

# Woodchuck Chatter



Volume 4, Issue 7

July 10, 2007

## Special points of interest:

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

## July 19th Meeting

Our meeting in July will feature Roy Gilbert with a demonstration of wood carving. Decoration of turnings adds another dimension to explore. Many of the works shown in the AAW Symposiums are enhanced by well-done carving. The tools and techniques can be very simple or quite ornate. Join us in our regular meeting place, the Woodbury shop on Pine St. in Burlington. The business portion will be called to order at 7:00 PM.

### Directory Comes Out Soon

We are in the process of publishing the membership directory portion of the Woodchuck Handbook. Take a look at the current edition and correct any errors to your info, please. Email Army with any errors you find.

The directory will be ready for distribution at the August meeting.

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### Old business:

Hartville Tool has offered a 20% discount for club members for 1 Yr., then 15% thereafter. We need 2 more members to qualify.

Roy Gilbert of the Morrisville area carving club has expressed interest in having a turning demonstration at their show on Aug 18<sup>th</sup> (the same day as our annual picnic) at People's Academy. Joe Laferriere has offered to participate.

### New Business:

Randy Ramsden will be doing a demo at Maplewood Gal-

## Secretary's Report for June Meeting

lery in Stowe.

Joe Laferriere has access to 4' green log sections. Contact Joe for more information

Dick Montague has offered to bring his pole lathe to the August meeting if there is enough interest

Roy Gilbert will be doing a carving demo at the July meeting.

Al Stirt has again offered to demo at our annual August picnic on Saturday the 18<sup>th</sup>. Please be prepared to help out with setup, food preparation and cleanup as our former cook and general organizer will not be attending .

### Show & Tell:



Dave Hurlbut- segmented bowl.



(Continued on page 3)

## Woodchuck Chatter

### Woodchuck Turners of Northern Vermont

#### Board of Directors

President: Ralph Tursini  
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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: Required Reading

I tend to get interested in a subject and seek out many different viewpoints.

Sports cars have been a big part of Cil's and my life for decades, and I subscribe to the 3 best magazines on the subject; Autoweek, Car & Driver, and Road & Track. I also am a gun nut. I belong to the NRA & read other magazines, also. I have a number of books on each subject for reference.

Now my interest is turned to woodwork, primarily wood turning. My current reading list includes Fine Wood Working and Woodwork, plus the AAW magazine, Woodturning Design and the British magazine, Woodturning. My bookshelf has about 6 feet of tomes on wood work. I may not know much about the subject, but I sure have places to look up facts. I dropped several other magazines from my reading list because they had far fewer articles on woodturning than I wanted. I'll be blunt. Reading articles or books by masters is vital to understanding any craft. Hands-on exercises are vital to learning those crafts. I have fallen short lately, but my normal pattern is to get interested by an article and then go

into the workshop and do a piece or two relating to that article.

There's an old, old joke. A young man walks up to an older man carrying a violin case. The young man has a sheaf of music in his hand. He asks the older fellow for directions. "Excuse me, Sir, but I see you are a musician. Could you tell me how to get to Carnegie Hall?" The older fellow looks him up and down, then replies, "Practice, kid, practice."

And that's what it takes to being good at turning wood or playing tennis. First you have to study, then you have to practice. There's a third element to learning, and that's comparing your work to whatever the standard is. Most of us, myself included, have a higher opinion of our skill than is warranted. Show & Tell is a good time to ask for a critique. I have never known any woodchuck to be brutal about the flaws in my work. I was tickled at a meeting a few months ago when one of the guys said to me that my work has improved a lot since I started to show my stuff. I'm still experimenting and I'm always on the alert for ways to deepen my knowledge.

Back to "required reading". Anything by Richard Raffin is

good. Dick Sing is a noted turner of pens. His book(s) are very good. Fine Wood Working has a series of softcover, magazine size books devoted to various aspects of wood work. You should also have on your shelf at least one book on wood species identification.

#### The Future of our Club

We have really grown in the last year. We now have over 50 active members and we gained 15 in the last year. It's getting pretty crowded when someone is demonstrating on a lathe. I think it's time we started thinking about either limiting our numbers or figuring out how we are going to give turning demonstrations. I don't think that Scott would much like the idea of moving his machines around for us, and we really appreciate his hosting our group. The next logical step is to find a venue with a space big enough for 75 people to stand/sit with a good view of the demo area. It would have to either have a lathe (and perhaps other machines) or allow us to store the club's lathe and accessories. Do you know of any place, convenient to Burlington, that fits the description? Let us know, please.

