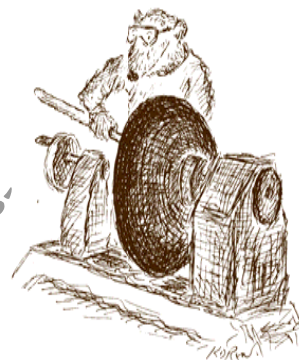


# WOODCHUCK CHATTER



May 10, 2008

Volume 5, Issue 5

## THE NEWSLETTER OF WOODCHUCK TURNERS OF NORTHERN VERMONT

An Affiliate of American Association of Woodturners

[WWW.WOODCHUCKSVT.org](http://WWW.WOODCHUCKSVT.org)

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### Next Meeting: May 22, 2008

The main subject of the meeting will be green wood—how to turn it, how to treat it before, during, and after turning. See Notes From The Sharpening Bench for a little prep course on why wood splits. We're looking for your latest project for Show'N'Tell. We'd also like to raffle off some interesting things from your shop, too. Do you have a tool you've outgrown? What about a hunk of wood kicking around?

And, as always, we'd like suggestions on subjects & demos you would like to see.



### April Meeting Notes



Monthly Meeting  
4/17/2008

Meeting called to order by president Russ Fellows

We introduced ourselves around the room.

#### Old Business

Minutes were approved as published.

The AAW National Symposium will be June 20-22, Richmond VA.

There was some discussion as to who might go, and who would like to share a ride. **AI Stirt** will be one of the demonstrators & he needs some help. This is what he says:

**I'm not sure if this is appropriate for "Chatter" but I'm looking for someone who is driving down to Richmond for the AAW symposium & is willing to bring down**

**a couple of boxes for me. I'll be flying down & need to get a few things down there.**

**People can get in touch with me :**

**AI Stirt  
933-2125**

AnchorSeal – will be stored at Ralph's shop. The group was polled on amount to get for the initial order.



(Continued on page 3)

## Woodchuck Chatter

### Woodchuck Turners of Northern Vermont

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apspahn@comcast.net

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 –Take Care of Yourself



I had my annual physical today. My doc has been my doc for close to 30 years, and he knows me (forgive the innuendo)

inside & out. He's shown me how to be healthy all these years.; good diet, monitor my condition, get off my butt & exercise regularly— the whole drill.

I want to be safe and comfortable while working, so I'm inventorying what I need to stay healthy, but not to the point of paranoia. The basics come first. I put on bug repellent and a hat &

long sleeves (most of the time, when the sun's high). As an older guy, I know my skin is thinner and too much sun can cause cancer. Life's too short to spend it sick, lonely, or unhappy. Bug spray? Believe it or not, climate has changed enough to bring ticks (Lyme disease) and mosquitoes (West Nile Virus) into Vermont. And the damn black flies are no fun either. There are at least two kinds, one of which causes me to have swellings the size of a half-dollar.

I'll wear sturdy shoes, not flip-flops, when I'm wielding a sharp tool; gloves, too. I won't go so far as to wear a hard hat, but I'll put on ear protection and

perhaps a face shield of some kind when I use power equipment.

This summer, I'm also going to watch my fluid levels. I don't usually feel thirsty, but I've noticed lately that I need to tank up more.

All these are good health tips for woman, man, or boy, but the best tip I can give you is to have a regular checkup. A good doc can see the early signs of oncoming disease of all kinds. I'm not worried about prolonging my life. I think that when your number is up, it's up. My goal is to have good health and enjoy life as far into old age as I can.

Arny

## From the Chairman 's Burrow



Greetings my fellow Woodchucks! I hope you are all not too busy with Spring stuff to get into your shops for a project or two. It is

wonderful to be able to open the doors wide to let the sun and air in.....and a little dust out! Until a few years ago such a maneuver WAS my dust collection/removal system. Things are significantly upgraded now, although I still prefer to have the doors open wide. Fortunately I am just far away enough from my neighbors so noise does not carry.

It is heartening to be having such good attendance at our recent meetings. That's great, and as I have said before, it is nice to be attracting as many new members as we have, and that they are participating. I hope our new nametag system is helping everyone to get names "imprinted"!

I want to gently nudge everyone again to look around for items that they can bring in for the monthly raffle. We all seem to be focused on bringing chunks of wood, which of course is key to what we do!.....but anything else that you have lying around and no longer need is welcome. A tool that is ready to be recycled to another new owner, a can of finish that you aren't going to need and may have a shelf-life, etc, etc. Thanks!

A final reminder for the "Going Green" Expo this weekend.....May 10th-11th .....at the Gutterson Field House at UVM. There has been quite a lot about it in the paper. There should be a lot of information available to help us all be greener Woodchucks!

