

# Woodchuck Chatter



Volume 3, Issue 3

## Special points of interest:

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

March 8, 2006

## Meeting on March 16, 2006

Ralph Tursini is prepared to give a demonstration of good bowl sanding techniques. Ralph is an excellent source of knowledge about green turning, bowl design, and high quality, large bowls. He is also very practiced in harvesting timber for use in turning. Ralph teaches seminars



in these subjects at a number of places. We are fortunate that he, as well as Dick Montague and other members share their knowledge with us.

Since teaching is the best way of learning, we welcome all members to share their skills.

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## Secretary's Report, February 16th

### Old business:

Update on pen project/ 120 complete kits, 250 kits out, over \$400. in red for club cost.



Bob received a thank you note from hospital for donated turned gifts for children.



### New business:

Up coming symposiums/ May 13 at the Pinkerton Academy in Derry, N.H and Provo Utah- June 15,16, 17 .

Herb is relocating and is selling a drop box and dust collection system if anyone is interested. We will also need a new location for our annual August picnic.

Due to the good turn out for the wood bee at Ralph's, we are looking for new hosts for a Saturday of turning.

### Upcoming Meetings:

March: Ralph will demonstrate power and hand sanding techniques

April: Sue will demonstrate turning plates and platters

May: Herb will contact Michael Mode to see if he is available

### Show & tell:

Butternut natural edge bowl by Ken Gadway.



Tim Parker- walnut & spalted maple bowls.

(Continued on page 5)

## 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.

In spite of people tossing off the idea of using Gorilla Glue on six brass tubes into pen blanks, I resisted that idea until after last month's demo by Dick Montague. I saw a great demo which revolutionized my thinking on doing pens. He mentioned that he uses Gorilla Glue for pens.

Dick's technique of using a roughing tool to zap blanks, then final turn them, started my thinking. He took about 10 seconds to have a blank ready for final shaping. At first I thought that using a roughing tool was like shooting groundhogs with a howitzer. So, I re-sharpened one of my roughing gouges and tried it on a few blanks. POW! Cut 6 minutes off my normal turning time.

OK, what about using Gorilla Glue instead of Instant???

What good would that do?

In the past I've had some poor glue-ups using medium CA glue on the brass tubes for pens. Get it spread nicely and the dam' thing might stick half-way down the blank. Get hasty and not get full coverage, and I'd probably get my blank blowing apart just as I had its shape refined. Either way, I was wasting a lot of time recovering brass tubes. I didn't use Gorilla Glue earlier because I would have to let it dry overnight and it looked messy to apply. Time to do some serious research.

What I came up with is simple, fast, and pretty elegant.

Here's the layout. Get a 10" length of 2X4 and lay it lengthwise on the workbench on top of a plastic protection sheet. I've got a supply of poly bags I use.

To the left of the 2X4, lay your stack of drilled blanks. To the right of the plank, lay your row of brass tubes.

Put on a pair of painters' gloves to protect your hands. Might as well put on an apron to protect your tuxedo, too.



Spread a squiggle of Gorilla Glue close to the far end of the plank.



Pick up the first tube with your right hand and roll it into the glue squiggle. Roll it back & forth until the tube is properly coated with a thin layer of glue. Pick up a blank and insert the tube into the blank, making sure that the tube is fully into the

blank. Wipe the excess glue off with your gloved right hand & set the filled blank down on the plastic sheet.



Pick up the next tube and blank and repeat.

I'm assuming a right-handed turner. The reason for putting the glue on a plank is two-fold. First, putting the glue on the plastic sheet means that when you roll the tube around, the surface tension of the glue will pick up the plastic and cause fumbling. Second, you can sand or plane the plank off to use again. The dried glue would probably get lumpy and not allow for smooth glue application.

Organizing the parts as I suggest will keep the glue where it belongs and minimize cleanup later. If you have not used Gorilla Glue or other polyethylene glues, be warned that it stains your hands and everything else badly, so WEAR GLOVES!

## News From Away

Randy Wilcox, a lately lucky Leicester logger, contacted me regarding our interest in a large white ash burl. (See photos attached.) This burl was 30' up the tree and is solid.

I propose we come up with a WTNV proposal in the form of a bid. So please give me feedback as to bid amount and also whether we should cut it up in place, who could transport it etc.

Thanks,

Ted

PS The green object in the pictures is a 12" ruler.





Dick Montague gave us a demonstration of using a roughing tool on pen stock. His 1" roughing tool is sharpened with an acute angle. The length of the bevel looks about the same as my detail gouge's bevel. He also hones the tool to give very smooth, fast cutting.



