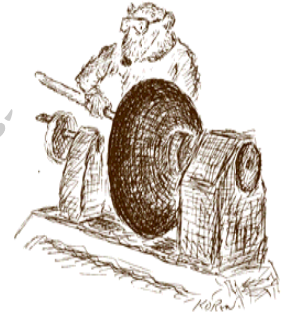


Woodchuck Chatter



Volume 4, Issue 3

Special points of interest:

- Random Shots:
- Woodchuck News
- What's Coming Up

March 8, 2007

March 15th Meeting

Mar. 15th: Shaping & sharpening bowl gouges for wet turning; Ralph Tursini.

We will meet at 7:00 PM at the Woodbury shop on Pine

Street in Burlington. Our thanks go to Scott Bennett for allowing us to meet there monthly.

Do you have something for the monthly raffle? Please bring it!

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Woodchuck Sightings



L-r: Laurie David, Jessica DiBisasio, Nathan Johnson.

Ralph Tursini reports that the "humble bowl" that he made from Jericho Forest Preserve wood has been presented to Laurie David, co-producer of "An Inconvenient

Truth", the Al Gore documentary which won an Oscar at this round of the Academy Awards. Laurie was honored by UVM students for a lecture on global warming.

Board Meeting

The spring meeting of the WTNV Board of Directors will be held on April 11th at Ted Fink's house. If you have any items for our agenda or demos you would either like to do or see presented please bring that information to the attention of one of the board members. As this is a pot-luck supper meeting, please contact Ted for what to bring and directions if

you haven't enjoyed their hospitality before. The meeting is open to all interested members.

Mentoring;

If you would like to be a mentor or be mentored please give your name to Ted Fink.

Dues:

It is not too late to pay your dues for 2007. Please make checks for \$20 payable to "WTNV".

Random Shots: Collections

Woodchuck Chatter

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 thought that hanging onto stuff was a guy thing until yesterday when I happened to overhear a Dr. Phil program that the spouse was watching. There was this woman who hung onto EVERYTHING. She was sure she'd have a use for whatever sometime.

I can't fault my wife's keeping all the things she has inherited or bought as part of her collections. She's got excellent taste and an eye for value. On the other hand, I retain stuff which SHE thinks I should get rid of. I have trouble getting rid of all the paperback books which I know I'll never read a second time.

I keep the spare fasteners from every thing I buy which needs assembly. I keep most of the really interesting cooking and wood-working magazines,

and all the first-issue magazines I get. Old computer parts, if they still work, I hang on to. I've never thrown out a tool. I don't burn scraps from my wood-working unless they are too small to work with. And then there are the cans of finishes with a quarter-inch of skin in them.

I even have trouble getting rid of blown-up turning projects. I figure there's a lesson in each of them. There must be some survival value to this obsession, or fewer folks would have it. Dr. Phil said that many people who - I think he said "hoard"- stuff have a low level of self esteem or some such garbage. Maybe he's never heard that the guy who dies with the most stuff, wins.

At this point in life, I'm torn between letting my grand

children inherit all this stuff, and selling off what I can to help finance their college educations. Until I make up my mind, I will continue to hang on to whatever seems like it is in good enough shape to be useful somewhere.

Many of these things have memories attached to them. Most of the time, it's a good memory. I found an old piece of cherry wood yesterday which I had used to make a little flag stand for my Rotary club. That brought back a great summer a few years back when everything was going right.

Where is the borderline between "hoarding" and "collecting"? I don't know, but I'll keep on treasuring what I have.

Army

Tips From The Wise Woodchuck

Saving Glue: I hate it when I buy a large bottle of glue—particularly Gorilla Glue—and it becomes unusable due to drying or reacting while there is still a half-bottle. I also hate it when I buy a small bottle when for two bucks more I could have 2-3 times as much. My solution: Look in the dollar stores and drugstore for empty squeeze bottles holding just a few ounces. You will probably find them in the bins of sample-sized goods. They cost about 50 cents each. These bottles do not have valves, just a cap. Empty your big bottle of glue into several of the little bottles, filling them up. Stand them on their heads and use them one at a time. If a half-empty little bottle reacts, then you only lose an ounce or so.

The squeeze bottles with valves are ideal for dispensing thin liquids such as shellac or Mylands friction finish.

Army

Scholarships Available

Susan Working, program director for the woodworking courses at Anderson Ranch Arts Center has announced the availability of scholarships for 2007. These are granted for woodturning courses at the Anderson Ranch in Snowmass Village, Colorado. They are granted on the potential for individual artistic development, diversity, and financial need. Interested persons may get further details as well as the application form at www.andersonranch.org.

There are dangers and safety issues that are inherent in working the small pieces of stock needed to make a segmented bowl. It is critical to develop methods and techniques to hold small pieces, particularly on the chop saw. I build a fence out of plywood or MDF to augment the stock fence and incorporate in it, both stops for repeat cuts, and hold-downs to allow you to keep your fingers well back from the blade. I place a lot of emphasis on this because as with most shop operations, working with small stuff is much more dangerous than larger stock. It is also important to set up dust collection as there is a lot of sanding involved with making my bowls.

