

WOODCHUCK CHATTER

NEWSLETTER OF THE WOODCHUCK TURNERS OF NORTHERN VERMONT

AN AFFILIATE OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS

WOODCHUCKSVT.ORG

February 10, 2022

Volume 19, Issue 02

President: Harvie Porter
Vice President: Dave Buchholz
Secretary: Gary Walz
Treasurer: Brad Jackson
Newsletter Editor: Andrew Duling
Members at Large: Bob Martin, Arny Spahn,
Tom Dunne



Last Meeting: January, 19th *New tools, and what you learned last year*

Next Meeting: February 16th 2022 *Turned wooden boxes, Arny Spahn .*

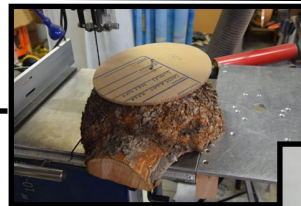
After that: March 16th 2022 *Topic TBA*

Next meeting Febuary 16th 2022. Arny Spahn will show us his methods of turning wooden boxes. Zoom meeting starts at 7pm, feel free to sign in a little early to chat. Make sure to bring material for show-and-tell .



Dave Buchholz : A burl by any other name (p. 4-5)

Dave shows us the process he used to get five bowls from a cherry burl .



Tom Dunne: Ask not what your woodturning club can do for yew (p. 5)

Tom's finished yew root pieces, and a little about how he finished them.



Dale Bergdahl: Red elm at night, sailors delight (p. 6)

Dale identifies a pre-pandemic bowl



Russ Fellows: Young man and the tree (p. 7-8)

Russ writes about what has been happening in the log yard



Edwards Smith: Design twice, turn once (p. 9)

Edwards tells us about some of the things he has learned about form, shape and design



Bear Rogers: Fly me to the lathe (p. 10)

Bear introduces himself and shows some of his work



Joe Gaines: Gains a little admiration (p. 10)

Joe shows us some of his work from rescued wood



Barry Genzlinger: Teamwork makes the dreamwork (p. 10)

Barry shows us a collaborative project he did with his wife



Jim Holzschuh: Spins us a yarn (p. 11)

Andy Duling— Gets by with a little help from his friends (p. 11)



Notes from Last Meeting

Woodchucks Meeting Minutes – 19-Jan-2022

Meeting was called to order by Harvie Porter at 7:00. Meeting was held 100% virtually.

Announcements

- 1) Harvie reminded everyone to please submit their dues to Brad Jackson.
- 2) There is no more discount for Hartville Tools.

Around the (Virtual) Room:

Attendees were asked to share with the group what their turning goal/goals were for the new year. Responses were wide and varied, and ran the gamut from new trying/mastering new turning techniques, getting new tools and trying new finishes.

Theme of the Day:

The meeting topic was what new tools did we get/try last year. Among the highlights were:

- An outboard turning setup
- Tools to hack up yew roots
- Flexible dust collection setup that's positionable from Wood Turning Wonders. It's part of their Lathe Tracking System
- Use of Amazon packing foam for finishing
- Jig for measuring the depth of the bottom of bowls
- Self-centering setup for faceplates
- Rockler carbide bit sharpening set

Show and Tell:

- Dave Bucholz showed Christmas Trees made from a modified

German Ring turning, as well as some Gnomes and Gingerbread Men

- Harvie showed a live edge bowl
- Ted showed us a wooden safe with combination lock
- Wes had a table with turned wooden knob and legs

Wrap-Up

- 1) Jay shared the results of the survey.
- 2) CVU may be back in play for in-person meetings (but not February)
- 3) Tom Dunne told us he will not be ready for a demo for February, something about a new grandchild... (congrats!)
- 4) Arny may do a demo on Box Turning.
- 5) Reminder to pay your dues:
Brad Jackson
14 Rustic Drive
Essex, VT 05452

Meeting adjourned at 8:29 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gary Walz, Secretary

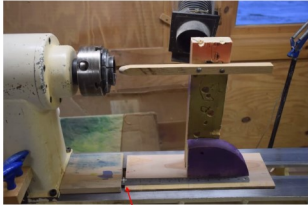


Some of the gang from January meeting

Photos from Last Meeting

Dave Buchholz shows us his new jig for measuring the bottom of bowls, and some of his and family's holiday work. See links for Dave's presentation.