The Northern Forest Center is again sponsoring its "Ways of the woods" mobile museum this year. It goes all around the state and will be in Essex Jet. this weekend. For a complete schedule go to their website, [www.northernforest.org/wow-tour-schedule.shtml](http://www.northernforest.org/wow-tour-schedule.shtml).

Another reminder to all of you to be vigilant for anything you see that might be of interest to your fellow Woodchucks. Arny works hard every month to fill the pages of "Chatter" and all articles/links are welcome for consideration. Thanks!

Last week I was in North Carolina, home to a lot of Woodchucks.....and many, many other crafters as well. I stopped at one of the "official" shops of the Southern Highland Craft Guild.. [www.southernhighlandguild.org](http://www.southernhighlandguild.org).....( I put official in quotes because it is not a state sponsored group, but it is non-profit). They have five shops around the state, but the one I was at was their premier one located on the Blue Ridge Parkway just outside Asheville. It is a big beautiful naturally lighted building, well designed for display. I wanted to take some pictures of some of the turnings, but with signs everywhere saying 'NO photography', I decided to ask first, and even though I identified myself as the president of the largest woodturning club in Vermont and my "mission" was purely educational.....the answer was "NO"! They explained it was to protect their contributing artists' "design integrity", which I guess I can understand, but surely, exceptions for bona fide educational endeavors?? Not!! I was thinking of you all though!

Hope to see many of you at the meeting next week!

Russ

(Continued from page 1)



### New Business

Revisions to the Bylaws will be voted on @ the annual meeting. Army, Russ, Ralph are the by-laws committee.

Woodchuck t-shirts are now priced at \$10 – what a deal!

Ted will investigate the cost for Woodchuck hats— maybe with ears?

Club Mentors – reminder

are interested in obtaining a booth to display / sell turnings. Those folks are: Gregg, Joe, Russ, Craig, Hav, Ralph, Randy.

Dave Hurlbut has a package deal on his shop equipment: Lathe, Band-saw & Table saw. Contact him for more info.

Next meeting 5/22 @ Shelburne Art Center

### Show & Tell



Mickey Palmer took last month's demo & finished it with dye & Mylands turner's finish.



that we have a great pool of talent here and that we should take advantage of this resource. For a list, look at P. 3.

Vermont Crafts Council - Open Studio Weekend, May 24 & 25 – several club members are participating.

Sept 26 & 27 – Fine Woodworking Show, Woodstock, VT Several club members



Two of Randy's maple bowls— nice use of figure/ color.



A piece rescued from the discards.

**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

**Bill Walsh:** tool sharpening  
802 482 215  
billiriquois@yahoo.com

## Treasurer's report

### Treasurer's Report

<b>Balance Forward</b>	<b>\$3223.61</b>
<b>Income</b>	
Raffle	50.00
Dues	100.00
<b>Expenses</b>	
Name tag materials	26.50
AAW Insurance	45.00
Website annual domain fee	\$47.00
<b>Balance Forward</b>	<b>\$3255.11</b>
Ted Fink	



### Welcome New Member

Janet Collins  
janetcol-  
lins@jacwoodworking.com  
PO Box 353, 134 South Bailey-  
Hazen Rd.;  
Ryegate, VT 05042  
802 584 4341

## Greetings From Skunk Hollow

### In House Demos:

May 22.  
Green bowl turning.  
Ralph Tursini.

June 19.  
TBA.

July 17.  
Ralph Tursini.  
Google Sketch-up

August .  
Picnic meeting. Date  
& place TBA

September  
Texturing. Ted &  
Russ.

October  
Randy, Xmas  
ornaments

I continue to be busy, busy in my shop/studio..... on a full-time basis now. The shoulder episode is now pretty much a distant memory. As I mentioned at the last meeting, I am participating in the Vermont Craft Council's "Open Studio Weekend" over Memorial Day weekend again this year, so am focused on building inventory (and cleaning up my shop!) for that, including finishing that pile of 'seconds' in the corner of the shop that was reported in last month's "Chatter"!

I now have six galleries that I am contracted to, including now the two of Frog Hollow (they are closing their Manchester location). My acceptance at Frog Hollow just happened, and the two

pieces pictured here are part of my first allotment for them. The vessel is mahogany, walnut, holly, wenge, and bloodwood, and approximately thirteen inches wide by twelve inches high. The bowl is eucalyptus and bloodwood and is



twelve by five. I also have orders for more large vessels, including my gallery in Peterborough, New

Hampshire, where I sold my first "giant" one last Christmas.



