

The CNEW Skew

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Volume 19 Issue 7

Editor: Dave Eaton, filling in for Graeme Young

July 2006

President's Message

What have You done for You lately? Just now passing midway through the current season, some of us CNEW'ers are starting to recognize that the "end-of-year horizon" is slowly approaching and realize we'll be writing the number 2007 on the bottom of our turnings quite soon enough.



With this we inevitably begin our involuntarily trembling and start feeling faint in coming to grips with the fact that the all too "horrible club elections" are coming up and we are each, yes, each and every one of us, "vulnerable" - to being nominated to an insurmountable commitment of some impossible task - of being a club officer who is subjected to the pressures and criticism of our peers, the same members who say over and over and over again "not me... no, no... not me, no time... can't do it... not me, someone else surely will do it! Maybe I'll do it next time, yeah next, next, next, next time..."

Okay. Calm down... Someone else will of course do it and you're off the hook - and yes, I am saying we should start preparing for the annual passing of the baton from one slate of officers to the next.

In considering such, we might look at ourselves in the mirror and ask:

What am I getting OUT of my club?

What am I putting IN to my club?

A couple more questions logically follow this, if you are at all even slightly concerned about our long-term wellbeing such as:

What can I offer the club and my fellow members?

What level of commitment do I have toward furthering woodturning?

What WILL I DO to make sure MY club is successful and really enjoyable?

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Tools and Jigs Demo

with Ray Boutotte

Ray did a great job at the July meeting showing new and existing tools, sharpening methods, and polishing techniques.



He discussed areas of woodturning which we need to know about but seldom get real instruction on. There are many tools on the market that do specialty jobs like the "Pyramid" three point round tool. It's best at skew-ish work but excels at cutting 90 degree tenon angles.

Ray explained bowl gouge sharpening using the Club grinder and Wolverine jig. He suggests that we all use jigs to sharpen, since they are SO easy and produce an excellent edge every time.

If you have any questions about tools or jigs - He's the one to ask! (See page 8 for more...)

Thanks for an informative demo Ray!

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Webmaster, Dave Eaton	508-653-6364	webmaster@cnew.org
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Presidents Message (Cont'd)

Take a second right now and think about this for just a moment please. These don't have to be big things, just something. Something you definitely can and will do!

Certainly I do not presume to ask someone who might be less than committed to running my club or taking my place as President. No, I don't want the "good thing" which I have found in CNEW to be hurt or allow it to decay or lose momentum even one little bit. I like the "power", the prestige, the opportunity to feel my heart flush with warmth as I see smiles come from some of the efforts I direct or the elation I feel seeing beautiful turnings from a newbie pumping out superb art forms I must endlessly toil upon, or helping the guy who never seems to turn anything blast chips all over his face while muffling a grin quite obviously wrapping around his head. *It is definitely cool AND rewarding.* There's nothing like it. But I don't have to be an Officer for this, do I? Maybe I want to continue another term, maybe someone else run for office and "win?" Wow! What a thought (as I ramble...) I've learned a lot of your names in the last months. Might it be you?

The real reason I am on this topic is not to once again pound you into volunteering for work. It's that I believe a smooth transition from old Officers to new ones has significant benefits and we should start grooming our ranks to help our next budding Officers realize what efforts and rewards can be expected. This encourages people to be future Officers. It keeps our chapter activity levels and morale high and with that the club grows in an orderly and sustainable fashion. We should enjoy electing new Officers each year and adopt methods to encourage people to hold an office or duty of some type. Promoting the idea that we want a few new Officers each year should not be a fearful issue. It should be an easy and seamless

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Open Turning Kicks-Off with a BANG!

By Dave Eaton

Thanks to Joe Harbey we had a very successful first Open Turning Night on July 6th, 2007.

Joe opened the doors to the WCC woodshop at 5:00 PM on the night of our July meeting, after which there was a steady flow of CNEW members into the room and onto the six lathes. ***Yes, I said SIX LATHES!!!***

Joe, being a long time member of WCC and having served there in an official capacity a while ago has arranged for us to use the woodshop and lathes for our Open Turning Sessions before our regular meetings starting at 5:00 PM

We had a blast. Pictures below show our members turning various objects from ornaments to bowl and vases. This was an incredibly fun yet simple event. New members

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August Program... Annual Picnic and Top Races - on Saturday August 5th beginning at 1:00 pm, at Dave Eaton's home in Natick, MA

THERE WILL BE NO REGULAR AUGUST MEETING AT THE WCC

got in a little turning with the old salts turning next to them alike.

