

Woodchuck Chatter



Volume 4, Issue 12

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Meeting of January 24, 2008

The January 2008 meeting will take place on the **4th Thursday of the month, the 24th**, at our new location, The Shelburne Art Center woodshop. Starting time is the same, 7 PM.

Directions: From the 4 corners light at the center of Shelburne village, Proceed about 250 feet west on Harbor Rd. Immediately before the RR tracks on the right is the Shelburne Art Center studios and workshops. The wood shop is the one farthest from the road. Parking is to the left just before the RR tracks in the "SHELBURNE STATION".

The January meeting is an extended 'show and tell' where all members are encouraged to bring in anything they have learned in the last year and educate the rest of us. It can consist of a new tool or tech-



nique, unique piece of wood, a success, a failure or anything else that might be of interest to woodturners.

Presidential Greetings



Greetings Woodchucks!
As your new president, and on behalf of the rest of the board, I would like to send out to all our faithful Woodchuck members, our very

best wishes for the holiday season. Whether this time of the year means a lively and joyous celebration of commerce (you have kids), a quieter more spiritual time (your kids are grown), or perhaps some combination of the two, may it all be safe, warm, in good health, and in the company of loved ones.

We hope to see you all at our next meeting in January at our new home (for now) in Shelburne. Remember it is

our annual "Round Table" meeting where everyone that wishes to do so has an opportunity to share something with the group. Whether 'triumph' or 'travail', bring in an item or article to show, learn from, and maybe laugh about!

Warmly,

Russ Fellows

Woodchuck Turners of Northern Vermont

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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.



I have spent some time duplicating our library of videos so that we have a copy to store away in case of damage or loss. I admit that I have not paid close attention to any of the volumes, but have focused on most of them intermittently.

It's like being a graduate with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree and being faced with a pantheon of the greatest master artists. How do you approach the intricacy or perfection of these works? I get a real feeling of inadequacy. My imagination and skill do not approach the level of what I have been seeing.

Many of the videos showcase objects which are highly embel-

ished in a variety of ways; sculpted, painted, filigreed—you name it. I first thought about those works from the viewpoint of a novice woodturner. "That's not turning! Heck, I can hardly see a round shape in that stuff."

I mulled it over for some time before I came to terms with my feelings. First, I'm not in competition with any of those guys. Do I aspire to be as skilful as the masters? Yes. But I'm not anywhere near there yet.

Second, what are those folks trying to do? What's their inspiration?

Third, how many bowls, vases, and platters do you have to make before you are bored with the process?

Fourth, what is the market for the intricate work?

One long video I watched was of the Lipton Collection of Turned Objects. Mr. Lipton is the foremost collector of treen in the world. That's one market to aspire to, the collectors and museums. I'd guess you have to do some unique things to be considered by that market. I believe that the foremost turners of our time work very hard to develop the skills and repertoire which gives them entry to collections in and out of museums.

Next question: Is what the top turners do beside lathe work any more tedious or foreign to turning than what Russ or I do putting together our laminated work? Probably, but sculpting is the equivalent of building an object up.

Until I ran into a sculptor-in-residence at the St. Gaudens historical site, I pretty much thought of sculpture as the taking away of any part of the lump that didn't look like my goal. This fellow reminded me that sculpture is also the addition to and building up of the mass to create a new form.

Producing fine art, then, is a matter of bringing skill and imagination to the material at hand, to refining our process so that only the beauty of the object at hand is left.

This may be very pretentious, but I think more and more that our efforts at turning should be our path toward creating fine art.

In stead of rejecting the most intricate of works as beyond our skill or desire, I urge that we study our library of videos and find our own paths to appreciation.

Arny

Greetings from Skunk Hollow

In an attempt to expand my horizons yet a bit more, I have just finished the "basket" in the attached photo. It is a variation on a theme I have shown to the group previously, that of making wooden bowls that look like something they aren't, in this case a basket. The idea came from an Antiques Roadshow I was watching with a friend. A person had brought in a large basket made by the Tuolomme Indians in California in the early part of the 20th century. There were the usual expressions of shock and disbelief when she was told how much it was worth, and my friend, quite taken by the design of the thing, turned to me and asked if I could do something similar. I said probably not, but then the next morning secretly went to work on it, and a few days later had a prototype done, which, I wrapped up and presented to that friend as a birthday present. It has gotten enough favorable comment from those who have seen it to warrant trying some more, and I am fortunate that the

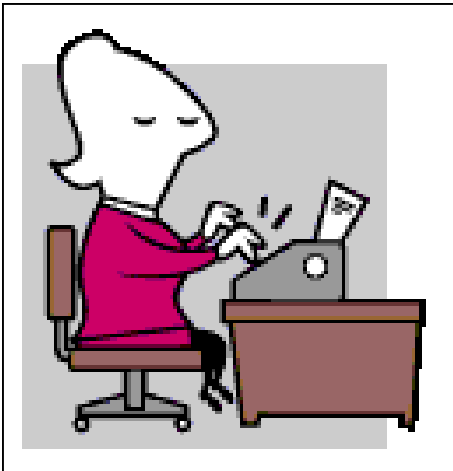
galleries I work with are happy to take whatever I come in with, so I am now at work on another. The one pictured is about 20" wide by 18" high.

