-steel-able-to-stop-a-speeding-bullet-it-s-super-wood?utm\\_source=emailsynd&utm\\_medium=social](https://getpocket.com/explore/item/stronger-than-steel-able-to-stop-a-speeding-bullet-it-s-super-wood?utm_source=emailsynd&utm_medium=social)

CHECK OUT STORIES THAT HAVE STOOD THE TEST OF TIME, AND CONTINUE TO BE SOME OF THE MOST-LOVED, READ, AND SHARED STORIES ON POCKET: <https://getpocket.com/explore/must-reads>

## Want Ads

### In House

### Demos:

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

January 15th—What I Learned Last Year - Members Round Table.

February 19th—Making Pepper Mills—Brad Dinwiddie

March 18th. Remote Demo—Mike Mahoney

April 8th.—April Board meeting—Randolph Center

April 15th—Resin Casting in Turnings—Brad Blaisdell

### Mentors Wanted Share your Skills

For sale: Trend Airshield Pro air circulating face shield. Only worn a half dozen times. Retails for \$369 – asking \$250. Contact Karen 802-868-6161 or [kdi@myfairpoint.net](mailto:kdi@myfairpoint.net). I'll bring it to the next meeting.

### Instructors For Hire

Nick Rosato-  
802-999-2976  
[nickrosato@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:Montagueturn@gmail.com)  
Groton

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

[skunkmen@gmail.com](mailto:skunkmen@gmail.com)  
Jericho

**Ted Beebe: Segmented work.**  
802-849-2436

[Teddy.beebe@gmail.com](mailto:Teddy.beebe@gmail.com)  
Fletcher

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

[jthomasdunne@gmail.com](mailto:jthomasdunne@gmail.com)  
Middlebury

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

[brad@frogpondwoodturning.com](mailto:brad@frogpondwoodturning.com)  
Underhill