

WOODCHUCK CHATTER



April 8, 2004

Volume 1, Issue 2

Special points of interest:

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

April 15 Meeting Set For Woodbury's



Once again, our merry crew will meet at the Woodbury shop at 7:00 PM. We'll have the standard reports and events. Can you bring something for our raffle? How about Show-And-Tell?

The demonstration this

month is Methods of Chucking. Bring some examples of your methods of fastening wood to the lathe. Do you have an unique, safe method of chucking?

Secretary's Report . . March 18, 2004

Meeting March 18th at Ted Fink's House.

Ted arranged a house fire to challenge our navigational skills in the big city. Hot dogs were not supplied.

18 attendees.

We had income of \$163 in the last month giving us \$2,923.87 in the bank.

T-shirts are on sale for those warm months we are reputed to get soon. \$15 each in medium to XXXL. \$20 for non-members.

New tapes in the lending library from Ted and copied by Randy:

Johannes Michelsen Turns a Wood Range Rider (hat)

Mike Mahoney. From the Tree to the Table.

We need items for the Woodbury's gallery.

We will vote at next month's

meeting on the lathe purchase.

Next meeting is April 15th at Woodbury's on chucking methods. See Craig Hall for demonstrating your method. There is still plenty of room.

March 27-28 at Saratoga Civic Center is a woodworking show with some turning and an instant gallery. \$5 admission.

Wood products show at Shelburne- Bob Bouvier encouraging more small shops to enter design competition. The Woodnet booth will display our stuff.

Raffle:

\$15 gift certificate

4 neoprene pads for chucking.

Issue #1 Woodturning Design magazine.

Show & Tell:

Bob Martin: Cherry lid for pot turned by his daughter.

Randy Ramsden: White birch bowl.

Luke Mann: Turning with carving inspired by pottery;

cherry burl with lid,

cubes with multiple centers.

Brad Vietje: Curly eucalyptus hollow form

Paul Willard; small boxes from last months raffle billets

Have Smith: 2 large cherry bowls based on basket forms

Dale Bergdahl: 98 ice storm log spalted sugar maple bowl

Ralph Tursini: Cherry bowls with textured rims and a sugar maple tray

Demonstration: Ted Fink's hat turning was so good that time seemed to stand still - at least his clock stopped.

Joe Barry, Sec.

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Turning A Wooden Hat

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.



Transforming a 100 pound block of maple into a wearable 7 ounce hat is a 10 day process. After chain sawing the block of wood into a 13" X 6" cylinder, it is chucked on the lathe using a 7" faceplate. Most of the waste is removed and the piece is then held by a large tenon turned above what will be the crown of the hat. From this chucking the hat is turned to exact dimensions inside and out. Achieving the 3/32" thickness of the brim and sides was facilitated by using the wood's translucency as a guide. The outside diameter of the hat



at the hatband is arrived at by averaging the transverse and anterior-posterior diameters of one's head and adding 5/8". The hat is then sanded to at least 220 grit before coloring the hatband using Cobbler's Edge Ink. (Johannes Michelsen who developed the entire process of turning wooden hats uses a piece of ebony or other colored wood at high speed to bum the hatband into the turning.)

The hat is then sprayed with water to bring it back to true roundness for its final inboard chucking on a light box wrapped in either neoprene or cut up router mat. The chuck contains a bearing to allow

the light inside the box to remain motionless while the crown of the hat is turned, again using the wood's translucency, to 1/16" thickness.



After final sanding the hat is set aside for at least 4 hours before the shaping of the hat begins in the dynamic bender. The gentle squeezing of the hat and curving of the brim, using rubber bands and a variety of clamps, results, over a period of 2 to 4 days, in achieving the desired size and shape.

While the hat is still in the bender a lamp is placed beneath the hat and left on for 2 days resulting in a wood MC (moisture content) of less than 5%. This drying insures the retention of the achieved size and shape. Much sanding, mostly by hand, prepares the hat for finishing. I use at least 4 coats of a wipe-on Polyurethane, sanding between each coat. I use this finish for protection against staining or soiling of the hat during use and more importantly to prevent the hygroscopic wood from taking up moisture from the air and thereby changing shape or size.

Ted Fink



Random Shots

Hi Guys, I received a phone call from an old woodchuck, Ray Cannata, he is living in Florida and will attend the symposium down there this year. Ray is looking to connect with

anyone going down there or any old friend that wants to say Hi, his phone number is 352-684-6552. He does not have a computer or E-mail. Herb



A jug of Coke, a log of maple, and thou in the workshop...

The AAW Board of Directors has made the decision to involve more general members in the working committees that keep the AAW organization running smoothly. We believe that there is a tremendous pool of talent out there among our 10,000 members and that with that talent placed on the committees, we can much better serve the chapters and the general members.