A. Steps for making body of bowl:

Determine the size and design you want by making a sketch. (page 3 of handout) Do a layout of the cuts needed on the stock you plan to use. These cuts are determined from the tables accompanying the handouts. I normally make my bowls with either eight or twelve segments, which means 22 1/2 or 15 degree cuts on the chop saw.



Cut the pieces for the segments and the bowl bottom. Glue the bottom pieces and add a dedicated block of poplar for screwing the faceplate to. Sand the segments using a disk sander and Incra miter guide (the one I had at show and tell in January). I brought in my sander and demonstrated this step. Glue the segments, using Titebond II, into two semi-circles of four segments each. I demonstrated a 'rub joint' technique where no clamping is needed if the surfaces are sanded true and smooth. The rings are made by scribing circles on the two semicircles and cutting on the bandsaw with the table set at 45 de-

grees and gluing together. The completed rings are glued onto the bottom, one at a time using Jorgensen hand screws. Bowl should be trued up on the lathe after each layer is added. Set completed assembly aside and move on to making the pattern ring.

B. Pattern ring

Determine desired design and number of segments using accompanying tables.

Make a sketch, prepare and cut stock, and assemble segments using the "rub joint" gluing technique.

Cut segments at required angle on chop saw and sand on disc sander using Incra miter guide.

Glue segments into ring using shop-made jig, which I demonstrated. (picture attached).

Glue completed pattern ring onto bowl body.



C. Rim

Cut stock for rim per table on page 5 of hand-out, glue together to form octagon.

When dried, sand rim on drum or belt sander and glue to bowl assembly.

Bowl is now ready to turn using normal turning methods. I generally use a deep gouge for the insides, a scraper for the bottom, and a shallow gouge for the outside. I sand to 400 grit and finish with Tung oil. I also demonstrated a couple other shop-made tools to help in the making of my bowls. One is a piece of plywood approx. 25 inches by two inches with sandpaper glued to each side.....100 grit on one side, 150 grit on the other.....to help true and sand the rings while spinning on the lathe as they are added to the bowl. The other is a set of deep calipers made of 1/8" plywood to monitor the side-wall thickness as I turn. I have attached pictures of both of these.



Ted's Turn : True Grit

In House Demos:

Mar. 15th: Shaping & sharpening bowl gouges for wet turning; Ralph Tursini.

April 19th: Barrel-shaped lidded box project; Ted Fink.

For most woodworkers, the least enjoyable aspect of any project is sanding. It is a crucial step however because a poor sanding job can ruin the appearance of an otherwise well designed, finely executed piece. Some basic knowledge of abrasives can help get you through the sanding more quickly and with finer results.

The first US patent for sandpaper went to our fellow Vermonter, Isaac Fisher of Springfield on June 14, 1834. Back then ground up glass and flint were hide glued to a backing. Now we have a wide variety of high quality abrasives from which to choose. Some of these are manufactured (aluminum oxide, silicon carbide, alumina-zirconia) and others are natural minerals (garnet and emery).

Aluminum oxide: a sharp, tough, blocky mineral which is by far the most common woodworking abrasive. It has a unique property of friability which means that, as it is used, it fractures to reveal fresh sharp edges. This means that it stays sharp and can be used for longer periods. There are many grades of aluminum oxide manufactured for specific tasks. The toughest grades are off white and used on premium grade sandpapers. The softest grades are dark brown and used for sand blasting. Manufacturers coat the grains that have been glued to a backing (cloth or paper) with a colored layer of 'size' so you can't judge the quality of the abrasive by its color.

Silicon carbide: a very hard, black, sharply pointed abrasive most often used in woodworking to sand finishes. They are usually waterproof. Though silicon carbide is friable, it is so hard that it will not break while sanding wood. It will cut well initially but dull faster than aluminum oxide and is more expensive.

Ceramics (e.g. alumina-zirconia): come in a variety of grain shapes. All are very tough and hard and remove material quickly. They are not friable so they do not renew their edges but are so tough that they do not dull quickly. They are so aggressive that they are well suited to hogging out material, shaping and leveling uneven surfaces.

Garnet: a natural mineral which, like Aluminum oxide, is blocky in shape but is different because it is soft and not tough. It dulls quickly but gives the smoothest finish for any grit size.

Sandpaper may be **open or closed coat** meaning they differ in how far apart the grains are on the backing. The distance between grains is like the gullet between teeth on a saw blade. Very coarse grits are usually open coated so the heavier shavings (swarf) they produce will not clog the paper.

Another term you will see in the catalogs is **stearted**. This means the abrasive grains have been coated with a soapy additive to prevent loading of the paper when sanding soft or resinous woods or removing finishes.

Grits: are coarsely ground corn or flour (south) or the grain size in abrasives. There are 3 commonly used grading systems used in North America. The 3 systems grade particle size to different tolerances.