Cheers!

Russ Fellows



Secretary's Report, November Meeting



Monthly Meeting 11/15/2007

Meeting called to order by president Russ Fellows.

A round of thanks to Army for all his hard work on the chatter.

Russ started a round of introductions—

Hav and Barry did not receive chatter email.

Ted handed out new Hartville tool catalogs 2007-2008. If you put your name on the list that Ted submitted you should have received an email with your discount code.

Old Business

Russ mentioned video coming on segmented turning—Mickey Palmer has started work on it.

January meeting will be the 4th Thursday @ the Shelburne Art Center

No December meeting – Happy Holidays!

New Business

Open studio weekend registration deadline is approaching.



Craig's laminated bowl.



Our thanks to Scott for hosting us these years.

Insurance discussion.

Russ mentioned that turners should speak with their respective carrier about coverage. There are limits depending on whether your shop is attached to your residence or if in a separate building. Another factor may be the amount of money you earn if you do turning as a hobby.

No demonstration

Tribute and thanks to Scott Bennett for being such a gracious host to the chucks. A tee shirt signed by the members was presented along with a gift certificate. After a few words the cake was cut and enjoyed by all.



Some of the toys destined for the Good Humor Cart.



Ted's Last Turn: Our Website WWW.woodchucksvt.org

In House Demos:

- January 24. Round table on skills, techniques.
- February 21. Hook tools. A follow-up to Al Lacer's presentation.
- March 20. End grain turning. Covered boxes.
- April 9. Spring Board meeting.
- April 17. Thread chasing. Threaded lids. Craig Hall.
- May 15. Green bowl turning. Ralph Tursini.
- June 19. Drying green wood.
- July 17. Open.
- August 21. Picnic meeting.



For nine months now we have had our own domain and website which Jim Cunningham has set up and maintained. It has served us well as it has given us a place to archive all our Chatter editions, list our members, provide links to members websites and provide a window through which guests can view our AAW chapter. Jim has plans for establishing links to other turning related sites and for the establishment of a gallery featuring pictures of members turnings. Jim requests any member forward pictures in JPEG format to him.

Of interest is that our website builder has given us some feedback on our website traffic. Monthly visits to the site have been as follows.

April	43
May	97
June	136
July	128
August	n/a
September	109
October	145

Over time these numbers will certainly grow. If you have ideas as to how we can better utilize our website please contact any board member or Jim.

For the past three years I have been submitting this column to Arny for the Chatter because I believe in the value of a strong monthly newsletter. However, I have exhausted my educational and/or entertaining woodturning thoughts that have been featured in these articles and will be turning the task of writing a regular piece for the Chatter over to a fellow woodchuck. The new writer will remain unnamed until he has committed to this task. Anyway, look for a new column starting in the January '08 edition.

Ted Fink

Treasurer's report

Treasurer's Report

Balance Forward	\$2626.12
Income:	
Raffle	32
Dues	20
Expenses:	
SKB Party goods	40
Bnk Chg.	50.56
DVD's #3	80.96
Balance Forward	\$2506.60
Ted Fink	



Good Humor Cart Exposed!!!

Calling the hospital to arrange delivery of the special wood toys made this year by the Woodchucks, I discovered that the woman who started the effort--about four years ago, was let go by the hospital. Part of a downsizing of administrative staff. She was a nurse supervisor there and ran the HUMOR CART as a volunteer effort for the hospital. She has since moved to Florida. Before she left--she did train and turn over the effort to several others. But unfortunately, at the present time, nobody is doing Humor Therapy at the hospital, they are trying to recruit volunteers but have nobody presently--the BAD NEWS! :(

Speaking to the nurses in the CHILD LIFE section of the hospital about the toys and the now dormant HUMOR THERAPY effort, they asked if we would be willing to donate the toys to the CHILD LIFE effort and they assured me that the toys would be put into the hands of deserving children who need some happiness in their life. I told them it sounded like it was meant to be and offered the toys to them. I have already delivered the toys to the hospital.

I hope the Woodchucks understand and agree this was a worthwhile place for them and both I and the Child Life workers thank you so very much for your thoughtful donations.

Merry Christmas!

Bob Bouvier.....

