

# WOODCHUCK CHATTER



June 10, 2004

Volume 1, Issue 4

## Special points of interest:

- Secretary's Report
- Random Shots: What to look for here and there.
- What's Up in Crafts
- What's Coming Up

## Inside this issue:

Lilac Weekend	2
Woodchuck Board Info.	2
Michael Mode's Methods	3
News From Away	4
Demo Schedule	4
Badge Offer	6
Random Shots	6

## Ralph Tursini to Turn Spheres At Meeting

Our next meeting is scheduled for June 17th, at 7:00 PM, at Woodbury's.

Ralph says, "For my demo I will revisit spheres. This is a topic that Bob Bouvier did a while back, but had trouble demonstrating due to lathe problems at our old meeting place. I became interested in the topic a few months back when I had an order for spheres to be turned as finials for bed-posts. After working through the technique with help from an American Woodturner article, (Summer 2003 Vol.18, No.2) as well as discovering and applying

some of my own techniques I discovered something. For some reason, spheres are very satisfying to make. Maybe it's the symmetry of the sphere contrasting with the anisotropic wood, or how difficult it seems to be able to make a perfect sphere, when in actuality it is as simple as a change of axis (more on this at the demo).

I will go through how I chuck to the timber for sphere turning, then turn a sphere - maybe a giant one- then sand it showing vacuum chuck and non-vacuum chuck methods. I plan to bring my vacuum

pump setup, so if there is extra time I can go into how it works and show how to give yourself a terrible hickey with it (I'll need a volunteer for the latter).


So come with questions - or even better yet, give it a try ahead of time and I'll see you there.

We will also have the officers' reports, a raffle, and "Show And Tell."

## Secretary's Report . . May 13, 2004

Secretary's report May 13<sup>th</sup> 2004 Meeting at Woodbury's. I 6 present.

The Treasurer reports that our current bank balance is \$2784.92.

Michael Mode was honored with presentation of an honorary lifetime membership framed and suitable for collecting dust in the workshop. 

Ted Vietje has passed away and the Woodchucks did send flowers. Brad, obviously, has not had time to deal with the new lathe purchase.



Next month June 17<sup>th</sup> at Woodbury's Ralph Tursini will demonstrate wide edge bowls (Note: Ralph has changed subject. See

above)

Sunday May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Ted Fink and Jim Cunningham will demonstrate pen turning and pill bowls of lilac trimmings at the Shelburne Museum Lilac Sunday. 10-5 at the General Store.

May 29-30<sup>th</sup> is the statewide open studio weekend. Dick and Ted will demonstrate at the Shelburne craft School on Saturday the 29<sup>th</sup>.

Craig has purchased the demo tent.

Scott announced that he'd like

## 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.



work for Al Stirt's critique at the August barbecue.

#### Raffle:

(That'll be \$2 to ante up now, cowboy)

- 2 chunks of cherry
- 1 chunk of cottonwood
- \$15 gift certificate
- Mouse pads

#### Show & Tell:

Arny: kitchen scoops in cherry and mahogany

Randy: white birch bowl

John: cherry bowl assembled with polyurethane glue

to host a Woodchuck demo and display for about a month. He reports increased studio traffic. Possibly in September with the tent outside doing demos on the weekend that parents and students arrive? More to follow.

Remember to start stockpiling



#### Demonstration:

Michael Mode graciously demonstrated his techniques for repairing and finishing his bowls. See separate article

## Shelburne Museum Lilac Sunday



Under heavy gray skies and in a cold drizzle, Jim Cunningham and Ted Fink set up their lathes on the covered porch of the museum's General Store early on the morning of May 23rd. In keeping with the motif for the day, Jim turned lilac pens and Ted turned lilac bowls.



About half of the lilac pruned from the 200 plus lilac bushes on the museum grounds has deep purple streaking in the wood. This purplish coloration appears to be unrelated to the blossom color of any given bush or species. It was certainly a hot topic for discussion with visitors throughout the day. It was also a strong selling point because of its uniqueness and beauty.

Visitors to the demonstrations included fellow members Paul Willard and John Brislin. Former governor Madeline Kunin also stopped by but didn't buy anything. As the weather improved so did the crowds. Jim and Ted had a very enjoyable and profitable day with over \$600 in total sales.



