

Woodchuck Chatter

The Newsletter of Woodchuck Turners of Northern Vermont

An Affiliate of American Association of Woodturners

Website: WWW.WOODCHUCKSVT.org



June 10, 2020

Volume 17, Number 6



Hybrid Meeting—6/17/20

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This month the site of our meeting is Skunk Hollow Studios. Russ Fellows will be our star demonstrator and we will have Show and Tell and a raffle. But, only a few will attend in person. The rest of us are invited to attend by ZOOM. Russ and Jay have worked to set up the camera and ZOOM connection. Woodchucks want to gather, but we still need to do so safely.



Woodchuck Sightings

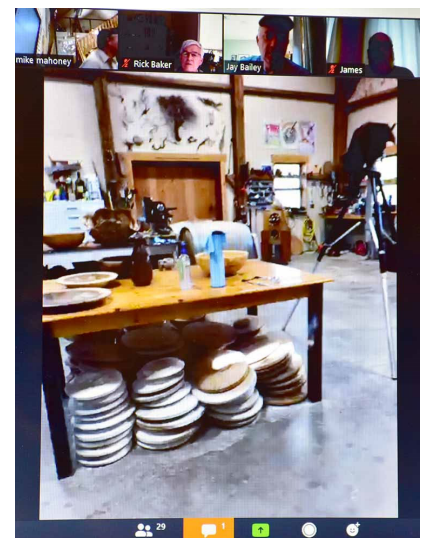
This month's issue of "American Woodturner" has a number of interesting articles. Dave Buchholz is featured showing how he embellished a pair of branchwood endgrain bowls. The embellishments complement the natural edge.

Ted Beebe shows how he turned a guitar on his lathe. We've seen his guitar, and now he shows the turning world how he went about making it. Precise fitting of segments and accurate gouge work make for an interesting instrument.

Remote Demo: Mike Mahoney: 5/20/20



Part 1: Mike shows us around his shop. He keeps the interior very clean to keep himself and product dust-free. On the right: storing platter blanks under a work table.



(Continued on Page 4)

Woodchuck Turners of Northern Vermont Board of Directors

President: and
Web Master
Jay Bailey
22 Cobble Hill Meadows
Barre, VT 05641
(802) 479-1458
tjaybailey@yahoo.com

Vice-President:
Dave Buchholz
5 Randolph Road
Keeseville, NY, 12944
518 834 9524
dbuchholz@northwestern.edu

Secretary: Harvie Porter
39 Randolph Ave.
Randolph, VT 05060
802-728-4265
weltrader@gmail.com

Treasurer: Karen Drennen
12 Winters Court
Swanton, VT 05488
kdu@myfairpoint.net
802 868 6161

Member-At-Large
Andrew Duling
2432 Ballard Rd.
Georgia, VT 05478
AEDuling@gmail.com
802 999 4491

Member-At-Large:
Bob Martin
36 Calais Rd.
Worcester, VT 05682
Phone: 802-223-7475
martrlm@yahoo.com

Member-At-large &
Newsletter Editor:
Arny Spahn
Reporter, Assistant Editor,
and Proof Reader:
Cil Spahn
89 Tom Wicker Lane #229
Randolph CTR., VT 05061
802-728-4799
apspahn@comcast.net

We are kind of isolated here in our apartment. The reason, of course, is the Covid-19 epidemic. I had to do some research to justify all the precautions we all need to take. The spread baffled the scientists at first, but they now have some ideas of how we got in this bad shape so fast. The basic reason for the rapid spread is that the virus is contagious before any symptoms show in the victims. And, just as bad, many people with the virus never show any symptoms. They don't know they are contagious and go about their lives totally unaware.

The latest data shows that the virus is most dangerous to people with other health problems, and is many times more dangerous to people over 65 than to people in the 20-50 age range. It also took a while to figure that face masks were a help. Very quickly it was decided that frequent hand washing and no face-touching would slow down the rate of infection. The virus is a packet of protein wrapped in a thin bubble. So, soap disrupts the bubble by changing the surface tension, and the packet falls apart and the virus becomes impotent.