Click here: [Bowl Bottoms](#)
[Christmas Challenge](#)



Pointer Slider pulled back, ruler measures the gap



Follows article in American Woodturner article (Oct 2013)

Constructed from 2 Maple platters glued together



Measuring thickness of bowl bottom



Looking into the cut ring

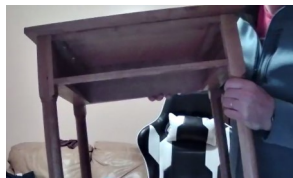


Cross Sectional Cut of tree

Another Challenge - Decorate Ginger Bread People - German Ring Turning



Another Challenge - Decorate a Gnome Home



A great end table made by Wes Volk



Mickey Palmer talks about tools he has made



Ross Mitchell talks about his lathe mounted dust collector



Brian Reed shows us his center finder tool

1. How long have you been turning?

More Details

- Less than 1 year: 6
- 1-3 years: 9
- 3-5 years: 7
- 5-10 years: 8
- Longer than 10 years: 27



2. Level of turner you feel you are:

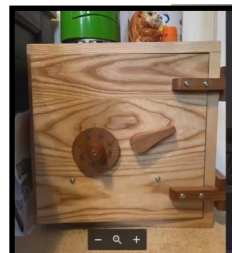
More Details

- Beginner: 11
- Intermediate: 31
- Advanced: 15



Results from our recent survey.

A safe Ted Lattrell made for his grandson



A couple of impressive bowls made by Harvie Porter, and Harvie's sanding setup.

Cherry Burl Bowls
Dave Buchholz

Last summer I was asked to turn a cherry burl into as many bowls as I could. This was from an Oregon family that has a summer camp in the Adirondacks. The process is shown in pictures.



The original cherry burl.



After it is sawn into 2 bowl blanks.



Preparing to bandsaw one chunk into a circular blank.



Mounted on the lathe.



After preliminary shaping of the bowl bottom.



Using a Woodfast coring device to get a smaller



Five rough turned bowls with Anchor Seal on the end grain



A large knot in one bowl

I left the bowls in my unheated garage for 8 months which was enough time to get the moisture content down to 10 to 11%.



The knot required reinforcing with epoxy contained with hot melt glue. I was able to finish 5 bowls with several repairs done with epoxy. The bottoms were finished on a vacuum chuck which created challenges with several pin hole leaks. All bowls were finished with many coats of Spar varnish. After that, I found out the customer wanted satin finish, which is not my preferred glossy finish. Everything was then rubbed down with grey Scotch Brite to get a satin finish.



FINISH

Tom Dunne

I debated a while how to finish these pieces. I wanted to highlight the red color that came thru the bark and make the many fine branches stand out, so I opted for spraying on shellac as I read that you could then use a polyurethane coat over the parts that I wanted to highlight that had been sanded smooth. The shellac mostly worked as it got into all of the crevices and brought out the red color of the bark but the downside was that it was a little shinier all over than I had wanted. I ended up steel wooling the shine off of the sanded parts in preparation for the wipe on poly, but ended up not using the poly as the shellac finish seemed to be sufficient by itself. Anyone have any ideas how I can de-shine the many branches?



Pre-pandemic Tree ID

By Dale Bergdahl

During the last meeting at CVU in March 2020, Andrew brought in a nice large "reddish" colored bowl and asked me to ID the wood. At the time, I said that it looked like a species of elm but could not see all the cell details for a complete ID. Andrew's picture with the bowl in the March 2020 chatter would go nicely with the wood description I am providing below. (see below)

There are several elm species (*Ulmus*) both native and introduced growing in North America. American elm (*Ulmus americana*) is/was the most common. However, Dutch Elm Disease destroyed most of the trees throughout eastern NA and today it is rare to find any large trees of this species. That said, Andrew's large bowl seemed to be a bit out of place. However, he said the wood was from a dead treemade sense, except for the "reddish" color and from what I could see of the cell components and their orientation when viewed at CVU. After taking a clean razor cut at home, I was able to ID the wood as Red Elm (*Ulmus rubra*), also known as slippery elm because of the gelatinous material found under the bark in the region of the cambium when a tree is living that is. The wood properties of Red Elm are very similar to those of American Elm including the interlocking grain pattern which makes both species difficult to split as well as being less likely to crack...the good news.... but somewhat more difficult to work because of the grain pattern.

If you are interested in finding out more about the different woods (both native and exotic species) just Google "**The Wood Data Base**" and you will have lots to look at and learn ...the good news...but it will take time away from turning...the bad news.