We're definitely planning to hold this Open Turning Session before all our meetings if we can.

We have the next one all set up for September 7th. Come down to the WCC early for the meeting. We'll be there starting at 5:00 PM. Bring some wood to turn. Some tools and the lathes will be there.



If you need help - just say so! If you want to learn how to turn something specific

- Just ask!

We're all there to have a bit of fun and turn something too. Try out a new Jet lathe with us at the Craft Center before every meeting...

Thanks Joe!!



...It seems like there's nothing you can't do for our club!!!

Photo's courtesy of Dave Eaton

Presidents Message (Cont'd)

transition from one season to the next for the Membership and as such help everyone feel comfortable coming to meetings near "that time."

Perhaps we'll look forward to these opportunities or even volunteer to chip-in here and there and share our valuable time or special talent even if we can't be lucky enough to be an Officer. I have assembled a number of thoughts to help us be successful in this undertaking which follow this article. Perhaps doing so will aid us in the future?

In the meantime, rest assured I hope to make each and every meeting and event that I can. I want to know you all, learn from you, teach you, laugh at you while you are rolling in tears peeing your pants laughing at me. A personal reason I became President is to grow myself and to develop the club regarding things or areas that I like. Selfish huh? Sorry, but I have had fun. I've busted my hump ever since January and am of course becoming tired. I'd like a bit more help than I'm getting - but won't that always be the case while heading up an organization consisting of volunteers?

Please come to the meetings and events. Come to the demo's, open shops at members homes and open turning sessions before meetings. Call a Mentor for a visit; Learn something and develop a lifelong friendship.

Even just enjoy yourself by quietly watching video's at home and then trying some new things or improving your skills in the sanctitude of your own shop.

Increase the quality and pleasure of your "free" time.

Expose yourself to some new views or ideas on your style of turning by chatting with friends about it.

Help yourself fully enjoy turning ...that's why you do this stuff.

In order that we, as a Club, can make sure we're all enjoying what we do to the fullest - Tell me what's going good or bad, what works for you and what doesn't, what you want more of and don't like at all. When the "Club" speaks, Officers listen and then "we" will have more chances and ideas to enhance the quality of our group and our time together.

Be sure to do this for yourself. That's what you have to do! Nothing else is required. Promise! *But please be sure to do at least this ...for yourself.*

Happily presiding!

Dave Eaton

CNEW President

Presidents Message (Cont'd)

Suggestions for aiding in painless and seamless Officer transitions

Read Job Descriptions: Our bylaws contain written job descriptions for the Officers, but, we should break “work” down into smaller pieces so that, whenever possible, tasks can be shared by a team of members, creating a social environment and avoiding a few individuals getting burned out.

Early Elections: We should elect new Officers in October, but they won't take office or be held responsible until January. This provides them with an overlap with the outgoing group and a few months to get their feet on the ground without disrupting ongoing projects and plans.

Training Pyramid: New people should be encouraged to take on project leadership roles. This helps them learn Chapter culture, get acquainted with the membership & demonstrate their leadership potential.

Institutional Memory: We should diligently document our activities, even such things as how a picnic was planned. New leaders can use these “Books of Knowledge” as a starting point or guide for their efforts and as a preventive measure of “reinventing the wheel” again.

Identified Expectations: We should establish annual plans (activities, budgets, etc.) so there is wide spread understanding of what is expected of new Officers and of what Club activities the future may hold.

Ombudsman: We should have a chapter Ombudsman that members can approach with concerns or comments. We should also have a suggestion “box”. These vehicles would help address concerns early-on when they are easiest to resolve. [Click here to send feedback](#)

Term Limits: Our elected officers should be officially limited to two consecutive terms in the same position and no individual should hold any “set” of elected positions for more than four consecutive years. This encourages new blood.

Appreciation: We should make an extreme effort to try and show appreciation for everyone who makes a contribution to the chapter. +++

Thanks to John Hill & AAW Best Practices for ideas in formulating this material.

The Mentor Program

by Michael Peters

I joined CNEW this year for many reasons, the main reason is to start woodturning again.

I have always been interested in woodworking and started turning small bowls and hollow forms about 12 years ago. Most of what I have learned was from reading books or by trial and error, mostly error. I have a limited amount of time that I can spend on my woodturning and I was hoping that I could improve my woodturning skills and make better use of my time. Attending meetings and demonstrations has been very informative and helpful.

I recently asked Dave Eaton for some help through the newly formed mentor program and I have to say it was extremely helpful and informative. The advice and hands on instruction helped to answer many questions and teach me skills that will greatly improve my ability to turn bowls.

