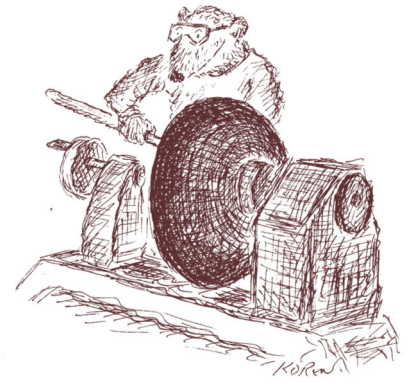


Woodchuck Chatter

The Newsletter of Woodchuck Turners of Northern Vermont

An Affiliate of American Association of Woodturners

Website: WWW.WOODCHUCKSVT.org



November 11, 2020

Volume 17, Number 11



Hybrid Meeting—11/18/20

Inside this issue:

Woodchuck Board Info	2
Random Shots—craft shows?	2
Treasurer's Report -Karen Drennen	3
The Garage Sale—Karen Drennen	3
October Meeting Continued	4, 5, & 6
Skunk Hollow Leftovers—Russ Fellows	7
Sawdust Wrap-up—Russ Fellows	8
Sawdust Session Scenes—Karen Drennen	9
Demo Preview—Russ Fellows	10
Resource Page	11
Want Ads	12
Call For Mentors	12
Liability Insurance	12
Upcoming Demos	12
Mentor List	12

This month the site of our meeting is Skunk Hollow Studios. We will have Show and Tell and a raffle. Please have an item you have worked on ready to show, either by ZOOM or if you attend in body. Only a few should attend in person. We do need a cameraman (that's the title) to aid in any presentations. The rest of us are invited to attend by ZOOM. Woodchucks want to gather, but we still need to do so safely. We hope to have a discussion among all the present members about our future meetings once Russ's shop closes up for the winter.

Since we did not conduct Club business at the October meeting, two items of Club business are on the table. We are opening up nominations for Board positions for the coming year. If you have an interest

in moving the club forward, please volunteer. No one will be insulted if you do. Second, we have a change in Bylaws coming up, as well as final Board elections. The change puts the Newsletter Editor on the Board. That is up for debate. If you don't like the idea, please speak up. The subject of the meeting demonstrations this month, will be holiday ornaments. Both Russ and Randy Ramsden produce variations on this theme. Let's see how they do it.

Hybrid Meeting—10/21/20

This month, we joined the Sarasota Woodturners Club and Franck Johansen for their meeting, in which Franck demonstrated the ways to turn Norfolk Pine into a variety of items. Over 80 folks signed in over the evening, including Canadian members of their club, zooming from home. Covid affects our Northern neighbors, too. I think about 18 of our folks showed up. I didn't catch all of us. At any rate, we did not get a chance to conduct our business meeting, so we have work to do in November. Sarasota has a nice setup for video. They have at least 3 cameras; one overhead at the lathe and one portable, used to get in



from the operator's side of the lathe. They also appear to be able to zoom in with some of the cameras. They have at least one camera operator and a computer operator to switch cameras and dub in other screens.

(Continued on page 4)

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We live in a housing facility for older folks—secure, clean, and concerned about outside contacts. If one of us gets infected, it can spread to any of us, and we all have health risks.

Cil discovered in our storage locker that she had several knitted caps left over from last year's Chandler Gift Bazaar. She came up with the excellent idea that we should have a gift show here in Morgan Orchards. Just for residents and staff. Both staff and residents welcomed the idea, and several folks who do crafts started to work on a supply. We have artists, knitters, quilters, and weavers—probably others. We plan to set up about the 30th of this month and stay open for a week. So, folks can perhaps get gifts for relatives without leaving the building.

We will probably have to figure some way for wrapping and sending those gifts, again to keep the residents safe. We do live in the safest of states, in a safe housing, but we have recently had a few Covid cases nearby in town.

Of course, I also have some stock, but this gives me an opportunity to get back to work and produce things I have not done before.

I looked through the catalogues, and was struck by the offerings from Penn State. They have a variety of “bundles” - a group of kits including bushings and possibly special drill bits.

I'm a fan of doing short production runs. I have turned hundreds of pens in the past, and I enjoy the work and the variety of materials, but I prefer short runs over just a few hours.

