

WOODCHUCK CHATTER



Volume 1, Issue 7

Special points of interest:

- Photos of Last Meeting
- Random Shots: Join AAW! Learn!
- AAW News
- What's Coming Up

September 10, 2004

September 16: Turning Flat Pieces with Ted

The meeting will start at 7:00 at the Woodbury facility in Burlington. The Board is discussing via email having a meeting earlier—possibly elsewhere—and covering the future plus some of our general topics. We hope to clear some time from the membership meeting so that the

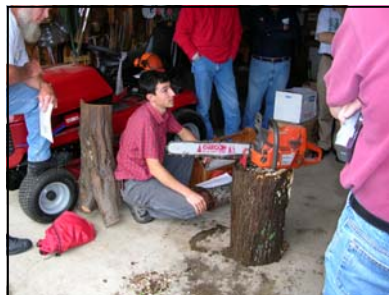
demonstration sessions can run longer and still get finished fairly early.

The demo on the 16th of Sept. will be on flatware: plates & platters. Ted will bring several he has made from cherry and

birdseye maple. The one Ted will be demonstrating will be of cherry. He will discuss rim design, stability, wood selection (including the use of glued up 4 quarter stock), chucking technique and the Ernie Conover grind on a heavy scraper for flat work.

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Ralph demonstrates sharpening



Herb—Master of The Grill

Secretary's Report—August 21 Picnic

Your Secretary relaxed and enjoyed the picnic so this month will be brief.

Approximately 30 folks showed up for the picnic at Herb's on August 21st.

Ralph led a discussion of chainsaw sharpening and techniques before lunch.

After lunch Al did his commen-

tary on those brave enough to submit projects. Al noted that he starts with the technical assessment first i.e. is it well made without tear out and sanding marks? He then considers the aesthetics of the design. There were no old Al Stirt bowls mixed in this year (cunning Al has learned to turn them over and check first now!)

Al coined a new technical term

named after a Woodchuck for the consistency of its appearance in his work.

See you in September!

Joe Barry

Picnic Report

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.



One of several sharpening guides

We met at Herb's place, looking over to the lake from a hillside. His wife has done a great job of planting and arranging the home.

Ralph Tursini started the day off with a demo, ably kibitzed by several others, on chainsaw sharpening. There are several guides on the market for setting the filing angle of both the tooth and the anti-kickback pawl. Depending on the manufacturer and the chain's use, there are a variety of precise settings which need to be observed. More important than the precise angle of the file, both vertically and horizontally, is consistency of filing. Each tooth should be filed to the same angle, with the same undercutting of the throat, with the same pressure and number of strokes.

Also very important is using a chain which fits the blade of your saw. A chain with too wide a set of drive teeth will not go into the blade properly and bind. A chain with too narrow a set of drive teeth (or a worn blade slot) will cause



Unwinding a cutting chain

chain wobble, poor efficiency, and some danger.

Ralph showed a clamp to hold the blade while dressing the saw in the woods. It drives into a stump and holds the saw steady during the sharpening process. Ted showed a home made fixture which can be clamped into a vise or onto a bench in your shop which holds the saw vertically at a good height for work without stooping over or stretching.

There were a few horror stories told about unsafe saw usage. In the woods especially, you should use as much protective gear as you can. There are Kevlar chaps, vests, and gloves. There are steel-toed



Ted's chainsaw fixture

boots and Lexan bump-caps and face shields. Beside these primary safety devices which you should use, there are also a variety of ear and eye protection devices which can save your eyes and hearing. Remember, you have no spare parts and carrying a cut off leg out of the woods is painful, embarrassing, and costly. Joe Barry, who works in physical rehab, says that chainsaw wounds are among the hardest to heal well due to oil, dirt, and the uneven tearing of the saw.