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Upcoming Events

July 22	Beth Ireland Demo by Cape Cod Woodturners
Aug 3	NO MEETING = DATE CHANGED TO:
Aug 5	Annual Club Picnic at Dave Eaton's at 1:00 PM <i>Burgers supplied - Bring a side dish.</i>
Sept 7	CNEW Meeting at Worcester Center for Crafts <i>Demo - Off Center & Eccentric Turnings</i>
Sept 16	Betty Scarpino, Demo by ART club
Oct 5	CNEW Meeting at Worcester Center for Crafts <i>Demo - Turning Alabaster</i>
Oct 14-15	Totally Turning Symposium, Albany, NY
Oct 22	Spirit of Wood Show, Bedford, MA
Nov 2	CNEW Meeting at Worcester Center for Crafts
Jan 12-14, 2007	Woodworks Show, Springfield, MA
June 1-2, 2007	Yankee Turner Symposium, RI (TBD)

Project Goodwill hits Kilobucks

Estimates put the amount we raised at ~\$3,000.

If you gave a turning, one lucky person gets a wheelchair FROM YOU! ...*That should make you smile!*

The next auction target is a Jan/07 auction at Woodworks Show. Bring donations to any meeting.



THANKS TO EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU!!!

Laff at this...

Ed was in trouble. He forgot his wedding anniversary. His wife was really angry. She told him “Tomorrow morning, I expect to find a gift in the driveway that goes from 0 to 200 in 6 seconds AND IT BETTER BE THERE.”

The next morning Ed got up early and left for work. When his wife woke up, she looked out the window and sure enough there was a small box gift-wrapped in the middle of the driveway. Confused, put on her robe and ran out to the driveway, brought the box back in the house.

She opened it and found a brand new bathroom scale. Funeral services for Ed are scheduled for Friday !!.

Mentor List

Name Location & Email

- Angus, Rick Moosup, CT richard.angus@rogerscorporation.com
- Eaton, Dave Natick, MA dave@eaton9999.com
- Elliott, Tim Newfields, NH timelliott@verizon.net
- Faul, Al Leominster, MA agfl@verizon.net
- Goodman, Mickey Mendon, MA mgoodman@tiac.net
- Hunt, Will Lexington, MA jnwhunt@aol.com
- Iafrate, Angelo Johnston, RI iafrateturns@cox.net
- Lindgren, Ken Norwood, MA walksoftly@norwoodlight.com

Mentor (Cont'd)

I strongly recommend the mentor program to anyone who would like to improve their skills. In addition to being very informative it was also fun! Most of my woodturning has been a solitary activity. Spending time with someone who understands and appreciates woodturning made for an informative and enjoyable evening.

Woodturning is very fulfilling, sharing the experience with friends makes it even better. Now I need to practice the new skills that I have learned and when my confidence increases maybe I can help promote the fine craft of woodturning.

I highly recommend the mentor program to anyone who is interested in improving their woodturning skills. +++

Show and Tell - June



Reid Gilmore
Cherry Tall Vase



Joe McGill
Vases



Dave Eaton
Mahogany, Maple
and Walnut Rim



Phil Bowman - Two - 17" Dia
Spalted Maple Bowls



Joe Harbey
Redwood Tray
Box Elder bowl
Antique Anvil



Frank White
Burl & Vase

Mickey Goodman
Spalted Maple -
Box Elder



Reid Gilmore
Bowl Tool



Ray Boutotte
Small Apple Bowls



Show & Tell Photos
courtesy of Henry Fairlie



Hal Mahon
Walnut Bowl - Angelique
and Alam Vase



Rick Gonzalez
Necklace BE Maple



Steve Reznick
Spalted Maple
and Maple Bowls



Ray Boutotte - Tool and Jig Demo



John McAtee
Goodwill Donation

The Annual Club Picnic

The season has come once again to break from our monthly routine, say the heck with a regular business meeting and have a party!

All CNEW members, their spouse and friends are welcome to join us for a Barbecue Picnic at the CNEW President's house. Burgers, Hot Dogs, etc. will be available (free) but please bring a side dish to share with ~15 to 20 other hungry turners. We also need someone to get soda and ice. Call Dave Eaton, or better yet Laurie his wife, at 508-653-6364 and see what you can bring.

Show up at 1:00 PM for lunch.

We'll also have Midi-Lathes ready for you to turn!

The theme of this year is Tops. We plan to hold a Top Spinning Contest. This will be a timed duration spin-off among tops your either bring or make at the picnic. Two entry categories are regular "Hand Spin" tops and then the "Unlimited" where anything goes. Hook a top up to a drill or your Dodge Hemi V-8 and burn rubber!

