

The CNEW Skew

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President's Message

Lights! Camera! ACTION! are the words you may hear this month. There are many woodturning events occurring in these next couple of months offering a lot of opportunity for us to entertain ourselves and learn what may be lurking just beyond our own thought horizons. Many techniques and styles we can observe in demo sessions and classes do not depend on methods for which we lack the ability but are rather those which our imagination has not yet grasped or which we just hadn't thought of encompassing into our style of Art. One or two of these new styles may look very appealing and spark us to incorporate them into our next experiment.

I urge you to attend some of these events. They are fun and informative no matter what else they are. Even if you think the topic is not exactly right for you, I guarantee you will learn something and laugh a few times. Just make sure that when you see the artist in the spotlight sharing their woodturning talent, that your lights are "on" and somebody is "home" inside your head and your camera is taking notes. I find this proves to be a requirement if anything is to be secured in my memory until I next turn on my lathe.

Having just returned from a successful Symposium in NH my head is now full of ideas waiting to emerge into a twist of the hand and end up as a feature in my next work as it comes off the lathe. I am glad I attended the one day event but as usual, getting there was difficult. As I often do, I think too much about what I will get from the event ahead of time, how much time and money it will cost me and whether the presenters will really have their act together enough to entertain me and also teach me something valuable which I don't already know. I guess I want them to drill into my head and implant some magical seed that will change everything. At some point I realize that this is unlikely to occur and I waver on whether I really feel like attending. If I am able to be rational and make it to the event

Editorial

The newsletter is full of information this month, which leaves very little room for an editorial ☹. Next month's newsletter may be a different story, however. I will be abroad on business for almost the entire month of June, which will make it difficult to put the newsletter together. If anyone is prepared to step up and be the guest editor for June, please contact me as soon as possible. If you have Adobe InDesign, I have a template with all the graphics in place. If you cannot take over as editor, you can still help out. This month we had both the Alan Lacer demo and the New Hampshire symposium, which I know a number of you attended. Send me your thoughts on both or either event – as soon as possible, like *today!* I will collate all the responses and hopefully we will have a more comprehensive write-up than any one person could produce alone. Don't worry if you didn't take notes and don't remember everything that seemed important, write down what you do remember and send it in. Maybe somebody else will fill in the gaps.

If you have not yet paid your dues for 2006, there is a form on the back page. Fill it in tonight!

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Henry Fairlie		

I am always surprised and pleased at what a good time I have. I see friends, new turnings, tools, woods and techniques that are out of this world. Even the things I know how to do get reinforced or modified to be a bit better. There's no mystical séance that instantaneously teaches me here, just that magical brain implant seeding my imagination again and again and again. What I am trying to get across is this, if you haven't been to a woodturning event lately, get in your car and go. You will be rewarded with a small pot of gold at the end of your voyage, the shape of which is of course up to you. If you absolutely cannot do this then indulge in what the camera records and watch a video or two. Most events are recorded and though you miss out on some details you can bring a little bit of it into your home and onto your TV screen. Maybe think about some popcorn and having a turning buddy come over to watch with you?

With that said, I'd like to remind you to look at the calendar on the website or list of upcoming events in the newsletter and plan your next woodturning micro-vacation. Keep the eyes and mind open and they will be filled to overflowing. Then at the next club meeting some of this valuable information is undoubtedly going to leak out, all over other club members, who will surely envy your words and learn something from them. After all, as we communicate, we share knowledge. Whether the communication is strong and directed as it is in a class or a demo session, or merely a wisp of info that drifts across member to member in our informal chats, we, the woodturning community, learn and laugh together while we share our lives and experiences amongst ourselves. This, to me, is fun and "what it's all about." Let's go learn!

Cape Cod Woodturning Club Hosts Beth Ireland

Beth Ireland will demo on Saturday, July 22, 2006 from 9 am to 4 pm. at Wayne Shepard's shop on Race Lane in Marston's Mills (near Barnstable). The cost will be \$25, plus \$5 if you want lunch.

Our demonstration space has room for up to 30 people. This invitation is extended to turners and their guests from the Cape Cod Woodturners club and from all of the other local clubs: CNEW, ART, SST and any other turners that would like to participate.

This event is significantly different and longer than the 2 hour class that Beth has been teaching over the last year. If you've seen that demo, then this one will fill in all the gaps and really bring home her techniques!

