

# WOODCHUCK CHATTER



November 12, 2004

Volume 1, Issue 9

## Special points of interest:

- Photos of Last Meeting
- Pen Turning
- Random Shots: Teach Kids! Opportunity knocks!
- AAW News
- What's Coming Up

## November 18: Lets Talk Termites

Brad's going to give us the lowdown on some tools for doing hollow work. Among the items Brad makes are some really crisp, hollow Christmas tree orna-

ments. Working on that scale requires a sharp tool and a delicate touch. Working endgrain with a scraping tool isn't the best way for a smooth, catch-free surface. Bought and home-made

hook or ring tools can be the answer to good hollow turning.

## Secretary's Report—October Meeting

21 members present

Luke Mann is going to Thailand for 5 years with nothing much more than a bicycle. He's left for language training in Colorado for the next couple of months which puts a party for him out of the running. The Woodchucks will send him a card with Woodchuck t-shirts to start our first overseas chapter.

Insuring our equipment is not worth the expense. We've been quoted \$200 per year with a \$500 deductible.

Brad reports they are waiting for an index pin from Woodcraft and need to grind a flange off the motor to make it fit the lathe.

Bob Bouvier says he can arrange for anyone to set up in the state welcome centers anytime for a demo. See him if interested.



Ted tells us about the Spring Extravaganza

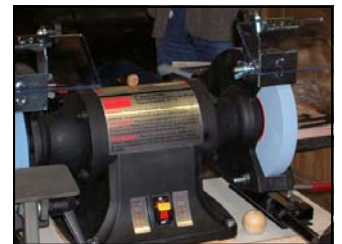
For the Woodchuck extravaganza in the Spring, plan on at least 2 pieces from every member. For the turning demo out in the showroom, plan on turning only green wood to keep the dust down.

Craig says the Anchorseal will cost \$29.37 for 5 gallons including shipping. Or \$5.88 per gallon.

John is spearheading the pens for troops project. There are approximately 250 currently de-

ployed Vermonters and the goal is to make a pen for every one. There are about 600 more on their way there now. 7mm cross style pens made with native woods is the plan. Bob Bouvier and Woodnet will donate maple – possibly certified. Jim will teach a pen making class on November 6<sup>th</sup> at Woodbury's. Bob and Ted to work on a press release about the event. John is authorized to buy mandrels, drills, etc. as needed for this project.

*(Continued on page 6)*



Our new grinder

## Inside this issue:

Woodchuck Board Info.	2
Last meeting	2
Random Shots	3
AAW News	4
Demo Schedule	4
Some Useful Websites	6
Wise Woodchucks	6

## Getting A Fine Edge With Dick Montague

### Woodchuck Chatter

### Woodchuck Turners of Northern Vermont

### Board of Directors

President: Ralph Tursini  
PO Box 224  
Underhill Center, VT 05490  
802-899-6863  
Tursini@pshift.com

Vice— President: Bob Martin  
36 Calais Rd.  
Worcester, VT 05682  
802-223-7475  
martrlm@ yahoo.com

Secretary: Joe Barry  
46 Pleasant St.  
Randolph, VT 05060  
802-728-3753  
Jbarry@Giffordmed.org

Treasurer: Ted Fink  
PO Box 850  
Shelburne, VT 05482  
802-985-2923  
Finkhaus@together.net

Member-At Large & Newsletter  
Editor: Army Spahn  
Assistant Editor & Proof Reader:  
Cil Spahn  
1620 Hebard Hill Rd.  
802-728-4799  
apspahn@adelphia.net

Meeting Co-coordinator:  
Craig Hall  
823 Westman Rd.  
Cambridge, VT  
802-644-5344  
craighall@hotmail.com

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.



Some of Dick's gouges, etc.

Dick uses a variety of tools to achieve his final results. He is primarily a spindle turner doing small runs of finely finished pieces. He does understand all other aspects of our craft.

Dick feels that the ideal sharpening angle for most wood turning tools is 25 to 30 degrees. This angle does the best job of shearing wood fibers. A greater angle allows the point of the tool to crush and tear fibers. A narrower angle gets blunt or damaged quickly.



The grinder IS running!

The higher angle of a bowl gouge, typically 50 – 70 degrees, is necessary to create and follow the inside curve of a vessel.

