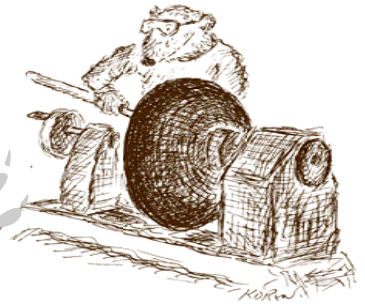


# WOODCHUCK CHATTER



WWW.WOODCHUCKSVT.org

June 10, 2011

An Affiliate of American Association of Woodturners

Volume 8 issue 6

## The Newsletter of Woodchuck Turners of Northern Vermont

With Contributions By the Upper Valley Woodturners

### Meeting, June 15th- Change Of Plan

This month we planned to have Russ demonstrate offset turning. Russ is unable to handle a demo right now. His note to me said that his house & property sustained a lot of damage in the latest series of violent storms. Let's just hope he recovers quickly.

He has asked Craig to fill in for him with Craig's demo on coloring wood. We hope his back is better.

Russ talked to Blake Ewaldson about re-arranging our meeting area. Blake suggests that there is another area on the first floor which we

can use which will work for us.

We are working on a scheme to make the Nova lathe more moveable so we can utilize a better meeting space. I don't think we have worked out the details yet, so be prepared for some shuffling around. Fortunately, we have another month to get the lathe ready for mobility as this month's demo will not need the lathe.

### Index

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| Woodchuck Board Info.      | 2 |
| Random Shots: The Weather  | 2 |
| From The President         | 2 |
| Treasurer's Report         | 3 |
| Tool Review—Bill Walsh     | 4 |
| Mentor List                | 4 |
| “Wolf Trees” Toby Fulwiler | 5 |
| Resource Page              | 5 |
| May meeting continued      | 6 |
| DVD Library                | 7 |
| Liability Insurance        | 8 |
| Demo Schedule              | 8 |
| Classified Ads             | 8 |

### Minutes Of May Meeting—5/18 Toby Fulwiler



7:10 p.m. President **Russ Fellows** calls the meeting to order, introducing himself and asking the thirty some-od members present to do so as

well. (The meeting starts late because the Board of Directors along with Dave Buccholz and Mickey Palmer, debated the best equipment to order for the new video projection system—resolved to purchase a flat screen monitor.)

Russ reminds folks about:

the “empty bowls project” sponsored by AAW—members invited to drop bowls off to Russ by June 8;

the picnic date is set as August 20 with **AI Stirt** presenting a slide show;

the Woodstock “Fine Furniture Festival” will include member-donated bowls as club fund raiser;

(Continued on page 6)

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All Spring long, I was thinking how lucky we are to live in Vermont where the worse weather is just a midwinter ice storm or an unusual 4' snow fall. We came back from Louisiana between bouts of tornadoes stretching as far North as Virginia. We saw plenty of shattered trees along I-81 and a few small towns flattened. Can't happen in Vermont, I said.

We saw reports after we got home about the flooding of millions of acres of farmland and towns along the Mississippi and Missouri rivers. Doesn't happen in Vermont, I said. Then we got 17 days of rain here. We had high winds, fearsome lightning, and even hail.

Lake Champlain came up from mean level to 103 plus feet. Rivers overflowed & cut roads, undermined houses on hill sides, and flooded cellars in Montpelier & Barre. The newsies are comparing our May flooding to the Flood of 1927. Thousands of Vermonters are hurting, including some of our Woodchucks.

How does this affect us personally? First, I should have gotten Chatter out yesterday, but the storm knocked out my power for most of the day.

It makes me worry that there are folks in our gang needing help and unwilling to ask for it. I can't picture trying to help someone build up inventory. As a craftsman, I would want to maintain my own style. But as a woodworker, I could help with some of the physical part of getting someone back to life as normal.

### Change of subject:

Tool maintenance. We just reopened our camp in Derby. Even though our shed was dry inside, I found that some of my tools had rusted. Try trimming a broken branch with a rusty saw! The cure to that problem was a liberal spray of WD-40 and one of those green pads. Follow that with a commercial rust inhibitor, one I use on my saw tables, and I'm back in business. This winter, I'm going to try coating all my hand tools at the camp with a rust inhibitor when we close up.

I have already started the rounds of cleaning, sharpening, and coating the mass of hand tools in my workshop. I should have them all done in time to start at the beginning and do it all over next year.

### New tools?

My original set of gouges were all Sorby wood-handled HSS. I'm on my 3rd bowl gouge and 3rd

detail gouge. Pre-handled gouges were universal when I started. Now, there are several companies offering separate, usually aluminum, handles and handle less gouges. Should I start buying the new ones as my gouges run out of length? I know I would have to have a handle for each of my most-used tools. That starts to get expensive. It would mean that I would just replace the blades, not the handles each time. But the handles are almost as expensive as a reasonably good complete HSS tool. Can someone who has made the switch write an article telling about the cost/benefit of doing this?