The easiest way for the virus to invade our systems is through the mucous membranes of the nose, mouth, and eyes. That's why the cloud of droplets from an infected person is dangerous. By wearing a mask and glasses, the cloud is slowed or stopped and less virus gets through. Clean hands keep from depositing virus in the mouth or near the eyes.

It will take a while for the virus to stop finding victims so we need to be careful even when a vaccination is available.

So, as Woodchucks, let's be kind to our friends and neighbors and stay safe.

About the remote demo we had last month: Mike Mahoney gave us a 3-hour seminar in lots of aspects of wood turning. I can't cover it all in this newsletter, but I will hit several of the topics.

Mike is a prolific production turner with many techniques which can work for us. He does platters from quarter-sawn oak. He uses his Mahoney's Walnut Oil for much of his finishing. Mike is an advocate of shaping his bowl gouges freehand to keep all cutting edges as close to 40 degrees as possible. His property is hundreds of acres of hardwoods in the Northern part of California. Most of the wood he uses he harvests from his own land. His heavy-duty work is done on a porch outside his

shop to keep sawdust out of the finishing area.

The weather there is mild enough that he can work outside pretty much year round. He says that there are only 2 seasons there; wet and dry.

He has 2 lathes, one exclusively for vacuum-chucking, the other for all his bowl and platter turning. Much of his work is twice-turned with a fluid the same as Elmer's Glue painted on as a retardant.

He uses the McNaughton coring system to get 3-5 bowls out of a single blank. He sells roughed out bowls to other turners and keeps a large stock of rough blanks for turning when he's not using his time otherwise.

I am still fiddling around with small projects in the shop. I mentioned before that I'm using small pieces of wood to make things out of. I cut some small boards in various thicknesses, from 1/8" to 1/4" and glued them together into a block. The block was then cut into diagonal sections, about 3/4" square.

Next, I drilled and filled one with brass tubing to make a pen. I ran into trouble very early. The diagonal pieces did not hold up to truing the ends. The wood split and left me with pieces too short for the pen kit. I persevered with another section of the wood, and finally got very close to a final shape before I again had a break in the end of the work piece. This time, I parted off both ends very cleanly and rebuilt the ends with dense, solid pieces. The final pen looks good with the solid bands at each end of the diagonal wood barrel. However, doing this the same way again would be insane. One of the work-arounds might be sawing the small boards much thinner at least for the ends of the blank. Perhaps I can impregnate the wood with more CA glue, but I don't think the stuff will penetrate far enough.

I have lots of small pieces left over from other projects and I would like to make use of them. I will look through my library for inspiration. That's not to say I would not like to make big piles of shavings and some nice bowls!

My shop is downstairs from my apartment, and it is free for other residents to use. So far, I'm the only one who has woodworking as a major hobby, so I rarely see evidence that any one else has used the shop.

Maybe I better get down there.

Arny

June 2020 Treasurer's Report

Balance forward

\$4387.37
 Dues \$250.00
 Raffle \$0 .00
 CA glue \$10.00
 Sawdust Donations \$0.00
 T shirts \$.00
 Total Income \$250.00
 BlueHost annual website \$275.76
 Mike Mahoney Zoom Session \$345.00
 Total expenses \$620.76
 Balance ending \$4016.61
 Karen Drennen/Treasurer

Reminder: Unless you have paid your annual dues by April 1st your name must be removed from the discount list.

The Board of Directors of The Woodchuck Turners of Northern Vermont gratefully acknowledges the payment of dues from the following members for 2020:
 Jay Bailey, Ted Beebe, Dale Bergdahl, Brad Blaisdell, Joyce Blaisdell, Chris

Bishop, Mike Breen, Jay Brunault, Tom Brunault, Dave Buchholz, Sal Chiarelli, Janet Collins, Mike Deweese , Ann Dinsmore, Brad Dinwiddie, Karen Drennen, Greg Drew, Andy Duling, Tom Dunne, Cheryl Ferry, David Ferry, Joe Fortin, Toby Fulwiler, Joe Gaines, Barry Genzlinger George Gibson, Mike Glod, Jim Goodwin, Rick Hamilton, Linda Holingdale, Brad Jackson, Eddie Krasnow, Luc Lefebvre, Chris Lumbra, Bob Martin, Kevin Murdough, Ted Nelson, William Nestork, Mickey Palmer, Mike Papin, Jeff Petter, Harvie Porter, Randy Ramsden, Brian Reed, Larry Rice, Sam Sanderson, Edwards Smith, Arny Spahn, Cil Spahn, Marilyn Stolberg, Adam Wager, Gary Walz, Mike Washburn (52)

