

Woodchuck Chatter



May 8, 2006

Volume 3, Issue 5

Special points of interest:

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

Meeting on May 18, 2006

This month, Mary Goderwis, of Sutherland Welles, will demonstrate finishing materials and techniques. Sutherland Welles is a maker of various wood finishes, including several using Tung oil.

August Meeting Change

Due to Dave Hurlbut moving from the residence where all previous WTNV picnics were held, we are meeting this year in August at The Jericho Research Forest.

Al Stirt will again be joining us and will give the presentation

that he gave at the National Symposium in Providence RI in 2003. He will demonstrate, at the lathe, the complete process he uses to turn a bowl form tree to table. This is not to be missed.

Stay tuned for details: date etc.

Secretary's Report, April 20th

Woodchuck Board Info.	2
Random Shots: Use what you have.	2
Wise Woodchuck	2
Turning A Platter	3
Demo Schedule	4
Woodchuck Sightings	4
AAW News	4
Ted's Turn: Hidden	5
Liability Coverage	5
Loan Policy	6

24 members in attendance.

Old business:

80 more pens needed to fulfill our obligation for new deployments.

Our pen fund is \$270 in the red. Anyone with pen kits, please bring to the next meeting to pool all parts.

New business:

Members with videos or DVDs in their possession need to bring them in so the library may be updated.

Motion was made not to purchase mini lathe at this time. John has offered to lend his mini-lathe to any member wishing to try it out or do a public demo.

The turning symposium on May 13 at the Pinkerton Academy still had 50 openings.

Sue McLam demonstrated her method of turning plates and platters.

Show & tell:

Ken Gadaway/ maple burl



Russ Fellows/ segmented bowls



Proposed monthly topics

May: Sutherland Welles/ finishing products

and big leaf burl bowls.

Woodchuck Chatter

Woodchuck Turners of Northern Vermont

Board of Directors

President: Ralph Tursini
PO Box 224
Underhill Center, VT 05490
802-899-6863
Tursini@pshift.com

Vice-President: Bob Martin
36 Calais Rd.
Worcester, VT 05682
802-223-7475
martrlm@yahoo.com

Secretary: Craig Hall
823 Westman Rd.
Cambridge, VT
802-644-5344
craighall@hotmail.com

Treasurer: Ted Fink
PO Box 850
Shelburne, VT 05482
802-985-2923
Finkhaus@together.net

Member-At-Large & Newsletter Editor: Army Spahn
Assistant Editor & Proof Reader: Cil Spahn
1626 Hebard Hill Rd.
802-728-4799
apspahn@adelphia.net

Meeting Co-coordinator: Craig Hall
823 Westman Rd.
Cambridge, VT
802-644-5344
craighall@hotmail.com

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

Last summer, I bought a double pallet of hardwoods from Lumber Liquidators. It cost \$50 and was composed mostly of broken-down pallets used to ship their exotic lumber from Africa or South America to wherever they put flooring together. Once I got it home, no small feat with just a Jeep Cherokee for transportation, I assessed what I had. The skid pieces were about 44" X 3" X 2 1/2". The platform material was about 3/4" by 7', random widths.

All pieces were weathered and all had nail holes here and there. Mixed in was a quantity of ruined flooring composed of short pieces joined & glued. I planed down all the planks which were not badly split and did some random planeing of the skid pieces to see what I had. There are some beautiful pieces of wood there, but no unmarred piece big enough to make furniture out of. So far, I've made a plant stand for the wife's orchids. The nail holes don't bother us under the coat of spar

varnish. I've also made a few pens out of pink ivory and other stuff. What at first looked like a total waste of \$50 has turned into an interesting stockpile. I bet I would have to pay over \$50 for the mahogany plant stand anyway.

It was a gamble, but I did turn a bad looking pile of splinters into beauty and utility. Life—and a lumber pile—is what you make of it.

Army

Secretary's Report Continued

June: wood and tree identification.

July: turning toys with Dick & Bob

August: annual picnic (location yet to be determined)

Sept.: dust collection & safety

Oct.: annual elections

Nov: collection of toys for tots

Treasurer's Report:

Balance Forward 3/06 \$2045.31

Income (2 months)

Dues \$80

Raffle/auction \$114

Wood bee \$10

Pens Project \$245

Balance Forward \$2494.31

Pens Project is \$205.82 in the red.

Ted Fink

Annual Picnic Meeting.

Due to Dave Hurlbut moving from the residence where all previous WTNV picnics were held, we are meeting this year in August at The Jericho Research Forest.

Al Stirt will again be joining us and will give the presentation that he gave at the National Symposium in Providence RI in 2003. He will demonstrate, at the lathe, the complete process he uses to turn a bowl, from tree to table. This is not to be missed. Stay tuned for details: date etc.



Emu Eggshell box by Ken Gadway



Segmented work by Russ Fellows

Tips From Wise Woodchucks

It seems like most of the tips I get to share are about sanding & wood dust. Here we go again.

I used a hacksaw blade screwed to a board as a sandpaper cutter both for pen-sanding strips and hand sanding blocks for a year or so. It felt too time-consuming, ripping up sandpaper one piece at a time and usually getting some ragged pieces, but it was my device and I'm stubborn.