Winners will "get something"...

Please come and visit. Early or late, with friend or solo, food or not - don't miss out just because of a silly worry or excuse.

Directions to:

Dave and Laurie Eaton's

5 Maple Ave, Natick, MA 01760

Phone: (508) 653-6364 -- email: president@cnew.org

From Rte 9 at near Natick Mall take Speen Street SOUTH. Go few miles then cross over RR bridge and over Rte 135. Next lights take LEFT onto Pond St. EAST toward Downtown Natick. Go about a mile, past cemeteries and Dugg Pond on right - after which is the exit to Natick High School then Maple Ave on the RIGHT. Turn onto Maple Ave. Dave's is the LAST (3rd) house on the right.

Note: There is a Maple "Street" close by. If you get lost and go there - just be aware they probably won't feed you as well as we will...



Minutes of June Meeting

by Tim Elliott

Notes from CNEW meeting July 6 2006

One Visitor - Hal Mahon

MOTION PASSED => Secretary's Report approved as in last newsletter

Our "Project Goodwill's" Boston-area auction raised roughly \$2100 from our donations. This is estimated to be enough for about 50 wheelchairs. Some items were held back for auction in California, so watch for additional updates. Dave Eaton is investigating whether we might be able to hold another auction round to benefit Project Goodwill in connection with the Woodworks show next January at the Big E.

Joe Harbey presided over the first open turning session before the July meeting in the Craft Center's wood shop. Eighteen people participated, so we will do this again before the September meeting. Plan to arrive at 5 PM if you would like to participate in the Sept Open Turning session. You provide wood, all else is available.

Our August meeting will be the annual CNEW picnic, this year hosted by Dave Eaton. He expects to have several mini-lathes and members will be challenged to bring or turn tops. Arrive at 1pm with side dishes - Dave will supply Burgers.

Thanks to Craft Supplies, USA for donating gift certificates to CNEW.

The draft policy/guidelines for CNEW craft shows have been available for review on the web for 4 months. MOTION PASSED => We voted to accept them without change Thanks to Norm Mancuso and the rest of the committee for seeing this through. The September meeting will have a demo on off-center turning by Reid Gilmore.

Joe Harbey opened his home shop for visitors last week, but turnout was disappointing. Several members thought they might attend if Joe repeats this event. Contact Joe if interested.

Several CNEW members have volunteered for the "mentor" program. Their contact information is listed on the website. Get in touch with them directly if interested in their help.

Dave Eaton reminded the membership that it is not too early to start thinking about whether you would be willing to serve a term as a CNEW officer in 2007. Please give it some consideration.

Our October meeting will include a pen swap. There was some discussion about whether we wanted to contribute to the "Freedom Pens" project (supports American troops worldwide), many members are interested and we will pursue.

It is not too late so sign up for the Beth Ireland demo on the cape July 22. Contact the Cape Dennis Daudelin chapter if you would like to attend.

The ART group has a booth at the Marshfield Fair the 2nd week of August. CNEW members are invited to demo, sell their work and enjoy the fair admission free by coordinating with Dave Eaton who is one of ART's coordinators for the event. Contact Dave Eaton if interested in the Fair.

We have a 2 new DVD's in our video library featuring Bin Pho. The following members volunteered to provide articles for the next newsletter: Steve Reznick, Frank White, Hal Mahon. Submission deadline is July 15. Please send them to Graeme Young and Dave Eaton.

Treasurer's report

Starting balance: \$2112.76

Income: \$ 68.00

Spent: \$1146.90 (including \$1000 for Yankee Symp.)

Ending balance: \$1033.86

MOTION PASSED => Treasurers Report accepted as presented
Approx. 20 former members have recently been removed from our roster because they have not renewed for 2006. Norm Mancuso suggested that we phone them individually to see if we can get them to come back. Mickey Goodman will coordinate - contact him if you would like to help with this.

Dave Eaton observed that sending paper newsletters via US mail costs the club more than e-mail delivery - in dollars, effort and time. He would like to encourage as many members as possible to get their newsletters electronically. He proposed that beginning in 2007, we add a \$5 surcharge to CNEW dues for those members wanting a paper newsletter. (That is, dues will be \$20 per year for members getting e-mail delivery, \$25 per year for paper/US mail).

Points that arose in the discussion:

- Is it fair to penalize members who do not have access to e-mail?
- Perhaps it is time to raise dues generally if we are not meeting our costs?

- Can we bring printed newsletters to the meeting and avoid postage cost?

