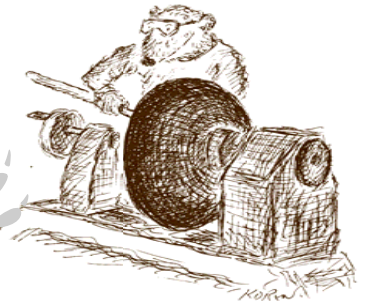


WOODCHUCK CHATTER



WWW.WOODCHUCKSVT.org

October 10, 2011

An Affiliate of American Association of Woodturners

Volume 8 issue 10

The Newsletter of Woodchuck Turners of Northern Vermont

With Contributions By the Upper Valley Woodturners

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Meeting, October 19th: Elections. Bring in your turkeys & get ideas.

At the meeting this month, we will be electing a new slate of officers. While we have a nominated slate, there is still the opportunity to put your hat in the ring for any of the Board positions. There is the usual suite of officers, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, & Treasurer,



plus 3 members-at-large. Read the report of the last meeting for the nominations.

The Demo this month is about projects which have given you trouble. Bring something which hasn't gone quite right, and we—at least our mentor group—will puzzle it out and see if the project can be salvaged in some fashion. Alternatively, at what step did the project become irrevocably a candidate for your Shelf of Curiosities?

September Meeting Notes by Toby Fulwiler

MINUTES OF WOODCHUCK MEETING, September 21, 2011

7:02 President **Russ Fellows** calls



meeting to order. Twenty five members in attendance. Announcements include a reminder about the upcoming Woodstock festival, the October 6 Board Meeting, and more CA glue for sale (contact Russ). Other announcements follow regarding upcoming events including the NFE Fall Open Studio weekend, and the Sheep & Wool Festival.

7:20 Russ opened the floor to nominations for 2012 club officers which included the following:

Nick Rosato, President
Joe Laferriere, Vice President
Ted Fink, Treasurer
Toby Fulwiler, Secretary

Arny Spahn, Ralph Tursini, Craig Hall members at large

Russ will step down as president after serving three years to allow him to pursue warmer winter weather. However, with the exception of President, the slate of nominations for club officers and board members remain the same as in 2011. Additional nominations welcome at the October 19 meeting at which time voting will take place. 7:30 **Ted Fink** introduces the silent auction which includes the book *Woodturning Wizards* (won by Arny) and a Porter Cable random

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Being Mentored—And Mentoring—Are Part of Becoming a Woodchuck

You probably came to your first meeting of the Woodchuck Turners of Northern Vermont to see what we did and to see what you can learn along the way. You may not have owned a lathe at first, or didn't know how to use your tools and hoped to pick up skills by looking.

That's why we established mentoring. You can find the list of mentors on P. 4. Give one or more a call and talk about what you need. These mentors are glad to arrange meetings with you. They will work with you until you are comfortable with the skills you're working on. And, there is no fee. Sessions can be at your shop or theirs.

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Good lighting is dear to my heart. As a photographer, I was trained to evaluate the quality of light and let my meter evaluate the quantity of light and light ratios in the scene.

Going from the studio to the woodworking shop meant that my meter was nearly useless. It was how well I could see that really mattered. I found that I needed a fairly high level of over-all lighting so I could navigate the shop floor and locate tools when I wanted them. Having a mix of fluorescent and incandescent lights worked OK, but for my roughly 900 square foot shop, that added up to a lot of 100-watt bulbs. So, I switched out the 100-watt incandescents for 40-watt curly fluorescents.

That still leaves the problem of adequate lighting for individual tools. I really need, and advocate, strong lighting for all my saws and my lathe. Good task lighting is important for accuracy and for safety. I started out with clip-on incandescent fixtures, usually

with 75-watt bulbs within a foot of the action. I would NOT recommend using curly fluorescents. If one of them breaks, you stand a chance of inhaling stuff you don't want to know about.

Now comes the era of the Light Emitting Diode—the LED. I have tried some battery-powered LEDs and found them inadequate. The LED lamp which Barry Genzlinger mentioned last month (WoodRiver LED Dual Power Shop Light: \$34.99) - has an AC adapter, but its beam is neither even or spread very wide. I did use my light meter to compare some light sources and found that the Ikea LED lamp is approximately twice as bright as the WoodRiver, and just as bright as my halogen 10 Watt desk light. The Ikea and the desk lamp both have good, wide, even light spreads. I managed to find the Ikea thru Amazon and bought a few. They are desk-type with a weighted bottom. I converted one using a large, round magnet I found in a hardware store. The Ikeas cost \$17.00 each, but I

didn't have to drive to Massachusetts to find them. Any one want to buy one from me?

