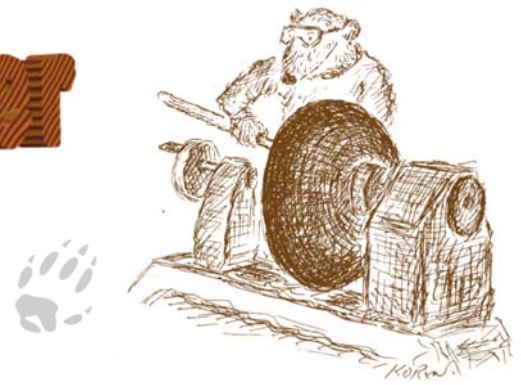


# Woodchuck Chatter

The Newsletter of Woodchuck Turners of Northern Vermont

An Affiliate of American Association of Woodturners

Website: [WWW.WOODCHUCKSVT.org](http://WWW.WOODCHUCKSVT.org)



September 3, 2018

Volume 15, Number 9

## Picnic Meeting, September 9th, 2018

### Inside this issue:

Woodchuck Board info.	2
Random Shots—Attitudes	2
Treasurer's Report -Karen Drennen	3
August Meeting Continued	4
Jigs, Kluges, & Fixtures	7
Woodchuck On The Road—Russ Fellows	11
Resource Page	13
Liability Insurance	14
Upcoming Demos	14
Mentor List	14
Classified Ads	14

Directions to the September meeting at the home and studio of Russ Fellows (Skunk Hollow Studios, LLC) 26 John Davis Dr., Jericho, Vermont, 802-899-3059.

From the east/I-89: Take exit 11, Richmond, Essex Jct. Turn right at end of ramp. Right again immediately at the light. This is the River Rd/ Rt. 117. Go 3 1/2 miles, turn right on Skunk Hollow Rd. Go 2 1/2 miles, turn left on John Davis. Go all the way to the end, number 26.

From the Burlington area: Take Route 15 from Winooski going east. Go past St Mike's College and Ft Ethan Allen (both on left) and continue on to Essex Junction. At the Five Corners bear left, staying on Rt. 15. Stay on Rt. 15 through Essex Center and on to Jericho. There are

signs. Once you are in the village of Jericho, (look for the big Red Mill at the bridge) you will see the world-famous Joe's Snack Bar.....turn right. Turn right again at the stop sign. Turn right again at the next stop sign.....about 1/2 mile. This is the start of Skunk Hollow Rd.....turn right yet again! The first drive on the right is John Davis Dr....take it! Go to the end, number 26.

At the September 9th meeting, we will start off with a picnic. We will grill hamburgers & other good stuff. We ask that you bring a dish to share such as a salad or a dessert. Later, our favorite guest demonstrator, Al Stirt, will give us some objects to think about. He will also take a look at any of our turnings we would like an opinion of.

## August 15th Meeting at Skunk Hollow — Harvie Porter

President Nick Rosato called the meeting to order at 7 PM. Attendees introduced themselves and gave their home towns. There were 23 present. Kudos went to Arny Spahn for another fine issue of *Chatter*.

Jay Bailey has continued to make additions to the club website: woodchucksvt.org.

The annual picnic will be on Sunday September 9<sup>th</sup>. Al Stirt will be presenting. The club will provide drinks, burgers and dogs. Attendees

are asked to bring a side dish. The picnic will begin at 12:00. There will be no third Wednesday meeting for September.

Oct 10 is the board meeting. Members are encouraged to share presentation ideas with board members. Nominations for board members will be held at the annual picnic and elections will be held in October.

Joe Fortin has a 6" Delta jointer for sale (\$275). Contact him at 498-4276

(Continued on page 4)

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My woodturning gives me bipolar feelings at times. Sometimes, I'm very happy with what I'm doing. Sometimes I'm glum and upset. I look at various pieces of information that float across my desk and I'm feeling up, then down.