The following photos are from "The Wood Database" and show the cell orientation for both American Elm and Red Elm that can be seen using a 10X hand lens viewing a clean, razor cut, end grain cross-section of wood. Try wetting the wood before cutting and it will also bring out the color and sometimes the smell (assuming no covid issues). Many wood ID's require an odor check upon wetting.. So, stay healthy and fully vaccinated for best wood ID.... A recommendation from a tree pathologist.



The red elm bowl that was in question. Picture from March 2020 Chatter

Log Yard News
By Russ Fellows

Hello again from Florida fellow Woodchucks. As I have mentioned before, every Tuesday down here is devoted to our club log yard. We never know what may have been delivered in the previous week, and if nothing has been dropped off, it gives us a chance to catch up. Recently we have had an embarrassment of “riches” and cannot use all the wood we have! Photo # 1225 is of a pile of our beloved rosewood that lies underutilized! While it is quite stable just sitting, eventually it will start to crack, so I have been selectively re-cutting some of the pieces, and roughing out others, so it is not lost to the infamous burn pile. Photo # 1228 shows a pile of Norfolk Pine that IS a burn pile, waiting for a rainy day to set it off! Again, I am trying to salvage as much as I can and will bring some back to Vermont. Photo # 1227 shows a load of recently donated red cedar. It is very similar to our northern variant and is popular for making natural edge bowls because of the thin band of white sapwood, which contrasts nicely with the rich red of the heart, see photo # 1214. Another wood we have had in abundance recently, and I have talked about before, is camphor. Photo # 1232 shows some new logs. They are not as big as others we have gotten, so maybe good for some end grain pieces? Large or small, the heartwood can really be strikingly varied in reds and browns, again contrasting with the lighter outer layers. I have two camphor hollow forms I will report on in a future issue of Chatter.



1225



#1228



#1227



#1232

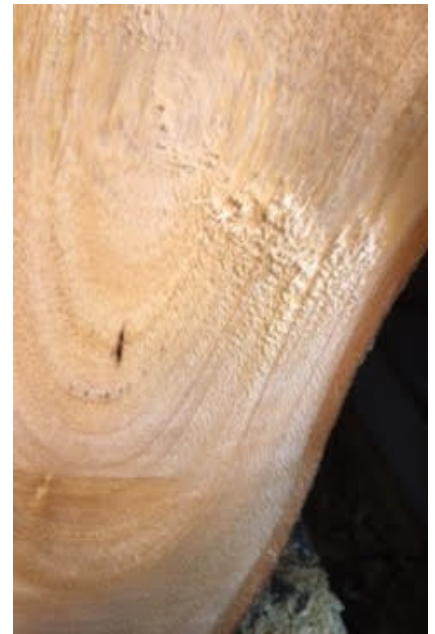


#1214

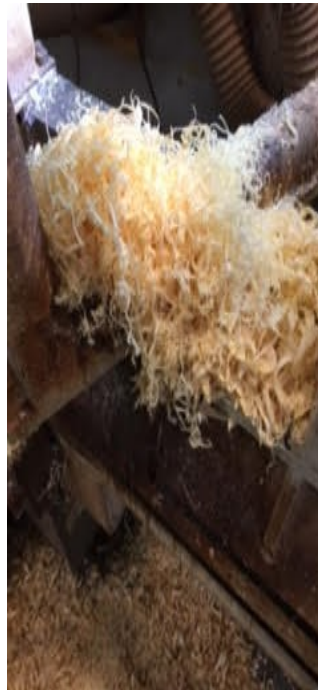
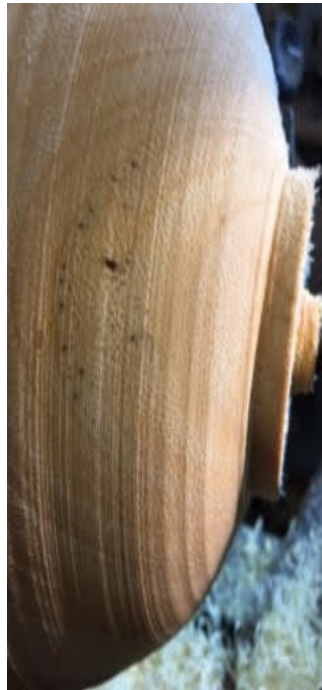
One new species just received is royal poinciana. It is the first time we have gotten this, and I suspect that is because it is unusual in our area for it to (https://gardeningolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/plants/trees-and-shrubs/trees/royal_poinciana.html) get large enough to be considered for woodworking. It is spectacular when in bloom and is thus popular for landscaping. I brought home a chunk of it last week, and over the weekend I turned the natural edge bowl shown in photo # 1257. I had no idea what I was going to find, and frankly, was underwhelmed! The wood turned out to be soft, stringy, as seen in photos # 1247, 1249, and 1250. And because of that, difficult to turn. I tried several different gouges, all with fresh keen edges, and still ended up with tearout. See photo number #1252! Very frustrating! Maybe if allowed to dry, it would cut more cleanly, but even after only a few days of being cut from the log, it started to check badly, so drying it might be an exercise in further frustration. Perhaps the most positive thing I can say is that the bark held firm to the finished piece, which is always my preference for a natural edge bowl. It's more.....well, natural! I will cut out a few blanks to bring home and "waste" a little anchorseal to see if I can keep them stable. Tomorrow's another day! Hopefully something new and exciting in the log yard. Stay tuned!
Next month, a video tour of "Skunk Hollow Studios" south!



