

WOODCHUCK CHATTER

NEWSLETTER OF THE WOODCHUCK TURNERS OF NORTHERN VERMONT

AN AFFILIATE OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS

WOODCHUCKSVT.ORG

January 13, 2023

Volume 20, Issue 1

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Tom Dunne



Last Meeting: November 17th, 2022

Holiday Craft and Ornament Roundtable

Next Meeting: January 18th, 2023

The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly

After that: February 15th, 2023

Station Skew Work

January Meeting Preview

Our January hybrid meeting will be on January 18th, 2023 at Champlain Valley Union High School in Hinesburg starting at 7PM, arrive early to chat. January meeting theme is “The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly,” an extended show and tell of the projects from last year that deserve praise, advice, condolences, or the woodstove. The unofficial ticket for admission is a item to show.

November Meeting Notes included in December Issue – see December Issue for complete notes.

Marilyn Stolberg– Provides Top notch entertainment for family gatherings
Marilyn writes about some Woodchuck inspired tops she has made. (P 2)



Russ Fellows -lan swings by and drops off some turning blanks
Russ reports of storm damage from Hurricane Ian. (P 3-4)



Joe Gaines– Bowl from a ball. (P 5)

Fred Walters– Spins through the 12 days of Christmas. (P 5)

John DiRienzo– Makes a classic gift for his brother. (P 6)

Dave Buchholz– *Alces alces* traverses on skies. (P 6)

Randy Ramsden– To have a log and turn it too. (P 7)

Andy Duling– A dire warning: **Spring is coming!** (P 8)

We have a classified ad! (P9)

How the Woodchucks Enhanced Thanksgiving

Marilyn Stolberg

During the November Woodchuck meeting, there were several great demos showing easy holiday gift ideas. I was especially intrigued by Dick Montague's spin top demo. Over the next few days, after much trial and error, I had made a handful of spin tops that actually did what they were supposed to do - spin.

As I was going to be traveling to a family gathering for Thanksgiving weekend, I stuck the handful of spin tops in my suitcase, thinking they might entertain the six children under age ten who would be present.

When I showed the kiddos the tops, the responses were pretty interesting - starting with the one that can warm the heart of wood turner - "Aunt Marilyn, Did you really make these?"

While the purpose of the tops was to spin, their presence evolved into so much more, Because there were children of different ages and skills, they worked together to figure out how each child could be a successful spinner by trading tops until they found ones that worked in their hands. The five-year-old sat quietly at the table, trying over and over again, until his little fingers were able to get a good spin. We had conversations about the properties of wood - the color, grain, density, and smell. We compared how the design of the top affected its spinnability. We evaluated launching techniques, the drop method vs. surface method vs. string method. We compared spinning surfaces, table vs. floor vs. dinner plate. A stopwatch was used to time the duration of the spins, which resulted in a conversation about decimals. The "big kids" (my highly competitive son and nephew) challenged each other, with cash involved, to see who could get the longest spin. (This was much to the delight of their children)

As I looked around during the weekend, it seemed that there was always someone spinning a top.

These simple wooden objects captured the interest and imagination of three generations. They had no batteries no screens, no plastic. The magic was their simplicity. Their presence resulted in conversations and actions about nature, physics, mathematics, physiology, design, equity, inclusion, and cooperation. Holiday gatherings tend to be a place where memories are made. For my family, this year's Thanksgiving memories were enhanced by the addition of spin tops!



“MANNA FROM IAN”

Russ Fellows

Whenever there is a report of a tropical depression forming in the Caribbean, everyone in Florida starts to hold their breath. In late August, it was no different when Ian became a named storm. Sarasota, where our home is, had never had a direct hit from a bad storm, although there have been several close calls. One of the reasons we chose the property we did was for the incredible live oaks in our yard (see pic), and there is always considerable anxiety when high wind is in the forecast! The report this time looked as though that record would finally be broken, as our coast appeared to be in the crosshairs! At the eleventh hour, a cold front pushed down from the north and caused Ian to veer to the east and make landfall in Fort Myers, about 100 miles to our south. Pfew! Dodged a bullet? Well, not quite! Category 3 winds did whip through the county, causing a lot of damage, but fortunately our street got buffered by the trees in a park just to our east, and the only damage, aside from truckloads of leaves and limbs (see photo below) was the loss of our prized avocado tree! We had been nurturing this tree for five years and it was finally producing! At least our neighbors were able to harvest a bucket of fruit for us, throwing them in the freezer for future use! We enjoyed some guacamole just last night!