Since the Penn State bundles are usually about 4 or 5 objects, that fits my work habits. So, I picked out a few bundles and cleaned up the shop to get ready for them.

I have a variety of wood of various sizes, so it was easy to get 5 similar sized pieces of various woods together. First set was of small pepper grinders. That required several drilling steps, mostly with Forstner bits. Set the depth gauge on the drill press, drill 5 holes, then load in another bit. Then, mount on the lathe. The instructions call for using an expanding jam chuck. Getting that right takes several steps.

I also have a 4-jaw pin chuck which goes down just below an inch, so that's my choice. On the tailstock, a 60 degree live center does the trick.

Using my 1" spindle roughing gouge, I round off the workpiece and start the shaping.

Next, I might use a carbide spindle gouge or a standard spindle gouge to get the shape right with some different beads and coves to make it handsome and tactile.

I sand, sand, sand. I usually end up with 400-grit, but sometimes go to 800, depending on the wood. For something like the pepper mills, which get handled lightly but not often, I use a hard wax burned in, usually Hut wax and neutral colored except for dark wood. For an item which will be heavily handled, I use several coats of thin CA glue, smoothed and final-polished with plastic polish.

I know that many of our members like to have a large stock so they can sell many weekends. Are there any who consider themselves full-time turners? How about full-time woodworkers who depend on the craft for most of their living? That requires an entirely different attitude and a different supply of raw materials. If I were to do that kind of work, I would look for raw stock, preferably free. I would not want to have to buy kit components from Penn State or other catalogue houses.

Like in running a restaurant, the cost of the raw materials has to be a fraction of the sale price. Manpower and machinery costs both have to be taken into account. There's a rule of thumb for profit in the food industry. The cost of the ingredients should be no more than 1/3 the selling price. Mom's Place does not compete with McDonalds on price, quality, or ambience. Mom has to reckon her costs carefully in order to give paychecks to her staff. McDonald's does the same, but with vast volume, cheap ingredients, and no ambience.

So, as a boutique woodturner, you should know your material costs when you set your prices. Turn out two dozen bowls a day? Make them out of found wood? Work alone? That makes pricing simple. Divide how much you need to run your shop by 24 and add 30%. For a hobbyist like me, 5-6 times the cost of a kit will give me enough profit to keep buying new stock, finish, and sandpaper. Primarily, I stick with turning as therapy for my every day life. It's fun to relax with a project and keep off of the news and the local problems. And I love the sense of creating objects pretty free-style. No one cares if no two of my pepper mills are the same.

I feel the shop calling—

Arny

Balance forward

\$4071.69
 Dues \$50.00
 Raffle \$17.00
 Camera donation \$10.00
 CA glue \$20.00
 Adj. \$7.00
 Total Income \$104.00
 Monthly Zoom fee \$15.89
 Bank service charge \$3.00
 Woodchuck masks \$180.24
 Total expenses \$199.13
 Balance ending \$3976.56
 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, Peter Hebert, Linda Hollingdale, Jim Holzschuh, Brad Jackson, Jake Jemas, Kevin Jenness, Eddie Krasnow, Luc Lefebvre, Joe Laferriere, Lucinda Love, Chris Lumbr, 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 (58)

(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.

KDii@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.

The Brislin garage sale—Karen Drennen

SUCCESS !!!

I am so very proud to call myself a Woodchuck! The club came through with flying colors. Many Woodchucks generously contributed their time and others came and supported the cause through purchases. We got everything moved out of the basement (no small task in itself!) and were able to sell most of it. The weather was nothing less than phenomenal, especially in November. We will be letting you know what is still available. If anyone purchased a power tool and needs a manual—we found some. Contact Karen if you need one. There are some other things that belong to purchases. If you are missing something please let me know. Dee Brislin was overwhelmed with the support and kindness club members showed. Personally, I cannot adequately express my thanks to the club. I'm bursting with joy! **THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!** I would like to give a special shout of thanks to: Russ Fellows, Andy Duling, Adam Wager, Rick Hamilton, Brad

Blaisdell, Barry Genzlinger, Mike, Jeff Petter, Steve Gutierrez, Charles Cieri, Patrick Corcoran, Jake Jemas. If I missed someone, I apologize.

We signed up two new members and may get a few more as a result of the sale.



