

WOODCHUCK CHATTER



Volume 2, Issue 12

Special points of interest:

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

December 7, 2005

Meeting on January 19, 2006

The January meeting will feature all members of the Chapter. You are requested to bring in, to an expanded 1 1/2 hours show and tell, all items pertinent to the following three topics:

1. Tools: making, sharpening, unique applications, lathe accessories and jigs.
2. Surface Treatment: Shaping, carving, texturing, coloring, and

decorating your turned pieces.

3. Wood: Procuring, processing, cutting, drying, stabilizing and species specific peculiarities.

This should be a great sharing of knowledge, but it only works if you participate. So, each member should bring in as many items or experiences in each category as he or she wishes. We will set aside

roughly 1/2 hour for each topic and they will be taken in turn with 3 separate trips around the circle of attendees. Come and share your knowledge with us!



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Secretary's Report November 17, 2005

Old Business:

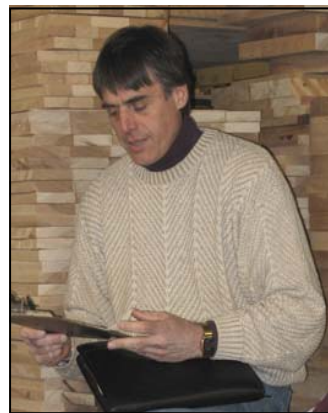
Brad brought an assortment of wheels to make the club's lathe stand more mobile.

Wood bee at Ralph's shop has been moved to the 1st Saturday in February (4th). An assortment of logs and or chunks will be available for purchase by those who have indicated their preferred species from the sign up sheet.

Ralph has agreed to store Anchorseal at his shop and it will be available for pick up at the February 4th gathering, or sooner if desired. Those purchasing less than 5 gallons will need to provide their own containers. Please call first (644-5131) if you need to pick it up at a time other than the Saturday meeting.

Burl update: apparently sufficient quantity is not available yet.

January demos: show & tell roundtable with focus topics.



Our new secretary taking notes.

New Business:

The club has 7 new DVD's. Arny has donated 3 new Ellsworth videos.

There has been a request to update the video list. We are not sure of the locations of all the club's videos. Anyone having videos at home, please bring them to the next meeting.

Feb 11 & 12, Ralph will be teaching an intermediated course at the Shelburne craft school.

Dick will continue teaching at Westermorrow through the winter (possible scholarships available).

May 13, New Hampshire Guild will be hosting a woodturning symposium at the Pinkerton Academy.

We welcome new member Bob Gugerty of St George.

Various items were donated for our annual gifts to children at Fletcher Allen.



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Random Shots

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.

I have a peculiar malady. I get caught up in the Christmas activities— buying gifts, thinking of relatives, decorating the house. Then, sometime before we take down the tree, I crash. All the good meals, all the happy smiles, all of the anticipation ends and I hit a low. My energy is gone, I weigh another 5 pounds, and I need something to focus on to get me going.

This year I should have plenty to think about. There's the war in Iraq, the flooding in the Gulf states and in New Hampshire, recovery efforts in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and half the native states of Africa. Plus, I can worry about the high cost of heating oil and the constant need for food assistance here in Randolph.

For once, I'm not overwhelmed. I have found ways of helping out with every one of these burdens. Rotary International and American Red Cross are trustworthy outfits giving aid and comfort all over the world. I donate time and money to both. I also volunteer at the Vermont Food Bank to help prepare food for dozens of food pantries and feeding kitchens around the state.

One of my efforts is tiny compared to the others, but I

am very proud to take part. I have turned pens for our Woodchuck Pen Project. I still have another dozen to turn before my share is complete. The Pen Project was started elsewhere, but we Vermonters (transplants count, too) have our own twist to it. We are making pens using certified Vermont maple so that every one of the Green Mountain Boys, our Vermont National Guard serving in Iraq & that neighborhood, can have a piece of Vermont in hand to remember that we support our troops.

Dues & Membership

It is time to pay dues & re-join the Woodchucks. Dues are still \$20 per year and gives us the happiness of belonging to a group interested in a fascinating hobby and profession. What are the benefits of belonging? First, the monthly demonstrations of various wood working skills. Second, access to a library of videos on wood turning. Third, access to some very skilled, sharing people doing well what we like doing. Fourth, the friendship of folks who enjoy some of the same things you do. Fifth, this monthly newsletter, devoted to the people and activities of a friendly club located in northern Vermont.

As woodturners, each of us should also belong to the American Association of Woodturners. If all you get out of the Association is their quarterly magazine, you still profit.

