

WOODCHUCK CHATTER

NEWSLETTER OF THE WOODCHUCK TURNERS OF NORTHERN VERMONT

AN AFFILIATE OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS

WOODCHUCKSVT.ORG

February 11, 2023

Volume 20, Issue 2

President: Harvie Porter

Vice President: Karen Drennen

Secretary: Gary Walz

Treasurer: Brad Jackson

Newsletter Editor: Andrew Duling

Members at Large: Bob Martin, Adam Wager,
Tom Dunne



Last Meeting: January 18th, 2023

The Good, The Bad, The Ugly

Next Meeting: February 15th, 2023

Spindle Turning Stations

After that: March 15, 2023

Beware the Ides of March/TBA

February Meeting Preview

Spindle Turning Stations

We will have three experts helping out for this month's spindle turning topic: Edwards Smith, Dick Montague, and Nick Rosato. Edwards will be showing how to do captured rings. Members might want to bring their own spindle turning tools to try out under the masters' tutelage. Harvie will be sending some blanks, but members could bring one or two with them in case additional blanks are needed.

Meeting is at CVU high school shop starting at 7, arrive early to chat. Zoom invite attached to email.

Check out the classified ad on page 12

Ted Fink- Plate or Platter? (P6)

Ted spills on his lunch décor

Dave Buchholz– Wreaths and Trees Made of Wood (P7)

Dave shows the PowerPoint he shared during the January meeting

Joe Gaines– Scrap Wood Vases and Bowl (P7)

Joe shows some impressive recent work

Karen Drennan– Lights the Way (P7)

Karen shows some lighthouses

Ross Mitchel-Using Social Media for Good (P8)

Ross uses front Porch Forum to get some turning blanks

Russ Fellows – Tree in a Bottle (P9-10)

Russ continues his theme of the trees of Florida

Tom Dunne and Tamir– Win Big in the Raffle (P11)

Tom and Tamir show somethings they have made from Kevin Kelly's generous donation

Andy Duling– Reports on a Suspect Claim Made by Big Oil (P 12)

Woodchucks Meeting Minutes 17-Nov-2022

Meeting was held at CVU High School and was held as a hybrid. Meeting was called to order by President Harvie Porter at 6:57.

Announcements

Be sure to look at the AAW website for upcoming programs.

The AAW National Symposium is June 1-4 in Louisville, KY.

If you're not a member of AAW, just a reminder that AAW offers a no cost 3-month trial membership.

February's topic will be spindle turning.

Show and Tell

This month, since there were a lot of new faces, we all introduced ourselves during show and tell. The theme for what we were showing was "The good, the bad and the ugly", with apologies to Clint Eastwood.

Harvie P (Randolph)

Harvie is working on an interesting project for the sculptor of Vermont's 2 "Whale Tails" sculptures.

The Sculptor is working on an 8 Bag Pipe Sculpture, and Harvie is woodturning some pieces of the bagpipe for him to use as models.

He's had to scale the pieces up by 1/3 due to the size of the sculpture. He showed us a chanter and blow pipes.

It turns out Harvie is a bagpipe player himself and had offered to play for us at a future meeting.

Randy (Charlotte)

David (Hyde Park)

Showed a large bowl from a Virginia Battlefield (maybe Ginko)

Joe G (So. Burlington)

Had another magnificent root ball bowl from a stump in his backyard

Gary W (Milton)

Showed three bowls he turned from funnels or near funnels back into useful bowls. In his defense, these were not bowls he turned himself, but rescue bowls.

Tom D (Middelbury)

Had a large bowl with cracks and was soliciting advice on how to fix

A short stubby vase turned from Hawthorne

And a hickory hollow form

Tamier Strier (Israel)

Two bowls with pedestals from honey locus, one with a broken leg.

Jim Goodwin (Essex)

Showed us a cake stand, which was his first spindle project for an actual product.

Bob (From I-wish-I-could-read-my-own-handwriting)

A handle out of Tiger Maple from his firewood pile.

Talked about a thread chasing tool.

January Meeting Notes Continued...

Luke

A small bowl from Silver Maple)

Ted L (Virtual)

Showed us a three-legged table with sliding dovetails right in its home in his living room!

Jim H (South Hero)

A Drop Spindle

A darning egg with a handle

An ash yarn bowl

Andy D

A large bowl that he thought fit the definition of good, bad, and ugly all in one.

Adam W (Burlington)

Ugly – skeletal remains turning

Good – A small shallow off center bowl from a slab of silver maple

Bad – Some half-burned phallic-like turning that he later claimed to be a twig vase. ☹️

Also had a red oak bowl that he burned too much until it cracked

Chris L (Essex)

He had turned two mugs and bowls that he gave away.