(Scott Bennett, Russ Fellows, Ted Fink, Dick Montague, Michael Mode, Nick Rosato, Hav Smith and Al Stirt are Honorary Lifetime members, (8)

If you have paid your dues for the year but do not see your name listed here please

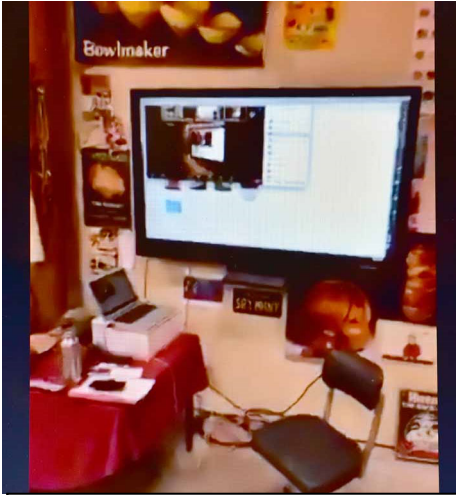
contact me to correct that error of omission.

KD11@myfairpoint.net

Dues for 2020 are \$25. Checks should be made out to "WTNV" and sent to: Karen Drennen, 12 Winters Court, Swanton VT 05488

Please note: The following privileges are only available to dues-paying members: Video library use, mentoring program ,bulk purchase discounts such as CA glue and Anchor Seal, Klingspor and Hartville Tool, & Penn State Industries discount lists, (to remain on the discount lists dues must be paid by April 1st each year). Mention the club to get your discount. PSI and Klingspor request you log in **before** you order anything to ensure your discount.

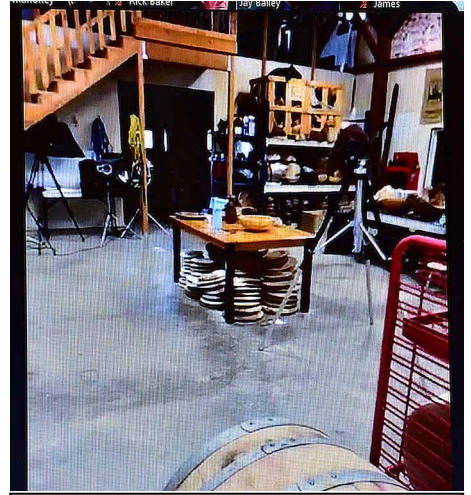




Mike's video production center



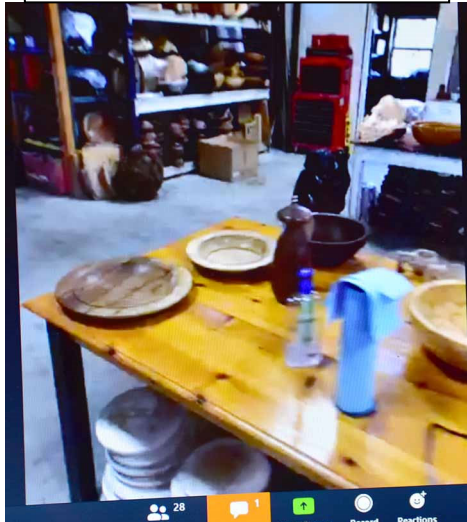
Stored platter blanks. He makes wine, too.



Broad view of production area.