Please reserve your spot for this event as soon as possible by responding to Dennis Daudelin, at dennis@daudelin.net. Directions and lunch options will be send to you after registration. More information about the event and about the Cape Cod Woodturners can be found at their website: www.capecodturners.org

June Program

The next meeting is on the first day of June, beginning at 6:30pm at the Worcester Center for Crafts. For the main program, Rick Angus will demonstrate bowl turning with particular attention to adding a detail at the rim. Following the regular business meeting, Show & Tell will again be supplemented by items made for Project Goodwill. If Gene Spadi's pens and Bobbi Tornheim's earrings didn't inspire you, come and see what turns up next month.

Minutes of April Meeting

Tim Elliott

New Members: David Briggs, Jim Metcalf.

Thanks to Norma Hogan, who will fill in as secretary at our June meeting. We need a volunteer to edit the June newsletter in place of Graeme – nobody has stepped forward yet. [If you have Adobe InDesign, I have a template with all the graphics and basic layout - Ed]

CNEW sent a check last month to **CERF** for emergency support of professional craftspeople. CNEW also sent a check and certificate of appreciation to the **Worcester Center for Crafts** thanking them for providing us with a meeting space every month. In the future, if we have certificates to present outside of the membership we will frame them.

Charlie Croteau gave an update on Project Goodwill. We have over 20 items donated by members that will be sold to raise money for wheelchairs to be donated worldwide. Some of these items may be sold at the local fundraiser on June 8 at Doyle's Cafe in Jamaica Plain (6-10pm). See the CNEW website if you would like more information on this event. Kudos to Graeme Young for raising \$200 for Project Goodwill by making and selling lace bobbins. Graeme points out that this sum was raised with "less than 1 board-foot of wood". Charlie thanked Graeme by presenting him with an oak board that looked to be extravagantly larger than 1 board-foot. Dave and Charlie have been pursuing more publicity for Project Goodwill. Please contact them if you would like to help.

There was some discussion about the woodswap, and what to do if we have items left over. Sometimes, wood swap donations have checks or other problems and nobody wants to take them. The solution to this is self-policing. Please bring only wood that is likely to be taken home by someone. Sometimes, there is just more wood in the pile than we have demand for. Charlie suggests that we can donate it to the Craft Center by adding it to their communal woodpile which students draw from. Gene Spadi volunteered to coordinate donations. If you are bringing a small number of pieces to the woodswap, just bring them. If you have a substantial number of pieces, please contact Gene in advance so that he can help us "level" the supply from month to month. Gene can be reached at (508) 655-6053 or via e-mail: gene.spadi@hp.com

Norm Mancuso and Frank White attended an organizational meeting for the "Yankee Woodturning Symposium" proposed for June 2007. Norm reports that a steering committee is currently trying to book a site. The organizers are hoping that 5 chapters, including CNEW, will contribute to this regional event. Each club will be asked to front \$1000 seed money. The expectation is that this will be paid back to the chapters, but of course there is no guarantee. Each club will also be asked to apply to the AAW for an Educational Opportunity Grant in the amount of \$1000. The EOGs will also be pooled to provide seed money, but there is no plan to repay the EOG money to the chapters. It is not known what will happen to the overage if the event makes a profit. A motion was made to earmark \$1000 in the CNEW treasury as seed money to support this event – passed on voice vote. Reid Gilmore volunteered to lead the process of applying for an EOG from the AAW.

Dave Eaton has added a history section to our website documenting the CNEW officers back to the dawn of time. As founding member Bill Frost happened to be present, Dave recognized him.

Dave Eaton asked if there was sufficient interest to organize "open turning" at the Worcester Center for Crafts immediately prior to our regular meeting time. A few hands were raised. Dave will find out if we can get the room early to support this.

Treasurer's report:

In \$585, Out \$549, Balance: \$2407

The Alan Lacer demo will clearly cause an unusual volume of activity this month, which has not all been reconciled. Mickey estimates that our balance after this event will be "about \$2000".

Librarian Charlie Croteau showed off our new book on segmented turnings – particularly apt given the night's demonstration topic.

If we do not have your photo on the CNEW website, please see Henry at the next meeting. Having some photos to refer to really helps us all.

Norma Hogan's website (www.thecollectivearts.com) is an outlet for local artists (or a place to shop for unique gifts). Please contact her if you would like to list your work on this site.

