

WOODCHUCK CHATTER



January 11, 2005

Volume 2, Issue 1

Special points of interest:

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

January Meetings

Meeting Schedule Augmented

Thursday, January 20, we meet at Woodbury's in Burlington at the normal time, 7:00 PM. Brad Vietje will bring our new Nova lathe and demonstrate its use. We'll have a raffle and start working on this year's events. We should have a pile of pen blanks to start working on. Contact Jim Cunningham (Rustic@Gmac.net) if you want

some tutoring at the meeting. He can come prepared if there is a need.

Saturday, January 29, Dusty Coats (Dustin Coates) will demonstrate coring techniques. Coring allows you to get more than one bowl out of a chunk of wood. Just think! With the right tools, you could get several concentric bowls out of one block and increase

the ratio of product to waste close to 60% instead of 10%. Ralph Tursini will assist Dusty and show alternate methods. The program starts at noon and will run to 4:00 PM or later.

Annual dues of \$20 are due for 2005 for all Woodchuck members. If paying by check, please make the check payable to "WTNV".

Inside this issue:

- Woodchuck Board Info. 2
- Random Shots 2
- AAW News 3
- Demo Schedule 3
- Some Useful Websites 4
- Wise Woodchucks 4
- Smocks & Polish 4

Photos From November Demo



Brad talks about hollowing end grain



Down INTO the end grain



Up OUT OF cross grain



Using the ring tool



2 kinds of hook tool

Random Shots

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
martrlm@ 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: Arny Spahn
Assistant Editor & Proof Reader: Cil 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.

Thanks to you folks, I learned a lot in the last year. Staying curious is, for me, the best way to stay healthy. As long as I'm on some track, my mind is alert & my body keeps functioning. Woodworking is a great focus. There's so much to find out. Every piece of wood is different. There are so many skills to learn and practice. Some of our members are really advanced turners, and have superb skills and methods. Others are real beginners. Whenever I "discover" something I'm going to write about it so we can compare what we know. That's my goal for Chatter – share information.

As a club, we should be trying to develop all our members. That comes from sharing our skills – and our errors. I'll try to share both with you, but I'm not the best turner around nor the best teacher. I would prefer to be downstairs turning, not writing about it. I'm still working hard to get my turning up to exhibition quality and there are days my woodstove makes out better than my trophy shelf.

From Michael Mode, I learned about "stacked" bowls. I've made 7 or 8 since May, with some good work, some bad flaws. I also learned about French polish. See the article on Product Reviews for more info.

From Jim Cunningham, I learned how to make pens. I learned a use for all those small cutoffs I have tossed into a box. I lost my fear of the skew gouge and learned how and why to apply CYA as a finish. I pleased my relatives by turning pens for them for Xmas. I like the Dick Sing pattern of pen better than the slimline pattern, so that's what I made for them. Thanks to the Guard, I got lots of practice. I hope to get more. I also learned how to unglue myself.

Some of the things I developed from doing pens:

- Have a wastebasket handy

to dispose of sanding strips, etc.

- Cut the little pen parts bags in half & use the closed end to protect your left fingers from glue while you apply it. Your thumb should be on the back part of the applicator, out of range.

- Use plenty of silicone or other lube on your mandrel shaft. If the pen blank goes on even slightly tight, it can be hell getting off. If you are drilling figured wood, your drill bit WILL wander, causing some bending of the brass tube.

- The best way to salvage a brass tube after you have inevitably messed up a blank, is to immediately grab a parting tool and zing the remaining wood off the tube while it's still mounted on the mandrel. You can clean the tube up with sandpaper while it's spinning if there is still CYA on it.

- When CYA starts to polymerize, it heats up and stinks.

- I like my Nova 3000 better than my mini lathe for pen turning. It has variable speed, so I can crank it down while roughing the blank and applying finish & crank it up for fine turning & sanding. Better method or not, I feel better.

A dust collector is your best tool in the shop. Use it as much as you can. I got a length of dryer hose to put the intake point as close to my workpiece as possible. When sanding and when applying CYA, it sucks much of the bad stuff away fast. I started getting reaction to wood dust & that helped a lot.

From Dick Montague I learned the value of a honed edge. Most of my reading says that honing is a waste of time, but my surfaces have been smoother and my control better when I've honed my edges during a project.