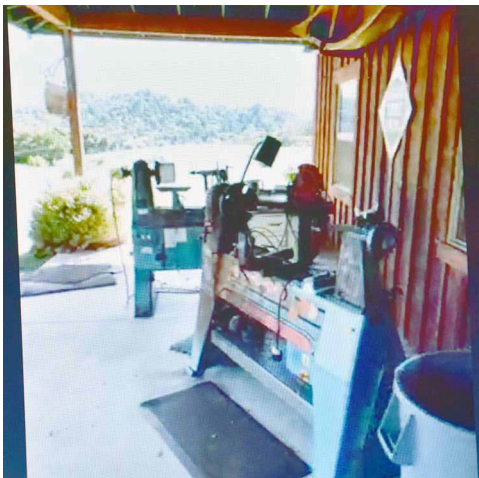
Small products drying.



The finishing table.



Stored in cardboard, they dry slowly



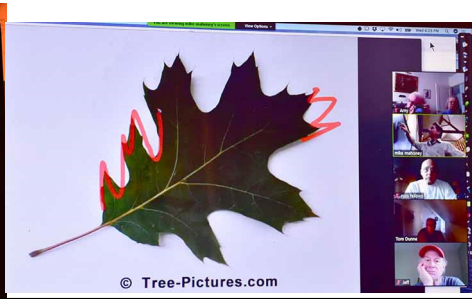
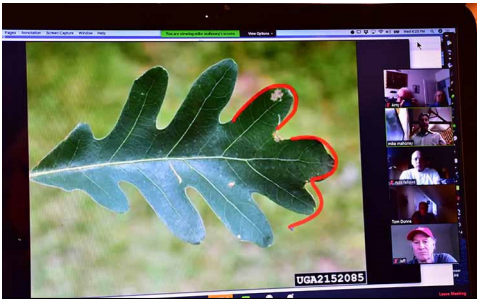
The turning area outdoors.



Lathe with vacuum chuck.



The big bandsaw.



White oak (left) vs. Red oak (right). Use white oak for vessels. Red is too porous.

Diagramming quarter-sawn vs. rift-sawn. Mike uses quarter-sawn oak for platters.



Harvesting a huge oak.



Pointing out the medullary rays.



Carving out a quarter-sawn slab on the bandsaw



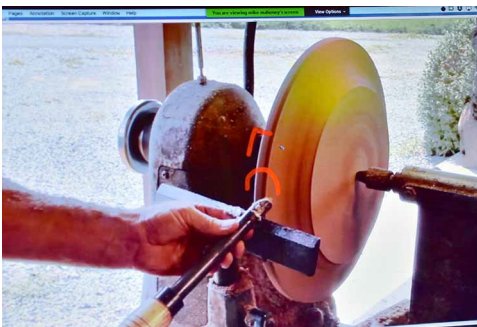
Using a template and the bandsaw to create rounds from a slab.



Mounting using a screw chuck on the front side.



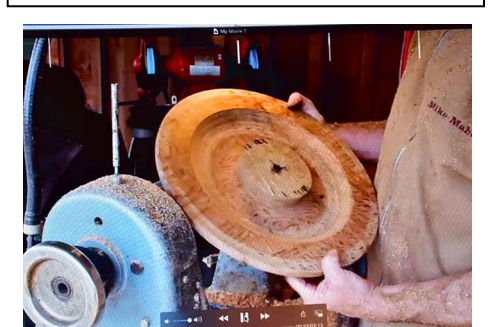
Trueing up and establishing an edge.



Working up the final edge and shaping the back side.



Moving to the front side, removing much of the waste.



Ready to dry for the second turning.

(Continued on Page 6)



Coating the rough platter with "Elmer's Glue" to dry slowly.



Measuring the chuck for the back attachment.



Attaching to the front tenon to work on the back.



Working the edge and shaping the back.



Hollowing a recess for the chuck.



Attaching the back to the chuck.



Measuring for the rim.



Defining the interior and making a character line to define the edges.



Reducing the front tenon. The tail-stock stays for safety to the last.



Signing the platter with a pyrographic pen.



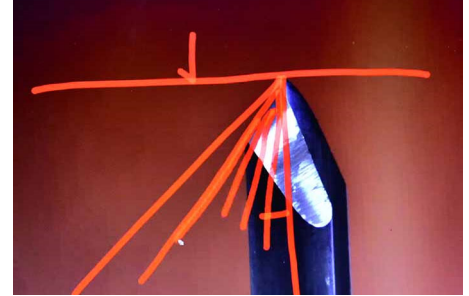
One lavish coat of Mahoney's walnut oil does the trick.