(No, they need to arrive before the meeting)

A vote was taken (twice for physical vote count). The final vote count was 19 in favor of the \$5 surcharge for paper newsletters, 2 opposed. ...So this will take effect in Jan 2007. MOTION PASSED => Beginning Jan 1, 2007: member dues are \$20 with email newsletter option and \$25 for postal newsletter option.

Frank White reports that he has meeting demonstrators lined up through November, although he is working to finalize details. Reid Gilmore has been investigating whether we can get Malcolm Tibbetts to speak/demonstrate for CNEW on the topic of segmented turning. This would be in October, taking advantage of Malcolm's existing travel plans to the Albany, NY Totally Turning symposium. Cost is estimated to be \$300 for an evening demo, \$500 for an extended daytime event. Twelve members were interested. Reid will pursue this.

Reid is already anticipating the Fall craft fair organized by the Worcester Craft Center, and plans to book a booth when available.

Dave Eaton has color CNEW logo stickers for \$2 each. Please see him or the "CNEW Store" if you would like to buy some.

In recognition of his work on Project Goodwill, Charlie Croteau was presented with a \$27 hook tool, New CNEW sticker, and \$15 Craft Supplies certificate.

In recognition of his work on the Alan Lacer demo, Frank White was presented the lidded box that Alan made in the demo.

Dave Eaton is selling hook tools and gouge sharpening jigs. Contact him if interested.

Finally, I would like to thank Norma for filling in as temporary secretary last month and getting the minutes done.

- Tim Elliott.

Tools and Jigs Demo

by Ray Boutotte

My mission for the July demo was to discuss and show a handful of products useful thru-out the turning process. We don't talk about ancillary products much & only a 1/2 of the turning is actually related to the turning or shaping, etc. I plan to discuss: Dixie Point Tools, Chatter Tool, Beal Buffing, Wolverine Jig, Sanding Glove, n more. These are only my methods, may not be the best methods, and certainly not the only methods.



Wolverine Jig: Sharpening and grinding you tools may be one of the most important things that you can learn to do right. This shouldn't take you 3 minutes, but 30 seconds so you can get back to turning.



The easier it is for you to sharpen your tools and get the perfect grind, the more often you'll sharpen and the more you will enjoy turning with a perfect grind each time. How do you do this? With a grinding jig! You can either buy one or make one. The club uses the Wolverine grinding jig made by Oneway which I will demonstrate. This jig can do most all types of tools from the simplest like a scraper, to the complex like the Ellsworth style. To sharpen quickly you need to setup the jig to reproduce your grinds easily. I use marking or pins to re-adjust the jig for each unique grind so I can change the jig, and come back to a previous grind with ease in only seconds. Even without doing this, it is pretty easy to re-adjust the jig. Sharp tools are safe tools, will cut better, give much better finishes, will allow you to use less sandpaper, and most importantly give you more turning time.

Tools:

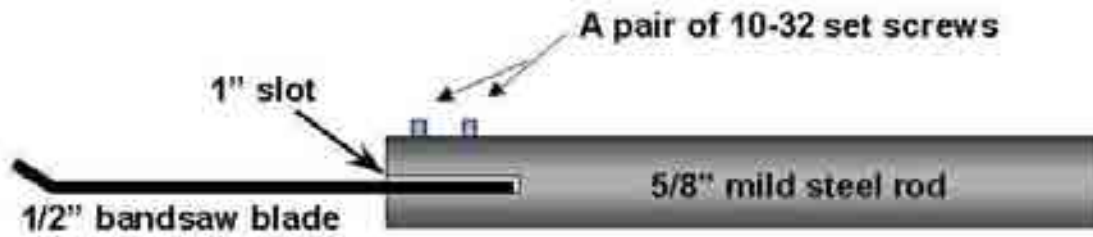
Three Point Tool:

A three point tool like the Dixie Point Tools I used for the actual demonstration can be a very useful tool with 4 main cuts as follows (See American Woodturner Fall 2005 Article to see how to make one). Granted all these cuts can be made using a skew, but if your like me, and gouge your work piece every time you pick up the skew, this is the next best thing:

- Facing Cut: Arc forward onto/into side of wood, cutting the end grain to produce a nice end grain finish. Similar to using a spindle gouge.
- Planning Cut: This is the same type of planning cut you can make with a skew, on this tool the heel should do the majority of the cutting
- Combine Facing cut & Planning cut to make right angle cut (very difficult with other tools)
- V- Grooves: One surface up, and arc forward into cut. Why own a v-groove tool when you can own a multi purpose tool that does v-grooves.
- Beads: Create v-grove on either side of bead to be created. Then roll the bead from the top or bottom. No catches with this tool. You can also use this to create beads on bowls.
- There are other uses as well, like the signature line on bottom of bowls, which is just a small v-groove.