The high-powered halogen lamps provide good lighting, but the bulbs are costly and not guaranteed to last very long. Also, they operate at very high heat, and I worry that in the dusty area near where one is cutting, they may well cause a dust-explosion or start a fire after you have turned them off & left the room.

My next step in task lighting will be to experiment with the new LEDs which come on screw-in bases. I need to do more research into how LED wattage or lumens translates into light intensity and pattern. Two neat things about LED lamps: They are supposed to last up to 10 years without loss of power, and they screw right into my existing task lighting. Prices are coming down, so some of them cost under \$25 each.

I'll keep in touch.

Army

From The President's Desk

October Greetings Fellow Woodchucks,

The Woodstock Fine Furniture and Woodworking Show is now "in the can", and for our club, it was a success. The organizers reported quite a significant drop in attendance, which they are calling a legacy of hurricane Irene, and there were also several of last year's vendors who did not make it back. Overall, it seems to be a show that is struggling to find itself, and quite likely those who ultimately make such decisions (The Vermont Wood Manufacturers Association) will be carefully weighing all factors before giving the "go-ahead" for another one next year. Our booth did just under \$2,000 in sales, with which we feel good. At the agreed-upon commission rate of 20% for those who made sales, this netted us half of our total cost to do the show. With the exposure we gained to those attend-

ing, we are characterizing it as a success. We will have to take a "wait and see" posture on whether we will do it again next year, dependent hugely, of course, on the decision of the organizers.

We have been notified by Hartville Tool that they are discontinuing one component of their club discount program. The end-of-year rebate is now history, but members who have signed up will still be entitled to the 15% discount on purchases. To be on this list you must have your club dues current AND tell Ted in April that you want to be on it. He will remind us when renewal is imminent. Ditto with the discounts from Klingspor and Craft Supplies.

The 'video & projection' project.....and it has been a project, now almost one year!...is close to completion. The storage locker for all our new equipment, being made

by the students at the Woodworking School (<http://www.vermontwoodworkingschool.com/VWS/Home.html>), is almost done. It will be moved to the second floor, along with our lathe, to what will become our regular meeting place. This is where we used to meet, and is a space that is a little more receptive to group gatherings. Hopefully this will all be set by our meeting on the 19th, but if not, definitely by the November meeting. Per a suggestion by our club librarian and tech "guru", Mickey Palmer, we are looking to add a DVD player to our inventory, to give us the flexibility to view videos at the meeting. If any of you, by chance, have a player kicking around that you no longer need and would like to donate to the club, please let Mickey know. Thanks!

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

Another item that we talked about at our October Board meeting on the 5th was how to "ramp up" our mentoring program? We have had this program for a long time now, and is one of our significant 'missions' as a club. The club mentors are listed in every issue of "Chatter" and also on the website. The "phones" of most of our mentors have been quiet of late, so we just want to remind, and encourage, you to take advantage of this. There is no charge to work with a mentor, and for those who join the club to learn and improve their skills, (and this really would include all of us!) it is a great

way to advance the learning curve over just coming to meetings and/or working on your own. Please don't hesitate with this! Also, if you would like to become a mentor, please let a club officer know and we will happily put you on the list.

As you have heard me say, both in this column and at meetings, one of the main reasons we hold semi-annual board meetings is to line up our demo & program schedule for the next six to eight months.....and this recent meeting was no exception. We think we have a nice line-up again and you can see details elsewhere in "Chatter". We got a lot of positive feedback from you on the September "multi-station" format and are planning another one, in slightly "tweaked" form, for next year. Thanks to

all of you who weighed in with ideas for our programming! It is very helpful to us to hear from you.

The program for October is called "Bring in your Turkeys"! It will be an instructional "clinic" for pieces you may have that you have been struggling with. Let your fellow Woodchucks weigh in with their ideas on how to improve them. Be prepared with your thoughts on how to help them too! It should be a fun and informative exchange. Hope to see many of you there!

Cheers,
Russ Fellows

Treasurer's report October, 2011

October 2011 Treasurer's Report

Balance Forward	\$2298.30
Income	
Raffle	40.00
Dues	20.00
Silent Auction	30.00
Woodstock Commissions	326.00
Expenses	
TV , casters	599.51
Picnic food	190.00
Bank Chg. Checks	37.04
Balance Forward	\$1887.75
Ted Fink, Treasurer	

Reminder: 2012 Dues will be \$25. This is the first increase in 10 years. Dues can be paid by check payable to "WTNV" and sent to Ted Fink; PO Box 850; Shelburne, VT 05482.

