

Woodchuck Chatter



Volume 3, Issue 2

Special points of interest:

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

February 10, 2006

Meeting on February 16, 2006

The meeting this month will focus on spindle work. Our plan to bring in Alan Lacer fell through, so several of us will have to bring our special tools & techniques to the meeting. Ralph has volunteered to provide part of the demo and I'm sure there are others who have

special skills. Also, bring your items for Show 'n Tell and perhaps a raffle item. Someone could demonstrate how to do good, even beading.

Bob Bouvier tells us that we are still in the Pens For Peacemakers business. We need volunteers to produce

another 400 pens. It looks as if the Green Mountain Airmen are called up to provide air cover over there. The President couldn't have asked a finer bunch of folks to demonstrate professionalism in air defense.

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Secretary's Report, January 19th

Old business:

Wood Bee at Ralph's Feb 4th, 10-4.

Ralph is teaching classes at Shelburne Craft School on the following dates: Jan 21-24 & Feb 11 & 12.

Dick Montague will be available for instruction on an individual needs basis at his home studio.

New Business:

There will be a turning symposium May 13 at the Pinkerton Academy in NH. Cost is \$50.

As we currently do not pay for demos by our own professional club members, it was the consensus of the club not to invite Alan Lacer for the May meeting.

Help is needed to turn 400 pens for newly deployed VT soldiers. The club will try to publicly credit any local organizations willing to help cover expenses.

There is currently 10+ gallons of Anchorseal available. Contact Craig at 644-5344 if you wish to have it brought to the Feb meeting. Cost is \$9.68/gal.



Lathe tool holder



What's that in your hand, Craig?

Treasurer's Report

Balance Forward	\$1509.56
<i>Income</i>	
Dues	320.00
Raffle 1/16/06	55.00
<i>Reimbursements:</i>	
Anchorseal	462.12
Wood (wood bee)	210.00
<i>Expenses</i>	
Wood (wood bee)	220.00
Food " "	33.50
Pens Project	
450 kits	670.44

Bankbook balance \$1596.63*
* Pens Project is \$450.82 in the red.

Ted Fink

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 had 3 weeks away from the lathe, the snow, and my computer thanks to an Elderhostel in Lafayette, Louisiana. Thanks to Ted, Ralph, Craig, and Randy I have enough content to write this issue of “Chatter”. This newsletter is supposed to be about the Woodchuck Turners. I hope that when I have to fill space with my own adventures, you understand that it's not about me but about what I hope is interesting to other woodbutchers like myself. Please help me out by telling us what is on your mind or what you can share with us about our mutual interest in turning lumber into beauty.

The subject of our Elderhostel was the Cajuns. Cajuns are the French who were kicked out of Canada—mostly New Brunswick and Nova Scotia (Acadia)—and took wandering paths ending up in our mid-South. Those who were transported back to France were soon found unwelcome. They were Huguenots—French Protestants. At the time, Spain owned the Louisiana territories and needed colonists to develop the area, so they welcomed the displaced Acadians. Today, the Cajuns are Catholic, perhaps because that was the only way

they could be properly married and buried. For a half-century, the heartland of the Cajuns forbid them from speaking French in school. They came to think of themselves as being second-class citizens. Fortunately, all over the States, we came to realize that our varied heritages are what make us great. There is a revival of respect and interest in our past. The true Cajun is either a descendant of one of only 6 families who settled in the Lafayette area, the center of Acadiana, Cajun country, or one who married into one of the families and assimilated.

The Cajun take on life is worth looking at. Their food, language, and culture all add spice to this great stew of people we are part of.

We were entertained one night by the Martin family, makers of the true Cajun accordion. They produce a few hundred accordions each year, all by hand. Their woodworking is quite good and the sound is rich and sweet. The family are all accomplished musicians and played several songs for us. The treasure I bring back to the Woodchucks has two parts. First for me is the great adventure of exploring other places, other people. The second is the

pride which we can all have when we do something we enjoy and try to perfect. As Woodchucks, we are all exploring the possibilities in wood, looking for the beauty in our work and the respect of our circle.

We did some exploring in New Orleans, Metairie, and Bay St. Louis, Miss. to see first-hand what needs to be done to rebuild the area. Folks, the bad parts are really bad. The TV doesn't do it justice. The tiny image you see has no impact like a drive through the streets.

