

# WOODCHUCK CHATTER



Volume 2, Issue 11

## Special points of interest:

- Photos of Last Meeting
- Random Shots: Balance!
- Woodchuck News
- What's Coming Up

November 9, 2005

## Meeting on November 17– About Shapely Bottoms

The featured demonstration is the shaping of bowl bottoms by Ted and Ralph. The topic will be introduced by a brief presentation of design considerations followed by Ted demonstrating a variety of techniques used to put legs on your bowl. Ralph will then demonstrate the turning of more traditional bowl bottoms/feet. Implicit in



the lesson will be how to attach the topside of the vessel to the lathe. Members are invited to bring along alternate methods of fastening, working, and finishing.

ishing.

Please remember to bring toys for our project in the hospital. Each toy brings a smile to the face of a kid confined in the childrens' ward. Toys belong to the child who chooses it so the wagon continuously needs to be replenished.

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## Secretary's Report October 20, 2005

23 members present

Reminder! The items for the toy cart are needed next month. They should be small wooden items that are child safe.

The list of members eligible for the Klingspor discount has been updated by Ted. You get a 10% discount on everything but power tools. You can't order online to get the discount but must call.

Hav suggested that the Woodchuck Chatter represents a resource of information that would benefit from an index. Any volunteers? He also suggested having round-table discussions on pre-selected topics or a focused show & tell. Any ideas for topics? The following were suggested:

Green turning – Joe Laferriere

Chucking & turning plates – John Tichonuk

Vacuum chucking – Bill Walsh

Sanding, filling, texturing, and coloring – Hav Smith

The next meeting is November 17<sup>th</sup>. The topic will be finishing bowl bottoms.



Sue Howle's visitors from Texas

Craig will order Anchorseal in bulk and dispense it at the January meeting at Ralph's. It was noted that Al Stirt mixes it 50/50 which lets the wood dry faster. Dick recommended that it be used full strength on fruitwoods. The following have signed up:

Joe Laferriere 1 gallon

- |               |           |
|---------------|-----------|
| Randy Ramsden | 5 gallons |
| Have Smith    | 5 gallons |
| Craig Hall    | 5 gallons |
| Al Johnson    | 5 gallons |
| Ken Gadway    | 5 gallons |
| John Tichonuk | 3 gallons |
| Sue Howle     | 3 gallons |
| Bill Walsh    | 2 gallons |
| Joe Barry     | 5 gallons |
| Bob Martin    | 2 gallons |

The annual election was held with re-election of all officers except Secretary. Craig Hall has volunteered to take over from Joe Barry. The other officers are; President: Ralph Tursini; Vice President: Bob Martin; Treasurer: Ted Fink; Member-at-large: Arny Spahn.

### Raffle:

Cherry blank; 2 spalted beech blanks; 3 spalted beech blanks; and a \$15 gift certificate from Craft Supply.

(Continued on page 5)

# Dick Montague Shows Folk Toys, Texturing.

## Woodchuck Turners of Northern Vermont

### Board of Directors

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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.

Dick's demo last month showed some of the tricks for turning sticks into toys such as those used in colonial times.



This is a toy with a propeller which spins when its handle is stroked with a stick. The second photo shows how to make the serrations on the handle by bending the handle between the centers..



This is a 4-note whistle which sounds like a train whistle. Next, another type of whistle. Both whistles are turned then fitted with plugs to tune them.



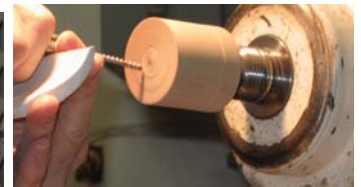
The next toy is a whirligig which is textured on both sides & colored using indelible markers.



Starting the texturing process. Texturing is done on end-grain using a hard, stiff, pointed piece of steel. The thinner the tool, the lighter the impression. Dick demonstrated using commercial tools as well as his shop-made collection of tools.



Dick has a variety of locking jaw pliers to hold the tools with. It is primarily the length of tool overhanging the tool rest which determines the spacing of the texture marks- the shorter the tool, the closer the marks.