Take the content of American Woodturner. Much of the product is so far advanced, I can't imagine copying it. There are techniques which are actually feasible given the notes accompanying the articles, but they might be performed in such an intricate way there is little hope of having the time and patience to duplicate them.

It is not only my reading that causes a flip-flop of emotions. My own work brings me joy sometimes; despair others. Sometimes I am at the pinnacle of skill and then find a groove or tearout that I missed a minute ago. I get a lot of pleasing feedback about the pieces I display here at Morgan Orchards, our new home. That helps. Then I go downstairs and face a new project. I have to say, each beginning starts with enthusiasm and confidence. Each piece of wood presents a new challenge and a new opportunity. I'm happy to pick up a gouge every time.

The true purposes of the journal, and for that matter, "Chatter", include inspiration, instruction, entertainment, and acclaim. What I read should help me be a better turner in some way.

Our meetings of the Woodchucks, including the informal "Sawdust Sessions", also provide the same benefits and more. We learn from each other. Even if the subject has been repeated many times, we tend to pay closer attention to some aspect we are interested in or missed the last time we talked about it. That's instruction. Sometimes, we are inspired to try something—a different grip on a gouge, a different way of decorating—you name it. I can also say about our sessions that they are entertaining. It's fun to see someone actually accomplishing something. As for acclaim, we are always thankful and praising of a demonstrator

or an idea from our fellow Woodchucks. Probably as important to me, we share our experiences with each other. I feel that the gatherings give us a sense of friendship.

As the author of "Chatter", my ambition is to record the Woodchuck activities, to highlight our skill sharing, and to inform about future activities of the club and of the members.

This month, we pass a milestone. Nick Rosato is passing the gavel on. He has been President since 2012, six years in which he has guided us through some excellent meetings in a variety of locations. Nick has not only made sure we had a place to meet every month, but also insured that we had interesting demonstrations; more times than his share being the lead demonstrator. True, we have been fortunate to meet at Russ Fellows home and shop in summery weather, but we had to find shelter once the weather turned cold. So, we met at the Woodworking School in Jericho, Nick's shop in Winooski (two different shops!!), and in Hinesburg at CVU.

We now need someone to take over the lead of the Woodchuck Turners. That post is empty as of October meeting. All the other offices are by the Bylaws, open and available to volunteers. Vice-President stands in for President when he/she is unavailable. Secretary records all meetings and passes the minutes on to the newsletter. Treasurer keeps track of dues and income. At Large Board members help formulate the future of the Club. While not necessarily a Board member, the Newsletter Editor job is also open to nomination or volunteering. After some years in one pair of hands, the Newsletter might benefit from a different viewpoint and new ideas for format.

The Editor would have a bi-polar reaction to that event!

*Arny*

**Balance forward**

\$4207.19  
 Dues \$25.00  
 Raffle \$32.00  
 Anchor Seal \$16.00  
 Sawdust donations \$3.00  
 Total Income \$76.00  
 Balance ending \$4283.19  
 Karen Drennen/Treasurer

*Reminder: Unless you have paid your annual dues by April 1st your name must be removed from the discount list.*

**Dues through July 2018**

The Board of Directors of The Woodchuck Turners of Northern Vermont gratefully acknowledges the payment of dues from the following members for 2018:

Jay Bailey, Ted Beebe, Dale Bergdahl, Chris Bishop, Bradford Blaisdell, Dave Buchholtz, James Bushey, Sal Chiarelli, Janet Collins, Karen Cutler, Michael Deweese, Ann Dinsmoor, Brad Dinwiddie, Karen Drennen, Greg Drew, Barry