Dues Paid; October 2011

The board of directors of WTNV gratefully acknowledges receipt of 2011 dues from the following members :

Dale Bergdahl, Bill Blakeney, Larry Bose, Jeff Botas, Bob Bouvier, Michael Boylan, Dave Buchholz,, Peter Coffey, Janet Collins, Stephen Cook, Greg Drew, Tom Dunne, Argie Economou, Russ Fellows, Cheryl Ferry, David Ferry, Ted Fink, Mike Fitzgerald, Toby Fulwiler, Tyler Gebhardt, Barry Genzlinger, Dennis Grage, Edd Gross, Craig Hall, Erin Hanley, Jim Holzschuh, Bruce Klink, Sherb Lang, Joe Laferriere, Steve Lande, Bob Martin, Gerry Martin, Sandy Matathia, Peter Mattos, Gary Moreau, Mike B. Morisette, Mike C. Morisette, Bill Nestork, Steve O'Donnell, Jerry O'Riordan, Mickey Palmer, Jim Phelan, Michael Perron, Harvie Porter, Nick Rosato, Bob Rosenblum, Bill Rowley, David Scrase, Adam Sollace, Ira Sollace, Arnold Spahn, Priscilla Spahn, John Tichonuk, Ralph Tursini, Allan Wallor, Bill Walsh, Paul Willard, Jerry Wood. (Scott Bennett, Dick Montague, Michael

Mode and Al Stirt are lifetime non paying members)

Dues for 2011 are \$20. Checks should be made out to "WTNV" and sent to Ted Fink, 136 Davis Ave.; Shelburne, VT 05482.

Welcome New Member:

Steve O'Donnell
151 Olde Orchard Lane
Shelburne, VT 05482
odonnellvt@yahoo.com
802 316 0288



Please note: The following privileges are only available to dues-paying members. Video library use, mentoring program, Klingspor and Hartville Tool discount lists, bulk purchase discounts, Woodstock participation.

Woodchuck Mentors
These Woodchucks are able and willing to help other Woodchucks wanting some hands-on instruction.

Craig Hall: Bowls, spindles, & hollow forms.
802-644-5344
craighall@hotmail.com
Cambridge

Dick Montague: General turning, all aspects plus tool sharpening.
802-584-3486
Montague-turn@hotmail.com
Groton

Ralph Tursini: Spindles & bowls, vacuum chucking.
802-899-6863
info@vermontwoodturning.com
Cambridge

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

Russ Fellows: Segmented vessels. 802-899-3059
skunkmen@together.net
Jericho

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

Greg Drew: Tool skills. Finishes.. Portable mill & chainsaw work.
802-527-6207
personal-woodsmythe@yahoo.com
Georgia



As of the writing of this bio, I believe I'm the only candidate for the presidency of the WTNV. I'm not really sure what that means, but I'm sort of suspicious as to what you all know that I don't. Anyway... I started woodturning in 2007 in Colchester at a community woodworking shop. I remember my first experience quite well. Bob Fletcher, one of the founders of the Vermont Woodworking School, chucked up a slice of 8/4 kiln-dried mahogany. He slapped a bowl gouge into my hand in the manner of a high-five and said, "Let me know if you have any questions. I'll be over there." While that's not exactly how it went down, I'm still laughing. He showed me the ins and outs of bowl turning and sharpening without a jig. At the time, I was working a desk job in South Burlington. I became a member of the shop and would go there after work to turn 6" bowls that resembled dog dishes and/or vomit. I quickly filled up the book case in my house with small bowls and then started giving them away. The lathe I used was a General. The green monster.

I seemed to have a knack for turning. I learned quickly and started producing larger objects and produced a few segmented bowls. I was one of the first two students to enroll in the Vermont Woodworking School. I focused on turning. I learned spindle work and made a few pieces of furniture. It was then that I grew a distaste for hand-cut dove tails,

miter corners, and hide glue, which smells like a bad case of athlete's foot. I started selling my work at Artist in Residence in Enosburg Falls. My work was received well, probably due to it being radically under priced. Once I realized I may be able to sell stuff and make a few bucks, I went part time at work and focused on building my skills. I started teaching intro to woodturning for the VWS, which really enhanced my understanding of the craft. It's one thing to be able to turn, it's another thing entirely to explain how to do it. I stayed with the VWS until April of last year when I opened my own shop in Essex Junction. I had a small catalog of production work that I sold through galleries in Vermont and at craft shows. Since then, I have expanded my business to include wholesale accounts throughout New England. I also attend large craft shows and sell at the Burlington Farmer's Market. I really enjoy going to shows and meeting the public. My work continues to be well received, although I have no idea why. But to say the least, I'm grateful.

