

# Woodchuck Chatter



Volume 4, Issue 4

## Special points of interest:

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

April 12, 2007

## April 19th Meeting

The next meeting of the Woodchuck Turners will be on April 19th at Woodbury's; 668 Pine St.; Burlington at 7PM. Ted Fink will demonstrate the use of the skew chisel including sharpening, planing, peeling and shoulder cuts and endgrain scraping in the making of a barrel-shaped, oaken, lidded box.

President Ralph has announced his intention to make this his last term as President of the Woodchucks. The Board is hoping that one of our enthusiastic members will ask to be considered for this important, but stress-free job.

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## Secretary's March Notes

**Old business:** board meeting at Ted Fink's house, April 11<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm. There will be a pot luck dinner. All are welcome, please let Ted know in advance if you are planning to attend.

**New business:** the Yankee Woodturners are presenting a symposium June 1-3 at Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut. Cost is \$135.00 if registered before May 1. For more information visit [yankeewood-turningsymposium.org](http://yankeewood-turningsymposium.org)

The annual Utah symposium will be held June 21-23 in Provo, UT



WTNV will be donating \$50 to CERF.

There are American Woodturner magazines available for club members who are not members of the AAW.

Ralph Tursini will be teaching a bowl class at the Shelburne Art CTR- contact Ralph for more information.

The Chandler Art Gallery in Randolph holding a Local Artists Show in April.

**Show & Tell:** Ralph Tursini- needle case boxes and

newel post.



Russ Fellows- ash segmented bowl with texturing/ ash segmented vessel

(Continued on page 3)



## Random Shots: Are We There Yet?

### 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  
jantedfink@gmail.com

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

I joined the Woodchucks almost 4 years ago. I ran into Hav Smith one day at the Burlington Woodworkers Warehouse. As I remember, he was looking for info on sanding sealers, and I was browsing for gadgets. I remembered seeing his name in the AAW resource book & asked him about the local woodturners club. There were few members & they (now we) were just starting to feel it was time to grow or disband. I don't think there were 15 members at that time. Ted Fink, Herb Hurlbut, Bob Bouvier, Bob Martin, and Ralph Tursini seemed to be the most active, motivated members then. Now we have about 50 members, maybe 25 of whom attend any given meeting.

Very few of us are willing to show how little we know by being demonstrators. Frankly, that's too bad. Many of the

pieces I've seen during Show 'n' Tell are very good, and I learn a lot from them. There may not be much to tell about how you got the work to that stage, but many of us have just a bare knowledge of one or two techniques. How you approached the project and what was on your mind step-by-step could be very helpful. Trust me. The whole idea of joining a guild like ours is to support, learn and teach.

What's the best way to prepare a demo for the Woodchucks? First, have a specific goal. Ralph's last demo was very focused. His goal was to show us how to prepare and execute a bowl from green wood.

Second, practice at home. Fumbling in public is always possible even with practice, but less likely. Third, prepare your material (both hand-outs and work pieces) in advance. Have all the tools you need ready & sharp. If

you are going to show a technique, be patient with yourself. Have your own safety equipment with you. Bring along any finishing material, and perhaps some examples of your product, preferably in several stages.

Do not be afraid to say, "I don't know" if a question is asked. Don't hesitate to share sources if asked. Remember that for most of us, turning is a hobby or side line and no one is out to steal your clientele.

As a guild, we ain't there yet. There are still many folks who would like to learn how to turn, many who turn and would like to turn better, and many turners who would like the comfort of knowing that their skills are appreciated by folks who are their peers in turning.

**Army**

## April Book Review

**"Wood For Woodturners"** by Mark Baker, 190 pp., published by The Guild of Master Craftsmen Publishers, Ltd. Is available in bookstores. This volume is the most complete reference I've come across as an aid to turning. It starts with a chapter on buying wood. As you might expect, the closer to a growing tree you get, the less it should cost you and the greater chance you take of the lumber being "interesting". The more operations performed on the lumber to approximate a rough blank, the more you will have to spend.

A good glossary of terms is next, with surprisingly few British colloquialisms. Nearly every term in the craft of wood working is explained and illustrated.