Herb did a fine job of cooking the meat and gardenburgers for the crowd. There were over 15 members plus spouses/partners. There were several different salads contrib-



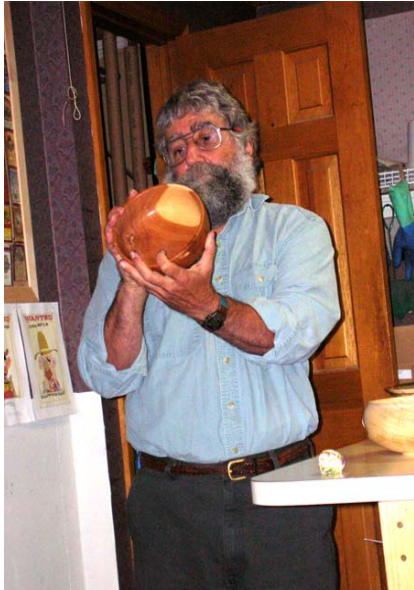
uted, plus other fixings for the burgers & dogs. There were no lack of desserts, either. I saw a magnificent apple crumb pie, chocolate brownies, plum tarts and a blueberry cake at least. Being a little short for my weight, I had to ignore the sweet stuff as much as possible.

We held the business part of the meeting to a few essentials. Ted handed out the latest member list. I see a few droppoffs, and some members do not have email addresses so will have to receive hardcopy Woodchuck Chatters. Brad updated us on the lathe purchase. It's here and almost complete. The total cost was about \$1000, including a new motor & controller with reversing. The only part missing, I believe, is a drive belt. The manual is available online so no worries there. For that matter, my manual is in a drawer downstairs & I can probably find it.

Our guest, Al Stirt, gave us an



excellent critique of the objects brought in. For the newer, less experienced turners, it was helpful to hear that technique is where we should concentrate our efforts. Esthetics will come along. The more experienced turners have advanced to the point where small details make the difference between a nice piece and a stunning piece.



The big point I picked up was that the interior of a piece should match the exterior in quality. There should be no more tool marks or finish faults inside than outside. The curve of the inside should match or compliment the outside in most cases. Use a thickness gauge of some sort to keep the interior curve the way it should be.



Al is very well respected in the turning community, both for the excellence of his work and for his kind and perceptive teaching methods. A thought for the day: When you do a piece which doesn't match your concept, don't throw it away or burn it. Al keeps many of his unsuccessful pieces on a shelf in his shop for study. He looks at them, tries to figure what they need, and goes from there. I like the idea. A yardstick has two ends. It's good to gauge where on the yardstick of turning quality my pieces lie.

Luke Mann, past President and life member of the chapter, had some news for us. He and his wife, Dawn, are pulling up stakes and moving to Thailand. They will start an agency for arranging missionary trips. Their actual job descriptions are not written yet. They have some experi-



ence in working in places far less advantaged than Vermont and have a wish to serve others. We wished them farewell, as this may be Luke's last meeting with us. The current plan is to depart around the first of the year. They will keep in touch with us. We wish them all happiness and good luck.

Arny Spahn

Introducing Sue McLam

Sue McLam, owner of Knox Mountain Woodworking, is a fifth generation Vermont native with a lifelong interest in woodworking. After a long time with woodworking being just a hobby she started her own business in 2000 and makes hardwood furniture. She just recently started turning on her second-hand General 160-1. She would like to expand her furniture making business by making turned furniture elements for her own work and others.

Sue is on the Steering Committee of Vermont WoodNet, Inc., and Knox Mountain Woodworking is a group member of the Vermont WoodNet SmartWood/FSC certification (# SW-COC-1120E).

“Al is very well respected in the turning community, both for the excellence of his work and for his kind and perceptive teaching methods. A thought for the day: When you do a piece which doesn't match your concept, don't throw it away or burn it. Al keeps many of his unsuccessful pieces on a shelf in his shop for study.”