One of my projects was to come back with some native wood from the area, but that didn't work out. I ended up with a carload of Cajun cookbooks, spices, and souvenirs and no room, and the people cleaning up the mess didn't have the time to help me find suitable stuff. Oh, well.

We received a reminder from AAW that our club's AAW sponsored liability insurance is contingent on our officers and directors being paid members of AAW. I urge ALL woodchucks to be members of AAW. Besides the insurance, there is a vast fund of info you can tap into, and a great magazine.

Army



Samples of parts available from Joe Schneider. See “News From Away”, next page.

Sharing Techniques: January 19th Meeting

Dick – skew vs. gouge, wooden tool holder for lathe bed ways, Martel hook tool



Hav – hand made hollowing tools, specific bevel grind for inside of bowl



David - large elm bowl turned on Oneway outboard system



Brad - dead cup center for beginners, sharpening with lathe mounted abrasive disc



Paul – ornaments with captive rings fashioned with dental tools



Herb – fitting bubinga rim on maple bowl, segmented maple chalice



Joe Laferrier and his raffle winnings.

Sue – texturing tools, platters enhanced with inlays



Ted - convex bowl gouge, honing with engineered decking material, texturing with carbide wheel



Bob M. - hand carved bowls

Dale - turning spruce gall, aspen vase



Sue McLam's inlaid bowl



News From Away

I am a member of the Space Coast Woodturners chapter of the American Association of Woodturners and ask that you kindly forward the following information to your chapter members:

I have recently acquired hundreds of furniture subassemblies from a well known North Carolina factory that closed. The subassemblies may be of interest to you woodturners that also design/build furniture. These pieces are all factory made and sanded from quality hardwoods/veneers – oak, maple, mahogany, cherry and walnut.

There are carved legs, ball and claw feet, pre-cut glass, table tops, table frames, cabinet components, drawer components, flat and raised panel doors, moldings and thousands of hardware pieces. They are all offered for sale at very reasonable prices to you creative woodworkers to design/construct some really unique and beautiful furniture. Let me know your interests and we can work with you to meet your needs. Attached are a few sample pictures. The subassemblies are too numerous to show all pictures. I can be contacted at jshneider1@cfl.rr.com or by phone at 321-

783-0321. Thank you.

Joe Schneider

AAW News

In House Demos:

March: Bowl sanding with Ralph.

April: TBA

May: A Visit With Michael Mode

I have some really exciting news for your chapter members. You have 55 BIG reasons to register to come to the Louisville AAW Symposium. For door prizes, how about FIVE Oneway 2436 lathes free, thanks to special pricing from Oneway Manufacturing or FIFTY \$100 gift certificates donated by Packard Woodworks?

The AAW Symposium in Louisville is fast upon us. It will be Thursday, June 22, 2006 through Saturday the 24th. There are always many great reasons to attend:

There will be 30 world class demonstrators putting on 150 rotations in eleven demonstration rooms.

There will be a room where Bonnie Klein and Nick Cook will teach hands on classes to young people ages 10 through 17. The youth can register FREE when accompanied by a fully registered adult. As we did last year, we will give away 25 JET Midi lathes with stands, 25 sets of Crown tools, 25 Nova Midi-chucks and 25 face shields to 25 of the lucky youths. (Bring your kids or grandkids)

See the world's largest instant gallery of over a thousand spectacular pieces.

Visit the Trade Show filled with the world's largest assortment of woodturning tools, equipment, wood, etc.

There will be three panel discussions featuring world famous artists J. Paul Fennell, Binh Pho, David Ellsworth, Graeme Priddle, Curt Theobald, Clay Foster, Albert LeCoff, Kevin Wallace and Giles Gilson.

We will have a great banquet and live auction.

There are three great woodturning exhibitions within blocks of the symposium.

Louisville has more to do than we can list here. I visited this last weekend and loved it.

For more information, go to <http://www.woodturner.org/sym/sym2006/> .

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

Tips From The Wise Woodchuck

Try using a shampoo bottle to store and apply your Anchorseal - if it's kept handy you'll be more likely to use it.

-Ralph

Member Updates

A warm welcome to new members Celine Blais of Montpelier and Bill Currier of Shelburne.

