

WOODCHUCK CHATTER



December 10, 2004

Volume 1, Issue 10

Special points of interest:

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

Secretary's Report—November Meeting

Secretary's Report, November 18, 2004.

There were 25 members & guests present. Ralph opened the meeting and introduced our newest members; Joe Gaines, Les Burleson, and David Ospina.

Brad reported that we now have all the parts for our Nova 3000 lathe. Thanks to some good negotiation skills, Brad got the outrigger setup for half – off and the latest chuck, a "Supernova" instead of the standard Nova chuck. The Supernova has a number of features making for easier use. We gave a vote of thanks to Brad for his work.

Bob Bouvier asked us to bring some pen blanks home with us to turn & finish so we could have the entire lot ready for December shipment. See article on P. 4 for an update.

About 100 blanks went home with



Working on the pen project



Woodchucks. If we do our part, we'll have enough pens done for the Green Mountain Boys in Iraq to each have one for Xmas. We are to mail the completed blanks to Bob who will co-ordinate assembly & turn over to the Guard.

Toys for Tots – actually, our Good Humor wagon in the local hospital. About a dozen pieces were brought in. The Good Humor Wagon is a toy dispensary. Kids go into hospital in ill health, possibly with suppressed immune systems, and mostly scared and depressed. Toys of all sorts are given to the kids as appropriate and stay with them. Nurses can't swap toys from a kid who may present an infection problem, so new toys are needed constantly. If you can make or buy a toy, please contact Bob Bouvier to donate it.

We were urged to join AAW if we're not members. There are many advantages, including one of the best turning magazines available.

Reminders:

No meeting this month. See list of future programs elsewhere.

Other events:

The White River Craft Center is the location for a new turning group meeting in the heart of Vermont, Randolph. The group will meet on the 3rd Sunday of each month – time not established.

Ralph Tursini is doing 2 turning seminars; on January 23rd, an introduction to turning; on Feb26-27, turning bowls from green wood.

The raffle:

A piece of Wenge

Black locust

Some pen blanks

2, \$15 certificates

from The Woodturners' Catalog

Show & Tell:

Bob Bouvier – a laminated baseball bat.

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Bob's bat

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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.

Random Shots

From Ted:

1) The Winter 2004-2005 edition of *Vermont Life* (pp37-39) has a feature article on Ed Koren, the famed cartoonist for *The New Yorker*, and artist for Chucky, who adorns our T-shirts. Ed is a resident of Brookfield, VT.

2) The current Woodturners Catalog promotion until 1/15/05 is: "Spend \$100 and receive a \$20 gift voucher after January 15th."
www.woodturnerscatalog.com
or call 1 800 551 8876 and mention:

Promotion code 04FAAW12

From Bob Bouvier:

With the hard work and the help of many of you, we have reached the first objective. We have 271 completed pens!!!! The initial need was for 250 to supply to those folks already deployed out of the country, hopefully by Christmas. We met that objective!!!

CONGRATULATIONS!!!!

Hopefully next week the guard will arrange a formal hand over with enough publicity so that those folks out there who want to participate in this worthwhile endeavor get to know about it and hopefully contribute money so we can complete the job and buy kits and turn pens for all those who will be deployed at this time next year. That number could easily be 1000+ !

At the January meeting, we will have turning blanks with tubes inserted for any of you willing to turn more pens toward the 2005 objective.

When the time/place of the hand over is known, you will all be notified so as many of you as possible can attend.

Thanks again and enjoy the upcoming holiday season!!!

Bob.....

From Ted:

As you know from Bob Bouvier's last email, we have made

271 pens to date.

The current financial status of the Pens Project is:

Total donations:	\$865.00
Total expenses	721.20
Balance	\$143.80

With the large deployments now proceeding we will need momentum of interest and more money to complete this commitment. Therefore I would ask you to personally contact your local Rotary and other civic service organizations and other businesses in your communities soliciting funds. Showing them both the original press release and the letter accompanying the pens is very helpful in this regard. If you need copies of either, please let me know.

Thanks,

Ted

PS We have already contacted Rotaries in Randolph, Shelburne-Charlotte and St Albans.

Editorial Thoughts

December is a great time of year. Several major religions celebrate holidays. December provides the largest single retail month of the year and the biggest opportunity for folks to bring happiness to others.

