

Woodchuck Chatter



Special points of interest:

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

July 10, 2006

Volume 3, Issue 7

Meeting on July 20, 2006

This month, it's back to our regular meeting place, the Woodbury shop on Pine St. in Burlington. The demo subject will be "Turning Wooden Toys". The plan is to have Dick Montague show us some of what can be done and Bob Bouvier to urge us onward. Bob has been instrumental for many

years in a project at the pediatric wing of Fannie Allen Hospital. The project is known as the Good Humor Cart and it brings toys to kids in hospital. Once a kid gets a toy, it's his, so the cart needs constant replenishment.

The plan is to get us going so we can fill the cart up at our

November meeting. There is not much better we can do than to bring some happiness to sick kids.

This month, the raffle is back on, so bring stuff—as well as your triumphs and troubles for Show & Tell.

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Sightings, Good News, Etc.



Ted demonstrates the turning of an ice cream bowl to the younger crowd at Ben and Jerry's Factory in Waterbury on July 5th.



Some nice Cherry burls I had given to me from one of my customers! Thought the group would like to see the "before" pics. I'll send the "after" pics next year sometime! Keep on turning.

Mike

Woodchuck Website:

Webmaster, Jim Cunningham is upgrading a couple features of the WTNV website namely www.moosemaple.com.

There will now be a gallery of photos of members' turned pieces -- so send your photos to Jim at rusic@Gmavt.net

Secondly, a panel has been added to the front page listing members who have websites. Any visitor merely clicks on the member's name to go directly to his or her website.

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

Here it is, July 7th & I have a newsletter to produce. I like to send out a paper chuck full of good info and interesting pictures. That may not happen this month as the club depends on me to both gather the stories and to put it all down on paper. I was off enjoying the fog and rain in Nova Scotia while you were swatting skeeters and avoiding poison ivy in Jericho, so I asked that someone would be kind enough to use a notebook & camera for me. As of today, that report has not come in, but I've still got until Monday to finish. 10 days before a meeting is as

close as I want to cut it. Any closer might mean that someone has made a commitment to someone else.

What is most important to me as a newsletter publisher is the news. We all want to know why we should attend the next meeting. We all want to know what our buddies are doing. Woodchucks like gossip as much as anyone else. So, I'll get the news out to you and try to include all manner of reporting. Randy sent me an article and I'm glad to get it. Ted is very faithful about sending both news and his thoughts for the month. I would not

have a newsletter to put out if it were not for Ted.

I don't know which is harder, searching for beauty in wood or searching for truth in words.

So, you guys keep turning & I'll keep writing.

Army

Opportunity For Nice Wood

Ted, I have some waxed figured Madrone and also figured walnut. I think it's beautiful wood under the wax. Over the past year I have purchased a number of pieces (12-15) on Ebay with the hopes of making clocks out of them. I have come to learn that I work much better with dry burl/figured wood instead of stuff that is waxed.

Some of the pieces are quite large – 5x5x14" and some of them are not yet dry. Some of them have checks in them and some don't. If you would like to come take a look at them, I can offer all of them to you individually or in a package deal.

David

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Woodturning Byproducts

Living in the country on twelve acres gives me a lot of places to stash wood shavings but it seemed such a waste to create piles here and there.

For a while I was bagging the shavings in contractor size plastic bags for friends to mulch around plants and gardens. Unfortunately this got expensive when the bags were not returned.



One of the issues we ran into around our house was the lawn mower would blow the shavings across the lawn when they had dried out. Another issue we had was cosmetic. Preferred shavings were cherry and butternut for the best color coordination with the other plant beds. The bright maple shavings were rejected.

This spring, while performing last fall's cleanup around the house, I got out the chipper to chop up old leaves and sticks. Every little while I would throw in a pitchfork load of shavings

with the other debris. This would result in a nice cloud of dust wafting through the air and a little extra bulk in the mulch pile.