In October, we will have a combined challenge project/pen swap - similar to what we did a couple of years ago. Make and bring a pen to participate in the swap.

CALLING ALL MENTORS: We are currently developing a list of members interested in spending time with other members in the hope of helping promote education and skill building by sharing of knowledge. If you are interested in listing yourself as a “Mentor” who would entertain meeting with a “student” at your shop or theirs please let me know. This is a good way to learn as you teach. You do not need any particular skills or skill level to be a mentor, just a willingness to help another turner and enjoy the time with them. As a sometimes teacher myself I can attest to the fact that you *really* learn a thing when you have to teach it. We are hoping that with this program each mentor may be able to help out one person each month or two. Please consider signing up.

CALLING ALL STUDENTS: Anyone interested in being “Mentored” by a more advanced turner please contact me as well. We will try to hook you up with a Mentor to help develop your skills and enjoy some friendship.

Dave Eaton

Understanding Wood

A craftsman’s guide to wood technology R. Bruce Hoadley

Understanding Wood, by Bruce Hoadley (255 pages) is a must-read for any serious woodturner. Hoadley is the undisputed wood expert here in America and he has plenty to say on the subject of how wood grows and why certain woods are used the way they are. The book starts out talking about the nature of wood from the basic cellular level right on up through growth rings, grain, sapwood and heartwood. It makes clear the proper vocabulary for talking about wood. The book covers all aspects of wood including figure in wood and where to find it. Finishing wood is covered from the perspective of preventing moisture exchange and the pros and cons of different finishes.

One of my favorite chapters was Machining Wood. This chapter covers great subjects like chip formation (ya gotta love it). For example, what is the maximum number of cuts a planer blade should make per inch when planing? (A) 36, (B) 90, (C) 180 (D) the more the better. If you answered A, you are correct. Now if you want to know why, you can read the book.

Keep the chips flying,
Charlie Croteau

Ten Reasons To Make Segmented Bowls Steve Reznek

10. You think they are cool
9. You like the challenge
8. You are bored with just bowls
7. You like to show off
6. Why use free wood when you can buy kiln dried?
5. You can use more scraps for your wood stove
4. You want to brush up your high school math skills
3. You don’t have enough tools already
2. Your spouse thinks you don’t spend enough time in the shop

1. You don’t have enough frustration in your life
In segmented turning, the two big issues are the time and effort to produce an item and dimensional stability. Often, the time spent cutting, sanding, gluing and assembling the parts far exceeds the time spent turning the assembled blank. When parts are assembled with the grain running in different directions, different rates of expansion and contraction can cause noticeable discontinuities and even result in complete failure of a joint. No matter what – Joinery Counts! You always need a good, sharp saw, good glues, the ability to sand flat, waste blocks, face plates and clamps. Lots of clamps.

Safety:

1. If you use “super” glue, be sure to protect your eyes and the rest of you from spray. Let it dry and wear masks. No matter what!
2. Keep your fingers away from saw blades. Use pushers. Be extra, **extremely careful** if the blade is not perpendicular!!
3. When you cut a ring away from a “waste” board or block, be sure you can catch the pieces. Use something on the tail stock to hold the freed piece and go slowly.



To flatten faces on the lathe for mating, use a flat board with sand paper. Press it across the ring until the face is flat. The outer edge will curve “down”, so leave extra width. To flatten a ring that is too thin for “jumbo” jaws, mount a face plate on the board. To assure that ring centers are aligned on mated faces, use face plates. The developing bowl is mounted on a faceplate on the headstock. The next ring

is mounted on a board on another faceplate and held over a fat cone center on the tailstock. Now the mating surfaces can be brought together carefully for gluing.

The “standard” approach to segmented turning using rings has a number of advantages. Expansion is less of a problem, but only if the base is segmented. If the base is solid wood, there will be areas where the grain direction does not match up with the first ring. Complex designs are easier, if only because many people have already worked out clever ways of producing them and there are lots of books and tapes on the subject. There is no end grain to turn or finish.

Of course, there are also drawbacks to ring construction. You have to do the “corners” right and there is no way to align the grains completely. Movement is a problem, especially with platters unless the bottom is layered. Jigs, miters, and sleds are essential, as is a good, accurate table saw – that is not buried under a pile of turnings in progress. You have to flatten, which makes it worthwhile to have equipment like a disc sander and a planer. The only sure way to prevent joint problems is to align the grain!