Bill Walsh showed us the new Sorby sharpening system. It is far more expensive than just replacing a top-grade grinding wheel every 5 years or so. What's the long-term benefit? Does it tune up a gouge fast and cost less to replace however many sanding belts over time than the long-term grinding wheel? What about the difference in cut quality of a straight-cut bevel versus a concave bevel?

I suppose I could do a Masters thesis on these comparisons, if I didn't run out of money & Cil didn't run out of patience.

I got to get back to work.

## From The President's Desk

June Greetings Fellow Chucks!

Hopefully some of you had a chance to go out and visit some Vermont artists and craft people over the Memorial Day weekend? Judging from the reports we have from your fellow Woodchucks, the number of visitors was good and sales were generated. I saw at my studio just about the same numbers as last year. This year I was on the Jericho-Underhill tour map as well as the statewide

one, and I think that contributed to a nice stream of visitors. At one point I had a group of 20 cyclists, (bicycle, not moto) in my driveway!

As reported before, and at the meeting in May, we have received our AAW Grant to purchase our projection and recording equipment and are moving ahead with this. We are not certain if it will all have come together by the meeting on the 15th, but if not then, definitely by Ju-

ly. This will be a big plus for us in presenting our demo's as it has often been difficult to make the presentation clearly visible to a room full of Woodchucks. Those who were at the May meeting (and previous ones as well) can attest to this! I have talked to our friends up at the school and we are working on a re-design for the space in which we hold our meetings to make it a little "friendlier". This, along with the new

(Continued on page 3)



(Continued from page 2)

equipment, should greatly improve the effectiveness of our programs!

A reminder about the Fine Furniture and Woodworking Festival ([http://www.vermontwoodfestival.org/consumers/show\\_information.php](http://www.vermontwoodfestival.org/consumers/show_information.php)) the last weekend of September. Our club will again have a booth and we encourage all members who wish, to put some of their work in it. Last year we had one table to display the very wide variety of work we do as a club, and another to offer some of it for sale. We will set it up this way again, and add another "corner" for bowls donated by club members to be sold to benefit club projects. Please think about putting something in this year. The commission from any sales you make is only 20%, which goes toward the booth costs. It is a great opportunity for those of you who do not have a relationship with a gallery to try a little retailing with your creations! And, even if you do not have a piece to put in the show, hopefully some of you will be able to come down and help out in the booth. The "shifts" are short and participating will get you a

pass to the show for the entire weekend, which gives you ample time to see the rest of the show, as well as talk to many of the top people in woodworking from around the state. Write ([skunkmen@gmail.com](mailto:skunkmen@gmail.com)) call, (802-899-3059), or speak to me at a meeting about being involved with this event.

Thanks to all of you who have paid your dues. We are doing well with that this year! The more members we have on the "paid list", the better we do with our merchants who give clubs discounts and incentives!

Thanks too to all of you who have sent in various things to Arny for publication in "Chatter". He is always on the lookout for articles, news bytes, tool reviews, etc., that might be of interest to your fellow Chucks. As you have heard me say many times...this does NOT have to be a "feature length" piece! A paragraph or two is fine, or even a link to an article you have seen. Everyone profits with more in "Chatter", our "award winning" newsletter!

And finally, keep in mind for the next

meeting: our monthly raffle is now also a monthly auction. For the first part the regular raffle of turning stock, magazines, supplies, miscellanea. The second part is for items of a little bit higher value that members can bid on, with the proceeds going toward our part of the new projection equipment, and other club activities. Look around your shop...you must have something that is no longer needed! Thanks!

Hope to see many of you in Fairfax on the 15th!

Russ Fellows



Some of the "empty bowls" destined for the Symposium.

## Treasurer's report June 2011

|                     |           |
|---------------------|-----------|
| Balance Forward     | \$2116.23 |
| Income              |           |
| AAW Grant           | 750.00    |
| Dues                | 20.00     |
| Expenses            |           |
| 0.00                |           |
| Balance Forward     | \$2886.23 |
| Ted Fink, Treasurer |           |

### Dues Paid; May, 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, Erin Hanley, Jim Holzschuh, Bruce Klink, Joe Laferriere, Steve Lande, Bob Martin, Gerry Martin, Sandy Matathia, Peter Mattos, Gary Moreau, Mike B. Morissette, Mike C.**

**Morisette, Bill Nestork, Jerry O'Riodan, Mickey Palmer, Skip Parker, Jim Phelan, Michael Perron, Randy Ramsden, Nick Rosato, Bob Rosenblum, Bill Rowley, David Scrase, Adam Sollace, Ira Sollace, Arnold Spahn, Priscilla Spahn, John Tichonuk, 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.

