

# Woodchuck Chatter



Volume 4, Issue 8

August 10, 2007

## Special points of interest:

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

## Meeting of August 18

### Annual Picnic

Our annual informal meeting this year is at the Jericho Forest Preserve. Once again, Al Stirt is the invited guest turner. Show up time is anytime after 11 am. Agenda for the BBQ is: socialize before and while having lunch, then Al Stirt will critique any of the items you bring. For planning purposes the BBQ should be over about 3 pm.

### DRIVING DIRECTIONS:

From Burlington, take I-89 South to exit 11

(Richmond), turn left off the exit ramp going under the interstate and turn right onto Rt. 117. Travel for about 3 miles down Rt. 117 and take a right onto Barber Farm Road. About a 1/2 mile down Barber Farm Road take a right onto Tarbox Road. Tarbox is a dirt road and may be in poor condition during the rainy/mud season. About a 1/2 mile down Tarbox the road forks, bear to the right and this road will lead you to the UVM house on the Jericho Forest property.

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## July Minutes

Ralph know if you are planning to attend. **Al Stirt** will be doing a demo.

Dick Montague has offered to bring his pole lathe if there is enough interest. There is a lot of time and effort to set up the lathe so please let Dick know if you would like to try it out.

### Upcoming:

August 18-Green Mtn Woodcarving Club demo & sale 9am to 4 pm. Club members wishing to sell their turnings at this event, contact Joe Laferriere.

Ralph Tursini will be teaching at the Shelburne Art Center August 26- 29.

Dysfunctional Show at the Woodturning Ctr /Philadelphia in November. Search on line for more info.



Herb catches up on some reading.

Exhibit by Thomas Moser, August 9<sup>th</sup> at Shelburne Museum (1/2 price admission for VT residents).

### Meeting schedule:

August 18 –picnic.  
September 20th -demo to

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## 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.

## Russ Fellows Reports:

Greetings from Skunk Hollow Studios!

I am continuing to explore new design ideas and push my personal "envelope" a little. The attached picture is of a recent piece just completed for the Purple Fox Gallery in Southern Vermont, which so far, has been my best outlet. It is approximately 13" by 5" and is made of African mahogany, yellow heart, and

bloodwood . I am upgrading my clamping procedures with a benchtop hydraulic press which I will modify for my particular needs. The screw type press clamps I made last year are already wearing out, so I don't mind relegating them to the back of the shop. Because of the twisting motion of the screw, the segments were always a bit difficult to align as pressure was

added.

Russ Fellows



## The Adventures of Brad

Hi Army,

Very little turning of late -- waaaaay too busy getting a new business started. I did turn a pretty neat column this spring for an interesting project. I've been involved with a huge technical challenge -- to create extremely accurate and artistically faithful reproductions of the spectacular cast bronze Porter Garden Telescope, of which only a few dozen originals were made at Jones and Lampson in the 1920's (details and far better photos at [www.gardentelescopes.com](http://www.gardentelescopes.com)).

These things are an exquisite blend of garden sculpture and precision telescope -- and very expensive! The reproduc-

tions are supplied with a turned marble base made from Vermont marble. In order to show this telescope at trade shows around the world, something lighter than marble was needed, so I was asked to turn a wooden replica of the marble column to cut down on the shipping weight and delays. The attached photo shows the column in its faux-marble paintjob (paint job by



Anne Giancola of Fitchburg, MA) on display at the very exclusive Chelsea Flower Show in London, back in May. The gentleman is Russ Schliepman, who is explaining how the telescope works to a woman in pink who is rather well known throughout Great Britain. Russ had a private audience with Her Majesty Queen Elisabeth II for five minutes ! I bet she never suspected the pillar was wood ! I'll include an in-process picture, too.

Hope to make the picnic, if all goes well...

Brad

## Alan Lacer Comes To Vermont



Alan Lacer has been involved in the turning field for over thirty years as a turner, teacher, writer, exhibition coor-

dinator, demonstrator and past president of the American Association of Woodturners. His work has appeared in a number of regional and national shows and exhibitions. Alan has been a regular instructor and demonstrator of the craft—having worked in over 45 states and 4 foreign countries. His writings have covered technical aspects of woodturning, many specific projects, stories related to both contemporary and historical woodturning and the long turning traditions of Japan and Germany. He has also produced three videos on his own, with two of them winning a total of four national awards. In 1999 the

American Association of Woodturners awarded him their Lifetime Honorary Member Award for his contributions to the field.

