

WOODCHUCK CHATTER

NEWSLETTER OF THE WOODCHUCK TURNERS OF NORTHERN VERMONT

AN AFFILIATE OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS

WOODCHUCKSVT.ORG

March 11, 2023

Volume 20, Issue 3

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Secretary: Gary Walz

Treasurer: Brad Jackson

Newsletter Editor: Andrew Duling

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



Last Meeting: February 15th, 2023

Spindle Turning Stations

Next Meeting: March 15th, 2023

Platter Turning with Kirk DeHeer

After that: April 19th, 2023

TBA

March Meeting Preview—Remote Demo with Kirk DeHeer Demonstration via Zoom

NO IN PERSON MEETING IN MARCH

March 15th 7-9 Zoom invite In Email

Platter turning with Kirk DeHeer:

Topics to be discussed:

Woods, Safety, Design/ Form, Tool technique, Chucking techniques, Sanding, and Finishing.

Puzzler: Why is Tulip poplar the preferred wood for use in shoring up coal mines shafts?

Answer in next month's Chatter

Five Rules to Survive the Winter: Adam Wager completes some turning practice with some rules (p 6)

A Gift Anyone Would be Honored to Receive: Ted Fink writes a few words about a salad set he made (p 7)

Elsa Oppenheimer shares a moving video complete with a woodchuck sighting (p 7)

Some Impressive work By Damon Hartman (p 7)

Mr. Fellows Goes to Utah: Russ writes about a recent ski trip to Utah (p 8-9)

Mr. Dunne Goes to New Orleans: Tom tells us about some turning he did on a trip to New Orleans (p 10)

Mr. Duling Goes to Ottawa: Andy writes about some adventures north of the border (p 10)

Woodchucks Meeting Minutes 15-Feb-2023

Meeting was held at CVU High School and was held as a hybrid. Meeting was called to order by President Harvie Porter (virtual) at 7:05

New Members:

Mike (Lincoln) – started spindle turning at CVU, now working on turning bowls.

Brad (Jericho) – past members

Show and Tell

Edwards

Large Box Elder Bowl. Edwards is a big fan of box elder

Urn Hollow Form. Turned the vessel and the lid green, which left them oval. This allows the lid to seat very nicely with just a slight twist.

Brad V

A spindle turning with finial

Bowl from a mystery wood

Joe G

Two bud vases

An oddly shaped bowl like thing J

Tom D

Showed some of Kevin's bowls that he finished

Gary W

Speaker using two cherry cones mounted via turned rings in a flat oval piece

Another magic trick – a ball and vase

Nick R

Walnut pepper mills (uses the crush grind mechanism)

Chess pieces (it's why he got into turning in the first place)

A big bowl from red maple with tap holes

Dick Montague

Talked about the history of spindle turning and how pieces were finish turned in the old days before sandpaper

Harvie

Update on this bag pipe pieces

Meeting Minutes Continued

Dave B

Big cherry piece from the last picnic at Russ's. It was split and rotted adding some challenge. Decorated with wood burned trees

A cherry bowl using India ink

A large platter from spalted maple that he used epoxy to fill the holes. And fiber reactive dyes on the rim.

Announcements

Jim Holzuth from Grand Isle Gallery want to hold a turner's only show in the summer. See next chatter for more information

Next meeting will be a paid demonstrator, more information coming soon.

Demos

The theme of the demos this month was spindle turning tricks and techniques.

Edwards

Demonstrated captive ring turning

Dick M

Basic spindle turning techniques

Nick R

Basic spindle turning techniques

Raffle

No raffle this month.

Wrap-Up

Reminder – Send your dues in to Brad!!!

Pictures from March Meeting

Standing room only crowd

Some photos thanks to
Elsia Oppenheimer



Pictures from February Meeting



Winter Warm Up

By Adam Wager

There are times when I can't wait to get back to the lathe, whether finishing off the piece that was parked there when I had to stop or a new project calling to me. Other times, though, inspiration leaves me flat and I can have a hard time getting started. To beat the winter complacency this year, I decided to spend a small chunk of time preparing a large batch of warm-up blanks. Made from kiln dried stock, these would be miniature bowl starts with no drying to worry about so could be started/stopped in any state and they would always be ready to go with no prep. I decided to use these to work on a few different things simultaneously and I set some corresponding ground rules:

Rule 1: Boring wood only, no letting the pieces be carried by the natural beauty in the wood. I wanted to focus on form and so I decided to go with wood that wouldn't be interesting enough to make just any form look good. I had some 8/4 poplar around and so used that – boring grain and soft enough to not be too much work turning dry. Basswood might have been better if I had had any, as the poplar did have some heart/sapwood color variation and visible grain lines. I may still dye or paint them all black to hide even that. My stock divided easily into 3 1/2" square by 2" deep blanks, which I prepped with either center markings on both sides for starting between centers (for designs that could use a tenon), a drilled hole for a screw chuck (for designs with at least a 1" deep hollow), or a larger shallow forstner bit hole to start on a chuck in expansion mode. Without a lot of depth to spare, the variety of initial starting methods keeps more possibilities open. I also had some 5/4 poplar so made a few thinner blanks as well.

Rule 2: Each one must have at least one significantly different feature to it – shape, wall thickness, rim or foot design, etc. No repetition. Sometimes it feels like I tend to make the same shapes over and over so, I wanted this practice to shake things up a bit. Starting every piece from the same size blank proved a useful reminder of just how much potential variety there is lurking in even a single chunk of wood, and to get out of the habit of letting the blank dictate the final form.

Rule 3: Quick, no fussing with it, you get what you get. I sometimes get bogged down trying to make things more perfect and losing a lot of time to a mere practice piece would defeat the purpose. 20 minutes is the goal, though some did take a little longer.

