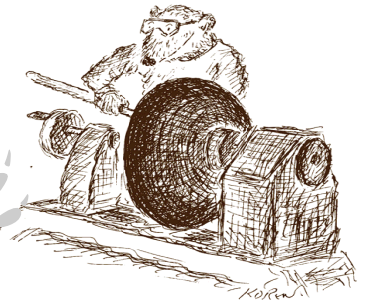


WOODCHUCK CHATTER



WWW.WOODCHUCKSVT.org

July 10, 2011

An Affiliate of American Association of Woodturners

Volume 8 issue 7

The Newsletter of Woodchuck Turners of Northern Vermont

With Contributions By the Upper Valley Woodturners

Meeting, July 20th: Open Forum

This meeting is going to be about sharing. It sounds like Russ has managed to make our lathe moveable, so we can demonstrate techniques. We all have some thing we do differently that we would like to share with other Woodchucks.

How do you apply finishes to your turnings? Any help healing flaws of any kind? What about a quick demo on turning beads and coves? What about prepping a log for the lathe? All those things can be done many ways. Some ways are better than others. One of my favorite truths is, "There are no secrets in woodturning. There are just lots of things we don't know yet."

For the month of August, we will have our annual family picnic & demo by Al Stirt. The date should be Aug. 20th The place will be at Toby's home. This will be pot luck, with the Club providing hamburgers, cheese, hot dogs and the traditional fixings, plus bottled water & soft drinks. If you have any dietary needs not covered, please bring them. Of course, bring items for raffle and for Show And Tell.

Directions and any further instructions will be in the next Chatter.

Index

Woodchuck Board Info.	2
Random Shots: Shop Talk	2
From The President	2
Treasurer's Report	3
Tool Review—Russ Fellows	4
Mentor List	4
"The Symposium" Mike Perron	5
Resource Page	5
June meeting continued	6
Liability Insurance	8
Demo Schedule	8
Classified Ads	8

Minutes Of June Meeting—6/15 Notes By Joe



President Russ calls the meeting to order at 7:00 o'clock. Asks if there are any new members or guests attending. Around the room, everyone introduces themselves and indicates the town they are from. Russ thanks everyone for coming, especially those who have to drive a distance to do so.

the month. There were approximately fifteen bowls contributed by a number of Chucks. He thanks those who participated.



Russ reports that our "Empty Bowl" Project donation for the AAW Symposium was sent at the beginning of

(Continued on page 6)

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Good lighting is important in your shop. Plenty of overhead lighting promotes safety and helps you relax. Your eyes don't fight to see what is around you.

I often have a problem finding tools which I usually leave in the last spot I used them. By designating areas for particular kinds of work, I can usually remember what I was doing when last I used the tool. Good, strong lighting in my shop helps me spot things like that.

Task lighting is also important. I use task lights wherever I need fine control. My lathe has 2 lights on it; one for outside surfaces and a second one pointing at the drive spindle to guide me inside bowls. My main drill press has a light focused on the work. The secondary drill press is used for rough work, like mortises and pen blank milling, so it only occasionally needs stronger light. I have a couple of magnet-based lamps which I can move to where I need them.

My band saw and my jigsaw also have lights pointed at the work. There is enough light at my table saw and belt sanders, and they don't require fine control.

I discovered that I didn't have perfect control over machine

dust recently. I looked up, and there were spider webs every where, capturing fine dust above my head. A closer look, and all my area lighting, which is a mix of fluorescent, compact fluorescent, and incandescent lamps, was covered in dust.

My next step was to get out the shop vac and suck up spider webs and dust on the lamps. It may be my imagination, but I think it looks brighter down there.

I'm in the process of inspecting the joints in my dust collection system and sealing them up to improve the suction and gather more particles. I use a piece of 1/2" PVC pipe up to my good ear to hear any leaks while the system is on. The waste gates are the worst leakers, but not much I can do about them other than extra tape around the pipe connections.

