

Woodchuck Chatter



Volume 3, Issue 4

Special points of interest:

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

April 6, 2006

Meeting on April 20, 2006

Sue McLam has volunteered to demonstrate the turning of platters. Sue has a variety of skills and techniques she uses to produce some excellent platters of a number of woods, including several with inlays.



We have some business items to discuss. See the article on the Woodchucks Board meeting on Page 6. Also, there is always a need for demonstrations of common techniques.

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Secretary's Report, March 16th

Old news: The last 400 pens were delivered, many thanks to Bob Bouvier and club members for their efforts. Dick Montague raised \$150.00 at town meeting, reducing the club debt to 300.00 for the pen hardware.



Auction item: video tape.



Raffle items: Mulberry & Lilac chunks. The green stuff was NOT raffled off.

who do not have the registration form they may contact Clyde Daggett at 603- 699-1656 or e-mail: cmdaggett@att.net

Show & tell: Hav- hollow oval shaped maple burl.

Craig- 2" antique hand forged skew chisel

Meeting demo was sanding techniques by Ralph Tursini

Demonstrations:

April- Sue McLam will demo her methods for creating

platters and plates.

May- finishing techniques and products by Sutherland Welles.



Hav Smith turns scrap into beauty



That's a skew!!!

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.

Random Shots

I'm open for new challenges. Spring does that, I guess. I finished a run of pens last week and cut stock for some more miniature turnings.

I have probably reached a limit for now in creating stacked bowls. There are enough stacked and laminated pieces on my shelves for me to want to move on. The real problem today is that travel beckons. I hope

to get packed and be gone the last 2 weeks of April. The Blue Ridge may be in Spring splendor then.

Back to wood. If I have reached my level of incompetence in my chosen specialties, where should I look for inspiration? It's time for me to root around in the raw timber stacked in yard and garage. There has to be something in-

triguing there or I would have tossed it into the fireplace long ago. I have written a lot in this issue, so I'm cutting my column short. Besides, I have some contributions from David Scrase, Joe Barry, and Ralph Tursini. So read on. David's article is interesting for we who are curious about word origins. Have fun!

Arny

What's In A Word?

As we stand at the lathe turning a spindle, a bowl, a platter, pen, bottle stopper, we are hardly likely to ponder the designation "wood turner." A linguist, however, is more likely to find the word of interest rather than the process. As wood turners looking at the process of turning in other cultures, we might well be fascinated by the pole lathe or by a treadle lathe, by turning in India, or Mongolia and thereby sagely think wood turning is wood turning. And yet there are differences and we find these differences fascinating. The linguist with a knowledge of other languages finds both differences and similarities in the words and phrases connected with wood turning, and these are often illu-

minating.

The word "turn" in English seems clear enough. The wood "turns" and a cutting edge engages with the wood so that the skilled turner can produce a useful or beautiful (preferably both) object. Most other European languages use the same root verb for the same action. In German, the verb "drehen," which is the exact equivalent of "to turn," provides the basis for the German words for lathe ("Drehbank") and turner ("Dreher"). For the action of turning, however, a slightly different word from a different root is more generally used: the verb "drechseln." Interestingly, the

word "drechseln" comes from the same root as our English word "to throw," which we use for the potter, who "throws" a vessel on his wheel. The verb "drehen" can be used to describe the action of turning things over, whereas "drechseln" is used only for turning wood, metal, horn, etc. In French the words used are: "tourner" (to turn), "tour" (lathe), and "tourneur" (turner). Strangely, the standard one-volume English-French dictionary did not list the verb "to turn" or the noun "turner" at all. The Spanish words are "tornear" (to

(Continued on page 7)

Tips From Wise Woodchucks

While installing a new dust collection system in my shop I came across a resource on the web which I recommend to you all (especially if you have a dust collector). There is a wealth of well researched information offered and is geared towards the hobbyist woodworker and small commercial shop. I learned how to design and build a system that is less expensive and better for your lungs than the systems marketed today. It may be a good topic for an upcoming meeting.

<http://www.billpentz.com/woodworking/cyclone/index.cfm>

-Ralph

Ralph presented an interesting concept for getting a better finish on wooden bowls. We know that cross-grain sanding is bound to produce scratches which we have to work hard



Grain runs up the tree as shown by this board.