Kevin Kelly (Starksboro)

End grain vase from Milo, which grows near the ocean with its roots in the water.

A Koa bowl. Koa is a very in-demand wood. He had rough turned it 22 years ago.

Russ (Stowe)

Dave B

Made a German Christmas Tree. He finds basswood to be good for this. Used a modified steel skew that he ground a circular arc in the corner of.

Raffle

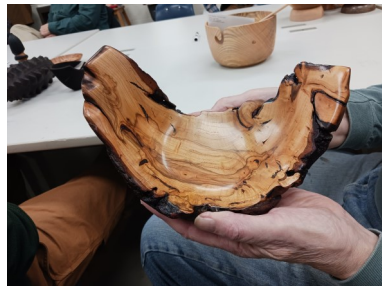
The club held its' monthly raffle. Thanks again to all who donated a nice variety of items. But by and far, the highlight of the evening was the very generous give-away of mostly partially turned projects from Kevin. These all came from woods he acquired (usually through great efforts) during his years in Hawaii. Everybody walked away with some very nice pieces.

Wrap-Up

Reminder – it's a new year, so send your dues in to Brad!!!

For February, we'd like to see what people have done with some of the pieces donated by Kevin.

Photos from January Meeting



More photos from January meeting



“Sandwich” plates

Ted Fink

My wife and I like to enjoy our lunches in front of the wood burning stove in the living room especially this time of year. We found that the traditionally sized dinner plate at 10” in diameter was too small to accommodate a sandwich or yogurt, fruit, chips and perhaps a cookie or two. This coupled with my desire not to waste the figured pieces of wood in my lumber rack led me to turn larger plates. The two pictured are made of curly maple.

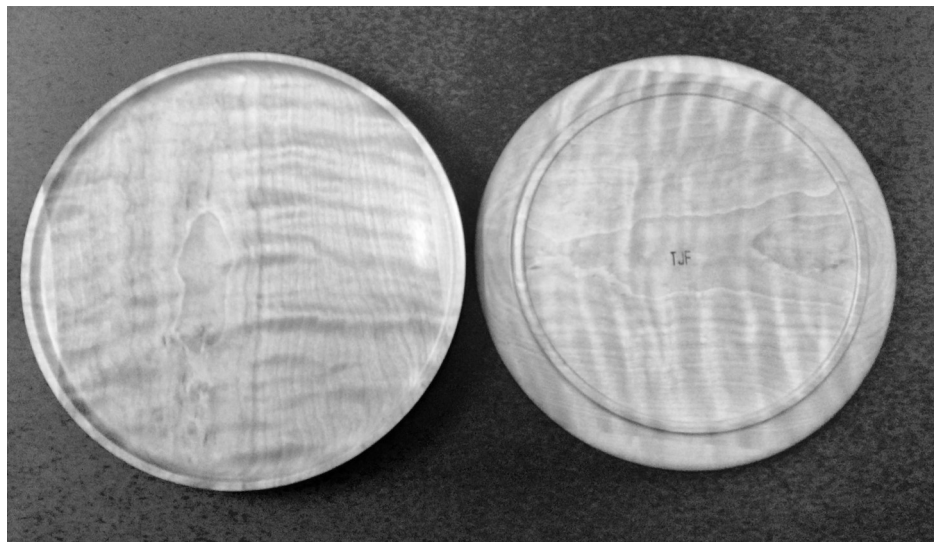
Here are the characteristics of a well-turned “sandwich” plate. Size: 12” is ideal and the rim should be raised at least $\frac{1}{4}$ inch to prevent grapes or other fruit from rolling off the plate. Wood: any closed-grain hardwood works such as maple, birch, apple or cherry. Avoid open-grain woods such as oak, walnut, elm, black locust, or ash since this will be more difficult to clean unless they have been well sealed. Finish: A walnut oil finish is fine, but I prefer a satin polyurethane finish which is very easy to clean.

To make a 12” plate from lumber select a board that is at least 6.25” wide, 25” long and at least $\frac{3}{4}$ ” thick. Orient the board to maximize the figure that will be captured in the plate. Joint the edge that will become the center seam then cut the board in half and fold it like a jack knife, so the two jointed edges come together. This will give you a seamless appearing symmetrical plate. Use Titebond II Premium wood glue which is water resistant to glue the 2 pieces together. Also be aware that the glue, wood, and the glue-up environment should be warm (>55F) and clamped for 24 hours before turning to ensure maximum strength.