Chatter Tool:

- Only use on End grain, not face grain. There are ways to make chatter makes on face grain, I do it all the time with my bowl gouge when there is too much vibration in the work piece and the cutting edge is far away from the too rest, but this is not the tool to use. I actually tried it, and it just looked horrible. I'll have to look into how to do this some other time.
- There are two edges to the tool, one edge is used at a time, one for the left side, the other for the right side of work pieces.
- The tool has a cutter that can be removed, and adjusted. The further out the cutter is from the handle, the larger the vibration will be and the larger the markings the tool will create. At the same time the faster the work piece turns the larger the marking will be as well. Do the opposite to get smaller marks.
- To use place the cutter low on wood way below the center line, and only use one edge of the tool. You can hold the tool in place or more it from center to



farther out on the work piece to create different patterns. You'll need to experiment with the lathe speed, length of cutter to vary the pattern to you likes.

- If you move the tool you will want to press harder the farther out from center
- Longer flex handle, more vibration, changes pattern
- Use on top or bottom of tops, boxes, etc...
- See diagram to make your own

Shaping:

Want to add some shaping and sculpting to your turning? There are all sorts of devices on the markets like power carvers, carving tools, and other devices. If your not doing a lot of shaping you might want to look at micro shapers. They remove wood fast and come in a few different shapes, and are pretty cheap compared to other tools. I used these to create my first footed bowl. You can also use these to carve the rim, or to add spirals to spindle work.

Buffing:

The Beal buffing system is a great way to finish off your work pieces. It takes my pieces from looking good to looking awesome. It allows me to buff out small runs, remove dust during the finishing process, add even more shine to my shiny finishes, or dull down a too shiny finish, and add wax to the piece as well. There are three wheels used, the red one for removing finish (remove runs, etc.), the white one for buffing and polishing the finish, and the yellow one for the wax. You can get a mandrel that holds all three wheels at a time, which is good for small pieces, but not so good for larger bowls. There are also small buffs made for vases and deep bowls that can be set on the lathe.



The last topic I wanted to talk about was sanding, which I never got around to demonstrate. Not many people like to sand, but this is a very critical step. Without proper sanding your turning will not look that good, will feel horrible in the hands of others, and may not be very sellable. At times it feels like I spend just as much time sanding a work piece as I did on the turning work piece. This is a step that cannot be skipped or hurried thru. Over the years I have made my sanding more enjoyable and quicker by some practical tips listed below.

Power sanding: 2" & 3". Why are people not buying the sandpaper?

- Always power sand whenever you can. Make sure you rotate the drill in the opposite direction of that the work piece is spinning. When you switch from the inside of a bowl to the outside, you'll have to reverse the drill direction.
- The first grit is the most important to get out all your tool marks. If it isn't working, then go down a grit. On some end grain it may take longer, sometimes it may help to stop the lathe and just work on the one rough spot you have left using the drill. Also try changing the drill direction for the tough spots.
- Wave vs. non wave sandpaper: I've used both, makes no difference as far as I can tell. Wave sandpaper is a waste of money; the non-wave is larger enough to round over the pad.
- Set the lathe speed low and use little pressure on the drill.
- Use fresh sandpaper, dull sandpaper cuts just as good as dull tools, which is not good at all.
- Use an extension for deep bowls, vases, etc...
- Use hand sandpaper for detail work if needed.
- Sanding Glove: Do not use while lathe is on, good for spindles, holds sandpaper, not good for detail?
- Busy Bee palm sander: Good to use the same sandpaper as your drill, easy to sand the work piece while holding the bowl and sanding by hand

