

Woodchuck Chatter



Volume 4, Issue 5

May 10, 2007

Special points of interest:

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

May 17th Meeting

For our May meeting, 3 of our members will demonstrate methods of texturing turned objects. Ted, Craig, and Dick Montague will show effects of different types of tools. Members are invited to come forward with questions and their own texturing tools and problems. Once again, we have Scott Bennett to thank for pro-

viding us with use of the Woodbury facility for our meetings.

Ted has a new supply of our popular Woodchuck T-shirts. These are all with the big "Woody" on the front & paw prints on the back. Price is still \$15 for members, \$20 for flatlanders.

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April Secretary's Notes



David Scrase brought a guest who is affiliated with the Travel Guide to Vermont. She is looking for crafts people with a studio or shop who may be interested in being included in her publication. Contact David for more information.



As Ralph Tursini is stepping down as president this fall, the club is looking for someone who may bring new leadership.

Upcoming events:

Open studio weekend will be hosted by the following- Russ Fellows, Ralph Tursini & Ted

Fink. Craig Hall will be demonstrating weekly at Ben & Jerry's in Waterbury this summer and fall.



Misc. notes:

Russ Fellows announced that The Village Cup in Jericho is in the preliminary stages of looking for crafts to display at their establishment.

(Continued on page 3)

Random Shots: You Can Lean On Me!

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.

No fair peeking. What is the one indispensable tool for your lathe? Chuck, gouge, live or dead center? None of the above. If you are going to turn wood, you have to have a tool rest. Not all rests are equal. None is all-purpose. You do have to have one as a fulcrum for any cutting task on the lathe.



The Nova straight & curved rests

My Nova 3000 came with 2 rests, a 12" straight rest and a 10" curved rest. Both are used often in my shop. My first after-market rest was the Woodcraft tool rest system. Having 2 lathes, I bought both the 3/4" and the 1" diameter upright. (p/n 124186, \$10.99 and p/n 141931 \$12.99)



The Woodcraft straight & curved system

I bought a 6" straight (p/n 123581, \$31.99), 12" straight, (p/n 123582, \$45.99) and small bowl rest (p/n 140486, \$17.99). The 2 straight tool rests are

topped with drill rod for ding resistance. They all need to be smoothed occasionally, especially after a session with a skew or parting tool. See "Ted's Turn" this month for maintenance tips.

I found that neither of the two bowl rests I had then were good for my smaller or deeper projects so I bought a French curve bowl rest from Packard Woodworking, p/n 1146-404, \$39.99. This proved to be very versatile within its range.



The French curl rest

Still hunting for perfection, I found 3/4" round tool rests of hardened steel from Woodturners' Catalog. I bought a 3" curved rest and an offset straight rest. I like the ability to raise or lower the gouge handle with no



The curved modular rest

change in the feel of the tool, which is possible because of the round surfaces of the rest.

The offset straight rest is 9" long, p/n 361-1009, \$30.99. It's 1" post is p/n 361-5005, cost \$24.99. The 3" curved rest is p/n 361-2003, cost \$44.99 It's

adjustable post is p/n 361-2000, \$44.99.



The straight, offset modular tool rest

I still felt that I needed a small tool rest for working on miniatures. My solution called for shaping a post out of ash and cutting a piece of ultra high molecular weight plastic. The plastic comes in an assortment of sizes from Woodcraft, p/n 124291. \$11.99. It cuts, turns, and sands like a dense hardwood.



(Continued from page 1)



David Scrase takes the cherry burl at the raffle.

In order for club members to be eligible for AAW liability insurance, you must create a paper trail by published notice in the Woodchuck newsletter, and be an AAW member.

who do not have the necessary equipment.

Show & Tell:

Arny Spahn- laminated bowls, Ralph Tursini- cherry & oak bowls, Randy Ramsden- cherry bowls with beaded rims & bottoms, Russ Fellows- textured segmented bowls, David Scrase- maple bowls with sugar tap holes, Craig Hall- spalted maple bowl with rim



Demo: Ted Fink- lidded barrel boxes. See Ted's Turn



2 of Russ' textured laminated bowls.



Arny Spahn & layered bowl.



Randy's spalted bowl



Ralph Tursini & maple bowl



David & tap-hole bowl



Craig's rimmed bowl

A suggestion was made to include photo shoots for club members' pieces, for those



Ted's Turn: Skewing a Cask, a Lidded Box

In House Demos:

May 17th:
Texturing: 3 methods. Dick Montague, Ted Fink, Craig Hall.

June 21st: Open date.