A good floor cleaning wouldn't hurt, either. I use a regular 20" floor broom and my shop vac to get the fine stuff up. The floor sweepings usually go into a trash bag & get collected. There is usually too many wipe-cloths saturated with shellac or poly finish on the floor to separate out of the shavings.

My dust collection system gets emptied now & then, and I take

the shavings out to our plantings and use them for mulch. Once the stuff gets dumped into the flower beds, I hand sort through them for any sandpaper pieces which might have escaped me. Cil doesn't like trash—as she calls it in her gardens. The size of the shavings doesn't seem to matter. After a season in the weather, it all looks like loam.

The house furnace is in the middle of my basement. It's oil-fired. Only the smoke pipe seems to be hot, but that heat worried me. I moved all flammable material off the shelving near the furnace to shelves around the room perimeter. Of course, that didn't include wood short pieces, which I have to store someplace. They are still at least 2 feet away from the heat source. I think that gives me some margin of safety.

Any thoughts about shop safety, cleanliness, and storage methods? I'm not a fanatic, obviously, but I'll sure listen—and print—any good methods which will help us all keep truckin' along.

Good turning, Y'all!!

Army

From The President's Desk

Greetings Fellow Woodchucks.

I am pleased to report that there is progress with our projection equipment that we are purchasing with our E.O.G. (a grant from the A.A.W. we got this year thanks to Dave Buchholz's efforts!) money. Thanks to Mickey Palmer's engineering assistance, we should have this up and running soon, but because our July meeting is our semi-annual "round table" format with no demonstration, and August is our pic-

nic, we actually won't actually be "deploying" our system until September.

As mentioned before, our annual picnic is to take place on Saturday, August 20th. Because my property is undergoing some construction activity, we are having the event this year at Toby Fulwiler's home in Fairfield. He has a lovely home in the middle of his woodland property on Ridge Road. Fellow Chuck and world-renown turner, Al Stirt, will once again be our

featured speaker. He will present a slide show and talk about what he feels constitutes good design, offer you a chance to have your work critiqued, and answer any questions you may have. We will publish all the details and directions in the August issue of "Chatter". Hope many of you already have it on your calendars!

September is now on a closer horizon, and that means the Woodstock Fine

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

Woodworking and Furniture Festival (<http://www.vermontwoodfestival.org/>) in which our club has a booth. We will have two sections: one to showcase the wide variety of work we do as the diverse turners that we are, and the other will be a gallery of pieces for sale. Any member is welcome to put his or her work in either of these displays. We also will need some volunteers to help in the booth. The shifts will be short and it gets you a pass to the show for the whole weekend! Call (802-899-3059) or write me (skunkmen@gmail.com) to get more information or sign up.

I have talked with Jeff Fuller of the Granville Bowl Mill (<http://www.bowlmill.com/cgi-bin/bowlmill>). They are not making bowls at

the present time, but they are still running the store and offer tours of the mill by special arrangement. I think this would make a great Woodchuck field trip! However, the catch for us is that they only can do the tours on weekdays, which is a problem for some in the club who may not be able to find a convenient day to take off. I will talk about this more at the meeting. Hopefully we can arrange something while the weather allows it. They occupy a special niche in the world of bowl-making history.....they were the first to do coring, way back in the 1800s!!

Thanks to all of you who have sent things to Arny for publication in "Chatter"! It really helps out. A short tool review, a few photos of a new piece you are working on, a link to something you think might be of interest to your fellow

Chucks??

Remember to bring something in for the raffle.....and now, for the monthly silent auction. Every donation adds to the funds for our various club activities. The pennies add up!! Thanks!

Hope to see many of you on the 20th. The format for this month's meeting is "Open", where we offer the floor to anyone who has something to either show us, or maybe ask for help with. YOU make the program!

Cheers!