A very stiff tool like a wallboard nail produces a different effect.



The piece can be lightly sanded, buffed, waxed, and colored.

Dick also demonstrated using a texture tool on side grain. The results were not pretty. The surface was chewed up. A better solution for texturing side grain would be by hand using carving gouges.

We would like to have your input on the proposition of producing more AAW exhibitions. The following will explain how you can help.

AAW Purpose: "To foster a wider understanding and appreciation of lathe-turning as a traditional and contemporary craft and a form of art. . . ."

One of the ways this purpose has been pursued is through the exhibition of lathe-turned work.

Circumstances: Recognizing that the one exhibition per year we have worked up to in recent years provides very minimal public exposure, the need for more exhibitions seems obvious. How to pursue the idea of more exhibitions becomes the question to which we are looking for answers.

Traveling exhibitions and virtual exhibitions with online auctions are two approaches that have very preliminarily been discussed.

For starters, the AAW Board would like to entertain the idea of instituting traveling exhibitions, initially with the

professional turners, and then expanding to other turners when the mechanism and process has matured. The underlying goal is to make wood-turned work better understood as a craft and a more recognized form of collectable art.

To properly plan how and what format a traveling exhibition should take, input from the AAW Professional Outreach Program (POP) members is sought.

We would like to find out how we can best serve the needs and desires of the professionals in an initial undertaking. To that end, this survey is sent out to POP members.

Once an approach has been developed and tried, its format can be used for non-professional AAW members as well.

We sincerely want your input and ideas as to what will make a workable and worthwhile exhibition program. Please give us your thoughts.

Please print and fill out the attached survey and mail it to me at the following address as soon as possible.

Bill Haskell - AAW Exhibitions Committee Co-Chair  
545 Tangier Avenue  
Placentia, CA 92870  
714) 528-4783  
[bhask@adelphia.net](mailto:bhask@adelphia.net)

Note: The form was too long to include in this issue of Chatter.

Please ask either Ted or Arny for a copy of the form if you are interested in responding.

## Re-Join AAW!

This is a reminder to encourage chapter members to join or renew their membership in the AAW before January 15th. To have their name included in the AAW Resource Directory for 2006 we must have their application by that date.

As an added bonus for joining or renewing for 2006, all members will receive FREE the "Fundamentals of Sharpening Video" DVD, a \$34.95 regular value for non-members and \$24.95 for members. This video was made by 4 of the worlds best known turners to

share their methods so that all turners could learn to sharpen properly. "You can't get good results with dull tools".

During the Overland Park, Kansas AAW Symposium, Delta International Machinery donated two new Delta X5 full size Model 911703 lathes valued at \$2250 each. They were used as demo lathes during the Symposium. 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 Delta lathe will be awarded to an individual who either renews his/her AAW membership, or joins the AAW for 2006 on or prior to January 15, 2006. (This includes members who have joined for several years at one time to include 2006) 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 second Delta lathe. That could be your chapter.

## News From Away

### New Discount Offer

Woodworker's Supply is offering the WTNV members of a 2 to 15% discount on everything they are selling, including power tools and machinery. They are purveyors of general woodworking equipment and supplies but have a pretty wide selection of turning equipment, tools, books and accessories. To view their on-line catalog, go to [www.woodworker.com](http://www.woodworker.com). To participate, members need to sign up with them, be put into their computer i.e. name, address phone # and email address. They state they will use the information for no purpose other than sending participants catalogs form time to time.

Once you have been entered into their computer they will send you a letter detailing the program and giving you the telephone # to place orders. Those members with email addresses will also get instructions on getting the same discounts using the web.

If you wish to participate please let me know by 12/1/05. During the first week of December I will send them a list of all members wishing to participate. Contact me with any questions. Thanks.

Ted Fink

To all

The updated Klingspor 10% discount list is

being sent in today. We are now 30 members enrolled in this program. Those who have just joined the list, your discount eligibility should be activated within 2 weeks. Remember, to receive the discount, use phone orders only.