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

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

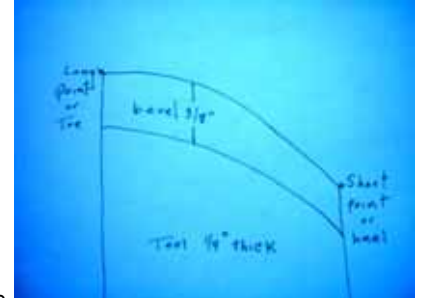
Sept. 20th: Wooden toys for the children's ward of the hospital.

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

November 15th. Open date. Member input needed.

I have come to believe that if you can master the skew you can master any turning tool. As Alan Lacer notes in his superb DVD on the skew, it has a sweet side and a dark side. To give yourself the best chance of enjoying the sweet side of this tool, it must be shaped and exquisitely sharpened.

The skew gets its name from the slanted angle of the sharpened edge to the shaft of the tool. This angle should be 70° from long to short point. This is true whether the cutting edge is curved or straight across. The steepness of the edge which is hollow ground on both sides can be easily determined by grinding the bevel on each side so that it is 1.5 times the thickness of the tool. For example, if the tool is 1/4" thick, each bevel should be 3/8" long. This will give you the perfect edge angle. To get the skew as sharp as possible use a fine diamond hone on the entire end of the tool and also the points. This means putting the hone flat on each edge and honing the long and short points. It is most useful to



have 2 skews, 1.25" and 1/2" widths. The edge of the tool on the short point side should be rounded over completely and the edge on the long point side should be flat with the corners chamfered..

The most useful preparation of the lathe is to remove any irregularity in the surface of the tool rest. This is done with a mill file followed with 220 or 320 grit paper and a light coating of wax.

The project used to demonstrate the various cuts with the skew chisel is a lidded box, an oaken cask with 4 hoops. The join between lid and base is hidden under the second hoop from the top. This is one of the 'bulge' hoops. The particular join for which I will list the steps can be used in almost any shape of lidded box.

1) Mount the well dried billet between centers and bring it to round with a final diameter of 3" or less using a roughing gouge.

2) The overall length should be about 6". This allows for tenons on each end and waste on each end plus 1 inch for each of the 3 spaces between hoops, 1/4" for each of 4 hoops, a 1/4" for the join flange and 1/16" for cut off waste between lid and base.



3) Measure and part off the lid minimizing waste between lid and base by using a thin, 1/16", parting tool and mount it in the 4 jaw chuck using the tenon. Before doing this parting cut make a 'V' cut with skew so as to avoid tearout from the parting tool as it enters the cylinder. Rough hollow the lid and cut the recess using a square end scraper. Check for squareness of the recess with inside calipers. Finish sanding the inside of the lid.

4) Mount the base in the chuck by its tenon (made with skew peeling and planing



(Continued on page 6)

Treasurer's report

Balance Forward:	\$29743.12
Income	
Raffle	40
Dues	40
Expenses	
Website	89.90
Balance Forward	\$2963.22
Ted Fink	



Welcome our newest member:

Dennis Grage
301 Irish Settlement Rd
Underhill, VT 054489

802 899 4963 or 802 310 6308

MZKRAZYKAT@earthlink.net



AAW News

Subject: Symposium tips and reminders

Dear AAW member:

The 2007 AAW symposium is June 29-July 1 in Portland, Oregon. More demonstrations, Evening special interest sessions, four gallery shows, Youth program, Pop Award winners, and a Great City To Visit.

Five ways to a better Symposium experience:

1. Register by 15 May to save on registration fee.
2. Bring a toy for the give back to the community. Toys will go to the Doernbecher Children's Hospital. A few minutes at the lathe will bring many hours of enjoyment to some child. Suggestions include finger tops, pull string tops, toy cars and trucks, as well as rattles for the little ones.....
3. Bring a YOUTH! Bonnie Klein, Nick Cook, and Larry Miller

will teach hands on classes to young people ages 10 through 17. The youth register FREE when accompanied by a fully registered adult. As we did last year, we will give away 25 JET Midi lathes with stands, 25 sets of Crown tools, 25 Nova Midi-chucks and 25 face shields to 25 of the lucky youths. (Bring your kids or grandkids)... register early (12 June absolute latest)

<http://www.woodturner.org/sym/sym2007/youths.cfm>

4. Plan your days! view the draft of the biggest most extensive woodturning demonstration schedule the world has ever seen at: http://www.woodturner.org/sym/sym2007/grid_1.pdf

5. Become part of the symposium. VOLUNTEER. The symposium, like most AAW activities is run primarily by members pitching in. Volunteers do most of the work along with a small paid staff of conference coordinators. Please consider volunteer-

ing for couple of hours. You will get more back than you put in. We need help with Room Assistants, Youth classes, and Instant gallery..