Therapy Session

I became restless the other day—frankly, I got fed up trying to put "Chatter" together while thinking of my Christmas preparations. I went into my shop and started fiddling with some wood. The next thing I knew, I had turned a few miniatures. They were sort of crude, but I felt good having finished a goblet with a 1/16th inch thick stem. Concentrating on the gentle skill of tiny turnings took my mind off other things and lead to this short article. By doing something outside of my comfort level, I got a little excited about my work. I also added a little to my skill set by concentrating on very fine motor skills.

I'm going to do some more miniatures, but I'll wait until I've absorbed my current reading, "Turning Miniatures In Wood". I will also give a book report when I have absorbed some of the book.

Arny

Holiday Wishes

The Board of Directors extends to all our woodchuck members our heartfelt wishes that you and your families have peacefully fulfilling, happy holidays.

Sincerely,

Ralph, Bob, Craig, Ted, and Arny

There are times that your design may call for legs on bowl bottoms and you have enough stock to turn/carve them. At



Added feet

other times, legs may be more essential because you would like the bowl to sit a little



Turned feet

higher but there is no material left to form a foot. Hence, the legs may result from either subtraction of wood or adding it, and then shaping the legs by carving, rasping, and sanding.

In the first instance you would turn a bottom recessed as



Turning the monofoot

deeply as you want the legs to be tall. Carefully turn the profile just as you want the legs to be shaped. Then mark out either 3 or 4 legs (if greater



Dividing the bottom into 4 feet

stability is desired). With a hand saw, cut down to the body of the bowl 1/2 between each set of legs. This allows for easy carving. With a very sharp chisel start within 1/8" of a leg and carve toward the saw cut.

Do each side of each leg in turn. With the majority of the stock removed, use a fine carving chisel to do final paring and shaping. Finish up with hand sanding.



Carving out the feet

In the situations where you've turned your bowl and the design calls for a height that you can't accomplish due to lack of wood, you need to add material and shape the legs. Firstly, turn and sand the piece entirely. Then map out the location of the legs. (Generally use 3 or 4 legs on a refined bowl and 3 on natural edge/bottom bowls.) Using a Forstner bit (which gives a perfectly flat bottom) the same diameter as that of your plug, drill the holes in each leg location. These will be shallow to avoid any possi-



Adding feet using plugs

bility of going through the bowl bottom. Use plugs you've made from the corners of wood left over from you cutting out of the bowl blanks on the band saw. This will give your cross grained stock of the same color as the bowl. Mount the stock between centers and turn to the exact size of the holes you've drilled. Select the appropriate lengths and glue them into place using water based PVA wood glue. The joint will be strong because you will be gluing side grain to side grain. (A plug is cross grain. A peg is end grain for strength.) After the glue has hard-

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News From Away

CERF (Craft Emergency Relief Fund)

We have received a grateful acknowledgement of our \$50 contribution to CERF from their Executive Director, Cornelia Carey in Montpelier, VT.

Part of her letter reads: "Because of you, CERF can respond quickly. Your donation translates into valuable assistance that craft artists need to sustain their careers through challenging times. Please visit us at www.craftemergency.org to see how we're using your donation to help craft artists and for the most current updates and stories about the people helping and being helped.

What you will see there attests to the gen-

erous and caring nature of the arts community."

AAW news releases

John Hill, AAW Chapters Committee Chairman would remind members to check out the "Forum" at woodturner.org as a great source of information. Also visit the online gallery at that site. Any member can post pictures of his or her work for the whole world to see while getting great design ideas from others. Also "Chapters Best Practices" is where you can find ideas that have worked well for other chapters. Dan Lutrell

is chairman of that aspect of the AAW website.

Mary Lacer, managing director of the AAW, would like everyone to be aware that to be in the 2006 AAW directory you need to join or renew your membership soon. She also points out the 2006 AAW National Symposium will be in Louisville, KY the last weekend in June, 2006.

Ted's Turn

In House Demos:

January: Round Table on Methods.
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

Dopeler Effect: The tendency of stupid ideas to seem smarter if they come at you rapidly.

(Blend of Doppler Effect and dope) So read this quickly.

David Mehegan , 2001

Dopeler Effect Applied to Woodturning

- Now that you know how to sharpen your tools, ignore large black stains in the piece you're turning

- When using a long handled tool deep inside a hollow turning, put your head down right over the handle for a good view of the inside and wait for a catch to occur. If unconvinced by the sharp rap on your right temple, repeat as necessary

- Reverse the direction of rotation when sanding and count on the resistance of the original turning to ensure that the chuck is tightly on the headstock spindle.

- Don't bother making that large bowl blank balanced before turning it. That's what the lathe is for.

- Apply the finish liberally while the piece is turning at high speed. You'll get done faster that way.

- After filling a deep crack with thin CA glue, turn the lathe on immediately.

- Steady a wobbly chunk of wood with your foot while chain sawing it. It's faster than other methods.

- If you get a severe catch while trying to use a tool with which you're unfamiliar, grip it more tightly and apply more force.