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 needing some hands-on instruction.*

**Craig Hall: Bowls, spindles, & hollow forms.**  
 802-644-5344  
[craighall@hotmail.com](mailto:craighall@hotmail.com)  
 Cambridge

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

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

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

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

**Bill Walsh: tool sharpening**  
 802-482-215  
[billiriquois@yahoo.com](mailto:billiriquois@yahoo.com)  
 Northfield

**Greg Drew: Tool skills. Finishes.. Portable mill & chainsaw work.**  
 802-527-6207  
[personal-woodsmythe@yahoo.com](mailto:personal-woodsmythe@yahoo.com)  
 Georgia

As woodturners, most of us have in our tool arsenal a woodburning setup. I purchased one a while ago for the sole purpose of signing the bottom of bowls.

Pull out a scrap piece of the same species of wood and practice a couple of times before signing. I've always struggled with the letters being too fat with heavy black dots at the start of the letters. Like most tools we buy there is a learning curve and it wasn't until becoming interested in adding some piercing and pyrography to my turnings that I took a second look. There is an excellent book by Sue Walters called *Pyrography Workbook* and her two disc DVD set called *Pyrography Workshop*. Either one or both will get the beginner well on their way to a better understanding of how to create art work on their turnings. She includes patterns and clear instructions on how to transfer the patterns onto your work.

Along with the book and DVD came new woodburning equipment. After much thought the Burnmaster Eagle woodburning kit was ordered. It comes with a two pen output power supply with a switch to toggle back and forth between pens, two replaceable tip pens, 10 replacement tips of different shapes, two cords with adapters to fit other brand pens, Molly Wilton's wire kit for making texturing tips and a storage bag. One of the key components is the pen / nib. In the book & DVD Sue uses the skew and shading tips for the majority of the patterns in her book. The nice thing about most woodburners out there is you can use pens from other manufactures with the



use of adapters. Wood Carvers Supply has a nice assortment of replacement tips and pens.

In the book there is information on maintaining the tips, cleaning and honing to prevent the tip from dragging through the wood. The wood surface needs to be sanded completely before transferring or drawing the image on the work piece. Graphite paper can be used to transfer images by slipping a piece under a traced image then going over the outline with a soft colored pencil so you can see where you've been. Repairs are also easier than first thought by scraping with a razor blade to erase mistakes. There are lots of hints and tips in her book and DVD that will get the beginner started on their first project. The attached photo shows the hawk project that comes with the DVD set.

## Wolves at the Door

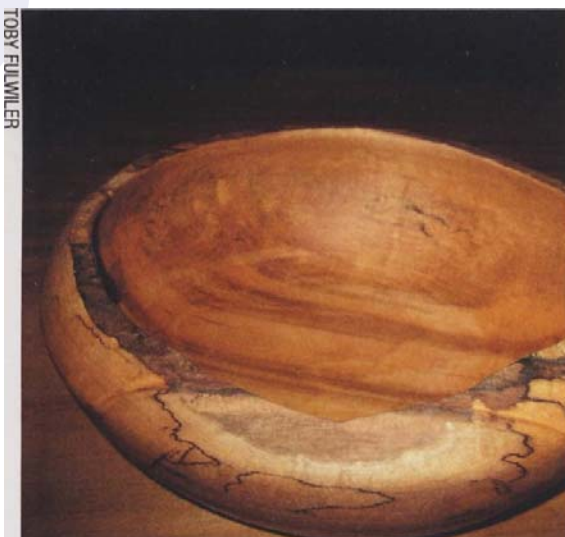
To the Editors:

I especially enjoyed Michael Gaige's piece on wolf trees in the Spring issue ("A Place for Wolf Trees," Spring 2011). I'm a wood turner with a number of wolf trees on my 90-acre woodlot. In addition to wildlife habitat, their broken and fallen branches are a major source of spalted maple and beech from which I turn colorful bowls in many sizes (see below). The broken branches of a still-living wolf tree, dead for a long time but still attached to or leaning against the tree, rot more slowly than wood lying on the ground. Hence, such wood, harvested before fungal action reduces it to punk, makes bowls, plates, platters, lamps, and candleholders with more highly-figured patterns than the healthy wood of surrounding trees. Newer wood without decay lines, discoloration, and worm holes is less challenging to work with and less interesting to look at than the gnarled remnants of wolf-tree wood.

TOBY FULWILER, FAIRFIELD, VT

This is a copy of a letter Toby sent to the Northwoods Journal. Interesting source of turning wood.

TOBY FULWILER



## 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](http://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 WoodNet 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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



(Continued from page 1)

Open Studio weekend, May 28-29, with many club members including Russ, Toby, Ted, Ralph, Greg, Jim, and Joe participating; a club discount available to order British "Woodturning" magazine



(discount price = \$60).