The Good Humor Wagon and the Pens Project are two good examples of putting our talents to the use of good. Each of us has a specialty in woodturning. Breaking out of that specialty is an opportunity to learn different skills and keep the old grey matter sparking. I'm glad for the opportunity to work with you folks, and wish you all a great holiday season.

Professional Turners

AAW has an initiative to get professional turners involved in the Association in a different fashion than the rest of us. That's cool. Professionals in any

field need more skills than amateurs. I'm a retired professional photographer and my success came from business skills rather than photographic talent.

Among our photographic associations, there was a constant ferment about art vs. craft. The artists felt they were superior to the studio portrait shooters because they were more "pure" photographers. The studio types didn't like the art attitude because that made them feel inferior. The artists charged huge sums for their output; most studio shooters got far less for a portrait. But a good studio had constant positive cash flow, repeat customers, and a sense of satisfaction in their product—and their bank balance.

A third class of shooters is the "weekend warrior" who does weddings for a hobby and charges far less than a pro would. He (or she) may call himself a "professional" because that gives him some credence—up until the taxman checks him out.

What am I getting at?

A true professional is one who constantly produces to a high level of quality and gets paid for his output. A true professional is one who continues to develop his production skills and his business skills. A true professional is one who thinks of himself as being devoted to his craft and makes of it a vocation. He probably also loves to share his skills by teaching.

Amateurs who approach a craft with a desire to excel at it often end up being professionals in order to support their hobby. That's OK, too. So if you are or aspire to be a professional woodturner, take a look at the article on the AAW's program for professionals. Sharpen yourself up. It's worth the effort.

And another thing—

I noticed that I was starting to run low on "new wave" sanding disks a couple of weeks back. I had ordered my last batch

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AAW Professional Woodturners Program

I recommend that all Woodturners that consider themselves to be "Professional", or aspire to become "Professional", become AAW members and enter their information in the new AAW Professional Outreach Program (POP), a new web based information system that has been created. In order for you to be included in this program or to be included on the AAW web site as a demonstrator, you need to fill out a short questionnaire that can be opened by clicking on <http://www.woodturner.org/community/members/signup.pl> If it does not open, cut and paste this link into your browser.

The information that you will give will help to establish a database to promote the interests of the professional members of the woodturning

community and, thus, promote turned wood art as a collectable art form. All data will be used to support professional turners, craft store and gallery owners/managers, teachers, scholars, writers involved with woodturning, and collectors of turned wood art. In order to be included in the AAW Professional Outreach Program, one has to be a member of the American Association of Woodturners

<http://www.woodturner.org/mbrship/>.

When you open the questionnaire, be sure to fill it out completely. Check any boxes that apply to you. If you are a demonstrator, be sure to click on the "Demonstrator" box and fully describe your demonstration specialty. At the end of the form, click "Submit". A screen will appear showing what

you have entered. If it is correct, click "Save" and it will automatically be sent to the AAW for inclusion in the list of professional turners, craft store and gallery owners/managers, teachers, scholars, writers involved with woodturning, and collectors of turned wood art. Only those completing this form will be shown as professionals on the AAW web site and in the AAW Directory.

John Hill- Chairman of Chapters and Membership Committee

If you have any trouble or questions, please contact John Hill at 828-645-6633 or johnrhill@charter.net

In House Demos:

December: No meeting

January: Coring tools.
Dustin Coates, Ralph Tursini.

February: *Ken Gadway,*
Large butternut bowl.

March: Handling/turning green wood.
Ted

April: Open.

May: *Michael Mode*

AAW President's Message

One of the AAW Board ongoing commitments is to be responsive to the memberships needs. It's important we hear from all chapters large and small alike. Let us know what's on your mind. If you have an idea to improve existing programs or ideas you think can move the AAW forward, pick up the phone and call a board member. Let us hear from you as we move forward in 05. Board member numbers are listed inside the front cover of the AAW resource directory.

Your board is always trying to reach a balance with the many varied interests and skill levels within our association. Input is most important as we make decisions with your resources. This reminds me! Please take time to complete the current online survey concerning content of the

American Woodturner. It can be found through the AAW home page at

www.woodturner.org.

If you've read the latest American Woodturner Journal, looked to the new website, or enjoyed a chapter meeting, its getting very easy to answer the question, why join the AAW? I'm hoping that each chapter member will reflect on the value of our woodturning community. Renewing your membership or becoming a new AAW member helps support the programs, educational tools, and opportunities AAW provides.

