

Woodchuck Chatter



Volume 3, Issue 9

Special points of interest:

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

September 10, 2006

Meeting on September 21, 2006

Our meeting on Sept. 21 will be once again at the Woodbury shop on Pine Street, Burlington. Thanks again to Scott for giving us the use of his space.

The subject this month is "Dust Control". Ted Fink and Ralph Tursini will explore the effects of poor dust control and methods of maintaining a healthy work environment. Please bring some of your work

for us to learn from. The best lessons come from others' work; the second best comes from your own mistakes.

Also, bring along something for our raffle.

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Notice of Board Meeting

The Board will meet at Ted's house on Wed. the 11th of Oct. Supper at 6, meeting at 7PM. All are welcome. Please let Ted know you are coming.

The August Meeting



Joe Laferriere flipping burgers for the group



Plenty of good food



Ralph opens the meeting



Nice day for a picnic



Dick Montague and Andrea Tursini. Dick encouraged others to try the pole lathe to help get a feel for the oscillating action.

(Continued on P. 3)

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've spent quite a few hours in my shop this summer, partly to keep out of the heat—there were some hot days— and partially because I was invited to participate in the Chandler Gallery show, "Selections", which opened on September 8th. Deadlines concentrate my attention.

Most of my current work has been 4" wide and under, because I got started on miniatures. There is a fascination in working to a small scale. Precision becomes paramount and speed takes a back seat. I have had the need to practice good, precise technique and thorough tool honing. I'm becoming a convert to Dick Montague's "religion" of ultra sharp gouges.

My work on average size bowls has usually been a little disappointing when we saw tool marks which could not be sanded out. I learned in photography that "good enough" usu-

ally wasn't good enough and to be a craftsman, I had to eliminate flawed surfaces. First, I had to learn what caused the flaws.

Working at small scale, it became obvious that I needed to start a project with sharp tools, keep them sharp, and ALWAYS use the tool bevel to locate the start of a cut. Why? Because dull tools, low speed, and high cutting angles rip wood fibers out of end grain rather than slice across them. My rule of thumb now is that torn end grain leaves pockets at least twice the depth to which I am willing to sand. The sign of torn grain is usually a lighter streak in the wood, usually on the interior of a bowl, one which doesn't go away no matter how much you cut or sand. It's like when your tool bounces and cuts little rhythmic gouges. You have to get *under* the gouges to make them go away. Light cuts just let the tool vibrate and make more little gouges.

Another method of work I'd like to pass along is the use of sanding sealer all during the sanding process. I have been using a weak cut of Bullseye shellac, starting when I reach 220-grit paper. I apply a thin coat of sealer, let it dry for at least an hour, and go thru 2 grades of paper, then repeat the process until my final sanding. I have been using Bullseye French polish for a final finish.

There are good arguments for different turning finishes. Most depend on taste, some depend on use of the finished object. Since my pieces are usually decorative rather than designed for food use, I like a high gloss finish because it reveals the beauty of the wood to my taste. I also like an oil finish sometimes for its warmth and tactile feel, but rarely use it other than on natural-edge pieces.

Army

Woodchuck Sightings

Dick Montague, Jim Cunningham and Ted Fink will be demonstrating at the 3rd Annual Vermont Fine Furniture and Woodworking Festival at Union Arena in Woodstock, VT on Saturday 9/30 and Sunday 10/1/06.

Ralph Tursini's upcoming Shelburne Art Center workshops:

September 16 + 17 Introduction to bowl turning

November 18 + 19 Introduction to bowl turning

December 1 + 2 Introduction to bowl turning

Learn the process of turning a bowl from locally available green wood. Topics include: material selection and preparation; lathe safety, operation, and chucking techniques; cutting with and sharpening the bowl gouge; bowl design considerations; and finishing and drying techniques. Call the school or check their website for more information www.shelburneartcenter.org

Ideas?

Bring them to the fall Woodchuck Board meeting at Ted Fink's house, 136 Davis Ave. Shelburne, VT on Wednesday Oct. 11th. Pot luck supper at 6:30PM meeting at 7:30. All are welcome. Please RSVP to Ted.