Ted Fink

Well, I finally got my website up.  
<http://www.vermontwoodturning.com>  
*Ralph Tursini*

## Ted's Turn

### In House Demos:

November 17th: Ted & Ralph; "Shapely Bottoms". Bring turned toys for the Good Humor Wagon.

January: Wood Bee at Ralph's in Cambridge.

February: Spindle turning, possibly with Jon Segal of N.H.

March: Bowl sanding with Ralph.

April: TBA

May: A Visit With Michael Mode

"If a man empties his purse into his head, no one can take it from him. An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest"

Benjamin Franklin

### Knowledge Transference

Several years ago during a visit, I offered my father the opportunity to borrow any of my drawer full of woodworking videos. I watched as he separated all the videos into two piles. When he discarded the FWW video by Kelly Mehler **Build a Shaker Table** with the comment "I'll never build one of those", I silently rolled my eyes. That one video contains a wealth of information that is essential to building any piece of furniture. It simply didn't matter that he would never build a Shaker table. The know-how it contained was exquisitely transferable any furniture making he would ever do.

I see the same mistake being made in our chapter video library. For example, Johannes Michelson's hat turning video has so much useful information on the techniques of turning wood very thinly in addition to the drying, sanding and finishing of his delicate pieces. Those techniques would prove valuable in the design and turning of many other projects. (You don't need to make hats to profit greatly from watching that video). The more techniques you know the more it opens up the vast array of design possibilities you are capable of executing. Lack of technique should never be the limiting factor in designing your pieces.

So, with that in mind, allow me to present the 7 new DVD's being added to our library this month.

The 3 DVD set of the 19th Annual National Symposium held this past July in Overland Park Kansas

Vol. 1 David Lancaster - Production Bowl Techniques; Laurent Guillot- Three-Sided Spiral; Anthony Harris- Mushroom Box; Bob Hawls- Lighting for Digital Pictures; Michael Werner- Inside-Out Split Turning.

Vol. 2 Panel Discussion- Copying and Plagiarism; Yoshinobu Kakiawa- Oriental Turning Methods; Andre Martel- End-grain Hollowing Techniques; Phil Irons- Surface Decoration; Robert Rosand- Texturing Small Projects Using a Needle Scaler.

Vol. 3 Instant Gallery and Critique featuring John Jordan and turned-wood collectors, Jane and Arthur Mason.

Stuart Batty and Mike Mahoney- Two Ways To Make A Bowl (Excellent. Replete with many pearls of woodturning wisdom)

Beth Ireland- Turning Outside the Box (An ingenious technique combining band-saw and lathe is explored)

Alan Lacer- The Skew Chisel (By far the best video I have seen using this essential but often difficult tool- -Excellent)

Alan Lacer- The Son of Skew (A follow up video detailing the use of the skew in making 11 projects)

Happy viewing.

Ted

## Tips From The Wise Woodchuck

I have been experimenting with cabinet scrapers to refine the surfaces of my vessels. After putting on a coat of sanding sealer (thinned shellac), using a flat scraper on convex surfaces seems to give me a smooth finish ready for medium-fine sandpaper. A "French curve" steel scraper works on the concave surfaces. I have tried holding the scraper by hand with the tool rest

out of the way. The lathe can be reversed also. Light scraping is better than heavy. Slow lathe speed is better than fast. Be cautious about how much "bite" you put on the scraper edge. Always wear gloves when hand-scraping to minimize injury and guard against friction heat. This technique seems to reduce tearout on the end-grain sides of the vessel. Arny

(Continued from page 1)

### Show & Tell:

Sue Howle: Mesquite platter with carving and turquoise inlay



Vance Loy (from Texas): Natural edge mesquite bowl. He noted that Mesquite shrinks uniformly in all planes! Beetles attack the sapwood immediately after felling and usually destroy the sapwood.



Al Johnson: spalted maple vase and steady rest



Hav: Urn for dog's ashes (one advantage of funerary urns is that no one sees the inside)



Dick: Folk toys. Peruvian knuckle buster; Alaskan yo-yo; throwing and step on tops; whip top



Ted: the "Perfect Pear" and a maple bowl with irregular heartwood caused by a beetle infestation according to Dale.