Genzlinger, William Durkee, Andrew Durling, Cheryl Ferry, David Ferry, Ted Fink, Joe Fortin, George Gibson, Michael Glod, Linda Hollingdale, Jim Holzschuh, Brad Jackson, Kevin Jenness, Eddie Krasnow, Chris Lumbra, Bob Martin, Timothy Montgomery, Sean Murray, Ted Nelson, William Nestork, Stephen O'Donnell, Bengt Ohman, Mickey Palmer, Mike Papin, Harvie Porter, Randy Ramsden, Brian Reed, Lawrence Rice, David Robistow, Nick Rosato, Sam Sanderson, David Scrase, Edwards Smith, Nancy Smith, Arny Spahn, Cil Spahn, Adam Wagner (50)

(Scott Bennett, Russ Fellows, Dick Montague, Michael Mode, Hav Smith and Al Stirt are Honorary Lifetime members, (6)

If you have paid your dues for the year but do not see your name listed

here please contact me to correct that error of omission.

[Snowflake2017@comcast.net](mailto:Snowflake2017@comcast.net)

Dues for 2018 are \$25. Checks should be made out to "WTNV" and sent to: Karen Drennen, 12 Winters Court, Swanton VT 05488

Please note: The following privileges are only available to dues-paying members: Video library use, mentoring program, bulk purchase discounts such as CA glue and Anchor Seal, Klingspor and Hartville Tool discount lists, (to remain on the discount lists dues must be paid by April 1<sup>st</sup> each year). Mention the club to get your discount.

# August Meeting Continued

(Continued from page 1)

if you are interested.

Janet Collins is arranging for a remote demonstration by Trent Bosch at the October meeting.

Russ Fellows shared the book *Turning to Art With Wood* that he purchased at Center for Art in Wood in Philadelphia.

The raffle was held with 16 participants.

Show and Tell: Karen Drennan



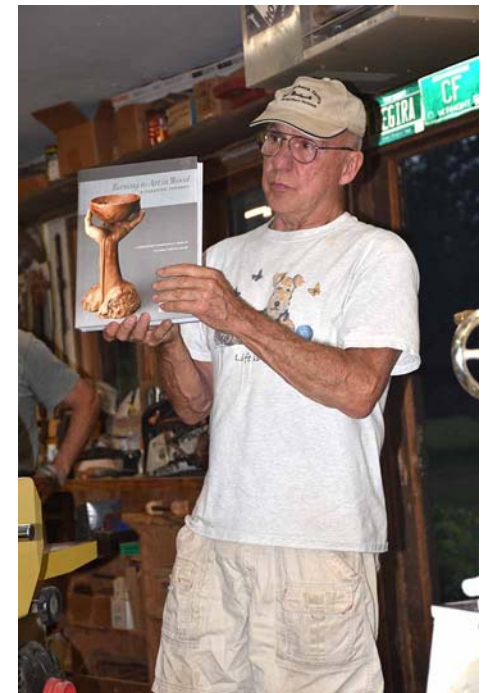
shared her walnut crotchwood platter finished with shellac and wipe-on poly. Andy Duling shared a bowl made from burl from a root ball. Brian Reed showed a wooden rattle with three captive rings and the tools he made to form the rings. Brad Dinwiddie shared two small bowls made of maple and curly birch. He also showed a peppermill constructed of Spectraply from CWP in Maine. Tom Dunne shared a hollow form of butternut. Dave Buchholtz showed a cherry bowl with wire burns and pyrographic designs and an ash bowl with graffiti engraving and a bottom enhanced with liming wax. Russ Fellows shared a live edge bowl of holly.



Nick opens the meeting & thanks the crowd for their applause.



Janet says "Hi"



Karen counts the raffle money.