I extend again to all my fellow Woodchucks, the invitation to stop by my shop for a visit if you are anywhere in the area. Call for directions!

See you next week!

Russ Fellows

## Wood Opportunity

Hi Ted, I'm a buddy of Joe Gaines in the NE Kingdom. I've got a sawmill/kiln/resaw operation. I had a logging business for about 10 years but recently changed over to the millworks. I started cutting bowl blanks for John Brislin. I would be happy to keep my eyes open for any special order blanks for the gang at the Woodchucks. I have access to some pretty nice tiger maple, Birdseye, cherry, spalted maple, butternut, birches and even chestnut (some buddies cutting in Norwich ran into it!). By the way, beautiful work on your site. I saw a spalted maple bowl of Johns' recently. Fantastic look. I don't have my site up yet, still under construction but the home number or e-mail above will find me. Thanks much - JP

name = JP Sinclair  
email = [jpsincla@dps.state.vt.us](mailto:jpsincla@dps.state.vt.us)  
phone = 802-748-0948

## Woodchuck Sightings

**Al Stirt** will be one of the featured demonstrators at the AAW symposium in Richmond, coming up in June.

### Fifth Annual Vermont Fine Furniture and Woodworking Festival

Sat. Sept.27-28, Union Arena, Woodstock, VT

[www.vermontwoodfestival.org](http://www.vermontwoodfestival.org)

**Location:** Rte.4 west of Woodstock at the Woodstock High School

**Show set up:** Fri. Sept. 26 9:00 AM-8:00 PM, Electricity is part of your cost

**Questions ,concerns:** Kathleen or Erin at

802- 747-7900

They still have space (most are 10 x 10) and may want more demonstrators.

Note: Joe Laferriere has reserved space for that event. Ted Fink also mentioned exhibiting there.

### May Sightings

Dick Montague, Jim Cunningham and Ted Fink will be doing turning demonstrations at the Shelburne Museum Lilac Sunday, May 18th, 2008. (Last minute note: Ted had to back out & there's room for another turner.)

Ralph Tursini, Russ Fellows and Ted Fink

will be participating in Vermont Open Studio, May 24 & 25, 2008.

[Open Studio: Tursini Woodturning, Cambridge, VT](#)

**Saturday to Sunday May 24, 25 10:00-5:00**

I will have my doors open to all for the Vermont Crafts Council's Open Studio Weekend. Please stop in to say hi.

**Saturday August 10 10:00-3:00**

Stowe Farmers Market Woodturning Demonstration by Ralph Tursini  
Mountain Road, Stowe, Adjacent to the Red Barn Shops across from Stoweflake Motor Inn.

Last month's notes addressed how fast to turn and some of the basics to master before considering speed. The second question was how to keep wood from splitting before, during and after turning. This month--what makes wood split.



First, a little about the circumstances inside the wood that cause splitting. Once understood, you only have to prevent these circumstances to keep your project or half log from splitting. Cells of very green (wet) wood have free liquid water in their hollow spaces. They also have captured water in the cellulose walls of the cells. As free water moves from the cells there is no change in the dimension of the wood, just weight loss. But, as the captured water leaves the cell walls, they begin to shrink. This is like a cellulose sponge drying and shrinking. This loss of captured water is what causes the blank or bowl to shrink and change shape. If this happens evenly throughout the piece there will be little likelihood of splitting.

Water leaves the end grain of logs, blanks, and projects many times faster than through their side grain. It also escapes near the surface faster than further into the

wood. As the captured water near the surface evaporates these surface cells begin to shrink but the wood below stays nearly its green size. This happens with time, exposure to the sun or hot lights, or from the friction heat of sanding. At this point the surface wood must stretch, the wood below must compress, or the surface wood will crack.

The "trick" to preventing splitting is to make sure the water leaves the wood from the surface all the way through at the same rate. This results in the shrinkage happening evenly throughout the piece. Otherwise you have the large cracks in the ends of your firewood facing the sun, medium cracks in the end grain of your almost finished bowl when you get back from lunch, or the hairline cracks in even "dry" maple when

you over heat it with dull sandpaper. Remember, no stress, no cracking.

As always there are exceptions. I mentioned half logs above because whole logs almost always split. Even if dried evenly the outer wood shrinks and must itself stretch, compress the core, or split. You can help this situation by making a chainsaw cut lengthwise from bark to center. (Making this cut accurately while only looking at one end, and selecting the best location in the log for the bowl are topics for another time.)

Other exceptions would be exceptionally hard spots like knots and compressed grain and unusual grain in one place such as wood that has grown over the end of a dead branch. There are some species that seem to be especially prone to cracking. Examples include fruit woods. Apple has a particularly bad reputation for warping and cracking even with great care.