August Meeting Continued



Dick Montague and Al Stirt making shavings on the pole lathe.



Leaving a spigot to work on the interior of the bowl



Further careful shaping



Al Stirt roughs out a bowl.



Skillfully & quickly bringing to shape



The bowl is reversed and the interior takes shape.



This is the classic shape you can finish up with.

Many thanks to Randy Ramsden & Ralph Tursini for providing these photos.

In House Demos:

September 21: Dust Collection & Dangers;
Ted Fink & Ralph Tursini
Nominations for Woodchuck Board

Oct 11: Board meeting at Ted Fink's house.

October 19: Elections

Treasurer's report

Treasurer's Report

Balance forward	\$2516.43
Income	0
Expenses	
Picnic	160.95
Balance Forward	\$2355.48
Ted Fink	



New member list for 2006

The updated list of all woodchuck members will be available at the picnic and subsequent meetings. Simply replace the old list in your 3 ring binder with the new.

Klingspor Discount List

If you wish to be on the list of members eligible for 10% discount on all but power tools in the Klingspor Catalog please let me know before 9/17/06

Ted Fink

AAW Information

Subject: AAW Online renewal and lathe give away

From: "John Hill - Chairman AAW Chapters and Membership Committee"

As part of the Fall 2006 membership drive, the AAW will be giving away a free Powermatic 3520B lathe to one lucky member who joined/renewed ONLINE. You can see and learn about this lathe at

<http://www.wmhtoolgroup.com/shop/index.cfm?navPage=4&iid=6056397>

By joining on line, your correct address, phone, etc. will appear in the Directory and your Journal will be mailed to the correct address. If you use the paper mail-in form, mistakes can happen in reading and retyping it. The lathe will be given away in a drawing just after January 1, 2007.

To qualify for the drawing you must join or renew online using the AAW website join/renew feature. Members who join/renew by phone or by paper will NOT qualify for the drawing. Only members who join/renew online between August 15, 2006 and January 1, 2007 will qualify. The free lathe includes free shipping up to \$400.

For more information, visit the AAW website at <http://www.woodturner.org/>

The first time you login, use the username and password provided to you from the Fall 2006 individual AW Journal you received. If you just joined the AAW for the first time, the username and password were provided to you either electronically, or via postal mail with your order. After you login, you will be prompted to create a unique username and password combination.

John Hill - AAW Chapters and Membership chairman
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Insurance Coverage

Most professional turners know that their homeowner's insurance policy does not cover their private business activities, inventory, teaching, equipment and property. Most of them have either done without insurance at great risk, or at great expense and effort, have found an

agent to cover them. On the other hand, most of the rest of us assume that our homeowner's policy insures us even if we do some sales of our work or occasional teaching. Laws that regulate insurance vary from state to state. In North Carolina, it used to be that activities that were occasional in nature and did not amount to a "substantial" amount of income were covered by one's homeowner's policy. A few years ago, it changed to say that "any" activity that was commercial in nature, no matter how few dollars were involved, was not covered. That means that if someone came to my home to buy a piece and was injured, or if my shop burned, or my tools were stolen, or I taught a private class, I would not be covered. Each member should check with your own insurance agent to see if all of your activities are covered by your homeowner's insurance policy.

As a service to our AAW members (no part of the premiums go to AAW), the AAW has sought out group policies that individual members can purchase at reasonable rates to cover their commercial activities of woodturning. The first policy that we have found can insure AAW members in the USA with the exception of California, Hawaii, Louisiana, and Washington DC. This policy will cover woodturners whether they work from their home or from a separate studio. Since we first announced this policy a year ago, many AAW members have signed up. We have also found a second policy that will cover in all states but only if the studio is in the home. If someone can recommend insurers that will cover Canadian, foreign, or members in these excluded locations with separate studios, please let the AAW know.