“Sharpness” can be defined as the smoothness with which the two sides of a tool meet each other.

Dick advocates using a relatively coarse stone turning at 3200 RPM. The stone cuts relatively quickly and air flow keeps the steel tool relatively cool. A jig such as the Wolverine jig helps keep the shape and angle of your tool consistent.

Dick then uses diamond

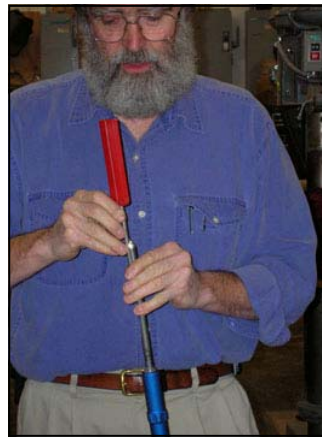
hones, preferably DMT, carefully applied, to bring the tool to final sharpness. He swipes the hone perpendicular to the direction of cut; essentially along the bevel of the tool rather than in the same direction as the cut of the tool. He follows up with a cone-shaped hone on the face of the tool



Setting up with the Wolverine jig; spindle gouge

which he dresses less frequently. The downside of this approach is increased sanding time to get a saleable finish.

Tools are made with various hardnesses. The harder the steel, the harder it is to get a sharp edge and the longer that edge stays sharp. A high carbon steel is relatively soft and takes a very sharp edge easily. Tool steel (M2 to M4) resists heat better but is more difficult to sharpen. The newer steels, like stainless, 2060, and sintered steel, are designed to



Honing the inside of a gouge

remove the burr.

The advantage of this dual sharpening and honing system is a very smooth, controllable cut. Less pressure is needed to produce a very fine, controlled shaving. The disadvantage is that the tool must be re-honed frequently. A commercial turner, with an output of dozens of pieces a day, might prefer a slightly narrower sharpening angle achieved on a grinder



Grinding a skew

hold an edge longer. They are not naturally as amenable to sharpening as carbon steel.

There are many compromises to make in choosing and using tools. How fine a cut do you want? How smooth a surface will you accept? How much control do you want over the exact edge you get? How hard and how gnarly is the wood you are working with? And, finally, how much time are you willing to use standing over a grinder rather than a lathe?



Dressing the wheel



## Welcome New Woodchucks!

Ted reports that we have some new members as of this week. Please welcome Joe Gaines and Les Burleson, both signed up Saturday at our pen event. Also welcome David Ospina of Williston, who joined at our October monthly meeting.



Jim roughs out 2 blanks



Applying shellac finish

Big thanks go to Scott Bennett for hosting the event as well as providing us with a home for our meetings. That takes



Bob cleans up some more blanks

We're especially happy to see that some younger folks took a turn at the lathes.

To date we have received \$650 in cash donations. The pens we are making are for sale to the public for \$20 each. All proceeds made payable to WTNV.

## Pen Turning Fun!

Last Saturday's workshop with Jim Cunningham was a resounding success. Jim gave us an introduction to pen production, from rough turning to assembly. We owe big thanks to lots of people for making the event fun and productive.



Some spectators—including a GI.

## Next Meeting:

Jim Cunningham will be available, with his pen press, one hour before the start of the next meeting on the 18th to press the finished pen components together for those members making pens at home. He'll be at Woodbury at 6:00 PM

Also, Dick Montague will be there about 6:00 for a sharpening clinic. Bring along a problem tool.



A quick sanding with 220 to 800 grit

a lot of his off-hours time and costs him in terms of energy usage. We don't put much wear & tear on his equipment, but it's not costless to Scott.

Your Editor didn't get all the names he should have, but here's a few:

John Brislin co-ordinated the event and obtained the pen kits. Murray Edelstein bored a lot of the blanks and assembled a bunch of tubes into the blanks.

Randy Ramsden received a donation of coffee & bagels to fortify us. Ted got doughnuts, etc. for the crowd.

See the illustrations for a glimpse at who took part during the day.



Herb shows how it's done.



A new member, and son, help assemble tubes

(Continued on page 5)

## Scholarships Available At Arrowmont

Arrowmont strives to make its classes available to everyone regardless of financial status or skill level as an artist. We offer several programs for students to offset the cost of attending a class. Listed below are opportunities that may have interest to your members or others you might know.