Chapter Collaborative Challenge 2005

In House Demos:

**September: Ted Fink:
Turning platters.
Also: Ralph Tursini:
woodwalk**

**We need to start
planning for future
demos. Do you have
a subject you would
like explored?**

During the 2005 American Association of Woodturners Nineteenth Annual Symposium in Kansas City, KS, the Chapters and Membership Committee will again hold a "Chapter Collaborative Challenge". This event will again be in lieu of any other chapter displays at the symposium. Each AAW chapter is invited to submit one collaborative work created by as many chapter members as possible, with a minimum of six participants. The work can be any turned object, functional or not. The size and weight limits of the Collaborative pieces, including the packing container and all packing materials, will be those set by UPS for a single standard box (see sidebar). Assembled pieces may be larger but must be shipped in the single standard box. Size restrictions apply regardless of commercial or chapter delivery. The names of all participants must be on the work or on an accompanying nameplate. At least one chapter representative must be in attendance at the symposium to be responsible for displaying and return shipping of the entry. Any electric/electronic device

in the piece must have an obvious power switch for safety and noise reduction. Chapters must specify in which one of the following three categories they wish to submit their entry:
Artistic
Mechanical/Technical
Fantasy
The pieces will be displayed during the symposium in an area near the Instant Gallery. During the symposium, attendees will be invited to select, by ballot, their choice for Best of Show and, in addition, their favorite piece in each of the three categories. Votes will be tallied prior to the Annual Banquet and Auction and the winners will be recognized. Four prizes will be awarded as follows.
Best of Show plaque
First Place plaque in each of the three categories
An engraved plaque will be awarded to the Best of Show winner. A larger perpetual plaque, engraved with the names of the Best of Show winners, beginning with the 1998 symposium in Akron, will reside in the AAW office. All entries will receive a certificate of participation. Collaborative pieces may be donated to the live auction, with the provision that no minimum bid may be allowed.

A chapter whose entry is donated will receive 50% of the selling price. Any donated entry must be accompanied by a box and packing materials for shipment to its new home. Shipping the work to the buyer is the joint responsibility of the chapter and the buyer.
NOTE:
The standard UPS box size is defined as tape stretched around the girth of the box (its widest point perpendicular to the length), added to the length, (the longest side of the package). Details of this measurement can be found at: www.ups.com/content/us/en/resources/prepare/weight_size.html
Packages can be up to 165 inches (419 cm) in length and girth combined.
The packages can be up to 150 lbs (70 kg)
Packages can be up to 108 inches (270 cm) in length
John Hill -Chairman AAW Chapters and Membership Committee
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<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)

AAW to give away two lathes

Volume 1, Issue 7

From: "John Hill - Chairman AAW Chapters and Membership Committee"
Sent: Wednesday, September 01, 2004 10:04 PM

During the Orlando AAW Symposium, Delta International Machinery donated two new Delta X5 full size Model 46-756 lathes valued at \$2250 each. They were used as demo lathes during the Symposium. They turn 16" over the Steel Bed, and include the basic machine with 2 HP, variable speed 230V motor, drive center, live center, 4" face plate, 12" tool rest and base, knockout bar, wrenches and instruction manual. They turn 42" between centers, have a 1 1/4" x8tpi spindle and weigh 386 lbs.

Your chapter can win one of these lathes. The AAW Board of Directors has decided that as an added bonus for our members, that one lathe will be awarded to an individual who either renews his/her AAW membership or joins the AAW between September 1, 2004 and January 15, 2005. The winner will be selected by a random drawing from a pool of members joining or renewing during this period. The winner will be called and asked the name of his/her chapter. That chapter will win the other lathe. That could be your chapter.

The winners will be responsible for shipping from Orlando.

Please forward this message to all of

your chapter members and encourage all chapter members who are presently not AAW members, to join. They will not only receive the wonderful benefits of membership in the AAW, but to be able to be in the drawing for a great lathe for themselves and to increase your chapter's chance of winning the other one.

The AAW supports the chapters in many ways and the chapters should support the AAW by having its members join AAW. If you need additional membership applications, call the AAW office at 651-484-9094.

Thanks and good luck in the drawing!