Once you have your 12.5” X 12.5” piece select which side is to be the bottom of the plate and pencil in the diagonals to find the exact center. Now using these lines as guides glue a 2.75” perfectly square block of wood to the center underside of the plate. Pencil in the diagonals on the square and with an awl put a small hole in the exact center of the square. Using a compass scribe, a maximum circle from the center of the square. Once the glue has set for a day cut the waste off the large square using a bandsaw and mount this glued on square block into the four-jaw chuck on your lathe. Spin it by hand using the tool rest as a guide to have it as clearly in one plane as possible. If there is excessive wobble you will run out of material especially if you are using $\frac{3}{4}$ ” stock.

Now bring up the tail stock for extra support and turn and finish sand to 220 grit the top side and rim down to the foot which will be in about 1.5” from the edge. Then mount a padded faceplate (~10” diameter works best) on the headstock, mount the top side of the plate against it with the support of the tailstock in the center of the square block which will be turned away with the turning of the bottom of the plate. Sand and finish.

Guten Appetit!



Dave Buchholz was kind enough to send along his PowerPoint presentation from January's meeting. Click [here](#) to view his presentation on making German Christmas trees and wreaths.

Joe Gaines shares his cherry and spalted maple bud vases made from leftover scrap and a spalted maple salad bowl.



Karen Drennan shares some lighthouses she made this past month.



New Sources for Wood

By Ross Mitchel

To cast a broader net for available wood I placed the following post on our local Front Porch Forum a couple weeks ago:

“I do some wood turning, bowls mostly and other open forms - all best done from fresh cut green wood. I know the recent storm brought down many trees around town and if you have one in your yard that I could cut a few chunks off of, please let me know. I am looking for hardwoods of any kind (Sugar Maple, Ash, Oak, Cherry, Beech, Butternut, Yellow Birch, etc), logs of about 12" diameter or larger. Note the wood turners creed: Anyone who provides wood to a turner, receives a nice bowl back from their tree a few months later. Email or call at 512 633-0912.”

I got a great response – more than a dozen calls and emails. A few were storm related but mostly it was from other sources such as people who were clearing for construction. A couple people told me they had big wooded acreage and to come and look around. Three of the people I met who have recently downed trees invited me to come back and harvest more from those logs anytime. The haul so far has included Apple, spalted Maple, a Cherry burl, and one guy who is going to come by and try his hand at turning.

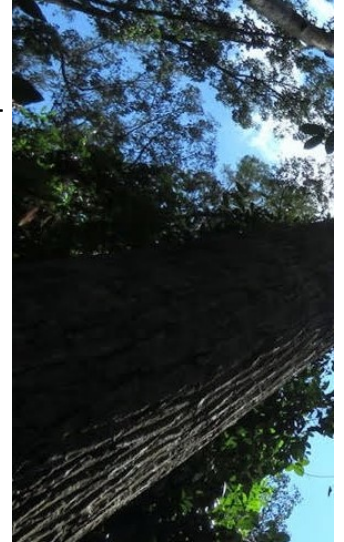
The first photo is of some blanks turned from the newly acquired bounty. The second is of a few smaller pieces from the same batch that I dried in Silica Desiccate so they could be 2nd turned in a few days.



Greetings again from Florida fellow Woodchucks,

We see everyday examples of, and discussions about, our undeniably changing climate and world. [This piece caught my eye last week.](#) As woodworkers we are perhaps more concerned than many about it, but in fact, every citizen of today's world has been made aware of the fact that the forests of the world are the "lungs" of the world, with their awesome responsibility of oxygen production and carbon dioxide reduction, and now those lungs are exhibiting a dire malaise in their ability to maintain this balance!!

Many times, in this column I have talked about the different view of the trees around us, we woodworkers in Florida, have from those in the north. Allow me to continue this theme!

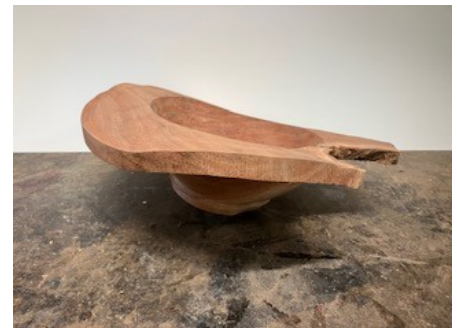
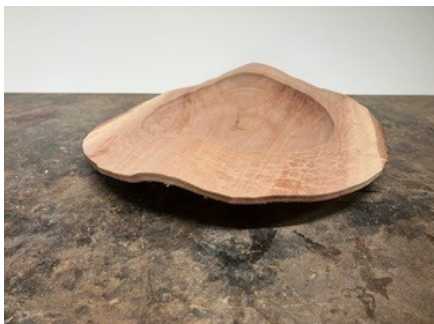


BACK TO THE BOTTLE...BRUSH!!

