

WOODCHUCK CHATTER



October 14, 2004

Volume 1, Issue 8

Special points of interest:

- Photos of Last Meeting
- Random Shots: Borrow our lathe! Give pens to our troops!
- AAW News
- What's Coming Up

October 21: Get An Edge With Dick Montague

Dick is known for his “scary sharp” edges. He does some extremely fine turning due to his skill, technique, and sharp tools. Dick will show us his sharpening proc-

ess, from initial grind to final honing. He'll discuss proper blade angles for a variety of tools and uses. Do you have a “problem” tool?

From scrapers to gouges and “termite” tools, Dick will

discuss how to get the best results with minimum time and effort. Dick will talk about the various sharpening materials, including diamond hones and ceramic stones.

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Secretary's Report—September Meeting

Secretary's Report for September

Meeting on September 16th at Woodbury's.

16 members present.

The board will meet at Ted's at 6:00 PM on September 29th to discuss business and plan demos for the year. All are welcome. Any ideas or suggestions?

The new updated member lists are available. Contact Ted if you don't have one.

Next meeting we will hold elections. Dick Montague will be demonstrating sharpening techniques before he heads South for the Winter. Murray was given the okay to buy the grinder set-up he had proposed.

Scott is sending in another CA glue order. Contact him if you want to jump in.

Craig has found that sealer is much cheaper by the 55 gallon drum and proposed buying one between club members. 5 gallons of Anchorseal bought by the drum will cost you about \$18 compared to list of \$47. Craig will check on shipping fees and the cost of some empty 5 gallon buckets to distrib-

ute it in.

Scott needs more participation for Art-Hop and the club display in his shop. Any suggestions? Ted and John will take responsibility for coordinating with a goal of April for members to submit work.

Joe has a local company that needs a consultant on how to set up an automatic lathe and they are looking for a source of turned spheres for post caps.

Joe and Brad are banding with others on the far eastern reaches of our fair state to start a turning center/club at the White River Craft Center in Randolph. Stay tuned!

Raffle:
Osage Orange
Walnut
Box Elder
2 turning magazines
\$15 gift certificate

Next month will have a silent auction for the book *Identifying Wood* by Bruce Hoadley. Book donated by Dale.

Show and Tell:
Craig: Tall vase hollow form

from Milton curly maple.

John: Apple bowl using dish detergent and Woodturner's finish.

Brad: 2 apple bowls from the same batch as John. Beef bone chess pawn.

Randy: Large post cap in basswood.

Ted: Pocket watch from Birdseye maple scrap.

Ralph: Spalted maple bowl from Herb's woodpile on picnic day.

Demonstration: Ted on making platters and plates.

During the demo he advanced **Fink's Law** (he may not be the first to formulate this) that: **“All new projects require the purchase of at least one new tool.”**

Treasurer's Report:
\$2,302.89 in the bank.

Brad presented bills for the motor and inverter of around \$475. The motor needs to be returned because the mounting flange isn't right.

Woodchuck Chatter

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Woodchuck Chatter will be published monthly. Deadline for submissions is the 7th of the month. Please E-mail all submissions to the Editor in text or Word format. Visuals can be submitted as JPEG or TIFF.

Intuitively you might think that making something flat on the lathe would be easier than making something curved but that is not the case. Although some flatware is spindle turned, the vast majority involves faceplate turning; i.e. the grain of the wood is perpendicular to the axis of the lathe.



Hogging the cavity

The selection of wood for your tray or plate will determine aesthetics as well as stability. The wood should be dry and at EMC (equilibrium moisture content) at the time of turning. If stability is of critical importance use quarter sawn stock. Single pieces are attractive and don't require any



glue-up but often wood in widths of 11 or 12 inches, which is a common plate size, is difficult to find. Trays, usually 15 to 21 inches, must be glued up from smaller stock.