(Continued from page 1)

The questions for us? How good do we want to be at video production? Will we want to continue doing this after the time of Covid? Can the club survive if we don't do a good enough job of communicating with our members and showing them interesting programs?

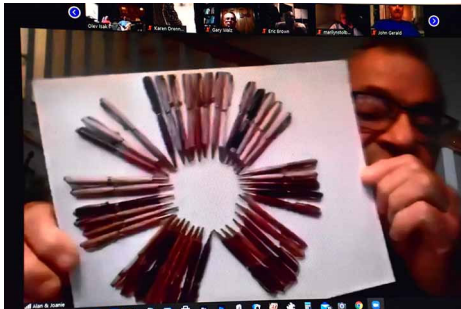
Army



Jim Weeks, moderator of the Sarasota Woodturners session.



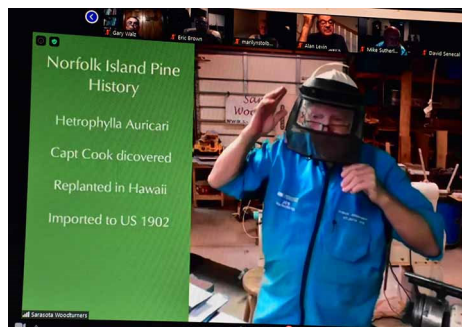
Franck opens the zoom meeting.



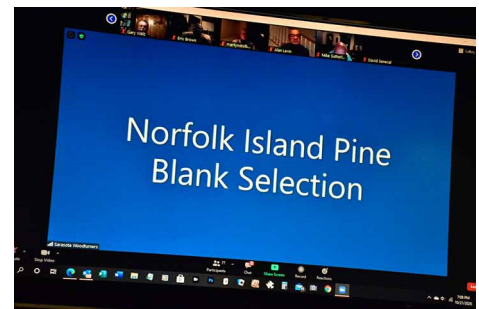
Some of the Sarasota Club's Show & Tell offerings.



Jay welcomes the Woodchuck contingent.



Franck starts the discussion with an introduction to Norfolk Pine Trees.



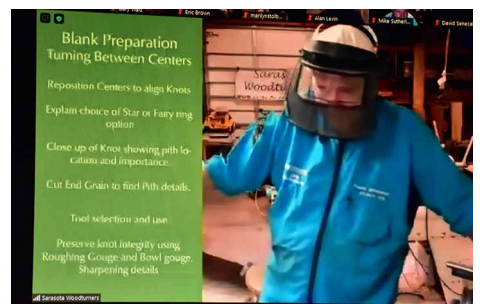
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Franck looks for a log with several branch stump, roughly in the same plane.



The branches reveal themselves as rays from the pith.



He goes over the steps to get the most interesting turning from a log.



Start off by centering on the pith.



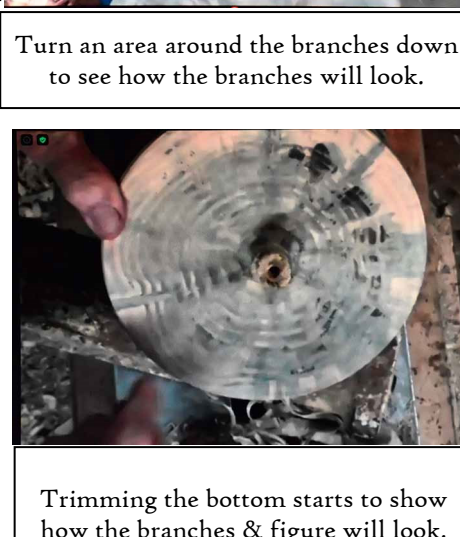
Turn an area around the branches down to see how the branches will look.



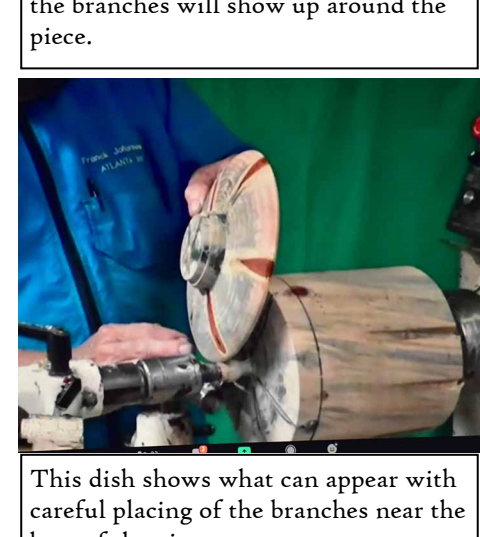
Drawing a line like this will tell how the branches will show up around the piece.