#1257



#1252



1247, 1249, 1250

Design
By Edwards Smith

Design is not often talked about in meetings, but it is a very important subject. I am no expert but have picked up some things from artists in other media. An artist looked at some of my earlier work and told me that in a vessel there are three considerations. The rim, the body and the foot all have a relationship to each other. He did not say what that relationship should be but just to think about it carefully.

Over time I have come to think that the foot of a bowl, for example, looks best when it is about 1/3 the diameter of the rim. For each piece this can be adjusted slightly up or down depending on other elements of the design, color, wood grain, etc. So, it is not hard and fast but a general guideline. Functional bowls need a large enough foot to be stable and not tip over with use. In more artistic pieces, it is less important.

Someone said it is hard to see how it looks when the bowl is fastened to the lathe, and you are looking at it sideways. The reply was to just take it off the lathe and stand it upright to get the proper view. Then you have a better feel if the design “looks” right.

If you are designing a bowl with more than one curve in the body of the bowl then where those two curves meet is important. I can tell you that it should not be in the middle of the vessel. Here I think the golden section (1:1.61) is helpful. The top or bottom curve has a value of 1 and the other part of 1.61. Try this and see how you like it. It may also apply to embellishments you add to a bowl or to colors if you use color as part of your decoration.

An ogee (S curve) on a bowl is simple to do and makes a very satisfying design. You rarely see a straight line in nature. Where one curve reverses to the other curve is an important point.. Again, the golden section may be of help. You may want to sketch the curve on paper to see how best to place it on a bowl or other turned object.

One of my students got some very plain maple logs. What can you do with this plain white piece of wood, she asked? I took one of the pieces and gave it some thought. Color is part of design. The wood was dead white with some dark area in the center that was likely some early heart spalting.

My first thought was to try a hollow form as there are more design possibilities than just making two small bowls out of the two halves of the log. So, I choose to mount the wood on the lathe at a right angle to the direction of the lathe bed and the grain direction of the wood. So, you would have it mounted like you would on a faceplate rather than a spindle turning. This allowed me to include the bark in the rim. So now I have a dark rim to contrast with the white wood of the body of the hollow turning.

Since the wood was plain, I decided to use two curves in the body of the vessel, one concave and one convex. Where the curves joined was another consideration. Best it not be right in the middle. Another consideration was which curve should have the dark center. Once that was decided, where in its curve should it be placed. Again, best not right in the middle. I chose it to be in the lower portion of the convex curve.

Another advantage of orienting the log this way was not apparent at first because the wood was so white. As it dried the concentric rings around the dark center began to show and added interest to the dull wood. Now this was just an experiment on my part and you can decide whether it was a success or not. The Romans had a saying: ‘In matters of taste there is no dispute. De gustibus non est disputandum.’ However, it does serve to inspect some of the many decisions that can be brought to bear on design of a turning. Richard Raffin has written a fine book on bowl design, and it would be a good attrition to your library. The carpenters say measure twice, cut once. The same logic applies to design in turning. Examine as many of the aspects of design and turn with them in mind. Look at your finished product and learn from it for your next project. This is how you grow.

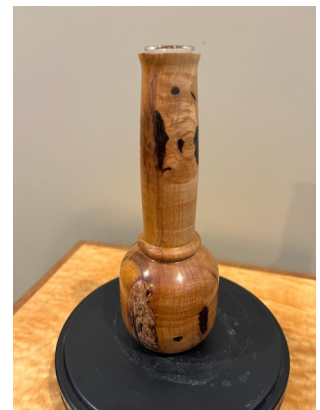


Bear Rogers

Pictured is one of my latest bowls and then a couple of pics of my day job. A United 767 Captain. When I'm not turning I'm flying and thinking of turning.