Army



Bob runs the meeting.



The Amen Corner at the meeting.

## Woodchuck Meeting Pix



Taking up the collection.



Some of the samples Greg brought along.

(Continued from page 1)



Russ Fellows- basket style segmented bowl and photo of a monster segmented vessel.



Randy Ramsden- functional bird house and miniature house with cardinal.



Craig Hall- burl bowl with inlaid turquoise

story workshop. His house is another matter, with no agreement yet in sight. The gypsy moth led him to join RIFCO, the Rhode Island Forest Conservation Organization and, later, becoming its president. His current "day job", organ building and repair, first started when in high school, he worked for Potter-Rathbun Organs in Cranston, RI. He came back to the craft after abandoning a career in sales. An acoustic (air-powered) organ is as complex a machine as you can imagine. Each pipe is connected to the keyboard by cables strung over small wooden pieces, with many sliding and rotating parts, mostly wooden. Think of an organ as a sound-producing logic machine as complex as a current desktop computer.

In his journey, Drew has had access to many kinds of wood as he demonstrated with his bag of samples. Turning is a relaxing therapy as compared to the rigors of repairing the innards of a box about the size of an old Volkswagen packed with cables, levers, and pulleys.



Dick Montague- miniature bird houses.



Greg shows the many types of turnings buried in a typical tree.

**Demo:**

Greg Drew- discussion of various orientations to achieve desired grain patterns and shapes from logs

**Misc.:**

The North Carolina Woodturners will be hosting a symposium at Greensboro Coliseum on Oct.5-7 in Greensboro, NC. For more information log on to [northcarolinawoodturning.com](http://northcarolinawoodturning.com).

**Greg Drew And Wood**

Greg has studied and used wood more than most folks. His understanding of the properties of wood come from a lifetime of involvement. This phase started when he bought a piece of land with lots of oak on it, just before a long gypsy moth invasion. When the Rhode Island officials finally allowed him to build on his land, he used the dying trees to build his 2-



John Brislin-birch bowl.



Showing the typical plain-sawn pattern.



## Ted's Turn: How strong is your glue?

You've seen the ads that say "Gorilla Glue", a polyurethane adhesive, is "incredibly strong" and "The Toughest Glue on Planet Earth" Well then, how does it stack up against the competition?

The answer to that question is revealed in the research of Mark Schofield which was summarized in an excellent article he wrote and had published in FWW magazine No. 192, July/August 2007 pp.36-40. Six brand name, off-the-shelf woodworking glues, were tested for strength in loose, snug and tight joints. The glues were tested in porous grained (oak), closed, fine porous (hard maple) and dense tropical (lpe) woods.

The results were very interesting and quite surprising. The best (strongest) overall was Type I PVA (waterproof, e.g. Titebond III). For sake of comparison, it was given a value of 100% and all other glues were given a value for strength relative to that benchmark. So here are the results in summary.

Glue	Joint Strength
Type I PVA	100%
Slow-set Epoxy	99%
PVA Glue (standard yellow glue)	95%
Liquid Hide Glue	79%
Hot Hide Glue	76%
Polyurethane Glue	58%

As the author concludes, the real surprise of this research was the poor showing of the polyurethane glue. "The snug joints were poor and the loose joints were unacceptable. Polyurethane may be a tough finish, but it isn't a tough glue."

A common question among woodturners is which glue is best for those oily tropical hardwoods?

The PVA's and the Slow-set Epoxy again worked best. In fact, the joints using these glues were consistently stronger using lpe than the comparable joints using either oak or maple.

Ted Fink

*(Editor's note: When I read this article, I emailed Gorilla Glue asking in what applications the stuff was equal to or superior to other glues. They haven't answered yet. Probably all 150,000 readers of FWW were also emailing them!)*

### Member Discount Updates

Klingspor ([www.woodworkingshop.com](http://www.woodworkingshop.com)) has notified me that they will give no more 10% discounts until an updated member list is sent to them. I will be doing this on July 16th. So, if any one would like to be added to this list please contact before the 16th. If you have been on the list in the past there is no need to sign up again.

