

# The CNEW Skew

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## President's Message

Our club is a great organization. We have lots of talented members who are happy to share their time and expertise in showing others how they make their crafts and how each of us might benefit in some way from following their examples. We commonly learn from one individual at a time during the demo's or through informal chatting at the monthly meetings. Last month the February meeting saw many members trekking not to the Craft Center but rather to fellow turners homes for a look at where and how they create such beautiful art. This often too short a glance into another's turning world usually delivers us a message or two of significance should we make the effort to be observant. I urge everyone to talk to their turning compadres at the next meeting and perhaps make a time where you can meet in one another's shop for a turning session. We don't need to hold an official Shops Visit night for you to enjoy your friends and to waddle in a collective pool of knowledge that becomes enhanced by intermingling of talent. Exposure to new ideas and methods can spark our enthusiasm for creating something "out of the box" back in our own world. You might embark on an effort to devise a special jig for a new form of art you never tried before or simply incorporate a "different twist of the wrist" when you next turn on your lathe. Either way is fine. After all as the saying goes, "Variety is the Spice of Life."

Thanks to the hosts from last month. We did have a great turn out and successful Shops Visit Month. Upcoming we'll have our regular meeting on March 2nd with the Kick Off of "Project Goodwill." Please consider taking some of the donated wood home to turn an object for auction to benefit a local charitable cause. This is a new sort of venture for us. Perhaps it's a way for us to feel a bit of "warmth & kindness" as we return a little something back to our local community.

We also will have a demo, tentatively focusing on turning of Burls. Bring in your raw burl or weird turning to talk about. We plan to discuss business issues like the web site, new member brochure, library, membership cards and more, but will make strict efforts to keep the business portion of our meetings flowing quickly and smoothly. We want to maximize our entertainment and recreation at the meetings but of course need to address the club business first, or we'll not be able to manage in the future. Reports from each of the clubs officers shall be prepared, short, concise and to the point. Let's please all help limit "open discussion" since I think this is where we can speed up the flow of information. Don't get me wrong, we need to discuss things but when progress on the issue at hand stalls we'll drop the gavel and either conclude the issue, carry it forward to the next meeting, or allow the Executives to earn their pay and make the decision appropriately.

Our mission is simple. I think officially it is stated as; "Promote woodturning, blah, blah, blah..." Really we know it is; "To have Fun, Learn and then have more Fun!" I hope I'll see you in March for another dose of this good stuff. Spin Safe!

*Dave Eaton*

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## March Program

The next meeting will be on Thursday March 2<sup>nd</sup> beginning at 6:30pm, at the usual place. The program for the March meeting will focus on working with burls. Frank White and others will bring several burls of different species and shapes, mostly in rough form but some commercially prepared, and will discuss some of the options involved in deciding what to do with them: preparing them for turning, mounting and orientation of burl blanks, hollow versus open bowl forms, natural edge versus salad bowls, and other relevant issues. They will also bring some finished pieces made from burls for further illustration. All members are urged to participate in the discussion and are also invited to bring in a burl(s) or a burl turning of their own for discussion or for comment. If time permits, Frank will do a short demo of turning a small natural edge burl piece. In addition to the "Burl Bash", expect the usual business meeting, Show & Tell and wood swap.

## AAW Membership

All members who join or renew their membership in the AAW for 2006 will receive the Fundamentals of Sharpening DVD, a \$34.95 value along with their '06 Resource Directory the first part of April. If there are members who have not yet joined, they can still do so at [www.woodturner.org/org/mbrship](http://www.woodturner.org/org/mbrship)

## New Hampshire Symposium

We will be hosting a **Youth Turning Symposium** at Pinkerton Academy in Derry, NH on Friday, May 12th. This will be an extension of the New England Turning Symposium on Saturday, May 13th. The youth program will begin about 8:00 am and end about 3:00. There will be 5—one-hour presentations with three presentations to choose from at any time. The presenters will be Beth Ireland, Dustin Coates, David Lancaster and Bob Rosand. The Youth Symposium is free to "students". We will even provide pizza and soda for lunch when some of my students will demonstrate.