### Scholarships:

Scholarships are awarded based on financial need and letters of recommendation.

Friends of Arrowmont provide several \$200-\$400 scholarships.

The Steven E. & Carolyn J. Gottlieb Woodcraft Scholarship provides a financially deserving student pursuing woodturning an all-expense paid opportunity to attend Arrowmont. Preference will be given to students 18-23 years of age, but all are encour-

aged to apply.

Applications available at <http://www.arrowmont.org/scholarships.html>

Application Deadline for Spring is: January 15, 2005

Studio Assistantships & Work-Study:

These programs are a work exchange-one week of class for one week of work assisting faculty or working in the kitchen, maintenance, housekeeping and & supply store. Students may commit for the entire season (spring, summer or fall) or for lesser time increments. Forms and more information are available at <http://www.arrowmont.org/studio-asst.html> or <http://www.arrowmont.org/work-study.html>

Application Deadline for Spring is: January 15, 2005

Artists-in-Residence Program:

Five pre-professional artists are selected annually for the 11-month program that begins in June each year. One position is designated for a woodturner through the Robyn and John Horn Resident Artist Woodturning Endowment. Applications are accepted yearly. Visit <http://www.arrowmont.org/residency.html>

Application Deadline is February 15, 2005 for residency that begins June 2005.

For more information on any of our programs, visit <http://www.arrowmont.org>, call 865.436.5860; or e-mail: [info@arrowmont.org](mailto:info@arrowmont.org).

Sincerely,

David Willard, Director

## In House Demos:

**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 Invites Youth to Symposiums

The AAW Board of Directors has heard the membership loud and clear that we almost never have young people at AAW functions and especially our symposiums. We ask "Who will be our future turners and where will they come from?" For the 2005 Symposium July 22-24 in Overland Park (Kansas City), any young person ages 10 through 17 years old may attend and receive full registration including the banquet (\$245 value), free, if they are accompanied by a registered adult.

We recommend that regional or mini symposiums consider doing the same.

As a bonus incentive to help you remember to register and bring your niece, nephew, grand-

child, or the kid down the block, there will be a drawing held where the luckiest 20 youngsters will receive complete turning outfits. WMH Tool Group has generously donated 20 Jet Mini-Lathes on stands. Teknatool International has donated 20 Nova Precision Midi Chucks to fit the Jet lathes and Crown Tools has donated 20 sets of seven essential turning tools.

Prior to the Saturday night drawing, all of the donated equipment will be used in a "hands on" rotation room where Bonnie Klein has agreed to conduct hands on workshops for the youth with any open slots going to the adults. We're searching for an AAW chapter or volunteers to furnish 10 assistants to help Bonnie teach the workshops. During the rotations

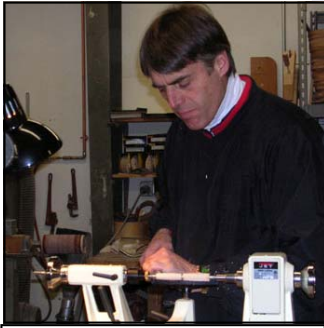
when Bonnie has other duties, the chapter will conduct hands on project sessions with the equipment.

The winners of the equipment will be responsible for shipping the lathe home. UPS will be on site to help.

Think of the tremendous impact on the creative young minds when they see the instant gallery, watch world class demonstrators, and visit the trade show. This is your opportunity to change a life and help create a new woodturner.

John Hill- Chairman of Chapters and Membership Committee





Craig zips one off

WHERE: Shelburne Craft School, Shelburne, VT  
 HOW: Call the Craft School (802) 985-3648 reserve a place  
 HOW MUCH: \$300 plus \$50 for materials  
**The following opportunities may be of interest.**  
 Studio Place Arts in Barre - Studio vacancy at SPA (large, well-lighted, near kiln room, available January 1, 2005). For information, call Sue Higby at (802) 479-7069 or write [shigby@sover.net](mailto:shigby@sover.net)

(Continued from page 3)

## Ralph Has Green Bowl Turning Seminar

Just a quick note to inform you about the green bowl turning workshop I will be teaching at the Shelburne Craft School. Here's a chance to learn how to turn a bowl from green material or refine skills you may already have. This will be a hands-on workshop and will cover areas including:

- Material selection and preparation
- Bowl gouge use and sharpening
- Bowl design considerations
- How to successfully dry wood

The workshop requires no previous experience and because it is limited to no more than four participants there will be plenty of individualized attention.