Understanding all this will help you make the best use of standard crack prevention practices and/or enable you to develop your own. Time and word count are running out, so next month I will cover some standard and not

so standard methods of drying and crack prevention before, during, and after turning.

*I have been doing this for a few months now and again am asking for some feedback. Because of the overwhelming lack of response on the first try I am holding a really big bucks raffle. Send me comments or questions on this or anything I have written, requests for clarification, or specific topics you would like to see covered about any aspect of turning or sharpening or.... From the large list of those answering this request and including their address, I will draw a name and send them \$\$\$10.00! I know, but, it is almost a third of the cost of a modest turning tool. Snail mail or e-mail is o.k.*

Richard Montague  
PO BOX 155  
GROTON, VT 05046  
[montagueturn@hotmail.com](mailto:montagueturn@hotmail.com)

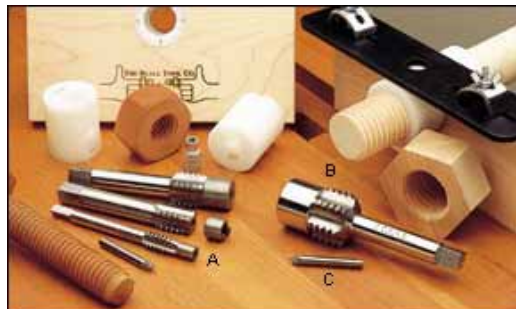
April Demonstration: Cutting Threads In Wood



With proper tools, a thread can be cut in a block and on a rod.



This is the screw from an antique bench vise.



Lee Valley sells the Beall threading kit, Item # 443].10 for \$145.00; includes tap & die for 1/2", 3/4", & 1". Larger sizes available.

# Cutting Threads In Wood—A Threaded Box



Woodturner's Catalog has thread chasers in sets for \$76.99; come in 16, 18, & 20 TPI.



Also needed is an arm rest to support the thread chaser. Price: \$42.99



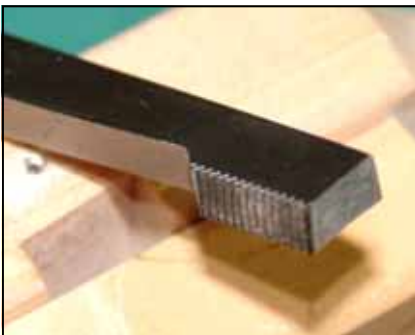
1. Cut a recess in the body of the box. Sides should be parallel. Leave enough wall thickness.



2. Set the lathe to its lowest speed. Begin at the outer edge with the tool tilted horizontally.



Looking at the cutting action from the back side of the lathe. Notice that the arm rest is pulling the tool into the cut.



This is the business end of an inside thread chaser.



3. The arm rest is used with the thread chaser to bring sideways pressure on the tool. Pull toward you and let the tool travel into the work.



Continue cutting and allowing the tool to run into the work piece until threads look deep enough. Wax can be used to



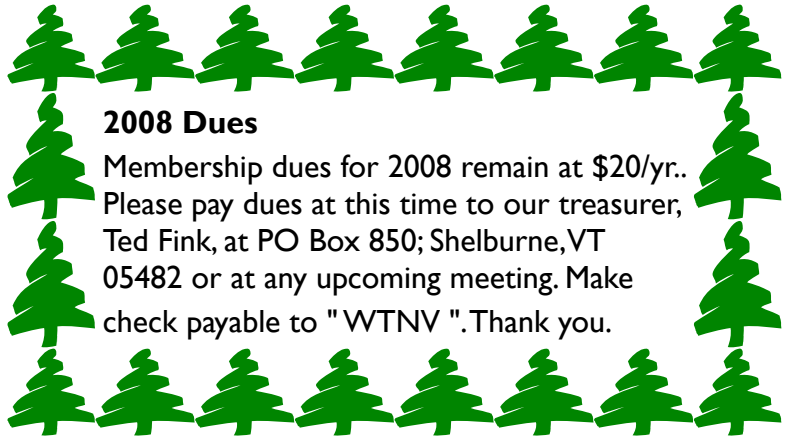
This homemade tool cuts a rebate at the bottom of the box.



4. This is the correct position for a starting cut.

**The Newsletter of  
Woodchuck Turners  
of Northern Vermont**

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



**2008 Dues**

Membership dues for 2008 remain at \$20/yr.. Please pay dues at this time to our treasurer, Ted Fink, at PO Box 850; Shelburne, VT 05482 or at any upcoming meeting. Make check payable to "WTNV ". Thank you.

**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.

**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 re-

turning 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.