+++

X-Y Cross Feed Table

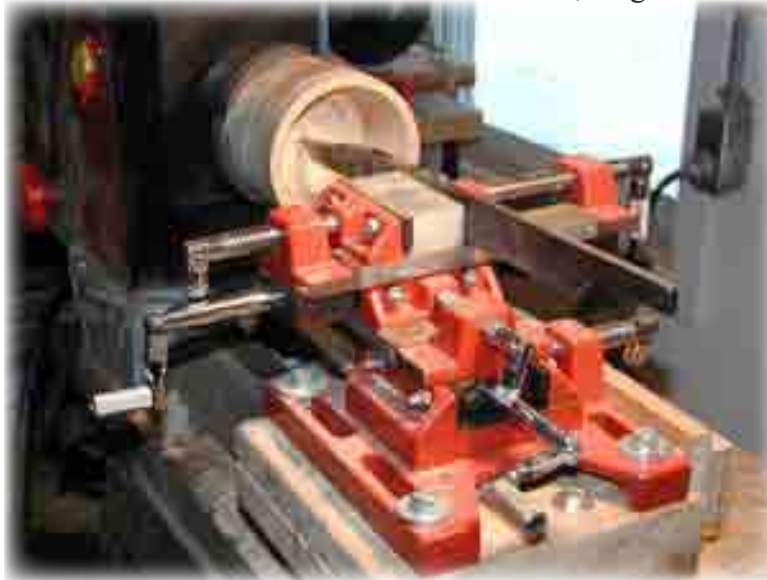
by Hal Mahon

One of the pleasures I enjoy is devising special purpose jigs, fixtures and tools to use with my wood turning lathe. Such is the case for the X-Y cross feed shown in Figure 1. I use this tool to turn surfaces that are flat or straight to a tolerance exceeding my unsteady gouge control. This capability is a common feature on metal lathes. I hope this article starts a flurry of discussions from other wood turners sharing their special tool creativity.

The X-Y Cross Feed is a moveable vise with screws that move the vise, independently in one of two perpendicular directions. It was designed for precision milling of wood and plastic on a drill press. The cross feed is mounted

on my lathe bed in place of the banjo. With one of my gouges clamped in the vise the gouge can be moved, incrementally, perpendicular to the axis of rotation or parallel to this axis. Grizzly (800-523-4777), Northern Tool and Equipment (800-533-5545) and Craftsman (800-377-7414) offer various types. The most important features for me included the largest possible range and a reasonable price. In one of the flyers from Woodcraft (800-234-3818 x1) in North Conway, NH. I spotted the vise in Fig. 1 with a 7" x-direction and a 6" range in the y direction for \$60. Ken Good, chair of the Mt. Washington Valley Woodturners, picked this unit up for me and held it until I showed up at one of their subsequent meetings.

I used my Delta disk sander to remove about 3/8 inch of iron from one end and some iron from the other side of the cast iron vise-base to provide a square reference aligned with its x and y travel. The X-Y Vise is lag bolted to a three layers of glued together oak flooring to raise it to the working level for my lathe. The slot along my lathe bed is 1 17/32" wide.



A 1/4 " thick by 1 1/2 by 4" long piece of mahogany glued along the center of the bottom keeps the unit from twisting on the lathe bed. A 3/8" bolt and an oak block secure it to the lathe bed. The oak block is 2 1/2" long by 1 1/2" wide, and is drilled and tapped for 3/8 by 16 threads. One turn of the bolt releases the tension so that the device can be slid along the lathe bed into approximate x-position. A 14 mm end wrench I picked up at Spags, just fits the 3/8" bolt head, and I keep this wrench handy.

A 3/8" long shaft bowl gouge is good for putting a flat bottom in a deep vase. Tool chatter can be reduced to zero by turning the y-direction screw slowly. The rings I glue together for segmented bowls (see Fig. 2) need to be flat, and the y-motion achieves the high degree of flatness I require. The best tool for me to use is the straight, McNaughton coring gouge, as shown in Fig. 1 because it is long, and about 9/32" thick and 15/16" deep. I use two wooden wedges to hold this tool at an angle in the vise.

Some wood turners presenting at Pinkerton Academy put their work in a large metal lathe to achieve precision tool control. I no longer have ready access to a metal lathe. This X-Y Cross Feed Vise from Woodcraft as discussed here provides the precision level of perpendicular tool travel I find useful. +++