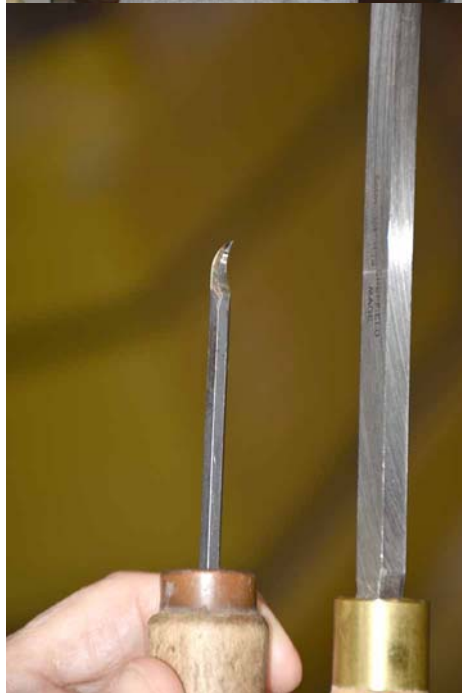
Sal Chiarelli showed some of the tools he made for his lathe. Ted Beebe showed the guitar he had made out of segmented pieces with a turned sound board. He shared some of the jigs and forms he used. Barry Genslinger demonstrated the Bullseye template he uses to find the center point of a wood blank. Janet Collins showed how she had modified dental picks as small carving tools. She also demonstrated how to use a flattened pencil to get accurate trac-

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Karen & her walnut crotch platter.



Home-made ring turning tools.

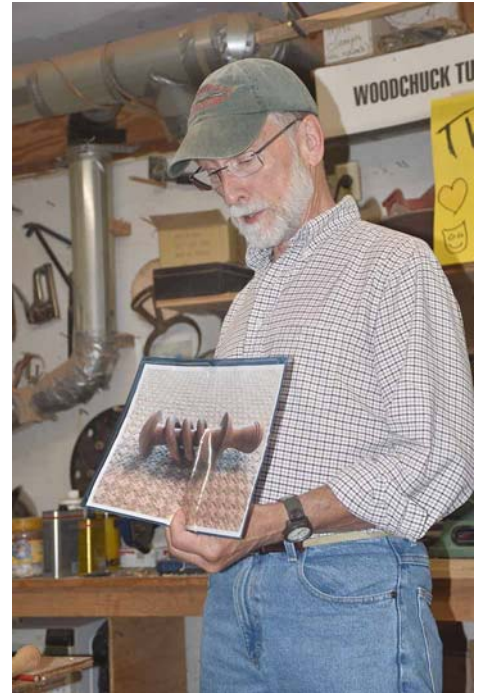


Photo of a baby rattle, about 5" long, using the home-made ring tools.



ings of irregular shapes. Adam Wager showed a home made thickness gauge. Nick Rosato shared a lidded box of walnut. Dave Buchholtz showed a wood thickness gauge with direct readout. He also shared a skew and pyramid tool made of round bar and a home made drill handle. He also showed a home

made sanding disk and a texturing tool. Russ Fellows showed a sled used for cutting segments on a table saw. Brad Dinwiddie shared some disks he uses to form blanks on a band saw and a depth gauge for the vari-grind jig.

Respectfully submitted,

Harvie Porter, Secretary



Recent projects by Brad Dinwiddie



Tom Dunne hollow-forms a burl.



Dave uses pyrography to decorate a large bowl.



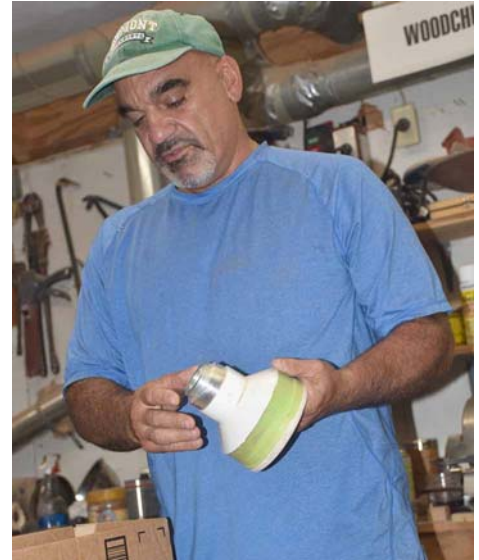
Dave paints and inscribes (top) and lime-dyes (bottom) an oak wide-rimmed bowl.



