

Woodchuck Chatter



Volume 3, Issue 1

Special points of interest:

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

January 1, 2006

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.

ties.

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!

60 gallons of Anchorseal have arrived. If you've ordered any, let me know when you

can pick it up. Bring containers if you ordered less than 5 gallons. I won't be at the next meeting, but you can always come by to pick it up or beg Craig to bring it to the meeting. Call or email to make sure I'll be around, if you can stop by, or I can leave it somewhere convenient if I'm not there.

Thanks to Craig for arranging this order.

Now go out and paint some end grain, there will be no excuses for checking!

-Ralph

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Woodchuck Turners of Northern Vermont WOOD BEE

Mark down Saturday February 4th 10:00-4:00 as an opportunity to get some turning material. We'll be getting logs delivered to my shop where we'll spend the day breaking them down and divvying them up. The idea is that doing this as a group will bring down the cost of quality wood and trucking, and foment some learning and fun. Even if you don't need wood, come on over and support the effort, and bring some Anchorseal! If you can't make it we'll put some wood aside for you.

Dress warmly in work clothes as we'll be outside, but will migrate into the heated shop to warm up and for demos and other inside work. At noon we'll have some pizza and drinks.

If you are interested in wood, you'll need to let me know - even if you signed up on the sheet at the

last meeting. Remember, the more wood we get in totality the less the overall cost, so please splurge.

Let me know how many of each "share" you are interested in.

Each share would contain a quantity of log sections. Each section would be as long as the particular piece of log is in diameter i.e.: A 12" diameter log would be measured into sections about 12-13" long.

It would be great if we could have 15 or 20 people go home with five shares each.

Share 1 -\$10 - eight sections ranging from 8"-11" in diameter

Share 2 -\$10 - three sections ranging from 12-14" in diameter

Share 3 -\$10 - one section ranging from 14-16" in diameter

For species, I'm planning on cherry and sugar maple. If anything else interesting is available, that too;

maybe some butternut, large hornbeam or elm. Let me know if you're looking for anything particular.

Depending on how much time we'll have on that Saturday, I'd be happy to saw out some squares or bowl blanks on my bandsaw.

Although the more people the better, I am looking forward to it no matter how many show up. If we have a small handful of people come it will be a little more leisurely day allowing for more of hob-nobbing about woodturning and learning some new techniques. It is important to get in touch with me about how many shares of wood you are interested in so please send an email or call. I have already heard from several what you want for wood

-Ralph

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 was gifted with a couple of project kits for Christmas—a nutcracker vise & a pepper-grinder kit. What a great way to get into the New Year! Once I get “Chatter” put away, I’ll get right on it.

Meanwhile, you should also be receiving the Chatter Index for Years 1 & 2. Having compiled it, I see that my categorizing ability is spotty. I’ll try to do better (A New Year’s resolution!) I sorted the information 2 ways; by title and by subject. So if anyone wants to read all my Random Shots, they can look up date or issue and page. Or, if you want to read all the book reviews—well, they might be under Book Review or somewhere else. Sorry.

In November, Joe Barry & I both did demos at the White River Craft Center Open House. The Craft Center is here in Randolph, occupying the Kimball House which variously has been a private mansion, an inn & restaurant, and a nursing home. The State caused it to close several years ago due to its age & its no longer meeting health requirements for a nursing home.

The building was sold just a few years ago to the Craft Center, a local non-profit which has 2 goals; provide a craft educa-

tion for interested kids and adults and provide “something to do” for those aimless kids around town. That’s the short form. In reality, the Center teaches valuable lessons to those kids and provides them with manual skills which they can turn into their own activities, hobbies, or professions.

The Craft Center is still being rehabilitated so provides carpentry work to volunteers, the building trades class at the local technical career center, and some employment to keep our young mostly male non-students occupied.

Joe Barry is on the Board of the Craft Center and teaches furniture skills. I was asked to demonstrate turning to help develop interest for that craft. I made a few Pen Project pens & had a good time chatting with the visitors, many of whom I know from around town.

It was a good opportunity for me to develop my public skills and to give a hand to a really worthwhile project.

My son-in-law, Ron Lounsbury, and grand children were here for both Veteran’s Day and Christmas. Ron is interested in turning and I’ve given him a few lessons and stood by to help him

while he worked—safety as well as skills transfer being on my mind. It was fun going over turning a spoon vase with him so he could give nice kitchen utensils to the ladies on t’other side of his family. I don’t think of myself as a teacher—Cil’s the one with those skills. But I guess I have mellowed over time so I now have the patience to instruct without either me or my student getting flustered. I still don’t claim any great skill as either a turner or teacher, but I’m coming along.