Dick's mandrel for this work is a center less, 2-piece, 1-blank mandrel.



He believes that he can rough out individual blanks faster and then pair his blanks on an ordinary 7MM mandrel and finish them. The advantage of his mandrel is that you do not have to unscrew a brass nut to change out blanks and you don't have to move the tailstock as far as when pulling stock off a standard mandrel.

Why a roughing tool for this work? With over 1 1/2 inches of edge, you can rough many blanks between sharpenings. Also, the large radius lends itself to long, smooth curves.

Dick starts with a long plank of wood which he saws into 1/2" square stock. He then chops the stock into blanks about 1/8" longer than the brass pen parts, keeping pairs together and marked for alignment. He uses a black marker and rubber bands for identifying his sets of blanks.

The next step is to drill the blanks using a centering jig with the drill press. As the pairs are drilled, they are kept together with rubber bands. Dick then glues the brass tubes in using Gorilla glue. After the glue has thoroughly dried, the blanks are reamed to get rid of excess glue and flattened on the ends using a pen mill.



Dick then places the blanks, one at a time, on his lathe using his special mandrel. He uses his roughing tool to rough the pieces very rapidly; no more than 4 strokes bring the square stock down to round and near final diameter. The round stock is then once again marked and paired with rubber bands. When he has roughed out all the stock he intends to finish at this session, Dick then starts his finish turning on the long mandrel, using the marks on the stock to put the grain & figure of the 2 pieces in proper relationship to each other. Dick then uses his roughing tool, making sure it has a fresh edge, to finish turn the pens. He uses the usual grades of paper and the finish of his choice to achieve a smooth but not characterless surface.



Ralph went through the steps of choosing and preparing green stock to make round spindles. First, cut your lumber into appropriate lengths either for the final piece or to fit your lathe.

The most stable stock is taken by ripping the round timber to make 4 blanks from around the pith. Trying to get one big blank from a log usually leads to splits, checks, and later failure.



Take the 4 log quarters and rip on the bandsaw to make square stock. Use a sled whenever there is the possibility of having an unsupported blade at the bottom of the timber. An unsupported blade is a surefire way to have an accident, possibly breaking a blade and getting lashed by the saw.

With larger pieces, you may want to have a sled to support stock so as to cut the corners off and make octagonal stock.

Set approximate centers on the stock. Mount on the lathe between centers. Ralph likes to use centers which do not dig into the timber, believing that to be the safer



method. He tightens the tailstock down to provide adequate friction from the headstock.

Set the tool rest close to the stock and rotate the stock to make sure it clears the rest.

Using the roughing tool, start taking the stock down to a round form. As with any other turning technique, start the lathe on a slow setting and bring the bevel into contact with the spinning stock. Raise the tool handle until



cutting happens. To get a good cylinder, sway your whole body rather than just drag the tool along the rest with your arms.

Your newly round cylinder is still green. Coat its ends with Anchorseal and store in a cool spot to begin the curing process, or turn to an approximation of the final piece. As green wood, you can expect some deformation of the timber as it dries.



## AAW News

### In House Demos:

**March: Bowl sanding with Ralph.**

**April: Turning Platters with Sue McLam**

**May: A Visit With Michael Mode**

### Call For Nominations

There will be 3 open positions on the Board of Directors of the AAW this year. The Nominating committee will select six names from all that apply to be nominated and those six will be on the ballot for the general election to fill the 3 vacant seats. In order to be considered for nomination, the following 3 things must be sent to the AAW Managing Director, 222 Landmark Center, 75 W. Fifth St., St. Paul, MN 55102, postmarked no later than May 15, 2006. (Last year two people missed the postmark date and could not be considered).

1. A statement of intent including qualifications and reasons for applying.
2. Letters of recommendation from 2 individuals who can affirm your organizational and leadership abilities.
3. A photograph of yourself (shoulders and head). Many times, the best people do not step forward to serve; they must be asked and encouraged. You know who the leaders in your chapter are. If you feel that they could bring real leadership skills to the AAW, encourage them to submit the above information before May 15th. If you feel that you could be an asset to the AAW membership, submit your own information.

Dave Barriger

Chairman - AAW Nominating Committee

[Dbarriger@earthlink.net](mailto:Dbarriger@earthlink.net)

### Call For Christmas Ornaments

During our AAW Symposium each year, we have a "return to the community" project. This year in Louisville, we will collect Christmas ornaments. They will be delivered to Kosair Children's Hospital in Louisville. Each year the hospital collects ornaments and decorated trees and auctions them or sells them outright to raise money. Last year they raised almost \$400,000 to help the kids in need. Have your chapter turn as many Christmas ornaments as they can and either bring them to the symposium or mail them to Greg Streif, 7308 Abbott Glen Dr., Crestwood, Ky., 40014

[gregstreif@insightbb.com](mailto:gregstreif@insightbb.com) .