Glen Hammons has left the state and the WTNV. Mike Boylan has moved to Bethlehem,

NH but has retained his WTNV membership by paying his 2006 dues. Good luck to Glen and glad you're still with us, Mike.

bee (bē), n. - 1. Any of a large group of four-winged, hairy insects, some species of which produce honey 2. A social gathering to work together to complete a task

We lucked out. The rain held up. It was actually sunny for almost a *whole* morning on February 4, 2006 for the Woodturner's Wood Bee. From the feedback so far, it was a success. With demonstrations and hands on practice, folks were able to take home plenty of quality woodturning material *and* new ideas.

The idea for the Wood Bee stemmed from this problem: it is much too hard to learn woodturning if you hold on dearly to expensive pretty little bits of exotic woods imported from the other side of the earth. Remember, New England is still awash in quality wood as far as the woodturner needs to be concerned. My goal in holding the Wood Bee was to get as much quality turning material into woodturners hands as possible for the purpose of learning and experimenting. I thought that as a group we could lower the cost of quality logs and trucking and, more importantly, foment learning and creativity with a good time.

The extended January thaw, which preceded the Bee, made for unfrozen forest conditions. Responsible loggers park their skidders to avoid excess impact on forest soils and wait for another freeze. Warm temperatures are bad news if you are looking to buy logs so it took more time than I thought to get them together. Days driving soft muddy roads, searching out logging jobs with trees at the landing produced some good looking material. From hundreds of cords of logs I found what we needed and got it to my shop - yellow



birch, sugar maple, black cherry and red oak. One twelve foot cherry log measured a 14" diameter at the small end. An interesting sugar maple log was gnarled with burl, Birdseye, and spalting.

Dick Montague started with a demonstration of how he accurately fillets a log section to a bowl blank using a dedicated saw horse and



"plumb stick" to lay out the cuts. On several occasions he had to field questions like "Hey Dick, is it true that you hone your chainsaw cutters?"

Drowning in a Husqvarna melody we went to work measuring, marking out, and sawing the freshly felled logs. I brought a chainsaw



blank to the bandsaw inside to demonstrate a method of sawing the blank round using a cardboard template. Readied for the Lathe, Ted Fink took over and demonstrated the roughing cuts used to bring the wood to the round. Afterwards there was plenty of time

for hands on practice of what had been demonstrated.

I believe the format of Wood Bee was successful because it incorporated focused demonstrations and learning with more casual time to discuss and digest the topics at hand, then put them to practice - experiential learning at its finest. As I think back about it, there are many potential topics and learning opportunities that could be taught through a format similar to the Wood Bee. Some that come to mind regarding the rough, or primary end of the woodturning process are:

- Methods for spalting wood;
- How to utilize and process more of the wood that you have previously;
- Avoiding unwanted spoilage and checking;
- Chainsaw technique, sharpening and maintenance;
- Wood selection for grain and figure;
- Chainsaw mill ripping;
- Finding and buying logs and burls;
- How to see and evaluate special wood grain like Birdseye and curl through the tree or log;
- Tree and wood identification.

I'd like to hear more feedback so maybe we can do this again and improve upon it. If you came, send an email to me at



info@vermontwoodturning.com Let me know what you thought, what could have made it better, what were your favorite aspects, least favorite. Most of all, spend some time at the lathe experimenting. If you don't have any designs in mind just practice make a big pile of shavings. I look forward to seeing the creative results that may have germinated from the Wood Bee. Thanks to all who came and participated.

-Ralph Tursini

Adventures Logging

One of the most vivid memories I have of the early 1950's is pouring over oft-changed blueprints of my parents' dream house at the dining room table in the house my grandfather had built in Rochester NY. My father enjoyed telling us of the beautiful woods that would line the various rooms from floor to ceiling. The dining room, my parents' and sisters' bedrooms would all be in cherry while the boys' bedroom, the den, the long central hallway and library were all to be paneled in red oak.

After such a build up I wondered what it would be like going into the woods, a couple years before the construction was to begin, to fell the trees that would supply all this fine wood my father spoke of so fondly.