Big drill bits machined with Morse tapers.



Sal jury rigged a tool for the new style pepper mill turnings.



He also made a custom cup for vacuum chucking.



Dental tools can be sharpened and used many ways in woodturning. They make excellent scrapers and punches.



Janet flattens the lead on a #2 pencil so she can scribe a line accurately on a work piece.



Barry uses a plexi circular guide to measure and mark the largest possible circle on a chunk of wood.

(Continued on Page 8)



Would you believe a segmented guitar? Ted Beebe engineered one.



After constructing a circular body, he brought it to a sawmill to cut the guitar bodies out.



To properly cut the bodies, he made this template.



Here is the gauge he made to size the 3 sections of the guitar bodies.



This is the fixture used to turn the bridges to the right radii to fit properly on the bodies.



To form and sand the central hole he made this tapered sanding drum.



Another of the bodies not yet assembled.





Adam Wager made a large thickness gauge out of steel wire.



Dave made one of circuit board material. His has a tell-tale feature.



A triangular skew by Dave.



Dave also made a texturing tool using tiny bearings inside the brass tube.



For Russ's small segments (below) he needs a very narrow push stick.



Another safety push/hold-down tool.



This is called a wedgie board. The two guides are symmetrical. To use it, put the cut piece against one guide, as shown in pic at far right, and cut. Roll it over, place against the other guide, cut again.





Harvie shows an ambrosia maple bowl.



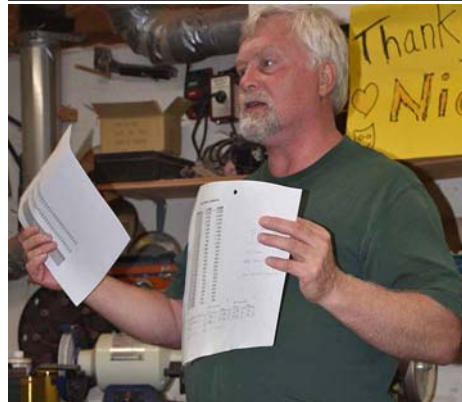
This board is used with a bandsaw to set the radius of a blank. Harvie holds a pin in one of several holes.



These devices are depth gauges for turning large bowls.



Harvie made several different vacuum chucks. This one has garage door skirting for a seal. It's wooden and needed several coats of varnish to reduce porosity.



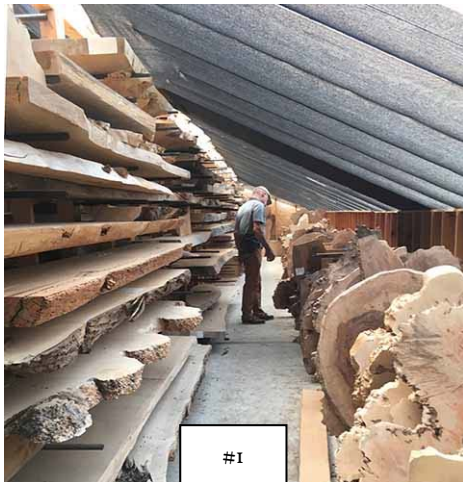
(Top) Brad reproduced a chart showing safe lathe speeds for various workpiece radii. (Bottom) He uses a board with large nails through it to group pen parts as he turns them.



Cutting circles out of cardboard and labelling them as to size, lets Brad zing out round blanks on the bandsaw.

Earlier in the Summer, when we started to put a short summer trip together, and I realized we would be in western Massachusetts, a soft “bell” rang in my head. I remembered hearing about a slab and burl supplier, somewhere in the Berkshires? A short internet search led me to Berkshire Products.

([berkshireproducts.com](http://berkshireproducts.com)). Located in Sheffield, MA, it was right on the route to our Family gathering in northern Connecticut. With only one wrong turn, and that due to a bridge closing, our GPS led us right to the spot. Sprawling over several acres and with four warehouses, plus a mill, we knew this would very likely live up to its claim of being the country’s largest supplier of specialty slab and burl. Specializing in claro walnut (not an actual subspecies, but a hybrid of native and English walnut developed in the 19th century, mostly for parks in California, it grows to impressive dimensions in the moist coastal climate), and western big leaf maple, they also had a large inventory of eastern hardwoods.



