

Woodchuck Chatter



Volume 2, Issue 8

Special points of interest:

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

August 10, 2005

Meeting on August 20

Directions to Herb's house and the BBQ: Exit I-89 at Exit 19, take a right on Route 104 at the traffic lights. Stay on Route 104 until the flashing red traffic light. From there go straight ahead for about 3/4 of a mile (just after you pass the interstate) and turn right on French Hill road, and then go up the hill for about 3/4 of a mile and take a

right on Westview Drive and go straight ahead to the end. Park in the cull de sac and come around to the left side of the house to the back, and enjoy the gardens as you go (the wife has put a lot of time out there). Show up time is anytime after 11 am. Agenda for the BBQ is: socialize before and while having lunch, then Al

Stirt will critique any of the items you bring; after Al, Ralph will do a show and tell about chain sawing. For planning purposes the BBQ should be over about 3 pm.

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Secretary's Report –Meeting of July 20

18 members present



The last of the 600 pens were to be delivered this week. That makes the total 1,440 pens with an approximate street value of \$30,000. Over 100 were given away as a part of the fundraising process. The question was raised: Do we continue with this if more Vermonters get activated? There are about 100 more awaiting orders. The answer was yes, we continue.

There is currently about \$250 available to buy more kits.

Ted reported getting an e-mail from Johannes Mickelson (spelling??) regarding our discussion on plagiarism/copying. He reports that he is sharing his techniques and expects you to



use them to create your own work and not copy his ideas.

Next month a new handbook with an updated member list will be distributed. Make sure your data is up to date. Check in with Ted.

On the subject of the burls bonanza, the land is currently too wet to access. Ted will send out e-mails as things develop.

Scott reports that his tenant has moved out of the end of Woodbury's. The space is available. 1500 square feet, 40 x48, cold storage, lights, marginal heat. He will build to suit and gallery exposure is an option.

There will be a Board meeting at a date and time to be

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Random Shots

Woodchuck Chatter

Woodchuck Turners of Northern Vermont

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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.

The dog days of summer.

I saw a pack of dogs chasing a rabbit the other day. They were all walking.

My shop is covered with cobwebs. I've got two excuses for staying upstairs. Try these out. It seems a shame not to take advantage of summer sun and stay downstairs.

The humidity in my shop is so high (95%) that a bowl warps as fast as I cut it. And my cast-iron tables have a fine patina of rust as soon as I clean them off.

I have received issues of several woodworking magazines and have just flipped the pages—no sense getting fired up when Maine, New York's Wine Country, and my hammock are all luring me away from my avocation. Catalogs? That's different. I just looked at a *turning* catalog from Woodworkers'

Supply. It's nicely arranged and has many tools and supplies I haven't seen elsewhere. We are being wooed, friends.

I'm not going to get rid of my tools, though. Pretty soon, the humidity will diminish, the travel season will be over, and the attraction of an adventure in gluing, turning, and sanding will return. Peter Smith's talk on finishing raised new possibilities. I'm going to the New Hampshire Craftsmen's fair this week and will look for inspiration there.

Truthfully, the monthly gathering of the Woodchucks gets me going. Seeing the talent and the turning mishaps of you folks, gives me a monthly jolt. There are so many directions to go toward with wood. Each of us has some particular exciting shape or style which the others can admire and use as a springboard for creative urges. When I can show how I solved a prob-

lem, one of you will avoid wasted time and material. Neither is cheap. When we discuss various finishing types and techniques, our work can get better and more satisfying. Sharing is good.

Al Stirt is a world-renowned turner. He is skilled both at turning and at developing style. He's going to be at Herb's on the 20th to share his thoughts with us. He will give good, supportive critiques for our work. That will certainly be worth the trip. The food ain't bad either. Boca-burgers are off my diet, but good salads, burgers, hot dogs, and a taste of dessert will certainly cheer us up. See you there.

Arny

Show 'n Tell from July



A new, better bottle stopper



Hav Smith's epoxied vases



John's butternut bowl



Randy's butternut vases



Potato-chip Bowl -Peter Smith



Incised lines- Ralph Tursini

American Association of Woodturners
21st Symposium in Overland Park Kansas

Important Notice

DEMONSTRATOR ASSISTANTS NEEDED In KANSAS

Be a volunteer
Have the best seat in the house.
Get a FREE re-TURN to OZ T-shirt, and a chance to assist a demonstrator of your choosing (FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE, no guarantees).
Contact Jim Lambie 913- 681-1058

Duties involved are:
Help Demonstrator prepare and set up his tools if needed.
Does he/she need the light moved?
Does he/she need water?
Help clean up before and after demonstrations.

