



Woodchuck Chatter

Newsletter of the Woodchuck Turners of Northern Vermont

An affiliate of the American
Association of Woodturners

woodchucksvt.org

November 12, 2023

Volume 20 Issue 10

Welcome To The New Chatter!



Introducing your new editors... Elsa Oppenheimer and Jay Bailey. While we are no Andy Dueling and might look like we are running around blind (hence the silly picture), we will do our best to keep Chatter running. Feel free to reach out if you have ideas for content!



Sad News

It is with incredibly heavy hearts we share the news that Russ Fellows has passed away. He was in Thailand, biking and hiking when it happened. It appears he passed from natural and sudden causes. More information will be forthcoming including information on honoring Russ's legacy as a group, but the club wanted to get this devastating news out to you in a timely manner.

We all should consider hugging our loved ones much tighter. Sending you comfort as you process this news. Condolences can be sent to Bob Coates, 26 John Davis Drive, Jericho, VT 05465

The Woodchucks of Northern Vermont Board of Directors



Upcoming Meeting Information

Unfortunately, we will not be able to meet in November. However, please stay tuned for a holiday potluck and Yankee Swap announcement for December!

Presidents Message

I believe I'm the first female president of the club. This is important to me. I grew up in a family that was gender oriented. I was told I couldn't do certain things "because you are a girl", things my brother was allowed to do. In school, girls took home economics and boys took shop. Girls were not allowed to take shop. To this day, I hate to cook! Some job positions I had showed a bias also. It started a gender and identity rebellion within me. People should be allowed to be and do what they want to. They shouldn't be restricted by gender, race, religion, or sexual orientation. We are human beings and should be celebrated for our differences.

Eleven years ago, the only power tools I had used were a drill and a circular saw. I don't remember what inspired me to get a scroll saw, but that became the beginning of my woodworking adventures. With the scroll saw, I ended up getting a bandsaw and various sanders. Then one year I went to the St. Albans Maple Fest. In their craft show was someone with a lathe (it may have been someone from the club). They were turning bowls. I was fascinated and thought "Oh, I could make bowls!" My life changed! It opened new doors for me. I now own more tools than most people I know, except for club members or contractors.

I have participated in a number of farmers markets in the last few years. At one; an older lady came up to me and said, oh your husband makes these and you sell them? I said no that I made them. Now people who aren't sure ask who does the work. Very diplomatic. I enjoy people's expressions hearing that I made the piece.

My hope is that I am some sort of role model for women letting them know that they could do this or any other hobby or job they want to.

Soon after I started turning, I joined the Woodchuck Turners of Northern Vermont. The first meeting I attended was held at Nick Rosato's shop in Winooski. I didn't see very many women. But the atmosphere was one of inclusion, acceptance of who I was as a person. Everyone was friendly, exceedingly willing to help and answer questions. Many people have helped me along this journey. I cannot explain how much it has helped me to grow and accept myself. I am more confident. As many of you know, I am very opinionated. However, I do change my mind when given more information or

a point of view I hadn't considered. Speaking for the club, we want and need input and information from you. We have a great Board that feels the same way. Each one of you has helped me in my personal growth and development as a wood turner. I love this club and will do my very best to honor the trust you have placed in me by doing the best job I can as president.

Thank you for your support and trust.

Karen Drennen

[Meeting Minutes from October 18th, 2023 found here.](#)

“FINDING THE HOLY GRAIL?”

(In Skunk Hollow!)

By Russ Fellows

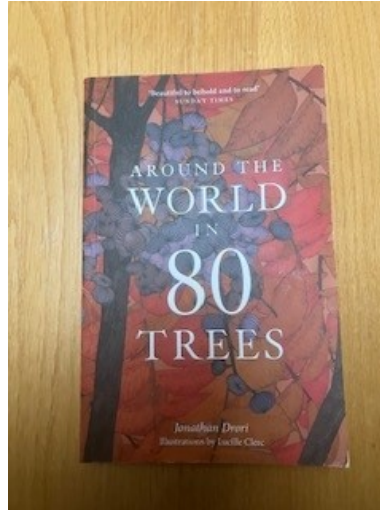
In early October we had the good fortune to host two renowned authors at our home in Jericho. Arranged through mutual Boston friends when they had said earlier in the year that they were planning a Vermont weekend in the Fall, we insisted that they work a dinner with us into their itinerary. When the time came, they asked if they could bring some friends of theirs, visiting from London. Our answer, “Of course”!