When I arrived all the debris had been picked up (the county is wonderful about this! Get it to the curb, and eventually they will come by with big trucks and haul it away!) All that was left was a chunk of the bole of the tree (pic #2253) and a tiny sucker sprout coming up from the root ball of the doomed tree (pic #2248). Hopefully nature will see fit to grow another tree for us, but it will be several years before the first harvest! I wanted to memorialize the lost tree, so turned a bunch of small bowls, (pic #2259) and a travel mug. The wood was surprisingly spalted, and very easy to cut. I microwaved them and they were dry right away.



#2248

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My neighbors lost one of their fruit trees also, in their case, a much bigger mango. They saved a few pieces for me, (pic #2252) , and yesterday I cut into a chunk, (pic #2255). I had seen spectacular spalted mango bowls on the internet before, so was hopeful for something similar? Not to be.....at least not yet. It produced a pleasant, but rather bland result, (pic #2261). It was also rather stringy, fairly soft, and was difficult to cut cleanly and impossible to scrape or sand until I dried it in the microwave. I plan to bury one of the logs in some leaves to see if it will spalt? Stay tuned!

Usually down here a legacy of any storm that blows through, even a minor one, is that out club yard has a bountiful supply of raw material. This time, surprisingly little, even though we had seen a lot of evidence of down trees. We are a bit puzzled by this, but have come up with a couple of possible reasons? The losses may have been mostly oaks, which we will not accept, rather than our preferred rosewood, chinaberry, camphor, Norfolk Pine, and eucalyptus. The other reason may be that the good logs were never separated out from the rest, so everything just went to the chipper where they make it all into mulch for the county and city parks? We keep hoping for deliveries, and they can show up any day unannounced!

Cheers! Hope to see you all on the 18th Zoom Session!



#2252



#2255



#2253



#2259



#2261

Joe Gaines

This is the before and after shots of a root ball from an unknown species of dead tree in my backyard. I had my son dig it up this summer with a shovel and pick ax. I let it dry for a few months before I turned it. It took me a few days to decide just how I wanted to mount it to the lathe. A couple of design changes along the way but it turned out pretty good.



Fred Walters, North Hero (NC in winter)

Good and bad and hopefully not too ugly. Decided to make a German-style spinning Christmas pyramid. Didn't study them first, but simply tore in with mixed results. Maple and walnut. Took three tries at the props and axle. It spins under candle power. Sort of. If no drafts. Reasonably happy with 12 Days woodburning. (And that's a Snowflake Bentley flake atop.) Had fun trying it.



John DiRienzo

I turned an ashtray for my brother's birthday. Scrap walnut and plywood. I hogged out the bowl at the drill press to remove a lot of the material. Was a little nervous about how thin it would be.



Dave Buchholz

The December issue of the British Woodturning magazine had an article by Cedric Boyns entitled Santa's Skiing Reindeer. I decided to make copies for my family to assemble and decorate at Christmas. The body, head, and boots were all made from hard maple. The legs and hands were made from poplar dowels, the nose was turned from maple. The antlers were cut from red balau. I brought samples of the red balau to an earlier woodchuck meeting for people to try. The reindeer look more like a moose, so I call these Santa's moose. Ten were assembled by family members from 14 to 78 years old.



While on vacation in Maine my neighbor dropped off a couple of pieces of maple. Sure glad I have a 25" bar for my saw. Still pondering my approach to the larger one.

Randy Ramsden



Notes from Ya Boy

My selling year ended in mid-December and as I packed up my stand after a successful year I had a sense of relief. My weekly grind was over for a little while. I didn't need to be constantly working to make sure I had enough product for the coming Saturday. I could relax a little and enjoy wood turnings. This feeling of peace lasted just a couple of days. I received an email about a craft show I wanted to sell at in late April. As I marked the date down on the calendar I realized how soon late April is. I have to get to work. Thanks to everyone who contributed to this month's Chatter.



Doing the dishes in my homemade \$100 PAPR. More information to follow in future issues.

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Treasurer's Report

JANUARY 2023 Treasurer's Report

Bank Balance forward
5084.80

INCOME
Raffle
Dues 100.00
Donation
Clothing

EXPENSES
Nametags 120.00

Bank Balance ending 5064.80
Cash on Hand 25.00

The Board of Directors of The Woodchuck Turners of Northern Vermont gratefully acknowledges the payment of dues from the followin80g members for **2023**:

Chris Bishop, Linda Hollingdale, Jim Holzschuh, Brad Jackson, Paul Jagielski, Scott Johnson, Kevin Liddiard, Dave Smith, Edwards Smith (9)

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 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
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Groton

Russ Fellows: General, segmented, & multi-axis turning
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Ted Beebe: Segmented work.
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Tom Dunne: Hollow turning, etc.
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Middlebury

Dave Buchholz
General turning; advanced embellishments