Russ Fellows

Treasurer's report June 2011



Due to restructuring of WTNV's bank account at Citizen's Bank which included new fees, higher minimal balances etc. our bank account has been transferred to TD BANK as of June 28th. The features of this new account include a lower minimum balance (\$500 vs. \$2000) and no fees for transactions or monthly statements.

The current bank book balance is \$ 2,957.31.

Ted Fink

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 Grae, Edd Gross, 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, Jerry O'Riodan, Mickey Palmer, Jim Phelan, Michael Perron, 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.



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
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

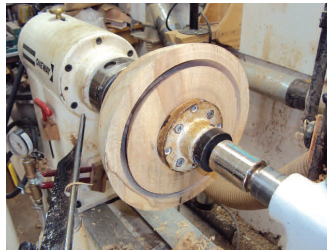


Woodcut "Bowlsaver" coring tool.

Recently while wandering around YouTube looking for woodturning videos I found one showing a coring tool that was new to me. It is called the "Bowl Saver", made by Woodcut, a New Zealand company. We have had several coring presentations over the years, but not of this system. I was intrigued by this tool for a number of reasons. It seemed to be very quick and easy to set up and use, and it advertised that it would core bowls down to a much smaller size than the Oneway system that I owned, but rarely used. The YouTube video seemed to bear this out, so I decided to get one. At \$285, is was also a fraction the price of the complete Oneway system. I went to the Craft Supplies website (http://www.woodturnerscatalog.com/store/Turning_Tools/Bowl_Coring_Woodcut_Bowl_Saver_wc_bowlsaver?Args=) and about a week later had one in my shop.

I have only used it a few times, so this review should be considered a "work in progress". But, so far I like the tool. It is indeed very quick to set up! In under a minute it mounts on the tool post and is additionally supported by the tailstock. It comes with a number two M.T. for this, so if you have a Oneway lathe, you will need a 3 x 2 M.T. reducer. Most other lathes already have a number two.

The tool comes with two cutting blades, one four inch radius and one five inch radius, so depending on the size of the blank you are using, and the size of the corings you wish to make, you simply slide one blade to the front and push the other back out of the way. They are both secured by the same clamp and set screws. Picture number one shows the tool in position with the smaller cutter ready to core. You can also see in this picture where the tool is attached to the tailstock.



The long handle provides plenty of leverage, enough in fact to slow the lathe down if you get too aggressive. I took it easy and made the cut shown in a couple of minutes. Unlike the Oneway system, there is no secondary support for the cutter as it goes into the blank, so it tends to chatter a little. By applying a little down-pressure on the handle this can be minimized.

I stopped the cutter just before it "bottomed" out, pulled it back and removed the tool from the banjo and tailstock. This allowed me to mount a plate to the core as shown in the second picture. In this case I brought up the tailstock to center it because in cleaning up the face of my blank I had lost my screw holes from the previous mounting. This then facilitates making a nice concentric foot to mount it for the

next smaller core. Depending on how many bowls you are trying to make out of the original blank, this might be repeated a couple more times. The manufacturers of the tool claim you can go down to three inches in diameter! I think this would be tricky with a cutter made for a nominal eight inch bowl! I will report back on this aspect!

The third picture shows the nest



of three bowls I made out of this spalted maple blank. Because it was fairly dry already, I think I was overly generous with the wall thickness. I could probably have easily gotten one more out of it.

I am very pleased with this tool. It is NOT a heavy duty tool in the rugged Oneway fashion. But the trade off is that it is very quick and easy to use. In the time it took me to rough out three bowls, I would be barely done setting up the Oneway coring system, and the Oneway could not have produced the smallest bowl the Woodcut yielded in this test. The Oneway is a GREAT system, and I have it for making larger pieces. The Woodcut augments this.....it will not replace it.

I recommend the Woodcut "Bowlsaver" for the reasons stated. If you would like to try it out before you make the plunge, come on over to my shop for a test.

The AAW did not disappoint with this years symposium. Too bad St Paul is so far away.