One, Tracy Chevalier, (<https://www.tchevalier.com/>), of whom we were aware, through both her best-selling book, “[Girl With a Pearl Earring](#)”, and follow-up movie of the same title. We were not aware of her husband, well-known English botanist and writer, [Jonathan Drori](#). Both were aware of my interest in trees and woodworking, and asked to see my studio. Upon entering, his eyes immediately went to the bowl I had recently made of a piece of koa, (courtesy of Kevin Kelly), still sitting on the “show & tell” table from the last meeting. Well aware of the now-prized, status of Hawaiian koa, he had included it in his book, “[Around The World in Eighty Trees](#)”, a compendium of eighty different trees from around the world that have been held in high esteem by the various cultures in which they were found. He picked the bowl up, gently fondled it, and admitted that, while he had been able, in the course of his research, to visit many of the locations he had written about, Hawaii was one place he had not seen. He called it his “holy grail” of woods and expressed his great gratitude for being able to see and hold a such a revered piece of wood lore! I thanked him for his kind words, and for making

me/us aware of his book and work! I strongly urge all woodchucks to consider adding it to their library!

The evening concluded with a lot of wonderful food and conversation with our distinguished guests. It will forever be a time to savor and remember!
A special thanks to fellow Woodchuck, and former Hawaiian, Kevin Kelly, who has been so generous with his gifts of woods! Soooooo appreciated!

-Russ Fellows



Dave Buchholz Travels

I was in Morocco for 3 weeks in October and saw several interesting examples of wood working while there. One stall in the shopping area of Rissani (oasis town in Eastern Morocco) had a number of utilitarian wood turned items. These were turned from Tamarisk wood. The items for sale were spoons, mortar and pedestals, small bowls, and axe handles. The tenons were left on the small bowls so you could see how they were held on the lathe.



In Marrakesh there is a very large central shopping district with many small stalls lining the walkways. One held a vendor turning with a bow lathe. He was making small rattles with up to 3 captured rings. What is remarkable about this is that his lathe is so primitive. I'll describe the lathe below in more detail.



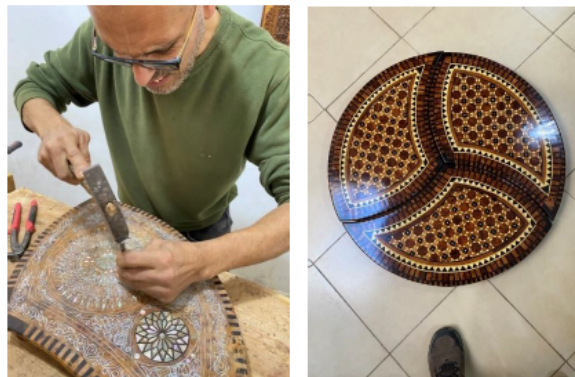
In a cultural center in Marrakesh another woodturner was making chess pieces with a bow lathe. The lathe is powered by a string bow rapped around the end of the wood cylinder that is being turned. His right hand moves the bow back and forth. His left hand holds the end of a skew chisel. His right toes put pressure on the skew. His left foot holds the tail stock in place. The head and tail stock are simply blocks of wood. The tool rest is a long bar of iron. The wood is turned between two pieces of iron held in the wood blocks and sharpened to points. And we think that you need fancy electric powered variable speed lathes. I need to try this.



He was turning small chess pieces in just a few minutes.



In Essaouria, a western coast town, I visited an artisan making beautiful inlaid furniture. The inlay material was mother of pearl and assorted woods. His technique to make a recess for his inlay was to use a simple 3/8 chisel pounded with a hammer. He didn't worry that the recess was not uniformly flat. The inlay material was cut with a fret saw and then ground to the final size with a hand turned 3 inch grinding wheel. The wheel was cranked with his right and while he held the inlay in his left hand. I asked to see his left hand and it was clear his fingernail was misshapen on his left hand. After shaping, the inlay was pounded into the recess. Gaps were filled with saw dust and glue. The top was finished with sand paper (I saw no paper higher than 120) and scraped with a metal scraper. The finish on the furniture was shellac.