Each committee has at least one board member serving on it. By having the general members serve along side the board members, the ideas, needs and desires of the general members and chapters will be easily conveyed to the board so that the board can be more responsive to the membership.

We are looking for people who are experienced in certain fields and who are willing to volunteer to work on various committees and projects. The work of most committees or projects will be done by electronic messaging or conference calls. Certain photographic and video production tasks may require infrequent travel at AAW expense. At the present, we are looking for people who are experienced in the following areas:

Web experts to serve on the Internet committee as advisors and to assist in researching new technical content for the AAW website.

Volunteers to help input material onto the internet.

Graphic artists and illustrators to work on the Publications committee.

Photographers skilled in high quality digital photography to help photograph wood art and projects for the articles for

the American Woodturner when the work is in the photographer's area of the country. Photographers are also needed for the symposiums.

CPAs experienced with non-profit organizations to serve on the Finance committee. (AAW is presently using Quick Books Pro)

Attorneys to serve as advisors from time to time. (We already have two serving on the Insurance Advisory committee)

Judge (retired or active) who may serve on the Ethics committee.

Individuals with experience in video production, either camera operator, editor, producer, director or professionals skilled in the film industry to serve on the Video committee which produces our educational videos and DVDs and other projects.

Auctioneer to serve as a backup at the symposiums. (in case the primary auctioneer gets sick, etc.)

Individuals with interest to serve on the Symposium planning committee.

If you have members of your chapter that can fit any of the above positions, please have them contact me ASAP and I will refer them to the appropriate committee chairman for consideration. John Hill - Chapters and Membership Committee Chairman

Johnrhill@charter.net

AAW Online Calendar

Our thanks to Joe Donohue Woodturner@FormaExSilva.com,

the new AAW online Calendar volunteer coordinator.

The AAW Online calendar has been available for a few years but fell into disuse in the last 2 years. The online calendar now shows upcoming events. The calendar is in the News section of the new website. There are 2 views:

by date: <http://www.woodturner.org/news/cal/calbydate.cfm>
by region: <http://www.woodturner.org/news/cal/calbyregion.cfm>

Thanks to Joe Donohue of Nevada Woodchucks for volunteering to regularly maintain this AAW website feature. It's volunteers like Joe that help make the AAW such a great organization.

AAW Webmaster

AAW Obit Column

Obituaries will be posted on the new AAW web site at www.woodturner.org/community. This webpage is new as of 2/04. The objective is to provide a place where we can remember former woodturning friends and colleagues. If you would like to submit an entry, please email Webmaster@woodturner.org or Mary Lacer at woodturner@qwest.net.

AAW Online Survey

Reminder: The AAW's second on-line survey is now posted at : www.woodturner.org. In addition to evaluating the Spring 2004 American Woodturner, we welcome your comments on upcoming journal articles under consideration plus changes to the AAW web site. The on-line survey is available through April 15.

Funeral Urns. Has someone in your chapter created an unusual urn for human or pet? If so, contact American Woodturner editor Carl Voss at carlvoss@msn.com. Carl plans

to publish a gallery of interesting urns in the Fall 2004 issue. Photos for consideration are accepted through May 1; Photo submissions guidelines are on the AAW web site.

Chapter sage. Would anyone in your chapter qualify as a sage? If so, Carl is looking to profile some of the AAW's sages. What exactly is a sage? This may be hard to get your arms around. Some experts on "saging and aging" have described a sage as someone who approaches creative elderhood with artistic self-expression and creativity.

Another definition: Someone who is willing to pass on his or her knowledge for the benefit of the next generation--a generous, accepting mentor.

A sage is a treasure of your turning community. By itself, just being old--or woodturning for decades--doesn't qualify someone to be a sage. A sage is not an unbending codger. While a charming old-timer regales all within earshot with stories of "how it used to be," a sage would open his shop to someone who needs extra help with a skew. A sage is someone a young woodturner seeks out. Rather than continuing to turn pieces as he has for decades, a sage would read about a new technique and then tackle it himself. Does this fit someone in your chapter? If so, please contact editor Carl Voss carlvoss@msn.com by April 15.



"Woodchucks" or "Woodchicks"



The long awaited "Woodchick" feasibility report has been submitted by the ad hoc Names Committee. The abstract is presented here for your perusal. If you wish to read this report in its entirety, it will appear in the May issue of *The American Journal Of Vertiginous Woodturners*.

Armed with little more than a strong sense of duty, incredible naiveté and the question: "Would you rather be called a woodchuck or a woodchick?" four intrepid committee members pursued this all important research. Between December 15, 2003 and March 15, 2004 the researchers randomly approached 519 women in the Church Street Marketplace. The responses they received are summarized in table I.