Examine a bowl to see which way it was cut from the tree.

to minimize. We also know that with the usual bowl cut from a tree trunk, most of the bowl exhibits end grain to one extent or another.

Our usual sanding pattern is to use

a random-orbit sander as the workpiece spins on the lathe, going from 60-grit down to 400-grit or finer.

Ralph looks at a bowl as having 4 quadrants, each with the grain going in one more or less uniform direction. If



Sanding with one edge of the rotary tool.

we use a rotary power sander, the grain of the paper moves in one direction at each edge of the paper. At the left edge of a sander, the grit essentially travels up; at the right edge, down. Combine that knowledge with the orientation of the grain of the wood, and you can al-



Determining the quadrants and sanding direction.



Sanding from bottom to edge sands with the grain on the outside of the bowl.



Rotating the bowl by hand to bring up an un-sanded quadrant.

ways avoid sanding across the grain. It may not save time in the sanding process, but it can give you a smoother finish than the usual spin & grind method we mostly favor.



Sanding the inside, going from rim to center. Use the edge of the sandpaper which is moving in the direction of the grain.



The bowl is rotated and a new quadrant is sanded from rim toward center.

AAW News

In House Demos:

April: Turning Platters with Sue McLam

May: Finishing with Mary Goderwis

June: Field trip to Jericho Forest Preserve. Wood identification & a pole lathe

July: Workshop on toys for the Toy Cart. Dick Montague & Bob Bouvier

August: Picnic & Al Stirt

September: Nominations for Woodchuck Board

October: Elections

There are still spaces to register for the AAW Symposium in Louisville June 22 - 24. For information and registration, go to <http://www.woodturner.org/sym/sym2006/>.

For door prizes, every paid registered attendee will be eligible to win one of the five Oneway 2436 lathes that we will give away. They don't even have to haul it home. We will pay up to \$400 shipping right to their door. We were able to offer these lathes because of very generous special pricing offered to us by Oneway Manufacturing.

In addition to the 5 lathes, we will give away fifty \$100 gift certificates that were generously donated by Packard Woodworks.

All young people ages 10 through 17 who are accompanied by a paid adult, will receive free registration and be eligible to win one of the 25 complete turning outfits. These outfits consist of a JET midi lathe on a stand donated

by WMH Tool Group, a set of Crown Tools donated by Crown Tools, a Nova Precision Midi Chuck donated by Teknatool International, a face shield donated by Woodcraft Stores, and a set of goggles donated by Dust Bee Gone.

The youth turning room will allow the registered young people to attend free classes by Bonnie Klein and Nick Cook. This is an opportunity of a lifetime. Bring your kids and grandkids. The kids must be registered through the AAW office at 651-484-9094.

There will be 34 world class demonstrators and the world's largest instant gallery and woodturning trade show.

I hope to see you there.

John Hill - Chairman Chapters and Membership Committee

828-645-6633

johnrhill@charter.net

Woodchuck Sightings:

[Ted Fink](#) , Shelburne Museum Lilac Sunday, May 21st.

Open Studio Weekend, May 27, 28 at Ted's shop in Shelburne.

[Shelburne Art Center Woodturning Classes](#)

To register or for more information call the Shelburne Art Center (802) 985-3648

Bowl Turning

Instructor: Ralph Tursini

Saturday/Sunday, May 6-7, 9:00am-4:00pm

Members \$200, Non-members \$225

Materials \$30, Maximum 4

Here's a chance to learn how to turn a bowl from green material or refine skills you may already have. This will be a hands-on workshop and will cover areas including: material selection and preparation, lathe safety, operation, and chucking techniques; bowl gouge use and sharpening, bowl design considerations, and finishing and drying techniques. The workshop requires no previous experience and because it is limited to no more than four participants there will be plenty of individualized attention.

[Shelburne Art Center Woodturning Classes](#) with Ralph Tursini

August 19,20

Turning Wooden Boxes

Boxes need not be square, learn to turn them

on the lathe. Once the basics are learned, the turned box provides abundant possibilities for both creative development and technical challenges. We will break the process into manageable topics including box design, material selection and preparation, methods of work holding, and shaping methods. Emphasis will be on the making of *end grain* boxes. Lathe experience and spindle turning methods will be advantageous but not necessary. All materials will be provided.