I suspect that it will be difficult for teachers to get a professional day and for schools to make transportation arrangements. Therefore, I am hoping that the New England AAW Chapters can help out. If your members know of young turners they could offer to bring them to this event. Yes, your members could attend the presentations (for free). AAW members could also share the information with local teachers and encourage them to contact me so I can add them to the email list. We can handle about 100 students at this event. Although I don't want to branch out too much, I want to mention that this event might also be of interest to students in art/sculpture or pottery classes. Heck, if AAW members have children or grandchildren they could bring them.

We have designed a program especially for youth and brought in presenters that are very good with this audience. It should be an exciting day. Please contact me if you want to be on the email notification list.

Jack Grube, Pinkerton Academy  
603-437-5200 x1140

## Special ART Meeting

I wanted to drop folks a line to wish you a Happy New Year of turning and let you know of some upcoming events the Assn. of Revolutionary Turners is hosting which we would love to have you participate in.

First up, we've decided as a club that we'd like an opportunity to spend more time working together to teach and learn turning. We've decided to have a series of extended meetings where we have longer, more in-depth demonstrations followed by open turning time. To do this, we will be using a large space at Middlesex Community College, 590 Springs Rd, Bedford, MA. Our first such meeting will be on Saturday, February 25th, and will run from 10am to 3pm. In the spirit of "the more, the merrier (and the easier the cleanup)", we'd like to invite members of other NE turning clubs to join us for this meeting.

We plan to host an extended (2hr) demo by Peter Teubel on the Oneway Bowlsaver System and Natural-Edge Bowls followed by a brief lunchtime business meeting, then open turning for the remainder of the day. We also hope to have a large wood swap, show-and-tell, and a silent tool auction to benefit the club. No RSVP is needed but, if you'd like to take advantage of the lunch sandwich buffet (\$5), please let me know so we can order more food. Also, bringing nice pieces of wood for the wood swap, used tools for the silent auction (in good, usable shape only please), or a Jet Mini or other portable lathe for the open turning, is encouraged.

Dietrich Kulze III, External VP, Association of Revolutionary Turners. 508-897-2100 or dietrich@kulze.com

## Editorial

I don't have much room for an editorial this month, which is fine by me. My thanks to all those who provided material from the Shop Visits this month, as well as to the hosts who made it all possible. I can't open my shop – there's no parking, no space and no heat (the furnace does its best, but it's a losing battle). I did, however, write up a piece about the grinder stand and jigs I built. That will probably be in next month.

As always, contributions are welcome. Book and video reviews are especially useful and not that hard to write. Half a page is enough and it can be helpful to other members of the club who might be thinking about buying the same item.

Article about **The Woodworks Show** in Springfield, MA, January 13-15, from the Springfield Republican and Joe Harbey.

For retiree Joseph R. Harbey, nothing could be more relaxing, meaningful and addictive as working with wood. "You take a piece of wood you might have burned or thrown away and transform it into a beautiful piece of art and you just want to do it again" said Harbey, a Westfield resident and one of the exhibitors at The Woodworks Show at the Eastern States Exposition fairgrounds.

For the past three years, woodworkers from around the country put on demonstrations, answered questions and held workshops for the approximately 4,500 people who attended this year's three-day show. According to Jonathan I. Frank, organizer of the show, "A lot of people have an affinity with things that are real, and whether you're a woodworker or not, there's an affinity for wood".

For Harbey, past president of Central New England Woodturners, a hobby club for woodworking enthusiasts, making bowls and other pieces out of wood helped him make the transition from his full-time career in electronics to the quieter world of retirement. "I lecture on retiring, and I tell people that a man who retires to nothing will perish in three to five years. You have to retire to something." said Harbey, who retired sixteen years ago at the age of 62.

Corey L. Anderson of East Hampton, Conn., the president of Central Connecticut Woodturners, said he also likes to take damaged, diseased and discarded pieces of box elder and butternut, two of his favorite types of wood, and turn them into salad bowls and other objects people can use.