Ready to set the finish and then stack away.



This is an ideal grind for a bowl gouge. Even angles.



This is how to determine cutting angle. The sharper angle, the fastest wear.



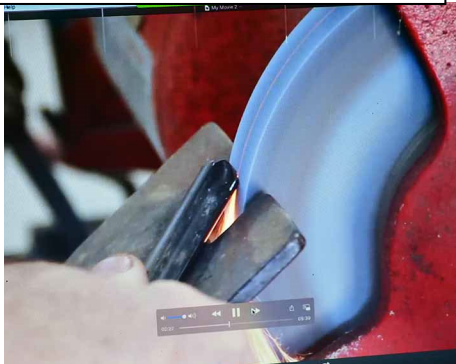
Mike sets the flat tool rest for about 42 degrees.



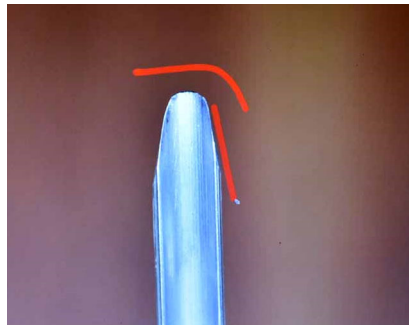
Tool firmly on the rest. Roll the tool.



Roll and swing the tool to define the shape.



Swinging the tool to define the fingernail.



Good for spindles, not for bowls.



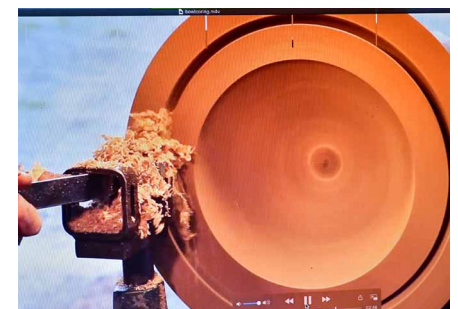
Very poor grind. Can't control the cut.



Coring. First, define the cuts- 3 or more total bowls.



Set up the McNaughton rest so the tool will swing to near the center.

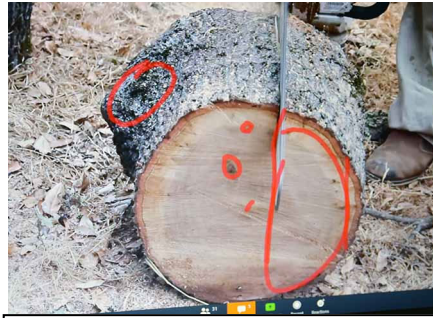


Cut slowly, swinging the tool to clear the chaff and retreat often.

Mahoney Part 4: Bowls From Start To Finish



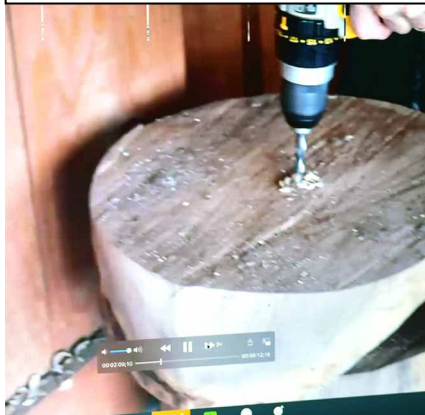
Here's the result of a day's roughing out bowl blanks.



Mike cuts out a slab with a chainsaw, avoiding imperfections. He also cuts a slice off the back side.



Using a template to rough out a blank on the bandsaw.



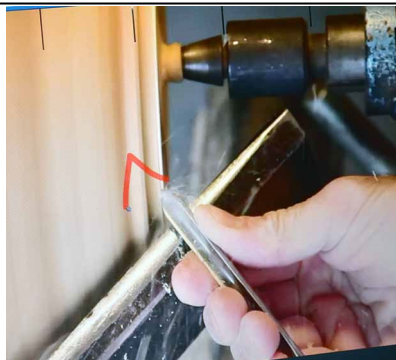
Drilling the face for a screw chuck.