7:20 Librarian **Mickey Palmer** asks for DVD's and CD's to be returned to club library.

7:25 Treasurer **Ted Fink** conducts:

- monthly raffle including lots of wood chunks, a giant roll of belt sandpaper, and lots of other stuff; twenty members ante in \$2 each.
- silent auction featuring a roughing gouge and a rolling work stand.

7:30 "Show and Tell"



**Bill Walsh** presents an intricate 2-piece "hollow vessel";



**Dave Buchholz** shows a nifty and cheap light ordered from IKEA (\$10) with magnets installed to hold onto the lathe along with several splendid Catalpa "wing bowls";

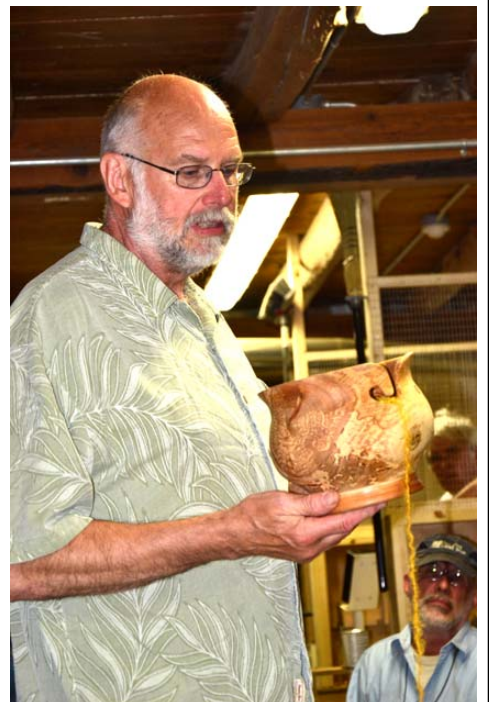
**Greg Drew** holds high several strange-looking "seed pots" made from scraps;

**Jim Holzschuh** shows 1) a maple burl bowl, 2) a "house bowl" maple with spliced-on cherry bottom, and 3) a yarn bowl;

**Russ Fellows** shows a four-footed, stack-ring "dog dish style" bowl.



Greg Drew & a seed pot



Jim Holzschuh with a yarn bowl

(Continued on page 7)



(Continued from page 6)



8:00 **Toby Fulwiler** demonstrates the art of making and marketing small bowls in this difficult economy, passing around trays of salt bowls, tea-light bowls, spice bowls, burl bowls, and *tchotchke* bowls (which Joe calls Trotsky bowls), as well as other implements made from small scraps of wood including butter spreaders, cheese knives, pastry scrapers, and tea



lathe has its share of problems.

8:50 Meeting adjourns.

Respectfully submitted, Toby Fulwiler



1.5" Forstner bit—the right size for tea light candles.



Photos: Some of the many well-crafted small items Toby makes to extend the price range of his inventory.



Some imported small spoons costing 25 cents each.



Toby's first adventures in turning: honey dipper and honey jar cover.

light logs. The demonstration part doesn't go well as the Oneway lathe is walled off from easy visibility and the club

## Mickey Makes Requests From Members

We have some DVDs that have been checked out for several months. This is a plea for folks to return them. Not sure how to deal with that other than not allow folks to check out more DVDs unless they have returned all that they have checked out. Also, now we require that only members be allowed to check out videos.

I plan to do something a little different this month. I have created a database with all of the DVDs and their contents. I am able to type in keywords and have the DVD serial #s pop up so folks will have an idea of which ones would most meet their needs. I will bring in my laptop.

**Mickey**



**In House Demos:**

June 15th: Russ demos offset turning. Craig Hall to substitute.

July 20th: Open Forum; Round Table on Turning.

August 20th: Annual Picnic. Al Stirt, guest speaker. Topic TBA

September 21st: Hands on: Several lathe/sharpening stations.

October 5th: Board meeting at Russ's house.

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, & possible others show different styles.

December: No Meeting.

January 18th: Annual Round Table of tools & techniques.

**Classified Ads**

**Powermatic 60B jointer for sale. Great shape, absolutely no rust. Cutterhead: 8" straight knife; 3 knives. Purchased in 2004. This machine has been very well cared for in a professional woodshop--owner is upgrading. Selling for \$1000. Comes with mobile base and 2 extra sets of knives. Possible free delivery + setup, please call Josh to discuss: 802-287-4136. Located in Poultney, VT.**

For Sale: Dave "Herb" Hurlbut's tools. He's laid down his hand tools now & wishes to sell several excellent woodworking machines. Call Sandy Hurlbut Tel : 802-527-0692. for details & asking prices.

**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.