There are two ways to do the glue up so that it is most attractive. The first way is necessitated by the availability of only 4/4 stock which is the thinnest stock you can use for flatware. The length of the board must be 4 times its width. Joint the edge that you intend to have as the centerline of the plate, then cut it in half, fold the pieces as if they were hinged at the cut so the jointed

edges come together. Glue and clamp them, being certain the boards are flat so as to preserve as much wood as possible when the plate is trued up on the lathe.

The second and aesthetically preferable way, is possible only if you have at least 8/4 stock. In this instance the length of the initial piece need only be twice the width. Again joint the edge to be in the centerline, resaw the stock and open the pieces up side by side. You will now have near perfect symmetry in the two pieces to be glued together. This process is called book matching and can give very



Deepening the cavity with bowl gouge

attractive results.

Because the flatware may occasionally be exposed to water, it would be best to use a water-proof glue, e.g. Titebond II or III or polyurethane glue. Pencil diagonals on the resulting square to find the exact center which will be on your glue line. Using a compass set to the radius of your plate, draw a circle to be cut out on the band saw. Using PYA glue, fasten a block that is perfectly square to the very center of the bottom of the plate. The glue block should be sized to fit



Bookmatched plank

your 4 jaw chuck.

Chuck the piece inboard if possible so that you bring up the tailstock to give additional support to minimize vibration



Reverse turning the base

during the initial phase of truing the piece on the lathe. Turn the rim and then inch by inch complete the rough turning of the top from rim to center. Cutting into the end grain of this dry wood is difficult so hog out most of the wood by making your cuts repetitively across the grain then do a clean up light skimming cut with a deep fluted bowl gouge into the grain. Once the bulk of the wood is removed, take



Flattening the center

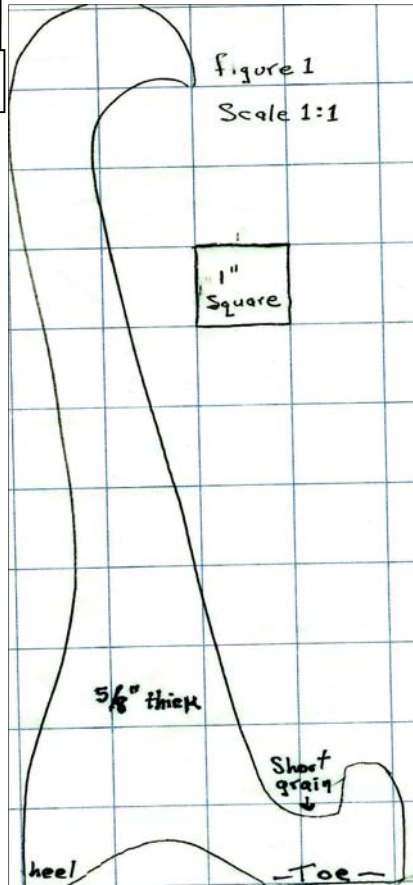
away the tailstock and use a flat end HD scraper to flatten the surface before sanding. Check the surface repeatedly for flatness with a straightedge. The scraper should be 1.25" to 1.5" wide and ground on the end and on the left side back for about a half inch back from the end so as to be able to scrape



Power sanding the back

Making a stand

Once you have finished your plate or tray, displaying it on a stand enhances the whole project. To do this, take a board of cherry (or your wood of choice), thickness-plane it to 5/8" and paste two copies of the drawing seen in figure 1 to the board, avoiding obvious defects. Cut the 2 identical pieces out using a band saw.



Most photos these 2 pages

thanks to Randy Ramsden

a recess with a vertical rise from the plate surface as part of the rim detail. Also the end edge is ground back ever so slightly as you approach the right corner so that as you slide the scraper from the rim rightward toward the center you will not raise a wood burr. This grind is compliments of Ernie Conover.