The first picture shows me “cruising” a long row of maple slab and burl, one of five rows in the second of four warehouses!

The next shot shows a pile of slab (one of dozens!), waiting outside to be catalogued, priced, and moved inside.



The next shot is a slab of claro walnut, all smoothed and finished, waiting for a customer with a good idea for a dining table.....and a check for \$6,000!! Further below is a pic of two eastern walnut logs waiting to be milled. (#4) They were well over three feet in diameter! And finally a stack of big leaf maple slab for pedestal type tables. There were hundreds of these! (#5)

On we wandered, for almost two



hours, through all four warehouses. If not for the family gathering waiting for us....AND the fact that it was a hot day and the translucent roofing panels had turned the warehouses into saunas, we might have spent even more time, and taken more pictures! As it was, we did not depart empty handed. Because both burl and slab are quite pricey now, we were fairly restrained in our purchases, but, hey, it was a shopping experience not often encountered by most



Woodchucks.

The next stop on our Woodchuck “shopping trip” was in Seymour, Connecticut. Bad Dog Burl(<http://burlsource.com/>) is a company I was familiar with, but it had moved and changed owners since my last visit, so I was interested to see what changes had been made. Located in a quiet residential neighborhood, we drove by it thinking it to be just someone’s garage...which it was! He had yet to put out a sign!

In sharp contrast to the acres of inventory we had encountered the day before, this place was even more specialized, and consolidated. The owner buys harvested burl caps in crates

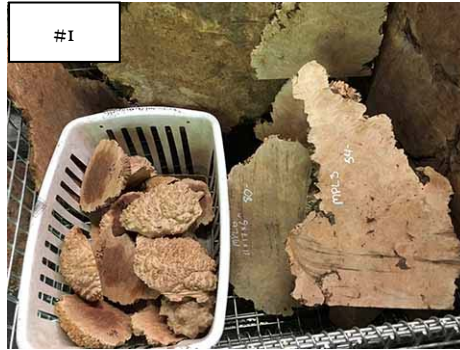
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from a supplier in the Far East, mostly Australia and Indonesia. In the case of most of his species, trees such as mallei and coolibah, the trees are not cut down to harvest the burls. They are rather, sliced off the tree bole and left to produce another in the same spot a few years later. (As I think more about this, it may be true with burl trees in our eastern forests? While we usually cut the tree down to harvest our burls, it is not necessary always to do so? We can slice a burl off a tree and the tree can go on living for years. Whether it will grow another to replace it is a question warranting more study?) This was good to hear, because in looking around his shop, and assuming there are many other such shops around the world, one could easily start to think the world supply of burl cap was a finite affair? As I ponder how to use the burl I have acquired over the years, it is much more comforting to think of it as a *'renewable'* resource! The photos below show, 1) a typical basket of cap, 2) the owner pulling out a piece of slab from behind two huge burl caps, 3) an even larger cap that commanded its own crate, 4) a couple more boxes of cap.....you get the picture! The final shot is a big coolibah cap, showing the gorgeous red color of the grain under all those points. Most burl wood, particularly that sold in smaller chunks, is sold by the pound, typically \$4-\$5. With Cindy Drozda's words echoing in my ears, recalling her spirit of competitiveness in wood buying with her late husband, David Nittman, ."Real Woodchucks don't buy wood when they need it, but rather when they find it, and the need will come later!"...I weighed my basket and wrote a check for a little under \$300. As a little "bonus" the owner went over to a bin of cut-offs and

grabbed several pounds of "thank you" tokens to throw in my shopping bag! It was another enjoyable stop on a vacation trip that almost always manages to include wood or woodchucks in one form or another! I am grateful for having a very understanding traveling partner!