We currently have 18 members signed up for the Harteville Woodworking Tool Catalog ([www.hartvilletool.com](http://www.hartvilletool.com)) discount. We need 20 members signed up to activate that discount opportunity. You can either email me your intention to be on the discount list or sign the sheet to be passed around at the July 19th meeting.

### In House Demos:

July 19th: Roy Gilbert, wood carver.

August 18th., a Saturday. Tentative date. Al Stirt as speaker; Woodchuck Picnic. Pot luck. Coordinator will contact you.

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.

## Treasurer's report

Balance Forward	\$2465.39
Income	
Raffle	34.00
Dues	80.00
Misc.	0.23
Expenses	0.00
Balance Forward	\$2579.62
Ted Fink	



### Welcome new members

Jim Holzschuh 89 East Shore Rd. South Hero, VT 05486 802 372 4556 [holzschuhj@aol.com](mailto:holzschuhj@aol.com)

Peter Harvey PO Box 142, 1155 Old West Church Rd. Calais, VT 05648-0142 802 229 4026

[PeterSHarvey@aol.com](mailto:PeterSHarvey@aol.com)

## More demo pictures



Greg shows how the grain pattern looks depending on the bowl's orientation to the tree.



Showing the bowl forms with natural edges from different tree sections



A typical crotch, showing flame-pattern figure.



What might be hidden in a tree crotch.

**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](mailto:craighall@hotmail.com)

*Dick Montague; General turning, all aspects plus tool sharpening.*  
 802-584-3486  
[Montagueturn@hotmail.com](mailto:Montagueturn@hotmail.com)

*Ralph Tursini; Spindles & bowls, vacuum chucking.*  
 802-899-6863  
[Tursini@pshift.com](mailto:Tursini@pshift.com)

*Ted Fink; Bowls, spindles, & boxes.*  
 802-985-2923  
[jantedfink@gmail.com](mailto:jantedfink@gmail.com)

*Russ Fellows; Segmented vessels.*  
 802-899-3059  
[skunkmen@together.net](mailto:skunkmen@together.net)

## Woodturning School News

There is still time to sign up for two weekend intensives at the Woodturning School., Bristol Rd, Damariscotta Maine.

### **Evolutionary Boxes**

**Sat and Sun., August 25 and 26, 9am – 4pm**

**Evolutionary Boxes** is a course designed to bring smiles, relax tense muscles and tinge turning

with a small touch of soul. In this class you don't need to worry about micrometer perfect dimensions. Your box can look like a teapot, an apple a pear, or just a crazy shape. You will have fun designing your own box. "Evolutionary Boxes" will give you an opportunity to go easy on yourself, smile more and strive less, no white knuckle turning allowed.

### **Go Home with a Bowl**

**Sat and Sun, July 21 and 22, 9 am – 4 pm.**

This is a combination of our 2 introductory courses and is aimed at the beginner. This course will provide an introduction to bowl making, end-grain hollowing techniques and spindle turning. In addition to woodturning, students will be exposed to safety, tool sharp-

ening, and lathe maintenance. Students will "learn-by-doing". Each step will be explained and demonstrated after which each student will do "hands on" exercises while the instructor supervises and makes on the spot corrections. Emphasis will be on enjoying the process of turning. Bowls, goblets, eggcups, and plates will be among the exercises each student may undertake.

## 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  
An associated chapter  
of  
American Association of  
Woodturners

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

For Sale: Nova 3000 Lathe, 16" Swing / 24" bed, 20" Bed extension.  
Stand (Not a Nova)  
2 1/2 years old  
Mitsubishi A500 220v Inverter  
Baldor 1 1/2 hp motor  
Remote Panel - Start / Stop / Reverse / Speed  
Or I will sell w/original 1 1/2 hp 110v motor  
Contact:

Randy Ramsden  
[rramsden@gmavt.net](mailto:rramsden@gmavt.net)  
802-425-3434

## Help Wanted

### Candidates for Woodchuck Board.

Enthusiasm for turning and desire to help lead turners to new heights a must.

Will train on the job if necessary.

President Ralph Tursini has expressed a desire to retire from presidency on top of his game. All other Board positions are open for nominations. Nominations open with the September meeting; elections in October.

## 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.