

WOODCHUCK CHATTER



Volume 1, Issue 3

Special points of interest:

- Secretary's Report
- Random Shots: What to look for here and there.
- Book Review
- Message from AAW President Phil Brennon

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May 10, 2004

Michael Mode To Be At May Meeting

Our guest demonstrator the evening of May 13th will be Michael Mode. The 'chucks who have been members for some time know Michael as a master turner. We are meeting a week early to accommodate Michael's calendar. His talks have been very informative each time he's been able to come to our meetings.

This time, Michael will show us how to mount work which presents

problems. He says, "I will demonstrate how I chuck a bowl when I can't use a mechanical chuck. This is useful if a bowl needs to have some repair work done and the foot is shaped in a way that can no longer be grasped, or if the bowl has no foot at all, or if in fact the bowl is intended to be a lid."

That should help us who do damage re-chucking.

The meeting is scheduled for 7:00 PM at the Wood-

bury shop. Speaking of Woodbury, Scott is still looking to showcase members' work. Get in touch with him. This offer can bring fame to The Woodchucks as well as you. Fortune? Well, a few bucks for a new gouge couldn't hurt.

We will also have the officers' reports, a raffle, and "Show And Tell." Bring a problem piece if you have one. Problems are worth sharing, too.

Secretary's Report . . May 15, 2004

18 members were present on May 15th.

Old business:

Please get handbook updates to Ted Fink. Add your spouse/significant other's name. Ted notes that he can remember Craig's dog's name but not his spouse's! (Admittedly the dog is named Oliver after the lathe)

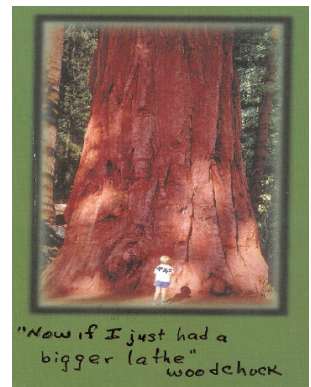
Craig has ordered the demo tent.

Current bank balance is \$3,021.87

New business:

The vote on the lathe was

the big event of the evening and took up most of the meeting. After a lively debate of all the relative merits there was a 10-6 vote to decide tonight. The final vote was 16 in favor of purchase of a Nova over the Oneway. Brad was authorized to explore motor options/variable speed/low speed. He was authorized to purchase if it had: 1 HP; 115 volt; variable speed; reverse; low speed variable speed; the total not to exceed \$2,000. There is a sale on the new Nova lathe during April that we are trying to take advantage of. Additionally, Brad reported that



we may be able to get some extras thrown in by the manufacturer. More to follow.

April 15th Meeting (Continued)

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
martrm@ 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
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.

Raffle:

\$15 gift certificate; antenna depth gauge; box elder; 2 chunks of cherry and 1 unknown wood; brass fuel reservoirs (unclaimed) and a Jacobs chuck

Show 'n Tell:

Bob Bouvier: May 1st for wood products show at Shelburne. He has complimentary tickets.

110 submissions to design competition.

Woodnet has an in to the Shelburne gift shop for unique Vermont Wood items on consignment. They have to be in by May and they will decide June 1st what to keep. Has to be signed with a hang tag indicating made in Vermont. Also mark it with the price you want to get and they will set retail price. Contact is Brian Jones 878-4895.

Randy: Cherry bowl. Also he has extra anchor seal for sale.



Hav Smith: 2 black locust bowls, straight sided cherry bowl.

Craig: Large curly birch bowl with turquoise inlay.

David: 4 black and gesso bowls with carving. varied species.

Brad; corkscrew vine, box elder burl hollow form.

Army: Pictures of his new shop wing with a kitchen over it. He notes that it is just 3 feet too small (anyone seen the board stretcher?)

Next meeting is a week early on May 13th to accommodate Michael Mode's schedule. Mark your calendar.

Newsletter deadline is the 7th of the month. Get your copy to Army by then for inclusion.

The lathe debate took up most of the meeting and we went late with an abbreviated chucking demo.