Presentation: Dick Montague on folk toys



### Treasurer's Report:

#### Chapter monies

Beginning balance \$2218.89

#### Income:

10/20/05 raffle \$36.00

#### Expenses:

Donations: \$100.00

(CERF, TURNING CTR \$50 each)

7 DVD's + S&H \$217.47

24" flex lamp +

magnetic base \$68.00

25', 12ga. cord+splitter \$20.65

Balance forward \$1848.77

#### Pens Project

No income or expenses

Balance \$219.62

**Bankbook balance \$2068.39**

Ted Fink

<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)

<http://www.pennstateindustries.com/>

Like most guys, I like gadgets, especially ones which promise to do a good job faster and better. I like gizmos which promise better accuracy when working or cutting. I'm not fond of tools which promise to do lots of different things for me. They usually don't do any one thing as well as a single-purpose tool.

I receive a lot of catalogues each month; some from tool cribs like Harbor Freight or Amazon, others from dedicated wood working supply houses; you know the names. When I'm planning new projects I love to search for easy solutions to the problems I'll encounter. When I'm approaching the end of a job, I like to consider different finishing tools and gunk. Sometimes, I even think about the last injury or irritation I had and look for a safer work aid. All that seems reasonable, doesn't it? I now have a list of gouges, buffs, pen parts, filter masks, and

NEW TOOLS which I could give out to those souls who have asked me for gift suggestions for Christmas. But do I dare? The trouble I have is that if I request a gift and it turns out to be a turkey, how do I explain why it's rusty, dusty, and hidden? If I buy it myself, I hurt no one's feelings if it tanks.

Which brings up the main reason I started on this line of thought. I'm worried that having so many toys to play with, I'll spend more time experimenting than actually completing a project. How about you? Is your time in the shop devoted to getting the project completed? Can you get the type of work out of your tools which you are happy with?

My bet is that if I learned how to use the tools I have, I would be a lot happier than buying a new tool and playing with it. Now I have to convince myself.

Read any Good Articles Lately?

I'm seeing many articles in the wood-working magazines which illustrate how to produce a nice project, one it would be fun to try.

Articles often mention valuable techniques which you can apply to your own work. As Ted said in his article this month, you can glean good stuff from magazine articles about projects you have no interest in working on. Taking the time to study your reading is a very good investment.

Arny

This Space Could Be Yours!!

The Board established a Corporate Membership. For \$50 a year, a supplier can have full membership in WTNV PLUS an ad space like this each issue. All we need is a logo, and some items of interest. You may send "Chatter" new items each month. Current readership is 40+, all interested in working wood. "Chatter" is flexible in page count and nothing gets crowded out. Contact Ted Fink for further info.

Woodchuck Turners of  
Northern Vermont  
An associated chapter  
of  
American Association of  
Woodturners

Publisher:  
Arny Spahn  
1620 Hebard Hill Rd.  
Randolph, VT



VP Bob presided over elections.

This Space For Mailing Label

## Policy On Borrowing The Club Lathe and Tent

This is the policy which was formulated at the October 2004 Board meeting. It was first printed in the October 2004 Woodchuck Chatter.

The primary goal in buying these tools is to have good equipment available so we can demonstrate in public, thereby attracting new members and recruiting would-be turners.

All members in good standing (paid up dues) are eligible to borrow the equipment primarily for

demonstration purposes. We may borrow the equipment for ONE WEEK at a time. The Treasurer is responsible for knowing where the equipment is at any time; therefore the borrower is responsible to sign the equipment out—by phone or in person— and back in.

The lathe and its parts are a unit. Don't ask to borrow only the chuck or other parts.

The borrower is responsible for transporting the equipment to and from its storage location. The borrower is responsible for returning the equipment in excellent

condition with all its parts intact.

The borrower is responsible for any liability rising from the use of the equipment.

Only club members may operate our lathe to avoid litigation by untrained turners.

The Chapter has first dibs on all equipment so that we can show our stuff at public events.