Patience is one thing that hours in front of the lathe has taught me. Those first lessons with Nick Cook at Arrowmont impressed me with the speed he could turn a chunk of wood into an item. It took me several years to get over that. I now know that it is better for me to be as quick as I can be, smoothly, than to race the clock constantly. That’s a metaphor for a lot of things. I lose less wood that way, and get fewer speeding tickets on the road, too.

Army

Jericho Forest Lathe???

Hello Woodchucks, A friend David Brynn is looking for a lathe for the Jericho Research Forest Center and was wondering if the Woodchucks would like to get involved. Here is his email dbrynn1@uvm.edu
Hi Jim,

Thanks for the information on lathes. As I mentioned, several people have suggested that there should be a lathe at the Jericho Research Forest. It would be a wonderful teaching tool. I’d like every Rubenstein School student to have a bowl made from wood from the Jericho forest. Could make a good place for the woodturners to meet once in a while.

We have a space in our Community-Based Forest Conservation Center building that is 12 feet wide. It is about 8 feet deep. There could be a very nice window would look west. We have a substantial compressor that could run a dust collection system. So keep your eyes and ears open. I’ll have to look into liability issues etc. but figure I can overcome them.

The idea of a spring pole lathe came up a while back. I think Bruce Beeken suggested it. Perhaps that would be the way to get this idea off the ground. You mentioned a fellow named Dick Montague who might be interested in doing a demonstration, leading a workshop etc. on the spring pole lathe. Could you send me his contact information?

Thanks a lot Jim!

-David



Ralph started off with a discussion of good design of bowl exteriors. A graceful curve



defines the bowl's shape and its bottom should flow into the body of the bowl. The base of



One example of a pommel.

the bowl should usually be no more than 1/3 the diameter of the bowl. Look at the entire outside of the bowl as a coordinated group of design elements. The very bottom of the bowl should be as pleasing to see as the normally visible parts. Many of Ralph's bowls



have a distinct line dividing the base from the bowl, inside and out.

The biggest problem in completing bowls is fastening them to the lathe to turn the bottom. Ralph showed us a couple



of pommels which fit into scroll chucks. The bowl is pressed against the padded pommel



with the tailstock. The base is turned, sanded, and finished except for a small support area for the live center. The remaining "pip" can then be carefully removed with a chisel or carving gouge.



A larger pommel



Turning the base.



Removing the final "pip"



The finished bottom.

News From Away

We would like to promote our new web site for turning blanks. We have done our best to get onto the search engines but have been unsuccessful so this is the only way we know to get the word out. All the blanks shown are available in Snohomish, Washington for immediate delivery.

All turning blank purchases prior to Christmas will have a 25% discount.

We feel we have the most unique line of turning blanks available. I also would like to mention that in the next three months we will have a full line of kiln dried S4S lumber available from 1/4 inch to 2 inch thick in

20 species of very beautiful woods.

Our new web site is www.exoticwoodworld.com

I hope you enjoy the site and if you have any suggestions or requests please advise. I am hoping you will advise your members.

Regards, Jim King
Liquitos, Peru

"..... Thank you for the quality pens you sent to my unit here in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The workmanship is very fine and it is great that we can enjoy a little bit of Vermont while we are very far from home. Thank you again."

SFC Douglas Urie,
Vermont National Guard

In House Demos:

January: Round Table on Methods.

February 4: 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

Ralph Talks About Checking (Cracks, that is...)

To repair checks in drying wood- While drying a bowl blank or other thick wood from its green state cracks or checking may form. To repair these small checks place the wood into a plastic bag. When the checks disappear after a few days touch the area with thin Cyanoacrylate or CA glue and continue the drying... just a little more slowly this time around.

Checking like this is usually caused from the stress of uneven drying or drying too quickly. What happens is the wood at the surface dries and shrinks before the wood at the core can lose its water and shrink. This results in the core wood being compressed and the outer wood under tension. In lumber this is a problem condition called case hardening. If the drying continues this way something has to give and the outer surface checks to relieve the stress. By placing the wood in a plastic bag the

core moisture migrates to the outer wood and effectively swells it back, hopefully closing any visible checking and relieving the stress. In conventional lumber drying operations this is effectively what is done during the last stage in the kiln, called conditioning. The kiln operator injects steam into the kiln chamber or damps down the exhaust vents to equalize the moisture gradient in each stick of lumber.