Early in the outside shaping process.



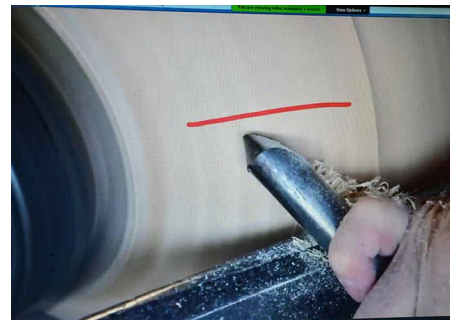
Making some cuts to smooth the face side safely.



The bowl base and a short tenon are getting shaped.



Refining the outside of the bowl.



Refining the outside. The stroke is from big to little, using a shear scraping attack.



Thinning out the inside of the bowl, using a shear scraping cut.



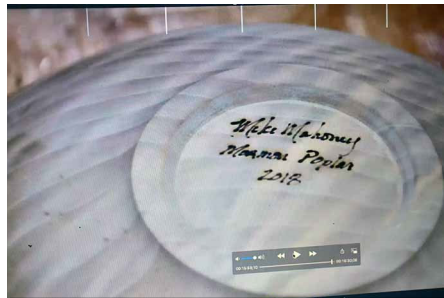
Power sanding the interior.



The bowl has been reverse mounted on the vacuum chuck and the bottom shaped. Final fine sanding.



After final sanding, the bowl comes off of the vacuum chuck.



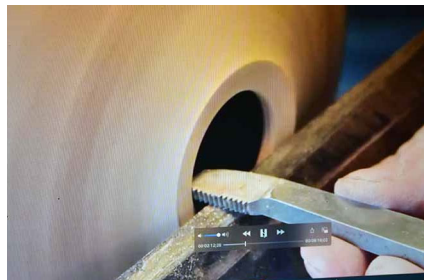
Signing the bowl is next.



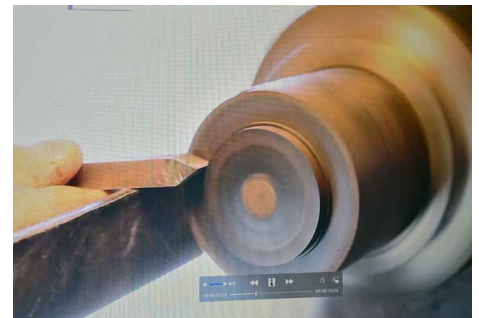
A thorough wiping with Mahoney's Walnut Oil finishes the job.



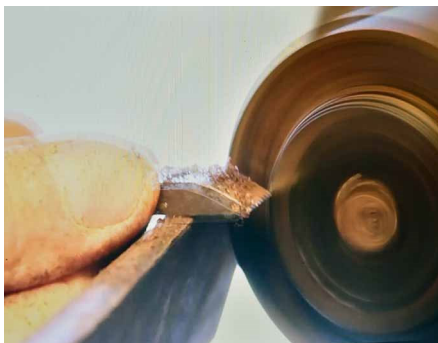
A good tool for thread-chasing is this one by Carter & Sons.



First, thread the vessel using the female end of the tool.



Size the cap male end and undercut the back to prevent skipping out.



Thread the male end. Try the fit often.



Another project—threading the inside of the cap with female end of tool.



And threading the male end. Note the undercut.

My typical turning routine has been disrupted, but that isn't such a bad thing. With the galleries closed for the last 2 months, I have had the time to get into some of those other tasks that I either didn't have time for or was procrastinating about. There has been progress on many fronts!

For the workshop, I built couple of wall racks to hang my longer clamps from. I had fun making a maple coat rack with 4 different coat pegs. I used some of my favorite woods - Cocobolo, Rosewood, Bocote, and Jobillo. Now my coat and clamps won't be blocking the front of my storage rack. Last week, I built the first of two storage areas near the lathe. This first section has shelving for finishes, sand paper rolls and discs, a paper towel rack, and pegs for chucks, including a large jaw chuck. The second unit, still to be constructed, will have storage for the tailstock and coring base, vertical tubes for lathe tools in active use, etc. Next week I plan to start on the rolling cart for the compound miter saw and thickness planer. The goal is the help organize and streamline processes, like constructing sawn and glued items.