One day, I needed a lot of strips for a long run of pens. I pulled out my old office paper cutter and stacked the 8 grits I use in order. Using the paper cutter, I chopped the stack into strips 3/4" wide. They came out nice and uniform with all straight edges. Straight edges mean you can put some tension on the paper while sanding and not have the paper rip. The cutter blade **will** eventually get dull. Meanwhile, I'm spending more time sanding and less time cussing.

The process of turning platters starts with finding a blank with enough thickness and character to be interesting. Sue starts by fastening a faceplate with wood screws to what will be the face of the platter. The blank may be left with corners or cut into a circle depending on the final form.



Examining some of Sue's platters.

The faceplate is mounted to the lathe and a recess cut which will be



Mounting to the lathe.

compatible with the expanding jaws of a scroll chuck. The back of the platter is turned to roughly its final shape in steps, forming a foot about 1/3 the final diameter. The chuck recess is deepened within the foot and given a dovetail to match the chuck jaws. Sue makes the recess no deeper than necessary to firmly hold the platter to the lathe.

Refine the shape of the back and sand and finish to taste. Since the chuck recess is a design element, you can bring

it to completion without worrying about a second finish step.



Working on the foot.

Sue makes an initial cut on the back (soon to become the platter face) to reduce imbalance.



Refining the foot and the mounting recess.

The faceplate is taken off the lathe, then unscrewed from the platter blank.



Working on the face side of the platter.



Getting the chuck properly seated in its recess. The "nub" on the face side makes a convenient handle.

The scroll chuck is tightened onto the lathe and the platter chucked on, making sure that it is fully engaged with the dovetail jaws. It would be wise to use the live center for a large part of the face turning process as a safety measure.



Defining the rim & bowl.

Refine the platter's form. A little edge thickness is a good thing to prevent splits and avoid cuts & splinters.

One decorative option is to make a definite flat rim and texture that part. Another form of decoration is to cut a recess in the rim and infill with inlaid. Crushed semiprecious stone, or epoxy.

Consider bringing this side of the platter to a final finish before using a texture tool. Sanding after texturing reduces the sharpness of the texture.

(Continued on page 5)

AAW News

In House Demos:

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 at The Jericho Research Forest.

September: Nominations for Woodchuck Board

October: Elections

If you're interested in demonstrating at the AAW's 2007 symposium, the application deadline is August 31, 2006.

The symposium, to be held June 29 to July 1 in Portland, Oregon, is the AAW's largest annual event and generally attracts more than 900 woodturners.

For more information and a demonstrator application, contact the AAW offices at 651-484-9094 or inquiries@woodturner.org.

Carl Voss - AAW American Woodturner Editor
carlvoss@msn.com

Woodchuck Sightings:



A Wood Turning Center patron just purchased a large piece from me to donate to the Center's permanent collection. I'm attaching a photo. The piece is "Square Ceremonial Bowl #2". The size is 26" X 24" X 3". The materials: Mahogany and milk paint. Turned as a rectangle

from a single piece of wood. Carved and painted after turning. Some of the paint is abraded to show the dark red color resulting from the reaction of the Mahogany to the milk paint.

Al Stirt

(Continued from page 3)



Refining the bowl shape.



Using the Sorby texturing wheel.



After 3 passes, the texture pleases.

Experiment with various amounts of texturing and types of tools. You might add colorant to the textured surface, then, per-

haps, lightly sand to tone the textured rim. Finish is a choice depending on use—decorative vs. utilitarian.

Ted's Turn

Hidden Beauty

It was an unpretentious scrap of wood my father handed me as I began my journey back to Vermont from western NY several years ago.

The 20 inch long board was under 3" wide and barely 3/4" thick. Several coats of white paint effectively hid the wood's identity but having been assured that I would find it of interest I brought it back to my shop where it sat on a shelf awaiting a slow period. Eventually I stripped it and ran it through the planer. It looked like oak but a bit browner, much lighter and softer. I discovered I was holding a piece of American Chestnut (*Castanea dentata*).

Now my challenge was to actually make something from this piece that would give me a feel for its workability. So after planing both sides I cut it into four pieces 5" long, then glued and stacked them. The wood turned easily, did not dull the tools quickly and took a nice finish. That pencil holder is my sole chestnut turning and it has found its place of usefulness next to the kitchen phone.

The American chestnut trees were the most numerous and largest species in the Appalachian forest. They comprised fully 25% of the trees and reached heights of 100' and diameters of 10' earning the moniker "The eastern Redwoods". The blight that destroyed them was first noted in the Bronx

zoo by a NY state forester in 1904. From that site it spread rapidly in every direction killing virtually every chestnut tree by 1950. On the old stumps you can still find coppice sprouts but they usually succumb to the blight within 15 years.

The good news is that there are two organizations, The American Chestnut Conservation Foundation (ACCF) and The American Chestnut Foundation (TACF) that are working vigorously to bring the chestnut back. One of their efforts is to create a blight-resistant hybrid that is 15/16ths American chestnut and 1/16 resistant Chinese chestnut. May they succeed.

Ted Fink

'I discovered I was holding a piece of American Chestnut (*Castanea dentata*).'

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.

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

Publisher:
Arny Spahn
1626 Hebard Hill Rd.
Randolph, VT
apspahn@adelphia.net



Why is the Prez so happy looking??

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.