I do not consider myself an artist, rather I'm a Woodturner. I do not have a background in design or any artistic medium. I have a BA in English, which means I read books in college and talked about them. I enjoy post-modern fiction, which stretches the boundaries of reality and laughs at itself. That's probably why you may find me at times smiling or laughing for no apparent reason. I generally do not like round things, which has been challenging for me as a woodturner. I prefer straight lines with long flowing curves. Much of my work is square or rectangle. I don't like work that is too ornate. I prefer smooth curves without interruption. I

enjoy the act of turning much more than finishing a project.

I like to have fun. If you were a fly on the wall of my shop you may see me dancing around listening to Paul Simon, pumping my fists and kicking the air. I play bass guitar and used to play in a band. I enjoy listening to melodic music while turning because it seems to trigger something soft and gentle within. Keep it simple. A 4/4 time signature is the best. If I listen to rhythms in a 5/4 or 5/8 time signature I loose my mojo. I also crank up the tunes loud enough to overpower the machines and penetrate my headphones. Another joy of having my own shop! One of my favorite moves is to do a 360 degree Michael Jackson-style kick-spin while turning a pepper mill. Naw, that's not entirely true. I don't really have those kind of moves. I look more like Bill Cosby spinning in a circle. Right now I'm bobbing my head to the Talking Heads. "Take me to the river." Great tune.

Anyway, I now have a shop in Winooski. 150 West Canal Street #3, to be exact. Come by anytime. I'm here most days. Call ahead if you're traveling a distance to make sure I'm here. I teach classes Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6pm-8:30pm, so you're welcome to come by during that time as well. And if you're interested in taking classes let me know and I'm sure we can figure something out. I'm looking forward to the election. It's going to be a tight race and I wish all candidates the best. May the best turner win! Or the most gullible, whichever fits the bill.

Happy Turning!

Nick Rosato

www.thesculptedtree.com

Reviewed: Glaser 1/2" 10V oval bowl gouge and Thompson's Fluteless 5/8" gouge.



I'll start off giving you an opinion on the Glaser. The included photos are shots from the business end of the tools. From this angle its easy to see the shape differences between the sample group. From left to right I have measured the thickness of metal at the bottom of the flute.

Left- Glaser .160

Middle- Oneway .180

Right- Thompson .260

Both the Glaser and Oneway flutes are deeply cut; the Glaser is hollowed just a bit more but they are fairly close in shape. The Thompson has a much heavier bottom and may be a good choice for extending over the tool rest a bit more. As far as the way the tools handle, it

is hard to describe. I believe all three tools are top performers so it's hard to pick a clear winner, and this is why this review is an opinion! I've turned two hollow forms and finish turned one 11" bowl with the Glaser so far. It's been to the grinder twice; the first time right after it was unpacked and the second



while in the middle of using it to complete the above projects. I did touch it up with the diamond stone a couple of times. I do think the edge stays sharp a bit longer but really it is hard to judge after using it for such a short time. I will say that I've used the Glaser long enough to know it is a real piece of engineering. The fit and finish are second to none. The balance and heft seem perfect and I'm sure that's not by accident. I have a second gouge on order, the only difference being the tool steel will be the 15V which claims to hold a sharp edge even longer.

Now for the Thompson. As you can see in

the photo the handle is one of Thompson's new aluminum, steel shot filled handles with two set screws to remove the steel. The gouge is a 5/8" round blank that has the top half ground away and sharpened with a second bevel. This tool has one purpose, to clean up the transition area from the side to the bottom of bowls. Like anything new there is a learning curve but the results were very good at almost eliminating all tear out on the bowl I was testing. I would take a pass with a side ground gouge first then clean it up with the fluteless gouge. If you don't like sanding the inside surface, give this tool a try as it will reduce your time spent with sandpaper.

Both of these tool have great handles. The ribs on the lead shot filled Glaser and the flats on the steel shot filled Thompson add control and reduce vibration. It's been a while since I've used a wooden handled tool and I don't plan on going back.