The system with the widest range of particle sizes is the NA standard **CAMI** with grits from 16 to 1200. The grain size in this system varies more than the others so that with a fresh piece of abrasive you may get scratches due to the presence of some slightly oversized particles. This is not really a problem when used on wood.

(Continued on page 5)

Treasurer's report

Treasurer's Report: March 7, 2007

Balance forward \$2644.12

Income:

Dues	60.00
Raffle	21.00
Expenses	0.00

Balance forward \$2725.12

(Continued from page 4)

The **FEPA or 'P' system**, more commonly used in Europe, has grits from 20 to 1200 and they parallel the grits in the CAMI system closely up to 240 then diverge significantly with a P1200 being equivalent to a CAMI 600. The FEPA abrasives will have the grit size preceded by a 'P'. They are made to tighter tolerances than the CAMI grits. They tend to be a bit more expensive than CAMI abrasives.

The **MICRON** graded system has grains that are most uniform in size and are best for sanding finishes. These are used most commonly in industry in auto finishing. The coarsest grit has a particle size of 180 microns which is equivalent to a CAMI of 80. They are 3 times more expensive than paper abrasives due to the fact that they are manufactured to the tightest tolerances.

Backings: cloth or paper differ significantly in their properties. Cloth is the stiffest but most uneven backing. It will produce the coarsest and fastest cut. Cloth comes in two grades: heavy (X) and light (J). Paper backing is less stiff but flatter and comes multiple grades: A, (lightest) C, D, E and F (heaviest). You need to pay attention to the backing in as much as excessive stiffness will not allow the sanding of contours nearly as well an abrasive with a flexible backing.

Adhesive: bonds are invariably waterproof, heat resistant urea- or phenolic-formaldehyde resins.

Reference:

FWW August 1997, No. 125; pp62-67 **Making Sense of Sandpaper** by Strother Purdy is an excellent article and served as the main source of material for this article.

Ted Fink

AAW News

Speaking of Portland, have you registered for the 2007 Symposium? There is still time and a great time is guaranteed! The following link will answer all your registration questions: <http://www.woodturner.org/sym/sym2007/>

The list of Chapters that are 100% AAW membership continues to grow and we hope your chapter will consider being a part of this growth. The many benefits of being an AAW member can be found at this link: <http://www.woodturner.org/org/mbrship/> The AAW now has 267

local chapters and is growing faster than ever before.

For those who may not be aware of it, the AAW has a web page with AAW products for sale:

<http://www.woodturner.org/products/> and the order form for AAW products and the Limited Edition AAW 20th Anniversary Glaser gouge can be found here: <https://www.woodturner.org/org/orderform.cfm> .

Visit the AAW web site at www.woodturner.org to check out the "Forum", Chapters Best Practices for articles covering all aspects of running a chapter best-practices@woodturner.org and

for a list of demonstrators see http://www.woodturner.org/community/members/members_pro.pl_submit=Edit+Demonstrator+Search.

Our membership application is available to print out on the website at www.woodturner.org/org/mbrship/member_app.pdf and the symposium forms are at www.woodturner.org/sym/sym2007/2007SymRegistration.pdf

As chair of the AAW Chapters and Membership committee, I will always be available to answer any

questions you may have in regards to membership and your local chapter. Updates for the Local Chapter contacts, addresses, emails, Etc. should be sent to me or at inquiries@woodturner.org.

My contact information as well as that of the AAW board can be found here: http://www.woodturner.org/org/staff_dirs.cfm.

Thank you,
Sean Troy: AAW Chapters and Membership

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.

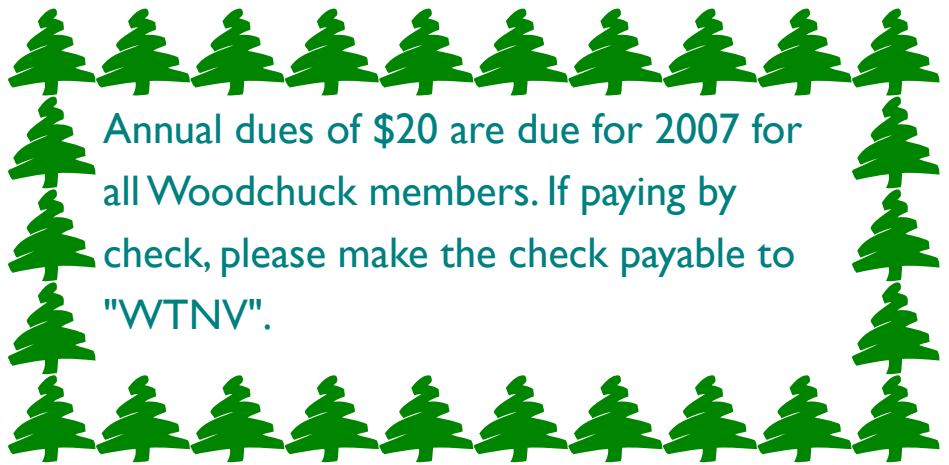
Notify the editor of Chatter so you can be listed in Future

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

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Annual dues of \$20 are due for 2007 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.