

Woodchuck Chatter



Volume 1, Issue 1

Special points of interest:

- Secretary's Report
- Random Shots: What to look for here and there.
- Coming: Opinions & Reviews

March 10, 2004

Ted Fink Will Host March Meeting

We will meet on Thursday, March 18th, 7:00 PM at Ted Fink's home in Shelburne. Along with the standard agenda, Ted will demonstrate turning hats.

The skills involved in this specialty are worth paying attention to. It's easy to eyeball an old fedora or Stetson for a pattern. The hard part is in the details. Ted will demonstrate design, then go on to roughing out and the way he gets the material down to minimum, even thickness. Just as in making a felt hat, a wooden hat has to

be blocked into shape. Ted will show how he goes about the final shaping of the hat, application of the hatband, and final finishing.

To get to Ted's house:

From Burlington: Go South on rte. 7 to 4 corners in Shelburne. (at a traffic light.) Turn westward onto Harbor Rd., cross RR tracks after 100 yards. There's the Shelburne Community School on the left 1/10th mile past RR tracks. Take School St to the left immediately past the school. Proceed 1/10th mile to the second right, Davis

Ave.. Look for 136, the sixth house on the right. Conifers cover front lawn. House in stone and cedar shingles. "You can't miss it"

As usual, we'll do Show & Tell. Please bring an item you would like critiqued or shows what you have been doing lately.

We will also have a drawing. Can you bring something useful for our raffle? Last month, three lucky turners went home with an armful of cherry billets, and two others won a turning book and a gift certificate.

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Secretary's Report . . Feb. 19, 2004

Minutes February 19, 2004

- 15 members were present.
- Treasurer's report: 2,760.87 current balance.
- Dick Montague is applying for the balance of our AAW grant, \$148
- Remember to pay your dues; \$20 per year.
- AAW membership renewals are due—\$35 per member.
- We received a Thank You card from Susan Taylor, Humor cart coordinator at Fletcher Al-

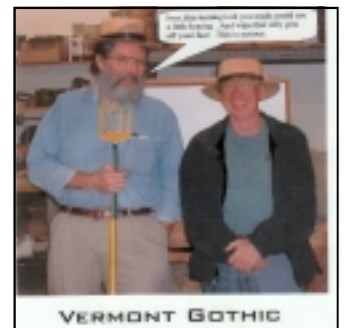
len.

- Mentoring program is under way and mentees are meeting with mentors.

- March meeting; Hat turning at Ted's. Bring a folding chair. There will be show and tell but no business meeting due to the time required to show the process.

April meeting – chucking methods. Anyone interested in demonstrating their methods?

- Bob Bouvier has a paying client with a pool cue needing repair. Anyone interested? Also



Ivor, this turning tool you made could use a little honing...and wipe that silly grin off your face, this is serious!!

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.

Feb. 19th Meeting (Continued)

the Woodnet store needs stuff to sell. They are getting advertising.

- Boston Museum of Fine Arts has a good show of furniture and turnings – Arny Spahn: **Note: This exhibit closed in February)**
- Check out the current Vermont Life for an article on furniture makers.
- Vermont Wood Products showcase April 30 – May 1st at Shelburne Farms. We will display at VT Woodnet booth. It would cost \$375 for our own booth.
- Woodcentral.com is a web site with many links to interesting stuff for woodwork-

ers.

- Raffle: 3 piles of cherry turning blanks, a \$15 gift certificate to the Woodturners store, and Ted's old 1st edition of Understanding Wood that Ralph inspired him to replace last month.

• Show & Tell:

*Dale Bergdahl: spalted maple bowl. American chestnut candle holder.

*John Brislin: butternut bowl, Cherry bowl.

*Craig Hall: Hollow form with maple tap holes, Maple burl bowl with turquoise inserts.

*Ted Fink: Meat carving platter, Large bowl of spalted



Taken in July at Woodbury.

beech to illustrate cutting blanks from logs

- Presenter: Joe Barry on turnings in furniture

Joe Barry, Sec.

Secretary's Report—Board Meeting February 25th

8 members present

Reviewed current insurance coverage. The public is covered if injured but we aren't.

Acquisitions:

*New videos; Need a way to make a copy for circulation. Randy Ramsden will do it. Ted has videos to copy.

* Tent for demos: Craig Hall to purchase at \$219 and \$49 shipping from e-bay for a 4-wall tent

* Grinder: Murray Edelstein priced a Dayton grinder (3450 rpm) with 8x1x1 Oneway 80 grit and 120 grit wheels, and diamond dresser for approx \$364.60 without tax. Decided to hold on purchase until after lathe purchase.

* Lathe purchase: The Board will place before members a motion to buy a Oneway 1224 lathe and Talon chuck for approx. \$2,000. Craig Hall has a heated shop to store it in. May delay chuck purchase and get a 1"-8TPI adapter instead .

Membership: Currently 40 members with about 20 per meeting. Has doubled in past 2 years. How much more will we expand?

60 seems a healthy goal.

Brochures: Ted has changed the names to the current slate of officers. Currently \$0.62 each to copy for an order of 100. Ralph to check price from print shops.

2004 demo schedule: Craig Hall to coordinate. He will e-mail membership.

Advertising: We will use the calendar of events in local media. Arny to check for media contacts.

In-house demos: April: chucking techniques. Sign up at the March meeting.

May: Michael Mode: Date to be determined.

June: Ralph Tursini: Wide edge bowls

July: Arny Spahn: Photographing your work

August: Picnic at Herb's. Al Stirt to critique work and lecture on the process.