(Editor's note: When I got on board the Humor Cart 3 years ago, I didn't understand that the toys were for "humor therapy". I guess I don't understand the difference between "humor therapy" and bringing a little joy to kids. So, I am very happy that they are being used the way they will be. Remember, "No man stands so tall as he who stoops to help a child".)

P.S.: Having chickened out on our meeting, I brought my contribution to Bob's house that weekend when I had to be in Burlington.

Arny

Dear AAW Members,

SOFA

The November Board of Directors meeting was held in Chicago at the site of SOFA (Sculpture Objects and Functional Art), the world's leading exposition devoted to contemporary decorative art and design. A record 34,000 attendees at the three-day show browsed the aisles populated by 100 galleries and dealers from 20 countries.

There were also 7 special exhibits including Israeli and Palestinian art on the theme of reconciliation, Australian contemporary ceramics, the contemporary furniture of John Makepeace, and Contemporary Furniture at Crabb Tree Farm.

Del Mano exhibited an extraordinary collection of wood art featuring many world-class woodturners from the U.S. and abroad. If the displays themselves were not enough to keep one busy, there were also 29 lecture presentations, several of them on wood art. It was a truly overwhelming event, one I would urge all who can to experience for themselves. There was much to admire and plenty to inspire!

The AAW once again had a presence at SOFA with a booth hosting the "Basic Black" exhibit which included pieces by Sharon Doughtie, Gorst duPlessis, Liam Flynn, Mark Gardner, Matthew Hill, Todd Hoyer, John Jordan, Mary McKinney, Betty Scarpino, David Sengel, Hayley Smith, Al Stirt, Jacques Vesery, and Molly Winton. There was a gallery talk on the basic black theme presented by Irish turner Liam Flynn and Alan Lacer.

The AAW also sponsored one of the 29 lectures. Charlotte Brown, Director of the Gregg Museum of Art & Design from North Carolina State University in Raleigh gave a very personal and amusing critique of 27 pieces of contemporary woodturning.

On-Line Survey

We are running an on-line survey seeking comments and suggestions regarding American Woodturner. Please take a moment (well actually, about 10 minutes) to complete the survey and express your preferences for material that has been published and suggestions for what we can

do better. This is your chance to make yourself heard on all the things you have wanted to say.

What do you love about the journal? What do you hate? Do you have a terrific idea for an article? Let us hear about it! Send your ideas or written pieces to Carl Voss, the editor, at carl-voss@mac.com, or any board member.

Membership Drive

I'd like to remind everyone of the membership drive that we are running until the end of the year allowing an individual or a chapter to win a free registration to the 2008 symposium in Richmond. Sign up 5 new members by the end of the year and win one free registration. The new members' names can be submitted by an individual or by a chapter. A chapter can use the registration as they wish; to raffle it off as a fund raiser, to give it to a deserving member, to have a drawing, or whatever works for the chapter. Details can be found by clicking here. Remember, there would be no local chapters without the AAW!

2008 Symposium in Richmond

We are expecting the 2008 symposium to be the best to date with expanded SIN (Special Interest Night) activities, more rotations than ever, and increased participation by our POP (Professional Outreach Program) members. The Resident Artists Program will also be a fascinating addition to the mix of activities. Attendees will be able to watch the creation of a complex piece from start-to-finish over several days.

Due to size limitations of the banquet facilities, attendance will be limited. Banquet tickets must be purchased separately from the registration, so if you wish to attend the banquet, sign up early.

Please feel free to address any concerns, questions or comments to any board member at any time. Our contact information can be found here. Or to post them on the AAW's Forum. We want and need to hear what you think about your organization and publication!

Jean LeGwin
AAW Board Member

Woodchuck Mentors

These Woodchucks are able and willing to help other Woodchucks needing some hands-on instruction.

*Craig Hall: Bowls, spindles, & hollow forms.
802-644-5344
craighall@hotmail.com*

*Dick Montague: General turning, all aspects plus tool sharpening.
802-584-3486
Montagueturn@hotmail.com*

*Ralph Tursini: Spindles & bowls, vacuum chucking.
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*Ted Fink: Bowls, spindles, & boxes.
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*Russ Fellows: Segmented vessels.
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skunkmen@together.net*

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. You

must also 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
www.woodchucksVT.org
An associated chapter of
American Association of
Woodturners

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Classifieds:

Rockwell lathe, 1977 but never used, 12" gap bed, 3/4HP 3 phase. Price includes chucks, tool holders, plates, dividers, turning tools, and booklet. \$3000, firm. Contact Bill Thomas H 802 888 4949 or W 802 888 3177. (Also has **Powermatic shaper** and **Delta 6"** belt, 121" disc **sander**; also never used.)

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.