Table I.

<u>Response</u>	
Favor "Woodchuck"	217
Favor "Woodchick"	203
Assaults Total:	31
With: <i>Hand or fist</i>	14
<i>Handbag</i>	12
<i>Umbrella</i>	5
Obscene Gesture or Suggestion	34
Calls to Police	3

Comments & Conclusions:

Although the research team did not break the results out demographically, it was the general impression of the committee members that younger respondents (under age 20) favored "Woodchick" by a wide margin.

The researchers quickly discovered that assaults in which an umbrella was used, were particularly painful. Therefore they soon curtailed their efforts to only those days for which no precipitation was forecast.

They also drew the conclusion that the likelihood of the response being an assault, obscene gesture or suggestion or a call to the police increased significantly if they were wearing their full woodchuck costume and they approached the the subjects after night-fall.

The primary conclusion: **All members should carry the same moniker, "woodchucks". And:** Never volunteer for any project having the term "Woodchuck Research" in the title.

Respectfully submitted,

The Ad Hoc Name Committee



“Never volunteer for any project having the term ‘Woodchuck Research’ in the title.”



Woodcraft spindle steady ready to mount

I received Woodcraft's Spindle Steady last week. It cost \$33.95 plus shipping. It's a very sturdy device of cast iron with 3 ball-bearing spindle supports. It comes with spacers for 7" and 8" center heights. Included are two clamp blocks, one for 1.5" between bed rails, one for 2" between bed rails. It will work with most flat-bed lathes with center heights between 5 and 9 inches- about 10 to 18" swing. All parts except the support bearings are very heavy cast iron. The mounting bolt is long and heavy. I had to saw off 1.5" of the bolt to enable sliding the assembly along the bed of my Nova 3000 lathe. Getting it set on the lathe bed took just a few minutes, and adjusting the spindle supports to the work piece was also easy.

The device has a large mouth so it can take a 3" work-piece easily.

The most difficult part of using this item, after cutting the tie-bolt off so it cleared the cross braces of the lathe bed, was placing the banjo and tool rest for the longest sequence of turning the workpiece. The bolt-head requires a 1-1/8" wrench for tightening.

The ball bearing supports

Tool Time

mark the work surface so I'd want a neoprene contact surface on the bearings. Next time I buy lobsters for a special supper, I'll save the rubber bands holding the claws shut to put on the bearings.

Compare the One-Way bowl and spindle steadys. One way wants about \$99 for the bowl steady (shown) and about \$115 for the spindle steady. So far, I haven't seen a supplier willing to sell the devices as a



single base with both the bowl and spindle steadys as a package. The main difference between One-way's 2 products is that the spindle steady has 3 supports to surround the workpiece and the bowl steady has only two.

Instead of the cast-iron body of the Woodcraft spindle steady, the One-way devices use a very heavy steel base long enough to accommodate a much larger workpiece, a massive vertical support, and an articulated bearing support arm. The bearings on the One-way devices are in-line skate wheels. Each wheel has a ball-bearing pivot and a resilient contact



Oneway Bowl Steady

surface.

Both the One-way and Woodcraft supports rumble when in use. The One-way devices do not mar the work surface as does the Woodcraft unit.

Given the difference in cost, the Woodcraft unit is probably a very good deal for a devoted spindle turner. The Oneway units are probably more versatile and less likely to mar a project, but are about 3 times as expensive. Ya get what ya pays for.

Editor's Corner

Many thanks this month to **Ted Fink** for providing much of the material in this issue. Thanks also to **Bob Bouvier** who mailed me a CD full of images.

The biggest dread for ANY kind of journalist is to be facing a deadline and an empty "in" basket at the same time. We welcome all sorts of input and promise to very gently bring it into shape for publication.



"I never drove a car I didn't like" -

Tom Macahill-

1947

Mechanix Illustrated

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This Space For Mailing Label

More Random Shots

In-house demos:

May 15th: Michael Mode: Location TBA

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

Sharing Good Ideas

AAW is adding a new feature to its web site called, 'Chapter Best Practices'. Chapters which have held a successful event or found a creative way to run an on-going function will be asked to document their success in a one-page statement. These will be

posted on the web site for all AAW members to read. Hopefully, this will help new chapters get off to a fast start and encourage existing chapters to try new ideas. Strengthening chapters is the best way we can strengthen AAW.

Bill Small, president of the Bay Area (San Francisco) Woodturners, has agreed to serve as chair of a small committee which will oversee the collection and editing of the best practices write-ups. He is looking for other committee members who are comfortable with volunteering a couple of hours a month, are open to new ideas and enjoy writing. To volunteer, contact Bill at williamsmall@comcast.net