September: Ted Fink: Turning platters Also: Ralph

Tursini: woodwalk

WTNV newsletter and website:

A website needs a dedicated webmaster. A *good* website needs to be up to date and have content which is useful to its readers. That requires frequent attention by the Webmaster. Anyone interested?

Arny Spahn will do a newsletter. See the Editor's Column.

Joe Barry will mail newsletters to members without email.

Woodchuck Corner.

Scott Bennett has offered space in the Woodbury's gallery for Woodchucks. He is offering a 60/40 split and he will donate his 40% to the Woodchucks. Some mechanism to screen and rotate pieces will need to be developed.

AAW Symposium 2004 – It's in Orlando, Florida; July 23-25. People at the Board meeting were not interested in going to Florida in July. The 2005 Symposium will be in Kansas City. Anyone interested? Ted and Ralph expressed interest.

Joe Barry, Sec.

This issue is just a start. What I hope to do as we go along is to get plenty of member input. Here are some of the subjects I would like explored. Please send me any thoughts as you develop them. Unless you request that I NOT change your wording, I'll do my best to clarify your writing and amplify it so that it makes easy reading.

Here are some topics:

- Book reviews
- Tool critiques
- Methods of Work
- General opinions
- Exhibitions & Craft Shows
- Replies to the Newsletter

As this is our first issue, I will fill some of the available space with more or less random items which I've come across.

About the Editor:

I've let chance drag me around quite a bit over time. I "got into" most of the things I've done. I got out of the Air Force in 1964 (how I "got into" and "out of" is another chapter) and roamed around Ohio, then Connecticut for a few years. Using my A.F. electronics training led to a job in Brewster, NY; which led to a technical writer's job, then in-house photographer. I married Cil after a few years, then quit that job & we came to Vermont first to go to photo school in S. Woodstock, then to Brookfield to set up in business as commercial photogra-

phers. That led to moving to Randolph, switching to portrait photography and a retail camera shop. That led to picture framing, which led to a love of woodworking. That led to an interest in wood turning. Cil wouldn't let me fool around with a lathe until after I took lessons for fear I'd end up with a turning gouge sticking out of my head. We went to Arrowmont in Tennessee on a week-long Elderhostel turning experience. There, we both worked under Nick Cook and Willard Baxter. I got most of the catastrophic accidents out of my system that week. We came home, we bought a lathe, several books on turning, and I got going. I've turned some decent pieces, but I still feel like I know very little. I do bring my unique perspective to this club and I'm happy to listen to what all of you have to tell me about your work, your opinions, and report to the rest of the membership.

Let's start a dialogue

Some of our Woodchucks are professional woodworkers. You depend on this craft for a large part of your livelihood. Why and how you got and stay in this field is interesting.

Some of us do woodwork as a hobby only. There are probably quite a few of us who make an occasional piece for sale or use woodworking as a second income. That's interesting.

Hobbyist? Amateur? Semi-pro? Professional? How do you define yourself? Let's hear

about it.

As a professional photographer, I saw about the same spectrum of amateur to pro interest in that field. We ranged from the weekend wedding shooter working from home to full-time, studio-based specialists. The average was probably someone with a full-time job (usually teaching), doing portraits and weddings out of a special-built studio attached to the home. As a pro, my biggest gripe was not the competition, but the folks who didn't pay Vt. Sales tax, gave away their time, and didn't keep their negatives.

At club meetings (yes, we had professional associations at State, Regional, and National levels) the newcomer would usually ask about going rates for work and we would try to educate about how to figure cost and how to charge. We were all under the impression that public law didn't allow for any activity which might look like price-fixing. Talking about price lists was forbidden. We got around that, as I'm sure most professionals do.

Photographers seem to really like lectures on how to take photos, but not on how to do business. They brag to each other about their average "take" on portraits and weddings, but are known to suppliers as very poor credit risks.

What are your educational interests?

-Arny

"Hobbyist?

Amateur? Semi-

pro? Professional?

How do you define

yourself?"

Random Shots

Joe Barry tells us that there's an exhibit in Providence, RI at the Rhode Island School of Design Museum worth visiting. "Spindles and Spokes: Windsor chairs And Their Legacy." 224 Benefit St. Runs Feb. 20 to Apr. 25. Go to WWW.RISD.edu/

museum.exhibitions.cfm.

The Board talked about jurying work for the Corner at Woodbury. See the article in the Spring "American Woodturner" on critiqueing. Receiving critiques can be helpful in developing skills. We do not

like to be criticized, but a good review of our work can help correct habits which detract from our work. Poor proportions, jarring lines, unattractive finishes—I've had these shown to me by some gentle but honest friends.

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An associated chapter of
American Association of
Woodturners

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This Space For Mailing Label

More Random Shots

I recently was in Barnes & Noble in S. Burlington and picked up a magazine; "Woodturning Design." It's a new magazine which will be published quarterly. Subscriptions are \$19.97 per year, \$39.94 for two years. There's a lot of how-to in it.

Go to woodturningdesign.com for a look at it.

Available occasionally at B&N Bookstore is "Woodturning", a British magazine. It has a number of good articles and is \$8 on the shelf. I like it because the Brit perspective is different, and also because the prices in pounds Sterling make our stuff

look inexpensive. Tool Reviews: I'm about to receive a spindle steady rest from Woodcraft. It's a \$33 job & I'll let you know next time how it works. I've seen ads for the One Way spindle steady rest for \$99. I have their bowl steady & it works well.

I also bought a pair of buffing wheels. They come drilled for about 9/16" mandrel and my Beall Buffing System uses 3/8" mandrel. I'm having a time getting the new wheels to balance. Any one else have tales about good/bad tools?



Bagpipe? Hobbit walking sticks?
Hippy tent stakes? What???