

Woodchuck Chatter



Volume 2, Issue 6

Special points of interest:

- Photos of Last Meeting
- Random Shots: About copying
- Woodchuck News
- The Pen Project
- What's Coming Up

June 10, 2005

Meeting on June 16



Our guest this month is Michael Mode, a very respected, talented turner who is a Life Member of the Woodchucks. Michael produces very artistic segmented and stacked bowls and has had them noticed in a number of publications, including "500 Bowls", "Woodturning", and "American

Woodturner". This month, he plans to show us his method of taking a plank to the glued-up bowl blank stage. He may have time to cover other subjects and questions.

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Secretary's Report –Meeting of May 19th

26 members and guests present

The Woodchuck's extravaganza went well and the club lathe had all the kinks worked out. Thanks to Woodbury's for hosting us.

John Brislin brought in 500 pen blanks already glued and tubed.



Treasurer gloats over raffle income

There are 376 left to turn and we will need to buy about 100 more kits to finish. Bob Bouvier would like to have it all done by July 4th.

Woodturning 101 is in process

with Ted at his shop with 5 students.

Bill Reilly has agreed to take on the job of librarian.

Events:

May 28th Open Studio Weekend in Vermont.

Ted and Joe demonstrating at the WoodnNet Maplewood gallery in Stowe.

Ralph has open studio at his shop.

June 11th Maplewood gallery grand opening

July 22-24 Ralph's bowl class at Shelburne Craft School

October 1-2 Al Stirt's turn & carve class at Shelburne craft School

October 15-16 Adirondack Turners Symposium in Albany

Woodchuck Schedule:

June 16th Michael Mode on stacked bowl construction

July 21st Peter on his finishing technique



David Scrase & spoon

August 20th BBQ at Herb's with Al Stirt to critique member's work. Bring your stuff!

The Lois McClure is sailing to NYC to showcase Vermont products in August. See Bob Bouvier for details.

Jim Cunningham has a Woodchuck web page up on his website at

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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.

It looks as if the Woodchucks are out in front of the wave right now. (I'd say 'on the cutting edge' but that's too cute.) In the latest issue of "American Woodturner", there's an intensive article on pricing your work. I could write my own piece, but William L. Stephenson says all that needs to be said. Is there any interest in a roundtable or a walk-thru with a leader on pricing? Let us know.

Also in AW, two good articles on lidded boxes; exploring form and how-to. There's a lot more in this issue.

I've got the latest "Woodturning", "Woodturning Design", "Fine Woodworking", and a new one, "Woodcraft". "Woodcraft" is more of a general woodworker magazine than the 3 woodturning magazines. I flip through all of them & come back later for a deeper look. There is more on paper than I can possibly turn into solid projects, but I'm not going to overwhelm myself on them.

We were not "winners" in the AAW newsletter competition. I have looked at the winners' newsletters and learned some things from them. One of the big differences is in content. All the others had lots of member contribution. There were also some very attractive layout tricks used and lots of attractive photography, including tabletop setups of

finished work.

Dick Montague has me thinking about tool sharpness. I'm noticing the texture of my pieces more lately. Pens are not a problem, thanks to honing my gouges before each use. My other work sometimes needs extensive sanding to get the kind of smoothness I like. Part of the problem is related to needing to concentrate on technique.

I investigated my basic grinding wheel. It was down to under 7" diameter. It's a Norton 32A 100-grit stone. When I apply a tool to the wheel I feel a lot of vibration, which doesn't disappear when I dress the wheel.

I ordered a Norton 38A 120 grit white stone AND a Oneway balancing system. The balancing system cost \$60 and comes with everything needed to dynamically balance both sides of the grinder.

The gismo that holds the balance weights requires a stone with a 1" center hole, so my old 80-grit shaping stone remains unbalanced. Balancing the new stone was very easy. I put the two balance weights, which are just a bolt & screw, onto the 2-piece hub which fits onto the 5/8" shaft of my grinder. I then tightened the hub onto the stone and set the weights opposite each other. I then mounted the stone and hub onto the system's stand, which has a pair of bearings for

the stone to rotate on. I marked the bottom of the stone, then moved the 2 weights around toward each other AWAY from the heavy side of the stone. I then rotated the stone by hand until the heavy side was at 90 degrees to the bottom, and let the stone come to equilibrium.

I repeated these steps until the stone no longer rotated when the heavy side was away from the bottom. Viola! Balance!