Michael brought two bowls for this demo. Both were his signature tapered ring construction with a French polish finish. The smaller bowl (1.) was a new bowl of Amboyna burl (retail \$250-300) that was in progress. The larger bowl (2.) was purple-



heart and Amboyna burl ((\$1600). That bowl had been returned somewhat shop-worn from Neiman Marcus. The finish was marked up and the thin edge had developed a crack. He reports that he now makes a thicker edge as demonstrated by the smaller bowl. Michael reports that the thin edges



have tended to be more fragile and need more repairs. As he gets more bowls out there he doesn't want more coming back for re-work even if he's being paid for it.

His French Polish technique has been published in issue #44 of American Woodworker in 1995(?). Does anyone have a copy that we can Xerox and distribute?

To repair the upper edge of the lar-



ger bowl Michael turned a wooden receptacle to hold it. (3.) It does not need to be an exact fit. He laid a couple of strips of toilet paper across the opening to pad the bowl and pressed it into place. (4.) I didn't check on whether it was single or double ply! For this repair he used the tailstock to support the bowl from the inside with a small conical block of wood that was padded and had a center mark for the tailstock. (5.) He advanced the tailstock to inside the bowl and tightened it.



If he wasn't going to machine off material and wanted access to the whole inside to finish it he would have used dots of hot melt glue around the outside edge of the bowl to hold it to the receptacle. To remove the glue, use a skew chisel at a very slow speed and lightly nick the beads of glue until they are almost cut through. Then the bowl can be gently pulled loose. Use a sharpened piece of wood to scrape off the residue. Remember that alcohol is the solvent for both the hot melt glue and the French Polish finish!



After setting up, Michael ground down the edge with a drill and round abrasive pad while running at a slow speed. The slower speed allows the pad to follow rather than correct any irregularities in the upper bowl edge.

With the edge sanded and shaped to a fatter profile it was ready to be refinished. The steps are the same for a new finish.

### Finishing steps:

Sand to 400 grit. Apply thin CA glue while turning. (6.) He used toilet paper for the demo but usually uses a piece of doubled over polyester quilt batting wrapped in tape. The doubling limits hairs from getting in the work. Cotton swabs can be used in small areas and don't dry out quickly.

Apply accelerator as above.



Steel wool with 0000 to take off any excess glue. The CA will make the wood much harder to sand or correct any unobserved divots or sanding marks.



Bob Martin examines a complex glue-up for another Mode project.

## News From Away

### AAW Needs Projectors

Hello Ted,

AAW demonstrators use slides to enhance their presentations to the attendees at the symposium and the cost of renting slide projectors goes up each year. AAW would like to borrow or receive the donation of Kodak Carousel slide projectors. (Donations are tax deductible) Please ask your chapter members if anyone has a unit that they would like to donate to the AAW or a unit that they will lend and can bring to the Orlando symposium for demonstrator use. Please contact Mary Lacer (651-484-9094) or Butch & Pat Titus (210-649-4308) as soon as possible.

Please forward this message to your chapter members.

Thanks

Butch & Pat Titus - AAW Symposium Coordinators

### Crafts Opportunities

From: Martha Fitch  
Vermont Crafts Council  
[ALBURG, VT-](#)

#### **2004 Lake Champlain Bluegrass Festival Invites Craftspeople for the First Time**

The 2004 Lake Champlain Bluegrass Festival is celebrating its third year to be held August 13, 14, and 15. The Bluegrass Festival will feature the annual \$3,000 fiddle and banjo contest and eight of the finest bluegrass bands from North America. This year's festival has been selected by the VT Chamber of Commerce as one of the TOP TEN SUMMER EVENTS in the state of Vermont.

The festival is located approximately one mile north of Alburg Village on Route #2 in Alburg, Vermont.

The craft show will be held from 9 AM to 6 PM on Saturday. A \$50.00 registration fee is due with the application on or before July 15, 2004.

For more comprehensive information or to download an application, please visit our website at

[www.lakechamplainmusic.com](http://www.lakechamplainmusic.com)

Interested participants may also call Lori Gingras @ (802) 482-2217 or Haybale

Entertainment @ (802) 482-8110.