WHEN: This coming weekend, Saturday and Sunday the 13th and 14th from 9:00 to 4:00.



Final assembly using pen press



A Cub Scout earns a merit badge

Addison County (included more sites than just Addison County) Heritage Guide is beginning its second edition. If you missed being included in the first one or have questions or interest in the second, call Barbara Harding at (802) 388-7951 or e-mail [bara@midvermont.com](mailto:bara@midvermont.com).

P. S. Deadline for Open Studio Weekend materials is December 15, 2004.  
 Martha Fitch, Director  
 Vermont Crafts Council  
 PO Box 938 Montpelier, VT 05601  
 pH: (802) 223-3380  
 Fax: (802) 223-7974 Web Site: <http://www.vermontcrafts.com>

**Call to Artists**  
 for Exhibits in early 2005

**Forever Forests**  
 This show invites one-of-a-kind fine woodworking and art, including furni-



Scott's daughter tries her hand

ture, crafts, carvings and sculpture. On the walls of the gallery, there will be art made primarily from wood (e.g., assemblage, carvings), and paintings or fine photography of wild forests. The exhibit will showcase art crafted from found wood, reused or salvaged wood, or wood obtained through sustainable practices.

**Exhibition Dates:**  
 April 5-May 7, 2005

**Application Deadline:**  
 February 28, 2005

**For more info:**  
 Sue Higby, Executive Director  
 [shigby@sover.net]

**REGULAR GALLERY HOURS: Tues-Fri 10 AM-5 PM, Sat Noon-4 PM**



Notice the technique! That tongue's at the right angle!

## Secretary's Report Continued

### Woodchuck Chatter

(Continued from page 1)

Brad had the "500 Bowls" book which Amazon had on sale for \$13.

Election results will not have to wait for a recount or chads. The existing slate of officers was unanimously re-elected. Ralph didn't even show up (knowing that the worst we could do in his absence was re-elect him President)

Raffle:

\$25 gift certificate from North

End Hardwood.

North End baseball cap

Cherry wood

Apple wood

Silent auction on Hoadley's

"Identifying Wood" from Dale

Show & Tell:

Ted's "reverse Brislin" bowl and smaller ebony pocket watch holder.

Joe's article on Sloyd has been published in Period Furniture

Randy – pen

Demonstration was Dick Montague on sharpening.

Next meeting on November 18<sup>th</sup> there will be a silent auction of 2 sets of 2 grinding wheels. 36 and 60 grit 8 inch wheels.

Treasurer's Report:

There is \$2,158.19 in the account. \$464 was paid to Murray for the grinder set-up.

**Joe Barry**

<http://www.woodturningcenter.org/links.html>

<http://www.woodcentral.com/>

<http://www.woodturningonline.com/>

<http://www.cnew.org/> (Central New England Woodturners)

<http://www.woodturnerscatalog.com/>

<http://www.packardwoodworks.com/>

<http://www.tools-for-woodworking.com/>

(Highland Hardware)

## Tips & Techniques From Wise Woodchucks

Often there is a small defect in a turning that you would like to fill in. It will require very fine sawdust (wood flour) and epoxy. You have shavings and dust from the turning but you need a screen to separate out the fine dust you need.

A piece of household screen, if available, is too coarse.

Always available and just right for the task is a clothes drier vent screen. These have a very fine tight mesh, are often curved and are supported on all 4 sides by a frame

making them easy to use. Just don't tell your wife where you got the idea.

Ted Fink

[We depend on you folks to share your special tips. Give Arny an email!!](#)

**Woodchuck Turners  
of Northern Vermont**

An associated chapter of  
American Association of  
Woodturners

Publisher:  
Arny Spahn  
1620 Hebard Hill Rd.  
Randolph, VT

Phone: 802-728-4799  
Fax: 802-728-4799  
Email: [apspahn@adelphia.net](mailto:apspahn@adelphia.net)



*Randy had a great student!*

This Space For Mailing Label