The Managing Agency Group of Hilb, Rogal and Hobbs, a large and well-respected national firm offers the policies that the AAW is sponsoring. They have been offering a similar policy to members of the American Crafts Council (ACC). The first underlying policy is with OCG, the Ohio Casualty Group. This policy includes \$1,000,000 general liability, \$1,000,000 for products liability, \$10,000 medical expense, \$300,000 fire legal liability, and with building and personal property for any amount of your choosing, from \$2,500 up to \$100,000. The second policy is with RLI Insurance Company and includes the same liability limits with options for personal property in any amount from 5,000 up to 50,000 for your in home studio operations.

Below is a summary of the policy bene-

fits to any insured member. The policy will pay the actual amount of the loss sustained up to the following limits:

Building: Building amount that you choose
Business Personal Property limit:
Contents amount that you choose
Loss of Income Limit: Actual loss Sustained Money & Securities Limits:
(On Premises) \$10,000
Sign Coverage: \$10,000
Valuable Papers Limit: \$25,000
Accounts Receivable Limit: \$25,000
Seasonal Increase Limit: 25% of Contents
In-Transit Limit/Off Premises Limit: 25,000
Employee Dishonesty \$10,000
Fire Department Service Charge \$15,000
Interior Glass \$100/pane, \$1,000/occurrence
Pollutant Clean \$10,000
Personal Effects \$2,500/5,000
Newly Acquired Property (Building) 25% up to \$100,000
(Contents) \$25,000
Debris Removal \$25,000
Jewelry - Theft Limitation \$5,000
Business Computer \$25,000
COMMERCIAL GENERAL LIABILITY
Each Occurrence Limit: \$1,000,000
Products Liability \$1,000,000
Aggregate Limit: \$2,000,000
Medical Expenses \$10,000
Fire Legal Liability Limit: \$300,000
CONDITIONS:
DEDUCTIBLE: \$250
VALUATION: Replacement Cost
COINSURANCE: None
COVERAGE: Special (All Risk)
Each person's coverage will be the same except for the building and personal property coverage. Your premium will be based on your location and how much building and personal property coverage that you request. To apply and receive a premium quote, download an application at http://www.woodturner.org/community/pop/insurance_info.html, print it, fill it out, and mail or fax it to the address on the application. You must be an AAW member to apply. If you have any problems or questions contact me.
John Hill - AAW Chapters and Membership Committee
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Clean your chuck, and see how it works while you're at it

I will occasionally take my chuck apart to clean it and keep it operating like new.

Sanding dust makes its way inside and can build up on the pressure bearing surfaces making the opening and closing action less than smooth.

Disassemble:

Remove the jaws then slowly unscrew the sliders with the key. Take a few minutes to see how the flat spiral-looking scroll ring transfers your rotating action of the key to the four sliders which the jaws mount to. The mechanism is like a screw that was flattened along its axis, pretty interesting. You'll also see why it's for each of the sliders to be returned and engaged in the proper sequence once you see how it all works - this is why they are numbered.

Clean:

I use a fine wire brush to clean the built up dust from the scroll and sliders. Compressed air helps too. Press the brush into the scroll while rotating it with the chuck key to clean it completely. WD40 works as a last resort but allow all the parts to dry or wipe them clean before lubricating.

Lubricate:

I lubricate my chuck with graphite, which has worked well - It doesn't attract dust and parts run smoothly. I bought an 8oz can sold as car lock lubricant from Maynard's auto parts store. It is quite handy around the shop (deface the warning label indicating that it is a criminal offense to use the product for anything other than it's intended application, I won't tell). I lubricate all surfaces where two metal parts come together, the scroll ring, slider teeth and slots, key, gear rack, etc. The only part not to lubricate is the taper between the adapter and the chuck on Oneway's chucks.

Reassemble the chuck engaging the sliders to the scroll ring in the order that you removed them. If you do this wrong, and we all have, the jaws won't be concentric.

Tip: Sharpen and dull your new turning tools.