Rule 4: No sanding. Since these aren't intended to be show pieces, it also seemed like a good way to keep track of the quality of the surface I get straight off the tool by not sanding those toolmarks away. Oops. Between rule 3, poplar's tendency to fuzz and tear, and the frequent need to use non-ideal cuts to get into tight spots in small pieces with a tenon or tailstock in place, this one needed a do-over. Rule 4a: at most a quick sanding with 150-180 grit to let the form show but leave any deeper tear-out or toolmarks as is.

Rule 5: No throwing any away. Everything stays, even the funnels. Almost everything looks good in multiples, so might as well build up a collection (at least until I'm drowning in them).

So far, it has proved even more useful than expected. Getting started was easier knowing there was already a super-quick project teed up if I didn't have anything exciting going and some of the forms have already transferred well to nice wood, with the warm up serving as a 3d design sketch. Still not a fan of turning dry poplar, though. Highly recommend coming up with a customized version of this for anyone who feels the need to get unstuck during mud season.



Salad Sets

Ted Fink

Well before Christmas each year I start planning gifts to make for family and friends. Past years have seen pens, ice cream bowls, trenchers, pizza peels, plates, candlesticks, coin banks and a wide variety of artistic bowls exit my woodshop as gifts. This past year I decided to make black cherry salad sets; bowls plus utensils.

Each 12 to 14 inch turned bowl had the simple embellishment of two wire-burned grooves just below the rim. The finish is walnut oil.

I wanted something unique for the utensils so I looked at several sets on ETSY and modified one of the designs I found there by beefing up the handles to make them easier to hold and use.



Elsa Oppenheimer

Elsa sent me this video to share with the club. Featuring fellow Woodchuck Randy Ramsden

<https://vimeo.com/782150383>

Impressive Work By Damon Hartman



A JOURNEY TO A WOODWORKER'S "MECCA"

By Russ Fellows

Many times over the years in this "column" I have reported on many things of woodturning interest encountered in my travels. I just returned from a ski vacation with my Family in Utah. It was fun, and 'eye opening' in many ways! Firstly, the Wasatch Mountains in Utah, along with many parts of the West, had been having some dry years, but that all changed a few days before we arrived. Their slogan is "The Greatest Snow On Earth" and we got to see it! Over four feet.....another three the day we arrived, and more as the week went by, it was so deep that lifts had to be dug "down" to, and canyon roads were closed for plowing and avalanche mitigation! Another eye opener for me was the realization, and grudging acceptance, of the fact that I can no longer ski vigorously six days in a row! No surprise really, given where I am on the actuarial table! (Continued page 9)



So, on my rest days, we looked for more relaxing activities, and one of them was a trip to “Craft Supplies” (<https://www.woodturnerscatalog.com/>) in Provo, UT, about 45 minutes south of Salt Lake City, where we were staying. Founded over 40 years ago by Dale Nish, and known to most turners as the place to buy tools and supplies, or attend classes, I was pleasantly surprised to discover also, a nice log yard and “woodshed”. While the West is not blessed with the wonderful variety of wood species we have in the East, they had a nice inventory of things they milled locally such as big-leaf maple and willow, as well as stuff brought in, like madrone and claro walnut from California. Because I didn’t have my truck, anything I bought would have to be shipped, so I think I showed remarkable restraint! I will report back on how I utilize the burl caps, curly willow, and madrone I did buy! They could not have been nicer folks with which to deal, and it was so great to see “in the flesh”, a place I had been ordering from for so many years!



New Orleans Trip

Tom Dunne

I spent the last two weeks in New Orleans where I used to live and still have a Oneway36/24. I ran into some cocobolo and was able to rough turn this piece from a block the size of that underneath. I also found some walnut burl that I bought back with me. I didn't have time to visit Russ and Bob but I now see why they go South as I had sun and 80 degree days consistently while in Vermont you had 20" of snow. In any case I am glad to be back again.



Notes from Ya Boy

Like Russ we recently returned from a family vacation. We went to Ottawa for most of a week. Like Russ it snowed almost the entire time we were there, but unlike in Utah it snowed inches rather than feet. Ottawa is known as the "City of Museums" and we visited as many as time and weather would allow. In the Canadian Museum of History there were a number of hand carved wooden bowls made from maple burl. These bowls dated back as far as the 1790's. Like Russ we too swung by a wood working store.



Maple burl bowl from 1790's



Go Sens Go. Arlo may be stuck being a life long senators fan

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Treasurer's Report

MARCH 2023 Treasurer's Report

Bank Balance forward
5394.86

INCOME
Dues 175.00

EXPENSES 0

Bank Balance ending 5569.86
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 80 members for **2023**:

Dale Bergdahl, David Bisbee, Chris Bishop, Dave Buchholz, James Bushey, George Cacchio, Mike Dever, Joe Gaines, Jim Goodwin, Rick Hamilton, Damon Hartman, Linda Hollingdale, 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, Adam Wager, Fred Walters, (27)

Scott Bennett, Russ Fellows, Ted Fink, Michael Mode, Dick Montague, Nick Rosato, Hav Smith, Army 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

Kevin Jenness, jenneskevin@gmail.com


Oneway extra large outboard turning setup. 10' long table, 48" swing, 47" center ht above floor. Includes tailstock and riser block, large banjo with several tool rests, 48" diameter Clark steady rest and Clark deep hollowing bracket (the last needs a clamping block and boring bar). Designed to bolt to a Oneway 24" swing lathe but could be adapted to any heavy large swing lathe. Asking \$1,500 for the lot.



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