CAMERAS

This year Daryl Duer will have training sessions with our new Mini-Camera set up and the one

Video Camera.
As you arrive on Thursday and after you register, go through a training session to familiarize yourself with the set up.
Pick up your T-shirt and check to see where you are on the Demo-Assistants rotation board.
If you arrive on Friday or Saturday, training sessions will be at 7 am in the designated room.

Thanks
Linda VanGehuchten - AAW Board Member
vange@zoominternet.net

AAW Offers Demonstrator Checklist

As a service to both the AAW chapters and AAW POP demonstrators, we at the AAW are continuously trying to help figure out ways to extend the communication process between demonstrators and chapters once initial contact is made. We thought it might help if we provided you with a demonstrator check list and a questionnaire.

I have attached a file that may help your chapter plan for successful demonstrations in the future. It is a good basic checklist to go through with a prospective demonstrator so that you each know what the other needs and expects. It's pretty thorough, but please read through the topics carefully with the demonstrator so that everyone's needs are addressed.

In a second email to follow, I will attach another file that is an evaluation form similar to the one we use at the AAW Symposiums. The purpose is to help the demonstrator learn how they are coming across to your members and, thus, make adjustments or improvements in their presentations. You may download this form and have enough copies made for all members present. Simply have your members fill out their evaluation and return it so that you can see the feedback, then give all forms to the demonstrator.

And finally, we encourage all Chapters to use the demonstra-

tor list on the POP section of the AAW website. That's one of the best services of the POP. As well, if a demonstrator contacts you directly but you do not already know them personally, you can find out more information about them by simply asking them for referrals from the other Chapters where they have made presentations.

We know how much our members want and appreciate good demonstrations. I hope that these tools will help you deliver just what they want. Let us know if these are of help to you and if you have any suggestions that would further benefit the program.

John Hill - Chairman AAW Chapters and Membership
Johnrhill@charter.net
828-645-6633

News From Away

The Arizona Woodturners Association will have a regional symposium "Desert Woodturning Roundup" next February 18th and 19th 2006 in Mesa, Arizona. See the following web site for a list of world class demonstrators and for registration information. All turners are welcome.
www.desertwoodturningroundup.com

Club Members Only Promotion

Effective: August 1-31
As this is an exclusive offer, our representatives will not ask you if you belong to a club when ordering. To make sure you receive the special offer pricing, be sure to mention the club member code before placing your order.

Promotion Description:
DRIVE CENTERS, REVOLVING CENTERS & DRILL CHUCKS - ALL ON SALE!

During the month of August, you can purchase any of our drive centers, revolving centers or drill chucks at 15% off the regular price! You can view these items by visiting our Centers Page (<http://www.woodturnerscatalog.com/catalog/centers.html>) or by viewing pages 45 & 46 of our Spring 2005 Catalog. These savings will not show up on your internet order but will be reflected on the invoice that accompanies your order.

We are currently working on getting these club specials sent out earlier for your newsletters and emails. Thank you for your patience. For detailed information please see our club link on www.woodturnerscatalog.com.
If you have any questions please call our customer representatives at 1-800-551-8876.

Ted,

There is some construction going on all along Kennedy Drive in South Burlington. They cut down several large trees and they're stacked beside Timberlane. I don't know what species they are but they look straight and are very large in diameter.

I'm not sure who you would contact but they might be free for the picking from the city or the construction crew. I bet they will end up being hauled away as waste or chipped up. I'm not set up yet to store any bowl blanks yet, but the rest of the club might be interested.

Joe Gaines

Ted's Turn

"We never reach perfection: that's what keeps every living thing trying to improve on the status quo.....By comparing our successes and failures with previous efforts, we can chart our course toward perfection, even if we never get there. It is often better to travel hopefully than to arrive. Enjoy the journey"

Richard Raffin

The 2005 edition of the WC Handbook is now available. You receive one copy for your initial \$20 dues. Those of you who have never received one should take a copy of the entire handbook. Those of you who have a handbook should just take a 4 page update of the member list and the new videos acquired during the past year.

In House Demos:

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

Note: The position of Secretary will be open. We would like someone with recording skills to volunteer.

Orbiting Randomly

The workhorse of my power sanding has been a Porter Cable barrel-handled 5" random orbit sander (bottom in photo). Often I jump from 120 grit directly to 220 without any problem using a contour pad and stick on (PSA) disks. There are limitations to its use however. It is ideal for the outside of mid to large bowls but the interior usually requires hand sanding unless the bowl is quite large and open.