The sanding is done entirely by power sanding. I use hard stiff backed 3" discs on a close-quarter drill. If the surface has much tearout from the scraping I will start with 80 or even 60 grit. If tear-out is minimal I will start with 100 grit, sanding the face and rim and proceed to 120 and 180 then finish with 220 grit on a 5" random orbit sander. When power sanding have the piece rotating in the opposite direction from the abrasive disc rotation. High speed will tend to generate more heat which is never helpful. When sanding near the rim use the 9 o'clock portion of the disc but quickly adjust the drill so you are sanding with the 10 to 2 o'clock portion of the disc as you move away from the rim. This will allow you to minimize waviness in the surface.

Be certain to blunt the knife sharp edge of the rim that results so commonly from power sanding. For safety I recommend wearing a Kevlar glove on the hand nearer the turning when power sanding.

The bottom can then be reverse-turned in the manner described in Woodchuck Chatter. Vol. 1, Issue 3, page 3. The quickest and most appropriate finish is the application of the commercially available nut oils and beeswax mixture which has the consistency of soft butter. This same finish can also be used to refresh the appearance of the tray after it has seen hard use.

Now place them back to back, hold them securely with a couple of hand spring clamps, and elevating the bases nearer to you about 8 to 10 degrees press the top ends down on a belt sander. This will result in the top ends having matching flat areas that will then be glued together to form a 16 to 20 degree "A" frame.

Reshape the top on the belt sander and flatten the bottom of the two legs of the "A" frame, also on the belt sander, so as to keep the entire toe on the table to protect the area of short grain from undue pressure and breakage. Finish sand with the random orbit sander and the finish of your choice.

-Ted Fink

"joint the edge to be in the centerline, resaw the stock and open the pieces up side by side. You will now have near perfect symmetry in the two pieces to be glued together. This process is called book matching and can give very attractive results."

AAW News

Greetings to all chapter members! My name is Ron Alexander and I'm one of the newer members of the AAW Board of Directors. When we're not all involved in the annual symposium we have specific committee duties. Mine are in the Publishing committee and the Educational Opportunity Grant committee.

Publishing requires a lot of work to produce the four issues of the American Woodturner, the Journal of the American Association of Woodturners each year. Committee members review and approve everything that goes into each issue, trying to maintain a balance between news, how-to articles, gallery shots, interviews, etc. We urge all members to consider

writing an article. Be not afraid of putting words on paper. We know that Hemingway and Faulkner are dead. We do not expect professional level prose. You are writing for fellow members, not the Pulitzer Prize Committee. The complete submission guidelines can be found on the AAW website.

The Educational Opportunity Grants (EOG) are a way that the AAW can financially assist chapters and individuals in their educational efforts. Twice per year, the committee members read all grant applications individually and assign a score to each. All scores are processed to provide a ranking for each application. Our greatest problems in evaluating applications are

due to insufficient information and poor documentation of educational benefit. Everything that the committee needs to know must be written in the application. The committee will not contact any applicant for additional information or clarification. Complete information about the EOG, as well as the application forms can be found on the AAW website.

Please contact me if there are questions or problems. My e-mail address, published in the 2004 Resource Directory, is outdated. The correct address is ralexan913@bellsouth.net.

Ron Alexander

In House Demos:

October: Sharpening.
Dick Montague

November: Hook and ring tools for end grain hollowing.

Brad

Bring contributions for the toys for tots.

December: No meeting
January: Coring tools.

Dustin Coates, Ralph Tursini.

February: Handling/turning green wood.
Ted

March: Open.
Ted will invite 2 turners from NY Guild that turn natural edge bowls

April: Box making.
Possibly 2-3 demonstrators.

Ralph? Dick?

May: Michael Mode

AAW Theme: re-TURN to the Land of Oz

As we settle into the fall and get back into our routines, we reflect on what we did during the summer. In so doing, we look forward to getting back to the shop to try out some of those new ideas and techniques that we picked up at the Symposium or in the Journal.