This is a great opportunity for your chapter members to have some real fun while building their turning skills and at the same time, help sick kids in need. What a deal! If you have any questions, contact Greg as shown above.

Thanks,

John Hill - Chairman AAW chapters and membership committee

[Johnrhill@charter.net](mailto:Johnrhill@charter.net)

828-645-6633

## Member Updates

I have finally figured out why I can't reach Luke Mann , with information found in your article ... if anyone in your organization does still hear from him will you please forward my best wishes to he and Dawn.

Dana Zangrillo , 203 856 3775

I am an owner of many of his early works as well as a friend that lost touch...

again thank you

Dana

(Continued from page 1)



Arny-collection of miniatures,



Herb Hurlbut- homemade steady rest,



Bob Bouvier- tops and finials,



Craig Hall- lilac vessel with carved rim



Joe Barry- new router bit for dovetailed legs on Shaker candle stand,



Ted Fink- box elder, ambrosia bowls and cherry burl bowl,



## Ted's Turn

### Burls/Burrs

Burls, or burrs as the British call them, are fascinating things. Buying one is like buying a pig in a poke. You just don't know how valuable it is until you cut into it.

Rot, bark inclusions or the fact that it turns out to be a ring burl rather than a true bud burl can all change its quality dramatically. Even within a certain species such as American black cherry the variation in coloring due to soil or climatic conditions can be striking.

So what is a burl anyway? They are essentially benign tumors of trees. Various causes have been postulated such as injury, repeated irritation or infection with viruses, bacteria or fungi but no specific etiology has been proven. An infectious cause has been considered because of clustering. In other words if you find one burl you are much more likely to find others in that area. In the Willamette valley of Oregon for example, the big leaf maples produce burls at a prodigious rate often having several on each tree.

The burls tend to form when a twig bud fails to grow normally and rather than developing into a limb, it inexplicably multiplies over and over again forming countless twig buds which form the "eyes" of a typical burl. This growing mass of buds grows faster than the tree producing the typical tumor like appearance. Since the faster wood grows the weaker it is, burl wood tends to be softer and weaker than the rest of the tree. Hence they tend to turn easily if not too riddled with bark inclusions which may weaken the structure to the point that it tends to come apart during turning. Burls tend to weaken but do not kill the trees they inhabit.

Ring burls are not true burls in as much as they are not formed by unchecked twig bud growth but rather a focal accelerated growth that externally has a similar tumor appearance. When cut into they reveal very wide growth rings that have a wavy figure which can be quite attractive. They are generally not as highly prized as true burls.  
Ted Fink

### Treasurer's Report

Chapter monies	
Balance forward (corrected from \$1596.63)	\$1695.63
Income	
Wood bee reimbursement	10.00
Anchorseal "	97.68
Dues	210.00
Raffle	48.00
Expenses	
Wood Bee drinks	<u>16.00</u>
Balance	\$2045.31*

\*Pens Project remains \$450.82 in the red.

**'So what is a burl anyway? They are essentially benign tumors of trees.'**

## Report On The Pen Project

Woodchucks, we deserve a real pat on the back. Due to our combined efforts, we produced nearly 2000 twist pens of Vermont maple. A few were given to deserving people, a few were sold to help fund this effort. The rest, over 1900, were given to the Vermont National Guard and Air National Guard members so they could have a genuine piece of Vermont with them as they were deployed to the Middle East. Street value of our turnings was over \$55,000. We showed our troops that Vermonters really care for our people, going into harm's way for us.

Bob Bouvier, who gets our thanks for co-coordinating the supply and distribution of pen parts, notes that there were at least 25 of

our Woodchucks who turned some pens. We thank all the Woodchucks for their participation-no matter how big/small. And we recognize those who went far beyond the call of duty to make 100+ pens (Army, Herb Hurlbut, John Tichonouk, Murray Edelstein, Dick Montague, Paul Willard and perhaps others). To Murray for cutting up all the wood blanks and drilling most of them. To John Brislin for buying all the pen parts and getting great prices for us. To Ted Fink for keeping track of all the money, writing thank you notes to all the contributors, writing the note to attach to each pen and making the copies.

All the wood was contributed to us by Marshall Webb of Shel-

burne Farms.

Additional thanks go to Scott Bennett for coming through at the last hour and completing the last handful of pens we needed for the most recent deployment.