This line shows where to cut to take advantage of the whole branches.



Trimming the bottom starts to show how the branches & figure will look.



This dish shows what can appear with careful placing of the branches near the base of the piece.

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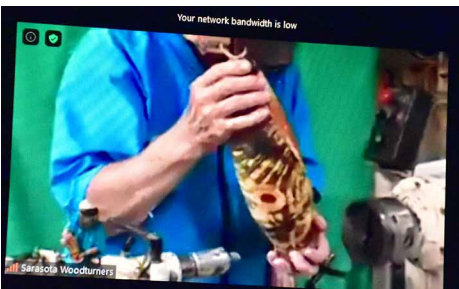
By shifting the base downward, this is the effect you can get.



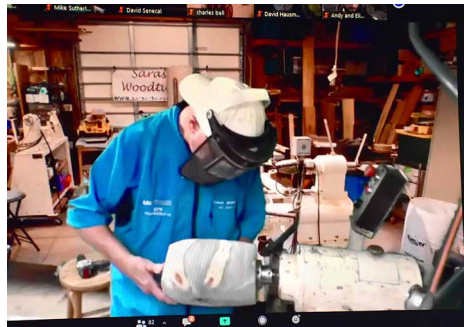
This is another possibility.



There are other possibilities by turning a side-grain piece.



Taking a section and mounting it to the side, can produce this kind of effect.



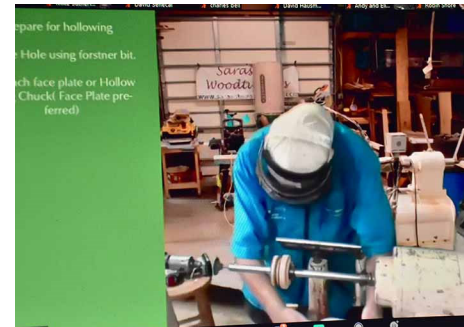
This is a piece prepared to form a side-grain vase.



Turning to shape.



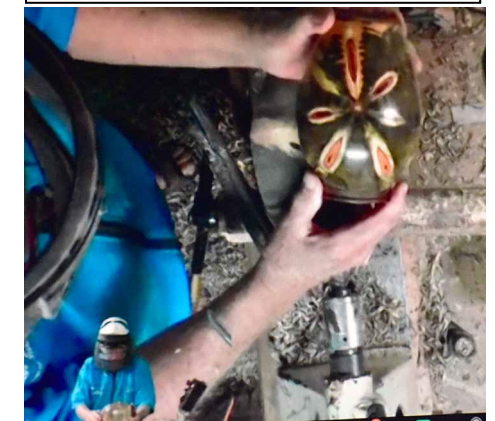
You might have to add CA glue to keep the pith intact.



This is a device Franck invented to stabilize both the base and the mouth of a turning. It uses a #2 Morse taper to attach it to the headstock.



Shaping a base.



After sanding and finishing with CA glue, the object is ready to show.

Greetings fellow Woodchucks.

Skunk Hollow is getting its first snow as I write this, and it is my first snow in almost ten years! The stove is warm, the coffee is hot, and Danny is curled up next to me. The “Floridians” are coping!

When Brad led the demo on resin casting last month, we ended up some nice epoxy “blanks”, but they had no particular destination or use in mind. I found one! Years ago, to cover an unneeded hole in my kitchen counter, I turned a “button” out of a chunk of maple burl. It looked nice, but over the years, as wood will do in a wet environment, it got very “scuzzy”. Rather than replace it with another piece of wood, I thought I’d make one of resin. I measured one of Brad’s castings, and it was the perfect size! I trimmed back the paper mold, mounted the whole thing in a chuck, and turned a tenon on the back. It was then a simple matter to shape the front, sand it to 600 grit, and shine it up with polishing paste. I put a bead of quick-set epoxy around the hole and gently wiggled it into place. Project done, problem solved, and all in under 20 minutes! Thank you Brad!