Hav Smith: Mega jaws for the Oneway chuck with spacers and rubber tips on #6 metric screws to hold a straight sided bowl

Ted: for chucking irregular pieces such as a large funnel using a plywood faceplate with carpet underlayment and leav-



ing a dimple in the bottom to help re-center a bowl. A pomel with a neoprene mouse pad for irregular edge bowls. For burls drill a 2 3/4" hole and turn a tenon to glue into the hole giving the chuck something to grab.

Dick: Spindles and small stuff.

Ralph: Spur centers for bowls.



Brad: Reverse turning and billets/odd shapes. Use of large spur center from Bestwood Tools in Texas (Ralph has one he wants to get rid of). Use of the dead center in the headstock.

Joe Barry

Remember Ted Vietje

We received word that fellow member Ted Vietje died April 24th after a long battle with lung cancer. We extend our heartfelt condolences to his wife, Debra Edmands, and his son, Brad. Ted was most grateful to receive a Woodchucks t-shirt from us last year. He loved our companionship.



The Vermont Woodnet booth at the Showcase was brought to its full elegant presentation of 48 varied wood workers and well over a hundred pieces largely through the efforts of Woodchuck member, Bob Bouvier. Pieces by 7 different members of the Woodchuck Turners, including Scott Bennett, Bob Bou-

vier, Dale Bergdahl, Murray Edelstein, Dick Montague, Ted Fink, and Jim Cunningham were shown in the booth.

At the Friday evening reception in the coach barn at Shelburne Farms, Governor Jim Douglas presented awards to 3 prize winning Woodchucks in the design competition.

Category: Custom Wood Turning

Luke Mann 2nd prize
Lidded Red Maple burl bowl
Ted Fink 3rd prize
Spalted Beech hat

Category: Custom Woodenware

Bob Bouvier 2nd prize
8 piece set oval Shaker Boxes
Ted Fink 3rd prize
Reactionwood Sugar Maple bowl



At the Woodnet booth, May 1st at Shelburne

Chucking Irregularly Shaped Objects

Large irregularly shaped pieces of wood, either single or segmented, often present chucking challenges. The immediate goal in solving these problems is determining how to apply a faceplate or glue block in such a way as to confidently secure the piece to the lathe.

The problem is further accentuated by the fact that these pieces are, by their very nature, unbalanced. This asymmetry of mass is sometimes augmented by the intent to retain irregular features for aesthetic purposes. The need to turn these pieces at low rpms with a very secure chucking, for safety reasons, is obvious.

To secure a very large segmented piece of glued up 8/4 cherry for outboard turning, I glued a piece of 2 by 8 across the large open end and then screwed a 7" faceplate to the 2 by 8. I glued a block on the opposite end for turning a large tenon. I turned the entire outside then grabbed the tenon in my Oneway Stronghold chuck to turn the inside of the piece.

Chucking irregular objects starts by making a small area of the surface flat for applying either a glue block or faceplate. The flat spot can be made by using a large 2 3/4" Forstner bit in the drill press or a 1" Forstner brought down repeatedly with the drill press depth stop set until a flat area of about 3" diameter has been created. Then glue on a strong perfectly square block of hardwood or attach a 3" faceplate. The glue block, to be used with a 4 jaw chuck, must be perfectly square to provide maximum gripping strength (the comers should be positioned between adjacent jaws providing 8 points of contact) and to center the piece properly if you remove it from the lathe and later rechuck it. The advantage of using a particularly thick glue block is that you not only save material in the piece but you give yourself enough room to finish turn the piece from a single chucking. Always be certain to make your glue block so that you will be attaching it to the work piece side grain to side grain.

Finish Turning Bowl Bottoms

Attach a small faceplate to a round piece of 3/4" plywood sized to be near the maximum diameter inboard capacity of your lathe. Cover the side opposite the faceplate with carpet padding or similar material. With this mounted inboard on the headstock, put the flat rim of your bowl to be bottom-turned against this plate and bring up the tail stock to apply pressure to hold the bowl firmly. Centering the bowl is made easy by always turning a small dimple in the tenon center at the bottom of the bowl.