I mounted the stone to my grinder, dressed it once, and sharpened my favorite bowl gouge. I tried it unhone, and then hone. There was an appreciable difference in the feel of the cut and the cut surface seemed to be much smoother. Part of the difference I attribute to a balanced stone, but part of the difference must come from the finer grit of the wheel.



Front & side view of Oneway balancing hub & stand

Army

Book Review

In light of our discussions last month I picked up a copy of The Woodworker's Guide To Pricing Your Work, 3rd Edition by Dan Ramsey. Published by Popular Woodworking Books in Cincinnati, Ohio (www.popularwoodworking.com). ISBN 1-55870-739-5. I paid \$17.99 to the Woodworker's book Club and list is \$22.99.

It does a good job of covering the basics of figuring your costs, overhead, depreciation and all those other factors that add up to losing your shirt when you thought you were doing fine. Rather than a generic small business book, he

concentrates on the aspects of a part time to full time woodworking business. Of special interest to Woodchucks is his coverage of pricing turned work and the issue of how to price for the artistic value of turned work.

Overall a very useful primer with interesting concepts such as YECH (You, the Economy, Competition, and Hunger), and the PITA fee (Pain in the Posterior).

I can bring it along for anyone interested at the next meeting.

AAW Chapter Newsletter and Website contest winners

And now for the winners...
(Drum Roll)

We had a very spirited competition this year in the two contests for the Best Chapter Newsletter with 18 chapters entering and the Best Chapter Website contest with 15 chapters entering. At the upcoming symposium in Overland Park, Kansas, each of the winners will receive an engraved plaque honoring their accomplishments.

Congratulations to the top three chapter editors. We can all learn something from these winners. Each of them have posted their newsletters on their websites. Check them out. Here are the winners in the AAW Newsletter Contest for 2005:

1st Place

Silicon Valley Woodturners
Philip Roybal, Editor

www.svwoodturners.org/

2nd Place

Tidewater Turners
Kathy Vogel, Editor
www.tidewaterturners.net/

3rd Place

Central Texas Woodturners Association
Charles Kay, Editor
<http://ctwa.org/>
Thanks to the 15 chapters that entered the AAW's Best Chapter Website contest. The websites that were entered showed off some nice webmaster skills and highlighted woodturning in a variety of creative ways.

Congratulations to the top three chapter webmasters. The winners in the AAW Best Chapter Web site contest are:

First Place:

Ohio Valley Woodturners Guild
John Wake, webmaster
Mike Nelson, co-webmaster
<http://www.ovwg.org/>

Second Place

Pikes Peak Woodturners
Ed Davidson, webmaster
www.yoyospin.com/ppw/

Third Place

Northeastern Oklahoma Woodturners Association
Tim Yoder, webmaster
www.neowta.com
Congratulations to the winners and thanks to all who entered.
John Hill - AAW Chapters and Membership Chairman
828-645-6633
johnhill@charter.net

AAW Grants

The last opportunity for a Chapter or individual to apply for an AAW grant, is July 15th, 2005. After this date the Chapter and Individual applications will be held annually every January 15th. instead of twice per year for applications.

Also please visit our website
<http://www.woodturner.org/>

resources/eog/ to download a newly revised copy of the Grant Application as well as the new Helpful Hints page.

Individuals that have not received an AAW grant during the previous 5 years are eligible to apply now. Chapters that have not received an AAW grant during the previous 12 months are eligible to apply now.

Finally, please be sure to have your application in the mail on or before the 15th of July as applications with a postmark after July 15th are disqualified for that grant period. You can, by your request, have a late application reviewed during the next grant application period.

Good luck to all that apply,
Sincerely,
Angelo J lafrate
EOG Committee Chair
iafrateturns@cox.net

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News From Away

Manzanita Burl Turning Stock from the mountains of Northern California. Available exclusively for members of Woodturning Associations and Clubs.

Indigenous to the high elevation and volcanic soil in the forests around Mt Lassen, this rare crimson red and gold hardwood is sure to inspire Woodturners with its unique elegance and heirloom quality.

A family business since the early 1980's, we harvest only choice, turning quality Manzanita Burl, selling direct to select Woodturning Clubs, offering choice burls that turn award winning pieces.

For information on prices and shipping, e-mail us at jackburl96001@yahoo.com, or call us at 530-335-4279.