In addition to shaping and sharpening the business end, I like to soften all of the non cutting surfaces whenever I buy a new tool. This makes it feel better in the hand and allows it to move smoothly across the tool rest without digging in. Do this by hand with a sanding block and sandpaper, carefully with your bench grinder, or better yet with a belt sander.

For example, bowl gouges can be unnecessarily sharp where the steep flute meets the round periphery of the steel. Scrapers can have sharp bottom edges and nasty corners where the steel transitions into the tang. Rounding or chamfering these areas will not adversely affect its performance.

Bulk purchase:

Email Ralph Tursini if you might be interested in being part of a bulk purchase of vegetable based chainsaw bar oil.

In the interest of not spraying petroleum around my sawing yard any more I'm going to convert over to vegetable based bar oil. I thought it might be a good thing for the group to buy in volume if others are interested. I don't know the cost yet but am getting some quotes and will get back to those of you who might be interested. Let me know by sending an email.

Quantities are probably one gallon or five gallon pails. From what I gather it is better for the saw, user, and environment. It costs about twice as much as petro but you apparently can use 40-50% less because it clings to the chain better so you can turn the pump down on your saw.

Ted's Turn : Burl Acquisition—Is It Worth It?

Over a year ago a friend and fellow woodworker made me an offer I couldn't refuse. He said that he had a huge cherry burl that he would like to give me the next time I came down to Sunapee, NH to the League of New Hampshire Craftsman's Fair. My habit is to go to that fair every other year but with such an offer hanging out there to be grabbed, I headed off to Sunapee the second Saturday in August.

As I headed out my wife reminded me we had a dinner date at the newly renovated Shelburne Inn that evening with another couple so I best not tarry. I had been reassured that the burl would be waiting by the driveway and I just needed to get it into the trailer. So – no problem.

After thoroughly enjoying the fair, including chats with several demonstrators including Dustin Coates and Brad Vietje, I drove over to Barry's on the backside of the mountain. He and his gracious wife generously host several of the vendors at the fair for the entire 9 day event, so his lawn is populated with RV's and tents this time of year. His land is situated on a hill and except for the house and a 3 acre lawn is heavily forested primarily by white pine and black cherry. As I drove onto the property I scanned for the promised burl. It was nowhere to be seen.

Barry was outside working and immediately came over to greet me bearing his ever present smile. "So Barry, where's the great burl?" I asked. "Well ---it's still out in the woods".

Oh oh, I thought as we walked into the forest, I hope we have enough time to do this. 100 yards in, Barry pointed to the top of a large stump just visible over a bit of a rise. The burl which grew at ground level upward became fully visible as we stepped into the gully in which it was situated. The lower of the round burls was 28" across and the smaller upper burl, 20".

The tree had been cut 4' above the ground and Barry had excavated the underside of this massive round two-tiered burl but the cut below ground level would be difficult. The upper portion was separated from the larger lower burl by a waist-like narrowing.

Barry's chain was sharp and the big Stihl ran smoothly but it still took 20 minutes of strenuous effort cutting at oddly difficult angles to free the huge stump. We knew our only chance of getting these burls out of this gully would be by separating them. Even then the larger of the 2 weighed an estimated 400 lbs..

With some effort we were able to get the smaller burl into the Gardenway cart and onto the trailer.

The larger one spread the sides of the cart to their breaking point but we still had to get it up a steep 2' vertical rise. My pulling and his pushing were inadequate so we hooked the handle of the cart to a quadruple length of the only rope we had, light weight nylon. This we did after breaking it twice already. The jeep lurched forward and the cart came up out of the gully but the effort took it's toll on the cart. The front U-shaped legs were doubled over which made balancing the cart particularly taxing. Employing ever bit of strength we could call upon we finally got it up the ramp into the trailer. We both collapsed onto the bed of the trailer completely spent. Just then Barry's wife appeared with a pitcher of spring water in hand and one burning question on her mind: "Is it worth it?" she inquired.

Knowing well from many years of experience as a gather of wood and being married to someone who isn't I replied, "You know, that is exactly the first thing my wife will ask me" Within a minute of my arrival back in Shelburne she did just that.