Speaking of sawn and glued, I enjoyed making a small laminated tray for the dining room table which now holds my new rosewood salt and pepper set. I hadn't done much gluing up of different woods to make turning stock until last summer when I made a lazy Susan style cheese board out of maple, purple heart and walnut for a wedding gift. I made a set of utensils from the same woods to go with it. My son admired it, so for Christmas he got a similar cheeseboard lazy Susan. My new small tray is just another adaptation on the theme.

I have restarted up my Etsy store and stocked it with pepper mills and shaving products. I truly dislike the whole process of getting items onto Etsy, from photo shoot setup to uploading edited pictures, to writing a nice individualized description of each product and setting the product options. I've found that I average about 2 hours per item that I post. So, 20 items took me about a week to get posted. Not a process worth doing for all my items. It would be better if I made duplicates. While I was at it, I also updated a number of the photos and descriptions on my Frog Pond Studio website gallery. At least some of my effort was rewarded with a couple of sales. I will be forwarding a portion of these sales to the galleries that have been selling my work over the past year. A small token of thanks for their faith in my work.

The coffee table for our family room is still in the queue. Much of the inspiration has come from a small dining table I saw in a Fine Woodworking article last year. The design will require me to build some forms for shaping the legs, a process that is new to me. I made a run to Bristol to buy cherry for the legs and apron. I have maple for the top. I cut wood runners for 4-way clamps out of birch and assembled the parts for the end pieces. So that project is beginning to come together. I hope each of you have found pleasant ways to deal with these unusual times. I'm looking forward to more social interaction and fun in the future. But for now, I am making pretty good use of my time in the shop.



Brad Dinwiddie

Danny keeps asking me, “When are my Woodchucks returning? I have sheep in the meadow, but no woodchucks!”. I’m trying to train him to Zoom to see his Woodchucks, but it is not working too well!



When Bob and Danny and I drove up from Florida last month, for many reasons, it was a very direct trip.....two long days, and no family visits along the way. This meant Interstate highways nearly the entire way, but in Virginia we took a little detour through the Thomas Jefferson National Forest.

This maple tree growing quite close to the road really caught our attention! Not only for its size, but also for what appeared to be a huge amount of “burl and curl”. In the pic below I am attempting to point this out in the small spot where the bark had been peeled back (by someone else!). Since the crown of the tree did not look very healthy, my guess was that much of the wood might be

punky, but still an awesome display of what nature quietly creates “out there”!



I was intrigued by Mike Mahoney’s demo of the Carter and Son thread chasing tool. (<https://carterandsontoolworks.com/products/double-ended-threading-tool>). I have always assumed I did not have enough skill to hand chase threads, but Mahoney made it appear a little more do-able. I watched his video on YouTube and decided to order one. In the past I have used the Simon Hope threading system (<https://hopewoodturning.co.uk/woodturning-jig-s/threading-jig/47/hope-easy-set-threading-jig-with-hinge-plate?c=18>), and once you learn its little quirks, it is OK. The amount of set-up time is a nuisance though, so I thought maybe the Carter tool

would be a time saver. I will do a report on it for the next Chatter.

Another takeaway from Mike Mahoney was using ordinary white glue, or PVA, instead of Anchor Seal for putting on green bowls. FYI: Walmart has Elmer’s School Glue for \$10 a gallon, which, if you dilute it, as Mahoney suggests, makes it about one quarter the price of Anchor Seal!

I am scheduled to be the demonstrator at our meeting on the 17th. I plan to talk about some of our Florida woods, show some examples of what we have done in our workshops this year, and then do a demo of my open segment pieces I wrote about in Chatter in the April issue.



Hope to see many of you soon, either in person or at our next Zoom meeting!