For bowls with an irregular rim, such as natural edge bowls, turn a large pommel to fit into the inside of the bowl. This pommel has a tenon at its base so that it can be easily held in a 4-jaw chuck. The pommel is covered with a mouse pad, leather or similar material to protect the bowl's interior while turning the bottom with the tail stock again brought up to securely hold the piece against the pommel.

Ted Fink

AAW News

AAW Chapter Liaison

Dear Ted Fink,

I want to introduce myself and let you know that I will be your AAW Chapter liaison. My job is to make your job easier. We both know that "the chapter is where the rubber meets the road". You are the person that will guide and help your chapter members get all that they can from your chapter and the AAW. You and I are both here to serve them. With that said, I want to let you know that if you have any questions, needs, or suggestions, to contact me and I will either handle it myself or get it to the right person to get you the results that you want.

A primary method of keeping you informed on a regular basis, of exciting new programs and things that can help you in your chapter, is by using emails. If at any time, you do not have email access, please let me know so that I can send "snail mail" so that you will not miss anything.

Already this spring, I sent out an email containing important information about the

great liability insurance policy that AAW furnishes to protect your chapter and all chapter members that are also AAW members. Many chapter presidents have explained this information to their members, encouraging them to join the AAW to get this protection. Without being an AAW member, a chapter member has no protection and could be personally liable in case of an accident. This is a good opportunity to encourage your members to join AAW to get this and all of the other great benefits of membership.

The AAW Board of Directors has made the decision to involve more general members in the many committees that make the AAW run so smoothly. With more general members involved, (particularly those with certain expertise or talents) we believe that the AAW will be able to better serve the membership and that communication with the chapters will be greatly improved.

Keep an eye on the AAW web site where the "Chapters Best Practices" section will be formed. This is

where we will post short articles covering all aspects of successfully running a chapter. When it is up and posted, you will no longer have to "invent the wheel" because others have gone before you and will share their successes and failures on many topics.

If you need extra membership applications, you can download and print them from the web at <http://www.woodturner.org/org/mbrship/mbrship.html> or people can join on line at <https://www.woodturner.org/org/mbrship/online.cfm>. Please remind your members of the 18th AAW Symposium in Orlando this July 23 - 25. They can register on line at <https://www.woodturner.org/sym/sympform.cfm>.

Sincerely,
John Hill - Chairman -
AAW Chapters and membership Committee
828-645-6633
johnrhill@charter.net

**In House Demos:
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**

Message From The AAW President

We are a little less than 90 days from the annual symposium in Orlando and already over 1200 rooms have been sold out at the host hotel, Carribe Royale. I'm told there are other rooms still available in the area. What this means is, the Florida symposium seems to be shaping up to be one of the best attended yet. We hope your members can join us there.

While in Orlando the board of directors will meet to deal with a full agenda of diverse topics. One of the topics that will directly impact the chapters will be the issue of Chapter Collaborative Challenge. There has been discussion about holding the CC every 2 years instead of every year. Every 2 years would certainly give more time for elaborate projects. I would very much like to hear from your chapter as to their preference.

On another note: Our original forum on the internet has been superb, now we've made it even better. You can now easily post pictures

of your work online. This allows members to show their work, to share techniques or even ask for critiques... Even if you don't post, it's an awesome place to get inspiration. You can access and register for this new forum/gallery from the main AAW webpage www.woodturner.org.

If you registered with the old forum, you need to re-register for the new one, an easy process....

Please remember to communicate with Chapters Committee (johnrhill@charter.net) or feel free to call any board member with concerns, suggestions or to just let us know what your chapter is doing.

Best regards,
Phil Brennon
AAW President

Wouldn't Ya Know ...

Last month, I reviewed a spindle steady rest and remarked that I wished they sold the Oneway steady rest head separately. I received my "Woodturners' Catalog" this week and a featured item was that durn' steady rest head only for 60 bucks. Maybe when I get my allowance next month ...