John Hill - AAW Chapters and Membership Chairman

Tips & Techniques From Wise Woodchucks

This is the first of our exchange of woodworking ideas in print. I hope you will keep adding to this column and making it longer and better.

I keep small incompletely used i.e. still useful scraps of abrasives in an 8" X 10" X 3" cardboard box right at my lathe. These remnants come from 10yd rolls of the various grits. The problem that arises is that few of these pieces will have the manufacturer's stamp on them identifying the grit size. So as to take full use of these bits and pieces and not set your self back in your sanding process by picking up 150 when your next grit should be 180 for example, simply write the grit size on the back of each piece before putting it in the box of abrasives.

Ted Fink

I've been displaying my work at craft shows and various markets and have found that in order to have an in-

teresting display it helps to show work at various heights ranging from mid thigh to chest height. A good way to do this that is inexpensive, light, and packable is to use cardboard concrete forms - AKA Sono-Tubes atop a low folding table. The eight inch tubes for example are actually three slightly different diameters so that they can nest. With a screwchuck, turn a lid and a base with a snug fit, tight, but that can be easily removed. For display, weight the inside. I drape mine with fabric so as not to show the under-construction-look!

Ralph Tursini

When making a segmented bowl, I use stainless band clamps to hold the pieces together while glueing. I have several from 5" to 12" long, which I join together to get the circumference I need. A piece of plastic wrap protects each surface of my work and I use a piece of

Plexiglass on top so I can see the alignment. I weight the Plexi down with a LOT of lead just before I fully tighten the clamp. I use Tightbond III waterproof glue. It has good bonding strength and a moderate open time.

Each complete ring is then clamped to a large faceplate (jumbo jaws) with the clamp still on and carefully flattened on each face.

The tail of the clamp has to be tied down so centrifugal force doesn't cause a problem. I use plastic electrical cable wraps.

Be careful about this assembly, as the clamp can mangle you if contacted at speed.

When I assemble the rings into a bowl shape for final turning, I stagger them so no joint is lined up with that on an adjacent ring. As with any large diameter object, start on low speed and light cuts.

Army Spahn

Hello Ted,

Please forward this message to your chapter members.

It is hard to believe that more than a month has passed since the Orlando Symposium, yet we find our friends in Orlando smack in the middle of a disastrous hurricane season. Our thoughts and prayers are with them throughout their trials.

The Orlando Symposium was my first Symposium behind the scenes. I can tell you that it was an incredible experience. It has been a long time since I have worked that hard or have been that frustrated and have experienced such joy or shared such camaraderie.

I would like to share with you some little known but mildly interesting facts from our time in Orlando. We had 775 pre-registered attendees and 110 on-site registrations (the most ever) for a total of 885 attendees. These numbers place Orlando in the top 10 largest Symposium for attendance. These 885 attendees took up over 1,442 room nights over a four-day period.

Over the three-day period our members consumed an astonishing amount of food. At the Symposium site, alone, we drank 1823 soft drinks (including bottled water and juice), we drank 337 cups of coffee and 92 cups of tea. We ate 285 hot dogs (not including Sunday as none were available), 298 salads, 205 roast beef sandwiches, 399 turkey sandwiches 431 ham sandwiches and for those that missed the continental breakfast 111 muffins. These figures only represent food purchased at the Convention Center. It's anyone's guess how much was consumed elsewhere.

The Continental Breakfast was a new feature this year (one that we hope to repeat). Its inclusion was a last minute negotiation and was not properly advertised. We hope to make everyone aware when it is available in the future.

These 885 attendees were able to see 130 rotations from 32 presenters from 8 different countries, including our EOG Exchange students from Japan, Minako Suzuki, and her American coun-

terpart Lucas Hundley. The biggest difficulty, I think, was choosing which ones to see and which ones to miss. One helpful hint is to see which of the presenters will be videotaped for the AAW. These presenters will be shown as featured demonstrators on the Orlando Tape. We will try to make this information available to you ahead of time.