A couple months ago, while talking tools with a fellow turner, I wished aloud that somebody should make a 3" random orbit sander. The following week I found just such a tool (top in photo) made by a German company, Metabo. The disks are hook and loop (6 hole for dust collection) so it is very easy to switch grits. The barrel is much smaller and less fatiguing to grip than the large PC 5" model. It also weighs in at an easy to manage 3.5 lbs. versus 5.75 lbs. for its larger cousin. It has variable speed, a dust chute for attachment to a shop vac and is comparatively quiet. Highland Hardware (404 872 4466) sells it for \$135. This smaller sander will never replace my Porter Cable but is an ideal complement to it.

Ted Fink



Simply replace the old member list in your 3 ring binder.

The handbooks/updates will be available at all future meetings starting with the annual picnic on August 20th.

Ted Fink

Woodchuck Sightings

Just a reminder that the Shelburne Craft School will be offering turning workshops by Ralph Tursini (soon-see below) and Al Stirt (fall). We also have a few other woodworking workshops this summer and fall that you might be interested in. Instructor bios and more class info. can be found on our website www.shelburnecraftschool.org or by calling 802-985-3648.

Thanks,

Doug Jones
Shelburne Craft School
Wood Resident

Exquisite Surfaces and Details August 22-26 9-4pm M-F with Garrett Hack

Member Tuition: \$385 Non-Member: \$425 Materials \$25
Max 10

Shaping Wood Sept 10-11 9-4 pm Sat & Sun with Doug Jones

Member Tuition: \$170 Non-Member:\$190 Materials: \$10
max 8

Open Bowls & Platters: Turning, Carving & Texturing Oct 1-2 9-4pm Sat & Sun with Al Stirt

Member Tuition:\$200 Non-Member:\$225 Materials: \$30
max 8

Drawers --The Basics and Beyond Oct. 15-16 9-4pm Sat & Sun

(Continued from page 1)

announced in September to deal with business, prepare for the October annual meeting, and elect a slate of officers. Joe reports that he will not run for re-election as secretary.

The annual BBQ is at Herb's in St. Albans. The Woodchucks will provide the basics such as hot dogs, hamburgers and buns. Contact Herb about your choice of soda and possible pot-luck contributions. Ralph will demonstrate chainsaw techniques after 11:00 AM and before the post feed torpor sets in. Then, when you're all more tractable Al Stirt will offer his annual critique of work. Don't be afraid to bring your stuff. This is a great opportunity to improve your turning with one of the acknowledged masters of the craft!

There is no topic as yet for the September demo. Anyone feeling up to it?



Patrick Kennedy's classic golf sticks

Cherry, Butternut, Yellow Birch

Show & Tell:

Ted: Knock out bars with turned handles

Raffan style boxes: oak burl, apple, 2 barrel boxes in ash and oak burl

Myrtle wood egg shaped box

Hav: Cherry vases and Hop hornbeam lined with epoxy

Joe Gaines; Pens in Purpleheart and figured maple

Sue: New bottle stopper. FDA approved in stainless steel. She reports the chrome stoppers peel with red wine and are clunky. The new stoppers are available from Ruth Niles at Woodcentral for \$4.50 each. She can be contacted at rthniles@yahoo.com or www.torne-lignum.com. She also reports that Berea has colored Titanium stoppers available.

Randy: Teak pens from old furniture stretcher

Proform tool handle

Butternut hollow form vase

John: Butternut bowl, ash bowl. Finished with Watco and Minwax wiping poly

Patrick Kennedy: Hickory shafted classic golf clubs with Persimmon heads

Peter Smith: Cherry potato chip bowls

Ralph: twice turned sugar maple bowls

Presenter: Peter Smith on Potato chip bowls and finishing. See his articles in American Woodturner of June 1994 and Summer 2004.

Joe Barry

Secretary



Barrel-shaped box by Ted



Two of Ted's little boxes

Treasurer's Report

Chapter

Balance forward	\$2229.41
Raffle	42
<u>Dues</u>	<u>40</u>
Balance	\$2311.41

Pens Project

Balance Forward	\$314.62
<u>Pen sales</u>	<u>80</u>
Balance	\$394.62
Current Bankbook Balance	\$2706.03
Ted Fink	
Treasurer	

Raffle:

- \$15 Woodturners certificate
- American Woodturner magazine
- Carpet underlayment
- Generic wax from Dick

<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/>

News From Vermont WoodNet

As most of you know, the Best of Vermont (sponsored by Cabot Cheese) is going to begin in Manhattan on Aug 16 and 17 when the Lois McClure arrives in Manhattan. It will be broadcast live on the Today Show on Aug 16. Cabot Cheese has chosen three of our members to be there and demo their craft as well as represent Vermont craftspeople. They are Jim Cunningham, Irene Ames, and Darren Hill. They have also chosen a few pieces from the Gallery to be part of their four-room display. Also as part of the whole