The meat of the book is a well-illustrated 50 woods of interest to the turner. Examples of the figure and finished work are shown. Mr. Baker gives a good description of the wood, its working qualities, how to season it, and any health issues. Other names of the tree and where it grows, the

size of tree, and its typical dry weight are given. Each timber is accompanied by a "hint" which may be general or specific. This section is arranged alphabetically by genus & species from the *acers* (typically maple and sycamore) to *umbelluluria californica* (myrtle). Mr. Baker is careful to give us, where it helps, the British name or American name of each wood. What we call Sycamore is a different tree than the British sycamore, as an example.

An additional 100 woods are briefly covered in the last major chapter. In a half-page section, an example of the sanded timber, its characteristics, other names, health risks, and seasoning parameters are briefly described.

The final pages are devoted to an index, other reading material, and a list of books published by The Guild of Master Craftsmen.

My copy cost \$19.95 in soft cover at Barnes & Noble.

**Army**

(Continued from page 1)



Russ's textured ash bowl

- Randy Ramsden- cherry bowls
- Arny- maple gavel with anvil
- Ted Fink- burl board bowls
- Craig Hall- small maple burl bowl



One of Randy's bowls

25 members in attendance



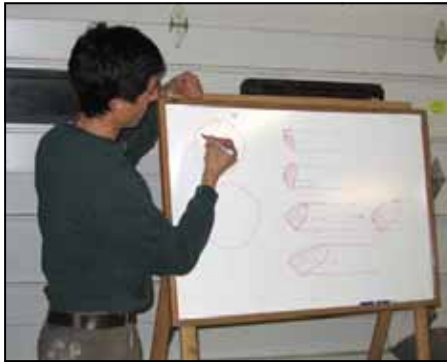
Manzanita root bowl by Ted Fink



One of Ted's bowls on a board.

Ralph gave a very informative talk on shaping and using the bowl gouge on wet wood.

Gouges differ in form depending on use



inside the bowl (blunt shape) or outside the bowl (a longer, fingernail shape). The longer



shape can be used with a shearing cut to quickly bring the form of the bowl out.

Once the outside shape is near final, the



bowl is reversed on the lathe and the edge is trued up. The inside is then worked on until enough wood has been removed to define the shape, leaving enough so that the bowl can be stored and dried to a reasonable moisture



content. It can then be final-turned, sanded, and finished.



## Ted's Turn : Maximize Your Woodchuck Abrasiveness

### In House Demos:

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

**May 17th: Tentative date, tentative speaker. We like to have Michael Mode at the May meeting.**

**June 21st: Texturing: 3 methods. Dick Montague, Ted Fink, Craig Hall.**

**July 19th: Open date. Need a member to demonstrate.**

**August 18th., a Saturday. Tentative date. Al Stirt as speaker; Woodchuck Picnic. Details TBA.**

**Sept. 20th: Wooden toys for the children's ward of the hospital.**

**October 18th. Segmented vessels. Russ Fellows & Army Spahn. Elect new Board.**

**November 15th. Open date. Member input needed.**

In last month's column I gave an overview of the various types of abrasives and this article will be the accumulation of sanding tips from a wide variety of sources. Hopefully you will find these immediately useful.

Before you start sanding, start the dust collector, don a respirator and be certain the tool rest has been moved well away from the turning.

Don't skip grades. If you go from 100 to 150, for example, you leave scratches that may only show up after you apply a coat of finish.

Often the grit size may be indicated on the back of the sandpaper but after a bit of use those numbers will become indistinct. So, writing the grit size with a crayon or indelible marker on the back of the sandpaper is handy.

For at least 2 of the grits in your sanding progression reverse the rotation of the lathe. Before you reverse rotation tighten the chuck on the headstock.

Cut strips of carpet underlayment the same width as your abrasive to hold on the back of the abrasive while sanding to dissipate heat.

Sanding at very high speed will generate excessive heat which can cause rapid drying of the wood surface resulting in checking.

Think of your sandpaper just as you think of your gouges. They are so much more enjoyable to use when really sharp and, of course, do a much better job. So use sandpaper as if someone else were paying for it!

Between grits be certain to remove the swarf (sandpaper generated dust and tiny shavings) from the turning (especially from the interior of bowls) because it will hold larger grit particles which may deeply scratch the surface as you move to finer grits.

To minimize circular rings in the scratch pattern keep the paper constantly moving back and forth perpendicular to the rings of rotation.

For a surface sealing finish such as polyurethane, final sanding to 220 or 320 will suffice. If you are going to use an oil finish 320 or 400 would be necessary and a water based finish may require 600 grit. If you are going to stain the piece, do not sand beyond 220.