Materials: \$30



Turned sugar maple boxes & photos by Ralph Tursini

WTVN Board meeting, March 29, 2006

Place: The Spahns' house, Randolph, VT.

Present: Ralph Tursini, presiding. Bob Martin, Ted Fink, Army Spahn. Guests: Joe Barry & Cil Spahn.

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM.

The first subject discussed was the state of the membership. We now have 47 total members on the rolls. 39 are either current with their dues or Life Members. 9 members have not paid dues this year.

The question was raised if we should strike unpaid members off our rolls and mailing list. Since nearly every member gets Chatter via e-mail, it was decided that there was no need to stop sending Chatter to them. Ted will contact inactive members and ask if they are still interested in the Woodchucks.

Further discussion: How big should our club get? At about 39 active, attendance is about 50%. Considering our meeting space and our mission, 60 active and about 30 attending meetings seems to be the limit for Woodchucks and be able to present demonstrations.

Picnic:

We need a large space to hold our August picnic as Herb, our perpetual host, is no longer will be able to accommodate us. Other locations north of Randolph might be either Ralph's or Craig's shop. The Jericho Forest Reserve was also mentioned. If we were to move out of the St. Albans area, Al Stirt, who has been our August guest, might not wish to travel that far. We discussed offering a small travel stipend to Al or bringing in a flatland chucker.

If Al can't be persuaded to continue his well-appreciated input at our August picnic, it then becomes necessary to look for another eminent turner to educate us.

Ben & Jerry's venue:

Discussion of our gang being offered opportunity to present and sell at the Waterbury plant & visitor center this summer/fall led to a discussion of insurance underwriting and club policies. It was decided to put together a policy section for the member's handbook. See elsewhere for the policy

agreed upon for individuals participating in a Woodchuck/AAW "sanctioned" event.

Video library:

The Chatter editor was asked to publish a reminder to all members to search for and return any video/DVDs belonging to Woodchuck Turners. We need an update from our Librarian as to the condition of the library. It was also discussed to investigate making one copy of any original video/DVD and using either it or the original as the archive copy. Most of what we own is copyrighted and archiving a copy is legally questionable. Any lawyers in the Club? Are you willing to offer an opinion on "fair use" or circulating a single copy to protect the original?

May demo & Michael Mode:

Michael has opted out of our May meeting this year. He says he has nothing new for us as he is still concentrating on stacked bowls. He feels that in 2007 he may be able to come back with a fresh presentation.. Meanwhile, Ralph has contacted Mary Goderwis of Sutherland Welles Ltd, makers of a variety of finishing material. She will introduce us to her techniques.

Guidelines & Policies:

An addition to the current handbook, plus publication in Chatter, of a number of current and future policies seems to be in order.

We should all have available the rules for the club.

Use of lathe & tent.

Liability coverage.

Group purchases.

Inventory.

Library loans.

Discounts.

Meeting format.

Raffle policy.

There may be others which need to be thought out.

Club lathe mobility:

We have a very good lathe which we can use for virtually any kind of demonstration. It was a good purchase and serves us well where it is. The only difficulty with the lathe is that it needs at least 2 people to get it into & out of any imaginable vehicle for transport. Even if we put it on wheels, it would still be too much for one person to get onto anything but a low trailer using a long ramp.

The Board passed this resolution for consideration by the membership:

Moved and seconded that WTVN purchase a variable speed mini-lathe for the purpose of in-the-field demonstrations. The total cost, including a Talon scroll chuck & adaptor, shall not exceed \$700.

The lathe will be mounted on a length of 2X10 so it can be clamped to some available stand. There is presently sufficient funds in the Treasury to add this valuable extra piece of equipment.

Last January's meeting:

The format of January's meeting was successful enough to establish an annual January Woodchuck Round Table for the exchange of ideas, techniques, and war stories.

We reviewed our needs for meeting subjects up through October. Some decisions were reached and the results of the discussion are posted under the demo schedule on P. 4.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Army Spahn

Ted's Turn

'For the insurance to cover you, you must be a member of the AAW and the demonstration must involve woodturning.'

That's Opportunity Knocking

Ever imagined that you could do a woodturning demonstration/sale and be guaranteed of 2000 people walking by?

Ben & Jerry's factory in Waterbury will be piloting an outdoor project featuring Vermont artisans and crafts people this July and August.