One of the highlights of the symposium this year was having the juried show "From Sea to Odyssey" at the site of the Symposium. At the site, the attending members got to see the results our members came up with, which were just amazing. Thanks to the jurors Jacques Vesery and Mark Sfirri, who kept in mind the theme of the show, we have a colorful and unique show. The show turned out to be a winner for everybody involved and especially for the accepted artists. Out of the 53 works in the show, 9 pieces have been sold so far.

I would like to invite members and their families and friends who will be in the St. Paul MN area, to visit the show at the new AAW Gallery at the Land-

mark Center in downtown St. Paul, which is now the AAW's new home office. The show is now open and will run till December 17th, 2004. A DVD of the works in the "From Sea to Odyssey" show will be available soon through the AAW office.

I now would like to encourage you and your club members to enter next year's 2005 juried show "re-TURN to the Land of Oz". Journey back to your childhood with this exhibition, where reality and fantasy abound in the wonderful Land of Oz.

The theme of the submissions for "re-Turn to the Land of Oz" should be related to the novel by L. Frank Baum, the movie of 1939 and the location of our 2005 Symposium. This relationship can be by title of the work or by the design of the piece itself. In the book and the film there is a tremendous quantity of ideas that can be applied to the turnings. Subjects as simple as tornados, yellow bricks, ruby slippers, and the characters or as complex as the hundreds of

other references that are rich grounds to spark the imagination.

For this juried show, your slides or digital images on CD (new this year) will be accepted, and must be postmarked to the AAW office no later than March 15th, 2005. The show will open at the 19th AAW Symposium site in Overland Park, Kansas City, Missouri, on Thursday July 21, and run till July the 24th. The show will then travel to the AAW Gallery at the Landmark Center in St. Paul, MN, where it will be showing from August 15th till December 15th 2005. Possible arrangements are being made for the show to travel.

Remember, have fun with the title.
Wishing all of you good, safe and creative turning.

Linda Van Gehuchten - AAW Board of Directors Exhibitions Committee Chair

Our Lathe Needs A Home

Wanted: Home for Chapter lathe. Must be dry and centrally located. Craig has run out of room in his shop & can't swing a cat.

Rules of Engagement

We formulated a set of rules for borrowing the chapter lathe, grinder, and tent. The primary goal in buying these tools is to have good equipment available so we can demonstrate in public, thereby attracting new members and recruiting would-be turners.

All members in good standing (paid up dues) are eligible to borrow the equipment primarily for demonstration purposes. We may borrow the equipment for ONE WEEK at a time. The Treasurer is responsible for knowing where the equipment is at any time; therefore the borrower is responsible to sign the equipment out—by phone or in person—and back in.

The borrower is responsible for transporting the equipment to and from its storage location. The borrower is responsible for return-

ing the equipment in excellent condition with all its parts intact.

The borrower is responsible for any liability rising from the use of the equipment.

The Chapter has first dibs on all equipment so that we can show our stuff at public events.

Giving Back

At the meeting, we came up with two projects for bringing enjoyment to others. The Woodchucks have been contributing to a cart in the Fletcher Allen Pediatrics Wing for some time. Please make or, if toys are not your thing, buy something to bring some joy to the kids in hospital. Our November meeting is the last chance to gather toys up before Christmas, but October is OK, too.

Our people overseas should be in our thoughts constantly. The men and women in our Vermont Guard units are in Indian Country on our behalf. We can back these folks up in a small way by turning pens and pencils for them. John Brislin has more info on supplies and the path the pens will take to get to our people. We expect to hear more shortly, so please gear up to

do some pens with the idea that one of our people overseas would appreciate the gift and the thought.

Elections In October

It's time to hold elections for Woodchuck officers. All positions are one-year jobs. It is a good thing to help run an association you are part of. If you wish to help WTNV grow and get better, please step forward at the meeting. There will be no primary election, no name calling, no televised debates, no "soft" money. Promises to lower taxes, find Osama, or end world hunger will be given the credit they are due. Wanna buy a few votes? Bring along some cider & cookies!