CNEW ANNUAL PICNIC

AUGUST 5TH, 2006

at: *The CNEW President's Home*

5 Maple Avenue, Natick, MA 01760

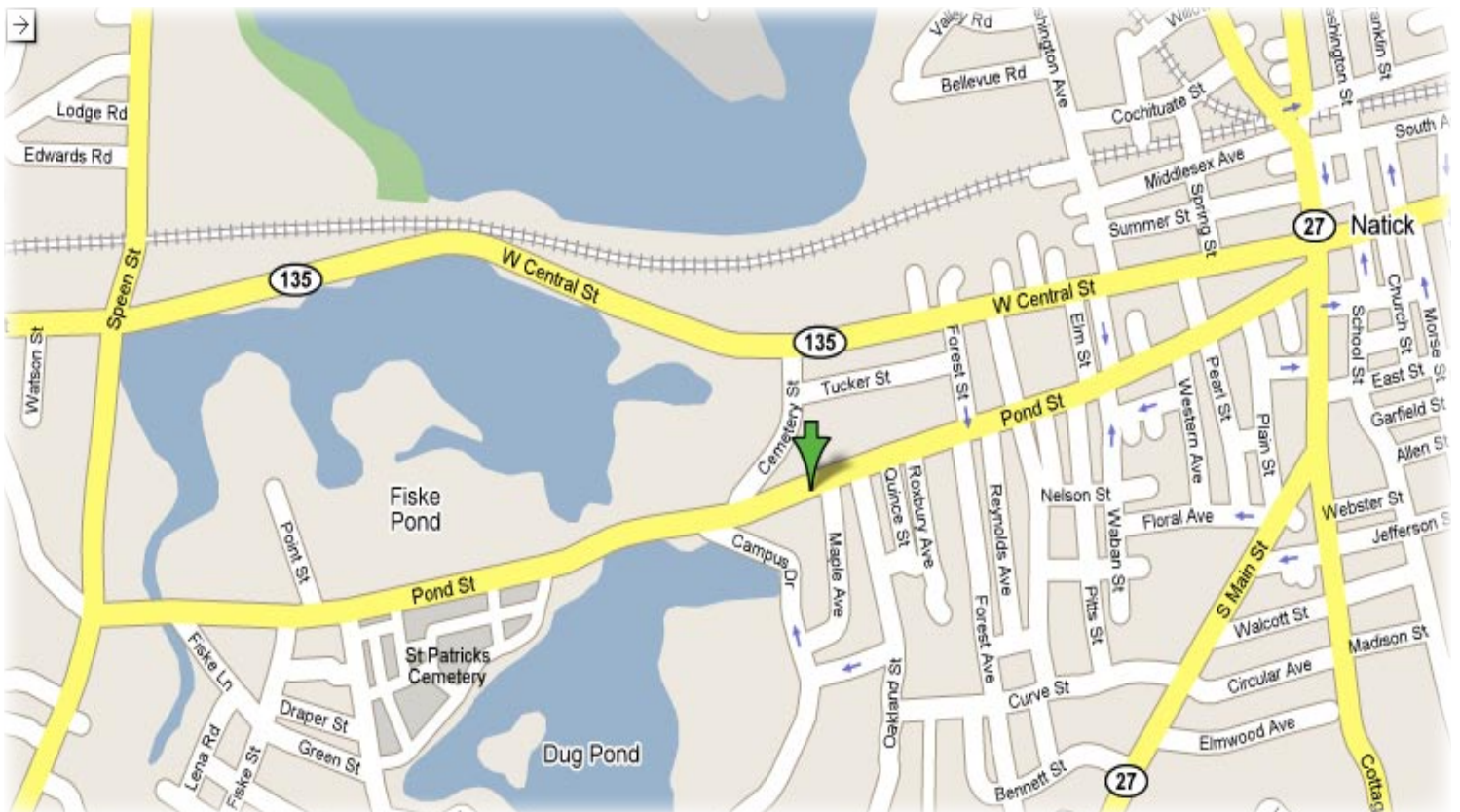
Call Dave or Laurie Eaton to RSVP at (508) 653-6364

-- Bring a side dish - Burgers supplied --

Bring your Spouse!! Bring a friend!!

Turn a Top and *RACE* it!

4 Midi Lathes will be on-site for FUN!!!



To join or renew membership for 2007, go online at: <http://cnew.org> - or - print this short-form and mail with a check payable to "CNEW" to:

Central New England Woodturners
c/o Worcester Center For Crafts
25 Sagamore Road
Worcester, MA 01650

Name _____
Address _____
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What programs would you like to see at our meetings?

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

Membership dues are:

\$20 with email copy of newsletter

\$25 with postal copy of newsletter

Check out the CNEW website often for info, articles and news at <http://cnew.org>

MEMBER ALERTS

- If your membership for 2006 hasn't been already paid ...you didn't get this newsletter.
- We will begin sending newsletters out to all members via email starting next January and will discontinue postal service. **Members are asked to accept the email version and print a copy themselves if needed.** We will still offer a mailed copy for \$5 a year added to dues if you must have a hard copy.
Note: An "economical newsletter" costs us about \$15 per year for each member if mailed out. Dues are only \$20

- REMEMBER!!! the August Meeting is moved to Saturday, August 5th for our...
- Annual Picnic at 1:00 PM at Dave Eaton's home, 5 Maple Ave, Natick, MA -- (508) 653-6364

CLUB OFFICER NOMINATIONS FOR 2007 ARE COMING SOON!

The CNEW SKEW



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