Russ

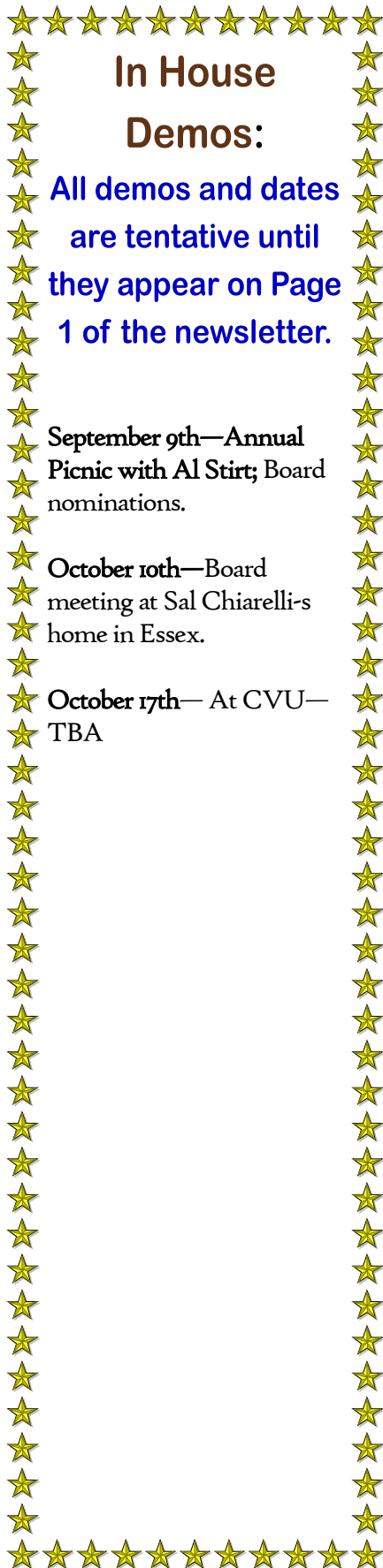


- 1) Lathrop Maple Supply, Hewitt Rd, Bristol, Vermont, 802-453-2897. With a newly expanded inventory area, Tom has a fantastic supply of local and imported wood. His new division, "Exclusively Vermont, LLC, specializes in high quality Vermont lumber and mill products and FSC stock is available.
- 2) Hayley Wood Products in Colchester. (<http://www.hayleywoodproducts.com/>).
- 3) Sutherland Welles Ltd., No. Hyde Park, VT, 800-322-1245. ([www.sutherlandwelles.com](http://www.sutherlandwelles.com)). Right here in our own backyard, they make the best Tung oil products in the U S. Call with an order and it goes out the same day!
- 4) Bad Dogs Burl Source, ([www.burlsource.com](http://www.burlsource.com)) They are down in Belchertown, MA and have an incredible inventory of Australian and North American burls. 413-213-0248
- 5) Johnson Lumber, Route 116 in Bristol, VT. 802-453-4884. Another good "local" source for hardwood lumber of all kinds.
- 6) [www.exoticwoodsusa.com](http://www.exoticwoodsusa.com). They offer a 15% discount to any member of an AAW chapter. Type in 'exoticwoodsusaaaw' in the coupon code box.
- 7) Griffin Exotic Woods These folks came up in a search for something else, and I ended up buying a couple things from them. Their prices were fair and the service was good. <http://www.exoticwood.biz/>
- 8) Sinclair Mill Works in North Danville VT <http://www.sinclairmillworks.com/home.htm>. 802-748-0948. He specializes in figure Vermont species. His prices are very reasonable.
- 9) Woodturning Videos and eBooks by Steven D. Russell <http://www.woodturningvideosplus.com/>. This website is full of tips & instructions for turners.
- 10) Mike Jackofsky—hollowing tools. [www.mikejackofsky.com](http://www.mikejackofsky.com). Also sells thru Craft Supply.
- 11) Business cards and other printed goods: [Vistaprint.com](http://Vistaprint.com)
- 12) Laser engraving—Maple Land Mark Woodcraft. 800-421-4223 They are in Middlebury. [www.maplelandmark.com](http://www.maplelandmark.com)
- 13) Les Dougherty & Susan Curington Owners, North Woods Figured Wood North Woods, LLC PO Box 808 Forest Grove OR 97116 [800-556-3106](tel:800-556-3106), [503-357-9953](tel:503-357-9953) [www.nwfiguredwoods.com](http://www.nwfiguredwoods.com) offers lifetime 15% discount on any website wood purchase. Use "WOODTURNERS" coupon code at checkout. [www.nwfiguredwoods.com](http://www.nwfiguredwoods.com)
- 14) Paw Prints Printing [WWW.paw-prints.com](http://WWW.paw-prints.com) 802 865 2872 Gregory Drive South Burlington, VT 05403
- 15) Your NEW colored plywood source. trethaway@comcast.net. Has scraps of colored plywood for resale. Listed on eBay as scratch101012.
- 16) The Tree House, hardwoods & mill shop. Native woods, priced from \$5.00. 1891 Williston Rd., 802-497-3530. [www.treehousehardwoods.com](http://www.treehousehardwoods.com)
- 17) Suffolk Saw of New England, Jeff & Danielle Mellott; 33 Gaudet Dr., Belmont, NH, 03220 877-550-7297