Here are two ways to do better turning:

Study how others do it. You

will recognize good technique when you see it; sharpening, touch, and tool control.

Practice. The more you turn, the better you will get. Copy methods which look comfortable and produce the kind of results you like.

Both the demos and the side chat with folks added to my knowledge base. I can't thank Ted and Herb enough for contributing to Chatter. Once again, I will do a better job if I get input from you folks. Brain cramp and writer's block are going to get me sooner than later, and senior moments at the keyboard are just a stroke (take that any way you want) away.

How are we doing with the Pen Project?

Ted tells me that we have collected over \$2100 in donations and spent a little over \$600. We have shipped out 250 pens for Xmas. I'm proud to say that my Rotary club and the Shelburne Charlotte Rotary club made generous donations.

Bob Bouvier tells me that the callups of our troops have another 1000 in the pipeline. That's another 1000 pens we have committed to turning. We needed about \$2300 to buy 1250 kits and any surplus money will be donated to the Guard Family Assistance Fund, so raise some more money if you can.

More important than the money right now is turning the next batch of pens. Murray Edelstein has drilled & glued 500 sets of blanks for us. That's a hell of a lot of prep work, Murray, and you have our thanks. Those blanks will be available at our regular Thursday meeting for us to pick up and get to work on. Bob also tells me that only about half our members have helped on this project. There's no reason not to help. You may not

(Continued on page 5)

AAW President's Message

This message is reprinted from the AAW Journal of December.

With this issue, it's appropriate to reflect on the last 12 months and set goals for our 20th year.

The membership, staff, and board have been busy supporting existing programs and breaking new ground. We've had our bumps along the road. But as I look at the accomplishments of so many generous members, it's easy to see why the AAW's future is bright.

Here are a few of your achievements

- Member approval of updated AAW by-laws.
 - Formation of an ethics committee that drafted an AAW Code of Ethics.
 - Upgrade to a complete four color quarterly journal.
 - Complete redesign of our website. Since March, traffic has risen 30 percent. Our forums are extremely popular.
 - Chapter Best Practices rolled out on our website. There are already 20-plus documents available to local members.
 - Insurance committee formed to make recommendations for current and new insurance programs.
 - Monthly e-mail communications distributed to chapter presidents.
 - Our first international student turner exchange program successfully completed.
 - A new home office and permanent exhibition gallery opened in downtown St. Paul.
 - AAW permanent collection initiated and rapidly growing.
 - Journals released in CD format and DVD videos offered.
 - Professional development committee formed to address the needs of the professional turners.
 - Eighteen new chapters formed.
 - A successful (educationally and financially) Orlando symposium.
- Our 2005 goals include
- Increase exhibitions and traveling shows.

- Update organizational structure to include an executive director.
- Membership drive.
- Form a youth committee focusing on future generations.

As you can see by the AAW actions and plans, all of you volunteers have made a great organization even better. This month, Linda Everett and Mark St. Leger will complete their terms on the AAW board. It has been a privilege to serve with Linda and Mark. From the entire board, we say, "Thank you for all your efforts and wisdom." And again from the entire board, thank you to all the AAW members for your confidence.

Phil Brennon
philb@northlink.com

In House Demos:

December: No meeting

January: Coring tools.
Dustin Coates, Ralph Tursini.

February: *Ken Gadway,*
Large butternut bowl.

March: Handling/turning
green wood.
Ted

April: Open.

May: *Michael Mode*

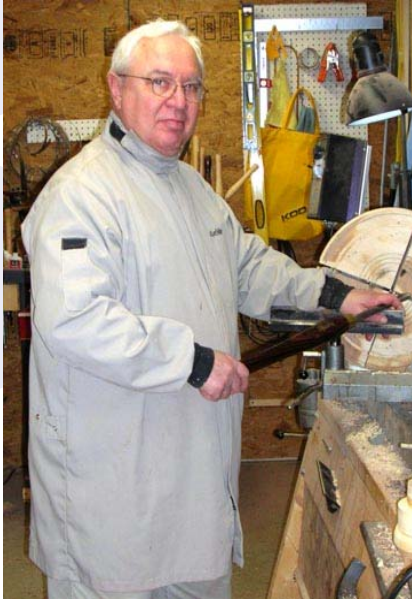
AAW ON-line Survey

In order to make the AAW and the American Woodturner Journal more responsive to your ideas and input, you are asked to visit <http://www.woodturner.org/> and take the short AAW Winter 2004 online survey. This survey wants your input and opinion on topics for articles or features that could appear regularly in the American Woodturner. What is your interest in topics under consideration for feature articles (3 to 6 pages). Give feed back as to your interest in the various articles in the recent winter issue of the Journal. Most important of all, let us know what the AAW can do to help you and your chapter. This survey is for professionals and amateurs alike.