The lovely ornamental tree, [bottle brush](#), is, for obvious reasons, and with its long blossoming season, a popular choice for landscaping. The picture below is one branch of the one planted at the end of my driveway. They are quite gangly and usually get culled before they develop into big trees. However, we were fortunate enough to have an entire truckload delivered to us a couple weeks ago! Far and away the largest example of this species we have ever had, we "dove" in, making up many blanks for bowls and vessels.



Those who took pieces home to play with, brought back their efforts to our next meeting. We have all had some good laughs about the results! Below are few examples of my efforts. To start with, it is the wettest wood we have ever had! I have two moisture meters, and both went into "overload" when I tried to get a reading! They will not register anything over 50%, so I really have no idea where it started. I do know that my face shield and shirt were soaked after a few minutes, and after a few minutes more the ways of the lathe were black! Whatever was being thrown off was acidic.



Attempts to dry this wood were just as comical. I first tried a once-turned approach, then a twice-turned one. Both were comical, as can be seen in the photos. Then, remembering the work of English turner, [Melvyn Firmager](#), I attempted, with limited success, to make the wild and unpredictable ways of this wood “work” for me, and I now feel I am making some headway...in addition to having some fun! The finned vessels below are the latest, the one with the thinnest fins being one I started at a club meeting last night. I ran out of time before I completed it, but I will keep trying. I also am going to try doing an end grain hollow form to see how that works. I will send the results to you in the next issue of Chatter. As can be seen in the last pic, it is highly unstable left sitting, even when waxed, so I will be getting going on this. Also in that pic is a limb cluster that may be/ is, above my “pay grade”, but not of that of Tom Dunne!!?? Tom, I’m bringing it home to you!!



Tom Dunne

Here are a few pics of what we have turned. The way to distinguish who did what is in the photos; the amateur pics are mine the finished pics are Tamir's. We both have enjoyed finishing these rough turned pieces offered to us by Kevin last month and hope he will be at the next club meeting so that we can thank him personally.



Notes from Ya Boy

Just as the extreme cold was starting last week I cut a bunch of bowl blanks. Using the chainsaw in the cold reminded me of something I learned the hard way a few years ago. I was helping a friend buck up some firewood during another extreme cold spell. Along with my ears, fingers, and toes being cold the saw wasn't cutting well. The chain was heating up and acting like I was out of bar oil. After reading the back of the bar oil container I realized that "All Season" bar oil is for "all temperatures above 32F." Tractor Supply and every other stores that sell bar oil will have winter weight bar oil which should be used when the temperatures get cold.



Not all-the-seasons of Vermont

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Treasurer's Report

FEBRUARY 2023 Treasurer's Report

Bank Balance forward
5064.80

INCOME
Raffle 64.00
Dues 275.00
Donation 1.50
340.50

EXPENSES
Sales and Use Tax 10.44

Bank Balance ending 5394.86
Cash on Hand 25.00

The Board of Directors of The Woodchuck Turners of Northern Vermont gratefully acknowledges the payment of dues from the following 80g members for **2023**:

David Bisbee, Chris Bishop, James Bushey, George Cacchio, Rick Hamilton, Linda Hollingdalfeb, Jim Holzschuh, Brad Jackson, Paul Jagielski, Scott Johnson, Luc Lefebvre, Kevin Liddiard, Bob Martin, Russ Michel, Ted Nelson, Randy Ramsden, Dave Smith, Edwards Smith Marilyn Stolberg, Fred Walters, (20)

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

If you have paid your dues for the 2023 year but do not see your name listed above, please contact me at BradJackson234@gmail.com to correct that error of omission. Dues for 2023 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 and Anchor Seal, and 10% discount on purchases from Klingspor, Penn State Industries, and Rare Woods USA. To ensure your discount, Klingspor requests you login **before** you order. PSI requests you mention the club. Rare Woods USA requests you order using coupon code WOODCHUCKSROCK or mention the club.

Reminder: As previously advertised, unless you have paid your annual dues by April 1st your name must be removed from the discount list.

Brad Jackson/Treasurer

Classifieds

For Sale:
Lyle Jamieson Hollowing System
D Handle
Backrest
1 Curved bar with scraper head
1 Straight bar
Adapter


List price ~ \$350
Including homemade arm brace \$150.
Randy Ramsden
r Ramsden@gmavt.net



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
802-343-0393
russfellows@outlook.com
 @fellowswoodart
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