One last note on both Glaser's and Thompson's customer service. I've now ordered a total of two Glaser's and have maybe five e-mails from Paulo. Now there's a business man that knows what customer service is!!!!

Before ordering the Thompson I spent 20 minutes on the phone with Doug asking questions and getting answers. As woodturners we're lucky to have two top shelf companies to choose from.

Woodchuck Sightings

First Fall Open Studio: October 1 & 2.

Ted signed on a new employee, Bart The Bear, to greet customers to his shop.



News From The Upper Valley

We got officially chartered over the summer and are having our "annual" meeting on the 15th at Thetford. Mike Foster, Jim Gold and Ron Pouliot are demonstrating small gifty items: pens, bottle stoppers and peppermills. Meeting is 9:30-3:30 Sat, the 15th. BYO Lunch. Were also having a silent auction where attendees can offer tools, wood, finished work or whatever. Club keeps 20% in lieu of dues. There is a nascent website which is pretty devoid of content at the moment, but that will change in the coming months. Right now it's mostly the anchor for the email list manager. Our format is four day-long meetings a year – all on Saturday, all at Thetford. Bob Katz is Chair; Syd Lorandau Vice Chair and Programs; Mike Foster Treas. and Jim Gold and I share Secty. duties. Jim is Recording and I do membership communications.

Regards, Heath Boyer

It was a gathering of Woodchucks (club members) and woodchucks (all the other woodworkers who either attended or had booths) in flood-ravaged Woodstock the last weekend of September. Once again our club had signed up for a double space, and as we started setting up on Friday afternoon, it almost seemed as though we had been allocated even more than that! We hadn't of course, but with a slightly different rack and table mix, we ended up with a little more "walk-around" space. Several Chucks had submitted or brought inventory, and in fact, we ended up having more than we could display, even with a bit of borrowed space from our friends at Vermont WoodNet in the booth next-door!

we had experienced some periods of both rush and quiet, this time less of that and a more even flow, and this pattern held throughout the weekend. We ended up with a booth sales total of some \$2,000, 20% of which will come back to the club, a little more than anticipated. Since our greater objective with this show has always been spreading the Woodchuck message to attendees of the show, as well as getting to visit with some of Vermont's finest woodworkers, these results are viewed as 'just fine'! Folks in other booths reported very mixed results. Some did better than last year, some not as well.

throughout the weekend to help with staffing duties.

Russ Fellows



Joe Laferriere makes chips fly in his demonstration booth in the entrance area.



Craig helps to get things set up.



Craig and Ted manning the booth.



Martha Montague assists in husband Richard's booth.

The organizers had "shuffled" the show hours a bit for this year, taking an hour from the end of the day on Sunday and moving it to Saturday morning. Whether it resulted in more traffic and sales is uncertain, but it did mean we had to scramble a little in our set-up to be ready at 9:00 in the morning.

Over-all, the show organizers reported a drop in paid attendance. Whether this was the result of the still-struggling national economy, or potential visitor's concerns about the conditions in Vermont as a result of the widespread hurricane Irene damage is unknown? Probably it was a bit of both? Woodstock is always a fun show to do and we certainly will seriously consider it again for next year's calendar.



Ted chats with a couple of show visitors. Our neighbors at Vermont WoodNet visible behind.

Many thanks to all Woodchucks who contributed pieces for display in the booth, and to Ted Fink, Tom Dunne, Dale Bergdahl, Craig Hall, Harvie Porter, and Greg Drew for making themselves available at various times



A friend and faithful Woodchuck supporter from Woodstock, Louise Fowler, concluding a sale in our booth.

We WERE ready however, the doors opened as scheduled, and the crowds.....trickled in! That is not at all meant to suggest that attendance was a disappointment. In fact, it seemed to be fairly steady throughout the weekend. In past years



Richard Montague showing some technique to a young visitor on his foot-treadle powered lathe in his booth in the entrance tent.

(Continued from page 1)

orbit air sander (won by Mickey Palmer).



Some harvest time refreshments supplied by the Club.

The monthly raffle in which twenty members participated, included a once-turned bowl, waxed blanks of apple and birch, and gift certificates to *Woodworkers Supply*.

7:40 *Show & Tell*.



Jim Holzschuh presented a box elder bowl.



David Scrase showed a turning called "Captive Rings" and explained how such a piece is turned.



Bill & his ash urns. (urns for ashes??)