Jack and Elaine Dickson,
Burney, California

Florida wood source

I am a member of the Spacecoast Woodturners, a Florida chapter of the AAW. I started a small wood supply business approximately 1 year ago for woodturners. We currently can provide fresh cut Norfolk Island Pine in log form in many sizes. Also presently available is some Eucalyptus, Citrus, Bay Laurel, Red Cedar and Florida grown Mahogany. See attached pictures. I will offer 10% discount to your club members. The Norfolk Island Pine is priced at \$.75 / pound and the other woods are priced per size. The wood can be shipped as individual pieces via UPS or USPS, or in larger amounts (such as a group purchase) via a commercial trucking company at a very reasonable rate. Kindly forward this message to your club members. I can be contacted via e-mail to answer any questions. Thanks.

Joe Schneider

jschneider1@cfl.rr.com



The Ohio Valley Woodturners are having a symposium in West Harrison IN (just outside of Cincinnati) on Oct.21,22,23. Featured turners are: Jimmy Clewes, Paul Fennell, John Jordan, Richard Raffan, Chris Stott, and Ray Key. Cost is \$250.00 for the 3 days (if paid for by 9/30/05). Looks like a great line-up.....Craig

Ted's Turn

" A good rule is to buy as much as you can sensibly afford of any wood that excites you and then, quickly, buy a little bit more "

James Krenov 1975

Mentoring

Rob Libby, Skip and Tim Parker, Bill Rowley and Bill Walsh attended all 3 Woodturning 101 classes and were joined by our newest member, Todd Pritchard, for the final session on spindle turning. It is now time to pair up mentors and mentorees. This will be difficult because there is very poor geographic overlap of these two groups and there remains a 2 to 1 ratio of those seeking mentoring to those available to mentor. So, do the best you can and if you find that your pairing is not working please let me know. The mentor will be listed first followed by the mentorees.

1) Joe Barry (jbarry@Giffordmed.org) : Bill Walsh (billiriquois@yahoo.com), Sue Howle

(showle@fs.fed.us).

2) Craig Hall (craighall@hotmail.com) : Skip Parker (skipchar@aol.com) , Tim Parker (housedoc4you@aol.com) Bill Rowley (Charlottesailing@Gmavt.net)

3) Ralph Tursini (tursini@pshift.com) : Paul Willard (paul01111@aol.com) , Dennis Belisle (djbelisle2000@yahoo.com)

4) Ted Fink (finkhaus@together.net) : Rob Libby (robli@hazelett.com) , Sherry Libby (slibby@sasarchitects.com), Joe Gaines (VT8210@hotmail.com)

5) Dick Montague (Montagueturn@hotmail.com): Joe Laferriere (JoeKate@sover.net)

"As the World Turns"

impress others in your Woodchuck T-shirt. \$15 (members). Contact Ted.

In House Demos:

June 16: *Michael Mode:* Stacked Bowl Construction

July 21: Peter Smith: Finishing Your Work

August 20: Picnic at Herb's—Al Stirt on creative process: also, Turning Stock On The Stump with Ralph

September: TBA

October: Annual meeting & elections

Woodchuck Sightings

Shelburne Museum Lilac Sunday 5/15/05

As if the organizers of this annual event didn't have enough to worry about with the weather, they must also predict when the lilac blossoms will be in full bloom. Last year Lilac Sunday fell about 3 days after the peak so this year they moved the celebration date one week earlier. Well, Mother Nature doesn't like being toyed with so the spring weather was unusually cool and the blossoms had not yet made an appearance.



Nevertheless, despite the rain and lack of blossoms the day was a success. There were lectures on gardening, door prizes of 200 lilac seedlings and numerous artists and crafters to keep the hundreds of locals and intrepid travelers interested.

Jim 'the pen man' Cunningham, Dick 'the top man' Montague and Ted 'the bowl turner' Fink set up on the porch of the general store and Dutton House for turning demonstrations. Dick was ably assisted by his top spinning technician

and chief sales person, Martha. We had steady sales throughout the day and thoroughly enjoyed our discussions with the many visitors.

Open Studio Day at WoodNet Gallery

Ted Fink, Bob Bouvier, Jim Cunningham, Joe Barry & Paul Willard were among the Woodchucks at the Maplewood Gallery open studio day. Photos below by Paul Willard.



(Continued from page 1)



Dick Montague & mediaeval puncheons

Moosemountain.com. He would like more photos and other input from members.

Raffle:

\$15 Woodturner's gift certificate

Varied wood: spalted birch, maple, red oak, box elder,



Craig Hall & bowl

- Ash and butternut bowl blanks
Show and Tell:
 David Scrase: Large spoons from his wood supplier finished with Olive Oil
 Dick Montague: 2 Birch mugs for the medieval faire. (Picture Dick in hose!)
 Craig Hall: Small maple bowl. Dipped for 24 hours in denatured alcohol
 Dale Bergdahl: Wormy Butternut bowl with Watco and wipe on poly finish

- Arny Spahn: 1st place in Randolph's local artist show for his stacked lamination bowls
 Ken Gadway: Microwaved cherry burl vase
 Brad Vietje: Black Locust bowl
 John Brislin: Maple bowl



Dale Bergdahl & wormy but'nut bowl

Demonstration: Ralph channeling Richard Raffin on end grain boxes with lids. See article.