For others at the show, woodworking is a business as well as a beloved hobby. Glen D. Huey of Cincinnati, Ohio, a maker of fine furniture and the author of two books on furniture making, said "With practice, anyone can learn how to work with wood and make their own furniture."

There were at least 7 or 8 members from CNEW there and as many from CCW. Too many to list.

[There is more about the show from Ray Boutotte, on the CNEW web site - ed.]

## Open Shop at John McAtee's Workshop

Text by Gene Spadi, photos by Dave Eaton

Visiting John McAtee's basement shop was a real pleasure during February's workshop tour. During John's forty years of woodworking, he has accumulated an impressive assortment of power and hand tools which are arranged to make maximum use of the limited space. Upon arriving, we were impressed with John's use of pegboards and hand-made cabinets which made a large array of tools easy to locate and use. John showed us some beautiful turnings and the evening progressed as each of us asked John questions which usually resulted in a demonstration of a technique. John demonstrated sharpening on a Tormek system, his techniques for using a skew chisel, demonstrations of various unique turning tools, gluing of segmented turnings, buffing with the Beall system, the use of analine dyes, finishing techniques and the use of a very elaborate router indexing system.



In addition to a terrific learning experience, John and his lovely wife provided delicious snacks, drinks and homemade cookies. As we departed from a wonderful evening, John told us to come back anytime if we had a question or woodworking problem. The CNEW club is very fortunate to have such a talented and helpful member as John McAtee. We can't wait until next year's workshop tour – it was a terrific experience.



## Open Shop at Reid Gilmore's house

Text and photos by Reid Gilmore

Mickey Goodman and Steve Shangraw visited Reid Gilmore's shop in Upton MA on Open Shop Night. Mickey brought a finished Ambrosia Maple bowl. He had decided that he wanted to re-turn the inside because several tool marks became visible after applying finish. So, as a group we tried to come up with methods that could be used



to re-mount this piece. We were able to hold the bowl with a vacuum chuck despite several small wormholes in the base of the bowl. Reid explained how he had made several "P. Teubel-style" vacuum chucks using inexpensive face plates that can be purchased from Bill Noble (website is [wb noble.com](http://wb noble.com)). Bill Noble also sells refurbished vacuum pumps and inexpensive vacuum gauges. In the case of Mickey's bowl, it should be possible to add a waste-block to the bottom or turn a recess for a chuck. Hopefully Mickey will bring in the returned piece to CNEW sometime this year.

After that we mounted a small piece (1.5" x 1.5" x 2.5") of bocote on a bottle stopper mandrel that was attached to an Axminster eccentric chuck. After rounding and lightly sanding the stopper blank, the eccentric chuck was adjusted to the smallest possible offset. The offset blank was then turned between centers using a



spindle gouge and a skew chisel to cut a V-shaped groove that was deep enough to go all the way around the blank. After light sanding, the stopper was rotated a quarter turn on the mandrel and the

process was repeated three more times. Steve, Mickey and Reid took turns cutting the V-shaped grooves. The

top of the center was turned on the original center so that the stopper does not appear to be leaning to the side. Bocote was a good choice for this project because it turns nicely, and has a striking grain pattern that shows up well. Since the grooves are cut off center, the stopper consists of a set of tilted disks.



## Open Shop Night at Charlie Croteau's

Text by Glenn Randall, photos by Graeme Young

We met at about 6:30 at Charlie's shop in Worcester. As my day job centers on people with severe impairments I had been curious as to how our colleague Charlie, who is quadriplegic, could turn good work without an assistant. So, I chose to visit his shop. My curiosity was satisfied and I came away delighted and feeling intensely satisfied by my host's ingenuity.



Custom-built handle for Kelton hollowing tool

(something that has always annoyed me). He has shovel "D" handles attached to spindle turning tools so he can control them with his wrists, forearms and hands without using his fingers. He does not need these added handles with scrapers – one of his favorite tools, nor with gouges which have long handles and give him a better mechanical advantage. He uses the skew with the long point down to avoid dangerous catches, an idea which I will adopt. Another great idea was that his dust collector ductwork was press fitted together as he recognized that we often move machinery and reconfiguration with press fitting was much easier and would make use of the dust collector more likely. Other tool adaptations included a vice that could be operated with a slap of a hand, bandsaw, grinder, chop saw at appropriate working heights, and a recycled diamond dresser. And all of the tools could be operated without a firm grip and with limited arm strength. In addition he had the ultimate tool – a wood stove to keep warm and to destroy evidence of projects gone terribly wrong.