This survey will be available from now through January 15th. Please take it and help the AAW Board understand what you really like and want.

Thanks
Gary Lansinger - AAW Internet Committee Chairman
garland@ameritech.net

Product Reviews



I got a Lee Valley turner's smock for Christmas. It's the best I've seen. It's long, has stretch cuffs on the full-length sleeves, and a high, Velcro closed neck. My better half has two complaints about my woodturning. At least two. One is that I ruin shirts by getting goo on them. The other is that I bring too much wood up with me on my clothes. This smock is roomy, comfortable, and repels sawdust. It covers me so I don't bring stuff upstairs after I have taken the smock off. The one com-

plaint I have is that the zipper is left-handed. Unzip with your right hand, and the tail of the smock doesn't fall away as it does when you unzip a jacket. The zip is attached to the left hand side of the smock. The smock is \$49.95 plus shipping from Lee Valley Tools. It comes in men's medium to XX large, one color only.



Zinsser's Bulls-Eye French Polish is a very good product which I have started to use on bowls. The instructions are for use on flat work, so I have to learn how to use it properly on the lathe. So far, results have been good, but not flawless. I use a wad of paper toweling or jersey material. I dip it into the polish, then apply it with the lathe turning at its slowest speed, about 50 RPM. When I have the surface covered, I dip again, speed the lathe up to

200 RPM, and lightly apply another coat. While it is still wet, I dip the same rag in a small amount of boiled linseed oil and lightly apply that until I feel the cloth start to tack up.

Zinsser's Bull's Eye French Polish comes in a 1-pint container for \$14.99 from Woodcraft.



<http://www.woodturningcenter.org/links.html>
<http://www.woodcentral.com/>
<http://www.woodturningonline.com/>
<http://www.cnew.org/> (Central New England Woodturners)

<http://www.woodturnerscatalog.com/>
<http://www.packardwoodworks.com/>
<http://www.tools-for-woodworking.com/> (Highland Hardware)

Tips & Techniques From Wise Woodchucks

Need to dribble small amounts of finish onto a project or cloth? Use an empty soy sauce bottle. Wash the bottle, cap, and spout thoroughly. Remove the label. Fill with the liquid of your choice and re-

label.

Remember to get rid of the original label completely. Boiled linseed oil looks like soy sauce, but does NOT go with Chinese food!

We depend on you folks to share your special tips. Give Arny an email!!

**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

Annual dues of \$20 are due for 2005 for all Woodchuck members. If paying by check, please make the check payable to "WTNV".

This Space For Mailing Label

Random Shots (continued)

(Continued from page 2)

feel confident about turning, or have a mandrel, but if you have a lathe, those problems are easily solved. Any of us that have gone through the process are willing to coach. After a few pens, you will feel like you have always been doing it. I taught my son-in-law and grandson how one day and each of them had a nice pen which they had turned by supper time. Jim Cunningham can show you how to press the parts together if you want to do that part of the job.

Murray also made the portable grinder stand for the club. What a beautiful, neat piece of work.

Woodchuck Food for Thought: "If a man speaks in the forest but no woman can hear him, is he still wrong?"

An inscription on a timber tree in Portugal:

Ye who pass by and would raise your hand against me,
hearken 'ere you harm me. I am the heat of your hearth on cold winter nights, the friendly shade screening you from the summer sun and my fruits are refreshing draughts quenching your thirst as you journey on. I am the beam that holds your house, the board of your table, the bed on which you lie and the timber that builds your boat. I am the handle of your hoe, the door of your homestead, the wood of your cradle, the shell of your coffin. I am the bread

of kindness and the flower of beauty.

Ye who pass by listen to my prayer. Harm me not!

Ted