I also visited a cooperative selling furniture and turned objects. There were about 40 members of this organization. The photos show only a portion of the pieces being displayed. Much of the wood is from root burls from the thuja tree. This is a tree native to the mountainous areas of Morocco. It is a member of the cedar family. Because of over harvesting this wood, it is now endangered, and large areas have been replanted. The trees are controlled by the Moroccan authorities.

I purchased a 5 inch diameter turned box made from a thuja burl for \$18. I know that I wouldn't charge that little for such a pretty turned piece.

- Dave Buchholz



[Insert Link to Google Photo Album](#)



Linda Hollingdale Craft Fair

I live in the Williston Woods Community and took part in our annual craft fair in October. Last year I had several pieces including many bowls. From that, I learned that the folks who attend this event are looking for smaller, more affordable items. So, this year I made items to fit that audience. I had good luck selling and made enough money to go out and buy more wood!! The fun part for me was talking with people and explaining the creative process of wood turning. Lots of fun!

Linda

I am entered into Lake Placid Center for the Arts holiday craft show exhibit. It runs from November 16th to December 23.

Damon Hartman



Barry Genzlinger
Spruce Bowls

SHOW AND TELL





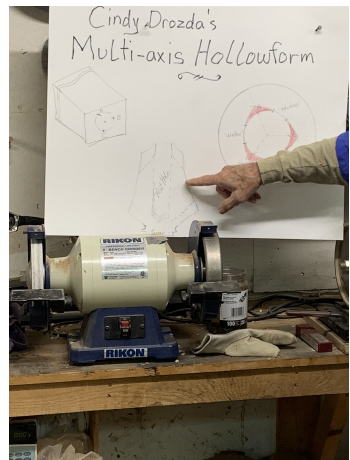
Russ Fellows Demo on Multi-Axis Hollowform





Some title here







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Mentors

Treasurer's Report: November 2023

Bank Balance forward	\$5447.71
INCOME	
Deposit	COH \$25.00
Dues	\$75.00
Donation/Raffle	\$77.00
CA Glue	\$65.00
Anchorseal	\$17.00
	\$269.00
EXPENSES	
Picnic	\$449.28
Bank Balance ending	\$5267.43

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, Ronald Bauer, Wayne Beauchemin, Ted Beebe, Dale Bergdahl, David Bisbee, Chris Bishop, Bradford Blaisdell, Robert Bouvier, Dave Buchholz, James Bushey, George Cacchio, Mike Dever, George Disney, Karen Drennen, Andy Duling, Tom Dunne, Cheryl Ferry, David Ferry, Joe Fortin, Joe

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

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 embellishment

Gaines, Barry Genslinger, George Gibson, Jim Goodwin, Rick Hamilton, Damon Hartman, Peter Hebert, Linda Hollingdale, Jim Holzschuh, Brad Jackson, Paul Jagielski, Kevin Jenness, Scott Johnson, Kevin Kelley, Eddie Krasnow, Luc Lefebvre, Kevin Liddiard, Chris, Lumbra, Bob Martin, Ross Mitchel, Kevin Murdough, Ted Nelson, Elsa Oppenheimer, Mike Papin, Harvey Porter, Randy Ramsden, , Brian Reed, Barent Rogers, David Scrase, Reed Sims, Dave Smith, Edwards Smith, Marilyn Stolberg, Brad Vietje, Wes Volk, Adam Wager, Fred Walters, Gary Walz (58)

The Board of Directors of The Woodchuck Turners of Northern Vermont gratefully acknowledges the payment of dues from the following members for 2024:

Matt Harpster, Brad Jackson, Harvey Porter, (3)

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.

10% discount on purchases from Klingspor, Penn State Industries, Rare Woods USA, WoodTurnersWonders, and Craft Supplies.

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.

Woodturnerswonders requires the individual

member to create an account at woodturnerswonders.com and then send an email to members@woodturnerswonders.com. They should include their name as well as the name of the club in which they are a member.

Woodturnerswonders will then add the discount to their account and send them an email explaining the next steps. This will give them a 10% discount on Lamps, Sandpaper, and Sanding Accessories. Craft Supplies gives Club members 10% off abrasive discs and finishes when ordering as an individual. They just need to call in the order and mention their membership when ordering those products.

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

Woodchuck Turners of Northern Vermont

Skunk Hollow Studios, 05482, Shelburne

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