Russ Fellows



Ugly looking counter!



This is the wood plug, sorta fried!



Here’s the dregs, all set up.



Out of drippings, a nice turning.



Now, that’s much nicer!

A big thanks to all who came to Skunk Hollow on October 28 for our last Sawdust Session for 2020! It was just as we intend them to be. Everyone brought some of their recent work, a neat new tool, or questions to pose to their fellow Woodchucks. AND, I'm pleased to report, the big pile of wood behind my shop is nearly gone!

The last thing we worked on was, in a way, a continuation of Brad's earlier demo on resin. I had prepped a mold with a piece of burl in the bottom that, when done, would be a decorative sphere. I have done several of these before, but none were as large as this one. I talked about how controlling air bubbles is one of the biggest problems with any resin casting. In one of the pix below two little bubble "jets" can be seen, but fortunately when it went back under pressure, they disappeared. Because I was using a very slow setting epoxy, the results would not be seen that night, but when I opened the

pressure pot the next morning, I discovered the level of the resin has dropped just enough to make me question whether there would be enough to make the sphere I wanted? A quick trip to Michael's Crafts for some more epoxy (NOT the best way to buy it, as it is much more expensive in small packages!) would bring the level up enough. Because I was using such a slow setting mix, the pour from the night before was soupy enough to allow me to mix the two batches and have consistent color. After two more days, I had a completely set hunk of resin that was ready to turn. I won't go into details about turning epoxy, but you can see from the photo below, it is a VERY messy job! The ribbons of epoxy are loaded with static electricity, and stick to everything! A couple hours of turning, sanding, and polishing, and I had a completed sphere. Turning a sphere is a bit tricky, and turning a sphere that is half wood and half resin is

even trickier! There are many good YouTube videos on this, and maybe we can do a club demo as well. The photo below shows the finished sphere. For scale, the cup temporarily supporting it is a pint gelato container. It will ultimately sit on a mahogany pedestal, shown sitting unfinished on the lathe.

We covered many subjects at our last Sawdust, and any attendees who felt we didn't cover their particular concern adequately, don't hesitate to come back for some follow-up! I always welcome visitors at my shop! Give me a call(802-343-0393).....and come on over!

A final big 'thank you' to everyone who has come to these sessions. We really enjoy putting them on and look forward to doing it again next year! Stay tuned!

Russ Fellows
(Russfellows@outlook.com)



The fill-in epoxy from Michael's



See the bubbles on the left?



Peeled out of the mold. Burl on the right.



The shavings are spectacular!



Jake J. cuts sanding discs from a roll of less expensive paper.



Russ prepping the last of his raw stock.

When I heard we were going to have a demo at our club in Florida making Christmas ornaments out of sea urchins, I said to myself, that's impossible, they'll smash to pieces when you try to turn them! Simple answer.....you don't turn the urchin, you turn all the other parts, and this is what I will demonstrate at our meeting on the 18th. I buy my urchins from (northFloridaseashells.com) in Tallahassee, Florida. The small sizes come in a paper bag, as shown below. The larger ones are packed in blister packs for more protection. I show one next to a pen to indicate the scale for ornaments. The next pic shows the component parts, a piece of hardwood about 1" x 1" x 6", the urchin, a short piece of 1/4" dowel, and a piece of thread, ribbon, or very fine wire. It's very straightforward, and yes, the urchins are VERY fragile! I will demonstrate all the steps in the demo. As always, there are many tutorials on YouTube, if you want to "preview". I bought about 50 urchins if you want to try a couple? If you aren't coming to the meeting in person, I'd be happy to do a class in the near future! Hope to see many of you on Zoom!

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

Mentors Wanted

Share your Skills

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

In House

Demos:

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

November 18th-
Various Christmas ornaments.

December 16th -
Holiday round table

January - Remote demo
- TBA Date TBA

February 17th- Tool sharpening

I have a lathe for sale! All the information is on the craigslist ad here: <https://vermont.craigslist.org/tls/d/williston-wood-lathe/7146512631.html>

Jeff Petter



John Brislin's Powermatic 3520A lathe. Asking price is \$2200.00. Attached are some photos. Karen Drennen is contact for it. 802-868-6161.

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.