This year was our first year with the new 4-camera set up in each demo room. This set up used 3 stationary cameras and 1 movable video camera. We have high expectations for this system as the room of attendees grows and experience handling them broadens. It is a welcome change for those attending the demo, as you should not have to miss a single cut!

Any one who visited the Trade Show (I cannot imagine there was someone that did not visit there) were bombarded with new machinery, new turning tools and wood, wood from 43 vendors occupying 94 booths over a total of 20,000 square feet of floor space! It was akin to a feeding frenzy as turners bought, sold and traded all manner of turning related items.

Our instant Gallery featured over 500 entrants from those who attended, including samples of work from all of our demonstrators. The Instant Gallery covered an additional 9,000 square feet of space. To make the demonstrators more identifiable, next year we will feature the work of our demonstrators on a special demonstrator's table inside the Instant Gallery

We had only SIX (count 'em SIX) entrants into the Chapter Collaborative out of 222 Chapters. This year we have released the rules for the 2005 Collaborative roughly 6 months ahead of the same announcement last year. Additionally, we will hold the rules for the Collaborative for the next Symposium (2006) so that Chapters needing two years to complete a project can have them and know that they will still be eligible to compete. We NEED your participation in order to continue this important aspect of the Symposium! For me, it would be sorely missed if it were not held at all. So c'mon chapter Presidents get you clubs motivated. Let's make Kansas the strongest showing yet for the Chapter

Collaborative!

In addition to all of this, our juried show, "Sea to Odyssey" showcased 53 works from 40 artists from 6 countries. If you took the time to visit, these works were the cream of the crop and showcased the diversity of possibility in woodturning. In case you missed it in Orlando the show has traveled to our new AAW office and Gallery. The show can be viewed there from September 9th through December 17th.

Our Saturday night banquet included 1015 pre-registered and 50 on site registrants for a total of 1,095 participants. After the banquet, at our annual EOG fund-raising auction, we auctioned a total of 78 pieces for a record setting \$48,488! Our hats are off to the effort put forward by our own John Hill who was the auctioneer. We also thank all of the successful bidders for an extraordinary show of generosity.

If you think these statistics are impressive, you should have been there to experience the rush, first hand. Overland Park, Kansas promises to be yet another extraordinary event. Mark your calendars now and join us for an unforgettable first hand experience. You will never forget it.

Respectfully submitted,
Angelo J. lafrate
Conference Committee - Chair

Woodchuck Turners of Northern Vermont

An associated chapter of
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What's the parliamentary procedure for that??

This Space For Mailing Label

Random Shots

Have we mentioned the Totally Turning Symposium recently? Presented by the Adirondack Woodturners Association of Albany, NY it happens October 30-31 at the Empire State Convention Center in Albany, NY.

The list of eminent turners includes Bonny Klein, Michael Hosaluk, and Vermont's own Woodchuck, Brad Vietje. Early registration (\$20 off) ends September 30th. The full list of details can be found at:

www.totallyturning.com or call **Ken Evans** at 518-753-7759.

I just received my AAW renewal notice and the Fall issue of the magazine.

I guess I'm a "joiner", because I've joined every National and local association of my interests over time. I joined Sports Car Club of America, NRA, Professional Photographers of America, and American Association of Woodturners. I joined locals for the closer contact with folks enthusiastic about a subject; sports cars, photography, shooting. I joined the nationals because, in each case, there was a world of "experts" of a higher level contributing to the field.

I would like to urge each of you to

join AAW. You certainly have several really good, sharing turners in our club. You can get a lot out of our meetings and demos. I have. But if you want to see a wide variety of really skillful work, take a look at an issue of "American Woodturner". There is more in-depth information in that magazine than anywhere else which is advertising free. For \$40 a year, you get that magazine quarterly PLUS a yearly handbook of members and resources.

I am a hobbyist, but I get a lot of profitable info from this association.

Arny Spahn