Even though it may not be visible if a check formed it will always be there. Hitting the area with thin CA bonds the crack preventing it from opening again as the drying proceeds. Sometimes putting a damp cloth or towel in the plastic bag with the wood will provide extra moisture for swelling and speed the process - like adding steam to a kiln.

Ralph

Tips From The Wise Woodchuck

Keep a black marker near your grinder. When sharpening a tool, mark any surface to be ground or honed with the marker. As you touch the tool to the grinder or diamond hone you will

see exactly where it is working.

Ralph

Help Wanted

Woodchucks,

I know we have discussed the process of Microwaving green turned wood, but for the life of me I can find no record of how to do it.

Is there anyone out there who has a process to pass on? If so, it would be greatly appreciated as I have some once-turned, not completely dry, cherry blanks that I really should finish up for Christmas.

All intelligent input will be welcomed!

Hav Smith

Farewell!

Thanks to all WTNV turners for your interest and enthusiasms during my visits to your meetings. My contract in the North Country is up this week and I'll be off to Miami for my next assignment (I'll think of you during February). I'll remember you all fondly, and I have several blanks from the auctions (No 17 being quite lucky) waiting for the right time.

Best wishes for the future, Happy Holidays and all, and keep turning,

Cheers

Peter M. Smith

Project Manager

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In November, I became fascinated with the idea of turning minis—probably from seeing lots of small scraps of nice wood about to be used as winter kindling. I pulled out “Turning Miniatures In Wood” by John Sainsbury and went over it thoroughly to see what differences there were in scaling down my work. The best tool I had to start with was a standard Sorby 1/4” detail gouge, side-ground. I turned a couple of goblets with that tool, saw what the shortcomings were, and decided to spring for some mini gouges. Thanks to a \$15 gift certificate from Craft Supplies, I knew where to look. I chose 5 Sorby minis and 2 Bonnie Klein minis. The Sorbys were a 1/8” detail, a 5/16” bowl/roughing tool, a 1/4” skew, and round nose scraper, and a fine parting chisel. The Klein tools, by Henry Taylor, were a 7/32” detail gouge and a half-round bowl scraper.



Construction detail



Why mini gouges? They have short shafts and handles, much better for delicate control than the full-size tools. I spent less on that set of seven tools than I have spent on a single long & strong bowl gouge.

Sainsbury has some advice on sharpening, all of which was good for general turning, but little of which was really focused on mini turning. While experimenting, I found that I could not use my Wolverine jig for the minis; nor was my normal low speed, 120-grit grind stone really useful. The grinder ate up the tips of the detail gouges before I could shape them. That meant I had to go to my Makita flat rotary sharpening system and establish a grinding angle and a nose shape for the gouges. It took a few trips between the lathe and the grinder before I was happy with the cutting angle of the tools.



I still wasn't happy with the feel of the tools using my standard short toolrest. I couldn't get it close enough to the workpiece so I had chatter from the tools' flexing. Using pieces of Bob Bouverier's red oak, I fabricated a lathe bed tool rack for the minis and a tool rest short enough to work between centers with the minis. The rest itself is a piece of Ultra High Density Polymer, which can be worked much like wood and has a very slick sur-



face. I also wrapped tape around the edge of my scroll chuck to shield my knuckles from inevitable contact.

Here are my conclusions on the woodturning book, the tools, and the lessons learned.

The book is a good general introduction to turning and the projects & illustrations prepared me for fine turning. The projects contain many techniques for holding and turning tiny objects.

Among the tools, the only one I am uncomfortable using is the Sorby 1/8” gouge. It is very

flexy and calls for a really close tool rest. All the tools sharpen well, but need a finer angle than full-size tools OR the angle suggested in the book. I have the 3 gouges sharpened to a 35degree included angle rather than the 40 degree angle suggested by the author. Honing is a must. Each tool must be sharpened and honed before first use.

For this work, I need more light and supple-



mentary lenses so I can clearly see the work. The tool rest needs to be very close to the work, not for leverage but to overcome tool flex.

Wood should be very fine grained and reasonably hard. I'll try some maple, holly, and others. It does take some adjustment to work at small scale. Tool pressure must be gentle. The tools must be honed very fine both to cut and to eliminate tool marks. Sanding is of course necessary and requires much finer papers. The thinnest possible finish is best at this scale. I also learned that my digital SLR is more suited to photo-

graphing miniatures. The higher level of flash control and better autofocus really made for sharper close-ups.