Bill Walsh talked about his recent acquisition of a Glazer Gouge and showed recently turned hollow form Ash Urns.



Nick Rosato showed a beech vase with a deep natural rim as well as several squared spalted maple platters.



Russ Fellows showed his IKEA goose neck LED lights and a series of recent segmented bowls.



One of Nick's squareish platters.



Two of Russ's latest designs.



Another platter by Nick.



Close-up of Bill's urn.



Bill shows his new tool.

8:00 Five Concurrent Work Station Demonstrations

Members had their choice of watching any or all of the following demonstrations:

Ted Fink explained the fine points of the skew gouge;

Russ Fellows demonstrated stacked ring turning;

Bill Walsh held forth on sharpening;

Nick Rosato demonstrated a variety of bowl turning techniques with standard bowl gouges.

Craig Hall explained the fine points of various finishing techniques;

9:00 Meeting adjourned.

The Demonstrations: Ted Fink Teaches Skew Techniques



The shape of the skew is important. It's angle to the shaft should be 70°.



The skew should be honed before & during use.



All these cuts are possible with a sharp skew. They can be smooth enough to avoid sanding.



Ted demonstrates the rounding cut, which is faster & smoother than using a roughing gouge.



Doing the planning cut.



Finishing cut—fine hairs coming off the skew.



Showing Al Gilbert how.



Al tries it.



Dale gives it a shot.

Nick Rosato Shows Bowl Basics



Drill a 3/8" hole in the center of the bowl top. Mount to a screw center & shape the outside, forming a spigot for reverse mounting.



Nick shows the proper position & tool angle for a smooth exterior.



Mounting the bowl bottom to a scroll chuck, start shaping the center, using the tool so the edge, not the tip, cuts.



Nick is cutting from near the center outward with this cut. He will deepen the cut and get closer to the center as the bowl gets deeper.

Bill Walsh Works a Sharpening Station



Bill Walsh's Sorby sharpening station



Setting the Oneway jig using a Raptor angle guide.



Setting the proper extension of the gouge in the Oneway system jig.



Putting an edge on a bowl gouge. This profile is similar to the Ellsworth grind.



Bill shapes a half-round scraper.



Putting on a fine edge with the Sorby Pro-Edge .

Off Center Turning With Russ Fellows



Russ chooses a center point by fastening a false bottom to the piece with hot glue and to the faceplate with strong screws. Don't use wallboard screws as they are brittle.



Russ has shifted the false bottom on the faceplate and is making a second cut. For safety, lathe speed should be slow enough so vibration is minimal. Always use the tailstock as long as possible,

The Board of Directors met on October 5th. Present, Russ Fellows, Joe Laferriere, Ted Fink, Toby Fulwiler, Army Spahn.

Guests; Cil Spahn & Nick Rosato.

The meeting came to order @ 7:15.

As previously reported, Treasurer Ted moved our account to the TD Bank to avoid checking charges. At the moment of the meeting, our balance was \$1788. Expenditures reported at the meeting included a total of \$1200 for AV equipment and a \$200 honorarium for Al Stirt.

The Board previously approved an increase of dues to \$25 a year as of January 2012 to help provide more "expert" demos and allow us a better cushion for group purchases of expendable supplies.

Membership paid to date: 57. We also set a cutoff date of January for lapsed members to continue to receive "Chatter" and notices of upcoming meetings. We will publish a prominent Last Notice in the November & December "Chatter". If a person has not paid dues for 2010 or 2011, and wishes to stay informed about the Woodchucks, it's time to rejoin now.

Come April, Ted will be notifying our faithful vendors, Hartville, Klingspor, and Woodturners Supply, of our membership numbers. Those reports will allow our members to receive discounts from those companies. Note that you need to order by phone and mention that you are a club member to get their discounts.

Russ will very shortly be reporting to AAW how we spent our grant money.

We talked about the mentoring program. It is available to all members, and we will be mentioning it more. We also encourage all members to mentor who have developed skill thru their membership in the Woodchucks. Let Army know when you are willing to take the leap.

Membership & Attendance: We need to continue to recruit. One method will be to develop a meeting notice for distribution in hardware stores, lumber yards, and any place where woodworkers are likely to visit. We hope to have such a notice designed and duplicated by the coming meeting. Attendance seems fairly stable. One thought that rattled around was that maybe we should vary our meeting place. The idea was that maybe members from the Burlington-St. Albans area are not coming to Fairfax but would come to a meeting in the Shelburne area. That idea was decided against because most folks hate the idea of keeping track of where and when meet-

ings are. If the Club wanted to offer any ideas of how to increase meeting attendance, the Board would be glad to listen. (personally, I favor treats at every meeting. Make that investment—and let the members know, and it would probably help.—Ed.)