Russ Fellows

- 1) Lathrop Maple Supply, Hewitt Rd, Bristol, Vermont, 802-453-2897. With a newly expanded inventory area, Tom has a fantastic supply of local and imported wood. His new division, "Exclusively Vermont, LLC, specializes in high quality Vermont lumber and mill products and FSC stock is available.
- 2) Hayley Wood Products in Colchester. (<http://www.hayleywoodproducts.com/>).
- 3) Sutherland Welles Ltd., No. Hyde Park, VT, 800-322-1245. (www.sutherlandwelles.com). Right here in our own back yard, they make the best Tung oil products in the U S. Call with an order and it goes out the same day!
- 4) Johnson Lumber, Route 116 in Bristol, VT. 802-453-4884. Another good "local" source for hardwood lumber of all kinds.
- 5) www.exoticwoodsusa.com. They offer a 15% discount to any member of an AAW chapter. Type in 'exoticwoodsusaaw' in the coupon code box.
- 6) Griffin Exotic Woods These folks came up in a search for something else, and I ended up buying a couple things from them. Their prices were fair and the service was good. <http://www.exoticwood.biz/>
- 7) Sinclair Mill Works in North Danville VT <http://www.sinclairmillworks.com/home.htm>. 802-748-0948. He specializes in figure Vermont species. His prices are very reasonable.
- 8) Mike Jackofsky—hollowing tools. www.mikejackofsky.com. Also sells thru Craft Supply.
- 9) Business cards and other printed goods: Vistaprint.com
- 10) Laser engraving—Maple Land Mark Woodcraft. 800-421-4223 They are in Middlebury. www.maplelandmark.com
- 11) Les Dougherty & Susan Curington Owners, North Woods Figured Wood North Woods, LLC PO Box 808 Forest Grove OR 97116 [800-556-3106](tel:800-556-3106), [503-357-9953](tel:503-357-9953) www.nwfiguredwoods.com offers lifetime 15% discount on any website wood purchase. Use "WOODTURNERS" coupon code at checkout. www.nwfiguredwoods.com
- 12) Paw Prints Printing WWW.paw-prints.com 802 865 2872 Gregory Drive South Burlington, VT 05403
- 13) Your NEW colored plywood source. trethaway@comcast.net. Has scraps of colored plywood for resale. Listed on eBay as scratch101012. **(That's an email address. Try it.)**
- 14) The Tree House, hardwoods & mill shop. Native woods, priced from \$5.00. 1891 Williston Rd., 802-497-3530. www.treehousehardwoods.com
- 15) Suffolk Saw of New England, Jeff & Danielle Mellott; 33 Gaudet Dr., Belmont, NH, 03220 877-550-7297

Want Ads

In House

Demos:

All demos and dates are tentative until they appear on Page 1 of the newsletter.

June 17th - Russ Fellows will share something new from his repertoire.

July 15th- TBD

August Picnic - TBD

September 16th- TBD

October Board meeting—TBD

October 21st—TBD

Mentors Wanted Share your Skills

For sale: Trend Airshield Pro air circulating face shield. Only worn a half dozen times. Retails for \$369 – asking \$250. Contact Karen 802-868-6161 or kdi1@myfairpoint.net. I'll bring it to the next meeting.

Instructors For Hire

Nick Rosato-
802-999-2976
nickrosato@gmail.com

Once and twice turned bowls
Coring with the Oneway Coring system
Understanding and using gouges
Spindle turning and duplication
Hollow Turning
One-on-one instruction at my shop or your shop.
Flexible scheduling. \$250 half day. \$400 full day.

WTNV Liability Insurance

Liability Insurance Policy

As of April 2013 we are covered by a liability policy with the following limits:

Each occurrence: 2M; Damage to rented premises: 1M; Med expenses: 10K;

Personal injury: 2M; General aggregate: 4M; Products aggregate:4M.

The Hartford; Agent; Michael George:
(317) 735 4072; mgeorge@amj.ins.com

This policy covers all members at all

WTNV events.

If you are demonstrating, this policy will not cover any claim if you are being compensated either by commission or sale of your turnings. In other words, this does not serve as an individual business policy.

Woodchuck 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
802-899-3059

skunkmen@gmail.com
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

Brad Dinwiddie: General turning, peppermills, utensils, pens
802-275-7185

brad@frogpondwoodturning.com
Underhill