I am sure more woodchucks would have attended if it was a little closer. Friday morning I ran in to fellow chuck Bob Martin, a welcome sight so far from home. The symposium is always exciting, tiring and a little overwhelming with all the great work, and this year it did not disappoint. There is so much great work and the quality is nothing short of the best in the world.

I set my schedule and found my self changing it all the time; just too much to learn and a limited number of classes you can attend. There were a total of 66 rotations, which means you only get a taste of what is to be seen. I focused on two or three turners. Al Stirt and Nick Cooke had many great rotations and are interesting, talented, great teachers. The bonus was that people like Cindy Drozda, Al Jordan, Brian McEvoy, Mike Mahoney, and Jimmy Clewes were demonstrating on the trade room floor. I met David Ellsworth, John Jordan, Alan Lacer, and Mike Mahoney. Wow! I felt a little like a teenage groupie. There is something very special about talking with some of the greatest turners in the world one on one.

During the weekend I saw many things that reminded me of the members in the club. Bill Welch would have been on cloud nine with the new sharpening unit from Stewart Batty. Oh yes, and all the rest of the new tools. Russ, I thought of you when I saw Malcolm Tibbetts, he is amazing. Dave would have been camped out at Steven Hatcher's booth. Every one in the club seems to have their own area of interest and there is something for everyone.

Some of the new special tools you just have to have (there are many) are the new sphere Jig from Vermec and the deep vessel boring bar from Brian McEvoy.

So what did I come away with from the symposium? Simple; a real desire to turn more and become a better turner. Nick Cooke turns hundreds of small production items and his skills as a turner show all that hard work is what you need to do if you wish to become a turner at this level. Al Stirt opens up your mind to just try something new, and all of his work is so creative.

The only negatives I came away from the show with were the \$4 sodas, the \$6 beer and just not enough time to see it all. Some of the video equipment quality at the rotations made it difficult to see. Stewart Batty had a very professional demonstration area with stage lighting, multiple cameras and flat screen monitors. You could see from many angles, sharp and clear. It may be time for the AAW to upgrade the video screen system they use as the screens are difficult to see. Looks like the club made the right decision on this front!

The last word of warning: if you get to attend a symposium (if you never have you really must make the effort) leave your wallet at home! (probably will not help) and if you happen to purchase some of Ruth Niles' great SS bottle stoppers be sure you tell the TSA BEFORE your bags go through the x-ray. I missed my first plane waiting to get cleared. The only thing that would have made the weekend better is if you were all there.

Mike Perron

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 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). 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

(Continued from page 1)

The club is now in the process of buying the projection and recording equipment with the E.O.G. Grant money that we were awarded earlier in the year. Mickey is getting the cameras and recorder and Russ is getting the TV. the school has agreed to build a mobile storage locker to house it all.

The annual Woodchuck picnic location is being changed. Russ reports that because of the extensive construction work going on at his house as a result of the heavy Spring rains, he will not be able to host this year. Dale Bergdahl is looking into the possibility of having at the Underhill Maple research center. Toby has also offered to host at his home in Fairfield.

Russ announces that according to their website, the Granville Bowl Mill is still in operation. He is in the process of contacting them to see about a possible tour of their factory. They were the first bowl makers in the country to design a coring system, way back in the late 1800's.

Russ is the organizer for the club booth at the September Fall Furniture and Fine Woodworking Festival. There will be two parts to the display: one for examples of the variety of work done by club members, and another for work by members that is for sale. To make more space in the booth it was suggested that some of our display might be set up in the Vermont WoodNet booth next to us. Russ said he would check with them. Volunteers will be needed to staff the booth. Those who help out will get a complimentary pass for the weekend.

Russ thanks Arny and Cil for their work to put together "Chatter" and reminds members to



Dave's birdseye maple bowl.



Dave's fumed oak bowl.