The Board does feel that we are offering an interesting variety of programs. See the column on the last page for our current schedule. There was some talk about members not being able to see or participate at all of the workstations. Mostly, the problem was that the current meeting place is set up more for production than for demonstrations. We hope that will change when we move back upstairs.

Blake, at the Woodworking School, is working on the AV Storage cabinet & planning on moving us back upstairs for our meetings with the Nova as our mainstay lathe. He is also in the process of buying two more Oneway lathes, so there will be the opportunity for occasional multi-station demos.

The Woodstock show was discussed. In brief, net cost to the Club was \$500. It was good exposure for the Club, for woodturning, and for the Woodchucks who exhibited. We did decide that we would hold off from deciding to enter next year until later. The reasons for not eagerly jumping on that opportunity were many. They did a poor job of advertising and pointing the way to the venue. Arrangement of the vending spaces was not very good. The booth price is up and may increase more. There is the possibility that the show will not come off next year at all.

We did recognize that the damage from Storm Irene caused many problems for the show, which lowered attendance.

"Chatter": We discussed changes which we hope will make the club newsletter more interesting for the members. The Editor is making some changes to the format which we hope will make it more readable and attractive. Beyond that, there will be at least one new feature in the newsletter. One member each month will be given a questionnaire to give back to the Editor, who will present a profile, and a photograph of that member. We hope that does not scare anyone away from the meetings. You can run, but you can't hide.

We will also offer one of our \$10 gift certificates at least quarterly for the best contributed article. The Editors will be the sole judges. There will be no demerits given for spelling or grammatical issues. In fact, the Editors will do what the job implies. They will edit as necessary.

Upper Valley Woodturners: Russ mentioned

that they have somehow dropped from our emailing list. That will be remedied with this issue of "Chatter". Also, look for the short article from Heath Boyer on what they've been doing.

The AV Library: Mickey reports that the "lost" videos have been returning. The Club is requesting that any member with a good but excess DVD player donate same so we can occasionally view one of our collection as a supplement to our regular demos.

The Website: Jim Phelan is making progress. Members will have the ability both to search and contribute.

Finally, we sorted out a demo schedule for the coming year. The schedule is not absolutely firm, but here is what we came up with. Suggestions and volunteers from the membership will be eagerly snapped up.

January 2012: Our annual Round Table. The theme will be: "What I Learned Last Year"; time allowance, up to 15 minutes.

February: 3-4 workstation demos. Subjects to be announced.

March: Nick Rosato will show us how he makes square platters and other non-round objects.

April: Board meeting at Russ's house.

Also, Russ will demonstrate his offset turning techniques at the Woodworking School.

May: Ted will show us how to make a sandwich plate.

June: Ted Turns Tops.

July: TBA

August: Picnic time. Date TBA.

Other suggestions for interesting meeting programs:

1. Critiquing sessions. A critique must always be delivered with a gentle touch, which not all of us are trained in.
2. A photography workshop, using digital cameras & other available tools.
3. A field trip to the tree farm in Jericho.
4. Another "wood-bee". Taking it from trunk to the lathe.

Reported by Army Spahn



The other day I descended into my shop in the basement and realized I had no project going.

Normally several turnings are in various states of completion. Not this day.

Now what? Where to start? My wife chides me for my "Wood collection disease." She says I have enough wood to turn until I am 105 years old. Surely, other turners do not have this affliction. We

all know she is "right," don't we?

Anyway, back to where to start. The agony of choosing the next piece of wood from my endless pile. My friend Dale Larson said he always starts with the best piece of wood he has. Great, but what if it does not turn out right? What if it was the wrong choice of project for that piece of wood? Decisions, decisions!!

But then I remembered our website, www.woodturner.org. On my way to the gallery for ideas for my next project, I realized it has been some time since I last went to the site. So I started browsing. I had forgotten what a treasure trove of information and ideas it contained, and we all owe Ed Davidson for his past efforts in building, improving, and maintaining it.

Next to the journal and the symposium, our website is an une-

qualed extraordinary benefit for all of us. At several board meetings now, the website improvement was a topic and the more we talk about it, the more we become aware of how big an effort this really is.

While browsing, I got stuck twice, until I figured out how it worked.

Like anything complex, there is always room for improvement.