We embarked upon this great adventure when I was 10 and my brother a year older. After heavy snow-fall in January of 1955, my grandfather, father, brother and I set off into the woods armed with axes, wedges, a massive 35 pound Homelite chainsaw and heavy chains pulled behind a Ford 9N tractor. My father's forest consisted of about 75 acres of massive oaks, cherry, maples and hemlocks across Black Creek from his intended home site some 20 miles west of Rochester.

We followed an old logging trail for some distance into the forest and set up a base camp on a knoll in a small meadow. The snow was deep and untouched, the woods totally silent. My father marked each tree to be harvested and relished felling each of them exactly where he told us they would land. He would turn off the chainsaw as soon as the tree began its lean. The only sounds then were the rustling and shot-like snapping of branches as these giants crashed through the limbs of their neighbors. The heavy thud of the tree smashing into the frozen ground was more felt than heard. The billows of light fluffy snow thrown 20 to 30 feet into the air began to settle back to earth in silence.

Once the logs were bucked to 8' 6" lengths we pulled them out one at a time to the clearing to await transport to the sawmill. It was only when we began to load these massive logs onto a small 1937 Ford dump truck using a small boom on the front of the tractor that I realized that this dangerous adventure was far from over. Neither before nor since have I seen a job being attempted with more undersized, inadequate equipment.

We knew the tractor boom would only lift one end of a log at a time. The first attempt bent the boom in half so we got a long lunch break as reinforcing sleeves and braces were welded in place. When the boom did finally hold, it could barely lift the butt of a log to the height of the truck bed. So the box of the truck was put into a partial 'dump' position and then the truck was backed in under the suspended end of the log. The chain was then released and the far end lifted and pushed onto the truck. Getting a second log on was even more difficult but undeterred, we somehow did it. The logs were of such size that only one was in contact with the floor of the truck bed, the second being wedged firmly between the first log and the far side of the box.

It was when my dad tried to drive out of the woods that the process took a humorous (at least to my brother and me) turn. Due to the fact the weight of the logs put the center of gravity of the truck barely in front of rear axle, as my dad accelerated, the front wheels came off the ground. He could go forward but he couldn't steer. His solution was have me sit on the left front fender and my brother on the right. Sitting on the fender with our legs wrapped around the large headlights protruding from the fenders made this easier than it might sound.

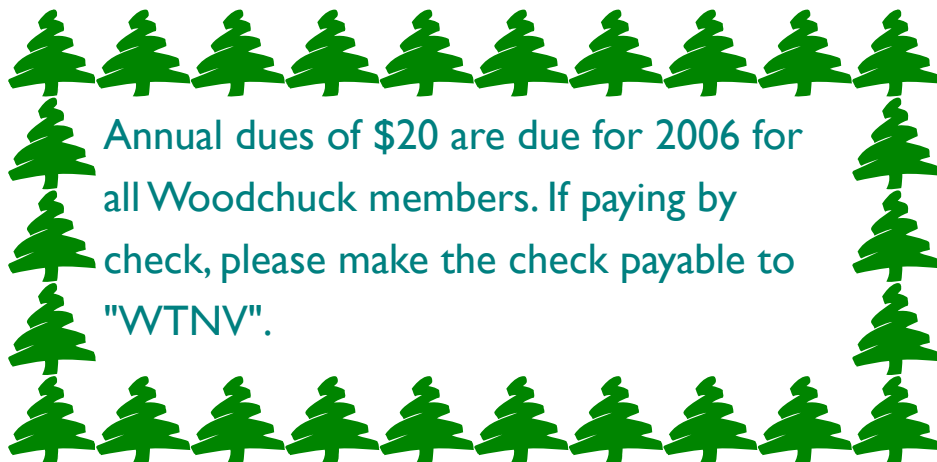
The sawmill was just 3 miles away but getting all the logs there took several days. My brother, being older than I, had the privilege of pulling the levers to dump the first load while my father captured the event for posterity with his 8mm movie camera. The logs didn't budge as the box of the truck passed 30 then 40 degrees of elevation. They were too tightly wedged. What this did, however, was to shift the center of gravity behind the rear axle and the front wheels of the truck were suddenly 10 feet in the air with my terrified brother holding the steering wheel as tightly as he could. With this sudden tipping back of the truck the logs quickly fell out and the front of the truck slammed down as it shot forward. At that moment I thanked the powers that be that I was not the first born son.

Ted Fink

'At that moment I thanked the powers that be that I was not the first born son.'

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