Treasurer's Report: as of 5/31/05

Chapter monies:

Balance forward	2034.38
Income	
Dues	60.00
Raffle/auction	108.00
Expenses	
5/24/05	
Eraser board pens	
/name tag card mat.	8.97



Ken Gadway's cherry burl vase

Balance 2193.41

Pens Project

Corrected Balance forward (36.38)

Income \$141

Balance \$104.62

Bankbook Balance \$2298.03

Ted Fink



John's maple bowl

- | | |
|---|---|
| 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) |
| | http://www.pennstateindustries.com/ |

AAW News Items continued

(Continued from page 3)

Subject: AAW needs good digital camera

The AAW finds itself in need of a good digital camera. This camera will be used to take high quality

photos of exhibition and collection pieces.

Please poll your membership for anyone willing to do something for the common good of the AAW as well as take a tax deduction for the donation.

Please contact the Main Office

attention Mary Lacer with any offers.

Sincerely,
Angelo J. lafrate
Vice President. A.A.W.
lafrateturns@cox.net

Future Woodchuck Sightings

Burlington Farmer's Market - College St. - Saturdays 8-2:30 throughout the Summer until October - *I'll be selling my latest work*

Stowe Farmer's Market - Mtn. Road, Stowe - Sunday 10:30-3:00 Throughout the summer until September *Selling wares from the*

lathe

Frog Hollow - Church St. Burlington - *Featured Artist for July*

Shelburne Craft School - Shelburne, VT - July 22, 23, 24 - *Teaching the Turning Workshop: Turning a Wooden Bowl: Exploring Connections Between Forest Ecology, Wood, and Bowl Design*

Morristown Craft Market - Morristown, NJ October 21,22,23 - *Juried Craft Show selling my work.*

All submitted by Ralph Tursini. Any other news items gladly accepted.

The Pen Project

Woodchucks,

Thanks to Scott and John, we have 75 pen kits. I believe that with what you folks have in your hands, this 76 will enable us to complete the 378 needed.

If any of you have turned pen parts and need kits, let me know.

The objective is to finish all the pens so they can be delivered to Camp Johnson before July 4th. If you need any help and/or have pen kits and turning blanks that you are unable to make into pens by the end of June, please let me know and we will see if we can distribute them to a Woodchuck that might be able to make the

pens.

Thanks again for all the hard work. We are on the home stretch now! Let's wrap it up!!!!

Bob

wdubelieve@aol.com

863-5644

This Space Could Be Yours!!

At their last meeting, 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.

" Thanks again for all the hard work. We are on the home stretch now! Let's wrap it up!!!!!"

Bob

Ralph Makes Boxes

Ralph won a Richard Raffin book on turned boxes at our last meeting and was inspired to experiment. He showed us, step by step, one method of producing a lidded vessel.



Start with a section of wood, grain running the long way.



Hollow out the lid. Ralph uses Raffin's back-hollowing method.



The lid, finished on inside and partially shaped on the outside.



Turn to a cylinder with a tenon on each end.



Illustrating the interior form of the lid. Note the straight section which will join lid to bottom.



Hollowing the interior of the box.



Part off enough to make a proportional lid—approximately 1/3. The Golden Mean is 1:1.618. Ralph parts the body off, leaving the lid on the chuck. You could begin shaping the form before parting.



Using a scraper to produce the ledge. Note that the lathe is in reverse for better eyeball-controlled cutting.



Cutting the tenon on the box with a parting tool. Use calipers and multiple try-fits. Start by slightly tapering the tenon and making it longer than the depth of the recess in the lid.

(continued on P. 8)

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

Publisher:
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Randolph, VT

" Thanks again for all the hard
work. We are on the home
stretch now! Let's wrap it
up!!!!!"
Bob



The Amen corner

This Space For Mailing Label

Making a Box –Continued



Shaping the exterior of the box.



Jam the lid on using paper if lid is too loose.
Finish forming the box with your favorite
gouges, sanding, and final coats.



Rechuck and finish the bottom. Use a skew
gouge for a fast, smooth finish.



The finished product. Ralph uses beeswax on
the interior.