Best of Vermont, the Vermont MapleWood Gallery website (www.vtmaplewoodgallery.com) will be on their website and in the brochures that will be handed out. All of the members who are currently juried into the Gallery are listed on the website with their contact information and at least one photo of something they have in the Gallery. I would really like to see more of you in the Gallery. This is a great opportunity to have your name and products seen by anyone who has internet access, anywhere in the world. Please

contact me and arrange to have your work juried into the Gallery ASAP (preferably before Aug 16) to take advantage of the upcoming marketing possibilities. For those of you who have been juried in, but have not brought your products to the Gallery yet, please bring something soon. Remember that you must be at least a small business member (\$50 per year membership fee) and that the Gallery will get 40% of the selling price of any products. For any referrals, the fee is 12% with a cap of \$500.

Note From Bob

Folks,

I am doing some 2 1/4 thick doors of red oak. I have lots of chunks of wood left. I would love to have it used for something other than firewood-it's yours-just let me know.

Bob Bouvier

863-5644

wdubelieve@aol.com

Future Woodchuck Sightings

Burlington Farmer's Market - *lathe*

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*

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.

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.

Peter Smith On Oil-Based Finishing



Wood finishes come in two general types; penetrating and film-building. There are many kinds of film-building finishes, alkyd, polyurethane, and natural oil based. Penetrating finishes are usually oil-based. A home-made "Danish oil" is Peter's current choice for his work. His is basically linseed oil, naphtha solvent, and polyurethane.

A 5-Step Finishing Process

Step 1: Sanding



Using your choice of coarse sanding methods, sand the surface of your work down to 150 grit. Use a slow lathe speed. Power sanding with foam-backed pads is one recommendation. This step is the foundation of your finish. Sand to totally get rid of all machine marks, and refine your shapes; be wary of too sharp or blunt edges.

Step 2: Sealing



Apply a liberal coat of sanding sealer & wipe off. Peter uses Zinsser's Bullseye Shellac cut with denatured alcohol. Experiment with the proportions until the balance between drying time and coverage suits you. Shellac dries quite quickly, but needs extra time to harden to the point where the next sanding step is not frustrating due to gummed-up sandpaper.

You should be able to see any remaining surface flaws after applying sealer. Go back and continue to coarse-sand until you are satisfied. Redo the sealing step.

Step 3: Final Power Sanding



Wait at least 30 minutes for the sealer to dry—longer is better. Use hand-held sheets of 100-grit to get rid of the initial, heavy layer then switch to 100-grit sanding discs on your power sander. A coating of blackboard chalk on the sanding disc helps prolong the effective sanding process. Switch

up through the grits to 150 grit. By locking the index-pin on your lathe, you can concentrate on one sector of the work at a time, rather than general sanding under power. Concentrate on remaining blemishes, feathering into the rest of the surface. If you get down to bare wood, re-seal and repeat.

The final step is to unlock the index-pin, turn the lathe on to slow speed, and power-sand with 150-grit. Lubricate the disc with chalk, and use a sanding cleaner (crepe rubber) to keep the disc fresh.

Step 4: Oiling



At this point, the surface should be smooth, sealed but bare. Make a mixture of Peter's "danish" oil using 1 cup polyurethane (oil-base) 1 cup naphtha, and 1/3 cup boiled linseed oil. A shampoo bottle is ideal for storage & dispensing.



Apply the oil liberally and sand in with a progression of grits, starting with 150 and going up to 600-grit or further if you are obsessive. Do a thorough job, and wipe off the "mud" before going on to the next application of oil and sanding grit. At some point, inspect under a bright light for scratches and

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

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



No caption necessary

This Space For Mailing Label

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missed spots. Go back to spot-sanding with 220 and more oil, feathering and going up through the grits. Once satisfied, part off the bowl from the lathe, finish the foot as the rest of the bowl, and polish the entire bowl.

(my experience is that flaws don't show up until after I've parted off & can't use the lathe. One more for Murphy! -Ed.)

Step 5: Polishing & Buffing

The oil takes about a week to dry. After a day or 2, you can rub a second coat of oil into the wood to correct end-grain dry patches. Inspect again for flaws, hand-sanding & oiling as required.

Peter's favorite method of final pol-



wax for a fine, low-gloss luster.



ishing uses the Beall buffing system. This consists of 3 cloth wheels of varying texture and 2 abrasives; Tripoli and white-diamond, plus hard Carnauba wax as a final step. Also available are round bowl buffs for interior work.

Polish the work with the Tripoli first, then the white-diamond. Finish up with the