Good Books Cheap

Ted tells us that Craft Supplies USA has an offer good from 1 Nov to 12 Dec. Get 15% off on all books by mentioning this promotional code: **04FAAW11** That's the Woodturners' Catalog, folks.

Brad found a good deal on Amazon.com for "100 Wooden Bowls." He'll bring along a copy for us to review at the meeting.

<http://www.woodturningcenter.org/links.html> <http://www.woodturnerscatalog.com/>
<http://www.woodcentral.com/> <http://www.packardwoodworks.com/>
<http://www.woodturningonline.com/> <http://www.tools-for-woodworking.com/>
<http://www.cnew.org/> (Central New England Woodturners) (Highland Hardware)

Tips & Techniques From Wise Woodchucks

Prepping a piece for the lathe: I sometimes start with a square bulk of timber. To safely take it to 8 sides, I made a V-shaped runway for my band saw. It secures to the fence rail and can be adjusted for distance from the blade. Four passes gives me a work piece which takes less time & stress to bring to round.

I also often use a round piece of 2X4 glued to my work piece as a



tenon to get max. depth out of the wood. Mark the center of the face side of the work piece. Fit the tenon into the jaws of the chuck, smear glue on its face, and bring the work piece up to the tenon. Slide the tailstock up to the work piece, with the live center at your marked center, and apply pressure with the tailstock.

September WTNV Board Meeting

Board Meeting
September 29, 2004

Present: Ted Fink, Ralph Tursini, Bob Martin, Joe Barry, Arny & Cil Spahn, Craig Hall, John Brislin, and Dick Montague

At Ted Fink's house.

Monthly meeting demo schedule: See block on P. 4

Bon Voyage party for Luke & Dawn. Possibly before the October meeting at Ted's. Ralph will call and see if Luke can make it. (Note: Ralph reports that Luke cannot make it as they will be getting intensive language training. We are shooting for sometime in December—Ed.)

New members. Suggested that we do more hands on at demonstrations at meetings to attract more members. Currently about 40 members and we would like to hit 60 as a sustainable size. Would we need bigger space to meet in if we get bigger? There was discussion about present small area for viewing demos.

Brochures. Ralph to order 1,000 black and white brochures for \$200. The color ones are too expensive. (Update: Ralph has ordered 1500 brochures at about

\$162.)

The April Woodbury's extravaganza. 5 weekends of exposure. We would like to have every member bring in 2 pieces for display inside. The tent will be set up outside for demos and display.

Champlain Valley Fair. They actually pay demonstrators!!! Dick to follow up on next years show.

Long Term Visions:

Do we bring in outside talent and pay demonstrators?

Weekend workshops?

Increase membership to bring in new blood, energy, and ideas

Mirror or video system to better show the demos?

Try to increase interaction with the demos. Get other members—and guests—to try a technique.

Host an Elderhostel class/ experience in partnership with VTC or White River Craft Center?

Pens for Vermont troops overseas made from native hardwoods.

Middlebury Folk Life Center as a possible demo site. Dick to follow up.

Demos at state visitor centers. Bob Bouvier following up.

The purchase of equipment has given rise to the need for a policy regarding its use. The policy for use of the lathe, grinder, or tent is as follows:

Club use has priority over personal use

Borrower must be a member in good standing

The user is responsible for the return of the equipment

The user is financially responsible for any damage to the equipment in their care.

A central location is being sought. Currently the lathe will be stored at Craig's. The grinder will be stored at Woodbury's, and the tent at Ted's.

The treasurer will be responsible for keeping track of the club's assets.

Insuring the equipment was discussed and is probably too expensive. Users should be able to cover the cost of damages under their own homeowners or auto insurance.

Purchase of two spindle adaptors at about \$60 was put on hold until the lathe is up and running.

The meeting was adjourned.

**Woodchuck Turners
of Northern Vermont**

An associated chapter of
American Association of
Woodturners

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A little honing?

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