Cutting with the table saw blade tilted away from 90° allows you to get some very nice patterns, relatively easily, and you get two dimensional curves. *But...* it is far easier to forget what you are doing and cut your fingers off. With non-perpendicular segments you can’t cheat and “true-up” two halves and you need “keepers” to keep the parts in alignment for clamping.

Making An Insert Bowl

1. True up a board and cut the body square.
2. Create two “spacer” guides. The width is the distance between two splines plus the saw kerf.
3. Create a “spline” spacer. The width is two saw kerfs. Adjust by being a little smaller and thickening with layers of masking tape.
4. Cut the first dado. Find the middle of the square. Set the fence so the blade is in the middle with one “spacer” guide. The depth is determined such that the “uncut” portion is the top “rim”.
5. Lower the saw blade a bit and cut the outer dados. One with two “spacer” guides and one with none. The shallower depth makes the outer splines shorter.
6. True up a blank and cut the three splines*. Match the grain direction to the dados. Ideally the height of the splines should be just less than the (two) depths of the dados. This is very important if they are cross grain; or if you are cutting in more than one direction.
7. Super glue the splines into the dados. *Let the glue set!* (Note: The squares of the kit have worm holes. The super glue will wick through the holes. Make sure all splines are in place before gluing any of them.)
8. If you make subsequent crosscuts in a second direc-

tion, repeat steps 4, 5, 6 and 7.

9. True up a board and cut a blank for the base.

10. Mount a waste block on a faceplate and flatten the surface using sand paper mounted on a board.

11. Glue the base onto the waste block and flatten its face. Remember that the edge will be turned down a little. Leave extra diameter. You don’t need to use super glue, have some patience.

12. Make a second waste block. Mark the center and the edges at 90 degrees. Mount it on a faceplate.

13. Mark the center of the uncut (top) face of the body.

14. Match the center of the waste block to the center of the body square and glue them together. This is a critical step. You want the turning axis to go through the middle of the body.

15. Flatten the bottom face of the body – the face with the splines showing.

16. With the body mounted on the head stock, use a “fat” live center on the tail stock to position the base. Glue the matching faces and use the tail stock to snug up the fit. *Match the grain* on the base and body. When the glue is dry, remove the face plate from the body and reverse mount the assembly.

17. Turn off the waste block from the top of the bowl.

18. Depending on how brave you are, you might want to drill a depth hole to keep from going through the bottom.

19. Turn away. Have a good time.

20. At some point you will see the pattern emerging. This is a good time to superglue up any joint that didn’t get it initially. You will probably find that the tops of the dado saw cuts need gluing.

21. Finish it up and proudly show it to one and all.

* I use a spacer and cut “outside” the blade. I do not try to cut the spline between the fence and the blade at an 1/8”. Neither should you!



A completed insert bowl



Ambrosia maple bowl by Mickey Goodman



Mike Peters: Spalted maple burl with natural edged cup inside



Frank White: Black birch hollow form



Platter of curupay (a.k.a. cebil) by Bill Frost

Gene Spadi and pens for Project Goodwill



Earring stand and earrings by Bobbi Tornheim



Jon Berke with ash bowl for Project Goodwill

Salt & pepper set by Joe Harbey, with assistance from grandkids



Pair of strangely segmented walnut and maple bowls by Steve Reznek



Salad bowl and six serving bowls in spalted copper beech by Joe Harbey



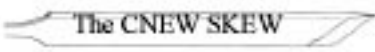
Gavel of pink ivory and cocobolo made by Dave Eaton for his wife



Rick Angus: Crotch elm bowl



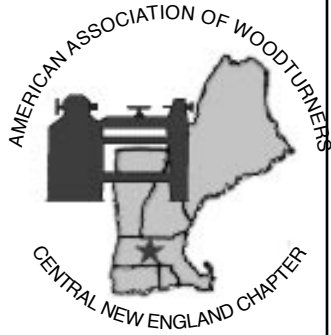
Walnut platter roughed out by Walter Goodrich, passed on by Dennis Daudelin and finally turned by Reid Gilmore



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*Central New England Woodturners
A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners*



On the web: 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:

Treasurer
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Name _____

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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