Many individuals and organizations gave us cash contributions to the effort, including at least two Rotary clubs. Sadly, we still need a little over \$400 to break even. Do you know any deep pockets you can appeal to?

## Roll of Honor—Pens Project Donors

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Mr. Robert Abell  
American Legion Post 59  
The Bagel  
Bethel Rotary  
Mr. John Brislin  
Mr. Robert Bouvier  
Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Boyle  
Mr. Albert Caron  
Mr. Murray Edelstein  
Dr. Ted Fink  
Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Hand  
Mr. James Monahan  
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Goyette  
Mr. Charles Grenier  
Knights of Columbus

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Kosmidek  
Mr. J. Paul Lascelles  
Mr. & Mrs. William Markle  
Northend Hardwoods  
Ms. Carolyn Jarvis  
Brian Jones Woodworking  
Mr. Matt Nolin  
Ms. Dee Dee O'Brien  
Mr. John Paeth  
Randolph Rotary  
Members of Randolph Rotary  
Russell Supply  
Dr. Daniel Sax  
Shelburne/Charlotte Rotary  
Mr. & Mrs. Arny Spahn

Mr. Fred Specht  
St Alban's Rotary  
Lt Col. & Mrs. Rupert Stebbins  
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Taylor  
USSV WWII So Burl.  
USSV INC. So Burl.  
Rabbi & Mrs. Max Wall  
Waterbury Rotary  
Wesley United Methodist Church  
Ms. Geraldine Wheelock  
Mr. William White  
Mr. Paul Willard  
Winooski Lodge #49 F&M  
Woodbury's of Vermont

There are also several people who made cash donations or bought pens and whose names did not get recorded. Many thanks to everyone who had a part in funding this effort for our Vermont National Guard and Air National Guard.

## Required Reading

The Spring issue of *The American Woodturner* just arrived. In it is an article by Bob Rosand on the Spindle Roughing Gouge. It describes the sharpening method in detail. It also gives 5 uses of the gouge. Dick Montague's comments on his use of the gouge for relatively fine work are fully backed up by this article. Ralph's method of trueing stock is also fully justified. There are several illustrations which help explain the methods of use. It's good that we have the kind of instructors we do, timely and thorough.

Also in this issue of *The American Woodturner* is an article by Nick Cook, one of the top commercial turners and instructors. His article, "Twenty Ways Not To Turn A Bowl" is excellent reading for the novice and

for the experienced turner who occasionally finds himself in trouble in front of the lathe. Each of the 20 admonitions is revealing about common problems we face in mounting and cutting wood on the lathe.

Since we did not have a Wise Woodchuck contribution this month, other than my rant about Gorilla Glue, I also recommend the article on Page 60, "20 Top Shop Tips"

The Spring issue of "Woodturning Design" has several articles worth reading in detail. Many of the articles promote the honing of common skills to the point of artistry. If you are satisfied with your level of skill, read "Pen Embellishments" by Dale Dutridge. Challenge yourself to produce some extraordinary fine

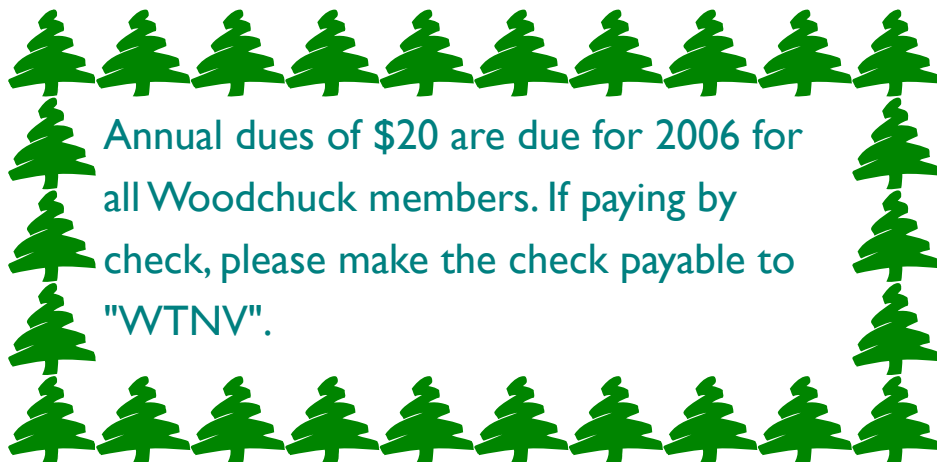
work on pens.

Rich Pagano did some magnificent laminated vessels. He passed away in October 2004 but left behind a beautiful body of work. The article on Page 63 shows some of that work and should inspire us to try some intricate vessels.

**Arny**

Woodchuck Turners of  
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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.