Each day for those 2

months they will have vendors demonstrate and sell their products or provide entertainment in the outdoor activity lane along side the factory. A 15' X 15' tent and 110 volt power source are available on site.

One of the requirements is that you have evidence of 1 million dollar liability insurance.

The AAW provides such

proof of insurance. I can provide you with a copy of the liability face sheet from the AAW if you wish to pursue this opportunity. For the insurance to cover you, you must be a member of the AAW and the demonstration must involve woodturning.

Ted Fink

Book Report by Joe Barry

Turned Chessmen: For collectors, players, and woodworkers by Mike Darlow. Fox Chapel Publishing Co. Inc. (2004). ISBN 1-56523-259-3. \$24.95

What beginning Woodchuck has not thought about making a chess set? It is a daunting task because the many parts are small, need to look alike, and clearly need to be well designed. In his fifth

book, Darlow addresses all the needs of the turner wanting to turn a chess set. He discusses the long history and multiple variations on chess sets. The many choices are a good source for ideas. The carving required for some pieces, such as the Knight, can be simplified in many designs or all the pieces can be elaborated upon after turning.

Darlow does a great job with step-by-step photos of how to

chuck and turn the chess pieces. However, for my money the book pays for itself in the design material. Darlow goes into great detail on what makes a good design in a turned object. He discusses what details provide a sensible aesthetic and supports the intention of the piece as a balanced stand-alone piece. I recommend it highly.

Joe Barry

Policy on AAW Liability Insurance

Members of WTNV who are giving public demonstrations are covered by the AAW-sponsored liability policy under the following conditions:

You must be a member of AAW and WTNV.

The event must be "sanctioned" by WTNV. That is, you must notify the Treasurer, who will provide a copy of the cover sheet for the policy.

Notify the editor of Chatter so you can be listed in Future

Woodchuck Sightings.

The demonstration must have wood turning as the main subject.

(Continued from page 2)

turn), “torno (lathe), and “tornero” (turner), and in Italian “tornire” (to turn), “tornio” (lathe), and “tornitore” (turner). In Dutch, a language very close to German, the words are “draaier” (turner), “draaibank” or “draaimachine” (lathe). In Russian, in which the patronymic is more often to be found than surnames based on the trades, turning does provide a surname: “Tokarev.”

For centuries European names were basically the simple first name. As the number of, for example, “Johns” increased, surnames were appended to distinguish one particular John from another. English, Dutch, and German surnames followed similar patterns. A common form of surname that enabled one to distinguish between the ever-increasing numbers of Johns (or Roberts, or Jacobs) was the patronymic: Johnson, Robertson and Jacobson; Johannsen, Hansen, or Jakobsohn; in Scotland there was Mac, in Ireland Fitz or O’. And then there were the surnames, like Turner, derived from the trades and professions: Baker, Miller; Bäcker/Becker, Müller. There were also the surnames that came from a person’s appearance. One John or Matthew might well have been distinguished from another by hair color: John Black, John White/Johann Schwarz, Johann Weiss or by where he lived: John Hill/Johann Hügel, William Wood/Wilhelm Wald (and sundry compounds containing the word Wald), or Rivers/Bach. In French the professions are not commonly found in surnames—Boulangier and Charpentier are exceptions. Places, however, are often indicated in French surnames: Dupont (at the bridge), Dubois (at the woods), Duval (in the valley), and Dumont (at the mountain), for example.

The whole business begins to become really interesting to us when we look at the proper name “Turner.” In both English and German (Drechsler or Dreher) the name is common. In both languages the genesis of the surname commonly involved professions and trades—as we have just seen. The most common surname in both languages (Smith/Schmidt) indicates the importance and the ubiquity of the trade. The same

can be said of other surnames of near equal frequency such as Taylor/Schneider, Carpenter/Schreiner/ Zimmermann/ Tischler, Farmer/Bauer etc. In the USA we find many of these German names with Americanized spelling: Drexler or Drexel, Shriner, Bower, for example. Even the trades and professions that are more specialized and whose products were in lesser demand are to be found in surnames that are relatively common: Wheelwright or Wheeler/Rademacher, Cartwright or Carter/Wagner, Goldsmith/Goldschmidt, and so on. But with regard to the trades and professions, not all European languages conform to the same practice. Spanish surnames rarely reflect a profession, even though the current prime minister’s name does—Zapatero is the Spanish word for shoemaker. There is a Spanish author named “Sastre,” which is the equivalent of Taylor. Italian likewise has virtually no surnames based on trades—although, again, there is a film director whose name is Giuseppe Tornatore.