Don't let it defeat you.

- If you're turning a small piece like a pen what use is a face shield? Besides you've got a great health plan and had no intention of making a career on the stage anyway.

- You've always been quick on your feet so there's really no need to have the speed dial and off switch on the same side of the lathe as where you're standing. You'll have plenty of time to react.

- Don't bother checking the speed dial before tuning on the lathe, you can always adjust the speed after its running.

- You think wearing a necktie while turning looks really cool? Go for it. You only live once.

Recommended web site:

David Lancaster of Maine has an interesting website and it is worth a visit to see how his production bowl business is set up.

www.heirloombowls.com

Ted Fink



Tips From The Wise Woodchuck

Wood dust is the curse of the Woodchuck. Develop a sensitivity to a wood species, and you are in trouble every time you enter your shop. My lathe is the hardest source to control. I built a plenum chamber which rests on my lathe stand and connects to my dust removal system. I run the dust removal system constantly when turning AND sanding. It acts as a down-draft dust guard and reduces my exposure to a small fraction. Sitting below the level of the lathe rails, it is never in the way of the banjo or the workpiece. The chamber is about 18" long so it covers a reasonable area.

-Arny



(Continued from page 1)

Woodcraft is having a sale on turning tools and supplies.

There will be no December meeting.

Future demos: February- spindle turning, March- sanding and texturing

Raffle prizes were: thick walnut plank, yew, oak, maple, Woodturning Design magazine, and Bob continued to collect gift certificates from Woodcraft Supply

Show and tell:



Ralph & oak bowl.

Dick – his famous tops, Ted- tops of myrtle and apple using the skew, Ralph- large



Craig's bowl

oak burl bowl, Craig – maple with carved and painted



Randy's bowl & sphere

rim,

Randy- ash bowl and large ash sphere, Brad- honey locust and small maple burl hollow forms. Nicely done!



Brad's vessel

Treasurer's Report

Chapter Monies:

Balance forward \$1848.77

Expenses:

camera equipment \$65.88

metal plate for lathe 7.95

Income:

raffle \$46

T-shirt sales \$30

dues \$20

Balance forward \$1870.94

Pens Project Monies

Balance forward \$219.62

expenses 0.00

income 0.00

Balance forward \$219.62

Bankbook balance \$2090.56

Ted Fink

<http://www.woodturningcenter.org/links.html> <http://www.packardwoodworks.com/>

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

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

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

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

<http://www.cnew.org/> (Central New England Woodturners)

[Http://www.heirloombowls.com](http://www.heirloombowls.com)

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

Putting legs on bowls continued

(Continued from page 3)



A natural bottom needing feet

ened, carve and shape the legs to your design.



Carving feet with a Kutz-all

In the third instance, you have a natural bottomed bowl which has very irregular topography. Here you would use the subtraction



Laying out tripod base for stability

method to leave 3 (or more) legs projecting from the base. This can be hand carved but a much faster method is to use a 4 1/2" grinder with a "Kutz-all" head which allow easy shaping. When setting out the positions of the legs, be certain to set them as spaced out as possible for greatest stability, being certain that the center of gravity is well within the triangle (or square) formed by the feet.

Ted Fink

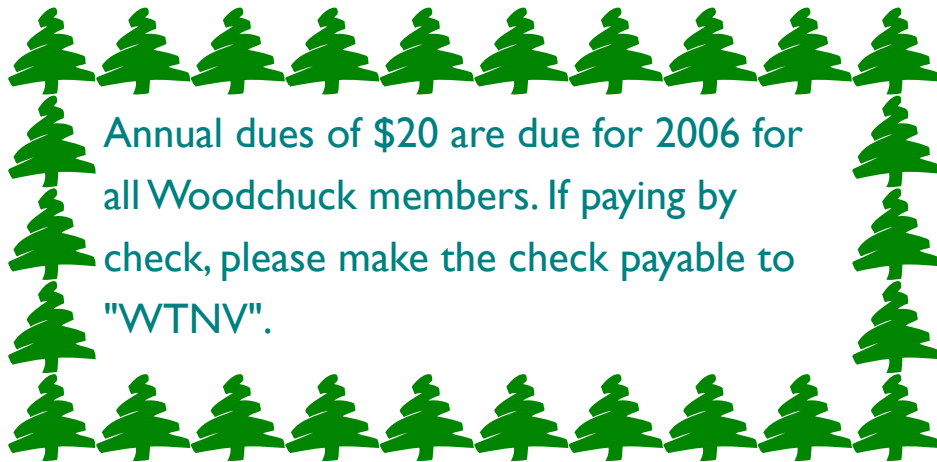
Next Month: Ralph Turns Bowl Bottoms

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



Annual dues of \$20 are due for 2006 for all Woodchuck members. If paying by check, please make the check payable to "WTNV".

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.