Then it rained. And it rained some more, and well you know what else. Anyway I got back to the job at hand after a week or so and noticed a really neat thing – putting very wet shaving through the chipper resulted in a very nice uniform product with out the dust! So, thinking this might work out, I spread out a large tarp, rolled the chipper onto it and started chipping. As

you can see in the pictures the result was better than expected. One final note, if you are on call for work and need to carry a pager – place it somewhere it can't fall into the chipper!

Randy



In House Demos:

July 20: Workshop on toys for the Toy Cart. Dick Montague & Bob Bouvier

August 26: Picnic & AI Stirt at The Jericho Research Forest.

September: Nominations for Woodchuck Board

October: Elections

Treasurer's report

No credits or debits in past month.

Ted Fink

Woodchuck Handbook:

The member listing in the Handbook is updated each August. So if there is any change in your information such as change of email address or perhaps a new web

site, please let me know before August 1st. Thanks.

Ted

Ted's Turn

Thunder in The Workshop

At his tallest my dad stood just a shade over 5' 9" but he carried his 220 pounds efficiently. His build was heavy and blocky in appearance. His arms hung from broad, heavily muscled shoulders and ended with hands the size of bear paws. His waist was only slightly smaller than his barrel-shaped chest and his body was set solidly on thick powerful legs. Despite this, he was remarkably quick on his feet. It was this last attribute that was to save him from harm this day.

Dad has two workshops: one well enclosed and heated in winter, where his workbench and smaller machines are kept. The larger shop, 30' by 40', adjoining the first is the repository for his heavy equipment. This includes a 30 inch planer, a 12 inch jointer and a 36 inch bandsaw among other assorted pieces. They all predate the 1930's, are cast iron and massive. The sort of equipment you wouldn't even consider moving without a front end loader. The machine tables are rough, the bearings were babbit and they tend to do their assigned tasks noisily and poorly. The only thing that got them where they are now is the fact that dad got them for the cost of moving them.

It was into this setting and in similar style he built his large faceplate lathe. It had a heavy

cast iron base, large pillow blocks to accommodate a 2.5" diameter shaft onto which he welded a 12" steel 1/2 inch thick faceplate. A wide leather belt connected to an overhead pulley and motor provided the power. The transmission from a 1934 Ford truck allowed for variable speed. The slightly bent gear shifter protruded antenna-like from this boxy, ceiling-mounted transmission. The initial running of the lathe did not reveal its two major design flaws: both the on/off switch and the speed control were on the opposite side of the rotating piece from where he would be standing while turning.

Since he had a project in mind before he built the lathe, namely the turning of a 54" diameter two inch thick black walnut coffee table top, that would be the first real use of the lathe. He glued up the blank, trimmed it slightly oversize on the ancient 36" bandsaw and mounted it to the face-plate with a dozen #10 two inch long flathead screws.

He flipped the switch, stepped quickly around the huge walnut slab and placed a heavy wide scraper on the tool rest. He waited a few seconds as the piece gradually gained speed. The first few rotations went without incident but oddly the rotational speed just kept increasing. His first instinct was to push the scraper more forcefully against the wood to slow it

down. The error of that idea soon became obvious to him as he noted a low pitched rumbling sound like distant thunder accompanying an unmistakable wobble. The rim speed had now increased alarmingly and was still accelerating. In the next instant the thunderous noise became suddenly louder and the wobble dramatically worsened. By now he had dropped the scraper, thought about getting to the on-off switch which he now realized with startling clarity was not ideally positioned. Just as the last of the screws tore loose from the erratically spinning blank he adroitly jumped back, spun and ran in one fluid motion. As he exited the large overhead doorway, he glanced over his shoulder. The rapidly spinning chocolate-colored disk was now free of its earthly tethers and, once it gained full traction on the rough concrete floor, it began its destructive trajectory.

It shot across the floor smashing a small wooden tool chest, rapidly climbed the wall, spun its way across the 10' high raftered ceiling and crashed heavily against the far wall shattering several wall-mounted shelves.

Dad was unharmed and glad to have yet another adventure to tell the grandchildren about the day there was thunder in the workshop.

Ted Fink

“[H]e was remarkably quick on his feet. It was this last attribute that was to save him from harm this day.”

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.

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of
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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.