Alan will put on a special demonstration for the Woodchucks Friday evening Sept. 7th. The primary subject will be using hook tools. Saturday, Alan will conduct a workshop. Exact times will be emailed out when the arrangements are finalized

(Continued from page 1)

produce wooden toys for the November donation to the Children's Hospital. Possible demo by Alan Lacer. (see article on P. 2.)

October 18th – segmented turnings with Arny Spahn and Russ Fellows

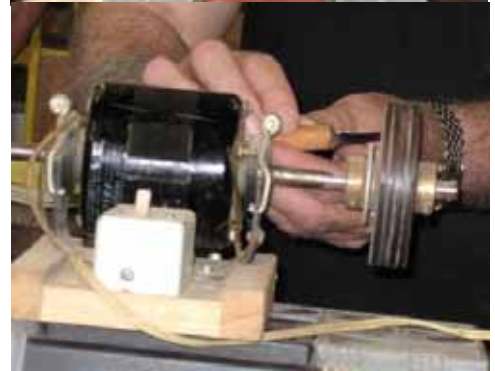
November 15th - collection of toys, open demo.

December- no meeting

Show & Tell:



David Scrase- elm bowl



Above: Sample carving and shop-made honing rig.



Jim - crotchwood bowl.



Ralph Tursini- cherry bowl in home use for 3 yrs

Roy gave an excellent talk on the tools & techniques of carving. This craft, combined with woodturning, can produce more valuable articles for decoration and sale.

A starter set of carving knives & gouges is inexpensive. Like turning tools, you can add to a basic set when you develop skill or find a cut you can't make.

Roy's take on sharpening is also worth thinking about. Except for the initial sharpening of carving tools, a fine honing FREQUENTLY is necessary for clean work. Roy showed us a homemade honing setup consisting of a motor, leather wheel and hard cotton wheel. He uses jeweler's rouge as a honing compound.

This would be a nice addition to your box of tricks.



Roy Gilbert - black walnut bowl.



Craig Hall- maple bowl and maple hollow vessel



## Ted's Turn: Heartwood

Many of my favorite turnings take advantage of the often striking difference in color between heart and sapwood. Heartwood, of course comes, from sapwood but here are many distinctions between them.

Sapwood is living material and is newly formed in the inner layer of the bark called the cambium. Each layer of sapwood laid down forms another annual ring in the growth of the tree. As the tree matures it is no longer necessary that there be so much sapwood conveying sap and nutrients up and down the trunk to and from the leaves. So, in the very center of the trunk the parenchymal cells begin to die and sapwood is transformed into heartwood. As it does so, substances called extractives, which are species specific, are forming and depositing in the cell walls. The extractives are, in part, derived from leftover sugars which have been conveyed down from the leaves and moved horizontally through the sapwood, using ray cells, toward the center of the tree where they are deposited.

The extractives have wide ranging characteristics which often confer decay resistance. This can readily be seen in a spalted (a form of fungal decay) beech log in which the spalting is confined to the sapwood and the heartwood is completely spared. Another way in which extractives quicken the pulses of woodchucks is the color changes that occur due to the extractives in heartwood formation. Some extractives are colorless, as in the spruces or deeply pigmented as in black walnut, yellow birch or ash. These extractives may also affect other characteristics of heartwood such as permeability, hardness and abrasiveness,

The ratio of heartwood to sapwood varies greatly among the species. In general, the more demanding a tree's crown is of sap supply, the wider the sapwood will have to be to meet that demand. Listed below are some common trees indicating the number of growth rings of sapwood needed in these species to support their mature crowns.

Northern Catalpa *	1-2
Black locust	2-3
American chestnut	3-4
Black cherry	10-12
Black walnut	10-20
American beech	20-30
Sugar maple	30-40
Silver maple	40-50
Sweet birch	60-80
Black tupelo	80-100

\*From Understanding Wood by R. Bruce Hoadley; p 12.

There are certainly exceptions to these guidelines. On a visit to a logger in Charlotte, I inspected several sugar maples and two 18" diameter trees were felled 30' from each other. One had a 2" heartwood and the other 8"!

Some species can be identified by the shape of the boundary between sap and heartwood. For example, a fluted interface is characteristic of butternut and hornbeam. In Ambrosia maple finger-like projections of the heartwood jut outward into the sapwood and can be particularly attractive in turnings. The projections are caused by an ambrosia beetle infestation of the tree and 2 accompanying fungi. Burls, especially sugar maple and birch, may have wild distortions of this boundary and add dramatically to the beauty of these turnings.