Army



More News From Away

Subject: Youth Turning Symposium at Pinkerton Academy on May 12th

We will be hosting a **Youth Turning Symposium** at Pinkerton Academy in Derry, NH on Friday, May 12th. This will be an extension of the New England Turning Symposium on Saturday, May 13th. The youth program will begin about 8:00 am and end about 3:00. There will be 5 – one-hour presentations with three presentations to choose from at any time. The presenters will be Beth Ireland, Dustin Coates, David Lancaster and Bob Rosand. The Youth Symposium is free to “students”. We will even provide pizza and soda for

lunch when some of my students will demonstrate.

I suspect that it will be difficult for teachers to get a professional day and for schools to make transportation arrangements. Therefore, I am hoping that the New England AAW Chapters can help out. If your members know of young turners they could offer to bring them to this event. Yes, your members could attend the presentations (for free). AAW members could also share the information with local teachers and encourage them to contact me so I can add them to the email list. We can handle about 100 students at this event. Although I don't want to branch out too much, I want to mention

that this event might also be of interest to students in art/sculpture or pottery classes. Heck, if AAW members have children or grandchildren they could bring them.

We have designed a program especially for youth and brought in presenters that are very good with this audience. It should be an exciting day. Please contact me if you want to be on the email notification list.

Jack Grube
Woodworking Teacher
Pinkerton Academy
603-437-5200 x1140

‘A 1/2” bowl gouge in the English system is equivalent to a 5/8” gouge in the North American system.’

Ted's Turn

“You have to be careful if you don't know where you are going because you might not get there”

Yogi Berra

Bowl Gouges

I have a few bowls that my paternal grandfather turned early in the last century. They are well proportioned but relatively thick walled and excessively sanded to the point of smudging fine details. Back then bowls were made entirely by scraping which puts much more mechanical stress on the walls of the bowl necessitating that they not be too thin. Also scrapers were carbon steel which did not hold a sharp edge for long. That coupled with the increased tear out from scraping meant most of your time was going to be spent sanding.

A revolution in bowl turning technology began in the 1950's when Bob Stocksdale developed the first bowl gouge. He collaborated with aerospace engineer, Jerry Glaser and continued to improve the design. Simultaneously, Peter Child with manufacturing assistance from fellow Englishman, Robert Sorby, introduced bowl gouges commercially in the 1960's.

Another great improvement came with the introduction of high speed steel in the 1980's. This metal could be ground without the quenching required of high carbon steel and it could hold a sharp edge 5 to 6 times longer. Longer handles were added for greater leverage and the modern bowl gouge was complete.

There are several things to keep in mind when buying a bowl gouge. Among these are size, grind and groove profiles, type of steel, handle and cost. I will address each of these in turn.

Size

This is more confusing than it would appear at first glance because there are two competing systems in common use. In the ‘English’ system, the designation of size, 1/2" for example, refers to the width of the groove in the bar as opposed to the ‘North American’ system in which case the 1/2" would refer to the diameter of the bar. As a result a 1/2” bowl gouge in the English system is equivalent to a 5/8” gouge in the North American system.

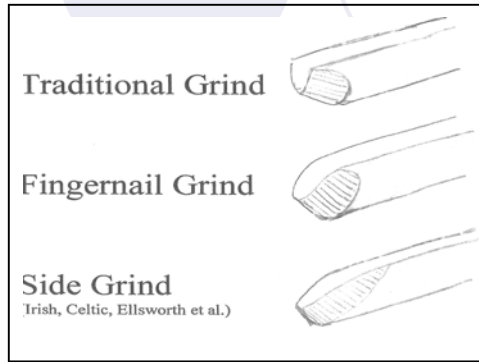
Each catalog will indicate in the fine print which system is being used. You can find both systems being used on the very same page of a catalog depending on manufacturer as well as whether it is a bowl or spindle gouge.

In general is good to have a heavier bowl gouge for roughing and a finer one, 3/8" NA, for finer finishing cuts as well as detail work.

Groove Profile

Bowl gouges are generally deep fluted which facilitates the making of heavier cuts and improves chip clearance.

Whether the groove itself is 'V' shaped or more 'U' shaped is of little consequence though manufacturers tend to dwell on it.