INSTANT GALLERY: Help check in pieces, place them in the gallery, help visitors. To volunteer for the instant gallery Email Lynn Geller at: lynngel@pacbell.net

ROOM ASSISTANT: provide assistance to the Demonstrator or Videographer as requested and cleanup after the session. New this year, we'll have a cadre of top notch videographers to operate the cameras so this will not be a Room Assistant duty. You do have to sit up front.

please go to <http://hockenbery.net/volform.htm> And complete a web form that will be e-mailed automatically when you hit submit to Paul Rasmussen who is this years Volunteer Coordinator. Please hit sub-

mit only once as each time sends an e-mail.

YOUTH ASSISTANT: The Symposium will include a youth class room for 25 students. We will have 8 class sessions two of 3 hour length and 6 that are 90 to 110 minutes long. The instructors would like to have 10 to 12 assistant in each session. The duties correspond to the assistants experience and confidence. It can be as simple as calling the instructor to help a student that needs a little extra help to actually guiding the student directly. Seeing a kid's eyes light up with wonder and accomplishment is quite a reward. Please go to <http://hockenbery.net/volform.htm> as mentioned above.

See you in Portland, Al Hockenbery

Woodturning School Moves to New Home

The Woodturning School is moving to 10 Capeletti Place, 0.5 miles south of Miles Memorial Hospital on Route 130 in Damariscotta, Maine on April 27.

"It all began in 2004 at Round Top Center for the Arts," Ken Keoughan, director of the school said in announcing the move. "We are very grateful for the opportunity to launch the only active school dedicated solely to woodturning in the State of Maine."

The Woodturning School is now in its 3rd

year of successfully teaching the basics of woodturning. The instructors at the Woodturning School started out as excellent turners before they began teaching. "Now we have superb instructors with the dedication and passion that teaching requires," he says.

There will be no membership fees. The Woodturning School will not be a non-profit, "only because obtaining a Federal 501(3c) designation has become more cumbersome than other forms of incorporating," Keoughan

says. He quickly adds with a chuckle, "Not to worry - there will be no profit". The new location is in the space formally occupied by Mick Cappelletti for his cabinetry work. "Mick and his wife Linda have both been very helpful and encouraging in enabling us to lease this building," says Keoughan. For class registrations call 207-380-8076; for specific woodturning information call Ken Keoughan at 207-832-6538; and visit web site www.woodturningschool.org

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 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

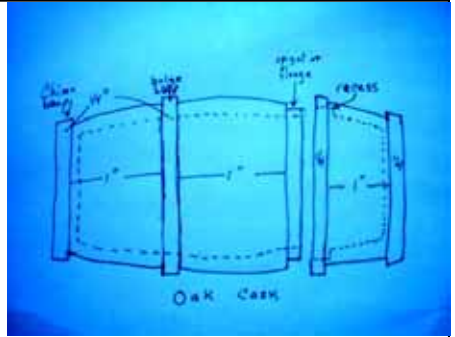
Ted Fink; Bowls, spindles, & boxes.
802-985-2923
jantedfink@gmail.com

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

Ted's Turn continued



cuts) and approximate the flange diameter of the base but don't fit the lid yet. This approximation will allow you to more accurately hollow the base to proper wall thickness.



5) Mark the outside of the blank before hollowing the

inside, for depth determination. Shape the inside of the base using a gouge tapering inward to a smaller diameter as you go deeper since the outside of the cask will taper to a smaller diameter toward each end. To get the smoothest cut across the bottom inside use a termite ring tool or a hook tool.. Finish sand the inside.

6) Part down on the headstock side to demarcate the bottom of the base on the outside. Do not part it off completely.

7) Work the flange with fine peeling and planing cuts to fit the lid onto the base tightly. Final fitting will come later.

8) Put the lid on the mounted base and bring up the tailstock for additional support. Now shape and sand the entire exterior of the box, lid and base. Remove the tailstock for the final shoulder cuts with the skew. Use a flat end grain scrape with the 1/2" skew to put a chamfer in the cask top to mimic the cask head.



9) Fine fit the lid.

10) Jamb chuck the base into a scrap piece mounted in the headstock and use peeling and fine shoulder cuts to make the bottom of the base smooth and slightly concave.



11) Sand the base bottom.