On another note, this year's national symposium will be in Overland Park Kansas, July 22nd to the 24th. It's never too early, to start planning on attending. These symposiums are phenomenal events.

The AAW's new permanent gallery in St. Paul is open. We could certainly use some security cameras to help the staff

monitor exhibition traffic and better serve visitors. If you have some extra security cameras or are interested in helping fund this need, please call the home office. We would be most grateful.

With the holidays quickly arriving, I'm sure plenty of you are spending extra time in the shop turning gifts. It's always a good idea to think safety, but even more so when that 2 hours in the shop starts turning to 8 or 10. Good turning! And thank you all for the support you've given the AAW this year.

From the entire Board of Directors, we wish you and your families the best for the Holiday Season.

Phil Brennon
AAW President

Secretary's Report Continued

Woodchuck Chatter

(Continued from page 1)

Brad Vietje – A demonstration set of abrasives. Another hobby of Brad's is grinding telescope lenses.

He also showed some tops. He got strange results with hickory & experimented with proportions. His hickory tops needed to be 1.5X high as wide.

Hav Smith showed a large, deep bowl of



maple compression wood.

Arny said he was in a "Michael" Mode and showed a stacked bowl.

John Brislin showed a nice maple bowl – dings and all. Isn't it amazing how wood knows when you are ALMOST done finishing and flies off the lathe then?

Paul Willard showed some pens, one from a corncob, one of small pieces of varied wood laminated into a



checker/patchwork pattern.

Ted showed us a bowl from a ring burl, natural edge, about 29 inches in its long



dimension. He emphasized the outside form with a 4-1/2 inch grinder finished to 120 grit.

Bob Martin showed an ash bread trough and some "natural" elm turning.

Demo: Brad Vietje demonstrated the use of several types of ring and hook tools and promised a write-up on it for the Chatter.

Treasurer's Report:

We have \$1842,72 in the bank. Our expenses to date are covered. As of this date, \$670 has been donated for our pens project.

Arny Spahn



<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

Need a colored wood to fill a defect in the piece you are working on? If you have access to a belt sander, with a dust exhaust port, use masking tape to tape a paper towel (in the shape of a bag) to the exhaust.

Select the color of wood you need and then sand the wood with 80, 100, or 120-grit belt. Now open the paper towel bag and save the dust in a small plastic yogurt container, don't forget to write the name of

the wood on the container.

Herb

We depend on you folks to share your special tips. Give Arny an email!!

Woodchuck Turners of Northern Vermont

An associated chapter of
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Which of these is a genuine Woodchuck and which is an icon? Who modeled for what? Extra points if you can name all 8

This Space For Mailing Label

Random Shots (continued)

(Continued from page 2)

thanks to Herb's coming up with a good source—but I couldn't remember the source's name. I KNEW I had their catalog sheet on my computer somewhere, but couldn't find it. So I sent out a general email to the Woodchucks. Sure enough, Al Stirt dug it out and emailed me. Thanks, Al.

I haven't 'phoned the company, known as Motion Savers, Inc. to see if they still carry the disks. Any one else have a need for these pup-pies? Let me know.

Next Issue:

I intend to put out a January issue of "Woodchuck Chatter" about the 10th. There is a gap of activity between now and then, but I hope to have a report from Brad Vietje on hollowing tools; also, a preview of the demonstration for January.

And, any other news that fits, we print. Send

me your emails!

Big E and Open Studio Weekend

The Department of Agriculture has an opening in the Vermont Building for the duration of the Eastern States Exposition aka "the Big E" which runs next September for 17 days.

The Vermont Crafts Council has had a booth there for the past 7 years and one of our exhibitors has branched out to run his own booth there. It is a major commitment of time and inventory but does represent a genuine opportunity at a very low initial cost (approx \$300 and 15% of retail).

Those interested in the details should contact Jennifer Grahovac at jennifer@agr.state.vt.us.

Deadline for Open Studio Weekend materials is December 15, 2004.

Use the following URLs to find general information and an on-line application.

[Open Studio Information](#) -

<http://www.vermontcrafts.com/links/oswcover.html>

[Open Studio Application Form](#) -

<http://www.vermontcrafts.com/OSW/OSWForm.html>

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