If there is significant tear out or waviness of the surface start with 80 or even 60 grit. You save much time this way rather than starting with a 120 grit. Never move on to your second grit if these defects still exist after using your initial grit.

If you power sand have the sander head rotation be opposite that of the piece's rotation. This will remove material faster and lessen swirl marks.

Sanding across the grain will remove wood faster but scratch marks will be more visible.

Take your time sanding and be very careful to retain the crispness of the details on the turning.

Ted Fink

### Treasurer's report

Treasurer's Report	
Balance Forward	\$2725.12
Income	
Dues	200
Raffle	48
Balance Forward	\$2973.12



Please welcome our newest members:

Edward Kentish 1068 W. County Rd. Calais, VT 05648 802 229 4543 [Kentish@surfbest.net](mailto:Kentish@surfbest.net)

Earl R. Droulette 346 Stonefence Rd. Richmond, VT 05477 802 434 3563 [Earlrfd@aol.com](mailto:Earlrfd@aol.com)

Ted Fink

Those of us on the AAW POP committee want to let everyone know that the POP (**Professional Outreach Program**) is offering a number of very interesting lectures, slide presentations and discussion sessions at this year's AAW symposium in Portland, Oregon. (You can register online at <http://www.woodturner.org/sym/reg/default.asp?tE=1>)

In the lecture category, there will be presentations by the three winners of the 2007 POP Merit Award; Giles Gilson, Stephen Hogbin and Mark Lindquist. Along with their slides or power point presentations, these artists will present highlights (maybe even

some lowlights) of their respective careers. These sessions are actually listed as "conversations", because with the help of a moderator we expect to engage each artist in a dialog with audience participants. And don't miss the inaugural exhibition of these Merit Award winners that will be open throughout the weekend. Catalogs will be available.

Secondly, Mark Sfirri will do a special presentation on the subject of Professionalism; John Jordan, Binh Pho and Jacques Vesery will do a Q&A session; and I will be doing a slide talk on the history of my own career in the arts.

Also new is what we're calling the POP Forum. These ses-

sions will be panel discussions on topics that will be specifically geared to audience participation and feedback. This year we have two sessions: A Critics Perspective with Paul Fennell, Jacques Vesery and myself; plus Creativity in the Marketplace with Christian Burchard, Mark Sfirri and myself.

Beginning in 2008, all the POP Forum events will take place in a single room. Some of these sessions will be dedicated to specific subjects like those described above, but the rest of the time this room will be open throughout the weekend to spontaneous discussions on any subject related to professionalism in woodturning. In other words, whoever shows up with whatever subject,

that's what we'll discuss. There will be a monitor (they may have a hook), and we can't wait to see who shows up and how these sessions evolve.

Get ready to drop in. Your participation is critical, so start making a list.

Best wishes and we'll look forward to seeing you in Portland.  
David Ellsworth - Chair, AAW POP Committee  
Jacques Vesery  
Bonnie Klein  
Mark Sfirri  
Christian Burchard  
J. Paul Fennell

## News From Away

The Yankee Woodturning Symposium to be held June 1-3 at Wesleyan College in Middletown, CT, is coming up fast and plans are being finalized. As previously announced we have lined up ten featured demonstrators with national and international reputations as well as some very good local talent.

The featured demonstrators include Jimmy Clewes from England, Graeme Priddle from New Zealand, Jean-

Francois Escoulen from France, and from the U.S., Johannes Michelsen, Mark St. Leger, Michael Hosaluk, Mark Sfirri, Angelo lafrate, Beth Ireland, and Bob Rosand.

Register early as the fee increases from \$135 to \$150 on May 1st and will be \$165 at the door. For details see our website [www.yankeewoodturningsymposium.org](http://www.yankeewoodturningsymposium.org); email [garybashian@hotmail.com](mailto:garybashian@hotmail.com) or

call (401) 829-8293. Hope to see many of you there!

Frank White  
Secretary, Yankee Woodturners Association

## Resource Corner

Cryogenic treated tools last longer and are easy to sharpen. Craig Hall bought some from Doug Thompson, at less cost than the name brand and he's very happy with them. For more info, email to: [Dougswoodworking@AOL.com](mailto:Dougswoodworking@AOL.com).