Photos by Joe Gaines of his recent work



Collaborative Ornaments By Barry Genzlinger

I have done several creations with my wife over the years. I make turned objects and she makes delicate ornaments from crochet strings.

Our latest collaborations are ornaments. I turn a central piece and she makes it look good by adding strings of various colors. The ornament pictured here is turned from cherry. It is 4 inches tall with a center disk 2 inches in diameter and two 1 1/4-inch diameter disks at the top and bottom. I drilled a series of twelve 1/32-inch diameter holes in each disk while the piece was still on the lathe. That provided stability while I was drilling and allowed me to use the Indexing on the head stock to position the holes. We have several more designs under development.



Jim Holzschuh

One of the shops where we have our yarn, requested that I send them several darning eggs and drop spindles. I braved the "slightly above freezing" temps in my barn workshop to create these. Yes, there are some people out there that still darn socks. Probably the same people who spin their own yarn. Most of the turning that I do these days is fiber related - yarn bowls, nostepindes, niddy noddies, drop spindles, darning eggs, dealgans, shawl pins, buttons and beads. For those that don't know what a nostepinde looks like, it's very similar to a spurtle :-). A dealgans is a Scottish drop spindle that doesn't look like a top whirl drop spindle pictured.



Notes from Ya boy

Andy Duling

I want to thank everyone who contributed to Chatter this month. Monday morning, I had two articles and I put out an email asking for help. By Tuesday Morning I was asking people if their article could wait till next month. A wide variety of topics were covered with great photos. Thank You!



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

Dave Buchholz
General turning; advanced embellishments
518 834 9524
dbuchholz@northwestern.edu

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tjaybailey@yahoo.com

Treasurer's Report

By Brad Jackson

February 2022 Treasurer's Report

Bank Balance forward
4788.77

INCOME

Dues	450.00
	450.00

EXPENSES

VT 2021 Sales Tax	7.20
Stamps	11.60
Flash Drive	6.95
Zoom	164.89
Check order	20.50
Bank fee	5.00
	216.14

Bank Balance ending 5022.63
Cash on Hand 25.00

Brad Jackson/Treasurer

I have transferred our account to the Northfield Saving Bank. This action will allow us to avoid future monthly banking fees.

The Board of Directors of The Woodchuck Turners of Northern Vermont gratefully acknowledges the payment of dues from the following members for **2022**:

Lori Barg, Wayne Beauchemin, Ted Beebe, Chris Bishop, Dave Buchholz, George Cacchio, Sara Campbell, Sal Chiarelli, Karen Cutler, Michael DeWeese, Tom Dunne, Joe Fortin, Joe Gaines, Barry Genzlinger, George Gibson, Rick Hamilton, Linda Hollingdale, Brad Jackson, Pam Jedlicka, Scott Johnson, Eddie Krasnow, Joe Laferriere, Ted Lattrell, Luc Lefebvre, Chris Lumbra, Bob Martin, Gerry Martin, Ross Mitchel, Ted Nelson, Patrick Nevers, Mickey Palmer, Brian Reed, Barent Rogers, Robert Schumacher, David Scrase, Edwards Smith, Marilyn Stohlberg, Wes Volk, Adam Wager (39)

(Scott Bennett, Russ Fellows, Ted Fink, Michael Mode, Dick Montague, Nick Rosato, Hav Smith, Arny Spahn, and Al Stirt are Honorary Lifetime members, (9)

If you have paid your dues for the 2022 year but do not see your name listed above, please contact me at BradJackson234@gmail.com to correct that error of omission. Dues for 2022 are \$25. Checks should be made out to "WTNV" and sent to: Brad Jackson, 14 Rustic Drive, Essex, VT 05452

Please note: The following privileges are only available to dues-paying members: Video library use, mentoring program, bulk purchase discounts for CA glue, Anchor Seal, Klingspor, & Penn State Industries discount of 10%. Mention the club to get your discount. PSI and Klingspor request you login **before** you order anything to ensure your discount. Note: as of end of December 2021 Hartville will no longer offer a discount to club members..

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

Classifieds

5 piece Packard spindle turning set and two Crown tools a 1/2 scraper and 1/2 gouge.

Used little, some never sharpened. decided to focus on learning carbide tools About \$300 new, asking \$100 of best offer

Thanks

Bob Zeliff
zeliff@gmavt.net