# Classified Ads

Free To Members

**6" Delta jointer**, 2nd set new knives. \$275  
Joe Fortin 498-4276



## In House

### Demos:

All demos and dates are tentative until they appear on Page 1 of the newsletter.

September 9th—Annual Picnic with Al Stirt; Board nominations.

October 10th—Board meeting at Sal Chiarelli-s home in Essex.

October 17th— At CVU— TBA

### Woodchuck Mentors

These Woodchucks are able and willing to help other Woodchucks wanting some hands-on instruction.

**Craig Hall: Bowls, spindles, & hollow forms.**  
802-644-5344  
[craighall@hotmail.com](mailto:craighall@hotmail.com)  
Cambridge

**Dick Montague: General turning, all aspects plus tool sharpening.**  
802-584-3486  
[Montagueturn@gmail.com](mailto:Montagueturn@gmail.com)  
Groton

**Ralph Tursini: Spindles & bowls, vacuum chucking.**  
802-899-6863  
[info@vermontwoodturning.com](mailto:info@vermontwoodturning.com)  
Cambridge

**Russ Fellows: Segmented vessels.**  
802-899-3059  
[skunkmen@gmail.com](mailto:skunkmen@gmail.com)  
Jericho

**Bill Walsh: tool sharpening**  
802-839-6332  
[billiriquois@yahoo.com](mailto:billiriquois@yahoo.com)  
Northfield

**Greg Drew: Tool skills. Finishes.. Portable mill & chainsaw work.**  
802-527-6207  
[personal-woodsmythe@yahoo.com](mailto:personal-woodsmythe@yahoo.com)  
Georgia

**Nick Rosato**  
**The Sculpted Tree**  
802-999-2976  
[nickrosato@gmail.com](mailto:nickrosato@gmail.com)  
General turning

## WTNV Liability Insurance

### Liability Insurance Policy

As of April 2013 we are covered by a liability policy with the following limits:

Each occurrence: 2M; Damage to rented premises: 1M; Med expenses: 10K;  
Personal injury: 2M; General aggregate: 4M; Products aggregate:4M.

The Hartford; Agent; Michael George:  
(317) 735 4072; [mgeorge@amj.ins.com](mailto:mgeorge@amj.ins.com)

This policy covers all members at all

WTNV events.

If you are demonstrating, this policy will not cover any claim if you are being compensated either by commission or sale of your turnings. In other words, this does not serve as an individual business policy.