

# WOODCHUCK CHATTER

## NEWSLETTER OF THE WOODCHUCK TURNERS OF NORTHERN VERMONT

AN AFFILIATE OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS

WOODCHUCKSVT.ORG

May 12, 2023

Volume 20, Issue 5

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: April 19th, 2023

*Hands on Platters at CVU*

Next Meeting: May 17th, 2023

*Russ demonstrates Melvyn Firmagers*

After that: June 21, 2023

Panel demonstration on prepping for finishing

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### NOTICES!

- Based on this time last year we are quite a bit short on dues from the membership, if you have not paid yours yet please bring to this month meeting or forward to Brad Jackson (contact info on last page).
- We are looking for help with Zoom calls during future meetings. Are you an aspiring A/V specialist? Do you know one who wants to come along and learn about woodturning? Get in touch with Karen Drennan or Harvie Porter.
- Do you love Chatter? Do you wish you could write it? You can! I will be stepping down as editor and communications lead in October 2023 and am advertising early and often for my replacement. Feel free to send me an email or catch up with me at a meeting to get more details.

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**May Meeting—First meeting of 2023 at Skunk Hollow Studios!** Join us for Russ's demonstration of the Melvyn Firmager method at 26 John Davis Drive in Jericho. Looking forward to seeing everyone at our summer venue!



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**Puzzler:** Before the invention of barbed wire in 1865 and its mass production in the 1870s, what tree was used to create pastures to corral, livestock? **Last month's answer page 7**

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Skunk Hollow Boys are Back in Town – Russ welcomes us back to Skunk Hollow Studios

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Notes from Ya Boy

## **Woodchucks Meeting Minutes 4/19/23**

Meeting was called to order by Vice President Karen Drennen at 7:00. Meeting was held in person only at CVU.

### **New Business**

Donations can be made in the name of Harvie's wife Susan to the Kimball Library in Randolph.

Kirk DeHeer's video from last month is still available to members on YouTube for a little while longer.

### **Show and Tell**

A quick show and tell was held. Several people brought platters as well as a variety of other items. See Chatter for pictures

### **Raffle**

Included were some blanks cut for making platters for practice

### **Demonstration**

This month's demonstration was making a platter. Tom Dunne conducted the demonstration. Afterwards, several people had the opportunity to try their hand at it.

### **Upcoming**

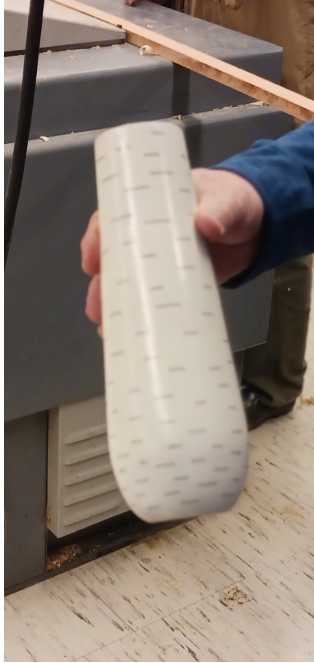
We will be starting back with Sawdust Sessions at Russ's on Wednesday, May 3.

The next full meeting will be at Russ's on May 17 at 7pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gary Walz, Secretary

# Photos From April Meeting





# Saw Dust Session May 3rd 2023

A good time was had by all



## THE SKUNK HOLLOW BOYS ARE BACK!!

It was great to see many of you last Wednesday at the first Sawdust Session of 2023! Lots of the usual “suspects” as well as some new ones. Great! Lots of interactive back and forth and no specific program, a nice variation from the regular meetings. And speaking of the regular meeting, for May, I will be doing a demo making an unusual piece (two pictured below) that I had previewed in an issue of Chatter back in the winter. I call it a “Firmager”, because British turner [Melvyn Firmager](#) first brought the idea to the attention of the greater turning world. In this technique he takes a wet piece of wood, and the wetter the better, turns an inner form and leaves very thin fins on the outside. Because they are so thin they will warp and twist, and that then becomes the artistic statement of the piece! Another turner that Brad Vietje brought to my attention last week is Welch Turner, [Paul Clare](#). There may be others out there? The wood I will be using is some [bottle brush](#) that I brought back from Florida, and it is so wet (over 50% moisture!) that we haven’t had much success doing anything else with it! Pictured also below is a bowl that was turned round, and a couple weeks later it looked more like a cowboy hat!

I am in the process of experimenting with other species of trees for this technique and will have some of the results at the meeting on 17th.

Also at that meeting I will have some Florida wood for the raffle, and some local wood that has started to accumulate already behind the barn! Pictured here, a load of red cedar I just picked up in North Hero today. Yes, I know, it’s not a great turning wood, but the heartwood/sapwood contrast is quite striking. I will also have some maple, cherry, ash, and yellow birch.

Hope to see many of you!



## Notes From Ya' boy

### Time for a New Editor

As you all have seen in the notices I will be stepping down as editor in chief of Chatter. The position is both important to the smooth running of our organization and rewarding. I will continue to produce Chatter and relay communications through October 2023. I hope one of you will take up the mantle, please feel free to reach out to me via email or stop to chat at a meeting. It's now time for me to get ready for farmer's market season, my busiest time of year.



April Woodchuck puzzler: Why are white oak barrels suitable for wine and spirits but not red oak?

Answer: Both White oak and Red oak are open pore woods but only White Oaks have thin membranes called tyloses which span the lumina of the pores. These prevent any liquid in the barrel from leaking out. It also increases the durability of White Oak in exterior applications. If you were to fill a barrel made of Red oak with wine or spirits, they would soon be on the floor.

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## Treasurer's Report

### MAY 2023 Treasurer's Report

**Bank Balance forward**  
4744.86

#### INCOME

Dues	275.00
Raffle	24.85
	<u>299.85</u>

#### EXPENSES

Donation	100.00
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**Bank Balance ending** 4944.71  
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 members for **2023**:

Jay Bailey, Dale Bergdahl, David Bisbee, Chris Bishop, Robert Bouvier, Dave Buchholz, James Bushey, George Cacchio, Mike Dever, George Disney, Andy Duling, Cheryl Ferry, David Ferry, Joe Gaines, George Gibson, Jim Goodwin, Rick Hamilton, Damon Hartman, Linda Hollingdale, Jim Holzschuh, Brad Jackson, Paul Jagielski, Kevin Jenness, Scott Johnson, Kevin Kelley, Eddie Krasnow, Luc Lefebvre, Kevin Liddiard, Chris, Lumbra, Bob Martin, Russ Michel, Ted Nelson, Elsa Oppenheimer, Harvey Porter, Randy Ramsden, David Scrase, Dave Smith, Edwards Smith, Marilyn Stolberg, Adam Wager, Fred Walters, Gary Walz (42)

The Board of Directors of The Woodchuck Turners of Northern Vermont gratefully acknowledges the payment of dues from the following members for **2024**:  
Harvey Porter (1)

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](mailto: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



## **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  
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Fletcher

Tom Dunne: Hollow turning, etc.  
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jthomasdunne@gmail.com  
Middlebury

Dave Buchholz  
General turning; advanced embellishments  
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