## 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.

## April 11th Board Meeting

### 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.  
802-899-6863  
Tursini@pshift.com

Ted Fink; Bowls, spindles, & boxes.  
802-985-2923  
jantedfink@gmail.com

Russ Fellows; Segmented vessels.  
802 899 305  
skunkmen@together.net

Note to all members:  
There are still many tapes and some DVDs missing from the library. Please rummage around for them. All Woodchuck-owned media should be returned after NO MORE than 2 months possession.

New members are a valuable resource and we would like to recognize them with a short bio, picture, and their "day job" description. The intent is to share expertise in many fields.

Please note the list just left of this column. We started a mentor program several years ago which seems to have gone into mothballs recently. We want our members to make use of this list as mentored (is that a real word??) or add their name as a mentor.

Ralph informed the Board that he wishes to step down as President after this term. Ralph feels that after 4 years as President, he should step back a little and allow fresh enthusiasm and leadership to move our club forward.

The Board of Directors met at Ted & Jan Fink's house in Shelburne., 6:00 PM.

Ted Fink, Craig Hall, Bob Martin, Arny Spahn, & Ralph Tursini were present; Cil Spahn and Dick Montague were also present. To reward the effort, Craig Hall and Martha Montague provided the desserts, which almost all of us overindulged in.

We agreed that having our own website was potentially valuable. Important features needed are a membership directory and gallery, a calendar of events, and access to Woodchuck Chatter from first to latest issue. The cost of putting up a website seemed reasonable. As none of the Directors are comfortable with the responsibility of keeping a website current, we will be asking for a volunteer webmaster.

It was agreed to purchase an adaptor from Nova spindle to Oneway chucks for more versatility of the club's lathe. Also, some more DVDs will be purchased, including second copies of some very popular ones.

A major topic for discussion was our need for demonstrators. For many reasons, few of our members think they have what it takes to put on a good, professional demonstration. The Board is seriously concerned that our mission of education and support for woodturners might falter. We hope that members will fill the empty spots on our calendar.

The Board also discussed the value of guest demonstrators. The consensus, with input from our most noted guest demonstrators, was that it is fair to give an honorarium to an AAW rated demonstrator when one becomes available in New England. We also wish to defray some of the expenses of our annual, top-drawer members who give us what amounts to master classes. We will offer them what amounts to gas money, which will surely help nowadays.

"Chatter" is recognized as a valuable asset for the club. All members are urged to send the editor news, thoughts, and tips.

Remember, if you are giving a public turning demo, having it listed in "Chatter" is crucial for AAW insurance coverage.

Reported by Cil & Arny Spahn

## Woodchuck Sightings

Dick Montague will be doing a turning demonstration at The Groton General Store, Groton VT on April 22. It's from 9:30 to 3:00, and Willem Lange, who is one of the best storytellers in Upper New England will also be there to regale the visitors.

Coincidentally, Brad Vietje has opened a Solar Store in Groton. They call it "Green Works". Visit them during your visit to see Dick perform his magic with the lathe.

Jim Cunningham, our Woodchuck Penman writes,

Hi Woodchucks, I think most of you know I have a page on my website for the Woodchucks, [http://](http://www.moosemaple.com/woodchuck/)

[www.moosemaple.com/woodchuck/](http://www.moosemaple.com/woodchuck/) and it is getting a lot of activity. It has brought in several new members and I think it is time to think about getting a woodchuck.com website. Cost for domain name and web host is just under \$100. It has added to our membership and the group is missing out on a great opportunity by not using it as a tool to help the group. I put the woodchuck page on my site over 3 years ago and not much has been said about it, so at the next board or monthly meeting talk about it. Do the Woodchucks want or need a website. Last year I had around 30,000 visits to my website and 2000 or more came to the Woodchuck page, not a big number but they are

reading all the newsletters. How many on this email list has been to the Woodchuck page??

Ted Fink will be participating in Open Studio Weekend May 26 and 27 at his shop (136 Davis Ave. Shelburne). He will be demonstrating small bowl turning at the annual Shelburne Museum Lilac Sunday, May 20, 2007 and demonstrating the turning of Ultimate Ice Cream Bowls at Ben and Jerry's Factory in Waterbury July 4, 25 and August 29, 2007.

Woodchuck T shirts are still available in many sizes. Contact Ted Fink for purchases.

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

Publisher:  
Arny Spahn  
1626 Hebard Hill Rd.  
Randolph, VT  
[apspahn@comcast.net](mailto:apspahn@comcast.net)



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.