Edge Profile or Grind

There are 3 main grinds commonly used on bowl gouges (see diagram). The 'Traditional' is quite square with high wings. It is easy to use but limited in its application. As the wings are ground back the gouge becomes increasingly versatile. So much so that you can do everything from the heaviest roughing to the finest finishing cuts with a bowl gouge which is side ground. The price for this is a bit more difficulty in use. The Fingernail grind is somewhere in between the Traditional and Side Grinds, both in appearance and performance characteristics.

Steel

In the days before the introduction of high speed steel (HSS) in the mid 1980's turning tools were made of high-carbon steel which could take but not long hold a fine sharp edge. The first of the HSS's, designated M2 could hold an edge 5 to 6 times longer. More recent steels have even better wear factors. The wear factor in the chart refers to how many times longer than carbon steel, an edge can be held. The ASP system was developed in Sweden and represents the latest in metallurgic technology.

Type of steel Price (1/2" NA deep fluted bowl gouge) Wear Factor

Carbon steel	N/A	1
M2 HSS	\$52 - 55	5-6
M4 or ASP2030 HSS	\$75 - 80	15-18
A11 or ASP2060 HSS	\$98 - 120	22-27

Handles

A turning tool without a wooden handle takes a bit off the price and gives you the opportunity to customize your own. One thing to keep in mind about handles is the smoother and more polished they are the stronger the grip that is required for proper use resulting in quicker muscle fatigue. So if you make your own you can add checkering or grooving for a more secure grip.

Jerry Glaser developed hollow aluminum handles filled with lead shot for greater mass (less vibration). These handles work very well but are quite pricey so I would recommend coring your wooden handle and filling it with lead shot before plugging it to achieve a similar effect. This greater mass is particularly important on roughing gouges.

Another advantage of a wood handle over aluminum is that wood, being so much poorer a conductor of heat than aluminum, won't feel as cold in your hand until your shop heats up.

Cost

The most significant factor driving cost, other than size, is the type of metal used in its manufacture. (See table above.) An handleless tool will take \$3 to 5 dollars off the cost. Buying a tool with a side grind can add considerably to the cost. For example a 1/2" bowl gouge of M2 HSS costs \$52 with a traditional grind and \$80 with a side grind from the same manufacturer. So, for best value always buy gouges with a traditional grind and then modify it to suit your needs.

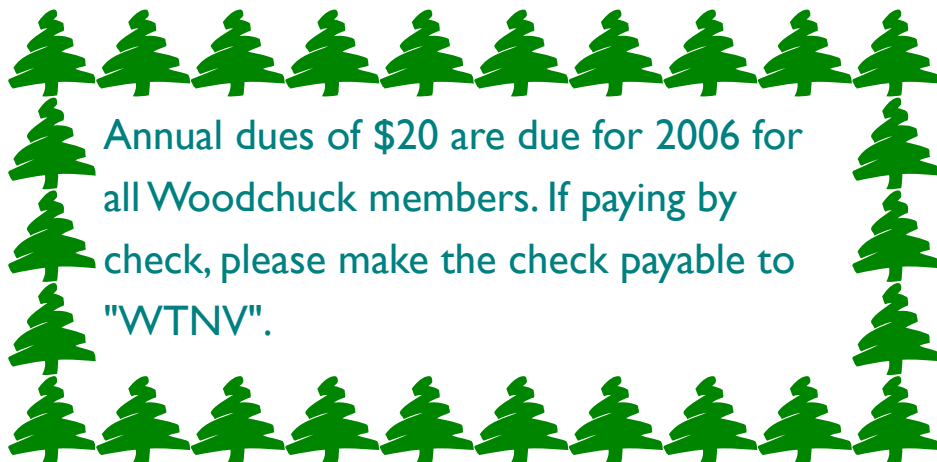
Should you invest the money in the HSS's with the highest wear factor? Unless you are a production turner the extra cost is hard to justify.

Ted Fink

<u>Treasurer's Report</u>	
<u>12/31/05</u>	
<u>Chapter Monies</u>	
Balance forward	
\$1870.94	
Income	0
Expenses	
60 gallons Anchorseal	581.00*
	\$ 1289.94
<u>Pens Project</u>	
balance forward	\$219.62
Income/Expens	0
	\$219.62
End of Year bankbook balance	\$1509.56
*The Anchorseal cost will be recovered from member purchasers.	
Ted Fink	

Woodchuck Turners of
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of
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Woodturners

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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.