**Ted**

### In House Demos:

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

**Sept. 5th: Board meeting @ Ted Fink's home, 6:00 PM. All members may come; this is a potluck supper & meeting. Call Ted for more info.**

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

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

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

## Treasurer's report



Treasurer's Report	
Balance forward	\$2579.62
Income	
raffle	30.00
T-shirts	45.00
dues	20.00
Expenses	
Demonstration honorarium (Al Stirt)	50.00
Balance Forward	\$2624.62

The big news from the past month was 2007 AAW symposium in Portland Oregon. The highlights of the symposium for me were seeing many old friends and meeting quite a few new ones. The demonstrators were awesome. The trade show was fantastic. The Instant gallery was extraordinary with 1,362 pieces.

Sherry and I helped with the youth program and had great fun with it. After the symposium Sherry and I went to Crater Lake for 2 days and then back to our home in Lakeland, FL.

This year's symposium was one of the best ever. The 1,585 attendees (13% of the AAW members) made it the second largest ever.

The Auction raised \$102,584 to fund the Education Opportunity Grants a new record!

Special thanks go to Elizabeth York, Gene Colley, Binh Pho, Jacques Vesery, and Bonnie Klein for making this auction extra special.

Congratulation to Elizabeth York for the high bid of \$30,000 for collaborative by Pho and Sudol - pierced and airbrushed vessel with acrylic paint, made of birch.

For a photo click: <http://www.woodturner.org/sym/sym2007/photos/auction/dsc02302.htm>

Congratulations to Gene Colley for the winning bid of \$20,000 for a collaborative by

Klein and Vesery - double threaded top box with world and carved tree; colored.

Ed Davidson has been real busy capturing so much of the symposium.

Visit <http://www.woodturner.org/sym/sym2007/gallery.html>

The symposium is only possible through the efforts of members who volunteer their time and effort to make it a success. We had more than 50 members demonstrate.

More than 60 artists contributing to the auction, and over 250 volunteers

Visit <http://www.woodturner.org/sym/sym2007/volunteers.pdf>

Look for people you know.

Thank them when you see them next. Please let me know if we have missed any volunteers. With over 20 committees and so many people stepping up to help from all directions we may have missed a few who deserve recognition. If you spot an omission, please help us correct it.

Binh Pho's memorial to Frank Sudol touched everyone deeply. We'll miss Frank. What memories he left us with!

Summary of June 2007 AAW board meeting items: The AAW youth education page is up and running. This is the program outlined in the Journal.

See <http://www.woodturner.org/community/youth/>

The projects and teaching tips are suitable for kids of all ages! Thank Dave Bowers

and his helpers for all their hard work!

**Board of directors elections:**

Corey Anderson, Temple Blackwood, Tony Cortese, Bill Haskell, Malcolm Tibbetts, and Tom Wirsing are the six candidates for three board positions. Read about each of them in the next Journal and Vote.

**AAW Memorial fund:**

John Hill, Jack Hastings and Bill Haskell were named as trustees to manage the AAW memorial funds in accordance with policies established by the AAW board of directors.

**2008 Dates Conflict:**

It is a fact that the 2008 Utah Symposium and 2008 AAW symposium are on the same dates. Both AAW and the Utah representatives regret this has happened. Neither can change the schedule at this date. The AAW has set dates through 2011. The Utah symposium has only two choices of dates from BYU. We have resolved to keep each other informed so that this won't happen again.

**Utube:**

Malcolm Tibbetts proposed putting some AAW videos on Utube. The cost is next to nothing. It could potentially reach a huge audience of folks who may one day join the AAW.

Al Hockenbery  
AAW Board

## 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.*

*802-899-3059*

*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  
An associated chapter  
of  
American Association of  
Woodturners**

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

Is anyone interested in a good used wood lathe? It's a Delta 1440 in new condition. Used very little and a reasonable price at \$400.00. For those that don't know, it is 40" between centers and has a swing of 14". Also the head stock pivots too. The guy also has a good used chuck to sell that fits the same lathe, not sure how much, but I think its about \$100.00.

\$500.00 would probably buy the whole package.

If anyone has any interest call me at 603-444-6009 and I'll give you his phone number (which I have at my work).

Safe Turning,  
Mike Boylan

## 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.