Your help is needed. Every time you go to the website and you get an idea to add a feature, report a glitch, or simply improve a selection, send an e-mail to our Executive Director, [Cindy Bowden](mailto:Cindy.Bowden@woodturner.org). It will all go to the webmaster to help better the site.

We already have the best woodturning site there is, but let's try to improve it anyway.

**Botho von Hampeln,
AAW Board Member**



The Resource Page—Additions Welcome

- 1) Lathrop Maple Supply, Hewitt Rd, Bristol, Vermont, 802-453-2897. With a newly expanded inventory area, Tom has a fantastic supply of local and imported wood. His new division, "Exclusively Vermont, LLC," specializes in high quality Vermont lumber and mill products and FSC stock is available.
- 2) Forest Products Associates, (www.forestproductsassociates.com), 75 Oak Hill Rd, Greenfield, MA, 01301, 413-772-6883. Located just over the line south of Brattleboro, this old family-run business has a great inventory of U S and imported lumber, and a big burl and exotic section as well. They are Vermont Wood-Net members and are nice folks to deal with.
- 3) Northend Hardwoods, 31 Adams Dr. (off Williston Rd just before Industrial Ave) Williston VT, 802-864-3037. A full range of U S and imported woods, cabinet grade plywood, and a new department for turners with lots of thick, dry stock to choose from.
- 4) Sutherland Welles Ltd., No. Hyde Park, VT, 800-322-1245. (www.sutherlandwelles.com). Right here in our own back yard, they make the best Tung oil products in the U S. Call with an order and it goes out the same day!
- 5) Bad Dogs Burl Source, (www.burlsource.com) They are down in Belchertown, MA and have an incredible inventory of Australian and North American burls. 413-213-0248
- 6) Johnson Lumber, Route 116 in Bristol, VT. 802-453-4884. Another good "local" source for hardwood lumber of all kinds.
- 7) www.exoticwoodsusa.com. They offer a 15% discount to any member of an AAW chapter. Type in 'exoticwoodsusaaw' in the coupon code box.
- 8) Griffin Exotic Woods These folks came up in a search for something else, and I ended up buying a couple things from them. Their prices were fair and the service was good. <http://www.exoticwood.biz/>
- 9) Sinclair Mill Works in North Danville VT <http://www.sinclairmillworks.com/home.htm>. 802-748-0948. He specializes in figure Vermont species. His prices are very reasonable.
- 10) Woodturning Videos and eBooks by Steven D. Russell <http://www.woodturningvideosplus.com/>. This website is full of tips & instructions for turners.
- 11) Mike Jackofsky—hollowing tools. www.mikejackofsky.com. Also sells thru Craft Supply.
- 12) A website that sells only sanding supplies. (<http://www.2sand.com/>) Their prices are great and their service is super fast.

CA Glue in stock with Russ:
Thin, medium, thick:
2 oz.....\$4.58
8 oz.....\$15.20
16 oz.....\$25.75

In House Demos:

October 19th:
Celebration Of Errors.
Bring in your turkeys &
let us comment. We'll
help break the curse
over you. No
Halloween pranks
allowed.

November 16th:
Making Christmas
Tree Ornaments.
Randy, Toby, &
possibly others show
different styles.

December: No
Meeting.

January 18th: Annual
Round Table . Subject:
What I Learned Last
Year

February 15th: 3 or 4
station Demo—
Subjects TBA.

March 21st: Square
Platters and Other
Shapes—Nick Rosato

April 11th: Board
Meeting at Russ's
Home

April 18th: Offset
Turning—Russ Fellows

May 16th: Sandwich
Plates— Ted Fink

June 20th: Spinning
Tops—Ted Fink

July 18th: TBA

August: Picnic. Date
TBA

Reminder: 2012 Dues will be \$25. This is the first increase in 10 years. Dues can be paid by check payable to "WTNV" and sent to Ted Fink;

Wanted: Do you have a spare DVD player you can donate to the Club? With our new AV setup, a DVD player will allow us to view selections from our library to supplement our demonstrations. Bring your used DVD player to the next meeting!!

Classified Ads

I've restored a giant, 1948 Craftsman jig saw, 100 lbs. of solid cast iron, complete with motor and new belt & blades (see attached photos).

Despite its weight and power, vibration is still pretty strong, so I don't use it for small items--which is what I wanted it for. If you have use and space for such an old timey machine, I'll pass it on if you'll pick it up!

Best, Toby Fulwiler



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.