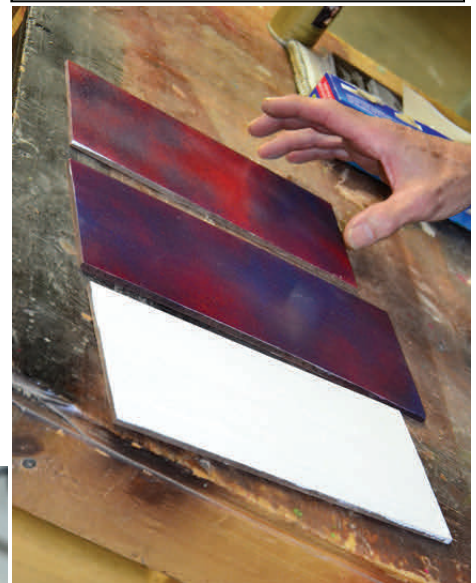
Jim Holzshuh talks about small wooden boxes.



3 of Jim's boxes.



Craig talks about one method of coloring wood; gilding. Several steps are required.



The object must be "sized". First, the wood is prepared with a sealer and sanded. "Size" is a slow-drying lacquer or varnish, dried until tacky before leaf is applied.

send in contributions and items for the resource and classified pages.

The raffle and silent auctions are held.

"Show & tell" is held. Various members talk about things they have been working on.

Monthly program is presented. Craig Hall shows us how to add gilding to embellish a piece. More on Craig's demo elsewhere in "Chatter".

Russ adjourns the meeting at 8:45.

Joe LaFerriere, acting secretary.



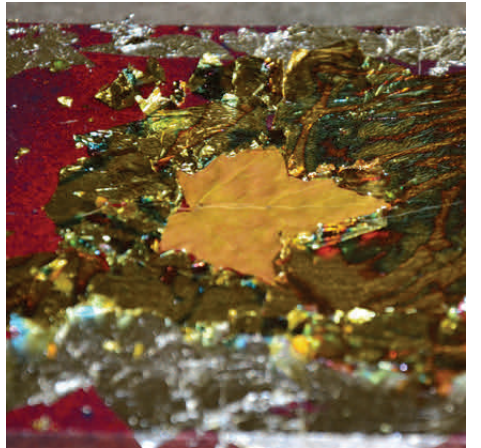
This is a sample of "gold" leaf. It's 3 molecules thick and decorated with several colors swirled on. Real gold leaf comes in smaller sheets. Both are hard to handle.



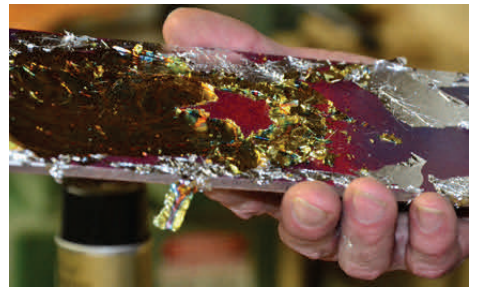
Applying & smoothing the leaf.



Leaves can be used as a "resist" for decoration. See the next picture of a finished vase.

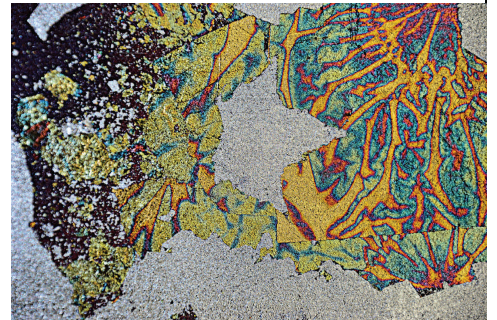


This is a special brush use to pick the leaf up and to smooth it onto the object.



Leaf can be applied by hand . Any overlap doesn't stick so it is always 1 layer thick.

Left, top to bottom: Steps in using a leaf to "resist" the overcoat of gold leaf, leaving its outline in the under layer of silver leaf.



In House Demos:

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.