The "Woodturners' Catalog" is full of new items. There are several new tools from Sorby, Kelton, and others. There are also more lathes than I've seen in that catalog. If you are not on their mailing list, the website is:

www.woodturnerscatalog.com

I Did Some Reading...

I also received my first subscription issue of "Woodturning Design" in the mail last week. This is a magazine full of varied info. Advanced turners can get inspiration from the more exotic articles, I'm sure. I see a number of projects worth trying. I'm in a Domestic Diva phase right now, so the articles on kitchen tools will get further study. The title is "Turned Treen for Today," and discusses a number of handled implements. Essentially, you turn a handle with a tenon on it, make a blade (fork, paddle, scraper), and join the two. There are several illustrations of full-size patterns and good instructions for the entire project.

Nick Cook was my first woodturning teacher during a week's Elderhostel at Arrowmont in Tennessee. He shows

up in this issue with an article on turning a garden dibble with the skew gouge. It's a piece he had us make during the school and I was pleased to see the article. I still am not fully confident with the skew.

Some unusual materials are explored, also. There's an article on turning Corian—that's the expensive stuff used primarily for kitchen counters. The object made is a stand for a small quartz—movement clock. The article goes through the finishing process, which requires some special abrasive material to final polish. The author says that the polishing phase should only take 5 minutes total. The other interesting material was polymer clay, from which the author made pens. He combined colors, rolled the result around pen-kit brass tubes, and baked the stuff in a toaster oven. Not the one he had his breakfast toast in, I assure you. He then put the blanks on a mandrel and using a sharp round nose scraper at fairly high speed, turned the blanks to pleasing shapes.

There's also a good review of the Jet VS mini-lathe. This little number has a variable speed control in addition to multiple pulley pairs. The reviewer gives it 4-1/2 stars.

One Good Book—

I picked up a couple of soft cover books on turning the last time I was up in Burlington at Barnes & Noble.

"Turned Boxes—50 Designs" by Chris Stott seemed to have some real

value for me.

Mr. Stott remarks in his preliminary notes that the working drawings may be photocopied by the reader for our private use but may not be reproduced commercially. Fair enough. There's a good section on technique and inspiration. Chris gives a brief history of turned boxes and talks extensively about tools and materials.

I like his coverage of safety in the workshop. He talks about eye protection, loose clothing, the firm manner one should approach the cut. And he covers dust and allergies. One point he makes which I hadn't thought of was to use paper rather than rags for applying finishes. Rags have much more tensile strength than paper towels, so if it's wrapped around a finger, and snags on the work piece—OUCH!!

I really like his sense of proportion and flow. His directions are easy to follow, and are quite complete for each basic type of box. His reasoning on design also seems quite sound. The steps are in a logical order.

His discussion of the various types of material used is fascinating. Chris covers wood as well as man-made materials; acrylics, rosin, and aluminum.

This book is published by The Guild of Master Craftsmen and cost \$19.95 at Barnes & Noble.

Arny Spahn

"Turned Boxes—50 Designs" by Chris Stott seems to have some real value."



Ted demonstrates a portable lathe bench



Using a dead center as a live, spurless center for safety

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



Photo By Randy

This Space For Mailing Label

More Random Shots



Ted's new tool

My thanks to Ted Fink for all the input he's given for this and previous issues. Also, thanks to Randy for photos.

We had a good discussion on which lathe to buy at the last meeting. I didn't sense anything but give and take. In some circles, there's more heat than light generated over subjects far easier to settle.

Ted Fink's portable bench makes a tool easy to transport. I wonder how stable it will be when in use. Ted tells me that his wife bought him a new Nova 3000 lathe for his birthday. I bet he can now give a

good run-down by Thursday.

If you keep your RPMs down to reasonable speeds, you should be able to use even a light-weight bench and lathe without trouble.

Pilots like to say that there are old pilots and there are bold pilots, but there are no old bold pilots. That's a good thought for turners, too. When you turn the lights on in your shop, think of safety first. Come upstairs with both eyes and all your fingers.

SAFE turning,

Arny