To Barry's wife and mine these burls look like really ugly pieces of firewood but to woodchuck it just doesn't get any better than this. Thanks Barry

Ted Fink

Around and About—

Totally Turning 2006

October 13, 14 and 15 at Empire State Convention Center; Albany, NY Registration fee: \$150.

visit website: www.totallyturning.com for further information.

Ideas? Bring them to the fall Woodchuck Board meeting at Ted Fink's house, 136 Davis Ave. Shelburne, VT on Wednesday Oct. 11th. Pot luck supper at 6:30PM meeting at 7:30. All are welcome.

Please RSVP to Ted.

Brad's Book Review for September

Turning Wood With Richard Raffan, Taunton Press, 2001 ISBN: 1-56158-417-7; 202 pages, soft cover binding.

Richard Raffan is probably the best-known turner in the world, and no doubt his excellent books and videos on various turning subjects have earned him this esteemed position. I own 4 Raffan books, which will be reviewed in due course, but if you are looking for a sure bet for your book or video library, you really can't go wrong learning from a true master of the art of woodturning. This volume is also available as one of a boxed set of three books (along with *Turning Boxes With Richard Raffan*, and *Turning Bowls With Richard Raffan*), collectively titled *Richard Raffan's Turning Guides*, which sure would look spiffy neatly wrapped in colorful paper and a nice bow at Christmas or your next birthday celebration! There

is also a DVD companion to this book available from Taunton Press (www.taunton.com).

This book is probably the single best source for the beginning woodturner. In this volume, Mr. Raffan sets out to inform the beginner about all the basics of turning, from the machinery used, the tools, sharpening, safety, (and yes, even turning wood!), and succeeds beautifully. The entire volume is a pleasure to look at, with superb photography throughout, and I often find myself picking it up and just flipping through the photos and captions. There are plenty of good insights and ideas to inspire woodturners at any level. I like the detailed descriptions and photos of various chucking methods, and the step-by-step sequences showing how bowls and boxes are made. In close up photos, he even shows how catches happen, and how to avoid them.

Raffan is particularly known for his introduction and use of a gently curved skew, and his use of a spindle gouge for "back-hollowing" end grain, and both topics are covered well, though the companion video allows you to see and hear the use of these in real time. The Taunton web site has sample pages, and a sample video clip from this and a few other books, which give you a good idea of what treasures are contained inside.

While I still believe that Keith Rowley's book is an excellent reference for an absolute novice turner, if I were only going to buy one book to get me started in the craft, this is the book I'd buy.

Brad Vietje

Understanding Richard Raffan: Richard Raffan started out in London, gave up life in the corporate world, and took to turning wood to make a meager living in rural England, producing thousands of bowls, boxes, scoops, and other utilitarian craft items. His work eventually took him to Southeastern Australia, and I'll wager his living is quite a bit more comfortable now than in 1970 when he started turning for a living. This background is pretty important to understanding Raffan's work and his teaching methods. He mainly turns practical objects that can be sold, and coming from a production turning background, wastes no time about it!

In each of Raffan's turning books he describes production methods for working quickly, and efficiently, and even offers that open bowls can be turned in a number of minutes equal or less than the bowl's height times its width in inches. Thus a 10" by 4" bowl is given 40 minutes or less! While you may never have to produce work at the lathe for your livelihood, these are good work habits to keep in mind if you need to make 36 candlestick pairs for a craft show, or need to get that gift item turned in time for the wedding, so long as safety is always foremost in your personal production schedule.

A feature, and some would say a criticism, of Raffan's companion videos (and now DVD's) is that he works fast, *really* fast. This is both impressive and inspirational to see, but it can be a little hard to see exactly what he's doing with his hands at lightening speed. Fortunately, the important cuts are also shown in great detail and in close-up views elsewhere in the presentation (and there's always slow motion), and the photography in his books and videos is excellent. It's also worth noting that there are no obvious battle scars on RR's hands in the close-up views, a reminder that even when working quickly, safety must come first.

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
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Woodturners

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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.