[WEST RUTLAND, VT-](#)

The Carving Studio and Sculpture Center invites sculptors

to submit proposals for SculptFest '04, September 10-October 24, 2004. The theme for the event this year is "Site/Countersite" and will feature ten large-scale outdoor installations responsive to the post-industrial landscape surrounding The Carving Studio and Sculpture Center.

Appointments for site tours may be made through the Carving Studio and Sculpture Center. A \$100 artist's stipend is awarded for selected proposals.

The installation period will begin August 27 and the SculptFest '04 opening reception is September 10, 2004.

Submissions must be postmarked by July 5th and addressed to "SculptFest '04," The Carving Studio and Sculpture Center, P.O. Box 495, West Rutland, VT 05777. For more information please contact SculptFest '04 Curator Matthew Weber at (860) 673.7800 or e-mail: [ctmatthewweber@aol.com](mailto:ctmatthewweber@aol.com).

[CENTRAL VT -](#)

The Lawrence Walbridge Reuse Grant Fund is seeking proposals for its 2004 grant awards. This year's deadline for proposals is July 9th, 2004.

All complete proposals received by the deadline will be reviewed, although the

Reuse Grant Committee is particularly interested in reviewing proposals focused on reusing construction and demolition materials, as well as agricultural discards or by-products.

The LWRF Grant Program supports Central Vermont businesses, municipalities, organizations and individuals to take initiative to stimulate and expand opportunities to practice reuse, generally awarding grant monies to requests under \$2,000, although larger requests will be considered.

For more information, grant guidelines and an application, please visit the Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District's website at [www.cvswmd.com/resident\\_services/reusegrants.html](http://www.cvswmd.com/resident_services/reusegrants.html) or contact the District at 802.229.9383. The Vermont Farm Bureau also has LWRF brochures for more complete information on the program, who is eligible, and how to apply.

[MONTPELIER, VT-](#)

For an expanded online listing of opportunities compiled by the Vermont Arts Council, go to [www.vermontartscouncil.org](http://www.vermontartscouncil.org) <<http://www.vermontartscouncil.org>>

To view past issues visit the "ARCHIVE" section of our home page.

### In House Demos:

**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**

His shellac is made with Moser's super blonde flakes mixed in a jar with two parts of denatured alcohol/ proprietary solvent to one part shellac flakes.

1<sup>st</sup> coat is shellac only. Michael uses velour beach towel from Costco as a pad. Squirt from bottle onto pad and apply while turning. Burnish with steel wool.

2<sup>nd</sup> coat usually applied the next day. Apply a drop of shellac to the pad and a drop of boiled linseed oil next to it. Apply the shellac first then shift over to the oil. Watch the inside bottom edge of the bowl for streaking and the gloss level.

To do the outside of the bowl, he used a plywood plate turned to fit inside the bowl and padded with the ubiquitous toilet paper.



Again, the padded wood disk is used in the tailstock to press the bowl into position and center it on the disk. (7.) The tailstock pad is removed after taping. The outer rim of the bowl is taped down to the disk with blue painter's masking tape. (8.) Fold it flat onto itself and press down well. Then finish as above. The finish will not stick to the dead center of the bowl's



bottom. To do the bottom turn off the lathe and do the center by hand, keeping the pad moving at all times. (9 & 10.) Then turn on the lathe and finish the rest of the bottom. Remove the tape glue residue the next day by gently rubbing with a little linseed oil on a cloth.



### Miscellaneous topics of discussion:

- Will Wenge work with a vacuum chuck given the vessel holes penetrate a thin sectioned turning? Does anyone have experience with this?
- Herb reports good success using Woodturner's finish rather than shel-

lac over CA on pepper mills and other kitchen implements exposed to water and alcohol.

- Michael gets his exotic wood from Tradewinds in Grafton, VT. For Holly he goes to World Timber Corp. in North Carolina. He has just begun to buy over the internet with good results so far.

- He uses gorilla glue with good results. He sprays water onto a towel and wets both sides of the joint. It should still look dry after wetting. Yellow glue introduces too much water and needs a month to dry.



