



May 2025 Newsletter

**Happy
Father's
Day!**



It wouldn't be Fathers day without some dad (bad) jokes; so here goes:

- Chuck Norris never measures twice. He cuts as many times as he wants.
- One time Chuck Norris hit his thumb with the hammer. The hammer was sore for 6 weeks.
- Chuck Norris doesn't need a honing stone or grinder. He has his chin.
- How much wood could Chuck Norris chuck if Chuck could turn wood?
Answer: He says there is no "if" about it. And, it's none of your business.
- What's the difference between a fisherman and a woodturner?
One of them is happy if he's got a big catch.

Remember, there's no scrap wood, only tiny turning blanks!

Upcoming Events at the workshop

- Club Meeting - Wednesday June 18th 6:00pm
 - Spinning Top competition - Who will be the TOP Turner?
- Workshop - German Ring Turning, Saturday June 21, 2:00-5:00
- Workshop - Iridescent and Interference acrylic paints, June 28, 2:00-5:00

Spots still open for both workshops - sign up now before it's too late!

Edwards Smith passing

On May 22nd, club president Elsa Oppenheimer shared the following:

Dear Woodchucks,

It's with a heavy heart that I share the news that our dear friend and longtime guild member, Edwards Smith, passed away yesterday.

Many of you knew Edwards through his gentle presence at meetings, his beautiful craftsmanship, and his willingness to teach and share his knowledge with anyone who showed interest. For me, and I know for others as well, Edwards was more than a mentor. He was a lifeline. He offered his time freely, teaching me everything from how saplings grow in fields to the ins and outs of setting up for a craft fair. And in doing so, he quietly changed the course of my life.

Edwards believed deeply in the value of passing on knowledge and passion for this craft we all love. One of the last promises I made to him was that I would honor his legacy by being open to teach others, just as he taught me. I want to invite all of you to do the same. You never know when your time, your encouragement, or your willingness to share could be the start of something deeply meaningful for someone else.

At this time, there are no details about a formal service. As a guild, we will be organizing, pricing, and selling Edwards' tools and materials when his wife,

Janet, is ready. All proceeds will go to her. I'll keep you posted as plans come together. If you would like to send Janet a card, her address is:
Janet Smith, 88 Mountain View Road, Williston, VT 05495

If I may take a point of personal privilege, I'm including a few photos of Edwards and me, taken over the years during our woodturning adventures. I'm also sharing a short WCAX news story that highlighted his work and spirit- it's a lovely tribute. I will miss my friend dearly. With love and gratitude,

Elsa

Pictures of Edwards and Elsa

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1MnZUMszz-akJ_pAowgctKL08_kaWLy7JwFzaOGGoGRV0/edit?tab=t.0

WCAX story: <https://www.wcax.com/video/2020/11/20/super-senior-edwards-smith/>

Edwards was a neat guy, and he will be missed by many for sure.

May Demo by Barry Genzlinger

Barry Genzlinger did a demo on turning spinning tops; including how to select wood types, shaping, and finishing a top. A spinning top can be made from some of the smaller pieces of wood we all have lying around our shops.

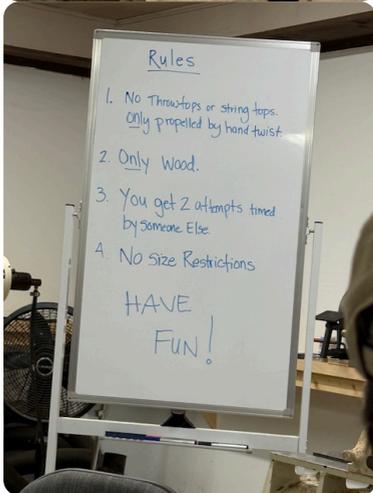
Barry's demo was timing as the club is having a turning competition at the June club meeting to see who has turned the "best" top - best being either longest spinning, or best design. Criteria to be determined or made up on the spot!

Turns out this wasn't Barry's first club demo on Spinning Tops, way back in July of 2012; Barry along with Joe Laferriere did a demo on tops. Check out that chatter article, which includes pictures of Barry at a more with picturfollicly challenged time at: <https://woodchucksvt.org/wp-content/uploads/chatter-9-7.pdf> or search our archives for July of 2012 for the newsletter.

Side note: Barry has another hobby, saving bats, the flying kind, not the wooden ones. He is the president of the Vermont Bat Center. Ask Barry about the it he'd be happy to talk to you about it.



Large Segmented Top
Item #: TOP1206-0326
Height: 3 1/8"
Disk diameter: 1 7/8"
Spin: Excellent - 9.5 out of 10
Wood: Maple, cherry and walnut
repurposed from project scraps
Price: \$ 75.00



Good luck to everyone as they turn a top; hope your efforts result in good spinners!

Show and Tell





Candid pics



AAW Resources

It's highly recommended that people become members of the AAW, <https://www.woodturner.org/>, they provide many great resources both paid and free. One free resource is a listing of all the affiliated Woodturning clubs. If you are looking for Woodturning news or projects check out the page on finding a local chapter - they have listings in all states and providences. The page is located here: <https://www.woodturner.org/Woodturner/AAWConnects/AAW-Connects.aspx>

Happy Turning - make lots of sawdust and hope to see you at the next meeting when we find out who the TOP turner is!



Vermont Woodturners Guild

Skunk Hollow Studios, 05482, Shelburne

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