Sometimes words that stem from how one plies a trade are taken into the language in phrases or expressions, where it is possible to overlook or ignore the original meaning. A writer’s book project may “lie fallow” for months or years, for example. A wood turner’s bowls might sell like “hot cakes” (we wish!), or someone may “rise to the bait.” With the word “turn,” however, the phrases utilizing the verb are usually connected with the activity of the dance or the spit (done to a turn), rather than turning. (More people dance and are interested in cooking than turn, I suppose.) Examples are “to take one’s turn,” or “to do someone a good turn,” “one good turn deserves another,” “turn and turn about.” In English there do not seem to be any phrases clearly involving the action of the turner and turning. But in German there is a phrase with “Drechsler” in it: “er ist ein geschickter Drechsler” meaning he’s good at thumbing his nose at people.

The frequency of the English and German surnames Turner and Drechsler attests to the importance of the craft in the Middle Ages, when surnames were introduced. The differential in the fre-

quency of all the surnames relating to the traditional crafts and trades provides a fairly good indication of their importance. A perusal of the Burlington telephone directory reveals in a clear albeit not very scientific way that the smith was the most essential and widespread. The following table lists some of the more common trades of interest to the woodworker in order of frequency:

Smith (809)
Carpenter (104)
Turner (103), Drexler (5)
Carter (88), Cartwright (9)
Wheeler (68), Wheelwright (4)
Sawyer (41)
(Wood-)Carver (10)
Joiner/Joiner (2)

The turner, clearly, was an important artisan. Off the top of our head we know that the turner could supply vessels, utensils, furniture parts, toys, and even wooden machine parts and tools—and we could continue the list *ad infinitum*. The German and Dutch names reflect the same pattern as the above list in English.

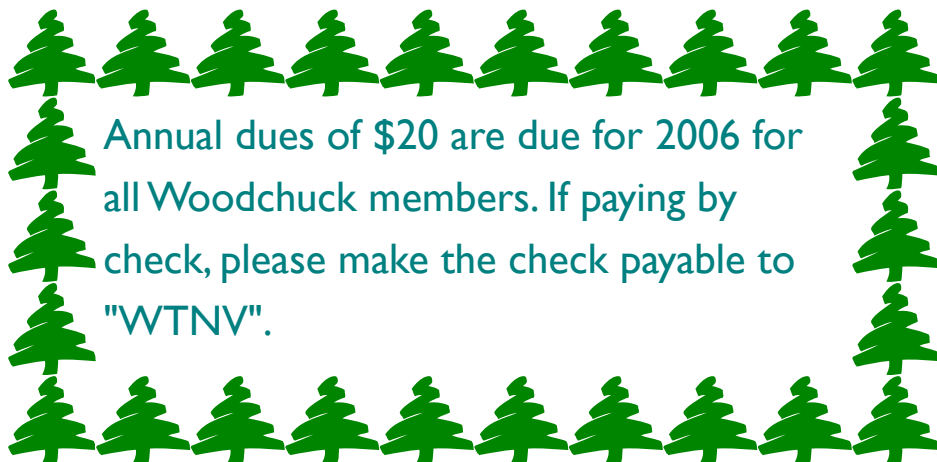
But what about French, Spanish, Italian, and other such languages where surnames do not reflect the trades? A cursory study of the history of turning reveals that this craft has been around for well over 3,000 years. We know that France and Germany were in the forefront of European woodturning during the Middle Ages and after until England moved ahead at the time of the industrial revolution. But turners were an important and integral part of craft activities and manufacturing throughout Europe. And nothing shows this more clearly than a study of the guilds—but that is another story.

What’s in a name? A lot, as we have just seen! Our worthy editor’s name “Spahn” is probably of German origin. The word “Span” (the lack of the “h” is not significant) means dust or shavings: “Sägespäne” is sawdust; “Hobelspäne” are wood shavings. Get back to the lathe, Arny, and turn us some shavings. Live up to your name!

David Scrase

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of
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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 bor-

row 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.