- Michael cuts his tapered rings on a pattern lathe using cutters he grinds himself from files. It is a difficult balance to find between shank size and cutter size.

He doesn't use ebony with holly anymore. The fine ebony dust muddies up the holly. Also, it is very difficult to see marks when sanding holly and a lot of work to fix after the CA glue is applied.

Joe Barry

**“The tailstock pad is removed after taping. The outer rim of the bowl is taped down to the disk with blue painter's masking tape .”**

*Have you heard the one about the woodturner who tried to make a living selling his wares at craft fairs?*

*Well one day he wins the lottery and his friend asks him "What are you going to do now?"*

*To which he replied " I guess I'll just keep going to craft fairs until the money runs out"*

## Woodchuck Turners of Northern Vermont

An associated chapter of  
American Association of  
Woodturners

Publisher:

Arny Spahn

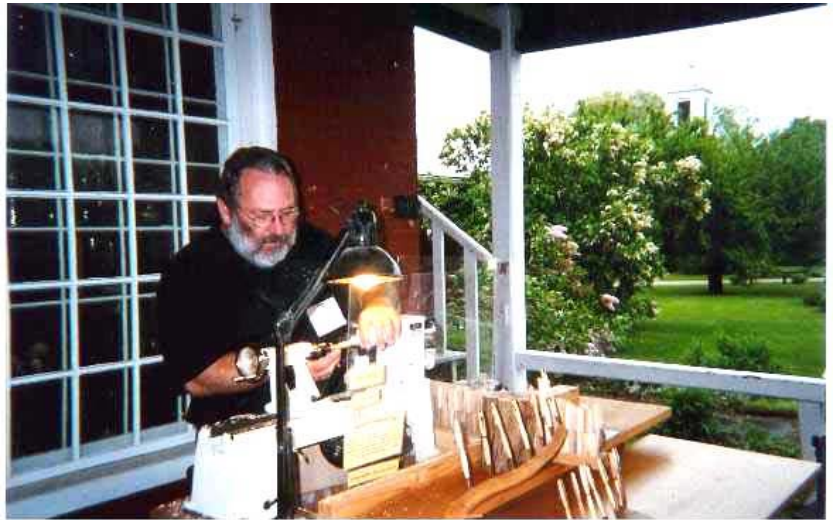
1620 Hebard Hill Rd.

Randolph, VT

Phone: 802-728-4799

Fax: 802-728-4799

Email: [apspahn@adelphia.net](mailto:apspahn@adelphia.net)



Jim Cunningham Demonstrates Pen-Turning

This Space For Mailing Label

## Attractive Badges

Hello Friends,

I'm Nick Silva - founder and member of the Dallas Area Woodturners.

I also run a small laser engraving shop out of my home. Attached you will find the latest batch of engraved wooden name badges which I am making for our local club. Because these are such a nice item I thought I'd share them with you to see if there might be any interest within your own clubs for something like this.

This particular badge is made from finished 1/8" Alder wood. As you can see it has been cut at a diagonal to keep it from splitting lengthwise along the grain line as many badges do. This is engraved with the club name, logo, and individual's name. I am happy to work with you on a design you will be

happy with. Finally, this is attached with a clip-on rather than the adhesive pin type holders that others use (and which will eventually fall off).

If you have any interest in these, the cost is \$3/each (+shipping) in any size batch. Once your design is saved, you can order at any time as new members decide they would like one. Just email me back if you have any questions.

Best Regards, Nick Silva



## Random Shots

This is interesting. Ted sent me the results of the AAW Chapters Newsletter Judging. There's a list of suggestions for the editors to improve their submissions for next year. Among them are suggestions to list new members, to mention additions to the Chapter's library, and to create some excitement about upcoming programs. A map to the next meeting place is also a good idea. I especially like the thought of giving members' activities some ink. That's why I'll print stuff given me about what *you* do. Anything interesting which a member does is good news for the chapter.

Part of our mission as a club is to educate our neighbors about the joys of woodworking, and how interesting our group is.

I know Ted sent that msg to all the chapter, so I'm hoping it will inspire *you* to help me spice up this newsletter. If I make an error (like the date on last issue's Secretary's report), let me know. If there's something you would like covered, give me some info.

Safe Turning,

Arny