We had several activities from which to choose. Using a shrimp serving dish as a guide, two less experienced turners, Phil Hansen and Mary Maguire, (read – one had not turned before) started to make a cherry dish to fit in its central well.

This project demonstrated wood selection (more

about this later), sizing, use of the chop saw without loss of fingers, mounting the blank on a screw chuck, use of the roughing gouge, sizing of a recess for use of an expansion chuck and use of various scrapers.

We all took a couple of trips to the shorts room, adjacent to the shop, where we were urged to select some wood to take home – you all know the wonderful woods that Charlie has brought to our meetings. After some initial

Entry to the shop is through a three quarter sized door that opens from inside and out with a rope and is held open with a magnet to allow easy wheelchair movement. In the shop I met up with Mary Maguire, Graeme Young, Dalton Lugg, Lauren Ota and Phil Hansen.

Charlie uses a 1/2hp Grizzly lathe, powerful enough to turn, but not powerful enough to hurt him with a tool catch. The lathe is set at a height so his wheelchair can fit underneath, and is outfitted with a polythene sheet to direct shavings to where he can get at them. As an added bonus they kept shavings from getting into his shoes





reluctance we all came away with beautiful pieces of wood that we would have been extremely lucky to find anywhere else. I am sure some of these blanks will be turned into great pieces and displayed at the CNEW meetings.

The best thing about the visit for me was that I came away feeling great. I visited a shop where our host had adapted his environment and tools to his disability. In reality he adapted his environment and tools to his abilities. Charlie exuded skill, hospitality and generosity, he has inspired me as a turner.

Thank you Charlie Croteau.




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## Clive Hamilton's Shop

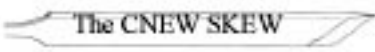
**Bobbi Tornheim**

Shop Visits: I did go to Clive Hamilton's on the day of the February meeting. As some of you know from his announcement at the January demo, his "shop" is a huge space shared by several other woodworkers in an enormous building that was a factory. That part of town is about to undergo a transformation which will include some sort of children's center as well as other's coming in to the building where Clive and his co-workers are lodged.

I had brought a roughed out cherry bowl that I wanted a band of hand carving on. We selected a pattern from a book of architectural carving samples. Then Clive showed me how to measure out the circumference with a strip of paper, transfer the design, and start deliniating the pattern. I left around 9 pm with lots of homework.

My plan is to return on CNEW meeting days a few hours before our meeting, and continue carving lessons with Clive. He is located about eight or nine minutes from the Worcester Center. If anyone else wants to join the class, call Clive, or e-mail me and I'll get you his info, which may be in the newsletter already.

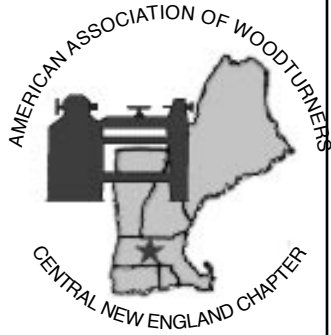
[Clive's phone number is 774-364-4075. The workshop is at 140 W. Oberlin St., Worcester - ed.]



**CENTRAL NEW ENGLAND  
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*On the web: [www.cnew.org](http://www.cnew.org)*

To join or renew your membership, print this form and either bring it to the next meeting with cash or check for \$20 made payable to CNEW, or mail the form along with a check to:

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City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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**If you wish, please let us know more about you and your interests.**

Old member   New member   Turning how many years? \_\_\_\_\_

Selling your work? Yes   No   Where? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
What programs would you like to see at our meetings?

\_\_\_\_\_  
Would you be interested in demonstrating at one of our meetings? Yes   No