Finally, remember Alan Lacer's words: "The only people who never get a catch using the skew are those who never use one"

Ted Fink



Woodchuck Watch

Hi Arny,
I'll be teaching a 5 day class at the

Appalachian Center for Crafts in Smithville, TN from June 11 to 15. Also, I'll be a featured demonstrator at the AAW Symposium in Portland at the end of June.

Take care, Al Stirt

Woodturning Classes with Ralph Tursini

Shelburne Art Center

Bowl Turning: May 12-13 and June 9-10

Bowl Turning 4 day intensive: July 26-29

For more information and to register call the art center (802) 985-3648 or visit the website [http://](http://www.shelburneartcenter.org/bowlturning2.html)

www.shelburneartcenter.org/bowlturning2.html

I offer private instruction at my studio or yours. For more information

www.vermontwoodturning.com/instruction.html

Open Studio Memorial Day Weekend - Come see my studio, recent work, and woodturning demonstrations.

More Open studio information at the Vermont crafts council website [http://](http://www.vermontcrafts.com)

www.vermontcrafts.com

Woodchuck Website

To: All Vermont Woodchucks,
We now officially have our own internet domain, website: www.woodchucksvt.org

We ask that you contribute to its construction by sending suggestions and photos of your work (for the member gallery) to webmaster, Jim Cunningham at

www.moosemaple.com

We will be setting up a guest book for the site and a list of all active members (without any information other than name). Also we have links to members' websites so if you have a turning related website send your information to Jim.

Yours in revolution,

Ted



Ralph: In The Woodlot

I am often asked what types of strange things I have come across in trees or what it is like when you hit metal so I devoted this time to extracting what I had found and taking a few photos in the process.

While sawing the tree into manageable sized blocks for the bowls I was making, I noticed three distinct dark blue stains - an indication of foreign metal in the



The iron forms a blue stain which streaks along the length of the wood fibers. Notice how these follow the same annual ring.

tree. They were about pea to dime sized in the end grain and oriented along

an annual growth ring. Being happy not to have hit anything with the chainsaw which is laborious to sharpen, I continued to the lathe intending to finish the piece. The blue stain would be part of the story of the tree and bowl.

I turned the outside profile of the bowl. Okay, no metal. Thinking it was improbable that the suspects were inside the small bowl (and curious to see what they were anyway) I continued to hollow the inside. The tool stopped feeding smoothly into the cut and the stream of shavings slowed to a trickle of dust. The T shaped section looked like I had hit a nail right on the head and unfortunately it wasn't the colonial forged nail I was hoping for. I turned as much wood away from it as I could then removed the wood around it with a chisel.

How to avoid metal? Other than metal sticking out of the bark, you can surmise the likelihood of finding metal inside wood by knowing a bit about the history of the tree it came

from and from where in the tree the wood was taken. Yard trees often have metal in their bole - especially in the first five feet where someone might put in a screw -in hook for a hammock. Wood growing above arm height is much less likely to bear metal unless the tree was suitable for a good treehouse.

Trees along hedgerows and rural property boundaries are another example likely to pose a problem as they were a convenient place to staple barbed wire to keep in livestock. Forest grown wood it generally safe although I have heard of a problem involving a timber harvest at the Jericho firing range... Imagine the locus of a truckload of sawlogs, a sawmill, and metal jacketed bullets!

I imagine the most dangerous scenario for the woodturner involving hitting metal is the possibility of breaking a chain while sawing and having it flail about. Most often hitting metal amounts to the inconvenience of having to regrind or re-sharpen your cutting tool, and relegating the workpiece to the firewood pile.



The edge of the bowl gouge after cutting nails... and before returning to the grinder.



Inside the bowl after removing the first nail, hitting the second, and calling it quits.



Woodchuck Watch

Hi Army. I have been very busy preparing for my first Open Studio. I am building inventory, designing a few new items, and expanding my existing ones. The ones that are generating a lot of positive comment are my heavily textured "baskets" that I showed at the last meeting. I am

now making them in sizes ranging from about six inches up to the limit of my lathe, which is twenty-four inches. As you can see from the attached picture, I have a new "partner" in my efforts—my Grandson! I have made him my vice-president for marketing, and he will appear in my promotional postcards!

I have had fellow Woodchucks Joe Laferriere, John Tichonuk, and Skip Parker out at my shop at various times recently...to observe, learn, try some of my techniques, and work on projects of their own. I want to reaffirm my invitation to others in the club to do likewise!

Russ Fellows



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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
An associated chapter
of
American Association of
Woodturners

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It's not turning, but it's a sample of Bob Martin's craftsmanship.

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.